



Ministry of
JUSTICE

OFFICE FOR
CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Criminal Justice System: working together for the public



Provisional Quarterly Criminal Justice System Performance Information – June 2009

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

Published 27 November 2009

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Introduction

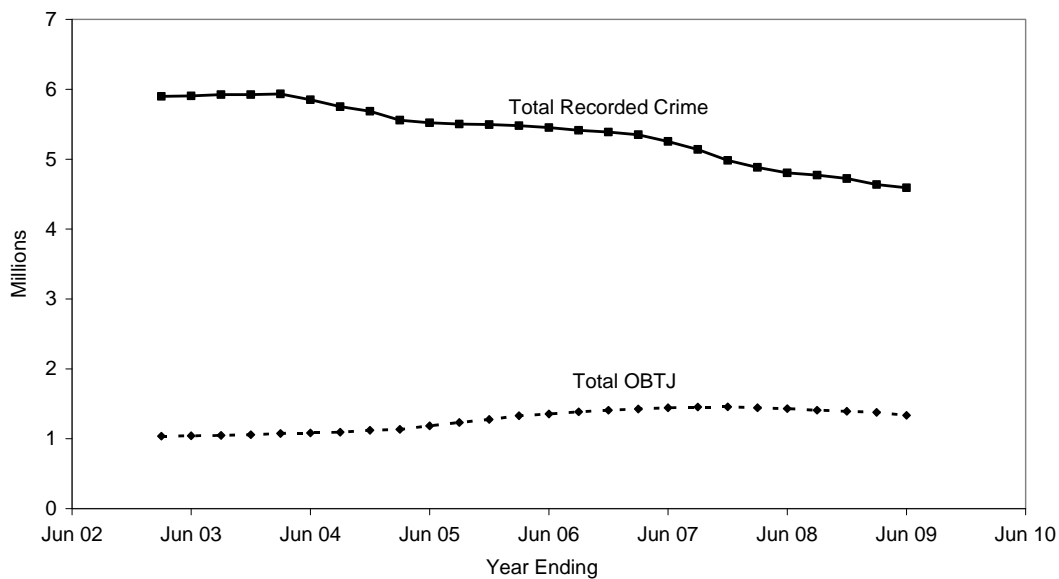
This report presents an overview of the performance of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) in accordance with the National Statistics Code of Practice on the release of official statistics. Performance is compared against an earlier period, typically a year earlier, to see whether performance has improved or not.

In the Appendix, performance is compared to the baseline periods set out in the Government's Public Service Agreement 24. These baselines can be different to those in the main body of the report.

Effectiveness and efficiency of the Criminal Justice System in bringing offences to justice

The number of offences brought to justice in England and Wales in the year ending June 2009 was 1.34 million^a. This is a fall of 7 per cent compared with the value for the previous year ending June 2008 of 1.43 million. Over the same period the number of recorded crimes fell 4 per cent from 4.80 million to 4.59 million.

Figure 1: Rolling annual offences brought to justice (OBTJ)⁽¹⁾ and recorded crime



(1) The numbers of Offences Brought to Justice (OBTJ) for 2008 onwards are un-validated data from the courts and police, therefore provided as management information as they are provisional and likely to change.

The number of serious sexual offences brought to justice has risen 2 per cent between the year ending June 2008 and year ending June 2009^a. The number of recorded crimes for these offences has fallen by 3 per cent over the same period.

The number of serious acquisitive offences brought to justice has fallen 6 per cent between the year ending June 2008 and year ending June 2009^a. The number of recorded crimes for these offences has fallen by 6 per cent over the same period.

The number of serious violent offences brought to justice has risen by 3 per cent between the year ending June 2008 and year ending June 2009^a. The number of recorded serious violent crimes was 43,508 for year ending June 2009. Serious violent recorded crimes from April 2008 cannot be compared with earlier periods and therefore historical comparisons are not possible^b.

^a Excludes convictions data for Cardiff magistrates' court for April, July and August 2008

^b Since April 2008, grievous bodily harm (GBH) without intent has been moved from the 'Other Offences' crime recording category to the 'Serious Violent Offences' category. This change means it is not valid to compare 2008/09 'Other Offences' and 'Serious Violent Offences' crime data against a 2007/08 baseline. Also in April 2008, there was a clarification in the counting rules covering crime recording of GBH with intent, which had the effect of increasing figures in some forces, GBH with intent being a major component of Serious Violent Offences. In light of this, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has recently undertaken a quality assurance exercise of forces' exercise of forces' recording of most serious violence offences. Alongside this exercise a great deal of quality assurance work has been undertaken in forces, leading to the revision of some previously published 2008/09 figures. These revisions are reflected in this bulletin.

Public confidence in the fairness and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System

The proportion of people who think that the CJS as a whole is fair (from the British Crime Survey) was 59 per cent for twelve months to June 2009, in comparison with 57 per cent in the nine months to June 2008^c (statistically significant increase).

The proportion of people who think that the CJS as a whole is effective (from the British Crime Survey) was 39 per cent for the twelve months to June 2009, in comparison with 37 per cent for the nine months to June 2008^c (statistically significant increase).

We are reviewing the content of this section and expect to present a fuller section on public confidence in the fairness and effectiveness of the CJS in future publications.

Experience of the Criminal Justice System for victims and witnesses

The proportion of victims and witnesses who were satisfied with their overall contact with the CJS (cases closed 12 months to March 2009) was 83 per cent, in comparison with a baseline of 81 per cent (cases closed six months to March 2008), (statistically significant increase). Data are taken from the Witness and Victim Experience Survey (WAVES). WAVES asks victims and witnesses about all aspects of their experience with the CJS, from reporting a crime to the police, to the final outcome of the case at court. Table 1 shows data for various key measures of victim and witness satisfaction with aspects of the CJS. To help understand how services are being received and how they might be improved, the provision of key services offered to assist victims/witnesses within the CJS is also measured. Results for this are presented in Table 2.

^c Percentages quoted in the text are identifiable in the tables only by summing the very confident and fairly confident percentages. In order to avoid rounding errors, the percentage has been recalculated for the single category of public confidence and therefore may differ by one percentage point from the sum of the percentages derived from the tables.

Table 1: Victim and Witness satisfaction with the Criminal Justice System

Satisfaction with the CJS	Levels of satisfaction ²	Percentages ¹	
		6 months to March 2008 ³	12 months to March 2009
Satisfied with information provided about the CJS process	Satisfied	81	84
	Neutral	3	2
	Dissatisfied	15	13
Satisfied with how well they've been kept informed of case progress	Satisfied	75	78
	Neutral	2	2
	Dissatisfied	22	19
Satisfied with the way they were treated by CJS staff	Satisfied	89	90
	Neutral	2	2
	Dissatisfied	7	7
Satisfied with how they were dealt with prior to attending court	Satisfied	86	87
	Neutral	2	2
	Dissatisfied	12	11
Satisfied with consideration shown before giving evidence in court	Satisfied	89	91
	Neutral	1	1
	Dissatisfied	9	8
Satisfied with court facilities	Satisfied	84	86
	Neutral	2	2
	Dissatisfied	11	10
Victims satisfied with their contact with the Youth Offending Team	Satisfied	83	83
	Neutral	3	3
	Dissatisfied	12	12
Satisfied with the support that the Witness Service provided	Satisfied	96	96
	Neutral	1	1
	Dissatisfied	3	3
Victims satisfied with their contact with Victim Support	Satisfied	80	83
	Neutral	5	4
	Dissatisfied	14	12
Satisfied with overall contact with the CJS	Satisfied	81	83
	Neutral	2	2
	Dissatisfied	16	14

1. Percentages of victims and witnesses, unless otherwise specified.

2. Respondents indicated whether they were "completely", "very" or "fairly" satisfied/dissatisfied. These responses have been aggregated to overall categories representing 'satisfied' or 'dissatisfied'. 'Neutral' respondents stated that they were "Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied".

3. Comparisons are made between estimates based on 12 months of data (April 2008 to March 2009) and on six months of data (October 2007 to March 2008). It is not anticipated that these comparisons will be influenced by any seasonality effects.

Source: Witness and Victim Experience Survey (Office for Criminal Justice Reform)

Table 2: Victim and Witness satisfaction with the Criminal Justice System, provision of key services

Services offered within the CJS	Percentages ¹	
	6 months to March 2008 ²	12 months to March 2009
Victims offered the opportunity to make a Victim Personal Statement	40	41
Victims who felt their views as set out in the Victim Personal Statement were taken into account during the CJS process	65	68
Of those who required emotional/practical support, those who were offered relevant services	66	70
Offered a court familiarisation visit before the trial	64	63

1. Percentages of victims and witnesses, unless otherwise specified.

2. Comparisons are made between estimates based on 12 months of data (April 2008 to March 2009) and on six months of data (October 2007 to March 2008). It is not anticipated that these comparisons will be influenced by any seasonality effects.

Source: Witness and Victim Experience Survey (Office for Criminal Justice Reform)

We expect to present data, with no lag, up to the current quarter for victims and witness satisfaction with the CJS in future publications.

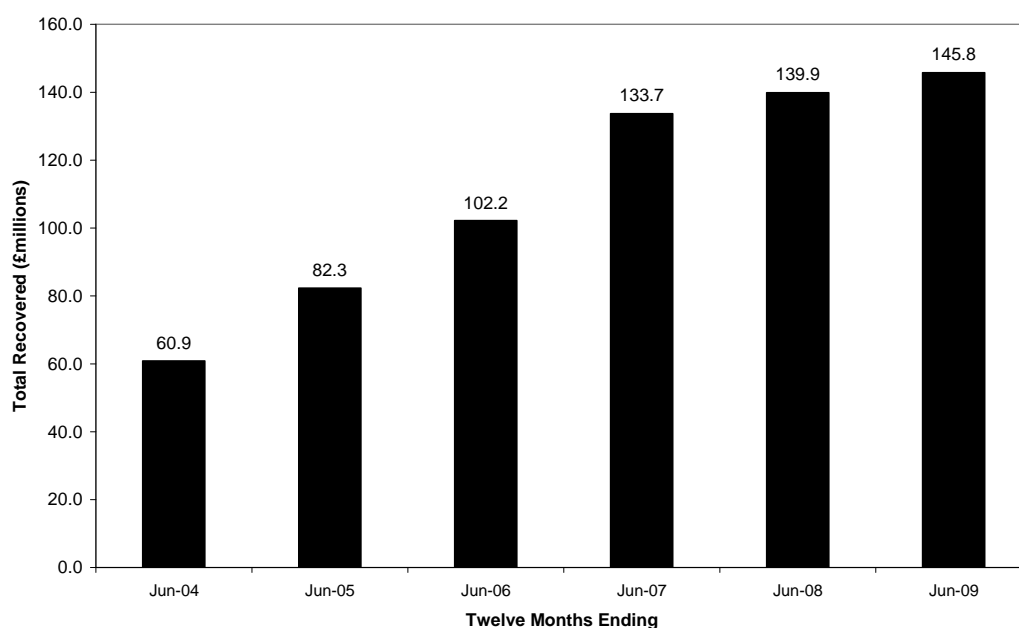
Victim satisfaction with the police (from police user satisfaction surveys), was 83 per cent for the year ending March 2009 in comparison to the baseline of 81 per cent for the year to March 2008^d.

^d Victim satisfaction with the police data is available on an annual basis, data will be updated at the end of the financial year.

Recovery of criminal assets

The value of assets recovered across England, Wales and Northern Ireland for April to June 2009 was £31.0 million. The value of assets recovered has increased from £140 million at year ending June 2008 to £146 million at year ending June 2009. The target for 2009/10 is to recover assets worth £250 million between April 2009 and March 2010.

Figure 2: The value of assets recovered across England, Wales and Northern Ireland



Confiscation

The amount collected, including compensation, from the enforcement of confiscation orders across England and Wales between April and June 2009 was £14 million. The implied^e target for 2009/10 is £71 million between April 2009 and March 2010.

The value of new confiscation orders obtained across England and Wales from April to June 2009 was £25 million. The implied^e target for 2009/10 is £107 million between April 2009 and March 2010.

The number of confiscation orders obtained across England and Wales from April to June 2009 was 1,184. The implied^e target for 2009/10 is 4,743 between April 2009 and March 2010.

The number of restraint orders obtained across England and Wales from April to June 2009 was 349. The implied^e target for 2009/10 is 1,062 between April 2009 and March 2010.

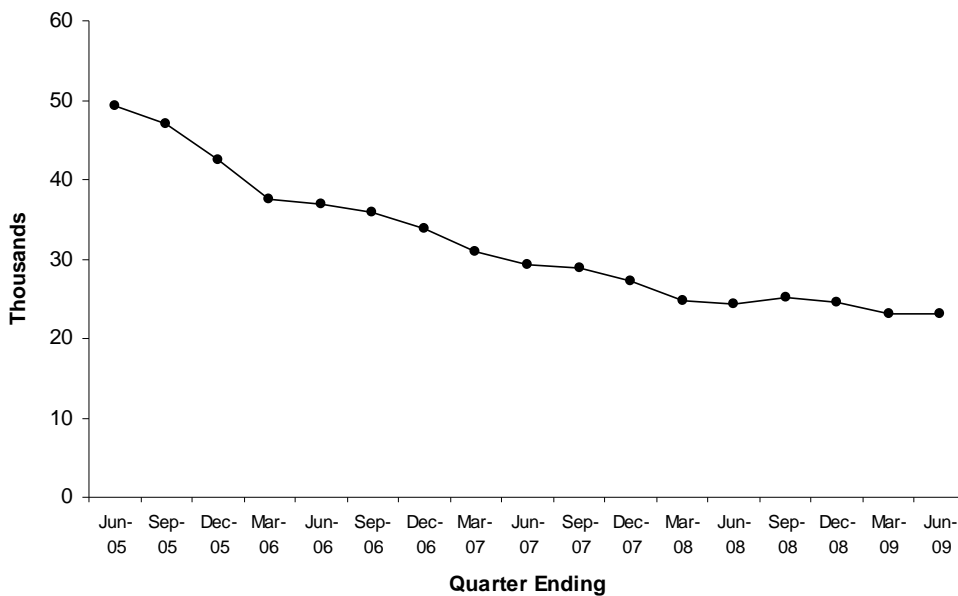
^e The implied national target is the sum of Local Criminal Justice Board targets.

Enforcement

The payment rate for financial impositions across England and Wales was 82 per cent for April to June 2009. The 2009/10 target is 85 per cent or greater for April 2009 to March 2010. The payment rate is calculated by dividing the amount paid to HMCS over a month, quarter or financial year (or year to date) by the new net amount owed^f over the same period.

The number of outstanding Failure to Appear warrants has decreased from 24,367 at year ending June 2008 to 23,189^g at year ending June 2009. The implied^e target for the year ending March 2010 is 22,119 or lower.

Figure 3: Number of outstanding Failure to Appear warrants



The Failure to Appear warrant stock/flow ratio was 2.8^g at the end of June 2009. The target is a stock/flow of 2.2 or lower by the end of March 2010, (the stock/flow ratio is calculated as the number of warrants outstanding at the end of the most recent month divided by the average number of warrants received monthly during the most recent 3 months).

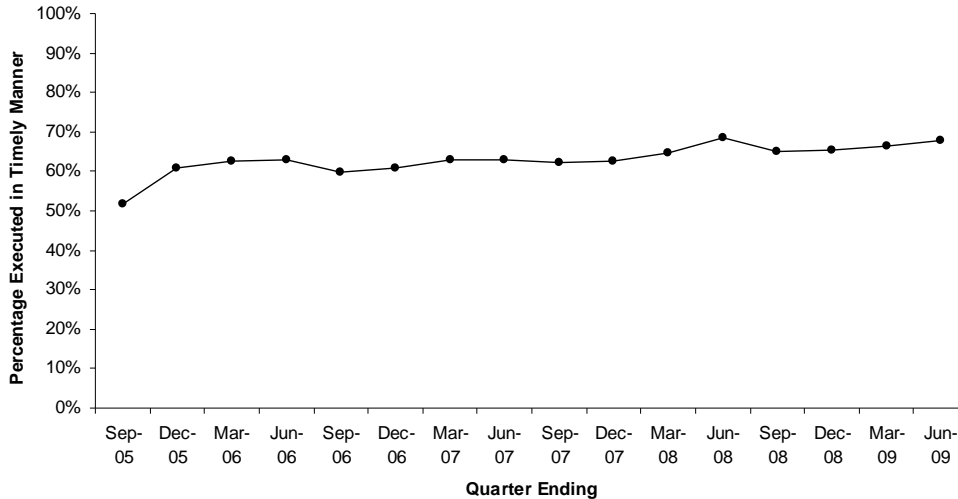
^e The implied national target is the sum of Local Criminal Justice Board targets.

^f Amount imposed plus net transfers minus value of fines legally cancelled minus net administratively cancelled.

^g England and Wales total is calculated using data for Greater Manchester Criminal Justice System area that has yet to be confirmed and is therefore likely to change.

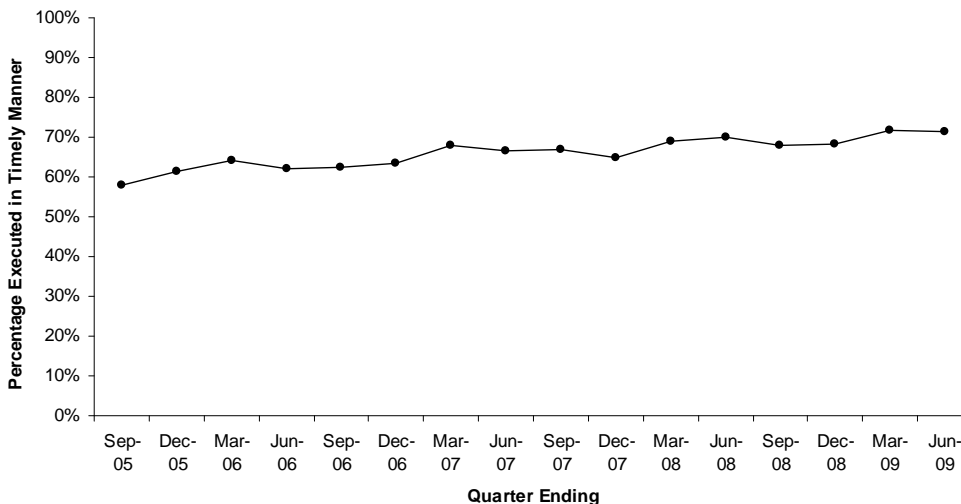
The proportion of Category A Failure to Appear warrants executed in a timely manner (within 14 days of receipt), for the quarter ending June 2009, was 68 per cent⁹. The 2009/10 implied^e target is 73 per cent or higher.

Figure 4: Category A Failure to Appear warrants executed in a timely manner (within 14 days of receipt)



The proportion of Category B Failure to Appear warrants executed in a timely manner (within 21 days of receipt), for the quarter ending June 2009, was 71 per cent⁹. The 2009/10 implied^e target is 72 per cent or higher.

Figure 5: Category B Failure to Appear warrants executed in a timely manner (within 21 days of receipt)

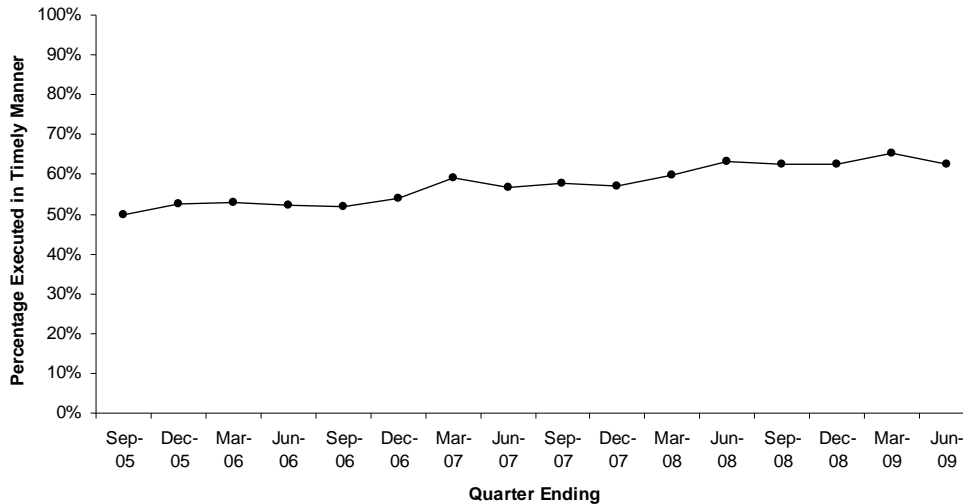


^e The implied national target is the sum of Local Criminal Justice Board targets.

⁹ England and Wales total is calculated using data for Greater Manchester Criminal Justice System area that has yet to be confirmed and is therefore likely to change.

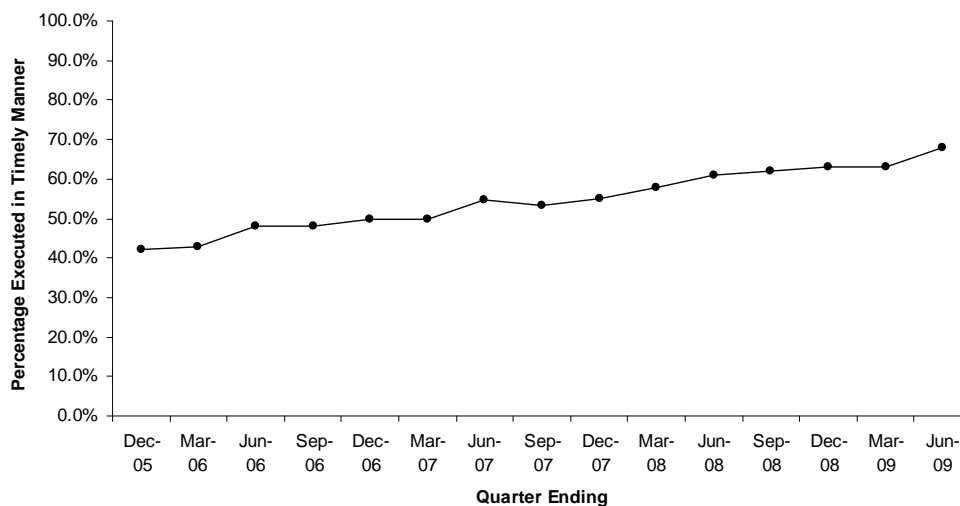
The proportion of Category C Failure to Appear warrants executed in a timely manner (within 28 days of receipt), for the quarter ending June 2009, was 63 per cent^g. The 2009/10 implied^e target is 67 per cent or higher.

Figure 6. Category C Failure to Appear warrants executed in a timely manner (within 28 days of receipt)



The percentage of community penalty breaches resolved within 25 working days of the relevant unacceptable failure to comply for quarter ending June 2009 was 68 per cent^g. The 2009/10 implied^e target is 62 per cent or greater.

Figure 7. The percentage of community breaches resolved within 25 working days of the relevant unacceptable failure to comply



^e The implied national target is the sum of Local Criminal Justice Board targets.

^g England and Wales total is calculated using data for Greater Manchester criminal justice system area that has yet to be confirmed and is therefore likely to change.

Appendix A: England and Wales Criminal Justice System performance against Public Service Agreement 24

In the appendix, performance is compared to the baseline periods in the Government's Public Service Agreement 24 (PSA 24). These baselines can be different to those in the main body of the report, which presents an overview of performance of the CJS in accordance with the National Statistics Code of Practice on the release of official statistics.

Table 3: England and Wales Criminal Justice System (CJS) Performance Data

Indicator	Baseline performance	Current performance (July 2008 to June 2009)	Change
Serious Violent OBTJ ⁽¹⁾	9,444 ^(r)	9,414	0%
Serious Violent Recorded Crime ⁽¹⁾	42,470 ^(r)	43,508	2%
Serious Sexual OBTJ ⁽²⁾	11,654 ^(r)	12,037	3%
Serious Sexual Recorded Crime ⁽²⁾	37,613 ^(r)	36,536	-3%
Serious Acquisitive OBTJ ⁽²⁾	119,995 ^(r)	111,423	-7%
Serious Acquisitive Recorded Crime ⁽²⁾	963,154 ^(r)	889,739	-8%
Public Confidence in the CJS: Fairness ⁽³⁾	56%	59%	+3 pp* (statistically significant increase)
Public Confidence in the CJS: Effectiveness ⁽³⁾	37%	39%	+2 pp* (statistically significant increase)
Victim and Witness Satisfaction with the CJS ⁽³⁾	81%	83% ⁽⁴⁾	+2 pp* (statistically significant increase)
Victim Satisfaction with the Police ⁽⁷⁾	81%	83%	+2 pp* (statistically significant increase)
Asset Recovery ⁽⁵⁾	-	£31.0 million ⁽⁶⁾	

(r) Figures are based on revised data and replace those provided in the last bulletin (March 2009)

(1) Baseline period from April 2008 to March 2009

(2) Baseline period from April 2007 to March 2008

(3) Baseline period from October 2007 to March 2008

(4) Current period from April 2008 to December 2008

(5) For England, Wales and Northern Ireland

(6) Current period from April 2009 to June 2009

(7) Baseline period from April 2007 to March 2008; Current performance refers to period from April 2008 to March 2009

* changes in survey data are in terms of percentage points (pp), i.e. the difference between two percentages

Appendix B: Public Service Agreement 24 Public confidence in the fairness and the effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System

The Public Service Agreement 24 Public confidence indicator is a national target. Local Criminal Justice Boards are not being performance managed against this target. The indicator is made up of two questions: i. public confidence that the Criminal Justice System as a whole is effective, and ii. public confidence that the Criminal Justice System as a whole is fair. The PSA 24 target for public confidence in England and Wales will be met if there is a statistically significant increase (at the 5% significance level) from the baseline (six months to March 2008) by the year ending March 2011 in both the 'effectiveness' and the 'fairness' questions.

The proportion of people who think that the Criminal Justice System as a whole is fair (from the British Crime Survey) was 59 per cent for twelve months to June 2009, in comparison with a baseline of 56 per cent in the six months to March 2008, (Statistically significant increase)^h.

The proportion of people who think that the Criminal Justice System as a whole is effective (from the British Crime Survey) was 39 per cent for the twelve months to June 2009, in comparison with a baseline of 37 per cent for the six months to March 2008, (Statistically significant increase)^h.

^h Percentages quoted in the text are identifiable in the tables only by summing the very confident and fairly confident percentages. In order to avoid rounding errors, the percentage has been recalculated for the single category of public confidence and therefore may differ by one percentage point from the sum of the percentages derived from the tables.

Appendix C: Asset recovery raw quarterly performance data

Table 4: Value of assets recovered each financial quarter

Financial quarter to	Value of assets recovered (£ millions)
Mar-07	34.26
Jun-07	28.99
Sep-07	31.09
Dec-07	34.27
Mar-08	41.35
Jun-08	33.20
Sep-08	35.20
Dec-08	37.30
Mar-09	42.30 (r)
Jun-09	31.02

All figures denoted by (r) are based on revised data and replace those provided in the last bulletin

Appendix D: OBTJ figures by offence group for England and Wales by Criminal Justice System area

Since January 2009, the police forces in England and Wales have published recorded crime figures as online 'crime maps'. The figures are divided into five offence groups – burglary, violence, vehicle crime, robbery, and other notifiable offences. This table presents the data for Offences Brought to Justice (OBTJ) in a similar format, for use in the 'Offences Brought to Justice crime map'. Data are provided for the 12 month period ending June 2009, and for the 12 month period ending June 2008.

Table 5: Offences brought to justice – by offence group, year ending June 2008

CJS areas	12 months ending June 2008					
	Burglary	Violence ⁽⁸⁾	Vehicle	Robbery ⁽⁹⁾	Other notifiable offences	All notifiable offences
England and Wales	72,187	106,799	53,299	29,667	1,168,999	1,430,951
Avon and Somerset	2,046	2,142	1,775	442	34,580	40,985
Bedfordshire	710	1,437	463	380	10,300	13,290
Cambridgeshire	928	1,068	997	246	16,295	19,534
Cheshire	1,141	1,374	906	494	19,152	23,067
Cleveland	1,168	1,398	573	387	18,334	21,860
Cumbria	483	840	272	194	12,461	14,250
Derbyshire	1,498	1,603	997	415	18,535	23,048
Devon and Cornwall	1,450	1,715	1,139	443	27,736	32,483
Dorset	495	678	335	189	13,371	15,068
Durham	739	1,364	378	286	12,249	15,016
Dyfed Powys	517	689	165	276	10,051	11,698
Essex	1,543	3,170	1,163	760	31,394	38,030
Gloucestershire	964	667	990	204	11,209	14,034
Greater Manchester	4,115	6,129	2,836	1,759	63,148	77,987
Gwent	579	1,165	435	125	14,520	16,824
Hampshire	1,615	2,392	818	506	37,865	43,196
Hertfordshire	1,200	2,057	819	348	20,099	24,523
Humberside	1,504	1,887	964	326	24,475	29,156
Kent	1,975	2,496	1,428	685	31,724	38,308
Lancashire	2,646	3,065	2,060	975	37,587	46,333
Leicestershire	1,407	1,519	1,167	489	21,406	25,988
Lincolnshire	823	1,115	214	126	13,109	15,387
London	11,898	20,438	7,418	8,039	183,499	231,292
Merseyside	2,074	2,470	1,673	837	39,920	46,974
Norfolk	742	919	1,097	166	17,063	19,987
North Wales	757	1,060	409	169	15,587	17,982
North Yorkshire	585	881	275	143	14,632	16,516
Northamptonshire	1,084	1,842	1,102	354	10,541	14,923
Northumbria	2,105	3,625	2,062	464	38,455	46,711
Nottinghamshire	2,015	3,269	870	527	21,024	27,705
South Wales	1,662	2,331	1,404	1,043	28,884	35,324
South Yorkshire	3,009	5,041	4,389	636	30,336	43,411
Staffordshire	1,248	2,799	961	383	19,817	25,208
Suffolk	627	1,527	359	299	14,293	17,105
Surrey	645	881	373	409	16,159	18,467
Sussex	1,174	2,119	667	519	32,225	36,704
Thames Valley	2,086	2,536	1,943	978	44,027	51,570
Warwickshire	521	964	559	170	9,076	11,290
West Mercia	1,008	1,825	715	401	22,145	26,094
West Midlands	2,995	6,861	1,422	2,048	58,322	71,648
West Yorkshire	5,754	4,703	4,211	1,730	42,624	59,022
Wiltshire	652	738	496	297	10,770	12,953

Table 6: Offences brought to justice – by offence group, year ending June 2009

CJS areas	12 months ending June 2009					Other	All
	Burglary	Violence ⁽⁸⁾	Vehicle	Robbery ⁽⁹⁾	Other notifiable offences	notifiable offences	
England and Wales	69,387	90,105	49,215	26,644	1,100,351	1,335,702	
Avon and Somerset	1,879	1,892	1,519	459	32,080	37,829	
Bedfordshire	706	1,328	368	364	9,472	12,238	
Cambridgeshire	1,072	1,015	692	337	15,143	18,259	
Cheshire	1,236	1,233	957	377	18,782	22,585	
Cleveland	1,115	1,314	753	350	18,158	21,690	
Cumbria	363	753	157	123	10,669	12,065	
Derbyshire	1,179	1,249	723	320	16,368	19,839	
Devon and Cornwall	1,454	1,715	1,092	360	27,328	31,949	
Dorset	505	663	230	148	11,263	12,809	
Durham	704	1,246	204	222	11,792	14,168	
Dyfed Powys	515	634	119	205	9,895	11,368	
Essex	1,641	1,807	1,149	710	30,361	35,668	
Gloucestershire	923	723	828	199	10,816	13,489	
Greater Manchester	3,884	5,015	2,570	1,512	53,434	66,415	
Gwent	476	887	541	89	12,910	14,903	
Hampshire	1,695	2,174	677	589	35,257	40,392	
Hertfordshire	1,453	1,861	932	358	20,166	24,770	
Humberside	1,336	1,603	761	354	21,438	25,492	
Kent	2,343	2,285	2,123	619	33,760	41,130	
Lancashire	2,499	2,585	2,027	750	32,822	40,683	
Leicestershire	1,173	1,160	845	489	16,207	19,874	
Lincolnshire	792	967	203	190	11,960	14,112	
London	10,491	13,675	6,146	6,990	185,505	222,807	
Merseyside	1,896	2,303	1,357	523	37,993	44,072	
Norfolk	1,008	815	914	251	14,832	17,820	
North Wales	636	1,002	472	302	16,438	18,850	
North Yorkshire	826	843	416	237	13,938	16,260	
Northamptonshire	740	1,722	502	284	10,320	13,568	
Northumbria	1,742	3,314	1,599	579	37,782	45,016	
Nottinghamshire	1,874	3,244	1,089	530	20,121	26,858	
South Wales	1,710	2,021	1,548	659	27,480	33,418	
South Yorkshire	2,709	4,440	4,414	730	29,521	41,814	
Staffordshire	990	1,861	517	252	15,643	19,263	
Suffolk	499	1,487	399	169	14,046	16,600	
Surrey	435	825	252	404	13,306	15,222	
Sussex	1,023	2,528	520	577	29,164	33,812	
Thames Valley	1,882	2,126	1,400	878	38,301	44,587	
Warwickshire	485	884	415	97	7,487	9,368	
West Mercia	1,087	1,612	704	318	21,323	25,044	
West Midlands	3,371	6,899	1,927	1,953	55,500	69,650	
West Yorkshire	6,407	3,688	4,552	1,550	41,170	57,367	
Wiltshire	633	707	602	237	10,400	12,579	

(1) The count of Offences Brought to Justice (OBTJ) was introduced in 2000 to measure the performance of the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales. An offence is considered to have been brought to justice when a notifiable (recorded) offence results in an offender being cautioned, convicted, receiving a penalty notices for disorder or a cannabis warning, or has the offence taken into consideration.

(2) The number of Offences Brought to Justice (OBTJ) is in part affected by the number of recorded crimes in an area. If recorded crime in an area falls there will be fewer offences which can potentially be brought to justice.

(3) It is important to note that there is a difference in the method of counting offences between the recorded crime figures and the Offences Brought to Justice (OBTJ) measure. A single recorded crime can result in more than one conviction or caution and can therefore lead to more than one offence being counted as brought to justice. For example; if a crime is recorded and as result three offenders are convicted each for two offences against the same victim, this counts as a single recorded crime but as six offences brought to justice. In addition, for most offences there will be a delay between the offence being recorded and it being brought to justice; this may result in it being included in the recorded crime figures for one period and the OBTJ figures for a later period. Thirdly, a crime may be brought to justice as a different offence to the offence which was recorded originally. E.g. an offence which was

recorded as Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) could, following investigation, result in a conviction for common assault, which would put it outside the violence category. These factors should be borne in mind when the two series are being compared.

(4) The numbers of Offences Brought to Justice (OBTJ) for 2008 and 2009 are un-validated data from the courts service and police administrative systems, therefore provided as management information only as they are provisional and likely to change. All administrative systems by their nature can update information previously held; business process means that some information relating to a period already published can be subsequently included or amended. Specifically, these counts of OBTJ are updated from the figures previously published in the quarterly Criminal Justice System Performance Information bulletin. The final OBTJ counts will be published as 'National Statistics' in Criminal Statistics England & Wales, available annually on the Ministry of Justice website.

(5) Both the Offences Brought to Justice (OBTJ) and recorded crime data included in the crime maps cover the same offence groups. It should be noted these offence groups are aggregates of offences published elsewhere in 'Criminal Statistics England & Wales' and 'Crime in England & Wales'.

(6) Data shown as available at 29/10/2009.

(7) Excludes convictions data for Cardiff magistrate's court for April, July and August 2008.

(8) Violence includes murder, attempted murder, manslaughter and wounding (including malicious wounding).

(9) Robbery includes theft from the person.

Explanatory notes

This bulletin covers the quarterly release of information on the performance of the Criminal Justice System in line with Public Service Agreement 24 (PSA 24) performance indicators for local criminal justice boards in England and Wales (unless otherwise stated). PSA 24 covers delivery of a more effective, transparent and responsive Criminal Justice System for victims and the public.

Release policy

Quarterly information on the performance of the Criminal Justice System (including performance at local criminal justice board level) has been published since October 2003. Archive data since May 2005 is available at: www.lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk/ncjb/

The Criminal Justice System Strategy for 2008-2011 supports Public Service Agreement 24 (PSA 24), which is one of 30 PSAs set for government departments under HM Treasury's 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. PSA 24 aims to "Deliver a more effective, transparent and responsive Criminal Justice System for victims and for the public." More information on PSA 24 can be found at: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr07_psacommunities.htm

The data was classified as official statistics in September 2009 and is produced to the standards set out in the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics: www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html

Key quality issues

Revisions

All statistics quoted in this quarterly bulletin are provisional and subject to revision unless otherwise stated. Throughout the tables in this bulletin, all period figures denoted by (r) are based on revised data and replace those provided in the last bulletin. Data is finalised following the publication of the Criminal Statistics Annual Report due in January 2010.

Issues

All data for Kent LCJB is provisional and yet to be validated, the figures given should be used with caution, it is not expected that any potential revisions will affect national totals or trends.

Data for Victim Satisfaction with the Police is the same as published last quarter. This data is only available on an annual basis and will be next updated at the end of the financial year.

Reliability

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented in this publication are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that some of these data have been extracted by the courts and police forces from a variety of administrative data systems and the detail supplied to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform – Evidence and Analysis Unit is therefore subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. It is important that users of the data take these limitations into account when using and interpreting the data presented in this bulletin.

Sampling variability

The British Crime Survey

The British Crime Survey is a face-to-face survey in which people resident in households in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of crime in the 12 months prior to interview. Respondents to the survey are also asked about their attitudes towards different crime-related issues such as the police and Criminal Justice System, and perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour.

British Crime Survey estimates are based on face-to-face interviews (for 2008/09 this was based on 46,286 respondents, with a response rate of 76%). The survey is weighted to adjust for possible non-response bias and ensure the sample reflects the profile of the general population. Being based on a sample survey, British Crime Survey estimates are subject to a margin of error.

Further information on the British Crime Survey can be found at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109vol2.pdf

Witness and Victim Experience Survey (WAVES)

The Witness and Victim Experience Survey (WAVES) is a quarterly telephone survey. Over 37,000 telephone interviews with victims and witnesses are conducted each year. They are asked about their experiences of the Criminal Justice System, the services they received and their satisfaction with different aspects of the system.

WAVES interviews victims and prosecution witnesses aged 18 years and over involved in the following crimes: violence against the person, robbery, burglary, theft, handling stolen goods, and criminal damage. Victims and witnesses in sensitive cases such as sexual offences or domestic violence, crime involving a fatality, and any crime where the defendant was a family member or a member of the witnesses' or victims' households are excluded from WAVES on ethical grounds. Cases involving drug offences are excluded. Police officers or other Criminal Justice System officials assaulted in the course of duty, and all police or expert witnesses are also excluded.

To ensure data are representative, each quarter, the 42 local criminal justice boards in England and Wales provide the research contractors with the names and contact details of all eligible victims and witnesses. The majority of local criminal justice boards use the Witness Management System^k to download their sample leads for WAVES. Areas 'clean' their sample to make sure telephone numbers and addresses are provided and ineligible victims and witnesses are removed.

A random sample of victims and witnesses are then selected and contacted about the survey and given an opportunity to opt out. Victims and witnesses who do not opt out of the survey are then contacted by telephone for interview.

Data are weighted to adjust to the known proportion of victims and witnesses in each area (as indicated by the sample leads provided by local criminal justice boards) and to adjust for the different sized victim and witness populations between local criminal justice boards. The procedure therefore gives different weights in such a way that the weighted distribution of respondents matches the known distribution of victims and witnesses as a whole.

Being based on a sample survey, WAVES estimates are subject to a margin of error. Any changes in WAVES estimates over time are described as differences only when they are statistically significant.

Respondents are questioned about their experiences of the Criminal Justice System rather than about their case. Therefore seasonality is not expected within the data. Data are not weighted by crime type.

Police User Satisfaction Survey

Further information on the police user satisfaction survey can be found at:

www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/performance-and-measurement/US_Guidance_2008-09_Revised1.pdf

Definitions

Effectiveness and efficiency of the Criminal Justice System in bringing offences to justice

Bringing offences to justice is a key measure of the effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System. An offence is said to have been brought to justice when a recorded crime results in an offender being convicted, cautioned, issued with a penalty notice for disorder or a cannabis warning, or having an offence taken into consideration. The number of offences brought to justice is in part affected by the number of recorded crimes in an area. If recorded crime in an area falls there will be fewer offences which can potentially be brought to justice.

^k Witness Management System is an enhanced variant of the Case Management System; a national IT system to support Witness Care Units.

Comparing the volume of offences brought to justice with the volume of recorded crime provides a proxy measure of the effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System in bringing crime to justice. However, there are differences in how recorded crime and offences brought to justice are measured that mean caution should be applied when comparing the two. For example: an offence may be brought to justice in a different period to the corresponding recorded crime, one crime could result in a number of offenders brought to justice (e.g. a gang committing a burglary), and a crime recorded by the police as one offence (e.g. GBH) may, once all the evidence has been considered, be subsequently brought to justice as an alternative offence (e.g. ABH). England and Wales data excludes British Transport Police.

Public confidence in the fairness and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System

Raising public confidence in the Criminal Justice System is one of the Government's Public Service Agreement targets. Improving confidence is a priority because the Criminal Justice System relies on public co-operation and involvement to function effectively.

The level of public confidence for each of these measures is defined as the proportion who say that they are 'very' or 'fairly' confident, recorded from a four point scale.

The PSA 24 confidence target is to achieve a statistically significant increase across England and Wales (at the five per cent level) in both measures from their baseline (six months to March 2008) by the year ending March 2011.

Experience of the Criminal Justice System for victims and witnesses

Victim and Witness satisfaction with the Criminal Justice System is measured through the Witness and Victim Experience Survey (WAVES).

The target here will be met if, over the three year period, there is a statistically significant increase (at the 95 per cent level) in the proportion of victim and witnesses that are satisfied with their overall contact with the Criminal Justice System. The measure, baseline and reporting periods are the same as the national PSA target.

Witness and Victim Experience Survey (WAVES)

WAVES is a national telephone survey of victims and witnesses focusing exclusively on victims and witnesses involved in cases which resulted in a criminal charge and which have been closed (i.e. an outcome or verdict has been reached, either at court or because the case was dropped by the prosecution)^m.

^m Local Criminal Justice Boards responsible for collecting samples are advised to consider anyone as a victim if they were the injured party in a case, regardless of whether they gave evidence in court. All others who were not the injured party are considered as witnesses. Anyone who gave a witness statement and was listed as a witness is eligible for inclusion, regardless of whether they gave evidence in court. At the beginning of the telephone interview, respondents are asked to clarify whether they were a victim or a witness. This self-classification measure is used for analysis.

The survey was first introduced by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) in late 2004 and was developed in conjunction with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS). Its purpose is to provide information at a national (England and Wales) and Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) level about victims' and witnesses' experiences of the Criminal Justice System, the services they receive and their satisfaction with different aspects of the system. The survey, undertaken quarterly by Ipsos-MORI, aims to conduct approximately 38,800 interviews a year, 9,700 interviews each quarter.

WAVES covers victims and prosecution witnesses aged 18 and over in the following crime types; violence against the person; robbery; burglary; criminal damage; theft and handling stolen goods. We do not interview victims and witnesses in sensitive cases, such as, sexual offences or domestic violence, crimes involving a fatality, and any crime where the defendant was a family member or a member of the witnesses' or victims' household, on ethical grounds. Cases involving drug offences are excluded. We also exclude police officers or other CJS officials assaulted in the course of duty, and all police or expert witnesses.

WAVES asks victims and witnesses in cases where an offender was charged about all aspects of their experiences with the CJS, from their first contact with the police to their experience at court. Interviews ask people about the extent to which they were satisfied with the services they received. We include victims and witnesses who go to court as well as those who do not.

WAVES data relates to the period in which the case was finalised by the CJS, rather than the interview period. The baseline period covers cases closed six months to March 2008 (i.e. October 2007 to March 2008). The WAVES target indicator question, asked towards the end of the survey is:

Overall, were you satisfied with the contact you've had with the Criminal Justice System (CJS)?

The target here will be met if, over the three year period, there is a statistically significant increase (at the 95% level) in the proportion of victim and witnesses that are satisfied with their overall contact with the CJS. In addition to the national PSA target, LCJB areas have set their own local targets to strive to improve victim and witness satisfaction at a local level. The measure, baseline and reporting periods are the same as the national PSA target.

www.lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk/ncjb/114.html

Victim Personal Statement

The VPS is a written statement that victims can give to the police. It is different from the witness statement, which is a written or video-recorded account of what happened when the crime was committed. The VPS is a record of the personal impact that the crime has had on the victim. It gives the victim a chance to explain, in their own words, how the crime has affected them – whether physically, emotionally, financially or in any other way.

Youth Offending Team

Youth Offending Teams are made up of representatives from the police, Probation Service, social services, health, education, drugs and alcohol misuse and housing officers. They are responsible for addressing offending by those up to the age of 17.

Witness Service

The Witness Service is run by the national charity Victim Support in every criminal court in England and Wales. It is separate from the police, CPS, courts and Witness Care Units. Witness Service volunteers provide help and support on the day of the trial to witnesses and victims who attend court.

Victim Support

Victim Support is a national charity for victims and witnesses of crime in England and Wales. They give information and offer emotional support and practical help to victims of crime, their family, friends and anyone else affected.

Increasing satisfaction with the police

Increasing satisfaction with the police is one of the indicators of PSA 24. This reflects the Government's ambition to deliver a better standard of customer service that meets the needs of victims and witnesses and delivers improvements in victim satisfaction with the police.

The level of satisfaction with police is measured through police user satisfaction surveys. The level of satisfaction for each of these measures is defined as the percentage of respondents who say that they are 'completely', 'very' or 'fairly' satisfied, recorded from a seven point scale.

The PSA 24 target is to achieve a statistically significant increase in the percentage of satisfied respondents across England and Wales (at the 95 per cent level) from the baseline (12 months to March 2008) by the year ending March 2011. Over the same time there should be no statistically significant decrease in the percentage of respondents who are completely or very satisfied.

Recovery of criminal assets

Increasing the recovery of assets acquired through criminal activity is one of the Government's key Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets. The strategy aims to reassure the public that crime does not pay; increase public confidence; reduce harm; deter, disrupt and detect criminals; remove criminal role models; and secure compensation for victims of crime.

Indicator 5 of PSA 24 is to recover criminal assets worth £250 million in 2009/10. Asset recovery comprises:

- Confiscation (about 60 per cent of monies recovered in 2008/09);
- Cash forfeiture (about 27 per cent);
- Civil recovery and tax recovery (about 13 per cent);
- International asset sharing (less than 1 per cent).

Multiple agencies including Police Forces, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, Crown Prosecution Services, Her Majesty's Court Service, Serious Fraud Office,

Serious Organised Crime Agency – all do asset recovery work and contribute to the total amount collected.

Confiscation orders

The impliedⁿ national confiscation enforcement target for 2009/10 is to collect £71 million from the enforcement of confiscation orders. This applies only to orders enforced by HMCS or CPS Branch.

The target is supported by the national confiscation pipeline target to obtain new confiscation and restraint orders in 2009/10 such that the:

- Value of confiscation orders obtained = £107 million
- Volume of confiscation orders obtained = 4,743
- Volume of restraint orders obtained = 1,062

The England and Wales financial year to date achieved figure includes the performance of the 42 Criminal Justice System areas and additionally the British Transport Police, UK Border Agency, East Midlands Special Operations Unit and Trading Standards. Orders included for the 42 Criminal Justice System areas are those that have been investigated by a Police Force or a Regional Asset Recovery Team and prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Criminal Justice System enforcement programme

The effective use and enforcement of sentences, penalties and court orders is crucial to maintaining confidence in the Criminal Justice System and will mean that victims and witnesses are more willing to engage with the Criminal Justice System. Moreover, if the Criminal Justice System is to be respected, offender and defendants must comply with the sentences and orders of the court. We aim to do this by ensuring that fines are paid, community penalties are complied with and defendants attend their court hearings. The National Criminal Justice Board's vision for 2008/09 is that, 'rigorous enforcement will revolutionise compliance with the sentences and orders of the court'. The National Criminal Justice Board has set a number of enforcement targets for local criminal justice boards to achieve this vision.

Fine enforcement

The national fines payment rate target has been set at 85 per cent for 2009/10.

The payment rate is calculated by dividing the amount paid to HMCS over a month, quarter or financial year (or year to date) by the new net amount owed over the same period. The net amount owed is the amount imposed plus net transfers minus value of fines legally cancelled minus net administratively cancelled.

Since fines are not always imposed and paid within the same reporting period, it is possible to have a payment rate above 100 per cent. Similarly, the payment rate can be deflated if imposed orders are included where the required payment date has not yet been reached and the fine has not yet been paid.

ⁿ The implied national target is the sum of Local Criminal Justice Board targets.

Defendant attendance

Defendant attendance is being addressed through a strategy which has three elements: improving first-time compliance with bail, increasing the speed and consistency of execution of Failure to Appear warrants when defendants fail to comply with bail, and ensuring that defendants who commit a Bail Act offence by failing to appear are dealt with quickly and robustly for that offence when they are brought back to court. Local targets play an important role in achieving this.

The implied^P national timeliness of execution of warrant targets are:

- 73 per cent of category A warrants to be executed within 14 days
- 72 per cent of category B warrants to be executed within 21 days
- 67 per cent of category C warrants to be executed within 28 days

Warrants are categorised by the police on receipt as either A, B or C according to their priority. Category A warrants are for serious original offences or offenders posing a higher risk whereas Category C warrants are for low level offences. Better performance is indicated by a higher percentage.

The stock/flow ratio is calculated as the number of warrants outstanding at the end of the most recent month divided by the average number of warrants received monthly during the most recent 3 months, better performance is indicated by a lower stock/flow ratio.

Community penalties

The National Offender Management Service, Her Majesty's Court Service, the National Probation Service, the Youth Justice Board, Youth Offending Teams, the Police, electronic monitoring contractors and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform work closely together to secure improvements in the compliance with and enforcement of community penalties.

The implied^P target is to resolve 62 per cent of community penalty breaches within 25 working days of the date of the relevant failure to comply.

Further information on all of the PSA24 performance indicators can be found on the Criminal Justice System website: www.lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk/ncjb/14.html

^P The implied national target is the sum of Local Criminal Justice Board targets.

Contact points for further information

Latest copies of this and other Ministry of Justice statistical bulletins are available at: www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics.htm

This data is available broken down by Local Criminal Justice Board area at: www.lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk/ncjb/29.html

Further information on recorded crime and public confidence can be found at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/crime-statistics/

Further information on victim satisfaction with the police can be found at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/victims/

Further information on the British Crime Survey can be found at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html

Further information on crime maps can be found at: www.maps.police.uk/

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

Tel: 020 3334 3555

Email: pressofficenewsdesk@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

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Evidence and Analysis
7th Floor
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from: www.statistics.gov.uk

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