

Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to March 2013

England and Wales

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

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Introduction

This report presents the key statistics on activity in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) for England and Wales. It provides information for the latest twelve months (April 2012 to March 2013) with accompanying commentary, analysis and presentation of longer term trends.

The data provides users with information about proven offending and its outcomes in England and Wales. The contents of this bulletin will be of interest to government policy makers in the development of policy and their subsequent monitoring and evaluation. Others will be interested in the way different crimes are dealt with in the CJS. Where appropriate, comparisons are made with different sources covering activity in the CJS – in particular, numbers of crimes recorded by the police, often the starting point for crimes dealt with by other CJS agencies¹.

The information in this publication for the first quarter of 2013 in relation to court proceedings and outcomes is provisional.

A technical document titled “A Guide to Criminal Justice Statistics” is available alongside this bulletin, which provides users with detailed information on the concepts and methods used in compiling this bulletin, including the quality of the data, along with guidance on statistical revisions and forthcoming changes. A copy of the technical document can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly-march-2013

Remands

The remand status at magistrates’ courts in previous editions of this publication have been estimated, because they were either based on incomplete returns, or because of problems in the way central systems interfaced with the Libra case management system to identify the remand status.

MoJ statisticians have resolved as far as is possible the data problems with the remand status at magistrates’ courts, and have published revised estimates for the 12 months ending March 2011 up to the 12 months ending March 2013 within the Chapter 3 tables. Revised remands tables for calendar years 2011 and 2012 have also been published alongside this bulletin, specifically updating the information on remand status at magistrates’ courts.

A description of the methodology of the fix which has been applied to estimate remand status at magistrates’ courts is providing in the technical document.

Implementation of changes to offence classifications

In July 2013, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) re-designed the classifications used to present police recorded crime statistics, following recommendations from the National Statistician’s review of Crime Statistics in England and Wales in June 2011. The changes to classifications were implemented in the ONS statistical bulletin ‘Crime in England and Wales, year ending March 2013’, published in July 2013,

¹ Findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales and recorded crime data are published together in statistical bulletins by the Office for National Statistics.

alongside a methodological note² providing more detail on the changes and their impact on time-series for key measures. No change has been made to the coverage of offences in the police recorded crime series, and most changes are presentational, with some offences moving between classifications or being separated out of existing groupings.

In this publication, the Executive Summary statistical tables which providing offence group breakdowns have been presented on both the old and new classification bases, and Chapter 6 (offences) has been adapted to match the new classification.

Interpretation

This publication presents information for the **latest 12 month period (the twelve months ending March 2013)** alongside the same rolling 12 month periods ending March for the previous ten years. The comparison of 12 rolling month periods has the advantage over reporting on shorter timeframes – for example, covering only the latest quarter – of avoiding misinterpretation of short-term fluctuations caused by seasonality (for example, reduced court volumes every December when many of the courts are closed over the Christmas period), and enables the presentation of longer-term trends across comparable reporting periods.

In this publication:

- the “**latest year**” refers to the **12 months ending March 2013**;
- the “**previous year**” refers to the **12 months ending March 2012**; and
- any other reference period will be referred to explicitly.

Further guidance on the symbols and conventions used in the bulletin is provided in the ‘Explanatory notes’ section.

If you have any feedback, questions or requests for further information about this statistical bulletin, please direct them to the appropriate contact given at the end of this report.

² ‘Presentational changes to National Statistics on police recorded crime in England and Wales’, Office for National Statistics Methodology Note, 18 July 2013

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/crime-statistics-methodology/presentational-changes-on-police-recorded-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf

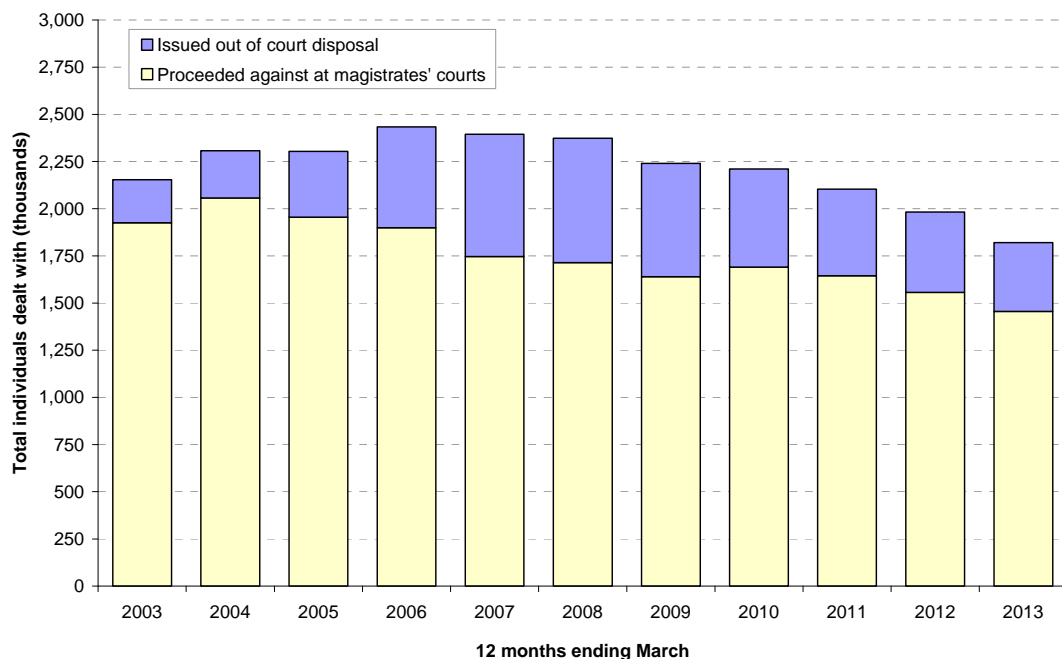
Executive summary

This summary explains how the various criminal justice agencies deal with an defendant once identified, presents the recent trends on how the Criminal Justice System (CJS) response to offending is changing, and identifies factors that may be causing the changes, where identifiable.

Once a suspect has been identified by the police, charged and arrested, the police work with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in deciding the most appropriate course of action in each case. The decision can be made to not take the offender to court, through a number of available “out-of-court disposals”, or to proceed against the defendant at a magistrates’ court.

The total number of individuals, which includes people and companies, who have been dealt with formally by the CJS in England and Wales, in either of these ways, has been declining since the 12 months ending March 2006, with 1.82 million individuals dealt with in the latest year. Police recorded crime peaked in 2003/04, and recorded offences are now lower than at any time over the past decade.

Figure 1: Individuals³ dealt with formally by the CJS, March 2003 to March 2013



The number of individuals dealt with formally by the CJS for the first time has also fallen since the 12 months ending March 2007 – with 171,100 ‘first time entrants’ to the CJS in the latest year, a decline of 46% since 2007. The reduction has been much sharper for juveniles (74% over the same period), reflecting both a decreasing number of juvenile offenders reprimanded or issued with a warning and the decreasing numbers of juveniles found guilty in all courts. However, per head of population, the rate of juvenile first time entrants remains higher than for adults.

³ Includes people and companies. Note also that a single individual can be counted more than once in a given year if they are dealt with by the Criminal Justice System on more than one separate occasion.

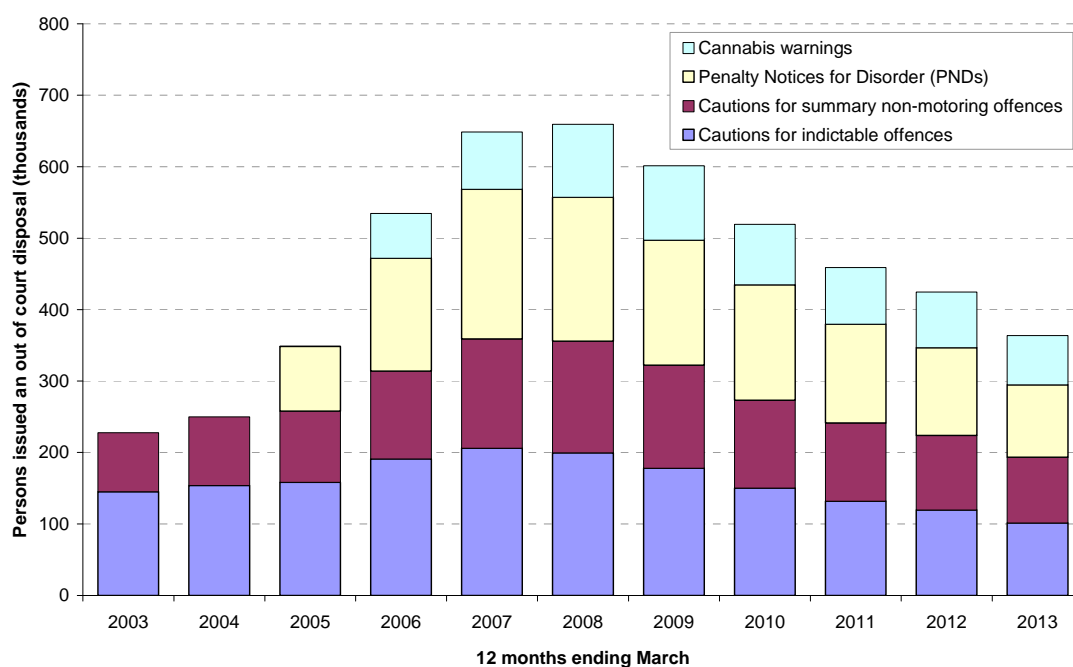
Criminal offences can be divided into three main offence groups:

- **Indictable** proceedings, which cover the more serious offences such as violent and sexual offences and robbery, and when heard in court tend to be passed on to the Crown Court, either for sentencing or for a full trial with a judge and jury. This group includes both 'indictable only' offences, which can only be tried on indictment in the Crown Court by a judge and jury, and 'triable-either-way' offences which are triable either summarily in a magistrate's court or on indictment in the Crown Court;
- Summary proceedings, which cover less serious offences, are almost always handled entirely in the magistrates' courts when dealt with in court, with the majority completed at the first hearing. They are split into two categories:
 - **Summary non-motoring** proceedings, such as TV license evasion and less serious criminal damage; and
 - **Summary motoring** proceedings, such as speeding and driving whilst disqualified.

Out of court disposals

Until the introduction of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) in 2004 and formal warnings for possession of cannabis in 2005, the only out of court disposal available to police was a caution. Since the 12 months ending March 2003, the use of out of court disposals increased rapidly and peaked in the 12 months ending March 2008, before decreasing year on year – with 363,800 individuals issued an out of court disposal in the latest year. The increase to the 12 months ending March 2008 coincided with the introduction in 2001 of a target to increase offences brought to justice, and the decrease coincided with the replacement in April 2008 of the target with one placing more emphasis on bringing serious crimes to justice. The latter target was subsequently removed in May 2010.

Figure 2: Out of court disposals issued, by disposal, March 2003 to March 2013



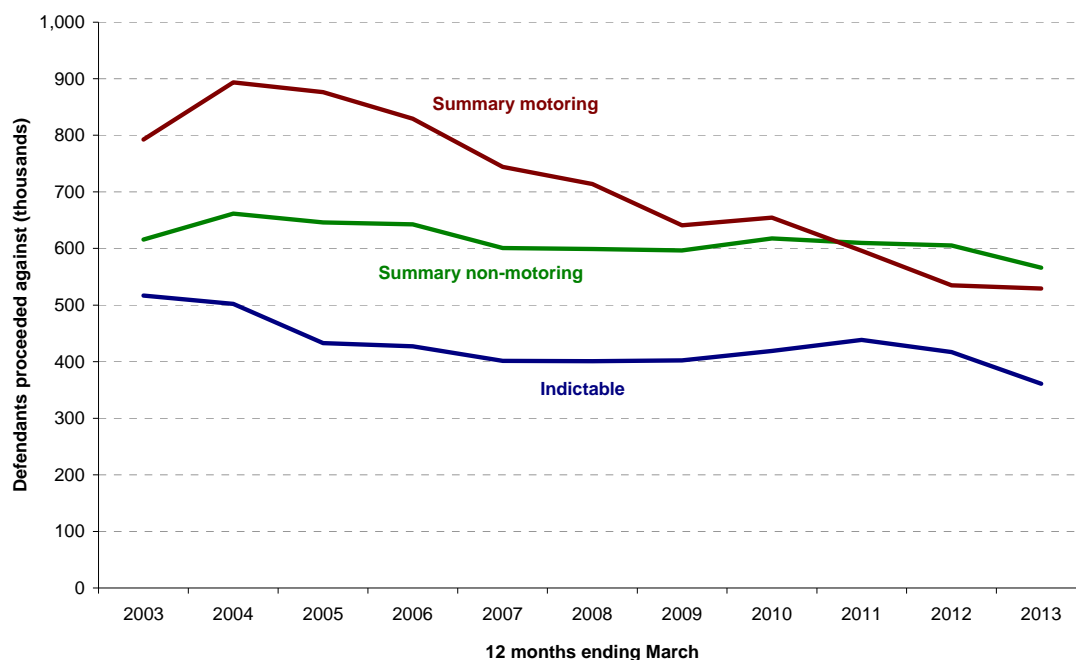
The use of out of court disposals decreased by 14% in the latest year, with each type of disposal used less than in the previous year. The biggest decreases were in the use of PNDs (101,100 issued compared with 122,800 in the previous year) and cautions for indictable offences (101,300 issued compared with 119,600 in the previous year).

Court proceedings and remand

All criminal cases proceeding to court in England and Wales start in a magistrates' court. Since the 12 months ending March 2004, the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' court has declined almost year on year – down to 1.46 million defendants in the latest period – driven chiefly by decreases in summary motoring offences brought before magistrates. The biggest decreases were for vehicle insurance offences, with large decreases also for driving licence related offences, speed limit offences, and driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs.

Proceedings decreased by 7% in the latest year, with decreases seen in every indictable and summary offence group. Over half the decrease occurred in the indictable offence category – predominantly for violence against the person, theft and handling stolen goods, and 'other indictable' offences.

Figure 3: Defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts, by offence group, March 2003 to March 2013



Around 6% of all defendants proceeded against are passed on to the Crown Court for trial, 96% of which are accused of indictable offences. The number of defendants appearing in the Crown Court for trial increased during the late '00s as a result of a greater proportion of cases being committed and sent for trial. However, since the 12 months ending March 2011, this trend has reversed, with the volume of defendants tried at the Crown Court on the decline – with 83,500 defendants tried at the Crown Court in the latest year, compared with 106,300 in the 12 months ending March 2011.

Police remands are the decisions made by a police officer on whether to detain or bail a defendant pending their first appearance in court or send a notice summoning them to appear in court. In the latest year, there were 1.56 million defendants directed by the police to appear at magistrates' courts (including here those who failed to appear). The proportion of defendants remanded in custody by the police increased between the 12 months ending March 2008 and the 12 months ending March 2012, from 6% to 12% – driven mainly by the rise in defendants remanded in custody for indictable offences – but has decreased back to 11% in the latest year. In addition, in the latest year, 30% were granted bail by the police the remaining 59% directed to appear via summonses

Court remands are the court's decision on whether a defendant charged with a criminal offence should be held in custody or released on bail during the period up to and including the trial, or while awaiting sentence. In the latest year, it was estimated that bail was granted to 22% of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts, just over 3% were remanded in custody, just under 2% had an unknown remand status, and the remaining 73% had their case concluded at the magistrates' courts without being remanded.

Defendants are more likely to be remanded in custody for indictable offences than summary offences – as a result, the proportion of defendants remanded in custody at the Crown Court is higher than at magistrates' courts. In the latest year, the proportion of defendants tried at the Crown Court who were remanded in custody was 34%, with a further 48% remanded on bail. Of those remanded in custody at the Crown Court, 74% were convicted and sentenced to immediate custody.

Failure to appear (FTA) warrants are issued by courts when defendants do not attend court on a specified date, having either been summonsed or granted bail at an earlier stage. In the latest year, police forces in England and Wales received a total of 70,400 FTA warrants from the courts, of which 88% were executed. The overall number of FTA warrants outstanding – those that have been issued to a police force but have not been executed or withdrawn – has been steadily decreasing over recent years, from 23,000 at the end of March 2009 to 16,200 at the end of March 2013. This decrease coincides with declining numbers of defendants who failed to appear to bail or summons at magistrates' courts over recent years.

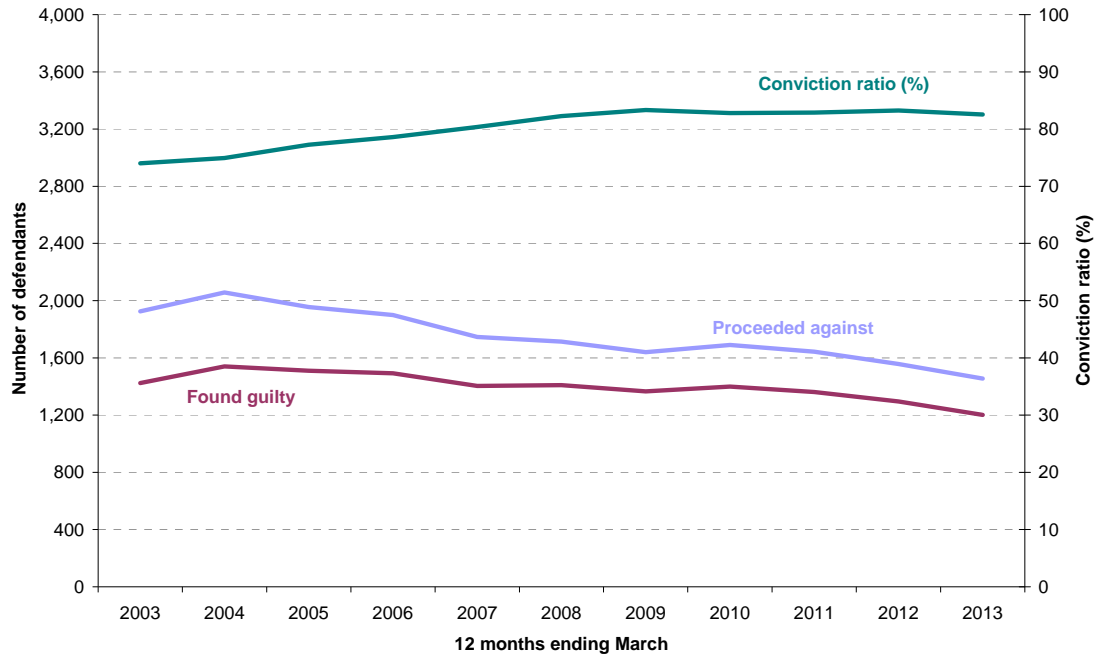
Offenders found guilty

Trends in the number of offenders convicted – that is, defendants who plead or are found guilty – and sentenced at all courts are driven by two factors, namely the number of individuals dealt with through the courts (the trend in prosecutions) and the proportion of those individuals who are found guilty. Conviction ratios are calculated as the number of convictions as a proportion of the number of proceedings, and give a measure of the relative number of defendants who are found guilty within a given year when compared with the number who are prosecuted that year.

Since the 12 months ending March 2004, convictions have declined almost year on year, in line with declining numbers of individuals proceeded against. However, the decline in convictions has not been as steep as for proceedings, as a greater proportion of proceedings have resulted in convictions (reflected in the increasing conviction ratio over the period – from 74% in the 12 months ending March 2003 to 83% in the latest year). The complex nature of the CJS means there are a number of possible factors contributing to this change – for example, changes in guilty plea

rates, the mix of cases handled in and out of court, impacts of operational changes, and so on – and it is difficult to separately identify the impacts of different factors.

Figure 4: Prosecutions at magistrates’ courts and convictions at all courts, with conviction ratio, March 2003 to March 2013



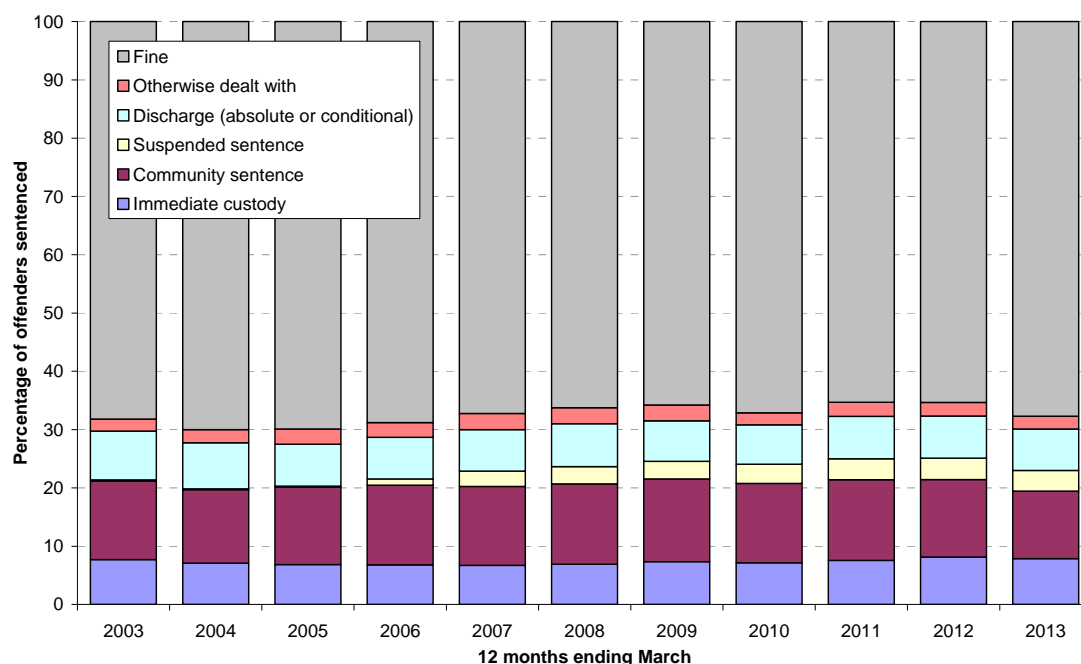
Sentencing

Fines are the most common sentence given to offenders at all courts, accounting for 68% of offenders sentenced in the latest year, due in the main to the large volumes of fines issued for summary offences at the magistrates’ court. Offenders sentenced for summary offences accounted for 76% of all sentences issued in the latest year, of which 99% were dealt with entirely in the magistrates’ courts, and 84% issued fines.

A different distribution of sentences is observed for indictable offences. In the latest year, 27% of offenders sentenced for indictable offences were sentenced to immediate custody (that is, to prison or other form of secure detention), 26% to community sentences, 18% to a fine, and 10% to a Suspended Sentence Order (SSO). Around a quarter of offenders sentenced for indictable offences were sentenced at the Crown Court – of these, 58% received an immediate custodial sentence, reflecting the fact that the most serious offences are likely to be tried on indictment in the Crown Court by a judge and jury.

Overall, the way in which offenders found guilty have been sentenced has changed over the last decade. The use of SSOs rose steadily between the 12 months ending March 2005 and March 2011 – as a result of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, which made SSOs more readily available – but has decreased since, in line with the decreasing volume of offenders being sentenced in court. The number of offenders given community sentences remained stable until the 12 months ending March 2011, after which large decrease in volumes have been observed – a decrease of 26% over the last two years.

Figure 5: Sentencing outcomes (percentages of all offenders sentenced) at all courts, March 2003 to March 2013



Between the 12 months ending March 2007 and March 2012, the immediate custody rate (the proportion of all persons sentenced receiving immediate custody) increased – up from 6.7% to 8.1% – resulting in numbers sent to prison or other forms of secure detention increasing despite the overall fall in offenders sentenced. In the latest year however, the immediate custody rate dropped back down to 7.9%.

The average length of custodial sentences has increased over the last decade – up to 14.7 months in the latest year, compared with 12.7 months in the 12 months ending March 2003. The increase has been driven mainly by changes in the case mix of people getting custodial sentences, with summary offences increasingly dealt with through other sentence types, and longer sentences being given for indictable offences. Further, legislative changes have made sentence lengths longer for certain offences – for example, a third domestic burglary.

The introduction of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act (CJIA) in 2008 restricted the use of Indeterminate sentences for Public Protection (IPPs). This has coincided with an increase in long determinate sentences (defined as for 10 years or more), which may also have contributed to the increase in the average length of custodial sentences since 2008.

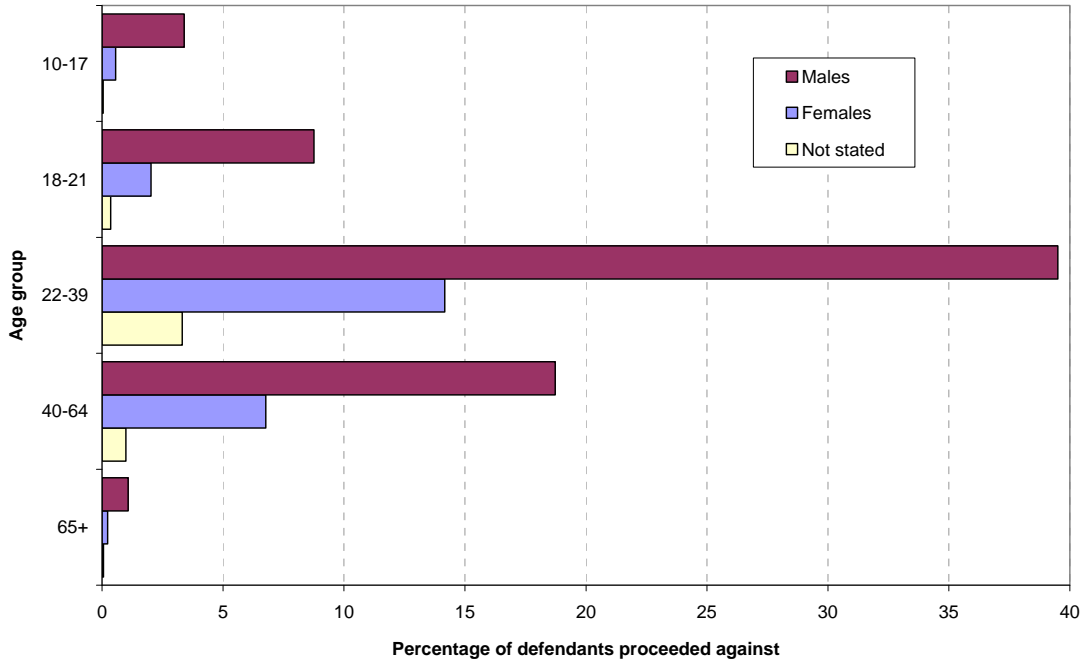
Further, legislative changes have made sentence lengths longer for certain offences – for example, the powers to sentence offenders convicted of a third domestic burglary offence to a mandatory minimum sentence of three years custody, as introduced by the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 for offences committed after 30th November 1999, have been used increasingly in the last decade.

The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act, which was passed on 3rd December 2012, abolished IPPs and replaced them with new Extended Determinate Sentences (EDS). Further, it legislated that adult offenders will receive mandatory life sentences for a second serious sexual or violent offence. However, both of these measures could potentially impact upon ACSL in future.

Gender comparisons

Males account for seven out of every ten individuals proceeded against in court, but nine out of every ten offenders sentenced to immediate custody.

Figure 6: Persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts, by age and gender, 12 months ending March 2013



The difference in sentence outcomes reflects the different types of offences being committed by males and females, with males more frequently proceeded against for the more serious indictable offences.

The gender split for defendant dealt with at court has been changing over the last decade, with the number of prosecutions of males decreasing while prosecutions of females have remained broadly stable. In the latest year, the number of prosecutions of males decreased by 9%, compared to a 3% decrease for females.

The differences in the trends by gender relate to summary non-motoring offences, and in particular large increases in prosecutions for TV licence evasion offences for females. The change in the gender profile of defendants has influenced the trends in sentencing, where the number of male offenders sentenced is falling at a faster rate than the number of female offenders sentenced.

Offending histories

While the number of new entrants to the criminal justice system has fallen recently, the number and proportion of convicted offenders who have long criminal records has been increasing over the last 10 years.

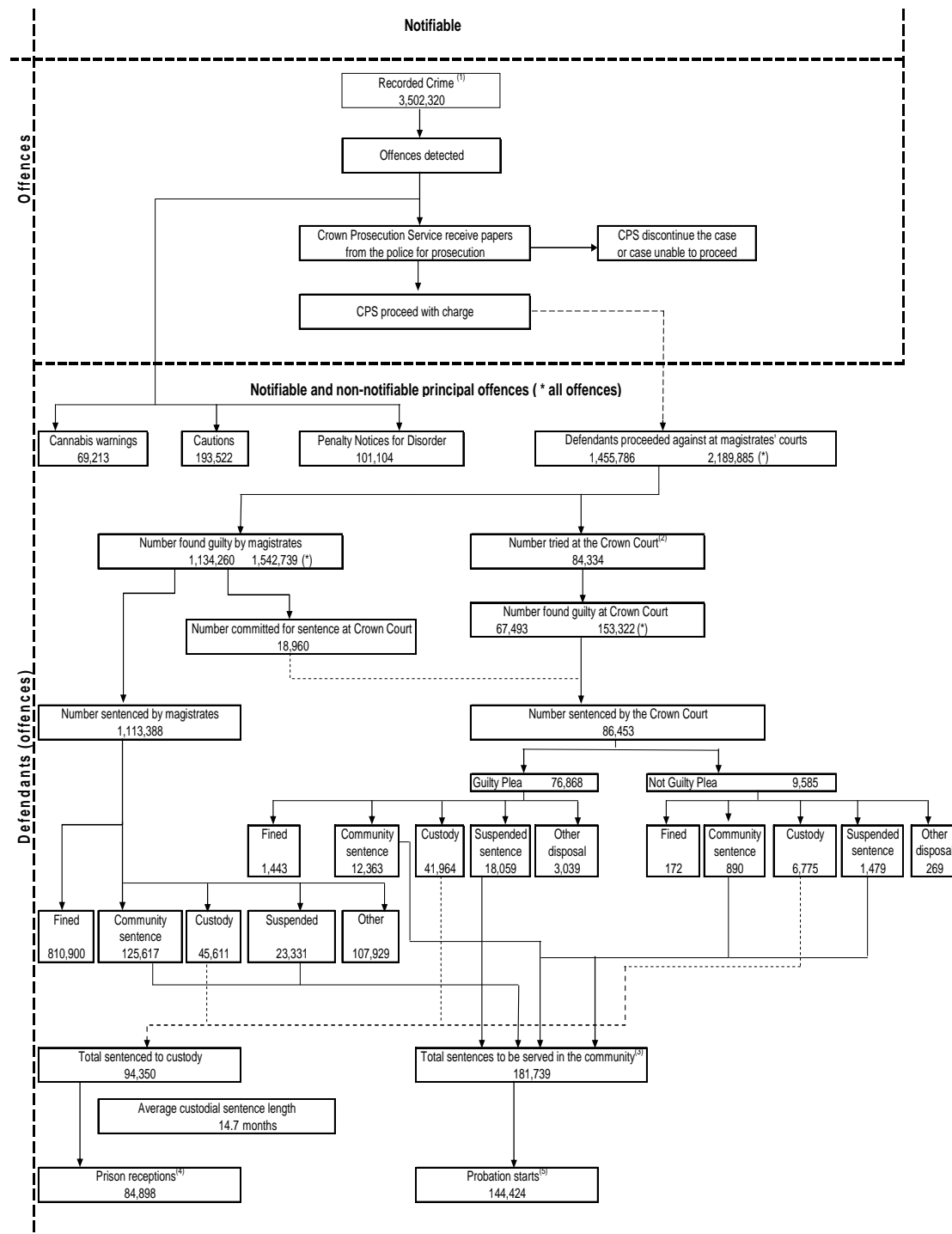
During the latest year, just over 100 thousand offenders convicted of an indictable offence had 15 or more previous convictions or cautions at the time. This equates to over a third of all convicted offenders in the year and is up from a fifth in the 12 months ending March 2003 (70 thousand offenders).

Analysis has also shown that the majority of these prolific offenders already have in excess of 15 previous offences on their record while the numbers progressing from their 15th to their 16th offence is relatively unchanged each year. In addition, around half of those with 15 or more previous sanctions were convicted of offences related to theft and handling stolen goods – by comparison, only 22% of those with no previous convictions or cautions were convicted for the same offence types. In contrast, sexual offences and offences relating to fraud and forgery accounted for 8% and 12% of convictions for those offenders with no previous history respectively, but only 1% and 2% of convictions for those offenders with 15 or more previous.

As might be expected, given that sentencing decisions will typically take into account previous offending history, the proportion of offenders receiving immediate custody for an indictable offence is higher for those groups of offenders with longer criminal histories. In the latest year, 38% of adults with 15 or more previous received a custodial sentence compared to 12% for adults with no previous history of offending. The equivalent figures for juveniles were 40% and 2% respectively.

The most common disposal given in the latest year for offenders committing an indictable offence with no previous criminal history was a caution, with this accounting for 78% of juveniles in this group and 60% of adults.

Figure 7: Flows through the Criminal Justice System, 12 months ending March 2013



(1) Covers all indictable offences, including triable either way, plus a few closely associated summary offences.
 (2) Defendants tried at the Crown Court in a given year may have been committed for trial by a magistrate in a previous year.
 (3) Includes community sentences and suspended sentence orders.
 (4) Receptions for offenders given a custodial sentence (figures include fine defaulters).
 (5) Offenders starting Community Order or Suspended Sentence Order supervision by the Probation Service.
 * Total number of all offences in comparison with the total number of defendants on a principal offence basis.

Table Q1.1 - Individuals entering the Criminal Justice System, 12 months ending March 2009 to 12 months ending March 2013

England and Wales	12 months ending					Percentage change 12 months ending March 2012 to March 2013
	March 2009	March 2010	March 2011	March 2012	March 2013	
Out of court disposals	601,128	519,330	459,037	424,620	363,839	-14.3%
<i>Cannabis warnings</i>	104,027	84,529	79,417	77,933	69,213	-11.2%
<i>Penalty Notices for Disorder⁽¹⁾</i>	174,959	161,575	138,266	122,805	101,104	-17.7%
<i>Cautions</i>	322,142	273,226	241,354	223,882	193,522	-13.6%
Defendants proceeded against	1,639,639	1,690,980	1,644,191	1,557,046	1,455,786	-6.5%
<i>Indictable offences⁽²⁾</i>	402,146	418,910	438,540	416,911	360,843	-13.4%
<i>Summary offences</i>	1,237,493	1,272,070	1,205,651	1,140,135	1,094,943	-4.0%
Offenders convicted	1,366,088	1,400,296	1,362,308	1,296,150	1,201,753	-7.3%
<i>Indictable offences</i>	320,990	331,170	353,317	339,795	295,814	-12.9%
<i>Summary offences</i>	1,045,098	1,069,126	1,008,991	956,355	905,939	-5.3%
Prison receptions⁽³⁾	100,100	93,273	90,783	89,834	84,898	-5.5%
Probation starts⁽⁴⁾	168,451	167,797	166,219	158,901	144,424	-9.1%

(1) Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over.

(2) Indictable offences include those triable-either-way.

(3) Receptions for offenders given a custodial sentence (includes fine defaulters).

(4) Offenders starting Community Order or Suspended Sentence Order supervision by the Probation Service.

Table Q1.2 - Offenders sentenced by principal sentence, 12 months ending March 2009 to 12 months ending March 2013

England and Wales	12 months ending					Percentage change 12 months ending March 2012 to March 2013
	March 2009	March 2010	March 2011	March 2012	March 2013	
Total offenders sentenced⁽¹⁾	1,365,078	1,398,217	1,360,683	1,294,816	1,199,841	-7.3%
Total persons sentenced⁽²⁾	1,356,831	1,389,694	1,352,847	1,288,088	1,193,459	-7.3%
Immediate custody (persons)	100,174	99,745	102,837	105,452	94,350	-10.5%
Suspended sentence (persons)	41,472	45,913	48,818	47,643	42,869	-10.0%
Community sentence (persons)	193,566	190,817	188,235	172,145	138,870	-19.3%
Fines (all offenders)	897,656	938,500	888,596	845,789	812,515	-3.9%
Other disposals (all offenders)	132,210	123,242	132,197	123,787	111,237	-10.1%
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽³⁾	13.5	13.7	13.9	14.3	14.7	2.8%
Percentage of those sentenced⁽⁴⁾						Percentage point change
Immediate custody (persons)	7.4	7.2	7.6	8.2	7.9	-0.3
Suspended sentence (persons)	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.6	-0.1
Community sentence (persons)	14.3	13.7	13.9	13.4	11.6	-1.7
Fines (all offenders)	65.8	67.1	65.3	65.3	67.7	2.4
Other disposals (all offenders)	9.7	8.8	9.7	9.6	9.3	-0.3

(1) The time lag between conviction and sentencing for cases committed for sentence at Crown Court can result in small differences between total offenders convicted and sentenced within reporting years.

(2) For sentences of immediate custody, suspended sentence and community sentence, 'persons' is the same as 'offenders', as 'others' (such as companies or public bodies) cannot receive these sentences.

(3) Average custodial sentence length excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

(4) May not sum to 100 per cent as all rates are not calculated on the same basis.

Table Q1.3 - Recorded crime and notifiable offence outcomes, 12 months ending March 2009 to 12 months ending March 2013

England and Wales	12 months ending					Percentage change 12 months ending March 2012 to March 2013
	March 2009	March 2010	March 2011	March 2012	March 2013	
Recorded crime⁽¹⁾	4,550,335	4,194,639	4,011,970	3,842,230	3,502,320	-8.8%
Out of court disposals	557,581	476,794	419,702	391,171	334,847	-14.4%
<i>Cannabis warnings</i>	104,027	84,529	79,417	77,933	69,213	-11.2%
<i>Penalty Notices for Disorder⁽²⁾</i>	115,625	107,467	90,199	77,915	61,703	-20.8%
<i>Cautions</i>	337,929	284,798	250,086	235,323	203,931	-13.3%
Proceedings	960,685	1,001,162	1,016,626	956,684	874,490	-8.6%
Convictions	754,516	750,449	764,889	733,420	672,730	-8.3%
Offences taken into consideration	101,647	79,120	74,234	65,960	56,529	-14.3%
Proven offences⁽³⁾	1,413,744	1,306,363	1,258,825	1,190,551	1,064,106	-10.6%

(1) Excluding fraud offences. For the year ending March 2013 figures, the Office for National Statistics published headline national crime figures that include centralised (Action Fraud) recording of fraud and a separate series which excludes fraud. Due to the staggered move of recording fraud offences by forces to Action Fraud, crime figures are shown excluding fraud offences to allow for consistent comparisons.

(2) Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over.

(3) Includes out of court disposals, convictions and offences taken into consideration.

Table Q1.4(i) - Recorded crime and notifiable offence outcomes by offence group, 12 months ending March 2012 and 12 months ending March 2013

Offence Group	12 months ending	Recorded crime ⁽¹⁾	Cannabis warnings	Penalty Notices for Disorder ⁽²⁾	Cautions	Proceedings	Convictions
Violence against the person	March 2012	626,720		23,405	94,054	303,320	207,758
	March 2013	601,134		16,085	83,928	272,136	184,492
Sexual offences	March 2012	52,760		-	1,727	32,314	19,778
	March 2013	53,540		-	1,745	28,666	19,161
Burglary	March 2012	501,048		-	3,693	46,200	32,601
	March 2013	459,796		-	2,629	39,589	28,532
Robbery	March 2012	74,688		-	248	19,768	12,850
	March 2013	65,156		-	176	16,043	10,989
Theft and handling stolen goods	March 2012	1,522,149		33,622	50,109	221,242	188,543
	March 2013	1,398,492		26,819	39,700	209,090	179,317
Fraud and forgery ⁽¹⁾	March 2012	-		-	6,235	60,520	45,687
	March 2013	-		-	5,342	56,074	40,385
Criminal damage	March 2012	626,008		4,616	27,218	73,504	58,445
	March 2013	529,719		3,313	23,287	67,820	53,228
Drug offences	March 2012	229,099	77,933	16,272	45,667	107,844	94,889
	March 2013	208,017	69,213	15,486	41,542	99,227	87,461
Other notifiable offences	March 2012	209,758		-	6,372	91,972	72,869
	March 2013	186,466		-	5,582	85,845	69,165
All Notifiable Offences	March 2012	3,842,230	77,933	77,915	235,323	956,684	733,420
	March 2013	3,502,320	69,213	61,703	203,931	874,490	672,730

(1) Excluding fraud offences. For the year ending March 2013 figures, the Office for National Statistics published headline national crime figures that include centralised (Action Fraud) recording of fraud and a separate series which excludes fraud. Due to the staggered move of recording fraud offences by forces to Action Fraud, crime figures are shown excluding fraud offences to allow for consistent comparisons.

(2) Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over.

Table Q1.5 - Summary of criminal justice statistics, 12 months ending March 2013 to 12 months ending March 2013

	12 months ending												Percentage change 12 months ending Mar-12 to Mar-13
	Mar-03	Mar-04	Mar-05	Mar-06	Mar-07	Mar-08	Mar-09	Mar-10	Mar-11	Mar-12	Mar-13		
Crime measured by Crime Survey for England and Wales ⁽¹⁾	12,260	11,642	10,679	10,715	11,060	10,002	10,446	9,503	9,623	9,500	8,643	-9.0%	
Notifiable offences	5,662	5,711	5,374	5,338	5,240	4,807	4,550	4,195	4,012	3,842	3,502	-8.8%	
- offences recorded by the police ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	228	250	258	314	359	356	322	273	241	224	194	-13.6%	
Number of offenders cautioned ⁽⁵⁾	145	154	158	191	206	200	178	150	132	120	101	-15.3%	
Number of offenders issued Penalty Notices for Disorder of which for indictable offences ⁽⁶⁾	6	26	42	44	49	59	53	50	42	-17.7%	
Number of offences detected by means of cannabis warnings (all indictable) ⁽³⁾	0	63	80	102	104	85	79	78	69	-11.2%	
Defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts of which for indictable offences ⁽⁶⁾	1,925	2,057	1,955	1,899	1,748	1,714	1,640	1,691	1,644	1,557	1,456	-6.5%	
Defendants found guilty at magistrates' courts of which for indictable offences ⁽⁶⁾	1,364	1,481	1,451	1,433	1,344	1,344	1,294	1,321	1,277	1,217	1,134	-6.8%	
of which for indictable offences ⁽⁶⁾	281	276	252	256	246	251	252	256	273	264	231	-12.5%	
Defendants sentenced at the Crown Court after summary conviction	17	16	15	19	17	17	18	17	19	21	19	-10.2%	
Defendants tried at the Crown Court	79	80	77	78	78	84	91	99	108	99	84	-14.8%	
Defendants found guilty at the Crown Court	60	60	59	59	59	66	72	79	85	79	67	-14.9%	
of which for indictable offences ⁽⁶⁾	58	57	56	57	56	62	69	75	80	76	65	-14.7%	
Total offenders found guilty at both courts of which for indictable offences⁽⁶⁾	1,425	1,541	1,510	1,493	1,404	1,410	1,366	1,400	1,362	1,296	1,202	-7.3%	
Total offenders found guilty or cautioned ⁽⁵⁾ of which for indictable offences ⁽⁶⁾	339	334	308	313	302	314	321	331	353	340	296	-12.9%	
Total offenders found guilty or cautioned ⁽⁵⁾ of which for indictable offences ⁽⁶⁾	1,652	1,791	1,768	1,807	1,763	1,766	1,688	1,674	1,604	1,520	1,395	-8.2%	
of which for indictable offences ⁽⁶⁾	484	487	466	504	508	513	499	481	485	459	397	-13.6%	
Total sentenced (offenders)	1,423	1,539	1,509	1,491	1,403	1,408	1,365	1,398	1,361	1,295	1,200	-7.3%	
Magistrates' court	1,346	1,463	1,434	1,413	1,326	1,326	1,274	1,302	1,257	1,194	1,113	-6.8%	
Crown Court	77	76	74	78	77	83	91	96	104	100	86	-13.9%	
Sentence													
Custody	110	109	103	102	94	97	100	100	103	105	94	-10.5%	
Suspended Sentence	3	3	3	16	41	41	41	46	49	48	43	-10.0%	
Community Sentence	192	194	201	204	190	195	194	191	188	172	139	-19.3%	
Fine	971	1,078	1,054	1,026	943	933	888	939	889	846	813	-3.9%	
Other Sentences	148	156	148	144	138	143	132	123	132	124	111	-10.1%	

(1) The offenders dealt with outside of court and defendants proceeded against at magistrates' court in a given year may not relate to the same cases measured by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (known until 1 April 2012 as the British Crime Survey) or those recorded to the police within the same year. The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months prior to interview. Further, offenders found guilty in a given year may have been proceeded against in an earlier year.

(2) Not statistically significant, see Section 8 of the User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales>

(3) Includes British Transport Police.

(4) Excluding fraud offences. For the year ending March 2013 figures, the Office for National Statistics published headline national crime figures that include centralised (Action Fraud) recording of fraud and a separate series which excludes fraud. Due to the staggered move of recording fraud offences by forces to Action Fraud, crime figures are shown excluding fraud offences to allow for consistent comparisons.

(5) Cautions, written warnings and all fixed penalties for summary motoring offences are not covered in this volume but are published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 'Motoring offences and breath tests'.

(6) Indictable offences include those triable-either-way.

Table Q1.6(i) - "Proven Offenders" in the criminal justice system, by offence group and outcomes, 12 months ending March 2012 and 12 months ending March 2013

England and Wales

Offence Group	12 months ending	Cannabis warnings	Penalty Notices for Disorder ⁽¹⁾	Cautions	Proceedings	Convictions	Conviction Ratio (%) ⁽²⁾	Proven Offenders ⁽³⁾	Sentenced ⁽⁴⁾	Discharged	Fine	Community Sentence	Suspended Sentence	Otherwise dealt with	Custody Rate (%) ⁽⁵⁾	Average Custodial Sentence Length (months) ⁽⁶⁾	
Violence against the person	Mar-12	-	-	15,185	58,011	41,671	71.8	56,856	41,391	1,740	2,299	13,375	8,129	1,232	14,616	35.3	18.9
	Mar-13	-	-	12,626	47,518	34,687	73.0	47,323	34,407	1,488	2,258	9,798	6,986	932	12,945	37.6	20.3
Sexual offences	Mar-12	-	-	1,485	10,084	5,996	59.5	7,463	5,978	107	108	1,638	530	139	3,456	57.8	52.8
	Mar-13	-	-	1,497	9,055	5,488	60.7	6,995	5,471	88	107	1,413	477	117	3,269	59.8	55.7
Burglary	Mar-12	-	-	3,216	33,304	25,389	76.2	28,605	25,088	504	361	8,593	2,775	496	12,359	49.3	18.6
	Mar-13	-	-	2,369	27,253	21,220	77.9	23,589	20,898	323	257	6,340	2,514	487	10,977	52.5	19.7
Robbery	Mar-12	-	-	242	14,038	9,272	66.0	9,514	9,282	11	6	2,950	552	273	5,496	59.2	34.9
	Mar-13	-	-	169	11,411	7,684	67.3	7,853	7,687	18	6	2,325	531	114	4,693	61.1	36.9
Theft and handling stolen goods	Mar-12	-	33,622	41,684	136,605	122,308	89.5	197,614	121,869	24,663	17,113	41,914	8,772	5,682	23,945	19.6	4.2
	Mar-13	-	26,819	33,326	119,840	106,884	89.2	167,029	106,186	22,224	15,848	32,319	7,634	5,885	22,276	21.0	4.2
Fraud and forgery	Mar-12	-	-	5,412	23,172	18,686	80.6	24,098	18,573	2,039	2,551	6,013	3,348	351	4,271	23.0	12.7
	Mar-13	-	-	4,566	20,089	15,737	78.3	20,293	15,531	1,532	1,975	4,686	3,142	348	3,848	24.8	12.7
Criminal damage	Mar-12	-	-	4,597	8,943	6,959	77.8	11,566	6,886	1,311	782	2,756	415	476	1,146	16.6	19.3
	Mar-13	-	-	3,578	7,443	5,620	75.5	9,198	5,523	1,124	707	2,045	350	413	884	16.0	23.2
Drug offences	Mar-12	-	16,272	42,001	66,800	60,977	91.3	197,183	60,443	8,593	22,929	12,490	4,342	2,280	9,809	16.2	30.3
	Mar-13	-	15,466	38,191	62,476	56,933	91.1	179,823	56,341	9,528	20,600	10,933	4,210	2,300	8,770	15.6	29.0
Indictable motoring offences	Mar-12	-	-	-	3,524	3,123	88.6	3,123	3,155	36	240	826	858	38	1,157	36.7	9.7
	Mar-13	-	-	-	3,149	2,843	90.3	2,843	2,869	34	198	693	844	17	1,083	37.7	9.7
Other indictable offences	Mar-12	-	-	5,766	62,430	45,412	72.7	51,168	45,280	3,381	11,995	7,510	4,498	6,990	10,906	24.5	10.4
	Mar-13	-	-	4,970	52,609	38,698	73.6	43,668	38,727	2,963	10,925	5,871	4,054	5,425	9,489	25.0	10.2
Indictable offences ⁽⁷⁾	Mar-12	-	49,894	119,578	416,911	339,795	81.5	587,200	338,065	42,385	58,378	98,065	34,219	17,857	87,161	25.8	18.8
	Mar-13	-	42,305	101,282	360,843	295,814	82.0	508,614	293,640	39,322	52,881	76,423	30,742	16,038	78,234	26.7	17.2
Summary non-motoring	Mar-12	-	72,911	104,304	605,391	493,459	81.5	670,674	493,756	44,643	354,659	59,848	9,305	10,391	14,910	3.0	2.5
	Mar-13	-	58,799	92,240	565,952	453,814	80.2	604,853	453,994	40,314	333,326	50,258	8,595	8,216	13,285	2.9	2.6
Summary motoring offences	Mar-12	-	-	-	534,744	462,896	86.6	462,896	462,995	6,198	432,752	14,232	4,119	2,313	3,381	0.7	3.1
	Mar-13	-	-	-	528,991	452,125	85.5	452,125	452,207	5,592	426,308	12,189	3,532	1,755	2,831	0.6	3.1
Summary Offences	Mar-12	-	72,911	104,304	1,140,135	956,355	83.9	1,133,570	956,751	50,841	787,411	74,080	13,424	12,704	18,291	1.9	2.6
	Mar-13	-	58,799	92,240	1,094,943	905,939	82.7	1,066,978	906,201	45,906	799,634	62,447	12,127	9,971	16,116	1.8	2.7
All Offences	Mar-12	77,933	122,805	223,882	1,557,046	1,296,150	83.2	1,720,770	1,294,816	93,226	845,789	172,145	47,643	30,561	105,452	8.2	14.3
	Mar-13	69,213	101,104	193,522	1,455,786	1,201,753	82.6	1,565,592	1,199,841	85,228	812,515	138,870	42,869	26,009	94,350	7.9	14.7

(1) Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over.

(2) Conviction ratio is calculated as the number of convictions as a proportion of the number of proceedings.

(3) Defendants who have been proven to have committed an offence (includes convictions, cautions, cannabis warnings and Penalty Notices for Disorder).

(4) Figures are based on defendants sentenced each year. Some of those sentenced may have been found guilty in a previous year so the number of offenders sentenced may exceed the number of guilty defendants.

(5) Custody rate is calculated as the proportion of the total number of persons sentenced who are sentenced to immediate custody.

(6) Average custodial sentence length excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

(7) Indictable offences include those triable either-way.

Explanatory notes

The statistics in this bulletin relate to cases in the Crown and magistrates' courts in England and Wales during 12 months ending March 2013. This bulletin subsumes a number of previous bulletins including Criminal Statistics: England & Wales, Quarterly Sentencing Statistics, and Young people aged 10-17 receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction.

Symbols and conventions

The following symbols have been used throughout the tables in this bulletin:

- = Nil
- * = Not applicable
- .. = Not available
- (R) = Revised data
- (P) = Provisional data

Guidance on tables and supplementary volumes

This bulletin is supported by a range of Excel spreadsheet workbooks, presenting statistics for the latest rolling twelve month reference period, alongside back series for previous comparable rolling twelve month periods where applicable. These workbooks can be accessed at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly-march-2013

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