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

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KEY FINDINGS

This bulletin presents results from the September 2008 Time Intervals Survey. The sample survey collects data on the average times taken between stages of proceedings for defendants in completed criminal cases in the 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 interval from offence to completion was 140 days, compared to 147 days in September 2007; this change is statistically significant.

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

The estimated average time between offence and completion decreased from 124 days in September 2007 to 113 days in September 2008; this change is statistically significant.

All defendants in completed summary cases

Compared to September 2007, the estimated average time between offence and completion decreased for defendants in summary non-motoring cases (from 142 to 137 days, a statistically significant change) but remained the same for those in summary motoring cases (162 days).

Youth defendants in completed criminal cases

Compared to September 2007, the estimated average time from offence to completion decreased for youth defendants in indictable cases (92 to 76 days, a statistically significant change) and in summary non-motoring cases (81 to 65 days, statistically significant), but increased for those in summary motoring cases (86 to 87 days, not statistically significant).

Timeliness standard results

88 per cent of adult court charged cases and 93 per cent of youth court (youth defendant only) cases were completed within the standards.

CONTENTS

- 1 Key findings
- 3 Introduction

COMMENTARY

- 5 All defendants in completed criminal cases
- 7 All defendants in completed indictable/triable-either-way cases
- 9 All defendants in completed summary non-motoring cases
- 11 All defendants in completed summary motoring cases
- 13 Youth defendants in completed criminal cases
- 15 Timeliness standard results

TABLES (p.22)

- Table 1: All defendants in completed criminal cases
- Table 2: All defendants in completed indictable/triable-either-way cases
- Table 3: All defendants in completed summary cases
- Table 4: Youth defendants in completed criminal cases
- Tables 5 to 7: Timeliness standard results

NOTES

- 29 Methodology
- 30 Quality and completeness of data
- 34 Further information

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 completed 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 September 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 six parts, the first five covering information on all defendants taken from the main survey week, and the last covering information collected on youth defendants from a four-week survey period – as follows:
 - All criminal cases
 - Indictable cases
 - Summary non-motoring cases
 - Summary motoring cases
 - Youth defendants
 - Timeliness standard results
3. The results presented in this report are given per defendant. The September 2008 results for all completed criminal cases are based on a sample of 27,187 defendants (7,530 in indictable cases, 8,535 in summary non-motoring cases and 11,122 in summary motoring cases) from a one-week survey period. The youth defendant results are based on a sample of 6,744 defendants (4,495 in indictable cases and 2,249 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). 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 the median 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.

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 Timeliness standard results
June	All defendants in completed indictable/triable-either-way cases Youth defendants in completed criminal cases Timeliness standard results
September	All defendants in completed criminal cases All defendants in completed indictable/triable-either-way cases All defendants in completed summary cases Youth defendants in completed criminal cases Timeliness standard results
December	All defendants in completed indictable/triable-either-way cases Youth defendants in completed criminal cases Annual tables Timeliness standard results

ALL DEFENDANTS IN COMPLETED CRIMINAL CASES

Main findings

In September 2008, the estimated average time from offence to completion for all defendants in completed criminal cases decreased from September 2007.

Time Intervals

(see Figure 1 and Table 1)

- The estimated average time from offence to completion in September 2008 was 140 days, a decrease from 147 days in September 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to charge or laying of information in September 2008 was 82 days, a decrease from 83 days in September 2007; this decrease is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from charge or laying of information to first listing in September 2008 was 34 days, unchanged from September 2007.
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion in September 2008 was 24 days, a decrease from 29 days in September 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.

Adjournments

(see Figure 2 and Table 1)

- There was an estimated average of 0.9 adjournments in September 2008, a decrease from 1.1 adjournments in September 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average length of adjournments in September 2008 was 28 days, unchanged from September 2007.
- An estimated 60 per cent of defendants in September 2008 had their cases completed at first listing, unchanged from September 2007.

Figure 1: Estimated average time by stage of proceedings (all defendants in completed criminal cases), September 2000 to September 2008

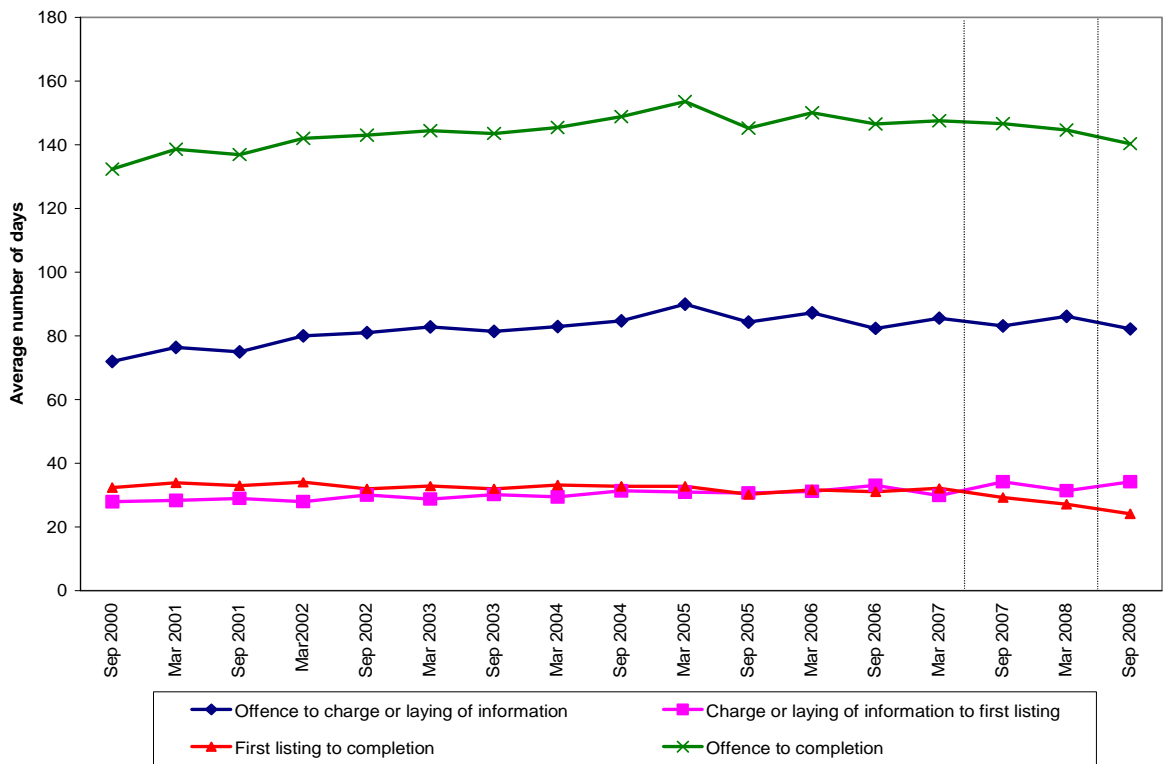
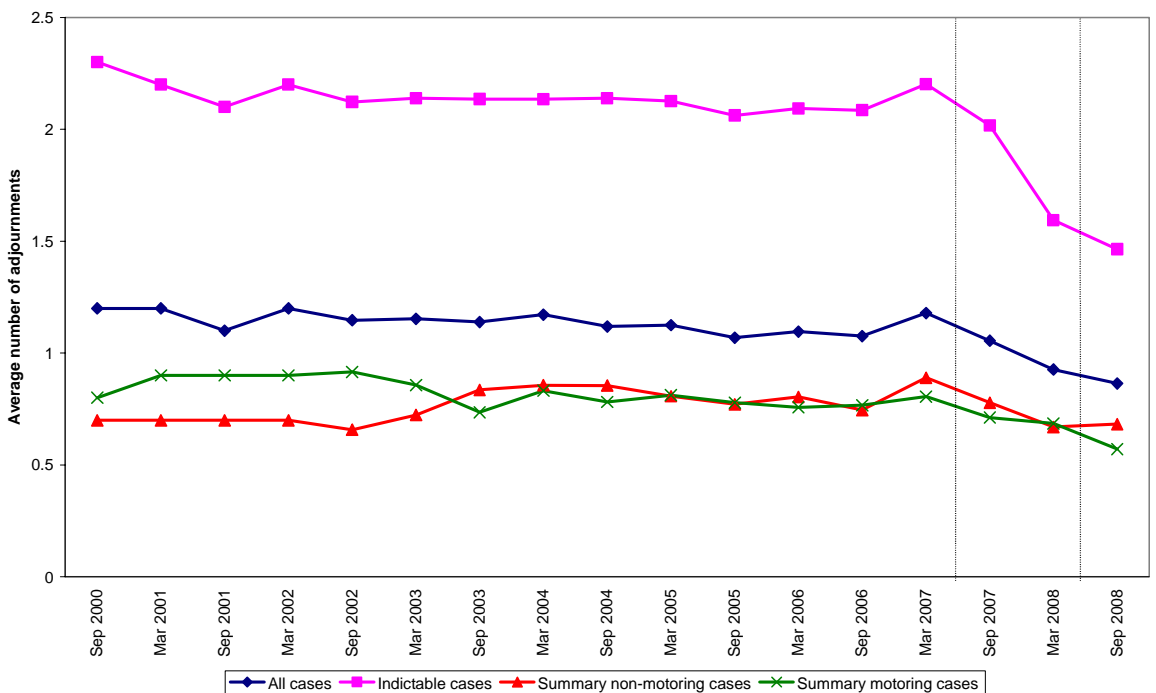


Figure 2: Estimated average number of adjournments by type of offence (all defendants in completed criminal cases), September 2000 to September 2008



The dashed vertical lines in the charts denote changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007 and June 2008 surveys.

ALL DEFENDANTS IN COMPLETED INDICTABLE/TRIABLE-EITHER-WAY CASES

Main finding

The estimated average time from offence to completion for all defendants in completed indictable/triable-either-way cases decreased from 124 days in September 2007 to 113 days in September 2008.

Time Intervals

(see Figure 3 and Table 2)

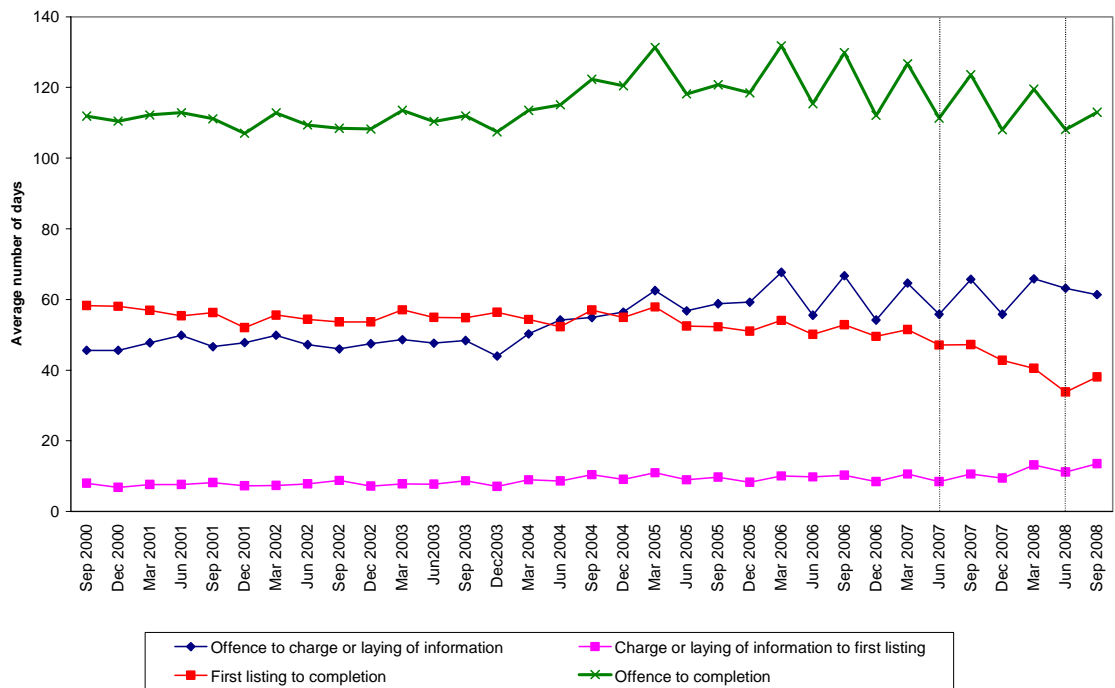
- The estimated average time from offence to completion in September 2008 was 113 days, a decrease from 124 days in September 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to charge or laying of information was 61 days in September 2008, a decrease from 66 days in September 2007; this decrease is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from charge or laying of information to first listing was 14 days in September 2008, an increase from 11 days in September 2007; this increase is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion was 38 days in September 2008, a decrease from 47 days in September 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.

Adjournments

(see Table 2)

- There was an estimated average of 1.5 adjournments in September 2008, a decrease from 2.0 adjournments in September 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average length of adjournments in September 2008 was 26 days, an increase from 23 days in September 2007.
- An estimated 38 per cent of defendants in September 2008 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 32 per cent in September 2007.

Figure 3: Estimated average time by stage of proceedings (all defendants in completed indictable/triable-either-way cases), September 2000 to September 2008



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

Inconsistency in offence to charge figures between Mar/Sep and Jun/Dec surveys is due to a lower proportion of summons indictable cases in June and December. This is currently being investigated. New guidance has been issued which appears to be redressing any under-reporting.

ALL DEFENDANTS IN COMPLETED SUMMARY NON-MOTORING CASES

Main Finding

The estimated average time from offence to completion in September 2008 for all defendants in completed summary non-motoring cases decreased from September 2007.

Time Intervals

(see Figure 4 and Table 3)

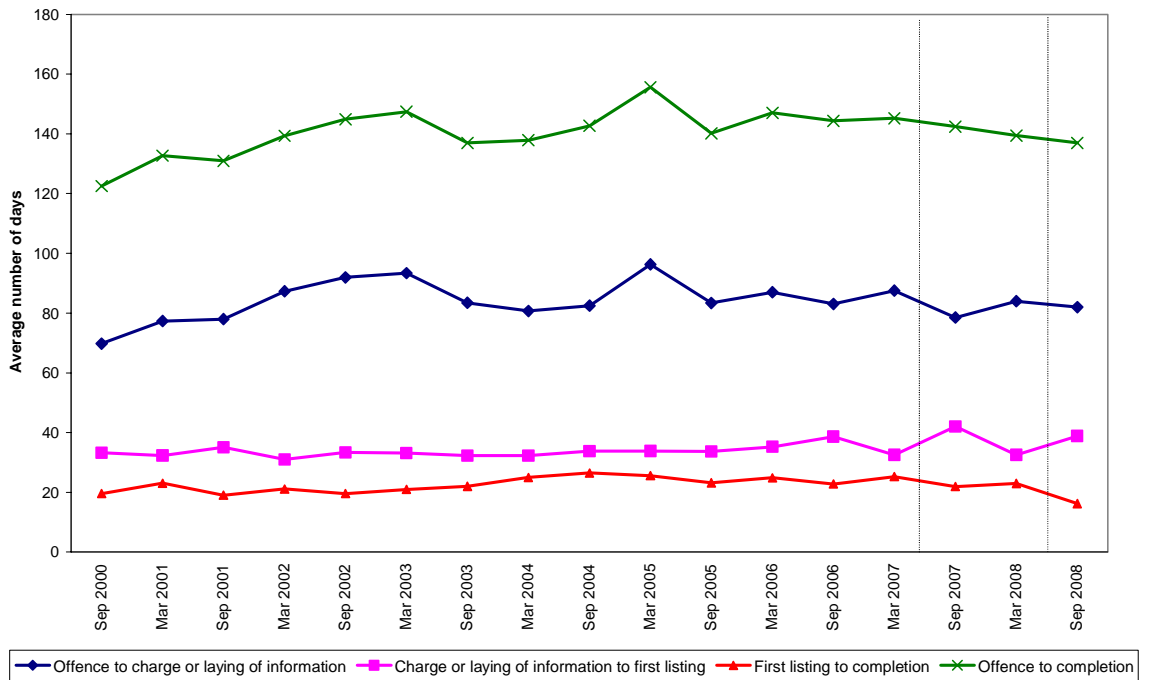
- The estimated average time from offence to completion in September 2008 was 137 days, a decrease from 142 days recorded in September 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to charge or laying of information in September 2008 was 82 days, an increase from 79 days in September 2007; this increase is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from charge or laying of information to first listing in September 2008 was 39 days, a decrease from 42 days in September 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion in September 2008 was 16 days, a decrease from 22 days in September 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.

Adjournments

(see Table 3)

- There was an estimated average of 0.6 adjournments in September 2008, a decrease from 0.8 adjournments in September 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average length of adjournments in September 2008 was 28 days, unchanged from September 2007.
- An estimated 75 per cent of defendants in September 2008 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 72 per cent in September 2007.

Figure 4: Estimated average time by stage of proceedings (all defendants in completed summary non-motoring cases), September 2000 to September 2008



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

ALL DEFENDANTS IN COMPLETED SUMMARY MOTORING CASES

Main Finding

The estimated average time from offence to completion in September 2008 for all defendants in completed summary motoring cases was unchanged from September 2007

Time Intervals

(see Figure 5 and Table 3)

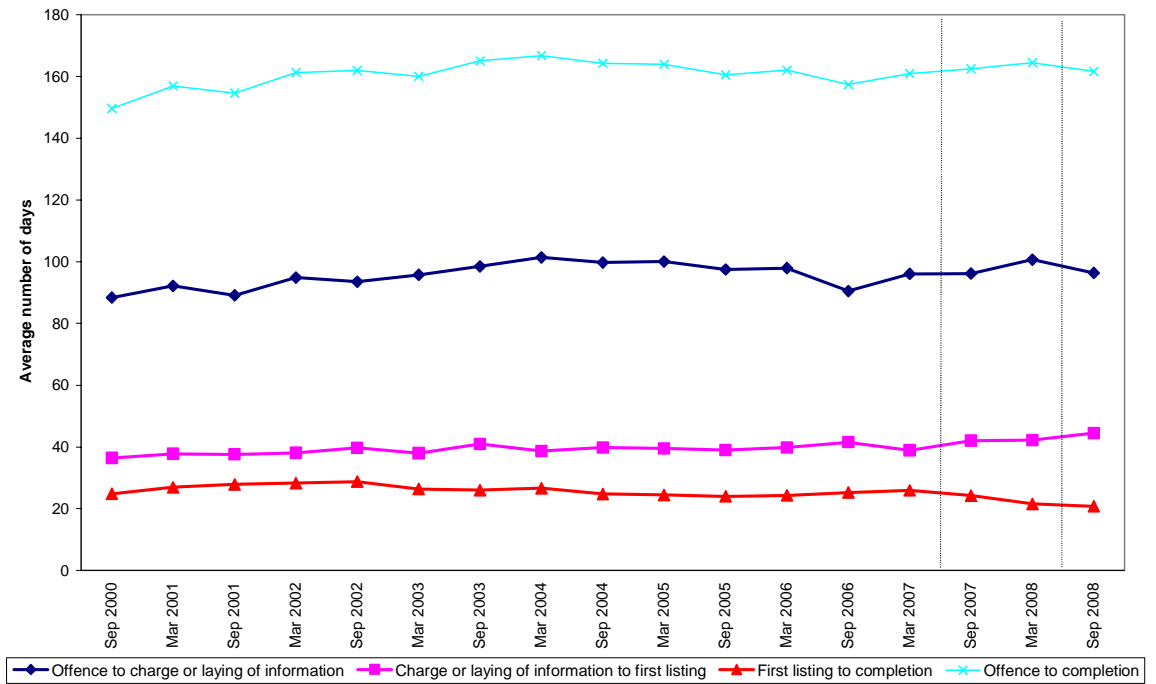
- The estimated average time from offence to completion in September 2008 was 162 days, unchanged from September 2007.
- The estimated average time from offence to charge or laying of information was 96 days in September 2008, unchanged from September 2007.
- The estimated average time from charge or laying of information to first listing was 44 days in September 2008, an increase from 42 days in September 2007; this increase is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion was 21 days in September 2008, a decrease from 24 days in September 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.

Adjournments

(see Table 3)

- There was an estimated average of 0.7 adjournments in September 2008, unchanged from September 2007.
- The estimated average length of adjournments in September 2008 was 30 days, a decrease from 34 days in September 2007.
- An estimated 64 per cent of defendants in September 2008 had their cases completed at first listing, a decrease from 66 per cent in September 2007.

Figure 5: Estimated average time by stage of proceedings (all defendants in completed summary motoring cases), September 2000 to September 2008



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

YOUTH DEFENDANTS IN COMPLETED CRIMINAL CASES

Main Findings

The estimated average time from offence to completion in September 2008 for youth defendants in completed criminal cases decreased from September 2007.

Time Intervals

(see Figure 6 and Table 4)

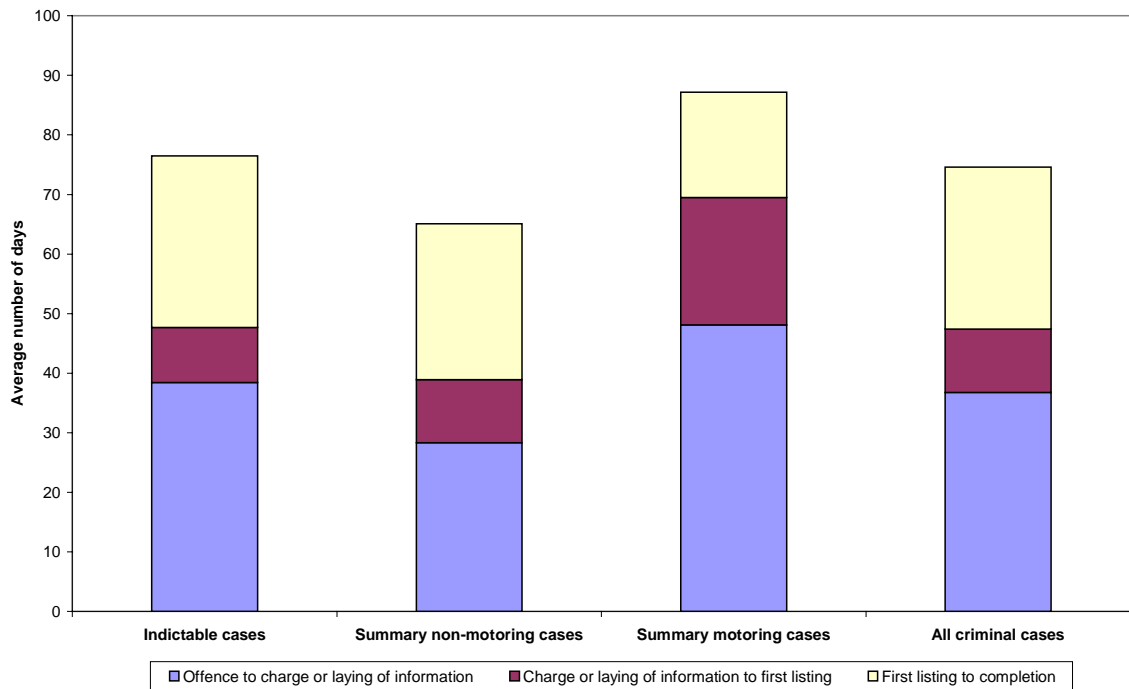
- The estimated average time from offence to completion for youth defendants in completed criminal cases in September 2008 was 75 days, a decrease from 89 days in September 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to completion for youth defendants in completed indictable/triable-either-way cases was 76 days in September 2008, a decrease from 92 days in September 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to completion for completed summary non-motoring cases in September 2008 was 65 days, a decrease from 81 days in September 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to completion for completed summary motoring cases in September 2008 was 87 days, an increase from 86 days in September 2007; this increase is not statistically significant.

Adjournments

(see Table 4)

- There was an estimated average of 1.4 adjournments for youth defendants in completed criminal cases in September 2008, a decrease from 1.9 adjournments in September 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average length of adjournments for youth defendants in completed criminal cases in September 2008 was 19 days, a decrease from 20 days in September 2007.
- An estimated 39 per cent of youth defendants in completed criminal cases in September 2008 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 33 per cent in September 2007.

Figure 6: Estimated average time by stage of proceedings (youth defendants in completed criminal cases), September 2008



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 measured against achieving 80 per cent or more cases within these standards. The standards relate to the charge/laying of information to completion period.

Adult court charged cases

Initial guilty plea – 59 days

Trials – 143 days

Committals – 101 days

Youth court (youth defendants only) cases

Initial guilty plea – 59 days

Trials – 176 days

Committals – 101 days

England and Wales (March 2008)

- 88 per cent of adult court charged cases were completed within the standards.
- 93 per cent of youth court (youth defendants only) cases were completed within the standards.

Area standard results

(see Tables 5 to 7)

~ per the 42 Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) areas:

38 LCJB areas managed to complete 80 per cent or more of adult charged cases within the standards.

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

~ per the 24 HM Court Service (HMCS) areas:

23 HMCS areas managed to complete 80 per cent or more of adult charged cases within the standards.

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

TABLE 1: All defendants in completed criminal cases, September 2000 to September 2008

England and Wales

	Estimated average number of days from						Estimated proportion 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		Estimated average number of adjournments		Estimated 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)	(Per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	(Number)		Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)	(Days)
2000 September	72	1	28	0	32	1	132	1	54%	1%	1.2	0.0	28	26,659
2001 March	76	1	28	0	34	1	139	1	55%	1%	1.2	0.0	29	30,231
2001 September	75	1	29	0	33	1	137	1	57%	1%	1.1	0.0	29	28,422
2002 March	80	1	28	0	34	1	142	1	54%	1%	1.2	0.0	28	31,366
2002 September	81	1	30	0	32	1	143	1	56%	1%	1.1	0.0	28	31,642
2003 March	83	1	29	0	33	1	144	1	56%	1%	1.2	0.0	28	33,273
2003 September	81	1	30	0	32	1	144	1	57%	1%	1.1	0.0	28	33,562
2004 March	83	1	29	0	33	1	145	1	56%	1%	1.2	0.0	28	33,879
2004 September	85	1	31	0	33	1	149	1	57%	1%	1.1	0.0	29	31,699
2005 March	90	1	31	0	33	1	154	2	57%	1%	1.1	0.0	29	31,192
2005 September	84	1	31	0	30	1	145	1	58%	1%	1.1	0.0	28	31,961
2006 March	87	1	31	0	32	1	150	2	58%	1%	1.1	0.0	29	30,486
2006 September	82	1	33	0	31	1	147	2	58%	1%	1.1	0.0	29	29,714
2007 March	86	1	30	0	32	1	148	2	56%	1%	1.2	0.0	27	28,621
2007 September ⁽²⁾	83	1	34	0	29	1	147	2	60%	1%	1.1	0.0	28	30,732
2008 March ⁽¹⁾	86	1	31	0	27	1	145	2	60%	1%	0.9	0.0	29	27,450
2008 September ⁽²⁾	82	1	34	0	24	1	140	2	60%	1%	0.9	0.0	28	27,187

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes:

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

(2) See paragraph 7 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007 and June 2008 surveys

(*) Figures for the March 08 survey have been updated from those in previous bulletins, due to late data having been received

TABLE 2: All defendants in completed indictable/triable-either-way cases, March 2005 to September 2008

England and Wales

	Estimated average number of days from								Estimated proportion 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				Estimated average number of adjournments	Estimated 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)	
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 ⁽²⁾	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	41	2	120	4	38%	1%	1.6	0.0	25	7,487
2008 June ^{(2)(*)}	63	4	11	0	34	2	108	5	41%	1%	1.4	0.0	23	7,313
2008 September ⁽²⁾	61	4	14	0	38	2	113	4	38%	1%	1.5	0.0	26	7,530

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes:

- (1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result plus or minus the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more.
- (2) See paragraph 7 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007 and June 2008 surveys.
- (3) June 2006 figures exclude data for North Yorkshire LCJB Area as data was unavailable.
- (*) Figures for the March and June 08 surveys have been updated from those in previous bulletins, due to late data having been received

TABLE 3: All defendants in completed summary cases, by offence type, September 2000 to September 2008

England and Wales

	Estimated average number of days from								Estimated proportion 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)	Estimated average number of adjournments		Estimated 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)	
Summary non-motoring														
2000 September	70	2	33	1	20	1	123	2	71%	1%	0.7	0.0	28	6,990
2001 March	77	2	32	1	23	2	133	3	71%	1%	0.7	0.0	31	7,933
2001 September	78	1	35	1	19	1	131	2	75%	1%	0.6	0.0	31	8,198
2002 March	87	2	31	1	21	1	139	2	71%	1%	0.7	0.0	29	8,756
2002 September	92	2	33	1	20	1	145	2	72%	1%	0.7	0.0	30	9,727
2003 March	93	2	33	1	21	1	147	2	72%	1%	0.7	0.0	29	9,170
2003 September	83	2	32	1	22	1	137	2	71%	1%	0.7	0.0	30	9,354
2004 March	81	2	32	1	25	1	138	2	70%	1%	0.8	0.0	30	9,254
2004 September	82	2	34	1	26	1	143	2	68%	1%	0.9	0.0	31	8,219
2005 March	96	2	34	1	26	1	156	3	70%	1%	0.8	0.0	31	9,149
2005 September	83	2	34	1	23	1	140	2	71%	1%	0.8	0.0	30	9,676
2006 March	87	2	35	1	25	1	147	3	70%	1%	0.8	0.0	31	9,342
2006 September	83	2	39	1	23	1	144	2	72%	1%	0.7	0.0	31	9,634
2007 March	87	2	32	1	25	1	145	3	69%	1%	0.9	0.0	28	8,737
2007 September ⁽²⁾	79	2	42	1	22	1	142	2	72%	1%	0.8	0.0	28	9,494
2008 March ^(*)	84	2	33	1	23	3	139	4	72%	1%	0.7	0.0	34	8,303
2008 September ⁽²⁾	82	2	39	1	16	1	137	3	75%	1%	0.6	0.0	28	8,535

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes:

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

(2) See paragraph 7 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007 and June 2008 surveys.

(*) Figures for the March and June 08 surveys have been updated from those in previous bulletins, due to late data having been received

TABLE 3 (continued): All defendants in completed summary cases, by offence type, September 2000 to September 2008

England and Wales

	Estimated average number of days from								Estimated proportion 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)	Estimated average number of adjournments		Estimated 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)	
Summary motoring														
2000 September	88	1	36	0	25	1	150	2	61%	1%	0.8	0.0	30	12,503
2001 March	92	1	38	0	27	1	157	2	62%	1%	0.9	0.0	31	14,222
2001 September	89	1	38	0	28	1	155	2	61%	1%	0.9	0.0	32	12,775
2002 March	95	1	38	0	28	1	161	2	60%	1%	0.9	0.0	32	14,021
2002 September	94	1	40	1	29	1	162	2	60%	1%	0.9	0.0	31	13781
2003 March	96	1	38	0	26	1	160	2	61%	1%	0.9	0.0	31	15,442
2003 September	98	1	41	0	26	1	165	2	62%	1%	0.8	0.0	31	15,659
2004 March	101	1	39	1	27	1	167	2	61%	1%	0.9	0.0	31	16,103
2004 September	100	1	40	1	25	1	164	2	64%	1%	0.8	0.0	32	16,042
2005 March	100	1	39	1	24	1	164	2	62%	1%	0.8	0.0	30	14563
2005 September	98	1	39	1	24	1	161	2	63%	1%	0.8	0.0	31	14,967
2006 March	98	1	40	1	24	1	162	2	63%	1%	0.8	0.0	32	13,753
2006 September	91	1	42	1	25	1	157	2	63%	1%	0.8	0.0	33	12,954
2007 March	96	1	39	1	26	1	161	2	63%	1%	0.8	0.0	32	12,758
2007 September ⁽²⁾	96	1	42	1	24	1	162	2	66%	1%	0.7	0.0	34	13,638
2008 March ^(*)	101	1	42	1	22	1	164	2	66%	1%	0.7	0.0	32	11,660
2008 September ⁽²⁾	96	1	44	1	21	1	162	2	64%	1%	0.7	0.0	30	11,122

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes:

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

(2) See paragraph 7 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007 and June 2008 surveys.

(*) Figures for the March and June 08 surveys have been updated from those in previous bulletins, due to late data having been received

TABLE 4: Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, March 2006 to September 2008

England and Wales

	Estimated average number of days from								Estimated proportion 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				Estimated average number of adjournments		Estimated 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)	
<u>Indictable cases</u>														
2006 March	48	2	10	0	50	2	107	3	28%	1%	2.4	0.1	21	5,487
2006 June ⁽³⁾	45	2	9	0	45	2	99	3	28%	1%	2.2	0.1	20	5,510
2006 September	44	2	9	0	47	2	100	3	27%	1%	2.4	0.1	20	5,710
2006 December	42	2	9	0	43	2	95	3	27%	1%	2.3	0.1	19	5,930
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	2	36%	1%	1.7	0.1	20	5,256
2008 June ^(*)	41	3	9	0	30	1	80	3	37%	1%	1.5	0.1	19	4,766
2008 September ⁽²⁾	38	2	9	0	29	1	76	3	37%	1%	1.5	0.1	19	4,495
<u>Summary non-motoring cases</u>														
2006 March	37	2	11	1	45	3	93	4	33%	2%	2.0	0.1	22	2,270
2006 June ⁽³⁾	37	2	11	1	43	3	90	4	32%	2%	2.1	0.1	21	1,918
2006 September	35	2	12	1	41	3	88	4	34%	2%	1.9	0.1	21	2,112
2006 December	36	2	10	1	43	2	88	4	30%	2%	2.2	0.1	20	2,093
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 ^(*)	33	2	10	0	32	2	75	4	40%	2%	1.5	0.1	21	1,904
2008 June ^(*)	33	3	10	1	26	2	69	4	43%	2%	1.4	0.1	19	1,685
2008 September ⁽²⁾	28	2	11	1	26	2	65	3	41%	2%	1.3	0.1	20	1,664

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes:

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(2) See paragraph 7 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007 and June 2008 surveys.

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

(*) Figures for the March and June 08 surveys have been updated from those in previous bulletins, due to late data having been received

TABLE 4 (continued): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, March 2006 to September 2008

England and Wales

	Estimated average number of days from						Estimated proportion 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		Estimated average number of adjournments		Estimated 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)	(Per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	(Number)		Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)	(Days)
<u>Summary motoring</u>														
2006 March	63	4	21	1	25	3	109	5	49%	3%	1.2	0.1	21	1,012
2006 June ⁽³⁾	48	4	18	1	27	3	94	6	41%	3%	1.4	0.1	20	853
2006 September	54	3	22	1	24	3	100	5	51%	3%	1.1	0.1	21	964
2006 December	53	4	21	1	23	3	97	5	47%	3%	1.2	0.1	19	878
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 ⁽²⁾	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 ⁽¹⁾	53	4	21	2	21	3	94	6	52%	4%	0.9	0.1	22	629
2008 June ⁽¹⁾	54	5	20	2	21	4	95	7	49%	4%	1.1	0.1	20	608
2008 September ⁽²⁾	48	4	21	2	18	3	87	6	55%	4%	0.9	0.1	19	585
<u>All criminal cases</u>														
2006 March	47	2	11	0	46	1	104	2	32%	1%	2.1	0.1	21	8,769
2006 June ⁽³⁾	43	2	10	0	43	1	96	2	30%	1%	2.1	0.1	20	8,281
2006 September	43	2	11	0	43	1	97	2	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	20	8,786
2006 December	42	1	10	0	41	1	94	2	29%	1%	2.1	0.1	19	8,901
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 ⁽²⁾	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 ⁽¹⁾	43	1	10	0	32	1	85	2	38%	1%	1.6	0.0	20	7,789
2008 June ⁽¹⁾	40	2	11	0	28	1	78	2	40%	1%	1.5	0.0	19	7,059
2008 September ⁽²⁾	37	2	11	0	27	1	75	2	39%	1%	1.4	0.0	19	6,744

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes:

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

(2) See paragraph 7 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007 and June 2008 surveys.

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

(*) Figures for the March and June 08 surveys have been updated from those in previous bulletins, due to late data having been received.

TABLE 5a: Timeliness standard results (charge/laying of information to completion); completed adult court charged cases (including youth defendants) & completed youth court cases (youth defendants only); by LCJB Area; September 2008

England & Wales

	Adult Court Charged			Youth Court		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample size
	(per cent)	range	(number of defendants)	(per cent)	range	(number of defendants)
Avon and Somerset	88%	(83% - 91%)	225	91%	(85% - 95%)	124
Bedfordshire	90%	(78% - 95%)	48	94%	(85% - 97%)	63
Cambridgeshire	89%	(82% - 93%)	126	90%	(81% - 95%)	71
Cheshire	95%	(90% - 97%)	151	91%	(85% - 95%)	138
Cleveland	89%	(84% - 93%)	222	98%	(94% - 99%)	142
Cumbria	97%	(92% - 99%)	119	92%	(85% - 95%)	109
Derbyshire	86%	(80% - 91%)	160	93%	(86% - 96%)	110
Devon Cornwall	86%	(80% - 91%)	170	89%	(83% - 92%)	185
Dorset	77%	(69% - 83%)	137	98%	(92% - 100%)	65
Durham	87%	(80% - 92%)	122	97%	(92% - 99%)	102
Dyfed Powys	83%	(73% - 89%)	82	94%	(85% - 98%)	54
Essex	87%	(83% - 91%)	276	94%	(89% - 96%)	174
Gloucestershire	84%	(75% - 89%)	98	97%	(89% - 99%)	63
Greater Manchester	96%	(93% - 97%)	472	95%	(93% - 97%)	350
Gwent	91%	(83% - 95%)	91	100%	(92% - 100%)	46
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	84%	(79% - 87%)	333	94%	(90% - 96%)	274
Hertfordshire	77%	(70% - 82%)	173	88%	(80% - 93%)	109
Humberside	78%	(70% - 83%)	153	91%	(85% - 95%)	133
Kent	80%	(74% - 85%)	217	89%	(81% - 93%)	115
Lancashire	87%	(83% - 90%)	404	94%	(91% - 97%)	287
Leicestershire	92%	(85% - 96%)	111	90%	(83% - 94%)	102
Lincolnshire	82%	(75% - 88%)	137	86%	(74% - 93%)	51
London	89%	(87% - 90%)	1,479	93%	(92% - 95%)	957
Merseyside	89%	(85% - 91%)	410	92%	(88% - 95%)	236
Norfolk	93%	(87% - 96%)	127	93%	(85% - 96%)	95
North Wales	83%	(76% - 88%)	153	91%	(84% - 95%)	101
North Yorkshire	86%	(79% - 90%)	133	90%	(82% - 95%)	81
Northamptonshire	89%	(80% - 94%)	80	93%	(85% - 97%)	83
Northumbria	88%	(84% - 91%)	372	93%	(90% - 96%)	305
Nottinghamshire	82%	(76% - 87%)	212	94%	(88% - 97%)	126
South Wales	96%	(92% - 98%)	230	97%	(94% - 99%)	183
South Yorkshire	93%	(89% - 96%)	228	98%	(94% - 99%)	163
Staffordshire	90%	(84% - 94%)	133	90%	(81% - 95%)	63
Suffolk	93%	(87% - 96%)	115	90%	(81% - 95%)	71
Surrey	82%	(73% - 88%)	101	97%	(90% - 99%)	68
Sussex	93%	(89% - 96%)	240	99%	(96% - 100%)	128
Thames Valley	85%	(81% - 88%)	389	98%	(94% - 99%)	166
Warwickshire	92%	(83% - 96%)	83	100%	(94% - 100%)	59
West Mercia	87%	(81% - 91%)	185	91%	(84% - 95%)	130
West Midlands	95%	(93% - 96%)	711	97%	(94% - 98%)	391
West Yorkshire	82%	(78% - 85%)	472	91%	(86% - 94%)	267
Wiltshire	73%	(61% - 81%)	73	83%	(72% - 90%)	71
England and Wales	88%	(87% - 89%)	9,953	93%	(93% - 94%)	6,611

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence range. 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.

TABLE 5b: Timeliness standard results (charge/laying of information to completion); completed adult court charged cases (including youth defendants) & completed youth court cases (youth defendants only); by HMCS Area; September 2008

England & Wales

	Adult Court Charged			Youth Court		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample size
	(per cent)	(range)	(number of defendants)	(per cent)	(range)	(number of defendants)
Avon and Somerset	88%	(83% - 91%)	225	91%	(85% - 95%)	124
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire	84%	(80% - 87%)	497	92%	(89% - 94%)	346
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	95%	(92% - 96%)	485	97%	(94% - 98%)	322
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	91%	(89% - 93%)	627	94%	(91% - 96%)	321
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	92%	(88% - 94%)	368	91%	(87% - 94%)	237
Cheshire and Merseyside	90%	(87% - 92%)	561	92%	(89% - 94%)	374
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	88%	(86% - 90%)	716	95%	(93% - 97%)	549
Cumbria and Lancashire	89%	(86% - 91%)	523	94%	(91% - 96%)	396
Devon and Cornwall	86%	(80% - 91%)	170	89%	(83% - 92%)	185
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	78%	(73% - 82%)	308	92%	(88% - 95%)	199
Greater Manchester	96%	(93% - 97%)	472	95%	(93% - 97%)	350
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	84%	(79% - 87%)	333	94%	(90% - 96%)	274
Humber and South Yorkshire	87%	(83% - 90%)	381	95%	(91% - 97%)	296
Kent	80%	(74% - 85%)	217	89%	(81% - 93%)	115
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire	87%	(83% - 90%)	328	90%	(86% - 93%)	236
London (Central and South)	89%	(86% - 92%)	548	91%	(87% - 94%)	278
London (North and West)	88%	(86% - 90%)	931	94%	(92% - 96%)	679
Mid and West Wales	90%	(84% - 93%)	153	95%	(89% - 98%)	103
North and West Yorkshire	83%	(79% - 85%)	605	91%	(87% - 93%)	348
North Wales	83%	(76% - 88%)	153	91%	(84% - 95%)	101
Nottingham and Derbyshire	84%	(80% - 87%)	372	93%	(89% - 96%)	236
South East Wales	94%	(90% - 96%)	250	98%	(95% - 99%)	180
Surrey and Sussex	90%	(86% - 93%)	341	98%	(96% - 99%)	196
Thames Valley	85%	(81% - 88%)	389	98%	(94% - 99%)	166
England and Wales	88%	(87% - 89%)	9,953	93%	(93% - 94%)	6,611

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence range. 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.

TABLE 6a: Timeliness standard results (charge / laying of information to completion); completed adult court charged cases (including youth defendants); by LCJB Area; September 2008

England & Wales

	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)	(range)	(number of defendants)	(per cent)	(range)	(number of defendants)	(per cent)	(range)	(number of defendants)
Avon and Somerset	88%	(82% - 92%)	168	83%	(69% - 91%)	42	-	-	15
Bedfordshire	94%	(79% - 98%)	31	-	-	13	-	-	4
Cambridgeshire	87%	(79% - 92%)	95	-	-	25	-	-	6
Cheshire	95%	(88% - 98%)	94	97%	(85% - 99%)	35	-	-	22
Cleveland	90%	(84% - 93%)	165	85%	(72% - 92%)	47	-	-	10
Cumbria	96%	(90% - 99%)	82	97%	(84% - 99%)	31	-	-	6
Derbyshire	93%	(85% - 96%)	95	76%	(62% - 85%)	50	-	-	15
Devon Cornwall	87%	(80% - 92%)	116	81%	(64% - 90%)	36	-	-	18
Dorset	82%	(73% - 88%)	90	-	-	30	-	-	17
Durham	94%	(86% - 97%)	78	-	-	24	-	-	20
Dyfed Powys	83%	(71% - 90%)	59	-	-	20	-	-	3
Essex	89%	(84% - 93%)	195	75%	(61% - 85%)	48	94%	(80% - 98%)	33
Gloucestershire	89%	(79% - 94%)	65	-	-	29	-	-	4
Greater Manchester	95%	(92% - 97%)	323	94%	(86% - 97%)	78	99%	(92% - 100%)	71
Gwent	89%	(79% - 94%)	64	-	-	18	-	-	9
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	89%	(84% - 92%)	232	60%	(46% - 71%)	57	89%	(76% - 95%)	44
Hertfordshire	83%	(75% - 89%)	118	-	-	30	-	-	25
Humberside	76%	(67% - 83%)	106	-	-	24	-	-	23
Kent	86%	(80% - 91%)	148	57%	(43% - 69%)	53	-	-	16
Lancashire	88%	(84% - 92%)	264	79%	(69% - 85%)	99	95%	(84% - 98%)	41
Leicestershire	89%	(79% - 95%)	66	94%	(81% - 98%)	34	-	-	11
Lincolnshire	82%	(73% - 89%)	91	-	-	28	-	-	18
London	88%	(86% - 90%)	890	83%	(79% - 87%)	349	98%	(96% - 99%)	240
Merseyside	90%	(86% - 93%)	291	78%	(67% - 85%)	80	97%	(87% - 99%)	39
Norfolk	95%	(88% - 98%)	84	84%	(67% - 92%)	31	-	-	12
North Wales	81%	(72% - 87%)	105	-	-	24	-	-	24
North Yorkshire	95%	(88% - 98%)	93	-	-	26	-	-	14
Northamptonshire	89%	(78% - 94%)	61	-	-	14	-	-	5
Northumbria	93%	(89% - 96%)	219	73%	(64% - 80%)	104	96%	(86% - 99%)	49
Nottinghamshire	81%	(74% - 87%)	135	77%	(63% - 86%)	52	-	-	25
South Wales	95%	(90% - 97%)	155	94%	(82% - 98%)	36	100%	(91% - 100%)	39
South Yorkshire	95%	(90% - 97%)	164	90%	(78% - 95%)	50	-	-	14
Staffordshire	92%	(85% - 96%)	101	-	-	27	-	-	5
Suffolk	92%	(85% - 96%)	91	-	-	10	-	-	14
Surrey	89%	(79% - 94%)	70	-	-	25	-	-	6
Sussex	96%	(91% - 98%)	133	87%	(76% - 93%)	60	94%	(83% - 98%)	47
Thames Valley	91%	(87% - 94%)	243	69%	(60% - 77%)	118	-	-	28
Warwickshire	91%	(82% - 96%)	67	-	-	12	-	-	4
West Mercia	87%	(80% - 92%)	125	81%	(67% - 90%)	43	-	-	17
West Midlands	95%	(93% - 97%)	473	93%	(87% - 96%)	160	99%	(93% - 100%)	78
West Yorkshire	85%	(80% - 89%)	266	70%	(62% - 76%)	149	96%	(88% - 99%)	57
Wiltshire	74%	(60% - 84%)	47	-	-	19	-	-	7
England and Wales	90%	(89% - 90%)	6,558	79%	(78% - 81%)	2,240	95%	(93% - 96%)	1,155

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes

- (1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence range of the sample result. 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.

TABLE 6b: Timeliness standard results (charge / laying of information to completion); completed adult court charged cases (including youth defendants); by HMCS Area; September 2008

England & Wales

	Initial Guilty Plea			Trials			Committals		
	Standard = 59 days			Standard = 143 days			Standard = 101 days		
	Cases within standard (per cent)	Margin of error (range)	Sample size (number of defendants)	Cases within standard (per cent)	Margin of error (range)	Sample size (number of defendants)	Cases within standard (per cent)	Margin of error (range)	Sample size (number of defendants)
Avon and Somerset	88%	(82% - 92%)	168	83%	(69% - 91%)	42	-	-	15
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire	88%	(84% - 91%)	344	73%	(62% - 80%)	91	81%	(69% - 88%)	62
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	94%	(91% - 96%)	317	94%	(88% - 97%)	104	100%	(94% - 100%)	64
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	92%	(89% - 94%)	449	86%	(79% - 90%)	138	98%	(87% - 99%)	40
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	91%	(87% - 94%)	270	89%	(79% - 95%)	66	97%	(84% - 99%)	32
Cheshire and Merseyside	91%	(88% - 94%)	385	83%	(75% - 89%)	115	95%	(86% - 98%)	61
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	92%	(89% - 94%)	462	74%	(67% - 80%)	175	96%	(89% - 99%)	79
Cumbria and Lancashire	90%	(87% - 93%)	346	83%	(76% - 88%)	130	96%	(86% - 99%)	47
Devon and Cornwall	87%	(80% - 92%)	116	81%	(64% - 90%)	36	-	-	18
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	83%	(77% - 87%)	202	63%	(51% - 72%)	78	-	-	28
Greater Manchester	95%	(92% - 97%)	323	94%	(86% - 97%)	78	99%	(92% - 100%)	71
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	89%	(84% - 92%)	232	60%	(46% - 71%)	57	89%	(76% - 95%)	44
Humber and South Yorkshire	87%	(83% - 91%)	270	84%	(73% - 90%)	74	89%	(75% - 95%)	37
Kent	86%	(80% - 91%)	148	57%	(43% - 69%)	53	-	-	16
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire	86%	(81% - 90%)	218	87%	(77% - 92%)	76	94%	(81% - 98%)	34
London (Central and South)	88%	(84% - 91%)	329	86%	(78% - 91%)	121	98%	(93% - 99%)	98
London (North and West)	88%	(85% - 91%)	561	82%	(76% - 86%)	228	99%	(95% - 100%)	142
Mid and West Wales	90%	(84% - 94%)	115	84%	(68% - 93%)	32	-	-	6
North and West Yorkshire	88%	(84% - 91%)	359	67%	(60% - 74%)	175	94%	(86% - 98%)	71
North Wales	81%	(72% - 87%)	105	-	-	24	-	-	24
Nottingham and Derbyshire	86%	(81% - 90%)	230	76%	(67% - 83%)	102	90%	(77% - 96%)	40
South East Wales	91%	(86% - 95%)	163	95%	(84% - 99%)	42	100%	(92% - 100%)	45
Surrey and Sussex	94%	(89% - 96%)	203	79%	(69% - 86%)	85	94%	(84% - 98%)	53
Thames Valley	91%	(87% - 94%)	243	69%	(60% - 77%)	118	-	-	28
England and Wales	90%	(89% - 90%)	6,558	79%	(78% - 81%)	2,240	95%	(93% - 96%)	1,155

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes:

- (1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence range of the sample result. 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.

TABLE 7a: Timeliness standard results (charge / laying of information to completion); completed youth court cases (youth defendants only); by LCJB Area; September 2008

England & Wales									
	Initial Guilty Plea			Trials			Committals		
	Standard = 59 days			Standard = 176 days			Standard = 101 days		
	Cases within standard (per cent)	Margin of error (range)	Sample size (number of defendants)	Cases within standard (per cent)	Margin of error (range)	Sample size (number of defendants)	Cases within standard (per cent)	Margin of error (range)	Sample size (number of defendants)
Avon and Somerset	94%	(87% - 97%)	93	-	-	29	-	-	2
Bedfordshire	93%	(81% - 97%)	42	-	-	21	-	-	0
Cambridgeshire	88%	(76% - 93%)	56	-	-	13	-	-	2
Cheshire	90%	(82% - 95%)	91	93%	(80% - 97%)	41	-	-	6
Cleveland	98%	(93% - 99%)	99	97%	(86% - 99%)	37	-	-	6
Cumbria	94%	(86% - 97%)	77	88%	(71% - 95%)	32	-	-	0
Derbyshire	95%	(87% - 98%)	74	89%	(74% - 95%)	36	-	-	0
Devon Cornwall	86%	(79% - 90%)	140	98%	(88% - 99%)	42	-	-	3
Dorset	98%	(90% - 100%)	55	-	-	10	-	-	0
Durham	100%	(94% - 100%)	64	92%	(79% - 97%)	38	-	-	0
Dyfed Powys	96%	(85% - 99%)	45	-	-	9	-	-	0
Essex	96%	(91% - 98%)	129	85%	(70% - 92%)	39	-	-	6
Gloucestershire	96%	(85% - 99%)	45	-	-	17	-	-	1
Greater Manchester	95%	(91% - 97%)	275	99%	(92% - 100%)	70	-	-	5
Gwent	100%	(89% - 100%)	32	-	-	12	-	-	2
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	92%	(88% - 95%)	217	100%	(93% - 100%)	54	-	-	3
Hertfordshire	88%	(79% - 94%)	78	-	-	28	-	-	3
Humberside	88%	(81% - 93%)	104	-	-	24	-	-	5
Kent	93%	(86% - 96%)	96	-	-	18	-	-	1
Lancashire	93%	(88% - 96%)	208	99%	(92% - 100%)	69	-	-	10
Leicestershire	92%	(83% - 96%)	71	-	-	28	-	-	3
Lincolnshire	83%	(68% - 91%)	40	-	-	11	-	-	0
London	92%	(89% - 94%)	542	95%	(92% - 97%)	360	100%	(93% - 100%)	55
Merseyside	93%	(88% - 96%)	164	92%	(83% - 96%)	71	-	-	1
Norfolk	90%	(80% - 95%)	62	-	-	28	-	-	5
North Wales	89%	(81% - 94%)	84	-	-	17	-	-	0
North Yorkshire	90%	(80% - 95%)	68	-	-	11	-	-	2
Northamptonshire	88%	(75% - 94%)	48	100%	(90% - 100%)	34	-	-	1
Northumbria	96%	(92% - 98%)	223	88%	(79% - 93%)	81	-	-	1
Nottinghamshire	92%	(85% - 96%)	92	97%	(84% - 99%)	32	-	-	2
South Wales	96%	(91% - 98%)	126	100%	(93% - 100%)	48	-	-	9
South Yorkshire	98%	(93% - 99%)	121	98%	(87% - 99%)	40	-	-	2
Staffordshire	84%	(68% - 92%)	37	-	-	26	-	-	0
Suffolk	88%	(77% - 94%)	58	-	-	13	-	-	0
Surrey	98%	(89% - 100%)	48	-	-	19	-	-	1
Sussex	99%	(94% - 100%)	99	-	-	24	-	-	5
Thames Valley	97%	(93% - 99%)	119	98%	(87% - 99%)	41	-	-	6
Warwickshire	100%	(92% - 100%)	43	-	-	14	-	-	2
West Mercia	90%	(82% - 94%)	98	94%	(79% - 98%)	31	-	-	1
West Midlands	96%	(93% - 98%)	246	97%	(92% - 99%)	123	-	-	22
West Yorkshire	89%	(83% - 93%)	180	94%	(86% - 98%)	72	-	-	15
Wiltshire	80%	(67% - 89%)	51	-	-	17	-	-	3
England and Wales	93%	(92% - 94%)	4,640	95%	(93% - 96%)	1,780	98%	(95% - 99%)	191

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes

- (1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence range of the sample result. 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.

TABLE 7b: Timeliness standard results (charge / laying of information to completion); completed youth court cases (youth defendants only); by HMCS Area; September 2008

England & Wales

	Initial Guilty Plea			Trials			Committals		
	Standard = 59 days			Standard = 176 days			Standard = 101 days		
	Cases within standard (per cent)	Margin of error (range)	Sample size (number of defendants)	Cases within standard (per cent)	Margin of error (range)	Sample size (number of defendants)	Cases within standard (per cent)	Margin of error (range)	Sample size (number of defendants)
Avon and Somerset	94%	(87% - 97%)	93	-	-	29	-	-	2
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire	93%	(89% - 96%)	249	88%	(79% - 93%)	88	-	-	9
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	96%	(92% - 98%)	203	97%	(92% - 99%)	103	-	-	16
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	92%	(88% - 95%)	221	97%	(91% - 99%)	91	-	-	9
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	89%	(83% - 92%)	176	98%	(90% - 100%)	54	-	-	7
Cheshire and Merseyside	92%	(88% - 94%)	255	92%	(85% - 96%)	112	-	-	7
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	97%	(95% - 98%)	386	91%	(85% - 94%)	156	-	-	7
Cumbria and Lancashire	93%	(89% - 95%)	285	95%	(89% - 98%)	101	-	-	10
Devon and Cornwall	86%	(79% - 90%)	140	98%	(88% - 99%)	42	-	-	3
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	91%	(86% - 95%)	151	95%	(85% - 99%)	44	-	-	4
Greater Manchester	95%	(91% - 97%)	275	99%	(92% - 100%)	70	-	-	5
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	92%	(88% - 95%)	217	100%	(93% - 100%)	54	-	-	3
Humber and South Yorkshire	93%	(89% - 96%)	225	98%	(92% - 100%)	64	-	-	7
Kent	93%	(86% - 96%)	96	-	-	18	-	-	1
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire	88%	(82% - 92%)	159	96%	(89% - 98%)	73	-	-	4
London (Central and South)	89%	(83% - 93%)	159	93%	(87% - 97%)	106	-	-	13
London (North and West)	93%	(90% - 95%)	383	95%	(92% - 97%)	254	100%	(92% - 100%)	42
Mid and West Wales	95%	(88% - 98%)	81	-	-	19	-	-	3
North and West Yorkshire	89%	(85% - 92%)	248	94%	(87% - 97%)	83	-	-	17
North Wales	89%	(81% - 94%)	84	-	-	17	-	-	0
Nottingham and Derbyshire	93%	(88% - 96%)	166	93%	(84% - 97%)	68	-	-	2
South East Wales	98%	(93% - 99%)	122	100%	(93% - 100%)	50	-	-	8
Surrey and Sussex	99%	(95% - 100%)	147	100%	(92% - 100%)	43	-	-	6
Thames Valley	97%	(93% - 99%)	119	98%	(87% - 99%)	41	-	-	6
England and Wales	93%	(92% - 94%)	4,640	95%	(93% - 96%)	1,780	98%	(95% - 99%)	191

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes:

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence range of the sample result. 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.

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 completed 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 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, 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 where the case was committed.
2. The figures in this bulletin are based on defendants. Where a case involves more than one defendant, each defendant is considered individually.
3. In bulletins in 1998 and earlier years, the date of charge or laying of information was reported as the date of charge or summons (the date of summons can be different from the date of laying of information). From 1999 onwards bulletins have used 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 actual dates, as recorded, used in the calculations have not altered, 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 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 sample 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.
8. In February 1999 new data collection software was introduced following testing in six 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 Jenny Spowart at the address below).

June 2007

- Surveys from June 2007 onwards have collected data on adult cases via a system called One Performance Truth (OPT). And from June 2008, it has also been possible to collect youth data from the four-week sample via OPT (although the pre-existing method of youth data collection is still available). One benefit of OPT is that it introduces data validation at the point of input.
9. 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.
 10. 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 on page 33 gives the estimated completeness of the data. The term 'completeness' in this table 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.
 11. North Yorkshire (LCJB 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 North Yorkshire data. Data which was collected late in the March 2008 and June 2008 surveys due to technical difficulties, and not reported on the respective bulletins, has now been used to update results for these surveys in this bulletin.

Confidence Intervals and Margins of Error

12. 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.

13. In the case of margins of error for the timeliness standards (Tables 5a to 7b), the confidence intervals are not always centred on the sample result. Therefore, a technique known as the 'Wilson Score' method has been used to calculate confidence ranges within which the true value would be expected to fall. Contact details can be found at the end of this bulletin if a more detailed explanation is required.

Proportions of clerkships/courthouses making returns, and sample sizes, September 2000 to September 2008 surveys

Survey week	Youth data: proportion of clerkships making returns (%) ⁽²⁾	Adult data: proportion of clerkships (pre June 2007) or courthouses (from June 2007) making returns (%) ⁽²⁾	Sample size (number of defendants) ⁽¹⁾		
			Indictable cases	Summary non-motoring cases ⁽³⁾	Summary motoring cases ⁽³⁾
September 2000	98.8%	98.8%	7,166	6,991	12,503
September 2001	98.8%	98.8%	7,449	8,198	12,775
September 2002	100.0%	100.0%	8,133	9,727	13,781
September 2003	100.0%	100.0%	8,464	9,322	15,562
September 2004	100.0%	100.0%	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	100.0%	98.8%	7,600	9,494	13,638
September 2008	97.5%	98.1%	7,530	8,535	11,122

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 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.

Previous bulletin

14. 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 and then the Department for Constitutional Affairs) took over responsibility for the surveys from 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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