



Ministry of
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Time Intervals for Criminal Proceedings in Magistrates' Courts: June 2009

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

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Key findings

This bulletin presents results from the June 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.

All defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases

The estimated average time from offence to completion remained unchanged from 108 days in June 2008 to 108 days in June 2009. (See Table 1a.)

Youth defendants in completed criminal cases

Compared to June 2008, the estimated average time from offence to completion for all youth defendants decreased from 78 days to 75 days in June 2009 (not statistically significant). Indictable/ triable-either-way cases fell from 80 to 79 days (not statistically significant), summary non-motoring cases fell from 69 to 61 days (statistically significant) and summary motoring cases fell from 95 to 85 days (statistically significant). (See Table 2a.)

Adult defendants in completed charged cases

The estimated average time from charge to completion for adult charged cases, excluding cases sent or committed to the Crown Court, was 6.8 weeks, an increase from 6.6 weeks in June 2008 (not statistically significant). The estimated average number of hearings per defendant was 2.28, a decrease from 2.32 hearings in June 2008 (not statistically significant). (See Table 3.)

Youth defendants in completed charged cases

The estimated average time from charge to completion for youth charged cases, excluding cases sent or committed to the Crown Court, was 5.4 weeks, an increase from 5.3 weeks in June 2008 (not statistically significant). The estimated average number of hearings per defendant was 2.36, a decrease from 2.49 hearings in June 2008 (statistically significant). (See Table 4.)

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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 three sections. The first section includes a description of the results from June 2009. The second section contains tables of detailed results from the latest and previous surveys, while the final section holds methodological notes and further information. The results in the first section are in four parts: the first covers information on all defendants taken from the main survey week, while the second covers information collected on youth defendants over a four-week survey period. The final two parts cover adult and youth charged cases from the main survey week – as follows:
 - Indictable cases: June 2009 results
 - Youth defendants: June 2009 results
 - Adult defendants in charged cases: June 2009 results
 - Youth defendants in charged cases: June 2009 results
3. The results presented in this report are given per defendant. The June 2009 results for all completed indictable cases are based on a sample of 7,790 defendants from a one-week survey period. The youth defendant results are based on a sample of 6,374 defendants (4,343 in indictable cases and 2,031 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 is 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:** medians (the central value in a set of data) are presented as well as means (averages). As much of the data does not show a symmetrical distribution, medians 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 above the median value, and half 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 very high values. Detailed information can be found in the technical annex at the back of this bulletin.
6. **Changes to the TIS bulletin:** a number of changes have been implemented following a review of the content of the TIS bulletin, as pre-announced in the previous bulletin:
 - Performance measures for youth defendants in completed charged cases, and area level figures for both adult and youth defendants in completed charged cases are presented for the first time. (These have replaced the former 'timeliness standards', which are still available on request.)
 - The estimated average length of adjournments will no longer be presented, as it is considered to be of limited value. Please contact us if you have any concerns over this.
 - The commentary in this bulletin has been reviewed to ensure it is as useful as possible. Please contact us if you have any concerns over this.

Any suggestions or comments regarding these changes to the TIS bulletin content would be welcome; contact details are at the back of this publication.

7. **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
December	All defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases Youth defendants in completed criminal cases Annual tables Adult and youth defendants in completed charged cases

All defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases: June 2009

Main finding

In June 2009, the estimated average time from offence to completion for all defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases remained unchanged from June 2008.

The changes, compared to June 2008 are summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes¹):

Offence to completion	no change
Offence to charge/laying of information	3-day decrease
Charge/laying of information to first listing	2-day increase*
First listing to completion	1-day increase
 Average number of adjournments per defendant	 0.09 adjournment decrease*

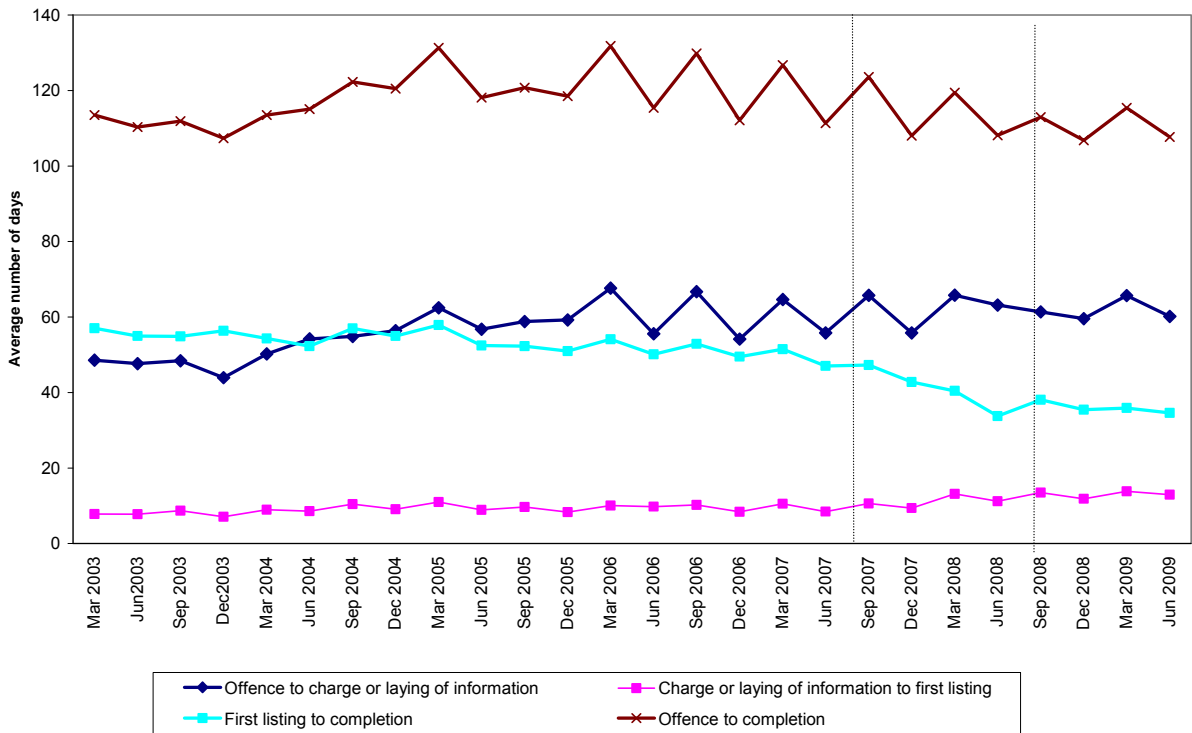
Time Intervals

(see Figure 1 and Table 1a)

- The estimated average time from offence to completion in June 2009 was 108 days, unchanged from 108 days in June 2008.
- The estimated average time from offence to charge or laying of information was 60 days in June 2009, a decrease from 63 days in June 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from charge or laying of information to first listing was 13 days in June 2009, an increase from 11 days in June 2008; this increase is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion was 35 days in June 2009, an increase from 34 days in June 2008; this increase is not statistically significant.

¹ See 'Notes' section for more information

Figure 1: Estimated average time by stage of proceedings (all defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases), March 2003 to June 2009



The dashed vertical lines in the chart denote changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007 and June 2008 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 be resolving this problem by redressing any under-reporting. However this could affect comparisons to previous surveys.

Adjournments

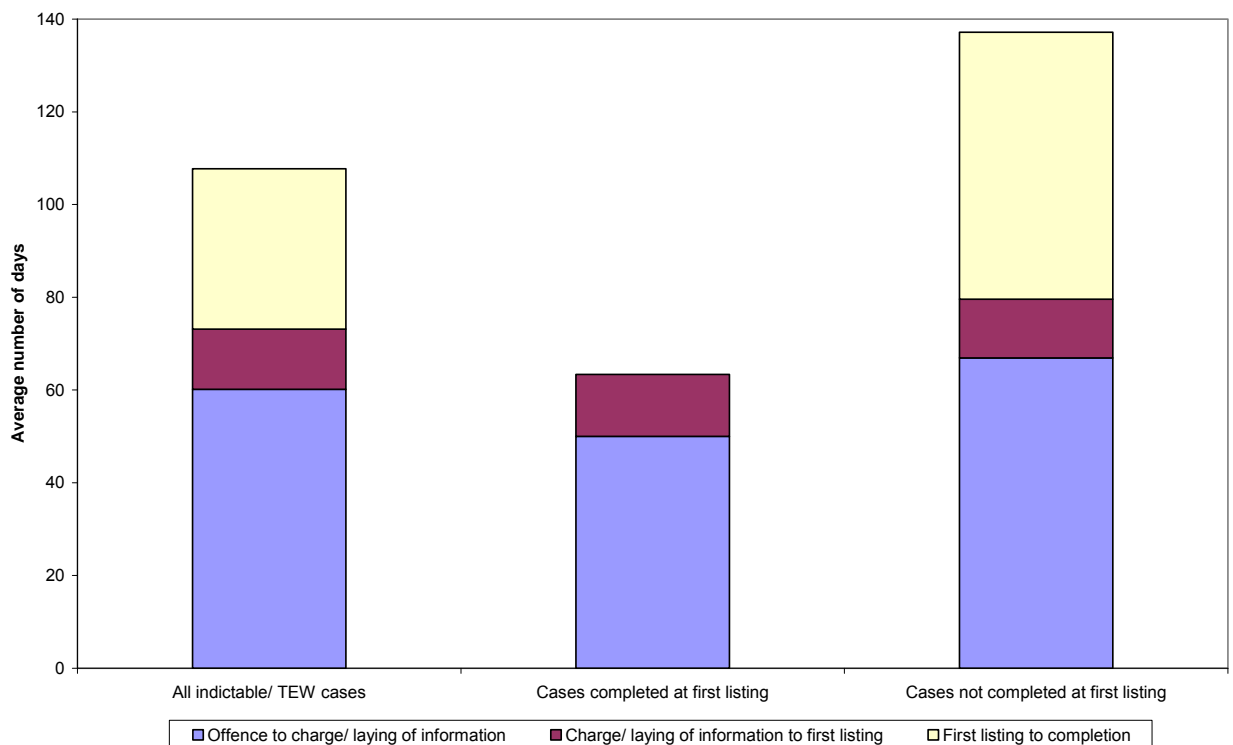
(see Table 1b)

- There was an estimated average of 1.36 adjournments per defendant in June 2009, a decrease from 1.45 adjournments per defendant in June 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.
- An estimated 40 per cent of defendants in June 2009 had their cases completed at first listing, a decrease from 41 per cent in June 2008.

Cases not completed at first listing: subgroup analysis
(see Figure 2 and Table 1c)

- An estimated 60 per cent of defendants in June 2009 did not have their cases completed at first listing.
- For this subgroup of defendants the estimated average time from offence to completion in June 2009 was 137 days, an increase from 135 days in June 2008; this increase is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion was 58 days in June 2009, an increase from 57 days in June 2008; this increase is not statistically significant.
- There was an estimated average of 2.27 adjournments per defendant in June 2009, a decrease from 2.46 adjournments per defendant in June 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.

Figure 2: Estimated average time from offence to completion, for all cases and cases completed and not completed at first listing (all defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases), June 2009



All defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases: June 2009 – medians

In June 2009, the estimated median time from offence to completion for all defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases increased from June 2008.

The changes, compared to June 2008 are summarised as follows (asterisks mark statistically significant changes²):

Offence to completion	3-day increase*
Offence to charge/laying of information	no change
Charge/laying of information to first listing	1-day increase*
First listing to completion	1-day increase*
Median number of adjournments per defendant	unchanged

Time Intervals – medians

(see Figure 3 and Table 1a)

- The estimated median time from offence to completion in June 2009 was 58 days, an increase from 55 days in June 2008; this increase is statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from offence to charge or laying of information was 6 days in June 2009, unchanged from 6 days in June 2008.
- The estimated median time from charge or laying of information to first listing was 10 days in June 2009, an increase from 9 days in June 2008; this increase is statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from first listing to completion was 14 days in June 2009, an increase from 13 days in June 2008; this increase is statistically significant.

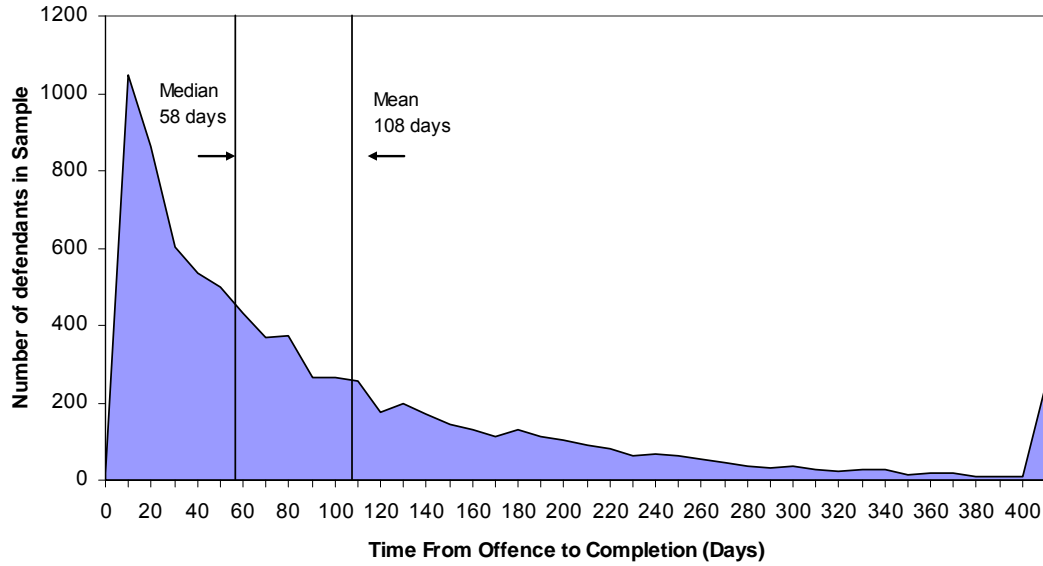
Adjournments – medians

(see Table 1b)

- The estimated median number of adjournments per defendant in June 2009 was 1, unchanged from 1 adjournment per defendant in June 2008.

² See 'Notes' section for more information

Figure 3: Time from offence to completion for all sampled defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases, June 2009, showing difference between mean and median times. Half of the defendants have times of 58 days or less.



Youth defendants in all completed criminal cases: June 2009

Main finding

The estimated average time in June 2009 from offence to completion for youth defendants in all criminal cases decreased in comparison to June 2008.

The offence type breakdown for offence to completion times are summarised as follows (compared to June 2008, asterisks mark statistically significant changes³):

All offence types	3-day decrease
Indictable/ triable-either-way cases	1-day decrease
Summary non-motoring cases	8-day decrease*
Summary motoring cases	10-day decrease*

Time Intervals

(see Figure 4 and Table 2a)

- The estimated average time from offence to completion for all youth defendants in completed criminal cases in June 2009 was 75 days, a decrease from 78 days in March 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to completion for youth defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases was 79 days in June 2009, a decrease from 80 days in June 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to completion for completed summary non-motoring cases was 61 days in June 2009, a decrease from 69 days in June 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to completion for completed summary motoring cases was 85 days in June 2009, a decrease from 95 days in June 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.

Adjournments

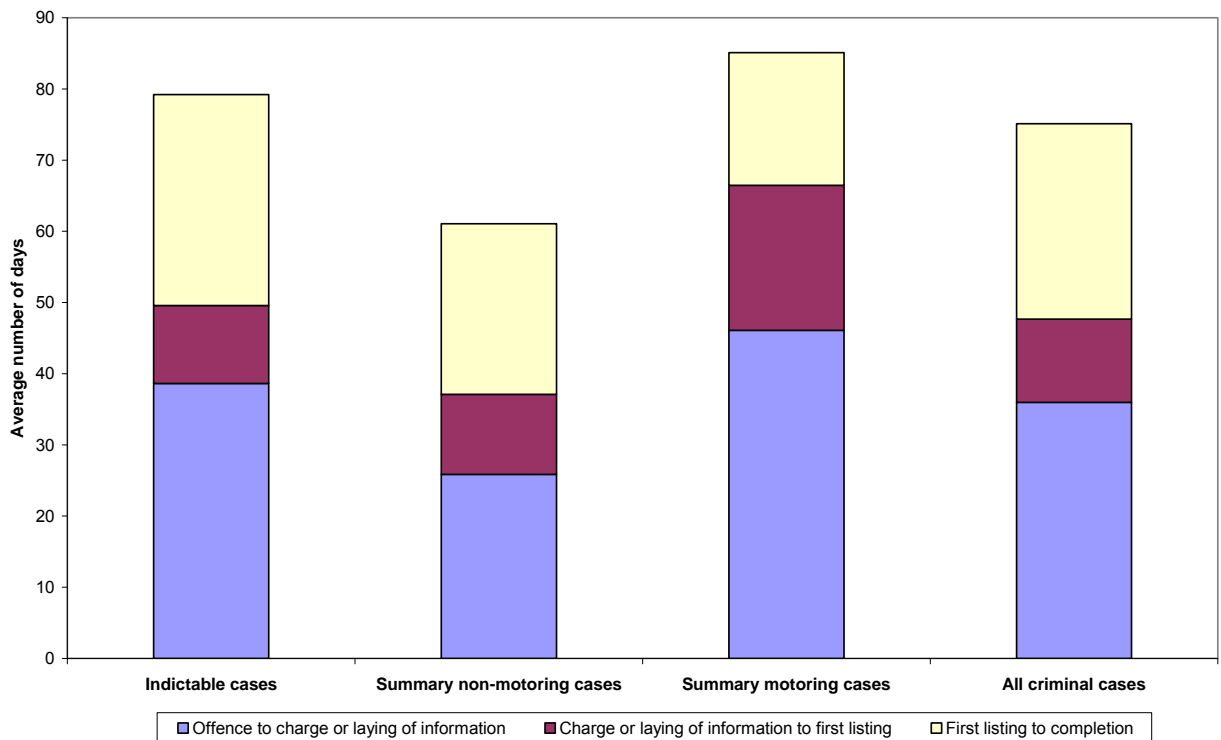
(see Table 2b)

- There was an estimated average of 1.35 adjournments per defendant for youth defendants in all completed criminal cases in June 2009, a decrease from 1.47 adjournments per defendant in June 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.

³ See 'Notes' section for more information

- An estimated 42 per cent of youth defendants in June 2009 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 40 per cent in June 2008.

Figure 4: Estimated average time by stage of proceedings for youth defendants in completed criminal cases, June 2009



Cases not completed at first listing: subgroup analysis
(see Table 2c)

- An estimated 58 per cent of youth defendants in June 2009 did not have their cases completed at first listing.
- For this subgroup of defendants the estimated average time from offence to completion in June 2009 was 98 days, a decrease from 101 days in June 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion was 48 days in June 2009, an increase from 46 days in June 2008; this increase is not statistically significant.
- There was an estimated average of 2.34 adjournments per defendant in June 2009, a decrease from 2.42 adjournments per defendant in June 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.

Youth defendants in all completed criminal cases: June 2009 – medians

Main finding

The estimated median time in June 2009 from offence to completion for youth defendants in all criminal cases decreased in comparison to June 2008.

The offence type breakdown for offence to completion times are summarised as follows (compared to June 2008, asterisks mark statistically significant changes⁴):

All offence types	1-day decrease
Indictable/ triable-either-way cases	1-day increase
Summary non-motoring cases	2-day decrease
Summary motoring cases	4-day decrease

Time Intervals – medians

(see Figure 5 and Table 2a)

- The estimated median time from offence to completion for all youth defendants in completed criminal cases in June 2009 was 49 days, a decrease from 50 days in June 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from offence to completion for youth defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases was 51 days in June 2009, an increase from 50 days in March 2008; this increase is not statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from offence to completion for completed summary non-motoring cases was 40 days in June 2009, a decrease from 42 days in June 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from offence to completion for completed summary motoring cases was 67 days in June 2009, a decrease from 71 days in June 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.

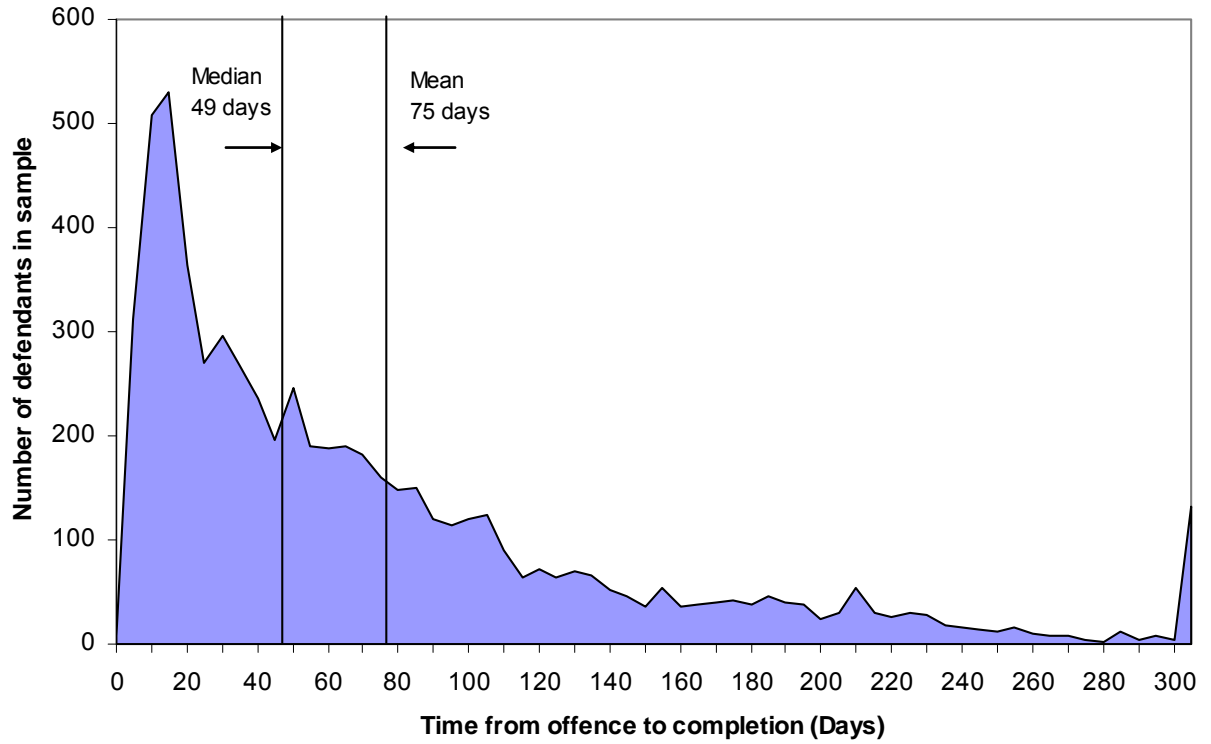
Adjournments – medians

(see Table 2b)

- The estimated median number of adjournments per defendant in June 2009 is 1, unchanged from 1 adjournment in June 2008.

⁴ See 'Notes' section for more information

Figure 5: Time from offence to completion for all sampled youth defendants in all completed criminal cases, June 2009, showing difference between mean and median times. Half of the defendants have times of 49 days or less.



Adult defendants in completed charged cases: June 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 have been 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 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

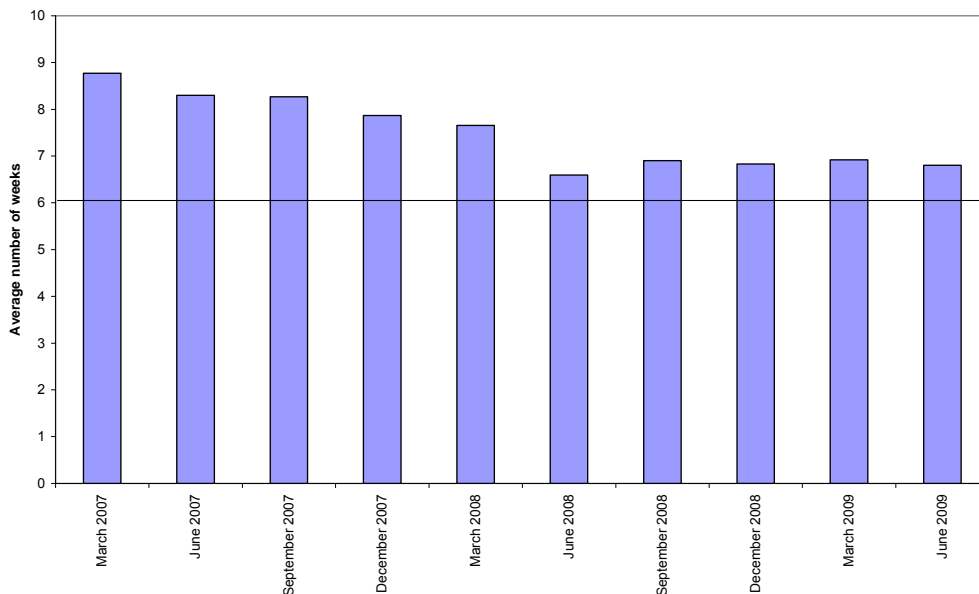
In June 2009 the estimated average time from charge to completion was 6.8 weeks. There was an estimated average of 2.28 hearings per defendant for completed adult charged cases.

Average time from charge to completion

(see Figure 6 and Table 3)

- The estimated average time from charge to completion for completed adult charged cases in June 2009 was 6.8 weeks (48 days), an increase from 6.6 weeks (46 days) in June 2008; this increase is not statistically significant.

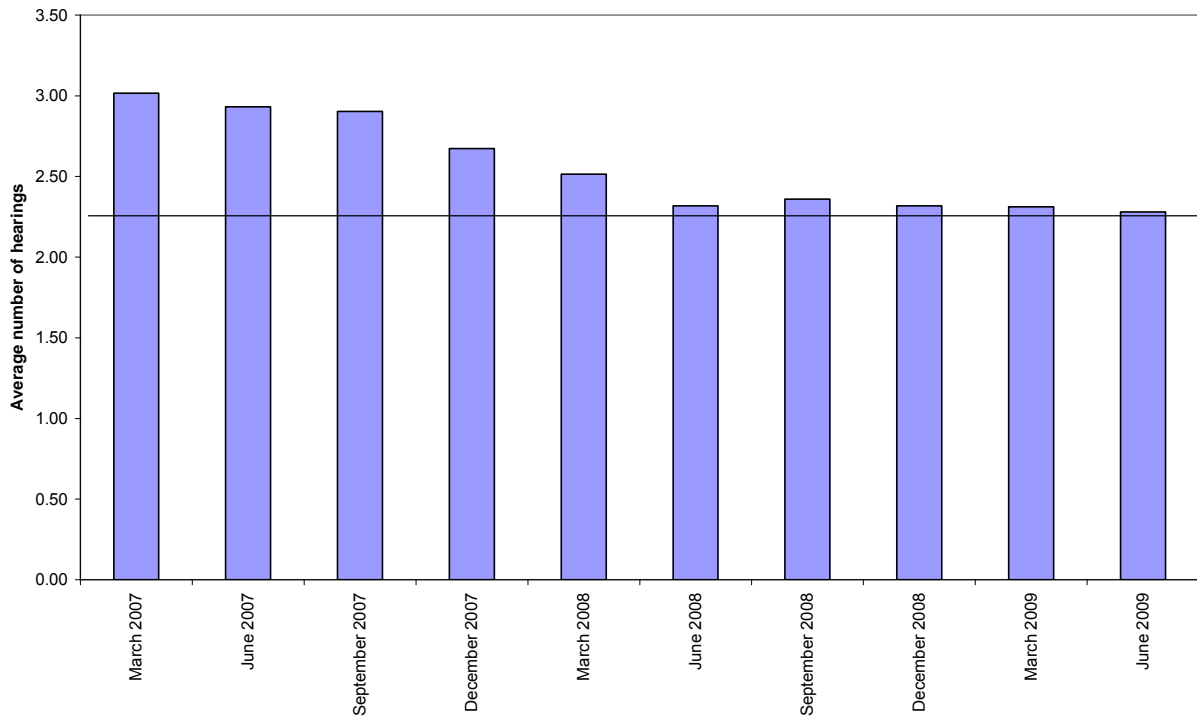
Figure 6: Estimated average time from charge to completion for completed adult charged cases, March 2007 to June 2009



Average number of hearings per defendant
(see Figure 7 and Table 3)

- The estimated average number of hearings for adult charged cases in June 2009 was 2.28 hearings per defendant, a decrease from an estimated average of 2.32 hearings per defendant in June 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.

Figure 7: Estimated average number of hearings per case for completed adult charged cases, March 2007 to June 2009



These figures cover adult charged cases, excluding those sent or committed to the Crown Court for trial.

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

Main findings

(see Table 3a)

In June 2009 the estimated average time from charge to completion by area varied from 4.4 weeks to 11.4 weeks. The estimated average number of hearings varied from 1.77 to 3.46 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 June 2009 varied by area from 4.4 weeks (31 days) to 11.4 weeks (80 days).
- Of the 42 LCJB (Local Criminal Justice Board) areas, 16 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 June 2009 varied by area from 1.77 hearings to 3.46 hearings per defendant.
- Of the 42 LCJB areas, 24 areas had an estimated average number of hearings of 2.25 or less per defendant.

Youth defendants in completed charged cases: June 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

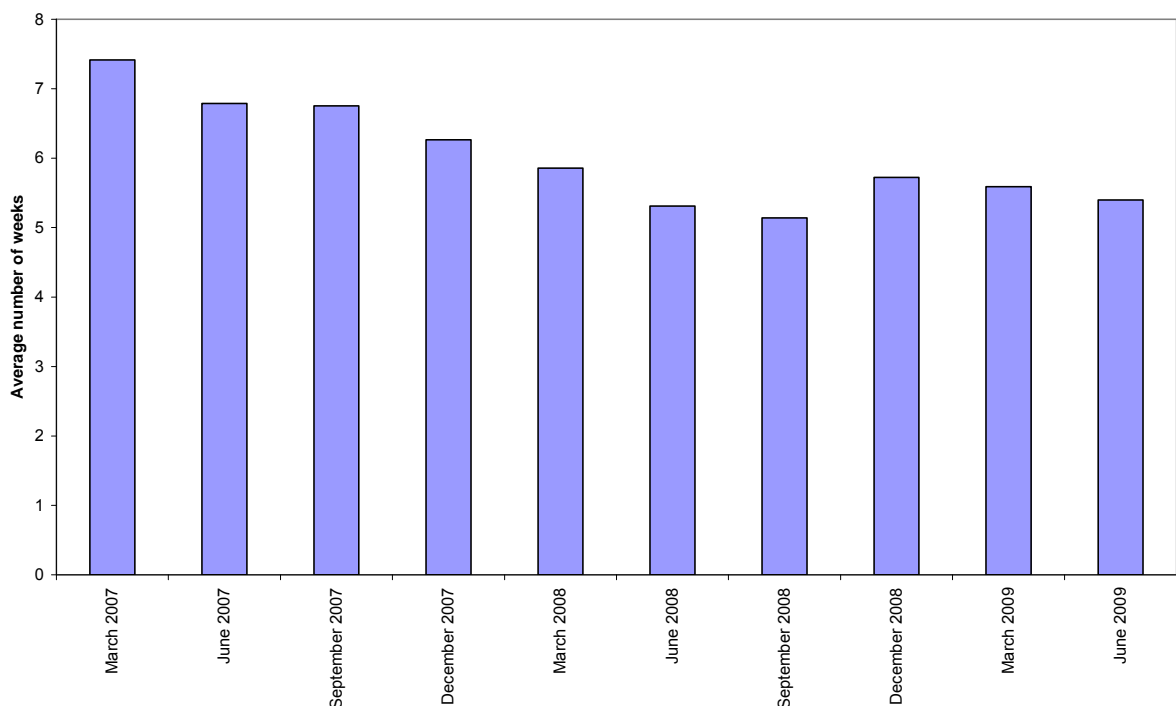
In June 2009 the estimated average time from charge to completion was 5.4 weeks. There was an estimated average of 2.36 hearings per defendant for completed youth charged cases.

Average time from charge to completion

(see Figure 8 and Table 4)

- The estimated average time from charge to completion for completed youth charged cases in June 2009 was 5.4 weeks (38 days), an increase from 5.3 weeks (37 days) in June 2008; this increase is not statistically significant.

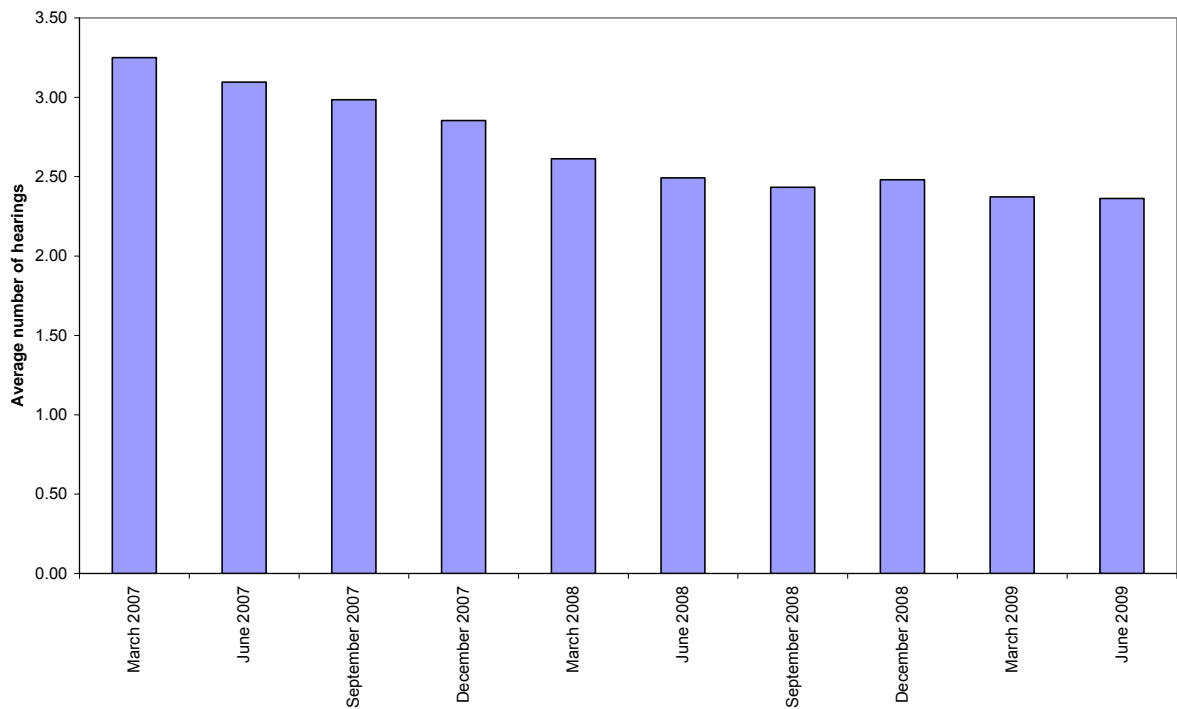
Figure 8: Estimated average time from charge to completion for youth defendants in completed charged cases, March 2007 to June 2009



Average number of hearings per defendant
(see Figure 9 and Table 4)

- The estimated average number of hearings for youth charged cases in June 2009 was 2.36 hearings per defendant, a decrease from an estimated average of 2.49 hearings per defendant in June 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.

Figure 9: Estimated average number of hearings per case for youth defendants in completed charged cases, March 2007 to June 2009



These figures cover youth charged cases, excluding those sent or committed to the Crown Court for trial.

Youth defendants in completed charged cases: June 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 4a)

In June 2009 the estimated average time from charge to completion by area varied from 2.5 weeks to 7.8 weeks. The estimated average number of hearings varied from 1.45 to 3.03 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 June 2009 varied by area from 2.5 weeks (18 days) to 7.8 weeks (55 days).
- Of the 42 LCJB (Local Criminal Justice Board) areas, 31 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 March 2009 varied by area from 1.45 hearings to 3.03 hearings per defendant.
- Of the 42 LCJB areas, 19 areas had an estimated average number of hearings of 2.25 or less per defendant. (Please note: this is not an official target).

TABLE 1a: All defendants in completed indictable / triable-either-way cases, 2004 to June 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 ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (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 ⁽⁴⁾	61	2	11	(10-12)	10	0	7	(7-7)	47	1	22	(22-23)	118	2	69	(68-71)	28,756
2008 ⁽⁴⁾	62	2	9	(8-10)	12	0	9	(9-9)	37	1	14	(14-15)	112	2	61	(59-62)	29,584
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 ⁽³⁾	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 ⁽⁴⁾	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 ^{(4), (5)}	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)	8,254
2009 June ⁽⁴⁾	60	4	6	(5-8)	13	0	10	(10-10)	35	1	14	(14-15)	108	5	58	(56-60)	7,790

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

(4) 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

(5) 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 June 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 ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)	Median (number)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	
2004	2.10	0.00	1	(1-1)	28,493
2005	2.10	0.00	1	(1-1)	28,127
2006	2.10	0.00	1	(1-1)	27,730
2007 ⁽⁴⁾	2.00	0.00	1	(1-1)	28,756
2008 ⁽⁴⁾	1.50	0.00	1	(1-1)	29,584
2006 March	2.10	0.10	1	(1-1)	7,391
2006 June ⁽³⁾	2.00	0.10	1	(1-1)	6,835
2006 September	2.10	0.10	1	(1-1)	7,126
2006 December	2.10	0.10	1	(1-2)	6,378
2007 March	2.20	0.10	2	(1-2)	7,126
2007 June ⁽⁴⁾	2.10	0.10	1	(1-1)	7,178
2007 September	2.00	0.10	1	(1-1)	7,600
2007 December	1.80	0.10	1	(1-1)	6,852
2008 March	1.59	0.05	1	(1-1)	7,487
2008 June ^{(4), (5)}	1.45	0.05	1	(1-1)	7,313
2008 September	1.50	0.10	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)	8,254
2009 June ⁽⁴⁾	1.36	0.04	1	(1-1)	7,790

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.

data for North Yorkshire Area

(4) 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

(5) 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 June 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		Estimated average number of adjournments ⁽⁶⁾		
			(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)			Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Number)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)		
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 ⁽⁴⁾	32%	1%	65	3	9,207	68%	1%	69	1	142	3	2.97	0.03	19,549
2008 ⁽⁴⁾	39%	1%	69	3	11,609	61%	1%	61	1	140	3	2.44	0.03	17,999
2006 March	31%	1%	70	7	2,277	69%	1%	78	2	159	5	3.02	0.06	5,114
2006 June ⁽³⁾	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 ⁽⁴⁾	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 ^{(4), (5)}	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	41%	1%	76	7	3,344	59%	1%	60	2	142	5	2.31	0.05	4,910
2009 June ⁽⁴⁾	40%	1%	63	7	3,109	60%	1%	58	2	137	6	2.27	0.05	4,681

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

(4) 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

(5) 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.

(6) The annual figures given in the previous bulletin were incorrect. These have been corrected here.

TABLE 2a(1): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, March 2006 to June 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 ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	
Indictable Cases																	
2006 March	48	2	21	(19-22)	10	0	7	(7-7)	50	2	21	(21-25)	107	3	76	(72-79)	5,487
2006 June	45	2	17	(16-19)	9	0	7	(6-7)	45	2	21	(21-22)	99	3	62	(59-65)	5,510
2006 September	44	2	20	(18-21)	9	0	7	(6-7)	47	2	23	(21-26)	100	3	69	(67-72)	5,710
2006 December	42	2	19	(17-20)	9	0	6	(6-7)	43	2	21	(21-22)	95	3	65	(62-67)	5,930
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 ⁽³⁾	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 ⁽³⁾	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)	4,520
2009 June ⁽³⁾	39	3	11	(9-13)	11	0	9	(8-9)	30	1	14	(14-14)	79	3	51	(49-54)	4,343
Summary non-motoring cases																	
2006 March	37	2	9	(6-12)	11	1	7	(7-8)	45	3	21	(16-21)	93	4	63	(57-69)	2,270
2006 June	37	2	10	(7-13)	11	1	7	(7-8)	43	3	21	(16-21)	90	4	62	(57-67)	1,918
2006 September	35	2	11	(8-13)	12	1	7	(7-8)	41	3	19	(14-21)	88	4	61	(56-66)	2,112
2006 December	36	2	11	(8-15)	10	1	7	(7-7)	43	2	21	(21-22)	88	4	63	(59-66)	2,093
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 ⁽³⁾	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 ⁽³⁾	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	5	(3-7)	11	1	9	(9-10)	28	2	7	(7-14)	73	4	44	(40-49)	1,574
2009 June ⁽³⁾	26	2	2	(1-5)	11	0	10	(9-10)	24	2	5	(2-7)	61	3	40	(36-43)	1,583

(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) 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 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 2a(2): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, March 2006 to June 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 ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	
Summary motoring cases																	
2006 March	63	4	48	(43-55)	21	1	19	(15-20)	25	3	0	(0-7)	109	5	101	(89-107)	1,012
2006 June	48	4	30	(25-37)	18	1	13	(11-15)	27	3	12	(7-14)	94	6	75	(66-83)	853
2006 September	54	3	45	(39-49)	22	1	19	(15-21)	24	3	0	(0-6)	100	5	89	(84-96)	964
2006 December	53	4	40	(36-45)	21	1	17	(14-19)	23	3	6	(0-7)	97	5	84	(77-92)	878
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 ⁽³⁾	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 ⁽³⁾	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 ⁽³⁾	46	5	29	(22-37)	20	2	15	(14-17)	19	3	0	(0-0)	85	7	67	(60-77)	448
All criminal cases																	
2006 March	47	2	21	(19-22)	11	0	7	(7-7)	46	1	21	(21-21)	104	2	75	(73-78)	8,769
2006 June	43	2	17	(15-18)	10	0	7	(7-7)	43	1	21	(21-21)	96	2	63	(61-66)	8,281
2006 September	43	2	20	(19-22)	11	0	7	(7-7)	43	1	21	(21-21)	97	2	70	(68-72)	8,786
2006 December	42	1	19	(18-20)	10	0	7	(7-7)	41	1	21	(21-21)	94	2	66	(64-68)	8,901
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 ⁽³⁾	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 ⁽³⁾	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)	6,629
2009 June ⁽³⁾	36	2	9	(8-11)	12	0	9	(9-9)	27	1	9	(7-13)	75	3	49	(48-51)	6,374

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 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 2b(1): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, March 2006 to June 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 ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)	Median (number)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	
<u>Indictable cases</u>					
2006 March	2.37	0.07	2	(1-2)	5,487
2006 June	2.25	0.07	1	(1-2)	5,510
2006 September	2.38	0.07	2	(2-2)	5,710
2006 December	2.26	0.07	2	(1-2)	5,930
2007 March	2.31	0.07	2	(2-2)	5,779
2007 June ⁽³⁾	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 ⁽³⁾	1.55	0.06	1	(1-1)	4,766
2008 September	1.53	0.05	1	(1-1)	4,495
2008 December	1.46	0.05	1	(1-1)	4,672
2009 March	1.44	0.05	1	(1-1)	4,520
2009 June ⁽³⁾	1.48	0.06	1	(1-1)	4,343
<u>Summary non-motoring cases</u>					
2006 March	2.04	0.11	1	(1-1)	2,270
2006 June	2.06	0.11	1	(1-1)	1,918
2006 September	1.94	0.10	1	(1-1)	2,112
2006 December	2.16	0.11	1	(1-2)	2,093
2007 March	2.15	0.10	1	(1-2)	2,249
2007 June ⁽³⁾	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 ⁽³⁾	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	1.29	0.09	1	(1-1)	1,574
2009 June ⁽³⁾	1.11	0.08	1	(1-1)	1,583

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 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 2b(2): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, March 2006 to June 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 ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)	Median (number)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)		
<u>Summary motoring cases</u>					
2006 March	1.18	0.11	1	(0-1)	1,012
2006 June	1.36	0.12	1	(1-1)	853
2006 September	1.14	0.11	0	(0-1)	964
2006 December	1.19	0.11	1	(0-1)	878
2007 March	1.38	0.14	1	(0-1)	840
2007 June ⁽³⁾	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 ⁽³⁾	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 ⁽³⁾	0.90	0.14	0	(0-0)	448
<u>All criminal cases</u>					
2006 March	2.15	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,769
2006 June	2.11	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,281
2006 September	2.14	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,786
2006 December	2.13	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,901
2007 March	2.18	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,868
2007 June ⁽³⁾	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 ⁽³⁾	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	1.36	0.04	1	(1-1)	6,629
2009 June ⁽³⁾	1.35	0.04	1	(1-1)	6,374

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 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 2c(1): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, March 2006 to June 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	
		Offence to completion					First listing to completion		Offence to completion		Estimated average number of adjournments			
(Per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Number of defendants)	(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)	(Number of defendants)	
Indictable cases														
2006 March	28%	1%	47	4	1,556	72%	1%	69	2	131	4	3.31	0.08	3,931
2006 June	28%	1%	44	4	1,563	72%	1%	62	2	121	4	3.14	0.08	3,947
2006 September	27%	1%	46	4	1,545	73%	1%	64	2	120	3	3.26	0.08	4,165
2006 December	27%	1%	44	5	1,583	73%	1%	59	2	113	3	3.09	0.07	4,347
2007 March	27%	1%	48	4	1,567	73%	1%	61	2	118	3	3.16	0.08	4,212
2007 June ⁽³⁾	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 ⁽³⁾	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	1,736	62%	1%	50	2	106	3	2.34	0.07	2,784
2009 June ⁽³⁾	39%	1%	46	6	1,699	61%	1%	49	2	100	4	2.43	0.07	2,644
Summary non-motoring cases														
2006 March	33%	2%	40	4	754	67%	2%	68	3	119	5	3.05	0.14	1,516
2006 June	32%	2%	40	4	606	68%	2%	63	4	114	5	3.00	0.12	1,312
2006 September	34%	2%	41	4	721	66%	2%	63	4	112	5	2.95	0.12	1,391
2006 December	30%	2%	39	4	621	70%	2%	60	3	109	4	3.07	0.12	1,472
2007 March	32%	2%	40	4	717	68%	2%	63	3	112	5	3.15	0.12	1,532
2007 June ⁽³⁾	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 ⁽³⁾	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	2.26	0.13	900
2009 June ⁽³⁾	47%	2%	35	3	738	53%	2%	45	3	84	5	2.09	0.11	845

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 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 2c(2): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, March 2006 to June 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	
		Offence to completion		(Number of defendants)			First listing to completion		Offence to completion		Estimated average number of adjournments		(Number of defendants)	
(Per cent)	Margin of error(1) (+/- per cent)	(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)		
<u>Summary motoring cases</u>														
2006 March	49%	3%	89	6	500	51%	3%	49	5	129	8	2.33	0.16	512
2006 June	41%	3%	67	7	352	59%	3%	47	5	113	8	2.32	0.15	501
2006 September	51%	3%	79	5	487	49%	3%	48	5	121	8	2.31	0.18	477
2006 December	47%	3%	74	6	412	53%	3%	43	5	117	8	2.24	0.16	466
2007 March	47%	3%	73	6	394	53%	3%	50	5	125	8	2.59	0.19	446
2007 June ⁽³⁾	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 ⁽³⁾	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 ⁽³⁾	59%	5%	61	7	263	41%	5%	45	6	119	11	2.17	0.23	185
<u>All criminal cases</u>														
2006 March	32%	1%	53	3	2,810	68%	1%	67	2	128	3	3.16	0.07	5,959
2006 June	30%	1%	46	3	2,521	70%	1%	61	2	118	3	3.04	0.06	5,760
2006 September	31%	1%	51	3	2,753	69%	1%	62	2	118	3	3.11	0.06	6,033
2006 December	29%	1%	48	3	2,616	71%	1%	58	2	113	2	3.02	0.06	6,285
2007 March	30%	1%	49	3	2,678	70%	1%	61	2	117	3	3.12	0.06	6,190
2007 June ⁽³⁾	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 ⁽³⁾	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	2,705	59%	1%	49	1	106	3	2.30	0.06	3,924
2009 June ⁽³⁾	42%	1%	45	4	2,700	58%	1%	48	2	98	3	2.34	0.06	3,674

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

England and Wales

	Charge to completion		Hearings		Sample size
	Estimated average time from charge to completion in weeks	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- weeks)	Estimated average number of hearings per defendant	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number of hearings)	Number of defendants
2007 March	8.8	0.3	3.02	0.05	8,603
2007 June ⁽²⁾	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 ⁽²⁾	6.6	0.2	2.32	0.04	8,712
2008 September	6.9	0.3	2.36	0.04	8,642
2008 December ⁽³⁾	6.8	0.3	2.32	0.04	8,241
2009 March	6.9	0.3	2.31	0.04	9,253
2009 June ⁽²⁾	6.8	0.2	2.28	0.04	9,016

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.

(3) Due to a rounding error, a figure of 6.9 weeks, instead of 6.8 weeks, was presented in the December 08 bulletin.

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

England and Wales					
Area name	Charge to completion		Hearings		Sample size Number of defendants
	Estimated average time from charge to completion in weeks	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- weeks)	Estimated average number of hearings per defendant	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number of hearings)	
Avon and Somerset	6.4	1.1	2.25	0.24	255
Bedfordshire	9.2	5.1	2.66	0.45	65
Cambridgeshire	5.3	1.4	1.97	0.32	100
Cheshire	6.2	0.9	1.81	0.22	110
Cleveland	4.8	1.0	2.29	0.23	173
Cumbria	6.2	0.9	1.97	0.24	138
Derbyshire	7.1	1.5	2.44	0.32	140
Devon and Cornwall	6.5	1.2	2.07	0.28	178
Dorset	5.7	1.1	1.95	0.30	86
Durham	6.5	1.3	2.45	0.31	115
Dyfed Powys	6.0	1.0	1.81	0.24	88
Essex	7.3	1.3	2.02	0.19	265
Gloucestershire	5.6	1.1	2.07	0.27	110
Greater Manchester	5.6	1.2	2.24	0.15	487
Gwent	-	-	-	-	22
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	9.8	1.6	2.54	0.21	326
Hertfordshire	9.6	2.0	2.35	0.30	142
Humberside	5.8	1.4	2.18	0.30	114
Kent	9.4	2.5	2.45	0.29	170
Lancashire	6.0	0.7	2.19	0.16	368
Leicestershire	7.2	2.8	2.45	0.47	96
Lincolnshire	6.8	1.4	2.00	0.34	108
London	6.8	0.6	2.33	0.10	1,199
Merseyside	6.4	0.7	2.18	0.19	381
Norfolk	4.4	1.3	1.80	0.31	117
North Wales	4.8	1.1	2.00	0.29	116
North Yorkshire	7.8	1.6	2.29	0.31	138
Northamptonshire	11.4	2.9	3.46	0.51	89
Northumbria	6.6	1.2	2.52	0.20	394
Nottinghamshire	7.3	1.3	2.51	0.26	170
South Wales	5.6	1.0	2.23	0.21	263
South Yorkshire	5.3	0.8	2.11	0.18	235
Staffordshire	7.2	1.4	2.79	0.44	145
Suffolk	4.5	1.3	1.77	0.25	110
Surrey	9.2	2.4	2.28	0.33	132
Sussex	6.9	1.1	2.23	0.22	242
Thames Valley	9.6	1.9	2.60	0.26	238
Warwickshire	4.9	1.6	2.06	0.46	63
West Mercia	5.6	0.9	2.13	0.24	192
West Midlands	5.0	0.5	2.16	0.11	623
West Yorkshire	9.5	0.9	2.61	0.18	448
Wiltshire	9.7	6.8	2.06	0.35	65
England and Wales	6.8	0.2	2.28	0.04	9,016

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

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

England and Wales

	Charge to completion		Hearings		Sample size
	Estimated average time from charge to completion in weeks	<i>Margin of error⁽¹⁾ (+/- weeks)</i>	Estimated average number of hearings per defendant	<i>Margin of error⁽¹⁾ (+/- number of hearings)</i>	Number of defendants
2007 March	7.4	0.2	3.25	0.06	7,778
2007 June ⁽²⁾	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 ^(2,3)	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 ⁽⁴⁾	5.6	0.2	2.38	0.05	5,767
2009 June ⁽²⁾	5.4	0.2	2.36	0.05	5,563

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.

(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.

(4) No youth data was received from Cumbria for March 2009 in time for inclusion in the publication.

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

England and Wales					
Area name	Charge to completion		Hearings		Sample size
	Estimated average time from charge to completion in weeks	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- weeks)	Estimated average number of hearings per defendant	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number of hearings)	Number of defendants
Avon and Somerset	4.5	0.8	2.27	0.33	118
Bedfordshire	-	-	-	-	21
Cambridgeshire	4.3	0.9	2.02	0.31	85
Cheshire	4.2	0.8	1.96	0.29	69
Cleveland	4.7	1.3	2.36	0.44	90
Cumbria	5.1	1.4	2.05	0.25	58
Derbyshire	7.1	2.0	2.72	0.35	113
Devon and Cornwall	4.3	0.8	2.01	0.24	115
Dorset	4.7	1.4	1.95	0.46	44
Durham	3.9	0.8	1.77	0.29	66
Dyfed Powys	4.2	0.9	1.45	0.23	51
Essex	3.8	0.6	1.70	0.15	179
Gloucestershire	4.6	1.6	2.04	0.44	57
Greater Manchester	4.8	0.5	2.45	0.21	306
Gwent	3.4	0.7	1.90	0.30	72
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	4.1	0.8	1.93	0.21	180
Hertfordshire	6.8	1.7	2.48	0.61	71
Humberside	5.2	1.3	2.14	0.33	96
Kent	5.7	1.1	2.13	0.27	123
Lancashire	5.7	0.8	2.72	0.30	220
Leicestershire	6.3	1.9	2.55	0.49	55
Lincolnshire	6.6	1.8	2.28	0.46	54
London	6.4	0.5	2.59	0.12	945
Merseyside	5.7	0.8	2.49	0.27	182
Norfolk	3.9	1.2	1.84	0.44	45
North Wales	6.9	1.9	2.27	0.50	37
North Yorkshire	2.8	0.5	1.64	0.21	66
Northamptonshire	5.8	1.7	2.85	0.69	41
Northumbria	4.7	0.7	2.36	0.24	240
Nottinghamshire	6.3	1.5	3.03	0.57	100
South Wales	4.0	0.8	2.31	0.29	138
South Yorkshire	4.9	0.9	2.47	0.31	139
Staffordshire	4.8	1.2	2.28	0.37	92
Suffolk	2.5	0.6	1.72	0.23	75
Surrey	5.8	1.5	1.87	0.27	54
Sussex	4.6	0.8	2.04	0.20	165
Thames Valley	7.3	1.3	2.74	0.36	180
Warwickshire	2.9	0.9	1.70	0.43	40
West Mercia	4.7	0.8	2.40	0.34	109
West Midlands	5.7	0.6	2.44	0.18	351
West Yorkshire	7.2	1.0	2.85	0.26	259
Wiltshire	7.8	2.1	2.87	0.57	62
England and Wales	5.4	0.2	2.36	0.05	5,563

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

Notes

Methodology

1. 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.
2. The figures in this bulletin are based on defendants. Where a case involves more than one defendant, each defendant is considered individually.
3. 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.
4. Changes to the data collection of TIS: 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 is 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.
5. 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 summons cases is planned.

Confidence Intervals, Margins of Error and Statistical Significance

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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. For both of these a 95% significance level is used.

Completed charged cases: adult and youth defendants

9. 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

10. 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 for adult data 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 as data is validated at the point of input.
11. Records where the defendant was charged or had information laid against them over ten years after the offence occurred are excluded. This affects very few defendants.
12. Recording procedures have undergone changes over the years, which will have led to small discontinuities in the data series. These are signified by vertical separations 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.
13. 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.
14. **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.
15. 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, which was 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.

16. Cumbria's youth data for March 2009 was received too late for the bulletin; due to a change in computer system this data cannot be included in subsequent bulletins.

Proportions of clerkships/courthouses making returns, and sample sizes, June 2004 to June 2009 surveys

Survey week	Youth data: proportion of clerkships and/or courthouses making returns (%) ⁽³⁾	Adult data: proportion of clerkships (pre June 2007) or courthouses making returns (%) ⁽²⁾	Sample size (number of defendants) ⁽¹⁾ Indictable/ triable-either-way cases
June 2004	100.0%	100.0%	5,668
June 2005	96.7%	96.7%	6,840
June 2006	98.8%	98.8%	6,835
June 2007	98.0%	98.2%	7,178
June 2008	89.2%	100.0%	7,290
June 2009	100.0%	100.0%	7,790

Notes:

(1) Sample sizes are from the one-week sample only. Tables 2a-c show youth defendant sample sizes in the four-week survey.

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

(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.

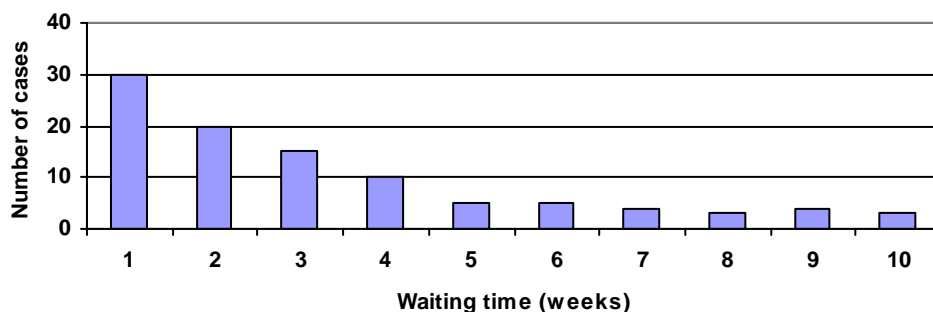
Technical annex – medians

Results from TIS have always previously 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 of 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 times 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.

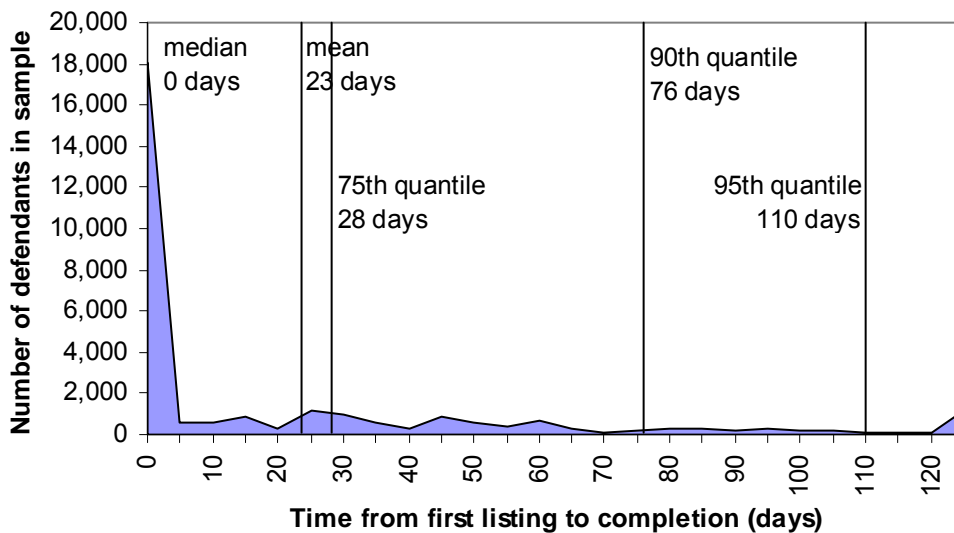
Due to the long tail in a skewed distribution, the mean, which is very sensitive to extreme values, is not representative of the bulk of the data points. The mean is still a legitimate way of presenting TIS results; however giving the median in addition provides a more representative picture of the “typical”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

2. Medians

The median of a data set is the value that lies exactly in the middle – the 50th 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 for all offence types. 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 TIS sample had a period from first listing to completion of 0 days (i.e. only 1 hearing); in fact 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 75th quantile indicates that in this case 75% of the defendants have times of 28 days or less from first listing to completion. The 90th and 95th 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 90th 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 has some very extreme values which skews the mean value since all data values are taken into account when calculating the mean.

4. Comparing mean and medians

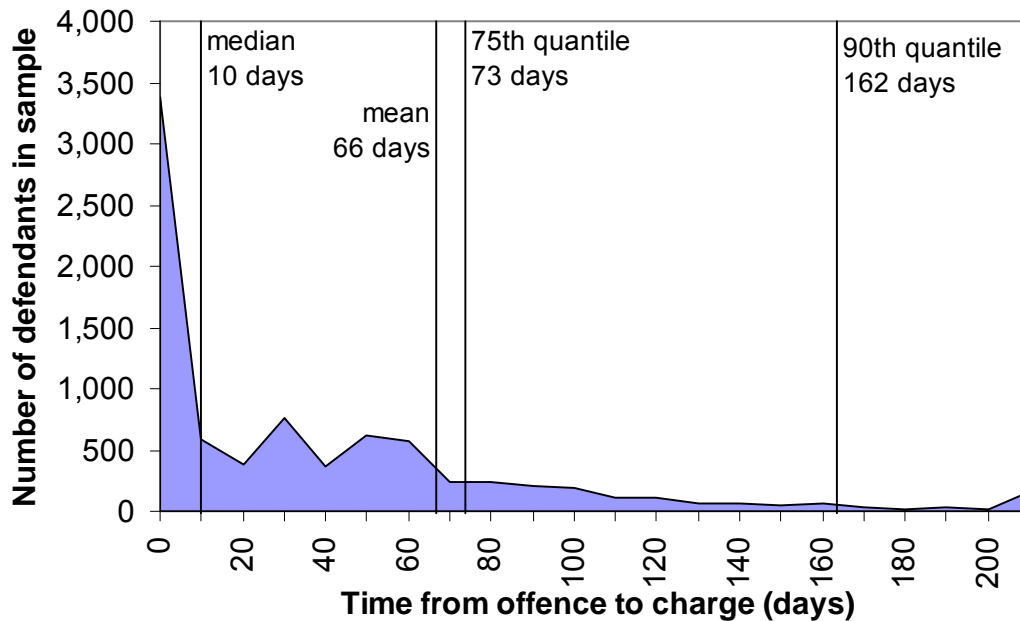
Tables 1a and 2a show the means and the medians with their accompanying confidence intervals for defendants in completed criminal cases in the magistrates' courts by offence type and stage of proceedings.

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 60 days in June 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 95th quantile is 240 days, so 5% of defendants in the sample have times of over 240 days, and the 99th 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



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 do not skew the average. Figures for these 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 previously been analysed), medians have now been introduced into the TIS bulletin. This will ensure 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.

Further information

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