



Ministry of  
**JUSTICE**

**Statistical bulletin on the public  
disorder of 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011 –  
June 2012 update**  
Ministry of Justice  
Statistics bulletin

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## Introduction

The following section provides updated information on those brought before the courts for offences related to the public disorder of 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011. Information is provided on those individuals brought before the courts; their initial outcomes and sentencing based on data available by 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012. When reading this section please bear in mind that:

- 1) the group of people brought before the courts is only a subset of all people who took part in the public disorder of 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011. It is therefore possible that there are differences between the people brought before the courts to date and all those who took part in the disorder;
- 2) some of the people brought before the courts will have their charges dropped or be acquitted;
- 3) there are new cases being brought before the courts for events related to the disorder on a regular basis. It is possible that there may be differences in characteristics or age profiles of those brought before the courts later compared to those who have appeared so far;
- 4) In this bulletin, and for consistency with previous publications, comparisons have been made with proceedings in 2010 covering similar offence types seen in the disorder, such as burglary, theft and violent disorder, to provide context to the sentences given;
- 5) The information released in this bulletin updates the previous analysis published on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012; additional information has been provided in this update on the number of offenders in prison related to the public disorder and the number of offenders that have been released from prison.

## Executive Summary

The public disorder began on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2011. On 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> August 2011 there were further outbreaks of disorder mainly in London. On 9<sup>th</sup> August the incidents were mainly outside of London.

The following presents court information on those who have appeared before the courts by 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012 for offences related to the disorder of 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011. The police and courts agreed whether an offence was related to the disorder and the courts then returned details of the case centrally to the Ministry of Justice statistics team.

It is important to note that none of the factors explored imply causality with the public disorder events, but provide a background understanding of the characteristics of those brought before the courts. It is also the case that those brought before the courts may have different characteristics from those who took part and have yet to appear before the courts.

### Cases by area

Of the 3,051 people who appeared before the courts by 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012 proceedings were held in the following areas:

- London – 2,194 first hearings
- West Midlands – 334 first hearings
- Greater Manchester – 249 first hearings
- Merseyside – 93 first hearings
- Nottingham – 64 first hearings
- Other areas – 117 first hearings

### Gender, Age and Ethnicity

Of the 3,051 people brought before the courts by 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012, 89 per cent were male and 11 per cent were female. Compared to 2010, for all first hearings for indictable offences, 85 per cent were male and 15 per cent were female.

Of those brought before the courts for offences related to the public disorder, 27 per cent were aged 10-17 (juveniles) and a further 26 per cent were aged 18-20. Only six per cent of those appearing before the courts for the disorder were aged 40 or over.

This is different to the age distribution of those appearing before the courts for similar offences in 2010 when the proportion of juveniles was 16 per cent, the proportion of 18-20 year olds was 15 per cent and the proportion aged 40 or over was 15 per cent.

Breakdowns by area show different age profiles for those appearing before the courts:

- London – 26 per cent were juveniles and five per cent were 40 or over
- West Midlands – 29 per cent were juveniles and ten per cent were 40 or over
- Greater Manchester – 28 per cent were juveniles and 11 per cent were 40 or over
- Nottingham – 39 per cent were juveniles, none were 40 or over
- Merseyside – 39 per cent were juveniles and four per cent were 40 or over
- Other areas – 33 per cent were juveniles and three per cent were 40 or over

Comparisons of the data collected on self-defined ethnicity (where ethnicity was recorded<sup>1</sup>) show that 41 per cent of those brought before the courts identified themselves as being from the White ethnic group, 38 per cent from the Black ethnic group, 12 per cent from the Mixed ethnic group, seven per cent from the Asian ethnic group, and two per cent from the Chinese or Other ethnic group.

## **Progress through the criminal justice system**

### **Court Proceedings**

The first stage of the court process is for those accused to have a first hearing at magistrates' courts. 3,051 people had appeared before the court by 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012 for offences related to the public disorder. Of these, 2,428 (80 per cent) have reached a final outcome.

The offences for which people were most commonly brought before the court were Burglary (50 per cent), violent disorder (22 per cent) and theft (16 per cent). The remaining offences covered small numbers of a wide range of offences.

As of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012, there have been 1,968 persons found guilty and sentenced for their part in the disorder, 65 per cent of the 3,051 people brought before the courts so far. An additional 15 per cent were dismissed or acquitted. Of those sentenced, 1,292 (66 per cent) have been sentenced to immediate custody with an average custodial sentence length (ACSL) of 16.8 months. This compares to an ACSL of 3.7 months for those convicted at magistrates' courts, but sentenced at any court for similar offences in England and Wales 2010.

Of the 1,968 persons sentenced, 716 (36 per cent) were sentenced at the magistrates' court, of which 263 (37 per cent) received an immediate custodial sentence for offences related to the public disorder. This compares with 12 per cent of offenders sentenced for similar offences in England and Wales in 2010. The ACSL for offences related to the public disorder given at magistrates' courts was 6.5 months. This compares with 2.5 months for offenders sentenced for similar offences in England and Wales 2010. This difference was mainly down to the ACSL given for violent disorder, with offenders sentenced for the public disorder receiving 7.6 months compared to 3.1 months for those sentenced in England and Wales in 2010; burglary, with offenders sentenced for the public disorder receiving 7.2 months, compared to 4.4 months for those sentenced in England and Wales in 2010; and theft and handling, with offenders sentenced for the public disorder receiving 4.6 months, compared to 2.0 months for those sentenced in England and Wales in 2010.

Of the 1,968 persons sentenced, 1,252 (64 per cent) were sentenced at the Crown Court, of which 1,029 (82 per cent) received immediate custodial sentences for offences related to the public disorder. The ACSL for offences related to the public disorder given at Crown Court was 19.4 months compared with 11.3 months for offenders committed for sentence at the Crown Court for similar offences in England and Wales 2010.

As at 15<sup>th</sup> June 2012 there were 692 offenders in prison (including remands) for offences related to the public disorder and a further 710 who were given custodial sentences had already been released from prison.

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<sup>1</sup> For 388 of the 3,051 defendants self-defined ethnicity was recorded as not stated or unknown (13 per cent of defendants).

## Court proceedings [Tables 1 – 13]

If there is sufficient evidence against a defendant and none of the out of court disposals are appropriate, the police will formally charge the suspect. The law then requires the defendant to be brought before a magistrates' court as soon as possible. The defendant can be summoned to appear in court or remanded on bail or in custody.

### Key points (data as of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012):

- 3,051 defendants had an initial hearing at magistrates' courts. The majority of these hearings were in London (72 per cent).
- Of these cases, 826 (27 per cent) were aged 10-17 and 2,225 (73 per cent) were adults.
- 89 per cent of defendants were male.
- 36 per cent of defendants were from a White ethnic background, 34 per cent were from a Black ethnic background, 10 per cent were from a Mixed background, six per cent were from an Asian ethnic background, two per cent were of another ethnic background, and 13 per cent were not stated or not recorded.
- The average custodial sentence length for offences related to the public disorder was 16.8 months.

These tables show the final outcome of cases for those convicted and sentenced and for those without an outcome their current bail status, by age group. Please note that for those awaiting an outcome, at subsequent hearings, bail conditions may be changed or the case may be dismissed.

**Tables 1a and 1b: Defendants brought before the courts for offences related to the public disorder between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011, (data as of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012)**  
**Table 1a - Defendants awaiting final outcome**

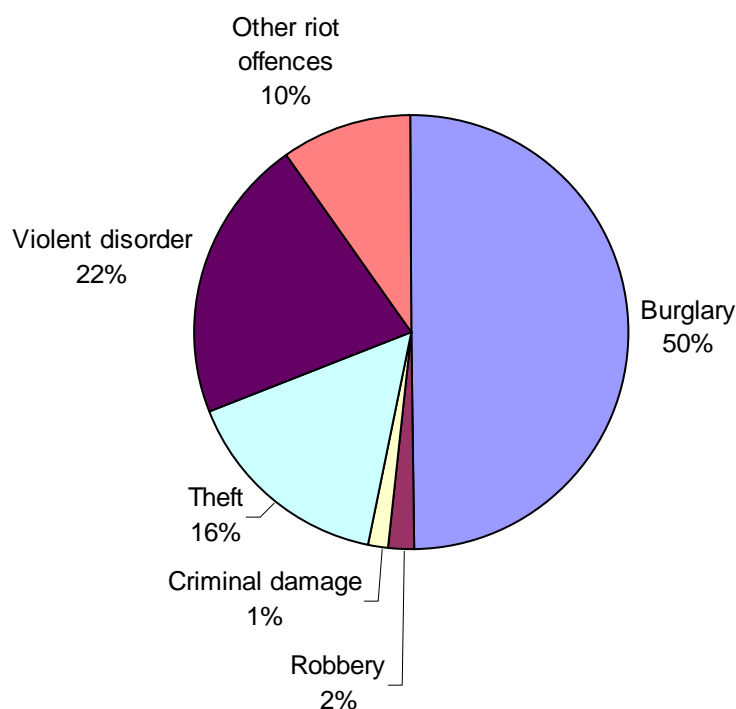
Age group	Hearing not yet completed			Outcome of hearing not recorded	Total
	Remanded on unconditional bail	Remand on conditional bail	Remanded in custody		
10 to 17	32	55	34	1	122
18 to 20	45	77	63	2	187
21 to 24	26	58	42	5	131
25 to 30	14	57	32	3	106
31 to 34	8	11	7	1	27
35 to 39	2	8	15	-	25
40 plus	9	8	8	-	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>623</b>

**Table 1b: Final defendant outcome at court**

Age group	Convicted and sentenced			Not convicted	
	Sentenced to immediate custody	Sentenced to non-custody	Total sentenced	Dismissed/acquitted	Total final outcomes
10 to 17	218	369	587	117	704
18 to 20	359	116	475	130	605
21 to 24	330	72	402	94	496
25 to 30	182	54	236	72	308
31 to 34	82	14	96	18	114
35 to 39	34	12	46	9	55
40 plus	87	39	126	20	146
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>1,968</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>2,428</b>

For the 3,051 offenders that have been brought before the court, the most common offences were burglary (49 per cent), violent disorder (22 per cent) and theft (16 per cent).

**Figure 1: First hearings for offences related to the public disorder between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011, at magistrates' courts, by offence group (data as of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012)**



The proportion of offenders sentenced who received an immediate custodial sentence for offences related to the public disorder at magistrates' courts was 37 per cent. This compares with 12 per cent for offenders sentenced for similar offences in England and Wales 2010.

For the 1,968 offenders that have been sentenced, the largest proportions were for burglary (54 per cent), violent disorder (18 per cent) and theft (17 per cent).

**Table 2: Defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for offences related to the public disorder between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011, by type of sentence and offence (data as of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012)**

Offence	First hearing	Found guilty	Sentenced	Sentence breakdown					
				Absolute / conditional discharge	Fine	Community sentence	Suspended sentence	Immediate custody	Otherwise dealt with
Burglary	1,513	1,076	1,058	6	1	195	87	768	1
Robbery	63	37	37	-	-	7	1	29	-
Criminal damage	45	29	29	2	2	12	4	9	-
Theft	477	332	326	7	8	77	58	175	1
Violent disorder <sup>(1)</sup>	657	351	347	11	5	68	5	236	22
Other riot offences <sup>(2)</sup>	296	173	171	10	19	41	24	75	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,051</b>	<b>1,998</b>	<b>1,968</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>26</b>

(1) Violent disorder (includes following offences: Violent disorder, Riot, Affray, Summary causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress, Summary harassment, alarm or distress, Assault with intent to resist apprehension or assault a person assisting a constable, Common assault offences, Assaulting a constable and offences under Public Order Act and Justice of the Peace Act).

(2) Other offence type (includes following offences: Having an article with a blade or point in public place, Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, Having possession of a controlled drug (Cannabis)).

**Table 3: Defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for offences related to the public disorder between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011, by type of sentence, sex and age group (data as of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012)**

Sex / Age group	First hearing	Found guilty	Sentenced	Sentence breakdown					
				Absolute / conditional discharge	Fine	Community sentence	Suspended sentence	Immediate custody	Otherwise dealt with <sup>(2)</sup>
<b>Males</b>									
10 to 17	707	486	485	11	3	265	6	197	3
18 to 20	714	430	425	9	7	13	48	331	17
21 to 24	577	373	369	5	5	13	37	307	2
25 to 30	379	221	215	2	8	9	22	172	2
31 to 34	124	85	83	-	1	1	7	73	1
35 to 39	67	39	35	-	1	1	6	27	-
40 plus	146	108	108	4	6	5	15	77	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,714</b>	<b>1,742</b>	<b>1,720</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Females</b>									
10 to 17	119	102	102	1	-	79	1	21	-
18 to 20	78	53	50	-	2	3	17	28	-
21 to 24	50	35	33	-	-	4	6	23	-
25 to 30	35	21	21	-	-	3	8	10	-
31 to 34	17	13	13	1	-	1	2	9	-
35 to 39	13	12	11	1	1	1	1	7	-
40 plus	25	20	18	2	1	2	3	10	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total</b>									
Aged 10 to 17	826	588	587	12	3	344	7	218	3
Aged 18 to 20	792	483	475	9	9	16	65	359	17
Aged 21 to 24	627	408	402	5	5	17	43	330	2
Aged 25 to 29	414	242	236	2	8	12	30	182	2
Aged 30 to 34	141	98	96	1	1	2	9	82	1
Aged 35 to 39	80	51	46	1	2	2	7	34	-
Aged 40 and over	171	128	126	6	7	7	18	87	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,051</b>	<b>1,998</b>	<b>1,968</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>26</b>



**Table 4: Immediate custody rate<sup>(1)</sup> for offences related to the public disorder between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011, by court and offence group (data as of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012)**

Court type / Offence category	Offences related to the public disorder of 6th to 9th August 2011		Immediate custody rate in England and Wales 2010 for similar offences
	Immediate custodial sentences	Immediate custody rate for those sentenced	
<b><u>Magistrates' courts</u></b>			
Burglary	122	40%	23%
Robbery	2	29%	13%
Criminal damage	3	13%	16%
Theft	57	41%	2%
Violent disorder <sup>(2)</sup>	60	39%	13%
Other disorder offences <sup>(3)</sup>	19	22%	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b><u>Crown Court</u></b>			
Burglary	646	86%	68%
Robbery	27	90%	41%
Criminal damage	6	100%	52%
Theft	118	63%	46%
Violent disorder <sup>(2)</sup>	176	90%	42%
Other disorder offences <sup>(3)</sup>	56	67%	36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>33%</b>

**To note: Crown Court data for 2010 are based on cases that were found guilty at the magistrates' courts and committed for sentence at the Crown Court in order to give the most reliable comparison with disorder cases which have been sentenced so far.**

(1) Proportion of offenders sentenced who received an immediate custodial sentence.

(2) Violent disorder includes following offences: Violent disorder, Riot, Affray, Summary causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress, Summary harassment, alarm or distress, Assault with intent to resist apprehension or assault a person assisting a constable, Common assault offences, Assaulting a constable and offences under Public Order Act and Justice of the Peace Act.

(3) Other disorder offence types includes following offences: Having an article with a blade or point in public place, Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, Having possession of a controlled drug (Cannabis).

For all offences related to the public disorder at magistrates' courts, the average custodial sentence length (ACSL) was 6.5 months. This compares with 2.5 months for offenders sentenced for similar offences in England and Wales in 2010. This reflects the higher ACSL given for offences such as violent disorder, with offenders sentenced for the public disorder receiving 7.6 months compared to 3.1 months for those sentenced in England and Wales in 2010; burglary, with offenders sentenced for the public disorder receiving 7.2 months, compared with 4.4 months for those sentenced in England and Wales in 2010; and theft and handling, with offenders sentenced for the public disorder receiving 4.6 months, compared with to 2.0 months for those sentenced in England and Wales in 2010.

At the Crown Court, the ACSL was 19.4 months, this compares to 11.3 months for offenders committed for sentence at the Crown Court for similar offences in England and Wales 2010.

The longest custodial sentence given to date for an individual's part in the public disorder was 30 years (360 months).

**Table 5: Sentencing Comparison for offenders convicted following the public disorder between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011, with similar offences committed in England and Wales in 2010, (data as of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012)**

	For offences committed during the public disorder				During 2010			
	Total sentenced	Sentenced to custody	Immediate custody rate (%)	Average custodial sentence length (months)	Total sentenced	Sentenced to custody	Immediate custody rate (%)	Average custodial sentence length (months)
Juvenile (youth courts)	503	161	32.0	8.0	34,796	1,843	5.3	7.3
Adult - magistrates' courts	213	102	47.9	4.2	166,746	22,867	13.7	2.1
All ages - magistrates' courts	716	263	36.7	6.5	201,542	24,710	12.3	2.5

**Table 6: Average custodial sentence length (months) for offences related to the public disorder between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011, by court and offence group, (data as of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012)**

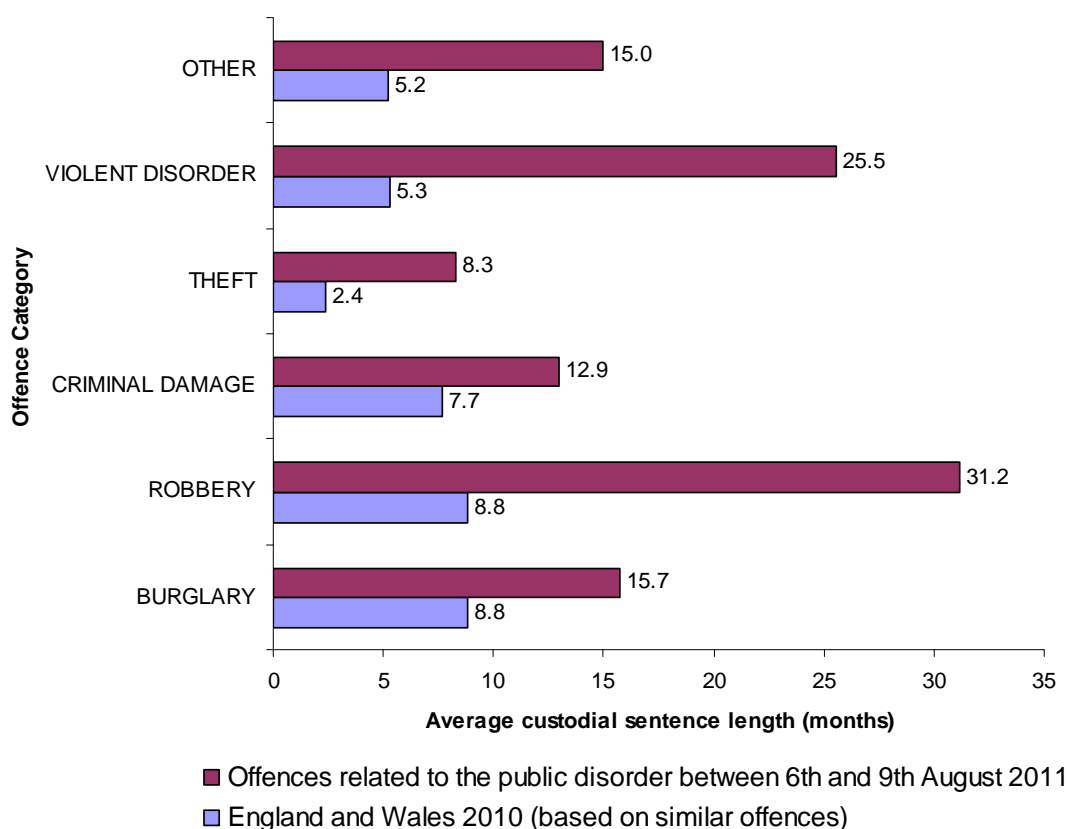
Court type / Offence category	Completed court cases relating to the disorder	England and Wales 2010 (based on similar offences)
<b><u>Magistrates' courts</u></b>		
Burglary	7.2	4.4
Robbery	10.0	8.8
Criminal damage	3.8	6.8
Theft	4.6	2.0
Violent disorder <sup>(1)</sup>	7.6	3.1
Other disorder offences <sup>(2)</sup>	4.5	3.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b><u>Crown Court</u></b>		
Burglary	17.3	16.2
Robbery	32.7	10.8
Criminal damage	17.5	7.7
Theft	10.0	6.6
Violent disorder <sup>(1)</sup>	31.6	9.9
Other disorder offences <sup>(2)</sup>	18.5	7.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>11.3</b>
<b>All Courts</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>3.7</b>

**To note: Crown Court data for 2010 are based on cases that were found guilty at the magistrates' courts and committed for sentence at the Crown Court in order to give the most reliable comparison with disorder cases which have been sentenced so far.**

(1) Violent disorder (includes following offences: Violent disorder, Riot, Affray, Summary causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress, Summary harassment, alarm or distress, Assault with intent to resist apprehension or assault a person assisting a constable, Common assault offences, Assaulting a constable and offences under Public Order Act and Justice of the Peace Act).

(2) Other disorder offences includes following offences: Having an article with a blade or point in public place, Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, Having possession of a controlled drug (Cannabis).

**Figure 2: Average custodial sentence length (months) for offences related to the public disorder between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011, and England and Wales in 2010 (data as of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012)**



As of the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012, there have been 23 successful appeals against sentences given at the magistrates' courts and ten successful appeals against sentences given at the Crown Court that have been included in the statistics. For the Crown Court appeals, six had their sentence reduced, two had all or part of their sentence quashed and one had their sentence increased (this was an appeal by the attorney general's office for an unduly lenient sentence).

## Prison Population

As at 15<sup>th</sup> June 2012 there were 692 offenders in prison (including remands) for offences related to the public disorder and a further 710 who were given custodial sentences had already been released from prison.

## Ethnicity

The ethnicity statistics included in this publication are based on each defendant's self-defined ethnicity, as recorded by the courts. This approach uses the Office for National Statistics 2001 Census classifications, which allows an individual to choose how their ethnicity is recorded from a list of 16 options, or they can choose not to declare it. Due to small numbers in some categories the 16 point ethnicity classification was then collapsed to the 5 point classification in this section.

Information is presented on the following ethnic groupings: 'White'<sup>2</sup>, 'Black'<sup>3</sup>, 'Asian'<sup>4</sup>, 'Mixed'<sup>5</sup>, 'Other'<sup>6</sup> and 'Not Stated'. The fuller 16 point classification can be found in the tables below.

For those defendants whose ethnicity is known<sup>7</sup>, 41 per cent were from the White ethnic group, 39 per cent were from the Black ethnic group, 12 per cent were from the Mixed ethnic group, six per cent the Asian ethnic group, and two per cent were from the Chinese or Other ethnic group.

For those cases which have yet to come to a final conclusion at court,

- 24 per cent of defendants from the White ethnic group and 22 per cent of defendants from the Black ethnic group were remanded on unconditional bail;
- 40 per cent of defendants from the White ethnic group and 45 per cent of defendants from the Black ethnic group were remanded on conditional bail;
- 34 per cent of defendants from the White ethnic group and 31 per cent of defendants from the Black ethnic group were remanded in custody.

This compares to 45 per cent of defendants from the Black ethnic group and 33 per cent of defendants from the White ethnic group remanded in custody during 2010 for England and Wales.

For defendants that have been sentenced, 65 per cent from the White ethnic group and 68 per cent from the Black ethnic group were given an immediate custodial sentence. This compares to 23 per cent and 27 per cent respectively, sentenced to immediate custody for indictable offences during 2010 for England and Wales.

For proceedings that are complete 16 per cent of defendants from the White ethnic group and 24 per cent of defendants from the Black ethnic group were found not guilty. This includes cases where proceedings were discontinued by the prosecution, acquittals, and proceedings dismissed by the judge or magistrates.

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<sup>2</sup> From the Census 5 point ethnicity classification White includes: - White – British, White – Irish, and White – Other

<sup>3</sup> From the Census 5 point ethnicity classification Black includes: - Black – African, Black – Caribbean, and Black – Other.

<sup>4</sup> From the Census 5 point ethnicity classification Asian includes: - Asian – Bangladeshi, Asian – Indian, Asian – Pakistani, and Asian – Other.

<sup>5</sup> From the Census 5 point ethnicity classification Mixed includes: - White and Black African, White and Black Caribbean, White and Asian, and Any other mixed background.

<sup>6</sup> From the Census 5 point ethnicity classification Other includes: - Chinese and Other.

<sup>7</sup> Excludes 506 defendants whose ethnicity was given as Not Stated or not recorded at court.

**Tables 7a and 7b: Defendants brought before the courts for offences related to the public disorder between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011, by self-defined ethnicity<sup>(1)</sup>, (data as of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012)**

**Table 7a: Defendants awaiting final outcome**

Ethnicity	Hearing not yet completed				Total
	Remanded on unconditional bail	Remand on conditional bail	Remanded in custody	Outcome of hearing not recorded	
White – British	34	62	51	4	151
White – Irish	3	3	1	-	7
White – Other	7	9	10	1	27
Black – Caribbean	21	58	33	2	114
Black – African	14	20	17	-	51
Black – Other	15	23	20	1	59
Asian – Indian	3	2	4	1	10
Asian – Pakistani	4	3	1	-	8
Asian – Bangladeshi	1	4	1	-	6
Asian – Other	2	11	7	-	20
White and Black Caribbean	7	19	13	1	40
White and Black African	1	3	1	-	5
White and Asian	1	1	-	-	2
Any other mixed background	4	5	4	-	13
Chinese	-	-	-	-	-
Other	4	5	6	-	15
Not Stated / not recorded	15	46	32	2	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>623</b>

**Table 7b: Final defendant outcome at court**

Ethnicity	Convicted and sentenced			Not convicted	Total final outcomes
	Sentenced to immediate custody	Sentenced to non-custody	Total sentenced	Dismissed / acquitted	
White – British	421	242	663	123	786
White – Irish	14	6	20	1	21
White – Other	56	22	78	18	96
Black – Caribbean	191	88	279	109	388
Black – African	123	59	182	44	226
Black – Other	100	44	144	43	187
Asian – Indian	9	9	18	2	20
Asian – Pakistani	26	13	39	8	47
Asian – Bangladeshi	11	6	17	5	22
Asian – Other	30	7	37	6	43
White and Black Caribbean	77	53	130	32	162
White and Black African	18	7	25	5	30
White and Asian	4	2	6	-	6
Any other mixed background	23	25	48	9	57
Chinese	1	1	2	2	4
Other	25	7	32	8	40
Not Stated / not recorded	163	85	248	45	293
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>1,968</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>2,428</b>

(1) Ethnicity is self defined ethnicity reported on the 16+1 scale as used in the 2001 census.

**Table 8: Defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for offences related to the public disorder between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011, by type of sentence and self-defined ethnicity<sup>(1)</sup>, (data as of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012)**

Ethnicity	First hearing	Found guilty	Sentenced	Sentence breakdown						Average Custodial Sentence Length (Magistrates)	Average Custodial Sentence Length (Crown)
				Absolute / conditional discharge	Fine	Community sentence	Suspended sentence	Immediate custody	Otherwise dealt with		
White – British	937	674	663	18	15	137	56	421	16	6.1	18.3
White – Irish	28	20	20	-	-	3	3	14	-	10.0	19.6
White – Other	123	79	78	1	1	13	7	56	-	8.4	17.0
Black – Caribbean	502	282	279	3	5	53	26	191	1	7.4	20.4
Black – African	277	185	182	1	4	32	21	123	1	6.0	18.0
Black – Other	246	147	144	2	1	25	14	100	2	6.3	24.9
Asian – Indian	30	18	18	-	-	6	2	9	1	*	13.9
Asian – Pakistani	55	39	39	1	1	8	3	26	-	3.8	14.0
Asian – Bangladeshi	28	17	17	1	-	3	2	11	-	9.0	19.1
Asian – Other	63	38	37	-	-	5	1	30	1	8.5	17.7
White and Black Caribbean	202	131	130	1	-	35	16	77	1	7.9	26.2
White and Black African	35	26	25	1	-	5	1	18	-	8.0	18.6
White and Asian	8	6	6	-	-	2	-	4	-	*	19.5
Any other mixed background	70	50	48	2	3	17	3	23	-	6.4	17.8
Chinese	4	2	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	*	36.0
Other	55	34	32	-	1	4	2	25	-	6.8	18.7
Not Stated / not recorded	388	250	248	5	4	51	22	163	3	5.8	18.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,051</b>	<b>1,998</b>	<b>1,968</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>19.4</b>

(1) Ethnicity is self defined ethnicity reported on the 16+1 scale as used in the 2001 census.

The ethnic backgrounds of those appearing before the courts vary by area (where ethnicity was known). In London, 33 per cent of defendants were from the White ethnic group and 39 per cent were from the Black ethnic group. In Merseyside, 72 per cent of defendants were from the White ethnic group and 13 per cent were from the Black ethnic group.

**Tables 9a and 9b: Number and proportion of defendants brought before the courts for offences related to the public disorder between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011, by self-defined ethnicity<sup>(1)</sup> and region, (data as of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012)**

**Table 9a - Number of Defendants**

Ethnicity	Region						Total
	London	West Midlands	Nottingham	Greater Manchester	Merseyside	Other	
White – British	496	107	22	179	67	66	937
White – Irish	24	2	-	2	-	-	28
White – Other	107	3	1	9	-	3	123
Black – Caribbean	413	64	11	5	1	8	502
Black – African	238	17	-	17	3	2	277
Black – Other	204	18	10	4	8	2	246
Asian – Indian	21	8	-	-	-	1	30
Asian – Pakistani	31	20	-	3	-	1	55
Asian – Bangladeshi	22	6	-	-	-	-	28
Asian – Other	53	7	-	-	3	-	63
White and Black Caribbean	132	30	16	15	3	6	202
White and Black African	30	-	-	5	-	-	35
White and Asian	4	3	-	1	-	-	8
Any other mixed background	56	6	2	1	4	1	70
Chinese	3	-	-	1	-	-	4
Other	44	4	1	2	3	1	55
Not Stated / not recorded	316	39	1	5	1	26	388
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,194</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>3,051</b>

**Table 9b - Proportion of Defendants**

Ethnicity	Region						Total
	London	West Midlands	Nottingham	Greater Manchester	Merseyside	Other	
White – British	26%	36%	35%	73%	73%	73%	35%
White – Irish	1%	1%	-	1%	-	-	1%
White – Other	6%	1%	2%	4%	-	3%	5%
Black – Caribbean	22%	22%	17%	2%	1%	9%	19%
Black – African	13%	6%	-	7%	3%	2%	10%
Black – Other	11%	6%	16%	2%	9%	2%	9%
Asian – Indian	1%	3%	-	-	-	1%	1%
Asian – Pakistani	2%	7%	-	1%	-	1%	2%
Asian – Bangladeshi	1%	2%	-	-	-	-	1%
Asian – Other	3%	2%	-	-	3%	-	2%
White and Black Caribbean	7%	10%	25%	6%	3%	7%	8%
White and Black African	2%	-	-	2%	-	-	1%
White and Asian	0%	1%	-	0%	-	-	0%
Any other mixed background	3%	2%	3%	0%	4%	1%	3%
Chinese	0%	-	-	0%	-	-	0%
Other	2%	1%	2%	1%	3%	1%	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Data sources and data quality

The data presented in this publication are drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the information collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. While the figures shown have been checked as far as practicable, they should be regarded as approximate and not necessarily accurate to the last whole number shown in the tables. Where figures in the tables have been rounded to the nearest whole number, the rounded components do not always add to the totals, which are calculated and rounded independently.

### Court hearings

Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice received manual returns from the individual courts who were dealing with defendants identified as being involved in the public disorder. They provided summary information on key details taken from court registers to meet the needs of the courts service, National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and other Criminal Justice agencies for planning purposes.

The offence shown in the tables on court proceedings is the one for which the court took its final decision and is not necessarily the same as the offence for which the defendant was initially prosecuted, for example when the court accepts a guilty plea from the defendant on a lesser charge.

### Ethnicity data

Data for the main ethnicity section and tables is based on the information available as at 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012. The ethnicity statistics are based on each defendant's self-defined ethnicity, as recorded by the courts. This approach uses the Office for National Statistics 2001 Census classification, which allows an individual to choose how their ethnicity is recorded from a list of 16 options, or choose not to declare it. Due to small numbers in some categories the 16 point ethnicity classification was then collapsed to the 5 point classification in this section for reporting purposes. The report therefore presents information on the following ethnic groups: 'White'<sup>8</sup>, 'Black'<sup>9</sup>, 'Asian'<sup>10</sup>, 'Mixed'<sup>11</sup>, 'Other'<sup>12</sup> and 'Not Stated'.

The executive summary includes a breakdown based on known ethnicity only, so the 388 (13 per cent) not stated/not known cases have been removed – therefore there are some differences between proportions reported. In each case we have stated what approach has been used.

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<sup>8</sup> From the Census 5 point ethnicity classification White includes: - White – British, White – Irish, and White – Other.

<sup>9</sup> From the Census 5 point ethnicity classification Black includes: - Black – African, Black – Caribbean, and Black – Other.

<sup>10</sup> From the Census 5 point ethnicity classification Asian includes: - Asian – Bangladeshi, Asian – Indian, Asian – Pakistani, and Asian – Other.

<sup>11</sup> From the Census 5 point ethnicity classification Mixed includes: - White and Black African, White and Black Caribbean, White and Asian, and any other mixed background.

<sup>12</sup> From the Census 5 point ethnicity classification Other includes: - Chinese and Other.



## Glossary

**Average custodial sentence length (ACSL):** Average length of determinate custodial sentences given in months. This excludes indeterminate sentences (life or Imprisonment for Public Protection sentences) as the length of these sentences is not recorded.

**Community sentence:** When a court imposes a community sentence, the offender doesn't go to prison. But the court says there are specific things the offender can, can't and must do while serving their sentence. The magistrate or judge will decide which combination of these 'requirements' will most effectively punish the offender for their crime, while also reducing the risk of them offending again.

**Discharge:** When the court decides someone is guilty, but decides not to punish them further at this time, they will be given a 'discharge'. Discharges are given for minor offences. An 'absolute discharge' means that no more action will be taken. A 'conditional discharge' means that the offender won't be punished unless they commit another offence within a set period of time (no longer than three years).

**Fine:** Fines are the most common criminal sentence. They're usually given for less serious crimes that don't merit a community or prison sentence. They limit the amount of money offenders have to spend. How much someone is fined depends on how serious a crime is, and the offender's ability to pay.

**Immediate custody:** Prison sentences are given when an offence is so serious that it is the only suitable punishment. A prison sentence will also be given when the court believes the public must be protected from the offender. There are three different types of prison sentence: suspended sentences, determinate sentences (those having a fixed term) and indeterminate sentences (which have only a minimum term and include life sentences).

**Otherwise dealt with:** Includes a number of orders, for example hospital orders, confiscation orders and compensation orders.

**Principal offence:** Where more than one offence is considered in a court case or cautioning occasion, the offence that would/did attract the most severe sentencing outcome is deemed to be the Principal offence and other offences also dealt with in that case would be ignored. If two offences in the same case attract the same sentence the offence with the statutory maximum sentence is deemed the 'Principal offence'.

**Suspended sentence:** A court may give an offender a 'suspended' prison sentence if the time they would otherwise spend in prison is under 12 months. With a suspended sentence, the offender doesn't go directly to prison but they do have to meet conditions in the community, set by the court. These conditions can last for up to two years. If the offender breaks these conditions, or commits another offence, they will usually have to serve the original sentence in prison.

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