



Ministry
of Justice

Statistical Notice

Further breakdowns of cautions

30 September 2013

Background

This ad-hoc statistical notice presents additional analysis on the use of adult cautions, and has been produced as supporting evidence for the *Adult Simple Cautions Review*. It provides further breakdowns of already published information on cautions in the format of:

- **Indictable only offences:** these offences are the most serious breaches of the criminal law such as violent and sexual offences and robbery, which are ordinarily tried at the Crown Court before a judge and jury.
- **Triable either way offences:** these offences include criminal damage where the value is £5,000 or greater, theft, burglary and drink driving and may be heard either at a magistrates' court or tried at the Crown Court.
- **Summary offences:** These offences include common assault and criminal damage up to £5,000 and are usually heard only by a magistrates' court.

A simple caution can be administered when there is sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of a conviction but it is not considered to be in the public interest to institute criminal proceedings. It aims to divert offenders away from court, and to reduce the likelihood that they will offend again. Cautions are intended for low level, often first time, offending. Additionally, the offender must admit guilt and consent to a caution in order for one to be given. The offender will be officially warned about the unacceptability of their behaviour, that the simple caution forms part of their criminal record and may be disclosed, and the likely consequences of committing further crimes will be explained.

Simple cautions are currently available for all offences. The decision to offer a simple caution is made by the police except in indictable only offences where the decision must be made by a Crown Prosecutor.

Until April 2013 conditional cautions could only be given for a number of specific triable either way offences, with agreement from the Crown Prosecution Service. From April 2013 conditional cautions were available for all offences

Please note that the offences listed in Tables 1, 2 and 3 are not an exhaustive list of indictable only, triable either way and summary offences. Only those offences where a caution has been given between 2009 and 2012 have been listed.

Further details on data up to 2012 on cautions and other out of court disposals can be found in the Criminal Justice Statistics quarterly bulletin:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly-update-to-december-2012>

A further update to the twelve months ending March 2013 was last published on 22 August 2013; these figures have not been provided in the tables below as they are released as provisional:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly-march-2013>

Table 1: Adult offenders cautioned for indictable only offences, by offence type, 2009 to 2012

England and Wales

Indictable only offences	Offenders Cautioned			
	2009	2010	2011	2012
Threat or conspiracy to murder	4	-	-	3
Wounding or other act endangering life	85	66	42	32
Endangering railway passenger	-	1	-	-
Other wounding, etc.	43	43	45	37
Administering poison with intent to injure or annoy	6	5	3	3
Setting spring guns etc. to injure trespassers	-	2	-	-
Causing bodily harm by furious driving	1	1	-	1
Assaults on person preserving wreck	-	1	-	-
Possession of firearm/imitation firearm	36	34	42	33
Procuring illegal abortion	2	-	1	-
Total violence against the person	134	110	88	72
Buggery	-	-	1	-
Sexual assault on a male	3	2	-	1
Rape of a female	7	4	3	1
Rape of a male	1	2	-	-
Sexual assault on a female	15	11	16	12
Sexual activity with a child under 13	-	5	6	7
Sexual activity with a child under 16	135	148	159	122
Incest	7	6	5	1
Exploitation of prostitution (Procuration)	-	1	-	-
Abduction	1	-	-	-
Sexual activity with a person with a mental disorder	1	1	1	2
Child prostitution and pornography	1	-	1	-
Total sexual offences	171	180	192	146
Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	47	31	9	10
Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling	40	22	4	2
Total burglary	87	53	13	12
Total robbery	32	30	21	24
Other fraud	13	10	23	24
Other forgery etc.	118	98	57	29
Total fraud and forgery	131	108	80	53
Arson	12	4	7	4
Threat, etc. to commit criminal damage	2	-	1	4
Total criminal damage	14	4	8	8
Blackmail	13	13	11	9
Kidnapping etc.	20	18	9	10
Riot	-	-	1	-
Perjury	8	17	9	12
Offender Management Offences	23	14	18	21
Aiding suicide	-	-	1	-
Perverting the course of justice	180	127	102	89
Absconding from lawful custody	15	17	17	18
Firearms Act offence	75	45	16	17
Other (excluding motoring offences)	5	6	8	2
Total other offences (excluding motoring)	339	257	192	178
Total indictable only	908	742	594	493

Note: Some cautions above will relate to historic crimes. Under the criminal law most offences must be dealt with under the law at the time the crime was committed.

Table A2: Adult offenders cautioned for triable either way offences, by offence type, 2009 to 2012

England and Wales

Triable either way offences	Offenders Cautioned			
	2009	2010	2011	2012
Threat or conspiracy to murder	162	149	107	90
Wounding or other act endangering life	37	41	35	21
Endangering railway passenger	1	2	3	9
Other wounding, etc.	18,698	15,157	10,563	8,875
Grievous Bodily Harm/Malicious Wounding	375	390	119	99
Racially or religiously aggravated GBH	4	-	2	-
Actual Bodily Harm	13,719	11,078	6,523	5,316
Racially or religiously aggravated ABH	23	20	24	7
Possession of weapons	2,446	1,733	1,948	1,543
Possession of knives	1,091	1,011	1,049	962
Dangerous dogs	234	202	192	192
Breach of an injunction against harassment/restraining order	20	26	36	51
Putting people in fear of violence	299	264	247	259
Racially or religiously aggravated common assault	98	84	82	89
Racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm, distress	386	343	341	356
Other	3	6	-	1
Cruelty to or neglect of children	1,438	1,452	1,596	1,560
Abandoning child aged under 2 years	9	3	2	5
Child abduction	13	20	15	23
Total violence against the person	20,358	16,824	12,321	10,583
Sexual assault on a male	34	36	26	32
Indecency between males	2	2	1	-
Sexual assault on a female	386	322	374	358
Sexual activity with a child under 13	16	14	30	23
Sexual activity with a child under 16	94	94	109	111
Incest	14	15	17	13
Exploitation of prostitution (Procuration)	36	29	32	52
Soliciting by a man	-	2	12	12
Sexual activity with a person with a mental disorder	2	5	4	4
Child prostitution and pornography	5	5	6	7
Abuse of trust (including sex offender notification offences)	21	12	19	18
Gross indecency with children	5	4	6	4
Miscellaneous sexual offences ⁽³⁾	279	225	289	282
Meeting a female child following sexual grooming etc. (offender 18 or over and victim under 16)	11	10	11	8
Meeting a male child following sexual grooming etc. (offender 18 or over and victim under 16)	-	-	-	3
Committing an offence with intent to commit a sexual offence	1	1	-	-
Trespass with intent to commit a sexual offence	-	-	1	-
Exposure	221	165	235	216
Voyeurism	45	48	42	55
Sexual penetration of a corpse	1	1	-	-
Total sexual offences	894	765	925	916
Burglary in a dwelling	805	704	690	546
Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	986	919	1,047	670
Total burglary	1,791	1,623	1,737	1,216
Aggravated vehicle taking	105	83	44	37
Money Laundering offences (not drug related) ⁽²⁾	145	90	129	68
Theft from the person of another	680	617	844	720
Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter	876	762	719	762
Theft by an employee	3,149	2,504	2,425	2,051
Theft or unauthorised taking from mail	26	15	13	14
Abstracting electricity	254	194	223	198
Theft of a pedal cycle	305	296	373	307
Theft from vehicle	840	784	677	551
Theft from shops	20,236	19,016	18,478	15,694
Theft from automatic machine or meter	92	60	61	45
Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle	247	253	173	123
Other theft or unauthorised taking	5,758	5,962	6,518	5,473
Handling stolen goods	1,457	1,258	1,372	1,243
Total theft and handling stolen goods	34,170	31,894	32,049	27,286
False accounting	34	24	25	21
Other fraud	5,801	5,096	4,805	4,152
Forgery, or use of, false drug prescription	43	42	37	39
Other forgery etc.	379	305	232	245
Total fraud and forgery	6,257	5,467	5,099	4,457
Arson	147	142	113	105
Criminal damage endangering life	15	10	59	65
Other criminal damage	3,472	2,839	2,617	2,171
Threat, etc. to commit criminal damage	388	425	308	332
Total criminal damage	4,022	3,416	3,097	2,673

Table A2: Adult offenders cautioned for triable either way offences, by offence type, 2009 to 2012, continued

England and Wales

Triable either way offences	Offenders Cautioned			
	2009	2010	2011	2012
Unlawful importation of a controlled drug	11	11	8	13
Class A	3	2	4	1
Class B	-	2	2	7
Class C	2	3	-	3
Class (unspecified)	6	4	2	2
Unlawful exportation of a controlled drug	3	6	-	1
Class A	2	4	-	-
Class B	1	-	-	-
Class C	-	-	-	-
Class (unspecified)	-	2	-	1
Production of a controlled drug	3,139	3,750	4,261	4,210
Class A	15	11	9	7
Class B	92	75	168	191
Class C	15	6	3	5
Class (unspecified)	-	3	1	1
Cannabis	3,017	3,655	4,080	4,006
Possession of a controlled drug	32,419	30,065	31,608	29,261
Class A	13,201	11,229	11,804	10,957
Class B	3,217	3,787	4,204	4,435
Class C	1,574	1,413	1,392	1,088
Class (unspecified)	162	161	53	61
Cannabis	14,265	13,475	14,155	12,720
Possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply	304	293	347	342
Class A	84	64	66	71
Class B	31	37	57	58
Class C	22	14	14	24
Class (unspecified)	2	7	1	1
Cannabis	165	171	209	188
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug	197	151	166	172
Class A	87	46	58	54
Class B	16	28	29	26
Class C	27	13	24	20
Class (unspecified)	5	2	3	1
Cannabis	62	62	52	71
Other drug offences	245	266	347	297
Total drug offences	36,318	34,542	36,737	34,296
Breach of an Anti-Social Behaviour Order	15	8	3	4
Concealment of birth	-	1	1	-
Bigamy	17	13	6	10
Going equipped for stealing etc.	329	326	286	265
Violent disorder	18	7	10	9
Other offence against the State or public order	4,256	3,819	3,126	2,551
Perjury	22	129	31	21
Offender Management Offences	45	44	25	39
Betting or gaming offence	7	3	6	3
Immigration Act	38	32	64	23
Perverting the course of justice	40	28	41	25
Firearms Act offence	719	669	607	538
Revenue law offence	4	2	-	1
Failing to surrender to bail etc.	33	19	37	22
Trade Descriptions Act and similar offences	148	88	77	49
Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974	-	1	-	3
Obscene publications, etc. and protected sexual material	358	381	511	537
Possessing obscene material for gain	6	4	1	-
Taking, permitting to be taken or making, distributing or publishing indecent photographs or pseudo photographs of children	157	132	177	183
Possession of indecent photograph of a child	169	194	247	268
Possession of extreme pornographic images	24	49	77	72
Possessing prohibited images of children	-	2	9	14
Other	2	-	-	-
Protection from Eviction Act 1978	9	5	-	4
Adulteration of food	1	-	-	-
Public health offences	13	7	6	4
Town and Country Planning Act 1990	1	-	-	-
Disclosure, obstruction, false or misleading statements etc.	1	4	1	1
Other (excluding motoring offences)	281	273	294	269
Total other offences (excluding motoring)	6,355	5,859	5,132	4,378
Total triable either way	110,165	100,390	97,097	85,805

Note: Some cautions above will relate to historic crimes. Under the criminal law most offences must be dealt with under the law at the time the crime was committed.

Table A3: Adult offenders cautioned for summary (non-motoring) offences, by offence type, 2009 to 2012

England and Wales

Summary offences	Offenders Cautioned			
	2009	2010	2011	2012
Assault on a constable	3,149	2,849	3,275	2,925
Common assault	49,821	43,065	44,706	41,909
Cruelty to animals	27	40	25	25
Offences in relation to dogs	106	94	88	74
Education Acts	3	4	5	2
Firearms Acts	245	174	289	253
Offences against Public Order	12,763	10,983	11,062	9,292
Interference with a motor vehicle	182	132	102	75
Stealing or unauthorised taking of a conveyance	1,168	961	913	741
Aggravated vehicle taking	156	141	125	132
Indecent exposure	1	-	2	-
Drunkenness simple	502	430	521	375
Drunkenness with aggravation	4,065	3,890	4,738	4,167
Criminal Damage	20,388	16,806	15,254	13,383
Social Security Offences	8	-	9	22
Kerb Crawling	755	600	187	111
Offence by prostitutes	544	927	44	42
Motor vehicle licence offences	1	1	-	-
Begging	301	261	224	310
TV licence evasion	1	1	1	-
Other summary non-motoring offences	6,706	7,348	8,693	8,124
Total Summary non-motoring	100,892	88,707	90,263	81,962

Note: Some cautions above will relate to historic crimes. Under the criminal law most offences must be dealt with under the law at the time the crime was committed.

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