

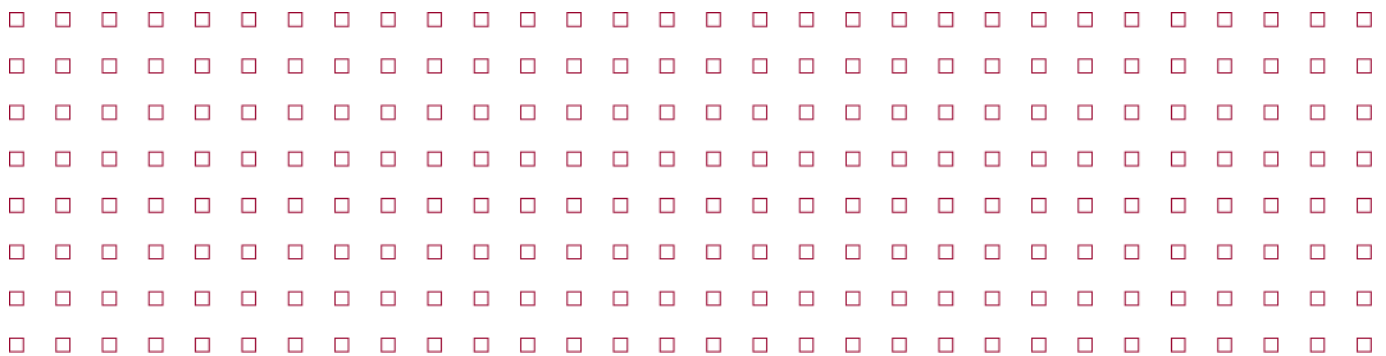


Publication of Youth Justice Board workload statistics 2008/09

Statistical notice

March 2010

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Publication of Youth Justice Board workload statistics for 2008/9

Statement by the Chief Statistician Iain Bell

According to a media report on Wednesday 17 March 2010, the Youth Justice Board delayed publication of its annual caseload statistics for 2008/09 because of the election 'purdah' period. This is not correct.

The Youth Justice Board has explained that this report is not yet ready for publication as quality-assured data is not yet available or ready to be published and that Ministers have not had, and will not have, any role in setting the date for this publication.

As Chief Statistician for the Ministry of Justice, I have sole responsibility for the timing and content of all statistical releases from the Ministry of Justice and all of its arm's length bodies.

The Youth Justice Board became a producer of Official Statistics on 1 April 2009. Prior to this, Youth Justice Board statistics have been outside the remit of Official Statistics. This means that there had not been pre-announced publication dates and the statistics have been released anywhere between January and May.

This is the first publication of the Youth Justice Board workload statistics since the Youth Justice Board became part of the Official Statistics framework. These statistics are governed by the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Principal 3.3 of the Code of Practice states that Producers of Official Statistics should:

'Ensure that the relevant statistical Head of Profession has the sole responsibility for deciding on statistical methods, standards and procedures, and on the content and timing of statistical releases.'

In line with this duty I am announcing that the annual workload statistics will be released on the 27 May 2010. In addition we will be bringing the monthly Youth Justice Board custody figures in line with the Code of Practice. These will be released five weeks after the end of the month they refer to. Exact dates will be placed on the Youth Justice Board and Ministry of Justice websites. The Ministry of Justice publication schedule is at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-publication-schedule.htm

Iain Bell

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Contact details and further information

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