

# **Time Intervals for Criminal Proceedings in Magistrates' Courts: December 2009**

Ministry of Justice  
Statistics Bulletin

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## Key findings

This bulletin presents results from the December 2009 Time Intervals Survey. The sample survey collects data on the estimated average times taken between stages of proceedings for defendants in completed criminal cases in magistrates' courts in England and Wales.

Please note that because the figures are reported from a sample, they must be considered as estimates. The confidence limits of these estimates are reported as margins of error in the data tables within this bulletin.

The key findings for December 2009, compared with December 2008, are shown in the following table (asterisks mark statistically significant changes):

	Estimated average time from offence to completion (days)		Change
	December 2008	December 2009	
<b>All defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>1-day decrease</b>
<b>Youth defendants in completed criminal cases</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1-day increase</b>
- Youth indictable/ triable-either-way cases	85	86	1-day increase
- Youth summary non-motoring cases	74	74	unchanged
- Youth summary motoring cases	97	93	4-day decrease

### Main features

- Overall timeliness shows no statistically significant change between December 2008 and December 2009: small decreases in the time from offence to charge, and from first listing to completion, have been balanced by small increases in the time from first listing to completion.
- The average number of adjournments per defendant in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases has decreased from 1.42 adjournments in December 2008 to 1.29 adjournments in December 2009 (statistically significant).
- The proportion of cases completed at first listing for completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases has increased from 40 per cent in December 2008 to 42 per cent in December 2009 (statistically significant).

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# Introduction

1. Information on completed adult indictable/ triable-either-way cases and charged summary cases is collected in one week of each quarter. Information on completed adult summonsed summary offences is additionally collected in the first and third quarters. Information on youth defendants in both indictable/ triable-either-way and summary completed cases is collected in four weeks of each quarter. 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 four sections. The first section includes a description of the results from the December 2009 survey and 2009 overall. The second section contains annual reports. The third section contains tables of detailed results from the latest survey and previous surveys, while the final section holds methodological notes and further information. The results in the first section are in six parts: the first two cover information on all defendants taken from the main survey week, while the third and fourth cover information collected on youth defendants over a four-week survey period. The fifth covers adult charged cases from the main survey week and the final covers youth charged cases from the four-week survey period – as follows:

- Indictable/ triable-either-way cases: December 2009 results
- Indictable/ triable-either-way cases: 2009 annual results
- Youth defendants in criminal cases: December 2009 results
- Youth defendants in criminal cases: 2009 annual results
- Adult defendants in charged cases: December 2009 results
- Youth defendants in charged cases: December 2009 results.

3. The results presented in this report are given per defendant. The December 2009 results for all completed criminal cases are based on a sample of 7,722 defendants (in indictable/ triable-either-way cases) from a one-week survey period. The youth defendant results are based on a sample of 6,430 defendants (4,398 in indictable/ triable-either-way cases and 2,032 in summary cases) from a four-week survey period. The 'Notes' section contains more information on sample sizes.

4. **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 HM Court Service (HMCS) Performance Database (called 'One Performance Truth' or OPT). From June 2008, it was also possible to collect youth data from the four-week survey via OPT, and from June 2009 all youth data has been collected this way. Using this web-based method of collecting TIS data has brought 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 at these times could be due to the changed data collection process, and care should be taken when interpreting the figures.

5. **Medians:** the median is the central value in a set of data. This bulletin presents medians as well as means (averages). As much of the TIS data does not show a symmetrical distribution, the median can give a more accurate picture of the bulk of the data. Half of the defendants in the sample have times or numbers of hearings at or above the median value, and half are at or below the median. Means, on the other hand, are obtained by summing all the values and dividing by the number of defendants in the sample; they can therefore be strongly influenced by a few high values. Detailed information can be found in the technical annex at the back of this bulletin.

6. Throughout this bulletin, the term “average” is used to refer to the mean. All medians are labelled as a median.

7. **Changes to the TIS bulletin:** a number of changes have been implemented to the content and format of the TIS bulletin recently. Any suggestions or comments regarding these changes would be welcome; contact details are at the back of this publication.

8. **Revisions:** Once published, TIS data are not usually subject to revision. Revisions may occur if data are received late from a court, or if an error is identified.

### **Content of respective quarterly TIS bulletins**

March	All defendants in completed criminal cases All defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases All defendants in completed summary cases Youth defendants in completed criminal cases Adult and youth defendants in completed charged cases
June	All defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases Youth defendants in completed criminal cases Adult and youth defendants in completed charged cases
September	All defendants in completed criminal cases All defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases All defendants in completed summary cases Youth defendants in completed criminal cases Adult and youth defendants in completed charged cases
<b>December</b>	<b>All defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases</b> <b>Youth defendants in completed criminal cases</b> <b>Annual tables</b> <b>Adult and youth defendants in completed charged cases</b>

# All defendants in all completed indictable/triable-either-way cases: December 2009

## Main finding

In December 2009, the estimated average time from offence to completion for defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases decreased from 107 days in December 2008 to 106 days in December 2009.

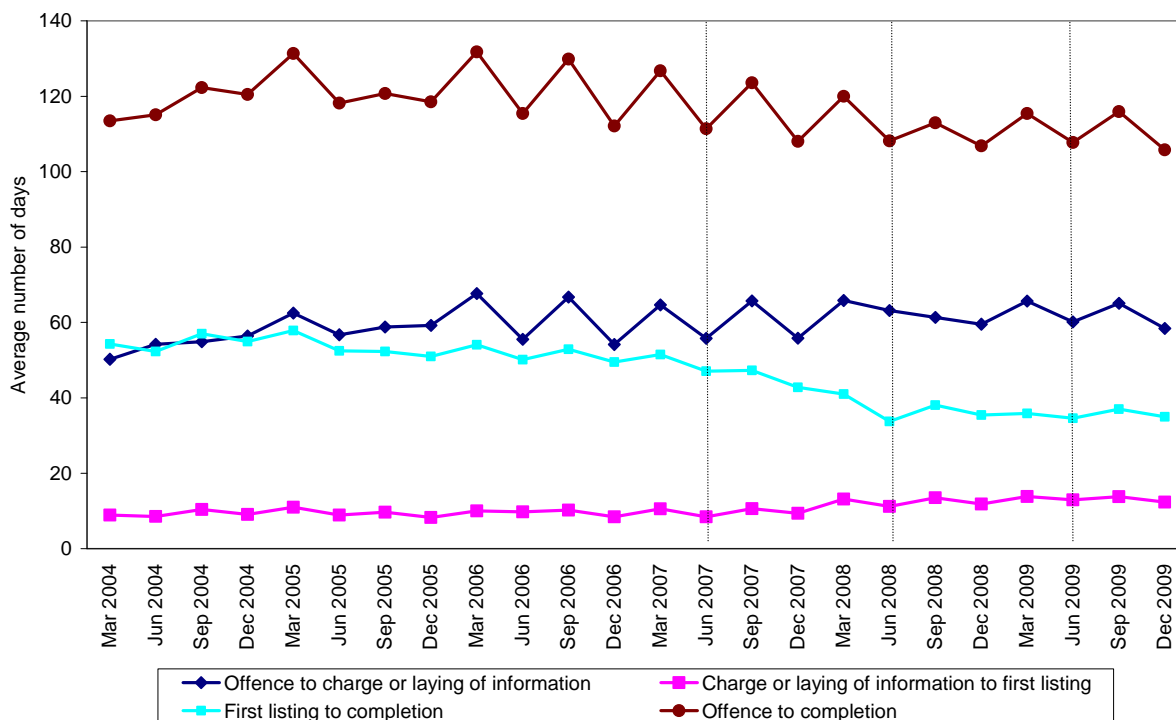
## Timeliness

(see Figure 1 and Table 1a)

The changes, compared to December 2008, for the overall time and the three stages are summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	change
Offence to completion	107 days	106 days	1-day decrease
- Offence to charge/ laying of information	60 days	58 days	2-day decrease
- Charge/ laying of information to first listing	12 days	12 days	unchanged
- First listing to completion	35 days	35 days	unchanged

**Figure 1:** Estimated average time by stage of proceedings (defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases), March 2004 to December 2009



<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information

The dashed vertical lines in the chart denote changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007, June 2008 and June 2009 surveys; see the notes section for more information.

Inconsistency in offence to charge figures between Mar/Sep and Jun/Dec surveys is due to a lower proportion of summons indictable/ triable-either-way cases in June and December. New guidance was issued which appears to have partially resolved this problem by redressing some under-reporting. However this could affect comparisons to previous surveys.

## Adjournments

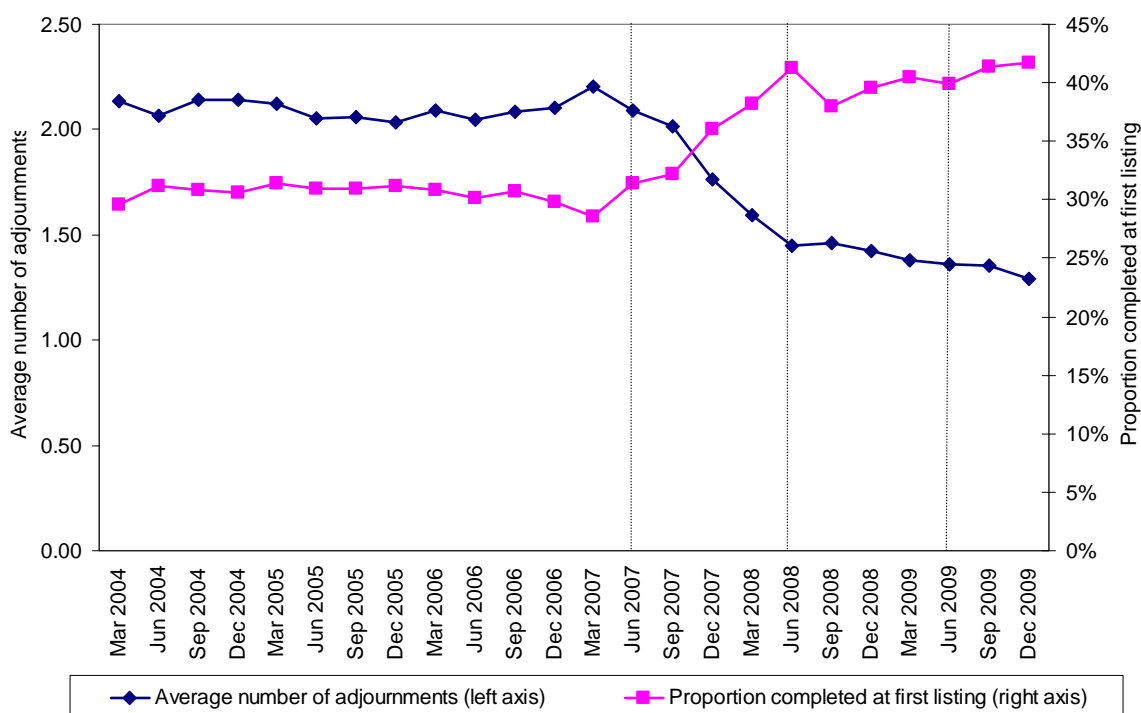
(see Figure 2 and Table 1b)

In December 2009, the estimated average number of adjournments per defendant in all completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases decreased from 1.42 adjournments in December 2008 to 1.29 adjournments.

The changes, compared to December 2008 are summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	change
Average number of adjournments per defendant	1.42	1.29	0.13-adjournment decrease*
Estimated proportion of defendants whose case was completed at first listing	40 per cent	42 per cent	2 per cent increase*

**Figure 2:** Estimated average number of adjournments per defendant and proportion of cases completed at first listing (completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases), March 2004 to December 2009



<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information

The dashed vertical lines in the chart denote changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007, June 2008 and June 2009 surveys; see the notes section for more information.

### Cases not completed at first listing: subgroup analysis

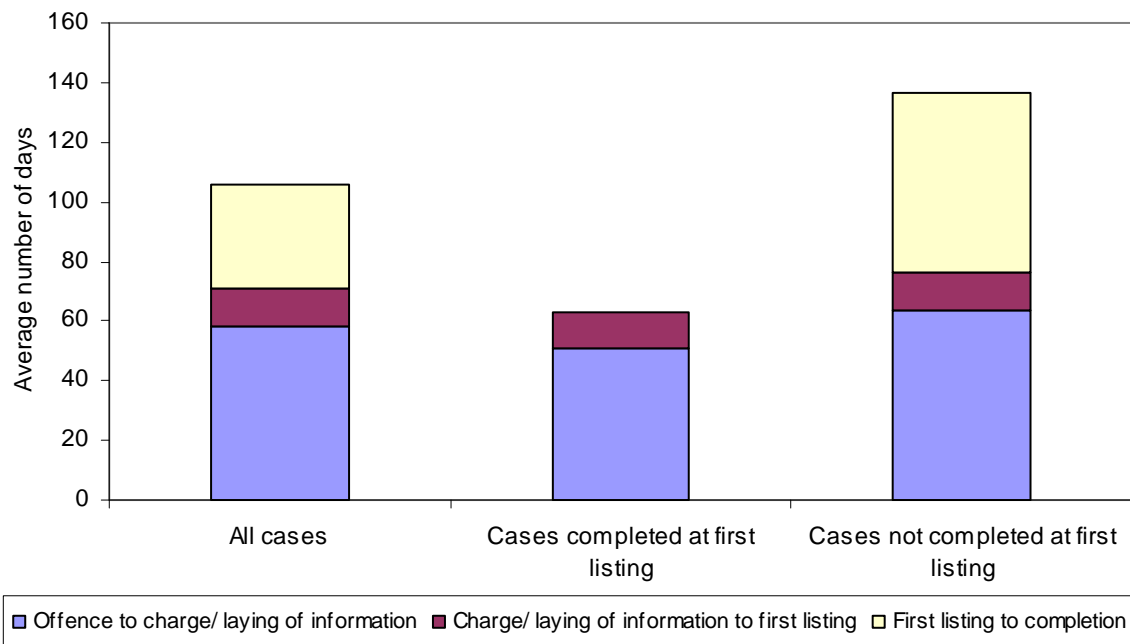
(see Figure 3 and Table 1c)

An estimated 58 per cent of defendants in December 2009 did not have their cases completed at first listing.

The changes for this subgroup, compared to 2008 are summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	change
Offence to completion	132 days	136 days	4-day increase
- First listing to completion	59 days	60 days	1-day increase
Average number of adjournments per defendant	2.35	2.22	0.13-adjournment decrease*

**Figure 3:** Estimated average time from offence to completion, for all cases and cases completed and not completed at first listing (completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases), December 2009



<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information

## All defendants in all completed indictable/triable-either-way cases: December 2009 – medians

### Main finding

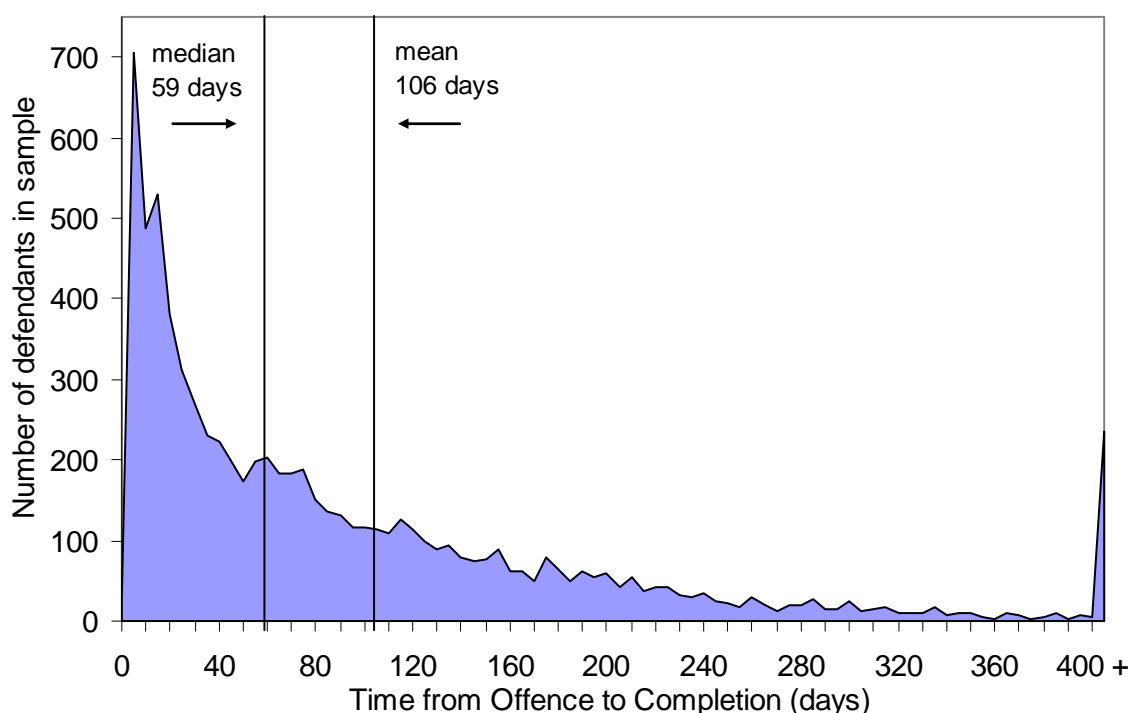
(see Figure 4 and Tables 1a, b)

In December 2009, the estimated median time from offence to completion for all defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases was 59 days, unchanged from December 2008.

The changes, compared to December 2008, for the overall time and the three stages are summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	change
Offence to completion	59 days	59 days	unchanged
- Offence to charge/ laying of information	8 days	6 days	2-day decrease
- Charge/ laying of information to first listing	9 days	10 days	1-day increase*
- First listing to completion	14 days	12 days	2-day decrease
Median number of adjournments per defendant	1 adjournment	1 adjournment	unchanged

**Figure 4:** Time from offence to completion for all sampled defendants in all completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases, December 2009, showing difference between mean and median times. Half of the defendants have times of 59 days or less.



<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information

# All defendants in completed indictable/triable-either-way cases: 2009 annual results

## Main finding

The annual results for all defendants in indictable/ triable-either-way cases show a decrease in the estimated average time from offence to completion from 112 days in 2008 to 111 days in 2009.

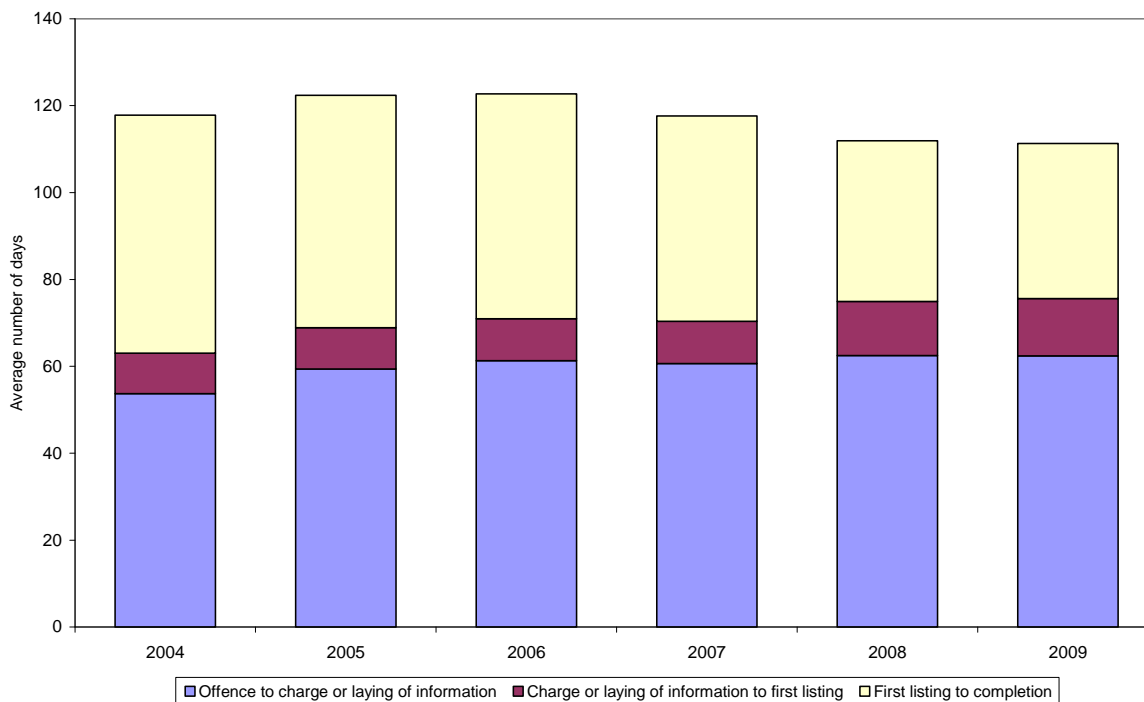
## Timeliness

(see Figure 5 and Table 1a)

The changes, compared to 2008, for the overall time and the three stages are summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	2008	2009	change
Offence to completion	112 days	111 days	1-day decrease
- Offence to charge/ laying of information	62 days	62 days	unchanged
- Charge/ laying of information to first listing	12 days	13 days	1-day increase*
- First listing to completion	37 days	36 days	1-day decrease*

**Figure 5:** Annual results for all defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases by stage of proceedings, 2004 to 2009



<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information

## Adjournments

(see Table 1b)

The annual results for all defendants in indictable/ triable-either-way cases show a decrease in the estimated average number of adjournments per defendant from 1.48 adjournments in 2008 to 1.35 adjournments in 2009.

The changes, compared to 2008 are summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>change</b>
Average number of adjournments per defendant	1.48 adjournments	1.35 adjournments	0.13-adjournment decrease*
Estimated proportion of defendants whose case was completed at first listing	39 per cent	41 per cent	2 per cent increase*

## Cases not completed at first listing: subgroup analysis

(see Table 1c)

An estimated 59 per cent of defendants in 2009 did not have their cases completed at first listing.

The changes for this subgroup, compared to 2008 are summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>change</b>
Offence to completion	140 days	141 days	1-day increase
- First listing to completion	61 days	60 days	1-day decrease
Average number of adjournments per defendant	2.44 adjournments	2.28 adjournments	0.16-adjournment decrease*

<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information

## All defendants in completed indictable/triable-either-way cases: 2009 annual results – medians

### Main finding

(see Tables 1a, b)

The annual results for all defendants in indictable/ triable-either-way cases show no change in the estimated median time from offence to completion, which remains at 61 days.

The changes, compared to 2008 are summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>change</b>
Offence to completion	61 days	61 days	unchanged
- Offence to charge/ laying of information	9 days	7 days	2-day decrease*
- Charge/ laying of information to first listing	9 days	10 days	1-day increase*
- First listing to completion	14 days	14 days	unchanged
Estimated median number of adjournments per defendant	1 adjournment	1 adjournment	unchanged

<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information



# Youth defendants in all completed criminal cases: December 2009

## Main finding

In December 2009, the estimated average time from offence to completion for youth defendants in all criminal cases was 84 days, an increase from 83 days in December 2008.

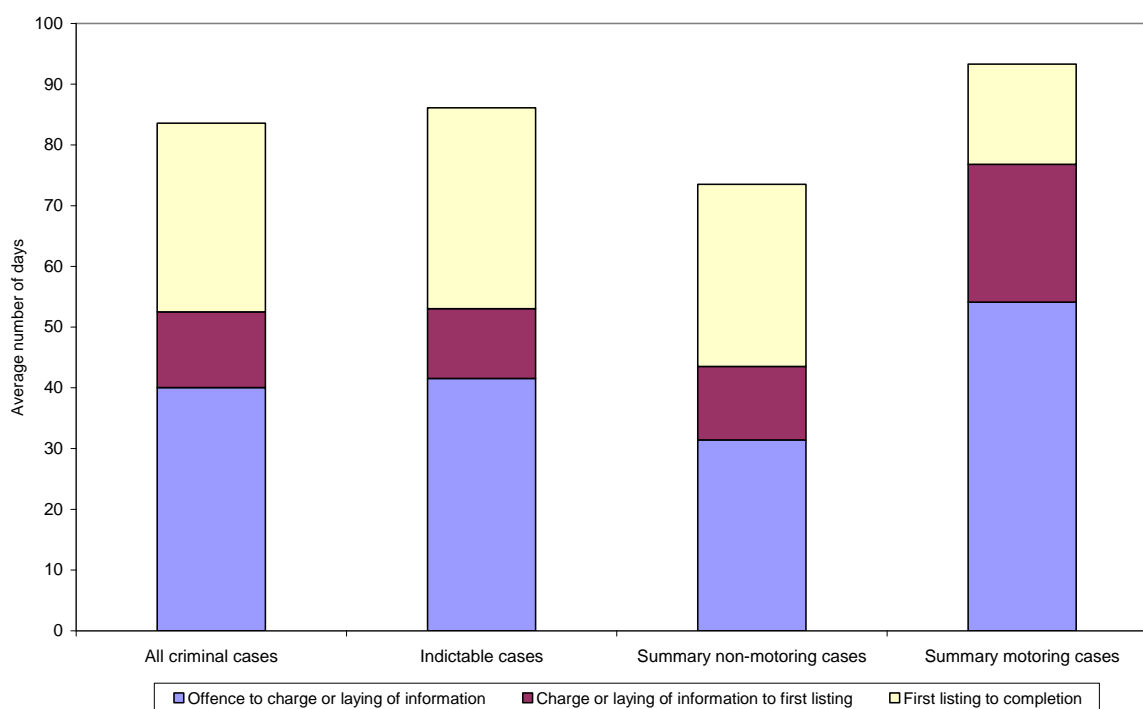
## Timeliness

(see Figure 6 and Table 2a)

The offence type breakdown for offence to completion times, compared to December 2008, is summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	change
All offence types	83 days	84 days	1-day increase
- Indictable/ triable-either-way cases	85 days	86 days	1-day increase
- Summary non-motoring cases	74 days	74 days	unchanged
- Summary motoring cases	97 days	93 days	4-day decrease

**Figure 6:** Estimated average time by stage of proceedings for youth defendants in all completed criminal cases, December 2009



<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information

## Adjournments

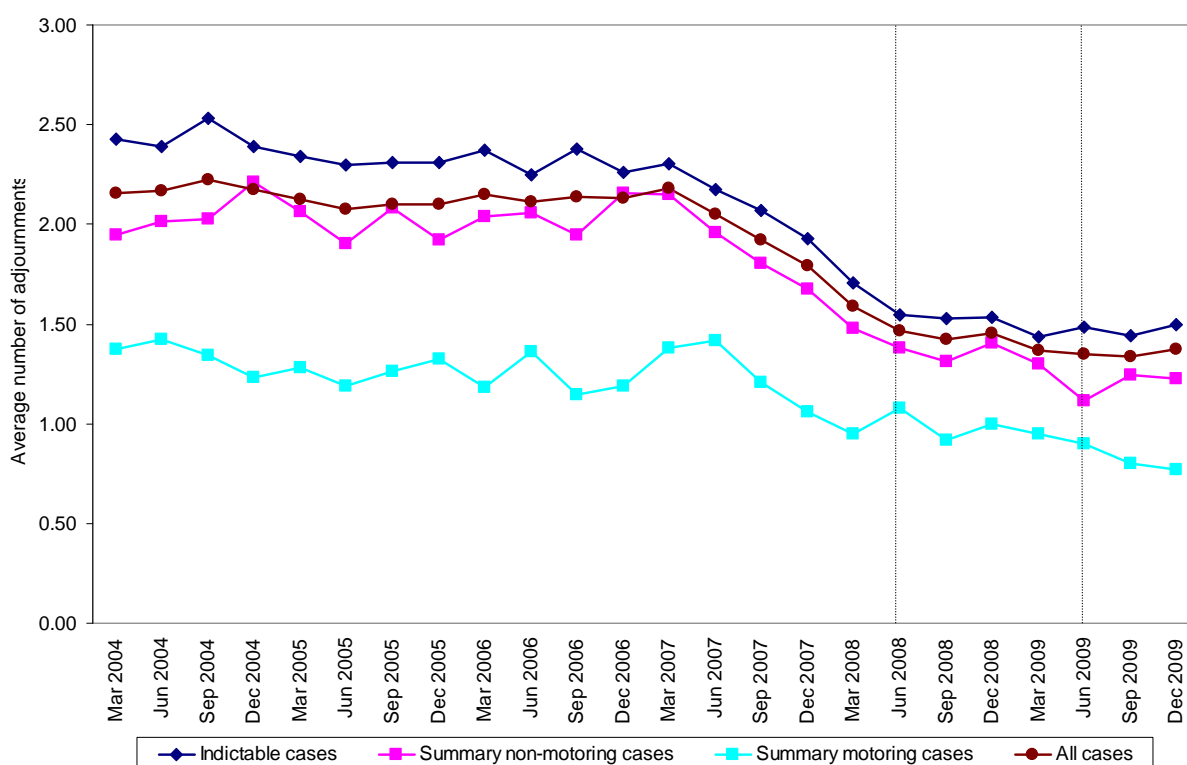
(see Figure 7 and Table 2b)

In December 2009, the estimated average number of adjournments per defendant for youth defendants in all completed criminal cases decreased from 1.46 adjournments to 1.37 adjournments in December 2008.

The changes, compared to December 2008 are summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	change
Average number of adjournments per defendant	1.46	1.37	0.09-adjournment decrease*
Proportion of defendants whose case was completed at first listing	40 per cent	41 per cent	1 per cent increase

**Figure 7:** Estimated average number of adjournments by offence type (youth defendants in all completed criminal cases), March 2004 to December 2009



The dashed vertical lines in the chart denote changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 and June 2009 surveys; see the notes section for more information.

<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information

### Cases not completed at first listing: subgroup analysis

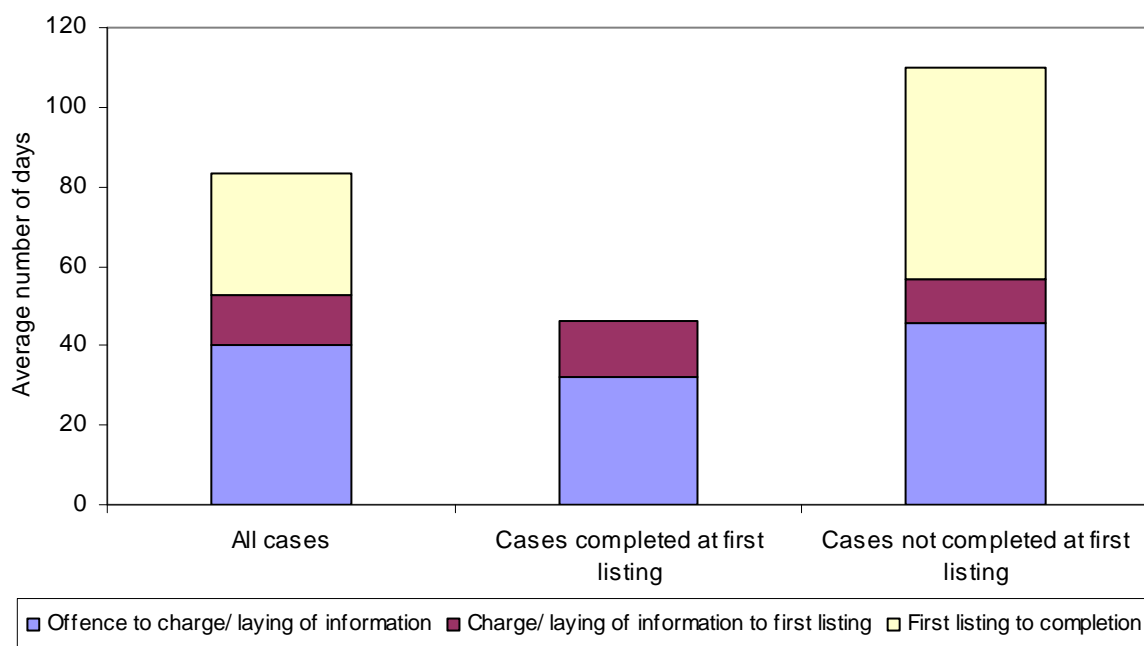
(see Figure 8 and Table 2c)

An estimated 59 per cent of youth defendants in December 2009 did not have their cases completed at first listing.

The changes for this subgroup, compared to 2008 are summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	change
Offence to completion	107 days	110 days	3-day increase
- First listing to completion	51 days	53 days	2-day increase
Average number of adjournments per defendant	2.44 adjournments	2.34 adjournments	0.10-adjournment decrease*

**Figure 8:** Estimated average time from offence to completion, for all cases and cases completed and not completed at first listing (youth defendants in all completed criminal cases), December 2009



<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information

# Youth defendants in all completed criminal cases: December 2009 – medians

## Main finding

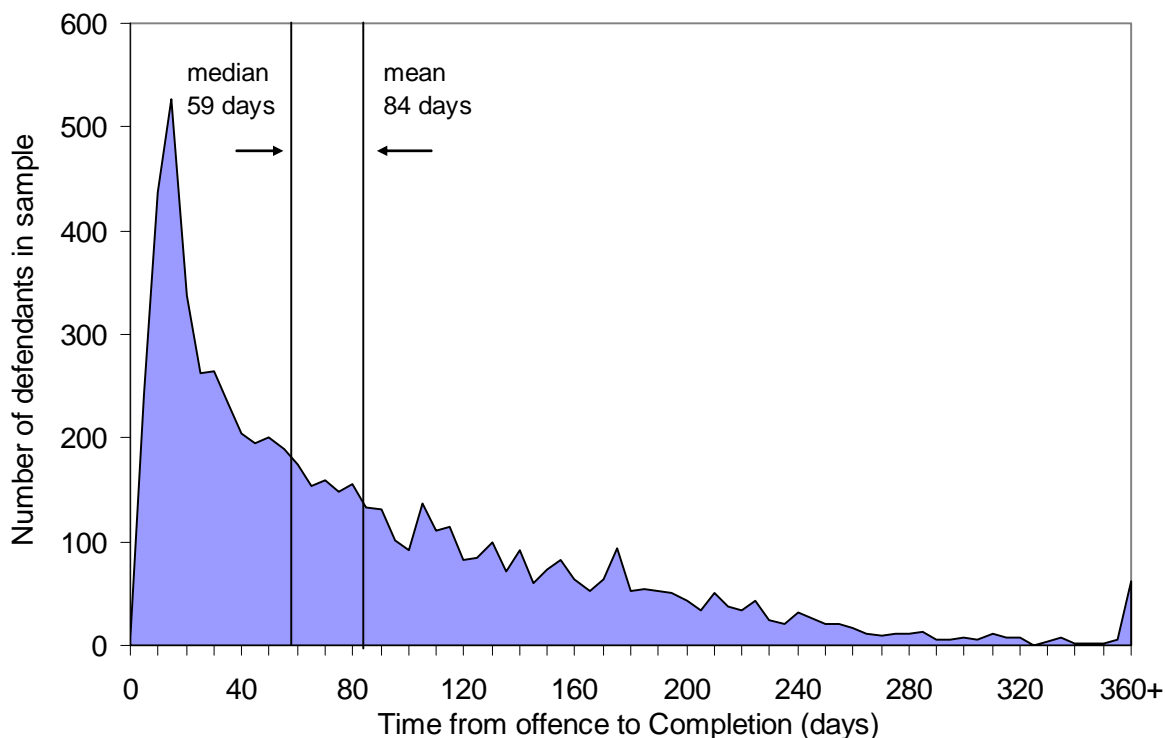
(see Figure 9 and Tables 2a, b)

In December 2009, the estimated median time from offence to completion for youth defendants in all criminal cases was 59 days, an increase from 56 days in December 2008.

The offence type breakdown for offence to completion times, compared to December 2008, is summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	change
All offence types	56 days	59 days	3-day increase*
- Indictable/ triable-either-way cases	56 days	59 days	3-day increase*
- Summary non-motoring cases	49 days	53 days	4-day increase
- Summary motoring cases	84 days	83 days	1-day decrease
Median number of adjournments per defendant	1 adjournment	1 adjournment	unchanged

**Figure 9:** Time from offence to completion for all sampled youth defendants in all completed criminal cases, December 2009, showing difference between mean and median times. Half of the defendants have times of 59 days or less.



<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information

# Youth defendants in all completed criminal cases: 2009 annual results

## Main finding

(see Figure 10 and Table 2a)

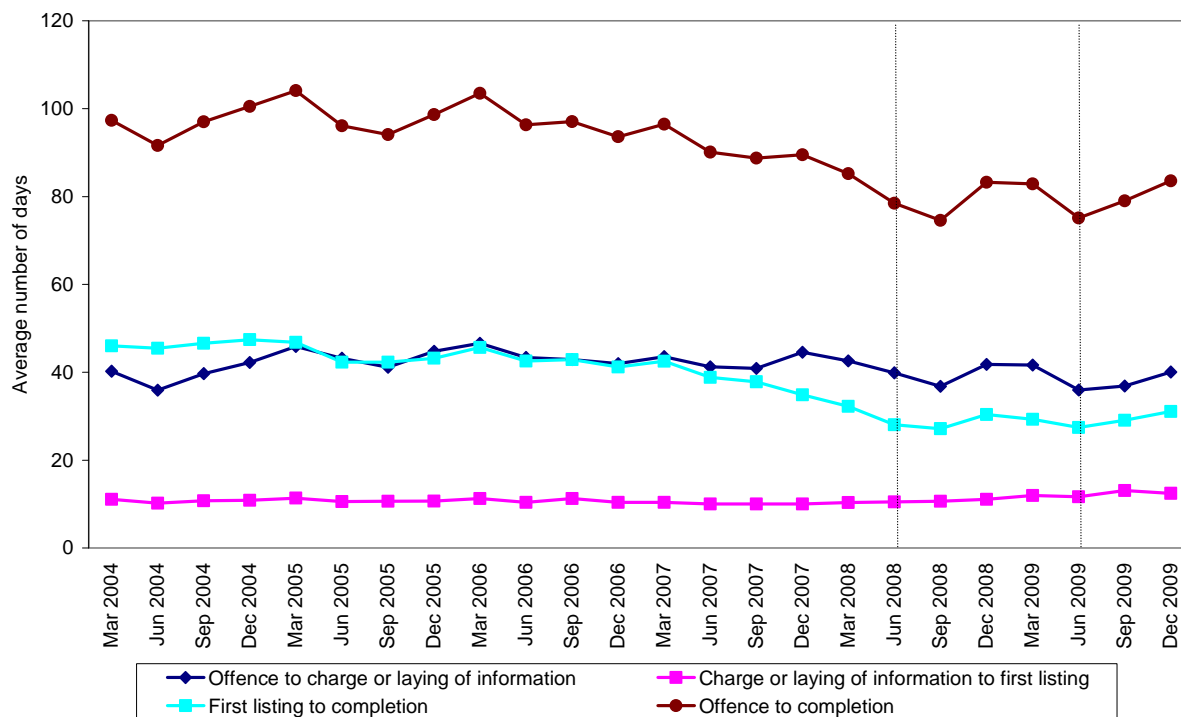
The annual results for all youth defendants in completed criminal cases show a decrease in the estimated average time from offence to completion from 81 days in 2008 to 80 days in 2009.

## Timeliness

The changes, compared to 2008 are summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	2008	2009	change
All offence types	81 days	80 days	1-day decrease
- Indictable/ triable-either-way cases	82 days	83 days	1-day increase
- Summary non-motoring cases	71 days	69 days	2-day decrease
- Summary motoring cases	93 days	93 days	unchanged

**Figure 10:** Estimated average time by stage of proceedings (youth defendants in all completed criminal cases), March 2004 to December 2009



The dashed vertical lines in the chart denote changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 and June 2009 surveys; see the notes section for more information.

<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information

## Adjournments

(see Table 2b)

The estimated average number of adjournments per defendant for youth defendants in all completed criminal cases decreased from 1.49 adjournments in 2008 to 1.36 adjournments in 2009.

The changes, compared to 2008 are summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>change</b>
Average number of adjournments per defendant	1.49 adjournments	1.36 adjournments	0.13-adjournment decrease*
Proportion of defendants whose case was completed at first listing	39 per cent	42 per cent	3 per cent increase*

## Cases not completed at first listing: subgroup analysis

(see Table 2c)

An estimated 58 per cent of youth defendants in 2009 did not have their cases completed at first listing.

The changes for this subgroup, compared to 2008 are summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes):

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>change</b>
Offence to completion	103 days	104 days	1-day increase
- First listing to completion	49 days	50 days	1-day increase*
Average number of adjournments per defendant	2.45 adjournments	2.33 adjournments	0.12-adjournment decrease*

<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information

## Youth defendants in all completed criminal cases: 2009 annual results – medians

### Main Finding

(see Tables 2a, b)

The annual results for all defendants in completed criminal cases show the estimated median time from offence to completion was 54 days in 2009, unchanged from 2008.

The changes, compared to 2008 are summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>change</b>
All offence types	54 days	54 days	unchanged
- Indictable/ triable-either-way cases	54 days	55 days	1-day increase
- Summary non-motoring cases	44 days	45 days	1-day increase
- Summary motoring cases	77 days	77 days	unchanged
Median number of adjournments per defendant	1 adjournment	1 adjournment	unchanged

<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information

## Adult defendants in completed charged cases: December 2009

Following the introduction of CJSSS (Criminal Justice: Simple, Speedy, Summary) in 2007/2008 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of magistrates' courts, performance measures were established for adult charged criminal cases, excluding those sent or committed to the Crown Court for trial. The ambition is that, over time, the average time from charge to completion will be 6 weeks (42 days) or less and the average number of hearings for a case to be completed in the magistrates' court will be 2.25 or less.

### Main findings

In December 2009 the estimated average time from charge to completion was 6.8 weeks (48 days). There was an estimated average of 2.20 hearings per defendant for completed adult charged cases.

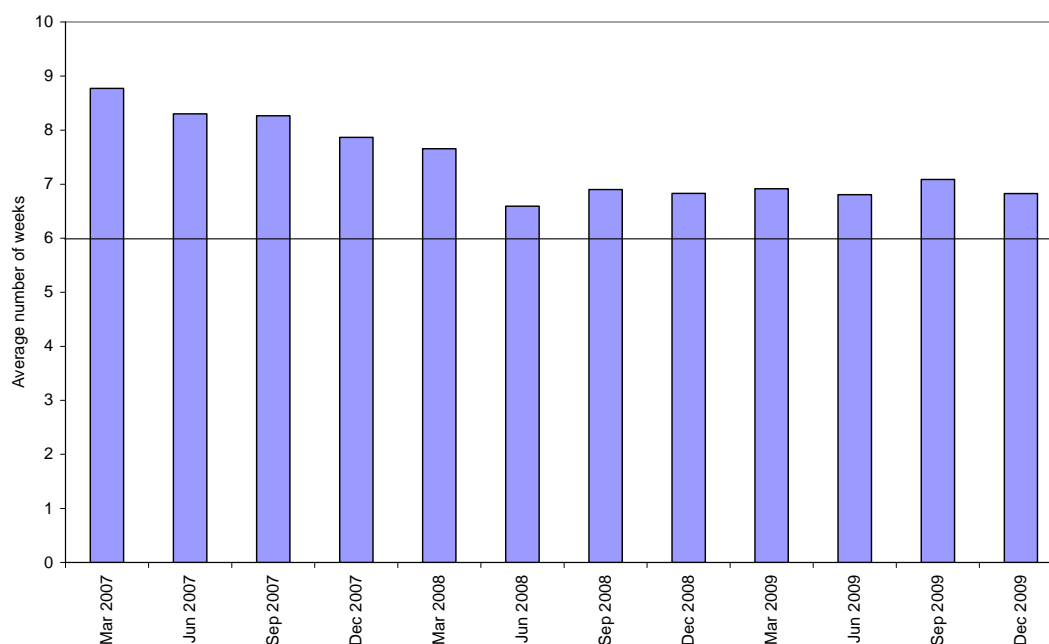
### Average time from charge to completion

(see Figure 11 and Table 3a)

The charge to completion time, compared to December 2008, is summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	change
Charge to completion	6.8 weeks (48 days)	6.8 weeks (48 days)	unchanged

**Figure 11:** Estimated average time from charge to completion for completed adult charged cases, March 2007 to December 2009



<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information



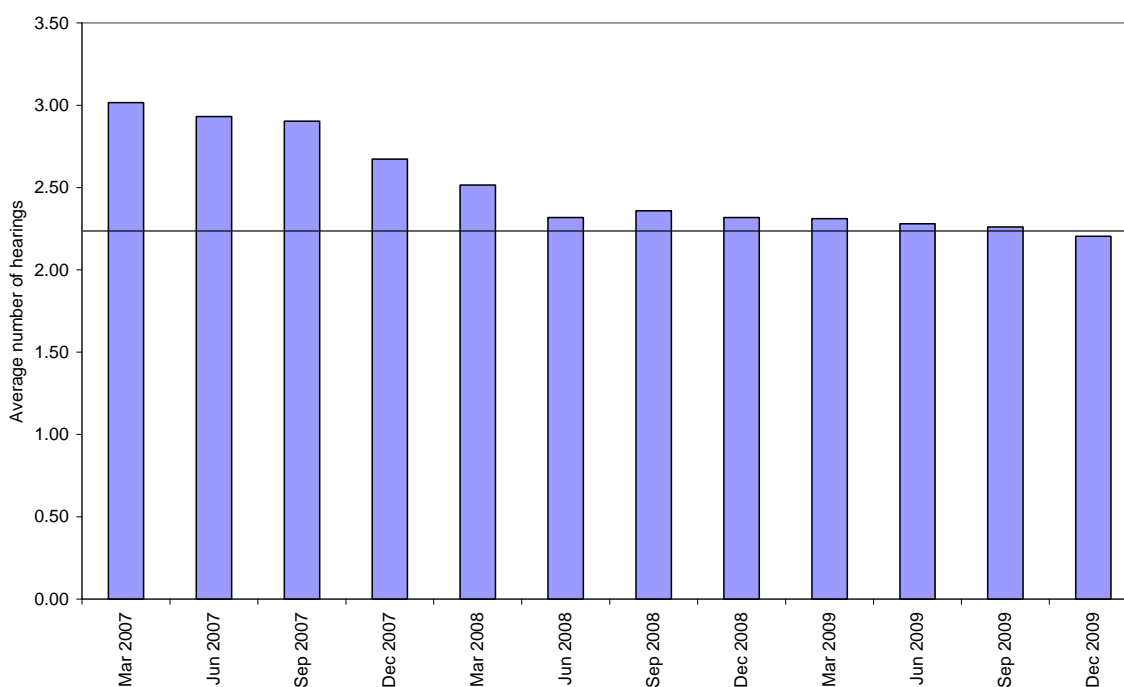
### Average number of hearings per defendant

(see Figure 12 and Table 3a)

The average number of hearings per defendant, compared to December 2008, is summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	change
Average number of hearings per defendant	2.32 hearings	2.20 hearings	0.12-hearing decrease*

**Figure 12:** Estimated average number of hearings per defendant for completed adult charged cases, March 2007 to December 2009



Figures 11 and 12 cover adult charged cases, excluding those sent or committed to the Crown Court for trial.

<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information

## Adult defendants in completed charged cases: December 2009 – LCJB area results

### **Main findings**

(see Table 3b)

In December 2009 the estimated average time from charge to completion by area varied from 3.9 weeks (27 days) to 15.7 weeks (110 days). The estimated average number of hearings varied from 1.74 to 3.05 hearings per defendant for completed adult charged cases.

### **Average time from charge to completion**

- The estimated average time from charge to completion for completed adult charged cases, excluding cases sent or committed to the Crown Court, in December 2009 varied by area from 3.9 weeks (27 days) to 15.7 weeks (110 days).
- Of the 42 LCJB (Local Criminal Justice Board) areas, 18 areas had an estimated average time from charge to completion of 6 weeks or under.

### **Average number of hearings per defendant**

- The estimated average number of hearings for adult charged cases, excluding cases sent or committed to the Crown Court, in December 2009 varied by area from 1.74 hearings to 3.05 hearings per defendant.
- Of the 42 LCJB areas, 29 areas had an estimated average number of hearings of 2.25 or less per defendant.

## Youth defendants in completed charged cases: December 2009

Following the introduction of CJSSS (Criminal Justice: Simple, Speedy, Summary) in 2007/2008 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of magistrates' courts for adult defendants, the programme was rolled out for youth charged cases, excluding those sent or committed to the Crown Court for trial, in 2008/2009.

### Main findings

In December 2009 the estimated average time from charge to completion was 6.1 weeks (43 days). There was an estimated average of 2.40 hearings per defendant for completed youth charged cases.

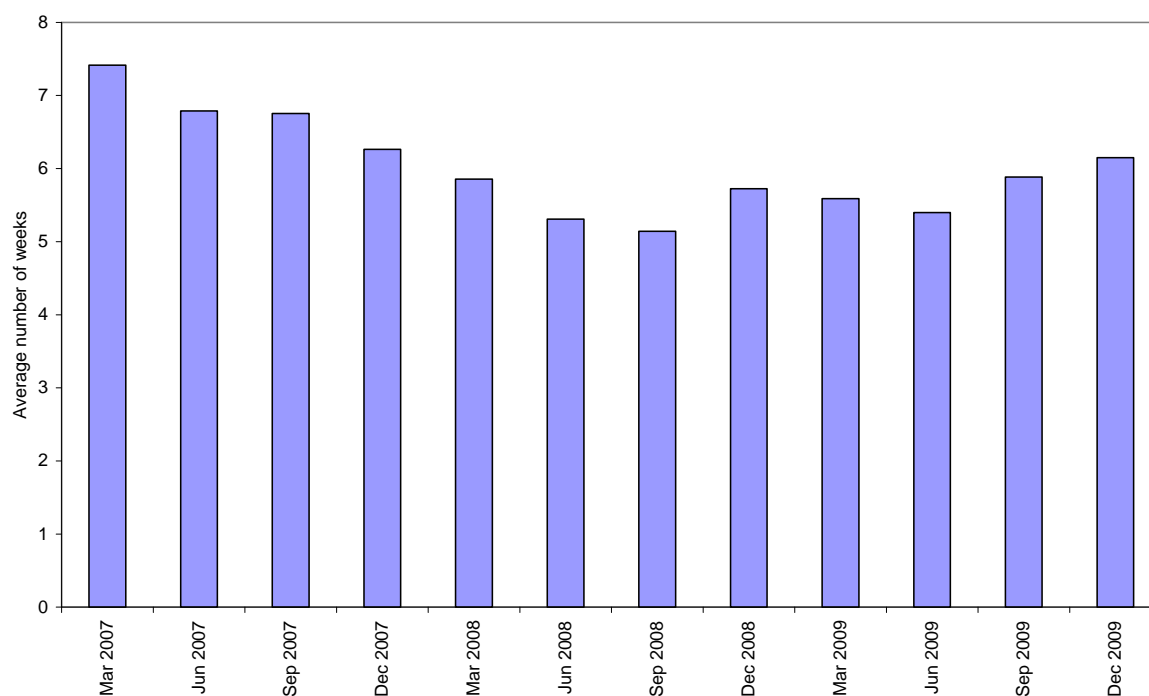
### Average time from charge to completion

(see Figure 13 and Table 4a)

The charge to completion time, compared to December 2008, is summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	change
Charge to completion	5.7 weeks (40 days)	6.1 weeks (43 days)	0.4-week increase* 3-day increase*

**Figure 13:** Estimated average time from charge to completion for youth defendants in completed charged cases, March 2007 to December 2009



<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information

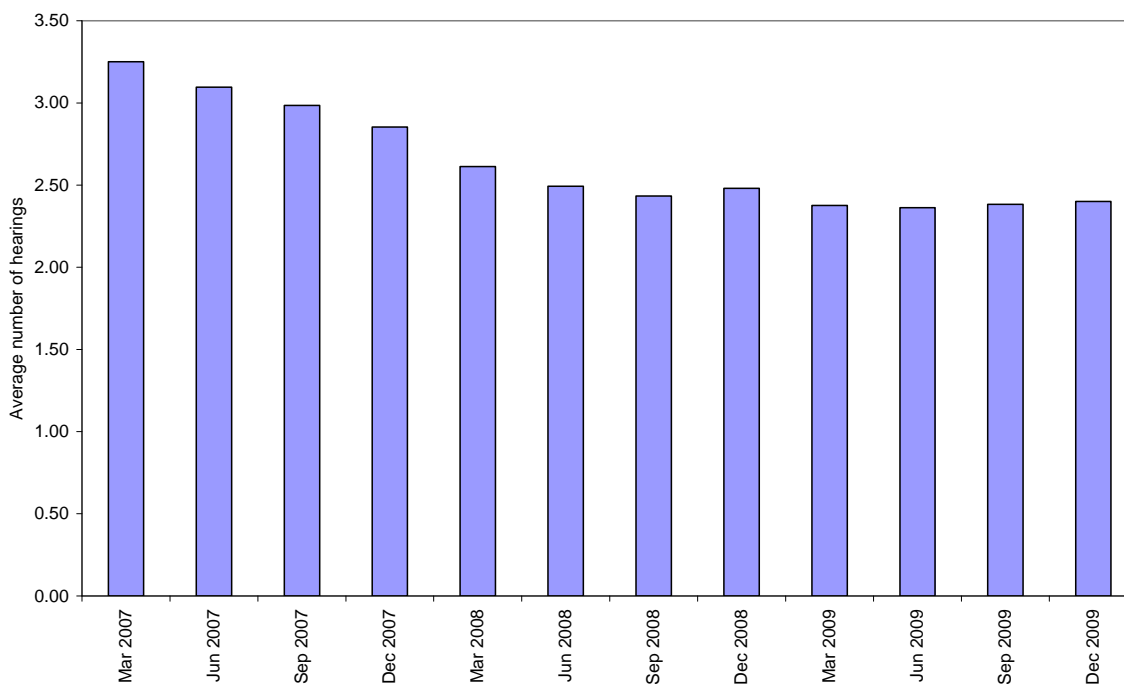
### Average number of hearings per defendant

(see Figure 14 and Table 4a)

The average number of hearings per defendant, compared to December 2008, is summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes<sup>1</sup>):

	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	change
Average number of hearings per defendant	2.48 hearings	2.40 hearings	0.08-hearing decrease*

**Figure 14:** Estimated average number of hearings per defendant for youth defendants in completed charged cases, March 2007 to December 2009



Figures 13 and 14 cover youth charged cases, excluding those sent or committed to the Crown Court for trial.

<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information

## Youth defendants in completed charged cases: December 2009 – LCJB area results

**Please note:** ambitions for youth charged cases have not yet been established, but area results are presented here in the same format as the adult results above, with the aim of providing useful information for users.

### **Main findings** (see Table 4b)

In December 2009 the estimated average time from charge to completion by area varied from 3.0 weeks (21 days) to 8.8 weeks (62 days). The estimated average number of hearings varied from 1.82 to 3.47 hearings per defendant for completed youth charged cases.

#### **Average time from charge to completion**

- The estimated average time from charge to completion for completed youth charged cases, excluding cases sent or committed to the Crown Court, in December 2009 varied by area from 3.0 weeks (21 days) to 8.8 weeks (62 days).
- Of the 42 LCJB (Local Criminal Justice Board) areas, 21 areas had an estimated average time from charge to completion of 6 weeks or under. (Please note: this is not an official target)

#### **Average number of hearings per defendant**

- The estimated average number of hearings for youth charged cases, excluding cases sent or committed to the Crown Court, in December 2009 varied by area from 1.82 hearings to 3.47 hearings per defendant.
- Of the 42 LCJB areas, 17 areas had an estimated average number of hearings of 2.25 or less per defendant. (Please note: this is not an official target)

## Annual analysis reports: Indictable/triable-either-way cases

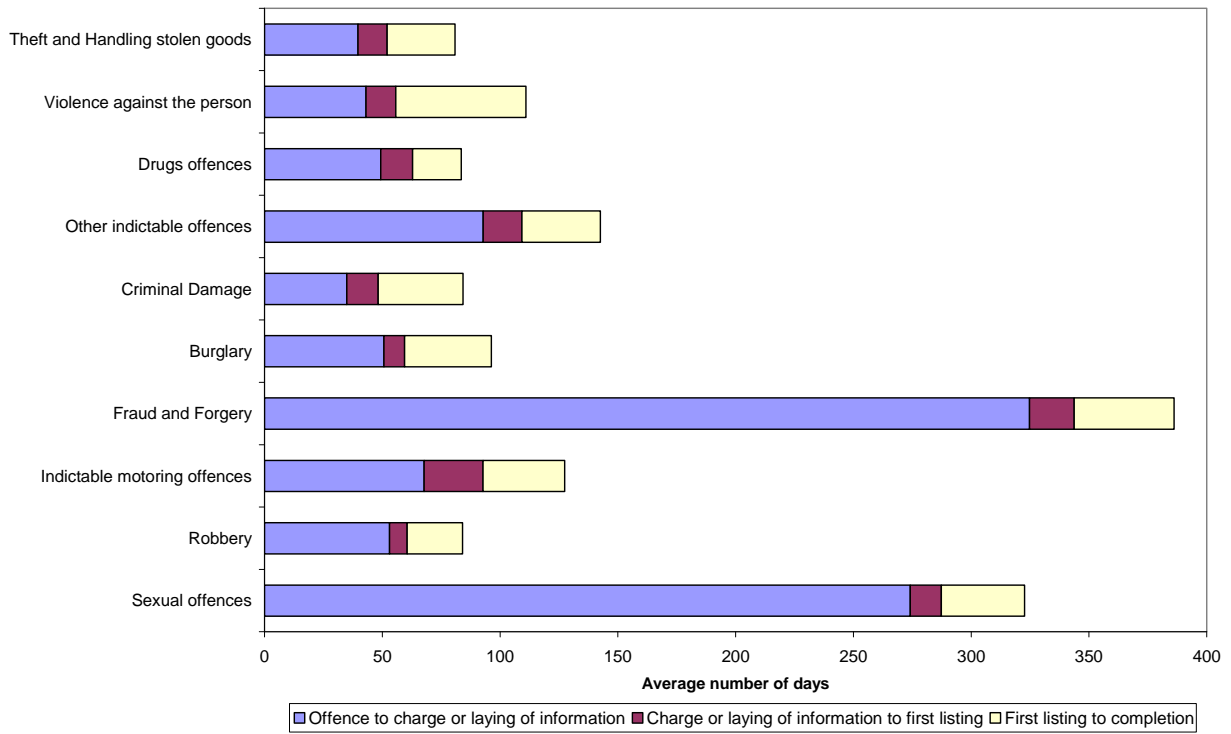
The following analysis is published annually in the December bulletin to provide a more detailed look at timeliness of completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases.

### **Analysis by offence group: indictable/triable-either-way cases**

(Figure 15 and Table 5)

- The estimated average time from offence to completion increased for half of the ten offence groups between 2008 and 2009, but decreased for 'Drug offences', 'Indictable motoring offences', 'Violence against the person' and 'Other indictable offences' and remained static for 'Theft and Handling stolen goods'.
- The offence group accounting for the largest proportion of defendants in the sample of indictable/ triable-either-way cases was 'Theft and Handling stolen goods' (31 per cent of all defendants). For these defendants the estimated average time from offence to completion was 81 days in 2009, unchanged from 2008.
- The offence group accounting for the second largest proportion of defendants amongst the indictable/ triable-either-way cases was 'Violence against the person' (22 per cent of all defendants). For these defendants the estimated average time from offence to completion decreased from 114 days in 2008 to 111 days in 2009.
- The average time from offence to charge/ laying of information was the stage that showed the greatest variation between offence groups. In 2009, the offence group with the longest time from offence to charge/ laying of information was 'Fraud and Forgery' (3 per cent of defendants), with an average of 325 days. The shortest time occurred in 'Criminal Damage' cases (8 per cent of defendants), where the average was 35 days. For six offence groups, the time decreased compared to 2008, 'Burglary' remained unchanged, and for 'Fraud and Forgery', 'Robbery' and 'Sexual offences' the time increased.
- Between 2008 and 2009 the estimated average time from charge/ laying of information to first listing increased for eight of the ten offence types. For 'Sexual Offences' the time remained unchanged, and for 'Indictable Motoring Offences' the time decreased (although the time for this group was exceptionally high in 2008; see note on Table 5).
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion decreased between 2008 and 2009 for seven of the ten offence groups, but increased for 'Burglary', 'Criminal damage' and 'Robbery'.

**Figure 15:** Estimated average time by offence group and stage of proceedings, all defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases, 2009



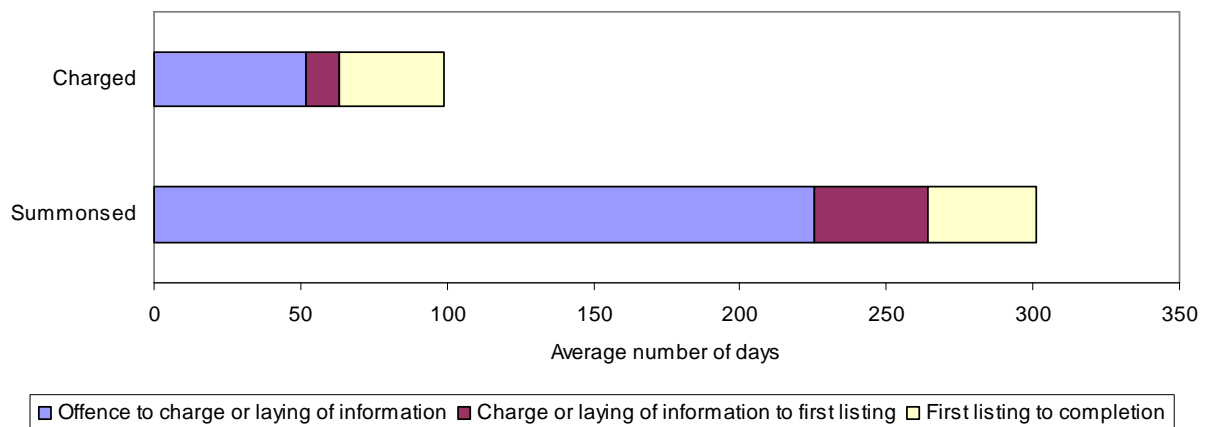
The groups are ordered according to the size of the sample, with the highest number of defendants in the 'Theft and Handling stolen goods' group and the smallest number of defendants in the 'Sexual offences' group; see Table 5 for more details.

## Analysis by initiation type: indictable/triable-either-way cases

(Figure 16 and Table 6)

- In 2009, an estimated 94 per cent of defendants proceeded against for indictable/triable-either-way cases were charged, with the remainder being summonsed: this percentage is unchanged from 2008.
- The estimated average time from offence to completion was substantially longer for those summonsed (301 days) than for those charged (99 days). Compared with 2008, the time for summonsed cases has decreased, from 321 days, while the time for charged cases has remained static.
- The fall in overall time for summonsed cases since 2008 reflects a decrease in the time of each stage: the estimated time from offence to laying of information decreased from 229 to 226 days; the time from laying of information to first listing decreased from 49 to 38 days; and the time from first listing to completion decreased from 43 to 37 days.

**Figure 16:** Estimated average time by initiation type and stage of proceedings, all defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases, 2009



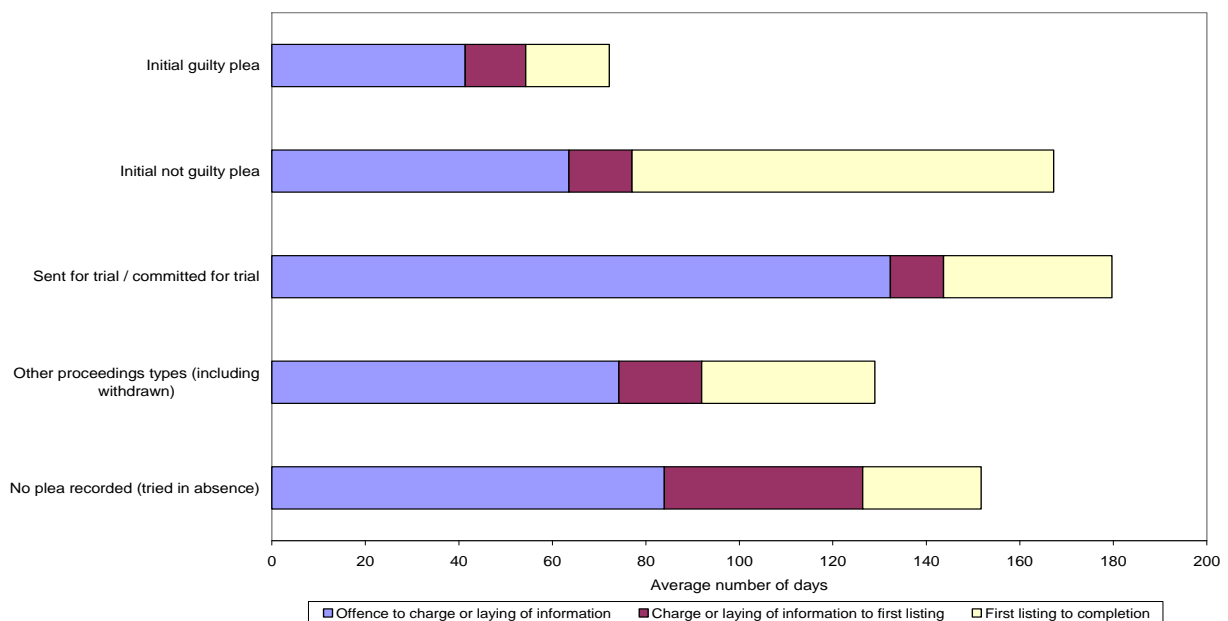


## Analysis by proceedings type: indictable/triable-either-way cases

(Figure 17 and Tables 7a, b)

- Between 2008 and 2009, the estimated average time from offence to completion decreased for four of the five proceedings types, but increased for 'Sent or committed for trial' cases. The shortest time from offence to completion was 72 days, for 'Initial guilty plea' (60 per cent of defendants). The longest time was 180 days, for 'Sent or committed for trial' (17 per cent of defendants).
- Between 2008 and 2009 the average time from offence to charge/ laying of information decreased for 'Initial guilty plea' and 'No plea recorded', increased for 'Other proceedings' and remained unchanged for 'Initial not guilty plea' and 'Sent or committed for trial'.
- The estimated average time from charge/ laying of information to first listing increased for all proceeding types except 'Other proceedings', which decreased.
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion decreased for all proceeding types, except 'Sent or committed for trial', which increased.
- Defendants where the initial plea was guilty had the lowest number of adjournments, with an estimated average of 0.87 adjournments per defendant in 2009. Defendants who had an initial plea of not guilty had the highest number of adjournments, with an estimated average of 2.85 adjournments in 2009.

**Figure 17:** Estimated average time by proceedings type and stage of proceedings, all defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases, 2009



The groups are ordered according to the size of the sample, with the highest number of defendants in the 'Initial guilty plea' group and the smallest number of defendants in the 'No plea recorded' group; see Tables 7a, b for more details.

## **Analysis by area: indictable/ triable-either-way cases**

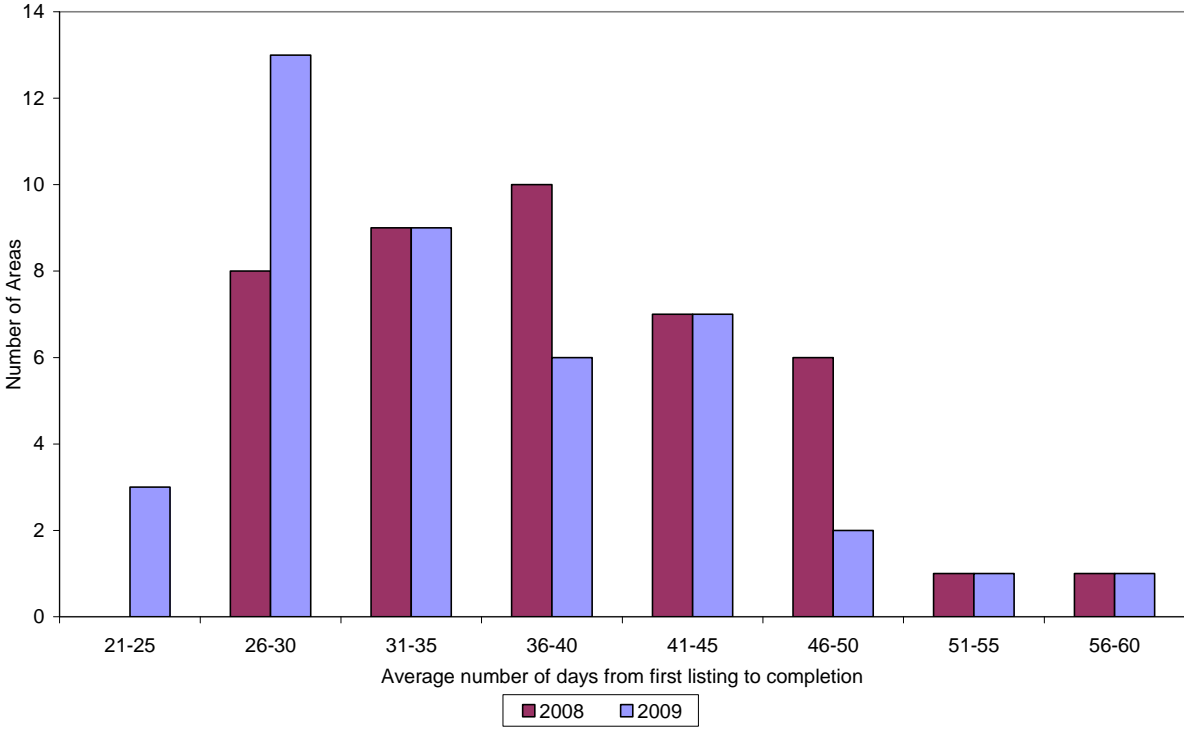
(Figure 18 and Tables 8 and 9)

- Tables 8a (LCJB, Local Criminal Justice Board) and 9a (HMCS, HM Courts Service) give results on the estimated average times taken for defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases by Area. Tables 8b (LCJB) and 9b (HMCS) give results on the estimated median times taken by area.
- In 2009 the estimated average time from offence to charge/ laying of information varied from 39 days in Cambridgeshire (+/- 9 days; the margin of error tells us that we would expect the true average number of days to lie between 30 days and 48 days<sup>1</sup>) to 98 days (+/- 22 days) in West Mercia. The average for England and Wales overall was 62 days (+/- 2 days).
- In 2009 the estimated average time from charge/ laying of information to first listing varied from 7 days (+/- 0 days) in West Midlands to 23 days (+/- 3 days) in Hertfordshire. The average for England and Wales was 13 days (+/- 0 days).
- In 2009 the estimated average time from first listing to completion ranged from 24 days (+/- 5 days) in Gloucestershire, to 59 days (+/- 13 days) in Bedfordshire. The average time for England and Wales was 36 days (+/- 1 day). In comparison, in 2008 the average time ranged from 27 days (+/- 3 days) in South Wales, to 58 days (+/- 16 days) in Bedfordshire. The average time from first listing to completion for England and Wales in 2008 was 37 days (+/- 1 day).
- Figure 18 shows the distribution of the estimated average time from first listing to completion for completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases in the 42 LCJB Areas for both 2008 and 2009. It indicates that the time for this stage varied widely between the Areas, but overall more areas had shorter times in 2009 compared with 2008.
- The number of areas where the average time from first listing to completion was less than 31 days has doubled since 2008. 16 areas had an estimated average time from first listing to completion of less than 31 days in 2009, compared with 8 areas in 2008.
- In 2009 the estimated average number of adjournments per defendant varied from 0.97 adjournments (+/- 0.08 adjournments) in Essex to 2.28 adjournments (+/- 0.22 adjournments) in Northamptonshire. The average for England and Wales overall was 1.35 (+/- 0.02) adjournments.

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<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information

**Figure 18:** Distribution of the estimated average time from first listing to completion by LCJB Area, 2008 and 2009



# Tables

**TABLE 1a:** All defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases, 2004 to December 2009: Timeliness

England and Wales

	Estimated number of days from:																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				
	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	
2004	54	2	3	(2-3)	9	0	6	(6-6)	55	1	28	(28-28)	118	2	70	(68-71)	28,493
2005	59	2	8	(7-9)	10	0	6	(6-6)	54	1	28	(27-28)	122	2	75	(73-76)	28,127
2006	61	2	10	(9-11)	10	0	6	(6-6)	52	1	27	(26-28)	123	2	74	(72-75)	27,730
2007 <sup>(3)</sup>	61	2	11	(10-12)	10	0	7	(7-7)	47	1	22	(22-23)	118	2	69	(68-71)	28,756
2008 <sup>(3)</sup>	62	2	9	(8-10)	12	0	9	(9-9)	37	1	14	(14-15)	112	2	61	(59-62)	29,608
2009 <sup>(3)</sup>	62	2	7	(6-8)	13	0	10	(10-10)	36	1	14	(13-14)	111	2	61	(60-63)	31,591
2006 March	68	4	12	(10-14)	10	0	6	(6-6)	54	2	28	(26-28)	132	4	81	(78-84)	7,391
2006 June	56	4	6	(5-8)	10	0	6	(6-6)	50	2	27	(25-28)	115	4	67	(65-70)	6,835
2006 September	67	4	11	(9-13)	10	0	6	(6-7)	53	2	28	(27-28)	130	5	74	(72-77)	7,126
2006 December	54	3	10	(8-12)	8	0	6	(6-6)	50	2	26	(23-28)	112	4	72	(69-74)	6,378
2007 March	65	4	10	(8-13)	11	1	6	(6-6)	51	2	27	(25-28)	127	4	75	(72-78)	7,126
2007 June <sup>(3)</sup>	56	4	9	(8-12)	8	0	6	(6-7)	47	2	22	(21-24)	111	4	65	(63-67)	7,178
2007 September	66	4	12	(10-14)	11	0	7	(7-7)	47	2	23	(21-25)	124	4	74	(71-76)	7,600
2007 December	56	3	12	(10-14)	9	0	7	(7-7)	43	2	21	(20-21)	108	4	66	(64-68)	6,852
2008 March	66	4	12	(10-14)	13	1	8	(8-9)	41	2	15	(14-19)	120	4	66	(63-69)	7,487
2008 June <sup>(3), (4)</sup>	63	4	6	(4-7)	11	0	9	(9-9)	34	2	13	(9-14)	108	5	55	(52-57)	7,313
2008 September	61	4	11	(9-13)	14	0	9	(9-9)	38	2	16	(14-20)	113	4	63	(62-65)	7,530
2008 December	60	4	8	(6-10)	12	0	9	(9-9)	35	2	14	(14-17)	107	4	59	(57-62)	7,278
2009 March	66	4	10	(8-12)	14	0	10	(10-10)	36	1	14	(13-15)	115	4	67	(64-70)	8,262
2009 June <sup>(3)</sup>	60	4	6	(5-8)	13	0	10	(10-10)	35	1	14	(14-15)	108	5	58	(56-60)	7,790
2009 September	65	4	7	(6-9)	14	0	10	(10-10)	37	2	14	(11-14)	116	5	63	(61-66)	7,817
2009 December	58	4	6	(4-8)	12	1	10	(10-10)	35	2	12	(8-14)	106	4	59	(57-61)	7,722

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(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) The confidence interval is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence interval. More details are available in the notes section.

(3) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007, June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

(4) The proportion of clerkships submitting youth data for June 2008 dipped in comparison to previous surveys. This appears to have stemmed from revised data collection methods, and has been addressed.

**TABLE 1b:** All defendants in completed indictable / triable-either-way cases, 2004 to December 2009: Adjournments

England and Wales

	Adjournments per defendant				Sample size (Number of defendants)
	Estimated average number of adjournments		Estimated median number of adjournment		
	Mean (number)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- number)	Median (number)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (number)	
2004	2.12	0.03	1	(1-1)	28,493
2005	2.07	0.03	1	(1-1)	28,127
2006	2.08	0.03	1	(1-1)	27,730
2007 <sup>(3)</sup>	2.02	0.03	1	(1-1)	28,756
2008 <sup>(3)</sup>	1.48	0.02	1	(1-1)	29,608
2009 <sup>(3)</sup>	1.35	0.02	1	(1-1)	31,591
2006 March	2.09	0.05	1	(1-1)	7,391
2006 June	2.05	0.06	1	(1-1)	6,835
2006 September	2.09	0.06	1	(1-1)	7,126
2006 December	2.10	0.06	1	(1-2)	6,378
2007 March	2.20	0.06	2	(1-2)	7,126
2007 June <sup>(3)</sup>	2.09	0.06	1	(1-1)	7,178
2007 September	2.02	0.06	1	(1-1)	7,600
2007 December	1.76	0.05	1	(1-1)	6,852
2008 March	1.59	0.05	1	(1-1)	7,487
2008 June <sup>(3), (4)</sup>	1.45	0.05	1	(1-1)	7,313
2008 September	1.46	0.04	1	(1-1)	7,530
2008 December	1.42	0.04	1	(1-1)	7,278
2009 March	1.38	0.04	1	(1-1)	8,262
2009 June <sup>(3)</sup>	1.36	0.04	1	(1-1)	7,790
2009 September	1.35	0.04	1	(1-1)	7,817
2009 December	1.29	0.04	1	(1-1)	7,722

**Notes:***(Source: Time Intervals Survey)*

(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) The confidence interval is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence interval. More details are available in the notes section.

(3) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007, June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

(4) The proportion of clerkships submitting youth data for June 2008 dipped in comparison to previous surveys. This appears to have stemmed from revised data collection methods, and has been addressed.

**TABLE 1c:** All defendants in completed indictable / triable-either-way cases, 2004 to December 2009: Subgroups completed and not completed at first listing

England and Wales

	Cases Completed at First Listing					Cases not completed at first listing								
	Estimated proportion completed at first listing		Estimated average number of days from:		Sample size	Estimated proportion not completed in one hearing		Estimated average number of days from:				Adjournments per defendant		Sample size
	(Per cent)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- per cent)	Offence to completion			(Per cent)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- per cent)	First listing to completion		Offence to completion		Estimated average number of adjournments		
(Days)			Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)			(Days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	(Number)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- number)	(Number of defendants)		
2004	30%	1%	63	4	8,677	70%	1%	79	1	142	3	3.05	0.03	19,816
2005	31%	1%	65	3	8,749	69%	1%	78	1	149	3	3.00	0.03	19,378
2006	30%	1%	64	3	8,419	70%	1%	74	1	148	3	2.99	0.03	19,311
2007 <sup>(2)</sup>	32%	1%	65	3	9,207	68%	1%	69	1	142	3	2.97	0.03	19,549
2008 <sup>(2)</sup>	39%	1%	69	3	11,609	61%	1%	61	1	140	3	2.44	0.03	17,999
2009 <sup>(2)</sup>	41%	1%	68	3	12,910	59%	1%	60	1	141	3	2.28	0.03	18,681
2006 March	31%	1%	70	7	2,277	69%	1%	78	2	159	5	3.02	0.06	5,114
2006 June	30%	1%	58	7	2,057	70%	1%	72	2	140	5	2.93	0.07	4,778
2006 September	31%	1%	67	7	2,187	69%	1%	76	3	158	6	3.01	0.07	4,939
2006 December	30%	1%	58	6	1,898	70%	1%	71	3	135	5	2.99	0.07	4,480
2007 March	29%	1%	71	7	2,033	71%	1%	72	2	149	5	3.08	0.07	5,093
2007 June <sup>(2)</sup>	31%	1%	55	7	2,256	69%	1%	69	2	137	5	3.05	0.07	4,922
2007 September	32%	1%	73	7	2,450	68%	1%	70	2	148	6	2.98	0.07	5,150
2007 December	36%	1%	62	6	2,468	64%	1%	67	3	134	5	2.75	0.06	4,384
2008 March	38%	1%	76	7	2,856	62%	1%	66	3	147	6	2.58	0.07	4,631
2008 June <sup>(2), (3)</sup>	41%	1%	70	7	3,016	59%	1%	57	2	135	6	2.46	0.06	4,297
2008 September	38%	1%	62	6	2,862	62%	1%	61	3	144	6	2.36	0.05	4,668
2008 December	40%	1%	68	7	2,875	60%	1%	59	2	132	5	2.35	0.06	4,403
2009 March	40%	1%	76	7	3,344	60%	1%	60	2	142	5	2.32	0.05	4,918
2009 June <sup>(2)</sup>	40%	1%	63	7	3,109	60%	1%	58	2	137	6	2.27	0.05	4,681
2009 September	41%	1%	68	6	3,233	59%	1%	63	4	149	7	2.30	0.05	4,584
2009 December	42%	1%	63	6	3,224	58%	1%	60	2	136	6	2.22	0.05	4,498

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(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 the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007, June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

(3) The proportion of clerkships submitting youth data for June 2008 dipped in comparison to previous surveys. This appears to have stemmed from revised data collection methods, and has been addressed.

**TABLE 2a(1): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, 2004 to December 2009: Timeliness**

England and Wales

	Estimated number of days from:																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				
	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	
<b>Indictable Cases</b>																	
2004	37	1	10	(9-10)	8	0	6	(6-6)	51	1	28	(28-28)	97	1	68	(66-69)	22,948
2005	43	1	17	(16-18)	9	0	6	(6-6)	48	1	25	(23-27)	100	1	70	(68-71)	21,729
2006	45	1	19	(18-20)	9	0	7	(6-7)	46	1	21	(21-22)	100	1	68	(66-69)	22,637
2007	44	1	19	(18-20)	9	0	7	(7-7)	41	1	21	(21-21)	94	1	64	(62-65)	22,560
2008 <sup>(3)</sup>	42	1	16	(15-17)	9	0	7	(7-7)	31	1	14	(14-14)	82	1	54	(53-56)	19,189
2009 <sup>(3)</sup>	40	1	14	(13-15)	11	0	9	(9-9)	31	1	14	(14-14)	83	1	55	(54-57)	17,365
2007 March	45	2	17	(15-19)	9	0	6	(6-6)	45	2	21	(21-23)	99	3	69	(66-72)	5,779
2007 June	42	2	19	(18-20)	9	0	7	(6-7)	41	1	21	(21-21)	92	2	63	(31-35)	5,748
2007 September	42	2	18	(16-19)	9	0	7	(7-7)	41	2	21	(20-21)	92	3	61	(58-63)	5,550
2007 December	47	2	23	(20-24)	9	0	7	(7-7)	37	1	18	(16-21)	93	3	63	(60-65)	5,483
2008 March	45	2	19	(17-21)	9	0	7	(7-7)	34	1	14	(14-16)	88	2	59	(56-61)	5,256
2008 June <sup>(3)</sup>	41	3	13	(11-14)	9	0	7	(7-7)	30	1	14	(14-14)	80	3	50	(48-53)	4,766
2008 September	38	2	16	(13-17)	9	0	7	(7-7)	29	1	14	(14-14)	76	3	52	(50-55)	4,495
2008 December	43	3	17	(15-19)	10	0	8	(8-8)	32	2	14	(14-14)	85	3	56	(54-59)	4,672
2009 March	42	2	15	(13-17)	11	0	8	(8-8)	31	1	14	(14-14)	84	2	57	(54-60)	4,529
2009 June <sup>(3)</sup>	39	3	11	(9-13)	11	0	9	(8-9)	30	1	14	(14-14)	79	3	51	(49-54)	4,343
2009 September	38	2	13	(11-16)	12	1	9	(9-9)	31	2	14	(12-14)	81	3	56	(54-59)	4,095
2009 December	42	2	17	(15-19)	11	0	10	(9-10)	33	1	14	(14-14)	86	3	59	(56-62)	4,398
<b>Summary non-motoring cases</b>																	
2004	32	1	4	(3-5)	10	0	6	(6-6)	44	1	21	(21-21)	85	2	59	(57-61)	8,006
2005	36	1	9	(7-10)	10	0	7	(7-7)	41	1	21	(21-21)	88	2	62	(60-64)	8,087
2006	36	1	10	(9-12)	11	0	7	(7-7)	43	1	21	(20-21)	90	2	62	(60-65)	8,393
2007	36	2	9	(8-10)	10	0	7	(7-7)	37	1	16	(14-19)	83	2	55	(54-57)	8,890
2008 <sup>(3)</sup>	32	1	6	(4-7)	10	0	8	(8-8)	28	1	10	(7-13)	71	2	44	(42-46)	6,989
2009 <sup>(3)</sup>	30	1	4	(3-5)	12	0	10	(10-10)	27	1	7	(7-7)	69	2	45	(42-47)	6,205
2007 March	36	3	10	(7-12)	11	1	8	(7-8)	43	3	21	(18-21)	89	4	62	(58-66)	2,249
2007 June	37	3	11	(9-14)	10	1	7	(7-8)	37	2	20	(15-21)	85	4	57	(54-60)	2,473
2007 September	36	4	7	(5-9)	10	1	7	(7-7)	35	2	14	(14-16)	81	5	51	(46-55)	2,137
2007 December	35	2	7	(5-10)	10	1	7	(7-8)	33	2	14	(14-15)	77	3	52	(48-56)	2,031
2008 March	33	2	6	(4-9)	10	0	8	(7-8)	32	2	13	(7-14)	75	4	46	(42-51)	1,904
2008 June <sup>(3)</sup>	33	3	6	(4-9)	10	1	8	(8-8)	26	2	7	(7-10)	69	4	42	(38-45)	1,685
2008 September	28	2	4	(2-6)	11	1	8	(8-8)	26	2	11	(7-14)	65	3	41	(38-44)	1,664
2008 December	34	2	7	(4-10)	10	1	8	(8-8)	30	2	14	(8-14)	74	4	49	(45-53)	1,736
2009 March	34	3	4	(3-7)	11	1	9	(9-10)	28	2	7	(7-14)	74	4	44	(40-49)	1,580
2009 June <sup>(3)</sup>	26	2	2	(1-5)	11	0	10	(9-10)	24	2	5	(2-7)	61	3	40	(36-43)	1,583
2009 September	29	3	3	(2-5)	12	1	10	(10-10)	27	2	7	(5-8)	69	4	45	(40-49)	1,487
2009 December	31	2	7	(4-10)	12	1	10	(10-11)	30	2	7	(6-13)	74	4	53	(47-57)	1,555

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(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) The confidence interval is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence interval. More details are available in the notes section.

(3) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

**TABLE 2a(2): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, 2004 to December 2009: Timeliness**

England and Wales

	Estimated number of days from:														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				
	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)		Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)
<b>Summary motoring cases</b>																	
2004	60	2	47	(45-49)	22	1	19	(18-20)	29	1	10	(7-14)	111	2	100	(96-103)	5,660
2005	59	2	48	(46-51)	21	1	19	(18-20)	28	2	6	(3-7)	108	3	96	(93-99)	4,558
2006	55	2	41	(38-44)	21	1	16	(15-18)	25	2	5	(1-7)	100	3	86	(83-91)	3,707
2007	50	2	36	(33-39)	19	1	13	(12-14)	25	2	5	(0-7)	95	3	79	(76-83)	3,092
2008 <sup>(3)</sup>	53	2	37	(33-40)	21	1	14	(14-16)	20	2	0	(0-0)	93	3	77	(74-82)	2,379
2009 <sup>(3)</sup>	52	2	37	(34-40)	23	1	19	(18-20)	18	1	0	(0-0)	93	3	77	(73-81)	1,991
2007 March	54	4	41	(34-45)	20	1	14	(12-15)	26	3	7	(0-7)	100	5	83	(76-94)	840
2007 June	46	4	30	(24-35)	17	1	11	(9-12)	30	5	7	(2-14)	93	7	72	(65-83)	768
2007 September	45	4	32	(24-36)	18	1	12	(11-14)	23	3	2	(0-7)	86	5	75	(66-82)	803
2007 December	57	4	44	(38-49)	20	1	17	(14-19)	22	3	0	(0-7)	99	6	85	(78-95)	681
2008 March	53	4	38	(29-47)	21	2	14	(12-18)	21	3	0	(0-2)	94	6	82	(73-94)	629
2008 June <sup>(3)</sup>	54	5	33	(28-39)	20	2	14	(12-16)	21	4	1	(0-6)	95	7	71	(61-77)	608
2008 September	48	4	35	(28-42)	21	2	14	(13-18)	18	3	0	(0-0)	87	6	75	(69-84)	585
2008 December	56	5	41	(33-49)	22	2	16	(14-19)	20	3	0	(0-2)	97	6	84	(77-93)	557
2009 March	60	5	42	(34-50)	25	2	21	(18-22)	19	3	0	(0-0)	104	7	87	(75-103)	535
2009 June <sup>(3)</sup>	46	5	29	(22-37)	20	2	15	(14-17)	19	3	0	(0-0)	85	7	67	(60-77)	448
2009 September	49	4	35	(29-40)	23	2	20	(17-22)	18	3	0	(0-0)	89	6	72	(66-81)	531
2009 December	54	5	40	(35-48)	23	1	19	(18-21)	17	3	0	(0-0)	93	6	83	(77-90)	477
<b>All criminal cases</b>																	
2004	40	1	11	(11-12)	11	0	6	(6-6)	46	1	21	(21-22)	97	1	70	(69-71)	36,614
2005	44	1	18	(17-19)	11	0	7	(11-12)	44	1	21	(21-21)	98	1	71	(70-73)	34,374
2006	44	1	19	(18-20)	11	0	7	(11-12)	43	1	21	(21-21)	98	1	68	(67-70)	34,737
2007	43	1	18	(17-18)	10	0	7	(11-12)	39	1	19	(17-20)	91	1	63	(62-64)	34,542
2008 <sup>(3)</sup>	40	1	15	(14-16)	11	0	8	(11-12)	30	1	14	(14-14)	81	1	54	(53-54)	28,557
2009 <sup>(3)</sup>	39	1	13	(12-14)	12	0	9	(11-12)	29	1	11	(9-13)	80	1	54	(53-56)	25,561
2007 March	44	1	17	(15-18)	10	0	7	(7-7)	43	1	21	(21-21)	96	2	68	(66-71)	8,868
2007 June	41	1	18	(17-19)	10	0	7	(7-7)	39	1	21	(18-21)	90	2	62	(60-64)	8,989
2007 September	41	2	16	(14-18)	10	0	7	(7-7)	38	1	16	(15-19)	89	2	59	(57-61)	8,490
2007 December	45	1	20	(19-22)	10	0	7	(7-7)	35	1	14	(14-15)	90	2	62	(60-64)	8,195
2008 March	43	1	17	(15-19)	10	0	7	(7-8)	32	1	14	(14-14)	85	2	58	(55-59)	7,789
2008 June <sup>(3)</sup>	40	2	12	(11-14)	11	0	8	(7-8)	28	1	14	(11-14)	78	2	50	(48-52)	7,059
2008 September	37	2	13	(12-16)	11	0	8	(7-8)	27	1	14	(13-14)	75	2	51	(49-53)	6,744
2008 December	42	2	16	(15-18)	11	0	8	(8-8)	30	1	14	(13-14)	83	2	56	(54-59)	6,965
2009 March	42	2	14	(12-16)	12	0	9	(9-9)	29	1	14	(9-14)	83	2	56	(54-59)	6,644
2009 June <sup>(3)</sup>	36	2	9	(8-11)	12	0	9	(9-9)	27	1	9	(7-13)	75	3	49	(48-51)	6,374
2009 September	37	2	12	(10-14)	13	0	10	(9-10)	29	1	8	(7-13)	79	2	55	(53-57)	6,113
2009 December	40	2	16	(14-18)	12	0	10	(10-10)	31	1	13	(9-14)	84	2	59	(57-61)	6,430

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(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) The confidence interval is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence interval. More details are available in the notes section.

(3) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 and June 2009 surveys



**TABLE 2b(1): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, 2004 to December 2009: Adjudgments**

England and Wales

	Adjudgments per defendant				Sample size
	Estimated average number of adjournments		Estimated median number of adjournments		(Number of defendants)
	Mean (number)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- number)	Median (number)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (number)	
<b>Indictable cases</b>					
2004	2.43	0.03	2	(2-2)	22,948
2005	2.32	0.04	2	(2-2)	21,729
2006	2.32	0.03	2	(2-2)	22,637
2007	2.12	0.03	1	(1-1)	22,560
2008 <sup>(3)</sup>	1.58	0.03	1	(1-1)	19,189
2009 <sup>(3)</sup>	1.46	0.03	1	(1-1)	17,365
2007 March	2.31	0.07	2	(2-2)	5,779
2007 June	2.17	0.06	1	(1-2)	5,748
2007 September	2.07	0.06	1	(1-1)	5,550
2007 December	1.93	0.06	1	(1-1)	5,483
2008 March	1.71	0.06	1	(1-1)	5,256
2008 June <sup>(3)</sup>	1.55	0.06	1	(1-1)	4,766
2008 September	1.53	0.05	1	(1-1)	4,495
2008 December	1.53	0.06	1	(1-1)	4,672
2009 March	1.44	0.05	1	(1-1)	4,529
2009 June <sup>(3)</sup>	1.48	0.06	1	(1-1)	4,343
2009 September	1.44	0.06	1	(1-1)	4,095
2009 December	1.49	0.06	1	(1-1)	4,398
<b>Summary non-motoring cases</b>					
2004	2.05	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,006
2005	2.00	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,087
2006	2.05	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,393
2007	1.90	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,890
2008 <sup>(3)</sup>	1.40	0.04	1	(1-1)	6,989
2009 <sup>(3)</sup>	1.22	0.04	1	(1-1)	6,205
2007 March	2.15	0.10	1	(1-2)	2,249
2007 June	1.96	0.09	1	(1-1)	2,473
2007 September	1.80	0.09	1	(1-1)	2,137
2007 December	1.68	0.09	1	(1-1)	2,031
2008 March	1.48	0.09	1	(1-1)	1,904
2008 June <sup>(3)</sup>	1.38	0.09	1	(1-1)	1,685
2008 September	1.31	0.09	1	(1-1)	1,664
2008 December	1.40	0.09	1	(1-1)	1,736
2009 March	1.30	0.09	1	(1-1)	1,580
2009 June <sup>(3)</sup>	1.11	0.08	1	(1-1)	1,583
2009 September	1.24	0.09	1	(1-1)	1,487
2009 December	1.22	0.08	1	(1-1)	1,555

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(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) The confidence interval is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence interval. More details are available in the notes section.

(3) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

**TABLE 2b(2): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, 2004 to December 2009: Adjournments**

England and Wales

	Adjournments per defendant				Sample size (Number of defendants)
	Estimated average number of adjournments		Estimated median number of adjournments		
	Mean (number)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (number)	Median (number)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (number)	
<b>Summary motoring cases</b>					
2004	1.34	0.05	1	(1-1)	5,660
2005	1.27	0.05	1	(1-1)	4,558
2006	1.21	0.06	1	(1-1)	3,707
2007	1.27	0.07	1	(1-1)	3,092
2008 <sup>(3)</sup>	0.99	0.06	0	(0-1)	2,379
2009 <sup>(3)</sup>	0.85	0.06	0	(0-0)	1,991
2007 March	1.38	0.14	1	(0-1)	840
2007 June	1.42	0.13	1	(1-1)	768
2007 September	1.21	0.13	1	(0-1)	803
2007 December	1.06	0.12	0	(0-1)	681
2008 March	0.95	0.11	0	(0-1)	629
2008 June <sup>(3)</sup>	1.08	0.13	1	(0-1)	608
2008 September	0.92	0.12	0	(0-0)	585
2008 December	1.00	0.13	0	(0-1)	557
2009 March	0.95	0.13	0	(0-0)	535
2009 June <sup>(3)</sup>	0.90	0.14	0	(0-0)	448
2009 September	0.80	0.11	0	(0-0)	531
2009 December	0.77	0.10	0	(0-0)	477
<b>All criminal cases</b>					
2004	2.18	0.03	1	(1-1)	36,614
2005	2.10	0.03	1	(1-1)	34,374
2006	2.13	0.03	1	(1-1)	34,737
2007	1.99	0.03	1	(1-1)	34,542
2008 <sup>(3)</sup>	1.49	0.02	1	(1-1)	28,557
2009 <sup>(3)</sup>	1.36	0.02	1	(1-1)	25,561
2007 March	2.18	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,868
2007 June	2.05	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,989
2007 September	1.92	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,490
2007 December	1.79	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,195
2008 March	1.59	0.05	1	(1-1)	7,789
2008 June <sup>(3)</sup>	1.47	0.05	1	(1-1)	7,059
2008 September	1.42	0.04	1	(1-1)	6,744
2008 December	1.46	0.05	1	(1-1)	6,965
2009 March	1.37	0.04	1	(1-1)	6,644
2009 June <sup>(3)</sup>	1.35	0.04	1	(1-1)	6,374
2009 September	1.34	0.05	1	(1-1)	6,113
2009 December	1.37	0.05	1	(1-1)	6,430

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(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) The confidence interval is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence interval. More details are available in the notes section.

(3) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

**TABLE 2c(1): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, 2004 to December 2009: Subgroups completed and not completed at first listing**

England and Wales

	Cases completed at first listing					Cases not completed at first listing								
	Estimated proportion completed at first listing		Estimated average number of days from:		Sample size (Number of defendants)	Estimated proportion not completed in one hearing		Estimated average number of days from:				Adjournments per defendant		Sample size (Number of defendants)
	(Per cent)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- per cent)	Offence to completion			(Per cent)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- per cent)	First listing to completion		Offence to completion		Estimated average number of adjournments		
			(Days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	(Days)			Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	(Number)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- number)		
<b>Indictable cases</b>														
2004	26%	1%	39	2	5,969	74%	1%	70	1	117	2	3.29	0.04	16,979
2005	28%	1%	44	2	5,999	72%	1%	66	1	121	2	3.20	0.04	15,730
2006	28%	1%	45	2	6,247	72%	1%	64	1	121	2	3.20	0.04	16,390
2007	30%	1%	46	2	6,792	70%	1%	59	1	115	2	3.04	0.04	15,768
2008 <sup>(4)</sup>	37%	1%	44	2	7,092	63%	1%	49	1	105	2	2.51	0.04	12,097
2009 <sup>(4)</sup>	39%	1%	46	2	6,796	61%	1%	51	1	106	2	2.41	0.04	10,569
2007 March	27%	1%	48	4	1,567	73%	1%	61	2	118	3	3.16	0.08	4,212
2007 June	30%	1%	42	3	1,715	70%	1%	58	2	113	3	3.10	0.08	4,033
2007 September	30%	1%	43	3	1,692	70%	1%	59	2	114	4	2.98	0.08	3,858
2007 December	33%	1%	50	3	1,818	67%	1%	56	2	114	3	2.88	0.08	3,665
2008 March	36%	1%	46	3	1,875	64%	1%	53	2	111	3	2.66	0.08	3,381
2008 June <sup>(2)</sup>	37%	1%	42	3	1,764	63%	1%	47	2	102	4	2.45	0.07	3,002
2008 September	37%	1%	43	4	1,641	63%	1%	45	2	96	3	2.41	0.07	2,854
2008 December	39%	1%	46	4	1,812	61%	1%	52	2	110	4	2.50	0.07	2,860
2009 March	38%	1%	48	3	1,737	62%	1%	50	2	106	3	2.34	0.07	2,792
2009 June <sup>(2)</sup>	39%	1%	46	6	1,699	61%	1%	49	2	100	4	2.43	0.07	2,644
2009 September	41%	2%	46	3	1,660	59%	2%	52	2	106	4	2.42	0.08	2,435
2009 December	39%	1%	44	2	1,700	61%	1%	54	2	113	4	2.44	0.08	2,698
<b>Summary non-motoring cases</b>														
2004	33%	1%	38	2	2,627	67%	1%	65	2	108	3	3.05	0.06	5,379
2005	33%	1%	43	3	2,643	67%	1%	62	2	110	3	2.97	0.06	5,444
2006	32%	1%	40	2	2,702	68%	1%	63	2	114	2	3.02	0.06	5,691
2007	34%	1%	40	2	3,030	66%	1%	56	2	106	3	2.89	0.06	5,860
2008 <sup>(4)</sup>	41%	1%	36	2	2,896	59%	1%	49	2	96	3	2.38	0.06	4,093
2009 <sup>(2)</sup>	45%	1%	38	2	2,762	55%	1%	49	2	94	3	2.20	0.06	3,443
2007 March	32%	2%	40	4	717	68%	2%	63	3	112	5	3.15	0.12	1,532
2007 June	33%	2%	43	4	811	67%	2%	56	3	106	6	2.91	0.12	1,662
2007 September	34%	2%	40	6	726	66%	2%	53	3	102	7	2.73	0.11	1,411
2007 December	38%	2%	37	3	776	62%	2%	53	3	103	5	2.71	0.12	1,255
2008 March	40%	2%	38	4	766	60%	2%	53	3	100	5	2.47	0.11	1,138
2008 June <sup>(2)</sup>	43%	2%	34	3	729	57%	2%	45	3	95	6	2.43	0.13	956
2008 September	41%	2%	33	3	685	59%	2%	44	3	88	5	2.23	0.12	979
2008 December	41%	2%	37	3	716	59%	2%	51	3	99	5	2.39	0.11	1,020
2009 March	43%	2%	40	5	674	57%	2%	49	3	99	5	2.27	0.13	906
2009 June <sup>(2)</sup>	47%	2%	35	3	738	53%	2%	45	3	84	5	2.09	0.11	845
2009 September	44%	3%	38	4	661	56%	3%	49	4	93	6	2.24	0.12	826
2009 December	44%	2%	40	4	689	56%	2%	54	3	101	5	2.20	0.11	866

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(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 the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

**TABLE 2c(2): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, 2004 to December 2009: Subgroups completed and not completed at first listing**

England and Wales

	Cases completed at first listing					Cases not completed at first listing								
	Estimated proportion completed at first listing		Estimated average number of days from:		Sample size (Number of defendants)	Estimated proportion not completed in one hearing		Estimated average number of days from:				Adjournments per defendant		Sample size (Number of defendants)
	(Per cent)	Margin of error(1) (+/- per cent)	Offence to completion			(Per cent)	Margin of error(1) (+/- per cent)	First listing to completion		Offence to completion		(Number)	Margin of error(1) (+/- number)	
		(Days)	Margin of error(1) (+/- days)		(Per cent)	Margin of error(1) (+/- per cent)	(Days)	Margin of error(1) (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error(1) (+/- days)	(Number)	Margin of error(1) (+/- number)		
<b>Summary motoring cases</b>														
2004	44%	1%	86	3	2,486	56%	1%	52	2	131	3	2.40	0.07	3,174
2005	47%	1%	86	4	2,131	53%	1%	52	3	128	4	2.38	0.08	2,427
2006	47%	2%	79	3	1,751	53%	2%	47	2	120	4	2.30	0.08	1,956
2007	48%	2%	70	3	1,479	52%	2%	49	3	117	5	2.44	0.09	1,613
2008 <sup>(4)</sup>	52%	2%	77	4	1,232	48%	2%	41	3	112	5	2.05	0.09	1,147
2009 <sup>(4)</sup>	57%	2%	71	4	1,126	43%	2%	42	3	122	5	1.97	0.10	865
2007 March	47%	3%	73	6	394	53%	3%	50	5	125	8	2.59	0.19	446
2007 June	45%	4%	65	6	345	55%	4%	55	9	116	11	2.57	0.18	423
2007 September	49%	4%	62	5	393	51%	4%	45	5	109	8	2.36	0.19	410
2007 December	51%	4%	79	7	347	49%	4%	44	5	119	9	2.16	0.17	334
2008 March	52%	4%	73	7	329	48%	4%	44	6	118	10	1.99	0.16	300
2008 June <sup>(2)</sup>	49%	4%	79	9	297	51%	4%	41	7	111	11	2.11	0.19	311
2008 September	55%	4%	69	7	319	45%	4%	39	5	109	10	2.02	0.19	266
2008 December	52%	4%	86	8	287	48%	4%	41	5	109	9	2.06	0.21	270
2009 March	55%	4%	80	7	295	45%	4%	43	5	134	12	2.12	0.21	240
2009 June <sup>(4)</sup>	59%	5%	61	7	263	41%	5%	45	6	119	11	2.17	0.23	185
2009 September	57%	4%	67	7	301	43%	4%	41	5	118	10	1.85	0.17	230
2009 December	56%	4%	77	7	267	44%	4%	37	4	114	9	1.74	0.16	210
<b>All criminal cases</b>														
2004	30%	0%	49	1	11,082	70%	0%	66	1	117	1	3.13	0.03	25,532
2005	31%	0%	52	1	10,773	69%	0%	64	1	119	1	3.06	0.03	23,601
2006	31%	0%	49	1	10,700	69%	0%	62	1	119	1	3.08	0.03	24,037
2007	33%	0%	47	1	11,301	67%	0%	57	1	113	1	2.96	0.03	23,241
2008 <sup>(2)</sup>	39%	1%	46	1	11,220	61%	1%	49	1	103	1	2.45	0.03	17,337
2009 <sup>(2)</sup>	42%	1%	47	1	10,684	58%	1%	50	1	104	1	2.33	0.03	14,877
2007 March	30%	1%	49	3	2,678	70%	1%	61	2	117	3	3.12	0.06	6,190
2007 June	32%	1%	45	2	2,871	68%	1%	57	2	111	3	3.01	0.06	6,118
2007 September	33%	1%	45	2	2,811	67%	1%	57	2	110	3	2.87	0.06	5,679
2007 December	36%	1%	50	2	2,941	64%	1%	54	2	112	3	2.79	0.06	5,254
2008 March	38%	1%	47	2	2,970	62%	1%	52	2	109	3	2.57	0.06	4,819
2008 June <sup>(2)</sup>	40%	1%	44	2	2,790	60%	1%	46	2	101	3	2.42	0.06	4,269
2008 September	39%	1%	43	3	2,645	61%	1%	45	1	95	3	2.34	0.06	4,099
2008 December	40%	1%	48	3	2,815	60%	1%	51	2	107	3	2.44	0.06	4,150
2009 March	41%	1%	50	3	2,706	59%	1%	50	1	106	3	2.31	0.06	3,938
2009 June <sup>(2)</sup>	42%	1%	45	4	2,700	58%	1%	48	2	98	3	2.34	0.06	3,674
2009 September	43%	1%	46	2	2,622	57%	1%	51	2	103	3	2.34	0.06	3,491
2009 December	41%	1%	46	2	2,656	59%	1%	53	2	110	3	2.34	0.06	3,774

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(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 the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

**TABLE 3a:** Adult defendants in completed charged cases, excluding those committed or sent to the Crown Court for trial, March 2007 to December 2009

England and Wales					
	Charge to completion		Hearings		Sample size
	Estimated average time from charge to completion in weeks	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- weeks)	Estimated average number of hearings per defendant	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- number of hearings)	Number of defendants
2007 March	8.8	0.3	3.02	0.05	8,603
2007 June <sup>(2)</sup>	8.3	0.3	2.93	0.05	8,537
2007 September	8.3	0.3	2.90	0.05	9,096
2007 December	7.9	0.3	2.67	0.05	8,313
2008 March	7.7	0.3	2.51	0.05	8,654
2008 June <sup>(2)</sup>	6.6	0.2	2.32	0.04	8,712
2008 September	6.9	0.3	2.36	0.04	8,642
2008 December	6.8	0.3	2.32	0.04	8,241
2009 March	6.9	0.3	2.31	0.04	9,253
2009 June	6.8	0.2	2.28	0.04	9,016
2009 September	7.1	0.4	2.26	0.04	8,635
2009 December	6.8	0.3	2.20	0.04	8,382

**Notes:**

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(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 plus or minus the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) See paragraph 4 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007, June 2008 and June 2009 surveys.

**TABLE 3b:** Adult defendants in completed charged cases, excluding those committed or sent to the Crown Court for trial, by LCJB, December 2009

England and Wales

Area name	Charge to completion		Hearings		Sample size
	Estimated average time from charge to completion in weeks	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- weeks)	Estimated average number of hearings per defendant	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- number of hearings)	Number of defendants
Avon and Somerset	6.2	1.0	2.23	0.23	220
Bedfordshire	15.7	10.3	2.53	0.41	60
Cambridgeshire	5.8	1.6	1.91	0.28	122
Cheshire	5.9	0.8	1.98	0.20	154
Cleveland	5.3	1.2	2.23	0.25	171
Cumbria	8.3	3.9	2.07	0.30	94
Derbyshire	6.9	1.8	2.31	0.23	141
Devon and Cornwall	6.5	1.2	2.09	0.28	159
Dorset	13.2	7.0	2.90	0.69	89
Durham	6.6	1.8	2.70	0.50	77
Dyfed Powys	6.4	1.4	1.74	0.26	70
Essex	5.6	0.9	1.80	0.16	235
Gloucestershire	6.1	0.9	1.87	0.31	78
Greater Manchester	5.2	0.8	1.92	0.12	417
Gwent	4	1.7	2.14	0.51	35
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	8.1	1.3	2.11	0.19	271
Hertfordshire	8.9	2.1	2.01	0.30	145
Humberside	5.6	1.3	2.20	0.30	128
Kent	6.2	1.1	2.13	0.26	188
Lancashire	6.8	1.0	2.28	0.18	325
Leicestershire	7.3	1.9	2.42	0.34	97
Lincolnshire	8.2	2.1	1.91	0.23	105
London	7.3	0.6	2.36	0.10	1424
Merseyside	8.3	2.6	2.21	0.20	282
Norfolk	6.5	1.2	2.43	0.31	102
North Wales	4.5	1.0	1.78	0.24	96
North Yorkshire	7.4	1.7	1.95	0.35	128
Northamptonshire	8.7	2.2	3.05	0.59	59
Northumbria	5.7	1.2	2.56	0.24	312
Nottinghamshire	8.3	2.3	2.74	0.38	153
South Wales	5.2	0.8	2.11	0.20	244
South Yorkshire	5	0.9	2.11	0.23	217
Staffordshire	5.4	0.9	2.04	0.24	135
Suffolk	3.9	1.3	1.81	0.33	96
Surrey	8.9	3.2	2.12	0.30	109
Sussex	4.8	1.1	1.98	0.26	180
Thames Valley	11.3	3.0	2.43	0.24	249
Warwickshire	4	1.7	1.84	0.38	55
West Mercia	5.3	1.1	1.83	0.20	160
West Midlands	4.4	0.6	2.03	0.12	509
West Yorkshire	9.6	1.2	2.58	0.20	418
Wiltshire	5.7	2.2	1.84	0.33	73
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.20</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>8,382</b>

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(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 plus or minus the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.

**TABLE 4a:** Youth defendants in completed charged cases, excluding those committed or sent to the Crown Court for trial, March 2007 to December 2009

England and Wales

	<b>Charge to completion</b>		<b>Hearings</b>		<b>Sample size</b>
	Estimated average time from charge to completion in weeks	<i>Margin of error<sup>(1)</sup> (+/- weeks)</i>	Estimated average number of hearings per defendant	<i>Margin of error<sup>(1)</sup> (+/- number of hearings)</i>	Number of defendants
2007 March	7.4	0.2	3.25	0.06	7,778
2007 June	6.8	0.2	3.10	0.05	7,855
2007 September	6.8	0.2	2.98	0.05	7,447
2007 December	6.3	0.2	2.85	0.05	7,123
2008 March	5.9	0.2	2.61	0.05	6,783
2008 June <sup>(2,3)</sup>	5.3	0.2	2.49	0.05	6,182
2008 September	5.1	0.2	2.43	0.05	5,918
2008 December	5.7	0.2	2.48	0.05	6,152
2009 March <sup>(4)</sup>	5.6	0.2	2.38	0.05	5,767
2009 June <sup>(2)</sup>	5.4	0.2	2.36	0.05	5,563
2009 September	5.9	0.2	2.38	0.05	5,255
2009 December	6.1	0.2	2.40	0.05	5,566

**Notes:**

*(Source: Time Intervals Survey)*

(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 plus or minus the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) See paragraph 4 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 and June 2009 surveys.

(3) The proportion of clerkships submitting youth data for June 2008 dipped in comparison to previous surveys. This appears to have stemmed from revised data collection methods, and has been

(4) March 2009 figures exclude data for Cumbria Area as youth data was unavailable

**TABLE 4b:** Youth defendants in completed charged cases, excluding those committed or sent to the Crown Court for trial, by LCJB area, December 2009

England and Wales

Area name	Charge to completion		Hearings		Sample size
	Estimated average time from charge to completion in weeks	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- weeks)	Estimated average number of hearings per defendant	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- number of hearings)	Number of defendants
Avon and Somerset	5.8	1.0	2.35	0.28	150
Bedfordshire	8.1	2.5	3.04	0.64	48
Cambridgeshire	7.3	1.8	2.39	0.41	77
Cheshire	6.2	1.7	1.89	0.35	57
Cleveland	5.0	1.1	2.34	0.29	106
Cumbria	6.4	1.9	2.02	0.32	50
Derbyshire	8.7	2.8	2.90	0.45	87
Devon and Cornwall	6.9	1.6	2.44	0.41	122
Dorset	7.2	2.2	2.37	0.61	57
Durham	5.8	1.4	2.40	0.46	89
Dyfed Powys	5.5	1.2	1.83	0.28	54
Essex	4.5	0.7	1.82	0.19	181
Gloucestershire <sup>(2)</sup>	-	-	-	-	1
Greater Manchester	5.7	0.7	2.40	0.20	287
Gwent	4.0	0.7	2.15	0.28	68
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	5.5	0.8	1.92	0.16	259
Hertfordshire	7.5	1.5	1.99	0.34	87
Humberside	6.8	1.9	2.50	0.45	66
Kent	5.4	1.0	2.15	0.25	164
Lancashire	5.7	0.8	2.47	0.22	253
Leicestershire	5.9	1.1	2.31	0.38	78
Lincolnshire	5.3	1.1	1.90	0.29	42
London	7.2	0.6	2.66	0.14	881
Merseyside	6.3	0.8	2.50	0.23	221
Norfolk	6.6	1.4	2.84	0.48	77
North Wales	7.1	1.8	2.27	0.37	71
North Yorkshire	5.3	1.3	2.10	0.45	94
Northamptonshire	8.8	2.6	3.47	0.78	38
Northumbria	4.7	0.7	2.41	0.27	228
Nottinghamshire	5.5	1.3	2.87	0.54	111
South Wales	5.2	1.1	2.41	0.33	115
South Yorkshire	6.2	1.3	2.59	0.36	130
Staffordshire	4.6	0.8	2.02	0.30	88
Suffolk	3.0	1.2	1.90	0.39	39
Surrey	7.4	2.2	1.98	0.35	52
Sussex	6.6	1.3	2.14	0.27	161
Thames Valley	7.7	1.4	2.69	0.36	127
Warwickshire <sup>(2)</sup>	-	-	-	-	24
West Mercia	5.2	0.9	2.13	0.30	97
West Midlands	5.1	0.8	2.26	0.17	289
West Yorkshire	7.0	0.9	2.83	0.30	275
Wiltshire	7.4	1.6	2.71	0.56	65
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>5,566</b>

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 plus or minus the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) Results for areas that have extremely small sample sizes, i.e. less than 30 defendants, have been excluded from the table.

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)



**TABLE 5: Completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases by offence group and stage of proceedings, 2007 to 2009**

England and Wales

	Estimated average number of days from:																Sample size	
	Offence to charge or laying of information				Charge or laying of information to first listing				First listing to completion				Offence to completion					
	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	(Number of defendants)	Proportion of all indictable/ triable-either-way cases (per cent)
<b>Burglary</b>																		
2007	61	6	21	(18-23)	7	1	5	(4-6)	44	3	28	(27-32)	112	7	70	(66-75)	1,895	7%
2008	51	6	17	(15-20)	8	1	5	(3-6)	35	3	21	(21-22)	94	7	58	(55-62)	1,772	6%
2009	51	6	11	(9-14)	9	1	6	(5-7)	37	4	22	(21-27)	96	7	60	(58-64)	1,849	6%
<b>Criminal Damage</b>																		
2007	38	3	8	(6-11)	9	0	7	(7-7)	45	3	14	(14-20)	92	4	58	(54-62)	2,415	8%
2008	37	4	5	(3-8)	12	1	10	(10-10)	30	2	6	(3-7)	80	5	46	(43-50)	2,381	8%
2009	35	3	5	(3-7)	13	1	11	(11-11)	36	5	6	(3-7)	84	6	52	(48-56)	2,542	8%
<b>Drugs Offences</b>																		
2007	48	3	12	(7-19)	9	1	7	(7-7)	29	2	7	(4-7)	87	4	56	(53-61)	3,268	11%
2008	52	3	8	(5-13)	12	0	10	(10-10)	23	2	0	(0-0)	86	4	51	(48-54)	3,895	13%
2009	49	3	1	(1-3)	14	1	11	(11-11)	21	2	0	(0-0)	84	4	45	(43-49)	4,160	13%
<b>Fraud and Forgery</b>																		
2007	281	32	105	(90-125)	18	2	8	(8-9)	44	5	21	(19-26)	343	34	175	(155-196)	805	3%
2008	255	27	113	(100-127)	18	1	11	(11-12)	43	5	21	(14-22)	316	28	175	(160-189)	956	3%
2009	325	31	149	(125-168)	19	2	12	(11-13)	42	6	19	(12-21)	386	33	205	(184-230)	1,018	3%
<b>Indictable Motoring Offences</b>																		
2007	56	8	17	(7-27)	16	2	8	(8-9)	54	8	28	(21-35)	127	12	93	(75-108)	505	2%
2008 <sup>(4)</sup>	88	8	66	(53-80)	48	4	23	(19-26)	41	8	11	(3-15)	177	12	150	(137-160)	867	3%
2009	68	5	49	(41-57)	25	2	17	(16-19)	35	4	14	(7-21)	127	7	112	(102-113)	783	2%
<b>Robbery</b>																		
2007	56	10	20	(16-25)	6	1	2	(2-3)	35	3	6	(0-14)	97	11	67	(59-75)	850	3%
2008	46	7	7	(5-12)	6	1	2	(1-2)	23	3	0	(0-0)	75	8	44	(35-49)	777	3%
2009	53	7	18	(12-21)	8	1	3	(2-6)	24	3	0	(0-0)	84	8	53	(45-61)	730	2%
<b>Sexual Offences</b>																		
2007	168	29	52	(46-63)	13	3	6	(6-7)	47	5	28	(25-37)	227	29	120	(108-136)	756	3%
2008	238	42	73	(57-87)	13	2	9	(7-9)	42	8	25	(14-31)	293	43	138	(123-152)	620	2%
2009	274	42	84	(70-92)	13	1	9	(8-10)	35	6	22	(15-27)	323	42	137	(123-152)	728	2%
<b>Theft and Handling Stolen Goods</b>																		
2007	43	2	2	(1-2)	9	0	7	(6-7)	39	1	15	(14-16)	91	3	47	(45-48)	9,397	33%
2008	41	2	1	(1-2)	11	0	9	(8-9)	30	2	7	(6-7)	81	3	39	(38-41)	9,522	32%
2009	40	2	1	(1-1)	12	0	10	(9-10)	29	1	5	(4-6)	81	3	40	(38-41)	9,947	31%
<b>Violence Against the Person</b>																		
2007	46	2	17	(14-19)	10	0	7	(7-7)	70	2	49	(48-50)	125	3	100	(96-102)	6,555	23%
2008	45	2	13	(11-16)	11	0	9	(9-9)	58	2	42	(42-42)	114	3	87	(83-90)	6,544	22%
2009	43	2	9	(7-12)	13	0	10	(10-10)	55	2	43	(42-44)	111	3	83	(81-87)	6,975	22%
<b>Other Indictable Offences</b>																		
2007	108	10	31	(26-36)	13	1	7	(7-7)	48	4	23	(21-28)	169	10	100	(93-107)	2,310	8%
2008	126	13	20	(13-27)	15	1	9	(8-9)	38	2	18	(14-21)	179	13	82	(75-87)	2,274	8%
2009	93	9	17	(12-22)	16	1	9	(9-10)	33	2	7	(3-11)	143	9	76	(71-80)	2,859	9%
<b>England &amp; Wales 2007</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>(10-12)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(7-7)</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>(22-23)</b>	<b>117.6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>(68-71)</b>	<b>28,756</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>England &amp; Wales 2008</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>(8-10)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>(9-9)</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>(14-15)</b>	<b>111.9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>(59-62)</b>	<b>29,608</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>England &amp; Wales 2009</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(6-8)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>(10-10)</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>(13-14)</b>	<b>111.3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>(60-63)</b>	<b>31,591</b>	<b>100%</b>

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) The confidence interval is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence interval. More details are available in the notes section.

(3) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007, June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

(4) The unusually long time for this group is due to large numbers of summonsed cases being processed during the 2009 March and September survey weeks by a few courthouses.

**Table 6: Completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases by initiation type and stage of proceedings, 2007 to 2009**

England and Wales

	Estimated average number of days from:														Sample size			
	Offence to charge or laying of information				Charge or laying of information to first listing				First listing to completion				Offence to completion				Proportion of all indictable/triable-either-way cases (per cent)	
	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)		
<b>Defendants charged</b>																		
2007	52	2	8	(7-8)	8	0	7	(6-7)	47	1	23	(22-24)	107	2	65	(64-66)	27,482	96%
2008	52	2	5	(4-6)	10	0	8	(8-8)	37	1	14	(14-15)	99	2	55	(54-56)	27,882	94%
2009	52	2	3	(3-4)	12	0	9	(9-9)	36	1	14	(14-14)	99	2	56	(55-57)	29,657	94%
<b>Defendants summonsed</b>																		
2007	256	22	136	(213-279)	38	1	35	(35-36)	47	4	21	(20-24)	341	22	209	(200-217)	1,274	4%
2008	229	17	126	(120-133)	49	2	37	(35-39)	43	3	19	(14-21)	321	17	215	(207-221)	1,726	6%
2009	226	17	114	(107-121)	38	1	35	(35-36)	37	4	10	(4-14)	301	18	185	(176-192)	1,934	6%
<b>England &amp; Wales 2007</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>(10-12)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(7-7)</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>(22-23)</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>(68-71)</b>	<b>28,756</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>England &amp; Wales 2008</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>(8-10)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>(9-9)</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>(14-15)</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>(59-62)</b>	<b>29,608</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>England &amp; Wales 2009</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(6-8)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>(10-10)</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>(13-14)</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>(60-63)</b>	<b>31,591</b>	<b>100%</b>

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(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) The confidence interval is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence interval. More details are available in the notes section.

(3) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007, June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

**Table 7a: Completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases by proceedings type and stage of proceedings, 2007 to 2009: Timeliness**

England and Wales

	Estimated number of days from:														Sample size			
	Offence to charge or laying of information				Charge or laying of information to first listing				First listing to completion				Offence to completion				(Number of defendants)	Proportion of all indictable/ triable-either-way cases (per cent)
Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (days)			
<b>Initial guilty plea</b>																		
2007	45	2	2	(2-3)	10	0	7	(7-7)	25	1	7	(7-7)	80	2	41	(40-42)	16,851	59%
2008	43	2	2	(1-2)	12	0	9	(9-9)	19	1	0	(0-0)	74	2	36	(35-37)	17,996	61%
2009	41	2	1	(1-1)	13	0	10	(10-10)	18	1	0	(0-0)	72	2	33	(33-34)	18,873	60%
<b>Initial not guilty plea</b>																		
2007	59	3	26	(24-28)	10	1	7	(7-7)	113	2	90	(87-91)	182	4	148	(145-151)	6,284	22%
2008	64	3	29	(27-31)	13	1	9	(8-9)	94	2	68	(66-70)	170	4	131	(128-134)	5,884	20%
2009	64	4	26	(23-28)	14	1	10	(10-10)	90	2	71	(70-72)	167	4	131	(128-134)	6,157	19%
<b>No plea recorded (tried in absence)</b>																		
2007	77	15	46	(34-60)	20	3	10	(8-13)	45	7	28	(21-35)	141	16	119	(105-139)	290	1%
2008	92	10	86	(72-98)	41	5	27	(23-30)	53	20	21	(7-28)	186	22	158	(144-173)	316	1%
2009	84	8	66	(66-75)	42	3	38	(37-43)	25	10	0	(0-0)	152	12	120	(113-132)	350	1%
<b>Sent for trial/committed for trial</b>																		
2007	116	8	47	(42-51)	8	1	5	(4-5)	37	1	42	(40-42)	162	8	100	(95-103)	4,606	16%
2008	132	9	45	(41-49)	9	0	7	(6-7)	33	1	36	(34-41)	174	9	94	(90-100)	4,678	16%
2009	132	8	45	(42-49)	11	1	7	(7-7)	36	2	42	(42-42)	180	9	101	(97-105)	5,317	17%
<b>Other Proceedings</b>																		
2007	73	10	19	(14-29)	13	2	8	(7-8)	51	9	28	(25-33)	138	14	82	(75-91)	725	3%
2008	73	11	23	(15-29)	26	3	12	(11-12)	46	11	17	(14-21)	145	16	79	(69-86)	734	2%
2009	74	14	17	(9-22)	18	2	12	(11-12)	37	7	20	(14-21)	129	16	73	(66-78)	894	3%
<b>England &amp; Wales 2007</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>(10-12)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(7-7)</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>(22-23)</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>(68-71)</b>	<b>28,756</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>England &amp; Wales 2008</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>(8-10)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>(9-9)</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>(14-15)</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>(59-62)</b>	<b>29,608</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>England &amp; Wales 2009</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(6-8)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>(10-10)</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>(13-14)</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>(60-63)</b>	<b>31,591</b>	<b>100%</b>

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) The confidence interval is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence interval. More details are available in the notes section.

(3) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007, June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

**Table 7b:** Completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases by proceedings type and stage of proceedings, 2007 to 2009: Adjudgments

England and Wales

	Adjudgments per defendant				Completed in one listing		Sample size	
	Estimated average number of adjournments		Estimated median number of adjournments		Estimated proportion completed at first listing		(Number of indictable/triable-defendants)	Proportion of all either-way cases (per cent)
	Mean (number)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- number)	Median (number)	Confidence interval <sup>(2)</sup> (number)	(Per cent)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- per cent)		
<b>Initial guilty plea</b>								
2007	1.36	0.03	1	(1-1)	43%	1%	16,851	59%
2008	0.97	0.02	0	(0-0)	51%	1%	17,996	61%
2009	0.87	0.02	0	(0-0)	54%	1%	18,873	60%
<b>Initial not guilty plea</b>								
2007	4.13	0.07	4	(3-4)	1%	0%	6,284	22%
2008	3.20	0.07	3	(2-3)	2%	0%	5,884	20%
2009	2.85	0.06	2	(2-2)	2%	0%	6,157	19%
<b>No plea recorded (tried in absence)</b>								
2007	2.23	0.32	1	(1-2)	30%	5%	290	1%
2008	1.59	0.24	1	(1-1)	41%	6%	316	1%
2009	0.73	0.16	0	(0-0)	65%	5%	350	1%
<b>Sent for trial/committed for trial</b>								
2007	1.55	0.05	1	(1-1)	37%	1%	4,606	16%
2008	1.29	0.04	1	(1-1)	39%	1%	4,678	16%
2009	1.34	0.04	1	(1-1)	37%	1%	5,317	17%
<b>Other Proceedings</b>								
2007	1.96	0.14	2	(1-2)	25%	3%	725	3%
2008	1.40	0.12	1	(1-1)	36%	4%	734	2%
2009	1.42	0.10	1	(1-1)	35%	3%	894	3%
<b>England &amp; Wales 2007</b>	<b>2.02</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(1-1)</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>28,756</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>England &amp; Wales 2008</b>	<b>1.48</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(1-1)</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>29,608</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>England &amp; Wales 2009</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(1-1)</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>31,591</b>	<b>100%</b>

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) The confidence interval is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence interval.

More details are available in the notes section.

(3) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007, June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

**Table 8a:** Estimated average time taken for defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases, by stages of proceedings and LCJB Area, 2009

England and Wales

	Estimated average number of days from:						Adjournments		Completed in one listing		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		Estimated average number of adjournments			Estimated proportion completed at first listing	
	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Mean (number)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- number)		(Per cent)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- per cent)
Avon and Somerset	60	9	14	1	33	3	107	10	1.46	0.13	41%	3%	820
Bedfordshire	57	11	14	2	59	13	131	18	1.69	0.24	32%	6%	270
Cambridgeshire	39	9	11	1	36	6	86	11	1.24	0.15	44%	5%	468
Cheshire	50	17	18	2	25	3	93	18	1.05	0.12	44%	5%	460
Cleveland	50	11	8	1	29	3	87	12	1.27	0.12	40%	4%	668
Cumbria	58	21	15	1	32	8	104	22	1.02	0.13	45%	6%	319
Derbyshire	85	18	10	1	45	7	140	19	1.56	0.17	35%	5%	436
Devon and Cornwall	67	11	16	1	36	4	119	12	1.31	0.14	41%	4%	637
Dorset	63	22	19	3	43	19	126	30	1.31	0.27	48%	7%	235
Durham	67	25	11	1	26	4	104	27	1.19	0.17	41%	6%	279
Dyfed-Powys	63	20	21	3	26	5	111	21	0.99	0.16	51%	6%	279
Essex	49	10	16	1	30	3	95	10	0.97	0.08	47%	3%	937
Gloucestershire	43	9	17	2	24	5	84	11	1.07	0.19	51%	6%	267
Greater Manchester	73	10	10	1	29	3	112	10	1.16	0.07	42%	2%	1,894
Gwent	70	29	13	3	30	7	112	33	1.35	0.25	38%	7%	188
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	71	12	13	1	33	4	117	13	1.15	0.11	49%	3%	840
Hertfordshire	53	9	23	3	37	6	113	12	1.16	0.15	43%	5%	433
Humberside	55	17	8	1	28	4	92	18	1.27	0.15	45%	5%	475
Kent	75	15	16	1	43	6	134	17	1.47	0.14	42%	4%	724
Lancashire	62	11	11	1	39	4	112	12	1.42	0.11	39%	3%	1,115
Leicestershire	70	23	14	1	34	5	117	24	1.61	0.20	35%	5%	376
Lincolnshire	48	13	19	3	33	5	100	15	1.17	0.16	47%	5%	401
London	62	5	13	1	36	2	111	6	1.38	0.05	41%	1%	5,623
Merseyside	63	12	16	1	34	7	112	14	1.25	0.10	44%	3%	1,055
Norfolk	54	17	15	1	25	4	95	18	1.15	0.15	42%	5%	414
North Wales	60	14	19	2	26	4	106	15	1.23	0.17	49%	5%	367
North Yorkshire	69	21	17	1	34	5	120	23	1.24	0.17	45%	5%	448
Northamptonshire	69	11	18	2	49	7	136	14	2.28	0.22	24%	5%	362
Northumbria	58	11	10	1	43	13	112	17	1.62	0.12	36%	3%	1,030
Nottinghamshire	60	11	10	1	43	5	113	13	1.75	0.18	33%	4%	579
South Wales	53	8	10	1	29	3	92	9	1.28	0.10	38%	3%	875
South Yorkshire	55	12	11	1	35	3	102	13	1.32	0.11	36%	3%	823
Staffordshire	66	17	13	1	30	4	108	18	1.38	0.17	41%	4%	487
Suffolk	71	18	11	2	26	4	108	19	1.13	0.16	50%	5%	402
Surrey	63	13	18	3	45	8	127	15	1.37	0.18	43%	5%	377
Sussex	66	12	9	1	37	5	112	13	1.23	0.11	40%	4%	748
Thames Valley	59	10	13	1	47	5	118	11	1.50	0.11	38%	3%	1,049
Warwickshire	75	20	12	2	27	6	113	22	1.20	0.24	46%	7%	202
West Mercia	98	22	14	1	42	13	154	26	1.24	0.14	43%	4%	498
West Midlands	66	10	7	0	30	2	103	10	1.20	0.06	41%	2%	1,982
West Yorkshire	58	8	19	2	51	4	129	9	1.83	0.11	32%	2%	1,490
Wiltshire	75	20	20	2	34	7	129	22	1.47	0.25	47%	6%	259
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>31,591</b>

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(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 the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2009 survey

**Table 8b Medians:** Estimated median time taken for defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases, by stages of proceedings and LCJB Area, 2009

England and Wales

	Estimated median number of days from:						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			Estimated median of adjournments	
	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(1)</sup> (days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(1)</sup> (days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(1)</sup> (days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(1)</sup> (days)		Median (number)	Confidence interval <sup>(1)</sup> (number)
Avon and Somerset	21	(17-26)	14	(14-14)	14	(7-20)	66	(60-74)	1	(1-1)	820
Bedfordshire	12	(4-32)	9	(8-11)	22	(16-41)	83	(64-109)	1	(1-1)	270
Cambridgeshire	3	(1-8)	11	(11-11)	12	(2-16)	49	(39-58)	1	(1-1)	468
Cheshire	6	(2-12)	19	(18-20)	7	(1-15)	53	(46-65)	1	(1-1)	460
Cleveland	3	(2-7)	6	(6-6)	7	(6-12)	40	(35-48)	1	(1-1)	668
Cumbria	15	(6-21)	14	(14-15)	7	(0-16)	65	(50-73)	1	(0-1)	319
Derbyshire	30	(20-37)	9	(8-9)	22	(16-29)	85	(73-97)	1	(1-1)	436
Devon and Cornwall	25	(12-37)	16	(15-17)	18	(11-27)	83	(76-91)	1	(1-1)	637
Dorset	15	(3-29)	17	(17-18)	3	(0-21)	64	(52-81)	1	(0-1)	235
Durham	30	(20-36)	11	(11-12)	7	(5-17)	64	(59-77)	1	(1-1)	279
Dyfed-Powys	21	(11-30)	22	(21-22)	0	(0-10)	67	(56-82)	0	(0-1)	279
Essex	1	(1-2)	11	(11-12)	5	(0-14)	55	(47-60)	1	(0-1)	937
Gloucestershire	2	(1-20)	16	(15-16)	0	(0-7)	52	(38-63)	0	(0-1)	267
Greater Manchester	13	(9-18)	10	(10-10)	7	(5-11)	62	(58-67)	1	(1-1)	1894
Gwent	2	(1-14)	9	(8-9)	14	(5-22)	58	(44-64)	1	(1-1)	188
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	11	(5-18)	11	(10-12)	2	(0-7)	66	(57-74)	1	(0-1)	840
Hertfordshire	13	(4-24)	17	(16-19)	13	(5-21)	77	(65-89)	1	(1-1)	433
Humberside	7	(3-13)	7	(6-8)	7	(1-14)	50	(43-57)	1	(1-1)	475
Kent	19	(12-25)	15	(15-15)	14	(7-21)	71	(61-80)	1	(1-1)	724
Lancashire	6	(4-9)	9	(9-10)	14	(8-20)	57	(52-63)	1	(1-1)	1115
Leicestershire	8	(3-19)	15	(15-16)	20	(13-21)	63	(57-74)	1	(1-1)	376
Lincolnshire	2	(1-11)	17	(16-17)	5	(0-14)	57	(51-66)	1	(0-1)	401
London	1	(1-2)	7	(7-7)	14	(9-14)	57	(54-59)	1	(1-1)	5623
Merseyside	1	(1-1)	18	(17-18)	7	(3-8)	47	(42-56)	1	(1-1)	1055
Norfolk	6	(2-10)	15	(15-16)	14	(4-19)	49	(44-57)	1	(1-1)	414
North Wales	17	(5-26)	14	(13-14)	0	(0-14)	66	(57-77)	1	(0-1)	367
North Yorkshire	20	(13-27)	14	(13-14)	7	(0-18)	66	(57-76)	1	(1-1)	448
Northamptonshire	28	(17-42)	15	(14-16)	35	(29-39)	103	(91-117)	2	(2-2)	362
Northumbria	8	(4-13)	9	(8-9)	14	(12-19)	62	(57-66)	1	(1-1)	1030
Nottinghamshire	10	(4-18)	11	(10-11)	19	(14-22)	73	(61-81)	1	(1-1)	579
South Wales	2	(1-3)	8	(7-8)	15	(13-21)	55	(49-61)	1	(1-1)	875
South Yorkshire	8	(4-15)	7	(7-7)	22	(21-24)	67	(60-71)	1	(1-1)	823
Staffordshire	11	(8-21)	11	(11-11)	13	(4-15)	66	(56-73)	1	(1-1)	487
Suffolk	19	(12-28)	8	(8-9)	1	(0-10)	51	(44-60)	1	(0-1)	402
Surrey	19	(12-34)	15	(14-15)	14	(6-21)	82	(71-100)	1	(1-1)	377
Sussex	28	(20-34)	9	(9-9)	15	(8-21)	73	(63-80)	1	(1-1)	748
Thames Valley	13	(7-20)	12	(11-12)	21	(17-24)	68	(61-75)	1	(1-1)	1049
Warwickshire	30	(18-38)	9	(9-10)	5	(0-14)	64	(47-86)	1	(0-1)	202
West Mercia	30	(18-42)	13	(12-13)	14	(4-20)	73	(66-91)	1	(1-1)	498
West Midlands	3	(2-5)	7	(7-7)	14	(9-18)	49	(45-53)	1	(1-1)	1982
West Yorkshire	3	(2-6)	11	(10-11)	28	(22-29)	76	(72-85)	1	(1-1)	1490
Wiltshire	23	(10-37)	18	(17-19)	4	(0-17)	76	(63-88)	1	(0-1)	259
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(6-8)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>(10-10)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>(13-14)</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>(60-63)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(1-1)</b>	<b>31,591</b>

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(1) The confidence interval is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence interval. More details are available in the notes section

(2) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2009 survey

**Table 9a:** Estimated average time taken for defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases, by stage of proceedings and HMCS Area, 2009

	England and Wales													
	Estimated average number of days from:								Adjournments		Completed in one listing		Sample size	
	Offence to charge or laying of information		Charge or laying of information to first listing		First listing to completion		Offence to completion		Estimated average number of adjournments		Estimated proportion completed at first listing		(Number of defendants)	
	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	Mean (number)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- number)	(Per cent)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- per cent)		
Avon and Somerset	59	7	15	1	33	3	107	7	1.36	0.09	42%	3%	1,397	
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire	51	6	17	1	37	3	105	7	1.14	0.07	44%	2%	1,640	
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire	69	12	7	1	29	2	105	12	1.19	0.08	42%	3%	1,371	
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	74	10	11	1	34	4	118	11	1.26	0.08	41%	2%	1,798	
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	54	9	12	1	29	3	96	9	1.18	0.09	45%	3%	1,284	
Cheshire and Merseyside	59	10	16	1	31	5	106	11	1.19	0.08	44%	3%	1,515	
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	57	8	9	1	36	7	102	10	1.44	0.08	38%	2%	1,977	
Cumbria and Lancashire	61	10	12	1	37	4	110	10	1.33	0.09	41%	3%	1,434	
Devon and Cornwall	75	22	17	2	33	6	124	24	1.34	0.22	38%	6%	232	
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	68	10	16	1	34	5	118	12	1.23	0.10	49%	3%	1,137	
Greater Manchester	73	10	10	1	29	3	112	10	1.16	0.07	42%	2%	1,894	
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	72	16	13	2	35	7	120	20	1.24	0.23	49%	6%	292	
Humber and South Yorkshire	55	10	10	1	33	2	98	10	1.31	0.09	39%	3%	1,298	
Kent	75	15	16	1	43	6	134	17	1.47	0.14	42%	4%	724	
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire	62	10	17	1	38	3	117	11	1.67	0.11	36%	3%	1,139	
London (Central and South)	88	12	13	1	35	3	137	12	1.35	0.08	45%	2%	2,190	
London (North and West)	45	4	13	1	37	2	95	5	1.40	0.06	39%	2%	3,433	
Mid and West Wales	63	14	15	2	27	3	106	16	1.15	0.13	45%	4%	546	
North Wales	60	14	19	2	26	4	106	15	1.23	0.17	35%	2%	367	
North and West Yorkshire	61	8	19	2	47	3	127	9	1.70	0.10	49%	5%	1,938	
Nottingham and Derbyshire	70	10	10	1	44	4	125	11	1.67	0.13	34%	3%	1,015	
South East Wales	54	9	11	1	29	3	94	10	1.29	0.11	38%	3%	796	
Surrey and Sussex	65	9	12	1	40	4	117	10	1.28	0.09	41%	3%	1,125	
Thames Valley	59	10	13	1	47	5	118	11	1.50	0.11	38%	3%	1,049	
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>31,591</b>	

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

**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 the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2009 survey
- (3) HMCS administrative areas were restructured into 25 areas, as of 1st April 2007. The area not shown here is London (Civil and Family), which covers non-criminal caseload.

**Table 9b Medians:** Estimated median time taken for defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases, by stage of proceedings and HMCS Area, 2009

England and Wales

	Estimated median number of days from:								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		Estimated median of adjournments		
	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(1)</sup> (days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(1)</sup> (days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(1)</sup> (days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval <sup>(1)</sup> (days)	Median (number)	Confidence interval <sup>(1)</sup> (number)	
Avon and Somerset	20	(16-24)	15	(14-15)	14	(9-21)	72	(64-76)	1	(1-1)	1,397
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire	2	(2-4)	12	(12-13)	12	(7-18)	62	(59-67)	1	(1-1)	1,640
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire	6	(2-10)	7	(7-7)	12	(8-15)	52	(47-58)	1	(1-1)	1,371
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	10	(6-14)	9	(9-10)	14	(7-15)	59	(54-65)	1	(1-1)	1,798
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	8	(4-11)	11	(11-12)	7	(3-14)	49	(45-54)	1	(1-1)	1,284
Cheshire and Merseyside	1	(1-2)	18	(18-18)	7	(4-8)	51	(45-56)	1	(1-1)	1,515
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	8	(5-12)	8	(7-8)	11	(8-14)	56	(51-60)	1	(1-1)	1,977
Cumbria and Lancashire	7	(5-10)	11	(10-12)	13	(7-15)	59	(54-64)	1	(1-1)	1,434
Devon and Cornwall	31	(12-47)	15	(14-16)	14	(6-21)	85	(69-101)	1	(1-1)	232
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	11	(6-17)	14	(14-15)	2	(0-7)	64	(58-71)	1	(0-1)	1,137
Greater Manchester	13	(9-18)	10	(10-10)	7	(5-11)	62	(58-67)	1	(1-1)	1,894
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	17	(5-33)	10	(9-11)	1	(0-14)	75	(52-86)	1	(0-1)	292
Humber and South Yorkshire	8	(5-11)	7	(7-7)	21	(14-21)	60	(54-66)	1	(1-1)	1,298
Kent	19	(12-25)	15	(15-15)	14	(7-21)	71	(61-80)	1	(1-1)	724
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire	12	(7-18)	16	(15-16)	21	(16-23)	71	(65-78)	1	(1-1)	1,139
London (Central and South)	3	(1-6)	7	(7-7)	7	(4-10)	58	(54-63)	1	(1-1)	2,190
London (North and West)	1	(1-1)	8	(7-8)	19	(14-21)	56	(53-60)	1	(1-1)	3,433
Mid and West Wales	11	(4-21)	11	(9-14)	7	(2-10)	60	(52-67)	1	(1-1)	546
North Wales	17	(5-26)	14	(13-14)	0	(0-14)	66	(57-77)	1	(0-1)	367
North and West Yorkshire	6	(4-10)	12	(12-13)	22	(21-26)	74	(70-79)	1	(1-1)	1,938
Nottingham and Derbyshire	18	(12-27)	10	(9-10)	21	(15-23)	77	(71-85)	1	(1-1)	1,015
South East Wales	2	(1-6)	9	(9-10)	21	(14-21)	57	(50-61)	1	(1-1)	796
Surrey and Sussex	26	(19-32)	10	(10-11)	15	(8-21)	76	(69-81)	1	(1-1)	1,125
Thames Valley	13	(7-20)	12	(11-12)	21	(17-24)	68	(61-75)	1	(1-1)	1,049
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(6-8)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>(10-10)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>(13-14)</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>(60-63)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(1-1)</b>	<b>31,591</b>

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(1) The confidence interval is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence interval. More details are available in the notes section

(2) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2009 survey

(3) HMCS administrative areas were restructured into 25 areas, as of 1st April 2007. The area not shown here is London (Civil and Family), which covers non-criminal caseload.



# Notes

## Methodology

9. The Time Intervals Survey (TIS) data are collected from courts over a survey period every quarter. Information on all completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases in magistrates' courts is collected over a one-week period every quarter. Information on completed summary cases is additionally collected in the first and third quarters. Information on youth defendants in completed criminal cases is collected over a four-week period every quarter ending at the same time as the main sample week of each survey. 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 sampled, 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 when the case was committed.

10. For the December 2009 survey adult data were collected during the week from 30 November to 6 December 2009. Youth data were collected over the four-week period from 9 November to 6 December 2009.

11. The figures in this bulletin are based on defendants. Where a case involves more than one defendant, each defendant is considered individually.

12. 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.

13. Changes to the data collection of TIS data: since 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 (called 'One Performance Truth', or OPT). From June 2008, it was also possible to collect youth data from the four-week sample via OPT, and from June 2009 all youth data has been collected this way. Using this web-based method of collecting TIS data 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.

6. In 2006/2007, inconsistency in timings for offence to charge between the March/September and June/December surveys was observed. This was due to a lower proportion of summons indictable/ triable-either-way cases in the June/ December surveys. Since these cases tend to have longer than average times from offence to charge, any change in the proportion of them in the sample could affect the results. New guidance was issued to address any under-reporting, and this appears to have resolved the inconsistency. However, comparisons to previous surveys may be

affected by this issue. Further investigation of the effect of varying proportions of indictable/ triable-either-way summons cases is planned.

### **Confidence Intervals, Margins of Error and Statistical Significance**

7. 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; it lies between the sample average plus or minus the margin of error. The size of the margin of error (and corresponding 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.

8. For the medians, a 95% confidence interval can also be calculated; this is presented in the tables as the upper and lower limits of the confidence interval.

9. A statistically significant difference between means is tested for using the t-test. To determine whether or not the median values are significantly different the Mann-Whitney test is used. A significant difference in proportions completed at first listing is tested for using Fisher's exact test. For all of these a 95% significance level is used.

### **Completed charged cases: adult and youth defendants**

10. Following the introduction of CJSSS (Criminal Justice: Simple, Speedy, Summary) in 2007/2008 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of magistrates' courts, performance measures have been established for adult charged criminal cases, excluding those sent or committed to the Crown Court for trial. The ambition is that the average time from charge to completion will be 6 weeks or less, and the average number of hearings for a case to be completed in the magistrates' court will be 2.25 or less. Monitoring of these measures uses data from the quarterly, one-week TIS sample. CJSSS for adult cases was rolled out across the LCJB areas between August 2007 and April 2008, so the full effect can only be seen in surveys from June 2008 onwards at the national level. CJSSS was subsequently implemented for youth cases, and the rollout was completed in March 2009.

### **Quality and completeness of the data**

11. Data is sent from the courts to the Business Information Division at HM Court Service. Validation checks are carried out at point of data entry and any returns found to be in error are returned for correction. In addition, any records that appear implausible are referred back to the court for confirmation. Since the introduction of OPT in June 2007 data quality has improved due to data validation at point of input.

12. Records where the defendant was charged, or information was laid against them, over ten years after the offence occurred are excluded. This affects very few defendants.

13. Recording procedures have undergone changes over the years, which have led to small discontinuities in the data series. These are signified by vertical lines in the charts. They are as follows:

### June 2007

- Surveys from June 2007 onwards have collected data on adult cases via a web-based data collection tool, the HMCS Performance Database (called One Performance Truth or OPT). One benefit of OPT is that it introduces data validation at the point of input.

### June 2008

- From June 2008, it has also been possible to collect youth data from the four-week sample via OPT (although the pre-existing method has been still available until now).

### June 2009

- From June 2009, all youth data from the four-week sample is collected via OPT.

14. Figures in the text and tables may not sum exactly to totals because the numbers in the bulletin have been rounded independently of each other.

15. **Revisions:** Once published TIS data are not usually subject to revision. Revisions may occur if data are received late from a court, or if an error is identified.

16. Some courts and clerkships have occasionally been unable to participate in the collection of data due to local circumstances. Clerkship refers to a grouping of one or more courts; it was used as a classification in the Mystic system, previously used to collect some youth data. The table below gives the estimated completeness of the data. The term 'completeness' here refers to the proportion of clerkships or courthouses 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 or courthouses. This would almost certainly be lower. For this reason, and due to 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.

**Proportion of clerkships/ courthouses making returns and sample sizes,  
December 2004 to December 2009**

Survey week	Youth data: proportion of clerkships/ courthouses making returns (%) <sup>(3)</sup>	Adult data: proportion of clerkships/ courthouses making returns (%) <sup>(2)</sup>	Number of defendants (sample size) <sup>(1)</sup> Indictable/ triable- either-way cases
December 2004	100%	100%	6,865
December 2005	95%	98%	6,489
December 2006	100%	99%	6,378
December 2007	99%	99%	6,852
December 2008	100%	100%	7,278
December 2009	100%	100%	7,722

**Notes:**

(1) The sample sizes are from the one-week sample only. Table 2 shows youth defendant sample sizes in the four-week survey.

(2) From June 2007 all adult defendant data was collected through a new data collection system (OPT). One consequence of this is that, from this time, adult data is returned at courthouse rather than clerkship level.

(3) Prior to June 2008, all youth data was collected at clerkship level. From June 2008, an additional option of collecting youth data via OPT became available, resulting in collections being made both at courthouse and at clerkship level. From June 2009 all youth data is collected via OPT at courthouse level.

(4) Nil returns are included in the figures for proportion of courthouses making returns.

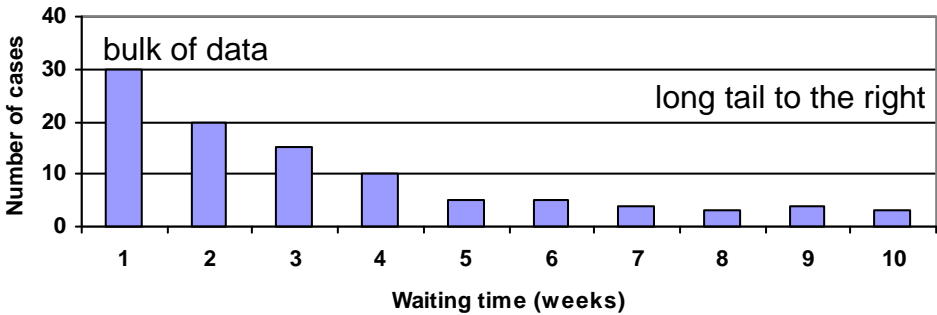
**Technical annex – medians**

Results from TIS have always been presented using the mean as the measure for the “average” (average number of days between offence and completion, for example).

The mean is one way of describing the average of a set of data - it is calculated by taking the sum of all the data values and dividing by the total number of data values. For example in the data set (2,3,3,8) the mean is 4  $((2+3+3+8)/4)$ , but this value is higher than most of the data values. The value of the mean depends equally on all the data values, which may include extreme values. Hence, the mean is sensitive to extreme data values and if a distribution is skewed, the mean is less representative of the bulk of the data points.

**1. Skewed distributions**

TIS, in essence, measures waiting times for completed criminal cases in magistrates’ courts. The distributions of waiting times data (hospital waiting times etc) are typically positively skewed distributions; i.e. there is a relatively long tail to the right of the distribution where a small number of extreme values lie.



The offence to completion time for completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases is one example of a very skewed distribution among the TIS results. In general, the timings from first listing to completion are also highly skewed as shown on Figure A1 overleaf. The majority of cases are completed at the first listing, so their “waiting time” is 0, while a small proportion of cases take many months, or even years, to complete after first listing.

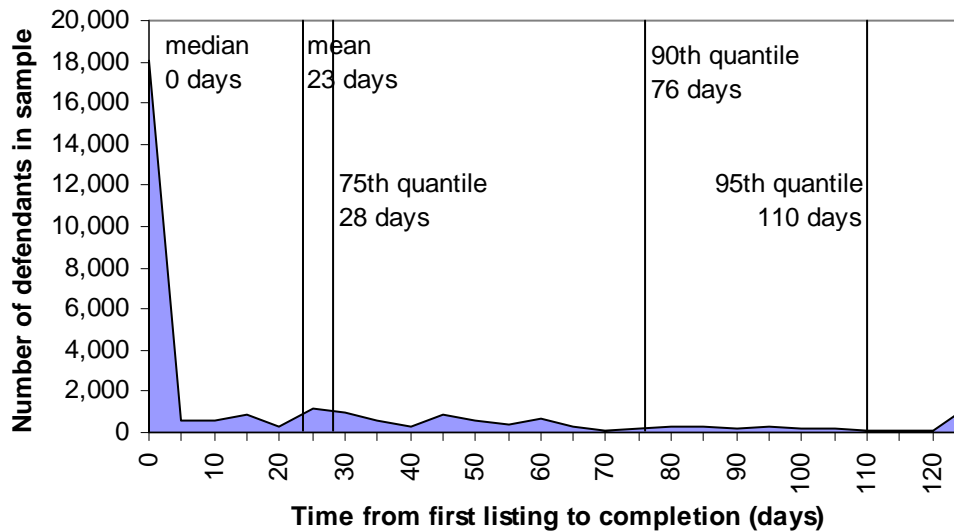
Due to the long tail in a skewed distribution, the mean, which is very sensitive to extreme values, is not representative of the bulk of the data points. The mean is still a legitimate way of presenting TIS results; however giving the median in addition provides a more representative picture of the “typical” timeliness of a case.

**2. Medians**

The median of a data set is the value that lies exactly in the middle – the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. In the example above of the data set (2,3,3,8) the median is 3. The median is more accurate than the mean as a measure of “typicality” when data are skewed - hence the median will be more representative of the bulk of the data points than the mean.

Figure A1 shows a representative chart of the time from first listing to completion. It can be seen that the average (mean) time from first listing to completion for this sample is 23 days (+/- 1 day). However, the shape of the graph tells a very different picture.

**Figure A1:** Timings from first listing to completion for a sample of defendants, covering all offence types



The median is actually 0 days - so, at least 50% of all defendants in the sample had a period from first listing to completion of 0 days (i.e. only 1 hearing); in fact, in this example, 61% of all defendants had only 1 hearing. The median therefore presents a different view of the efficiency of cases in magistrates' courts, and is worth presenting alongside the mean. Figure A1 also indicates some further quantiles. While the median indicates the value that 50% of the data lies below, the 75<sup>th</sup> quantile indicates that in this case 75% of the defendants have times of 28 days or less from first listing to completion. The 90<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> quantiles are also indicated.

### 3. Extreme values

Figure A1 shows that 90% of defendants in the sample had a period from first listing to completion of 76 days or less (this is called the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile). 95% of defendants in the sample had a period from first listing to completion of 111 days or less and 99% of defendants in the sample had a period from first listing to completion of 219 days or less. This leaves 1% of defendants having a period of first listing to completion of between 220 and the maximum value of 4601 days in this case.

The top 5% of the distribution contains very extreme values which skew the mean since all data values are taken into account when calculating the mean.

#### 4. Comparing mean and medians

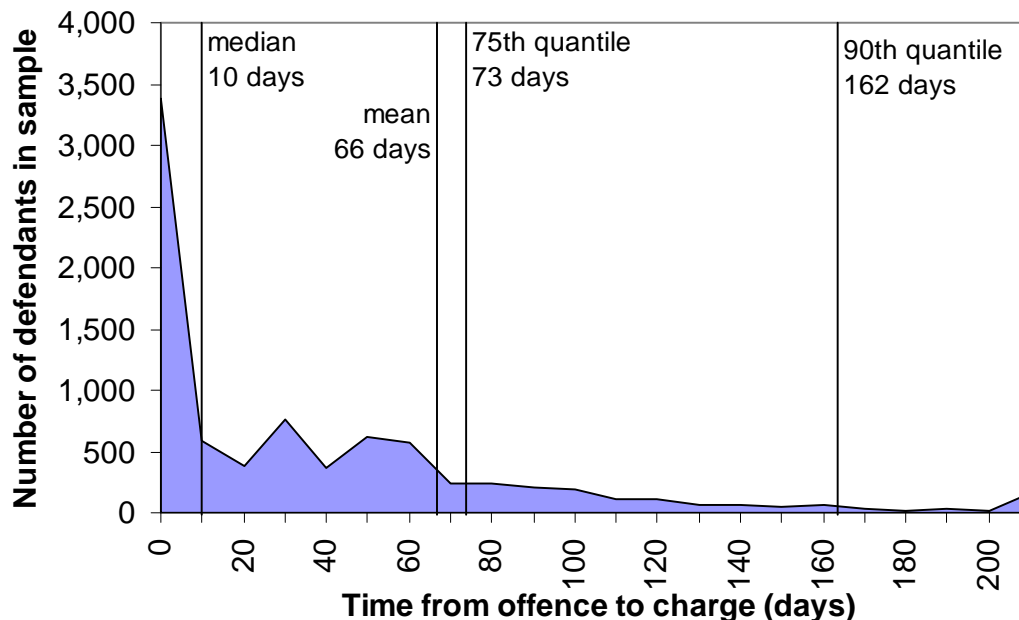
Table 1a shows the means and the medians with their accompanying confidence intervals<sup>1</sup> for defendants in completed criminal cases in the magistrates' courts by stage of proceedings.

A good impression of which offence groups/ stages of proceedings have skewed distributions can be obtained from the Tables by comparing the mean and medians.

The offence to charge stage for indictable/ triable-either-way cases shows a large disparity between the mean and median (the mean was 58 days in December 2009 compared to the median of 6 days). This is actually a very skewed distribution – certain offence types (sexual offences and fraud and forgery cases) tend to have very long periods from offence to charge and although they are not that common, they do have a significant impact on the mean. Currently the only adjustments we make for this are that when analysing TIS data we routinely exclude records where the period from offence to charge is greater than 10 years.

Figure A2 shows a representative frequency distribution for the time from offence to charge for indictable/ triable-either-way cases. Half the defendants in the sample have an offence to charge time of 10 days or less, 75% have a time of 73 days or less, and 90% have a time of 162 days or less. So 10% of defendants in the sample have an offence to charge time over 162 days. Although not shown on the figure, the 95<sup>th</sup> quantile is 240 days, so 5% of defendants in the sample have times of over 240 days, and the 99<sup>th</sup> quantile is 707 days, so 1% of defendants in the sample have a time between 708 and the maximum of 3616 days. These long times contribute to the mean being 66 days, much higher than the median of 10 days.

**Figure A2:** Timings from offence to charge for a sample of defendants in indictable/ triable-either-way cases



<sup>1</sup> Confidence intervals give a measure of precision of results which are based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error.

The stage from first listing to completion also shows large differences between the mean and median across all offence groups – as has already been seen in Figure A1.

In contrast, the period from charge/ laying of information to first listing is a fairly symmetric distribution as the mean and median are very close – so both the mean and median are representative of the bulk of the data values.

Similarly, with the exception of the period from first listing to completion, the mean and the medians are very similar for summary cases – generally, any extreme values for summary cases are not sufficiently significant to skew the average. Figures for these summary cases show that the distribution is very roughly symmetric about the median, and the mean and median lie very close.

## **Summary**

Distributions of timeliness of completed criminal cases in magistrates' courts are skewed to the right, so the average (mean) is affected by the small proportion of long running cases. Given the current interest in the timeliness of criminal cases in the magistrates' courts it is important that the results from TIS are analysed as robustly as possible and that statistical analysis adds as much value as possible. Following consultation, in addition to presenting the means (which is the way TIS has routinely been analysed), medians are now presented in the TIS bulletin. This ensures that the results give a representative picture of the bulk of the cases in magistrates' courts. However, given the importance of TIS data as an indicator of magistrates' court timeliness, we will continue to present means for the purposes of comparison with earlier data.



## Glossary of terms

**Magistrates' court:** This is the first tier of court in England and Wales. Virtually all criminal court cases start here. Less serious offences are handled entirely in magistrates' courts, with over 90 per cent of all cases being dealt with in this way. The more serious offences are passed on to the Crown Court, either for sentencing after the defendant has been found guilty in the magistrates' court, or for trial. If the case is dealt with in the magistrates' court and the defendant is found guilty, the magistrates can impose a sentence, generally of up to 6 months' imprisonment, or a fine, generally of up to £5,000. In the magistrates' courts cases are heard either by two or three lay magistrates or by one district judge. There are approximately 330 magistrates' courts in England and Wales.

**Magistrate (Justice of the Peace):** lay magistrates are local people who volunteer their services. They do not require formal legal qualifications, but undertake a training programme, including court and prison visits, to develop the necessary skills. They are given legal and procedural advice by qualified clerks. There are approximately 30,000 magistrates throughout England and Wales.

**District judge:** a district judge is a legally qualified, paid, full-time professional. They are usually based in the larger cities and hear the more complex or sensitive cases. There are approximately 140 district judges and 170 deputy district judges in England and Wales.

**Offence type:** Criminal offences are divided into 3 types:

- **Summary offences:** these are less serious cases, such as motoring offences, minor assaults, and criminal damage where less than £5000 worth of damage is caused. The defendant is not usually entitled to trial by jury, so these cases are disposed of in the magistrates' courts. In TIS Summary offences are subdivided into Summary Motoring and Summary Non-Motoring cases.
- **Triable-either-way offences:** these are more serious than summary offences, and can be dealt with either by magistrates or before a judge and jury at the Crown Court. Such offences include theft and handling stolen goods. A defendant can invoke his/her right to trial in the Crown Court. Similarly, the magistrates can decide that a case is sufficiently serious that it should be dealt with in the Crown Court where tougher sentences can be imposed if the defendant is found guilty.
- **Indictable-only offences:** these are the most serious offences, such as murder and rape, and must be heard at a Crown Court. For these cases, the involvement of the magistrates' court is generally brief. A decision is made on whether to grant bail, and other legal issues such as reporting restrictions are considered. The case is then passed to the Crown Court.

**Youth:** A youth defendant is a defendant aged 10 to 17. A DYO (Deter Young Offender) is a youth assessed as posing the highest risk of causing serious harm to others and likelihood of re-offending. Previously, youth defendants who have been sentenced on three or more separate occasions for one or more recordable offence and within three years were referred to as a Persistent Young Offender (PYO); this classification is no longer used.

**Completed cases:** TIS only reports on completed cases. These are cases where a final decision has been reached.

**Hearing:** for the purposes of TIS, the terms 'hearing' and 'listing' are synonymous, and refer to any occasion when the case was considered by the court, whether or not the defendant was present.

**Adjournment:** for the purposes of TIS, this refers to any time the case was considered by the court after the first hearing. It is therefore one less than the number of hearings for a case.

**Initiation type:** there are two ways by which a criminal proceeding may be initiated:

- **Charge:** the individual is arrested and formally accused of a crime at a police station.
- **Summons:** an individual receives a written summons advising that an action has been begun against him/her, and that s/he is required either to appear in person, or to respond in writing, to the court regarding the alleged offence.

**Proceeding type:** this refers to the initial plea made or the type of committal:

- **Guilty Plea:** the defendant pleads guilty
- **Not Guilty:** the defendant pleads not guilty
- **No Plea:** the defendant is not present, and a summary trial takes place
- **Committal:** the case is sent or committed to the Crown Court for trial
- **Other proceeding type:** this includes cases that are withdrawn or where the charge is discontinued.

**Stage of proceeding:** TIS presents the timeliness of cases using four key dates:

- the date the offence is committed
- the date the defendant is first charged at a police station (for charged cases) or the date information is laid (for summonsed cases).
- the date of the first hearing (listing) of the case in court, whether or not the defendant is present.
- the date the case is completed and a final decision is reached.

**CJSSS:** the CJSSS (Criminal Justice: Simple, Speedy, Summary) initiative was introduced in 2007/2008 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of magistrates' courts. It established performance measures for adult charged criminal cases, excluding those sent or committed to the Crown Court for trial. For adult cases, CJSSS was rolled out across England and Wales between August 2007 and April 2008. The rollout for youth cases followed, and was completed in March 2009.

**Areas:** There are two main area breakdowns used to present court data:

- **LCJB area:** there are 42 Local Criminal Justice Boards in England and Wales.
- **HMCS area:** On 1 April 2007 HM Courts Service's administrative areas were restructured into 25 areas. One of these, London (Civil and Family) covers only non-criminal caseload so does not appear in this bulletin.

## Further Information

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