



Ministry
of Justice



Mortgage and Landlord Possession Statistics in England and Wales

July to September 2016

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

Published: 10 November 2016

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Introduction

This quarterly bulletin presents statistics on mortgage and landlord possession actions in the county courts of England and Wales in July to September 2016. The statistics provide summary figures on the volume and progression of cases that follow the court process of repossessing a property.

Court Caseload

A mortgage or landlord possession action starts when a mortgage lender or landlord completes and submits a claim to the courts to repossess a property. The most common reason for repossession is arrears of mortgage or rent. The court process of possessing a property broadly follows four stages: a claim being issued to the court, an order being made to recover the property, a warrant of possession and repossession by county court bailiff.

Figures for each of these four processes are presented in the Excel tables and CSV files that accompany this publication.

This report also includes UK wide total mortgage repossession figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML). These are not directly comparable to the other figures in this report, which are England and Wales only and only cover county court bailiff repossessions.

Case Timeliness

Two measures of case timeliness are included in this bulletin. The first looks at how long it has taken (in weeks) to get to each stage in the relevant court process from the date when the claim was received, whilst the second reports how long it takes, on average, for claims to reach each stage in the process (number of quarters elapsed) alongside the proportion of claims that actually reach each stage.

Seasonal Adjustment

Seasonal adjustment aims to remove regular seasonal patterns in a time series to show how it changes from quarter to quarter and give a clearer picture of the longer term trends. Possession actions tend to vary due to seasonal effects - since these seasonal effects follow a regular annual pattern, their impact on the series can be removed by seasonally adjusting the data. Please see 'A Guide to Civil and Administrative Justice Statistics'¹ for more information on how these figures are calculated.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/guide-to-civil-and-administrative-justice-statistics

Users of the statistics

These statistics are a leading indicator of the number of properties to be repossessed and the only source of sub-national possession information. In addition to monitoring court workloads, they are used to assist in the development, monitoring and evaluation of policy both nationally and locally.

The main users of these statistics are Ministers and officials in central government departments, such as the Department of Communities and Local Government and HM Treasury. Other users include non-governmental bodies, including various voluntary organisations, with an interest in housing and homelessness, such as Shelter.

Changes to reporting

There are no reporting changes to this publication.

Next publication

The next publication of Mortgage and Landlord Possession Statistics Quarterly in England and Wales is scheduled to be published on 9 February 2017, covering the period October to December 2016.

Key Findings

Mortgage possession

- All stages of the mortgage possession actions recorded in county courts in July to September 2016, have decreased when compared to the same quarter last year (July to September 2015).
- Mortgage possession claims (4,486), orders for possession (2,694), warrants of possession (4,335) and repossessions by county court bailiffs (1,210) were down 10%, 22%, 31% and 15% respectively compared to the same quarter last year, continuing the long-term downward trend seen since January to March 2009.
- Average time from a claim being issued to the order and warrant stage has reduced to 15.2 and 83.0 weeks in this quarter, from 18.4 and 88.8 weeks in July to September 2015.
- Average time from claim to repossession by county court bailiff has increase and is now at over two and half years (140.9 weeks), compared to 104.5 weeks in the same quarter last year. The increase seen in average time from claim to repossession can be attributed to the time between a warrant being issued and an eventual repossession.
- Just under a fifth (19%) of mortgage repossession claims lead to repossessions by county court bailiffs (based on the progression of claims made in 2013, due to the average 2 year lag from claim to repossession). This proportion has been reducing since a peak of 28% in 2010.

Landlord possession

- All stages of the landlord possession actions recorded in county courts in July to September 2016, have decreased when compared to the same quarter last year (July to September 2015).
- Landlord possession claims (34,414), orders for possession (26,157), warrants of possession (18,450) and repossessions by county court bailiffs (9,689) were down 11%, 10%, 8% and 14% respectively compared to the same quarter last year. This is continuing the annual downward trend in landlord possession claims, seen since April to June quarter 2014.
- Average time from claim being issued to the order and warrant stage stood at 11.3 and 36.8 weeks, compared to 11.1 and 37.2 weeks in July to September 2015. For claims to repossession by county court bailiff, the average time was 42.5 weeks, compared to 41.3 weeks in July to September 2015.

- Just under a quarter (23%) of landlord possession claims lead to a repossession by county court bailiffs (based on the progression of claims from 2014, due to the 1 year lag from claim to repossession). This proportion has been stable between 19-23% since 2001.

1: Mortgage possession actions

The number of mortgage possession actions² in court increased from 2002 to 2008, and has been decreasing since then (Figure 1 and Table 1). The total number of properties repossessed³ has followed a similar trend.

The fall in the number of mortgage possession actions since 2008 coincides with lower interest rates⁴, a proactive approach from lenders in managing consumers in financial difficulties and other interventions from the government, such as the Mortgage Rescue Scheme. Other factors that may have contributed to the rapid fall in the number of mortgage possession claims and orders since 2008 include the introduction of the Mortgage Pre-Action Protocol (see Annex B on policy changes for more information).

Additionally, the downward trend in recent years coincides with a decrease in the proportion of owner-occupier households and an increase in the proportion of households who own their property outright (therefore the population susceptible to mortgage repossessions has reduced over this time period). For example, in England, owner-occupiers reduced from a peak of 71% of all households in 2003 to 64% in 2014/15. Outright owners increased from 25% (of all households) in 1991, to 33% in 2014/15⁵.

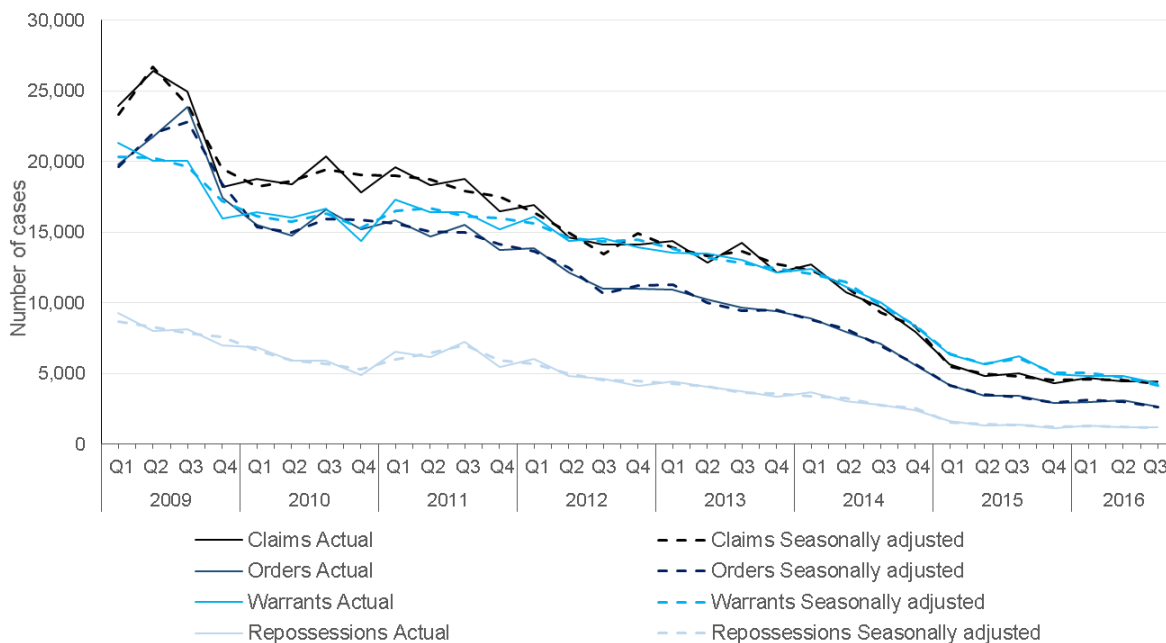
² Actions includes claims, orders, warrants of possession, and repossession by county court bailiffs

³ Including those not repossessed by county court bailiffs and repossessions in Scotland (CML figures)

⁴ At the end of September 2008, the base rate set by the Bank of England was 5%. By the end of March 2009 it was 0.5%, where it stayed until August 2016 where it was reduced to 0.25% and has remained at that level for the rest of the period covered in this bulletin (see www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/Pages/default.aspx)

⁵ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-housing-survey-2014-to-2015-headline-report Section 1 household tables', table AT1.1.

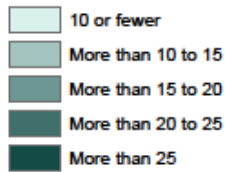
Figure 1: Mortgage possession actions (actual and seasonally adjusted) in England & Wales, 2009 Q1 to 2016 Q3



Claims issued: A possession claim is created when a claimant begins a legal action for an order for possession of property by making a claim that is then issued in a county court. There were 4,486 mortgage possession claims issued in July to September 2016, down 10% on the same quarter in 2015 (5,012). After seasonal adjustment, the number of claims was 4,278 in July to September 2016, a decrease of 7% when compared to the previous quarter (4,583).

Map 1: Mortgage Possession Claims in England & Wales, by Local Authority, 2016 Q3⁶

Mortgage possessions claims per 100,000 households



The number of mortgage possession claims per 100,000 households by local authority ranged from zero (in three local authorities; Mid Devon, West Devon and West Somerset) to 60, in City of London. There were three other areas with more than 40 mortgage possession claims per 100,000 households (Caerphilly, Isle of Anglesey and Neath Port Talbot).

⁶ Based on the defendant's address. See Annex C for more information on Maps

Orders: The court may grant an order following a judicial hearing which can be either for immediate possession (outright order) or suspended. A total of 2,694 orders were made in July to September 2016, down 22% on the same period in 2016 (3,440). Seasonally adjusted figures show a 13% decrease compared to the number of orders made in July to September 2016 (from 3,019 to 2,632).

Of the mortgage possession orders made in July to September 2016, 35% were suspended compared with 65% outright. Annually, from 2006 to 2014, between 46% and 50% of orders were suspended each year - this proportion dropped to 43% in 2015.

Warrants of possession⁷: Having received an order, or if the terms of a suspended order are broken, the claimant can apply for a warrant of possession. There were 4,335 warrants of possession in July to September 2016, a 31% decrease on the same period in 2015 (6,255) and the lowest quarterly figure since the beginning of the warrants quarterly series (in 2000). Seasonally adjusted figures show a 12% decrease in the number of warrants on the previous quarter from 4,759 to 4,197.

Repossessions in England and Wales by county court bailiffs: Once a warrant has been issued, county court bailiffs can repossess the property on behalf of the claimant. There were 1,210 repossessions by county court bailiffs in July to September 2016, down 15% on the same quarter in 2015 (1,423). Seasonally adjusted figures show a 3% decrease on the previous quarter from 1,216 to 1,175.

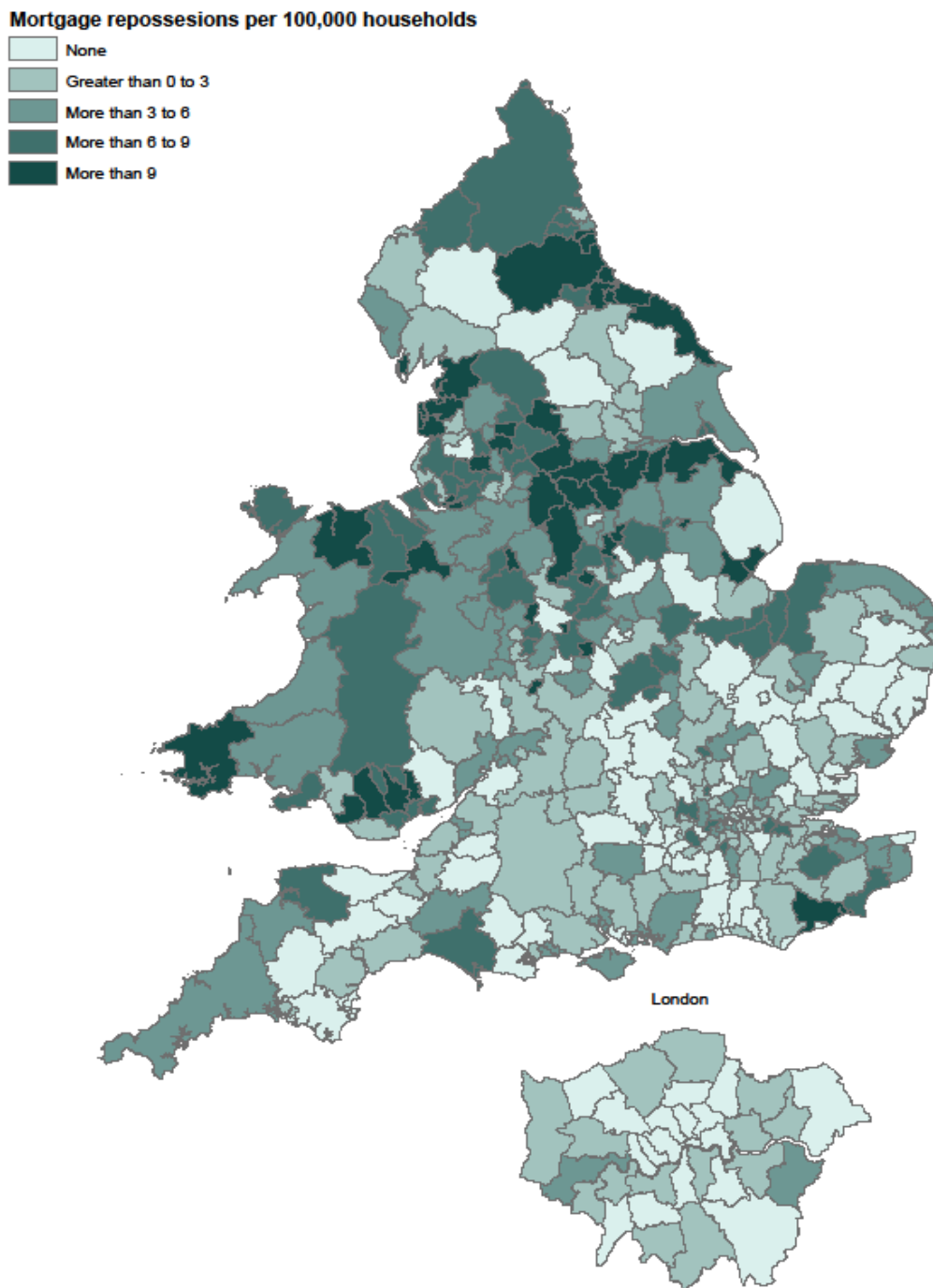
Just under a fifth (19%) of mortgage repossession claims lead to repossessions by county court bailiffs in 2013 (the most recent year of complete data, due to the lag from claim to repossession). This proportion has been reducing since a peak of 28% in 2010.

All repossessions in the UK: The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) publish UK-wide, actual mortgage repossession figures, in which there were 1,900 repossessions in April to June 2016⁸. This figure includes repossessions carried out by county court bailiffs and also other types of repossessions.

⁷ Multiple warrants may be issued per claim.

⁸ The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) figure is presented in this bulletin with a delay of three months, as they publish on the same day as this publication. This figure relates to all repossessions made in the United Kingdom whereas all other statistics in this bulletin relate to England and Wales, and are for county court bailiff repossessions only.

Map 2: Mortgage Repossessions by County Court Bailiff in England & Wales by Local Authority, 2016 Q3⁹



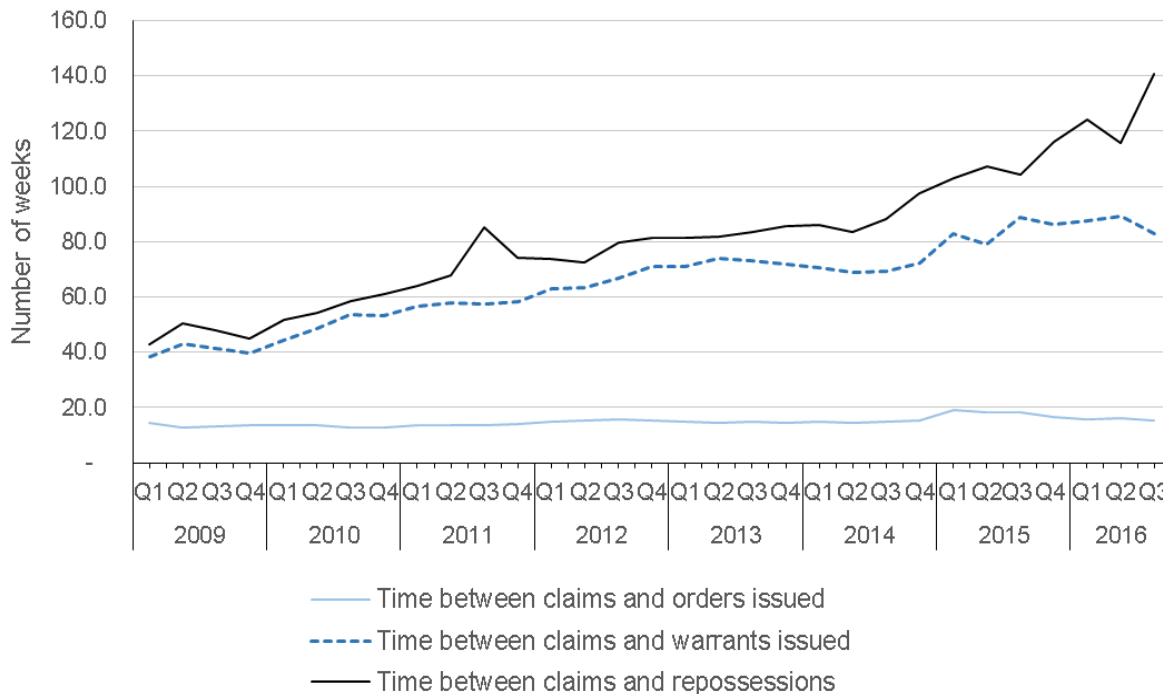
Rotherham had the highest number of repossessions by county court bailiffs per 100,000 households in July to September 2016, at 79. No repossessions by county court bailiffs were recorded during this period in 78 local authorities.

Case Timeliness: Figure 2 shows the average number of weeks taken since the initial claim for those orders, warrants and repossessions made by county court bailiffs, in each quarter. Figure 3 shows the percentage of

⁹ Based on the defendant's address. See Annex C for more information on Maps

mortgage claims that reach each stage by the number of quarters since the claim was submitted.

Figure 2: Average number of weeks taken from initial mortgage possession claim for orders, warrants and repossessions made by county court bailiffs, in England and Wales, 2009 Q1 – 2016 Q3



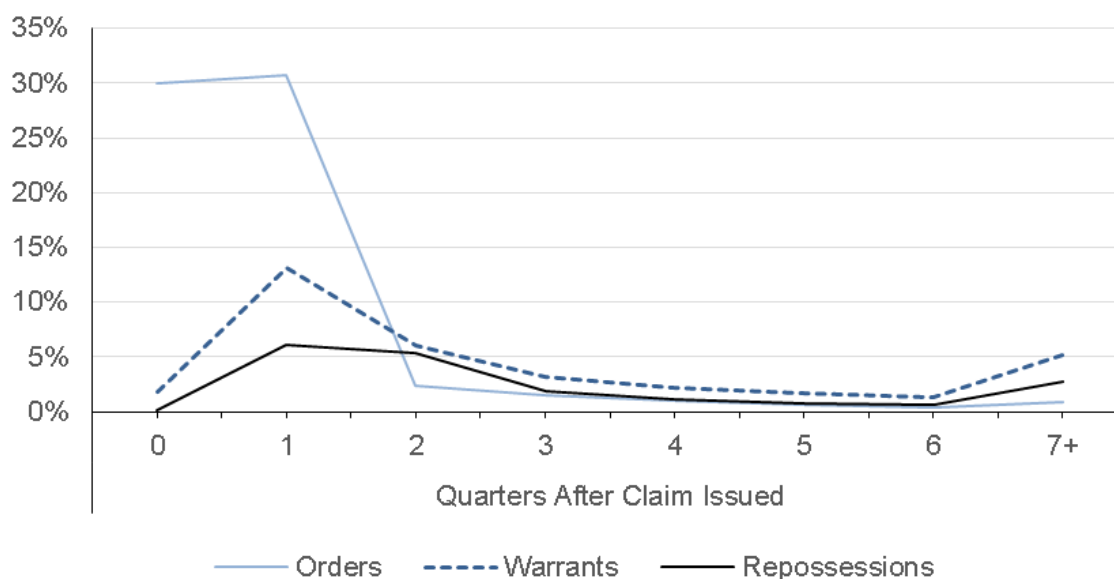
As shown in figure 2, the average time from claim being issued to the repossession by county court bailiff has been increasing over the last eight years, to a peak in this (July to September 2016) quarter, where it was recorded at over two and half years (140.9 weeks), compared to 104.5 weeks in the same quarter last year.

The average time from claim to warrants being issued had also been rising, although to a lesser extent, until last year where the average plateaued. The average time between claim and order being issued has remained fairly constant over the same period.

Over the same period, the number and proportion of claims leading to each stage have been declining. In Q1 2009, 47% of claims lead to a warrant and 29% to a repossession. This reduced to 25% and 14% respectively in Q3 2014 (the most recent quarter in which we would expect the vast majority of claims to have reached the repossession stage, due to the 2 year lag from claim to repossession).

In the most recent quarter, the average time from a claim being issued to the order and warrant stage has decreased over the last year, from 18.4 and 88.8 weeks respectively in July to September 2015, to 15.2 and 83.0 weeks. As a result, the increase seen in average time from claim to repossession can be attributed to the time between a warrant being issued and an eventual repossession.

Figure 3: Percentage of mortgage possession claims that reach each stage by the number of quarters since the claim was submitted, in England and Wales, 2011 Q2 – 2016 Q3



Orders: The average number of weeks taken since initial claim has increased steadily from 11.9 weeks for orders made in 2005 to 15.1 weeks in 2012 and this remained relatively stable up to 2014. Figures for 2015 show an increase in the average time taken to 18.2 weeks.

In July to September 2016, the average was 15.2 weeks, 3 weeks less compared to July to September 2015 (18.4 weeks). Of those claims submitted in the past five years, just over two-thirds have currently progressed to orders – three-fifths progressed either within the same quarter or by the end of the quarter following that in which the claim was lodged.

Warrants: The average number of weeks taken since initial claim for warrants issued remained steady between 2005 and 2008, ranging between 32 and 33 weeks. This then rose consecutively to 72.4 weeks in 2013 before falling slightly to 70.2 weeks in 2014. For those warrants recorded in 2015, it took on average 84.1 weeks from the initial claim, the longest recorded average time since records began.

In July to September 2016, this figure stood at 83.0 weeks, nearly 6 weeks less than the same period last year (88.8 weeks). Of those claims submitted in the past five years, 35% have currently progressed to warrants - 2% progressed in the quarter in which the claim was lodged and 13% progressed in the subsequent quarter.

Repossessions by County Court Bailiffs: Annually, the average time taken in weeks from an initial claim to a repossession by county court bailiff has increased from 39.1 weeks in 2005, reaching 107.1 weeks in 2015.

In July to September 2016, the average time taken from claim to repossession was 140.9 weeks, an increase of just over 36 weeks on the same quarter in 2015 (July to September 2015). Further work is planned to

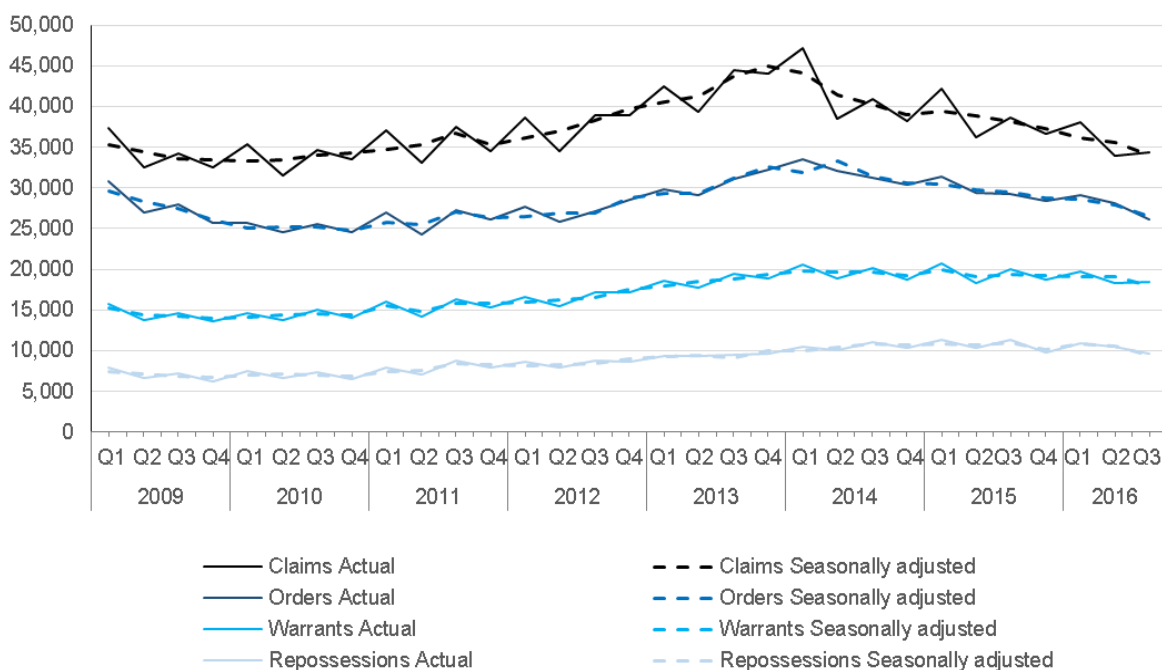
investigate the possible drivers of these trends and will be reported on in future publications.

Of the claims submitted in the past five years, just under a fifth (19%) have progressed to repossessions – none progressed to this stage in the same quarter as the claim and 6% progressed by the end of the quarter following that in which the claim was lodged. Three percent of claims that progressed to repossessions took over seven quarters to reach this stage.

2: Landlord possession actions

Annually, landlord possession claims decreased between 2002 and 2010 and subsequently increased until a peak in 2013. The number of claims has since been falling indicating a reversal in trend (Figure 4 and Table 4).

Figure 4: Number of landlord possession actions (actual and seasonally adjusted) in England & Wales, 2009 Q1 to 2016 Q3



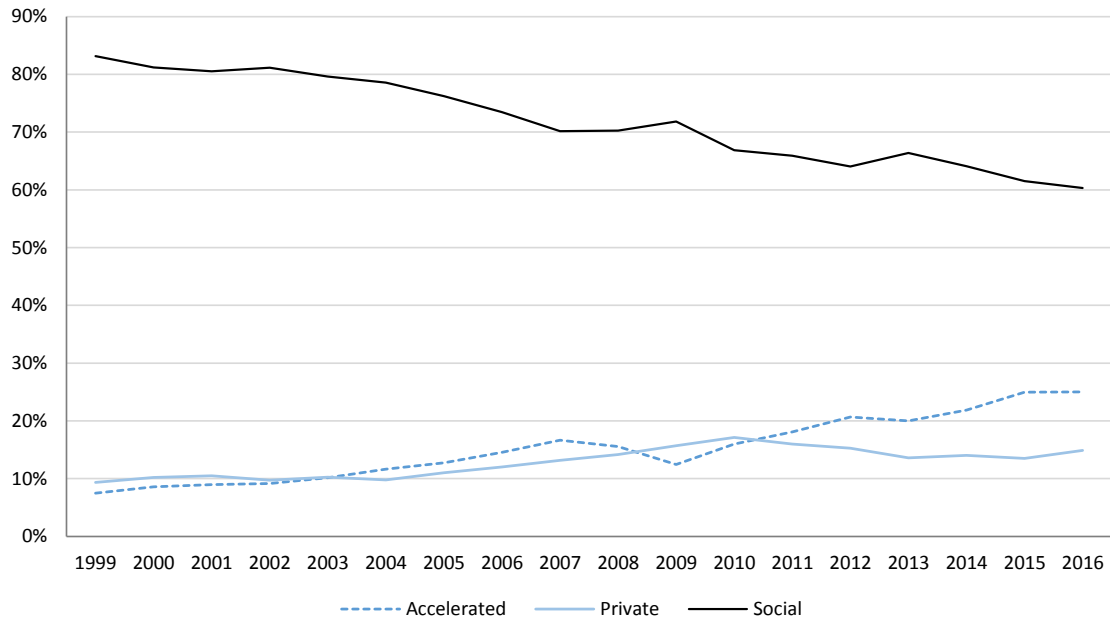
Claims issued: A possession claim is created when a claimant begins legal action for an order for possession of property by making a claim that is then issued in a county court. There were 34,414 landlord possession claims issued in July to September 2016, down 11% on the same quarter in 2015 (38,662). After seasonal adjustment, the number of claims was 34,001 in July to September 2016, a decrease of 4% on the previous quarter (35,589).

Within landlord possession claims, there are three types of claims: social landlord, private landlord and accelerated claims. Accelerated claims can be used by both private and social landlords under certain circumstances and are usually quicker than normal evictions. In July to September 2016, the majority of landlord possession claims (20,753, 60%) were social landlord claims, 8,532 (25%) were accelerated claims and 5,129 (15%) were private landlord claims.

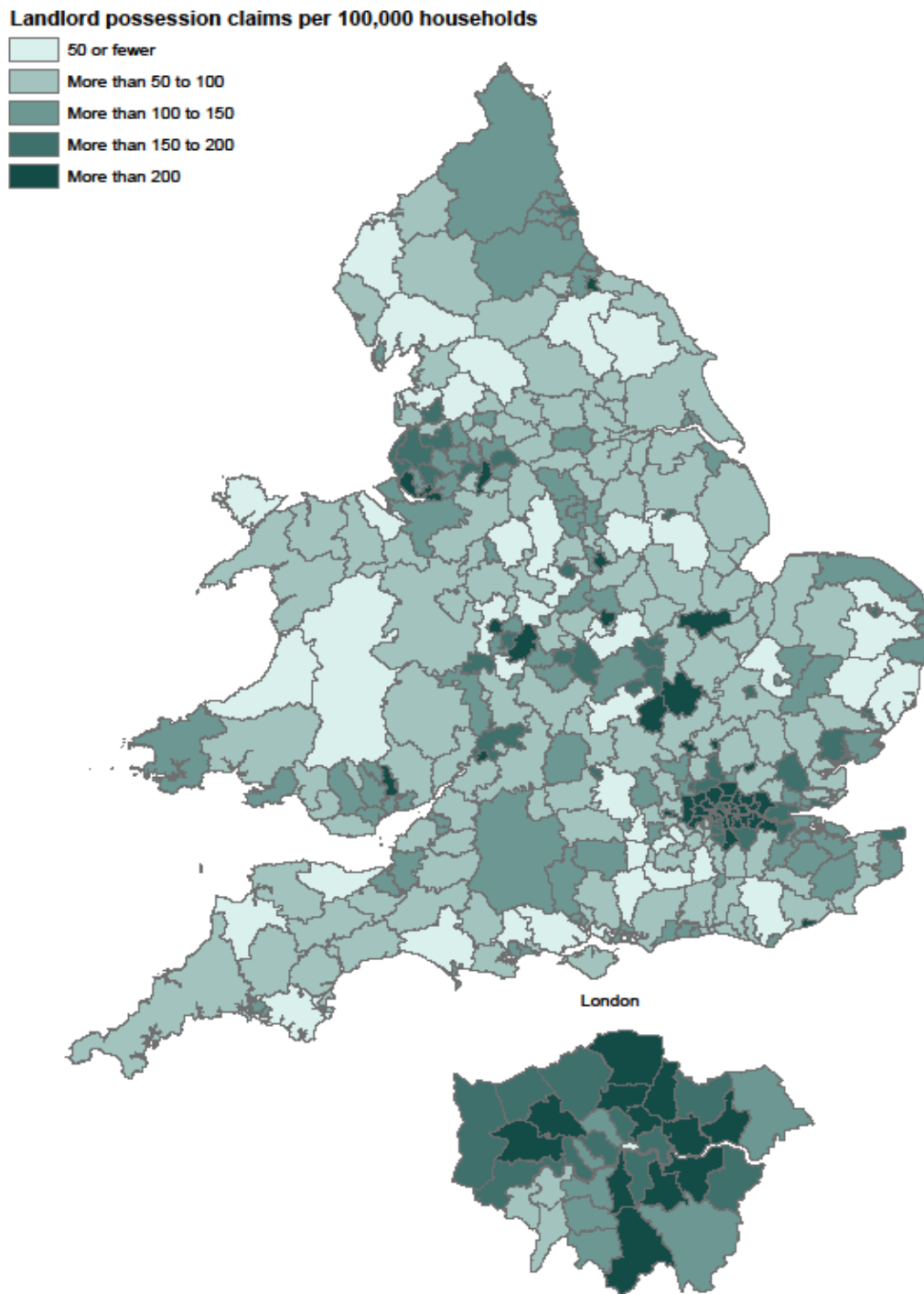
The proportion of social landlord claims has fallen from 83% in 1999 to 62% in 2015. Whereas, the proportion of private landlord claims increased from 9% in 1999 to a peak of 17% in 2010. Since then it has declined, to 13% in 2015. Private and social landlord claims as a proportion of total landlord claims have fallen from 93% in 1999 to 75% in 2015. Claims on the

accelerated procedure, in comparison, have increased from 7% in 1999 to 25% in 2015.

Figure 5: Proportion of Social, Private and Accelerated Landlord Claims in England & Wales, 1999 to 2016 Q3



Map 3: Landlord Possession Claims in England & Wales by Local Authority, 2016 Q3¹⁰



Staffordshire Moorlands showed the lowest rate of landlord possession claims (7 per 100,000 household) whilst Barking and Dagenham showed the highest (473 per 100,000 household). London boroughs account for 19

¹⁰ Based on the defendant's address. See Annex C for more information on Maps

of the 20 local authorities with the highest rate of landlord claims (with Slough being the area outside of London).

Orders: The court may grant an order following a judicial hearing which can be either for immediate possession (outright order) or suspended. A total of 26,157 landlord possession orders were made in July to September 2016, down 10% on the same period in 2015 (29,203). Seasonally adjusted figures show this decreased by 5% when compared to the previous quarter (from 27,913 to 26,435).

In July to September 2016, just over one-third landlord possession orders were suspended while just under two-thirds were outright orders.

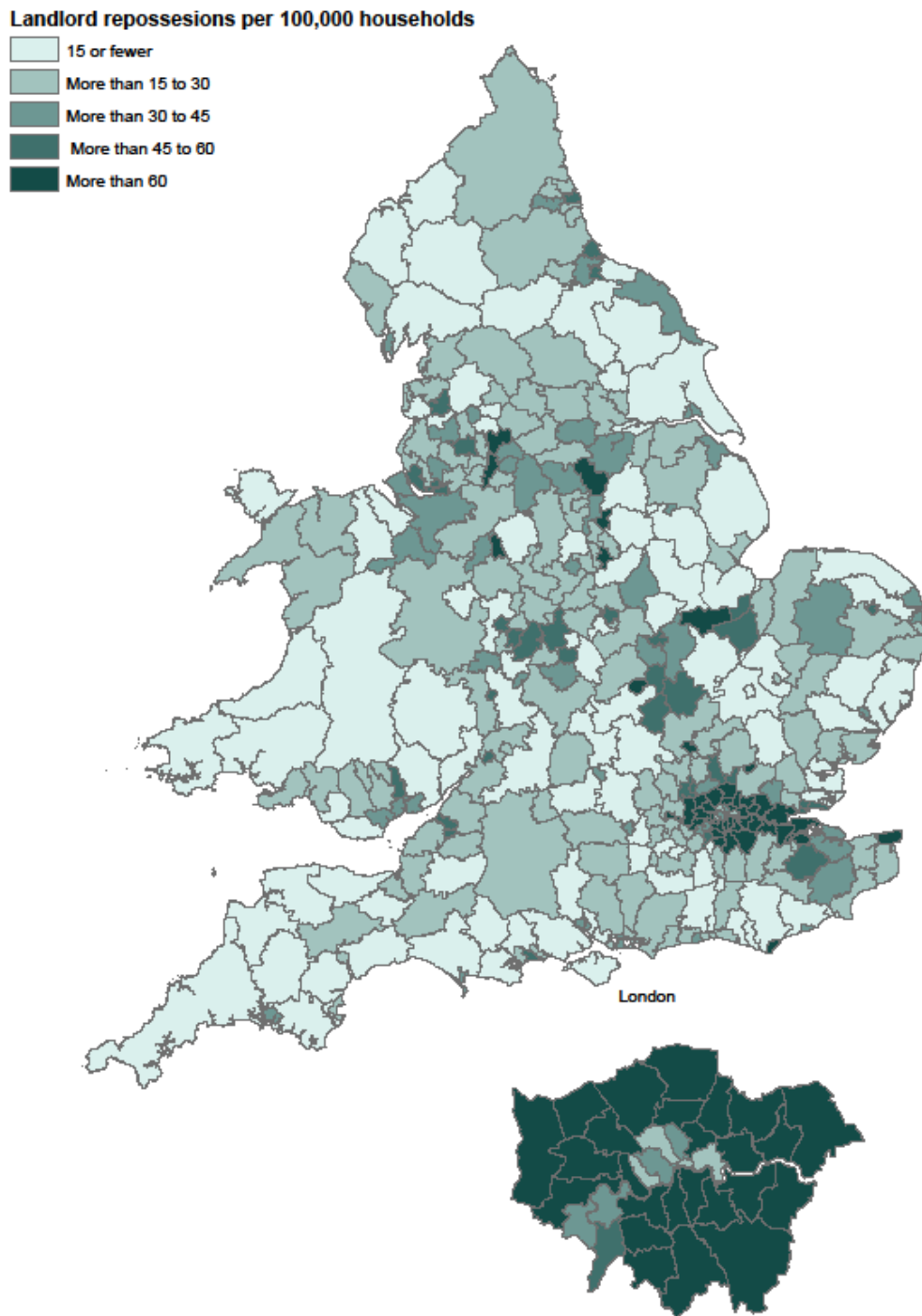
Warrants of possession¹¹: Having received an order, or if the terms of a suspended order are broken, the claimant can apply for a warrant of possession. There were 18,450 warrants of possession in July to September 2016, a decrease of 8% on the same period in 2015 (19,988). Seasonally adjusted figures decreased 6% compared to the last quarter, from 19,076 to 17,877.

Repossessions by county court bailiffs: Once a warrant has been issued, county court bailiffs can repossess the property on behalf of the claimant. There were 9,689 landlord repossessions by county court bailiffs in July to September 2016, down 14% on the same period in 2015 (11,269). Seasonally adjusted figures show an 11% decrease compared to last quarter, from 10,530 to 9,419.

Just under a quarter (23%) of landlord possession claims in 2014 lead to a repossession by county court bailiffs (the most recent point of complete data, due to the lag from claim to repossession), a proportion which has been stable between 19-23% since 2001.

¹¹ Multiple warrants may be issued per claim

Map 4: Landlord Repossessions by County Court Bailiff in England & Wales by Local Authority, 2016 Q3¹²



There were five local authorities with less than three per 100,000 households landlord repossessions by county court bailiffs in July to September 2016 (Waverley, North Kesteven, South Lakeland, East Dorset and South Hams). London local authorities account for 16 of the 20

¹² Based on the defendant's address. See Annex C for more information on Maps

boroughs, with the highest rate of landlord repossessions being in Barking and Dagenham, at 203 per 100,000 households.

Case Timeliness: Figure 6 shows that the average number of weeks taken from initial claim for those orders, warrants and repossessions by county court bailiffs made in each quarter. Figure 7 shows the percentage of landlord claims that reach each stage by the number of quarters since the claim was submitted.

Figure 6: Average Number of Weeks since initial Landlord Claim for Orders, Warrants and Repossessions by county court bailiffs, in England and Wales 2009 Q1 – 2016 Q3

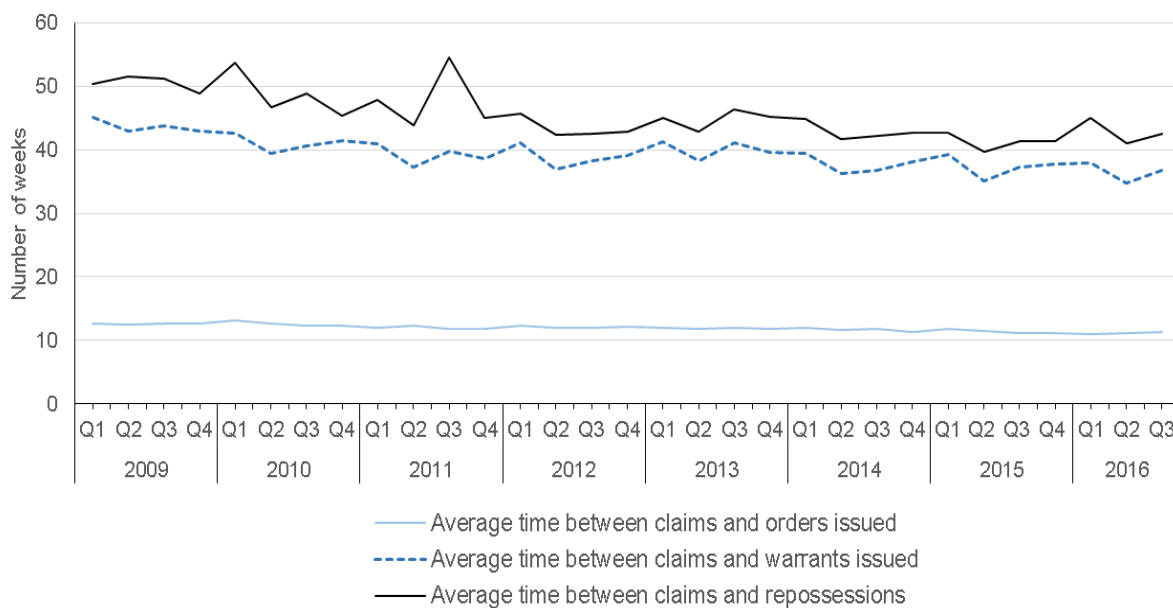
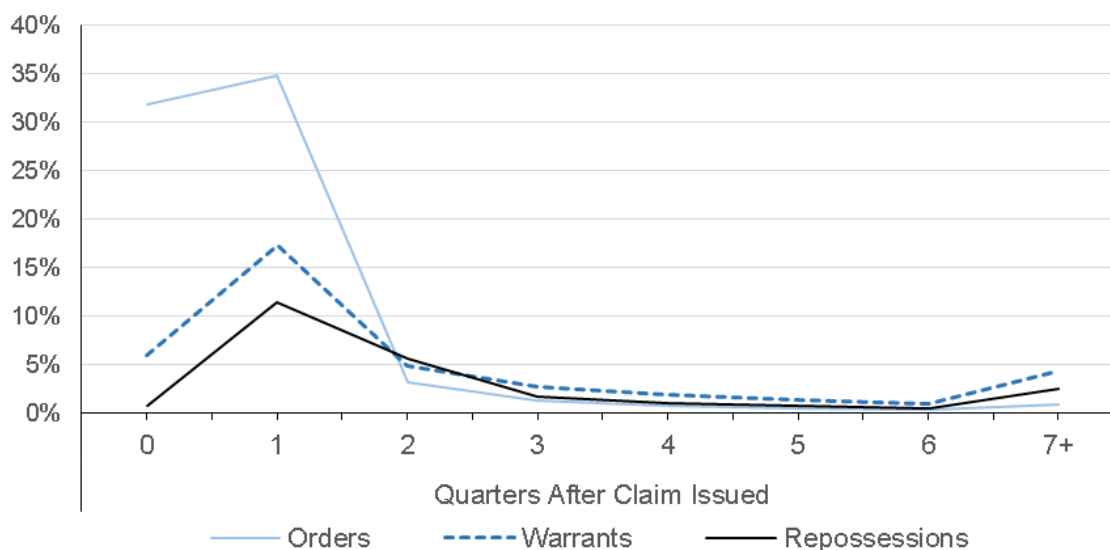


Figure 7: Percentage of Landlord Claims that reach each Stage by the Number of Quarters since the Claim was Submitted, in England and Wales 2011 Q2 – 2016 Q3



Orders: The average time taken in weeks from an initial claim to an order has ranged from 11.3 weeks to 12.6 weeks since 2005, with the most recent year (2015) standing at 11.4 weeks. For four consecutive quarters (Q2 2015 to Q2 2016) it remained at 11.1 weeks. In July to September 2016, it rose slightly, where the average time taken stood at 11.3 weeks.

Of the claims submitted in the past five years, 74% have currently progressed to orders; 67% of which had progressed by the end of the quarter following the quarter in which the claim was lodged.

Warrants: Annually, the average time taken in weeks from an initial claim to a warrant has declined over time, falling from 43.8 weeks in 2005 to 37.4 weeks in 2015. In July to September 2016, the average time taken stood at 36.8 weeks. Of the claims submitted in the past five years, 40% have currently progressed to warrants; 23% of which had progressed by the end of the quarter following the quarter in which the claim was lodged.

Repossessions by County Court Bailiffs: The annual trend in the average time taken in weeks from an initial claim to a repossessions by a county court bailiff has also declined over time. Annually, it peaked to 50.6 weeks in 2009 and has since followed a declining trend to 41.3 weeks in 2015.

In July to September 2016, it took an average of 42.5 weeks from claim to repossession. Of the claims submitted in the past five years, just under one-quarter (24%) have currently progressed to repossessions; 12% of which had progressed by the end of the quarter following the quarter in which the claim was lodged.

Annex A: Further information

Supplementary tables and CSV datasets are available alongside this bulletin, allowing users to analyse the data themselves.

The following tables are available, showing data for county courts in England and Wales:

- Table 1, Mortgage possession workload in the county courts, 1987 - 2016 Q3
- Table 2, Mortgage possession claims that lead to orders, warrants, and repossessions in the county courts, 1999 - 2016 Q3
- Table 3a, Average (mean) time in weeks for mortgage possession claims to become an order, warrant and repossession, 2005 - 2016 Q3
- Table 3b, Percentage of mortgage claims that reach the each stage by the number of quarters since the claim was submitted, 2011 Q3 - 2016 Q3
- Table 4, Landlord possession workload in the county courts, 1999 - 2016 Q3
- Table 5, Landlord possession claims that lead to orders, warrants, and repossessions in the county courts, 1999 - 2016 Q3
- Table 6a, Average (mean) time in weeks for landlord possession claims to become an order, warrant and repossession, 2005 - 2016 Q3
- Table 6b, Percentage of Landlord claims that reach the each stage by the number of quarters since the claim was submitted, 2011 Q3- 2016 Q3
- Table 7, Landlord possession claims in the county courts by type of procedure and landlord, 1999 - 2016 Q3
- Table 8, Mortgage and landlord possession workload in the county courts, England, 1999 - 2016 Q3
- Table 9, Mortgage and landlord possession workload in the county courts, Wales, 1999 - 2016 Q3
- Table 10a, Seasonally adjusted mortgage possession actions in the county courts, 2009 - 2016 Q3
- Table 10b, Seasonally adjusted landlord possession actions in the county courts, 2009 - 2016 Q3

The CSV datasets contain local authority and court-level breakdowns of claims, orders, warrants and county court bailiff repossessions for England and Wales, for the full amount of time that data are available.

The data used for the maps in the publication is also now available in a CSV. It gives the number of possession claims and repossessions by county court bailiffs per 100,000 households at the local authority level.

For more information, please refer to the separately downloadable **Guide to local authority and court-level information**, which can be found in the CSV zip folder, which accompanies this publication.

Information on the representation status of claimants and defendants in repossession cases can be found in Civil Statistics Quarterly at www.gov.uk/government/collections/civil-justice-statistics-quarterly

Annex B: Policy changes

New Bailiff Laws

New laws came into effect on 6 April 2014 to bring an end to bad and aggressive bailiff behaviour, while making sure businesses, local authorities and others can still fairly enforce debts owed to them. These reforms are part of a wider package under changes to the Tribunals, Courts & Enforcement Act 2007.

With roughly 4 million debts collected each year, in future only bailiffs who have been trained and received certification will be allowed to practise.

Bailiffs will be banned from entering homes at night and from using physical force against debtors. The changes will also prevent bailiffs from entering properties where only children are at home and includes further measures to protect vulnerable people. Bailiffs will be prevented from taking vital household essentials from debtor's property, such as a cooker, microwave, refrigerator or washing machines.

A new set of fixed fees for debtors has also been introduced, to end the previous situation where bailiffs were setting their own fees – sometimes at very high levels – and adding these to the amount people in debt had to pay.

Introduction of Mortgage Pre-Action Protocol

A Mortgage Pre-Action Protocol (MPAP), approved by the Master of the Rolls, for possession claims relating to mortgage or home purchase plan arrears came into effect on 19 November 2008. The protocol applies to mortgage arrears on:

- First charge residential mortgages and home purchase plans regulated by the Financial Service Authority under the Financial Services and Market Act 2000;
- Third charge mortgages for residential property and other secured loans regulated under the Consumer Credit Act 1974 on residential property; and,
- Unregulated residential mortgages.

The Protocol gives clear guidance on what the courts expect lenders and borrowers to have done prior to a claim being issued. The main aims of it were to ensure that the parties act fairly and reasonably with each other in any matters concerning the mortgage arrears, to encourage more pre action contact between lender and borrower and to enable efficient use of the court's time and resources.

The introduction of the MPAP coincided with a fall of around 50% in the daily and weekly numbers of new mortgage repossession claims being issued in the courts as evidenced from administrative records. As orders are typically made (when deemed necessary by a judge) around 7 weeks (using 2011 data) after claims are issued, the downward impact on the number of mortgage possession orders being made was seen in the first quarter of 2009.

It has not been possible to adequately quantify the long term impact of the MPAP. This reflects the lack of a good comparator (although the MPAP was not introduced in Scotland, the big lenders in Scotland also operate south of the border and so lender behaviour is likely to be the same as in England and Wales), and the existence of other factors such as changing economic conditions, other measures introduced shortly after the MPAP, and lenders desire to minimise their losses.

More details about the protocol can be viewed using the link:

www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/courts-and-tribunals/courts/procedure-rules/civil/contents/protocols/prot_mha.htm

Annex C: Map information

The local authority level maps used in this publication are based on the defendants' correspondence address. For all four maps the Isles of Scilly have been excluded from the analysis due to low numbers.

The household projections used to produce the maps are based on the Department for Communities and Local Government 2014-based projections for England:

www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/2014-based-household-projections-detailed-data-for-modelling-and-analytical-purposes

For Wales, StatsWales' 2011-based projections (which cover all local authorities within Wales):

statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Housing/Households/Projections/Local-Authority/2011-Based

Both are the latest datasets available for the areas they cover.

In addition to this, the boundary lines were drawn using the Great Britain local authority districts (LADs) from the ONS Geoportal:

geoportal.statistics.gov.uk/geoportal/catalog/main/

This contains the digital vector boundaries for LADs in Great Britain as of December 2014. Therefore, the maps created may not reflect any boundary changes that may have occurred in 2016.

Annex D: Explanatory notes

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics, it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The statistics in this bulletin relate to cases in the county courts in England and Wales. Calendar year statistics are also provided.

Revisions

The statistics in the latest quarter are provisional, and are therefore liable to revision to take account of any late amendments to the administrative databases from which these statistics are sourced. The standard process for revising the published statistics to account for these late amendments is as follows:

An initial revision to the statistics for the latest quarter may be made when the next edition of this bulletin is published. Further revisions may be made when the figures are reconciled at the end of the year. If revisions are needed in the subsequent year, these will be clearly annotated in the tables.

Symbols and conventions

The following symbols have been used throughout the tables in this bulletin:

- .. no data available
- (r) Revised data
- (p) Provisional data

Annex E: Other useful publications

For the number of repossessions and evictions in Scotland refer to 'Civil Justice Statistics in Scotland' publication, found at:

www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/03/6429

For the number of repossessions and evictions in Northern Ireland please see 'Mortgages: Action for possession' publication found at the following link:

www.courtsni.gov.uk/en-GB/Services/Statistics%20and%20Research/Pages/default.aspx

Total UK wide repossessions figures are published by the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) on the same date as this publication. They cover all actually repossessions across the United Kingdom and can be found at the following link:

www.cml.org.uk

Figures relating to the England household characteristics (such as owner occupier or renting households etc.) can be found in Department for Communities and Local Government 'English Housing Survey', found at the following link:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-housing-survey

Contact points for further information

Current and previous editions of this publication are available for download at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/mortgage-and-landlord-possession-statistics

Press enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:

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Queries on the wider policy implications of these statistics should be directed to the Department for Communities and Local Government's press office:

Matthew Gorman

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Queries on statistics shown for 'Properties taken into possession' and other related statistics should be directed to the Council of Mortgage Lenders' press office on 020 7438 8922.

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

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Other National Statistics publications, and general information about the official statistics system of the UK, are available from statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system

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