

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

Ministry of Justice
Statistics Bulletin

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[CONTENTS](#)

- 1 Key findings
- 2 Introduction

[COMMENTARY](#)

- 4 Timeliness standards
- 6 All indictable cases
- 8 Youth defendants

[TABLES](#)

- 10 Timeliness standards
- 16 All indictable cases
- 17 Youth defendants

[NOTES](#)

- 19 Methodology
- 20 Quality and completeness of data
- 24 Further information

Key Findings

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

Indictable/triable-either-way cases: The average time between offence and completion for indictable cases decreased from 111 days in June 2007 to 108 days in June 2008. This is not statistically significant.

Youth defendants: Compared to June 2007, the average time from offence to completion for youth defendants decreased from 90 to 78 days. For defendants in indictable offences this time decreased from 92 to 80 days, for those in summary non-motoring offences the time fell from 85 to 68 days and for those in summary motoring offences the time increased from 93 to 95 days. The decreases in the results for indictable and summary non-motoring offences are statistically significant.

Timeliness standards: 89 per cent of defendants in adult court charged cases were completed within the standards and 93 per cent of defendants in youth court cases were completed within the standards.

Please note that the proportion of clerkships submitting youth data for June 2008 has dipped in comparison to previous surveys (see page 23), resulting in a defendant sample size lower than usual. This appears to have stemmed from revised data collection methods (see part 7 of the 'Notes' section), and will be addressed in time for the next survey.

Introduction

SURVEYS

March

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

June

- **Timeliness standard results**
- **Indictable cases for all defendants**
- **All cases for youth defendants**

September

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

December

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

1. Information on adult indictable/triable-either-way cases and charged summary cases is collected in one week of each quarter. Information on adult summonsed summary offences is additionally collected in the first and third quarters. Information on youth defendants in both indictable and summary cases is collected in four weeks of each quarter. Timeliness standard results are published every quarter for both charged cases in adult courts and for all youth court (youth defendants only) cases. Please see the 'Notes' section for more details. All references to indictable cases in this bulletin include triable-either-way cases.
2. This bulletin consists of three sections. This first section includes a description of the results from the June 2008 survey. The second section contains tables of detailed results from the latest survey and previous surveys, while the final section holds methodological notes and further information. Following this introduction the results are in three parts, the first presenting timeliness standard results, the second covering information on all defendants taken from the main survey week, and the third covering information collected on youth defendants from a four-week survey period – as follows:
 - Timeliness standard results
 - Indictable/triable-either-way cases
 - Youth defendants
3. The results presented in this report are given per defendant. The June 2008 results for indictable cases are based on a sample of 7,290 defendants from a one-week survey period. The youth defendant results are based on a sample of 6,867 defendants (4,651 in indictable cases and 2,216 in summary cases) from a four-week survey period. The 'Notes' section contains more information on sample sizes.

The proportion of clerkships submitting youth data for June 2008 has dipped in comparison to previous surveys (see page 23), resulting in a defendant sample size lower than usual. This appears to have stemmed from revised data collection methods (see part 7 of the 'Notes' section), and will be addressed in time for the next survey.

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 HMCS Performance Database (called 'One Performance Truth' or OPT). And from June 2008, it has also been possible to collect youth data from the four-week survey via OPT (although the pre-existing method of youth data collection is still available). 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 consequence, any changes in the results could be due to the changed data collection process, and care should be taken when interpreting the figures.

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

Timeliness Standard Results

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

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

Adult charged cases

Initial guilty plea – 59 days

Trials – 143 days

Committals – 101 days

Youth cases

Initial guilty plea – 59 days

Trials – 176 days

Committals – 101 days

England and Wales (June 2008)

- 89 per cent of adult charged cases were completed within the standards.
- 93 per cent of youth court cases were completed within the standards.

See Tables 1a, 2a & 3a
for details

Area standard results

~ per the 42 LCJB Areas:

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

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

See Tables 1b, 2b & 3b
for details

~ per the 24 HMCS Areas:

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

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

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

Indictable Cases – All Defendants

Main point

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

For further details about all defendants in indictable cases see Table 4.

Time Intervals

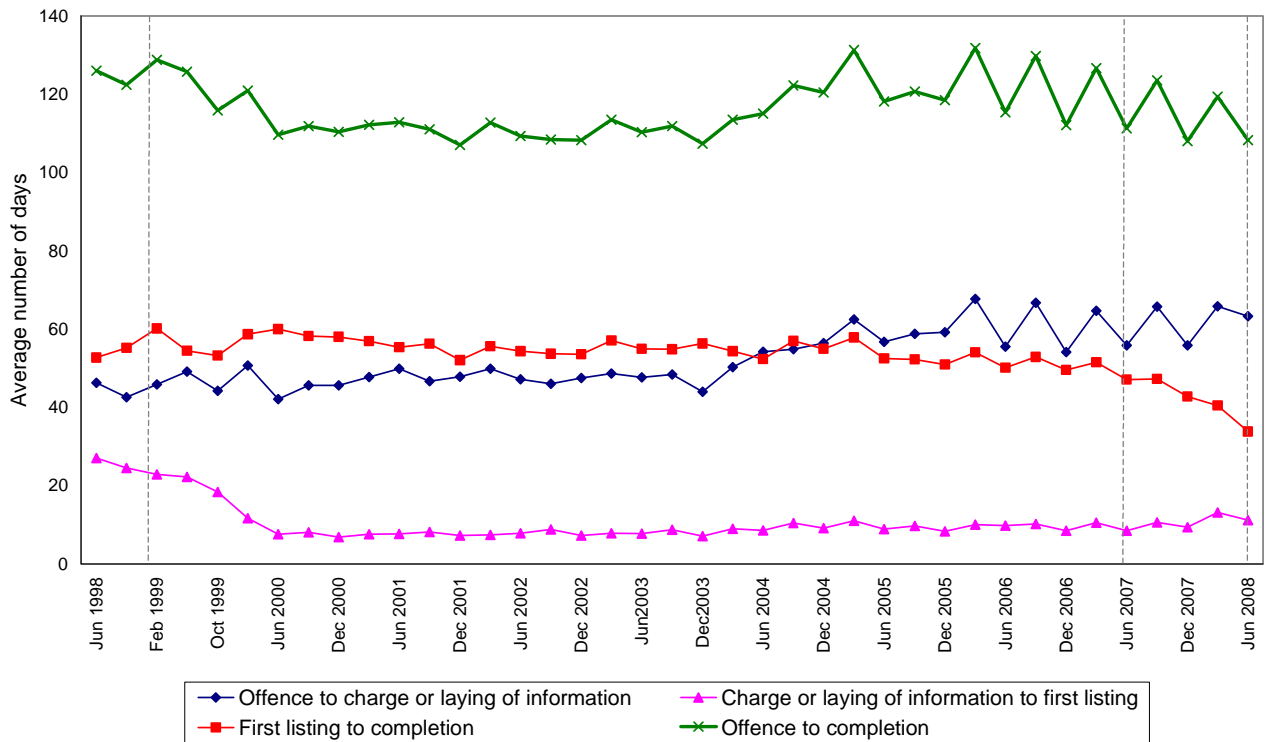
- The average time from offence to completion for indictable cases in June 2008 was 108 days, a decrease from 111 days in June 2007. This decrease is not statistically significant.
- The average time from offence to charge or laying of information was 63 days in June 2008, an increase from 56 days in June 2007. This increase is statistically significant.
- The average time from charge or laying of information to first listing was 11 days in June 2008, an increase from 8 days in June 2007. This increase is statistically significant.
- The average time from first listing to completion was 34 days in June 2008, a decrease from 47 days in June 2007. This decrease is statistically significant.

Adjournments

- There was an average of 1.4 adjournments for indictable cases in June 2008, a decrease from 2.1 adjournments in June 2007. This decrease is statistically significant.
- The average length of adjournments in June 2008 was 23 days, unchanged from June 2007.
- 41 per cent of defendants in June 2008 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 31 per cent in June 2007. This increase is statistically significant.

The dashed vertical lines in the chart denote changes in survey methodology introduced with the February 1999, June 2007 and June 2008 surveys.

Figure 1: Average time by stage of proceedings (defendants in indictable/triable-either-way cases), June 1998 to June 2008



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

Youth Defendants – All Cases

Main Points

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

For further details of the average time taken by stage of proceedings for indictable and summary cases, see Table 5

Time Intervals

- For all youth defendant cases in June 2008, the average time from offence to completion was 78 days, a decrease from 90 days in June 2007. This decrease is statistically significant.
- The average time from offence to completion for youth defendants in indictable cases was 80 days in June 2008, a decrease from 92 days in June 2007. This decrease is statistically significant.
- The average time from offence to completion for summary non-motoring cases in June 2008 was 68 days, a decrease from 85 days in June 2007. This decrease is statistically significant.
- The average time from offence to completion for summary motoring cases in June 2008 was 95 days, an increase from 93 days in June 2007. This increase is not statistically significant.

Adjournments

- There was an average of 1.5 adjournments for youth defendants in all criminal cases in June 2008, a decrease from 2.0 adjournments in June 2007. This decrease is statistically significant.
- The average length of adjournments for youth defendants in all criminal cases in June 2008 was 19 days, unchanged from June 2007.
- 40 per cent of youth defendants in all criminal cases in June 2008 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 32 per cent in June 2007. This increase is statistically significant.

Figure 2: Average time by stage of proceedings (youth defendants in all criminal cases), June 2008

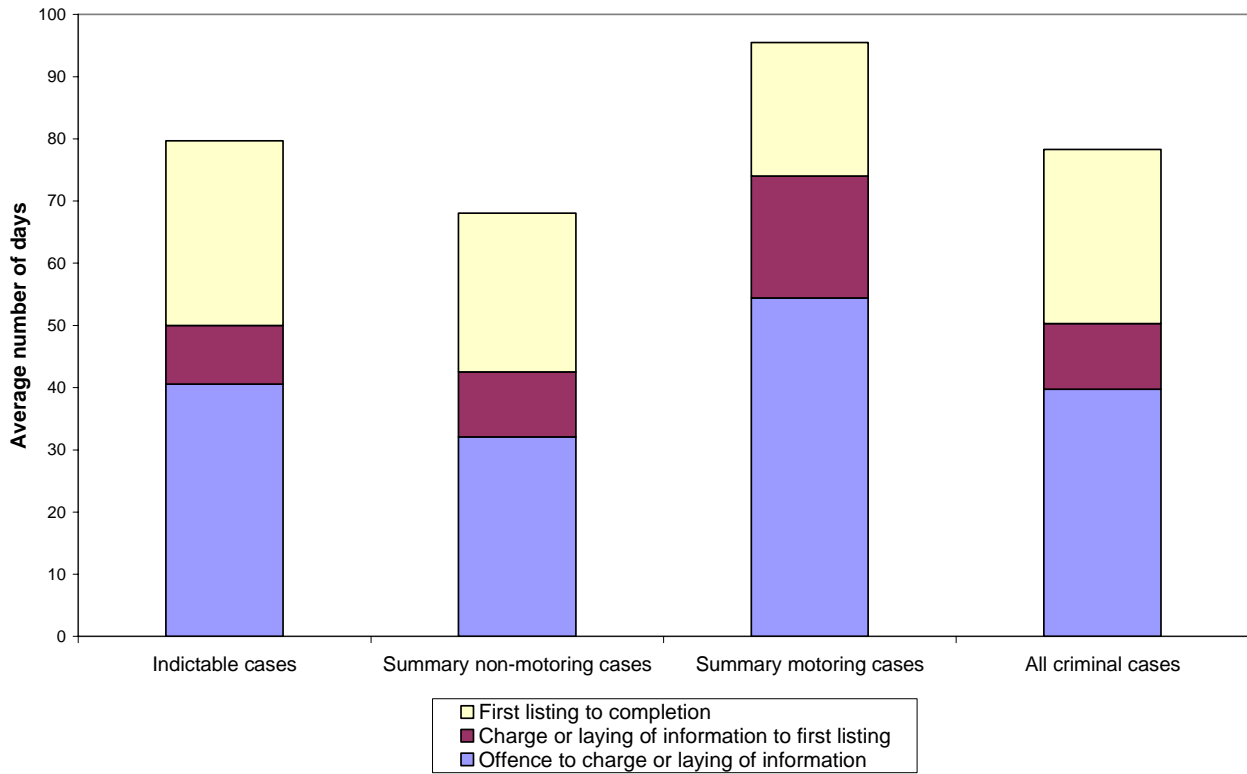


TABLE 1a: Timeliness standards (charge/laying of information to completion); adult court charged cases (including youth defendants) & youth court cases (youth defendants only); by LCJB Area; June 2008

LCJB Area	Adult Court Charged			Youth Court		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size
	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)
Avon and Somerset	87%	5%	212	91%	5%	138
Bedfordshire	80%	11%	61	94%	*	84
Cambridgeshire	91%	5%	141	96%	*	76
Cheshire	92%	5%	144	92%	5%	112
Cleveland	85%	6%	150	94%	4%	157
Cumbria	95%	5%	112	89%	6%	111
Derbyshire	83%	6%	184	95%	*	43
Devon and Cornwall	86%	5%	228	92%	4%	166
Dorset	84%	7%	108	94%	*	78
Durham	89%	5%	153	96%	*	108
Dyfed Powys	92%	6%	85	100%	*	56
Essex	89%	4%	291	94%	4%	202
Gloucestershire	86%	7%	117	93%	*	74
Greater Manchester	91%	3%	505	94%	2%	390
Gwent	93%	6%	82	99%	*	67
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	85%	4%	352	90%	4%	210
Hertfordshire	77%	7%	163	95%	*	76
Humberside	95%	4%	168	91%	5%	138
Kent	83%	5%	211	85%	6%	140
Lancashire	89%	3%	392	88%	5%	176
Leicestershire	79%	9%	94	93%	5%	124
Lincolnshire	85%	7%	108	88%	9%	59
London	93%	1%	1,611	94%	2%	1,067
Merseyside	93%	3%	401	89%	4%	208
Norfolk	91%	7%	88	95%	*	96
North Wales	95%	4%	150	99%	*	79
North Yorkshire	88%	7%	106	92%	5%	120
Northamptonshire	86%	7%	95	94%	7%	52
Northumbria	88%	4%	324	96%	2%	311
Nottinghamshire	85%	5%	212	93%	6%	98
South Wales	94%	3%	329	98%	*	182
South Yorkshire	87%	5%	232	95%	3%	185
Staffordshire	86%	7%	99	89%	6%	116
Suffolk	96%	*	112	97%	*	96
Surrey	83%	7%	138	95%	5%	96
Sussex	91%	4%	245	94%	5%	117
Thames Valley	88%	4%	252	91%	4%	197
Warwickshire	91%	7%	89	96%	*	53
West Mercia	89%	4%	216	90%	6%	107
West Midlands	94%	2%	752	96%	2%	310
West Yorkshire	81%	4%	441	94%	2%	393
Wiltshire	85%	9%	73	94%	*	80
England and Wales	89%	1%	10,026	93%	1%	6,748

Notes

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

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

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

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

* In these cases the margin of error would be assymetric owing to the small number of cases that did not fall within the standard

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

HMCS Area	Adult Court Charged			Youth Court		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size
	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)
Avon and Somerset	87%	5%	212	91%	5%	138
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire	84%	3%	515	94%	3%	362
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	93%	2%	546	97%	2%	269
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	91%	2%	610	90%	3%	317
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	92%	3%	341	96%	3%	268
Cheshire and Merseyside	93%	2%	545	90%	3%	320
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	87%	3%	627	96%	2%	576
Cumbria and Lancashire	90%	3%	504	89%	4%	287
Devon and Cornwall	86%	5%	228	92%	4%	166
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	85%	4%	298	94%	3%	232
Greater Manchester	91%	3%	505	94%	2%	390
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	85%	4%	352	90%	4%	210
Humber and South Yorkshire	90%	3%	400	93%	3%	323
Kent	83%	5%	211	85%	6%	140
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire	84%	4%	297	92%	4%	235
London (Central and South)	94%	2%	569	94%	3%	290
London (North and West)	93%	2%	1042	93%	2%	777
Mid and West Wales	92%	4%	178	99%	*	98
North and West Yorkshire	82%	3%	547	94%	2%	513
North Wales	95%	4%	150	99%	*	79
Nottingham and Derbyshire	84%	4%	396	94%	4%	141
South East Wales	94%	3%	318	98%	*	207
Surrey and Sussex	88%	3%	383	94%	3%	213
Thames Valley	88%	4%	252	91%	4%	197
England and Wales	89%	1%	10,026	93%	1%	6,748

Notes

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

* In these cases the margin of error would be asymmetric owing to the small number of cases that did not fall within the standard

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

LCJB Area	Initial Guilty Plea			Trials			Committals		
	Standard = 59 days			Standard = 143 days			Standard = 101 days		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size
	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)
Avon and Somerset	91%	5%	151	69%	15%	45	-	-	16
Bedfordshire	93%	*	41	-	-	10	-	-	10
Cambridgeshire	90%	6%	103	-	-	27	-	-	11
Cheshire	90%	7%	89	95%	*	44	-	-	11
Cleveland	84%	8%	95	83%	13%	40	-	-	15
Cumbria	94%	*	85	-	-	20	-	-	7
Derbyshire	87%	7%	111	67%	14%	48	-	-	25
Devon and Cornwall	88%	5%	180	70%	17%	33	-	-	15
Dorset	88%	8%	75	-	-	25	-	-	8
Durham	90%	6%	110	-	-	23	-	-	20
Dyfed Powys	93%	*	68	-	-	14	-	-	3
Essex	89%	5%	185	83%	10%	64	100%	*	42
Gloucestershire	87%	8%	76	88%	*	33	-	-	8
Greater Manchester	94%	3%	326	76%	9%	93	98%	*	86
Gwent	96%	*	52	-	-	28	-	-	2
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	91%	4%	233	64%	11%	80	92%	*	39
Hertfordshire	81%	8%	95	71%	13%	52	-	-	16
Humberside	97%	*	143	-	-	18	-	-	7
Kent	85%	6%	137	68%	16%	40	94%	*	34
Lancashire	93%	3%	255	73%	10%	90	98%	*	47
Leicestershire	87%	11%	45	61%	17%	36	-	-	13
Lincolnshire	91%	7%	79	-	-	19	-	-	10
London	93%	2%	1020	90%	4%	313	99%	*	278
Merseyside	92%	3%	302	93%	*	67	100%	*	32
Norfolk	90%	*	50	-	-	20	-	-	18
North Wales	94%	5%	98	97%	*	37	-	-	15
North Yorkshire	96%	*	73	-	-	24	-	-	9
Northamptonshire	82%	11%	60	-	-	30	-	-	5
Northumbria	91%	4%	215	78%	9%	85	-	-	24
Nottinghamshire	88%	6%	147	77%	13%	47	-	-	18
South Wales	93%	4%	209	94%	*	70	98%	*	50
South Yorkshire	86%	5%	176	86%	12%	43	-	-	13
Staffordshire	84%	10%	67	-	-	19	-	-	13
Suffolk	96%	*	79	-	-	8	-	-	25
Surrey	84%	8%	100	-	-	28	-	-	10
Sussex	94%	4%	138	84%	8%	85	-	-	22
Thames Valley	90%	5%	166	75%	12%	61	-	-	25
Warwickshire	91%	7%	68	-	-	16	-	-	5
West Mercia	90%	5%	153	82%	13%	44	-	-	19
West Midlands	95%	2%	473	92%	4%	168	94%	5%	111
West Yorkshire	85%	4%	304	67%	10%	98	90%	*	39
Wiltshire	88%	10%	56	-	-	9	-	-	8
England and Wales	91%	1%	6,688	81%	2%	2,154	96%	1%	1,184

Notes

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

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

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

* In these cases the margin of error would be asymmetric owing to the small number of cases that did not fall within the standard

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

HMCS Area	Initial Guilty Plea			Trials			Committals		
	Standard = 59 days			Standard = 143 days			Standard = 101 days		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size
	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)
Avon and Somerset	91%	5%	151	69%	15%	45	-	-	16
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire	87%	4%	321	75%	8%	126	90%	8%	68
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	94%	3%	340	90%	6%	117	97%	*	89
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	91%	3%	421	89%	6%	130	93%	*	59
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	92%	4%	232	89%	9%	55	96%	*	54
Cheshire and Merseyside	92%	3%	391	94%	5%	111	100%	*	43
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	89%	3%	420	78%	7%	148	97%	*	59
Cumbria and Lancashire	94%	3%	340	77%	8%	110	98%	*	54
Devon and Cornwall	88%	5%	180	70%	17%	33	-	-	15
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	87%	5%	207	76%	11%	67	-	-	24
Greater Manchester	94%	3%	326	76%	9%	93	98%	*	86
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	91%	4%	233	64%	11%	80	92%	*	39
Humber and South Yorkshire	91%	3%	319	84%	10%	61	-	-	20
Kent	85%	6%	137	68%	16%	40	94%	*	34
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire	87%	5%	184	75%	10%	85	-	-	28
London (Central and South)	93%	3%	352	91%	5%	124	99%	*	93
London (North and West)	92%	2%	668	89%	5%	189	99%	*	185
Mid and West Wales	92%	5%	131	88%	*	33	-	-	14
North and West Yorkshire	87%	4%	377	66%	9%	122	92%	*	48
North Wales	94%	5%	98	97%	*	37	-	-	15
Nottingham and Derbyshire	88%	4%	258	72%	10%	95	91%	*	43
South East Wales	94%	4%	198	92%	6%	79	98%	*	41
Surrey and Sussex	90%	4%	238	81%	8%	113	97%	*	32
Thames Valley	90%	5%	166	75%	12%	61	-	-	25
England and Wales	91%	1%	6,688	81%	2%	2,154	96%	1%	1,184

Notes:

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

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

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

* In these cases the margin of error would be asymmetric owing to the small number of cases that did not fall within the standard

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

LCJB Area	Initial Guilty Plea			Trials			Committals		
	Standard = 59 days			Standard = 176 days			Standard = 101 days		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size
	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)
Avon and Somerset	93%	6%	98	88%	*	40	-	-	0
Bedfordshire	98%	*	54	-	-	24	-	-	6
Cambridgeshire	95%	*	58	-	-	16	-	-	2
Cheshire	90%	7%	81	-	-	30	-	-	1
Cleveland	93%	5%	101	96%	*	53	-	-	3
Cumbria	90%	7%	83	-	-	27	-	-	1
Derbyshire	-	-	30	-	-	13	-	-	0
Devon Cornwall	92%	5%	131	91%	*	35	-	-	0
Dorset	97%	*	64	-	-	12	-	-	2
Durham	97%	*	86	-	-	21	-	-	1
Dyfed Powys	100%	*	46	-	-	10	-	-	0
Essex	95%	4%	157	91%	*	44	-	-	1
Gloucestershire	95%	*	56	-	-	16	-	-	2
Greater Manchester	93%	3%	252	97%	*	117	-	-	21
Gwent	100%	*	46	-	-	18	-	-	3
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	89%	5%	168	94%	*	32	-	-	10
Hertfordshire	98%	*	47	-	-	28	-	-	1
Humber	87%	7%	94	97%	*	39	-	-	5
Kent	86%	7%	106	81%	15%	32	-	-	2
Lancashire	86%	6%	133	92%	*	39	-	-	4
Leicestershire	92%	6%	88	94%	*	32	-	-	4
Lincolnshire	88%	10%	48	-	-	11	-	-	0
London	91%	2%	660	97%	2%	353	100%	*	54
Merseyside	87%	6%	131	93%	*	74	-	-	3
Norfolk	93%	*	73	-	-	18	-	-	5
North Wales	98%	*	61	-	-	17	-	-	1
North Yorkshire	93%	6%	89	-	-	27	-	-	4
Northamptonshire	-	-	28	-	-	23	-	-	1
Northumbria	96%	3%	232	97%	*	78	-	-	1
Nottinghamshire	93%	*	57	90%	*	31	-	-	10
South Wales	97%	*	132	100%	*	42	-	-	8
South Yorkshire	94%	5%	129	98%	*	50	-	-	6
Staffordshire	86%	8%	77	94%	*	36	-	-	3
Suffolk	96%	*	79	-	-	15	-	-	2
Surrey	94%	*	65	-	-	30	-	-	1
Sussex	96%	*	67	92%	*	49	-	-	1
Thames Valley	96%	*	128	79%	11%	63	-	-	6
Warwickshire	95%	*	43	-	-	10	-	-	0
West Mercia	89%	7%	91	-	-	16	-	-	0
West Midlands	96%	3%	207	95%	*	92	-	-	11
West Yorkshire	93%	3%	275	98%	*	111	-	-	7
Wiltshire	92%	*	53	-	-	22	-	-	5
England and Wales	93%	1%	4,704	94%	1%	1,846	99%	1%	198

Notes

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

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

(3) Excludes youth defendants heard in adult courts.

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

* In these cases the margin of error would be assymetric owing to the small number of cases that did not fall within the standard

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

HMCS Area	Initial Guilty Plea			Trials			Committals		
	Standard = 59 days			Standard = 176 days			Standard = 101 days		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size
	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	(+/- per cent)	(Number of Defendants)
Avon and Somerset	93%	6%	98	88%	*	40	-	-	0
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire	96%	3%	258	89%	7%	96	-	-	8
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	97%	3%	181	99%	*	80	-	-	8
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	89%	4%	237	91%	7%	74	-	-	6
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	95%	3%	210	100%	*	49	-	-	9
Cheshire and Merseyside	88%	5%	212	94%	5%	104	-	-	4
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	95%	2%	419	97%	*	152	-	-	5
Cumbria and Lancashire	88%	5%	216	89%	8%	66	-	-	5
Devon and Cornwall	92%	5%	131	91%	*	35	-	-	0
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	95%	4%	173	88%	10%	50	-	-	9
Greater Manchester	93%	3%	252	97%	*	117	-	-	21
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	89%	5%	168	94%	*	32	-	-	10
Humber and South Yorkshire	91%	4%	223	98%	*	89	-	-	11
Kent	86%	7%	106	81%	15%	32	-	-	2
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire	90%	5%	164	95%	*	66	-	-	5
London (Central and South)	92%	4%	184	98%	*	89	-	-	17
London (North and West)	91%	3%	476	97%	2%	264	100%	*	37
Mid and West Wales	99%	*	76	-	-	21	-	-	1
North and West Yorkshire	93%	3%	364	96%	4%	138	-	-	11
North Wales	98%	*	61	-	-	17	-	-	1
Nottingham and Derbyshire	93%	6%	87	93%	*	44	-	-	10
South East Wales	98%	*	148	98%	*	49	-	-	10
Surrey and Sussex	95%	4%	132	94%	*	79	-	-	2
Thames Valley	96%	*	128	79%	11%	63	-	-	6
England and Wales	93%	1%	4,704	94%	1%	1,846	99%	1%	198

Notes:

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

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

(3) Excludes youth defendants heard in adult courts.

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

* In these cases the margin of error would be asymmetric owing to the small number of cases that did not fall within the standard

TABLE 4: Defendants in indictable/triable-either-way cases, 1994 to June 2008

England and Wales

	Average number of days from								Percentage completed at first listing		Adjournments			Sample size (Number of defendants)
	Offence to charge or laying of information		Charge or laying of information to first listing		First listing to completion		Offence to completion		(Per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	Average number of adjournments		Average length of adjournments	
	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)			(Number)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)	(Days)	
1994 ⁽²⁾	43	2	25	0	60	1	128	2	20%	1%	2.5	0	24	21,973
1995	43	1	26	0	61	1	130	2	20%	1%	2.6	0	24	22,188
1996	45	2	28	0	60	1	132	2	19%	1%	2.6	0	23	21,555
1997	46	2	29	0	60	1	135	2	20%	1%	2.6	0	23	22,717
1998	46	2	26	0	55	1	127	2	22%	1%	2.4	0	23	23,535
1999 ⁽²⁾	46	2	21	0	56	1	124	2	23%	1%	2.3	0	24	23,451
2000	46	2	9	0	59	1	114	2	25%	0%	2.3	0	26	30,199
2001	48	2	8	0	55	1	111	2	28%	1%	2.1	0	26	30,354
2002	48	2	8	0	54	1	110	2	29%	0%	2.2	0	25	32,485
2003	47	2	8	0	56	1	111	2	30%	0%	2.2	0	26	33,084
2004	54	2	9	0	55	1	118	2	30%	1%	2.1	0	26	28,493
2005	59	2	10	0	54	1	122	2	31%	1%	2.1	0	26	28,127
2006	61	2	10	0	52	1	123	2	30%	1%	2.1	0	25	27,730
2007 ⁽²⁾	61	2	10	0	47	1	118	2	32%	1%	2.0	0	23	28,756
2005 March	62	4	11	1	58	2	131	4	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	27	7,480
2005 June	57	4	9	0	52	2	118	4	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	26	6,840
2005 September	59	4	10	0	52	2	121	4	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	25	7,318
2005 December	59	4	8	0	51	2	119	4	31%	1%	2.0	0.1	25	6,489
2006 March	68	4	10	0	54	2	132	4	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	26	7,391
2006 June ⁽³⁾	56	4	10	0	50	2	115	4	30%	1%	2.0	0.1	24	6,835
2006 September	67	4	10	0	53	2	130	5	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	25	7,126
2006 December	54	3	8	0	50	2	112	4	30%	1%	2.1	0.1	24	6,378
2007 March	65	4	11	1	51	2	127	4	29%	1%	2.2	0.1	23	7,126
2007 June ⁽²⁾	56	4	8	0	47	2	111	4	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	23	7,178
2007 September	66	4	11	0	47	2	124	4	32%	1%	2.0	0.1	23	7,600
2007 December	56	3	9	0	43	2	108	4	36%	1%	1.8	0.1	24	6,852
2008 March	66	4	13	1	40	2	119	4	38%	1%	1.6	0.0	25	7,472
2008 June ^{(2), (4)}	63	4	11	0	34	2	108	5	41%	1%	1.4	0.0	23	7,290

Notes:

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

(2) See paragraph 5 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the February 1994, February 1999, June 2007 and June 2008 surveys

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

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

TABLE 5: Youth defendants in all criminal cases, by offence type, 2003 to June 2008

England and Wales

	Average number of days from								Percentage completed at first listing		Adjournments			Sample size
	Offence to charge or laying of information		Charge or laying of information to first listing		First listing to completion		Offence to completion		(Per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	Average number of adjournments		Average length of adjournments	(Number of defendants)
	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)			(Number)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)	(Days)	
Indictable cases														
2003	33	1	8	0	50	1	91	1	25%	1%	2.5	0.0	21	23,652
2004	37	1	8	0	51	1	97	1	26%	1%	2.4	0.0	21	22,948
2005	43	1	9	0	48	1	100	1	28%	1%	2.3	0.0	21	21,729
2006	45	1	9	0	46	1	100	1	28%	1%	2.3	0.0	20	22,637
2007(2)	44	1	9	0	41	1	94	1	30%	1%	2.1	0.0	19	22,560
2007 March	45	2	9	0	45	2	99	3	27%	1%	2.3	0.1	19	5,779
2007 June (2)	42	2	9	0	41	1	92	2	30%	1%	2.2	0.1	19	5,748
2007 September	42	2	9	0	41	2	92	3	30%	1%	2.1	0.1	20	5,550
2007 December	47	2	9	0	37	1	93	3	33%	1%	1.9	0.1	19	5,483
2008 March	45	2	9	0	34	1	88	3	36%	1%	1.7	0.1	20	5,238
2008 June ^{(2), (4)}	41	3	9	0	30	1	80	3	37%	1%	1.5	0.1	19	4,651
Summary non-motoring cases														
2003	28	1	10	0	43	1	80	2	32%	1%	2.0	0.1	21	7,285
2004	32	1	10	0	44	1	85	2	33%	1%	2.1	0.1	21	8,006
2005	36	1	10	0	41	1	88	2	33%	1%	2.0	0.1	21	8,087
2006	36	1	11	0	43	1	90	2	32%	1%	2.0	0.1	21	8,393
2007	36	2	10	0	37	1	83	2	34%	1%	1.9	0.0	19	8,890
2007 March	36	3	11	1	43	3	89	4	32%	2%	2.1	0.1	20	2,249
2007 June ⁽²⁾	37	3	10	1	37	2	85	4	33%	2%	2.0	0.1	19	2,473
2007 September	36	4	10	1	35	2	81	5	34%	2%	1.8	0.1	19	2,137
2007 December	35	2	10	1	33	2	77	3	38%	2%	1.7	0.1	20	2,031
2008 March	34	2	10	0	32	2	75	4	40%	2%	1.5	0.1	22	1,903
2008 June ^{(2), (4)}	32	3	10	1	26	2	68	4	43%	2%	1.4	0.1	19	1,626

Notes:

- (1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more info.
- (2) See paragraph 5 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the February 1994, February 1999, June 2007 and June 2008 surveys.
- (3) June 2006 figures exclude data for North Yorkshire Area as data was unavailable
- (4) The proportion of clerkships submitting youth data for June 2008 has dipped in comparison to previous surveys. This appears to have stemmed from revised data collection methods, and will be addressed in time for the next survey.

TABLE 5 (continued): Youth defendants in all criminal cases, by offence type, 2003 to June 2008

England and Wales

	Average number of days from				Percentage completed at first listing				Adjournments			Sample size (Number of defendants)		
	Offence to charge or laying of information		Charge or laying of information to first listing		First listing to completion		Offence to completion		Average number of adjournments		Average length of adjournments			
	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	(Number)		Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)	(Days)
Summary motoring														
2003	57	2	22	1	31	1	109	2	40%	1%	1.5	0.1	21	6,221
2004	60	2	22	1	29	1	111	2	44%	1%	1.3	0.0	22	5,660
2005	59	2	21	1	28	2	108	3	47%	1%	1.3	0.1	22	4,558
2006	55	2	21	1	25	2	100	3	47%	2%	1.2	0.1	20	3,707
2007 ⁽²⁾	50	2	19	1	25	2	95	3	48%	2%	1.3	0.1	20	3,092
2007 March	54	4	20	1	26	3	100	5	47%	3%	1.4	0.1	19	840
2007 June	46	4	17	1	30	5	93	7	45%	4%	1.4	0.1	21	768
2007 September	45	4	18	1	23	3	86	5	49%	4%	1.2	0.1	19	803
2007 December	57	4	20	1	22	3	99	6	51%	4%	1.1	0.1	20	681
2008 March	53	4	21	2	21	3	94	6	52%	4%	0.9	0.1	22	627
2008 June ^{(2), (4)}	54	5	20	2	21	4	95	7	48%	4%	1.1	0.1	20	590
All criminal cases														
2003	36	1	11	0	46	1	92	1	29%	0%	2.2	0.0	21	37,158
2004	40	1	11	0	46	1	97	1	30%	0%	2.2	0.0	21	36,614
2005	44	1	11	0	44	1	98	1	31%	0%	2.1	0.0	21	34,374
2006	44	1	11	0	43	1	98	1	31%	0%	2.1	0.0	20	34,737
2007	43	1	10	0	39	1	91	1	33%	0%	2.0	0.0	19	34,542
2007 March	44	1	10	0	43	1	96	2	30%	1%	2.2	0.1	20	8,868
2007 June ⁽²⁾	41	1	10	0	39	1	90	2	32%	1%	2.0	0.1	19	8,989
2007 September	41	2	10	0	38	1	89	2	33%	1%	1.9	0.0	20	8,490
2007 December	45	1	10	0	35	1	90	2	36%	1%	1.8	0.0	19	8,195
2008 March	43	1	10	0	32	1	85	2	38%	1%	1.6	0.0	20	7,768
2008 June ^{(2), (4)}	40	2	11	0	28	1	78	2	40%	1%	1.5	0.0	19	6,867

Notes:

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

(2) See paragraph 5 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the February 1994, February 1999, June 2007 and June 2008 surveys.

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

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

Notes

Methodology

1. In 1999 and earlier years, clerkships provided details of all defendants in indictable/triable-either-way cases in Magistrates' Courts against whom proceedings were completed in selected sample weeks in February, June and October of each year. Information on summary offences was requested in the June one week sample only. From the February 1999 survey onwards information on youth defendants in all criminal cases has been collected in a four-week period ending at the same time as the selected main sample week of each survey. Starting with the February 2000 survey there has been one survey in each quarter with two of these (first and third quarters) collecting the additional information on summary offences. The completed proceedings on which information is provided includes cases committed or sent to the Crown Court and those dismissed or discharged as well as those in which a sentence was passed. For each defendant selected details of the case are recorded (for example, offence group, type of proceedings and type of completion) together with the dates of certain stages of proceedings. The completion for offences committed or sent to the Crown Court is up to the point where the case was committed or sent.
2. The figures in this bulletin are based on defendants. Where a case involves more than one defendant, each defendant is considered individually.
3. In bulletins in 1998 and earlier years the date of charge or laying of information was simplified to the date of charge or summons. From 1999 onwards bulletins use the exact definition of the date requested in the survey – the date of charge or laying of information. Therefore the interval from offence to charge or summons previously reported on is now defined as the interval from offence to charge or laying of information. Similarly the interval from charge or summons to first listing has been re-defined as the interval from charge or laying of information to first listing. As the date used in the calculations is exactly the same this change has not affected results.
4. Due to seasonal variation in the data collected at different times of the year, this bulletin only makes comparisons with data from the same sample period in previous years.
5. Changes to the data collection of TIS
With effect from June 2007, data for the adult one-week Time Intervals Survey is collected through a web-based data collection tool, the HMCS Performance Database (called 'One Performance Truth' or OPT). And from June 2008, it has also been possible to collect youth data from the four-week survey via OPT (although the pre-existing

method of youth data collection is still available). 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.

Quality and completeness of the data

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

February 1993

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

February 1994

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

charge or laying of information.

February 1999

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

June 2007

- Surveys from June 2007 onwards collected data on adult cases via a system called One Performance Truth (OPT). One benefit of OPT is that it introduces data validation at the point of input. Youth data continued to be submitted in the previous manner.

June 2008

- From June 2008, it has also been possible to collect youth data from the four-week survey via OPT, although the pre-existing method of youth data collection is still available. Accordingly, youth data for the June 2008 survey was received via both the old and new methods. However, the overall proportion of clerkships submitting youth data for June 2008 dropped; this may or may not have been due to the change in collection method. In any case, data collection procedures are being reviewed with a view to increasing the number of clerkships submitting youth data from the August 2008 survey onwards.
8. Figures in the text and tables may not sum exactly to totals because the numbers in this bulletin have been rounded independently of each

other.

9. In the past some Local Justice Areas (LJAs) and clerkships have sometimes been unable to participate in the collection of data due to local circumstances. The table overleaf indicates the estimated completeness of the data by showing the proportion of courts or clerkships supplying data. It does not refer to the proportion of all cases completed during each sample week on which time intervals data was returned: this would almost certainly be lower. For this reason, and short term and seasonal variation, the figures in this publication for number of defendants are unlikely to provide a reliable indicator of the changes in Magistrates' Courts caseload.
10. North Yorkshire area data was unavailable for the June 2006 survey; therefore all England and Wales figures for June 2006 and 2006 annual figures were calculated without this data.

Confidence Intervals and Margins of Error

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

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

Collection week	Youth data: proportion of clerkships making returns (%) ⁽²⁾	Adult data: proportion of clerkships (before June 2007) or courthouses (from June 2007) making returns (%) ⁽²⁾	Number of defendants in indictable cases (sample size) ⁽¹⁾
June 1994	98.2%	98.2%	7,637
June 1995	100.0%	100.0%	7,816
June 1996	100.0%	100.0%	7,400
June 1997	100.0%	100.0%	8,097
June 1998	100.0%	100.0%	8,048
June 1999 ⁽¹⁾	100.0%	100.0%	8,214
June 2000	98.8%	98.8%	7,225
June 2001	99.4%	99.4%	7,125
June 2002	100.0%	100.0%	8,251
June 2003	100.0%	100.0%	7,986
June 2004	100.0%	100.0%	5,668
June 2005	96.7%	96.7%	6,840
June 2006	98.8%	98.8%	6,835
June 2007 ⁽²⁾	98.0%	98.2%	7,178
June 2008 ⁽³⁾	92.0%	100.0%	7,290

Notes:

(1) The sample sizes for February 1999 onwards are from the one-week sample only. Table 5 shows youth defendant sample sizes in the four-week survey.

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

(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.

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

(5) The proportion of clerkships submitting youth data for June 2008 has dipped in comparison to previous surveys. This appears to have stemmed from revised data collection methods, and will be addressed in time for the next survey.

Previous bulletin

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

Further Information

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