



21 July 2016

Statistical News Release: Crime Outcomes in England and Wales, year ending March 2016

The latest statistics on crime outcomes are released today. This is the second bulletin based entirely on the new outcomes framework which was initially introduced in April 2013 and expanded further to a broader framework in April 2014. The new preferred measure for outcomes data, by presenting the outcomes assigned by the police to all offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, is published for all forces for the first time. The bulletin presents outcomes assigned to police recorded domestic abuse related offences for the first time. It contains:

1. Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 – the preferred method – compared with the year ending March 2015
2. Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016 (irrespective of when the crime was recorded) – the historical representation – compared with the year ending March 2015
3. An analysis into the time gap between offences being recorded and outcomes being assigned, including a comparison since last year
4. Reason why records have been transferred or cancelled (formerly 'no-crimes') from the year ending March 2016 data
5. Annex A covers domestic abuse related outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016
6. Annex B covers experimental statistics on fraud outcomes for the year ending March 2016

Key Points from the Outcome Data for the year ending March 2016

- Almost half (48%) of offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 had been closed with no suspect identified. This proportion varied by crime type, from around two-thirds of criminal damage and arson offences to five per cent or lower for rapes, possession of weapons and drug offences.
- Thirteen per cent of crimes recorded in the year ending March 2016 resulted in someone being charged or summonsed, and in ten per cent of offences the victim did not support (or withdrew support for) police action despite a named suspect being identified. Seven per cent of offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 were still under investigation at the time of data capture.
- The proportion of crimes assigned a charge or summons decreased from 16 per cent to 13 per cent over the last year. Conversely, the proportion of crimes that resulted in evidential difficulties increased from 17 per cent to 22 per cent over the same period. This is likely to at least in part be due to improved recording and increased reporting of crimes that are less likely to result in a charge/summons.
- Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016 took an average of 9 days to be assigned, similar to the previous year. Criminal damage and arson offences had

outcomes assigned most quickly, on average 3 days, while sexual offences (81 days) took longest, particularly rape offences (142 days).

- Where crimes were closed with no suspect identified it took an average of 3 days for the outcome to be assigned, whereas it took 36 days to assign an outcome of evidential difficulties where a suspect is identified and the victim supports action.
- A quarter (25%) of the offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 that were flagged as domestic abuse were dealt with by a charge or summons.
- Domestic abuse related offences were more likely than other offences to have evidential difficulties. In the year ending March 2016, 60 per cent of domestic abuse related offences had evidential difficulties outcomes compared with 19 per cent of offences not flagged as being domestic abuse related.

Transferred and cancelled crimes (formerly no-crimes) for the year ending March 2016

- Overall 3.3 per cent of crimes originally recorded were subsequently transferred or cancelled in the year ending March 2016, a slight increase from 3.1 per cent in the previous year.
- From April 2015, police forces have supplied a greater level of information about why individual crimes are transferred and cancelled. Each will be assigned one of the following categories:
 - Transferred: Crime committed outside the jurisdiction of the police force in which it was recorded – passed to the appropriate force.
 - Cancelled: Additional verifiable information that determines that no notifiable crime occurred becomes available.
 - Cancelled: Duplicate record or part of a crime already recorded.
 - Cancelled: Crime recorded in error.
 - Cancelled: Self defence claimed (for specific recorded assaults).
- Half of all transferred or cancelled records were cancelled due to additional verifiable information becoming available that showed no notifiable crime had occurred.

Background

- From April 2014, the police have assigned an outcome to every crime that is recorded. This contrasts with the former detections regime, where only around 30% of crimes were assigned an 'outcome'.
- The new framework provides much greater transparency on the ways police resolve all crimes. For more information on the full transition from detections to outcomes, see chapter 1 of the bulletin.

Notes

1. 'Crime Outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2016' is available online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016>

2. Also released today is 'Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2016' available on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales>.

For all press enquiries, please contact the Home Office Press Office who will liaise with Home Office Crime and Policing Statistics:

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Please note: the press office deals with enquiries from the media only. Members of the public should phone **020 7035 4848**.