



Guide to local authority and court-level information

Background

The local authority and court-level information provide the user with local authority and court-level breakdowns of claims, orders, warrants and county court bailiff repossessions for the full amount of time for which data is available. The data is provided in a machine-readable format so that it can easily be imported into a spreadsheet package or can be manipulated and aggregated in different ways within Excel, e.g. through a pivot table. This is to maximise the degree to which the user can analyse the data independently, while still maintaining robust statistical standards.

Variable description

The **local authority data-set** consists of eight variables.

year: This is the year to which the data relates. The earliest year from which any of the data is available is 1987. The latest year for which data is available is 2012.

quarter: Each year is divided into four quarters and this is the quarter to which the data relates.

possession_type: This summarises whether the type of claim relates to a landlord or mortgage repossession.

possession_action: This describes what the number relates to – whether it is a claim, a claim that led to order(s), a claim that led to warrant(s), or a claim that led to county court bailiff repossession(s).

local_authority: The data is presented in two separate data-sets. The first provides court-level breakdowns, and the second provides local authority breakdowns. This is the local authority of the defendant, derived from the defendant's address. Local authorities have been re-organised over time, and claims cannot be retrospectively be allocated. Information regarding the allocation of claims, and claims that led to orders has been maintained over time and is presented here. Information regarding the allocation of claims that led to warrants and claims that led to county court bailiff repossession is new. As a result, the allocation of these claims to a local authority can only be produced for the most recent quarter.

County_ua: Where a local authority is a district within a county, the county is provided also, to allow county-level aggregation. Where the local authority is unitary in nature, the description in the county variable will be the same as in the local authority variable.

region: The region in which the local authority is located is provided.

value: This provides the number e.g. the number of claims that were issued in that local authority during that quarter. Where the value is actually less than 5, the value is given as 0, to protect the confidentiality of those involved in the claim, order, warrant or repossession. For this reason, the national total number of claims, orders etc from this data-set will not match the actual total, although the differences are generally small.

The **court data-set** consists of seven variables. They are identical to those in the local authority data-set except that instead of the local authority and county variable, there is a variable called **court**. This is the court where the claim was issued.