



Home Office

20 July 2017

Statistical News Release: Crime Outcomes in England and Wales, year ending March 2017

The latest statistics on crime outcomes are released today. For this release, the preferred measure for outcomes data - presenting the outcomes assigned by the police to all offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 - is used wherever possible. The bulletin contains:

1. Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 – the preferred method – compared with the year ending March 2016.
2. Outcomes assigned to fraud and domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2017.
3. An analysis into the time gap between offences being recorded and outcomes being assigned, including a comparison since last year.
4. Information on transferred or cancelled records.
5. Annex A covers outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017 (irrespective of when the crime was recorded) – the old measure – compared with the year ending March 2016.

Key Points from the Outcome Data for the year ending March 2017

- Eleven per cent of crimes recorded in the year ending March 2017 resulted in someone being charged or summonsed, and in 17 per cent of offences the victim did not support (or withdrew support for) police action despite a named suspect being identified. Six per cent of offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 were still under investigation at the time of data capture.
- The proportion of crimes assigned a charge or summons decreased from 14 per cent to 11 per cent over the last year. Conversely, the proportion of crimes that resulted in evidential difficulties increased from 23 per cent to 26 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.
- Almost half (48%) of offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 had been closed with no suspect identified. This proportion varied by crime type, from 73 per cent of theft offences to eight per cent or lower for rapes, possession of weapons and drug offences.
- Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017 took an average of 8 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 (79 days) took longest, particularly rape offences (144 days).
- Where crimes were closed with no suspect identified it took an average of 2 days for the outcome to be assigned, whereas it took 39 days to assign an outcome of evidential difficulties where a suspect is identified and the victim supports action.

- The number of fraud offences assigned a charge or summons fell by 17 per cent between the year ending March 2016 and year ending March 2017.
- Around a fifth (18%) of the offences involving domestic abuse recorded in the year ending March 2017 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 2017, 65 per cent of domestic abuse related offences had evidential difficulties outcomes compared with 22 per cent of offences not involving domestic abuse.

Transferred and cancelled crimes for the year ending March 2017

- Overall 3.2 per cent of crimes originally recorded were subsequently transferred or cancelled in the year ending March 2017, a slight decrease from 3.3 per cent in the previous year. Around 4 in 10 (41%) of all transferred or cancelled records were cancelled due to additional verifiable information becoming available that showed no notifiable crime had occurred.

Background

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

Notes

1. 'Crime Outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2017' is available online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2016-to-2017>
2. Also released today is 'Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2017' available on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales>.

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

Newsdesk - **020 7035 3535**

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