



Ministry of  
**JUSTICE**

OFFICE FOR  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Criminal Justice System: working together for the public



# **Provisional Quarterly Criminal Justice System (CJS) Performance Information – March 2009**

Ministry of Justice  
Statistics bulletin

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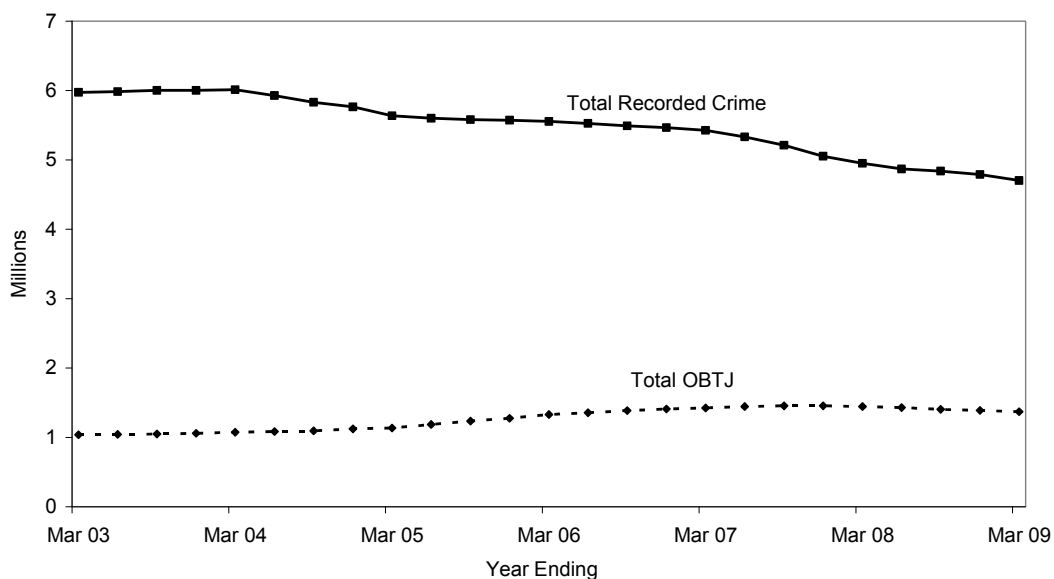
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## Effectiveness and efficiency of the CJS in bringing offences to justice

The number of offences brought to justice (OBTJ) in England and Wales in the year ending March 2009 was 1.37 million. This is a fall of 5 per cent compared with the value for the previous year ending March 2008 of 1.45 million. Over the same period the number of recorded crimes fell 5 per cent from 4.95 million to 4.70 million.

**Figure 1: Rolling annual OBTJ<sup>(a)</sup> and recorded crime**



(a) 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 8 per cent between the year ending March 2008 and year ending March 2009. The number of recorded crimes for these offences has fallen by 2 per cent over the same period.

The number of serious acquisitive offences brought to justice has fallen 4 per cent between the year ending March 2008 and year ending March 2009. The number of recorded crimes for these offences has fallen by 6 per cent over the same period.

There were 9,472 serious violent offences brought to justice for year ending March 2009. The number of recorded serious violent crimes was 41,677 for year ending March 2009. Serious violent recorded crimes from April 2008 cannot be compared with earlier periods and therefore historical comparisons are not possible.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 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. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary is currently undertaking a data quality inspection of Serious Violence Offences in England and Wales and this may lead to some revisions in figures.

## Public confidence in the fairness and effectiveness of the CJS

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 March 2009, in comparison with a baseline of 56 per cent in the six months to March 2008.

The proportion of people who think that the CJS as a whole is effective (from the British Crime Survey) was 38 per cent for the twelve months to March 2009, in comparison to the baseline of 37 per cent for the six months ending March 2008 (this difference is not statistically significant).

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 CJS for victims and witnesses

Victim and witness satisfaction with their treatment with the CJS (cases closed nine months to December 2008) was 83 per cent compared to the baseline of 81 per cent for the six months ending March 2008 (from the Witness and Victim Experiences Survey).

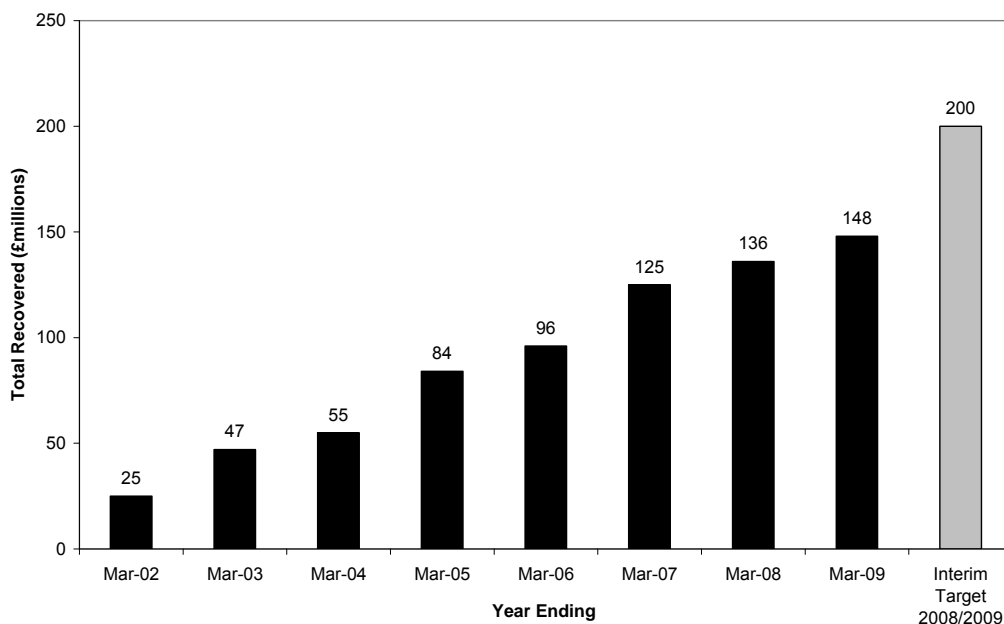
Victim satisfaction with the police (from police user satisfaction surveys), was 83 per cent for the year ending March 2009 in comparison to the baseline of 81 per cent for the year to March 2008.

We are reviewing the content of this section and expect to present a fuller section on victims and witness satisfaction with the CJS in future publications.

## Recovery of criminal assets

The value of assets recovered across England, Wales and Northern Ireland for the year ending March 2009 was £148 million. The interim target for 2008/09 was to recover assets worth £200 million with a target of £250 million for 2009/10.

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



The amount collected, including compensation, from the enforcement of confiscation orders across England and Wales in year ending March 2009 was £96 million. The target for this period was £132 million.

The value of new confiscation orders obtained across England and Wales in year ending March 2009 was £119 million. The target for this period was £109 million.

The number of confiscation orders obtained across England and Wales in year ending March 2009 was 4,759. The target for this period was 4,437.

The number of restraint orders obtained across England and Wales in year ending March 2009 was 1,372. The target for this period was 772.

## Enforcement

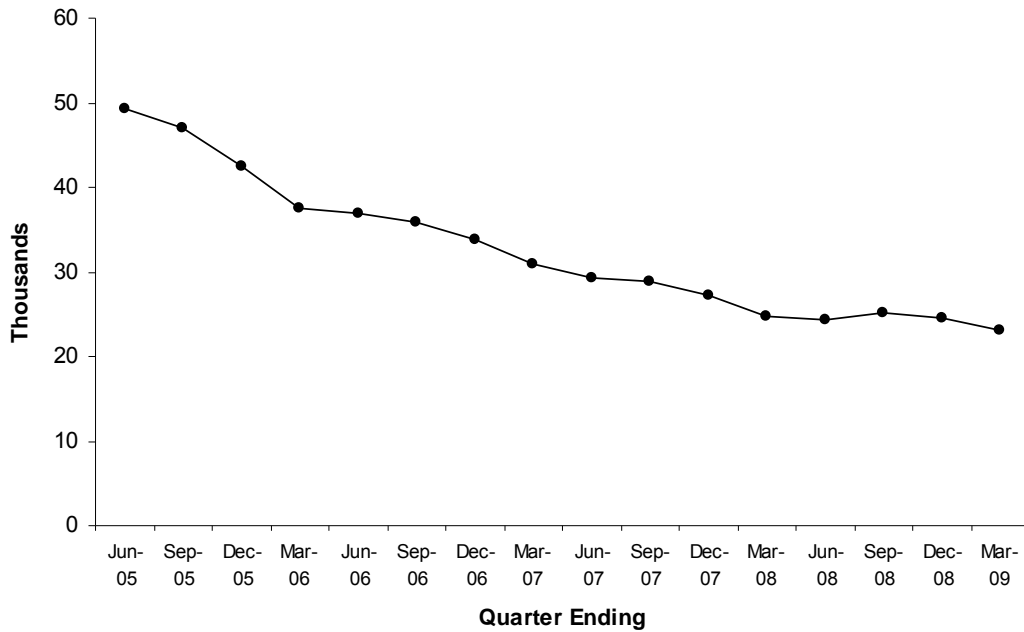
The payment rate for financial impositions across England and Wales was 85 per cent for the year ending March 2009. The target was 85 per cent or greater. The payment rate is calculated as the value of fines collected in the period divided by (the value of fines imposed in the period minus the value of fines administratively cancelled minus the value of fines legally cancelled minus net transfers).

The number of outstanding Failure To Appear (FTA) warrants has decreased from 25,039 at year ending March 2008 to 23,043<sup>2</sup> at year ending March 2009. The target for the year ending March 2009 was 24,457 or lower.

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<sup>2</sup> England and Wales total is calculated using data for Greater Manchester CJS area that has yet to be confirmed and is therefore likely to change.

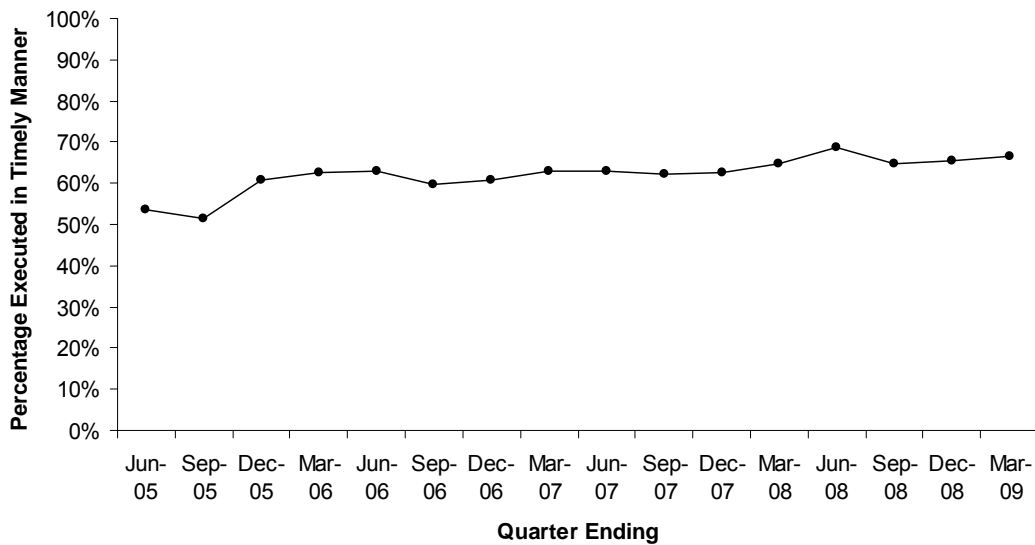
**Figure 3: Number of outstanding failure to appear warrants**



The FTA Warrant stock/flow ratio was 2.7<sup>2</sup> at the end of March 2009. The target was a stock/flow of 2.0 or lower by the end of March 2009, (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).

The proportion of Category A FTA warrants executed in a timely manner (within 14 days of receipt), for the quarter ending March 2009, was 67 per cent<sup>2</sup>. The target was 73 per cent or higher.

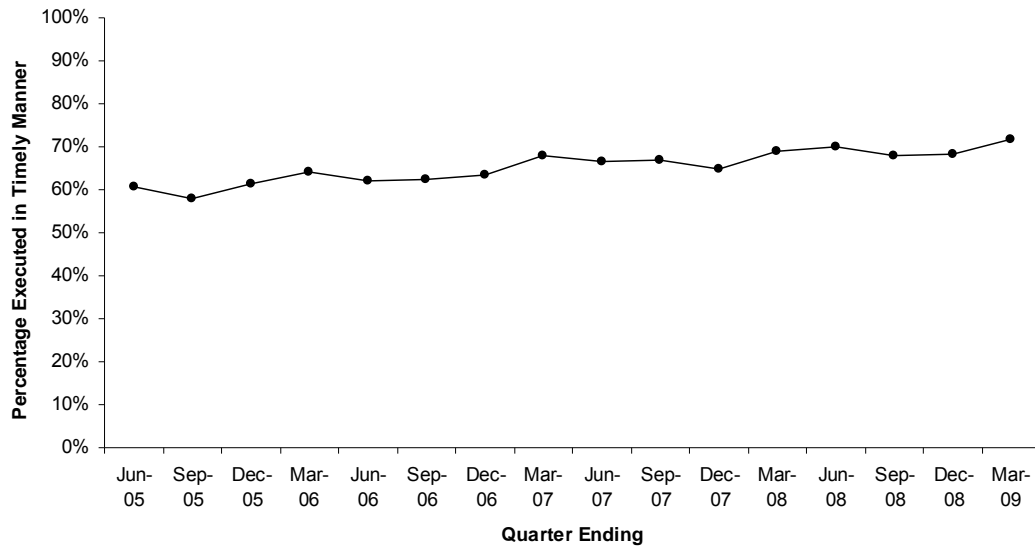
**Figure 4: Category A failure to appear warrants executed in a timely manner (within 14 days of receipt)**



<sup>2</sup> England and Wales total is calculated using data for Greater Manchester CJS area that has yet to be confirmed and is therefore likely to change.

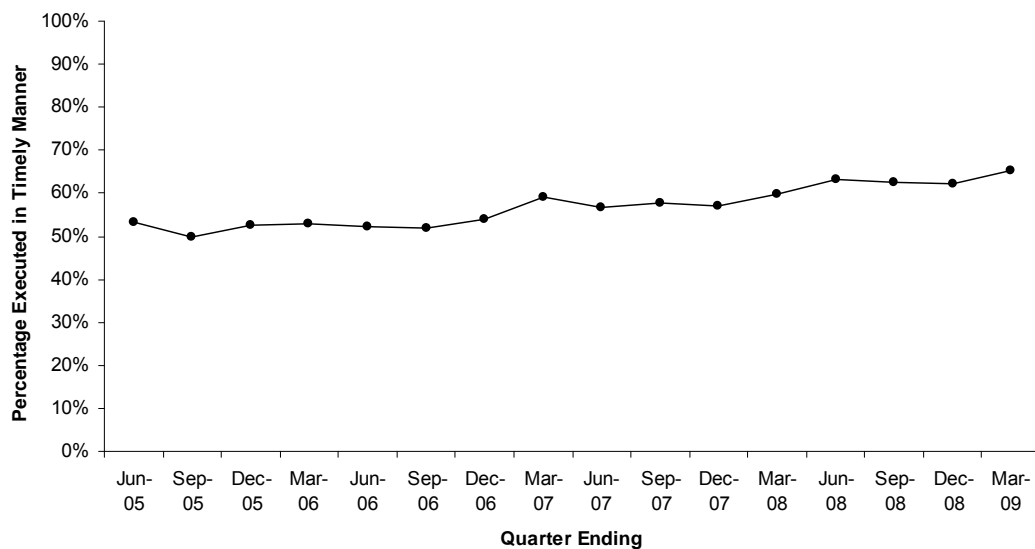
The proportion of Category B FTA warrants executed in a timely manner (within 21 days of receipt), for the quarter ending March 2009, was 72 per cent<sup>2</sup>. The target was 73 per cent or higher.

**Figure 5: Category B failure to appear warrants executed in a timely manner (within 21 days of receipt)**



The proportion of Category C FTA warrants executed in a timely manner (within 28 days of receipt), for the quarter ending March 2009, was 65 per cent<sup>2</sup>. The target was 64 per cent or higher.

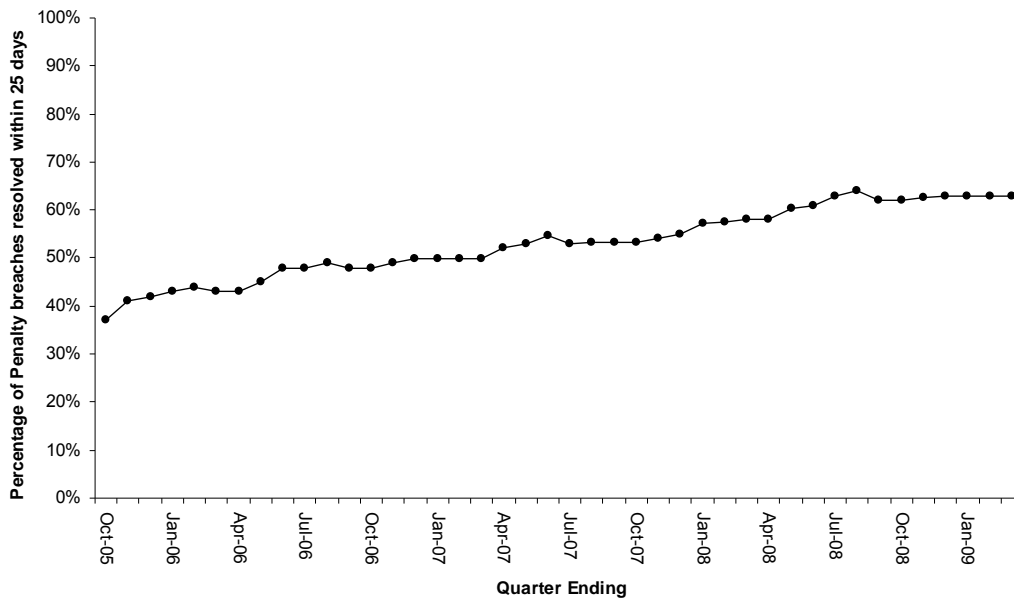
**Figure 6. Category C Failure to appear warrants executed in a timely manner (within 28 days of receipt)**



<sup>2</sup> England and Wales total is calculated using data for Greater Manchester CJS area that has yet to be confirmed and is therefore likely to change.

The percentage of community penalty breaches resolved within 25 working days of the relevant unacceptable failure to comply for quarter ending March 2009 was 63 per cent. The target was 60 per cent or greater.

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





## Appendix A: England and Wales CJS performance data

**Table 1: England and Wales CJS Performance Data**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline performance</b>	<b>Current performance (April 2008 to March 2009)</b>
Serious Violent OBTJ <sup>(1)</sup>	9,472	9,472
Serious Violent Recorded Crime <sup>(1)</sup>	41,677	41,677
Serious Sexual OBTJ <sup>(2)</sup>	11,668	12,652
Serious Sexual Recorded Crime <sup>(2)</sup>	37,615	36,727
Serious Acquisitive OBTJ <sup>(2)</sup>	120,004	114,989
Serious Acquisitive Recorded Crime <sup>(2)</sup>	963,192	905,045
Public Confidence in the CJS: Fairness <sup>(3)</sup>	56%	59%
Public Confidence in the CJS: Effectiveness <sup>(3)</sup>	37%	38%
Victim and Witness Satisfaction with the CJS <sup>(3)</sup>	81%	83% <sup>(4)</sup>
Victim Satisfaction with the Police <sup>(2)</sup>	81%	83%
Asset Recovery <sup>(5)</sup>	-	£148 million

(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

## Appendix B: Asset recovery raw quarterly performance data

**Table 2: Value of assets recovered each financial quarter**

<b>Financial quarter to</b>	<b>Value of assets recovered (£ millions)</b>
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	42.10

## Explanatory notes

This bulletin covers the quarterly release of information on the performance of the criminal justice system in line with Public Service Agreement (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 CJS (including performance at LCJB level) has been published since October 2003. Archive data since May 2005 is available at: <http://lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk/ncjb/>

The CJS 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](http://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](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html)

### Key quality issues

#### Provisional data

All statistics quoted in this quarterly bulletin are provisional and subject to change. Data is finalised following the publication of the Criminal Statistics Annual Report due each November.

#### 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 victimisation 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.

BCS 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, BCS estimates are subject to a margin of error. Any changes in BCS estimates over time are described as differences only when they are statistically significant.<sup>3</sup>

Calibration weighting is used to adjust for differential non-response. The weighting is designed to make adjustments for known differentials in response rates between different ages by sex subgroups. For example, a household containing a 24-year-old male living alone may be less likely to respond to the survey than a household containing a 24-year-old male with a partner and a child. The procedure therefore gives different weights in such a way that the weighted distribution of individuals in the responding households matches the known distribution in the population as a whole.

### **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 CJS officials assaulted in the course of duty, and all police or expert witnesses are also excluded.

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<sup>3</sup> Tests of statistical significance are used to identify which differences are unlikely to have occurred by chance. In the BCS, tests at the five per cent significance levels have been applied (the level at which there is a one in 20 chance of an observed difference being solely due to chance).

To ensure data are representative, each quarter, the 42 Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs) in England and Wales provide the research contractors with the names and contact details of all eligible victims and witnesses. The majority of LCJBs use the Witness Management System<sup>4</sup> (WMS) 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 LCJBs) and to adjust for the different sized victim and witness populations between LCJBs. 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 CJS 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](http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/performance-and-measurement/US_Guidance_2008-09_Revised1.pdf)

## **Definitions**

### **Effectiveness and efficiency of the CJS 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 (PND) or a cannabis warning, or having an offence taken into consideration (TIC). 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.

Comparing the volume of offences brought to justice with the volume of recorded crime provides a proxy measure of the effectiveness of the CJS 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

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<sup>4</sup> WMS is an enhanced variant of the Case Management System (CMS); a national IT system to support Witness Care Units.

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 CJS**

Raising public confidence in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) is one of the Government's key Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets. Improving confidence is a priority because the CJS 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 PSA24 confidence target is to achieve a statistical significant increase across England and Wales (at the 95 per cent level) in both measures from their baseline (6 months to March 2008) by the year ending March 2011.

### **Experience of the CJS for victims and witnesses**

Victim and Witness satisfaction with the CJS 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 CJS. The measure, baseline and reporting periods are the same as the national PSA target.

### **Increasing satisfaction with the police**

Increasing satisfaction with the police is one of the key priorities of PSA 24. This indicator 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 PSA24 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 PSA24 is to recover criminal assets worth £250 million in 2009/10 with an interim target of £200 million in 2008/09. Asset recovery comprises:

- Confiscation (about 70 per cent of monies recovered in 2007/08)
- Cash forfeiture (about 23 per cent)
- Civil recovery and tax recovery (about 7 per cent)
- International recovery (less than 1 per cent)

Multiple agencies including Police Forces, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, Crown Prosecution Services (CPS), 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 national confiscation enforcement target for 2008/09 is to collect £132 million from the enforcement of confiscation orders. This comprises £120 million confiscation (60 per cent of the £200 million asset recovery target) and £12 million compensation (compensation does not count towards the overall asset recovery target).

The target is supported by the national confiscation pipeline target to obtain new confiscation and restraint orders in 2008/09 such that the:

- Value of confiscation orders obtained = £109 million
- Volume of confiscation orders obtained = 4,437
- Volume of restraint orders obtained = 772

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

## **CJS 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 NCJB 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 2008/09.

The payment rate is calculated as the value of fines collected in the period divided by (the value of fines imposed in the period minus the value of fines administratively cancelled minus the value of fines legally cancelled minus net transfers).

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.

### **Defendant attendance**

Defendant attendance is being addressed through a strategy which has three key 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 national timeliness of execution of warrant targets are:

- 73 per cent of category A warrants to be executed within 14 days
- 73 per cent of category B warrants to be executed within 21 days
- 64 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 target is to resolve 60 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 CJS website: [www.lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk/ncjb/14.html](http://www.lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk/ncjb/14.html)

## 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](http://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](http://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/](http://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/](http://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](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html)

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

Tel: 020 3334 3555

Email: [pressofficenewsdesk@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pressofficenewsdesk@justice.gsi.gov.uk)

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform  
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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](mailto:statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk)

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