Overview

Out of court disposals

- In the most recent year, 1.20 million offenders received sentences at courts in England and Wales in 2017. Most were fines:
  - Fines: 26%
  - Other sentences: 1%
  - Community sentence: 26%
  - Suspended sentence: 7%
  - Immediate custody: 7%

Change in the number of defendants prosecuted (2007-2017)

- The overall conviction ratio increased in the latest year, from 85% in 2016 to 86% in 2017. It has seen a steady increase of around one percentage point per year since 2013.

Prosecutions and convictions

- A total of 1.20 million defendants prosecuted in 2017 overall in England and Wales. The overall conviction ratio was 85%.

Number of defendants prosecuted and compared by trial method by year (2007 to 2017), and the number of sentences for each year by 10.

Proportion of convictions for indictable offences by previous offending history

- 35% of defendants tried or sentenced at the Crown Court were remanded in custody.
- 69% of people remanded in custody at the Crown Court were later sentenced to immediate custody, and most (60%) remanded at the magistrates’ court were then committed for trial or sentence at the Crown Court.

Sentencing

- The average custodial sentence length has increased by 7.4 months in the past ten years, to 16.9 months in 2017.
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Category of conviction by method of trial (%)

- The largest decrease between 2016 and 2017 was for Speed limit offences.

Motoring offences

- The total number of motoring offences has decreased by 4% between 2016 and 2017.

Saving offenders

- Offences for drug driving have seen a decrease of 11%.
- The proportion of offenders given cautions has fallen from 31% in 2007 to 23% in 2017.

Overview of statistics

- The number of defendants and companies formally dealt with by the Criminal Justice System in 2017 was 1.64 million, this continued the falling trend over the past decade.

In the most recent year, the number of defendants prosecuted fell 4% and the number of out of court disposals issued fell by 14%.

Out of court disposals

- In the most recent year: the number of penalty notices for disorder fell by 28% and the number of cautions fell by 19%.

Penalty Notices for Disorder, 2017

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