



Home Office

Police Recorded Crime and Outcomes: Open Data Tables User Guide

October 2016

Introduction

This document contains information on the content and use of the Home Office Open Data tables for:

1. Police recorded crime
2. Crime outcomes
3. Transferred/cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes')
4. Offences involving knives or sharp instruments
5. Hate crime

Please refer to the corresponding sections in this document for the required information on each set of open data tables.

These tables are designed to have many uses. The Home Office would like to hear from any users who have developed applications for these data tables and any suggestions for future releases.

Crime and Policing Statistics

October 2016

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Police Recorded Crime and Outcomes: Open Data Tables

INTRODUCTION

It is recommended that prior to using these Open Data tables, users read the Office for National Statistics (ONS) User Guide to Crime Statistics (<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/crime-statistics-methodology/user-guides/index.html>) to familiarise themselves with the context of the data and the scope and limitations of police recorded crime (PRC) statistics as a whole. PRC figures can be considerably affected by changes in recording policy and practice and it is important to consider the impact of such changes when analysing time series based on PRC data or comparing between different areas. In particular, significant changes to recording policy in 2002/03, including the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), mean that figures are not directly comparable before and after this period. The impact of the 2002/03 and preceding changes varied by crime type, with violent crime particularly affected. These tables only contain data from the period following the introduction of NCRS.

Many of the notes in this section apply to the Open Data for outcomes, transferred and cancelled records, offences involving knives or sharp instruments and hate crime. Additional guidance is also provided for these Open Data tables.

TABLE FORMAT

The main release consists of data tables, covering financial years since 2002/03.

Data are provided in .ods format which can be opened by most spreadsheet software. The data are provided with one financial year per worksheet, which are named accordingly.

In addition to the main tables, two additional reference tables have been included in this release. See the below section on 'Reference data tables' below for more information on these.

DATA TABLE SPECIFICATION

Data tables are laid out in rows and columns. Each row contains a single count of crime, with each column containing information about that count, such as the time period, offence and area that it applies to.

FINANCIAL YEAR	
Possible values	
Combined with the Financial Quarter column, this identifies the period during which offences took place. Each financial year runs from April to March.	
FINANCIAL QUARTER	
Possible values	Various

Combined with **Financial Year** column, this identifies the period during which offences took place. Quarter 1 runs from April-June, Quarter 2 from July-September, Quarter 3 from October-December, and Quarter 4 from January-March.

FORCE NAME

Possible values | Various (See reference table)

This column identifies the police force area in which offences took place. The reference table 'PRC Geog reference table.csv' shows how these areas map up to regions within England and Wales.

CSP NAME (CSP tables only)

Possible values | Various (See reference table)

This column identifies the Community Safety Partnership in which offences took place. This is a geographic area within a Police Force, and generally corresponds to Local Authority boundaries. The reference table 'PRC Geog reference table.csv' shows how these areas map up to Police Forces and regions within England and Wales.

OFFENCE DESCRIPTION

Possible values | Various (See reference table)

This column provides a description of the offence covered by each **Offence Code** value.

OFFENCE GROUP

Possible values | Various (See reference table)

This column identifies the offence group within which the **Offence Code** falls. Each groups also consists of **Offence Sub-groups**, which in turn consist of **Offence Codes**.

OFFENCE SUBGROUP

Possible values | Various (See reference table)

This column identifies the offence sub-group within which the **Offence Code** falls. These sub-groups contain **Offence Codes**.

OFFENCE CODE

Possible values | Various (See reference table)

This column identifies the specific offence code used by the police and the Home Office to classify offences. The reference table 'Ref-Offence.csv' shows descriptions of these codes, as well as the offence groups that they map up to.

NUMBER OF OFFENCES

Possible values | Various (See reference table)

This column contains the total number of police recorded crimes for the specified **Offence Code, CSP Name/Force Name** and time period (**Financial Year** and **Financial Quarter**).

In addition to figures for police force areas, since 2011-12 the PFA open data tables include data for each quarter showing the number of fraud offences centrally recorded by Action Fraud, CIFAS and Financial Fraud UK. These are indicated in the Force Name, Offence Subgroup and Offence Code columns.

REFERENCE DATA TABLES

There are two reference data tables included with this release. One of these covers geographic data, while the other covers offence code data.

GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE TABLE

CSP NAME	
Possible values	Various
This includes all values in the CSP Name column of the main data tables.	
FORCE NAME	
Possible values	Various
This identifies the Police Force Area within which each CSP is located. It includes all values in the Force Name column of the main data tables.	
REGION	
Possible values	Various
This identifies the region of England and Wales within which the CSP/police force is located.	
ONS CODE	
Possible values	Various
This identifies a unique code, which corresponds to each CSP.	

OFFENCE REFERENCE TABLE

OFFENCE CODE	
Possible values	Various
This includes all values in the Offence Code column of the main datatables.	
OFFENCE DESCRIPTION	
Possible values	Various
This column provides a description of the offence covered by each Offence Code value.	
OLD PRC OFFENCE GROUP	
Possible values	Various
This column identifies the old (pre-July 2013) offence group within which the Offence Code falls.	
OLD OFFENCE SUB-GROUP	
Possible values	Various
This column identifies the old (pre-July 2013) offence sub-group within which the Offence Code falls.	
NEW ONS OFFENCE GROUP	
Possible values	Various
This column identifies the new (post-July 2013) offence group within which the Offence Code falls.	
NEW ONS OFFENCE SUB-GROUP	
Possible values	Various
This column identifies the new (post-July 2013) offence sub-group within which the Offence Code falls.	

HOW TO USE PRC OPEN DATA TABLES

At the simplest level, PRC Open Data tables can be used to find PRC figures for certain offences in certain time periods for certain areas. Figures are provided at the police force area (PFA) and Community Safety Partnership (CSP) level.

In order to find the figures that the user is interested in, the user will need to filter or search data across different columns, and potentially sheets if interested in different years.

All of the figures in the tables are additive. In other words, to find figures for offences in a 12 month period for a particular police force, figures for all four quarters of a 12 month period can be summed together. However, if this is done, then users should be cautious when comparing figures which overlap in their coverage. For example, it is not always appropriate to compare the number of crimes in two 12 month periods that are only a quarter apart, as three quarters of the data will be the same. Similarly, when comparing figures for a single CSP with figures for the police force of which it is part, the impact of comparing the CSP with data to which it contributes to should be considered.

Total police recorded crime figures from data presented at CSP level do not necessarily equal national police recorded crime figures presented elsewhere. This is because certain offences (such as those committed at airports) cannot easily be mapped to CSPs, and are therefore excluded from CSP level data. British Transport Police data are also excluded from the CSP level data.

'Making off without payment' (offence code 49A) was introduced as a separate offence code in April 2013, having previously been part of code 53B. A back series of data for this offence code is presented in these tables. Revised back data for offence code 49A have been included for the years 2002/03 to 2012/13 to provide a consistent time series. This involves a mixture of actual data provided by police forces, and estimated data.

CALCULATING CRIME RATES

The PRC Open Data tables can be used to calculate crime rates for a PFA or CSP. This is possible by using the tables in combination with the Local Authority population data published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). These can be found on their Population Estimates page:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/pop-estimate/population-estimates-for-uk--england-and-wales--scotland-and-northern-ireland/index.html

The ONS also publish rates for the main crime types at CSP level. Rates at PFA level are available in published table P1, which can also be found using the link above in the Police Force Area Data Tables.

Because of the low volume of many crime types, rates are typically calculated per 1,000 population. This involves dividing the total number of crimes for a given area by the total population, and then multiplying by 1,000.

ACCURACY OF QUARTERLY DATA AND NEGATIVE FIGURES

Due to the nature of the PRC data, a recorded crime can be un-recorded if it is subsequently transferred or cancelled. Police forces are not required to resubmit data each time a crime record is transferred or cancelled; instead forces will deduct the crime from the cumulative monthly returns that they supply to the Home Office. This means that in some quarters a negative value may be presented in the data. This system was designed to keep the figures accurate at a financial year level, and to reduce the burden on forces. Therefore, the data may not be completely accurate when looking at crimes committed in a specific quarter.

This cumulative collection system can also lead to negative figures for certain quarters when data are broken down to very low levels. This happens when the numbers supplied by the force for a particular code and area in a quarter are less than the previous period. These data are thus mainly designed to be aggregated up to annual figures, and we would not advise analysing by quarter.

In addition to records being transferred or cancelled, there are sometimes other reasons why negative figures can be seen for certain quarters. This is particularly true for fraud offences. Reasons can include the transition from police forces recording fraud offences to Action Fraud doing so, and the creation of a back series of data on 'Making off without payment' offences.

Crime outcomes open data

INTRODUCTION

In April 2013, a new outcomes framework was introduced, replacing the detections previously recorded. The 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 its narrow focus resulted in the potential for detection targets which risked driving perverse behaviour with respect to crime recording decisions.

The full, broader outcomes framework was introduced in April 2014, and the statistical bulletin “Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2014/15” published in July 2015 was the first publication based entirely on the full outcomes framework covering all possible eventualities for crimes. Crime outcomes bulletins can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-statistics>

CRIME OUTCOMES OPEN DATA FOR 2014/15 ONWARDS

To coincide with the publication of data on the broader outcomes framework, quarterly open data on crime outcomes have been published since 2014/15. Following consultation with users, open data on outcomes is now updated on a quarterly basis, since October 2015.

Outcomes data are shown in two ways since 2014/15:

- The outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the latest period, i.e. how many resulted in charges, cautions, and so on, by outcome type, offence type and police force area
- The total number of outcomes recorded in the latest period, by outcome type and offence type

The first of these will be revised considerably the quarter following its publication, and further revised each quarter thereafter by a diminishing amount, as more offences from the period are given a final outcome. Previous quarters will also be updated. This constant change will mean that the same open data table is likely to look quite different with each quarterly update, until eventually all offences recorded in a given period will have been given an outcome. By July 2016, 98% of all crimes recorded in 2014/15 had been assigned an outcome and the decision was taken to no longer update those which have not been assigned an outcome by July 2016. We will continue, however, to update these outcomes if forces revise their crime figures (due to cancelling or transferring crimes) so that the total number of crimes match those in the Crime Open Data tables. Any changes to the overall number of crimes will be made in the “Not yet assigned an outcome by July 2016” outcome category.

The number of crimes ‘not yet assigned an outcome’ is derived by subtracting the total number of outcomes assigned to crimes recorded in the quarter from the number of crimes recorded in that quarter. This may occasionally be displayed as a negative number for some crime types. These negative numbers can be due to the force submitting crime and outcomes data at different times. They can also be due to recording errors. The negative numbers should be updated in subsequent quarters.

The second of these is equivalent to how outcomes have been presented in previous years. These numbers are also occasionally displayed as a negative number. For this count of outcomes data, negative numbers are a result of forces reclassifying outcomes. Data are submitted on a cumulative basis every month, so a reclassification one month can result in a negative number.

Outcome Types

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

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

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

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 Crown Prosecution Service (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. **Note:** during 2014/15, these were included within outcome 18.

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. **Note:** previously these offences could have received any outcome type.

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. These outcomes will, for the time being, continue to be included within outcomes 1, 2 and 3 accordingly.

The full range of outcomes is presented in the open data tables. However, the Home Office consulted with users to consider whether some grouping would benefit the presentation of figures and as a result, outcomes are grouped to make presentation easier in some tables and charts within the statistical bulletin and quarterly tables. These are presented in the Outcome Groups Reference Table:

Outcome Groups Reference Table

Outcome Type	Outcome Description	Outcome Group
1	Charged/Summoned	Charged/Summoned
2	Caution - youths	Out-of-court (formal)
3	Caution - adults	Out-of-court (formal)
4	Taken into consideration (TIC)	Taken into consideration
5	Offender died	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder (PND)	Out-of-court (formal)
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	Out-of-court (informal)
8	Community Resolution	Out-of-court (informal)
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest
10	Not in public interest (Police)	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest
12	Prosecution prevented: suspect too ill	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest
13	Prosecution prevented: victim/key witness dead/too ill	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)
15	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim supports action	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)
17	Prosecution time limit expired	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest
18	Investigation complete no suspect identified	Investigation complete no suspect identified
20	Action undertaken by another body/agency	Action undertaken by another body/agency
21	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest

Data Quality

Given the work involved in amending police force crime recording systems, not all forces were able to supply data on outcomes from April 2014 for the outcome types not covered by the detection types recorded in previous years (outcomes 5, 9-18).

Consequently, some forces' data do not cover the full year.

Providing data on the outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the latest period was voluntary, so not all police forces have data shown.

For forces providing record level data via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH), it was possible to analyse how crimes recorded in 2014/15 were dealt with by linking individual outcomes with the offence to which they were assigned. As not all forces were able to provide data via the HODH, the Home Office made a voluntary request to all other forces in order to capture these data from as many forces as possible. Monthly data to October to December 2014 (or April to December 2014 if possible) were first requested in February 2015, with monthly data requested on a quarterly basis since then. Therefore each quarter does not necessarily contain these data for all forces.

Forces voluntarily provide their data to the Home Office on different dates which can impact the proportion of crimes which have been assigned an outcome.

These dates will 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 2015 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 2015 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.

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.

The Home Office receives monthly data on crime, crime outcomes and transferred or cancelled crimes from police forces. 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. Again, forces resubmit data if required.

OUTCOMES OPEN DATA TABLES FOR PREVIOUS YEARS (2005/06 TO 2013/14)

Historically, outcome statistics were published on an annual basis, with the statistics published covering the previous financial year.

The full, broader outcomes framework wasn't introduced until April 2014, and so the outcome types available in the open data tables for previous years are shown below. The outcome data available for the year 2013/14 are based on broadly similar outcome types to those presented in 2012/13. The information below should be considered when drawing comparisons across years, because in several cases there have been changes in outcome recording practices over time. This is particularly true for the "cannabis warning" and "other" categories and so comparisons should be done with caution.

1. Charge/summons

A person has been charged or summonsed for the crime (irrespective of any subsequent acquittal at court).

2. Caution

An offender has been cautioned by the police (including conditional cautions) or given a reprimand or warning under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

3. Offence taken into consideration (TIC)

The offender admits the crime by way of a PACE compliant interview and asks for it to be taken into consideration by the court.

4. Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND)

The police issue a Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND). Such a notice must be issued in accordance with any operational guidance to the police (e.g. Police Operational Guidance on PNDs issued by the Home Office in March 2005). An outcome is counted if the penalty notice is not contested, is contested but the CPS proceeds with the case, or, in discontinued cases, the dedicated decision maker reviews the case and stands by the original decision.

With effect from 26 January 2009, it became possible for a PND to be given for an offence of cannabis possession. For central reporting purposes any such PNDs were counted as Cannabis Warnings for the period January to March 2009. From April 2009 a system was put in place to correctly record them as PNDs for the relevant offence.

5. Cannabis Warning

A warning for cannabis possession has been issued in accordance with guidance from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

Prior to January 2007 this was known as a 'formal warning for cannabis possession'. From April 2004 information on police formal warnings for cannabis possession started to be collected centrally (prior to this a pilot scheme was run in parts of London). Those aged 18 and over who are caught in simple possession of cannabis can be eligible for a police

Cannabis Warning, which would not involve an arrest.

6. Other

These outcomes are those where the offence is counted as dealt with but either no further action was taken against the offender, or the matter has been resolved by the use of a locally based community resolution or the application of Restorative Justice (RJ) techniques. There have been several changes in the outcome recording requirements for police forces over time, and so any comparison of data for this outcome type needs to be considered in this light.

(a) No further action

Prior to April 2007 various reasons were allowed for claiming outcomes where no further action was taken against the offender. These included those where the:

- offender was too ill or mentally disturbed for proceedings to take place;
- complainant or an essential witness was dead;
- victim refused or was unable to give evidence;
- offender was under the age of criminal responsibility;
- police or the CPS decided that it would not be in the public interest to proceed; and
- time limit of six months for commencing prosecution had been exceeded.

From April 2007 onwards, there were only two ways in which outcomes involving no further action could be claimed:

- where the offender dies before proceedings could be initiated or completed;
- where the CPS decides not to prosecute (by virtue of its powers under the Criminal Justice Act 2003).

Additionally, the use of outcomes involving no further action was restricted to 'indictable only' offences (those offences which must be tried at Crown Court).

(b) By local resolution

A special arrangement has been in place since 2008/09 to allow eight forces piloting Youth Restorative Disposals (YRDs) to record their disposals under this category. Youth Restorative Disposals (YRDs) allow operational officers to dispose of low-level crime and neighbourhood disorder where it is not considered to be in the public interest to prosecute. The process involves a meeting between the offender and the victim, an apology and may also include additional action to right the wrong caused (e.g. a form of community payback).

During 2011/12 and 2012/13, some forces (a small number in 2011/12 and around half in 2012/13) voluntarily submitted additional data on crimes dealt with by a community resolution. This included cases of Restorative Justice (RJ). RJ includes formal action, such as the Youth Restorative Disposal, administered by trained practitioners, as well as less formal community-based resolutions where the offender has made an admission and the victim is satisfied that such a resolution may be used. This may amount to an apology or agreement to carry out some activity, such as repairing damage caused.

In 2013/14, submitting data on community resolutions became mandatory, with almost all police forces doing so. As a result, caution should be used when comparing the “Other” outcome category between 2013/14 and previous years.

For more information on the circumstances in which these outcomes are assigned, please see the crime outcomes section of the relevant year’s Home Office Counting Rules:

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

The previous year’s statistical bulletin “Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14” reflected the transition from the old detections to the new outcomes framework. As this was a transitional year, with a fuller, more detailed outcomes framework introduced subsequently in April 2014, the outcome data available for the year 2013/14 are based on broadly similar outcome types to those presented in 2012/13. The outcome types available in the open data tables are shown below. This information should be considered when drawing comparisons across years, because in several cases comparisons should be done with caution given the changes in outcome recording practices over time. This is particularly true for the “cannabis warning” and “other” categories.

See introduction in **Police Recorded Crime Open Data Tables** section for more general information on police recorded crime.

TABLE FORMAT

The main release consists of two sets of data tables, covering financial years from 2005/06 to 2013/14 and 2014/15 onwards. Data are provided in .ods format which can be opened by most spreadsheet software. The data are provided with one financial year per worksheet, which are named accordingly.

DATA TABLE SPECIFICATION (2014/15 ONWARDS)

Data tables are laid out in rows and columns. Each row contains a single count of outcomes, with each column containing information about that count, such as the time period, offence and area that it applies to.

OFFENCE CODE EXPIRED (2014/15 onwards)	
Possible values	X
This column indicates whether the Offence Code had expired prior to April 2014, i.e. whether outcomes recorded relate only to offences recorded in previous years.	
OUTCOME DESCRIPTION	
Possible values	Various
This identifies which outcome type was assigned.	
OUTCOME GROUP (2014/15 onwards)	
Possible values	Various (see Outcome Groups Reference Table above)
This identifies which outcome group was assigned.	
OUTCOME TYPE (2014/15 onwards)	
Possible values	1-18
This identifies the outcome number that corresponds to the outcome type assigned.	
FORCE OUTCOMES FOR OFFENCES RECORDED IN QUARTER (2014/15 onwards)	
Possible values	Various
This column contains the total number of outcomes that were assigned to offences that were recorded for the specified Outcome Description, Outcome Group, Outcome Type, Offence Code, CSP Name/Force Name and time period (Financial Year and Financial Quarter).	
FORCE OUTCOMES RECORDED IN QUARTER	
Possible values	Various
This column contains the total number of outcomes that were recorded for the specified Outcome Description, Outcome Group, Outcome Type, Offence Code, CSP Name/Force Name and time period (Financial Year and Financial Quarter).	

For other fields descriptions please see the previous section on Police Recorded Crime.

RATES FOR INDIVIDUAL OUTCOME TYPES

The outcome figures provided in these open data tables can be considered in conjunction with the recorded crime open data tables to calculate outcome rates.

For all years prior to 2014/15 it is not possible to link individual outcomes to individual crimes, so any rate calculated will be the number of offences assigned an outcome in a given year as a proportion of the total number of crimes recorded in the same period.

Outcome rates are not a direct measure of police investigative performance, and need to be interpreted with care. For example, some of the offences with the highest outcome rates are the offences most influenced, in terms of their recorded numbers, by proactive policing to apprehend offenders. For example, drug offences are often resolved at the point of the crime being 'discovered', as are many of the offences in the 'other crimes against society' category.

Transferred / cancelled records open data

INTRODUCTION

Transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes') are those which police forces originally recorded an offence, but subsequently determined that the crime did not take place, or was recorded in error. This could occur for one of five reasons, and from April 2015, the data supplied by forces are split into these categories. Since October 2015, the open data tables have featured this split.

It is important to exercise caution when comparing transferred or cancelled records data across police forces or different years. A particularly high or low number of transferred or cancelled records should not necessarily be interpreted positively or negatively, as different forces may use these in different ways. For example, whilst one force may record all crimes immediately and then later cancel a significant proportion of these, others may wait longer to judge whether an offence constitutes a crime or not, and thus are likely to record fewer cancelled records overall. This means that a firm conclusion cannot be drawn when comparing transferred or cancelled records numbers across forces, as any differences seen may reflect differences in recording practices.

Additionally, comparisons between forces need to be made with caution because some forces may deal more frequently with offence types that are more likely to be cancelled.

TABLE FORMAT

The main release consists of data tables, covering financial years since 2011/12.

Data are provided in .ods format which can be opened by most spreadsheet software. The data are provided with one financial year per worksheet, which are named accordingly.

DATA TABLE SPECIFICATION

Data tables are laid out in rows and columns. Each row contains a single count of crime, with each column containing information about that count, such as the time period, offence and area that it applies to.

FINANCIAL YEAR
This identifies the financial year in which an offence was transferred or cancelled. Each financial year runs from April to March.
FORCE NAME
This column identifies the police force area in which a record was transferred or cancelled.
OFFENCE TYPE
These columns identify the type of offence that was transferred or cancelled.

TRANSFERRED/CANCELLED RECORD TYPE
This column contains a number representing which of the five reasons why the record was transferred or cancelled (C1-C5).
TRANSFERRED/CANCELLED RECORD DESCRIPTION
This column contains a description of the reason why the record was transferred or cancelled (five different possible reasons – see list below).
NUMBER OF TRANSFERRED/CANCELLED RECORDS
This column contains the total number of records that were transferred or cancelled for the specified Offence Type , Force Name and Financial Year .

Reasons why record was transferred or cancelled:

C1: Transferred: Crime committed outside the jurisdiction of the police force in which it was recorded – passed to the appropriate force.

C2: Cancelled: Additional verifiable information that determines that no notifiable crime occurred becomes available.

C3: Cancelled: Duplicate record or part of a crime already recorded.

C4: Cancelled: Crime recorded in error.

C5: Cancelled: Self defence claimed (for specific recorded assaults).

HOW TO USE TRANSFERRED/CANCELLED OPEN DATA TABLES

At the simplest level, these Open Data tables can be used to find figures for transferred/cancelled records for certain offences in certain time periods for certain areas.

In order to find the figures that the user is interested in, the user will need to filter or search data across different columns.

Offences involving knives or sharp instruments open data

Open data tables are also provided for selected police recorded offences involving a knife or sharp instrument. Knives or sharp instruments are taken to be involved in an offence if they are used to stab or cut, or as a threat. The Home Office has collected additional data from the 43 police forces in England and Wales and the British Transport Police on selected offences involving knives and sharp instruments since April 2007. However, the open data table only includes data back to April 2008, due to a number of changes made to the collection after the first year. There were also changes made to the offence coverage in April 2012.

The offences covered in this collection for the years 2008/09 to 2011/12 were:

- Attempted murder;
- Threats to kill;
- Grievous bodily harm (GBH), both with and without intent;
- Actual Bodily Harm (ABH);
- Robbery;
- Rape; and
- Sexual assault.

In April 2012, there were changes to the offence codes for the assault offences. For the years 2012/13 to the present, the assault offences covered by this collection are assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm. These assault categories are not directly comparable with the GBH/ABH offences recorded between 2008/09 and 2011/12. However, it is not thought that these changes greatly affected the totals for the assault offences.

Offences of homicide where the method of killing was by sharp instrument are not included in the knife or sharp instrument open data tables. This information is collected separately from police forces via the Home Office Homicide Index, a record level dataset of homicides recorded by the police in England and Wales. Detailed figures on homicide are published by the Office for National Statistics each year in Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences.

Due to recording practices, Surrey police force includes unbroken bottle and glass offences in their data returns which are outside the scope of this collection. However as the number of offences recorded by Surrey is around 0.2 per cent of the total number of offences involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded, it is unlikely to have any noticeable effect on the overall figures. Sussex and West Midlands also included these offences in their data returns until April 2010. Due to this change it is not possible to compare data for Sussex or West Midlands or national totals across April 2010 and this is reflected in the presentation of the open data tables.

The offences involving knives or sharp instruments open data tables are presented in three separate worksheets to reflect the changes to the assault offence codes and the change in recording practice by Sussex and West Midlands police:

- **2008/09 to 2009/10.** Assault offences are recorded under the old GBH/ABH offence codes and Sussex and West Midlands data include unbroken bottles and glass;
- **2010/11 to 2011/12.** Assault offences are recorded under the old GBH/ABH offence codes and Sussex and West Midlands data do not include unbroken bottles and glass; and
- **2012/13 to present.** Assault offences are assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm and Sussex and West Midlands data do not include unbroken bottles and glass.

The Home Office carry out internal quality assurance of the offences involving knife or sharp instruments data each quarter before publication. These checks include:

- A quarterly variation check of the data received from police forces – the total number of recorded crimes and the number recorded against each offence type are compared to the previous quarters' figures to check for any vast deviations from the time series trend.
- Cross referencing the data with the main recorded crime returns – the knife or sharp instrument collection contains information on the total number of offences for the selected offences. These are compared with the main recorded crime return to ensure consistency. The total number of offences in the knife and sharp instrument collection are used to create a 'ratio' for the number of offences that involved a knife or sharp instrument (figures for which are published at the national level). These ratios are also checked at the police force area level to ensure ratios are not showing a deviation from trend.
- Offences involving a knife or sharp instrument data are also verified with police forces on a quarterly basis ahead of publication.
- The data held on the Home Office database are returned to individual forces asking for confirmation that the data accords with that held on their own systems. Forces resubmit data if required.

As with the main recorded crime open data tables, an offence involving a knife or sharp instrument can be either transferred or cancelled by the police force. Police forces are not required to resubmit data each time a crime record is transferred or cancelled; instead forces will deduct the crime from the cumulative quarterly returns that they supply to the Home Office. This means that in some quarters a negative value may be presented. This system was designed to keep the figures accurate at a financial year level, and to reduce the burden on forces. Therefore, the data may not be completely accurate when looking at crimes committed in a specific quarter.

Hate crime open data

Open data tables are provided for hate crime offences recorded by the police. Data are provided for the 43 police forces of England and Wales plus the British Transport Police.

Hate crime is defined as ‘any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic.’ This common definition was agreed in 2007 by the police, Crown Prosecution Service, Prison Service (now the National Offender Management Service) and other agencies that make up the criminal justice system. There are five centrally monitored strands of hate crime:

- race or ethnicity;
- religion or beliefs;
- sexual orientation;
- disability; and
- transgender identity.

Hate crimes are a subset of notifiable crimes that are recorded by the police and make up around two per cent of all crimes (based on police recorded crime figures for 2015/16, see [Crime in England and Wales, Year Ending March 2016](#)).

In the process of recording a crime, police can flag an offence as being motivated by one or more of the five monitored strands above (for example, an offence can be motivated by hostility towards the victim’s race and religion). Due to this, in the Hate Crime Open Data Tables two worksheets are provided:

- By_motivating_factor; and
- By_total_offences

The **By_motivating_factor** worksheet contains numbers of hate crime offences by motivating factor and police forces for each year between 2011/12 and 2015/16. As an offence can be motivated by more than one of the five monitored strands, it is not appropriate to sum these figures to get the total number of police recorded hate crimes. Around five per cent of hate crime offences in 2015/16 are estimated to have involved more than one motivating factor¹, the majority of these were hate crimes related to both race and religion.

The **By_total_offences** worksheet provides the total number of hate crimes by police force for the years 2011/12 to 2015/16.

The Home Office carry out internal quality assurance of the hate crime collection before the annual publication. These checks include:

- A variation check of the data received from police forces – the total number of hate crimes along with the number of crimes recorded against each hate crime strand are compared with previous years’ figures to check for any vast deviations from the time series trend.

¹ Estimated from 24 Home Office Data Hub forces who supplied suitable data to the Home Office. See Annex B in [Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2015/16](#) for more information on the Data Hub.

- A check to ensure that the total number of hate crimes is higher than the total number of offences. Where these two figures were the same, the force was asked to confirm they were recording multiple hate crime strands.
- Comparing the number of race hate crimes with data from the racist incidents collection.
- Reconciling data with police forces. The data held on the Home Office database are returned to individual forces asking for confirmation that the data accords with that held on their own systems. Forces resubmit data if required.

Information on hate crime offences recorded by the police is published annually by the Home Office and can be found on the [Hate Crime Statistics](#) page on [GOV.UK](#). As well as overall hate crime offences, there are some offences in the main police recorded crime collection which have a specific racially or religiously motivated version. These are defined by statute and constitute a set of offences which are distinct from their non-racially or religiously aggravated equivalents. These racially or religiously aggravated offences are by definition hate crimes. Information on these offences can be found in Table A4 of the quarterly [Crime Statistics in England and Wales](#) series published by the Office for National Statistics or in the [police recorded crime open data tables](#) published by the Home Office.

Information on hate crime from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) can also be found on this page. CSEW analysis is not published annually. Due to the low volume of hate crime incidents in the sample survey, the figures are not sufficiently robust to report for a single year of the CSEW. Therefore, data from two or three survey years (depending on publication) have been combined to give larger sample sizes, increasing the number of incidents available for analysis. The latest analysis from the CSEW on hate crime can be found in [Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2014/15](#).