

Criminal Justice Statistics 2013

England and Wales

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

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Introduction

This report presents the key statistics on activity in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) for England and Wales. It provides information for the latest twelve months (January 2013 to December 2013) with accompanying commentary, analysis and presentation of longer term trends.

The data provides users with information about proven offending and its outcomes in England and Wales. The contents of this bulletin will be of interest to government policy makers in the development of policy and their subsequent monitoring and evaluation. Others will be interested in the way different crimes are dealt with in the CJS. Where appropriate, comparisons are made with different sources covering activity in the CJS – in particular, numbers of crimes recorded by the police, often the starting point for crimes dealt with by other CJS agencies¹.

A technical document titled “A Guide to Criminal Justice Statistics” is available alongside this bulletin, which provides users with detailed information on the concepts and methods used in compiling this bulletin, including the quality of the data, along with guidance on statistical revisions and forthcoming changes. A copy of the technical document can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly>

Implementation of changes to offence classifications

In July 2013, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) re-designed the classifications used to present police recorded crime statistics, following recommendations from the National Statistician’s review of Crime Statistics in England and Wales in June 2011. The changes to classifications were implemented in the ONS statistical bulletin ‘Crime in England and Wales, year ending March 2013’, published in July 2013, alongside a methodological note² providing more detail on the changes and their impact on time-series for key measures. No change has been made to the coverage of offences in the police recorded crime series, and most changes are presentational, with some offences moving between classifications or being separated out of existing groupings.

In this publication, all statistical tables which provide offence group breakdowns have been presented on the new classification bases

¹ Findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales and recorded crime data are published together in statistical bulletins by the Office for National Statistics.

² ‘Presentational changes to National Statistics on police recorded crime in England and Wales’, Office for National Statistics Methodology Note, 18 July 2013

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/crime-statistics-methodology/presentational-changes-on-police-recorded-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf

Changes to data presentation within the report

A number of changes have been made to the presentation of data within both the main tables and the supplementary volumes of this report from previous reports.

- Tables within the previously included offences section have been moved to the overview, out of court disposals and convictions sections.
- The sentencing tables have been rationalised leading to a reduced number of absolute tables.
- Data previously presented within Volumes 1, 2 and 5 are now included within the supplementary volume “CJS Outcomes by offence, 2009-2013” and key statistics by offence are published within “8 - Outcomes by offence”.

Interpretation

This publication presents information for the **latest 12 month period (the twelve months ending December 2013)** alongside the same rolling 12 month periods for the previous ten years. The comparison of 12 rolling month periods has the advantage over reporting on shorter timeframes – for example, covering only the latest quarter – of avoiding misinterpretation of short-term fluctuations caused by seasonality (for example, reduced court volumes every December when many of the courts are closed over the Christmas period), and enables the presentation of longer-term trends across comparable reporting periods.

In this publication:

- the “**latest year**” refers to the **12 months ending December 2013**;
- the “**previous year**” refers to the **12 months ending December 2012**; and
- any other reference period will be referred to explicitly.

Further guidance on the symbols and conventions used in the bulletin is provided in the ‘Explanatory notes’ section.

If you have any feedback, questions or requests for further information about this statistical bulletin, please direct them to the appropriate contact given at the end of this report.

1 Executive Summary

Key Findings

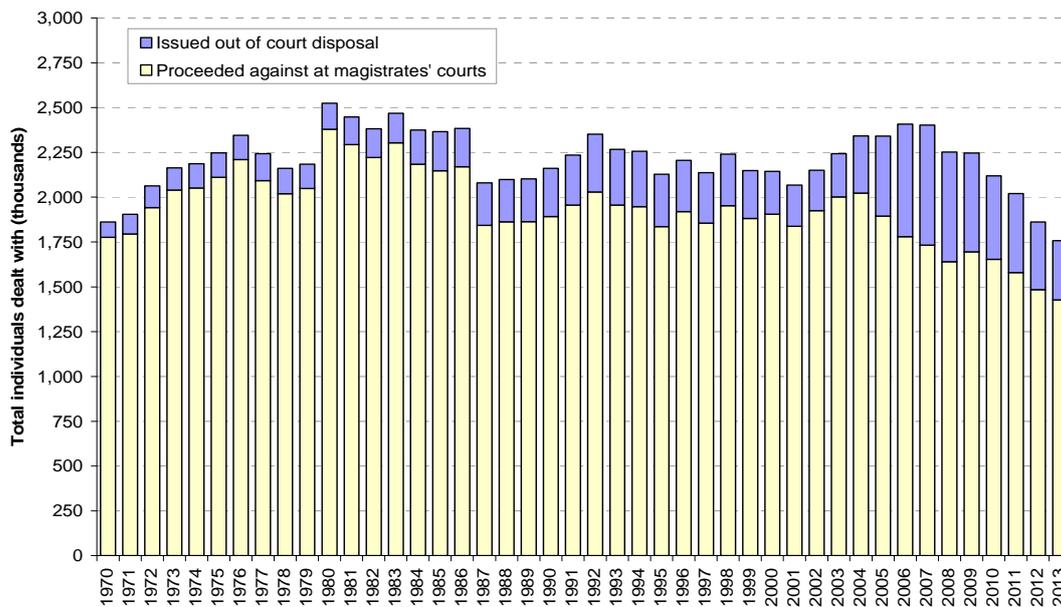
- The total number of individuals (which includes people and companies) who have been dealt with formally by the CJS in England and Wales, has been declining since 2007, and is now at a record low level (period 1970 to 2013) with 1.76 million individuals dealt with in 2013.
- The use of out of court disposals has decreased in the last year by 12%, down to 331,100 in 2013. This continues the decline in the use of out of court disposals which have seen a 51% decrease since 2007.
- In 2013 1.43 million defendants were proceeded against, a 4% decrease compared to 2012. Since 2004, prosecutions have declined almost year on year to 2013, primarily driven by decreases in summary motoring offences brought before magistrates.
- In 2013 conviction ratio (*the number of convictions as a proportion of the number of proceedings*) was 82%, a slight decrease from 83% in 2012.
- The immediate custody rate (the proportion of all persons sentenced receiving immediate custody) for indictable offences has increased year on year since 2010 from 24% to 27% and in 2013 was the highest in the period from 2003 to 2013.
- The average custodial sentence length has increased over the last decade, particularly in the last year. In 2013 it was 15.5 months, compared with 14.5 months in 2012 and 12.6 months in 2003.
- The number and proportion of convicted offenders who have long criminal histories has generally been increasing over the last 10 years, whereas the number of new entrants to the criminal justice system has fallen.

This summary explains how the various criminal justice agencies deal with an defendant once identified, presents the recent trends on how the Criminal Justice System (CJS) response to offending is changing, and identifies factors that may be causing the changes, where identifiable.

Once a suspect has been identified by the police, charged and arrested, the police work with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in deciding the most appropriate course of action in each case. The decision can be made to not take the offender to court, through a number of available “out-of-court disposals”, or to proceed against the defendant at a magistrates’ court.

The total number of individuals, which includes people and companies, who have been dealt with formally by the CJS in England and Wales, in either of these ways, has been declining since 2007, and is now at a record low level (period 1970 to 2013) with 1.76 million individuals dealt with in the latest year. Police recorded crime peaked in 2003 and recorded offences are now lower than at any time over the past decade. Total crime, as measured by surveys of the general population, has also fallen over the same period.

Figure 1.1: Individuals³ dealt with formally by the CJS, 1970 to 2013



The number of new entrants to the criminal justice system has also fallen since 2007. The reduction has been much sharper for juveniles, reflecting both a decreasing number of juvenile offenders reprimanded or issued with a warning and the decreasing numbers of juveniles found guilty in all courts. However, per head of population, the rate of juvenile first time entrants remains higher than for adults.

Until the introduction of Penalty Notices for Disorder in 2004 and formal warnings for possession of cannabis in 2005, the only out of court disposal available to police was a caution. The use of cautions increased steadily during the 1970s and 1980s, before declining from 1993 until 2002. This decrease followed a circular issued to police

³ Includes people and companies. Note also that a single individual can be counted more than once in a given year if they are dealt with by the Criminal Justice System on more than one separate occasion.

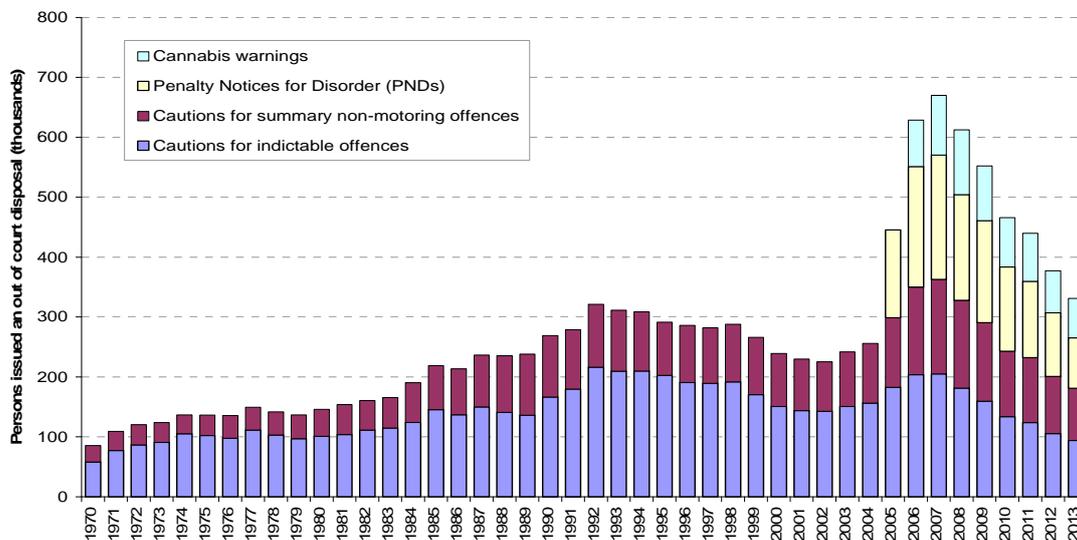
forces in March 1994, which discouraged both multiple cautions and the use of cautions for the most serious offences.

From 2002, the use of out of court disposals increased rapidly and peaked in 2007, before decreasing year on year to 2013. The increase coincided with the introduction in 2001 of a target to increase offences brought to justice, and the decrease coincided with the replacement in April 2008 of the target with one placing more emphasis on bringing serious crimes to justice. The latter target was subsequently removed in May 2010.

The use of out of court disposals decreased in the last year by 12%, down to 331,100 in 2013. This continues the decline in the use of out of court disposals which have seen a 51% decrease since 2007.

There was a 10% decrease in total offenders cautioned between 2012 and 2013 which was largely driven by declining use of cautions administered for indictable offences (including triable either way). There were 84,300 PNDs issued in 2013, a decrease of 21% compared with 2012 and a decrease of 59% when compared with the peak of 207,500 PNDs issued in 2007. From 8th April 2013, the use of PNDs for under 18 years old is no longer available. Reprimands and warnings for youths were repealed and replaced by youth cautions for offences committed from 8th April 2013. Cannabis warnings have decreased year on year since 2008 peak of 108,300 to 65,800 in 2013.

Figure 1.2: Out of court disposals issued, by disposal type, 1970 to 2013



All criminal cases in England and Wales start in a magistrates' court. Criminal proceedings brought before the courts are divided into three main offence groups:

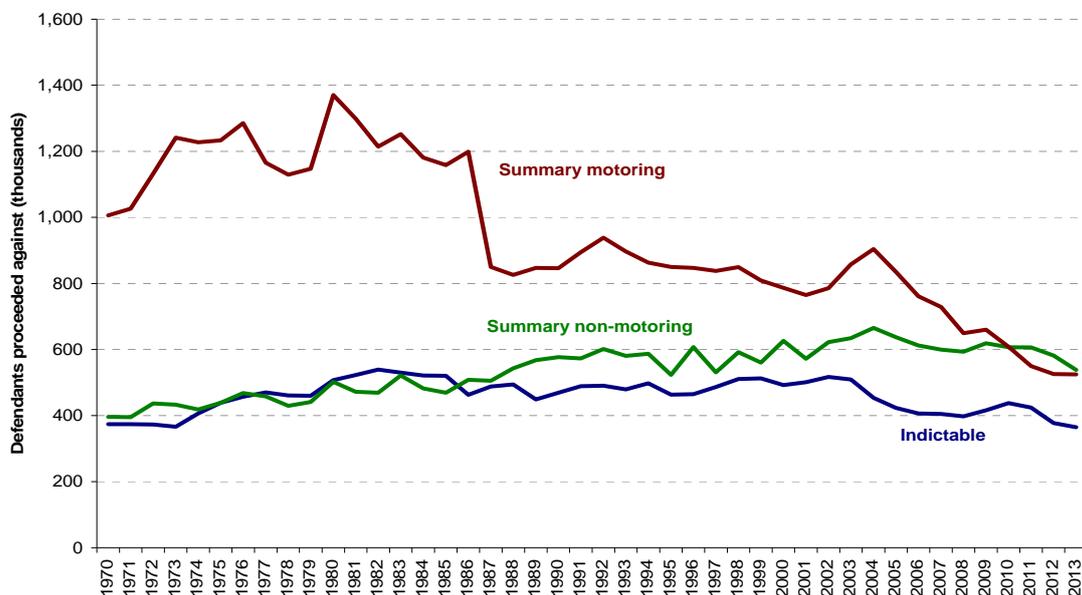
- **Indictable** proceedings, which cover the more serious offences such as violent and sexual offences and robbery, and when heard in court may be passed on to the Crown Court, either for sentencing or for a full trial with a judge and jury. This group includes both 'indictable only' offences, which can only be tried on indictment in the Crown Court by a judge and jury, and 'triable-either-way' offences which are triable either summarily in a magistrate's court or on indictment in the Crown Court;

- **Summary proceedings**, which cover less serious offences, are almost always handled entirely in the magistrates' courts when dealt with in court, with the majority completed at the first hearing. They are split into two categories:
 - **Summary non-motoring** proceedings, such as TV license evasion and less serious criminal damage; and
 - **Summary motoring** proceedings, such as speeding and driving whilst disqualified.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts increased during the 1970s up to the mid 1980s, with a gradual increase in prosecutions in all three main offence groups. In 1987 however, prosecutions decreased due to drop in summary motoring offences brought before magistrates. This was partly due to the introduction in October 1986 of the extended fixed penalty notice system, which increased the range of summary motoring offences which could be handled out of court, and partly due to the removal of the need to instigate criminal court proceedings to register fines for unpaid penalties.

From 1987 to 2004, the number of defendants proceeded against in court remained broadly stable, between 1.8 and 2.0 million. Since 2004, prosecutions declined almost year on year to 2013, driven by decreases in summary motoring offences brought before magistrates. The biggest decline has been for vehicle insurance offences although there are also large declines for driving licence related offences and driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs. In 2013 1.43 million defendants were proceeded against, a 4% decrease compared to 2012.

Figure 1.3: Defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts, by offence group, 1970 to 2013



Prosecutions of males have decreased for all offence types, indictable and both summary, since 2004 and accounted for 71% of prosecutions in 2013. However, volumes of prosecutions of females have remained largely flat overall across the period. This appears to be due to a balance between declining volumes of prosecutions of females for indictable and summary motoring offences and an increasing volume of prosecutions of females for summary non-motoring offences.

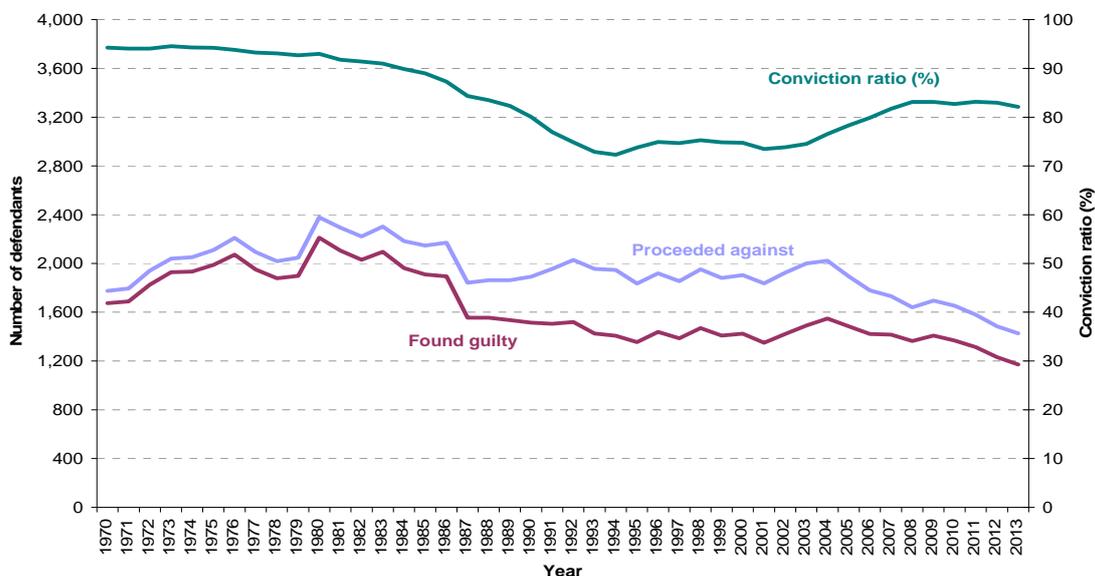
The increasing trend in prosecutions of females for summary non-motoring offences is driven by TV licence evasion offences. Prosecutions of juveniles have decreased at a much faster pace than prosecutions of adults over the last decade.

Around 6% of all defendants proceeded against are sent for trial at the Crown Court, virtually all for indictable offences. The number of defendants sent to the Crown Court for trial increased by 6% in 2013 compared to 2012. This increase appears to be the result of the abolition of committal hearings which was introduced nationally on the 28th May 2013. Cases are now being sent straight to the Crown Court as soon as it is clear the matter is serious enough, rather than having to await a committal hearing. The number of defendants appearing in the Crown Court for trial had previously increased between 2005 and 2010 as a result of a greater proportion of cases being committed and sent for trial, but this trend has reversed since 2010, with the volume of defendants appearing for trial at the Crown Court now declining.

Trends in the number of offenders convicted – that is, defendants who plead or are found guilty – and sentenced at all courts are driven by two factors, namely the number of individuals dealt with through the courts (the trend in prosecutions) and the proportion of those individuals who are found guilty. Conviction ratios are calculated as the number of convictions as a proportion of the number of proceedings, and give a measure of the relative number of defendants who are found guilty within a given year when compared with the number who are prosecuted that year.

Over the last 10 years convictions have declined almost year on year, in line with declining numbers of individuals proceeded against. However, the decline in convictions between 2003 and 2008 has not been as steep as for proceedings, as a greater proportion of proceedings have resulted in convictions. As a result, the conviction ratio increased from 75% in 2003 to 83% in the 2008, and has since remained steady, fluctuating between 82% and 83%. In 2013 it was 82% compared to 83% in 2012. The complex nature of the CJS means there are a number of possible factors contributing to this change – for example, changes in guilty plea rates, the mix of cases handled in and out of court, impacts of operational changes, and so on – and it is difficult to separately identify the impacts of different factors.

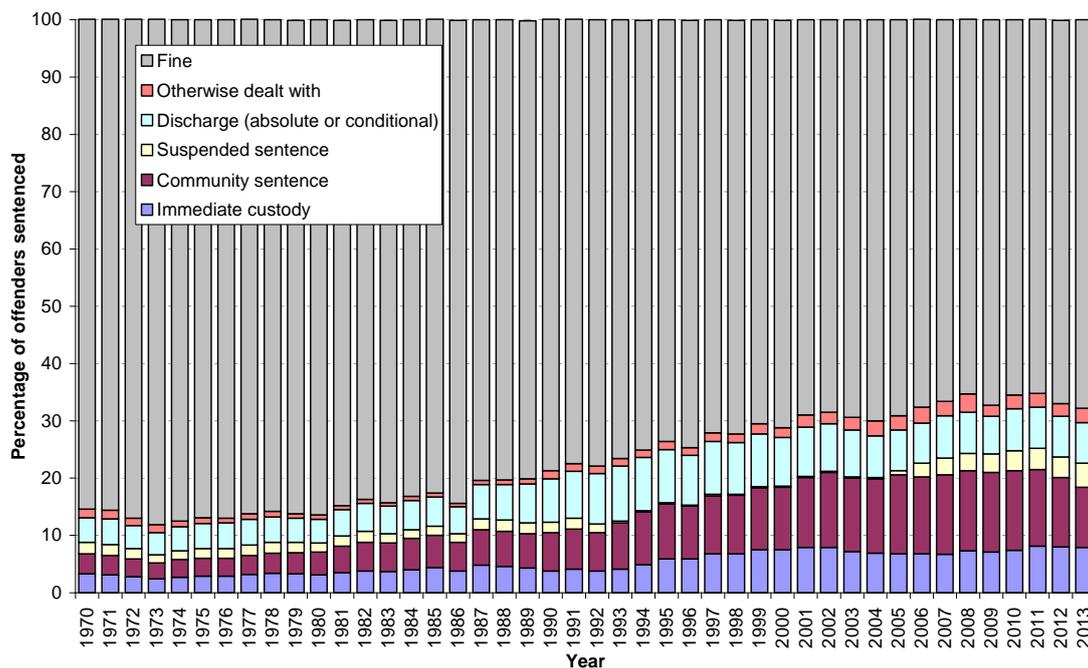
Figure 1.4: Prosecutions against at magistrates’ courts and convictions at all courts, with conviction ratio, 1970 to 2013



The number and proportion of convicted offenders who have long criminal records continued to increase as it has over the last 10 years. In 2013, just over 103,000 offenders convicted of an indictable offence had 15 or more previous convictions or cautions at the time. This equates to 36% of all convicted offenders in the year and is up from 22% in 2003 (75,500 offenders).

Fines are the most common sentence given to offenders at all courts, accounting for two thirds of offenders sentenced, due in the main to the large volumes of fines issued at the magistrates' court. The proportion of offenders sentenced with a fine has decreased since the 1970s, at which point as high as 88% of offenders received fines, compared to 68% in 2013.

Figure 1.5: Sentencing outcomes (percentages of all offenders sentenced) at all courts, 1970 to 2013



A greater share of offenders have sentenced to community sentences and immediate custody (that is, to prison or other form of secure detention) since the 1990s, and the use of Suspended Sentence Orders (SSOs) has risen steadily since 2005, as a result of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and more recently the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, which made SSOs more readily available. In 2013, SSOs represented 4% of all sentences.

The courts sentenced a higher number of offenders to immediate custody each year between 1993 and 2002, partly due to an increase in total numbers being sentenced. Since 2002, the number of offenders sentenced to custody decreased to 2007 before rising again up to 2011 and decreasing since. Between 2007 and 2011, the immediate custody rate (the proportion of all persons sentenced receiving immediate custody) increased, resulting in numbers sent to prison or other forms of secure detention increasing despite the overall fall in offenders sentenced. Since 2011, the immediate custody rate levelled off at 8%.

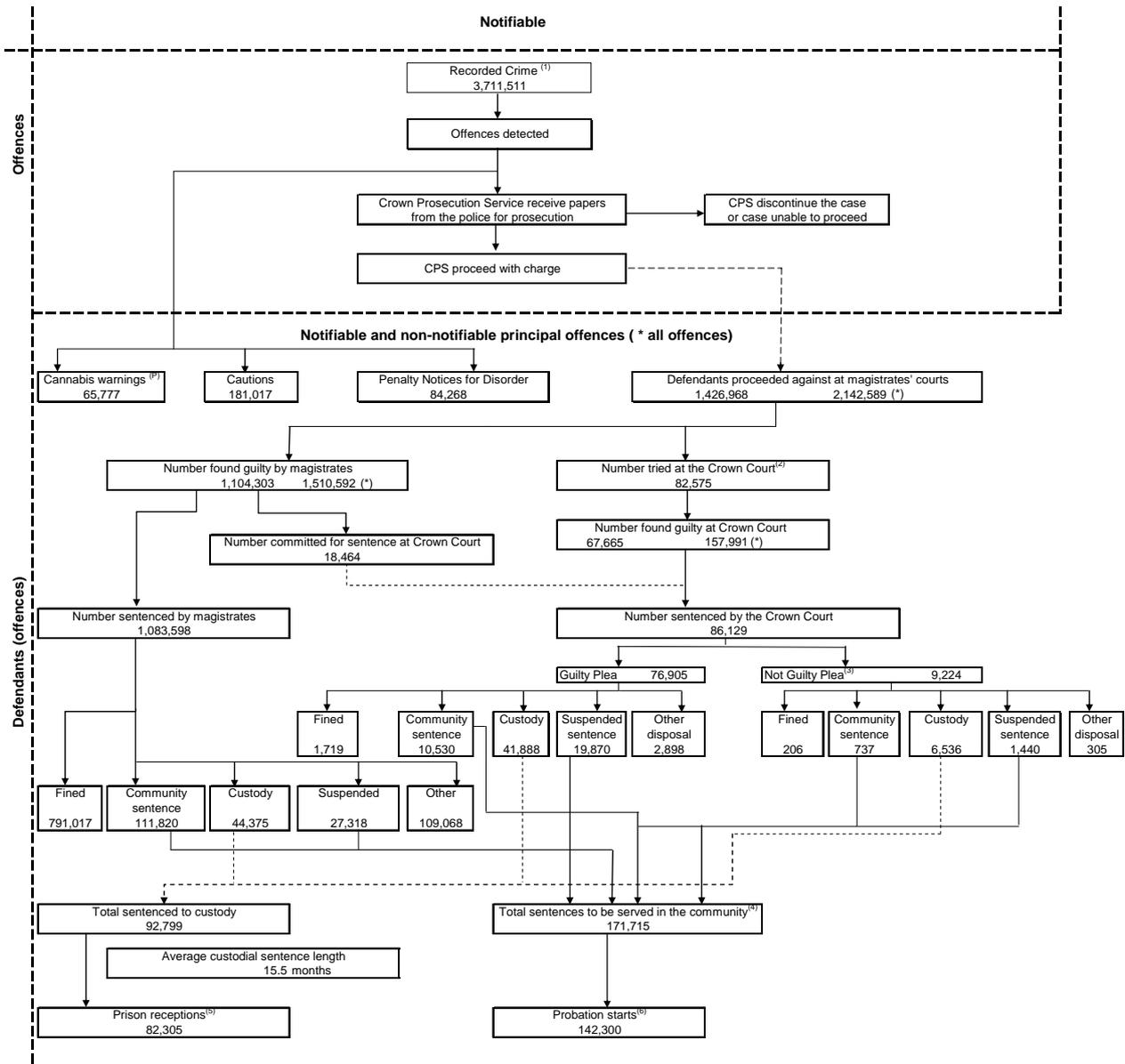
The average length of custodial sentences has increased over the last decade, driven mainly by changes in the case mix of people getting custodial sentences, with summary offences increasingly dealt with through other sentence types, and longer sentences being given for indictable offences. Further, legislative changes have

made sentence lengths longer for certain offences – for example, a third domestic burglary.

The introduction of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act (CJIA) in 2008 restricted the use of Indeterminate sentences for Public Protection (IPPs), which were later abolished by the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012. Following this, there has been an increase in long determinate sentences (defined as for 10 years or more), which has also contributed to the increase in the average length of custodial sentence since 2008. In 2012, the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 also introduced Extended Determinate Sentences (EDS) which require offenders to serve an additional licence period in addition to the determinate part of their sentence. It is estimated that the introduction of EDS has added 0.6 months to average custodial sentence length in 2013.

Males account for seven out of every ten individuals proceeded against in court, but more than nine out of every ten offenders sentenced to immediate custody. This difference in sentence outcomes reflects the different types of offences being committed by males and females, with males more frequently proceeded against for the more serious indictable offences.

Figure 1.6: Flows through the Criminal Justice System, 2013



(1) Covers all indictable offences, including triable either way, plus a few closely associated summary offences.
 (2) Defendants tried at the Crown Court in a given year may have been committed for trial by a magistrate in a previous year.
 (3) Figures for offenders pleading not guilty include those cases recorded as not applicable
 (4) Includes community sentences and suspended sentence orders.
 (5) Receptions for offenders given a custodial sentence (figures include fine defaulters).
 (6) Offenders starting Community Order or Suspended Sentence Order supervision by the Probation Service.
 * Total number of all offences in comparison with the total number of defendants on a principal offence basis.

Overview Tables

Table Q1.1 - Individuals entering the Criminal Justice System, 2009 to 2013

England and Wales						Percentage change 2012 to 2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
Out of court disposals	552,256	465,977	439,759	377,255	331,062	-12.2%
Cannabis warnings	91,218	82,377	80,043	70,117 ^(P)	65,777 ^(P)	-6.2%
Penalty Notices for Disorder ⁽¹⁾	170,393	140,769	127,530	106,205	84,268	-20.7%
Cautions	290,645	242,831	232,186	200,933	181,017	-9.9%
Defendants proceeded against	1,694,410	1,653,190	1,580,023	1,484,626	1,426,968	-3.9%
Indictable offences ⁽²⁾	415,616	438,026	424,006	376,984	364,269	-3.4%
Summary offences	1,278,794	1,215,164	1,156,017	1,107,642	1,062,699	-4.1%
Offenders convicted	1,408,437	1,367,475	1,314,176	1,231,586	1,171,968	-4.8%
Indictable offences	329,171	350,639	344,522	308,945	294,138	-4.8%
Summary offences	1,079,266	1,016,836	969,654	922,641	877,830	-4.9%
Prison receptions ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	94,964	..	90,955	86,479	82,305	-4.8%
Probation starts ⁽⁵⁾	169,693	166,598	160,092	149,034	142,300	-4.5%

(P) Provisional

(1) Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over.

(2) Indictable offences include those triable-either-way.

(3) Receptions for offenders given a custodial sentence (includes fine defaulters).

(4) Data for 2010 are unavailable due to problems in the supply of data for statistical purposes - see the 'Offender management statistics: definitions and measurement' document for more details:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/192439/omsq-definitions.pdf

(5) Offenders starting Community Order or Suspended Sentence Order supervision by the Probation Service.

Note: Figures for cannabis warnings appearing in this publication are provisional and may be revised following Home Office validation. National Statistics for the financial year 2013/14 are expected to be published during 2014 by the Home Office.

Table Q1.2 - Offenders sentenced by principal sentence, 2009 to 2013

England and Wales						Percentage change 2012 to 2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
Total offenders sentenced ⁽¹⁾	1,406,905	1,365,347	1,312,739	1,229,827	1,169,727	-4.9%
Total persons sentenced ⁽²⁾	1,398,278	1,357,600	1,305,670	1,223,252	1,163,287	-4.9%
Immediate custody (persons)	100,231	101,513	106,170	98,047	92,799	-5.4%
Suspended sentence (persons)	45,157	48,118	48,153	44,642	48,628	8.9%
Community sentence (persons)	195,903	189,321	175,525	149,327	123,087	-17.6%
Fines (all offenders)	946,146	893,931	856,808	823,298	792,942	-3.7%
Other disposals (all offenders)	119,468	132,464	126,083	114,513	112,271	-2.0%
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽³⁾	13.7	13.7	14.3	14.5	15.5	7.3%
Percentage of those sentenced ⁽⁴⁾						Percentage point change
Immediate custody (persons)	7.2	7.5	8.1	8.0	8.0	0.0
Suspended sentence (persons)	3.2	3.5	3.7	3.6	4.2	0.5
Community sentence (persons)	14.0	13.9	13.4	12.2	10.6	-1.6
Fines (all offenders)	67.3	65.5	65.3	66.9	67.8	0.8
Other disposals (all offenders)	8.5	9.7	9.6	9.3	9.6	0.3

(1) The time lag between conviction and sentencing for cases committed for sentence at Crown Court can result in small differences between total offenders convicted and sentenced within reporting years.

(2) For sentences of immediate custody, suspended sentence and community sentence, 'persons' is the same as 'offenders', as 'others' (such as companies or public bodies) cannot receive these sentences.

(3) Average custodial sentence length excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

(4) May not sum to 100 per cent as rates are not all calculated on the same basis.

Table Q1.3 - Recorded crime and notifiable offence outcomes, 2009 to 2013

England and Wales

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Percentage change 2012 to 2013
Recorded crime	4,447,490	4,159,914	4,074,186	3,789,424	3,711,511	-2.1%
Out of court disposals	508,380	425,960	405,463	346,742	305,552	-11.9%
Cannabis warnings	91,218	82,377	80,043	70,117 ^(P)	65,777 ^(P)	-6.2%
Penalty Notices for Disorder ⁽¹⁾	113,135	92,656	81,449	65,127	49,818	-20.0%
Cautions	304,027	250,927	243,971	211,498	189,957	-10.2%
Proceedings	995,767	1,026,998	987,379	909,345	875,416	-3.7%
Convictions	755,648	766,908	747,129	699,613	677,422	-3.2%
Offences taken into consideration	79,817	70,223	65,861	54,331	44,299	-18.5%
Proven offences⁽²⁾	1,343,845	1,263,091	1,218,453	1,100,686	1,027,273	-6.7%

(P) Provisional

(1) Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over.

(2) Includes out of court disposals, convictions and offences taken into consideration.

Note: Figures for cannabis warnings & offences taken into consideration appearing in this publication are provisional and may be revised following Home Office validation. National Statistics for the financial year 2013/14 are expected to be published during 2014 by the Home Office.

Table Q1.4 - Recorded crime and notifiable offence outcomes by offence group, 2012 to 2013⁽¹⁾

Offence Group	12 months ending	Recorded crime	Cannabis warnings ^(P)	Penalty Notices for Disorder ⁽²⁾	Cautions	Proceedings	Convictions
Violence against the person	2012	607,616	-	-	70,250	207,920	141,527
	2013	614,464	-	-	63,554	197,136	134,420
Sexual offences	2012	52,222	-	-	1,612	30,160	19,760
	2013	60,894	-	-	1,510	31,541	19,629
Robbery	2012	67,447	-	-	193	17,238	12,010
	2013	59,427	-	-	125	14,011	9,604
Theft offences	2012	1,936,322	-	28,363	43,767	242,726	204,432
	2013	1,861,670	-	21,287	38,343	239,698	203,716
Criminal damage and arson	2012	548,295	-	3,633	23,817	68,376	54,085
	2013	510,704	-	2,237	21,785	63,739	50,792
Drug offences	2012	212,213	70,117	15,616	42,860	101,649	90,364
	2013	200,789	65,777	13,814	39,376	100,919	89,306
Possession of weapons offences	2012	20,458	-	-	4,303	23,738	17,068
	2013	20,480	-	-	3,553	22,387	16,651
Public order offences	2012	136,583	-	17,515	15,706	80,141	60,786
	2013	131,950	-	12,480	13,857	74,059	56,802
Miscellaneous crimes against society	2012	43,036	-	-	4,700	90,356	65,710
	2013	43,881	-	-	4,333	85,972	63,686
Fraud offences	2012	165,232	-	-	4,290	47,041	33,871
	2013	207,252	-	-	3,521	45,954	32,816
Total notifiable offences	2012	3,789,424	70,117	65,127	211,498	909,345	699,613
	2013	3,711,511	65,777	49,818	189,957	875,416	677,422

(P) Provisional

- = 0

(1) See 'Presentational changes to National Statistics on police recorded crime in England and Wales', Office for National Statistics Methodology Note, 18 July 2013: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/crime-statistics-methodology/presentational-changes-on-police-recorded-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf>

(2) Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over. Penalty notices are no longer available for persons aged under 18 from 8 April 2013.

Note:

Figures for cannabis warnings appearing in this publication are provisional and may be revised following Home Office validation. National Statistics for the financial year 2013/14 are expected to be published during 2014 by the Home Office.

For the first time, annual data are presented using offence groups defined by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Previously published versions of this table used Ministry of Justice offence groups. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) re-designed the classifications used to present police recorded crime statistics to provide a more coherent and consistent set of offence categories and a clearer picture for users. This follows the National Statistician's review of Crime Statistics in England and Wales in June 2011 which included recommendations for improving the presentation of crime statistics to give users and the public a clearer understanding of the overall picture of crime.

Table Q1.5 - Summary of criminal justice statistics, 2003 to 2013

		Thousands											Percent change, 2012 to 2013
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
Crime measured by Crime Survey for England and Wales ⁽¹⁾		12,088	10,811	10,821	11,087	10,446	10,618	9,751	9,405	9,405	8,933	7,549	-15.5% ⁽²⁾
- offences recorded by the police ⁽³⁾		6,004	5,764	5,572	5,464	5,053	4,789	4,447	4,160	4,074	3,769	3,712	-2.1%
- offences recorded by the police ⁽³⁾		242	256	249	350	363	328	291	243	232	201	181	-9.9%
Number of offenders cautioned ⁽⁴⁾		151	166	183	204	205	181	160	134	124	106	94	-11.0%
Number of offenders issued Penalty Notices for Disorder ⁽⁶⁾		*	*	148	201	208	176	170	141	128	106	84	-16.7%
of which for indictable offences ⁽⁵⁾		*	*	22	39	45	46	60	54	51	44	35	-13.7%
Number of offences detected by means of cannabis warnings (all indictable) ^{(5)(7)(P)}		2,001	2,023	1,895	1,774	99.5	108.3	91.2	82.4	80.0	70.1	65.8	-6.2%
Defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts		509	453	423	406	405	397	416	438	424	377	364	-3.9%
of which for indictable offences ⁽⁵⁾		1,432	1,488	1,426	1,363	1,351	1,293	1,331	1,283	1,233	1,161	1,104	-4.9%
Defendants found guilty at magistrates' courts		278	260	253	248	252	250	256	271	267	241	229	-4.9%
of which for indictable offences ⁽⁵⁾		16	16	17	18	17	18	17	18	21	20	18	-5.5%
Defendants sentenced at the Crown Court after summary conviction		78	78	75	78	82	87	96	105	101	88	83	-5.9%
Defendants found guilty at the Crown Court		60	60	58	58	65	71	77	84	82	71	68	-4.4%
of which for indictable offences ⁽⁵⁾		57	58	56	56	61	67	73	79	78	68	65	-4.3%
Total offenders found guilty at both courts		1,491	1,548	1,484	1,421	1,416	1,363	1,408	1,367	1,314	1,232	1,172	-4.8%
of which for indictable offences ⁽⁵⁾		335	318	308	303	313	317	329	351	345	309	294	-4.8%
Total offenders found guilty or cautioned ⁽⁶⁾		1,733	1,804	1,783	1,771	1,779	1,691	1,699	1,610	1,546	1,433	1,353	-5.6%
of which for indictable offences ⁽⁵⁾		466	474	491	507	518	498	469	484	468	415	388	-6.4%
Total sentenced (offenders)		1,490	1,547	1,482	1,421	1,415	1,362	1,407	1,365	1,313	1,230	1,170	-4.9%
Magistrates' court		1,414	1,471	1,407	1,344	1,333	1,273	1,312	1,263	1,211	1,139	1,084	-4.9%
Crown Court		76	76	76	77	82	89	95	102	102	91	86	-4.9%
Sentence													
Custody		108	106	101	96	95	100	100	102	106	98	93	-5.4%
Suspended Sentence		3	3	10	34	41	41	45	48	48	45	49	8.9%
Community Sentence		191	202	204	191	196	190	196	189	176	149	123	-17.6%
Fine		1,034	1,083	1,025	962	942	880	946	894	857	823	793	-3.7%
Other Sentences		154	154	142	139	141	141	119	132	126	114,513	112	-2.0%

** = Not applicable

(1) The offenders dealt with outside of court and defendants proceeded against at magistrates' court in a given year may not relate to the same cases measured by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (known until 1 April 2012 as the British Crime Survey) or those recorded to the police within the same year. The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months prior to interview. Further, offenders found guilty in a given year may have been proceeded against in an earlier year.

(2) Statistically significant change, see Section 8 of the User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?tid=1&cid=Crime+in+England+and+Wales>

(3) Includes British Transport Police.

(4) Cautions, written warnings, and all fixed penalties for summary motoring offences are not covered in this volume but are published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 'Motoring offences and breath tests'.

(5) Indictable offences include those triable-either-way.

(6) Full calendar year data is available for PNDs from 2005 onwards

(7) Reliable data for Cannabis Warnings can only be provided from 2006 onwards where full calendar year data is available

Note: Figures for cannabis warnings appearing in this publication are provisional and may be revised following Home Office validation. National Statistics for the financial year 2013/14 are expected to be published during 2014 by the Home Office.

Table Q1.6 - "Proven Offenders" in the criminal justice system by offence group and outcomes, 2012 and 2013

England and Wales

Offence Group	Year	Cannabis warnings ^(P)	Penalty Notices for Disorder ⁽¹⁾	Cautions	Proceedings	Convictions	Conviction Ratio (%) ⁽²⁾	Proven Offenders ⁽³⁾	Sentenced ⁽⁴⁾	Discharged	Fine	Community Sentence	Suspended Sentence	Otherwise dealt with	Custody Rate (%) ⁽⁵⁾	Custody Sentence Length ⁽⁶⁾	Average Custodial Sentence Length ⁽⁶⁾
Violence against the person	2012	-	-	9,616	36,519	26,278	72.0	36,894	26,084	974	1,297	6,332	5,638	685	11,258	43.2	23.2
	2013	-	-	8,664	36,299	24,423	68.8	32,857	24,050	966	1,365	3,725	5,531	2,199	10,304	42.8	24.7
Sexual offences	2012	-	-	1,431	9,377	5,128	51.1	7,159	5,715	100	101	1,511	477	129	3,397	59.4	58.1
	2013	-	-	1,348	10,365	6,337	54.6	7,008	5,628	96	123	1,353	561	115	3,356	59.7	54.5
Robbery	2012	-	-	188	12,267	8,337	68.0	8,523	6,765	19	1	2,584	555	162	5,002	60.0	35.8
	2013	-	-	119	10,132	6,760	66.7	6,879	6,765	20	28	1,836	499	84	4,298	63.5	36.6
Theft Offences	2012	28,363	144,963	36,590	144,963	127,232	87.8	192,165	126,374	22,794	15,911	39,402	9,710	6,047	32,510	25.7	9.2
	2013	21,287	140,574	32,316	140,574	122,410	87.1	176,013	121,408	22,201	16,496	31,926	11,065	8,081	31,639	26.1	9.2
Criminal damage and Arson	2012	-	-	3,486	7,042	5,447	77.4	8,933	5,374	1,045	674	2,018	300	438	899	16.7	23.6
	2013	-	-	2,744	5,478	4,135	75.5	8,879	4,048	802	503	1,410	294	317	722	17.8	26.7
Drug offences	2012	15,616	39,344	63,618	58,125	58,125	91.4	182,202	57,601	9,223	21,344	11,513	4,215	2,295	9,011	15.6	28.7
	2013	65,777	13,814	35,941	63,089	56,987	90.3	172,519	67,301	9,740	20,709	9,382	5,167	2,282	9,021	16.0	31.2
Possession of weapons	2012	-	-	3,879	13,740	10,302	75.0	14,181	10,164	609	783	4,075	1,793	263	2,651	26.1	13.0
	2013	-	-	3,187	13,440	10,012	74.5	13,199	9,919	521	823	3,551	2,106	301	2,617	26.4	13.3
Public order offences	2012	-	-	3,296	16,724	16,398	98.1	19,694	16,419	1,009	2,252	3,127	2,343	2,603	5,085	31.0	7.6
	2013	-	-	3,030	17,413	16,436	94.4	19,466	16,409	1,087	2,838	2,680	2,578	2,381	4,845	29.5	7.6
Miscellaneous crimes against society	2012	-	-	4,130	56,852	38,718	68.1	42,848	38,632	3,148	10,915	8,131	4,109	3,691	8,638	22.8	9.1
	2013	-	-	3,756	52,258	35,171	67.3	38,927	35,041	2,749	9,820	6,666	4,515	2,787	8,504	24.8	9.6
Fraud Offences	2012	-	-	3,670	15,862	12,380	78.0	16,050	12,222	1,233	1,173	4,122	2,843	220	2,631	21.5	14.6
	2013	-	-	3,044	16,221	12,275	75.7	15,319	12,095	1,101	1,171	3,958	3,093	237	2,535	21.0	14.9
Indictable offences ⁽⁷⁾	2012	70,117	43,979	105,630	376,984	308,945	82.0	528,671	306,928	40,154	54,451	82,815	31,893	16,543	81,082	26.5	17.0
	2013	65,777	35,101	94,050	364,269	294,138	80.7	489,066	291,664	39,243	53,878	66,487	35,429	18,784	77,843	26.8	18.0
Summary non-motoring	2012	62,226	49,167	95,303	581,874	470,059	80.8	627,588	470,247	41,598	343,358	53,678	9,007	8,653	13,953	3.0	2.6
	2013	49,167	86,967	86,967	538,149	429,361	79.8	565,495	429,516	38,533	314,673	45,919	9,528	8,596	12,287	2.9	2.6
Summary motoring offences	2012	-	-	-	525,768	452,582	86.1	452,582	452,652	5,688	425,489	12,834	3,752	1,877	3,012	0.7	3.1
	2013	-	-	-	524,550	448,469	85.5	448,469	448,547	5,072	424,391	10,681	3,671	2,043	2,689	0.6	3.1
Summary Offences	2012	62,226	49,167	95,303	1,107,642	922,641	83.3	1,080,170	922,899	47,286	768,847	66,512	12,759	10,530	16,965	1.8	2.7
	2013	49,167	86,967	86,967	1,062,699	877,830	82.6	1,013,964	878,063	43,605	739,064	56,600	13,199	10,639	14,956	1.7	2.7
All Offences	2012	70,117	106,205	200,933	1,484,626	1,231,586	83.0	1,609,841	1,229,827	87,440	823,298	149,327	44,642	27,073	96,047	8.0	14.5
	2013	65,777	84,268	181,017	1,426,968	1,171,968	82.1	1,503,030	1,169,727	82,848	792,942	123,087	48,628	29,423	92,799	8.0	15.5

(P) Provisional

∴ = 0

(1) Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over.

(2) Conviction ratio is calculated as the number of convictions as a proportion of the number of proceedings.

(3) Defendants who have been proven to have committed an offence (includes convictions, cautions, cannabis warnings and Penalty Notices for Disorder).

(4) Figures are based on defendants sentenced each year. Some of those sentenced may have been found guilty in a previous year so the number of offenders sentenced may exceed the number of guilty defendants.

(5) Custody rate is calculated as the proportion of the total number of persons sentenced who are sentenced to immediate custody.

(6) Average custodial sentence length excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

(7) Indictable offences include those triable-either-way.

Note: Figures for cannabis warnings appearing in this publication are provisional and may be revised following Home Office validation. National Statistics for the financial year 2013/14 are expected to be published during 2014 by the Home Office.

Table Q1.7 - Number of offences brought to justice (notifiable) across Local Criminal Justice Board areas, 2012 to 2013⁽¹⁾

GJS Areas	Recorded Crime ⁽²⁾			Penalty Notice for Disorder			Cannabis Warnings ⁽³⁾			Cautions			Convictions			Offences Taken Into Consideration			Number of offences (thousands)		
	2012	2013		2012	2013		2012	2013		2012	2013		2012	2013		2012	2013		2012	2013	
	3624.2	3504.3	49.8	65.1	49.8	70.1	65.8	211.5	190.0	699.6	67.4 #	54.3	44.3	1,100.7	1,027.3						
England & Wales	3624.2	3504.3	49.8	65.1	49.8	70.1	65.8	211.5	190.0	699.6	67.4 #	54.3	44.3	1,100.7	1,027.3						
Avon & Somerset	100.9	95.8	1.8	1.3	0.3	0.2	2.0	7.4	6.7	22.3	20.7	2.2	2.3	35.9	33.0						
Bedfordshire	35.3	35.6	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.9	1.9	6.6	6.3	0.7	0.6	10.2	9.4						
British Transport Police	51.3	49.7	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.5	3.0	3.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	5.9	6.1						
Cambridgeshire	47.1	43.2	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.2	1.2	2.4	2.4	8.4	7.9	1.0	0.6	14.1	12.5						
Cheshire	57.0	55.2	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.9	0.9	3.1	2.4	11.8	11.3	0.9	0.4	17.5	15.5						
Cleveland	39.7	39.2	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	3.7	3.0	11.4	11.4	0.5	0.3	16.7	15.8						
Cumbria	23.4	24.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	2.1	1.9	7.6	7.4	0.2	0.1	10.7	10.1						
Derbyshire	52.4	52.3	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.6	2.2	11.2	10.6	0.8	0.6	16.4	15.1						
Devon & Cornwall	86.1	85.2	1.2	0.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	6.5	5.5	15.3	14.1	1.0	1.1	25.7	23.2						
Dorset	40.0	38.2	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	2.2	1.8	6.7	6.7	0.3	0.4	10.3	9.8						
Co. Durham & Darlington	31.2	31.7	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	3.2	3.1	8.3	7.9	0.7	0.6	13.3	12.6						
Dyfed Powys	19.4	18.6	0.8	0.6	1.1	0.9	0.9	3.8	3.2	6.5	6.3	0.1	0.0	11.1	11.1						
Essex	99.2	99.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.6	6.3	5.8	17.7	19.0	0.8	1.1	27.2	28.6						
Greater Manchester	30.2	29.5	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.4	1.8	1.5	5.0	5.2	0.5	0.5	8.0	7.7						
Greater London	185.6	179.7	2.6	1.5	3.7	2.5	7.9	7.9	6.5	42.1	39.9	2.5	2.0	68.8	62.4						
Gwent	34.1	35.0	1.5	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.4	3.3	3.0	9.6	8.5	0.2	0.2	15.2	13.0						
Hampshire & Isle of Wight	109.5	104.3	1.8	1.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	6.1	5.1	24.7	22.4	0.9	1.1	35.9	32.5						
Hertfordshire	53.6	50.4	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	4.9	4.1	12.6	12.0	1.4	0.8	23.0	20.5						
Humber	63.2	64.2	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6	3.7	3.0	15.1	15.2	1.1	0.9	21.8	20.6						
Humbly Grove	97.5	106.0	3.0	2.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	7.6	7.0	17.9	18.3	2.7	1.3	29.6	28.1						
Kent	94.2	94.1	2.3	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	7.3	5.2	25.8	24.0	2.8	1.5	33.0	32.1						
Lancashire	60.6	60.0	0.9	0.7	1.2	1.2	0.5	3.9	3.5	11.3	10.6	1.8	1.3	16.9	16.9						
Leicestershire	38.6	36.1	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	2.3	2.1	7.6	7.2	0.6	0.5	10.9	10.9						
Linc. & Humberside	765.4	710.1	10.5	8.3	21.5	20.7	20.7	31.0	31.9	107.5	105.1	8.5	7.4	179.0	173.3						
Merseyside	90.3	92.3	3.9	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.6	4.4	3.6	20.8	20.6	0.4	0.6	30.6	30.6						
North Wales	37.9	37.5	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	3.4	3.4	10.1	9.8	0.8	0.9	16.0	15.6						
North Yorkshire	39.0	36.7	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	2.5	2.2	9.5	9.1	0.5	0.3	13.9	12.8						
Northamptonshire	35.2	34.5	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.7	2.0	1.8	9.5	9.1	0.4	0.3	13.2	12.2						
Northumbria	47.5	41.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.6	2.5	7.3	7.2	0.8	0.9	11.5	11.4						
Nottinghamshire	67.4	70.2	1.3	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.2	6.9	6.8	22.0	20.6	1.1	0.9	32.6	30.5						
Nottinghamshire	68.8	68.4	0.6	0.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	6.7	5.5	14.5	13.2	1.4	0.6	24.7	20.8						
Nottinghamshire	83.5	83.1	2.3	1.7	1.2	1.2	1.2	4.6	4.7	21.9	22.1	1.0	2.5	31.1	32.2						
Nottinghamshire	94.3	91.3	2.3	1.6	1.0	0.9	0.9	3.6	3.5	15.9	17.1	4.0	1.7	26.7	24.8						
Nottinghamshire	60.5	58.9	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.1	4.1	2.9	11.3	10.8	0.9	0.6	16.8	16.4						
Nottinghamshire	40.3	37.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	2.6	2.4	8.5	8.2	0.6	0.5	12.7	12.1						
Nottinghamshire	52.9	49.7	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.1	2.4	2.2	9.1	9.2	0.5	0.3	13.7	13.7						
Nottinghamshire	91.3	84.7	1.0	0.8	1.6	1.4	1.4	6.5	5.7	17.3	16.6	0.4	0.2	24.7	24.7						
Nottinghamshire	134.7	129.2	3.6	3.1	2.1	1.7	1.7	7.8	7.3	22.3	21.3	1.7	1.5	37.6	35.0						
Nottinghamshire	30.3	28.7	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	1.8	1.8	4.0	4.1	0.3	0.5	7.0	7.1						
Nottinghamshire	62.0	57.0	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.9	4.3	4.0	12.1	10.9	0.3	0.2	16.3	16.6						
Nottinghamshire	171.8	173.2	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.1	6.5	5.6	34.4	34.4	1.0	1.1	45.4	44.1						
Nottinghamshire	166.7	160.4	1.8	1.7	2.1	1.7	1.7	8.4	7.3	29.8	29.3	5.4	4.5	47.5	44.5						
Nottinghamshire	34.4	32.8	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	2.3	1.6	6.1	6.1	0.4	0.4	9.8	9.0						

(P) Provisional

(1) The number of Offences Brought to Justice (OBTJ) is in part affected by the number of recorded crimes in an area. If recorded crime in an area falls there will be fewer offences which can potentially be brought to justice.

(2) Excluding fraud offences. For the year ending March 2013 figures, the Office for National Statistics published headline national crime figures that include centralised (Action Fraud) recording of fraud and a separate series which excludes fraud. Due to the staggered move of recording fraud offences by forces to Action Fraud, crime figures are shown excluding fraud offences to allow for consistent comparisons.

Notes

TIC and Cannabis warning figures are provisional and may be revised following Home Office validation. National Statistics for the financial year 2013/14 will be published during 2014 by the Home Office. TIC data excludes fraud to allow for a fair comparison over time. Over the last few years the recording of fraud offences and outcomes has moved from police forces to Action Fraud.

Table A1.1 - Individuals⁽¹⁾ dealt with formally by the Criminal Justice System, 1970 to 2013

Year	England and Wales				Defendants proceeded against				Number of defendants/offenders (thousands) & percentages								
	Cautions - indictable	Cautions - non-indictable	Out of court disposals - Penalty Notices for Disorder (PND) ⁽²⁾	Cannabis warnings ⁽³⁾	Total out of court disposals	Indictable	non-indictable	Summary motoring	Total prosecutions	Offenders found guilty ratio (%) ⁽⁴⁾	Conviction ratio (%) ⁽⁴⁾	Immediate custody	Suspended sentence	Community sentence	Fine	Discharge (absolute or conditional)	Otherwise dealt with
1970	55.7	29.8	85.5	*	374.0	396.0	1,006.0	1,776.0	1,674.0	94.3	94.3	3.3	2.0	3.5	85.5	4.3	1.5
1971	77.3	31.8	109.1	*	374.0	396.0	1,006.0	1,776.0	1,688.0	94.3	94.3	3.1	1.9	3.4	85.7	4.5	1.5
1972	86.5	33.7	120.2	*	373.0	437.0	1,320.0	1,942.0	1,826.2	94.0	94.0	2.8	1.4	3.1	87.1	4.0	1.3
1973	90.8	33.1	123.9	*	366.0	433.0	1,241.0	2,040.0	1,928.6	94.5	94.5	2.4	1.4	2.8	88.2	3.9	1.4
1974	105.2	34.4	136.5	*	406.0	418.0	1,227.0	2,051.0	1,933.7	94.3	94.3	2.7	1.5	3.1	87.5	4.2	1.0
1975	102.2	34.1	136.3	*	439.0	439.0	1,233.0	2,111.0	1,988.7	94.2	94.2	2.9	1.7	3.1	86.9	4.4	1.0
1976	97.7	37.6	135.3	*	457.0	468.0	1,285.0	2,210.0	2,072.6	93.8	93.8	3.2	1.8	3.3	87.0	4.5	0.8
1977	111.2	38.2	149.4	*	470.0	460.0	1,165.0	2,093.0	1,951.2	93.2	93.2	3.4	1.9	3.5	86.3	4.5	1.0
1978	103.0	38.5	141.5	*	461.0	429.0	1,129.0	2,019.0	1,879.0	93.1	93.1	3.3	1.8	3.7	86.1	4.2	0.8
1979	96.8	39.8	136.6	*	460.0	441.0	1,147.0	2,048.0	1,888.1	92.7	92.7	3.1	1.6	4.0	86.4	4.1	0.8
1980	100.9	44.9	153.9	*	507.0	502.0	1,299.0	2,379.0	2,104.7	92.7	92.7	3.5	1.8	4.6	84.7	4.6	0.7
1981	111.3	49.2	165.5	*	539.0	469.0	1,214.0	2,293.5	2,104.7	91.8	91.8	3.8	1.9	5.0	83.7	4.9	0.7
1982	114.9	50.6	166.5	*	530.0	521.0	1,252.0	2,303.0	2,095.5	91.0	91.0	3.7	1.6	5.0	84.2	4.8	0.6
1983	111.3	49.2	160.6	*	520.0	469.0	1,158.0	2,147.0	1,962.6	89.9	89.9	4.0	1.5	5.5	83.2	5.1	0.7
1984	145.4	73.4	218.8	*	520.0	508.0	1,199.0	2,147.0	1,910.8	89.0	89.0	4.4	1.6	5.6	82.7	5.1	0.7
1985	145.4	73.4	218.8	*	520.0	508.0	1,199.0	2,147.0	1,910.8	89.0	89.0	4.4	1.6	5.6	82.7	5.1	0.7
1986	136.9	76.6	213.5	*	488.0	505.0	850.0	1,843.0	1,554.7	84.4	84.4	4.8	1.9	6.2	80.3	4.7	0.6
1987	149.8	86.8	236.6	*	494.0	543.0	826.0	1,863.0	1,555.3	83.5	83.5	4.6	2.0	6.1	80.3	6.2	0.8
1988	140.7	94.7	235.4	*	449.0	568.0	847.0	1,864.0	1,534.5	82.3	82.3	4.3	1.9	6.0	79.9	6.8	0.9
1989	166.3	102.1	238.1	*	469.0	577.0	846.0	1,892.0	1,514.7	80.1	80.1	3.8	1.8	6.7	78.8	7.6	1.4
1990	179.9	98.9	278.8	*	489.0	573.0	894.0	1,956.0	1,505.1	76.9	76.9	4.1	1.9	7.0	77.6	8.2	1.3
1991	216.2	105.1	321.3	*	490.3	601.5	938.2	2,029.9	1,519.7	74.9	74.9	3.8	1.5	6.7	77.9	8.8	1.3
1992	209.6	101.8	311.4	*	478.8	560.8	896.6	1,956.3	1,425.3	72.9	72.9	4.1	0.3	8.1	76.6	9.6	1.3
1993	209.6	101.8	311.4	*	478.8	560.8	896.6	1,956.3	1,425.3	72.9	72.9	4.1	0.3	8.1	76.6	9.6	1.3
1994	209.6	101.8	311.4	*	478.8	560.8	896.6	1,956.3	1,425.3	72.9	72.9	4.1	0.3	8.1	76.6	9.6	1.3
1995	202.6	88.7	291.3	*	463.5	497.3	863.1	1,947.2	1,407.6	72.3	72.3	4.9	0.2	9.2	75.0	9.3	1.3
1996	190.8	95.4	281.2	*	464.7	523.0	849.7	1,836.3	1,354.6	73.8	73.8	5.9	0.2	9.6	73.6	9.3	1.4
1997	189.4	92.7	282.1	*	486.7	607.6	847.2	1,919.5	1,438.0	74.9	74.9	5.9	0.2	9.2	74.6	8.7	1.3
1998	191.7	96.2	287.9	*	510.5	530.6	838.0	1,855.3	1,385.8	74.7	74.7	6.8	0.3	10.1	72.1	9.2	1.5
1999	170.6	95.6	266.1	*	512.7	560.0	809.0	1,881.8	1,469.7	75.3	75.3	6.8	0.2	10.2	72.2	9.2	1.5
2000	150.9	88.1	239.0	*	491.8	625.9	786.9	1,804.7	1,408.5	74.8	74.8	7.5	0.2	10.8	70.5	9.2	1.8
2001	143.9	85.9	229.9	*	500.9	572.0	764.8	1,837.7	1,423.7	73.4	73.4	7.9	0.2	12.2	69.0	8.6	2.1
2002	142.9	82.4	225.4	*	517.1	622.0	785.8	1,924.8	1,349.7	70.4	70.4	7.9	0.2	13.1	68.5	8.3	2.0
2003	150.7	91.1	241.8	*	509.2	634.1	857.6	2,000.8	1,491.2	74.5	74.5	7.2	0.2	12.8	69.4	8.2	2.2
2004	156.3	99.5	255.8	*	453.3	665.3	904.0	2,022.6	1,548.5	76.6	76.6	6.9	0.2	13.0	70.0	7.3	2.6
2005	162.9	116.0	278.9	*	445.4	637.0	834.7	1,895.0	1,484.4	78.3	78.3	6.8	0.7	13.8	69.1	7.1	2.5
2006	203.8	146.2	350.0	*	406.2	612.0	761.1	1,779.3	1,421.4	79.9	79.9	6.8	2.4	13.4	67.7	7.0	2.8
2007	205.1	157.8	362.9	*	668.9	404.9	599.3	1,732.5	1,415.9	81.7	81.7	6.7	2.9	13.9	66.6	7.4	2.5
2008 ⁽⁶⁾	181.2	146.7	327.9	*	387.5	593.3	728.4	1,640.0	1,363.2	83.1	83.1	7.3	3.0	14.0	65.4	7.2	3.2
2009	159.5	131.1	290.6	*	357.5	593.3	649.2	1,640.0	1,363.2	83.1	83.1	7.1	3.2	13.9	67.3	6.6	1.9
2010	133.5	109.3	242.8	*	436.0	607.1	608.1	1,653.2	1,367.5	82.7	82.7	7.4	3.5	13.9	65.5	7.3	2.4
2011	123.9	108.3	232.2	*	424.0	606.5	549.6	1,580.0	1,314.2	85.2	85.2	8.1	3.7	13.4	65.3	7.2	2.4
2012	105.6	95.3	200.9	*	377.0	581.9	525.8	1,484.6	1,231.6	83.0	83.0	8.0	3.6	12.1	66.9	7.1	2.2
2013	94.1	87.0	181.1	*	364.3	538.1	524.6	1,427.0	1,172.0	82.1	82.1	7.9	4.2	10.5	67.8	7.1	2.5

* = Not applicable (P) Provisional

(1) Including 'other defendants' such as companies and public bodies.

(2) Full calendar year data is available for PNDs from 2005 onwards

(3) Reliable data for Cannabis Warnings can only be provided from 2006 onwards where full calendar year data is available

(4) The conviction ratio is calculated as the number of convictions as a proportion of the number of proceedings.

(5) Percentages may not sum exactly to 100 due to rounding.

(6) Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates' court for April, July, and August 2008.

Notes

Cannabis warning figures are provisional and may be revised following Home Office validation. National Statistics for the financial year 2013/14 will be published during 2014 by the Home Office.

Table A1.2 - Offences brought to justice (notifiable) by criminal justice areas, 2003 - 2013 (KPOK46)

England and Wales	Offences brought to justice (thousands)											Annual percentage change										
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2003 - 2004	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006	2006 - 2007	2007 - 2008	2008 - 2009	2009 - 2010	2010 - 2011	2011 - 2012	2012 - 2013	
England and Wales	1,047.6	1,094.7	1,214.2	1,405.4	1,459.7	1,413.4	1,343.8	1,283.1	1,218.5	1,100.7	1,027.3	4.5	10.9	15.8	3.9	-3.2	-4.9	-6.0	-3.5	-9.7	-8.3	-6.7
Avon & Somerset	26.3	25.4	31.2	37.9	40.1	39.7	35.9	37.4	39.1	35.9	33.0	-3.6	22.8	21.6	5.8	-1.0	-9.7	4.2	4.6	-8.3	-8.1	-8.1
Bedfordshire	10.9	11.2	12.6	13.5	12.7	13.1	12.1	11.3	11.3	10.2	9.4	2.6	13.3	7.0	-6.4	3.7	-8.0	-6.6	-0.1	-9.7	-7.4	-7.4
British Transport Police	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	7.0	5.9	6.1											
Cambridgeshire	12.8	12.1	15.1	17.5	18.6	19.2	18.3	18.3	16.6	14.1	12.5	-5.6	24.5	16.0	6.5	3.1	-4.6	0.1	-9.1	-15.1	-11.8	-11.8
Cheshire	16.8	17.1	22.1	24.9	23.8	23.5	21.5	20.8	18.9	17.5	15.5	1.6	29.0	12.6	-4.2	-1.5	-8.5	-3.1	-9.2	-7.2	-7.2	-7.2
Cleveland	14.9	14.7	16.3	20.9	22.0	22.6	21.8	19.6	18.3	16.7	15.8	-1.3	10.5	28.4	5.3	2.8	-3.6	-10.1	-6.4	-9.2	-5.4	-5.4
Cumbria	10.9	11.6	12.3	12.9	13.3	12.1	11.6	12.8	10.7	10.1	4.0	5.9	6.4	4.8	10.5	-6.8	-4.0	-4.0	10.0	-16.3	-5.1	-5.1
Derbyshire	17.8	17.9	20.3	21.0	23.7	21.9	18.6	17.8	19.3	16.4	15.1	0.5	13.8	3.5	12.7	-7.9	-15.0	-4.4	8.9	-15.4	-7.4	-7.4
Devon & Cornwall	26.7	25.9	28.9	32.9	33.9	31.6	32.9	30.4	30.3	25.7	23.2	3.2	11.9	13.5	3.2	-6.9	-7.1	-12.0	-2.0	-3.3	-15.1	-9.9
Dorset	10.2	14.4	15.3	16.6	15.5	14.4	12.6	12.4	11.4	10.3	9.8	4.1	6.1	8.5	-6.8	-7.1	-12.0	-2.0	-3.3	-12.1	-4.7	-4.7
Co. Durham & Darlington	12.3	11.4	13.2	15.5	16.6	14.3	14.8	15.7	15.1	13.3	12.6	-11.7	15.7	17.6	6.9	-13.9	3.6	5.7	1.4	2.8	9.5	9.5
Dyfed Powys	12.5	10.2	11.9	13.5	12.4	11.6	11.9	11.7	11.9	12.2	11.1	17.9	15.9	13.9	8.0	-10.2	2.4	-1.5	1.4	2.8	5.0	5.0
Essex	22.3	24.9	32.4	37.3	40.7	36.5	32.9	32.2	33.2	27.2	28.6	-11.9	29.9	15.3	9.0	-10.2	8.1	-16.5	0.9	-18.1	-12.1	-12.1
Goucestershire	11.5	11.2	13.5	16.1	14.0	14.4	12.6	10.1	8.8	8.0	7.7	-13.1	21.1	19.0	-13.1	3.0	-12.5	-20.3	-12.4	-9.7	-3.1	-3.1
Greater Manchester	57.6	65.5	71.2	83.2	83.0	75.8	67.7	70.4	66.9	58.8	52.4	-12.7	8.8	16.9	-0.3	-8.6	-10.6	3.9	-4.9	-12.1	-10.9	-10.9
Gwent	17.0	14.8	14.4	18.0	19.2	15.9	16.0	13.9	15.8	15.2	13.0	11.8	2.1	4.1	0.9	-12.6	0.3	-12.8	13.4	-3.8	-9.4	-9.4
Hampshire & Isle of Wight	32.7	36.6	37.3	38.9	43.9	42.0	41.7	41.1	39.7	35.9	32.5	18.2	-3.6	48.4	-5.9	-2.5	6.6	-1.0	-4.9	-7.6	-14.2	-14.2
Hertfordshire	16.0	18.9	18.2	27.1	25.5	24.8	26.5	26.2	24.9	23.0	20.5	15.0	9.2	11.0	19.4	-12.2	-6.4	-8.3	5.4	-12.8	-5.6	-5.6
Humburbside	18.9	21.8	23.8	26.4	31.5	27.6	25.9	23.7	25.0	21.8	20.6	15.0	14.9	10.0	7.5	3.8	0.7	-8.2	3.3	-17.0	-7.8	-7.8
Kent	28.1	28.7	33.0	36.3	39.0	40.5	40.8	37.4	38.7	32.1	29.6	2.1	14.9	10.0	10.0	7.5	3.8	0.7	-8.2	3.3	-17.0	-7.8
Lancashire	31.3	34.1	38.4	47.6	47.2	43.0	41.7	42.1	40.1	39.1	33.0	9.0	12.8	23.9	-1.0	-8.8	-3.1	1.1	-4.8	-2.3	-15.8	-15.8
Leicestershire	19.1	21.7	24.2	27.3	27.1	23.3	21.2	19.7	18.1	19.2	16.9	13.3	11.6	12.9	-0.8	-13.9	-9.1	-7.0	-8.2	6.0	-11.8	-11.8
Lincolnshire	10.5	10.9	13.9	14.8	14.6	15.2	13.8	12.3	12.7	12.0	10.9	3.2	27.7	6.5	-1.4	4.1	-8.8	-11.3	3.7	-5.7	-9.2	-9.2
London	128.8	136.6	153.0	203.2	225.6	236.6	220.3	214.1	203.1	179.0	173.3	6.1	11.9	32.8	11.0	4.9	-6.9	-2.8	-5.1	-11.9	-3.2	-3.2
Merseyside	31.9	33.5	34.1	41.9	44.6	46.4	45.9	42.0	36.3	32.3	30.6	5.2	1.7	22.9	6.3	4.2	-1.1	-8.4	-4.0	-13.7	-11.0	-5.4
Norfolk	13.6	14.6	15.2	18.2	18.3	20.1	16.6	15.9	16.3	16.0	15.6	7.2	3.6	20.3	0.2	10.2	-17.6	-4.0	2.3	-1.8	-2.7	-2.7
North Wales	13.3	14.3	15.1	18.4	17.9	18.9	19.1	16.9	15.0	13.9	12.8	7.2	5.9	21.9	-3.0	5.9	1.1	-11.9	-1.1	-7.6	-8.0	-8.0
North Yorkshire	13.2	14.3	14.5	15.4	17.6	16.4	16.8	14.7	15.3	13.2	12.2	8.2	1.7	5.9	14.7	-6.9	2.1	-12.3	3.7	-13.7	-7.3	-7.3
Northamptonshire	12.6	12.7	11.8	14.6	14.4	14.6	13.7	14.2	12.8	11.5	11.4	0.7	-7.3	24.4	-1.5	1.0	3.6	-9.4	-10.0	-10.6	-6.3	-6.3
Northumbria	42.4	38.0	40.5	47.0	49.4	48.5	43.4	37.8	36.5	32.6	30.5	-10.4	6.6	16.2	4.9	-7.9	-4.5	-13.0	-3.5	-10.6	-6.3	-6.3
Nottinghamshire	24.8	24.3	26.8	30.3	29.0	28.6	27.7	27.5	28.9	24.7	20.8	8.2	1.7	5.9	21.9	-3.0	5.9	1.1	-12.3	3.7	-13.7	-7.3
Nottinghamshire	31.0	30.5	29.4	29.6	33.2	33.5	35.9	35.4	33.6	31.1	32.2	-1.7	10.1	13.0	0.5	12.4	0.9	-1.3	-5.1	-7.5	-3.6	-3.6
South Wales	27.4	28.3	34.7	41.1	43.3	42.5	41.3	36.2	31.7	26.7	24.8	3.3	22.9	18.2	5.4	-1.8	-2.8	-12.4	-12.4	-15.9	-7.0	-7.0
South Yorkshire	23.0	21.8	24.5	27.8	28.3	22.3	18.8	20.7	20.4	18.8	16.4	-5.2	12.3	13.8	1.9	-21.3	-16.0	10.1	-1.0	-8.2	-4.8	-4.8
Staffordshire	13.1	14.4	15.1	17.2	17.8	17.3	16.2	14.3	13.5	12.7	12.1	9.8	4.8	14.0	3.3	-2.5	-6.5	-11.7	-5.6	-5.9	-4.8	-4.8
Suffolk	12.7	16.7	14.3	17.2	19.8	16.7	15.7	14.2	14.5	14.5	13.7	31.3	-14.3	20.2	14.7	-15.3	-6.4	-9.2	2.0	0.2	-5.7	-5.7
Surrey	23.4	25.8	30.6	34.0	32.5	35.9	31.7	28.5	26.9	24.7	21.7	10.3	18.7	10.9	13.0	13.0	10.5	-11.7	-10.3	-5.5	-8.3	-8.3
Thames Valley	31.6	33.6	48.1	50.4	51.4	50.4	42.8	40.9	39.9	37.6	35.0	6.2	46.2	2.6	2.1	-1.9	-4.4	-4.4	-2.4	-5.5	-6.9	-6.9
Warwickshire	8.6	8.8	10.1	12.4	11.7	10.7	9.3	8.3	7.0	7.0	7.1	1.7	15.2	22.6	-5.3	-9.0	-12.8	-11.2	-15.6	-0.3	2.4	2.4
West Mercia	22.1	23.0	26.8	29.5	27.3	26.6	23.7	21.8	20.1	18.3	16.6	3.8	16.6	10.4	-7.7	-2.0	-3.4	-9.1	-7.8	-7.9	-8.7	-8.7
West Midlands	77.6	69.9	67.4	75.9	74.4	71.8	65.3	50.7	48.6	45.4	44.1	-10.0	-3.5	12.5	-2.0	-3.4	-9.1	-22.3	-4.1	-6.6	-2.8	-2.8
West Yorkshire	47.4	61.6	69.7	66.5	63.7	59.1	57.0	53.8	50.6	47.5	44.5	30.0	13.2	-4.7	-7.3	-3.6	-5.5	-6.0	-6.0	-6.6	-6.3	-6.3
Wiltshire	11.5	11.0	11.6	12.0	11.3	12.8	12.7	10.8	10.0	9.8	9.0	-4.2	5.2	4.1	-8.5	14.1	-14.9	-8.1	-8.1	-1.2	-8.3	-8.3
England and Wales	1,047.6	1,094.7	1,214.2	1,405.4	1,459.7	1,413.4	1,343.8	1,283.1	1,218.5	1,100.7	1,027.3	4.5	10.9	15.8	3.9	-3.2	-4.9	-6.0	-3.5	-9.7	-8.3	-6.7

** = Not applicable

- (1) The total for England and Wales will not match the sum of all police force areas for years prior to 2011 as it includes figures for British Transport Police.
- (2) Cautions data for Dyfed Powys and Lancashire have been sourced from Police National Computer.
- (3) Metropolitan Police and City of London.
- (4) Reliable data for Cannabis Warnings can only be provided from 2006 onwards where full calendar year data is available.
- (5) Full calendar year data is available for PNDIs from 2005 onwards.

Notes

TIC and Cannabis warning figures are provisional and may be revised following Home Office validation. National Statistics for the financial year 2013/14 will be published during 2014 by the Home Office. TIC data excludes fraud to allow for a fair comparison over time. Over the last few years the recording of fraud offences and outcomes has moved from police forces to Action Fraud.

2. Out of Court Disposals

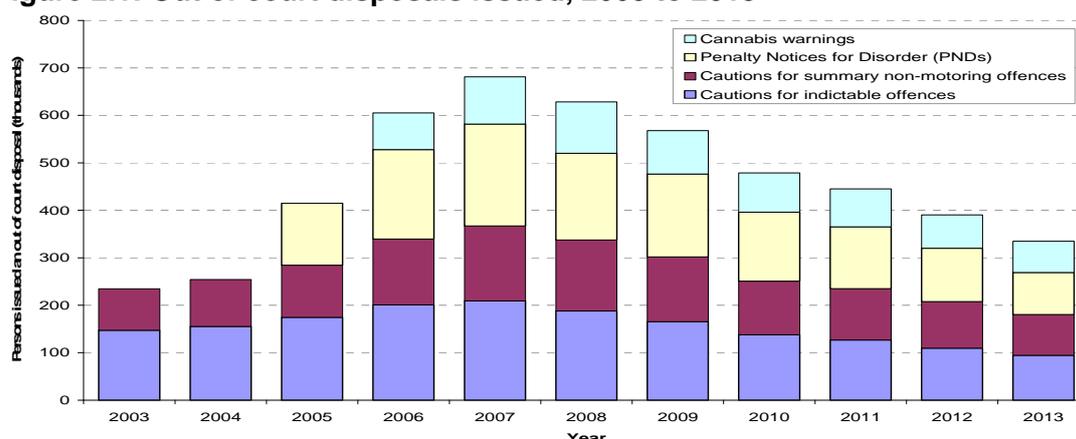
Out of court disposals allow the police to deal quickly and proportionately with low-level, often first-time offending which could more appropriately be resolved without a prosecution at court. Out-of-court disposals are not intended for serious, persistent or contested cases, where court will always be the right forum for deliberation and adjudication. The decision to offer a particular out-of-court disposal must be made in accordance with the national guidance⁴ on the individual disposal. The out of court disposals available to the police and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) up to the end of 2013 included⁵:

- Cannabis warnings (available to adults only);
- Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs no longer available for persons aged under 18 from 8th April 2013);
- Simple cautions (available to adults only until 8th April 2013 at which point youth cautions were introduced);
- Conditional cautions (from 8 April 2013, youth conditional cautions were made available for all 10-17 year olds in England and Wales. Originally youth conditional cautions were only available for 16 and 17 year olds in five pilot areas from on 26 January 2010);
- Reprimands and warnings for youths (were repealed and replaced by youth cautions for offences committed from 8 April 2013).

Simple cautions, conditional cautions and reprimands and warnings for youths form part of an offender's criminal record, and may be disclosed in any future criminal proceedings. PNDs and cannabis warnings do not form part of an individual's criminal record but may be disclosed to a prospective employer as part of a standard and enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

The use of out of court disposals has decreased in the last year by 12%, down to 331,100 in 2013. This continues the decline in the use of out of court disposals since 2007, which has coincided with the replacement in April 2008 of a target to increase offences brought to justice, with one placing more emphasis on bringing serious crime to justice. The latter target was subsequently removed in May 2010.

Figure 2.1: Out of court disposals issued, 2003 to 2013



⁴ Available on the Ministry of Justice website at <http://www.justice.gov.uk/out-of-court-disposals>.

⁵ Note that cautions, written warnings and all fixed penalties for summary motoring offences are not covered in this volume but are published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 'Motoring offences and breath tests'.

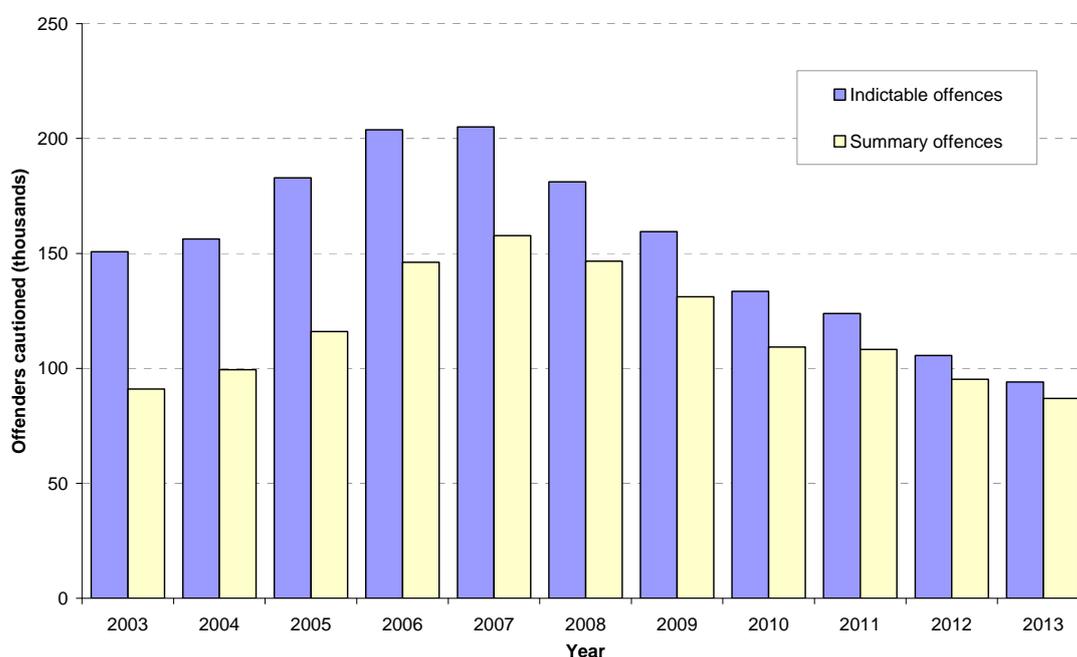
2.1 Police Cautions

A simple caution can be given when there is sufficient evidence for a prosecution and it is not considered to be in the public interest to charge the offender. Additionally, an offender must admit guilt and consent to a caution in order for one to be administered. A caution may be given by, or on the instructions of, a senior police officer, for summary and either way offences, and the CPS must authorise the decision to administer a caution in indictable only cases. A conditional caution can be given when there is sufficient evidence for a prosecution, it is in the public interest to prosecute, but the offending behaviour is better dealt with through compliance with a conditional caution. Again, the offender must admit guilt and consent to a conditional caution being administered. The conditions must be completed within a reasonable period (12 weeks) or the offender may be prosecuted for the original offence. They are administered by the police, using their own discretion, for summary and either way offences, but the CPS must authorise their use for indictable only offences.

There were 181,000 cautions administered in 2013 (including juveniles given a reprimand or warning). Use of cautions has been decreasing year on year since the peak in 2007 and in 2013 was half that in 2007.

The 10% decrease in total offenders cautioned between 2012 and 2013 was largely driven by declining use of cautions administered for indictable offences (including triable either way).

Figure 2.2: Offenders cautioned by offence type, 2003 to 2013



Two offence groups accounted for just over two thirds of all cautions administered in 2013: theft offences (32%) and drug offences (36%).

Youth cautions replaced reprimands and final warnings for offences committed from 8 April 2013 under the LASPO Act 2012. There were 18,400 youth cautions issued in 2013 (for around 66% this was the first time they had been cautioned). Also in 2013,

5,000 juvenile offenders were reprimanded and 3,300 were issued with a final warning, compared with 19,600 and 12,400 respectively in 2012.

There were 20 cautions administered for rape offences in 2013, compared with 16 cautions in 2012. 19 of these 20 were administered to juveniles. Of the cautions administered in 2013, 18 were for rape or attempted rape offences against a male or female child aged under 13 and two were for rape or attempted rape offences against a female child under 16.

Of the 20 cautions administered in 2013:

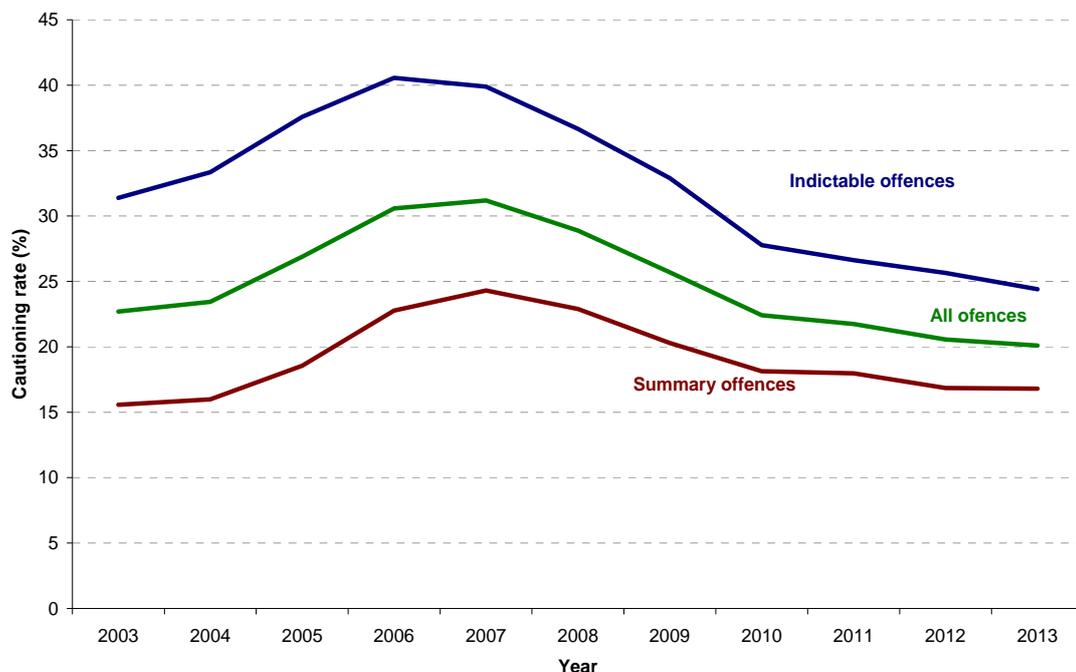
- 16 were for males aged under 15 with a male or female victim aged under 13;
- One was for a male aged under 15 with a female victim aged under 16;
- One was for a male aged between 15 and 17 with a victim aged under 13;
- One was for a male aged between 15 and 17 with a female victim aged under 16;
- The remaining caution was an adult male (at time of caution) with a female victim aged under 13.

2.2 Cautioning Rates

Cautioning rates present the proportion of offenders either cautioned or convicted that are given a caution. This gives a measure of the share of all offenders either admitting guilt or being found guilty in a given year who are dealt with by a caution out of court as opposed to being processed through the courts.

The overall cautioning rate for 2013 was 20%, which has declined from a peak of 31% in 2007. This coincided with the replacement in April 2008 of a target to increase offences brought to justice with more emphasis targeted on serious crime.

Figure 2.3: Cautioning rates by offence type, 2003 to 2013



The cautioning rate varies across offence group and is higher for indictable offences than summary offences – 24% compared with 17% in 2013. It is worth noting that many summary offences (such as TV license evasion) will not have police involvement and therefore cautions are not applicable.

Within indictable offences, the 2013 cautioning rate was highest for criminal damage and arson (40%), drug offences (39%), violence against person (26%), possession of weapons (24%) and theft offences (21%). The lowest cautioning rate was for robbery, at 2%.

The cautioning rates have decreased across all indictable offences groups since 2007, with violence against the person offences showing the largest decrease, of 32 percentage points between 2007 and 2013. Over the last year, nine out of ten indictable offence groups saw decreases in cautioning rates, with a marginal increase in the criminal damage and arson offence group.

2.3 Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs)

Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) are commonly known as ‘on the spot fines’ - a fixed penalty of £60 for lower tier offence or £90 for higher tier offence (raised from £50 and £80 respectively from 1 July 2013 onwards).

They were designed to tackle low-level, anti-social and nuisance offending for offenders aged 18 and over (from 8th April 2013, the use of PNDs for under 18 years old is no longer available) and are issued for a range of minor offences. Until the introduction of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) in 2004 and formal warnings for possession of cannabis in 2005, the only out of court disposal available to police was a caution.

There were 84,300 PNDs issued in 2013, a decrease of 21% compared with 2012 and a decrease of 59% when compared with the peak of 207,500 PNDs issued in 2007.

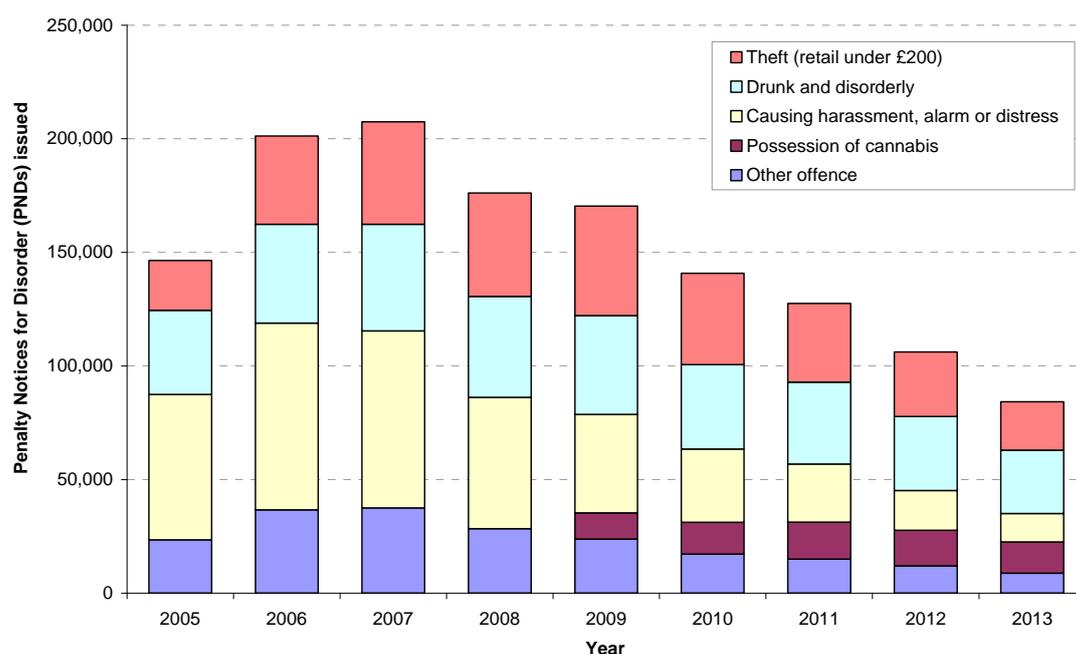
In 2013, similar to 2012, four offences accounted for almost 90% of all PNDs issued namely:

- ‘Drunk and disorderly’ (27,900),
- ‘Retail theft of goods under the value of £100’ (21,200),
- ‘Possession of cannabis’ (13,800),
- ‘Behaviour likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress’ (12,500).

There has been a year-on-year decrease in the number of PNDs issued since their peak in 2007. This decreasing trend has been observed in all offence groups.

PNDs issued for the possession of cannabis decreased for the second year running since the peak of 2011 (16,300) to 13,800 in 2013. The same has been seen in cannabis warnings which have decreased year on year since 2008 peak (108,300) to 65,800 in 2013.

Figure 2.4: Penalty Notices for Disorder issued, 2005 to 2013



Historically, almost all PNDs are issued to adults and from 8th April 2013 they are no longer available for persons aged under 18. In 2013, 77% of PNDs were issued to adult males. The highest number was for 'drunk and disorderly' (23,200).

There were fewer PNDs issued in each of the 44 police force areas (including British Transport Police) in England and Wales in 2013.

Three new PND offences were introduced 2012 - 'Depositing and leaving litter in a Royal Park', 'Use a pedal cycle in a Royal Park' and 'Failing to remove animal faeces from a Royal Park'. Of these 'Use of pedal cycle in a Royal Park' accounted for most PNDs issued in 2013.

2.4 PND Payment, Court Hearings and Related Fines

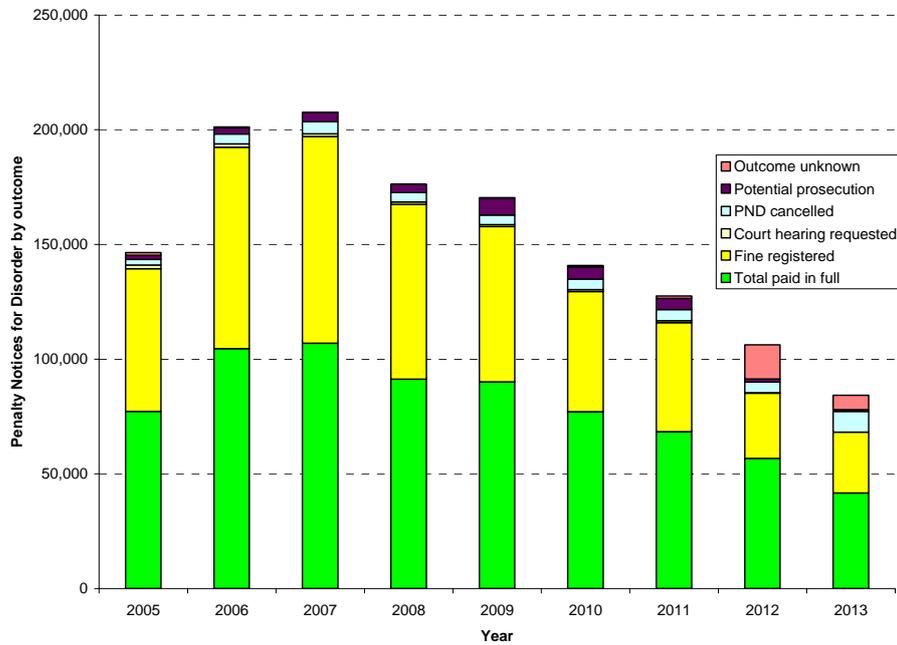
Once a PND has been issued the recipient has 21 days, the Suspended Enforcement Period (SEP), in which to either pay the penalty or request a court hearing. No admission of guilt is required and by paying the penalty the recipient discharges liability for conviction for the offence. Rather than paying the penalty, PND recipients can request a court hearing. If a recipient fails to pay a PND or elect a court hearing within the SEP, a fine of one and half times the penalty amount is registered by the court.

In 2012, a number of forces have moved to a new system for reporting data on PNDs issued and their outcomes. Due to technical problems, for these forces, it is not possible to separate between those PNDs paid in full within 21 days and those paid in full outside the 21 day period in 2012 and 2013. Also due to technical problems there is a backlog of unprocessed PND payments which has resulted in a very large figure for "outcome unknown". Both of these issues are under investigation.

In 2013, 53% of PNDs (with known outcome) were paid in full - a decrease of nine percentage points compared with 2012, and a low since 2009.

Less than 1% of penalty notices have been contested at court in each year since PNDs were introduced. This figure is consistent among all age groups and offences.

Figure 2.5: Penalty Notices for Disorder by outcome, 2005 to 2013



3. Court Proceedings and Remand

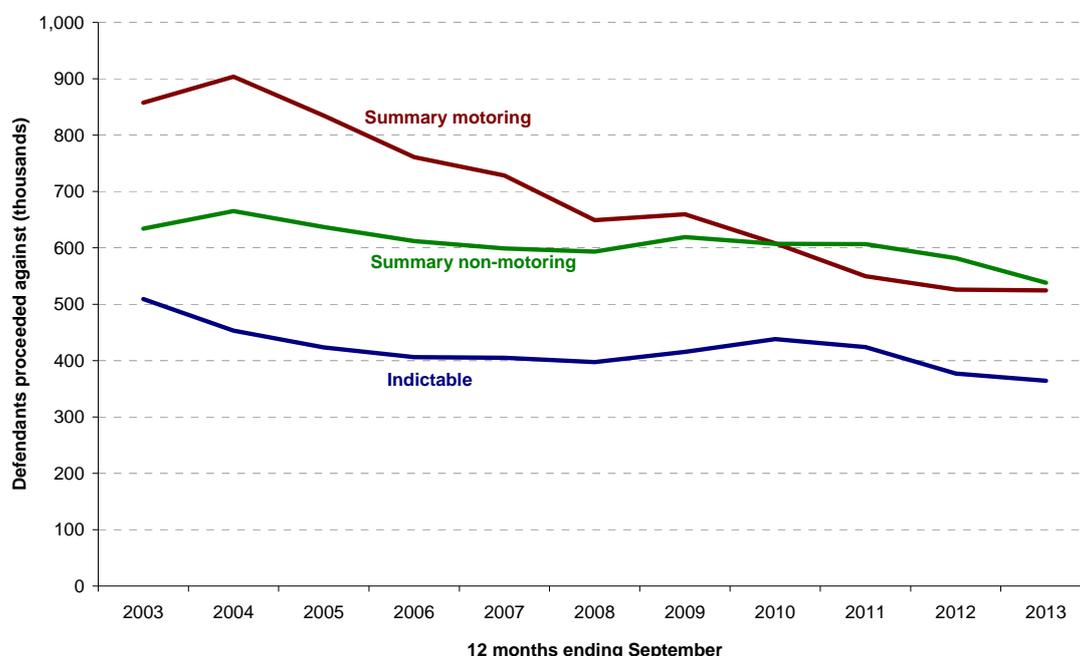
If there is sufficient evidence against the defendant and none of the out of court disposals are appropriate, the police will formally charge the suspect. The law then requires the defendant to be brought before a magistrates' court as soon as possible. The defendant can be summoned to appear in court or remanded on bail or custody.

3.1 Magistrates' Courts

Virtually all criminal court cases start in a magistrates' court and less serious offences can be handled entirely within this court. On 28th May 2013 committal hearings were abolished nationally as part of wider measures to speed up justice and improve efficiencies in the justice system¹. As a result of the change, triable-either-way cases can now be sent straight to the Crown Court as soon as it is clear the matter is serious enough, rather than having to await a committal hearing.

Since 2004, the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts has declined almost year on year – down to 1.43 million defendants in 2013, a 4% decrease compared to 2012. This decline since 2004 has been driven primarily by decreases in prosecutions for summary motoring offences. The biggest decline has been for vehicle insurance offences although there are also large declines for driving licence related offences and driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs.

Figure 3.1: Defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts by type of offence, 2003 to 2013



There was however little change in the number of summary motoring prosecutions between 2012 and 2013. Although there were large decreases in many summary motoring offences, overall prosecutions stayed relatively stable due to an increase in prosecutions for keeping a vehicle that does not meet insurance requirements (under

Section 144A of the Road Traffic Act 1988). Prosecutions for this offence increased from 11,800 in 2012 to 41,300 in 2013. This offence was introduced in 2011 under the Continuous Insurance Enforcement scheme.

Summary non-motoring and indictable prosecutions have continued to decline since 2004, by 19% and 20% respectively. Of indictable offences the largest declines in numbers of prosecutions were seen for 'Theft offences', 'violence against the person' offences and 'miscellaneous crimes against society, which have decreased by 10%, 37% and 50% respectively since 2004.

Within the violence against the person category, the decline in the volume of prosecutions is largely affected by assaults occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH), making threats to kill, and wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) both with and without intent. For theft offences the biggest declines are seen in burglary and aggravated vehicle taking offences.

Prosecutions for theft offences are consistently the highest of all the offence groups, with 140,600 defendants prosecuted in 2013. The majority of these prosecutions are the result of shoplifting offences which increased by 3% from 2012 to 2013. This is consistent with increases in recorded crime for shoplifting.

Although most indictable offence categories have seen declines in prosecutions since 2004, there have been increases in prosecutions for drug offences, sexual offences and public order offences during this period. They have increased by 43%, 8% and 5% respectively. Most prosecutions for drug offences concern cannabis and its derivatives. The increase in cannabis related prosecutions is in contrast to reductions in both cannabis warnings and PNDs issued for the possession of cannabis.

Overall indictable offence proceedings decreased by 3% for the indictable offence category in 2013 compared to 2012 – decreases were seen for all indictable offence categories with the exception of sexual offences, public order offences and fraud offences which have increased by 11%, 4% and 2% respectively. The increase in prosecutions for sexual offences is in line with an increase in recorded crime.

Prosecution demographics

Prosecutions of juveniles have decreased at a much faster pace than prosecutions of adults over the last decade, from 126,500 in 2007 to 48,600 in 2013. They accounted for only 3% of defendants prosecuted in 2013 compared to 7% in 2007.

Prosecutions of males have decreased for all three offence types since 2004 and accounted for 71% of prosecutions in 2013. However, volumes of prosecutions of females have remained largely flat overall across the period. This is due to a balance between declining volumes of prosecutions of females for indictable and summary motoring offences and an increasing volume of prosecutions of females for summary non-motoring offences. The increasing trend in prosecutions of females for summary non-motoring offences is driven by TV licence evasion offences.

Cases heard in the magistrates' courts

In 2013, 79% of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts were dealt with entirely within the magistrates' court and 6% were sent for trial at the Crown Court.

The remaining defendants were cases that were discontinued, where the charge was withdrawn or where the defendant failed to appear. These proportions have remained stable over recent years.

The number of defendants sent for trial at the Crown Court increased by 6% in 2013 compared to 2012. This increase appears to be the result of the abolition of committal hearings which was introduced nationally on the 28th May 2013 as part of wider measures to speed up justice and improve efficiencies in the justice system⁶. As a result cases are now being sent straight to the Crown Court as soon as it is clear the matter is serious enough, rather than having to await a committal hearing.

3.2 Trials at the Crown Court

There are two types of offence that may be sent by a magistrate to be tried at the Crown Court. Indictable only offences are offences that are considered to be of such gravity that they can only be dealt with at the Crown Court. Triable-either-way offences can be dealt with at the magistrates' court or the Crown Court, and the magistrates' court will decide whether it can deal with the case or whether it needs to be sent to the Crown Court

The number of defendants appearing in the Crown Court for trial was stable at around 79,000 between 2003 and 2005, before increasing by 40% between 2005 and 2010. This was a result of a greater proportion of cases being committed and sent for trial. Since 2010, the upward trend has reversed, with 2013 figures showing a 6% decrease compared with 2012.

In line with this, the volume of defendants being tried at the Crown Court is declining – with 82,600 defendants tried at the Crown Court in 2013, compared with 105,100 in 2010. This decline is mirrored in caseload statistics⁷ presenting volumes of completed cases at the Crown Court.

3.3 Remands

Police remands are the decisions made by a police officer on whether to detain or bail a defendant pending their first appearance in court or send a notice summoning them to appear in court. Court remands are the court's decision on whether a defendant charged with a criminal offence should be held in custody or released on bail during the period up to and including the trial, or while awaiting sentence.

In 2013, there were 1.49 million defendants directed to appear at magistrates' courts (including those who failed to appear). The proportion of defendants remanded in custody by the police increased between 2007 and 2013, from just under 6% to nearly 12% – driven mainly by the rise in defendants remanded in custody for indictable offences. In 2013, 29% of defendants were granted bail by the police, with 60% directed to appear via summonses.

⁶ www.gov.uk/government/news/faster-justice-as-unnecessary-committal-hearings-are-abolished

⁷ See Table 3.2 in 'Court statistics (quarterly)' bulletin, published on the Ministry of Justice website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/court-statistics-quarterly-october-to-december-2013>

In 2013, bail was granted to 19% of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts, just under 3% were remanded in custody, and the remaining 79% had their case concluded at the magistrates' courts without being remanded.

On 28th May 2013, committal hearings were abolished nationally as part of wider measures to speed up justice and improve efficiencies in the justice system. As a result cases are now be sent straight to the Crown Court as soon as it is clear the matter is serious enough, rather than having to await a committal hearing. This has led to an increase in the number of defendants remanded on bail or in custody at the point at which there cases are sent to the Crown Court for trial.

Defendants are more likely to be remanded in custody for indictable offences than summary offences – as a result, the proportion of defendants remanded in custody at the Crown Court is higher than at magistrates' courts. In the latest year, the proportion of defendants tried at the Crown Court who were remanded in custody was 35% (in line with results for the past five years), with a further 47% remanded on bail (down from 54% in 2010). Of those remanded in custody at the Crown Court, 73% were convicted and sentenced to immediate custody. This compares to 30% for those cases in which magistrates remanded in custody and subsequently dealt with.

The proportion of defendants remanded in custody before appearing at the Crown Court varies by offence group. Overall, just over 37% of such defendants were remanded in custody at some point. For the offence groups violence against the person and sexual offences the proportions remanded in custody are 39% and 30% respectively. The three offence groups with the highest proportion remanded in custody are robbery (60%), theft offences (54%) and Criminal damage and arson (51%). By contrast, the three offence groups with the lowest proportion remanded in custody are *public order offences* (32%), *miscellaneous crimes against society* (27%) and *fraud offences* (14%).

Each year a proportion of defendants fail to appear in court having been summonsed to appear or granted bail. The court will issue the police with a warrant for the apprehension and detention of these defendants.

In 2013, approximately 61,500 defendants failed to appear to bail or summons at magistrates' courts; 4.1 % of those directed to appear in that period. During 2013, approximately 2,300 defendants failed to appear to bail at the Crown Court, 2.2% of all defendants due to stand trial or to be sentenced at the Crown Court in the same period. This reverses the downward trend in the number of defendants failing to appear at the Crown Court seen in each year since 2007, although the proportions failing to appear are broadly in line with results from the previous five years.

3.4 Failure to Appear Warrants

Failure to appear (FTA) warrants are issued by courts when defendants do not attend court on a specified date having either been summonsed or granted bail at an earlier stage. Police forces attempt to execute warrants by locating and apprehending these defendants. These warrants may relate to defendants who failed to appear at court during a different period.

Categorisation of a warrant is the process that determines the executing agency and the timescales that it should be executed in. Generally, category A warrants relate to the most serious offences, such as violent and sexual offences, kidnapping,

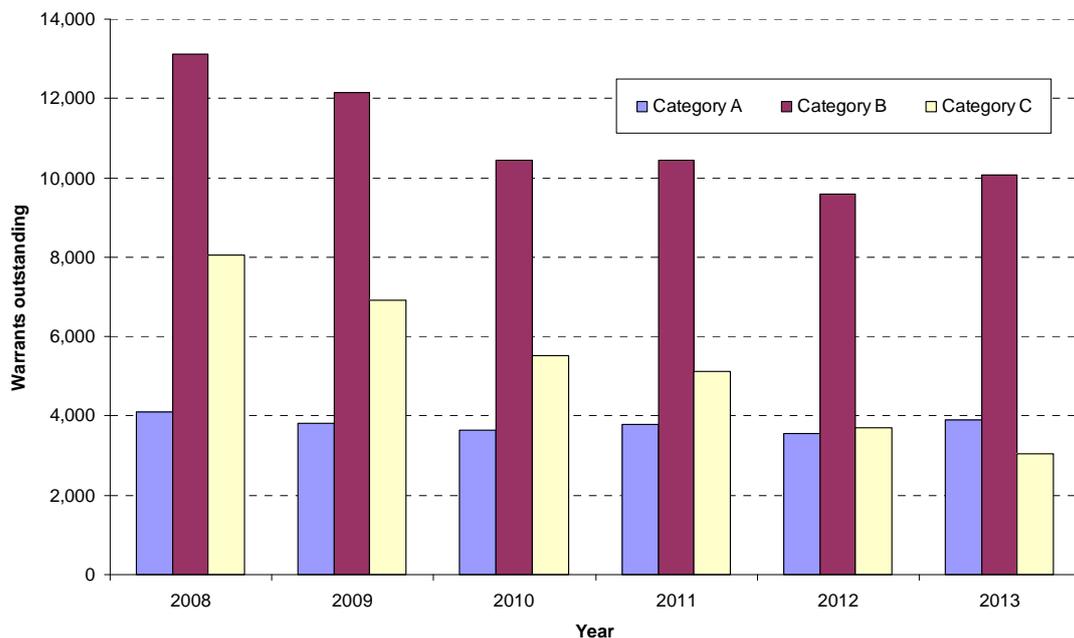
possession of firearms with criminal intent, producing or supplying controlled drugs etc. Some of the additional factors to be considered in categorisation are the risk to the public and the intelligence value. Category A warrants have a shorter target timescale in which to be executed than category B or C warrants, and are generally relate to more serious cases and defendants deemed as posing an elevated level of risk to the public.

In 2013, police forces in England and Wales received a total of 70,200 FTA warrants from the courts, of which 86% were executed. This is a decrease of 4% compared with 2012.

There were a total of 17,000 FTA warrants outstanding at the end of December 2013, an increase of 1% compared with the position at the end of December 2013. This increase reverses the year-on-year decrease in the number of warrants outstanding seen over the previous five years.

The largest fall in FTA warrants was observed for Category C warrants which decreased by 62%, from just over 8,000 at the end of December 2008 to 3,000 at the end of December 2013. The corresponding decreases for the number of outstanding Category A and Category B warrants were 5% and 23% respectively over the same time period.

Figure 4: Number of Failure to Appear (FTA) Warrants outstanding in England and Wales, by category of warrant, September 2008 to September 2013



4. Offenders Found Guilty

A conviction is where a person or a company is found guilty of a criminal offence at either the magistrates' courts or the Crown Court.

Trends in the number of offenders convicted – that is, defendants who plead or are found guilty – and sentenced at all courts are driven by two factors, namely the number of individuals dealt with through the courts (the trend in prosecutions) and the proportion of those individuals who are found guilty. Conviction ratios are calculated as the number of convictions as a proportion of the number of proceedings, and give a measure of the relative number of defendants who are found guilty within a given year when compared with the number who are prosecuted that year.

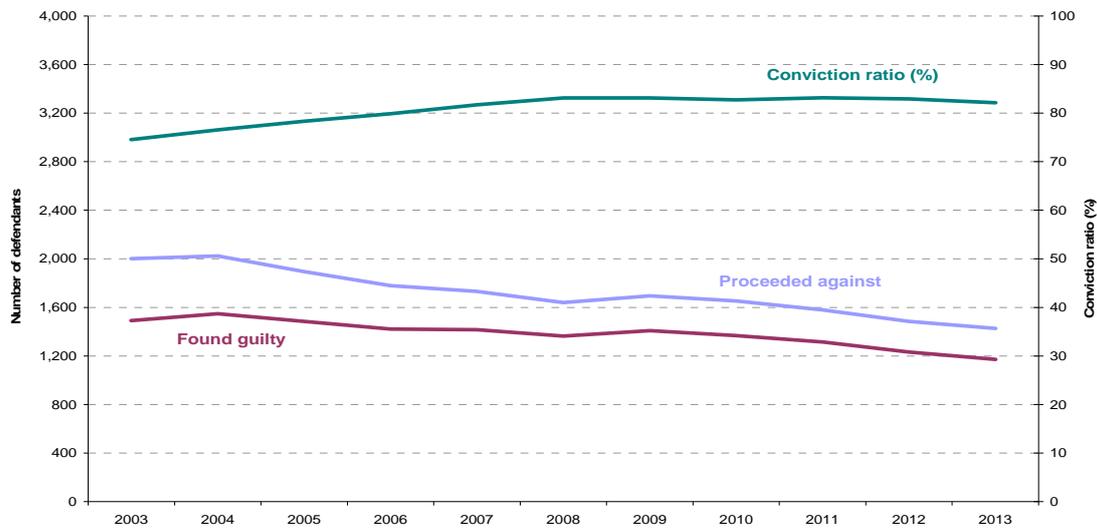
Conviction ratios and volumes

Conviction ratios are calculated as the number of convictions as a proportion of the number of proceedings. This gives a measure of the relative number of defendants who are found guilty within a given year for a certain offence, when compared with the number who are prosecuted that year for the same offence.

It is worth noting that offenders found guilty in a given year may well have been proceeded against in a previous year. Similarly, defendants proceeded against in one year may not have received their final case outcome (i.e. found guilty or acquitted) in the same year. Further, defendants may be found guilty of a different offence to that for which they were originally proceeded against.

Since 2004, convictions have declined in most years, in line with declining numbers of individuals proceeded against. However, the decline in convictions between 2003 and 2008 has not been as steep as for proceedings, as a greater proportion of proceedings have resulted in convictions. As a result, the conviction ratio increased from 75% in 2003 to 83% in the 2008, and has since remained steady, fluctuating between 82% and 83%. In 2013 it was 82% compared to 83% in 2012. The complex nature of the CJS means there are a number of possible factors contributing to this change – for example, changes in guilty plea rates, the mix of cases handled in and out of court, impacts of operational changes, and so on – and it is difficult to separately identify the impacts of different factors.

Figure 4.1: Prosecutions at magistrates' courts and convictions at all courts, with conviction ratio, 2003 to 2013



The theft offences group has the highest number of convictions, 122,400 in 2013. The majority of convictions in this group, 61%, were for stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting) under the Theft Act 1968. The drugs offences group has the next highest volume of convictions, 57,000, with offences concerning Cannabis and its derivatives making up the majority of these convictions.

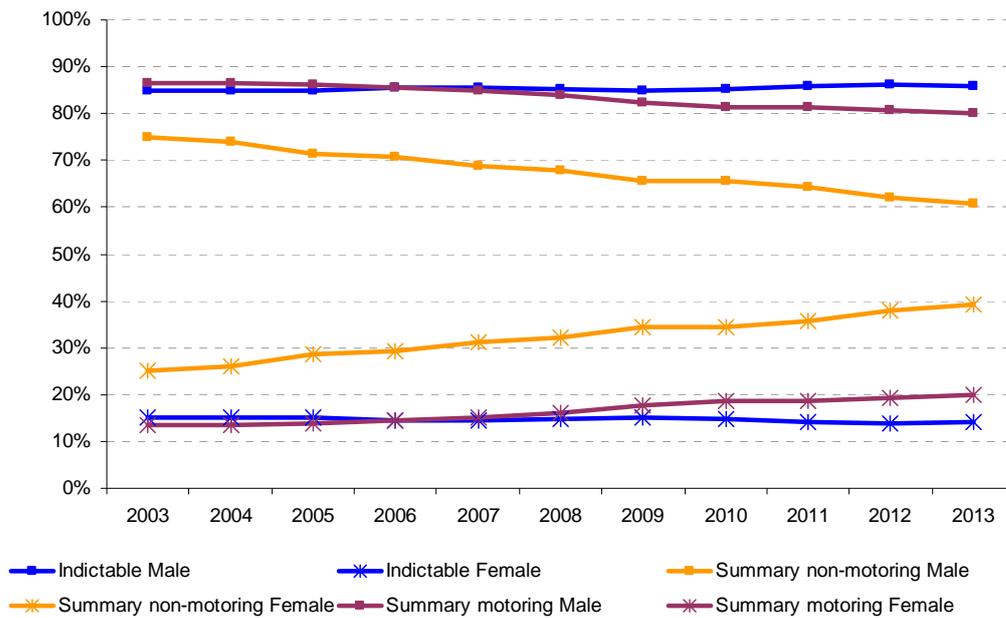
Between 2012 and 2013 the number of convictions for all offence groups, except public order offences, decreased. (Public order offences increased by less than 1% in 2013).

Sexual offence convictions decreased by 1% in 2013 compared to 2012 (5,700 sexual offence convictions in 2013). This coincided with an 11% increase in prosecutions for sexual offences, resulting in a conviction ratio of 55%. The conviction ratio decreased by 6 percentage points in 2013 from 61% in 2012. The conviction ratio for this offence group however had shown a slight overall increase from 2008 (60%) to 2012 (61%).

The decrease in the conviction ratio for this group coincides with an increasing proportion of sexual offences in outstanding cases (cases waiting to go to court). This increase could be because of the nature of these types of cases, meaning that more time is often spent building a case for the prosecution or defence, than with cases involving other offence groups.

In 2013, 25% of convictions were given for indictable offences, 37% for summary non-motoring offences and 38% for summary motoring offences. This is a very similar pattern to that seen in 2012.

Figure 4.2: Convictions, male- female splits, 2003 to 2013



In 2013, as in 2012, 75% of convicted persons were males and 25% female. In 2003 the male-female split was 82% and 18% respectively. The increase shows that in 2013 a higher proportion of females were convicted, than in 2003 particularly for summary non-motoring offences.

Male offenders are over twice as likely to be convicted of a summary offence than an indictable offence, but female offenders are around 6 times more likely, this is in line with offenders proceeded against, and therefore does not reflect any gender difference in likelihood of conviction.

The number of juveniles found guilty at court has decreased from 97,400 in 2007 down to 35,700 in 2013, with juveniles accounting for 3% of offenders convicted in 2013. The proportion of convictions accounted for by juveniles has decreased from 7% in 2007, matching exactly the trend observed in prosecutions. The volumes of convictions of juveniles have decreased at a faster pace than convictions of adults over the last decade, due to the changes in demographics of defendants proceeded against. This reflects the trend in decreasing first time entrants to the criminal justice system.

5. Sentencing

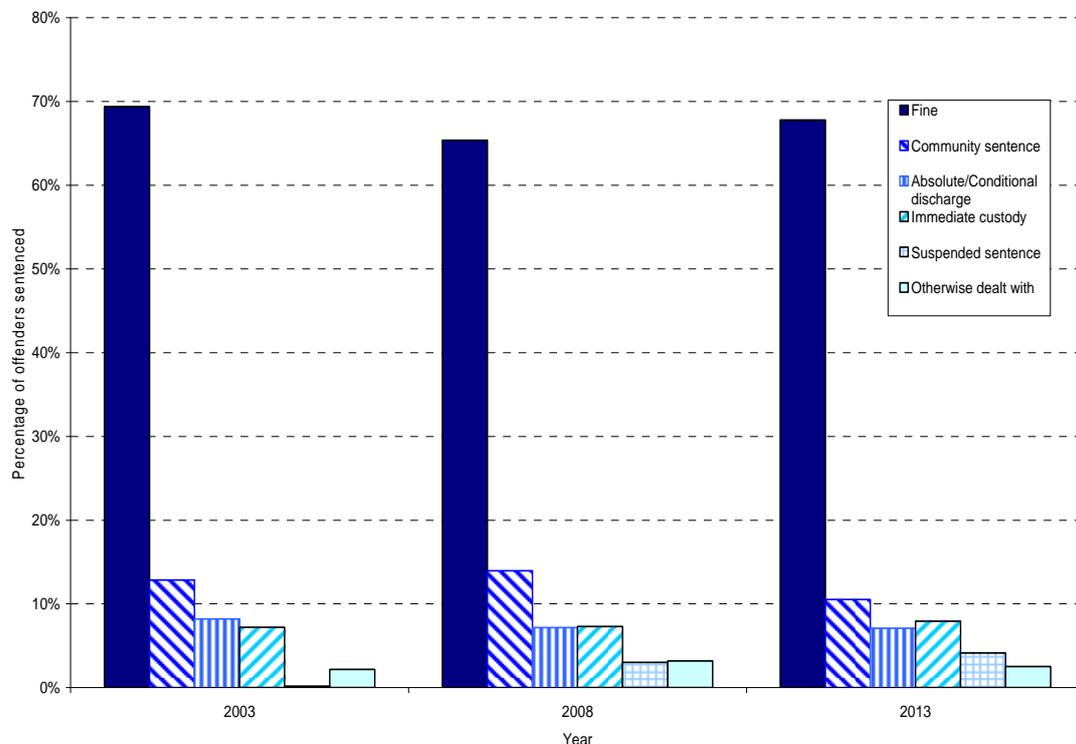
When someone is convicted of a crime, they will be given a sentence by a court which reflects the seriousness of the offence or offences committed by the offender and any mitigating or aggravating factors. Sentences are generally time spent in prison, a community sentence, a suspended sentence, a fine or discharge.

In 2013, there were 1.17 million offenders sentenced following a criminal conviction, 5% fewer than the previous year. This continues a decreasing trend in offenders sentenced since 2004, which reflects that fewer defendants are being proceeded against and fewer found guilty over the period.

Fines are the most common sentence given to offenders at all courts, accounting for 68% of offender sentences in 2013, due mainly to the large number of fines issued for summary offences at the magistrates' court. However, sentencing outcomes vary by offence group, with indictable offences more likely to carry heavier penalties such as an immediate custodial sentence, a suspended sentence or a community sentence. Offenders sentenced for summary offences accounted for 75% of all sentences issued in 2013. The majority of summary offences (99%) were dealt with entirely in the magistrates' courts. Of the summary offences dealt in the magistrates' courts 85% were issued fines.

Overall, the way in which offenders found guilty have been sentenced has remained broadly consistent over the last decade, with around two thirds of offenders being sentenced to a fine in the 2003 to 2013 period.

Figure 5.1: Sentencing outcomes (percentages of all offenders sentenced) at all courts, 2003, 2008 and 2013



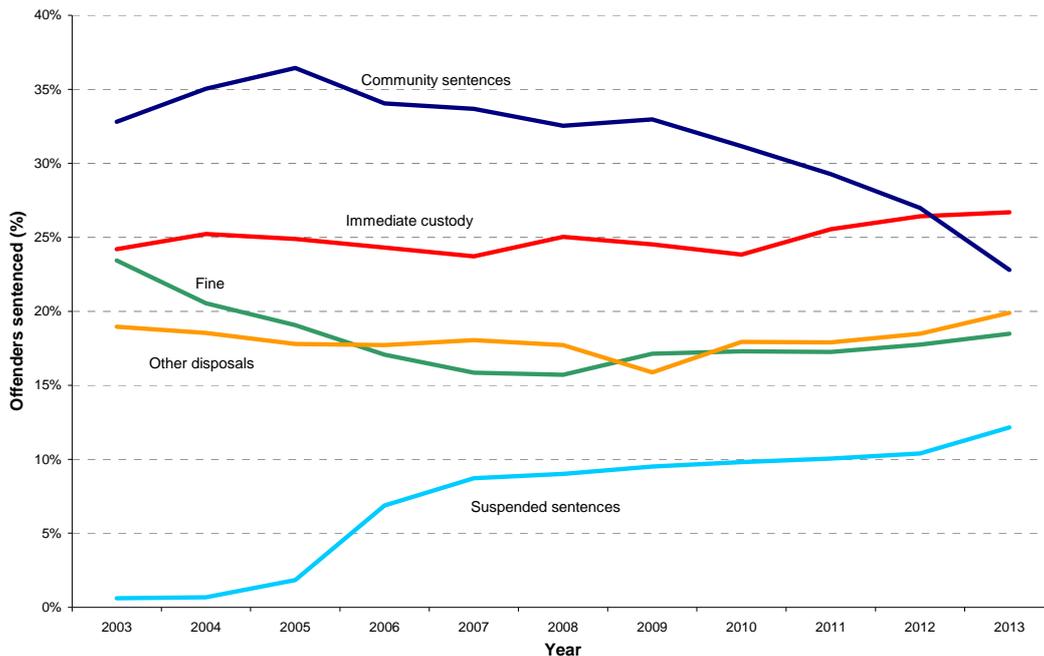
Indictable offences

A different distribution of sentences is observed for indictable offences. In 2013, of all offenders sentenced for indictable offences, 27% were sentenced to immediate custody, 23% to community sentences, 18% to a fine, and 12% to a Suspended Sentence Order (SSO). In 2013, for the first time in the period between 2003 and 2013, immediate custody was the most common disposal given for indictable offences.

Over a quarter of offenders sentenced for indictable offences were sentenced at the Crown Court – of these, 58% received an immediate custodial sentence, reflecting the fact that the most serious offences are likely to be tried on indictment in the Crown Court by a judge and jury.

The proportion of community sentences has decreased steadily since 2009. By contrast, the use of suspended sentence orders (SSOs) increased year on year since 2005. These changes come as a result of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, which made SSOs more readily available. More recently, the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment Offenders Act 2012 made further changes to the availability of SSOs, resulting in an 11% increase in SSOs for indictable offences between 2012 and 2013.

Figure 5.2: Sentencing outcomes (percentages of all offenders sentenced) for indictable offences at all courts, 2003-2013



Custodial Sentences

The number of persons given a custodial sentence (that is, to prison or other form of secure detention) decreased by 13% between 2011 and 2013, reflecting a decrease in the number of offenders being sentenced, down 11% over the same period. The immediate custody rate (the proportion of all persons sentenced receiving immediate custody) peaked in 2011 and has been relatively stable since at 8%. Over half of offenders sentenced for sexual offences and robbery offences and more than two out of five sentenced for violence against the person in 2013 received a custodial sentence.

The custody rate for indictable offences in 2013 was 27% the highest in the period from 2003 to 2013 and it has increased in each year since 2010 from 24% to 27%. This compared with a 2% custodial rate for summary offences.

The average custodial sentence length (ACSL), which excludes life and indeterminate sentences, has increased over the last decade, particularly in the last year – up to 15.5 months in 2013, compared with 12.6 months in 2003 and 14.5 months in 2012. Several factors have contributed to this increase:

- A change in the case-mix of people getting custodial sentences. In 2003 indictable offences, (which have a higher ACSL compared to summary offences) accounted for 75% of all immediate custodial sentences, compared to 84% in 2013.
- Between 2003 and 2013 there has been a steady decrease in the proportion of offenders sentenced to short sentences of more than three and up to six months (from 27% to 20%); while there has been an increase in the proportion of offenders sentenced to more than 18 months and up to three years (from 10% to 13%).
- The introduction of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act (CJIA) in 2008 restricted the use of indeterminate sentences for Public Protection (IPPs), which as mentioned are excluded from ASCL. Following this, there has been an increase in long determinate sentences (defined as for 10 years or more).
- The LASPO Act, which was passed on 3rd December 2012, abolished IPPs and Extended Sentence for Public protection (EPP) and replaced them with new Extended Determinate Sentences (EDS). Furthermore it legislated that adult offenders will receive mandatory life sentences for a second serious sexual or violent offence. The best current estimate⁸ is that 715 offenders were sentenced to an EDS in 2013 with an ACSL of 8 years and 2 months. This represented an increase of 0.6 months in the overall ASCL for 2013.
- Further legislative changes have made sentence lengths longer for certain offences – for example, the powers to sentence offenders convicted of a third domestic burglary offence to a mandatory minimum sentence of three years custody, as introduced by the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 for offences committed after 30th November 1999, have been used increasingly in the last decade.
- The proportion of determinate sentences of five years or longer (but less than life) has been increasing steadily since 2007, with these sentencing accounting for 5% of all custodial sentences in 2013 compared with 3% of all custodial sentences in 2007.

Offenders sentenced for sexual offences have a consistently higher ACSL. In 2013, the ACSL for sexual offences was 59.1 months compared to 54.5 months in 2012. Offenders who received an EDS for sexual offences in 2013 accounted for a 4.8 month increase in the 2013 ACSL for this offence group and had the longest licence period beyond the determinate part of their sentence (54.3 months).

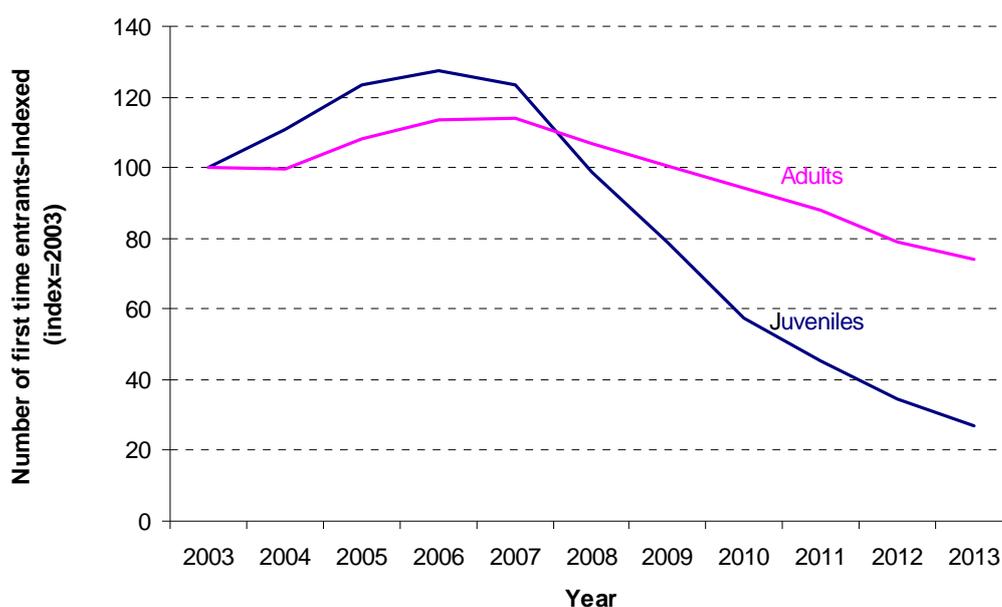
⁸ Due to recording issues, an estimate has had to be made, using prison population data, of the number of persons sentenced to immediate custody since 3rd December 2012 who were given an EDS.

6. Offending Histories

While the number of new entrants to the criminal justice system has been falling since 2007, the number and proportion of convicted offenders who have long criminal records has generally been increasing over the last 10 years.

The reduction seen in the number of first time entrants has been much sharper for juveniles than for adults.

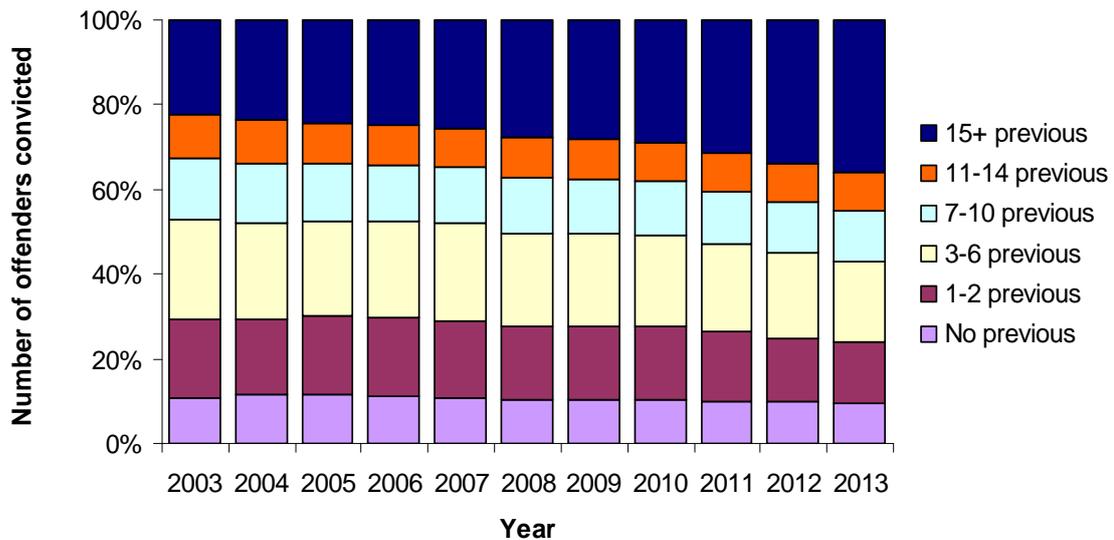
Figure 6.1 Change in number of juvenile and adult first time entrants to the criminal justice system, 2003 (index=100) to 2013



In 2013, just over 103 thousand offenders convicted of an indictable offence had 15 or more previous convictions or cautions at the time. This equates to 36% of all convicted offenders in the year and is up from 22% in 2003 (75,500 offenders).

Analysis has also shown that the majority of these prolific offenders already have in excess of 15 previous offences on their record, the group progressing from their 15th to their 16th conviction or caution has been falling since 2009. This suggests that the increasing numbers of convictions for those with long criminal records are being driven by groups of offenders who already have in excess of 15 previous sanctions (on average around 31 previous sanctions) and not merely by those progressing from their 15th to their 16th offence.

Figure 6.2 Percentage of offenders convicted of indictable offences, by number of previous convictions or cautions, 2003 to 2013



In 2013, 60% of those with 15 or more previous sanctions were convicted of offences related to theft – by comparison, only 23% of those with no previous convictions or cautions were convicted for theft offences. In contrast, sexual offences accounted for 8% of convictions for those offenders with no previous history but less than 1% of convictions for those offenders with 15 or more previous. 88% of offenders convicted for shoplifting in 2013 had one more convictions/cautions for the same offence previously.

Nearly a quarter of juveniles with no previous conviction or caution were convicted for robbery in 2013, compared to only 1% of adults. The proportion of juveniles with no previous sanctions convicted for robbery has more than doubled over the last 10 years, while the proportion convicted for violent offences has nearly halved.

As might be expected, given that sentencing decisions will typically take into account previous offending history, the proportion of offenders receiving immediate custody for an indictable offence is higher for those groups of offenders with longer criminal histories. In 2013, 38% of adults with 15 or more previous received a custodial sentence compared to 12% for adults with no previous history of offending. The equivalent figures for juveniles were 44% and 1% respectively.

The most common disposal given in 2013 for offenders committing an indictable offence with no previous criminal history was a caution, with this accounting for 74% of juveniles in this group and 59% of adults.

Figure 6.3 Flow chart showing number of adult offenders convicted of indictable offences in England and Wales in 2013, by previous criminal history and type of disposal received

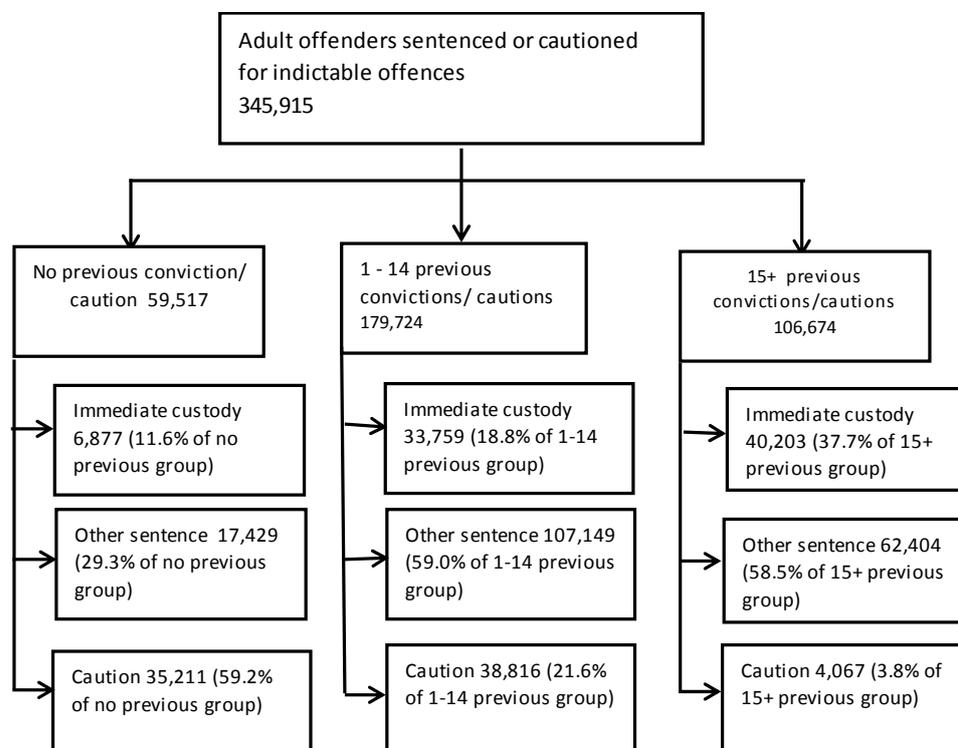
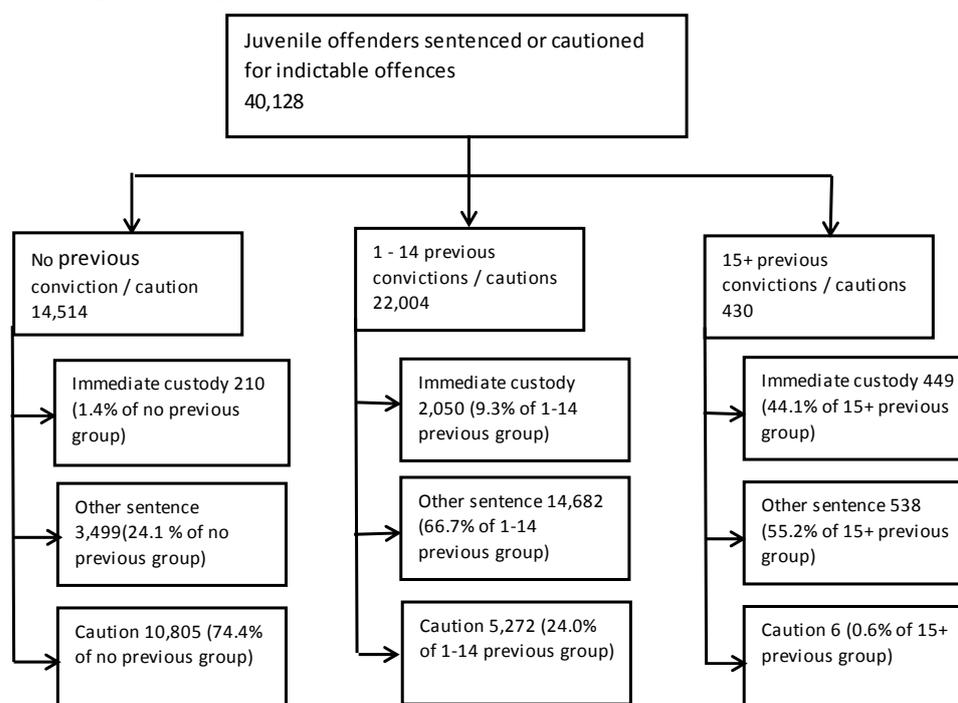


Figure 7.4 Flow chart showing number of juvenile offenders convicted of indictable offences in England and Wales in 2013, by previous criminal history and type of disposal received



7. Guest Chapter – Key Criminal Offences Recently Introduced

In 2012, a number of new criminal offences were introduced in England and Wales. This chapter summarises the court activity during 2012 and 2013 relating to a range of these new offences.

Causing serious injury by dangerous driving

A new offence of causing serious injury by dangerous driving was introduced by Section 139AA of the Road Traffic Act 1988, as inserted by Section 143 of the LASPO Act 2012, which commenced on 3rd December 2012. Between this point and the end of December 2012, one defendant was proceeded against at magistrates' court for this offence. The defendant was found guilty at the magistrates' court, and sentenced to immediate custody.

In 2013, 90 defendants were proceeded against for this offence, 31 were convicted in any court and 25 were sentenced. Of these offenders:

- 16 were sentenced to immediate custody;
- Five were given a suspended sentence order;
- Three was given a community sentence;
- One was ordered to pay compensation

Stalking

There were new triable-either-way offences for stalking introduced by Sections 4A of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, as inserted by Section 111 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, which commenced on 25th November 2012. Between this point and the end of December 2012, there were no defendants proceeded against under this legislation.

In 2013, 154 defendants were proceeded against for this offence, 53 were convicted and 42 were sentenced. Of these offenders:

- 14 were sentenced to immediate custody;
- 14 were given a suspended sentence order;
- Ten was given a community sentence;
- Two were given a conditional discharge;
- One was given a hospital order;
- One was ordered to pay compensation.

In addition, seven people were cautioned for this offence in 2013.

Possession of mobile phones in prison

A new offence of the unauthorised possession in a prison of mobile phones, other electronic communications devices and related items was introduced by Section 40D of the Prison Act 1952, as inserted by Section 45 of the Crime and Security Act 2010, which commenced on 26th March 2012. Between this point and the end of December 2012, 110 defendants were proceeded against at magistrates' courts for this offence. Over the same period, 93 offenders were found guilty of the offence at all courts, and

81 offenders were sentenced. Of those, 71 were given an immediate custodial sentence.

In 2013, 233 defendants were proceeded against for this offence, 190 were convicted in any court and 163 were sentenced. Of those, 154 were given an immediate custodial sentence. The maximum possible custodial sentence for this offence is two years. Custodial sentences given in 2013 ranged from 14 days to 18 months and the average custodial sentence was 82 days. In addition, 19 people were cautioned for this offence in 2013.

Squatting

A new 'squatting' offence (knowingly as a trespasser living or intending to live in a residential building) was introduced by Section 144 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act, which commenced on 1st September 2012. Between this point and the end of December 2012, 38 defendants were proceeded against at magistrates' courts for this offence. Over the same period, 32 offenders were found guilty of and sentenced for the offence at all courts.

In 2013, 94 defendants were proceeded against for this offence and 78 were convicted in any court and sentenced. Of these offenders:

- 15 were sentenced to immediate custody;
- Three were given a suspended sentence order;
- Seven was given a community sentence;
- 33 were given a fine;
- 19 were given a conditional discharge;
- One was given a day in police cells.

Payment for scrap metal

A new offence for scrap metal dealers paying for scrap metal other than by cheque or electronic transfer of funds was introduced by Section 3A of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964, as inserted by the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act, which commenced on 3rd December 2012. Between this point and the end of December 2012, there were no defendants proceeded against under this legislation.

In 2013, 22 defendants were proceeded against for this offence, 18 were convicted and 17 were sentenced. Of those, 16 were given a fine and one offender was given a conditional discharge. The maximum possible sentence for this offence is a fine of £5,000. Fines given in 2013 ranged from £73 to £1,000 and the average fine was £212.

New offensive weapon and knife offences

New offences of threatening with an offensive weapon or a blade or sharply pointed article in a public place or on school premises were introduced by Section 1A of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 and Section 139AA of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, as inserted by the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act, which all commenced on 3rd December 2012.

In 2012 and 2013, a total of 186 offences (140 by adults, 46 by juveniles) have been dealt with in relation to one of the new aggravated knife possession offences that came into effect from 3 December 2012.

Of the 46 offences committed by juveniles, 21 offences were committed by offenders aged between 10 and 15 when sentenced.

Of the 165 new offences of aggravated knife possession where offenders were aged 16 and over, 101 offences or 61 per cent have received an immediate custodial sentence. Please note however that these figures are provisional and are likely to change; in particular the number of immediate custodial sentences is likely to rise, once all sentences have been finalised.

Additional details are in Tables 8 and 9 from the Knife Possession Sentencing bulletin:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/289719/knife-possession-sentencing-bulletin-q4-2013.pdf

Revisions Policy

In accordance with Principle 2 of the Code of Practice for Office Statistics, the Ministry of Justice is required to publish transparent guidance on its policy for revisions. A copy of this statement can be found at:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/statistics/mojstats/statistics-revisions-policy.pdf>

The Ministry of Justice aims to avoid the need for revisions to publications unless they are absolutely necessary and put systems and processes in place to minimise the number of revisions.

Within the Ministry of Justice's statistical publications there can be three main reasons for statistics to be revised:

- Changes in how either source administrative systems collect information or a change in statistical methodology to improve accuracy and measurement.
- Receipt of subsequent information which alters our understanding of previous periods (for example – late recording on one of the administrative IT systems used operationally).
- Errors in our statistical systems and processes.

Our policy in handling revisions is to be transparent with users about:

- The need for revisions.
- How and when to expect revisions as part of our standard processes.
- The processes by which other revisions will be communicated and published.

To meet these commitments, all of our statistical publications will:

- Ensure that the need for major revisions for any series are pre-announced on the Ministry of Justice website.
- Include a detailed revisions policy within every release.
- Detail how users will be informed of the need for revisions.
- Give detailed and full explanations as to why the revisions were necessary.

In addition, the annual report from the Head of Profession to the National Statistician will:

- Provide information on how many revisions were required to our publications and the reasons for these.
- Publish a time-series of revisions due to errors in our statistical processes and procedures so we can monitor the quality of our outputs.

Explanatory Notes

The statistics in this bulletin relate to cases in the Crown and magistrates' courts in England and Wales during 12 months ending June 2013. This bulletin subsumes a number of previous bulletins including Criminal Statistics: England & Wales, Quarterly Sentencing Statistics, and Young people aged 10-17 receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction.

Symbols and conventions

The following symbols have been used throughout the tables in this bulletin:

- = Nil
- * = Not applicable
- .. = Not available
- (R) = Revised data
- (P) = Provisional data

Guidance on tables and supplementary volumes

This bulletin is supported by a range of Excel spreadsheet workbooks, pivot tables and CSV files, presenting statistics for the latest calendar year, alongside back series for previous comparable years where applicable. These workbooks, pivot tables and CSV files can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly>

Contacts

Press enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:

Tel: 020 3334 3536

Email: newsdesk@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to the Justice Statistics Analytical Services division of the Ministry of Justice:

Mike Elkins, Chief Statistician
Ministry of Justice, 7th Floor, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ
Email: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

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