

**Table 1 Divorces: Petitions filed and decree granted, 1981, 1991, 1996, 2000-2005**

England and Wales	1981	1991	1996	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Petitions<sup>1,2</sup> filed for:</b>									
Nullity	1,050	619	702	452	492	443	463	492	436
Divorce (dissolution of marriage)	176,162	179,103	177,970	157,809	172,341	177,223	173,240	167,193	151,654
<b>Decrees granted</b>									
Decree of nullity	950	444	415	352	250	197	196	200	167
Decree absolute	144,763	158,301	156,692	140,783	143,568	147,538	153,294	153,199	141,583
of which:									
Granted to husband	42,085	43,961	46,712	42,311	44,378	44,694	46,915	47,651	44,583
Granted to wife	102,170	113,947	109,489	98,227	98,992	102,676	106,208	105,381	96,855
Granted to both	508	393	491	245	198	168	171	167	145

<sup>1</sup> Source: Her Majesty's Court Service

<sup>2</sup> Introduction of Management Information System Data  
Information on petitions provided by Her Majesty's Court Service has been produced using the Management Information System (MIS), a new data warehousing facility drawing directly from court-based information systems. The new facility, implemented in June 2002, enables the Department of Constitutional Affairs access to more complete data than was previously possible including late submitted data for previous years.

Full details of divorces in 2004 are still to be published in the Annual Reference Volume *Marriage, divorce and adoption statistics 2004* (series FM2 no. 32). Publication is planned for early 2007. Full details of divorces in 2005 are expected to be published in 2007.