

# **Time intervals for criminal proceedings in magistrates' courts: September 2009**

Ministry of Justice  
Statistics Bulletin

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## Key findings

This bulletin presents results from the September 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 criminal cases:** The estimated average time from offence to completion was 138 days for all defendants in criminal cases, compared to 140 days in September 2008. This decrease is not statistically significant. (see Tables 1a-c)

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

The estimated average time from offence to completion increased from 113 days in September 2008 to 116 days in September 2009. This increase is not statistically significant. (see Tables 2a-c)

**All defendants in completed summary cases**

Compared to September 2008, the estimated average time from offence to completion decreased for both summary non-motoring offences (from 137 to 133 days, not statistically significant), and for summary motoring offences (from 162 days to 160, not statistically significant). (see Tables 3a-c)

**Youth defendants in completed criminal cases**

Compared to September 2008, the estimated average time from offence to completion for all youth defendants increased from 75 days to 79 days in September 2009 (statistically significant). The time for indictable/ triable-either-way cases increased from 76 to 81 days (statistically significant); summary non-motoring cases increased from 65 to 69 days (not statistically significant) and summary motoring cases increased from 87 to 89 days (not statistically significant). (see Tables 4a-c)

**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 7.1 weeks, an increase from 6.9 weeks in September 2008 (not statistically significant). The estimated average number of hearings per defendant was 2.26, a decrease from 2.36 hearings in September 2008 (statistically significant). (see Table 5)

**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 5.9 weeks, an increase from 5.1 weeks in September 2008 (statistically significant). The estimated average number of hearings per defendant was 2.38, a decrease from 2.43 hearings in September 2008 (not statistically significant). (see Table 6)

# Contents

Key findings	1
Introduction	3
<b>Commentary</b>	
All defendants in all completed criminal cases	5
All defendants in all completed criminal cases – medians	9
All defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases	11
All defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases – medians	14
All defendants in completed summary non-motoring cases	16
All defendants in completed summary non-motoring cases – medians	19
All defendants in completed summary motoring cases	21
All defendants in completed summary motoring cases – medians	24
Youth defendants in all completed criminal cases – medians	30
Adult defendants in completed charged cases	32
Youth defendants in completed charged cases	35
<b>Tables (page 39)</b>	
Tables 1a-c: All defendants in completed criminal cases	39
Tables 2a-c: All defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases	42
Tables 3a-c: All defendants in completed summary cases	45
Tables 4a-c: Youth defendants in completed criminal cases	48
Table 5: Adult defendants in completed charged cases	54
Table 5a: Adult defendants in completed charged cases by area	55
Table 6: Youth defendants in completed charged cases	56
Table 6a: Youth defendants in completed charged cases by area	57
<b>Notes</b>	
Methodology	58
Confidence intervals, margins of error and statistical significance	59
Completed charged cases: adult and youth defendants	59
Quality and completeness of the data	59
Technical annex – medians	62
Further information	66

## 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 September 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 seven parts: the first four cover information on all defendants taken from the main survey week, while the fifth 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:

- All criminal cases: September 2009 results
- Indictable cases: September 2009 results
- Summary non-motoring cases: September 2009 results
- Summary motoring cases: September 2009 results
- Youth defendants in criminal cases: September 2009 results
- Adult defendants in charged cases: September 2009 results
- Youth defendants in charged cases: September 2009 results

3. The results presented in this report are given per defendant. The September 2009 results for all completed criminal cases are based on a sample of 25,945 defendants (7,817 indictable/ triable-either-way cases, 8,335 summary non-motoring cases and 9,793 summary motoring cases) from a one-week survey period. The youth defendant results are based on a sample of 6,113 defendants (4,095 in indictable cases and 2,018 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:** 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 are 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 very few 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 to the content of the TIS bulletin over recent months. 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
<b>September</b>	<b>All defendants in completed criminal cases</b> <b>All defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases</b> <b>All defendants in completed summary cases</b> <b>Youth defendants in completed criminal cases</b> <b>Adult and youth defendants in completed charged cases</b>
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 all completed criminal cases: September 2009

## Main finding

In September 2009, the estimated average time from offence to completion for defendants in all completed criminal cases decreased from September 2008.

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

Offence to completion	2-day decrease
Offence to charge/laying of information	unchanged
Charge/laying of information to first listing	3-day decrease*
First listing to completion	1-day increase
Average number of adjournments per defendant	0.03 adjournment decrease*

## Time intervals

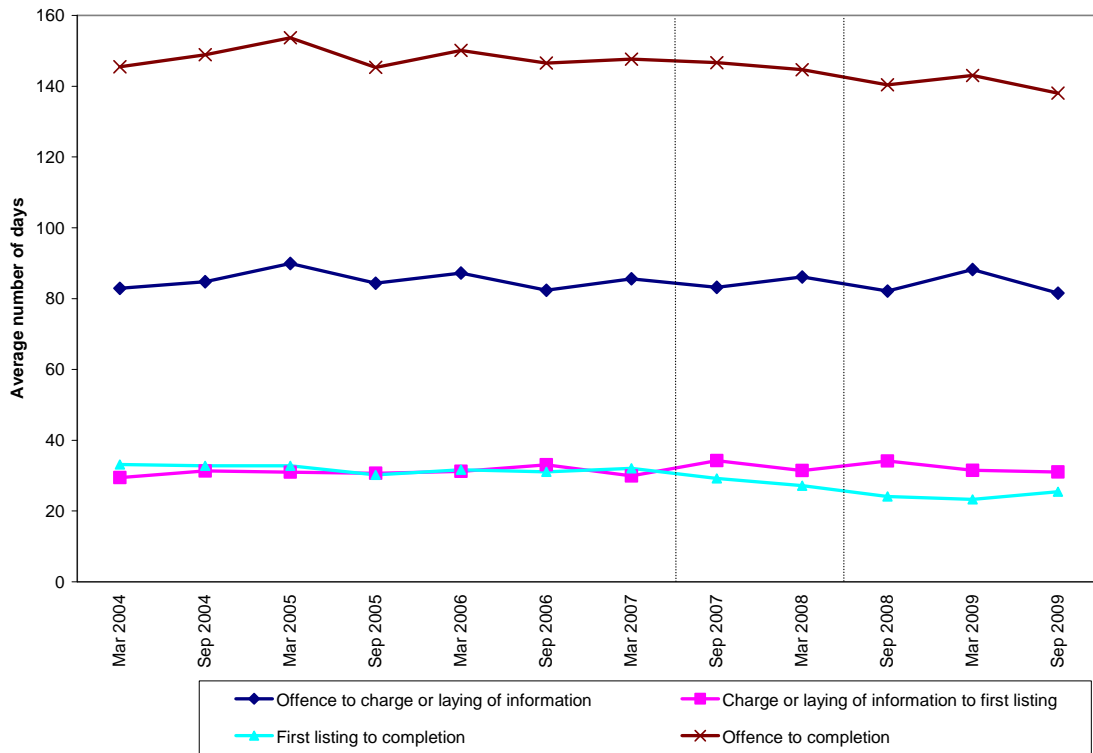
(see Figure 1 and Table 1a)

- The estimated average time from offence to completion for all criminal cases was 138 days, a decrease from 140 days in September 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to charge or laying of information was 82 days, unchanged from September 2008.
- The estimated average time from charge or laying of information to first listing was 31 days, a decrease from 34 days in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion was 25 days, an increase from 24 days in September 2008; this increase is not statistically significant.

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

**Figure 1:** Estimated average time by stage of proceedings (defendants in all criminal cases), March 2004 to September 2009

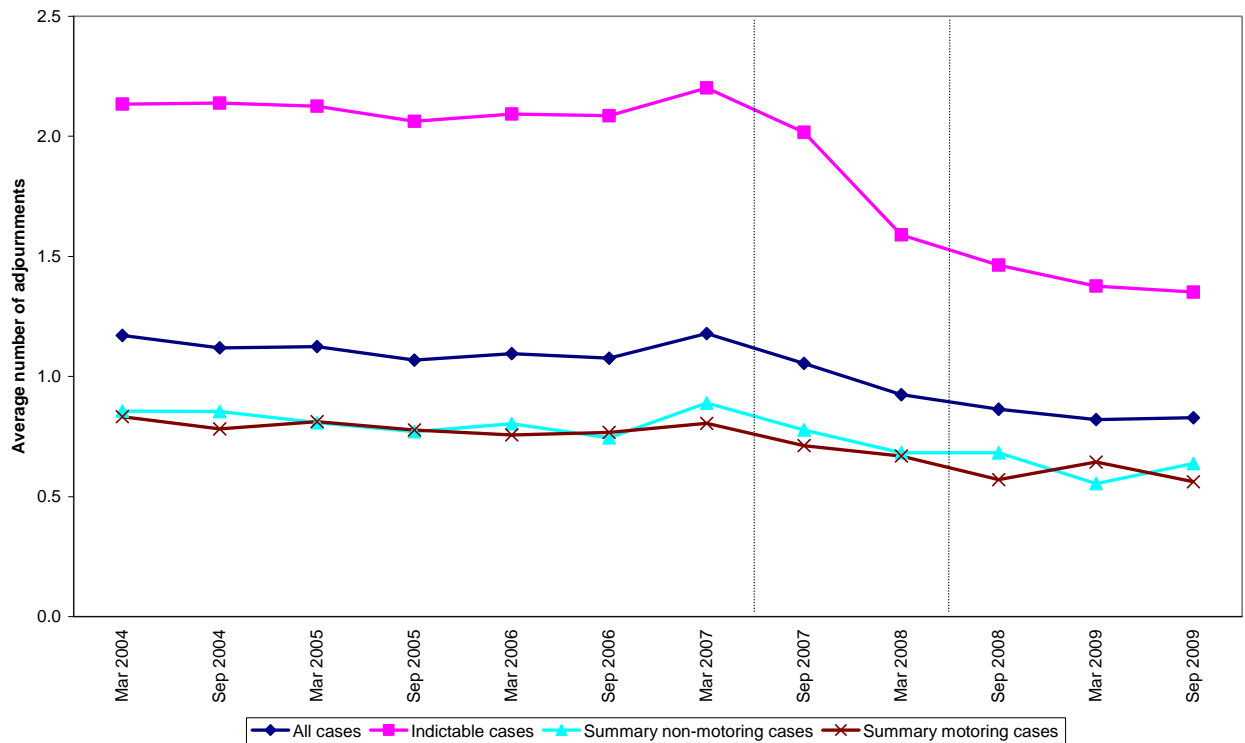


The dashed vertical lines in the chart denote changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007 and June 2008 surveys, see the notes section for more information.

## Adjournments

- There was an estimated average of 0.83 adjournments per defendant in September 2009, a decrease from 0.86 adjournments per defendant in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant. (see Figure 2 and Table 1b)
- An estimated 61 per cent of defendants in September 2009 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 60 per cent in September 2008; this increase is statistically significant. (see Table 1c)

**Figure 2:** Estimated average number of adjournments by type of offence (defendants in all criminal cases), March 2004 to September 2009



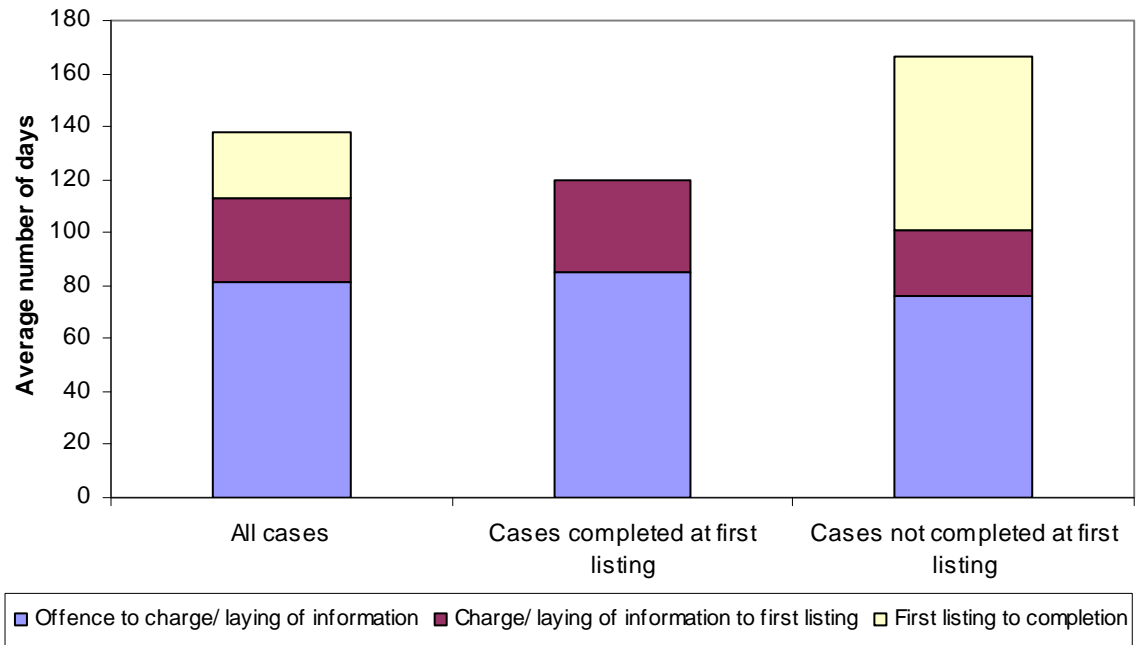
The dashed vertical lines in the chart denote changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007 and June 2008 surveys, see the notes section for more information.

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

(see Figure 3 and Table 1c)

- An estimated 39 per cent of defendants in September 2009 did not have their cases completed at first listing.
- For this subgroup of defendants the estimated average time from offence to completion in September 2009 was 166 days, an increase from 163 days in September 2008; this increase is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion was 65 days in September 2009, an increase from 60 days in September 2008; this increase is statistically significant.
- There was an estimated average of 2.12 adjournments per defendant in September 2009, a decrease from 2.16 adjournments per defendant in September 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.

**Figure 3:** Estimated average time from offence to completion, for all cases and cases completed and not completed at first listing (all defendants in all completed criminal cases), September 2009



## All defendants in all completed criminal cases: September 2009 – medians

### Main finding

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

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

Offence to completion	11-day decrease*
Offence to charge/laying of information	10-day decrease*
Charge/laying of information to first listing	1-day decrease*
First listing to completion	unchanged
Median number of adjournments per defendant	unchanged

### Time Intervals – medians

(see Figure 4 and Table 1a)

- The estimated median time from offence to completion in September 2009 was 118 days, a decrease from 129 days in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from offence to charge or laying of information was 58 days in September 2009, a decrease from 68 days in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from charge or laying of information to first listing was 26 days in September 2009, a decrease from 27 days in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from first listing to completion was 0 days in September 2009, unchanged from September 2008. (This means that at least half the defendants had a time of 0 days from first listing to completion, indicating that their cases were completed in one hearing).

### Adjournments – medians

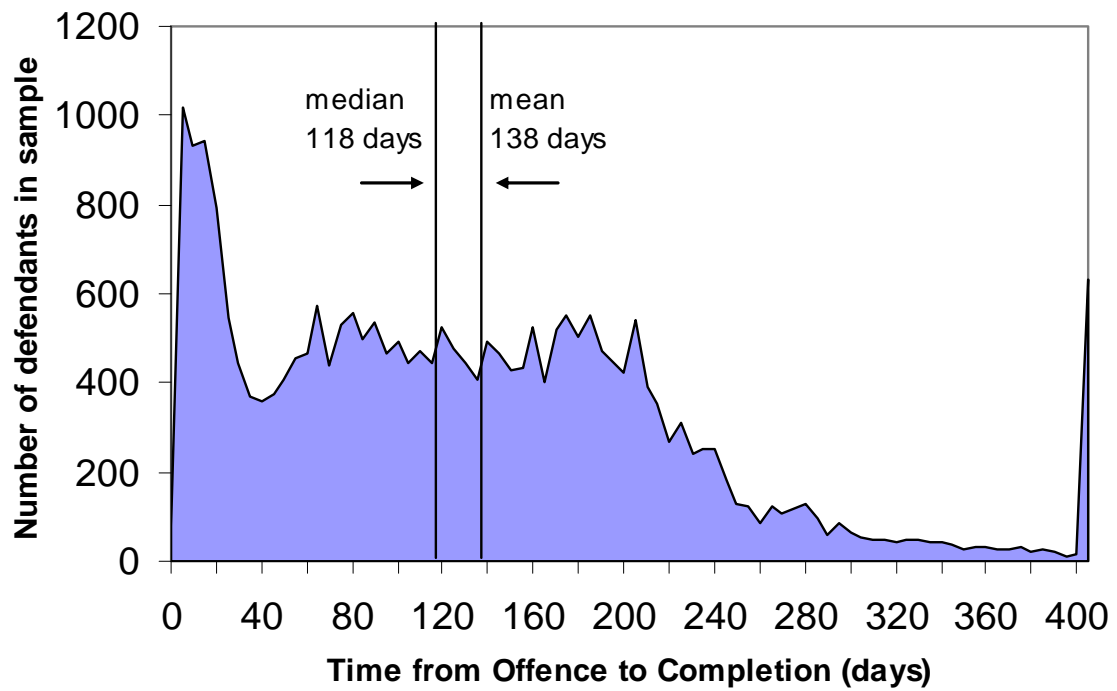
(see Table 1b)

- The estimated median number of adjournments per defendant in September 2009 was 0, unchanged from 0 adjournments per defendant in September 2008.

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

**Figure 4:** Time from offence to completion for all sampled defendants in all completed criminal cases, September 2009, showing difference between mean and median times. Half of the defendants have times of 118 days or less.



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

### Main finding

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

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

Offence to completion	3-day increase
Offence to charge/laying of information	4-day increase
Charge/laying of information to first listing	unchanged
First listing to completion	1-day decrease
Average number of adjournments per defendant	0.11 adjournment decrease*

### Time Intervals

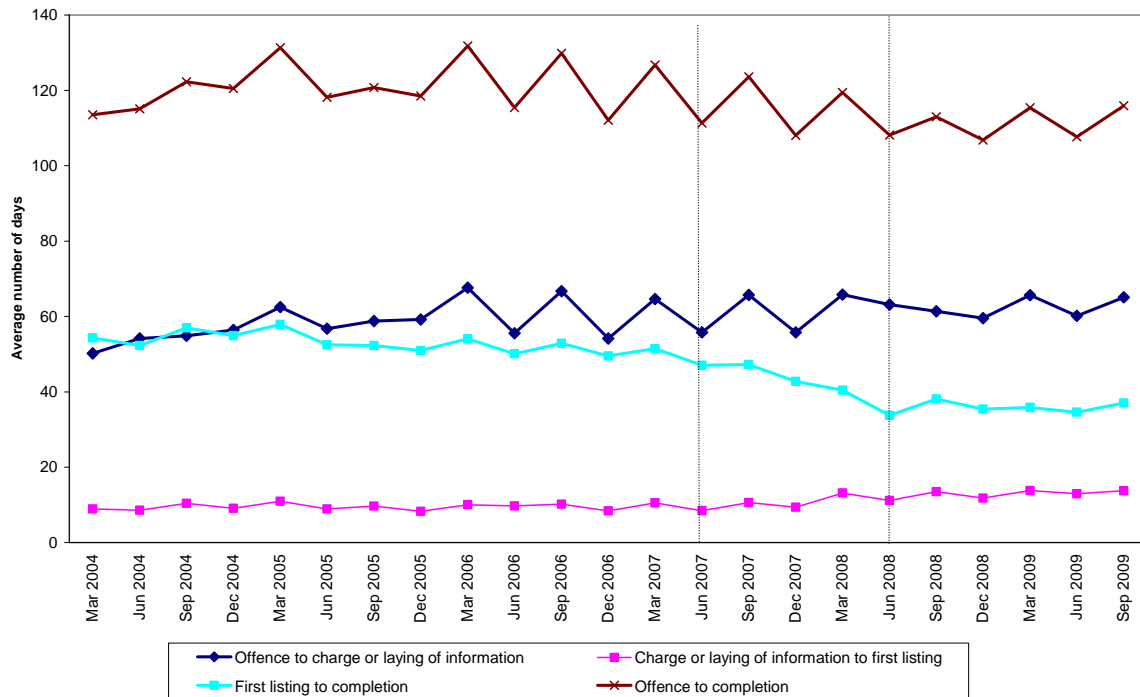
(see Figure 5 and Table 2a)

- The estimated average time from offence to completion in September 2009 was 116 days, an increase from 113 days in September 2008; this increase is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to charge or laying of information was 65 days in September 2009, an increase from 61 days in September 2008; this increase is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from charge or laying of information to first listing was 14 days in September 2009, unchanged from September 2008.
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion was 37 days in September 2009, a decrease from 38 days in September 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.

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

**Figure 5:** Estimated average time by stage of proceedings (all defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases), March 2004 to September 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

- There was an estimated average of 1.35 adjournments per defendant in September 2009, a decrease from 1.46 adjournments per defendant in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant. (see Table 2b)
- An estimated 41 per cent of defendants in September 2009 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 38 per cent in September 2008; this increase is statistically significant. (see Table 2c)

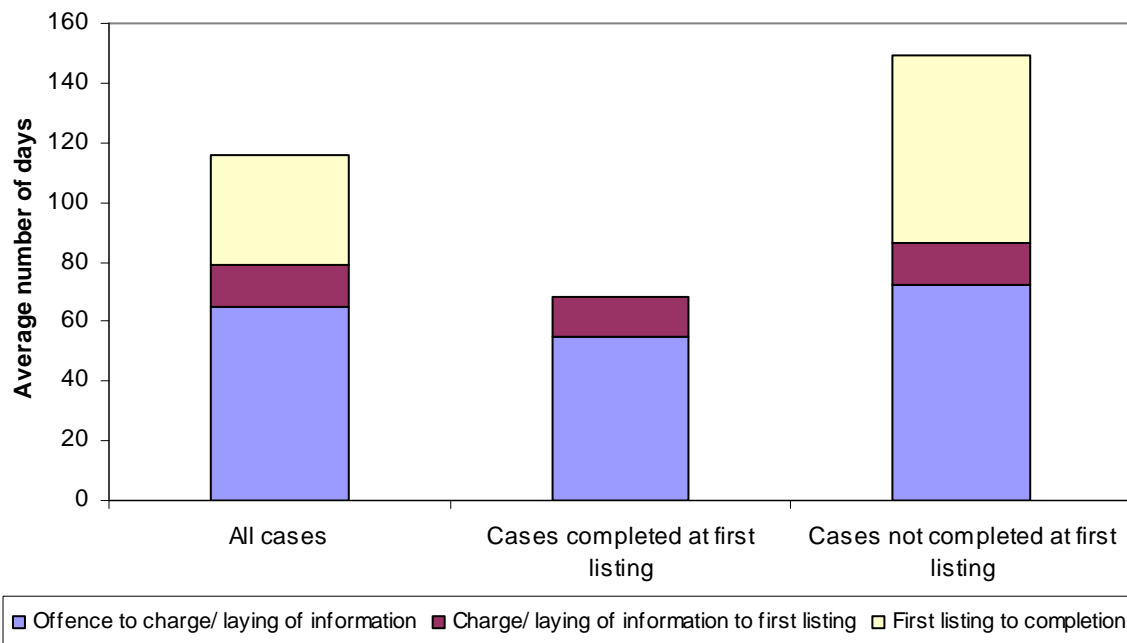


### Cases not completed at first listing: subgroup analysis

(see Figure 6 and Table 2c)

- An estimated 59 per cent of defendants in September 2009 did not have their cases completed at first listing.
- For this subgroup of defendants the estimated average time from offence to completion in September 2009 was 149 days, an increase from 144 days in September 2008; this increase is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion was 63 days in September 2009, an increase from 61 days in September 2008; this increase is not statistically significant.
- There was an estimated average of 2.30 adjournments per defendant in September 2009, a decrease from 2.36 adjournments per defendant in September 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.

**Figure 6:** 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), September 2009



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

### Main finding

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

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

Offence to completion	unchanged
Offence to charge/laying of information	4-day decrease*
Charge/laying of information to first listing	1-day increase*
First listing to completion	2-day decrease*
Median number of adjournments per defendant	unchanged

### Time Intervals - medians

(see Figure 7 and Table 2a)

- The estimated median time from offence to completion in September 2009 was 63 days, unchanged from September 2008.
- The estimated median time from offence to charge or laying of information was 7 days in September 2009, a decrease from 11 days in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from charge or laying of information to first listing was 10 days in September 2009, an increase from 9 days in September 2008; this increase is statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from first listing to completion was 14 days in September 2009, a decrease from 16 days in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.

### Adjournments – medians

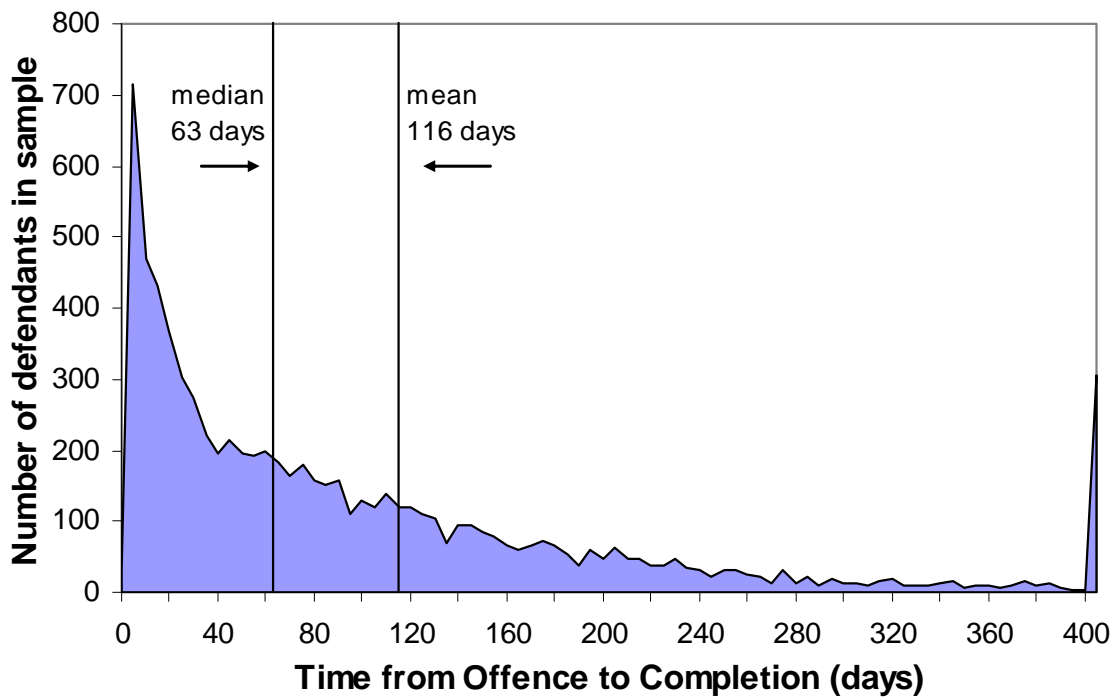
(see Table 2b)

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

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

**Figure 7:** Time from offence to completion for all sampled defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases, September 2009, showing difference between mean and median times. Half of the defendants have times of 63 days or less.



## All defendants in completed summary non-motoring cases: September 2009

### Main point

The estimated average time from offence to completion in September 2009 for all defendants in summary non-motoring cases decreased from September 2008.

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

Offence to completion	4-day decrease
Offence to charge/laying of information	2-day decrease
Charge/laying of information to first listing	3-day decrease*
First listing to completion	1-day increase
Average number of adjournments per defendant	0.01 adjournment decrease

### Time Intervals

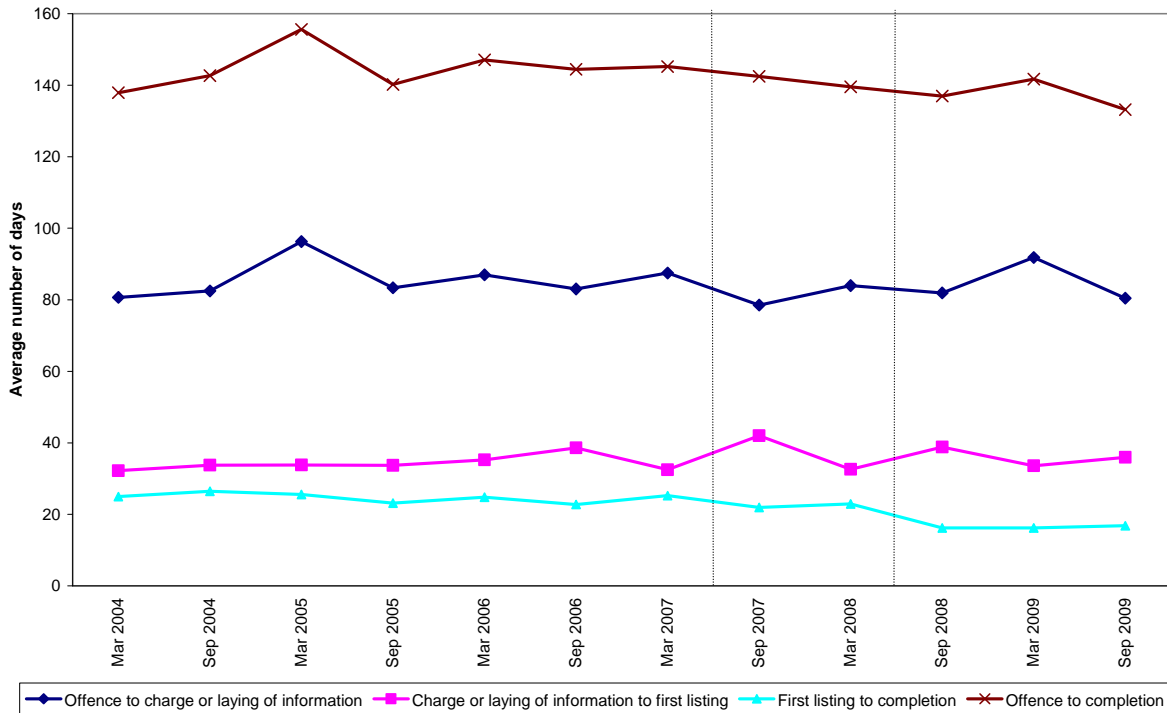
(see Figure 8 and Table 3a)

- The estimated average time from offence to completion for summary non-motoring cases in September 2009 was 133 days, a decrease from 137 days in September 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to charge or laying of information in September 2009 was 80 days, a decrease from 82 days in September 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from charge or laying of information to first listing in September 2009 was 36 days, a decrease from 39 days in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion in September 2009 was 17 days, an increase from 16 days in September 2008; this increase is not statistically significant.

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

**Figure 8:** Estimated average time by stage of proceedings (all defendants in completed summary non-motoring cases), March 2004 to September 2009



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

### Adjournments

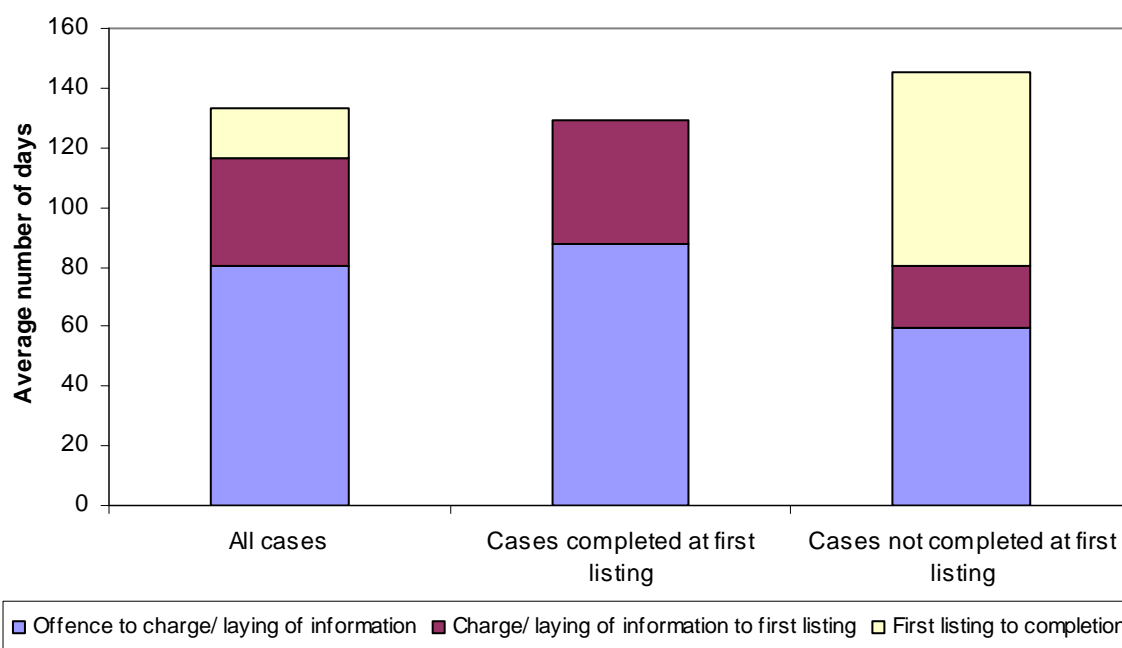
- There was an estimated average of 0.56 adjournments per defendant for summary non-motoring cases in September 2009, a decrease from 0.57 adjournments per defendant in September 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant. (see Table 3b)
- An estimated 74 per cent of defendants in September 2009 had their cases completed at first listing, a decrease from 75 per cent in September 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant. (see Table 3c)

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

(see Figure 9 and Table 3c)

- An estimated 26 per cent of defendants in September 2009 did not have their cases completed at first listing.
- For this subgroup of defendants the estimated average time from offence to completion in September 2009 was 145 days, a decrease from 152 days in September 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion was 65 days in September 2009, an increase from 64 days in September 2008; this increase is not statistically significant.
- There was an estimated average of 2.16 adjournments per defendant in September 2009, a decrease from 2.25 adjournments per defendant in September 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.

**Figure 9:** Estimated average time from offence to completion, for all cases and cases completed and not completed at first listing (all defendants in completed summary non-motoring cases), September 2009



## All defendants in completed summary non-motoring cases: September 2009 – medians

### Main finding

In September 2009, the estimated median time from offence to completion for all defendants in completed summary non-motoring cases decreased from September 2008.

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

Offence to completion	12-day decrease*
Offence to charge/laying of information	13-day decrease*
Charge/laying of information to first listing	1-day decrease*
First listing to completion	unchanged
Median number of adjournments per defendant	unchanged

### Time Intervals – medians

(see Figure 10 and Table 3a)

- The estimated median time from offence to completion in September 2009 was 117 days, a decrease from 129 days in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from offence to charge or laying of information was 57 days in September 2009, a decrease from 70 days in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from charge or laying of information to first listing was 34 days in September 2009, a decrease from 35 days in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from first listing to completion was 0 days in September 2009, unchanged from September 2008. (This means that at least half the defendants had a time of 0 days from first listing to completion, indicating that their cases were completed in one hearing).

### Adjournments – medians

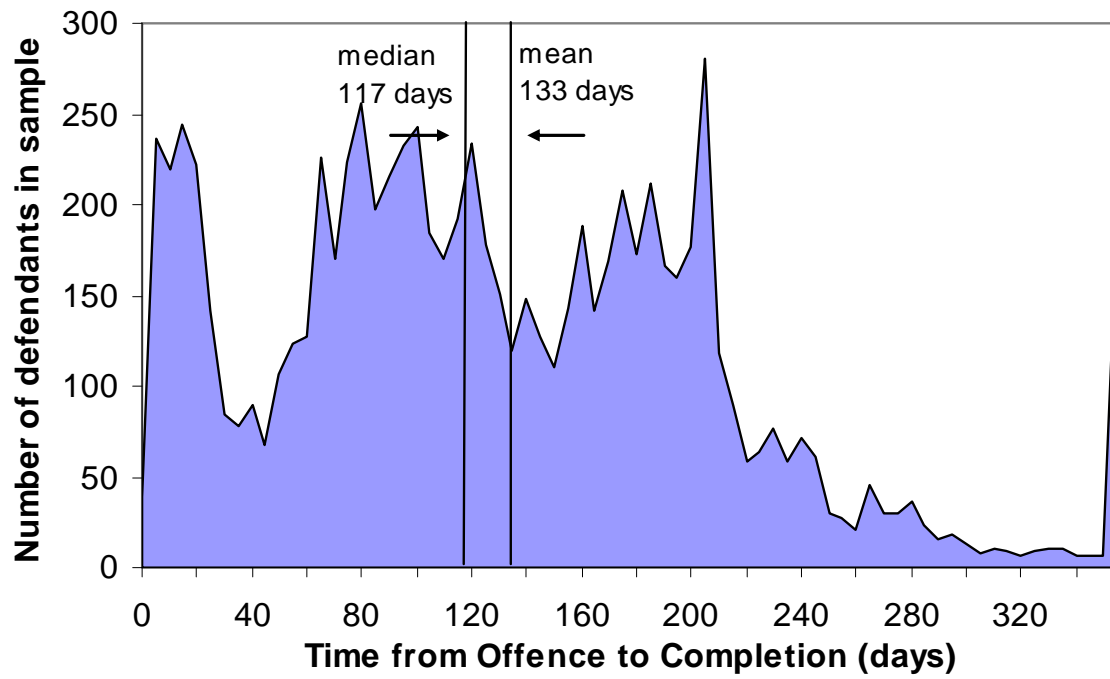
(see Table 3b)

- The estimated median number of adjournments per defendant in September 2009 is 0, unchanged from September 2008.

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

**Figure 10:** Time from offence to completion for all sampled defendants in completed summary non-motoring cases, September 2009, showing difference between mean and median times. Half of the defendants have times of 117 days or less.





## All defendants in completed summary motoring cases: September 2009

### Main points

The estimated average time from offence to completion in September 2009 for defendants in completed summary motoring cases decreased in comparison to September 2008.

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

Offence to completion	2-day decrease
Offence to charge/laying of information	unchanged
Charge/laying of information to first listing	3-day decrease*
First listing to completion	3-day increase*
Average number of adjournments per defendant	0.04 adjournment decrease*

### Time Intervals

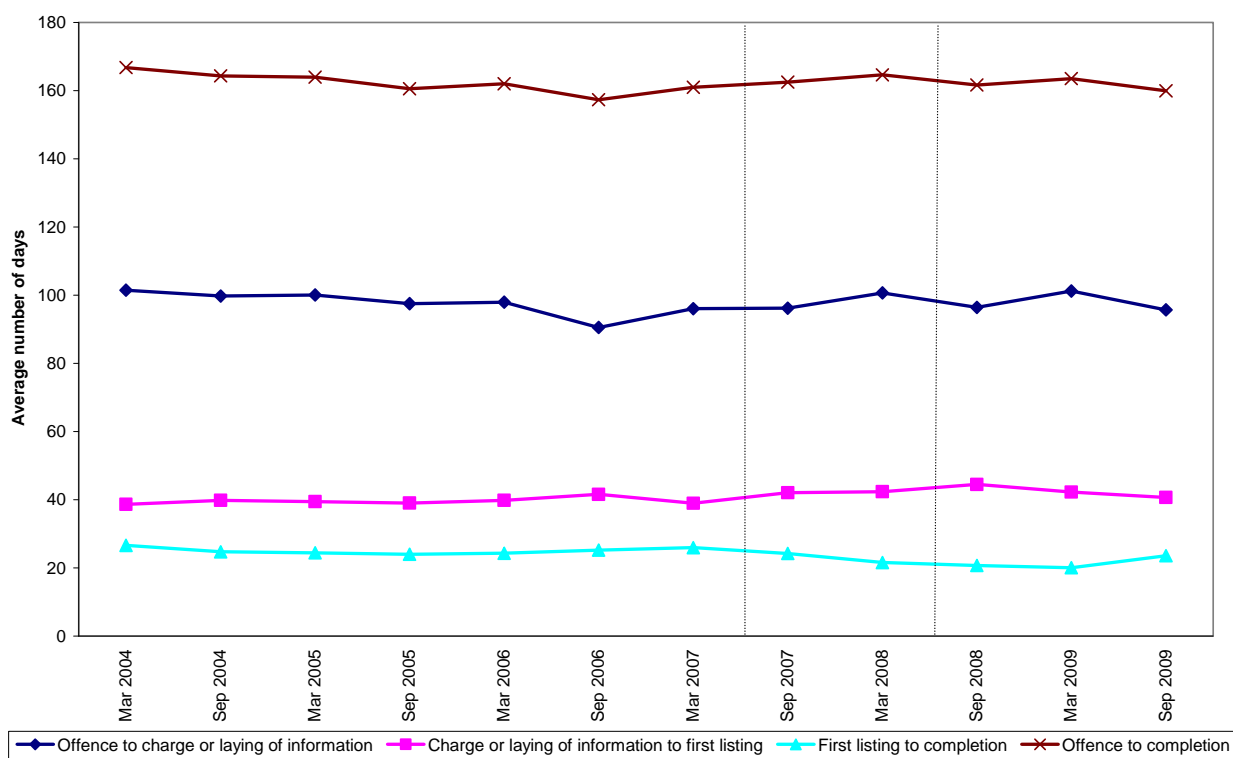
(see Figure 11 and Table 3a)

- The estimated average time from offence to completion for summary motoring cases in September 2009 was 160 days, a decrease from 162 days in September 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to charge or laying of information was 96 days in September 2009, unchanged from September 2008.
- The estimated average time from charge or laying of information to first listing was 41 days in September 2009, a decrease from 44 days in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion was 24 days in September 2009, an increase from 21 days in September 2008; this increase is statistically significant.

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

**Figure 11:** Estimated average time by proceedings (all defendants in completed summary motoring cases), March 2004 to September 2009



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

## Adjournments

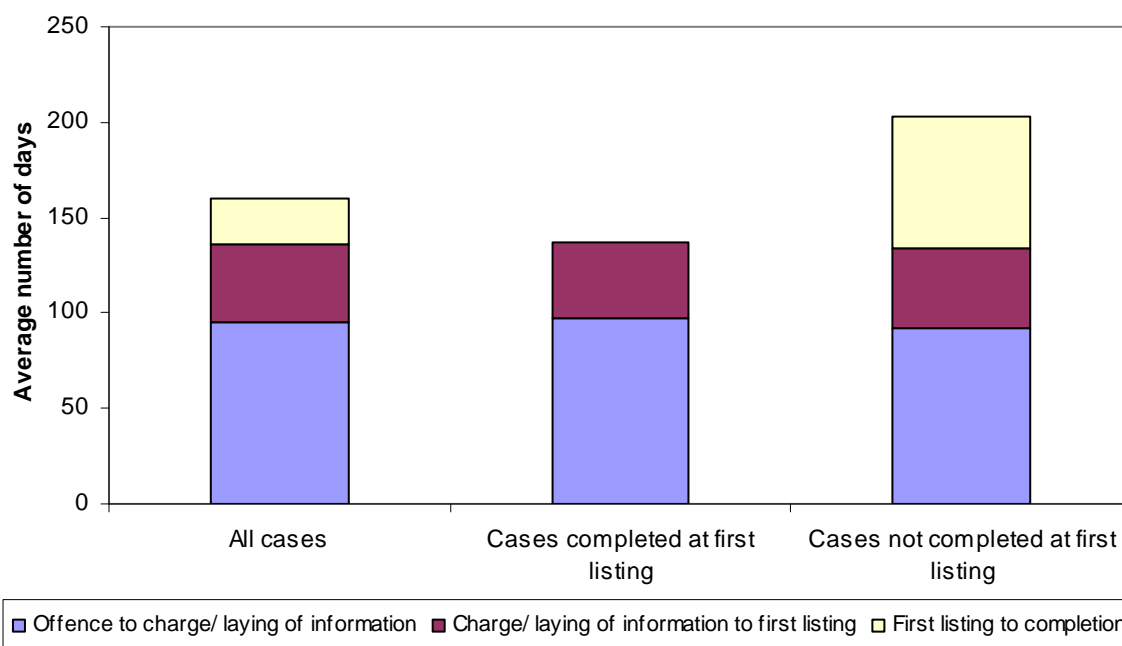
- There was an estimated average of 0.64 adjournments per defendant for summary motoring cases in September 2009, a decrease from 0.68 adjournments per defendant in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant. (see Table 3b)
- An estimated 66 per cent of defendants in September 2009 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 64 per cent in September 2008; this increase is statistically significant. (see Table 3c)

## Cases not completed at first listing: subgroup analysis

(see Figure 12 and Table 3c)

- An estimated 34 per cent of defendants in September 2009 did not have their cases completed at first listing.
- For this subgroup of defendants the estimated average time from offence to completion in September 2009 was 203 days, an increase from 192 days in September 2008; this increase is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion was 69 days in September 2009, an increase from 57 days in September 2008; this increase is statistically significant.
- There was an estimated average of 1.85 adjournments per defendant in September 2009, a decrease from 1.88 adjournments per defendant in September 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.

**Figure 12:** Estimated average time from offence to completion, for all cases and cases completed and not completed at first listing (all defendants in completed summary motoring cases), September 2009



## All defendants in completed summary motoring cases: September 2009 – medians

### Main finding

In September 2009, the estimated median time from offence to completion for all defendants in completed summary motoring cases decreased from September 2008.

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

Offence to completion	8-day decrease*
Offence to charge/laying of information	4-day decrease*
Charge/laying of information to first listing	1-day decrease*
First listing to completion	unchanged
Median number of adjournments per defendant	unchanged

### Time Intervals – medians

(see Figure 13 and Table 3a)

- The estimated median time from offence to completion in September 2009 was 157 days, a decrease from 165 days in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from offence to charge or laying of information was 100 days in September 2009, a decrease from 104 days in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from charge or laying of information to first listing was 35 days in September 2009, a decrease from 36 days in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from first listing to completion was 0 days in September 2009, unchanged from September 2008. (This means that at least half the defendants had a time of 0 days from first listing to completion, indicating that their cases were completed in one hearing).

### Adjournments – medians

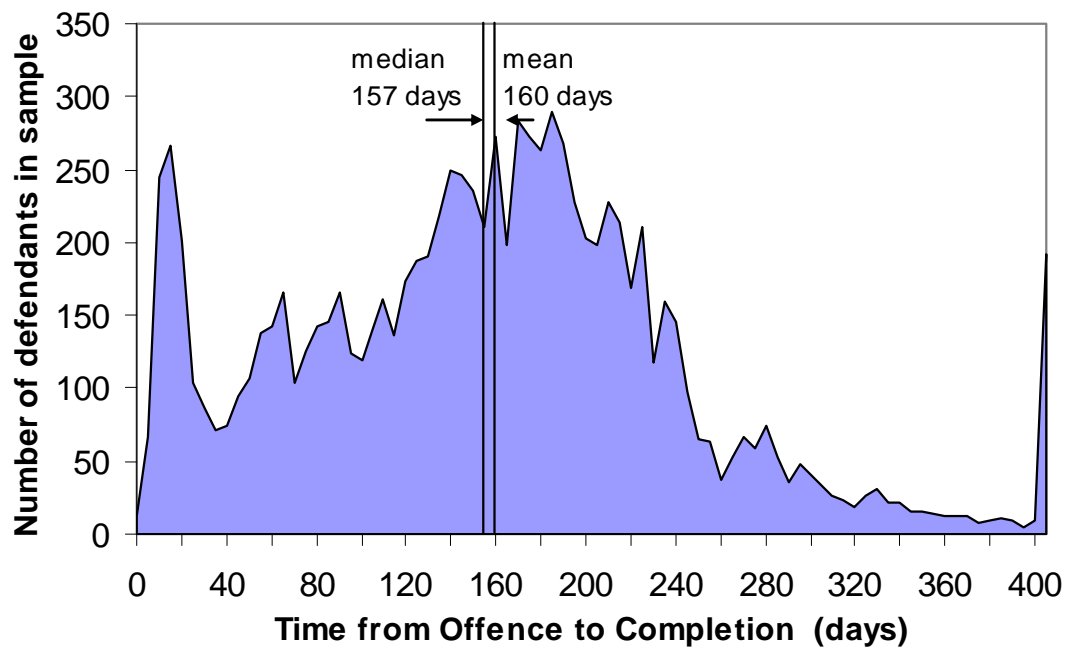
(see Table 3b)

- The estimated median number of adjournments per defendant in September 2009 was 0, unchanged from September 2008.

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

**Figure 13:** Time from offence to completion for all sampled defendants in completed summary motoring cases, September 2009, showing difference between mean and median times. Half of the defendants have times of 157 days or less.



# Youth defendants in all completed criminal cases: September 2009

## Main finding

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

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

All offence types	4-day increase*
Indictable/ triable-either-way cases	5-day increase*
Summary non-motoring cases	4-day increase
Summary motoring cases	2-day increase
Average number of adjournments per defendant	0.08 adjournment decrease*

## Time Intervals

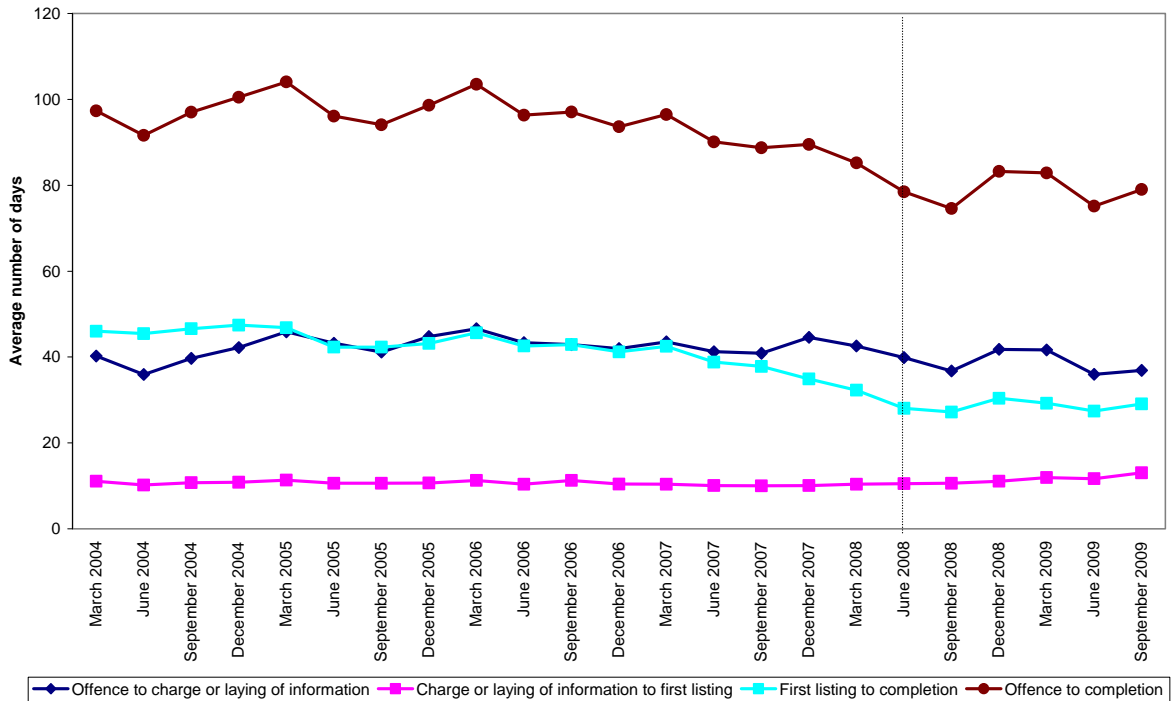
(see Figures 14 & 15 and Table 4a)

- The estimated average time from offence to completion for all youth defendants in completed criminal cases in September 2009 was 79 days, an increase from 75 days in September 2008; this increase is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to completion for youth defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases was 81 days in September 2009, an increase from 76 days in September 2008; increase is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to completion for completed summary non-motoring cases was 69 days in September 2009, an increase from 65 days in September 2008; this increase is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to completion for completed summary motoring cases was 89 days in September 2009, an increase from 87 days in September 2008; increase is not statistically significant.

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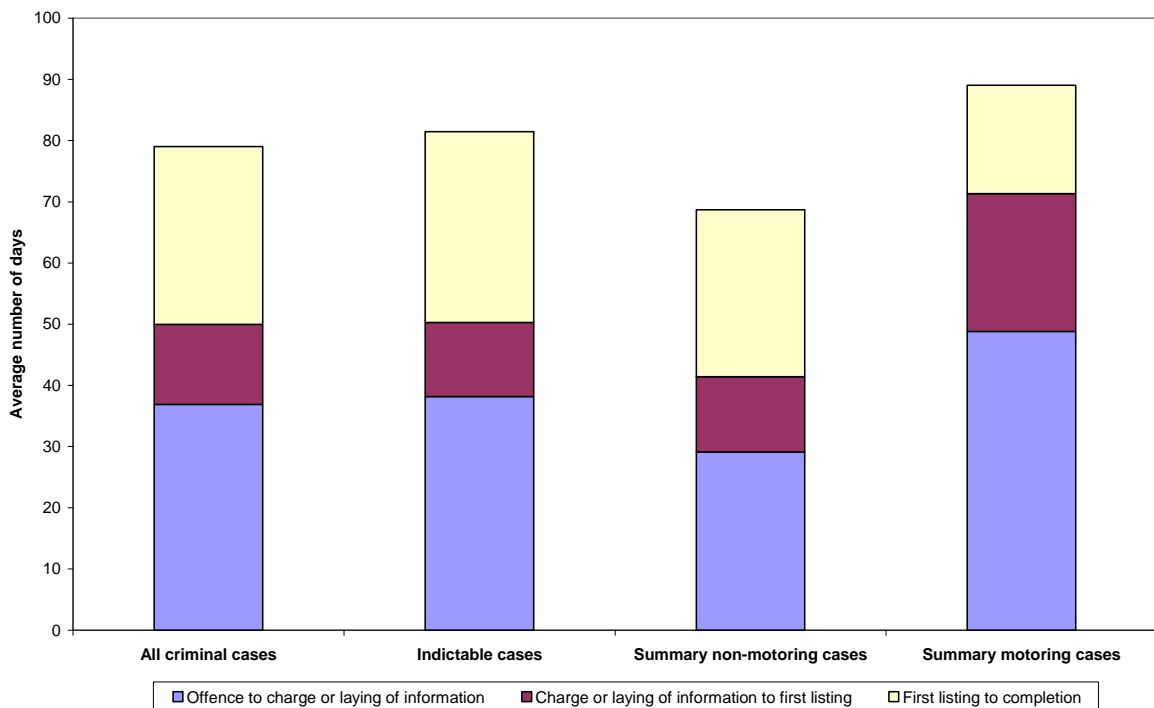
<sup>1</sup> See 'Notes' section for more information

**Figure 14:** Estimated average time by stage of proceedings (youth defendants in all completed criminal cases), March 2004 to September 2009



The dashed vertical lines in the chart (above) denote changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 survey, see the notes section for more information.

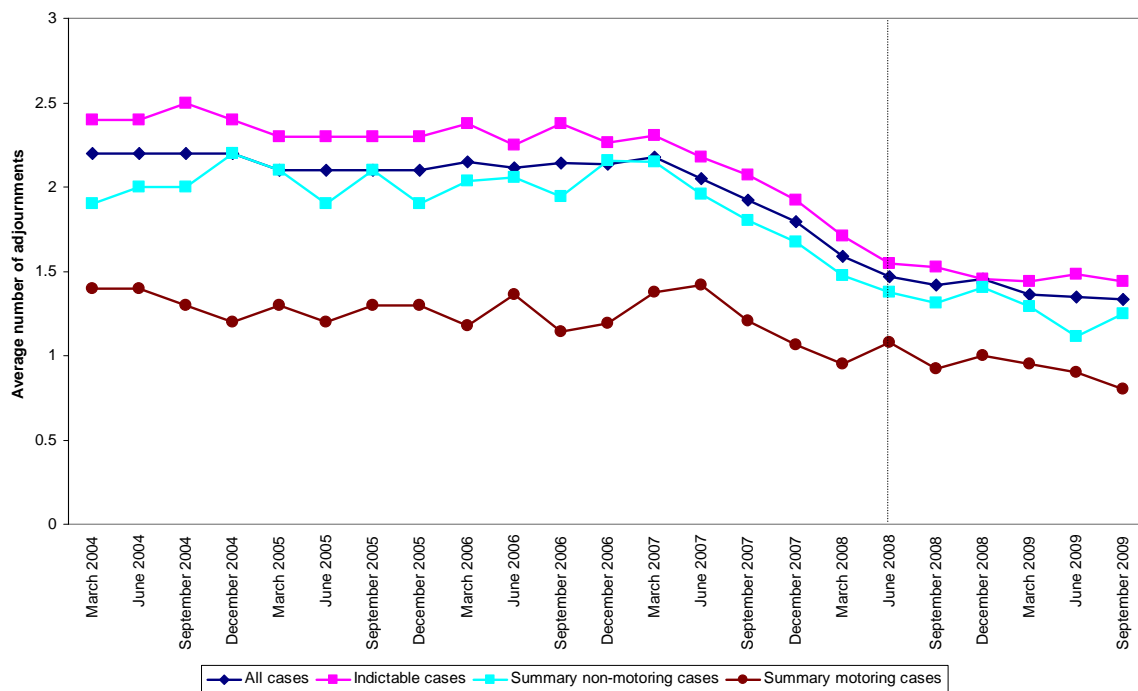
**Figure 15:** Estimated average time by stage of proceedings for youth defendants in all completed criminal cases, September 2009



## Adjournments

- There was an estimated average of 1.34 adjournments per defendant for youth defendants in all completed criminal cases in September 2009, a decrease from 1.42 adjournments per defendant in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant. (see Figure 16 and Table 4b)
- An estimated 43 per cent of youth defendants in September 2009 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 39 per cent in September 2008; this increase is statistically significant. (see Table 4c)

**Figure 16:** Estimated average number of adjournments by type of offence (youth defendants in all criminal cases), March 2004 to September 2009



The dashed vertical lines in the chart (above) denote changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 survey, see the notes section for more information.

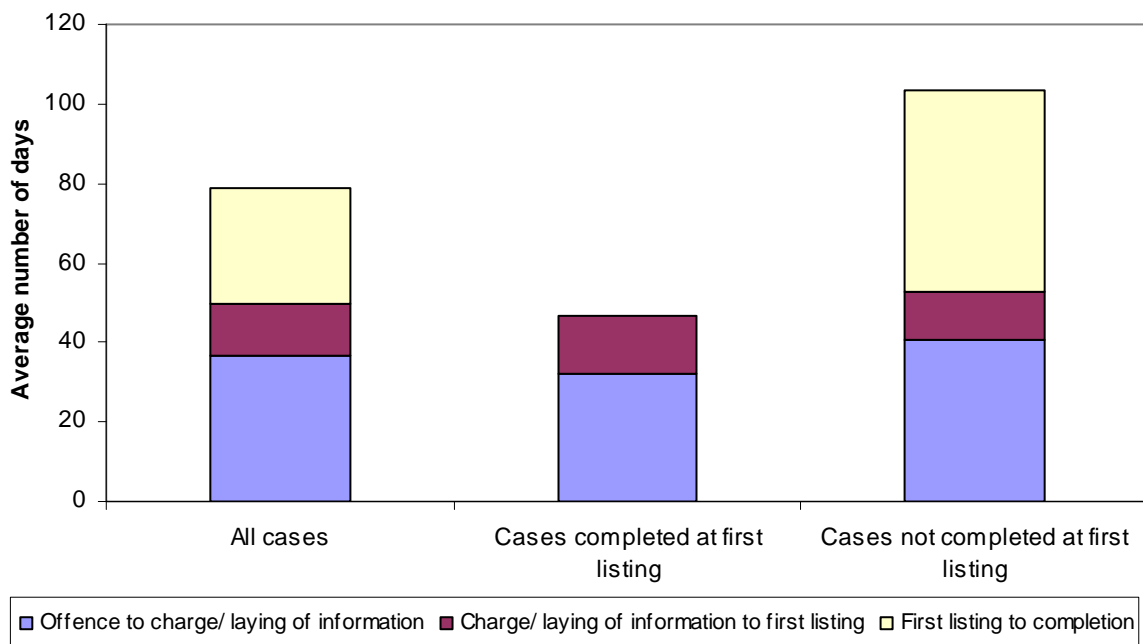


### Cases not completed at first listing: subgroup analysis

(see Figure 17 and Table 4c)

- An estimated 57 per cent of youth defendants in September 2009 did not have their cases completed at first listing.
- For this subgroup of defendants the estimated average time from offence to completion in September 2009 was 103 days, an increase from 95 days in September 2008; this increase is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion was 51 days in September 2009, an increase from 45 days in September 2008; this increase is statistically significant.
- There was an estimated average of 2.34 adjournments per defendant in September 2009, unchanged from September 2008.

**Figure 17:** Estimated average time from offence to completion, for all cases and cases completed and not completed at first listing (youth defendants in completed summary motoring cases), September 2009



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

### Main finding

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

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

All offence types	4-day increase*
Indictable/ triable-either-way cases	4-day increase*
Summary non-motoring cases	4-day increase
Summary motoring cases	3-day decrease

### Time Intervals – medians 4a)

(see Figure 18 and Table

- The estimated median time from offence to completion for all youth defendants in completed criminal cases in September 2009 was 55 days, an increase from 51 days in September 2008; this increase is statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from offence to completion for youth defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases was 56 days in September 2009, an increase from 52 days in September 2008; this increase is statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from offence to completion for completed summary non-motoring cases was 45 days in September 2009, an increase from 41 days in September 2008; this increase is not statistically significant.
- The estimated median time from offence to completion for completed summary motoring cases was 72 days in September 2009, a decrease from 75 days in September 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.

### Adjournments – medians

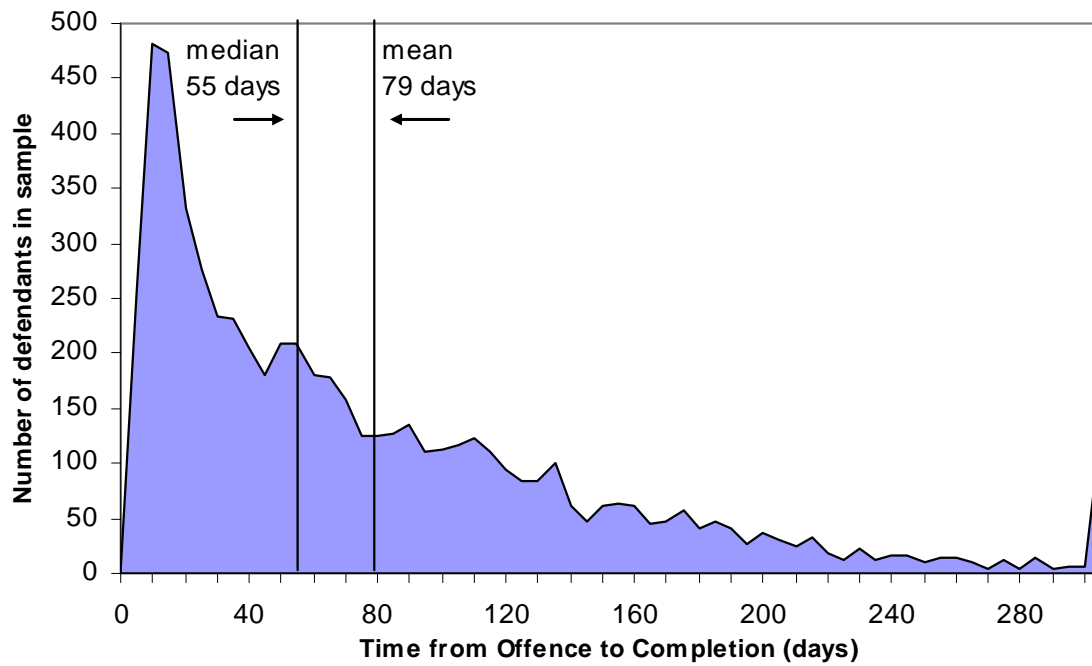
(see Table 4b)

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

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

**Figure 18:** Time from offence to completion for all sampled youth defendants in all completed criminal cases, September 2009, showing difference between mean and median times. Half of the defendants have times of 55 days or less.



# Adult defendants in completed charged cases: September 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

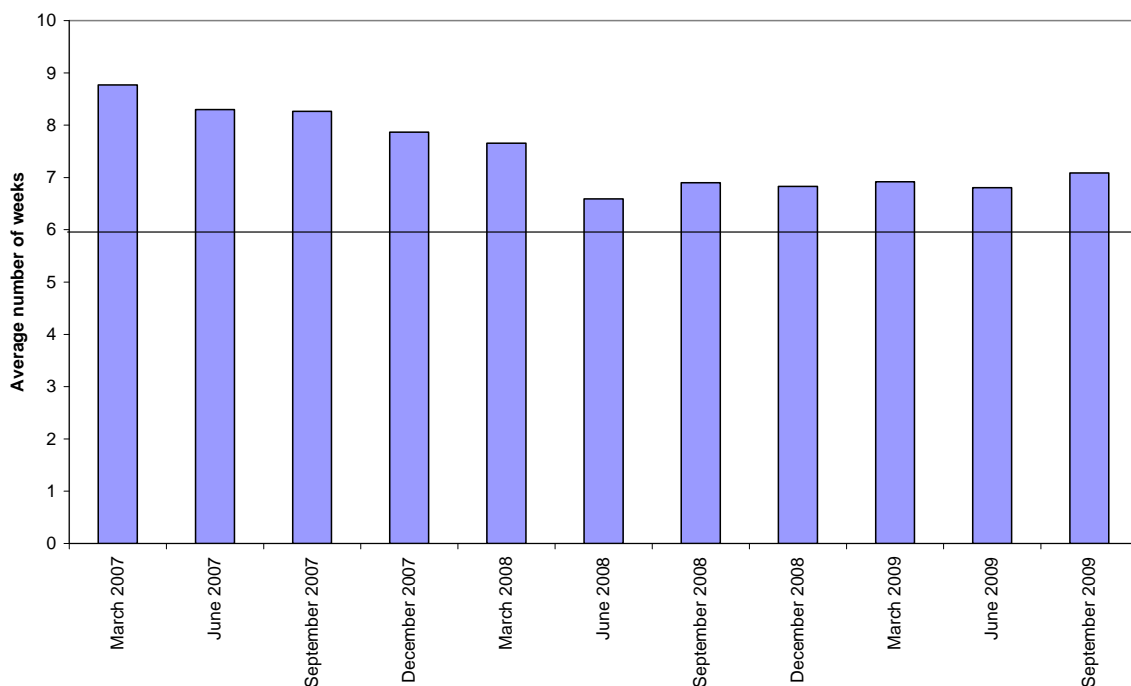
In September 2009 the estimated average time from charge to completion was 7.1 weeks. There was an estimated average of 2.26 hearings per defendant for completed adult charged cases.

### Average time from charge to completion

(see Figure 19 and Table 5)

- The estimated average time from charge to completion for completed adult charged cases in September 2009 was 7.1 weeks (50 days), an increase from 6.9 weeks (48 days) in September 2008; this increase is not statistically significant.

**Figure 19:** Estimated average time from charge to completion for completed adult charged cases, March 2007 to September 2009

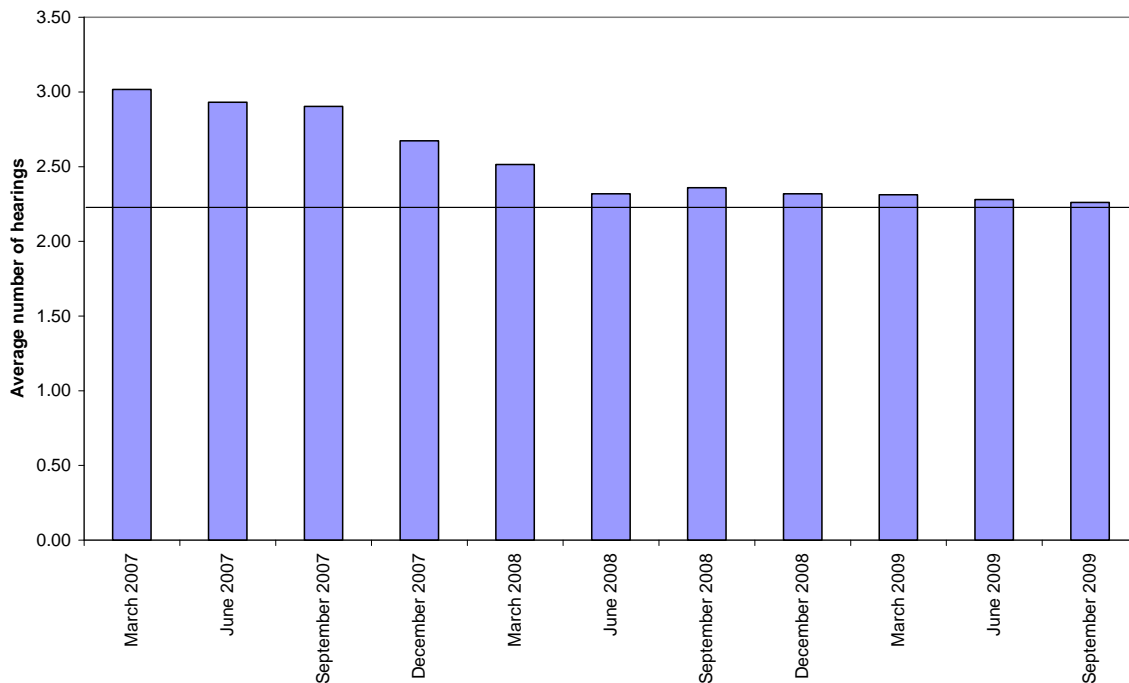


## Average number of hearings per defendant

(see Figure 20 and Table 5)

- The estimated average number of hearings for adult charged cases in September 2009 was 2.26 hearings per defendant, a decrease from an estimated average of 2.36 hearings per defendant in September 2008; this decrease is statistically significant.

**Figure 20:** Estimated average number of hearings per case for completed adult charged cases, March 2007 to September 2009



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

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

### **Main findings**

(see Table 5a)

In September 2009 the estimated average time from charge to completion by area varied from 3.8 weeks to 12.7 weeks. The estimated average number of hearings varied from 1.6 to 2.9 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 September 2009 varied by area from 3.8 weeks (27 days) to 12.7 weeks (89 days).
- Of the 42 LCJB (Local Criminal Justice Board) areas, 11 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 September 2009 varied by area from 1.6 hearings to 2.9 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: September 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.

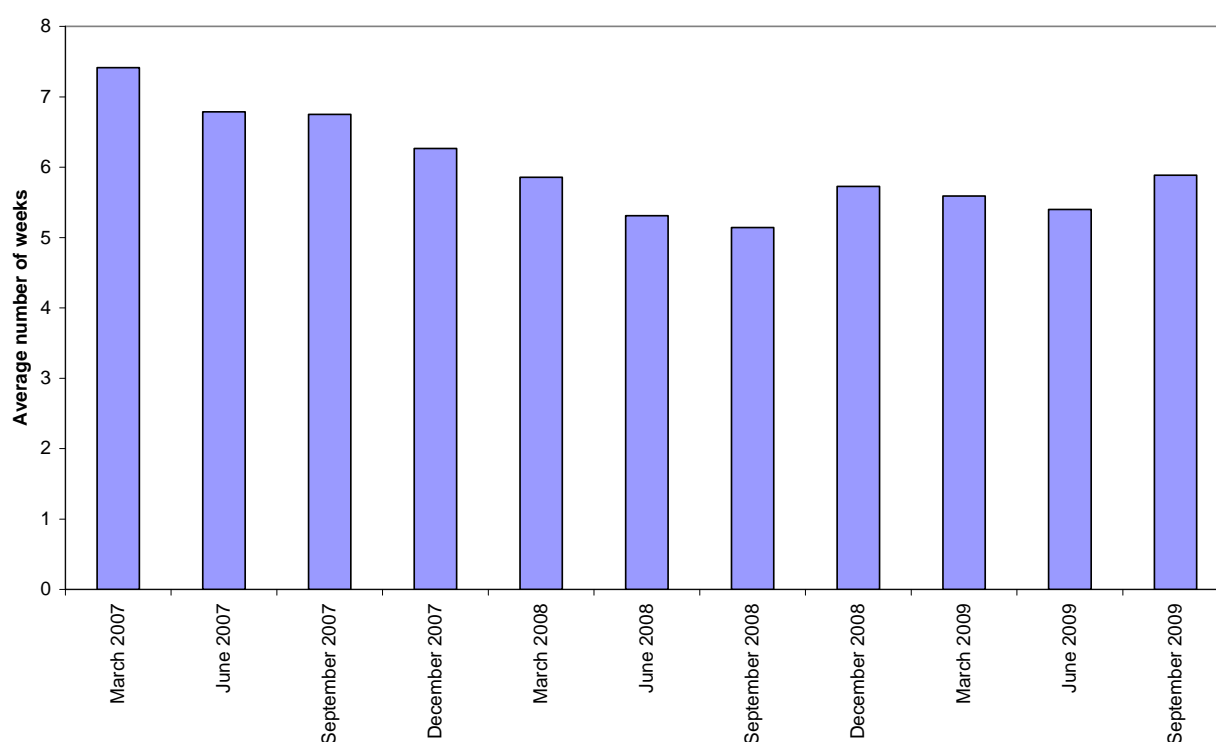
### Main findings

In September 2009 the estimated average time from charge to completion was 5.9 weeks. There was an estimated average of 2.38 hearings per defendant for completed youth charged cases.

### Average time from charge to completion (see Figure 21 and Table 6)

- The estimated average time from charge to completion for completed youth charged cases in September 2009 was 5.9 weeks (41 days), an increase from 5.1 weeks (36 days) in September 2008; this increase is statistically significant.

**Figure 21:** Estimated average time from charge to completion for youth defendants in completed charged cases, March 2007 to September 2009

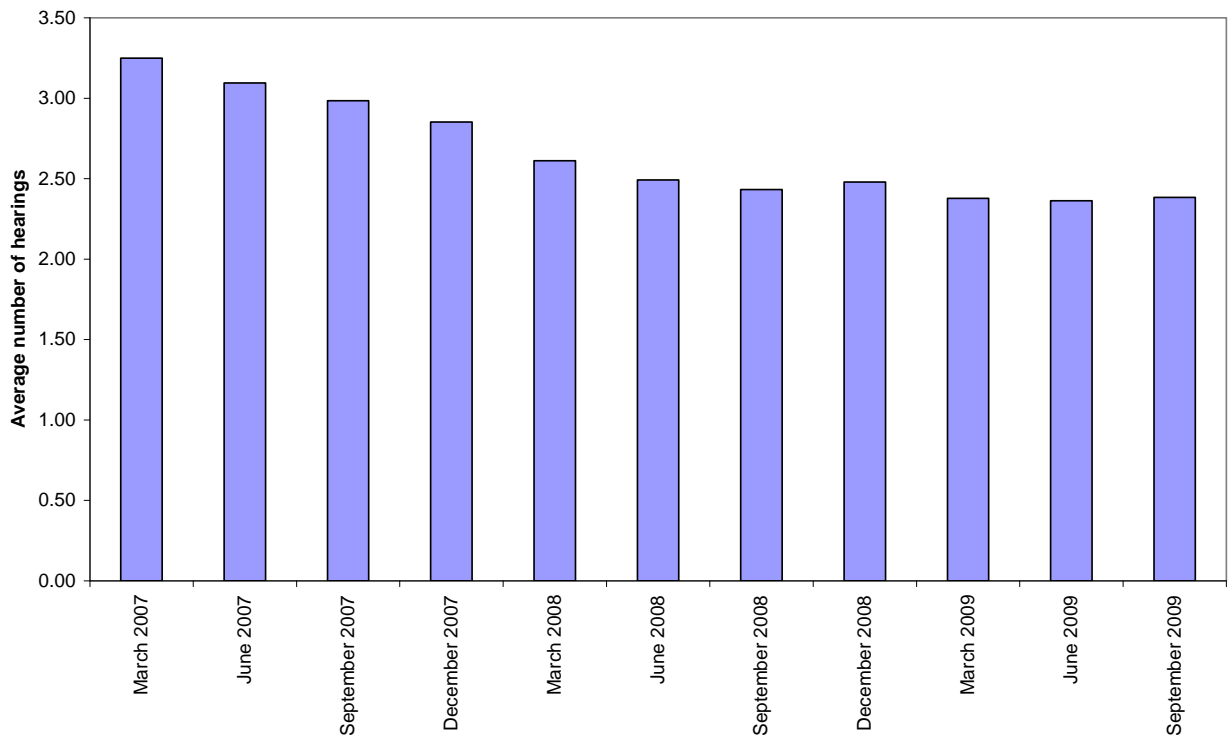


**Average number of hearings per defendant**

(see Figure 22 and Table 6)

- The estimated average number of hearings for youth charged cases in September 2009 was 2.38 hearings per defendant, a decrease from an estimated average of 2.43 hearings per defendant in September 2008; this decrease is not statistically significant.

**Figure 22:** Estimated average number of hearings per case for youth defendants in completed charged cases, March 2007 to September 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 6a)

In September 2009 the estimated average time from charge to completion by area varied from 2.3 weeks to 9.2 weeks. The estimated average number of hearings varied from 1.4 to 4.1 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 September 2009 varied by area from 2.3 weeks (16 days) to 9.2 weeks (64 days).
- Of the 42 LCJB (Local Criminal Justice Board) areas, 23 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 September 2009 varied by area from 1.4 hearings to 4.1 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 ALL completed criminal cases, 2004 to September 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 March	83	1	76	(75-77)	29	0	28	(28-28)	33	1	0	(0-0)	145	1	141	(140-142)	33,879
2004 September	85	1	74	(72-75)	31	0	29	(29-29)	33	1	0	(0-0)	149	1	137	(136-139)	31,699
2005 March	90	1	81	(80-83)	31	0	28	(28-28)	33	1	0	(0-0)	154	2	144	(143-146)	31,192
2005 September	84	1	76	(74-77)	31	0	30	(30-29)	30	1	0	(0-0)	145	1	139	(137-140)	31,961
2006 March	87	1	79	(77-80)	31	0	28	(28-28)	32	1	0	(0-0)	150	2	141	(139-142)	30,486
2006 September	82	1	71	(69-72)	33	0	30	(30-30)	31	1	0	(0-0)	147	2	133	(132-134)	29,714
2007 March	86	1	74	(73-75)	30	0	27	(27-27)	32	1	0	(0-0)	148	2	135	(134-136)	28,621
2007 September	83	1	73	(71-74)	34	0	29	(29-29)	29	1	0	(0-0)	147	2	137	(136-139)	30,732
2008 March	86	1	75	(74-76)	31	0	25	(25-25)	27	1	0	(0-0)	145	2	130	(129-132)	27,450
2008 September	82	1	68	(66-70)	34	0	27	(27-27)	24	1	0	(0-0)	140	2	129	(128-131)	27,187
2009 March	88	1	76	(75-77)	31	0	26	(26-26)	23	1	0	(0-0)	143	2	135	(133-137)	29,430
2009 September	82	2	58	(56-59)	31	0	26	(26-27)	25	1	0	(0-0)	138	2	118	(117-120)	25,945

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.

**TABLE 1b:** All defendants in ALL completed criminal cases, 2004 to September 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> (days)	
2004 March	1.17	0.02	0	(0-0)	33,879
2004 September	1.12	0.02	0	(0-0)	31,699
2005 March	1.12	0.02	0	(0-0)	31,192
2005 September	1.07	0.02	0	(0-0)	31,961
2006 March	1.10	0.02	0	(0-0)	30,486
2006 September	1.08	0.02	0	(0-0)	29,714
2007 March	1.18	0.02	0	(0-0)	28,621
2007 September	1.05	0.02	0	(0-0)	30,732
2008 March	0.93	0.02	0	(0-0)	27,450
2008 September	0.86	0.02	0	(0-0)	27,187
2009 March	0.82	0.02	0	(0-0)	29,430
2009 September	0.83	0.02	0	(0-0)	25,945

**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.

**TABLE 1c: All defendants in ALL completed criminal cases, 2004 to September 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 <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- per cent)	(Days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	(Number of defendants)	(Per cent)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- per cent)	(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 March	56%	1%	130	1	18,830	44%	1%	75	1	165	2	2.64	0.03	15,049
2004 September	57%	1%	132	2	18,104	43%	1%	76	2	171	3	2.61	0.04	13,595
2005 March	57%	1%	135	1	17,788	43%	1%	76	2	178	3	2.62	0.04	13,404
2005 September	58%	1%	128	1	18,632	42%	1%	72	1	169	3	2.56	0.04	13,329
2006 March	58%	1%	131	2	17,581	42%	1%	75	2	176	3	2.59	0.04	12,905
2006 September	58%	1%	128	2	17,344	42%	1%	75	2	172	3	2.58	0.04	12,370
2007 March	56%	1%	129	2	16,068	44%	1%	73	2	172	3	2.69	0.04	12,553
2007 September	60%	1%	131	1	18,291	40%	1%	72	2	169	3	2.61	0.04	12,441
2008 March	60%	1%	128	2	16,529	40%	1%	68	3	170	4	2.33	0.04	10,921
2008 September	60%	1%	125	2	16,329	40%	1%	60	2	163	3	2.16	0.03	10,858
2009 March	61%	1%	129	2	18,011	39%	1%	60	2	165	3	2.11	0.03	11,419
2009 September	61%	1%	120	2	15,825	39%	1%	65	3	166	4	2.12	0.03	10,120

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.

**TABLE 2a: All defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases, 2004 to September 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>(4)</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>(4)</sup>	62	2	9	(8-10)	12	0	9	(9-9)	37	1	14	(14-15)	112	2	61	(59-62)	29,608
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 <sup>(3)</sup>	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>(4)</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>(4), (5)</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>(4)</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

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 2b:** All defendants in completed indictable / triable-either-way cases, 2004 to September 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> (days)	
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>(4)</sup>	2.02	0.03	1	(1-1)	28,756
2008 <sup>(4)</sup>	1.48	0.02	1	(1-1)	29,608
2006 March	2.09	0.05	1	(1-1)	7,391
2006 June <sup>(3)</sup>	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>(4)</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>(4), (5)</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>(4)</sup>	1.36	0.04	1	(1-1)	7,790
2009 September	1.35	0.04	1	(1-1)	7,817

**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 2c: All defendants in completed indictable / triable-either-way cases, 2004 to September 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)		
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>(3)</sup>	32%	1%	65	3	9,207	68%	1%	69	1	142	3	2.97	0.03	19,549
2008 <sup>(3)</sup>	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 <sup>(2)</sup>	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>(3)</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>(3), (4)</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>(3)</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

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

(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

(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 3a:** All defendants in completed summary cases, by offence type, March 2004 to September 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)
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 non-motoring</b>																
2004 March	81	2	76 (76-77)	32	1	34 (32-34)	25	1	0 (0-0)	138	2	139 (136-141)	9,254			
2004 September	82	2	70 (69-72)	34	1	32 (31-32)	26	1	0 (0-0)	143	2	136 (134-139)	8,219			
2005 March	96	2	87 (85-90)	34	1	32 (32-33)	26	1	0 (0-0)	156	3	150 (147-153)	9,149			
2005 September	83	2	74 (70-77)	34	1	35 (35-35)	23	1	0 (0-0)	140	2	139 (136-142)	9,676			
2006 March	87	2	75 (71-79)	35	1	35 (34-35)	25	1	0 (0-0)	147	3	139 (136-141)	9,342			
2006 September	83	2	78 (75-80)	39	1	36 (35-36)	23	1	0 (0-0)	144	2	134 (134-134)	9,634			
2007 March	87	2	76 (75-78)	32	1	31 (30-32)	25	1	0 (0-0)	145	3	134 (131-136)	8,737			
2007 September	79	2	72 (70-75)	42	1	37 (35-38)	22	1	0 (0-0)	142	2	136 (134-138)	9,494			
2008 March	84	2	74 (72-79)	33	1	28 (28-29)	23	3	0 (0-0)	139	4	124 (121-125)	8,303			
2008 September	82	2	70 (67-73)	39	1	35 (34-36)	16	1	0 (0-0)	137	3	129 (127-131)	8,535			
2009 March	92	2	83 (81-86)	34	1	29 (29-30)	16	1	0 (0-0)	142	2	139 (137-142)	9,471			
2009 September	80	2	57 (56-60)	36	1	34 (33-34)	17	1	0 (0-0)	133	3	117 (115-119)	8,335			
<b>Summary motoring</b>																
2004 March	101	1	104 (103-105)	39	1	35 (35-35)	27	1	0 (0-0)	167	2	166 (165-167)	16,103			
2004 September	100	1	99 (97-100)	40	1	35 (35-36)	25	1	0 (0-0)	164	2	160 (159-162)	16,042			
2005 March	100	1	103 (102-105)	39	1	35 (35-35)	24	1	0 (0-0)	164	2	160 (158-161)	14,563			
2005 September	98	1	101 (99-102)	39	1	36 (35-36)	24	1	0 (0-0)	161	2	158 (156-159)	14,967			
2006 March	98	1	103 (101-104)	40	1	35 (35-36)	24	1	0 (0-0)	162	2	161 (159-162)	13,753			
2006 September	91	1	93 (91-94)	42	1	36 (36-36)	25	1	0 (0-0)	157	2	154 (152-156)	12,954			
2007 March	96	1	98 (97-100)	39	1	35 (35-35)	26	1	0 (0-0)	161	2	156 (154-158)	12,758			
2007 September	96	1	100 (98-102)	42	1	37 (36-37)	24	1	0 (0-0)	162	2	161 (160-163)	13,638			
2008 March	101	1	107 (105-108)	42	1	35 (35-35)	22	1	0 (0-0)	164	2	165 (162-167)	11,660			
2008 September	96	1	104 (102-105)	44	1	36 (36-36)	21	1	0 (0-0)	162	2	165 (163-167)	11,122			
2009 March	101	1	107 (105-109)	42	1	35 (35-35)	20	1	0 (0-0)	164	2	163 (161-165)	11,705			
2009 September	96	2	100 (98-102)	41	1	35 (34-35)	24	3	0 (0-0)	160	3	157 (154-158)	9,793			

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.

**TABLE 3b:** All defendants in completed summary cases, March 2004 to September 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> (days)	
<b>Summary non-motoring</b>					
2004 March	0.83	0.04	0	(0-0)	9,254
2004 September	0.85	0.04	0	(0-0)	8,219
2005 March	0.81	0.04	0	(0-0)	9,149
2005 September	0.78	0.04	0	(0-0)	9,676
2006 March	0.80	0.04	0	(0-0)	9,342
2006 September	0.74	0.03	0	(0-0)	9,634
2007 March	0.89	0.04	0	(0-0)	8,737
2007 September	0.78	0.04	0	(0-0)	9,494
2008 March	0.68	0.03	0	(0-0)	8,303
2008 September	0.57	0.03	0	(0-0)	8,535
2009 March	0.55	0.03	0	(0-0)	9,471
2009 September	0.56	0.03	0	(0-0)	8,335
<b>Summary motoring</b>					
2004 March	0.86	0.02	0	(0-0)	16,103
2004 September	0.78	0.02	0	(0-0)	16,042
2005 March	0.81	0.02	0	(0-0)	14,563
2005 September	0.77	0.02	0	(0-0)	14,967
2006 March	0.76	0.02	0	(0-0)	13,753
2006 September	0.77	0.03	0	(0-0)	12,954
2007 March	0.81	0.03	0	(0-0)	12,758
2007 September	0.71	0.02	0	(0-0)	13,638
2008 March	0.67	0.02	0	(0-0)	11,660
2008 September	0.68	0.02	0	(0-0)	11,122
2009 March	0.64	0.02	0	(0-0)	11,705
2009 September	0.64	0.02	0	(0-0)	9,793

**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.

**TABLE 3c:** All defendants in completed summary cases, March 2004 to September 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 <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- per cent)	(Days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)	(Number of defendants)	(Per cent)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- per cent)	(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)	
<b>Summary non-motoring</b>														
2004 March	70%	1%	131	2	6,447	30%	1%	82	3	154	5	2.74	0.09	2,807
2004 September	68%	1%	135	3	5,624	32%	1%	84	4	159	5	2.71	0.08	2,595
2005 March	70%	1%	145	2	6,377	30%	1%	84	4	180	6	2.68	0.09	2,772
2005 September	71%	1%	132	2	6,889	29%	1%	80	3	159	5	2.70	0.10	2,787
2006 March	70%	1%	136	2	6,575	30%	1%	84	3	172	6	2.71	0.09	2,767
2006 September	72%	1%	136	2	6,973	28%	1%	82	4	166	6	2.70	0.09	2,661
2007 March	69%	1%	133	2	5,999	31%	1%	81	4	172	7	2.84	0.09	2,738
2007 September	72%	1%	136	2	6,797	28%	1%	77	3	159	6	2.74	0.09	2,697
2008 March	72%	1%	128	2	5,954	28%	1%	81	9	169	12	2.42	0.08	2,349
2008 September	75%	1%	132	3	6,376	25%	1%	64	4	152	8	2.25	0.08	2,159
2009 March	73%	1%	137	2	6,961	27%	1%	61	2	154	6	2.09	0.07	2,510
2009 September	74%	1%	129	3	6,170	26%	1%	65	3	145	7	2.16	0.08	2,165
<b>Summary motoring</b>														
2004 March	61%	1%	147	2	9,866	39%	1%	69	2	198	3	2.21	0.05	6,237
2004 September	64%	1%	146	2	10,189	36%	1%	68	2	195	3	2.14	0.04	5,853
2005 March	62%	1%	145	2	9,066	38%	1%	65	3	195	3	2.14	0.05	5,497
2005 September	63%	1%	141	2	9,482	37%	1%	66	2	195	3	2.10	0.05	5,485
2006 March	63%	1%	143	2	8,729	37%	1%	67	4	195	4	2.07	0.05	5,024
2006 September	63%	1%	137	2	8,184	37%	1%	69	3	191	4	2.08	0.05	4,770
2007 March	63%	1%	140	2	8,036	37%	1%	70	3	197	4	2.18	0.05	4,722
2007 September	66%	1%	144	2	9,044	34%	1%	72	4	199	5	2.11	0.05	4,594
2008 March	66%	1%	147	2	7,719	34%	1%	64	3	199	4	1.98	0.05	3,941
2008 September	64%	1%	144	2	7,091	36%	1%	57	2	192	3	1.88	0.05	4,031
2009 March	66%	1%	145	2	7,706	34%	1%	59	3	200	4	1.89	0.05	3,999
2009 September	66%	1%	137	2	6,422	34%	1%	69	7	203	8	1.85	0.05	3,371

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.

**TABLE 4a(1): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, March 2006 to September 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>																	
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 <sup>(3)</sup>	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>(4)</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)	4,520
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
2009 September	38	2	13	(11-16)	12	1	9	(9-9)	31	2	14	(12-14)	81	3	56	(54-59)	4,095
<b>Summary non-motoring cases</b>																	
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 <sup>(4)</sup>	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	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
2009 September	29	3	3	(2-5)	12	1	10	(10-10)	27	2	7	(5-8)	69	4	45	(40-49)	1,487

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 and June 2008 surveys

**TABLE 4a(2): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, March 2006 to September 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)	
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>																	
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 <sup>(3)</sup>	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(3)	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
<b>All criminal cases</b>																	
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 <sup>(3)</sup>	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)	6,629
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
2009 September	37	2	12	(10-14)	13	0	10	(9-10)	29	1	8	(7-13)	79	2	55	(53-57)	6,113

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 and June 2008 surveys

**TABLE 4b(1): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, March 2006 to September 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> (days)	
<b>Indictable cases</b>					
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 <sup>(3)</sup>	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	1.46	0.05	1	(1-1)	4,672
2009 March	1.44	0.05	1	(1-1)	4,520
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
<b>Summary non-motoring cases</b>					
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 <sup>(3)</sup>	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	1.29	0.09	1	(1-1)	1,574
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

**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 and June 2008 surveys

**TABLE 4b(2): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, March 2006 to September 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> (days)		
<b>Summary motoring cases</b>					
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 <sup>(3)</sup>	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
<b>All criminal cases</b>					
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 <sup>(3)</sup>	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	1.36	0.04	1	(1-1)	6,629
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

**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 and June 2008 surveys

**TABLE 4c(1): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, March 2006 to September 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)	(Days)	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- days)		(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>															
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 <sup>(2)</sup>	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	1,736	62%	1%	50	2	106	3	2.34	0.07	2,784	
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	
<b>Summary non-motoring cases</b>															
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 <sup>(2)</sup>	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	2.26	0.13	900	
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	

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 paragraph 4 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007 and June 2008 surveys



**TABLE 4c(2): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, March 2006 to September 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(1) (+/- per cent)	Offence to completion		(Number of defendants)		(Per cent)	Margin of error(1) (+/- per cent)	First listing to completion		Offence to completion		Estimated average number of adjournments		(Number of defendants)
		(Days)	Margin of error(1) (+/- days)		(Days)			Margin of error(1) (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error(1) (+/- days)	(Number)	Margin of error(1) (+/- number)		
<b>Summary motoring cases</b>														
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 <sup>(2)</sup>	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>(2)</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
<b>All criminal cases</b>														
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 <sup>(2)</sup>	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	2,705	59%	1%	49	1	106	3	2.30	0.06	3,924
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

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 paragraph 4 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007 and June 2008 surveys

**TABLE 5:** Adult defendants in completed charged cases, excluding those committed or sent to the Crown Court for trial, March 2007 to September 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

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 and June 2008 surveys.

**TABLE 5a:** Adult defendants in completed charged cases, excluding those committed or sent to the Crown Court for trial, by LCJB, September 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	6.3	1.3	2.20	0.27	143
Bedfordshire	12.7	4.9	2.89	0.63	72
Cambridgeshire	7.3	2.2	2.30	0.36	108
Cheshire	6.0	0.8	1.82	0.18	143
Cleveland	5.3	1.5	2.42	0.40	110
Cumbria	6.9	1.6	2.14	0.36	116
Derbyshire	7.4	1.2	2.61	0.26	171
Devon and Cornwall	6.1	1.1	1.85	0.20	200
Dorset	6.7	2.2	2.02	0.42	88
Durham	6.1	1.4	2.30	0.37	86
Dyfed Powys	6.3	2.1	1.57	0.22	58
Essex	7.9	1.2	1.99	0.16	263
Gloucestershire	6.3	1.4	2.13	0.34	93
Greater Manchester	5.2	0.5	2.16	0.12	571
Gwent	3.8	1.4	1.63	0.25	56
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	7.4	1.4	2.13	0.18	270
Hertfordshire	7.7	1.6	2.11	0.28	111
Humberside	6.4	1.7	2.38	0.28	151
Kent	8.3	1.4	2.33	0.26	212
Lancashire	6.3	1.1	2.22	0.21	384
Leicestershire	6.2	1.3	2.43	0.34	109
Lincolnshire	7.7	2.3	2.06	0.28	99
London	7.2	0.8	2.28	0.11	1,171
Merseyside	6.1	0.7	2.14	0.18	382
Norfolk	6.0	1.7	2.31	0.39	109
North Wales	6.7	3.5	1.76	0.28	76
North Yorkshire	7.4	1.5	2.13	0.32	113
Northamptonshire	5.9	1.1	2.42	0.34	69
Northumbria	12.4	8.0	2.57	0.21	349
Nottinghamshire	7.2	1.2	2.77	0.34	192
South Wales	4.6	0.7	2.02	0.18	224
South Yorkshire	5.1	0.8	2.06	0.19	198
Staffordshire	8.0	1.8	2.89	0.45	140
Suffolk	7.9	5.4	2.51	0.49	83
Surrey	9.2	2.3	2.15	0.32	105
Sussex	7.6	2.1	2.09	0.22	216
Thames Valley	8.8	1.7	2.44	0.22	313
Warwickshire	5.1	1.8	2.17	0.44	63
West Mercia	5.4	1.2	1.87	0.21	175
West Midlands	4.8	0.5	2.15	0.13	547
West Yorkshire	10.7	1.5	2.90	0.25	428
Wiltshire	8.7	2.9	2.32	0.55	68
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>2.26</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>8,635</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 6:** Youth defendants in completed charged cases, excluding those committed or sent to the Crown Court for trial, March 2007 to September 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	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

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 addressed.

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

**TABLE 6a:** Youth defendants in completed charged cases, excluding those committed or sent to the Crown Court for trial, by LCJB area, September 2009

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 <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- weeks)	Estimated average number of hearings per defendant	Margin of error <sup>(1)</sup> (+/- number of hearings)	
Avon and Somerset	5.7	1.2	2.52	0.38	90
Bedfordshire	6.5	1.9	2.28	0.39	61
Cambridgeshire	5.7	1.6	2.08	0.39	52
Cheshire	4.9	1.0	1.94	0.25	70
Cleveland	5.4	1.7	2.54	0.50	87
Cumbria <sup>(2)</sup>	6.2	1.6	2.13	0.35	45
Derbyshire	6.8	1.4	2.75	0.40	103
Devon and Cornwall	6.1	1.2	2.27	0.33	130
Dorset	6.1	2.1	2.18	0.57	34
Durham	4.0	0.9	1.92	0.34	75
Dyfed Powys	5.2	1.6	1.64	0.35	42
Essex	4.8	0.9	1.84	0.19	165
Gloucestershire	4.4	1.1	1.94	0.42	53
Greater Manchester	4.8	0.6	2.18	0.17	314
Gwent	3.9	1.1	2.06	0.34	70
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	5.0	0.9	2.03	0.21	237
Hertfordshire	8.4	2.0	2.39	0.39	79
Humberside	5.5	1.5	2.65	0.47	80
Kent	6.5	1.4	2.40	0.34	121
Lancashire	5.4	0.9	2.44	0.23	259
Leicestershire	8.2	4.9	2.58	0.54	71
Lincolnshire	6.3	1.7	2.17	0.48	42
London	6.9	0.5	2.71	0.15	807
Merseyside	6.6	0.9	2.52	0.26	198
Norfolk	5.1	1.1	2.18	0.36	45
North Wales	7.2	3.2	2.28	0.71	39
North Yorkshire	4.2	1.0	1.86	0.34	63
Northamptonshire	9.2	2.5	4.15	0.89	41
Northumbria	4.7	0.7	2.51	0.24	253
Nottinghamshire	5.2	0.9	2.65	0.39	113
South Wales	4.5	0.8	2.40	0.34	109
South Yorkshire	6.7	1.5	2.72	0.37	131
Staffordshire	4.3	0.9	2.07	0.31	59
Suffolk	2.3	1.0	1.40	0.25	55
Surrey	7.2	1.6	2.42	0.42	60
Sussex	5.1	0.9	1.91	0.20	155
Thames Valley	7.0	1.4	2.27	0.28	131
Warwickshire	2.4	0.8	1.54	0.31	35
West Mercia	4.9	1.0	2.24	0.41	93
West Midlands	6.7	1.1	2.51	0.21	284
West Yorkshire	6.9	1.2	2.60	0.24	266
Wiltshire	8.4	3.1	2.82	1.00	38
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.38</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>5,255</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.

# Notes

## Methodology

8. 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.

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

10. 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.

11. 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 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.

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. 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**

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.



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

Survey week	Youth data: proportion of clerkships/ court- houses making returns (%) <sup>(3)</sup>	Adult data: proportion of clerkships (pre June 2007) or courthouses making returns (%) <sup>(2)</sup>	Number of defendants (sample size) <sup>(1)</sup>		
			Indictable cases	Summary non- motoring cases	Summary motoring cases
September 2004	100%	100%	7,438	8,219	16,042
September 2005	98.8%	98.8%	7,318	9,676	14,967
September 2006	99.4%	99.4%	7,126	9,634	12,954
September 2007	100%	98.8%	7,600	9,494	13,638
September 2008	97.5%	98.1%	7,530	8,535	11,122
September 2009	100%	100%	7,817	8,335	9,793

**Notes:**

(1) The sample sizes are from the one-week sample only. Table 4 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.

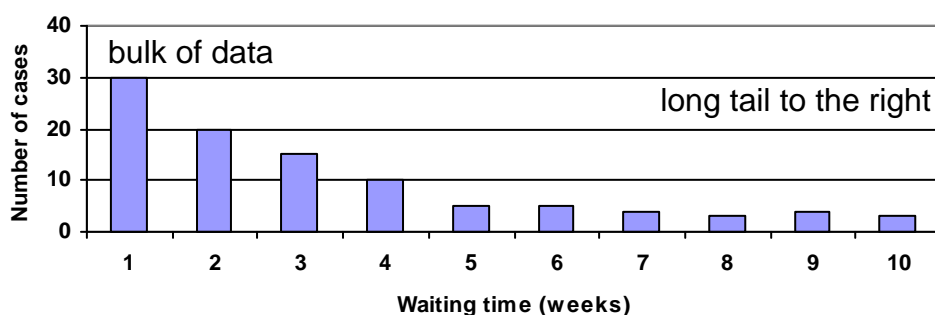
## Technical annex – medians

Results from TIS have always 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.

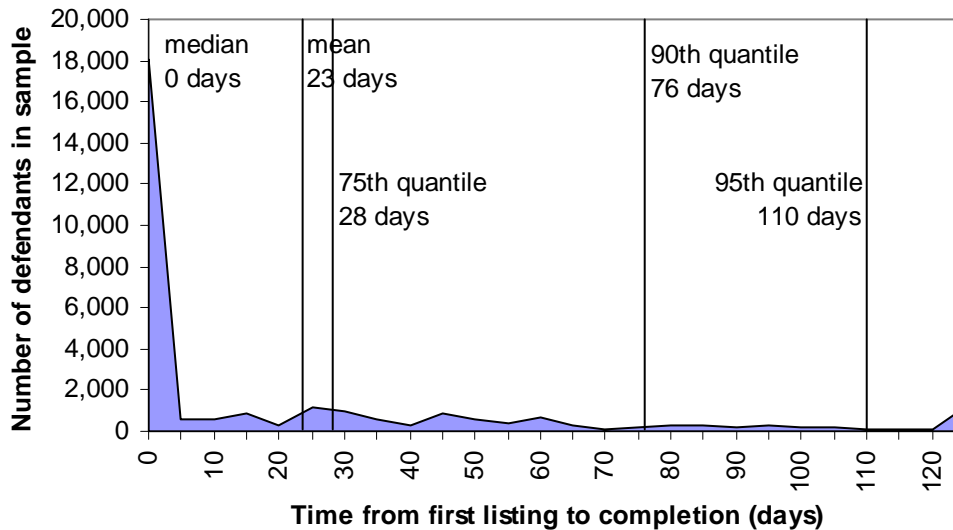
Due to the long tail in a skewed distribution, the mean, which is very sensitive to extreme values, is not representative of the bulk of the data points. The mean is still a legitimate way of presenting TIS results; however giving the median in addition provides a more representative picture of the “typical”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

### 2. Medians

The median of a data set is the value that lies exactly in the middle – the 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 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, 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 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

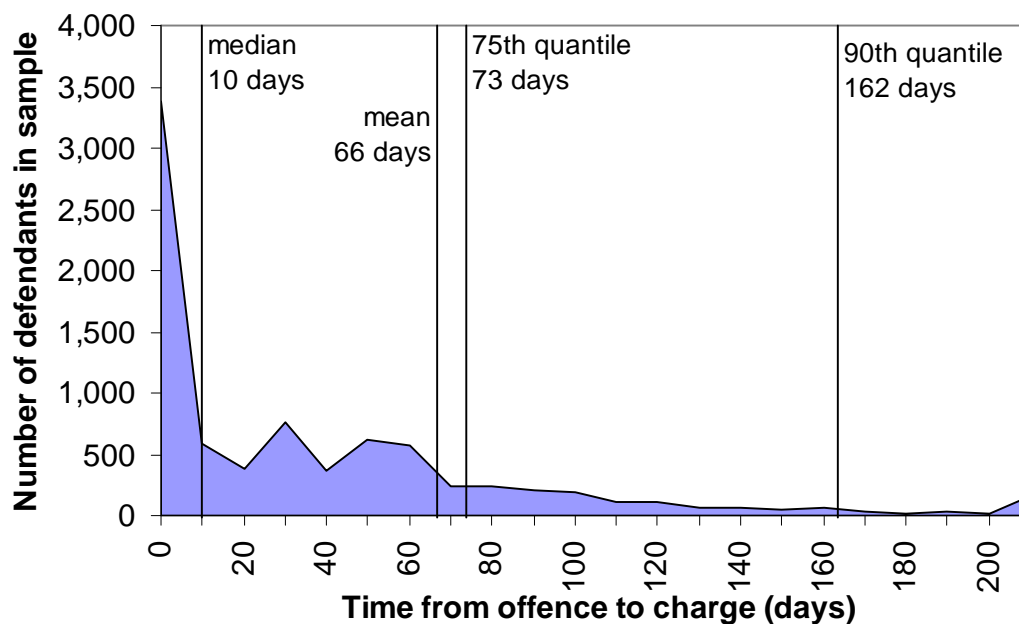
Tables 1a shows the means and the medians with their accompanying confidence intervals<sup>1</sup> for defendants in completed criminal cases in the magistrates' courts by stage of proceedings.

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 65 days in September 2009 compared to the median of 7 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 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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