



Home Office

Crime outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2017 second edition

Statistical Bulletin HOSB 09/17

Edited by: Daniel Heap

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Important information

Before April 2013, official statistics about how the police deal with crimes focused narrowly on 'detections' (the number of cases resolved with a charge, caution, etc.). In April 2013, the Home Office introduced the new outcomes framework and changed the presentation of crime outcomes statistics. From April 2014 onwards, police forces have supplied data to the Home Office on the broader set of outcomes. The year to March 2014 bulletin¹, published in July 2014, showed the first provisional statistics from the new outcomes framework. We have since developed the statistics with input from police forces and users.

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

In January 2014, the UK Statistics Authority found that police recorded crime statistics did not 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, the Home Office Chief Statistician and the UK Statistics Authority Head of Assessment agreed to badge the year to March 2014 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 are affected by similar issues to those that led to the de-designation of police recorded crime statistics.

Full details 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.

Errata

Following publication of 'Crime outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2017' an inconsistency was noted between Tables A1 and B2. Table B2 was identified as incorrect. Further, a compilation inconsistency was noted in the Supplementary Police Force Area outcomes table where the components of some outcomes for Welsh police force areas were not reflected in the total for Wales. These tables have now been updated in line with our revisions policy for statistical publications.

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

Further information

“Crime Outcomes in England and Wales, 2015/16”, 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:

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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 bulletin is based on the full outcomes framework introduced in April 2014. Under this framework, every crime recorded by the police will eventually get a police outcome. This shows how the police deal with all crimes, and those still under investigation.

KEY FINDINGS

How the police dealt with crimes recorded in the year ending March 2017:

- Police forces closed almost half (48%) of offences with no suspect identified. This proportion varied by crime type. Around two-thirds (68%) of criminal damage and arson offences were closed with no suspect identified, compared with around 1 in 20 (6% or lower) rape or drug offences.
- One in nine offences (11%) resulted in a charge or summons. In 13 per cent of offences the victim did not support (or withdrew support for) police action despite a named suspect being identified. The police were still investigating six per cent of offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 when these data were extracted in late June 2017.
- The proportion of offences that resulted in a charge or summons decreased from 14 per cent to 11 per cent over the last year. Conversely, the proportion of offences that resulted in evidential difficulties increased from 23 per cent to 26 per cent. This is likely to be partly due to improved crime recording processes by the police which according to the Office for National Statistics is a factor that has contributed to the increase in police recorded crime. While the rate for charge summons has decreased, the actual number of charge summons has decreased from 536 thousand to 484 thousand.

How long it took for offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 to get a police outcome:

The length of time it took police forces to assign an outcome to a crime varied. It depended on the offence type and the type of outcome. Based on a subset of forces:

- It took police forces an average of 8 days to assign the outcomes they recorded in the year ending March 2017, a decrease of 3 days compared to the year to March 2016.
- On average, forces assigned outcomes to criminal damage and arson most quickly, 3 days after they recorded the crime. Sexual offences (79 days) took longest, particularly rape offences (144 days).
- Where police forces closed investigations without identifying a suspect, it was on average 2 days after the crime was recorded. It took 39 days for forces to assign an outcome of evidential difficulties where a suspect was identified and the victim supported action.

Crimes that were cancelled or transferred to another police force in the year ending March 2017:

- Of all crimes originally recorded in the year ending March 2017, three per cent were later transferred to other police forces or cancelled. That was a similar proportion to the previous year.
- Of transferred or cancelled records, 41 per cent were cancelled when additional verifiable information became available showing that no crime had occurred.

How the police dealt with domestic-abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2017:

- Police forces charged or summonsed someone for almost a fifth (18%) of the domestic abuse related offences that they recorded.

- Police forces were more likely assign outcomes of evidential difficulties to domestic abuse related offences than other offences. Around two-thirds (65%) of domestic abuse related offences resulted in outcomes of evidential difficulties compared with 22 per cent of other offences.

Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017 for fraud offences:

For the first time, this bulletin contains a) data on the number of fraud offences disseminated nationally and by police force area level and b) data on the number of outcomes based on the full outcomes by police force area level.

- The total number of fraud offences disseminated to police decreased by four per cent from the last year, although the total number of recorded fraud offences increased by five per cent.
- 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.
- The total number of fraud outcomes recorded by police increased by 14 per cent over the last year. This increase was largely driven by an increase in offences closed with no suspect identified.

1 Introduction

1.1 – OVERVIEW

This bulletin reports on outcomes that police forces have assigned to offences recorded by the police. It covers the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police.

In April 2013, the Home Office introduced the new outcomes framework, replacing ‘detections’. This new framework provides greater transparency on how **all** crimes recorded by the police are dealt with. The previous ‘detections’ gave a partial picture of the work police do to investigate and resolve crime. This resulted in performance targets, which risked driving perverse crime recording decisions. It may also have undermined the victim-focused approach set out in the crime recording standard².

As well as this annual publication, the Home Office also publishes quarterly outcomes tables. These are published here www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-statistics.

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

1.2 – THE FULL OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

The Home Office introduced the outcomes framework in April 2013. Since then it has developed to cover a broader range of outcome types for police forces to use. Table 1.1 shows how the current outcomes framework builds on former outcome and detection types. Police forces now assign an outcome to all crimes that they record.

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, the Home Office introduced a new outcome type (outcome 20). Outcome 20 is for offences where further action is taken by another body or agency other than the police, for example HM Revenue and Customs. The victim (or person acting on their behalf) must be made aware of the action being taken. Previously these offences were included within outcome 18 (investigation complete, no suspect identified). The Home Office first published data for outcome 20 in the year ending June 2015 data tables, published in October 2015.

In January 2016, the Home Office added a further outcome type (outcome 21). This addressed concerns that police discretion in deciding how to deal with offending was not always effectively recognised. Police forces can now apply this outcome where they decide it is not in the public interest to take formal action, despite identifying a suspect. Previously, police forces could assign any outcome type to these offences.

While police forces will eventually give an outcome to every crime, this may take some time. At any given point, police forces will be undertaking crime investigations to which they will not yet have assigned an outcome. Police forces will therefore submit revised data to the Home Office as investigations are completed. This is discussed further in Chapter 2.

For more information on interpreting the outcomes framework, see Annex A: Background to Crime Outcomes in “Crime Outcomes in England and Wales, 2014/15”³.

1.3 – DATA IN THIS BULLETIN

This bulletin is based on the new outcomes categories introduced in April 2014, plus the additional outcome types introduced since then. Data are supplied by the majority of police via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH). The HODH allows police forces to provide record-level data on recorded crime alongside outcomes and transferred or cancelled records data for each crime. Those forces not yet using the HODH provide a manual return with the same information. It is hoped that remaining “non-live” forces will all be submitting data via the HODH within the next year.

For more details on data quality and data not included in certain periods or analyses, see Annex B: Crime Outcomes Data Quality.

1.4 – OUTCOME GROUPINGS IN THIS BULLETIN

However, some of the tables and charts in this bulletin show grouped outcomes to simplify presentation. To simplify presentation, some tables in this bulletin show outcomes grouped together. For transparency, Open Data tables are also published that show the full range of police outcomes. These are accessible from: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables.

Table 1.2 shows the groupings. These take account of user feedback 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

Police forces supplied the recorded crime data used in this bulletin to the Home Office. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published these in “Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2017”:

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

1.6 – FRAUD OUTCOMES

Since April 2013, Action Fraud (the national fraud and cyber crime reporting centre) have been responsible for recording fraud offences, rather than individual police forces. ONS publish police recorded crime statistics both including and excluding fraud. As well as offences recorded by Action Fraud, the ONS also publish data on the number of frauds recorded by FFA UK and CIFAS. Similarly, outcomes of fraud offences are not collected in the same way as other crimes. The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) review Action Fraud reports, along with FFA UK and Cifas reports. The NFIB allocate fraud offences with viable information to the relevant police forces in dissemination packages. The police forces investigate the offences, and allocate an outcome to each individual offence. Each police force submits the outcomes to NFIB on a monthly basis. Fraud outcomes are therefore not included in the main body of this bulletin. We have presented experimental data on fraud offences separately in Chapter 3. Outcomes data in the rest of this bulletin do not include outcomes of fraud offences.

1.7 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS

This bulletin contains data on transferred or cancelled records (formerly referred to as ‘no-crimes’). These are when a police force initially record an offence and later decide that the crime did not take place, was recorded in error or should be transferred to another police force. Since April 2015, police forces have supplied data to the Home Office split by the five reasons why the police may transfer or cancel a records. Chapter 5 shows these data.

1.8 – DOMESTIC ABUSE OUTCOMES

Since April 2015, police forces must provide the Home Office with the number of offences they record that are domestic-abuse related. For forces providing record-level data via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH) it is possible to link domestic abuse related crimes to their outcomes. Chapter 4 covers these data.

2 Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017

2.1 - INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers how the police have dealt with crimes recorded in the year ending March 2017. The Home Office first collected these data from police forces for the year ending March 2015, when 38 forces voluntarily supplied data (see Table C1 for details). For the latest year, all 44 police forces in England and Wales supplied data to the Home Office, including the British Transport Police.

When forces provided data to the Home Office, a number of crimes were still under investigation. This includes, for example, crimes recorded in the last few weeks of the period and crimes that need complex and lengthy investigations. Police forces will assign an outcome to these crimes over time, meaning that the proportion 'not yet assigned an outcome' will gradually reduce. This affects comparisons with data from earlier time periods (see section 2.4).

The outcomes figures in this chapter help us to understand how the police have resolved crimes recorded in the year ending March 2017. As not all investigations will have been completed, updated tables will be published for the years ending March 2016 and 2017 on a quarterly basis. This will give users a fuller picture of how the police have assigned outcomes to the crimes recorded in the period, particularly those crimes that have yet to receive an outcome.

2.2 – HOW OFFENCES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2017 WERE DEALT WITH BY THE POLICE, BY OUTCOME TYPE AND OFFENCE GROUP

The rates shown in Tables 2.1 and 2.2 relate to offences that police forces recorded in the year ending March 2017. In total, at the time the data were supplied to the Home Office⁴, police forces had assigned an outcome to 94 per cent of the offences that they recorded in the year. Police forces had not yet assigned an outcome to the remaining six per cent of crimes.

For almost half (48%) of offences recorded in the year ending March 2017, police forces had not identified a suspect and had closed the case. If further information comes to light then forces could reopen these crimes at any time.

- In 11 per cent of offences, the crime was resolved by charge or summons.
- In 13% of offences 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 six 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 2016 which have been assigned an outcome during the following year, a quarter (25%) of these outcomes were charge/summons, 40 per cent had an evidential difficulties outcome and twenty one per cent had investigations closed with no suspect identified.. 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 2016 have changed over time.

⁴ See Section B6 for when data were provided.

Table 2.1: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017, by outcome type and group

		England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes	
Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Proportion of offences recorded in period: ²	
		Year to March 2016 ^{3,4}	Year to March 2017 ^{4,5}
1	Charged/Summoned	13.8	11.2
4	Taken into consideration⁶	0.3	0.2
	Out-of-court (formal)	3.6	2.6
2	Caution - youths ⁴	0.5	0.3
3	Caution - adults ⁴	2.6	1.9
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	0.6	0.4
	Out-of-court (informal)	4.0	3.2
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	0.9	0.8
8	Community resolution	3.0	2.4
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	2.2	1.3
5	Offender died	0.0	0.0
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	0.2	0.1
10	Not in public interest (Police)	1.4	0.7
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	0.1	0.1
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	0.3	0.3
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	0.0	0.0
17	Prosecution time limit expired	0.1	0.1
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	9.3	9.3
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	13.6	16.7
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	3.3	3.9
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	10.3	12.8
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	48.7	47.7
20	Action undertaken by another body/agency	0.5	0.8
21	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest⁷	0.1	0.9
Total offences assigned an outcome (type 1-18, 20, 21)		96.1	93.9
Offences not yet assigned an outcome		3.9	6.1
Total offences¹		100.0	100.0

1. Year to March 2016 and year to March 2017 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. Proportions show the percentage of crimes recorded in the year receiving each outcome.

3. Based on data from all 44 forces covering the full year to March 2016. Of these, 18 forces did not submit updated year to March 2016 data to the Home Office for this publication. These forces may therefore appear to have fewer than expected outcomes assigned during that period as their numbers have not been updated since first published. See Table A for details.

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 year to March 2016 than for year to September 2016, as the former have had a longer period since being recorded in which to be assigned.

5. Based on data from all 44 forces. Of these, two forces had previously provided data for year to March 2016 but did not subsequently provide data for April to September 2016 for this publication. Data for these two forces have been included from October 2015 to March 2016 only. See Table A for details.

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

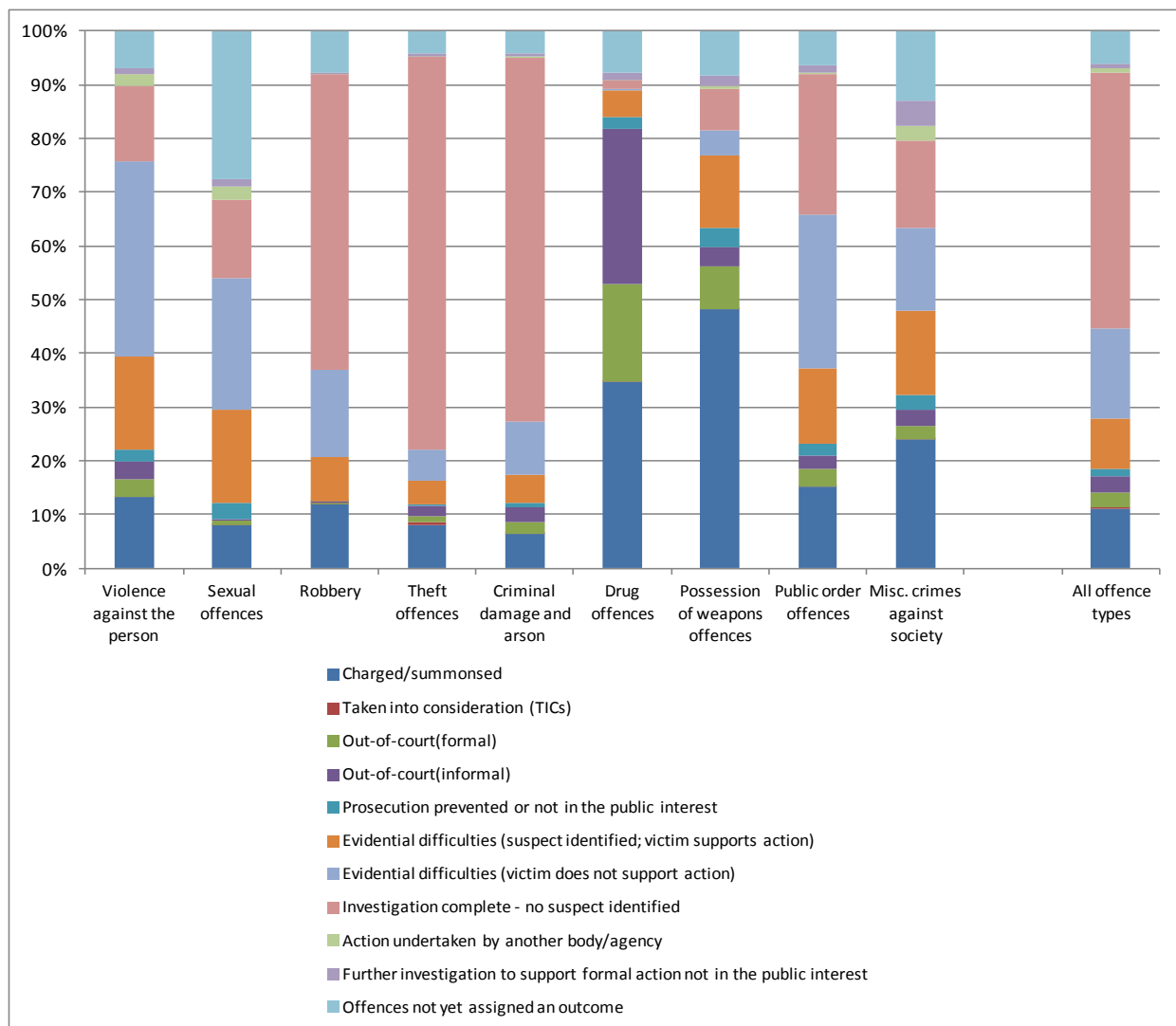
7. Outcome 21 was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis and became mandatory from April 2016.

As shown in Table 2.2 and Figure 2.1, outcome proportions varied considerably by offence type. For example, eight per cent of possession of weapons offences and two per cent of drug offences had been assigned an outcome of investigation complete – no suspect identified, compared with 73 per cent of theft offences and 70 per cent of criminal damage and arson offences.

Given the different nature of the offence types shown, it is unsurprising that some outcome types are more common for particular crimes. 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 2017, by outcome group and offence group



Source: Home Office Data Hub (HODH) 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 2017, 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 (formal) ³	Out-of- 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	Investigatio n complete no suspect identified	Action undertaken by another body/ agency	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest ⁷	Offences not yet assigned an outcome
Violence against the person	13.4	0.0	3.3	3.1	2.4	17.2	36.2	14.2	2.1	1.2	6.9
Sexual offences	8.0	0.0	0.8	0.4	3.0	17.4	24.5	14.3	2.5	1.6	27.4
<i>of which: Rape</i>	5.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	17.4	28.4	5.7	1.0	0.3	39.9
Robbery	11.8	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	8.2	16.2	55.1	0.1	0.1	7.8
Theft offences	8.0	0.5	1.2	1.8	0.4	4.4	5.8	73.1	0.1	0.5	4.3
Criminal damage and arson	6.4	0.0	2.1	2.7	0.8	5.3	10.0	67.7	0.2	0.4	4.3
Drug offences	34.8	0.0	17.9	29.1	2.1	4.9	0.3	1.6	0.2	1.2	7.8
Possession of weapons offences	48.1	0.0	8.1	3.5	3.6	13.4	4.7	7.7	0.7	1.9	8.3
Public order offences	15.2	0.0	3.2	2.7	2.1	14.1	28.5	26.2	0.3	1.5	6.3
Misc. crimes against society	23.9	0.1	2.5	3.0	3.0	15.7	15.4	16.2	2.7	4.8	12.9
All offence types¹	11.2	0.2	2.6	3.2	1.3	9.3	16.7	47.7	0.8	0.9	6.1

1. Year to March 2017 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 21 (Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest) was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis and became mandatory from April 2016.

8. Proportions show the percentage of crimes recorded in the year receiving each outcome.

In the year ending March 2017:

- Possession of weapons was the offence group most likely to be assigned a charge/summons outcome, with nearly half (48%) of the crimes recorded in this category assigned this outcome. This is likely to be because to most suspects are found in possession by the police and then dealt with for the offence.
- In contrast, six per cent of criminal damage and arson offences and eight per cent of theft offences resulted in a charge or summons. These offence groups also had the highest proportion of outcomes where no suspect was identified and the case was closed (68% for criminal damage; 72% for arson). This is probably because victims often report these cases without having been present when the offence occurred.
- Sexual offences were the offence group most likely not to have been assigned an outcome, with 30 per cent of offences still under investigation. This was higher than for all other offence groups, which ranged from 4 per cent (criminal damage and theft offences) to 13 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. Eight per cent of sexual offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 were resolved by a charge/summons
- Nearly half (47%) of drug offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 were assigned out-of-court outcomes, a far higher proportion than all other offence types. The second highest proportion was for possession of weapon offences (12%) which, like drug possession offences, are often resolved at an early stage as an offender will have been found in possession.
- Violent offences (53%), sexual offences (42%) and public order offences (43%) had a greater proportion of outcomes where there were evidential difficulties than other crime types.
- Drug offences (2%) and possession of weapon offences (8%) 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.

2.3 – OUTCOMES ASSIGNED TO OFFENCES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2016: CHANGES OVER TIME

Data for year ending March 2016 were first published in July 2016. These have been updated on a quarterly basis since they were first published in order to reflect that some offences recorded during the year ending March 2016 will have had outcomes assigned during the following year. See Table C1 for details of forces that subsequently supplied updated outcomes data for the year ending March 2016.

A comparison of the latest data for year ending March 2016 with those published one year earlier is shown in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, 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 2016:	
		First published (July 2016) ²	Updated (July 2017) ²
1	Charged/Summonsed	13.1	13.8
4	Taken into 3	0.2	0.3
	Out-of-court (formal)	3.5	3.6
2	Caution - youths	0.4	0.5
3	Caution - adults	2.5	2.6
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	0.6	0.6
	Out-of-court (informal)	3.9	4.0
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	0.9	0.9
8	Community resolution	2.9	3.0
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	2.2	2.2
5	Offender died	0.0	0.0
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	0.2	0.2
10	Not in public interest (Police)	1.4	1.4
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	0.1	0.1
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	0.3	0.3
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	0.0	0.0
17	Prosecution time limit expired	0.1	0.1
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	8.6	9.3
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	13.2	13.6
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	3.2	3.3
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	10.0	10.3
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	48.1	48.7
20	Action undertaken by another body/agency	0.5	0.5
21	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest	0.0	0.1
Total offences assigned an outcome (type 1-18)		93.4	96.1
Offences not yet assigned an outcome		6.6	3.9
Total offences¹		100.0	100.0

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

2. 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 2017 as they have had a longer period since being recorded in which to be assigned. However, not all forces submitted updated year to March 2016 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.

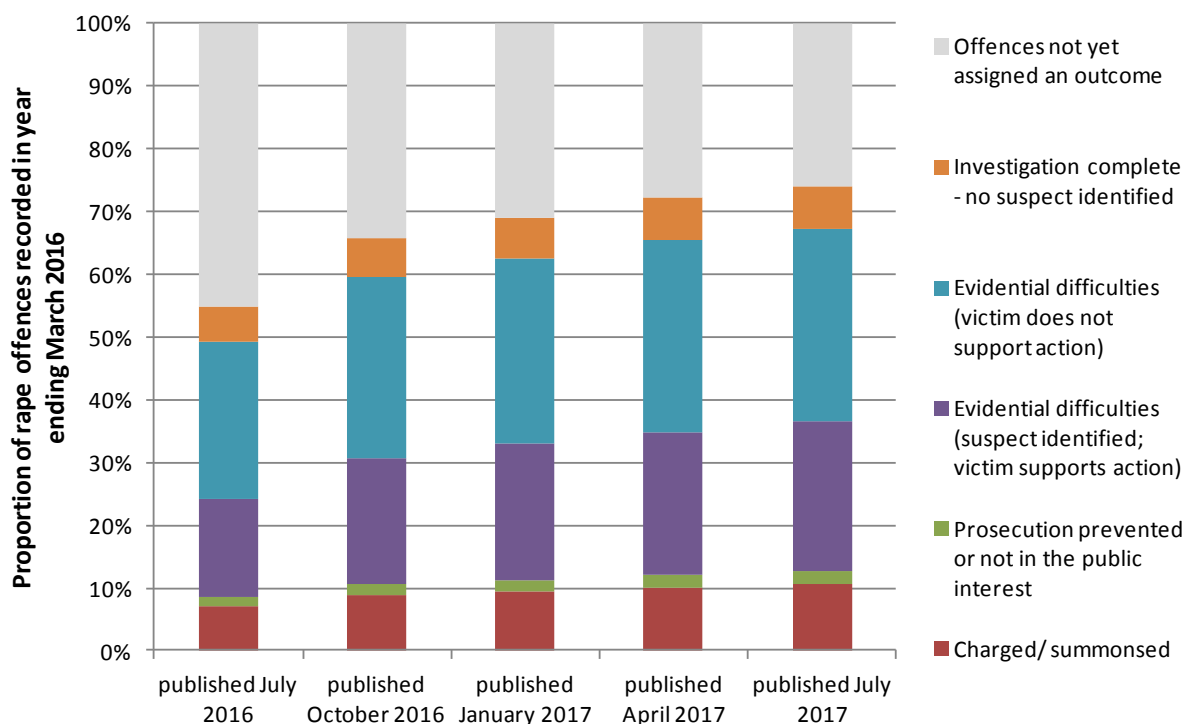
3. Offences asked to be taken in to consideration by a court (TICs).

As can be seen in Table 2.3, the proportion of crimes not yet assigned an outcome has fallen in this latest set of figures, with 2.7 per cent of offences recorded in the year to March 2016 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, 32 per cent of sexual offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 had yet to be assigned an outcome when the data were first published in July 2016. By the time the latest data were provided to the Home Office this had fallen to 18 per cent.

In particular, the proportion of rape offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 that had not been assigned an outcome has fallen from 45 to 18 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 2016. Many of the rape offences that had not been assigned an outcome when data were first published resulted in evidential difficulties. A substantial proportion were also dealt with by charge or summonses.

Figure 2.2: Outcomes assigned to rape offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group and publication date



Source: Home Office Data Hub and voluntary spreadsheet return

1. Proportions show the percentage of crimes recorded in the year ending March 2016 receiving each outcome.
2. No rape offences recorded in year ending March 2016 were 'Taken in to Consideration'
3. Data are generally provided to the Home Office two to three months before publication. See Annex C of 'Crime Outcomes in England and Wales, year ending March 2016' for further information.

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 2017 COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 have had an additional year in which an outcome could have been assigned compared with offences recorded in the year ending March 2017. 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 2017 with figures for the previous year as at the time they were first published in July 2016⁵.

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 13% to 11%), as did the proportion assigned an out-of-court disposal (from 7% to 6%). Conversely, the proportion of crimes that resulted in evidential difficulties increased, from 22 per cent of crimes recorded in the year ending March 2016 to 26 per cent in the latest year.

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

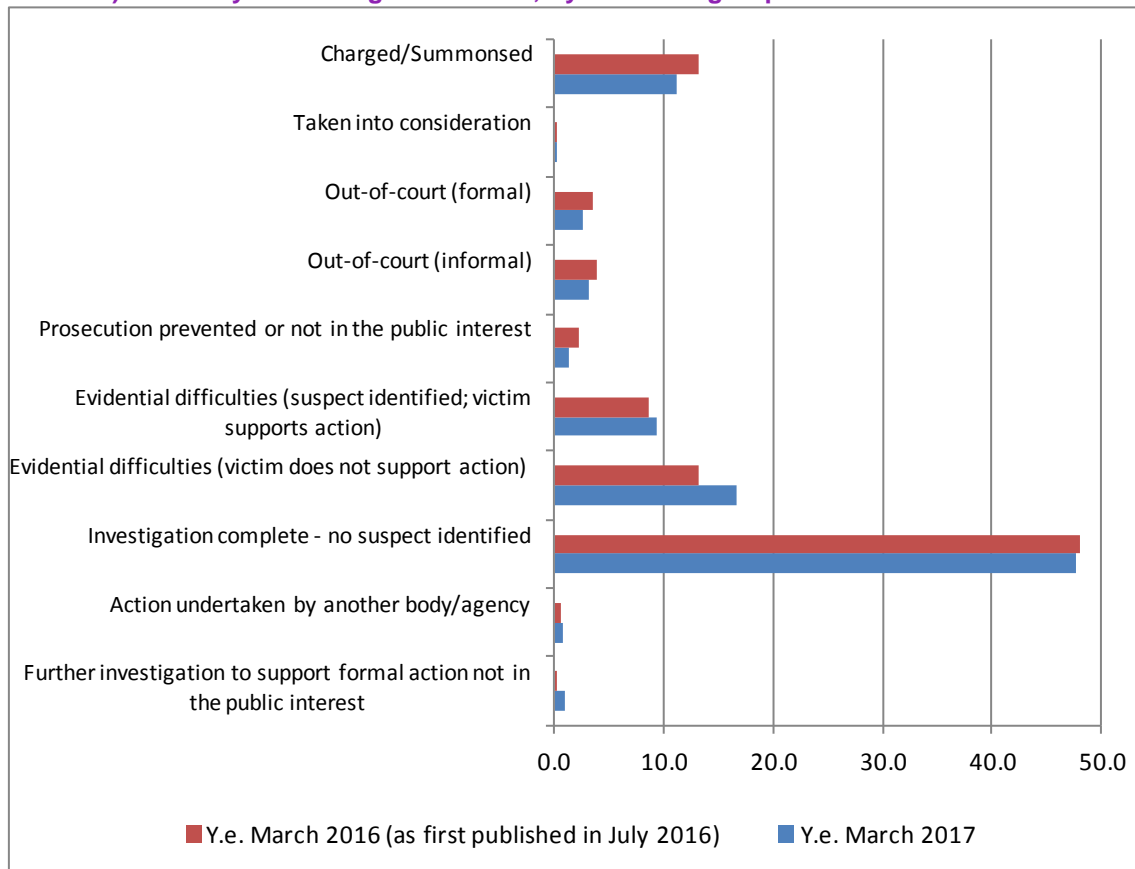
- Improvements in crime recording by the police have led to increases in crime volumes for some crime types, in particular for violence and sexual offences. These increased by 18 per cent and 14 per cent respectively in the year ending March 2017. It is likely that many of the

⁵ 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.

additional offences now being recorded are those that are less likely to be resolved by a charge/summons or other out of court resolution.

- An increased willingness of victims to report crimes to the police, particularly for violent and sexual offences. In particular, chapter 4 shows that larger proportions of violent and sexual offences that were domestic-abuse related experienced evidential difficulties compared with violent and sexual offences that were not domestic-abuse related. It is possible 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.

Figure 2.3: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 (as first published) and the year ending March 2017, 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 are included in each outcome group.

3 Fraud outcomes

3.1 – INTRODUCTION

The way in which fraud offences are reported and subsequently recorded has changed in recent years. In April 2011, Action Fraud (the UK's national fraud and cybercrime reporting centre) began gradually taking over the recording of fraud offences from 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 individuals and businesses 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. The year ending March 2014 was therefore the first full year where all fraud offences previously reported to the police were recorded by Action Fraud. Action Fraud reports are reviewed by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB), who are responsible for allocating reported offences to forces for them to investigate. The police recorded crime series (published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)) also incorporates offences reported to the NFIB by two fraud prevention industry bodies: Cifas and Financial Fraud Action UK (FFA UK).

The NFIB outcomes recording process is shown in the flow chart in Figure 3.1. Cifas, FFA UK and Action Fraud reports are automatically scored by NFIB's scoring matrix. This analyses all reports and identifies key information supplied in a report, as well as searching for any matching data within the system in existing reports. As well as receiving crime reports, Action Fraud also receives information reports. These are reports from an individual or business which do not meet the criteria to be classed as a crime, but still report on fraudulent activity. Police forces can use these reports for intelligence purposes.

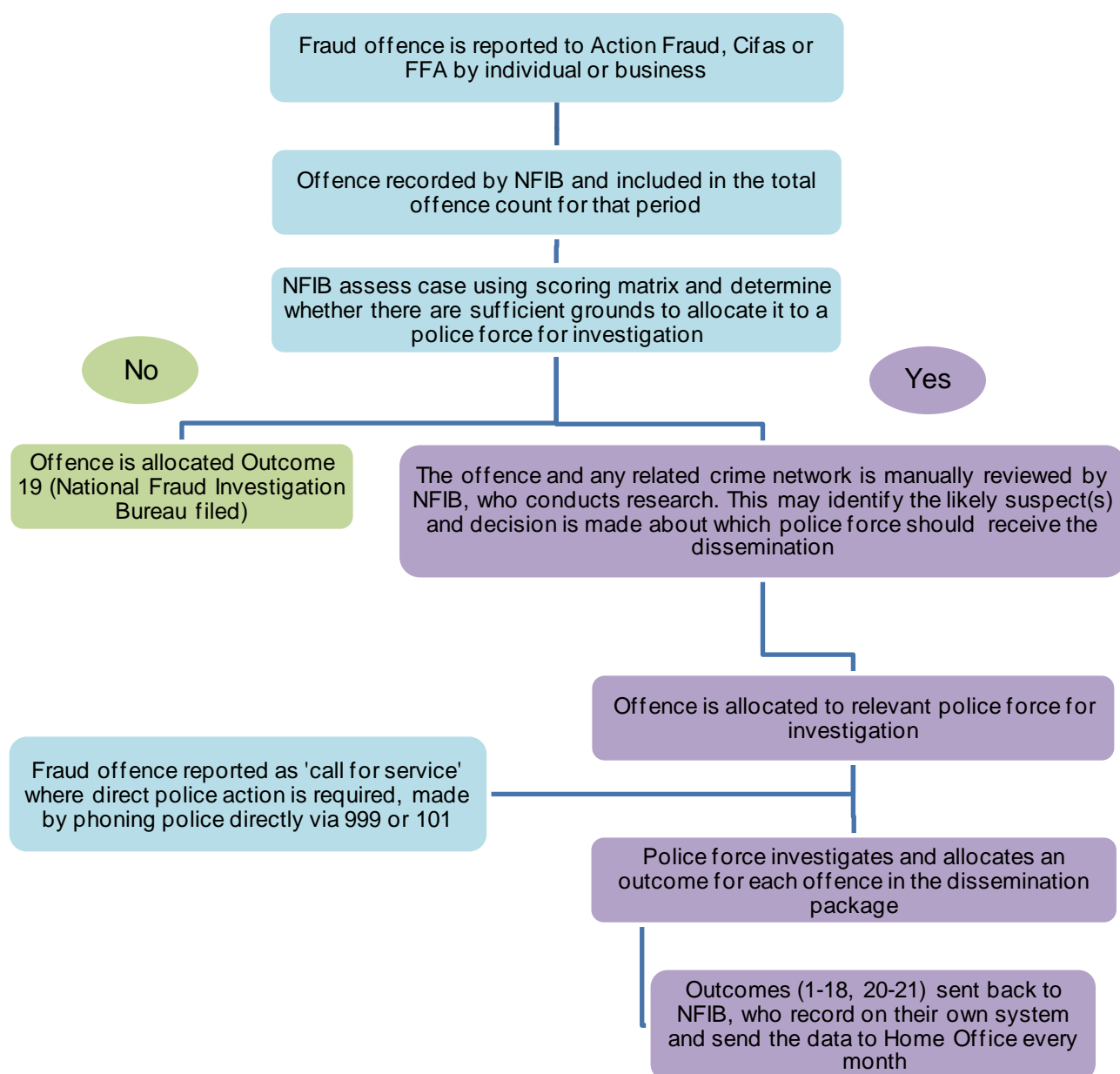
NFIB use a database which constantly reviews all crime reports against all other data held in the database. This can then link offences which share a piece of information, such as a telephone number. The reports are scored based on a viability criteria, and automatically produces crime networks with a viability ranking. A team reviews these networks and determines if there is realistic chance of identifying the offender through personal information, such as a telephone number, postal address or bank account. The team conducts research to help identify the suspect(s), such as requesting information from a bank or making a telecommunications subscriber check.

If it is judged that there are sufficient grounds for investigation and enforcement is viable, the NFIB allocates these cases to the most appropriate police force or other law enforcement agency. These allocations are known as dissemination packages, and each dissemination can contain multiple offences. The police force investigates the offences, and allocates an outcome to each individual offence. Each police force submits the outcomes to NFIB on a monthly basis, who then submit them to the Home Office.

For crime reports where sufficient grounds for investigation do not exist, the reports are still kept on NFIB's database. As new crime reports are submitted, more data may be linked to existing crime reports and increase their viability for investigation.

In addition to investigating offences disseminated from NFIB, a police force can also receive fraud related 'calls for service'. This is when victims of fraud require an active police response, and dial either 999 or 101 to contact the police directly. Police forces will deal with fraud directly if certain criteria are met, such as at the time of the call for service, the offender is committing or has recently committed the offence. As with disseminated offences, the outcomes of calls for service for fraud offences are submitted to NFIB.

Figure 3.1: How fraud outcomes are recorded



3.2 – DISSEMINATIONS AND OUTCOMES IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2017 BY OUTCOME TYPE

DISSEMINATIONS

Outcomes recorded by NFIB only cover those offences from calls for service, and offences sent in dissemination packages to police forces to investigate. Outcomes are not recorded when the offence is passed to another law enforcement agency, such as Trading Standards. Table 3.1 shows the number of dissemination packages sent to police forces and the number of offences within those packages. This is alongside the total number of fraud offences recorded, in the year ending March 2016 and in the year ending March 2017.

Table 3.1 – Number of fraud offences and disseminations, year ending March 2016 and year ending March 2017

	England and Wales		
	Year ending March 2016	Year ending March 2017	Percentage change (%)
Number of disseminations	17,258	16,781	-2.8
Total number of fraud offences within disseminations¹	67,475	64,501	-4.4
Total recorded fraud offences² :	619,205	649,770	4.9
<i>Number recorded by Action Fraud</i>	220,691	264,056	19.6
<i>Number recorded by Cifas and FFA</i>	398,514	385,710	-3.2

Source: National Fraud Intelligence Bureau

1. Some offences can be included in more than one dissemination, or can be disseminated to a force in multiple months. This number reflects the total number of unique offences, and offences which are part of two or more dissemination packages are only counted once.

2. The total for 2016/17 includes four fraud offences recorded by police forces after the transfer of responsibility to Action Fraud.

Each dissemination package can be made up of any number of offences, from one to hundreds. This depends on the fraud network, as many similar crimes may be linked together if investigators believe one suspect or set of suspects is responsible. An offence can be included in more than one dissemination, if it links to multiple crime networks. However, each offence only receives one final outcome.

OUTCOMES

In previous editions of this bulletin, outcomes data for fraud offences were published as experimental statistics. Additional work has been carried out in terms of disseminations that discovered NFIB had been supplying disseminations data to the Home Office without removing duplicate dissemination references. For example, if a dissemination contained ten fraud offences it counted ten disseminations rather than one. This was greatly inflating the figures, and not reflecting the true total of disseminations. Therefore, dissemination numbers published in previous editions are incorrect and should not be used.

This issue has now been rectified, and we can now derive the correct number of unique dissemination references from the data. Table 3.1 contains data on the corrected basis for the year ending March 2016 and March 2017.

It is important to note that the number of outcomes will not necessarily correspond to the number of disseminations in a given year since investigations can take months or longer to complete. A large number of offences disseminated to police in 2016/17 are still under investigation. Between the year ending March 2016 and March 2017, the total number of disseminations fell along with the total number of fraud offences disseminated. However, the total number of recorded fraud offences increased over the same period. This may be due to improvements in recording, but there was not enough information within the reports to make them viable for law enforcement. If enforcement is deemed to be not viable, NFIB will consider other activity such as disruption or intelligence activity.

Table 3.2 shows the number of outcomes recorded by the police in years ending March 2016 and March 2017, by outcome type, along with the total number of fraud offences recorded during the same time periods.

Table 3.2 - Fraud outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2017, by outcome type

		England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes		
		Year ending March 2016	Year ending March 2017	
Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Number of outcomes ²	Number of outcomes ²	Percentage change
1	Charged/Summonsed	7,751	6,402	-17
4	Taken into consideration¹	406	206	-49
	Out-of-court (formal)	1,105	944	-15
2	Caution - youths	64	55	-14
3	Caution - adults	1,016	878	-14
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	25	11	-56
	Out-of-court (informal)	672	594	-12
7	Cannabis/Khat warning ³	n/a	n/a	n/a
8	Community resolution	672	594	-12
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	931	740	-21
5	Offender died	32	22	-31
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	46	128	178
10	Not in public interest (Police)	664	524	-21
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	6	6	0
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	15	10	-33
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	140	41	-71
17	Prosecution time limit expired	28	9	-68
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	9,104	10,191	12
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	3,461	4,511	30
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	1,227	1,562	27
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	2,234	2,949	32
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	15,149	18,318	21
20	Action undertaken by another body/agency	727	1,127	55
21	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest⁴	92	1,854	1,915
	Total number of fraud outcomes	39,398	44,887	14
	Total fraud offences disseminated to police	67,475	64,501	-4
	Total recorded fraud offences	619,205	649,770	5

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

2. Offences recorded by Action Fraud, Cifas and FFA UK with outcomes recorded by NFIB in the year ending March 2016 or year ending March 2017.

3. Outcome 7 does not apply to fraud offences.

4. Outcome 21 was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis and became mandatory from April 2016.

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

There was an increase of over 5,000 outcomes (14%) between the years ending March 2016 and March 2017, even though the total number of fraud offences disseminated to the police decreased over the same period by four per cent. The increase in outcomes is largely driven by an increase in Outcome 18 'investigation complete – no suspect identified' which increased by over 3,000 (21%) between the two years.

There was a large proportional increase in Outcome 21 'Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest', which went from less than 100 outcomes in year ending March 2016 to 1,854 outcomes in the year ending March 2017. This outcome was only introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis, and it became mandatory from April 2016.

The number of Outcome 1 'Charged/summonsed' fell by almost 1,500 between the two years, a decrease of 17 per cent.

3.3 – DISSEMINATIONS AND OUTCOMES IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2017 BY POLICE FORCE AREA

Table 3.2 shows the different fraud outcomes nationally. As part of the Home Office's aim to improve the quality of fraud statistics and increase transparency, the outcome data are now available for the first time at police force area level. The data are available in the accompanying Open Data tables for 2016/17, accessible from: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables

A summary of the number of disseminations and outcomes by police force area is shown in Table 3.3. It is important to note that the number of outcomes will not necessarily correspond to the number of disseminations in a given year since investigations can take months or longer to complete. A large number of offences disseminated to police in 2016/17 are still under investigation. Therefore comparing the number of offences to disseminated offences should be done with caution, as the outcomes do not relate to the same period as the offences.

The offences were disseminated to forces in 2016/17 but the actual offence may have occurred in a past year. The offence will only be disseminated to forces when there is enough information to make it viable, and it could link to new reports. As an example, an offence could occur in 2015/16 but does not score highly enough on NFIB's matrix to make it viable for enforcement. Another offence occurs in 2016/17 which links to the first offence with a shared offender name, and provides more information such as a bank account. Now both offences receive a viability score, and are disseminated to the relevant force for investigation.

Table 3.3 - Fraud outcomes recorded and disseminated offences in the year ending March 2017

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes			
Year ending March 2017			
Police force	Number of disseminated offences ¹	Number of outcomes ²	
Avon & Somerset	946	537	
Bedfordshire	625	179	
Cambridgeshire	580	486	
Cheshire	537	187	
Cleveland	214	292	
Cumbria	160	338	
Derbyshire	476	562	
Devon & Cornwall ³	1,017	0	
Dorset	324	827	
Durham	178	223	
Essex	1,705	279	
Gloucestershire	269	518	
Greater Manchester	6,023	1,988	
Hampshire	996	368	
Hertfordshire	1,059	1,087	
Humberside	513	914	
Kent	1,284	2,664	
Lancashire	1,273	288	
Leicestershire	782	438	
Lincolnshire	360	349	
London, City of ⁴	2,640	919	
Merseyside	1,746	736	
Metropolitan Police	24,081	13,561	
Norfolk	450	170	
Northamptonshire	735	1,093	
Northumbria	534	1,116	
North Yorkshire	190	29	
Nottinghamshire	601	1,317	
South Yorkshire	911	577	
Staffordshire	1,351	1,142	
Suffolk	506	10	
Surrey	785	1,195	
Sussex	916	1,324	
Thames Valley	1,845	599	
Warwickshire	261	240	
West Mercia	391	638	
West Midlands	3,892	3,690	
West Yorkshire	1,767	458	
Wiltshire	461	896	
Dyfed-Powys	181	249	
Gwent	200	504	
North Wales	264	517	
South Wales	521	1,151	
Total 43 forces⁵	64,474	44,655	
British Transport Police	27	232	
Total⁵	64,501	44,887	

1. Number of offences within dissemination packages. The number of outcomes will not necessarily correspond to the number of disseminations in a given year since investigations can take months or longer to complete. A large number of offences disseminated to police in 2016/17 are still under investigation.

2. Outcomes recorded by NFIB in the year ending March 2017. There are known data quality issues, and the Home Office and NFIB are working with forces to improve data.

3. Devon and Cornwall were sent reminder emails by NFIB, but did not provide outcomes data for this period.

4. City of London includes City of London Police, National Lead Force, Insurance Fraud Enforcement Department, and Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit.

5. The overall total does not equal the total for all forces. Some offences can be included in more than one dissemination, or can be disseminated to a force in multiple months. This number reflects the total number of unique offences, and offences which are part of two or more dissemination packages are only counted once. Each offence, no matter how many times it is disseminated, is assigned only one final outcome.

3.4 – FUTURE WORK ON FRAUD OUTCOMES

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 2018. 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.

Future publications could potentially include outcomes assigned to offences disseminated to police in a given year. This could also include data on the length of time between fraud offences being disseminated to the police and when an outcome is assigned to that offence. This will depend on forces providing good quality data to NFIB, and the data being available to the Home Office. These new pieces of analysis would bring fraud in line with the other crime types and the analysis presented in previous chapters.

4 How domestic abuse-related offences were dealt with by the police

4.1 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 abuse⁶.

This chapter covers how the police have dealt with domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2017. The analyses presented are based on data from 34 of the 44 police forces in England and Wales^{7,8} that supplied adequate data to the Home Office Data Hub. These police forces recorded 89 per cent of all domestic abuse-related offences in England and Wales in 2016/17.

4.2 HOW DOMESTIC ABUSE OFFENCES WERE DEALT WITH BY THE POLICE BY OUTCOMES TYPE

The rates shown in Figure 4.1 relate to domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2017. In total, 94 per cent of these offences had been assigned an outcome at the time the data were extracted from the Home Office Data Hub⁹. Police forces had not yet assigned an outcome to the remaining six per cent of offences. Domestic abuse-related offence outcomes are compared below with offences that were not domestic abuse-related, these differences reflect the nature of different crime types within each category.

- Almost a fifth (18%) of domestic abuse-related offences were dealt with by a charge or summons. This is a higher proportion than offences that were not domestic abuse-related (10%).
- Around two-thirds (65%) of offences had an evidential difficulties outcome (table 4.1). This is almost three times the proportion of offences that were not domestic abuse-related that had an evidential difficulties outcome (22%).
- Evidential difficulties for domestic abuse-related offences consisted of 42 per cent of offences where the victim did not support further action and 24 per cent where the victim supported further action.
- Just two per cent of domestic abuse-related offences were assigned the outcome ‘investigation complete - no suspect identified’ compared with over half (54%) of offences that were not domestic abuse-related. This is to be expected given that, by definition, in a domestic abuse-related offence the offender must be a partner, ex-partner or a family member of the victim.

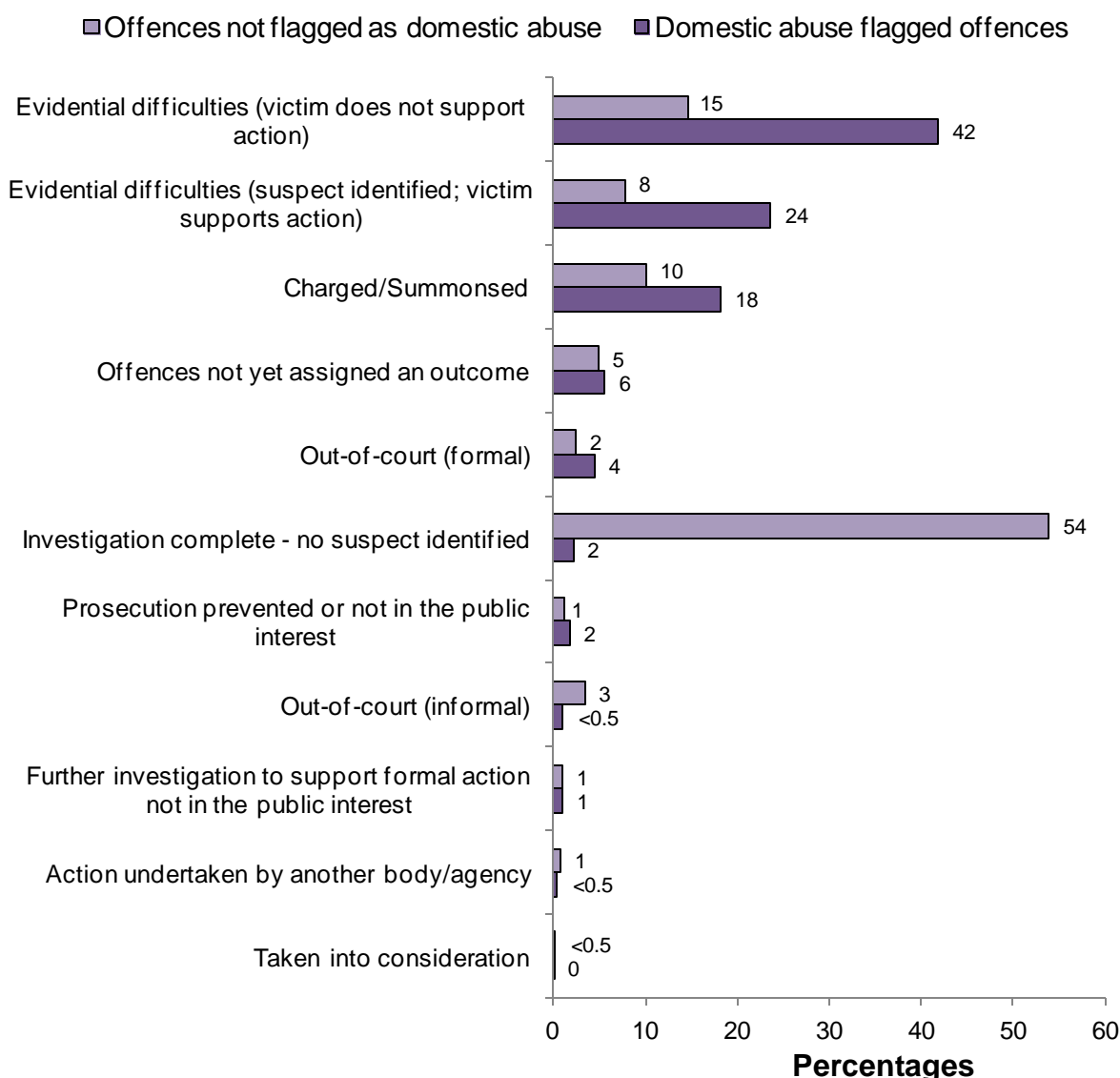
⁶ Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

⁷ Avon and Somerset, Bedfordshire, British Transport Police, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cleveland, Devon and Cornwall, Durham, Dyfed-Powys, Gloucestershire, Greater Manchester, Gwent, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Humberside, Kent, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Metropolitan Police, North Wales, North Yorkshire, Northamptonshire, Northumbria, South Wales, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, Sussex, Thames Valley, Warwickshire, West Mercia, West Yorkshire and Wiltshire.

⁸ The analysis in this chapter is based on a different subset of forces than previous chapters.

⁹ Early June 2017. 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 4.1; Proportions of outcomes assigned to domestic abuse-related offences and offences not domestic abuse-related recorded in the year ending March 2017



Source: *Police Recorded Crime, Home Office Data Hub*

1. Based on 34 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

4.3 HOW DOMESTIC ABUSE-RELATED OFFENCES WERE DEALT WITH BY THE POLICE BY OFFENCE GROUP

This section presents data on how police forces dealt with domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2017, by offence group. Almost four-fifths (77%) of domestic abuse-related offences were for violence against the person 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 2017 bulletin¹⁰). How the offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 were dealt with by police varied considerably by offence type:

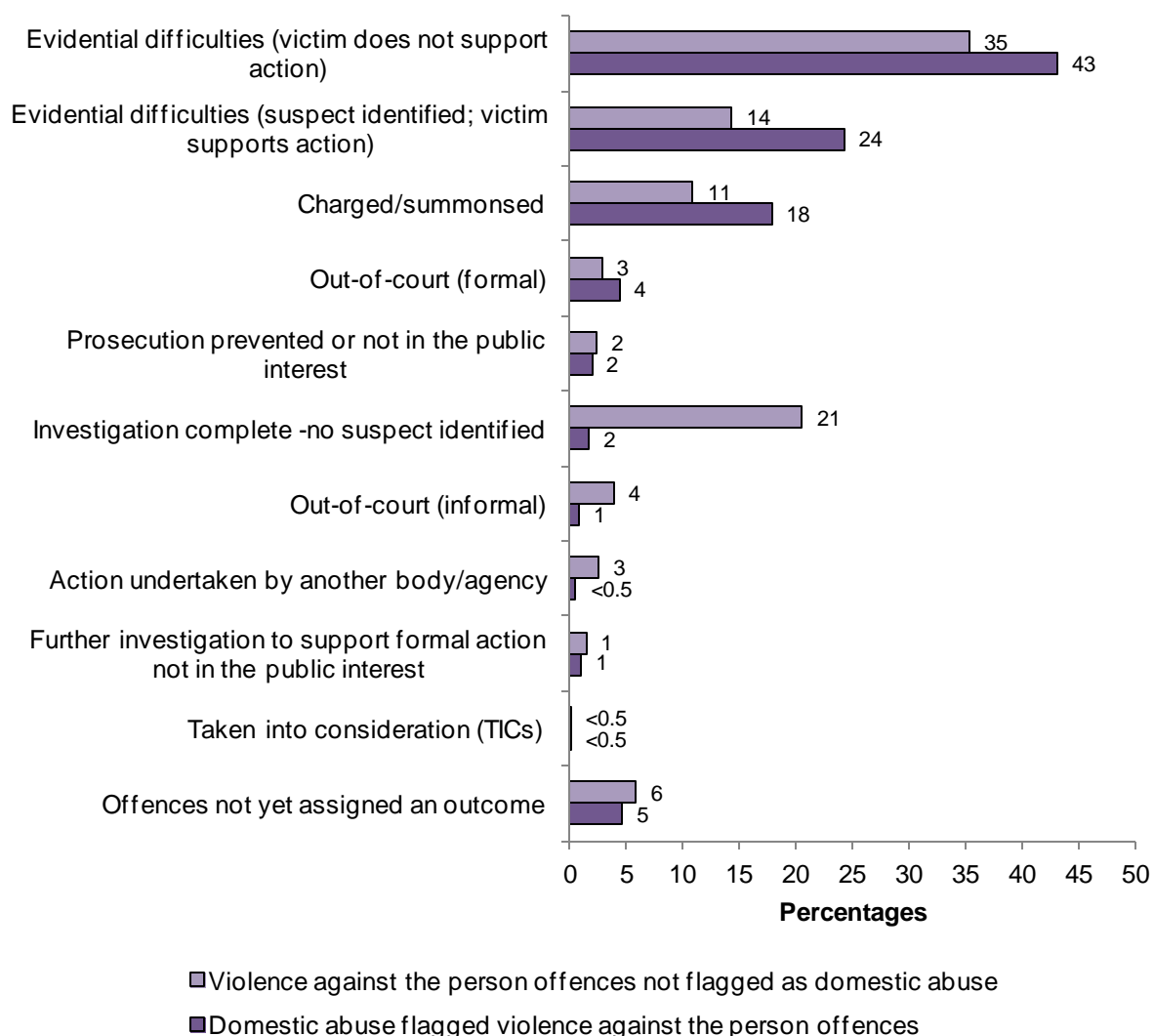
- Almost a fifth (18%) of domestic abuse-related violence against the person offences were dealt with by a charge or summons. A further 43 per cent had evidential difficulties where the victim did not support further action and a quarter had evidential difficulties where the victim supported action. (Figure 4.2)

¹⁰ www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

- Only two per cent of domestic abuse-related violence against the person offences were assigned an outcome of 'investigation complete - no suspect identified' compared with a fifth (21%) of violence against the person offences that were not domestic abuse-related.
- A far higher proportion of domestic abuse-related criminal damage and arson offences resulted in a charge or summons (22%) than those that were not domestic abuse-related (5%). The proportion was also much higher for evidential difficulties where the victim did not support action (41% of domestic abuse-related criminal damage and arson compared with 8% of those that were not domestic abuse-related), see Table 4.2¹¹.
- Domestic abuse-related sexual offences had a larger proportion of offences not yet assigned an outcome (32%) than any of the other offence groups. This is a slightly higher proportion than sexual offences that were not domestic abuse-related (27%), see Table 4.2.

¹¹Supplementary online data tables available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2016-to-2017>

Figure 4.2: Proportions of outcomes assigned to domestic abuse-related violence against the person offences compared with non-domestic abuse related violence against the person offences recorded in the year ending March 2017



Source: Police Recorded Crime, Home Office Data Hub

1. Based on 34 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

Coercive and controlling behaviour

On 29 December 2015, the government introduced a new criminal offence of “coercive and controlling behaviour in an intimate or familial relationship”. The new law captures coercive control through psychological and emotional abuse that may fall short of physical violence¹². Almost 90 per cent of coercive control offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 had been assigned an outcome by the time the data were extracted from the Home Office Data Hub. Just over 10 per cent of coercive control offences were dealt with by a charge or summons, while 40 per cent had evidential difficulties where the victim did not support further action and 32 per cent had evidential difficulties where the victim did support action.

¹² As is common with new offences, the number of these offences recorded by the police has increased over the last year.

Additionally, from 1 July 2016, the Home Office Counting Rules were amended so that offences of coercive control should take precedence over assault offences (apart from assault with intent to cause serious harm), criminal damage, theft and sexual offences amounting to voyeurism or exposure. This would have led to an increase in the number of coercive control offences recorded by the police.

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

This section presents data on the length of time between domestic abuse-related offences being recorded in the year ending March 2017 and an outcome being assigned to that offence, by the time the data were extracted from the Home Office Data Hub (Figure 4.3). Data are based on the 94 per cent of offences that have been assigned an outcome (Table 4.3¹³).

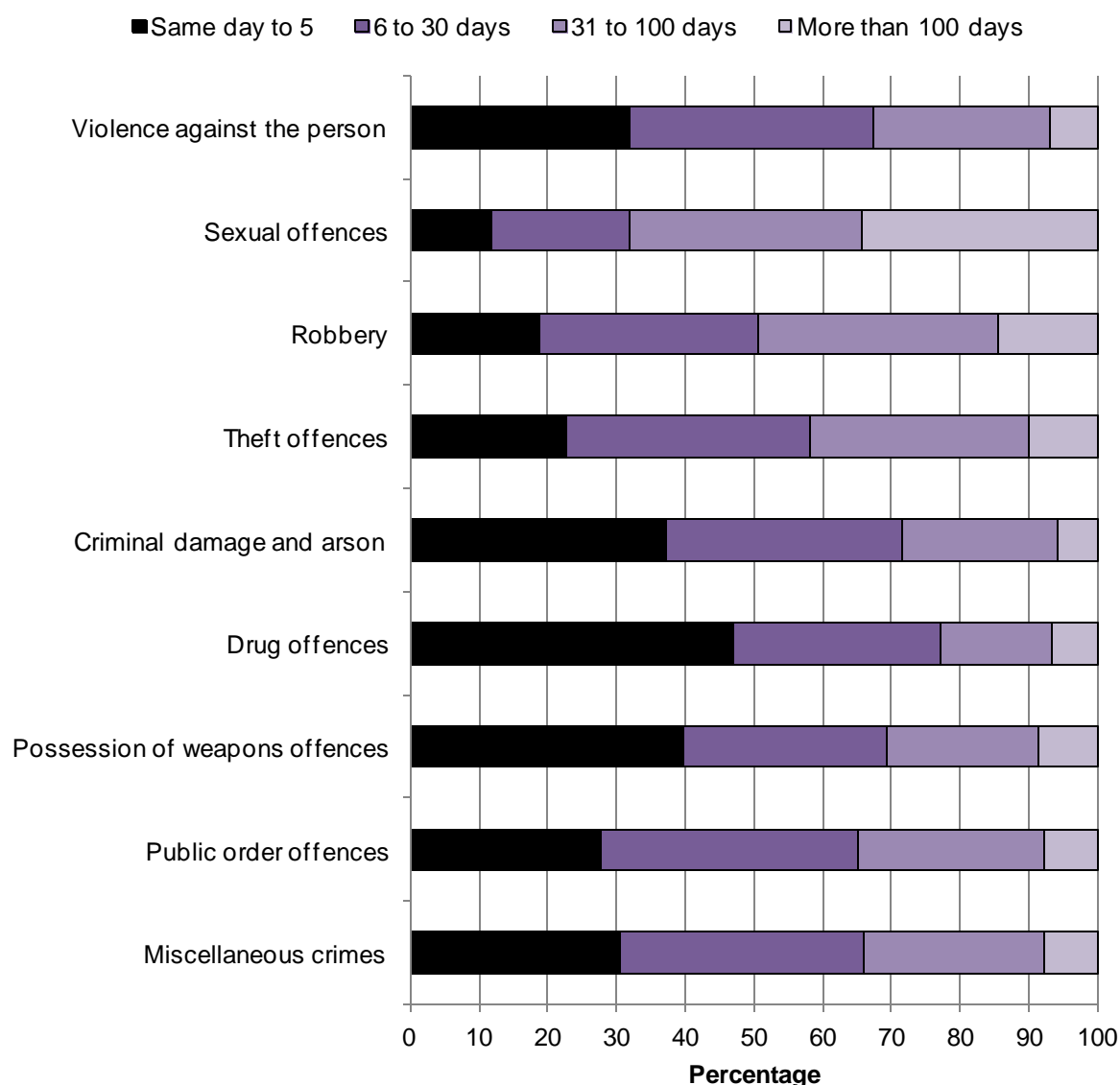
Of the domestic abuse-related offences assigned an outcome, almost a third (31%) had been assigned an outcome within five days of the offence being recorded and two thirds (66%) had been assigned an outcome within 30 days. Eight per cent of outcomes took more than 100 days to be assigned.

- Sexual offences that were domestic abuse-related generally took much longer to be assigned an outcome than other domestic abuse-related offence types, with 34 per cent taking over 100 days. This proportion is slightly higher than sexual offences that were not domestic abuse-related – 27 per cent took over 100 days.
- Almost a third (32%) of domestic abuse-related violence against the person offences were assigned an outcome within five days and over two thirds (67%) were assigned an outcome within 30 days. For violence against the person offences not domestic abuse-related, the figures were similar, with 32 per cent being assigned an outcome within five days and 64 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. See Chapter 5 for more information.

¹³ Supplementary online data tables available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2016-to-2017>

Figure 4.3: Length of time taken to assign outcomes to domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2017, by offence group



Source: *Police Recorded Crime, Home Office Data Hub*

1. Based on 34 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

4.5 - HOW DOMESTIC ABUSE-RELATED OFFENCES WERE DEALT WITH BY THE POLICE IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2016: CHANGES OVER TIME

Data for year ending March 2016 were based on 17 forces¹⁴. A comparison of the latest data for year ending March 2016 (based on the same 17 forces) with those that were published one year earlier is shown in Table 4.1 below.

The proportion of domestic abuse-related offences not yet assigned an outcome has fallen in this latest set of figures, with three per cent of offences recorded in the year to March 2016 assigned outcomes during the past year. These outcomes were mostly charge/summonses and evidential difficulties.

¹⁴ 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.

Table 4.1: Outcomes assigned to domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, 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 2016: ³	
		First published (July 2016) ^{4, 5}	Updated (July 2017) ^{4, 5}
1	Charged/Summoned	25	26
4	Taken into consideration¹	0	0
	Out-of-court (formal)	4	4
2	Caution - youths	0	0
3	Caution - adults	4	4
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	0	0
	Out-of-court (informal)	1	1
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	0	0
8	Community resolution	1	1
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	2	2
5	Offender died	0	0
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	0	0
10	Not in public interest (Police)	1	1
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	0	0
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	0	0
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	0	0
17	Prosecution time limit expired	0	0
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	26	27
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	35	36
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support action	1	1
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support action	34	35
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	2	2
20	Action undertaken by another body/agency	0	0
21	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest	0	0
Total offences assigned an outcome (type 1-18, 20, 21)		96	99
Offences not yet assigned an outcome		4	1
Total offences		100	100

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

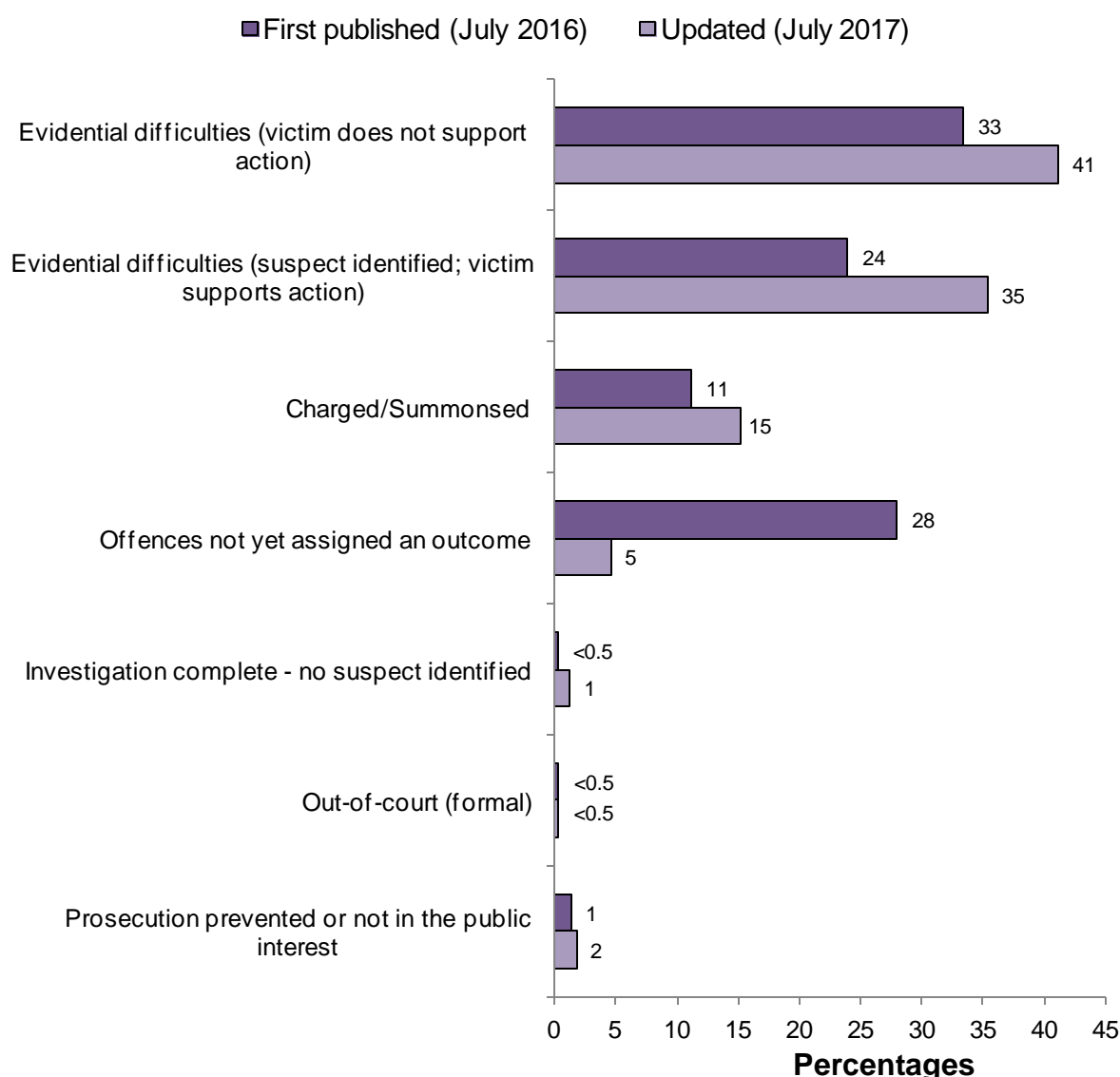
2. Proportions based on number of outcomes assigned to domestic abuse flagged offences recorded in 2016/17 divided by number of domestic abuse flagged offences recorded in 2016/17

3. Based on 17 police forces that supplied adequate data

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 2017) as they have had a longer period since being recorded in which to be assigned. However, not all forces submitted updated year to March 2016 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 2016.

In particular, the proportion of sexual offences that were domestic abuse-related recorded in the year ending March 2016 that had not been assigned an outcome has fallen from 28 per cent to five per cent, giving a more complete picture of the outcomes assigned to these offences. Figure 4.4 shows the evolving trend in outcomes of sexual offences recorded in the year ending March 2016. Many of the sexual offences that had not been assigned an outcome when data were first published resulted in evidential difficulties or charge/summons.

Figure 4.4: Outcomes assigned to sexual offences that were domestic abuse-related recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group and publication date



4.6 - HOW DOMESTIC ABUSE-RELATED OFFENCES WERE DEALT WITH BY THE POLICE IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2017 COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR

As in Chapter 2, in order to get an indication of genuine changes over time it is more meaningful to compare figures for the year ending March 2017 with figures for the previous year as at the time they were first published in July 2016¹⁵. As there were only data for 17 forces for year ending March 2016 these comparisons are carried out on these forces¹⁶ only.

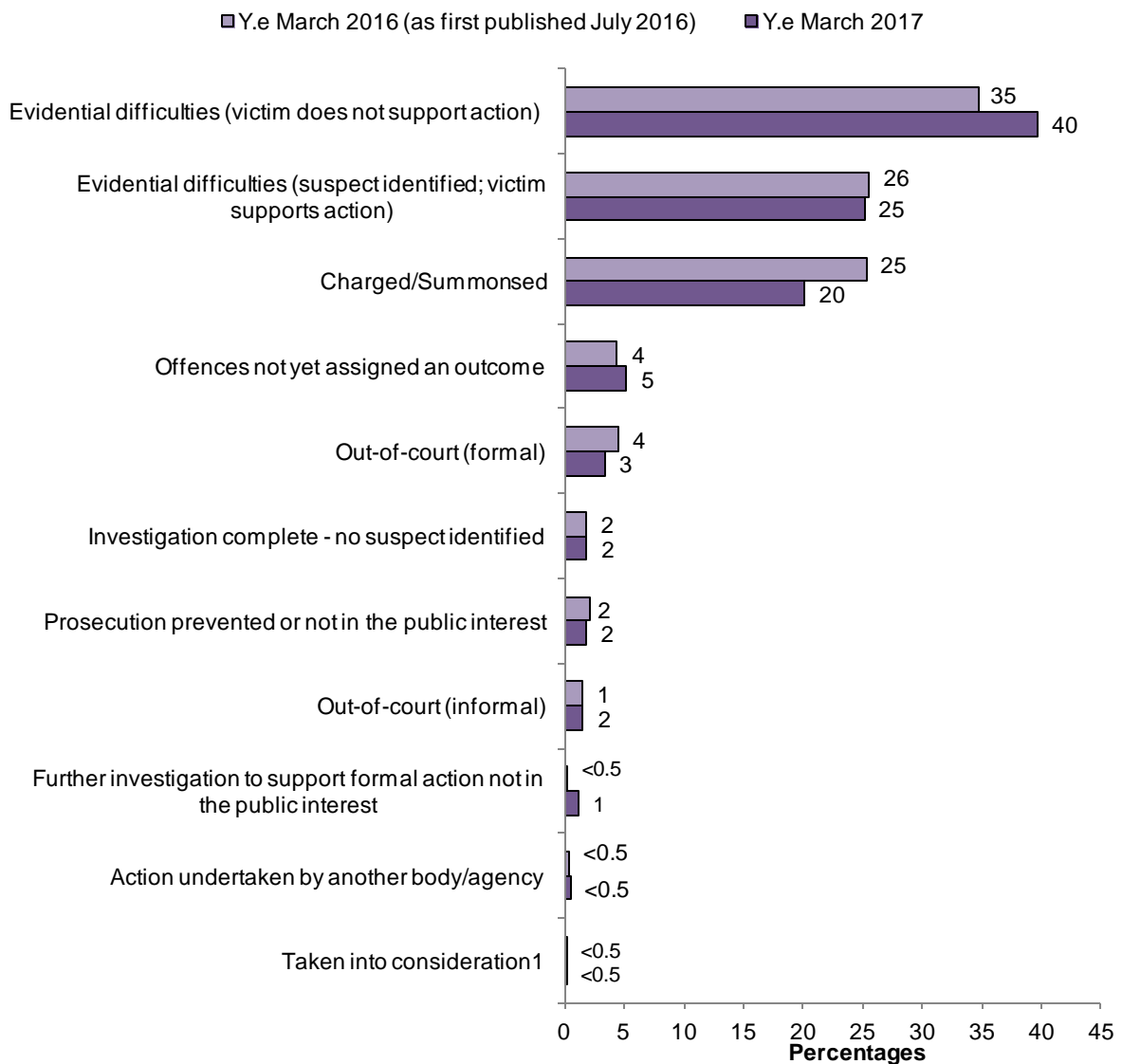
As shown in Figure 4.5, a similar proportion of crimes had been assigned an outcome in both years. However, the proportion of domestic abuse-related offences assigned a charge/summons decreased (from 25% to 20%). Conversely, the proportion of offences that resulted in evidential difficulties (victim does not support action) increased, from 35 per cent to 40 per cent in the following year. This is a similar trend to all offences (see Chapter 2).

¹⁶ 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.

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. 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 than offences that would have previously been recorded.
- An increased willingness of victims to report crimes to the police, particularly for domestic abuse related offences. 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.

Figure 4.5: Outcomes assigned to domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 (as first published July 2016) and the year ending March 2017, by outcome group



5 The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded

5.1 – INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents data on the length of time between recording an offence and assigning an outcome to that offence. The 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. Data are available for the last two years. Time, in days, is presented by median average as this measure is less susceptible to being skewed by a small number of unusually high or low values.

Findings are based on those forces that provide record-level data via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH) plus those “non-live” forces providing data of sufficient quality. 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 B1, the data for the year ending March 2017 relate to 39 forces, including the Metropolitan Police, so are likely to be representative of England and Wales.

In order to include outcomes that may have taken a long time to be assigned, the data presented in this chapter cover outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017 regardless of when the offence was initially recorded.

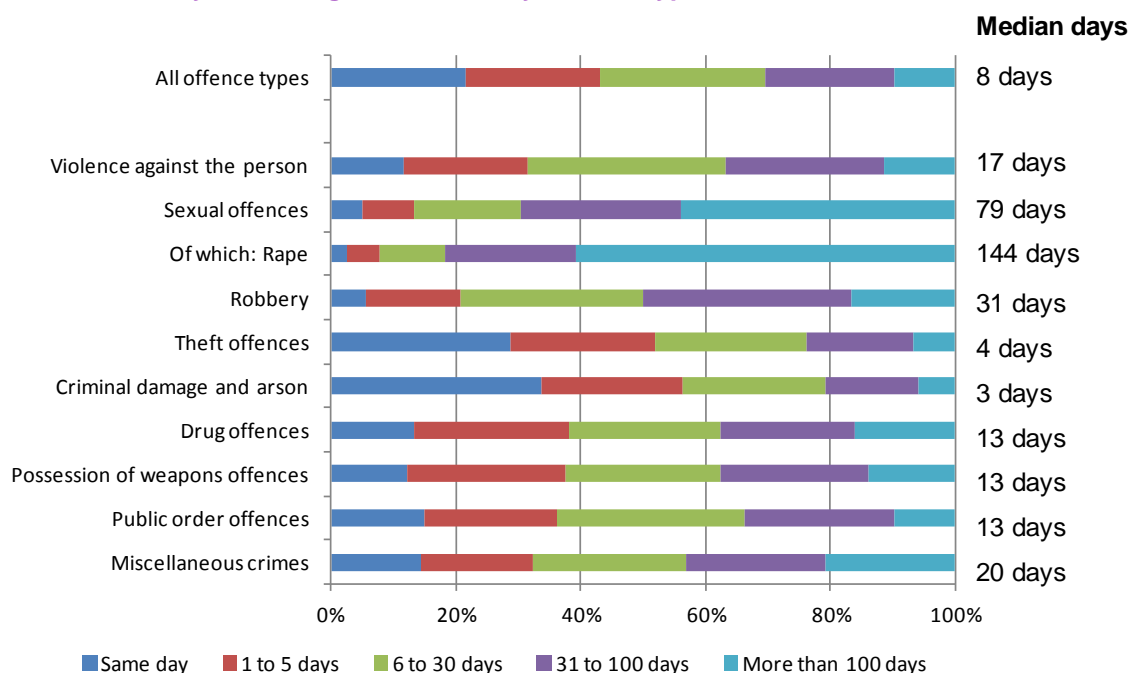
While this analysis gives an indication of the length of time to assign an outcome, it is affected by any delay between a force achieving an outcome and recording it on their system. In particular, for some of the outcomes that take 1-5 days to assign, the outcome may have been ‘actioned’ on the same 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. However, the administration of assigning the outcome on the crime recording system may happen some days later.

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

Figure 5.1 shows the median number of days between the police recording an offence and assigning an outcome to that offence, by offence group. In the year ending March 2017, it took a median of eight days to assign an outcome to an offence. Furthermore, 44 per cent of the outcomes were assigned within five days of the offence being recorded, and nearly three-quarters (70 per cent) of outcomes were assigned within 30 days. Ten per cent of outcomes took more than 100 days to be assigned.

Sexual offences generally took much longer to have outcomes assigned than other offence types. The median was 79 days, with 44 per cent taking over 100 days. The median number of days for rape offences to be assigned an outcome was 144 days, with 61 per cent taking over 100 days. This is likely to be due to the complexity of these cases and the level of investigation needed. In contrast, theft (4 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, with the offender 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 5.1: The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded for outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017, by offence type



Source: Home Office Data Hub,

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 5.1 shows how the median length of time to assign an outcome to particular offence types has changed since the previous year.

The median number of days taken to assign an outcome in the year ending March 2017 has fallen by 3 days compared with the previous year. However, there is some variation by crime types:

- The median time for a sexual offence to be assigned an outcome has decreased from 80 days in the year ending March 2016 to 79 days in the year ending March 2017. However, rape offences increased from 138 days to 144 days during the same period. This could reflect an increase in the complexity of sexual offences being reported to and recorded by the police.
- Median days to assign an outcome also fell for robbery (3 days less), theft (3 days less), criminal damage (1 days less) and public order offences (3 days less).
- The median time taken to assign an outcome also increased over the last year for some offence types: drug offences (extra 3 days) and possession of weapon offences (extra 4 days).

The Children’s Commissioner’s Office published their report ‘Investigating Child Sexual Abuse’¹⁷ in April 2017. They used data obtained from the Home Office Data Hub for 18 police forces for 2012/13 to 2015/16. They analysed this alongside national data from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). They reported that investigation processes take longer for child sexual abuse cases than for adult sexual offences. They noted that this may be due to the relative complexity of child sexual abuse offences.

¹⁷ <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Investigating-Child-Sexual-Abuse-CCO-April-2017-1.2-1.pdf>

Table 5.1: The difference in the average (median) length of time taken to assign an outcome between the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2017, by offence type

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes			
Median number of days for an outcome to be assigned			
	Y.e. March 2016	Y.e. March 2017	Difference between y.e. March 2016 and y.e. March 2017
Violence against the person	17	17	0
Sexual offences	80	79	-1
<i>of which: Rape</i>	138	144	6
Robbery	34	31	-3
Theft offences	7	4	-3
Criminal damage and arson	4	3	-1
Drug offences	10	13	3
Possession of weapons offences	9	13	4
Public order offences	16	13	-3
Miscellaneous crimes	20	20	0
All crimes (excluding fraud)	11	8	-3

Source: Home Office Data Hub, 40 forces (see Table C1), outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017 and outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017

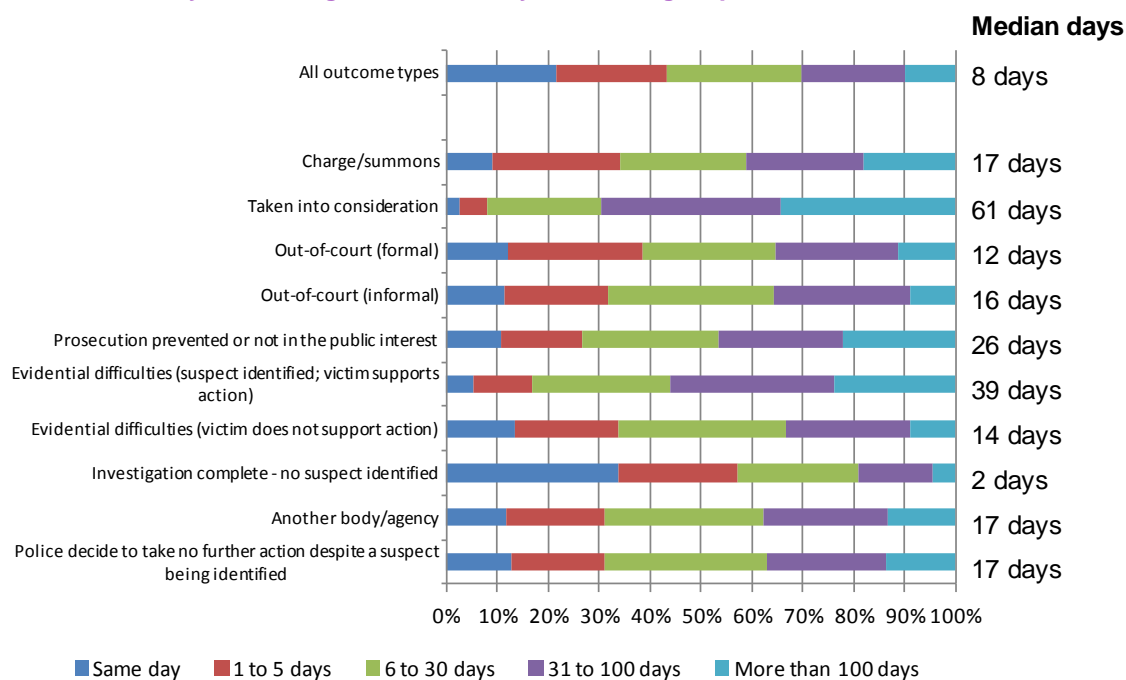
1. Average number of days taken to assign an outcome calculated using the median number of days

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

Figure 5.2 shows how the time taken for a crime to have an outcome assigned varies by outcome type. Police forces employ different administrative systems and processes which could affect 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 will affect crimes recorded at the weekend.

- Investigations completed with no suspect identified tended to be the outcomes assigned most quickly, taking a median of two days to be assigned in the year ending March 2017. Around a third of offences (34%) were assigned this outcome on the same day as the crime was recorded.
- Charge/summonses took a median of 17 days to assign, with 34 per cent assigned within five days of the offence being recorded.
- Outcomes of ‘taken into consideration’ by the court generally took the longest to assign (a median of 61 days). This is expected as these arise where the offender admits to the crime some time after it took place.

Figure 5.2: The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded for outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017, by outcome group



Source: Home Office Data Hub,

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 5.2 shows how the average (median) length of time to assign particular outcomes has changed since the previous year. Volume and type 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 2017, it took an average of 17 days to assign a charge/summons, an increase from 14 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 2017 (2 days) compared with the previous year (4 days).

Table 5.2: The difference in the average (median) length of time taken to assign an outcome between the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2017, by outcome group

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes			
Median number of days for an outcome to be assigned			
	Y.e. March 2016	Y.e. March 2017	Difference between y.e. March 2016 and y.e. March 2017
Charge/summons	14	17	3
Taken into consideration ²	65	61	-4
Out-of-court (formal)	10	12	2
Out-of-court (informal)	14	16	2
Prosecution prevented or not in the public int	27	26	-1
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victi	36	39	3
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support	16	14	-2
Investigation complete - no suspect identified	4	2	-2
Action undertaken by another body/agency ³	19	17	-2
Further investigation to support formal action	17	17	0
All crimes (excluding fraud)	11	8	-3

Source: Home Office Data Hub, 40 forces (see Table C1), outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017 and outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016

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 2016 and the year ending March 2017 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).

6 Transferred or cancelled records

6.1 – DEFINITIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES FOR TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS

A transferred or cancelled record occurs when the police record an offence, but later 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 was the first time these breakdowns have been presented covering a full year's worth of data¹⁸. 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, a full comparison is only possible for the two most recent years. Comparing years before March 2016 can only be done by looking at the total of the five categories.

6.2 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS BY OFFENCE GROUP

Data on records that were transferred or cancelled in the year ending March 2017 are shown in Table 5.1. Overall, 3.2 per cent of crimes originally recorded in the year ending March 2017 were subsequently transferred or cancelled. Most of these (2.8%) were subsequently cancelled and 0.4 per cent of crimes were transferred to another police force.

These proportions varied considerably by offence group. The highest cancelled record rate was for possession of weapons (6 per cent), whilst the lowest was for robbery (1.5 per cent). The cancelled record rate for rape offences was 3.9 per cent.

The highest proportion of records transferred to another police force was for sexual offences (1.9 per cent in the year ending March 2017), with two percent of rape offences being transferred.

¹⁸ Northamptonshire were unable to provide a breakdown of transferred and cancelled records by type for the year ending March 2016.

Table 6.1: Number and proportion of transferred or cancelled records, by offence group, year ending March 2017

	England and Wales, Recorded crime						
	Offences recorded	Transferred records	Cancelled records	Offences recorded ³	Transferred records as % of offences initially recorded	Cancelled records as % of offences initially recorded	Total transferred or cancelled records as % of offences initially recorded (all forces)
Violence against the person	1,205,634	5,533	32,675	1,167,426	0.5	2.7	3.2
Sexual offences	128,610	2,487	5,010	121,113	1.9	3.9	5.8
<i>of which: Rape</i>	43,741	870	1,721	41,150	2.0	3.9	5.9
Robbery	60,448	287	930	59,231	0.5	1.5	2.0
Theft offences	1,935,491	8,555	50,178	1,876,758	0.4	2.6	3.0
Criminal damage and arson	577,308	694	12,873	563,741	0.1	2.2	2.4
Drug offences	140,673	177	4,154	136,342	0.1	3.0	3.1
Possession of weapons offences	32,963	122	1,972	30,869	0.4	6.0	6.4
Public order offences	294,405	920	10,529	282,956	0.3	3.6	3.9
Misc. crimes against society	81,937	429	4,444	77,064	0.5	5.4	5.9
Total¹	4,501,210	20,074	124,486	4,356,650	0.4	2.8	3.2

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'.

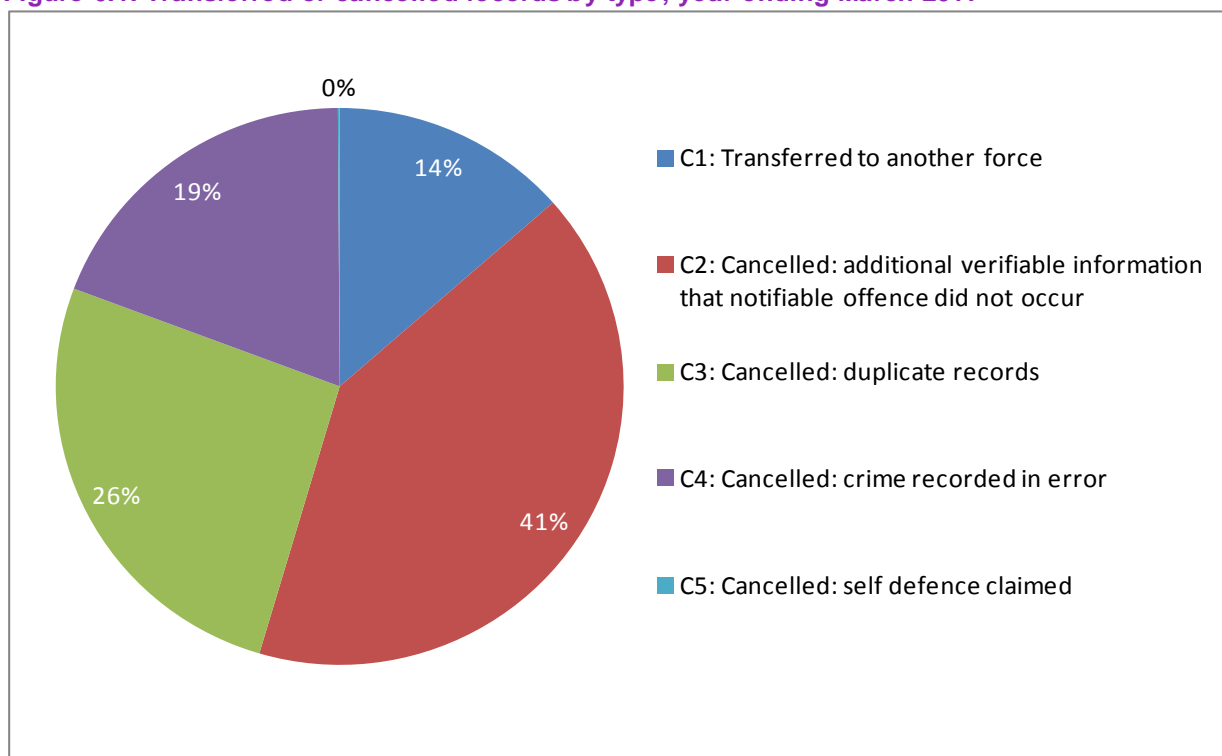
6.3 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS BY CATEGORY

Looking at the five categories of transferred and cancelled records; 40 per cent of the records that were either transferred or cancelled in the year ending March 2017 were cancelled because additional verifiable information became available that determined that no notifiable crime had been committed.

As shown in Figure 7.1, around a quarter (26%) were cancelled due to being duplicate records, around one-fifth (19%) were recorded in error and 14 per cent of records were transferred to another force. This is an increase from the previous year when only five per cent of offences 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 recorded¹⁹.

¹⁹ 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.

Figure 6.1: Transferred or cancelled records by type, year ending March 2017



Source: Police Recorded Crime, Home Office

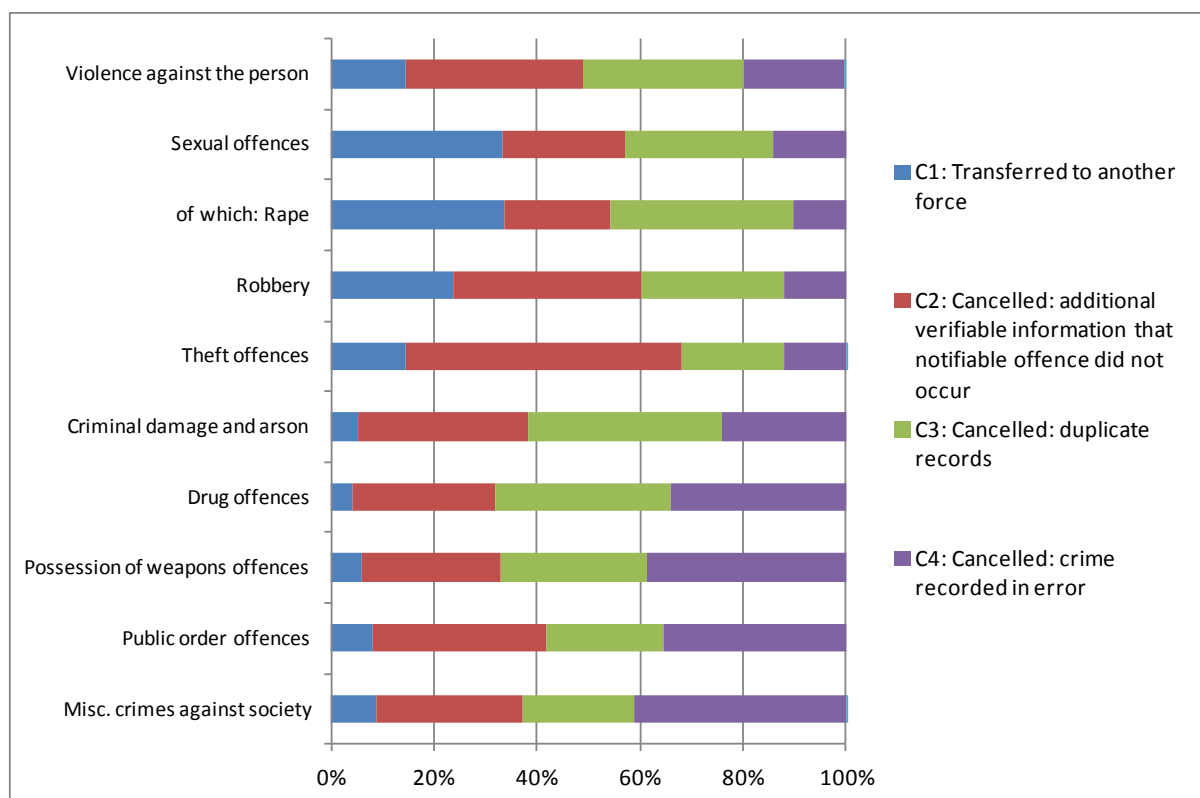
The offence group with the highest proportion of records that were transferred to another force was sexual offences (33% of all transferred and cancelled offences of this type).

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 (53 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 not to have been stolen or misplaced. Of all offence groups sexual offences had the lowest percentage of transferred or cancelled records due to additional verifiable information becoming available, at 24 per cent

Of all records that were transferred or cancelled in the year ending March 2017, 26 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 (37%) whilst the lowest proportion of duplicate records was seen for theft offences (20%).

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 (41 per cent in the year ending March 2016), followed by possession of weapons (38%). This is in contrast to the proportions of transferred or cancelled records for sexual offences (14%), theft offences (12%) and robbery (12%) which were cancelled due to being recorded in error.

Figure 6.2: Transferred or cancelled records by type broken down by offence group, year ending March 2017



Source: *Police Recorded Crime, Home Office*

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

6.4 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Comparisons of transferred and cancelled records for the current and previous year are now possible for the first time.

Table 7.2 shows that 3.2 per cent of all offences that were initially recorded as crimes in the year ending March 2017 were subsequently transferred or cancelled, a slight decrease from 3.3 per cent in the previous year. In the year ending March 2017, the offence group with the highest proportion of offences that were transferred or cancelled was possession of weapons (6.4%). In the previous year, miscellaneous crimes against society had the highest proportion (7.5%). The lowest rates were seen for robbery offences (2.0% in the year ending March 2017 compared with 1.8% in the previous year).

The transferred or cancelled rate for rape offences in the year ending March 2017 was 5.9 per cent, a slight decrease from 6.1 per cent in the previous year.

Table 6.2: Number and proportion of transferred or cancelled records, by offence group, years

	England and Wales, Recorded crime							
	Offences initially recorded		Transferred or cancelled records		Offences recorded		Transferred or cancelled records as % of offences initially recorded	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Year ending March:	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Violence against the person	1,027,899	1,205,634	33,455	38,208	994,444	1,167,426	3.3	3.2
Sexual offences	112,725	128,610	6,347	7,497	106,378	121,113	5.6	5.8
of which: Rape	38,104	43,741	2,306	2,591	35,798	41,150	6.1	5.9
Robbery	51,861	60,448	957	1,217	50,904	59,231	1.8	2.0
Theft offences	1,817,324	1,935,491	57,019	58,733	1,760,305	1,876,758	3.1	3.0
Criminal damage and arson	553,102	577,308	13,193	13,567	539,909	563,741	2.4	2.4
Drug offences	152,543	140,673	4,986	4,331	147,557	136,342	3.3	3.1
Possession of weapons offences	27,397	32,963	1,895	2,094	25,502	30,869	6.9	6.4
Public order offences	213,945	294,405	9,329	11,449	204,616	282,956	4.4	3.9
Misc. crimes against society	68,424	81,937	5,092	4,873	63,332	77,064	7.4	5.9
Total¹	4,025,220	4,501,210	132,273	144,560	3,892,947	4,356,650	3.3	3.2

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

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

6.5 – COMPARING TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS

It is important to exercise caution when comparing transferred or cancelled records 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). This is likely to lead to an increase in the number of 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 data 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:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2016-to-2017>

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 recorded in the year ending March 2017

A1 – 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 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. It is still useful to look at outcomes in this way as an additional measure of police activity in relation to crime.

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 here are therefore illustrative rather than 'true' rates and can be influenced by changes in crime volumes. The analysis presented in chapter 2 offers a more meaningful representation of how a given set of crimes are resolved and become increasingly useful when repeated over time.

A2 – OUTCOMES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2017 BY OUTCOME TYPE AND OFFENCE GROUP

Table A1 shows the number of each outcome recorded by the police in the years ending March 2016 and March 2017 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 these years (see Table 1.1).

Table A1: Outcomes recorded in the years ending March 2016 and March 2017, by outcome type

		England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes			
Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Year ending March 2016		Year ending March 2017	
		Number of outcomes	Rate ²	Number of outcomes	Rate ²
1	Charged/Summonsed	561,541	14.4	527,076	12.2
4	Taken into consideration³	13,266	0.3	11,088	0.3
	Out-of-court (formal)	145,096	3.7	118,824	2.8
2	Caution - youths	18,364	0.5	15,711	0.4
3	Caution - adults	101,789	2.6	84,902	2.0
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	24,943	0.6	18,211	0.4
	Out-of-court (informal)	156,299	4.0	143,458	3.3
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	36,553	0.9	33,514	0.8
8	Community resolution	119,746	3.1	109,944	2.5
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	94,568	2.4	61,017	1.4
5	Offender died	1,343	0.0	1,285	0.0
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	9,218	0.2	3,483	0.1
10	Not in public interest (Police)	61,029	1.6	30,259	0.7
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	5,286	0.1	6,471	0.1
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	10,607	0.3	11,546	0.3
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	1,493	0.0	1,558	0.0
17	Prosecution time limit expired	5,592	0.1	6,415	0.1
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	381,788	9.8	448,866	10.4
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	534,346	13.7	743,569	17.2
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	131,224	3.4	173,084	4.0
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	403,122	10.4	570,485	13.2
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	1,924,214	49.5	2,123,533	49.2
20	Action undertaken by another body/agency	19,585	0.5	34,763	0.8
21	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest⁴	1,299	0.0	37,789	0.9
Total recorded offences¹		3,888,053		4,315,500	

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

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

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

4. Outcome 21 was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis and became mandatory from April 2016.

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

'Rates' can be 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.

A3 – OUTCOMES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2017 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

Table A2 shows a comparison of the volume of charge/summons recorded between the year ending March 2017 and the previous year.

The number of charge/summons fell six per cent compared with the previous year, whilst recorded crime increased by 11 per cent. In the same period the number of evidential difficulties outcomes recorded has increased by 30 per cent (Table A1).

Table A2: Number of offences and charge/summons recorded in the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2017, by offence group

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes						
	Number of offences		% change	Number of charge/summons		% change
	Y.e. March 2016	Y.e. March 2017		Y.e. March 2016	Y.e. March 2017	
Violence against the person	992,366	1,167,426	17.6	177,817	167,812	-5.6
Sexual offences	106,131	121,113	14.1	17,668	15,844	-10.3
Robbery	51,110	59,231	15.9	8,315	7,817	-6.0
Theft offences	1,757,984	1,876,758	6.8	174,657	161,659	-7.4
Criminal damage and arson	539,439	563,741	4.5	43,279	39,120	-9.6
Drug offences	148,706	136,342	-8.3	57,476	52,953	-7.9
Possession of weapons offence	25,626	30,869	20.5	14,481	15,594	7.7
Public order offences	204,259	282,956	38.5	46,088	44,753	-2.9
Misc. crimes against society	62,432	77,064	23.4	21,630	21,524	-0.5
Total¹	3,888,053	4,315,500	11.0	561,411	527,076	-6.1

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

Annex B: Crime Outcomes Data Quality

B1 - 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, 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.

B2 – 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.

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. Some other forces have subsequently also limited their use of some out of court disposals. This may lead to apparent falls in some of these outcome types (e.g. cannabis/khat warnings) which may be accompanied by increases in outcomes 3 and 8 which will have been used in their place.

B3 – 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 9 forces, the year ending March 2017 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 years ending March 2016 and March 2017, 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.

B4 – 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 37 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.

B5 – 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 2017 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 2017.

The data for the year ending March 2017 that are presented in Chapter 2 therefore covers all 44 police forces (including the British Transport Police) and is based on HODH data for 34 forces and figures voluntarily provided by forces ten forces (see Table C1). Data for year ending March 2017 were taken from the HODH in early June 2017, and the remaining forces voluntarily provided their data for year on different dates between early-April and mid-June 2017. The proportion of crimes recorded in March 2017 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 2017 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 2017 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 2017 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 2016. Updated figures for the year ending March 2016 reflect the fact that crimes have had an additional year in which to be assigned an outcome.). Forces voluntarily provided these data to the Home Office on different dates. Of the forces that provided year ending March 2016 data, 39 updated these alongside data for the year to March 2017. The 5 forces that did not revise data may appear to have fewer than expected outcomes assigned during year to March 2016,

B6 – 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 B1: Forces providing outcomes data

Force	Outcomes of offences recorded in period (Chapter 2)			Full data on outcomes recorded (Annex A)	Timeliness data (Chapter 5)		% of March 2017 recorded crime
	Force data included from ¹	How y.e. March 2016 data provided ^{2,3}	How y.e. March 2017 data provided ²	Full outcomes data (types 5, 9-18) from ⁴	Force data included for y.e. March 2017	Force data included for comparison with y.e. March 2016	
Avon and Somerset	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	No	No	3.1
Bedfordshire	Jul-14	HODH	HODH	Jul-14	Yes	Yes	1.0
British Transport Police	Apr-15	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.2
Cambridgeshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.2
Cheshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.5
Cleveland	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.2
Cumbria	Apr-15	Manual	Manual	Aug-14	Yes	Yes	0.6
Derbyshire	Apr-14	HODH	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	1.2
Devon and Cornwall	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.0
Dorset	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.0
Durham	Apr-14	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.1
Dyfed-Powys	Oct-14	Manual	Manual	May-14	Yes	Yes	0.5
Essex	Apr-15	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	2.8
Gloucestershire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.7
Greater Manchester	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	6.1
Gwent	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.0
Hampshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	3.5
Hertfordshire	Jul-14	Manual	HODH	Jul-14	Yes	Yes	1.7
Humber	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.8
Kent	Apr-14	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	3.1
Lancashire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.5
Leicestershire	Apr-15	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	1.6
Lincolnshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.9
London, City of	Apr-14	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.1
Merseyside	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.6
Metropolitan Police	Dec-14	Manual	HODH	Dec-14	Yes	Yes	17.8
Norfolk	Jul-14	Manual	Manual	Jul-14	Yes	Yes	1.2
Northamptonshire	Apr-14	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.3
Northumbria	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.9
North Wales	Apr-14	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.9
North Yorkshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.9
Nottinghamshire	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.9
South Wales	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.3
South Yorkshire	Jul-14	Manual	HODH	Jul-14	Yes	Yes	2.8
Staffordshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.8
Suffolk	Jul-14	Manual	N/A	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	3.2
Warwickshire	Apr-15	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.9
West Mercia	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.9
West Midlands	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	4.8
West Yorkshire	Jul-14	HODH	HODH	Jun-14	Yes	Yes	5.5
Wiltshire	Apr-15	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	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-four forces submitted updated year to March 2016 data to the Home Office alongside data for the year to March 2017. The further 19 forces that did not revise these data may appear to have fewer than expected outcomes assigned during year to March 2016.

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 2017 covers all outcome types for all forces.

B7 – 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.
- Checking that outcome 7 has not been applied to any non-cannabis or khat offences.

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.

B8 – 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 2017”:

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

Statistics on crimes recorded by the police that appear in “Crimes in England and Wales: Year ending March 2017” 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.

B9 – 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 B2: Trends in the number of outcomes and outcome rates by outcome type, year ending March 2003 to year ending March 2017

Outcome type	England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes														
	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 2017	y.e. Mar 2016 to y.e. Mar 2017
															% change
Charge/summons (Type 1)	752,069	698,640	700,101	673,714	657,230	681,472	651,757	658,713	633,985	584,600	602,390	596,396	561,541	527,076	-6.1
Cautions (Types 2 & 3)	220,005	257,783	304,461	351,244	351,552	313,702	264,873	232,355	205,760	183,658	164,084	143,801	120,153	100,613	-16.3
TICs ¹ (Type 4)	88,204	88,386	103,363	111,328	99,021	96,875	76,244	71,896	63,898	55,197	40,959	23,557	13,266	11,088	-16.4
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	24,943	18,211	-27.0
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	36,553	33,514	-8.3
Other ^{4,5,6} (Types 5, 8 & 9)	284,320	265,721	191,187	80,770	911	2,931	7,244	10,375	53,322	66,907	109,255	125,215	130,307	114,712	-12.0
Total number of offences⁷	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	3,573,963	3,888,053	4,315,500	11.0
															% point change
Charge/summons (Type 1)	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	12.2	-2.2
Cautions (Types 2 & 3)	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	2.3	-0.8
TICs ¹ (Type 4)	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	-0.1
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	0.4	-0.2
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	0.8	-0.2
Other ^{4,5,6} (Types 5, 8 & 9)	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	2.7	-0.7

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.

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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