



Home Office

Crime outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2016

Statistical Bulletin HOSB 06/16

Edited by: Jenny Allan

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Important information

Prior to April 2013, official statistics about how crimes were dealt with by the police were narrowly focused on detections (i.e. the number of cases resolved with a charge, caution, etc.). In April 2013, the new outcomes framework was introduced and subsequently there was a change to the way in which crime outcomes statistics are presented with the broader set of outcomes first collected from the police in April 2014. Provisional statistics from the new outcomes framework were first presented in the year to March 2014 bulletin¹, published in July 2014. The statistics have since been developed further in consultation with data providers (police forces) and users of the statistics.

We continue to ensure that these crime outcomes statistics: meet identified user needs (including providing new analysis and greater transparency); are well explained and readily accessible; are produced according to sound methods; and are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

The statistics presented in this bulletin are designated as Official Statistics, rather than National Statistics.

In January 2014, police recorded crime statistics were found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The full assessment report against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-268---statistics-on-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf

In July 2014, prior to the year to March 2014 publication and following correspondence between the Home Office Chief Statistician and the UK Statistics Authority Head of Assessment, it was agreed to publish the Crime Outcomes bulletin as Official Statistics, rather than National Statistics.

This reflects the move to the new outcomes framework, and also the possibility that outcomes data, being specifically based on recorded crime, are affected by similar issues to those that led to the de-designation of police recorded crime statistics.

Full details of the correspondence are available here:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/letter-from-david-blunt-to-ed-humpherson---090714.pdf

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/letter-from-ed-humpherson-to-david-blunt---150714.pdf

It is our intention that the statistics will be assessed, with a view to them gaining National Statistics status in due course.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014

Further information

“Crime Outcomes in England and Wales, 2014/15”, and previous years’ bulletins, are available from: www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-statistics

Copies of other Home Office publications (including crime statistics releases prior to April 2012) are available from: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/crime-statistics#publications

Copies of crime statistics publications from April 2012 are available from the Office for National Statistics website: www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

This includes the *User Guide to Crime Statistics*, a useful reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications that are key to the production and presentation of the crime statistics.

The dates of forthcoming publications are pre-announced and can be found via the Gov.uk Statistics Release Calendar: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements

For further information about crime outcomes statistics, please email: CrimeandPoliceStats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or write to: Home Office Statistics, 1st Floor, Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

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This statistical bulletin is produced to the highest professional standards and is free from political interference. It has been produced by statisticians working in the Home Office Crime and Policing Statistics Section in accordance with the Home Office’s [Statement of Compliance](#) with the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*, which covers our policy on revisions and other matters. The Chief Statistician, as Head of Profession, reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters and oversees all Home Office National and Official Statistics products with respect to the Code, being responsible for their timing, content and methodology.

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Executive Summary

OVERVIEW

This is the second statistical bulletin based entirely on the full outcomes framework introduced in April 2014. The outcomes framework allows every crime recorded by the police to be given an outcome, showing how the police deal with all crimes (including crimes which are still under investigation).

KEY FINDINGS

Outcomes of crimes recorded in the year ending March 2016:

- Almost half (48%) of offences had been closed with no suspect identified. The proportion of investigations closed with no suspect identified 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 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.

The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016:

The length of time taken to assign an outcome to a crime varies and is dependent on the offence type and the outcome being assigned. Based on a subset of forces for which we have data:

- 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.

Transferred or cancelled records in 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.
- Half of all transferred or cancelled records were cancelled due to additional verifiable information becoming available that showed no notifiable crime had occurred.

Outcomes of domestic abuse offences recorded in the year ending March 2016:

For the first time, this bulletin contains data provided by a subset of forces on outcomes assigned to crimes which are domestic abuse related.

- 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.

1 Introduction

1.1 – OVERVIEW

This bulletin reports on the outcomes of crimes recorded by the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. In April 2013 the new outcomes framework was introduced, replacing the previous regime of detections. This move from detections to outcomes was a marked change, with an emphasis on greater transparency on how **all** crimes recorded by the police are dealt with. The previous focus on detections gave a partial picture of the work police do to investigate and resolve crime, and saw performance targets established which risked driving perverse behaviour with respect to crime recording decisions and may also have undermined the victim-focused approach set out in the crime recording standard².

Following consultation with users, the Home Office published the first set of quarterly outcomes tables in October 2015, available from: www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-statistics.

For more information on the background to the outcomes framework and how it was developed, see Annex C: Crime Outcomes Data Quality.

1.2 – THE FULL OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

Since its introduction in April 2013, the outcome framework has evolved to provide full coverage of all outcomes. Table 1.1 shows how the current framework of outcomes builds on former outcomes and detections measures and how it has developed to cover all crimes recorded by the police.

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/counting-rules-for-recorded-crime

Table 1.1: Detection types prior to April 2013 and the outcomes frameworks in place thereafter

Detections regime – prior to April 2013 (outcomes 1-6)	Outcomes framework – April 2013 to March 2014 (outcomes 1-9)	Outcomes framework – April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-19)
1. Charge/Summons	1. Charge/Summons	1. Charge/Summons
2. Caution	2. Caution – youths	2. Caution – youths
	3. Caution – adults	3. Caution – adults
3. Taken into consideration – previously recorded	4. Taken into consideration (TIC)	4. Taken into consideration (TIC)
4. Taken into consideration – not previously recorded		
5. Penalty Notice for Disorder	6. Penalty Notice for Disorder	6. Penalty Notice for Disorder
6. Other	5. The offender has died (indictable only/sexual offences)	5. The offender has died (all offences)
	7. Cannabis Warning	7. Cannabis/Khat Warning
	8. Community Resolution	8. Community Resolution
	9. Prosecution not in public interest (CPS) (indictable only offences)	9. Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS) (all offences)
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>		10. Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (police decision)
		11. Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility
		12. Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute
		13. Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence
		14. Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect not identified – the crime is confirmed but the victim declines or is unable to support further police action to identify the offender
		15. Evidential difficulties named suspect identified – the crime is confirmed and the victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action
		16. Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect identified – the victim does not support (or withdraws support from) police action
		17. Prosecution time limit expired – suspect identified but the time limit for prosecution has expired
		18. Investigation complete – no suspect identified. Crime investigated as far as reasonably possible – case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available
		19. National Fraud Intelligence Bureau filed (NFIB only). A crime of fraud has been recorded but has not been allocated for investigation because the assessment process at the NFIB has determined there are insufficient lines of enquiry to warrant such dissemination
		20. Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the action to be taken (from April 2015)
	21. Further investigation, resulting from the crime report, which could provide evidence sufficient to support formal action being taken against the suspect is not in the public interest – police decision (from January 2016)	

In April 2015, a new outcome (outcome 20) was introduced for those offences where further action is taken by another body or agency other than the police (e.g. HM Revenue and Customs), subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the action being taken. Previously these offences were included within outcome 18 (investigation complete, no further action). Data for outcome 20 were first published in the year ending June 2015 data tables, published in October 2015.

In January 2016, a further outcome (outcome 21) was added in response to concerns that the police's use of discretion in deciding how to address offending behaviour was not always effectively recognised. This outcome can be applied where the police decide it is not in the public interest to take any formal action, despite a suspect being identified. Previously these offences could have received any outcome type.

At any given time, there will be a number of offences where the crime investigation is ongoing and an outcome has not yet been assigned. Therefore, while every crime will eventually be given an outcome under the outcomes framework, this may take some time while crimes are investigated. Data on outcomes for crimes recorded in a given period are therefore subject to ongoing revisions as investigations into crimes are completed and final outcomes are assigned. This is discussed further in Chapter 2.

For more information on how to interpret the full outcomes framework, see Annex A: Background to Crime Outcomes in "Crime Outcomes in England and Wales, 2014/15"³.

1.3 – DATA SHOWN IN THIS BULLETIN

This bulletin is based on the new outcomes categories introduced in April 2014, plus the additional outcomes introduced in April 2015 and January 2016. Given the work involved in amending police force crime recording systems, not all forces were able to supply data from April 2014 for the outcome types not previously collected by the Home Office (see Table 1.1). Consequently, year ending March 2015 data are not complete as they do not include a full year of data for all forces. Therefore, comparisons between years are typically made using proportions rather than volumes. Where necessary, notes on excluded forces are provided. While most forces had started recording the full range of outcomes by summer 2014, the Metropolitan Police provided data from December 2014.

For more details on data quality and what data has been excluded from certain periods or analyses, see Annex C: Crime Outcomes Data Quality.

1.4 – OUTCOME GROUPINGS IN THIS BULLETIN

The full range of outcomes is presented in some tables in this publication and the accompanying Open Data tables, available from: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables. However, in order to simplify the presentation of tables and charts in this bulletin, some of the tables in this publication show grouped outcomes.

The groupings used are shown in Table 1.2. These take account of feedback received from users following a consultation in 2014.

³Available from: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2014-to-2015

Table 1.2: Grouping the outcomes framework from April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-21)

Outcome Group	Outcome type(s)
Charged/Summoned	1
Taken into consideration	4
Out-of-court (formal)	2, 3, 6
Out-of-court (informal)	7, 8
Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	15
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	14, 16
Investigation complete – no suspect identified	18
Action undertaken by another body/agency (from April 2015)	20
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest (police decision) (from January 2016)	21

Note: outcome 19 not shown as this applies to fraud offences recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau only

See Table 1.1 for a description of each outcome type.

1.5 – POLICE RECORDED CRIME

The police recorded crime data used in this bulletin are supplied by police forces to the Home Office, and are then published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in “Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2016”:

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

1.6 – FRAUD OUTCOMES

Since April 2013, fraud offences have been recorded by Action Fraud (the national fraud and cyber crime reporting centre) rather than the police. ONS publish police recorded crime statistics both including and excluding fraud (as measured by a combination of crime recorded by the police, Action Fraud and industry sources). Similarly, outcomes of fraud offences are not collected in the same way as other crimes. Action Fraud refer crimes onto the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB), which is run by the police service, and they send fraud offences to police forces who investigate the crimes and then send the outcomes back to the NFIB once they have been assigned. Fraud outcomes are therefore not included in the main body of this bulletin. Experimental data on fraud offences are presented separately in Annex B. Outcomes data presented in the rest of this bulletin do not include outcomes assigned to fraud offences.

1.7 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS (FORMERLY ‘NO-CRIMES’)

This bulletin contains data on transferred or cancelled records (formerly referred to as ‘no-crimes’). These occur after a police force initially records an offence and subsequently determines that the crime did not take place, was recorded in error or should be transferred to another police force. Since April 2015 the data supplied to the Home Office by police forces has been split by the five possible reasons for this, and these are presented in Chapter 5. This is the first bulletin in which a full year of data split in to these categories is available.

1.8 – DOMESTIC ABUSE OUTCOMES

Since April 2015 it has been mandatory for police forces to provide the Home Office with information on the number of offences they record that relate to domestic abuse. For those forces providing record-level data via the Home Office Data Hub it is possible to link crimes relating to domestic abuse to their outcomes. These data are presented for the first time in Annex A.

2 Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016

2.1 - INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers how crimes recorded in the year ending March 2016 have been dealt with by the police, providing additional transparency by linking individual outcomes to the offences that they relate to. These data were first collected from forces voluntarily for the year ending March 2015, with 38 forces supplying data (see Table C1 for more details). For the latest year, data have been supplied by all 44 police forces in England and Wales, including the British Transport Police.

At the time when forces provided data, a number of crimes recorded during that year were still under investigation. These may be crimes recorded in the latter part of the period or those requiring complex and lengthy investigations. These crimes will be assigned an outcome over time, reducing the proportion 'not yet assigned an outcome'. This must be borne in mind particularly when comparing with data from previous time periods (see section 2.4).

Outcomes figures presented in this chapter are the best way of understanding how crimes recorded in the year ending March 2016 have been resolved. To gain the full benefits from this analysis, it will be repeated in future. The Home Office will revise data for the year ending March 2016 on a quarterly basis, publishing updated tables to reflect the progression of such outcomes and giving users a fuller picture of how outcomes have been assigned to the crimes recorded in the period.

2.2 – OUTCOMES ASSIGNED TO OFFENCES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2016 BY OUTCOME TYPE AND OFFENCE GROUP

The rates for individual outcome types shown in Tables 2.1 and 2.2 below relate to outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016. In total, 93 per cent of offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 had been assigned an outcome by the time the data were supplied to the Home Office⁴. The remaining seven per cent were yet to be assigned an outcome.

- For almost half (48%) of offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, no suspect had been identified and the case was closed. These crimes could be reopened at any time if further information comes to light.
- The next most common outcome type was an offender being charged or summonsed (13%).
- In one-in-ten offences (10%) the victim did not support (or withdrew support for) police action despite a named suspect being identified.

It is unlikely that the outcome types that will eventually be assigned to the remaining seven per cent of crimes still under investigation will be distributed in the same way as those already assigned. For example, Table 2.3 (section 2.3) shows that of the crimes recorded in the year ending March 2015 that have had an outcome assigned during the following year, around a quarter received a charge/summons, around 40 per cent had an evidential difficulties outcome and around a further quarter had investigations closed with no suspect identified. In some cases suspects may already be identified and the police may be gathering evidence before formally assigning an outcome, which may subsequently result in a charge or lead to evidential difficulties. Future quarterly updates will provide a fuller picture. See section 2.3 for further information on how the outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2015 have changed over time.

⁴ See Section C6 for when data were provided.

Table 2.1: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome type and group

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes		
Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Proportion of offences recorded in period: ^{3, 4}
1	Charged/Summoned	13.1
4	Taken into consideration²	0.2
	Out-of-court (formal)	3.5
2	Caution - youths	0.4
3	Caution - adults	2.5
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	0.6
	Out-of-court (informal)	3.9
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	0.9
8	Community resolution	2.9
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	2.2
5	Offender died	0.0
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	0.2
10	Not in public interest (Police)	1.4
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	0.1
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	0.3
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	0.0
17	Prosecution time limit expired	0.1
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	8.6
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	13.2
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	3.2
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	10.0
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	48.1
20	Action undertaken by another body/agency⁵	0.5
21	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest⁶	0.0
Total offences assigned an outcome (type 1-18, 20, 21)^{5, 6}		93.4
Offences not yet assigned an outcome		6.6
Total¹		100.0

1. Year to March 2016 data exclude fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces. Outcome 19 not shown as this applies only to fraud offences recorded by the NFIB.

2. Offences asked to be taken in to consideration by a court (TICs).

3. Proportions show the percentage of crimes recorded in the year ending March 2016 receiving each outcome.

4. Based on data from all 44 forces as referenced in Table A.

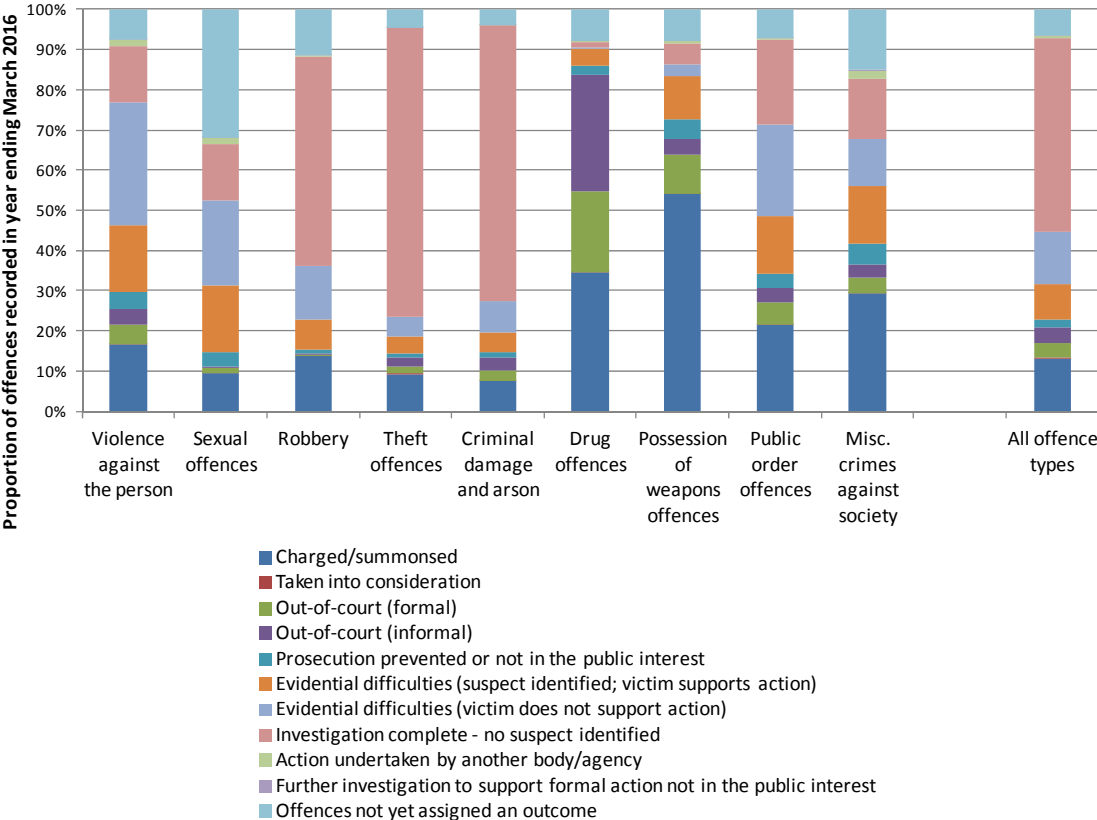
5. Outcome 20 was introduced from April 2015.

6. Outcome 21 was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis.

As shown in Table 2.2 and Figure 2.1, outcome proportions varied considerably by offence type and reflected the nature of the offence. For example, only 5 per cent of possession of weapons offences and 1 per cent of drug offences had been assigned an outcome of investigation complete – no suspect identified, compared with around 70 per cent of criminal damage and arson and theft offences.

Given the different natures of the various offence types shown, it is unsurprising that some outcome types are more common for some crime types than others. This reflects the severity of each offence, the local guidance on outcomes given to police forces and the varying difficulty in identifying a suspect for certain types of offence. For example, it may be far more difficult to identify a suspect for a criminal damage offence that was not witnessed or caught on CCTV than for a drug possession offence where the offender is usually identified when the crime comes to the attention of the police, or for an offence where there was substantial forensic evidence.

Figure 2.1: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group and offence group



Source: Home Office Data Hub and voluntary spreadsheet return

1. The numbers behind this chart are available in Table 2.3

Table 2.2: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group and offence group

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes											
Offence group	Charged/ summonsed	Taken into consideration (TICs) ²	Out-of- court court (formal) ³	Out-of- court court (informal) ⁴	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest ⁵	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action) ⁶	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	Action undertaken by another body/ agency ⁷	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest ⁸	Offences not yet assigned an outcome
Violence against the person	16.8	0.0	4.6	4.0	4.2	16.6	30.6	13.9	1.5	0.1	7.6
Sexual offences	9.6	0.0	1.0	0.5	3.6	16.6	21.1	14.0	1.7	0.1	31.8
<i>of which: Rape</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>15.5</i>	<i>24.9</i>	<i>5.4</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>45.0</i>
Robbery	13.7	0.1	0.3	0.2	1.0	7.5	13.5	52.2	0.0	0.0	11.6
Theft offences	9.0	0.5	1.7	2.2	0.9	4.2	4.7	71.9	0.1	0.0	4.6
Criminal damage and arson	7.5	0.1	2.6	3.1	1.2	5.0	7.8	68.6	0.1	0.0	4.0
Drug offences	34.5	0.0	20.3	28.7	2.4	4.1	0.3	1.5	0.1	0.1	7.9
Possession of weapons offences	54.0	0.0	9.9	3.9	4.8	10.6	3.2	5.1	0.4	0.1	7.9
Public order offences	21.5	0.0	5.5	3.8	3.6	14.1	22.8	21.3	0.2	0.1	7.1
Misc. crimes against society	29.2	0.1	4.0	3.2	5.0	14.4	11.8	15.0	2.0	0.3	15.0
All offence types¹	13.1	0.2	3.5	3.9	2.2	8.6	13.2	48.1	0.5	0.0	6.6

1. Year to March 2016 data exclude fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.

2. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).

3. Includes caution - adults; caution - youths; Penalty Notices for Disorder.

4. Includes cannabis/khat warnings and community resolutions.

5. Includes not in the public interest (CPS); Not in public interest (Police); Offender Died; Prosecution prevented (suspect under age; suspect too ill; victim/key witness dead/too ill); Prosecution time limit expired.

6. Includes evidential difficulties where the suspect was/was not identified and the victim does not support further action.

7. Outcome 20 (Action undertaken by another body/agency) was introduced from April 2015.

8. Outcome 21 (Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest) was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis.

9. Proportions show the percentage of each crime type recorded in the year ending March 2016 that received each outcome.

In particular:

- Possession of weapons was the offence group most likely to be assigned a charge/summons outcome, with someone being charged or summonsed for over half (54%) of the crimes recorded in this category. This is likely to be due to the fact that a suspect will have been found in possession and then dealt with for the crime.
- In contrast, 8 per cent of criminal damage and arson offences and 9 per cent of theft offences resulted in a charge or summons. These offence groups had the highest proportion of outcomes where no suspect was identified and the case was closed, with 69 per cent of criminal damage and arson and 72 per cent of theft offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 receiving this outcome type reflecting the fact that victims often report these cases without having been present when the offence occurred.
- While the proportion of sexual offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 that had been resolved by a charge/summons (10%) was relatively low compared with most other offence groups, around one-third (32%) had not yet been assigned an outcome, i.e. the investigation was still ongoing. In particular, almost half (45%) of rape offences had not yet been assigned an outcome. This was higher than for all other offence groups, which ranged from 4 per cent (criminal damage and arson) to 15 per cent (miscellaneous crimes against society). This reflects the greater complexity of investigations for sexual offences and the extended time period required to assign an outcome compared with many other crime types (see Chapter 4).
- Around half (49%) of drug offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 were assigned out-of-court outcomes, a far higher proportion than all other offence types, and half of those were cannabis/khat warnings. Out-of-court outcomes were less prevalent for other offence types. The second highest proportion was for possession of weapon offences (14%) which, like drug possession offences, are often resolved at an early stage as an offender will have been found in possession.
- Violent offences (47%), sexual offences (38%) and public order offences (37%) had a greater proportion of outcomes where there were evidential difficulties than other crime types.
- Drug offences (1%) and possession of weapon offences (5%) were far less likely than other main offence groups to result in the case being closed without a suspect being identified. This is to be expected as, unlike victim-based crime types such as theft, the offender is usually identified at the same time as the crime comes to the attention of the police and is recorded.

2.3 – OUTCOMES ASSIGNED TO OFFENCES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2015: CHANGES OVER TIME

Data for year ending March 2015 are based on 38 forces (accounting for around three-quarters of offences). The forces that supplied data and for which periods are highlighted in Table C1. These have been updated on a quarterly basis since they were first published in July 2015 in order to reflect that some offences recorded during the year ending March 2015 will have had outcomes assigned during the following year.

A comparison of the latest data for year ending March 2015 with those that were published one year earlier is shown in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2015, when first published compared with latest figures

		England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes	
Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Proportion of offences recorded in year to March 2015: ²	
		First published (July 2015) ^{3, 4}	Updated (July 2016) ^{3, 4}
1	Charged/Summonsed	15.5	16.9
4	Taken into consideration⁵	0.5	0.6
	Out-of-court (formal)	4.6	4.8
2	Caution - youths ⁶	0.6	0.6
3	Caution - adults ⁶	3.1	3.3
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	0.9	0.9
	Out-of-court (informal)	4.6	4.8
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	1.1	1.2
8	Community resolution	3.5	3.7
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	2.0	2.1
5	Offender died	0.0	0.0
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	0.2	0.2
10	Not in public interest (Police)	1.2	1.3
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	0.1	0.1
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	0.2	0.3
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	0.0	0.0
17	Prosecution time limit expired	0.2	0.1
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	7.9	9.3
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	8.7	9.6
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	1.9	2.0
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	6.9	7.6
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	48.9	50.4
Total offences assigned an outcome (type 1-18)⁷		92.7	98.6
Offences not yet assigned an outcome		7.3	1.4
Total offences¹		100.0	100.0

1. Year to March 2015 exclude fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.

2. Proportions show the percentage of crimes recorded in the year ending March 2015 receiving each outcome.

or the force could not initially provide data to cover the full outcomes framework. See Table C1.

4. Proportions as at the time data were provided to the Home Office. This means the proportion of offences assigned an outcome will be higher for the updated figures (published in July 2016) as they have had a longer period since being recorded in which to be assigned. However, not all forces submitted updated year to March 2015 data to the Home Office alongside data for the latest year and may appear to have fewer than expected outcomes assigned during year to March 2015.

5. Offences asked to be taken in to consideration by a court (TICs).

6. The Metropolitan Police were unable to provide 'caution - youths' separately until December 2014. These are therefore included within 'caution - adults'.

7. A very small proportion of offences recorded in year ending March 2015 may have been assigned an outcome 20 following the introduction of this outcome from April 2015. This means that the proportion 'not yet assigned an outcome' in the updated figures may be slightly overstated. Data provided via the Home Office Data Hub indicate that less than 0.1% of crimes recorded in 2014-15 were assigned an outcome 20.

As can be seen in Table 2.3, the proportion of crimes not yet assigned an outcome has fallen in this latest set of figures⁵, meaning six per cent of offences recorded in the year to March 2015 were assigned outcomes during the past year. These outcomes mainly consisted of charge/summonses, evidential difficulties where the suspect was identified, and cases that were closed with no suspect identified.

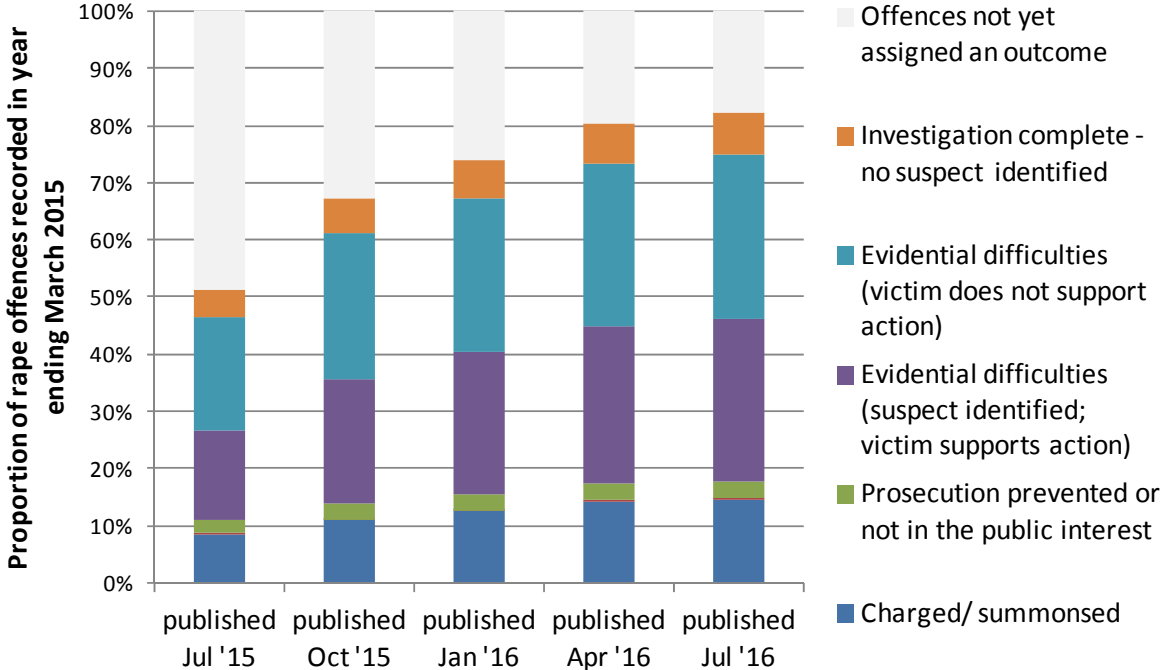
The value of repeating this analysis is particularly evident when looking at crime types where a high proportion of offences had not been assigned an outcome when first published. For example, 37 per cent of sexual offences recorded in the year ending March 2015 had yet to be assigned an outcome

⁵ Not all forces revised their data each quarter after they initially supplied them. Of the 38 forces that provided year ending March 2015 data, 22 updated these alongside data for the year to March 2016. The further 16 forces that did not revise data may appear to have fewer than expected outcomes assigned during year to March 2015.

when the data were first published in July 2015. By the time the latest data were provided to the Home Office this had fallen to twelve per cent.

In particular, the proportion of rape offences recorded in the year ending March 2015 that had not been assigned an outcome has fallen from around half (49%) to eighteen per cent, giving a more complete picture of the outcomes assigned to these offences. Figure 2.2 shows the evolving trend in outcomes of rape offences recorded in the year ending March 2015. Many of the rape offences that had not been assigned an outcome when data were first published resulted in evidential difficulties. A substantial proportion also led to someone being charged or summonsed.

Figure 2.2: Outcomes assigned to rape offences recorded in the year ending March 2015, by outcome group and publication date



Source: Home Office Data Hub and voluntary spreadsheet return

1. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables document, which can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016
2. No rape offences recorded in year ending March 2015 were 'Taken in to Consideration' and less than 0.5 per cent were assigned an out-of-court disposal
3. Data are generally provided to the Home Office two to three months before publication. See Annex C for further information.

It will likely be some time before all crimes recorded in year ending March 2015 have an outcome assigned. Analysis of the average time between an offence being recorded and an outcome being assigned to the corresponding crime is presented in Chapter 4.

2.4 – OUTCOMES ASSIGNED TO OFFENCES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2016 COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Offences recorded in the year ending March 2015 have had an additional year in which an outcome could have been assigned compared with offences recorded in the year ending March 2016. As demonstrated in the previous section, this means that the proportions that have been assigned each outcome type will not be directly comparable.

In order to get an indication of genuine changes over time it is therefore more meaningful to compare figures for the year ending March 2016 with figures for the previous year as at the time they were first published in July 2015⁶.

As can be seen from Figure 2.3, a similar proportion of crimes had been assigned an outcome in both years. However, the proportion of crimes assigned a charge/summons decreased (from 16% to 13%), as did the proportion assigned an out-of-court disposal (from 9% to 7%). Conversely, the proportion of crimes that resulted in evidential difficulties increased, from 17 per cent of crimes recorded in the year ending March 2015 to 22 per cent in the following year.

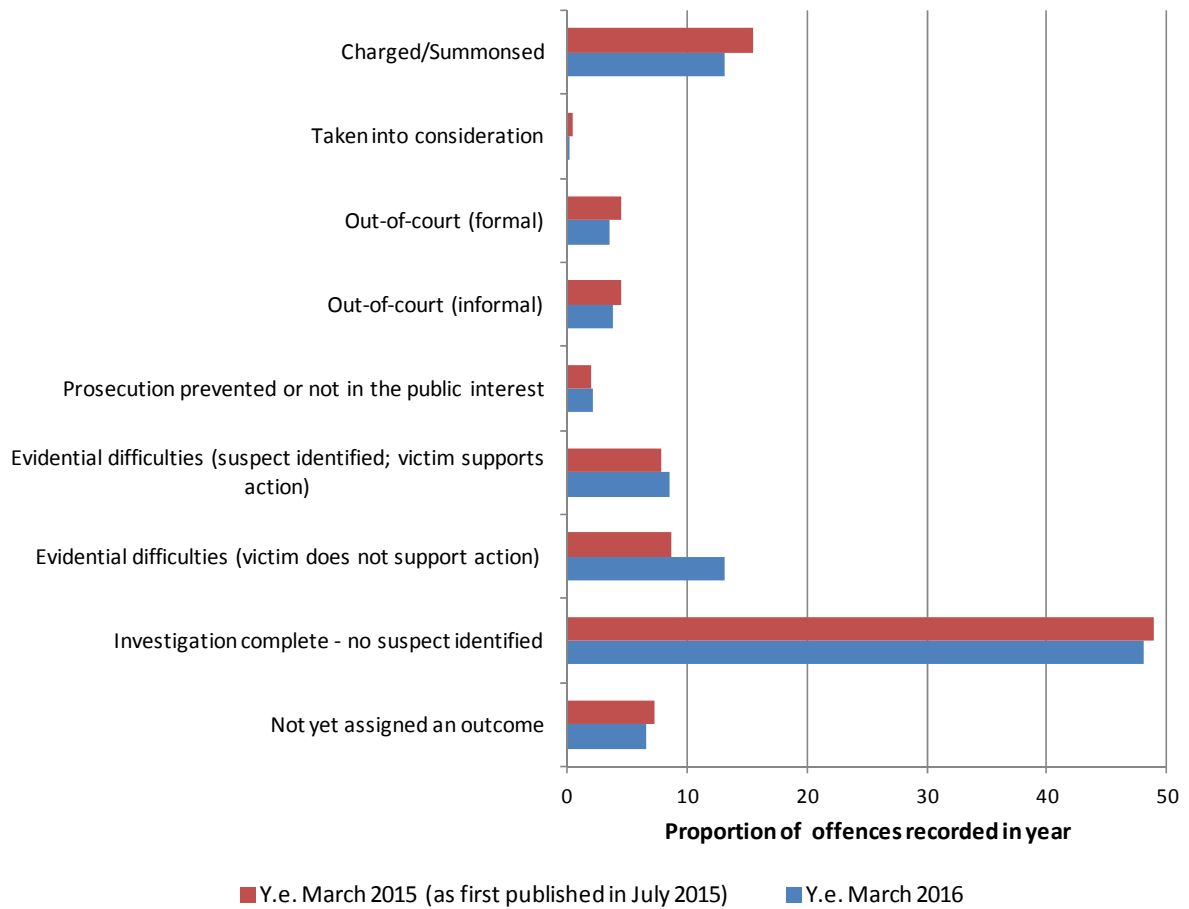
Differences in outcome proportions will be influenced by a number of factors, including but not limited to:

- Improvements in crime recording by the police have led to increases in crime volumes for some crime types, in particular for violence and sexual offences. These increased by 27 per cent and 21 per cent respectively in the year ending March 2016. It is likely that many of the additional offences now being recorded are those that are less likely to be resolved by a charge, summons or other out of court resolution.
- The different crime mix between years. For example, in the year ending March 2015, 22 per cent of crimes recorded by the police were violent offences, rising to 26 per cent in the current year. Part of this increase is due to two newly notifiable offences being included in the harassment crime category ('Disclosure of private sexual photographs and films with the intent to cause distress or anxiety' and 'Sending letters with intent to cause distress or anxiety') which has led to a 90 per cent increase in harassment offences over the year. These new crime types are generally more likely than other types of violent crime to be closed without police identifying a suspect and less likely to be resolved with a charge/summons, caution or community resolution.
- An increased willingness of victims to report crimes to the police, particularly for violent and sexual offences. In particular, Annex A shows that larger proportions of violent and sexual offences that related to domestic abuse experienced evidential difficulties compared with violent and sexual offences that were not domestic abuse related. It is likely that some of the increase in evidential difficulties outcomes is due to crimes that victims would not have reported to the police in previous years.
- The different set of forces' data included in each year. As highlighted previously, not all forces were able to supply data for some or all of the previous year, although this is only likely to have a small impact on outcome rates.

These points highlight the additional transparency of the broader outcomes framework in ensuring every crime receives an outcome and removes the focus on a smaller subset of all crimes and the victims of those crimes.

⁶ While these datasets are broadly comparable, the comparison is not exact as the data are affected by when they are taken from forces' systems. For example, a force taking data from their systems even a few days later can mean one set of crimes has had comparatively longer than the other to have outcomes assigned. Additionally, data for the year ending March 2015 covers around three-quarters of offences because some forces were unable to provide any for this voluntary collection.

Figure 2.3: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2015 (as first published) and the year ending March 2016, by outcome group



Source: Home Office Data Hub and voluntary spreadsheet return

1. The numbers behind this chart are available in Tables 2.1 and 2.3.

2. See Table 1.2 for details of which outcome types each outcome group consists of.

3. Year ending March 2015 data based on 38 forces that supplied data. All forces provided data in year ending March 2016.

4. Data for outcome 20 (Action undertaken by another body/agency) and outcome 21 (Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest) are not shown as these were introduced during year ending March 2016.

3 Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016

3.1 – INTRODUCTION

The outcome volumes and rates described in this chapter relate to outcomes recorded in a year regardless of when the associated crime was recorded. The volumes of outcomes recorded provide a useful indication of police activity in resolving crime.

Rates in this chapter are calculated as the number of outcomes recorded in the year as a proportion of crimes recorded in the same year, which is how rates were presented before it was possible to link crimes with their outcomes. Comparing the number of outcomes with the number of recorded offences in this way should be done with caution, as the outcomes do not relate precisely to the same period as the offences. Some of the outcomes will refer to offences that were recorded in previous years, and were allocated an outcome following completion of the investigation. Some crime types could show a rate of over 100 per cent against a particular outcome, which is sometimes the case for relatively low volume crimes.

Rates presented in this chapter are therefore illustrative rather than ‘true’ rates and can be influenced by changes in crime volumes. In future years, we intend to remove the ‘outcome rates’ calculated using unmatched crimes (as in this chapter) as these are less meaningful compared with rates shown in Chapter 2. The analysis presented in the previous chapter offers a more meaningful representation of how a given set of crimes are resolved and become increasingly useful when repeated over time.

3.2 – OUTCOMES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2016 BY OUTCOME TYPE AND OFFENCE GROUP

Table 3.1 shows the number of each outcome recorded by the police in the year ending March 2016 alongside the number of offences that were recorded during the same period. The outcome data are based on all outcome types recorded by the police during the year ending March 2016 (see Table 1.1).

Rates for the ‘further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest’ outcome are not given as this was only introduced from January 2016.

Table 3.1: Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome type

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes			
Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Number of outcomes	Rate ³
1	Charged/Summoned	561,836	14.4
4	Taken into consideration²	13,331	0.3
	Out-of-court (formal)	145,549	3.7
2	Caution - youths	18,390	0.5
3	Caution - adults	102,217	2.6
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	24,942	0.6
	Out-of-court (informal)	157,335	4.0
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	36,682	0.9
8	Community resolution	120,653	3.1
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	95,407	2.5
5	Offender died	1,370	0.0
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	9,295	0.2
10	Not in public interest (Police)	61,537	1.6
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	5,282	0.1
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	10,603	0.3
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	1,502	0.0
17	Prosecution time limit expired	5,818	0.1
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	382,014	9.8
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	535,124	13.7
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	131,378	3.4
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	403,746	10.4
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	1,931,798	49.6
20	Action undertaken by another body/agency⁴	19,136	0.5
21	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest⁵	1,370	..
Total recorded offences¹		3,892,947	

1. Excludes (outcomes for) fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.

2. Offences asked to be taken in to consideration by a court (TICs)

3. Rate based on number of outcomes recorded in year divided by number of offences recorded in year.

4. Outcome 20 was introduced from April 2015.

5. Outcome 21 was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis.

Table 3.2 shows the number of each outcome recorded for each offence group in the year ending March 2016. Similarly to Table 2.2, the proportions vary considerably by offence type.

Table 3.2: Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group and offence group

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes											
Offence group	Recorded crime ¹	Charged/ Summonsed	Taken into consideration ²	Out-of-court (formal) ³	Out-of-court (informal) ³	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest ³	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action) ³	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	Action undertaken by another body/agency ⁴	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest ⁵
<i>Number of outcomes</i>											
Violence against the person	994,444	177,956	87	48,706	42,173	46,908	179,549	312,555	144,628	14,128	509
Sexual offences	106,378	17,494	43	1,310	638	5,039	26,981	27,963	17,328	1,739	68
Robbery	50,904	8,278	40	175	143	676	4,987	7,503	29,632	19	3
Theft offences	1,760,305	174,885	12,156	31,377	41,176	18,812	88,440	87,826	1,304,897	940	347
Criminal damage and arson	539,909	43,353	855	15,138	18,237	6,785	29,851	43,043	376,352	441	85
Drug offences	147,557	57,457	29	31,598	43,696	4,133	7,516	439	2,533	137	77
Possession of weapons offences	25,502	14,554	2	2,635	1,036	1,281	2,970	834	1,336	101	22
Public order offences	204,616	46,164	32	11,786	8,157	8,218	30,922	47,361	45,096	435	96
Misc. crimes against society	63,332	21,695	87	2,824	2,079	3,555	10,798	7,600	9,996	1,196	163
Total¹	3,892,947	561,836	13,331	145,549	157,335	95,407	382,014	535,124	1,931,798	19,136	1,370
<i>Rate (%)⁶</i>											
Violence against the person		17.9	0.0	4.9	4.2	4.7	18.1	31.4	14.5	1.4	..
Sexual offences		16.4	0.0	1.2	0.6	4.7	25.4	26.3	16.3	1.6	..
Robbery		16.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	1.3	9.8	14.7	58.2	0.0	..
Theft offences		9.9	0.7	1.8	2.3	1.1	5.0	5.0	74.1	0.1	..
Criminal damage and arson		8.0	0.2	2.8	3.4	1.3	5.5	8.0	69.7	0.1	..
Drug offences		38.9	0.0	21.4	29.6	2.8	5.1	0.3	1.7	0.1	..
Possession of weapons offences		57.1	0.0	10.3	4.1	5.0	11.6	3.3	5.2	0.4	..
Public order offences		22.6	0.0	5.8	4.0	4.0	15.1	23.1	22.0	0.2	..
Misc. crimes against society		34.3	0.1	4.5	3.3	5.6	17.0	12.0	15.8	1.9	..
Total¹		14.4	0.3	3.7	4.0	2.5	9.8	13.7	49.6	0.5	..

1. Excludes (outcomes for) fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.

2. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).

3. See Table 1.2 for outcome types included within group.

4. Outcome 20 was introduced from April 2015. During year to March 2015 these were included within outcome type 18.

5. Outcome 21 was introduced on a voluntary basis from January 2016. Figures therefore do not cover the full year or all forces. Prior to this these were included within outcome types 10 or 18.

6. Rate based on number of outcomes recorded in year to March 2016 divided by number of offences recorded in year to March 2016.

As in the previous chapter, different outcome types are more common for different crime types, reflecting the different nature of the crime types, decisions made within forces and the guidance on outcomes given to police forces.

'Rates' can be particularly influenced by changes in crime volumes for certain offence categories, as in-year comparisons pair outcomes with a different set of crimes and should therefore be treated as indicative only. The rates shown in Table 3.2 can be particularly difficult to interpret for those crime types that take longer to investigate and assign an outcome. Where crime volumes increase or decrease markedly from one year to the next, it is likely that any outcome rate will react more slowly.

3.3 – OUTCOMES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2016 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

Overall England and Wales comparisons between outcome volumes recorded in the year ending March 2016 and the previous year are only possible for outcome types that were supplied by all forces during the year ending March 2015 (see Table C1). As explained in Annex C, some forces were only able to start supplying data on the full outcomes framework mid-year. As a result, the year ending March 2015 totals for England and Wales are only complete for the outcomes which were previously 'detection' types (outcomes 1 to 4 and 6 to 8). See Table 1.1 for details.

Changes in outcomes and outcome rates illustrated in this chapter are broadly similar to those seen in Chapter 2, which shows how a set of crimes have been resolved.

For example, between the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016 the proportion of charge/summons outcomes recorded in the year as a proportion of total crimes recorded in the year decreased from 17 per cent to 14 per cent. This represents a reversal in the long-term trend of steady increases between the year ending March 2007 (13%) and the year ending March 2014 (17%), which was the highest rate since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) from April 2002. The trend is shown in Annex Table C2. However, this is likely to be affected by the same issues that affect the "true rates" presented in Chapter 2. These are discussed in section 2.4.

Table 3.3 shows a comparison of the volume of charge/summons recorded between the year ending March 2016 and the previous year.

While the number of charge/summons recorded for sexual offences rose by 10 per cent compared with the previous year, this did not match the level of the larger increase in the number of sexual offences recorded (21 per cent increase). As well as better recording, this offence group is likely to be particularly influenced by the time lag highlighted in section 3.1, given that sexual offences tend to have longer investigation times than other offence groups (see Chapter 4). As shown in Chapter 2, a large number of sexual offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 were still under investigation.

Table 3.3: Number of offences and charge/summons recorded in the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016, by offence group

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes						
	Number of offences			Number of charge/ summons		
	Y.e. March 2015	Y.e. March 2016	% change	Y.e. March 2015	Y.e. March 2016	% change
Violence against the person	780,026	994,444	27.5	178,594	177,956	-0.4
Sexual offences	88,238	106,378	20.6	15,834	17,494	10.5
Robbery	50,245	50,904	1.3	9,485	8,278	-12.7
Theft offences	1,755,123	1,760,305	0.3	196,178	174,885	-10.9
Criminal damage and arson	503,877	539,909	7.2	45,719	43,353	-5.2
Drug offences	169,863	147,557	-13.1	64,287	57,457	-10.6
Possession of weapons offence	21,917	25,502	16.4	13,711	14,554	6.1
Public order offences	159,489	204,616	28.3	49,995	46,164	-7.7
Misc. crimes against society	52,348	63,332	21.0	22,593	21,695	-4.0
Total¹	3,581,126	3,892,947	8.7	596,396	561,836	-5.8

1. Excludes (outcomes for) fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.

2. Police recorded crime data are published by the Office for National Statistics

4 The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded

4.1 – INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents data on the length of time between offences being recorded and an outcome being assigned to that offence. This analysis is broken down by crime type and outcome, so it is possible to see an indication of the length of time taken for different crime types to be assigned an outcome on the new framework. Data are available for the last two years.

Findings are based on those forces that provide record-level data via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH). The benefits and extent of the analysis continues to increase as the HODH continues to evolve and more forces provide good quality record-level data. As shown in Annex Table C1, the data for the year ending March 2016 relate to 32 forces, including the Metropolitan Police, so are likely to be representative of England and Wales.

To preserve consistency, the analysis comparing the current year with the previous year uses a subset of 27 forces that supplied good quality data in both periods. This excludes the Metropolitan Police. See Table C1 for further details.

In order to include outcomes that may have taken a long time to be assigned, the data presented in this chapter cover outcomes that were recorded in the year ending March 2016 regardless of when the offence was initially recorded.

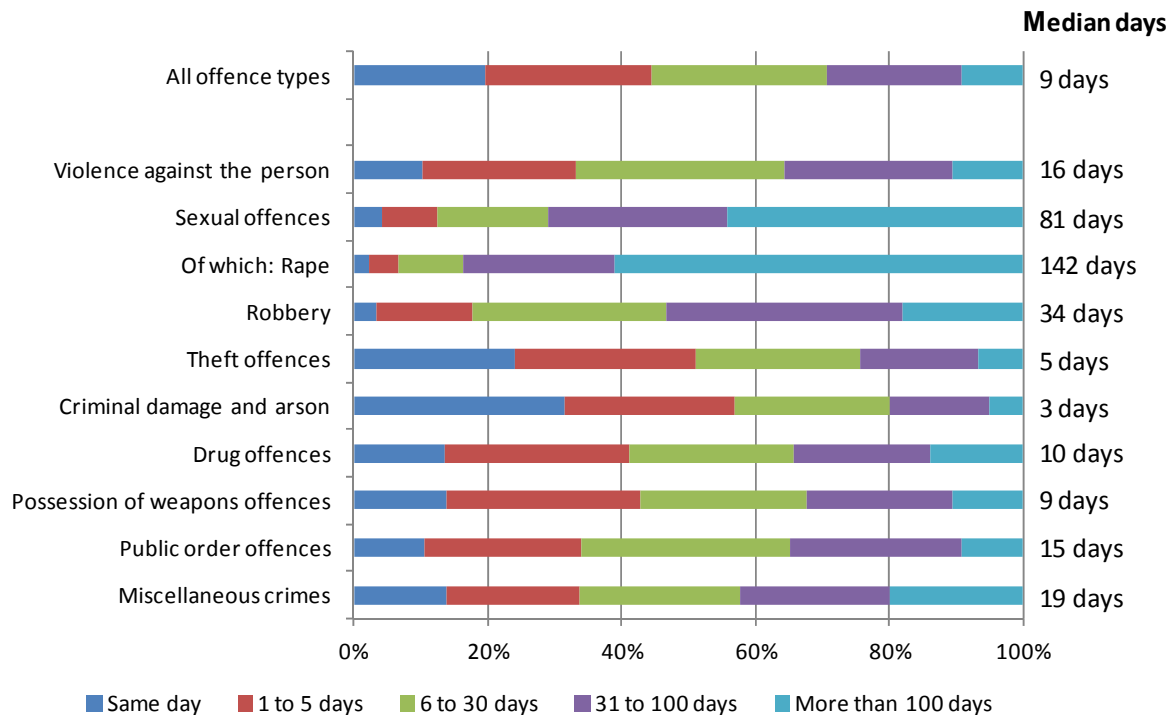
While this analysis gives an indication of the length of time it takes for an outcome to be assigned, it is affected by any delay between a force achieving an outcome and recording it on their system. In particular, for some of the outcomes that take 1-5 days to assign, the outcome may have been 'actioned' on the same day as the offence was recorded but implemented on the system at a later date. For example, cannabis warnings will almost always be issued at the time the offence comes to the attention of the police, but the administrative task of assigning the outcome on the crime recording system may happen some days later.

4.2 – THE LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN OFFENCES AND OUTCOMES BEING RECORDED, BY OFFENCE TYPE

Figure 4.1 shows the number of days between an offence being recorded and an outcome being assigned for that offence, by offence group. In the year ending March 2016, it took nine days on average to assign an outcome; 44 per cent of the outcomes were assigned within five days of the offence being recorded, and around three-quarters (71 per cent) of outcomes were assigned within 30 days. Nine per cent of outcomes took more than 100 days to be assigned.

As expected, sexual offences generally took much longer to be assigned an outcome than other offence types, taking an average of 81 days with 44 per cent taking over 100 days. In particular, rape offences took an average of 142 days to be assigned an outcome, with 61 per cent taking over 100. This is likely to be due to the complexity of these cases and the level of investigation needed. In contrast, drug offences (10 days), possession of weapons (9 days), theft (5 days) and criminal damage and arson (3 days) were generally resolved much more quickly. In some cases, this reflects the nature of these types of offences, in particular for drug and possession of weapon offences where the offender is usually identified immediately. In other cases, this may represent the limited evidence available in investigating the crime (e.g. thefts, where there may be no CCTV, fingerprints or other evidence of the perpetrator).

Figure 4.1: The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded for outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016, by offence type



Source: Home Office Data Hub, 32 forces (see Table C1), outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016

1. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables, which can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

Table 4.1 shows how the average (median) length of time to assign an outcome to particular offence types has changed since the previous year. As this calculation is only possible for 27 forces the figures for the year ending March 2016 will differ from those in Figure 4.1.

Overall, there has been no change in the average number of days taken to assign an outcome. However, there is some variation by crime type:

- The average time for a sexual offence to be assigned an outcome has increased from 70 days in the year ending March 2015 to 78 days in the year ending March 2016. In particular, rape offences increased from 122 days to 132 days during the same period. This could reflect an increase in the complexity of sexual offences being reported to and recorded by the police.
- The average time taken to assign an outcome also increased over the last year for some other offence types: miscellaneous crimes (an extra 5 days), drug offences (extra 4 days) and possession of weapon offences (extra 3 days).
- There were only two offence types which, on average, took less time to assign an outcome in the year ending March 2016 compared with the previous year. These were robbery (3 days less) and theft offences (2 days less).

The National Police Chiefs' Council report *Estimating Demand on the Police Service*⁷ states that "crime types which are more complex to investigate, require more police time and are therefore more costly, are now a greater proportion of police recorded crime".

As this is the first year for which comparisons can be made, for a subset of forces, small changes between the years may be due to natural variation and care should be taken when making any inferences from these changes.

⁷Available from: www.college.police.uk/Documents/Demand_Report_21_1_15.pdf

Table 4.1: The difference in the average (median) length of time taken to assign an outcome between the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016, by offence type

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes			
Median number of days for an outcome to be assigned			
	Y.e. March 2015	Y.e. March 2016	Difference between y.e. March 2015 and y.e. March 2016
Violence against the person	14	14	0
Sexual offences	70	78	8
<i>of which: Rape</i>	122	132	10
Robbery	35	32	-3
Theft offences	7	5	-2
Criminal damage and arson	3	3	0
Drug offences	7	11	4
Possession of weapons offences	5	8	3
Public order offences	13	13	0
Miscellaneous crimes	15	20	5
All crimes (excluding fraud)	8	8	0

Source: Home Office Data Hub, 27 forces (see Table C1), outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016 and outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2015

1. Average number of days taken to assign an outcome calculated using the median number of days

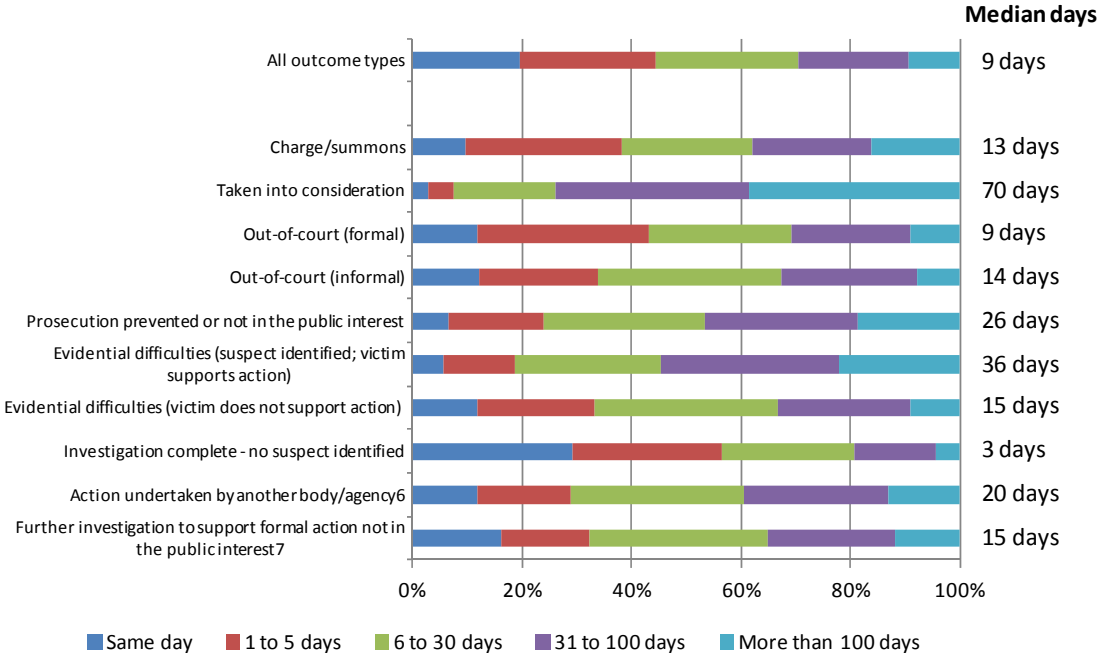
4.3 – THE LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN OFFENCES AND OUTCOMES BEING RECORDED, BY OUTCOME TYPE

Figure 4.2 shows how the time taken for an outcome to be assigned to a crime varies by outcome type. It should be borne in mind that police forces employ different administrative systems and processes which could impact on the amount of time taken to assign some outcomes. For instance some forces may only assign outcomes on their crime recording systems on Monday to Friday, which could impact on any crimes recorded at the weekend.

- Investigations that were completed with no suspect identified tended to be the outcomes assigned most quickly, taking an average of three days to be assigned in the year ending March 2016, with 29 per cent assigned on the same day as the crime was recorded. Appendix Table 4a⁸ shows that the vast majority of these were applied to offences of theft (68%) or criminal damage and arson (26%).
- Charge/summonses took an average of 13 days to be assigned, with 38 per cent being assigned within five days of the offence being recorded.
- It is not surprising that ‘taken into consideration’ by the court generally took the longest to assign (an average of 70 days) as these arise where the offender admits to the crime some time after it took place.

⁸ Appendix Table 4a can be found in the supplementary online data tables here: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

Figure 4.2: The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded for outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group



Source: Home Office Data Hub, 32 forces (see Table C1), outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016

1. See Tables 1.1 and 1.2 for details of which outcome types are included in which groups
 2. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables, which can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

Table 4.2 shows how the average (median) length of time to assign particular outcomes has changed since the previous year. It should be borne in mind that the volume and types of crimes recorded by forces can change from one year to the next and this will have a bearing on the types of outcomes being assigned and the time taken to assign them.

In particular:

- In the year ending March 2016, it took an average of 12 days to assign a charge/summons, an increase from 10 in the previous year.
- The police took less time, on average, to close a crime without a suspect being identified in the year ending March 2016 (2 days) compared with the previous year (4 days).

Table 4.2: The difference in the average (median) length of time taken to assign an outcome between the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016, by outcome group

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes			
	Median number of days for an outcome to be assigned		
	Y.e. March 2015	Y.e. March 2016	Difference between y.e. March 2015 and y.e. March 2016
Charge/summons	10	12	2
Taken into consideration ²	72	65	-7
Out-of-court (formal)	6	10	4
Out-of-court (informal)	11	15	4
Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	25	21	-4
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	34	35	1
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	15	13	-2
Investigation complete - no suspect identified	4	2	-2
Action undertaken by another body/agency ³	..	14	..
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest ³	..	19	..
All crimes (excluding fraud)	8	8	0

Source: Home Office Data Hub, 27 forces (see Table C1), outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016 and outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2015

1. Average number of days taken to assign an outcome calculated using the median number of days.
2. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).
3. Differences between the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016 are not available for outcome 20 (Action undertaken by another body/agency) or outcome 21 (Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest) as these outcomes were not introduced until April 2015 (outcome 20) and January 2016 (outcome 21).

5 Transferred or cancelled records (formerly ‘no-crimes’)

5.1 – DEFINITIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES FOR TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS (FORMERLY ‘NO-CRIMES’)

A transferred or cancelled record occurs when the police record an offence, but subsequently determine that the crime did not take place, was recorded in error or should be transferred to another force. Cases where an incident was not recorded as a crime in the first place are not included.

Offences may be transferred or cancelled in one of the following situations:

- 1 Transferred: Crime committed outside the jurisdiction of the police force in which it was recorded – passed to the appropriate force.
- 2 Cancelled: Additional verifiable information that determines that no notifiable crime occurred becomes available.
- 3 Cancelled: Duplicate record or part of a crime already recorded.
- 4 Cancelled: Crime recorded in error.
- 5 Cancelled: Self defence claimed (for specific recorded assaults).

In the statistics shown in this section, transferred or cancelled records are always recorded in the same financial year as the offence that was originally recorded. So if, for example, an offence was recorded in January and then subsequently transferred or cancelled in the next financial year (e.g. May), the transferred or cancelled record will be recorded for the previous financial year. This ensures that the total count of offences in any given year is correct.

The year ending March 2016 is the first time these breakdowns have been presented covering a full year’s worth of data⁹. Prior to April 2015, all 43 police forces in England and Wales (including British Transport Police) supplied the total number of transferred and cancelled records to the Home Office as one combined category (“no-crimes”), with no further explanation of why the crime was classed as such. Therefore, comparisons with previous years are only possible by looking at the total of the five categories.

5.2 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS BY OFFENCE GROUP

Data on records that were transferred or cancelled in the year ending March 2016 are shown in Table 5.1. Overall, 3.3 per cent of crimes originally recorded in the year ending March 2016 were subsequently transferred or cancelled. Most of these (3.1 per cent) were subsequently cancelled and 0.2 per cent of crimes were transferred to another police force.

These proportions varied considerably by offence group. The highest cancelled record rate was for miscellaneous crimes against society (6.8 per cent), whilst the lowest was for robbery (1.7 per cent). The cancelled record rate for rape offences was 4.4 per cent.

The highest proportion of records transferred to another police force was for sexual offences (1.3 per cent in the year ending March 2016), in particular rape offences (1.5 per cent).

⁹ Northamptonshire were unable to provide a breakdown of transferred and cancelled records by type for the year ending March 2016.

Table 5.1: Number and proportion of transferred or cancelled records, by offence group, year ending March 2016

England and Wales, Recorded crime							
	Offences initially recorded ³	Transferred records ³	Cancelled records ³	Offences recorded ³	Transferred records as % of offences initially recorded ³	Cancelled records as % of offences initially recorded ³	Total transferred or cancelled records as % of offences initially recorded (all forces) ⁴
Violence against the person	1,027,479	2,185	30,850	994,444	0.2	3.0	3.3
Sexual offences	112,593	1,418	4,797	106,378	1.3	4.3	5.6
of which: Rape	38,054	566	1,690	35,798	1.5	4.4	6.1
Robbery	51,855	45	906	50,904	0.1	1.7	1.8
Theft offences	1,816,591	2,181	54,105	1,760,305	0.1	3.0	3.1
Criminal damage and arson	552,830	271	12,650	539,909	0.0	2.3	2.4
Drug offences	152,483	132	4,794	147,557	0.1	3.1	3.3
Possession of weapons offences	27,363	19	1,842	25,502	0.1	6.7	6.9
Public order offences	213,865	290	8,959	204,616	0.1	4.2	4.4
Misc. crimes against society	68,371	381	4,658	63,332	0.6	6.8	7.4
Total¹	4,023,430	6,922	123,561	3,892,947	0.2	3.1	3.3

1. Excludes fraud offences as responsibility for recording and transferring/cancelling these had transferred to Action Fraud by March 2013.

2. Transferred and cancelled records were formerly referred to as 'no-crimes'.

3. Northamptonshire police provided data on the total number of transferred and cancelled records but did not provide a breakdown by type therefore have been excluded from all but the last column.

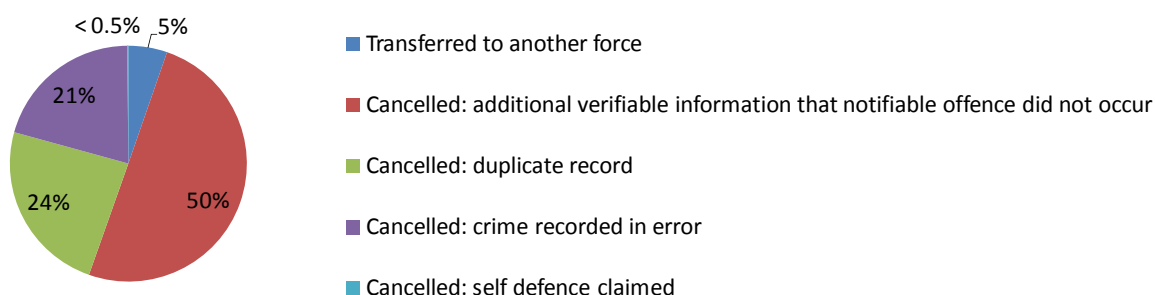
4. The last column includes total transferred and cancelled records for Northamptonshire and therefore provides the total rates for all forces (see Table 5.2).

5.3 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS BY CATEGORY

Data on the reason why a record was transferred or cancelled were collected by the Home Office for the first time during year ending March 2016. Half (50%) of the records that were either transferred or cancelled in the year ending March 2016 were cancelled because additional verifiable information became available that determined that no notifiable crime had been committed.

As shown in Figure 5.1, nearly one-quarter (24%) were cancelled due to being duplicate records, around one-fifth (21%) were recorded in error and five per cent were transferred to another force. Only a very small proportion (less than 0.5 per cent) of all transferred or cancelled records were crimes of assault that had been cancelled due to evidence that the offender acted in self-defence. Although these can only be applied to records initially recorded as specific assault offences, it also comprised a very small proportion of the volume of assaults recorded¹⁰.

Figure 5.1: Transferred or cancelled records by type, year ending March 2016



Source: Police Recorded Crime, Home Office

1. The Metropolitan Police Service are unable to record records cancelled due to self defence claimed.
2. Northamptonshire were unable to provide a breakdown by transferred and cancelled records type.

The year ending March 2016 is the first time these new breakdowns have been presented at an offence group level (Figure 5.2).

¹⁰ The Metropolitan Police Service are unable to provide figures on the number of transferred and cancelled records that were cancelled due to self defence claimed. However, given the small proportion seen across all forces and the specific nature of when this type can be applied it would still be likely to be low overall.

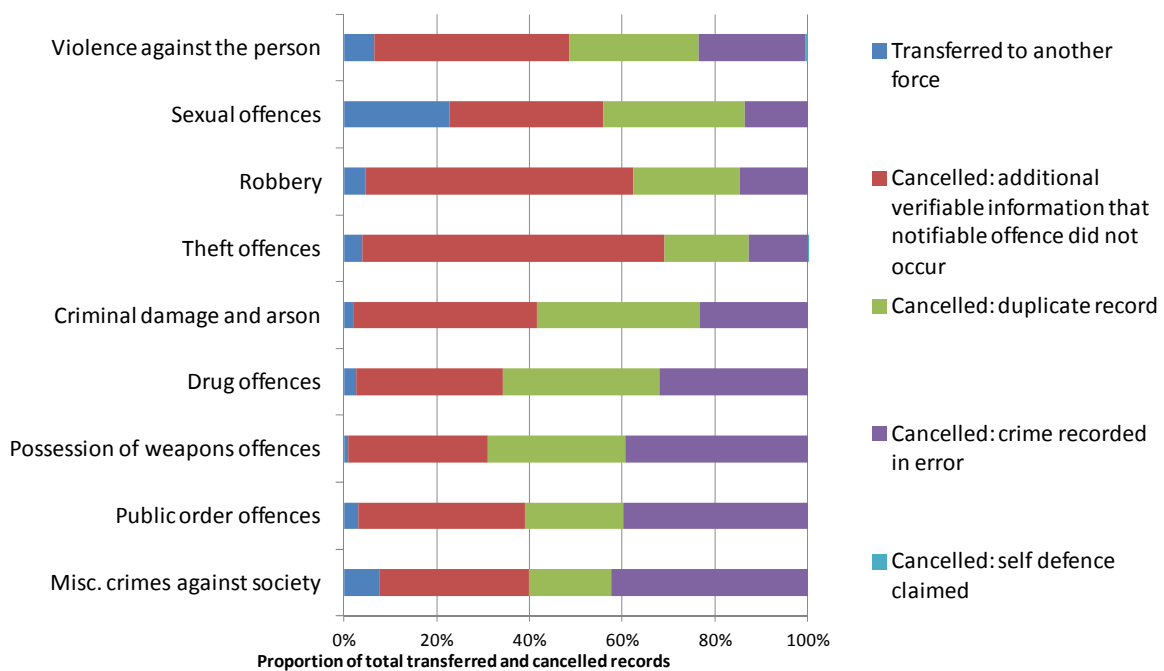
The offence group with the highest proportion of records that were transferred to another force was sexual offences (23%).

The offence group with the highest proportion of crime records that were cancelled because additional verifiable information became available that determined that no notifiable crime had been committed was theft offences (65 per cent of theft records that had been transferred or cancelled). This may be due to the nature of the offence, whereby an item which is first recorded as stolen is subsequently found to have been misplaced. Possession of weapons offences had the lowest proportion of records that were cancelled because additional verifiable information became available that determined that no notifiable crime had been committed (30 per cent of transferred or cancelled records for this offence type).

Of all records that were transferred or cancelled in the year ending March 2016, 24 per cent were cancelled due to being a duplicate record. The main offence group with the highest proportion of these duplicate records was criminal damage and arson (35%) whilst the lowest proportions of duplicate records were seen for miscellaneous crimes against society and theft offences (18%).

The offence group with the highest proportion of transferred or cancelled records that were cancelled because they were recorded in error were miscellaneous crimes against society (42 per cent in the year ending March 2016), followed by possession of weapons (40%) and public order offences (39%). This is in contrast to the proportions of transferred or cancelled records for sexual offences (14%), theft offences (13%) and robbery (15%) which were cancelled due to being recorded in error.

Figure 5.2: Transferred or cancelled records by type broken down by offence group, year ending March 2016



Source: *Police Recorded Crime, Home Office*

1. The Metropolitan Police Service are unable to record records cancelled due to self defence claimed.
2. Northamptonshire were unable to provide a breakdown by transferred and cancelled records type.

Only specific types of assaults can be cancelled due to evidence that the offence was acted in self-defence, and less than 1 per cent of all violence against the person offences were cancelled for this reason.

5.4 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Comparisons between the year ending March 2016 and the previous year are only possible for the total number of transferred and cancelled records. This is because prior to April 2015, forces supplied the total number to the Home Office as one combined category (“no-crimes”) with no further explanation of why the crime was classed as such. Data shown cover all 44 police forces in England and Wales (including British Transport Police).

As shown in Table 5.2, 3.3 per cent of all offences that were initially recorded as crimes in the year ending March 2016 were subsequently transferred or cancelled, a slight increase from 3.1 per cent in the previous year. Similarly to the year ending March 2015, the offence group with the highest proportion of offences that were transferred or cancelled in the year ending March 2016 was miscellaneous crimes against society (7.4 per cent in year ending March 2016 compared with 7.5 per cent in the previous year) and the lowest rates were seen for robbery offences (1.8 per cent in the year ending March 2016 compared with 1.9 per cent in the previous year).

The transferred or cancelled rate for rape offences in the year ending March 2016 was 6.1 per cent, up from 5.3 per cent in the previous year. It is likely that the increase in the proportion of crimes that were transferred or cancelled is linked to the improvements and developments in crime recording that have been highlighted in earlier chapters. In particular, recording rules changed in April 2015 to ensure crimes were recorded by the police as soon as possible and in any event, within 24 hours. This is likely to have had a particular impact for rape offences. Furthermore, the push for more victim-focused crime recording (as referenced in Chapter 2) is also likely to have led to more crimes being recorded that are subsequently transferred or cancelled as police are now recording crimes at the first (or an early) point of contact and subsequently establishing further into the investigation that such a transfer or cancellation is justified.

Table 5.2: Number and proportion of transferred or cancelled records, by offence group, years ending March 2015 and 2016

	England and Wales, Recorded crime							
	Offences initially recorded		Transferred or cancelled records		Offences recorded		Transferred or cancelled records as % of offences initially recorded	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
Year ending March:								
Violence against the person	803,613	1,027,899	23,587	33,455	780,026	994,444	2.9	3.3
Sexual offences	92,697	112,725	4,459	6,347	88,238	106,378	4.8	5.6
<i>of which: Rape</i>	30,948	38,104	1,648	2,306	29,300	35,798	5.3	6.1
Robbery	51,219	51,861	974	957	50,245	50,904	1.9	1.8
Theft offences	1,813,043	1,817,324	57,920	57,019	1,755,123	1,760,305	3.2	3.1
Criminal damage and arson	514,521	553,102	10,644	13,193	503,877	539,909	2.1	2.4
Drug offences	174,366	152,543	4,503	4,986	169,863	147,557	2.6	3.3
Possession of weapons offences	23,397	27,397	1,480	1,895	21,917	25,502	6.3	6.9
Public order offences	166,478	213,945	6,989	9,329	159,489	204,616	4.2	4.4
Misc. crimes against society	56,606	68,424	4,258	5,092	52,348	63,332	7.5	7.4
Total¹	3,695,940	4,025,220	114,814	132,273	3,581,126	3,892,947	3.1	3.3

1. Excludes fraud offences as responsibility for recording and transferring/cancelling these had transferred to Action Fraud by March 2013.

2. Transferred and cancelled records were formerly referred to as ‘no-crimes’

3. All police forces provided data on the total number of transferred and cancelled records

5.5 – HMIC FINDINGS ON THE QUALITY OF ‘NO-CRIMING’

In 2014, HMIC published findings from their crime data integrity inspections of the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales. These inspections included an assessment on the accuracy of no-crime records and compliance with the standards set out in the Home Office Counting Rules.

One of the weaknesses identified in police recording practices was crimes being inappropriately cancelled (‘no-crimed’). HMIC found that of their national sample, 20 per cent of transferred or cancelled crimes were removed from the records incorrectly.

The report can be found here: www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/crime-recording-making-the-victim-count.pdf

5.6 – COMPARING TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS (FORMERLY ‘NO-CRIMES’)

It is important to exercise caution when comparing transferred or cancelled record data across police forces and between years. A high or low number of transferred or cancelled records should not necessarily be interpreted positively or negatively, as different forces may use transferred or cancelled records in different ways and volumes may be affected by specific locations of forces (in particular for transferred records). Since April 2015 the Home Office Counting Rules have required the police to record a crime at the earliest opportunity, and at most within 24 hours after the reporting officer decides that a crime should be recorded (previously this was within 72 hours). In itself, this is likely to lead to an increase in transferred and cancelled records. However, whilst one force may record all crimes immediately and then later transfer or cancel a more significant proportion of these, others may wait slightly longer to judge whether an offence constitutes a crime or not, and thus are likely to record fewer transferred or cancelled records overall. Transfers in particular are susceptible to local practices. Some forces record all reports as crimes and then transfer where necessary. Others, where it is apparent from the outset that a transfer will be needed, only record an incident and pass that detail on. As a result a firm conclusion should not be drawn when comparing transferred or cancelled record numbers across forces, as any differences seen may just reflect differences in recording practices. More details of this can be found in the HMIC reports mentioned above.

Additionally, some forces may deal more frequently with offence types that are more likely to be transferred or cancelled.

An additional online table showing transferred or cancelled record rates for crime types and forces can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

An Open Data table on transferred or cancelled records is also available, which shows transferred or cancelled record data by police force for each of the last five financial years. This is available here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables

Annex A: Outcomes assigned to offences flagged as domestic abuse

A1 - INTRODUCTION

In April 2015, the Home Office began collecting information from the police on whether recorded offences were related to domestic abuse. Crimes are “flagged” by the police as being domestic abuse related if the offence meets the government definition of domestic violence and abuse¹¹.

This annex covers how domestic abuse flagged offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 have been dealt with. The analyses presented are based on data from 17 of the 44 police forces in England and Wales^{12,13} that supplied adequate data to the Home Office Data Hub.

A2 – DOMESTIC ABUSE OUTCOMES BY TYPE

The rates for individual outcome types shown in Appendix table 1 relate to outcomes assigned to domestic abuse flagged offences recorded in the year ending March 2016. In total, 96 per cent of these offences had been assigned an outcome by the time the data was extracted from the Home Office Data Hub¹⁴. The remaining four per cent were yet to be assigned an outcome.

- A quarter (25%) of domestic abuse flagged offences were dealt with by a charge or summons
- The majority (60%) of domestic abuse flagged offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 had evidential difficulties outcomes (Appendix table 1; Figure A1). This consists of 35 per cent of flagged offences where the victim did not support further action and 26 per cent where the victim supported further action.
- Just two per cent of domestic abuse flagged offences were assigned the outcome ‘investigation complete - no suspect identified’. This is perhaps not surprising given that, by definition, in a domestic abuse offence the offender must be a partner, ex-partner or a family member of the victim.

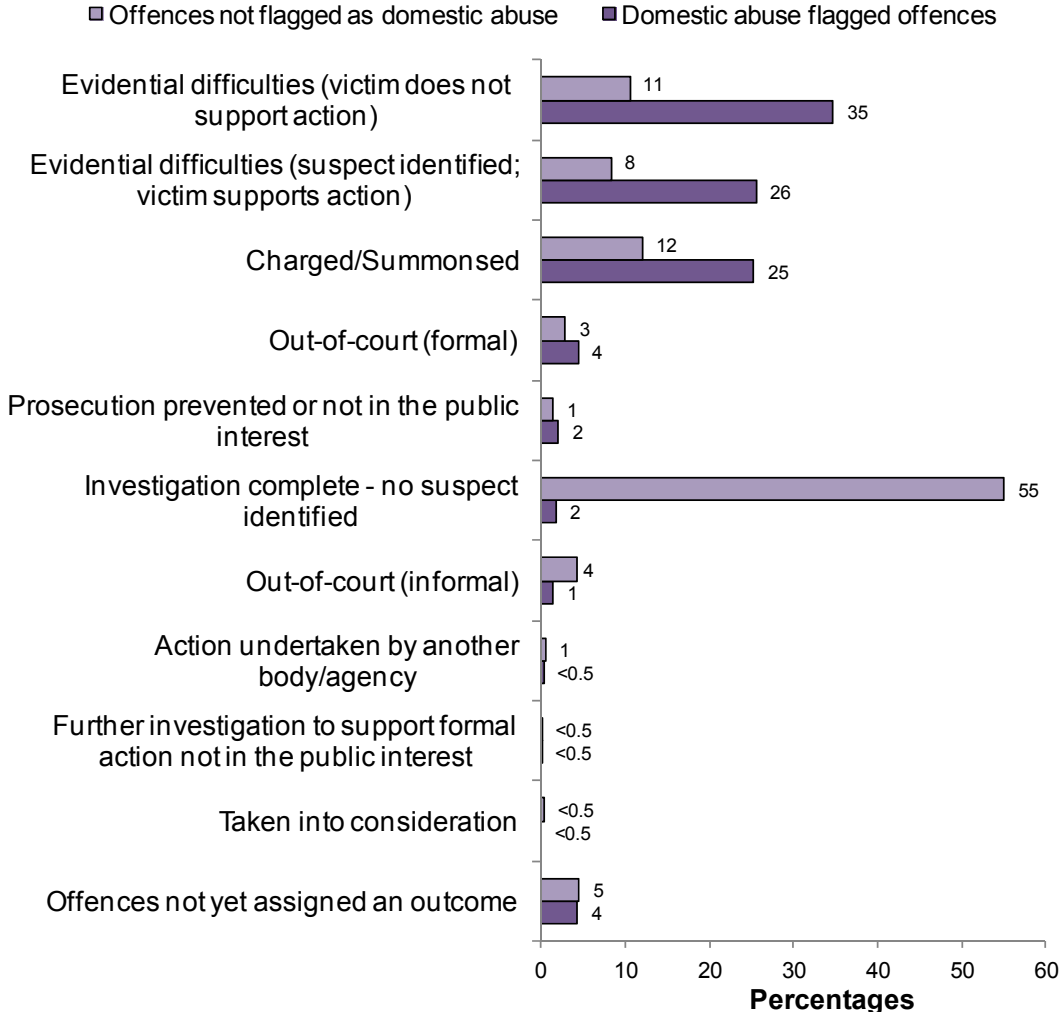
¹¹ Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

¹² Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cleveland, Devon and Cornwall, Gloucestershire, Greater Manchester, Humberside, Kent, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, South Wales, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, Thames Valley and West Yorkshire.

¹³ Figures are not comparable with previous chapters in the publication as the analysis is based on a different subset of forces.

¹⁴ Early June 2016. This proportion is higher than the proportion for all offences, although much of this may be due to different snapshot dates and the inclusion of fewer forces.

Figure A1: Proportions of outcomes assigned to domestic abuse flagged offences and offences not flagged as domestic abuse recorded in the year ending March 2016



Source: Police Recorded Crime, Home Office Data Hub
 1. Based on 17 police forces that supplied adequate data
 2. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables, which can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

A3 – DOMESTIC ABUSE OUTCOMES BY OFFENCE GROUP

In the 17 forces included in the analysis, violence against the person, criminal damage and arson and sexual offences together comprise 90 per cent of domestic abuse offences (this proportion is the same when all 44 police forces are included in the analysis, these data are available in the Office for National Statistics crime statistics for the year ending March 2016 bulletin¹⁵). The proportions of outcomes assigned varied considerably by offence type:

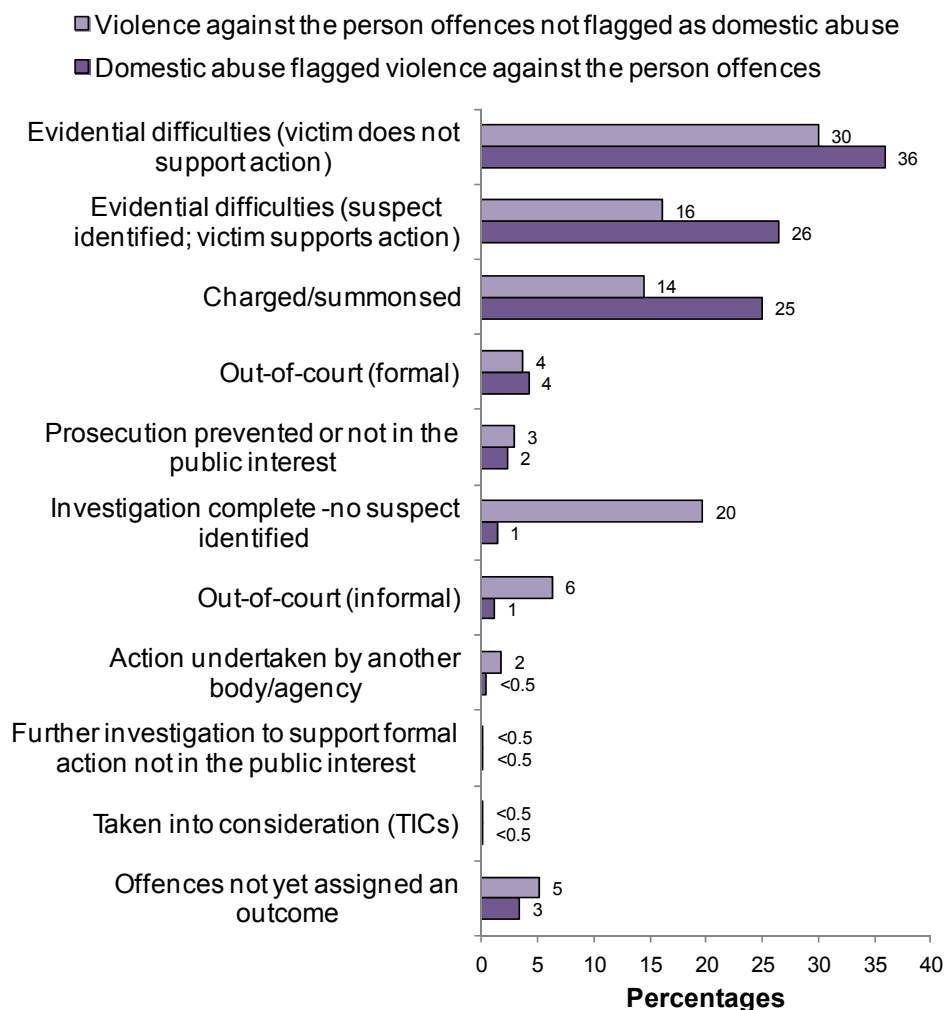
- A quarter (25%) of domestic abuse flagged violence against the person offences were dealt with by a charge or summons, while 36 per cent had evidential difficulties where the victim did not support further action. In comparison, a lower proportion (14%) of violent offences¹⁶ not flagged as domestic abuse were dealt with by a charge or summons and 30 per cent had evidential difficulties where the victim did not support further action (Figure A2). A fifth (20%) of violence against the person offences not flagged as domestic abuse were assigned the

¹⁵ www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice
¹⁶ Recorded by the 17 police forces

outcome 'investigation complete - no suspect identified' compared with only 1 per cent of domestic abuse flagged violence against the person offences.

- A far higher proportion of domestic abuse flagged criminal damage and arson offences resulted in a charge or summons than those that were not domestic abuse flagged (29 per cent compared with 5 per cent). The proportion was also much higher for evidential difficulties where the victim did not support action (34 per cent of domestic abuse flagged criminal damage and arson compared with 6 per cent of those that were not flagged as domestic abuse), see Appendix Table A3¹⁷.
- Domestic abuse flagged sexual offences had a larger proportion of offences not yet assigned an outcome (28%) than any of the other offence groups. This is a similar proportion to sexual offences not flagged as domestic abuse (26%), see Appendix Table A3¹⁷.

Figure A2: Proportions of outcomes assigned to domestic abuse flagged violence against the person offences and violence against the person offences not flagged as domestic abuse recorded in the year ending March 2016



Source: Police Recorded Crime, Home Office Data Hub

1. Based on 17 police forces that supplied adequate data

2. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables, which can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

¹⁷Supplementary online data tables available here: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

A4 - THE LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN DOMESTIC ABUSE OFFENCES AND OUTCOMES BEING RECORDED

This section presents data on the length of time between domestic abuse flagged offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 being assigned an outcome, by the time the data was extracted from the Home Office Data Hub (Figure A3). Thus the data are based on the 96 per cent of offences that have been assigned an outcome (Appendix table A1¹⁸). 'Flagging' of domestic abuse offences only begin in April 2015, hence this differs to the analysis in Chapter 4 of this publication, which looks at all outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016, regardless of which year the crime was recorded in.

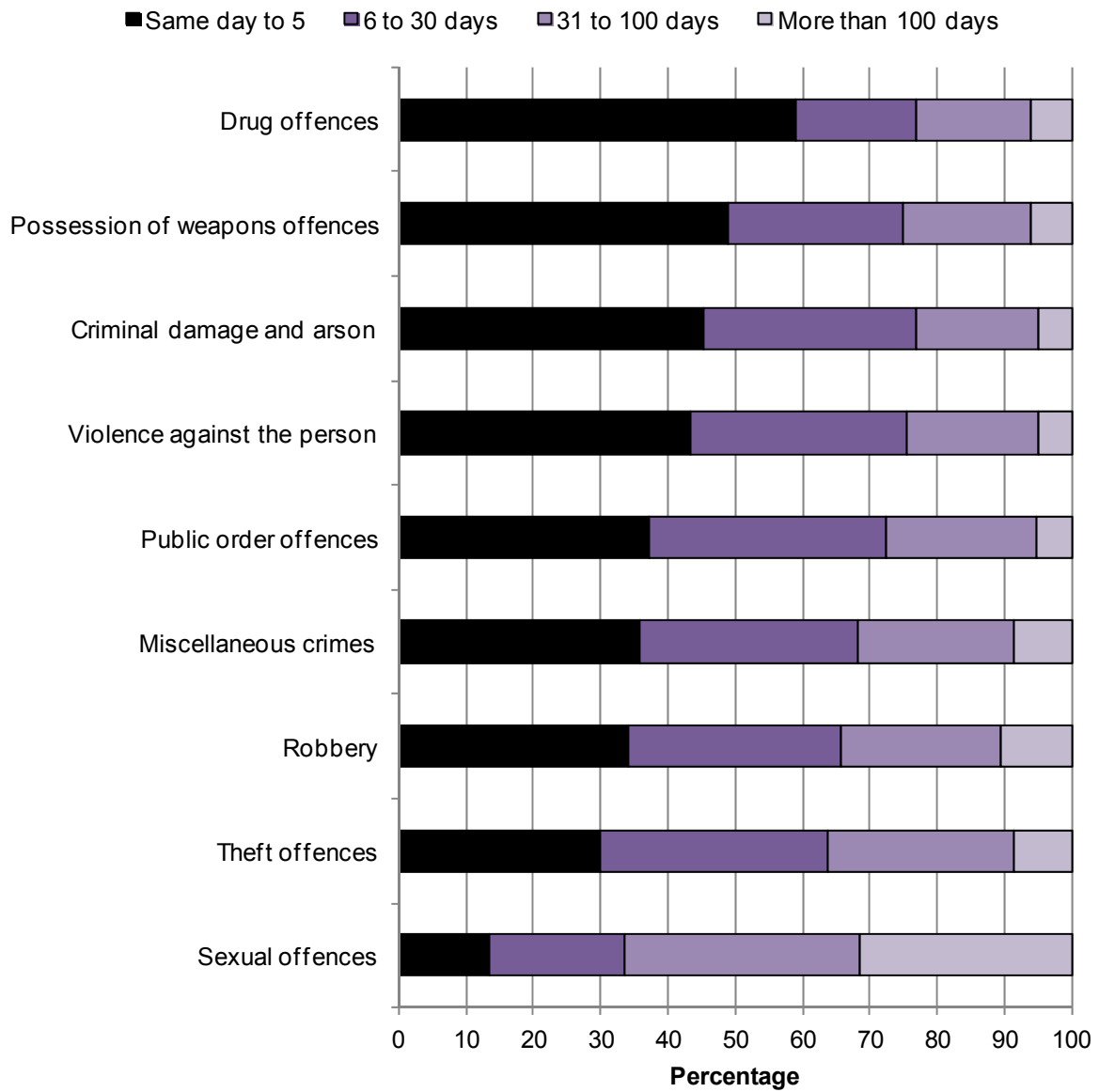
Of the domestic abuse flagged offences assigned an outcome, 42 per cent had been assigned an outcome within five days of the offence being recorded, with around three-quarters (74%) being assigned within 30 days. Six per cent of outcomes took more than 100 days to be assigned.

- Sexual offences flagged as domestic abuse generally took much longer to be assigned an outcome than other domestic abuse related offence types, with 32 per cent taking over 100 days. This proportion is similar to sexual offences not flagged as domestic abuse – 26 per cent took over 100 days.
- Forty three per cent of domestic abuse flagged violence against the person offences were assigned an outcome within five days and three quarters were assigned an outcome within 30 days. In violence against the person offences not flagged as domestic abuse, 36 per cent were assigned an outcome within five days and 68 per cent within 30 days.

The time taken to assign an outcome to each offence type reflects the nature of the offence. Sexual offences tend to be much more complex and require a greater amount of investigation. On the other hand, the offender is usually identified immediately in drug and possession of weapon offences. See Chapter 4 for more information.

¹⁸ Supplementary online data tables available here: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

Figure A3: Length of time taken to assign outcomes to domestic abuse flagged offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, by offence group



Source: Police Recorded Crime, Home Office Data Hub

1. Based on 17 police forces that supplied adequate data

2. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables, which can be found here:

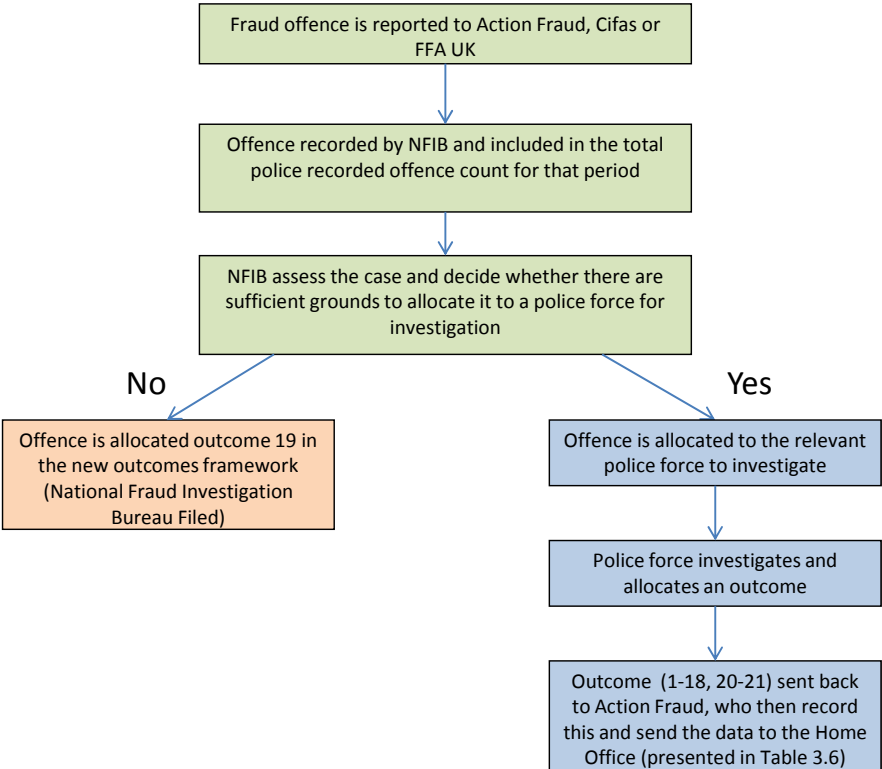
www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

Annex B: Fraud outcomes

The way in which fraud offences are reported and subsequently recorded has changed in recent years. In April 2011, Action Fraud (the national fraud and cybercrime reporting centre) began gradually taking over the recording of fraud offences from the individual police forces in England and Wales, completing in March 2013. The implementation of Action Fraud as a single national fraud reporting centre has led to an increase in the number of fraud offences recorded, as it provides an easier way for the public to report such offences (via an online reporting tool and a dedicated call centre), and centralises expertise in these cases. The transfer to Action Fraud was rolled out at different times for different forces and the year ending March 2014 was therefore the first full year where all fraud offences previously reported to the police had been reported to, and recorded by, Action Fraud. The police recorded crime series (published by ONS) also incorporates offences reported to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) by two fraud prevention industry bodies: Cifas and Financial Fraud Action UK (FFA UK). The NFIB is responsible for allocating reported offences to forces for them to investigate.

The process by which outcomes are recorded by the NFIB is shown in the flow chart in Figure 3.1. Importantly, the NFIB assess whether the fraud should be investigated and allocates those where sufficient grounds for investigation exist back to forces, these cases are known as disseminations. The force subsequently assigns an outcome and submits this back to the NFIB.

Figure B1: How fraud outcomes are recorded



Outcomes recorded by NFIB only cover those offences that were ‘disseminated’ to police forces to investigate. Table B1 shows the number of dissemination packages sent to police forces, alongside

the total number of fraud offences recorded, in the year ending March 2015 and in year ending March 2016.

Table B1 – Number of fraud offences and disseminations, year ending March 2015 and year ending March 2016

	England and Wales	
	Year ending March 2015	Year ending March 2016
Number of disseminations	61,682	67,725
Total recorded fraud offences:	593,113	621,017
<i>Number recorded by Action Fraud</i>	<i>230,369</i>	<i>222,502</i>
<i>Number recorded by Cifas and FFA</i>	<i>362,744</i>	<i>398,515</i>

Source: National Fraud Intelligence Bureau

In previous editions of this bulletin, outcomes data for fraud offences were published as experimental statistics. Additional work was carried out this year in terms of quality assurance and it was discovered that NFIB had been supplying fraud outcomes data to the Home Office based on when the force returned the data to NFIB rather than when the outcome was actually recorded. For example, if a force returned a data set to NFIB in April but it contained outcomes recorded in January, February and March, all would be included in the April outcome figure. Therefore, fraud outcomes figures published in previous editions should be interpreted with caution. We have been working with NFIB to rectify this issue and are now able to provide data on the corrected basis for the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016, as shown in Table B2. Note that the outcomes will not necessarily correspond to the disseminations since investigations can sometimes take months or longer to complete. This is illustrated by the inclusion of data on outcomes recorded by police forces, which relate to offences that were recorded by the police force before April 2013 (i.e. before the transition to Action Fraud).

Table B2 - Fraud outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016, by outcome type

		England and Wales					
Outcome number ³	Outcome type/group	Year ending March 2015			Year ending March 2016		
		Outcomes recorded by police ¹	Outcomes recorded by NFIB ²	Total	Outcomes recorded by police ¹	Outcomes recorded by NFIB ²	Total
1	Charged/Summonsed	336	8,244	8,580	109	7,338	7,447
4	Taken into consideration	13	358	371	4	384	388
	Out-of-court (formal)	21	1,552	1,573	16	1,081	1,097
2	Caution - youths	0	161	161	11	63	74
3	Caution - adults	21	1,368	1,389	5	994	999
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	0	23	23	0	24	24
	Out-of-court (informal)	5	844	849	1	647	648
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
8	Community resolution	5	844	849	1	647	648
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	58	471	529	40	907	947
5	Offender died	1	12	13	0	32	32
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	20	83	103	8	44	52
10	Not in public interest (Police)	32	338	370	28	643	671
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	0	1	1	0	6	6
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	1	7	8	1	14	15
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	2	13	15	1	140	141
17	Prosecution time limit expired	2	17	19	2	28	30
	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	226	3,635	3,861	198	8,922	9,120
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	349	1,474	1,823	195	3,408	3,603
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	327	308	635	178	1,220	1,398
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	22	1,166	1,188	17	2,188	2,205
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	0	6,597	6,597	0	14,995	14,995
20	Investigation transferred to another body/agency	0	2	2	0	714	714
21	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest	0	92	92
	Total number of outcomes recorded	1,008	23,177	24,185	563	38,488	39,051

1. Offences recorded by police forces prior to April 2013 with outcomes subsequently recorded by police forces in the year ending March 2015 or the year ending March 2016.

2. Offences recorded by Action Fraud, Cifas and FFA UK with outcomes recorded by NFIB in the year ending March 2015 or the year ending March 2016.

3. The Home Office does not currently collect data on outcome 19 from the NFIB.

The increase in outcomes between the years ending March 2015 and March 2016 is likely to have resulted from the increase in dissemination packages, i.e. an increase in the cases sent to forces to investigate. Correspondingly, there has been an increase in ‘investigation complete – no suspect identified’ and ‘evidential difficulties - suspect identified; victim supports action’.

The data set provided by the NFIB continues to be subject to development and quality assurance and so these statistics should still be treated as experimental. However, the NFIB are introducing a new management information system which is due to go live in September 2016. This should mean that the fraud outcomes data will be more readily accessible and more accurate as the system should allow individual outcomes to be linked to the fraud offences they relate to. The Home Office intends to work closely with NFIB to ensure that the data is as robust as possible and that it meets user needs, including potentially providing a breakdown of the fraud outcomes figures by police force area.

Annex C: Crime Outcomes Data Quality

C1 - INTRODUCTION

In January 2014, the UK Statistics Authority published its assessment of ONS crime statistics. It found that statistics based on police recorded crime data, having been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, did not meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The UKSA published a list of requirements for these statistics to regain the National Statistics accreditation.

Some of the requirements of this assessment were to provide more detail on how data sources were used to produce these statistics, along with more information on the quality of the statistics. Additionally, there was also a requirement to provide information on the process used by police forces to submit and revise data, and the validation processes used by the Home Office. In order to ensure that this publication meets the high standards required by the UK Statistics Authority, details are provided below.

C2 – DATA QUALITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Home Office receives monthly data from police forces on crime, crime outcomes and records that were initially recorded as crimes and subsequently transferred to another police force or cancelled. These data are quality assured and analysed by Home Office statisticians and any anomalies or errors identified through this process result in a report being returned to the relevant force for validation or correction.

Prior to the publication of crime outcomes a verification exercise is carried out with all forces. The data held by the Home Office are returned to individual forces asking for confirmation that the data accords with that held on their own systems and to highlight any perceived inconsistencies in their data. Again, forces resubmit data if required.

Given the work involved in amending police force crime recording systems to accommodate the full outcomes framework, not all forces were able to supply full data from April 2014. As a result some of the year ending March 2015 data does not include all forces, and so where comparisons have been made between the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016, these may not include all forces and figures will tend to be presented as proportions of crimes. Where necessary, explanations have been provided as to which forces have not been included for certain quarters or analyses. See Table C1 for details of when each police force was able to provide full data on the broader outcomes framework.

The Ministry of Justice has been working with the Home Office, the Crown Prosecution Service and the National Police Chiefs' Council to deliver a project to make the use of out-of-court disposals for adult offenders more effective. In November 2014, as part of this project, three police forces (Leicestershire, Staffordshire and West Yorkshire) commenced a 12 month pilot operation of a simplified model of such outcomes (West Yorkshire Police adopted a phased roll out starting in November 2014 and fully operational in January 2015). All three forces, with the agreement of Ministers, voluntarily stopped issuing adult simple cautions (part of outcome 3) and cannabis / khat warnings (outcome 7) and limited their use of penalty notices for disorder (outcome 6), instead using the adult conditional caution (part of outcome 3) and the community resolution (outcome 8). The rules and guidance that apply to conditional cautions and community resolutions have been amended for those three forces to reflect this new approach. These three pilot forces have continued to operate in accordance with the pilot conditions since the pilot ended in November 2015. This needs to be borne in mind when looking at the outcomes data for these three forces, as they will have a smaller proportion of outcomes 6 and 7 and greater proportion of outcome 8 than other forces.

C3 – DATA SOURCES USED: AGGREGATED CRIMSEC4 RETURNS

Police recorded crime data are supplied to the Home Office by the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. For 16 forces, the year ending March 2016 crime and outcomes data were supplied to the Home Office in an aggregated return (CrimSec4 form) on a monthly basis. In this return, data on outcomes and transferred or cancelled records (formerly referred to as 'no-crimes') are collected alongside recorded crime data for each crime within the notifiable offence list. Notifiable offences include all offences that could possibly be tried by jury (these include some less serious offences, such as minor theft that would not usually be dealt with this way) plus a few additional closely-related summary offences dealt with by magistrates, such as assault without injury.

The monthly data are cumulative, such that each month's return will contain the data for the financial year to date. When a police force wants to make revisions to this data, they usually do this in the latest monthly return, rather than re-sending a return for the period affected. The exception to this rule is when the revisions affect a previous financial year. In these cases the police force will re-send an end of year return for that year.

Outcomes are recorded on the CrimSec4 form in the month that the outcome is applied, and not the month in which the original offence occurred. For example, if an offence occurred in January and a suspect was subsequently charged in June, the outcome would be recorded in June. This means that the data on outcomes for a given month (presented in Chapter 3) do not correspond to the data on offences in that month, or even the same year. However, in the year ending March 2016 the Home Office made an additional request to forces to capture outcomes that relate to the period the crime was recorded (see Section C5), and these data are presented in Chapter 2.

The latest outcomes to be introduced, outcome 20 (since April 2015) and outcome 21 (since January 2016), and the five sub-categories for transferred and cancelled records are not included on CrimSec4 forms and are instead collected via an additional manual collection on a quarterly basis.

Transferred or cancelled records are recorded in the year in which the original offence was recorded. This is to ensure that the total offences for each year are correct, i.e. a transferred or cancelled record for a previous financial year does not get included in the current year, and falsely lower the total number of offences recorded in the current year.

C4 – DATA SOURCES USED: THE HOME OFFICE DATA HUB

The Home Office Data Hub (HODH) allows police forces to provide record-level detail on offences, vastly increasing the opportunities for the analysis of police recorded crime data. At the time of publication, there were 34 forces providing their monthly crime, outcomes and transferred or cancelled records data solely via the HODH, with the majority of the remaining forces in the 'parallel running' phase, where they are sending data both via the CrimSec4 form and via the HODH, with a view to switching exclusively to the HODH soon. The Home Office are continuing to work with these forces to help them with this transition, and are committed to achieving a fully operational HODH.

C5 – DATA SOURCES USED: VOLUNTARY RETURNS

For forces providing record level data via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH; see section C4), it is possible to analyse how crimes recorded in the year ending March 2016 were dealt with by linking individual outcomes with the offence to which they were assigned (Chapter 2).

As not all forces are currently able to provide data via the HODH, the Home Office requested that all other forces voluntarily provide these data separately on a quarterly basis in order to capture data from as many forces as possible. All forces provided these for year ending March 2016.

The data for the year ending March 2016 that are presented in Chapter 2 therefore covers all 44 police forces (including the British Transport Police) and is based on HODH data for 25 forces and figures voluntarily provided by the remaining nineteen forces (see Table C1). Data for year ending March 2016 were taken from the HODH in early June 2016, and the remaining forces voluntarily provided their data for year on different dates between early-April and mid-June 2016. The proportion of crimes recorded in March 2016 that had been assigned an outcome at the time of submitting data to the Home Office is likely to be smaller for a force that sent their data return in early April 2016 than for a force that provided this in May or June, as there had been less time for these offences to be investigated and the outcomes to be assigned. These dates will therefore have an impact on the

overall proportion of crimes still under investigation and comparability between forces. For example, the proportion of crimes recorded in March 2016 that had been assigned an outcome at the time of submitting data to the Home Office is likely to be smaller for a force that sent their data return in early April 2016 than for a force that provided this in May, as there had been less time for these offences to be investigated and the outcomes to be assigned.

Chapter 2 also presents updated data for the year ending March 2015, which was the first year for which these data were collected. Updated figures for the year ending March 2015 reflect the fact that crimes have had an additional year in which to be assigned an outcome. These data are partial as a subset of 38 forces submitted data to the Home Office, and some of these forces were unable to provide a full year of data covering the full range of outcomes (see Table C1). Forces voluntarily provided these data to the Home Office on different dates. Of the 38 forces that provided year ending March 2015 data, 22 updated these alongside data for the year to March 2016. The further 16 forces that did not revise data may appear to have fewer than expected outcomes assigned during year to March 2015, in particular for the two forces (Durham and Dyfed-Powys) that did not update these figures at any point since they were originally provided.

C6 – WHICH FORCES' DATA ARE INCLUDED

Table C1 shows which forces' data are included in which sections of which chapter and which time periods are covered. This is displayed alongside the proportion of total crime recorded by the police in the year ending March 2016 (see Section C8) that was accounted for by each individual force.

Table C1: Forces providing outcomes data

Force	Outcomes of offences recorded in period (Chapter 2)			Full data on outcomes recorded (Chapter 3)	Timeliness data (Chapter 4)		% of y.e. March 2016 recorded crime
	Force data included from ¹	How y.e. March 2015 data provided ^{2,3}	How y.e. March 2016 data provided ²	Full outcomes data (types 5, 9-18) ⁴ from	Force data included for y.e. March 2016	Force data included for comparison with y.e. March 2015	
Avon and Somerset	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	3.0
Bedfordshire	Jul-14	Manual	HODH	Jul-14	Yes	No	1.0
British Transport Police	Apr-15	No data	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	1.2
Cambridgeshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.2
Cheshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.3
Cleveland	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.2
Cumbria	Apr-15	No data	Manual	Aug-14	No	No	0.7
Derbyshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.4
Devon and Cornwall	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.0
Dorset	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	1.1
Durham	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	0.9
Dyfed-Powys	Oct-14	Manual	Manual	May-14	Yes	No	0.5
Essex	Apr-15	No data	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	2.9
Gloucestershire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.8
Greater Manchester	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	5.8
Gwent	Apr-14	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.0
Hampshire	Apr-14	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	3.4
Hertfordshire	Jul-14	Manual	Manual	Jul-14	No	No	1.6
Humberside	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.8
Kent	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	No	2.9
Lancashire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.5
Leicestershire	Apr-15	No data	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	1.6
Lincolnshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.9
London, City of	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.1
Merseyside	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.6
Metropolitan Police	Dec-14	Manual	Manual	Dec-14	Yes	No	19.0
Norfolk	Jul-14	Manual	Manual	Jul-14	No	No	1.2
Northamptonshire	Apr-14	HODH	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	1.3
Northumbria	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.4
North Wales	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.0
North Yorkshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.0
Nottinghamshire	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	1.9
South Wales	Apr-14	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.3
South Yorkshire	Jul-14	Manual	Manual	Jul-14	Yes	No	2.6
Staffordshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.8
Suffolk	Jul-14	Manual	Manual	Jul-14	No	No	1.1
Surrey	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.5
Sussex	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.4
Thames Valley	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	3.3
Warwickshire	Apr-15	No data	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.8
West Mercia	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.9
West Midlands	Apr-14	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	4.8
West Yorkshire	Jul-14	HODH	HODH	Jun-14	Yes	Yes	5.2
Wiltshire	Apr-15	No data	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	1.0

1. Forces' data for Chapter 2 have been included between the months shown. Six forces did not provide data for year to March 2015.

2. Twenty-two forces submitted updated year to March 2015 data to the Home Office alongside data for the year to March 2016. The further 16 forces that did not revise these data may appear to have fewer than expected outcomes assigned during year to March 2015.

3. 'HODH' means force submitted record-level data via the Home Office Data Hub; 'Manual' means force completed a spreadsheet

4. Forces were able to provide data covering outcome types 5, 9-18 (and 20 from April 2015) from the months shown onwards. As such, data for outcomes recorded in year ending March 2016 covers all outcome types for all forces.

C7 – DATA VALIDATION PROCESSES

As data are collected from police forces on a monthly basis, the Home Office carry out a series of routine checks and feed the results of these back to police forces. These checks include:

- Looking for any offences where there have been a large number of transferred or cancelled records since the previous month;
- Looking for any large or unusual changes in offences, outcomes or transferred or cancelled records from the previous month;
- Looking for cases where forces have provided data against an offence classification that no longer exists (e.g. the former fraud classifications);
- Comparing offence types and outcome types against the long term trend, to spot any outliers in the monthly data;
- Looking at where cautions (outcomes 2 and 3) have been assigned to rape offences and these are then queried with Force Crime Registrars;
- Checking that outcome 17 has not been applied to any offence which does not have a time limit.

Any outliers or anomalies are usually small. Police forces are then asked to investigate these anomalies and either provide an explanation or resubmit figures where an error has occurred. Where resubmission is required, the force will usually just correct the errors in the latest monthly submission, rather than re-send all of the months in question. In the case of forces providing data via the HODH, the force will send modified versions of the affected records. These then supersede the original versions.

C8 – POLICE RECORDED CRIME DATA

The police recorded crime data used in this bulletin are supplied by police forces to the Home Office, and are then published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in “Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2016”:

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

Statistics on crimes recorded by the police that appear in “Crimes in England and Wales: Year ending March 2016” are based on notifiable offences. These include all offences that could possibly be tried by jury (including some less serious offences, such as minor theft, that would not normally be dealt with in this way) plus a few closely related summary offences, i.e. heard only by magistrates, such as assault without injury. For a list of all notifiable offences please see Appendix 1 of the ONS User Guide:

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/methodologies/crimeandjusticemethodology

In accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, statistics based on police recorded crime data have been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The full assessment report can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-268---statistics-on-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf

Recorded crime statistics provide important context to outcomes statistics, and are quoted where relevant in this bulletin.

C9 – FURTHER INFORMATION ON CRIME OUTCOMES

Care needs to be taken when making comparisons of crime outcomes between police forces. In some cases making any such comparisons may be misleading, given that different police forces use outcomes in different ways and will have a different mix of crimes to deal with. For example, some police forces may implement more community resolutions than others, depending on their approach,

the nature of the crimes they deal with and the views of their communities. For example, a force that deals with a disproportionately high number of drug offences may apply a different mix of outcomes compared with a force that deals with a higher proportion of violent offences.

For further information on the background to crime outcomes and the development of the full outcomes framework please refer to Annex A of "Crime Outcomes in England and Wales, 2014/15".

Table C2: Trends in the number of outcomes and outcome rates by outcome type, year ending March 2003 to year ending March 2016

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes															
Outcome type	y.e. Mar 2003	y.e. Mar 2004	y.e. Mar 2005	y.e. Mar 2006	y.e. Mar 2007	y.e. Mar 2008	y.e. Mar 2009	y.e. Mar 2010	y.e. Mar 2011	y.e. Mar 2012	y.e. Mar 2013	y.e. Mar 2014	y.e. Mar 2015	y.e. Mar 2016	y.e. Mar 2015 to y.e. Mar 2016
<i>Number of outcomes</i>															%
Charge/summons (Type 1)	771,716	752,069	698,640	700,101	673,714	657,230	681,472	651,757	658,713	633,985	584,600	602,390	596,396	561,836	-5.8
Cautions (Types 2 & 3)	207,818	220,005	257,783	304,461	351,244	351,552	313,702	264,873	232,355	205,760	183,658	164,084	143,801	120,607	-16.1
TICs ¹ (Type 4)	91,205	88,204	88,386	103,363	111,328	99,021	96,875	76,244	71,896	63,898	55,197	40,959	23,557	13,331	-43.4
PNDs ^{2,3} (Type 6)	..	3,045	35,919	105,594	139,666	128,978	108,240	102,699	86,010	73,759	59,869	48,098	33,940	24,942	-26.5
Cannabis/Khat Warnings ³ (Type 7)	40,138	62,586	80,653	103,804	107,241	87,332	80,659	77,933	69,240	62,725	46,662	36,682	-21.4
Other ^{4,5,6} (Types 5, 8 & 9)	268,021	284,320	265,721	191,187	80,770	911	2,931	7,244	10,375	53,322	66,907	109,255	125,215	131,318	4.9
Total number of offences⁷	5,791,277	5,843,549	5,476,771	5,425,691	5,322,377	4,881,140	4,630,383	4,265,036	4,078,475	3,903,581	3,553,168	3,506,545	3,581,126	3,892,947	8.7
<i>Rates (%)⁸</i>															% point
Charge/summons (Type 1)	13.3	12.9	12.8	12.9	12.7	13.5	14.7	15.3	16.2	16.2	16.5	17.2	16.7	14.4	-2.2
Cautions (Types 2 & 3)	3.6	3.8	4.7	5.6	6.6	7.2	6.8	6.2	5.7	5.3	5.2	4.7	4.0	3.1	-0.9
TICs ¹ (Type 4)	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.2	0.7	0.3	-0.3
PNDs ^{2,3} (Type 6)	..	0.1	0.7	1.9	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.4	0.9	0.6	-0.3
Cannabis/Khat Warnings ³ (Type 7)	0.7	1.2	1.5	2.1	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.3	0.9	-0.4
Other ^{4,5,6} (Types 5, 8 & 9)	4.6	4.9	4.9	3.5	1.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.4	1.9	3.1	3.5	3.4	-0.1

1. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).

2. Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) were introduced in several police forces in the year ending March 2004 and nationally in the year ending March 2005.

3. Cannabis Warnings for possession of cannabis were introduced in the year ending March 2005. Since 26 January 2009, Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) can also be given for an offence of cannabis possession. Up to the end of March 2009 such PNDs were counted in the same category as Cannabis Warnings. Cannabis warnings include a small number of community resolutions for possession of cannabis in the year ending March 2013.

4. From 1 April 2007, new rules governing these outcomes significantly limited the occasions on which they could be applied.

5. Includes data on Youth Restorative Disposals (YRDs) submitted to the Home Office from pilots in eight police force areas (Avon and Somerset, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Metropolitan Police, Norfolk, North Wales, Nottinghamshire). The pilot was introduced in the year ending March 2009.

6. Includes community resolution and restorative justice data submitted on a voluntary basis by some police forces in the years ending March 2012 and March 2013. These data were then submitted by almost all police forces in the year ending March 2014 and all forces from the year ending March 2015.

7. Total number of recorded crimes, whether assigned an outcome or not. Excludes (outcomes for) fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.

8. The number of crimes assigned an outcome divided by total number of recorded offences.

9. Data for the years ending March 2003 to March 2013 contains some estimated data on 'making off without payment' offences, following the creation of a back series of data on these outcomes (see notes page).

10. Data for Outcomes 10-18 are not presented as these were not collected in previous years.

.. Not available.

Notes

For full details on the transition from the regime of detections (in existence until April 2013) to the outcomes framework, please see “Crimes Outcomes in England & Wales, 2013/14”:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014

Outcomes Framework

Detections were revised to become the outcomes framework from April 2013. The purpose of the revision was:

- To **strengthen police discretion** by recognising the full range of possible disposals, including community resolutions, rather than incentivising police officers to pursue a particular outcome because it is perceived as ‘better’ than others. This will empower officers to exercise their professional judgement to ensure that offenders are dealt with by the most appropriate disposal available, in the knowledge that no one outcome is favoured over others – the emphasis should shift from hitting targets to appropriateness.
- By strengthening police discretion, the framework should in turn help to **promote a more victim-oriented approach**, focused on providing a better service to victims of crime by removing perverse incentives for forces to record and pro-actively pursue certain crimes on the basis of locally-set detection targets, and encouraging police officers to consider the needs of victims, and the potential for engaging them in the process.
- To **further increase transparency** in policing, and trust in national statistics, by providing the public with a richer picture of crime, and how it is dealt with in their area. This broader set of information can be used as a tool by which the public can hold the police to account, and as a basis for constructive engagement between communities, the police, and police and crime commissioners. By giving every crime an outcome, we will help the public understand – and therefore support or challenge – police activity.

General Rules section H of the [Home Office Counting Rules](#) (HOCR) contains information on recording outcomes. For Home Office purposes, all recorded crimes are assigned one of the following outcome types:

Outcome 1: Charge / Summons: A person has been charged or summonsed for the crime (irrespective of any subsequent acquittal at Court).

Outcome 1A [introduced in April 2016, voluntary]: Charge / Summons – alternative offence: A person has been charged or summonsed for the crime, but following the application of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) charging standards and the provisions of the HOCR, the charge/summons relates to an alternative offence to that recorded (irrespective of any subsequent acquittal at court).

Outcome 2: Caution – youths: A youth offender has been cautioned by the police.

Outcome 2A [introduced in April 2016, voluntary]: Youth Caution – alternative offence: A youth offender has been cautioned by the police, but following the application of the CPS charging standards and the provisions of the HOCR, the caution relates to an alternative offence to that recorded.

Outcome 3: Caution – adults: An adult offender has been cautioned by the police.

Outcome 3A [introduced in April 2016, voluntary]: Adult Caution – alternative offence: An adult offender has been cautioned by the police, but following the application of the CPS charging standards and the provisions of the HOCR, the caution relates to an alternative offence to that recorded.

Outcome 4: Taken into Consideration (TIC): The offender admits the crime by way of a formal police interview and asks for it to be taken into consideration by the court. There must be an interview where the

suspect has made a clear and reliable admission of the offence and which is corroborated with additional verifiable auditable information connecting the suspect to the crime.

Outcome 5: Offender died: The offender has died before proceeding could be initiated.

Outcome 6: Penalty Notices for Disorder: A Penalty Notice for Disorder (or other relevant notifiable offence) has been lawfully issued under Section 1 – 11 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

Outcome 7: Cannabis/Khat Warning: A warning for cannabis or khat possession has been issued in accordance with College of Policing guidance. Note: Khat warnings were introduced from 24 June 2014 and numbers are likely to be small.

Outcome 8: Community Resolution: A Community Resolution (with or without formal Restorative Justice) has been applied in accordance with College of Policing guidance.

Outcome 9: Not in public interest (CPS): Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS decision). The CPS by virtue of their powers under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 decides not to prosecute or authorise any other formal action.

Outcome 10: Not in public interest (Police) (from April 2014): Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (Police decision).

Outcome 11: Prosecution prevented – suspect under age (from April 2014): Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility.

Outcome 12: Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill (from April 2014): Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute.

Outcome 13: Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill (from April 2014): Named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence

Outcome 14: Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action (from April 2014): Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect not identified. The crime is confirmed but the victim declines or is unable to support further police action to identify the offender.

Outcome 15: Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action) (from April 2014): Evidential difficulties named suspect identified – the crime is confirmed and the victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action. This includes cases where the suspect has been identified, the victim supports action, the suspect has been circulated as wanted but cannot be traced and the crime is finalised pending further action.

Outcome 16: Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action (from April 2014): Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect identified. The victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action.

Outcome 17: Prosecution time limit expired (from April 2014): Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired (from April 2014).

Outcome 18: Investigation complete –no suspect identified (from April 2014): The crime has been investigated as far as reasonably possible – case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available.

Outcome 19: National Fraud Intelligence Bureau filed (NFIB only) (from April 2014): A crime of fraud has been recorded but has not been allocated for investigation because the assessment process at the NFIB has determined there are insufficient lines of enquiry to warrant such dissemination.

Outcome 20: Action undertaken by another body/agency (from April 2015): Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency other than the police, subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the action being taken.

Outcome 21: Not in the public interest – suspect identified (from January 2016) Further investigation resulting from the crime report that could provide evidence sufficient to support formal action being taken against the suspect is not in the public interest – police decision.

New outcomes introduced from April 2016

It is possible for a crime to be recorded and for the suspect to be charged or cautioned but for that charge or caution to be for an offence other than that recorded.

The recording standards reflect the law and in reaching charging decisions the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) set out a range of standards and guidance that both they themselves and the police, in cases where the police are the charging decision makers, must follow. These standards may frequently dictate that an alternative is to be charged to that recorded. For example, an assault may be recorded as a crime of Actual Bodily Harm (because that is the offence in law committed) but the CPS will direct that the offence to be charged is one of Common Assault.

Therefore, in April 2016 three new outcomes were introduced on a voluntary basis until they become mandatory in April 2017. These outcomes reflect where the charge/summons (outcome 1A), youth caution (outcome 2A) or adult caution (outcome 3A) relates to an alternative offence to that recorded.

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