



Ministry of
JUSTICE



Time Intervals for Criminal Proceedings in Magistrates' Courts: March 2008

Ministry of Justice
Statistics Bulletin

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CONTENTS

- 1 Key findings
- 2 Introduction

COMMENTARY

- 4 Adult and Youth Court Timeliness results
- 6 All criminal cases
- 8 All indictable cases
- 10 All summary non-motoring cases
- 12 All summary motoring cases
- 14 Youth defendants

TABLES

- 16 Timeliness standard
- 22 All criminal cases
- 23 All indictable cases
- 24 All summary non-motoring cases
- 24 All summary motoring cases
- 25 Youth defendants

NOTES

- 27 Methodology
- 28 Quality and completeness of data
- 32 Further Information

KEY FINDINGS

This bulletin presents the results from the March 2008 Time Intervals Survey. The survey reports on the time taken between stages of proceedings for defendants in completed criminal cases in the magistrates' courts in England and Wales.

All criminal cases: The average time interval from offence to completion was 145 days for defendants in all criminal cases, compared to 148 days in March 2007.

Indictable/triable-either-way cases: The average time between offence and completion for indictable cases decreased from 127 days in March 2007 to 119 days in March 2008.

Summary cases: Compared to March 2007, the average time between offence and completion decreased for summary non-motoring offences (from 145 to 140 days) but increased for summary motoring offences (from 161 to 165 days).

Youth defendants: Compared to March 2007, the average time from offence to completion for youth defendants decreased for indictable offences (99 to 88 days), summary non-motoring offences (89 to 75 days) and for summary motoring offences (100 to 94 days).

Timeliness standards: 86 per cent of adult charged cases were completed within the standards and 92 per cent of youth cases were completed within the standards.

Please note that for this March 2008 survey, England and Wales figures exclude adult data for Dewbury Magistrates' Court and youth data for North Somerset Magistrates' Court, both due to technical difficulties.

INTRODUCTION

SURVEYS

March

- **Timeliness standard results**
- **All cases for all defendants**
- **Indictable cases for all defendants**
- **Summary cases for all defendants**
- **All cases for Youth defendants**

June

- Timeliness standard results
- Indictable cases for all defendants
- All cases for Youth defendants

September

- Timeliness standard results
- All cases for all defendants
- Indictable cases for all defendants
- Summary cases for all defendants
- All cases for Youth defendants

December

- Timeliness standard results
- Indictable cases for all defendants
- All cases for Youth defendants
- Annual tables

1. Information on adult indictable/triable-either-way cases and charged summary cases is collected in one week of each quarter. Information on adult summonsed summary offences is additionally collected in the first and third quarters. Information on youth defendants in both indictable and summary cases is collected in four weeks of each quarter. Timeliness standard results are published every quarter for both charged cases in adult courts and for all youth court (youth defendants only) cases. Please see the 'Notes' section for more details. All references to indictable cases in this bulletin include triable-either-way cases.
2. This bulletin consists of three sections. This first section includes a description of the results from the March 2008 survey. The second section contains tables of detailed results from the latest survey and previous surveys, while the final section holds methodological notes and further information. Following this introduction the results are in six parts, the first five covering information on all defendants taken from the main survey week, and the last covering information collected on youth defendants from a four-week survey period – as follows:
 - Timeliness standard results
 - All criminal cases
 - Indictable cases
 - Summary non-motoring cases
 - Summary motoring cases
 - Youth defendants
3. The results presented in this report are given per defendant. The March 2008 results for all criminal cases are based on a sample of 27,343 defendants (7,472 in indictable cases, 8,271 in summary non-motoring cases and 11,600 in summary motoring cases) from a one-week survey period. The youth defendant results are based on a sample of 7,768 defendants (5,238 in indictable cases and 2,530 in summary cases) from a four-week survey period. The 'Notes' section contains more information on sample sizes.
4. For this March 2008 survey, England and Wales figures exclude adult data for Dewbury Magistrates' Court and youth data for North Somerset Magistrates' Court, both due to technical difficulties.
5. **Changes to the collection of TIS data:** with effect from June 2007, data for the adult one week Time Intervals Survey has been collected through a web-based data collection tool, the HMCS Performance

Database. However, the youth four-week survey is still collected through the previous method (a static database). This change in the method in which adult TIS data is collected brings a number of improvements, including:

- validation of the data 'live' as it is entered;
- collection of data at court level rather than clerkship level;
- amendment of some of the data fields, following consultation, to reflect new monitoring needs.

As a consequence, any changes in the results could be due to the changed data collection process, and care should be taken when interpreting the figures.

6. **Changes to the TIS bulletin:** a review of the content of the TIS bulletin is currently being undertaken. Changes envisaged include the presentation of median alongside mean values for timeliness. It is now expected that the median will be presented in the June 2008 bulletin, along with a technical annex. Any suggestions or comments regarding this review of the TIS bulletin content would be welcome; contact details are at the back of this publication.

Timeliness standard results are published every quarter.

TIMELINESS STANDARD RESULTS

Standards for cases heard in adult courts (including youth defendants) are based on charged indictable cases and charged summary cases. No cases initiated by summons are included. Standards for youth court cases (youth defendants only) are based on both charged and summonsed indictable/triable-either-way cases and charged and summonsed summary cases.

There are separate national standards for each of the three proceeding types. Area performance is measured against achieving 80 per cent or more cases within these standards. The standards relate to the charge/laying of information to completion stage.

Adult charged cases

Initial guilty plea – 59 days

Trials – 143 days

Committals – 101 days

Youth cases

Initial guilty plea – 59 days

Trials – 176 days

Committals – 101 days

England and Wales (March 2008)

- 86 per cent of adult charged cases were completed within the standards.
- 92 per cent of youth cases were completed within the standards.

Area standard results

See Table 1a for details

~ **per the 42 LCJB Areas:**

35 Areas managed to complete 80 per cent or more of adult charged cases within the standards.

All 42 Areas managed to complete 80 per cent or more of youth cases within the standards.

See Table 1b for details

~ per the 24 HMCS Areas:

21 Areas managed to complete 80 per cent or more of adult charged cases within the standards.

All 24 Areas managed to complete 80 per cent or more of youth cases within the standards.

Results from all criminal cases are published in March and September.

ALL CRIMINAL CASES – ALL DEFENDANTS

Main point

In March 2008, the average time from offence to completion for defendants in all criminal cases decreased from March 2007.

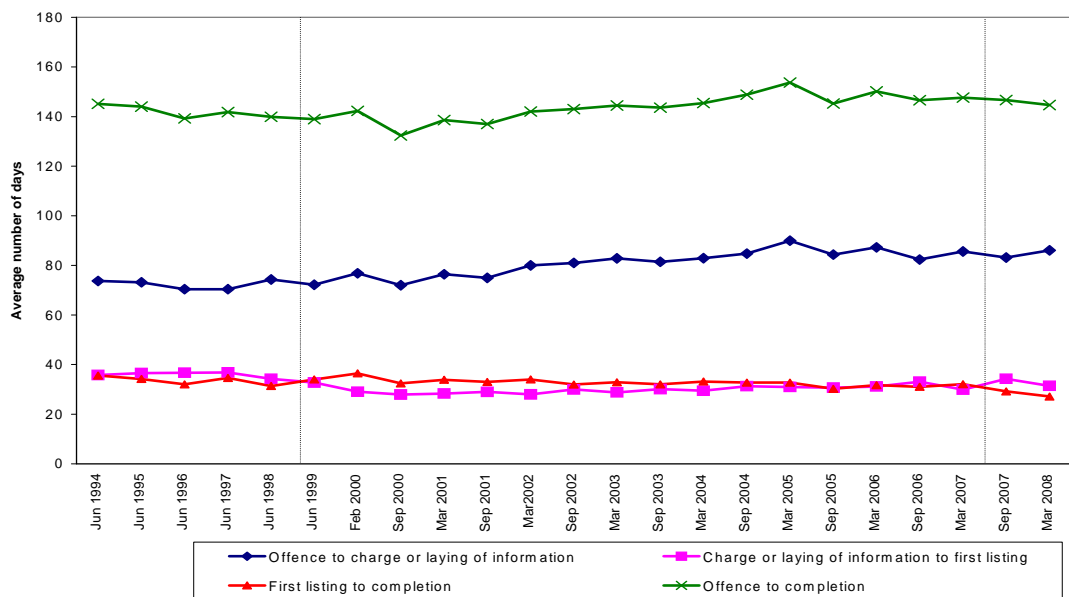
See Table 4 for details

Time Intervals

- The average time from offence to completion for all criminal cases was 145 days, a decrease from 148 days in March 2007.
- The average time from offence to charge or laying of information was 86 days, unchanged from March 2007.
- The average time from charge or laying of information to first listing was 31 days, an increase from 30 days in March 2007.
- The average time from first listing to completion was 27 days, a decrease from 32 days in March 2007.

The dashed vertical lines in the chart denote changes in survey methodology introduced with the February 1999 and June 2007 surveys.

Figure 1: Average time by stage of proceedings (defendants in all criminal cases), June 1994 to March 2008



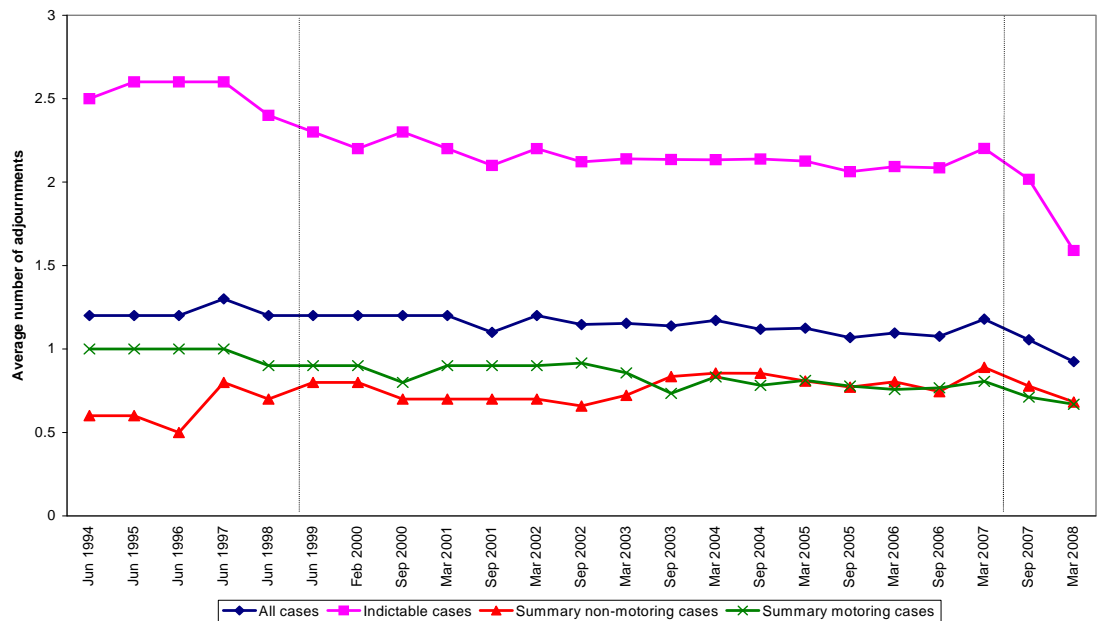
See Table 4 for details

Adjournments

- There was an average of 0.9 adjournments for all criminal cases in March 2008, a decrease from 1.2 adjournments in March 2007.
- The average length of adjournments in March 2008 was 29 days, an increase from 27 days in March 2007.
- 60 per cent of defendants in March 2008 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 56 per cent in March 2007.

The dashed vertical lines in the chart denote changes in survey methodology introduced with the February 1999 and June 2007 surveys.

Figure 2: Average number of adjournments by type of offence (defendants in all criminal cases), June 1994 to March 2008



Results for defendants in indictable (including triable-either-way) cases are published every quarter.

INDICTABLE CASES – ALL DEFENDANTS

Main point

The average time from offence to completion in March 2008 for all defendants in indictable cases decreased from March 2007.

For further details about all defendants in indictable cases see Table 5

Time Intervals

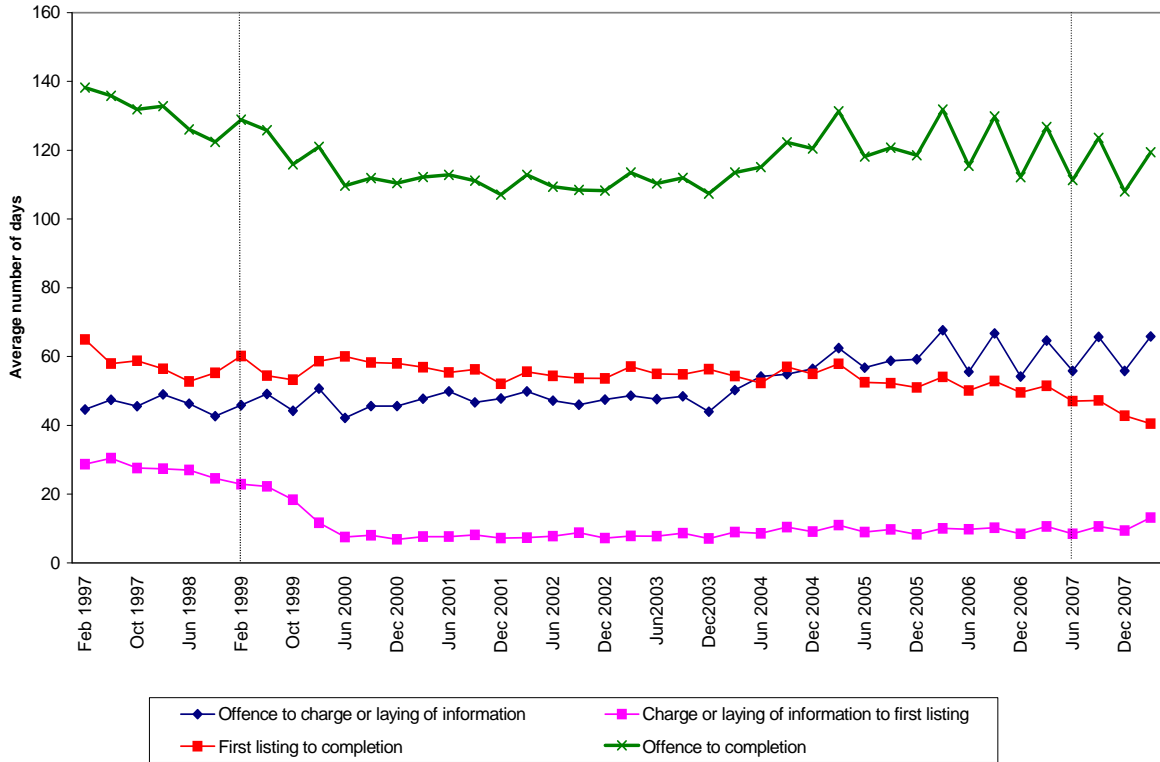
- The average time from offence to completion for indictable cases in March 2008 was 119 days, a decrease from 127 days in March 2007.
- The average time from offence to charge or laying of information was 66 days in March 2008, a slight increase from 65 days in March 2007.
- The average time from charge or laying of information to first listing was 13 days in March 2008, an increase from 11 days in March 2007.
- The average time from first listing to completion was 40 days in March 2008, a decrease from 51 days in March 2007.

Adjournments

- There was an average of 1.6 adjournments for indictable cases in March 2008, a decrease from 2.2 adjournments in March 2007.
- The average length of adjournments in March 2008 was 25 days, an increase from 23 days in March 2007.
- 38 per cent of defendants in March 2008 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 29 per cent in March 2007.

The dashed vertical lines in the chart denote changes in survey methodology introduced with the February 1999 and June 2007 surveys.

Figure 3: Average time by stage of proceedings (defendants in indictable/triable-either-way cases), February 1997 to March 2008



Inconsistency in offence to charge figures between Mar/Sep and Jun/Dec surveys is due to a lower proportion of summonsed indictable cases in June and December. This is currently being investigated.

Summary non-motoring case results are published in March and September.

SUMMARY NON-MOTORING CASES – ALL DEFENDANTS

Main Point

The average time from offence to completion in March 2008 for all defendants in summary non-motoring cases decreased from March 2007.

See Table 6 for details

Time Intervals

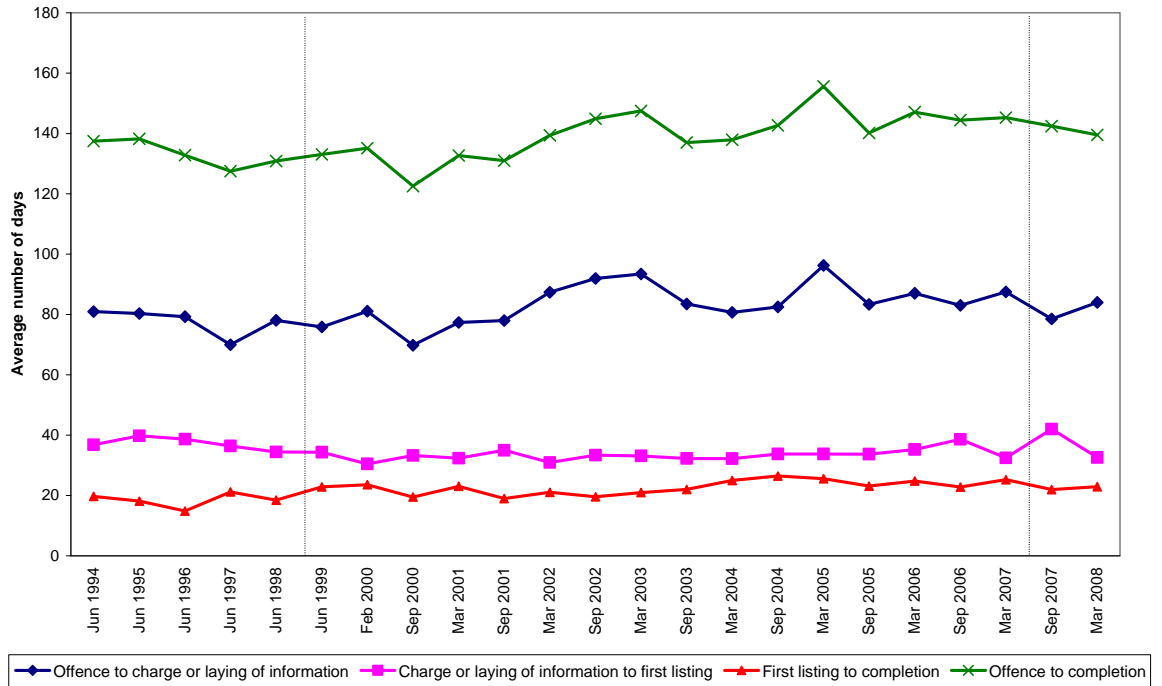
- The average time from offence to completion for summary non-motoring cases in March 2008 was 140 days, a decrease from 145 days recorded in March 2007.
- The average time from offence to charge or laying of information in March 2008 was 84 days, a decrease from 87 days in March 2007.
- The average time from charge or laying of information to first listing in March 2008 was 33 days, an increase from 32 days in March 2007.
- The average time from first listing to completion in March 2008 was 23 days, a decrease from 25 days in March 2007.

Adjournments

- There was an average of 0.7 adjournments for summary non-motoring cases in March 2008, a decrease from 0.9 adjournments in March 2007.
- The average length of adjournments in March 2008 was 34 days, an increase from 28 days in March 2007.
- 72 per cent of defendants in March 2008 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 69 per cent in March 2007.

The dashed vertical lines in the chart denote changes in survey methodology introduced with the February 1999 and June 2007 surveys.

Figure 4: Average time by stage of proceedings (defendants in summary non-motoring cases), June 1985 to March 2008



Summary motoring case results are published in March and September.

SUMMARY MOTORING CASES – ALL DEFENDANTS

Main Points

The average time from offence to completion in March 2008 for defendants in summary motoring cases increased from March 2007

See Table 6 for details

Time Intervals

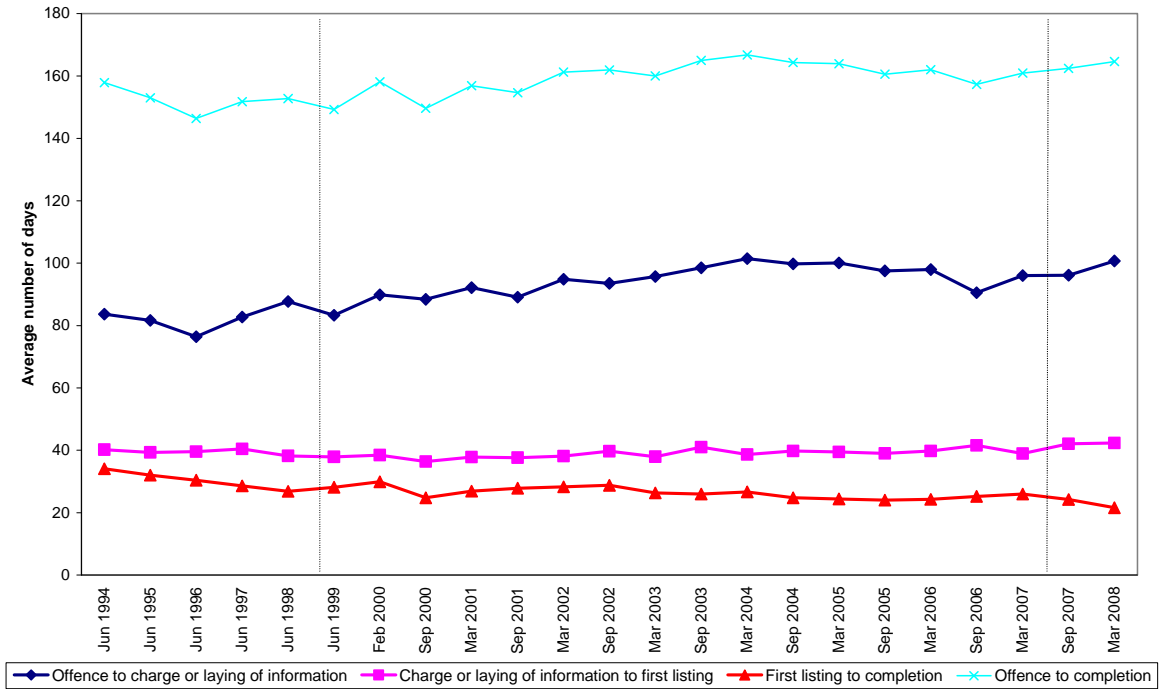
- The average time for offence to completion for summary motoring cases in March 2008 was 165 days, an increase from 161 days in March 2007.
- The average time from offence to charge or laying of information was 101 days in March 2008, an increase from 96 days in March 2007.
- The average time from charge or laying of information to first listing was 42 days in March 2008, an increase from 39 days in March 2007.
- The average time from first listing to completion was 22 days in March 2008, a decrease from 26 days in March 2007.

Adjournments

- There was an average of 0.7 adjournments for summary motoring cases in March 2008, a slight decrease from 0.8 adjournments in March 2007.
- The average length of adjournments in March 2008 was 32 days, unchanged from March 2007.
- 66 per cent of defendants in March 2008 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 63 per cent in March 2007.

The dashed vertical lines in the chart denote changes in survey methodology introduced with the February 1999 and June 2007 surveys.

Figure 5: Average time by proceedings (defendants in summary motoring cases), June 1985 to March 2008



YOUTH DEFENDANTS – ALL CASES

Main Points

The average time from offence to completion in March 2008 for youth defendants in all criminal cases decreased from March 2007.

For further details of the average time taken by stage of proceedings for indictable and summary cases see Table 7

Time Intervals

- For all youth defendant cases in March 2008, the average time from offence to completion was 85 days, a decrease from 96 days in March 2007.
- The average time from offence to completion for youth defendants in indictable cases was 88 days in March 2008, a decrease from 99 days in March 2007.
- The average time from offence to completion for summary non-motoring cases in March 2008 was 75 days, a decrease from 89 days in March 2007.
- The average time from offence to completion for summary motoring cases in March 2008 was 94 days, a decrease from 100 days in March 2007

Adjournments

- There was an average of 1.6 adjournments for youth defendants in all criminal cases in March 2008, a decrease from 2.2 adjournments in March 2007.
- The average length of adjournments for youth defendants in all criminal cases in March 2008 was 20 days, unchanged from March 2007.
- 38 per cent of youth defendants in all criminal cases in March 2008 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 30 per cent in March 2007.

Figure 6: Average time by stage of proceedings (youth defendants in all criminal cases), March 2008

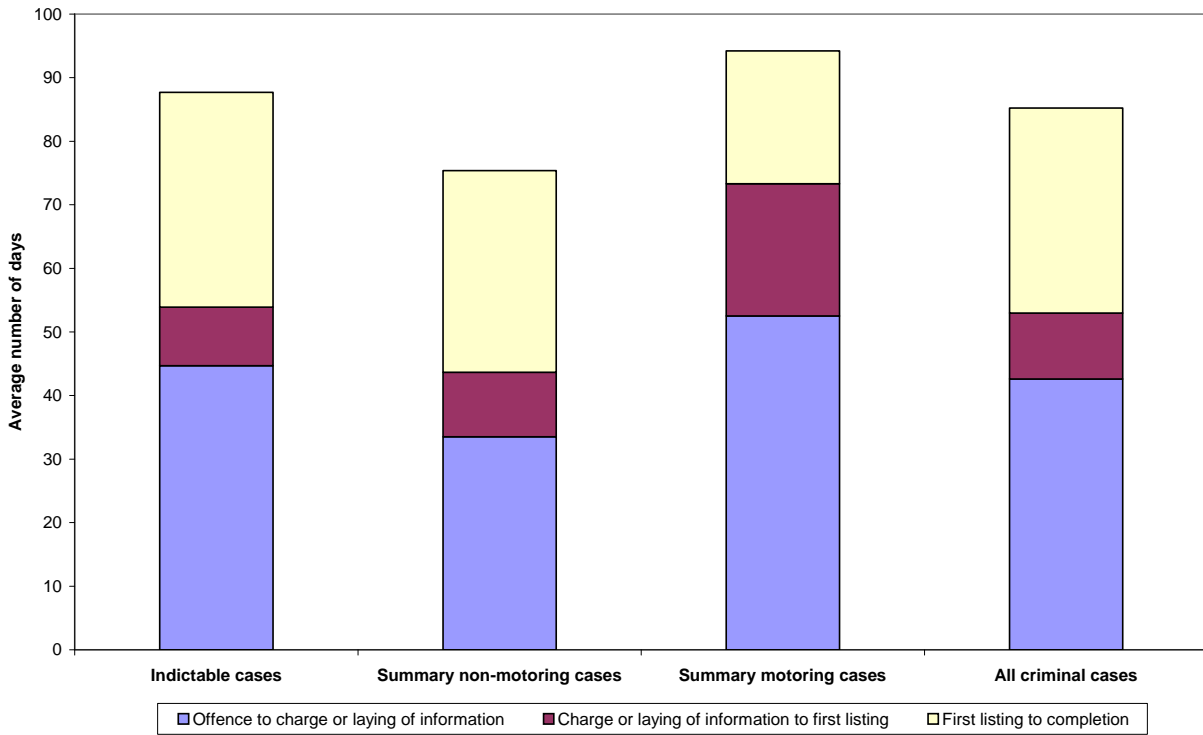


TABLE 1a: Timeliness standards (charge/laying of information to completion); adult court charged cases (including youth defendants) & youth court cases (youth defendants only); by LCJB Area; March 2008

	Adult Court Charged			Youth Court		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size
	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)
Avon and Somerset	82%	5%	243	89%	5%	155
Bedfordshire	74%	14%	43	-	-	18
Cambridgeshire	83%	8%	104	92%	6%	106
Cheshire	93%	4%	160	87%	6%	129
Cleveland	86%	5%	184	95%	4%	152
Cumbria	91%	6%	92	84%	7%	122
Derbyshire	81%	7%	150	92%	5%	138
Devon Cornwall	86%	6%	156	87%	5%	194
Dorset	69%	9%	124	93%	6%	87
Durham	85%	7%	131	92%	5%	129
Dyfed Powys	81%	10%	73	95%	7%	55
Essex	87%	4%	273	93%	4%	167
Gloucestershire	86%	8%	86	92%	6%	93
Greater Manchester	92%	2%	582	93%	2%	482
Gwent	95%	5%	95	89%	6%	116
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	77%	5%	259	90%	4%	266
Hertfordshire	80%	8%	112	93%	6%	73
Humberside	85%	6%	155	87%	5%	172
Kent	75%	6%	228	89%	5%	169
Lancashire	88%	3%	405	91%	4%	260
Leicestershire	75%	7%	166	88%	5%	179
Lincolnshire	80%	7%	126	86%	11%	50
London	86%	2%	1,557	92%	2%	1,024
Merseyside	87%	4%	323	90%	4%	250
Norfolk	92%	5%	117	96%	5%	92
North Wales	88%	6%	110	97%	4%	93
North Yorkshire	85%	6%	132	88%	6%	139
Northamptonshire	89%	7%	99	92%	6%	106
Northumbria	83%	4%	371	91%	3%	431
Nottinghamshire	85%	5%	246	90%	7%	86
South Wales	93%	3%	305	96%	3%	187
South Yorkshire	88%	4%	277	91%	4%	185
Staffordshire	86%	6%	130	92%	5%	133
Suffolk	90%	7%	77	96%	5%	83
Surrey	81%	7%	126	88%	7%	105
Sussex	87%	5%	225	91%	4%	192
Thames Valley	86%	4%	282	95%	3%	252
Warwickshire	85%	9%	78	100%	1%	48
West Mercia	78%	6%	175	89%	5%	142
West Midlands	93%	2%	748	97%	2%	399
West Yorkshire	83%	4%	377	92%	3%	288
Wiltshire	77%	10%	71	90%	8%	71
England and Wales	86%	1%	9,773	92%	1%	7,618

Notes

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the 'Notes' section for more information.

(2) Results for areas that have extremely small sample sizes, i.e. 30 defendants or less, have been excluded from the table and appear as dashed lines.

(3) Adult court charged cases also include youth defendant cases heard in adult courts. Youth court figures exclude youth defendants heard in an adult court.

TABLE 1b: Timeliness standards (charge/laying of information to completion); adult court charged cases (including youth defendants) & youth court cases (youth defendants only); by HMCS Area; March 2008

	Adult Court Charged			Youth Court		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size
	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)
Avon and Somerset	82%	5%	243	89%	5%	155
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire	84%	4%	428	93%	3%	258
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	92%	2%	536	98%	2%	334
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	87%	3%	595	92%	3%	388
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	88%	4%	298	94%	3%	281
Cheshire and Merseyside	89%	3%	483	89%	3%	379
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	84%	3%	686	92%	2%	712
Cumbria and Lancashire	89%	3%	497	89%	3%	382
Devon and Cornwall	86%	6%	156	87%	5%	194
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	77%	5%	281	92%	4%	251
Greater Manchester	92%	2%	582	93%	2%	482
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	77%	5%	259	90%	4%	266
Humber and South Yorkshire	87%	3%	432	89%	3%	357
Kent	75%	6%	228	89%	5%	169
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire	80%	4%	391	89%	4%	335
London (Central and South)	85%	3%	669	94%	3%	258
London (North and West)	87%	2%	888	92%	2%	766
Mid and West Wales	88%	5%	164	95%	5%	81
North and West Yorkshire	83%	3%	509	91%	3%	427
North Wales	88%	6%	110	97%	4%	93
Nottingham and Derbyshire	84%	4%	396	91%	4%	224
South East Wales	94%	3%	309	93%	3%	277
Surrey and Sussex	85%	4%	351	90%	4%	297
Thames Valley	86%	4%	282	95%	3%	252
England and Wales	86%	1%	9,773	92%	1%	7,618

Notes

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the 'Notes' section for more information.

(2) Results for areas that have extremely small sample sizes, i.e. 30 defendants or less, have been excluded from the table and appear as dashed lines.

(3) Adult court charged cases also include youth defendant cases heard in adult courts. Youth court figures exclude youth defendants heard in an adult court.

TABLE 2a: Timeliness standards (charge / laying of information to completion); adult court charged cases (including youth defendants); by LCJB Area; March 2008

	Initial Guilty Plea			Trials			Committals		
	Standard = 59 days			Standard = 143 days			Standard = 101 days		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size
	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)
Avon and Somerset	84%	6%	172	67%	15%	46	-	-	25
Bedfordshire	-	-	26	-	-	15	-	-	2
Cambridgeshire	79%	10%	72	-	-	25	-	-	7
Cheshire	90%	6%	99	98%	5%	46	-	-	15
Cleveland	84%	7%	122	88%	10%	52	-	-	10
Cumbria	93%	8%	55	-	-	28	-	-	9
Derbyshire	86%	8%	94	69%	14%	48	-	-	8
Devon Cornwall	88%	6%	121	-	-	27	-	-	8
Dorset	82%	9%	82	42%	17%	38	-	-	4
Durham	89%	7%	84	-	-	27	-	-	20
Dyfed Powys	82%	12%	49	-	-	18	-	-	6
Essex	91%	4%	186	70%	12%	61	-	-	26
Gloucestershire	84%	10%	58	-	-	22	-	-	6
Greater Manchester	94%	2%	401	81%	8%	104	97%	4%	77
Gwent	100%	1%	48	-	-	29	-	-	18
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	83%	6%	178	58%	13%	60	-	-	21
Hertfordshire	90%	8%	71	62%	17%	39	-	-	2
Humber-side	91%	6%	113	62%	18%	34	-	-	8
Kent	85%	6%	136	46%	13%	65	-	-	27
Lancashire	92%	4%	254	77%	9%	103	94%	8%	48
Leicestershire	77%	9%	100	71%	12%	62	-	-	4
Lincolnshire	83%	8%	90	-	-	25	-	-	11
London	87%	2%	918	78%	4%	384	97%	2%	255
Merseyside	88%	4%	234	80%	10%	66	-	-	23
Norfolk	95%	5%	80	-	-	27	-	-	10
North Wales	86%	9%	66	-	-	25	-	-	19
North Yorkshire	93%	6%	87	56%	19%	32	-	-	13
Northamptonshire	88%	9%	65	-	-	27	-	-	7
Northumbria	89%	4%	225	69%	9%	117	-	-	29
Nottinghamshire	88%	5%	170	72%	13%	57	-	-	19
South Wales	93%	4%	196	91%	7%	82	-	-	27
South Yorkshire	94%	4%	174	73%	10%	79	-	-	24
Staffordshire	91%	7%	76	76%	15%	38	-	-	16
Suffolk	93%	7%	58	-	-	11	-	-	8
Surrey	87%	8%	77	69%	16%	36	-	-	13
Sussex	88%	6%	137	82%	10%	65	-	-	23
Thames Valley	90%	4%	192	67%	13%	58	94%	10%	32
Warwickshire	90%	9%	59	-	-	12	-	-	7
West Mercia	83%	7%	108	62%	14%	50	-	-	17
West Midlands	93%	2%	473	89%	5%	168	100%	0%	107
West Yorkshire	85%	5%	253	70%	11%	81	91%	10%	43
Wiltshire	86%	11%	50	-	-	15	-	-	6
England and Wales	89%	1%	6,309	75%	2%	2,404	95%	1%	1,060

Notes

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the 'Notes' section for more information.

(2) Results for areas that have extremely small sample sizes, i.e. 30 defendants or less, have been excluded from the table and appear as dashed lines.

(3) Figures include youth defendant cases heard in adult courts.

TABLE 2b: Timeliness standards (charge / laying of information to completion); adult court charged cases (including youth defendants); by HMCS Area; March 2008

	Initial Guilty Plea			Trials			Committals		
	Standard = 59 days			Standard = 143 days			Standard = 101 days		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size
	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)
Avon and Somerset	84%	6%	172	67%	15%	46	-	-	25
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire	92%	3%	283	62%	9%	115	100%	2%	30
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	93%	3%	332	85%	7%	128	100%	1%	76
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	89%	3%	384	76%	7%	140	96%	5%	71
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	89%	4%	210	81%	10%	63	-	-	25
Cheshire and Merseyside	89%	4%	333	88%	7%	112	95%	8%	38
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	88%	3%	431	73%	6%	196	93%	7%	59
Cumbria and Lancashire	92%	3%	309	82%	7%	131	88%	9%	57
Devon and Cornwall	88%	6%	121	-	-	27	-	-	8
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	84%	6%	190	59%	12%	75	-	-	16
Greater Manchester	94%	2%	401	81%	8%	104	97%	4%	77
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	83%	6%	178	58%	13%	60	-	-	21
Humber and South Yorkshire	93%	3%	287	70%	9%	113	100%	2%	32
Kent	85%	6%	136	46%	13%	65	-	-	27
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire	82%	5%	255	73%	9%	114	-	-	22
London (Central and South)	87%	3%	391	75%	7%	180	98%	3%	98
London (North and West)	87%	3%	527	81%	6%	204	96%	3%	157
Mid and West Wales	88%	6%	119	86%	13%	35	-	-	10
North and West Yorkshire	87%	4%	340	66%	9%	113	93%	8%	56
North Wales	86%	9%	66	-	-	25	-	-	19
Nottingham and Derbyshire	88%	4%	264	70%	9%	105	-	-	27
South East Wales	95%	4%	174	88%	7%	94	100%	1%	41
Surrey and Sussex	87%	5%	214	77%	9%	101	92%	10%	36
Thames Valley	90%	4%	192	67%	13%	58	94%	10%	32
England and Wales	89%	1%	6,309	75%	2%	2,404	95%	1%	1,060

Notes:

- (1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the 'Notes' section for more information.
- (2) Results for areas that have extremely small sample sizes, i.e. 30 defendants or less, have been excluded from the table and appear as dashed lines.
- (3) Figures include youth defendant cases heard in adult courts.

TABLE 3a: Timeliness standards (charge / laying of information to completion); youth court cases (youth defendants only); by LCJB Area; March 2008

	Initial Guilty Plea			Trials			Committals		
	Standard = 59 days			Standard = 176 days			Standard = 101 days		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size
	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)
Avon and Somerset	91%	6%	113	82%	14%	38	-	-	4
Bedfordshire	-	-	9	-	-	9	-	-	0
Cambridgeshire	90%	7%	87	-	-	18	-	-	1
Cheshire	83%	8%	99	-	-	26	-	-	4
Cleveland	93%	5%	104	98%	5%	46	-	-	2
Cumbria	80%	9%	95	-	-	24	-	-	3
Derbyshire	94%	6%	84	88%	10%	48	-	-	6
Devon Cornwall	89%	5%	148	77%	14%	44	-	-	2
Dorset	98%	5%	51	84%	15%	31	-	-	5
Durham	93%	6%	96	-	-	28	-	-	5
Dyfed Powys	92%	10%	37	-	-	18	-	-	0
Essex	92%	6%	108	95%	7%	55	-	-	4
Gloucestershire	97%	5%	62	84%	15%	31	-	-	0
Greater Manchester	91%	3%	352	96%	4%	115	-	-	15
Gwent	84%	9%	77	97%	7%	33	-	-	6
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	89%	4%	208	93%	8%	56	-	-	2
Hertfordshire	95%	7%	43	-	-	28	-	-	2
Humberside	86%	7%	121	86%	12%	37	-	-	14
Kent	91%	5%	122	85%	11%	47	-	-	0
Lancashire	90%	4%	201	96%	6%	57	-	-	2
Leicestershire	89%	6%	123	87%	10%	55	-	-	1
Lincolnshire	82%	14%	38	-	-	12	-	-	0
London	91%	2%	614	93%	3%	345	100%	1%	65
Merseyside	88%	6%	146	93%	5%	101	-	-	3
Norfolk	94%	7%	64	-	-	26	-	-	2
North Wales	99%	3%	74	-	-	19	-	-	0
North Yorkshire	92%	6%	93	80%	13%	46	-	-	0
Northamptonshire	88%	8%	68	97%	7%	37	-	-	1
Northumbria	92%	3%	302	89%	6%	128	-	-	1
Nottinghamshire	95%	9%	37	87%	11%	45	-	-	4
South Wales	93%	6%	96	99%	3%	82	-	-	9
South Yorkshire	92%	5%	132	89%	11%	44	-	-	9
Staffordshire	91%	6%	91	95%	8%	38	-	-	4
Suffolk	95%	7%	57	-	-	18	-	-	8
Surrey	89%	8%	64	85%	12%	41	-	-	0
Sussex	91%	5%	130	91%	8%	57	-	-	5
Thames Valley	95%	4%	170	95%	6%	76	-	-	6
Warwickshire	100%	1%	39	-	-	8	-	-	1
West Mercia	85%	8%	94	100%	1%	44	-	-	4
West Midlands	96%	3%	230	99%	2%	143	-	-	26
West Yorkshire	90%	5%	192	96%	5%	77	-	-	19
Wiltshire	86%	11%	44	-	-	26	-	-	1
England and Wales	91%	1%	5,115	93%	1%	2,257	98%	2%	246

Notes

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the 'Notes' section for more information.

(2) Results for areas that have extremely small sample sizes, i.e. 30 defendants or less, have been excluded from the table and appear as dashed lines.

(3) Excludes youth defendants heard in adult courts.

TABLE 3b: Timeliness standards (charge / laying of information to completion); youth court cases (youth defendants only); by HMCS Area; March 2008

	Initial Guilty Plea			Trials			Committals		
	Standard = 59 days			Standard = 176 days			Standard = 101 days		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size
	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)
Avon and Somerset	91%	6%	113	82%	14%	38	-	-	4
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire	93%	4%	160	93%	6%	92	-	-	6
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	97%	2%	196	99%	2%	115	-	-	23
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	90%	4%	258	97%	3%	118	-	-	12
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	92%	4%	208	100%	1%	62	-	-	11
Cheshire and Merseyside	86%	5%	245	94%	4%	127	-	-	7
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	92%	2%	502	91%	4%	202	-	-	8
Cumbria and Lancashire	86%	4%	296	96%	5%	81	-	-	5
Devon and Cornwall	89%	5%	148	77%	14%	44	-	-	2
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	94%	4%	157	88%	7%	88	-	-	6
Greater Manchester	91%	3%	352	96%	4%	115	-	-	15
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	89%	4%	208	93%	8%	56	-	-	2
Humber and South Yorkshire	89%	4%	253	88%	8%	81	-	-	23
Kent	91%	5%	122	85%	11%	47	-	-	0
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire	87%	5%	229	92%	6%	104	-	-	2
London (Central and South)	92%	4%	172	97%	4%	78	-	-	8
London (North and West)	91%	3%	442	92%	3%	267	100%	1%	57
Mid and West Wales	92%	9%	49	-	-	29	-	-	3
North and West Yorkshire	91%	4%	285	90%	6%	123	-	-	19
North Wales	99%	3%	74	-	-	19	-	-	0
Nottingham and Derbyshire	94%	5%	121	87%	7%	93	-	-	10
South East Wales	89%	5%	161	98%	3%	104	-	-	12
Surrey and Sussex	90%	4%	194	89%	7%	98	-	-	5
Thames Valley	95%	4%	170	95%	6%	76	-	-	6
England and Wales	91%	1%	5,115	93%	1%	2,257	98%	2%	246

- Notes:**
- (1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the 'Notes' section for more information.
 - (2) Results for areas that have extremely small sample sizes, i.e. 30 defendants or less, have been excluded from the table and appear as dashed lines.
 - (3) Excludes youth defendants heard in adult courts.

TABLE 4: Defendants in ALL cases, June 1994 to March 2008

England and Wales

	Average number of days from						Percentage completed at first listing				Adjournments		Sample size (Number of defendants)	
	Offence to charge or laying of information		Charge or laying of information to first listing		First listing to completion		Offence to completion		Average number of adjournments		Average length of adjournments			
	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	(Number)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)		(Days)
June 1994 ⁽²⁾	74	1	36	0	36	1	145	1	50%	1%	1.2	0	28	32,986
Jun-95	73	1	37	0	34	1	144	1	53%	1%	1.2	0	28	34,991
Jun-96	70	1	37	0	32	1	139	1	53%	1%	1.2	0	26	33,085
Jun-97	70	1	37	0	35	1	142	1	50%	1%	1.3	0	26	30,683
Jun-98	74	1	34	0	31	1	140	1	52%	1%	1.2	0	25	30,759
June 1999 ⁽²⁾	72	1	33	0	34	1	139	1	52%	1%	1.2	0	28	30,221
Feb-00	77	1	29	0	36	1	142	1	52%	1%	1.2	0	29	31,278
Sep-00	72	1	28	0	32	1	132	1	54%	1%	1.2	0	28	26,659
Mar-01	76	1	28	0	34	1	139	1	55%	1%	1.2	0	29	30,231
Sep-01	75	1	29	0	33	1	137	1	57%	1%	1.1	0	29	28,422
Mar-02	80	1	28	0	34	1	142	1	54%	1%	1.2	0	28	31,366
Sep-02	81	1	30	0	32	1	143	1	56%	1%	1.1	0	28	31,642
Mar-03	83	1	29	0	33	1	144	1	56%	1%	1.2	0	28	33,273
Sep-03	81	1	30	0	32	1	144	1	57%	1%	1.1	0	28	33,562
Mar-04	83	1	29	0	33	1	145	1	56%	1%	1.2	0	28	33,879
Sep-04	85	1	31	0	33	1	149	1	57%	1%	1.1	0	29	31,699
Mar-05	90	1	31	0	33	1	154	2	57%	1%	1.1	0	29	31,192
Sep-05	84	1	31	0	30	1	145	1	58%	1%	1.1	0	28	31,961
Mar-06	87	1	31	0	32	1	150	2	58%	1%	1.1	0	29	30,486
Sep-06	82	1	33	0	31	1	147	2	58%	1%	1.1	0	29	29,714
Mar-07	86	1	30	0	32	1	148	2	56%	1%	1.2	0	27	28,621
Sep-07 ⁽²⁾	83	1	34	0	29	1	147	2	60%	1%	1.1	0	28	30,732
Mar-08	86	1	31	0	27	1	145	2	60%	1%	0.9	0	29	27,343

Notes:

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the 'Notes' section for more information.

(2) See paragraph 5 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the February 1994, February 1999 and June 2007 surveys.

TABLE 5: Defendants in indictable/triable-either-way cases, 1994 to March 2008

England and Wales

	Average number of days from								Percentage completed at first listing		Adjournments			Sample size (Number of defendants)
	Offence to charge or laying of information		Charge or laying of information to first listing		First listing to completion		Offence to completion		(Per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	Average number of adjournments		Average length of adjournments	
	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)			(Number)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)	(Days)	
1994 ⁽²⁾	43	2	25	0	60	1	128	2	20%	1%	2.5	0	24	21,973
1995	43	1	26	0	61	1	130	2	20%	1%	2.6	0	24	22,188
1996	45	2	28	0	60	1	132	2	19%	1%	2.6	0	23	21,555
1997	46	2	29	0	60	1	135	2	20%	1%	2.6	0	23	22,717
1998	46	2	26	0	55	1	127	2	22%	1%	2.4	0	23	23,535
1999 ⁽²⁾	46	2	21	0	56	1	124	2	23%	1%	2.3	0	24	23,451
2000	46	2	9	0	59	1	114	2	25%	0%	2.3	0	26	30,199
2001	48	2	8	0	55	1	111	2	28%	1%	2.1	0	26	30,354
2002	48	2	8	0	54	1	110	2	29%	0%	2.2	0	25	32,485
2003	47	2	8	0	56	1	111	2	30%	0%	2.2	0	26	33,084
2004	54	2	9	0	55	1	118	2	30%	1%	2.1	0	26	28,493
2005	59	2	10	0	54	1	122	2	31%	1%	2.1	0	26	28,127
2006	61	2	10	0	52	1	123	2	30%	1%	2.1	0	25	27,730
2007 ⁽²⁾	61	2	10	0	47	1	118	2	32%	1%	2.0	0	23	28,756
2004 March	50	3	9	0	54	2	114	3	30%	1%	2.1	0.1	25	8,522
2004 June	54	6	9	1	52	2	115	6	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	25	5,668
2004 September	55	3	10	1	57	2	122	4	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	27	7,438
2004 December	56	4	9	1	55	2	120	5	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	26	6,865
2005 March	62	4	11	1	58	2	131	4	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	27	7,480
2005 June	57	4	9	0	52	2	118	4	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	26	6,840
2005 September	59	4	10	0	52	2	121	4	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	25	7,318
2005 December	59	4	8	0	51	2	119	4	31%	1%	2.0	0.1	25	6,489
2006 March	68	4	10	0	54	2	132	4	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	26	7,391
2006 June ⁽³⁾	56	4	10	0	50	2	115	4	30%	1%	2.0	0.1	24	6,835
2006 September	67	4	10	0	53	2	130	5	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	25	7,126
2006 December	54	3	8	0	50	2	112	4	30%	1%	2.1	0.1	24	6,378
2007 March	65	4	11	1	51	2	127	4	29%	1%	2.2	0.1	23	7,126
2007 June ⁽²⁾	56	4	8	0	47	2	111	4	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	23	7,178
2007 September	66	4	11	0	47	2	124	4	32%	1%	2.0	0.1	23	7,600
2007 December	56	3	9	0	43	2	108	4	36%	1%	1.8	0.1	24	6,852
2008 March	66	4	13	1	40	2	119	4	38%	1%	1.6	0	25	7,472

Notes:

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the notes section for

(2) See paragraph 5 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the February 1994, February 1999 and June 2007 surveys

(3) June 2006 figures exclude data for North Yorkshire Area as data was unavailable.

TABLE 6: Defendants in summary cases, by offence type, February 2000 to March 2008

England and Wales

	Average number of days from						Percentage completed at first listing				Adjournments			Sample size (Number of defendants)
	Offence to charge or laying of information		Charge or laying of information to first listing		First listing to completion		Offence to completion				Average number of adjournments		Average length of adjournments	
	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	(Number)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)	(Days)	
Summary non-motoring														
2000 February	81	2	30	1	24	1	135	2	68%	1%	0.8	0	31	7,383
2000 September	70	2	33	1	20	1	123	2	71%	1%	0.7	0	28	6,990
2001 March	77	2	32	1	23	2	133	3	71%	1%	0.7	0	31	7,933
2001 September	78	1	35	1	19	1	131	2	75%	1%	0.6	0	31	8,198
2002 March	87	2	31	1	21	1	139	2	71%	1%	0.7	0	29	8,756
2002 September	92	2	33	1	20	1	145	2	72%	1%	0.7	0	30	9,727
2003 March	93	2	33	1	21	1	147	2	72%	1%	0.7	0	29	9,170
2003 September	83	2	32	1	22	1	137	2	71%	1%	0.7	0	30	9,354
2004 March	81	2	32	1	25	1	138	2	70%	1%	0.8	0	30	9,254
2004 September	82	2	34	1	26	1	143	2	68%	1%	0.9	0	31	8,219
2005 March	96	2	34	1	26	1	156	3	70%	1%	0.8	0	31	9,149
2005 September	83	2	34	1	23	1	140	2	71%	1%	0.8	0	30	9,676
2006 March	87	2	35	1	25	1	147	3	70%	1%	0.8	0	31	9,342
2006 September	83	2	39	1	23	1	144	2	72%	1%	0.7	0	31	9,634
2007 March	87	2	32	1	25	1	145	3	69%	1%	0.9	0	28	8,737
2007 September	79	2	42	1	22	1	142	2	72%	1%	0.8	0	28	9,494
2008 March	84	2	33	1	23	3	140	4	72%	1%	0.7	0	34	8,271
Summary motoring														
2000 February	90	1	38	0	30	1	158	2	60%	1%	0.9	0	34	15,137
2000 September	88	1	36	0	25	1	150	2	61%	1%	0.8	0	30	12,503
2001 March	92	1	38	0	27	1	157	2	62%	1%	0.9	0	31	14,222
2001 September	89	1	38	0	28	1	155	2	61%	1%	0.9	0	32	12,775
2002 March	95	1	38	0	28	1	161	2	60%	1%	0.9	0	32	14,021
2002 September	94	1	40	1	29	1	162	2	60%	1%	0.9	0	31	13,781
2003 March	96	1	38	0	26	1	160	2	61%	1%	0.9	0	31	15,442
2003 September	98	1	41	0	26	1	165	2	62%	1%	0.8	0	31	15,659
2004 March	101	1	39	1	27	1	167	2	61%	1%	0.9	0	31	16,103
2004 September	100	1	40	1	25	1	164	2	64%	1%	0.8	0	32	16,042
2005 March	100	1	39	1	24	1	164	2	62%	1%	0.8	0	30	14,563
2005 September	98	1	39	1	24	1	161	2	63%	1%	0.8	0	31	14,967
2006 March	98	1	40	1	24	1	162	2	63%	1%	0.8	0	32	13,753
2006 September	91	1	42	1	25	1	157	2	63%	1%	0.8	0	33	12,954
2007 March	96	1	39	1	26	1	161	2	63%	1%	0.8	0	32	12,758
2007 September	96	1	42	1	24	1	162	2	66%	1%	0.7	0	34	13,638
2008 March	101	1	42	1	22	1	165	2	66%	1%	0.7	0	32	11,600

- Notes:**
- (1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.
 - (2) See paragraph 5 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the February 1994, February 1999 and June 2007 surveys
 - (3) June 2006 figures exclude data for North Yorkshire Area as data was unavailable

TABLE 7: Youth defendants in all criminal cases, by offence type, 2003 to March 2008

England and Wales

	Average number of days from								Percentage completed at first listing		Adjournments			Sample size	
	Offence to charge or laying of information		Charge or laying of information to first listing		First listing to completion		Offence to completion		(Per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	Average number of adjournments		Average length of adjournments	(Number of defendants)	
	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)			(Number)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)	(Days)		
Indictable cases															
2003	33	1	8	0	50	1	91	1	25%	1%	2.5	0.0	21	23,652	
2004	37	1	8	0	51	1	97	1	26%	1%	2.4	0.0	21	22,948	
2005	43	1	9	0	48	1	100	1	28%	1%	2.3	0.0	21	21,729	
2006	45	1	9	0	46	1	100	1	28%	1%	2.3	0.0	20	22,637	
2007(2)	44	1	9	0	41	1	94	1	30%	1%	2.1	0.0	19	22,560	
2006 March	48	2	10	0	50	2	107	3	28%	1%	2.4	0.1	21	5,487	
2006 June (3)	45	2	9	0	45	2	99	3	28%	1%	2.2	0.1	20	5,510	
2006 September	44	2	9	0	47	2	100	3	27%	1%	2.4	0.1	20	5,710	
2006 December	42	2	9	0	43	2	95	3	27%	1%	2.3	0.1	19	5,930	
2007 March	45	2	9	0	45	2	99	3	27%	1%	2.3	0.1	19	5,779	
2007 June (2)	42	2	9	0	41	1	92	2	30%	1%	2.2	0.1	19	5,748	
2007 September	42	2	9	0	41	2	92	3	30%	1%	2.1	0.1	20	5,550	
2007 December	47	2	9	0	37	1	93	3	33%	1%	1.9	0.1	19	5,483	
2008 March	45	2	9	0	34	1	88	3	36%	1%	1.7	0.1	20	5,238	
Summary non-motoring cases															
2003	28	1	10	0	43	1	80	2	32%	1%	2.0	0.1	21	7,285	
2004	32	1	10	0	44	1	85	2	33%	1%	2.1	0.1	21	8,006	
2005	36	1	10	0	41	1	88	2	33%	1%	2.0	0.1	21	8,087	
2006	36	1	11	0	43	1	90	2	32%	1%	2.0	0.1	21	8,393	
2007	36	2	10	0	37	1	83	2	34%	1%	1.9	0.0	19	8,890	
2006 March	37	2	11	1	45	3	93	4	33%	2%	2.0	0.1	22	2,270	
2006 June ⁽³⁾	37	2	11	1	43	3	90	4	32%	2%	2.1	0.1	21	1,918	
2006 September	35	2	12	1	41	3	88	4	34%	2%	1.9	0.1	21	2,112	
2006 December	36	2	10	1	43	2	88	4	30%	2%	2.2	0.1	20	2,093	
2007 March	36	3	11	1	43	3	89	4	32%	2%	2.1	0.1	20	2,249	
2007 June ⁽²⁾	37	3	10	1	37	2	85	4	33%	2%	2.0	0.1	19	2,473	
2007 September	36	4	10	1	35	2	81	5	34%	2%	1.8	0.1	19	2,137	
2007 December	35	2	10	1	33	2	77	3	38%	2%	1.7	0.1	20	2,031	
2008 March	34	2	10	0	32	2	75	4	40%	2%	1.5	0.1	22	1,903	

Notes:

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more info

(2) See paragraph 5 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the February 1994, February 1999 and June 2007 surveys

(3) June 2006 figures exclude data for North Yorkshire Area as data was unavailable

TABLE 7 (continued): Youth defendants in all criminal cases, by offence type, 2003 to March 2008

<i>England and Wales</i>														
	Average number of days from						Percentage completed at first listing				Adjournments			Sample size (Number of defendants)
	Offence to charge or laying of information		Charge or laying of information to first listing		First listing to completion		Offence to completion				Average number of adjournments		Average length of adjournments	
	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	(Number)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)	(Days)	
Summary motoring														
2003	57	2	22	1	31	1	109	2	40%	1%	1.5	0.1	21	6,221
2004	60	2	22	1	29	1	111	2	44%	1%	1.3	0.0	22	5,660
2005	59	2	21	1	28	2	108	3	47%	1%	1.3	0.1	22	4,558
2006	55	2	21	1	25	2	100	3	47%	2%	1.2	0.1	20	3,707
2007 ⁽²⁾	50	2	19	1	25	2	95	3	48%	2%	1.3	0.1	20	3,092
2006 March	63	4	21	1	25	3	109	5	49%	3%	1.2	0.1	21	1,012
2006 June ⁽³⁾	48	4	18	1	27	3	94	6	41%	3%	1.4	0.1	20	853
2006 September	54	3	22	1	24	3	100	5	51%	3%	1.1	0.1	21	964
2006 December	53	4	21	1	23	3	97	5	47%	3%	1.2	0.1	19	878
2007 March	54	4	20	1	26	3	100	5	47%	3%	1.4	0.1	19	840
2007 June	46	4	17	1	30	5	93	7	45%	4%	1.4	0.1	21	768
2007 September	45	4	18	1	23	3	86	5	49%	4%	1.2	0.1	19	803
2007 December	57	4	20	1	22	3	99	6	51%	4%	1.1	0.1	20	681
2008 March	53	4	21	2	21	3	94	6	52%	4%	0.9	0.1	22	627
All criminal cases														
2003	36	1	11	0	46	1	92	1	29%	0%	2.2	0.0	21	37,158
2004	40	1	11	0	46	1	97	1	30%	0%	2.2	0.0	21	36,614
2005	44	1	11	0	44	1	98	1	31%	0%	2.1	0.0	21	34,374
2006	44	1	11	0	43	1	98	1	31%	0%	2.1	0.0	20	34,737
2007	43	1	10	0	39	1	91	1	33%	0%	2.0	0.0	19	34,542
2006 March	47	2	11	0	46	1	104	2	32%	1%	2.1	0.1	21	8,769
2006 June ⁽³⁾	43	2	10	0	43	1	96	2	30%	1%	2.1	0.1	20	8,281
2006 September	43	2	11	0	43	1	97	2	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	20	8,786
2006 December	42	1	10	0	41	1	94	2	29%	1%	2.1	0.1	19	8,901
2007 March	44	1	10	0	43	1	96	2	30%	1%	2.2	0.1	20	8,868
2007 June ⁽²⁾	41	1	10	0	39	1	90	2	32%	1%	2.0	0.1	19	8,989
2007 September	41	2	10	0	38	1	89	2	33%	1%	1.9	0.0	20	8,490
2007 December	45	1	10	0	35	1	90	2	36%	1%	1.8	0.0	19	8,195
2008 March	43	1	10	0	32	1	85	2	38%	1%	1.6	0.0	20	7,768

Notes:

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) See paragraph 5 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the February 1994, February 1999 and June 2007 surveys

(3) June 2006 figures exclude data for North Yorkshire Area as data was unavailable

NOTES

Methodology

1. In 1999 and earlier years, clerkships provided details of all defendants in indictable/triable-either-way cases in Magistrates' Courts against whom proceedings were completed in selected sample weeks in February, June and October of each year. Information on summary offences was requested in the June one week sample only. From the February 1999 survey onwards information on youth defendants in all criminal cases is collected in a four week period ending at the same time as the selected main sample week of each survey. Starting with the February 2000 survey there is one survey in each quarter with two of these (first and third quarters) collecting the additional information on summary offences. The completed proceedings on which information is provided includes cases committed to the Crown Court and those dismissed or discharged as well as those in which a sentence was passed. For each defendant selected details of the case are recorded (for example, offence, type of proceedings and type of completion) together with the dates of certain stages of proceedings. The completion for offences committed to the crown court is up to the point where the case was committed.
2. The figures in this bulletin are based on defendants. Where a case involves more than one defendant, each defendant is considered individually.
3. In bulletins in 1998 and earlier years the date of charge or laying of information was simplified to the date of charge or summons. From 1999 onwards bulletins use the exact definition of the date requested in the survey – the date of charge or laying of information. Therefore the interval from offence to charge or summons previously reported on is now defined as the interval from offence to charge or laying of information. Similarly the interval from charge or summons to first listing has been re-defined as the interval from charge or laying of information to first listing. As the date used in the calculations is exactly the same this change has not affected results.
4. Due to seasonal variation in the data collected at different times of the year, this bulletin only makes comparisons with data from the same sample period in previous years.
5. Changes to the data collection of TIS – With effect from June 2007, data for the adult one-week Time Intervals Survey is collected through a web-based data collection tool, the HMCS Performance Database (called 'One Performance Truth'). However, the youth four-week survey is still collected through the previous method (a static database). The change in the method in which adult TIS data is

collected brings a number of improvements, including:

- validation of the data 'live' as it is entered
- collection of data at court level rather than clerkship level
- amendment of some of the data fields, following consultation, to reflect new monitoring needs.

As a result, any changes in the figures could be a result of changes to the data collection process; therefore care should be taken when interpreting the figures.

Quality and completeness of the data

6. Data is sent from the courts to the Business Information Division at HM Court Service. Checks on the consistency of the data are made (for example that dates are in chronological order) and returns found to be in error are returned for correction. In addition, any records which appear implausible are referred back to the court for confirmation.
7. Starting with the February 1993 survey there have been several changes in recording procedures, which will have led to small discontinuities in the data series. These are signified by vertical separations in the charts. They are as follows:

February 1993

- Cases adjourned sine die are not counted until finally disposed of.
- From the February 1993 survey to the October 1998 survey, cases were excluded which took more than one year to complete (from either charge or laying of information to first listing, or first listing to completion) for reasons which appeared to be beyond the control of the court, for example, where the defendant absconded. It is estimated that this change reduced the average interval from offence to completion by about 7.5 days for indictable offences in 1992, the last year before the change. Almost all this difference was due to a lower average time from first listing to completion.

February 1994

- Records where the defendant was charged or had information laid against them over ten years after the offence occurred have been excluded from the February 1994 survey onwards. This affected very few defendants but it is estimated that it would have reduced the average time from offence to completion by 1.5 days in 1992 for indictable offences. Virtually all this change was in the offence to charge or laying of information interval rather than the period after charge or laying of information.

February 1999

- The rules that previously excluded longer cases (lasting over a year from either charge or laying of information to first listing, or first listing to completion) were not applied for surveys from February 1999 onwards. No longer applying the rules which excluded longer cases increased the average time from offence to completion for defendants in indictable cases in 1999 to 124 days from 120 days and the average time from first listing to completion to 56 days from 52 days. Unless stated, all results in this bulletin are on the new basis. The rules were removed in order to ensure this aspect of the survey is compatible with the statistics on delay used for monitoring the Government's pledge to halve the time from arrest to sentence for persistent young offenders. These are based on data from the Police National Computer not the Time Intervals Survey.
8. In February 1999 new data collection software was introduced following testing in 6 clerkships in the October 1998 survey. For the October 1999 survey a second version of the software was introduced which performed additional validations on the data and also produced local reports from the data entered. A third version of the software, with additional validations, was introduced for the March 2002 survey. Guidance on the collection of data is included in the magistrates' courts management information system good practice guide (available from Waheed Balogun at the address below).

June 2007

- Surveys from June 2007 onwards collected data on adult cases via a system called One Performance Truth (OPT). One benefit of OPT is that it introduces data validation at the point of input. It is envisaged that OPT will be used to collect youth data in due course – in the meantime, however, youth data continues to be submitted in the previous manner.
9. Figures in the text and tables may not sum exactly to totals because the numbers in this bulletin have been rounded independently of each other.
 10. In the past some Local Justice Areas (LJAs) and clerkships have sometimes been unable to participate in the collection of data due to local circumstances. The table on page 31 gives the estimated completeness of the data. The term completeness in this table refers to the proportion of clerkships supplying data. It does not refer to the proportion of all cases completed during each sample week on which time intervals data was not returned by clerkships. This would almost certainly be lower. For this reason, and short term and seasonal variation, the figures here for number of defendants are unlikely to provide a reliable indicator of the changes in Magistrates' Courts

caseload.

11. North Yorkshire data was unavailable for the June 2006 survey; therefore all England and Wales figures for June 2006 and 2006 annual figures were calculated without North Yorkshire data. Similarly, the March 2008 national figures exclude adult data for Dewbury Magistrates' Court and youth data for North Somerset Magistrates' Court, both due to technical difficulties.

Confidence Intervals and Margins of Error

12. Timeliness in magistrates' courts is measured using data from a sample of the total number of defendants. The sample provides one estimate of the average time taken and different samples would produce different average times. The only way to obtain the 'true' average time for all defendants would be to sample every defendant. However we can calculate the margin of error associated with the sample and use it to estimate the likely range within which the 'true' average time falls. This range is the 95% confidence interval and lies between the sample average +/- the margin of error. The size of the margin of error and width of the confidence interval is dependant on the sample size: the larger the sample size the narrower the confidence interval, and hence the more precise the sample results can be considered to be.

Proportion of clerkships/courthouses making returns and sample sizes 1994 to 2000 February surveys and March 2001 to March 2008 surveys

Collection week	Proportion of clerkships making returns (per cent) ⁽²⁾	Proportion of courthouses making returns (per cent) ⁽²⁾	Number of defendants (sample size) ⁽¹⁾		
			Indictable cases	Summary non-motoring cases ⁽³⁾	Summary motoring cases ⁽³⁾
February 1994	98.2		6,937	-	-
February 1995	98.7		7,102	-	-
February 1996	100.0		7,040	-	-
February 1997	100.0		7,333	-	-
February 1998	100.0		7,512	-	-
February 1999 ⁽¹⁾	100.0		7,890	-	-
February 2000	100.0		8,749	7,375	15,078
March 2001	100.0		8,076	7,933	14,222
March 2002	99.4		8,589	8,756	14,021
March 2003	99.4		8,661	9,170	15,442
March 2004	100.0		8,522	9,254	16,103
March 2005	100.0		7,480	9,149	14,563
March 2006	98.0		7,391	9,342	13,753
March 2007	98.2		7,126	8,737	12,758
March 2008	97.0	100.0	7,472	8,271	11,600

Notes:

(1) The sample sizes for February 1999 onwards are from the one-week sample only. Table 7 shows youth defendant sample sizes in the four-week survey.

(2) Since June 2007 all adult defendant data has been collected through a new data collection system (OPT). One consequence of this is that, from this time, adult data has been returned at courthouse rather than clerkship level; youth data continues to be collected at clerkship level.

(3) Summary cases were not included in the February surveys prior to 2000.

(4) Twenty courthouses submitted nil returns in March 2008.

Previous bulletin

13. Statistical Bulletins containing data from Time Intervals Surveys up to and including October 1993 were produced by the Home Office's Research and Statistics Directorate. The Ministry of Justice (formerly the Department for Constitutional Affairs) took over responsibility for the surveys from 1 January 1994. When the Home Office conducted the survey, the data was collected directly from Petty Sessional Areas (PSAs) rather than courthouses/clerkships as currently.

Further Information

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