



Ministry of
JUSTICE



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

Ministry of Justice
Statistics Bulletin

Published 26 February 2009

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

Ministry of Justice
Statistics Bulletin

Also available on the Ministry of Justice website at
www.justice.gov.uk/publications/timeintervals.htm

and the Office for National Statistics publication hub at
www.statistics.gov.uk/

KEY FINDINGS

This bulletin presents results from the December 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 indictable/triable-either-way cases

The estimated average time between offence and completion decreased from 108 days in December 2007 to 107 days in December 2008; this change is not statistically significant. The annual figures show a statistically significant decrease from 118 days in 2007 to 112 days in 2008.

Youth defendants in completed criminal cases

Compared to December 2007, the estimated average time from offence to completion decreased for youth defendants in all offence groups. Indictable/triable-either-way cases fell from 93 to 85 days (a statistically significant change), summary non-motoring cases fell from 77 to 74 days (not statistically significant) and summary motoring cases fell from 99 to 98 days (not statistically significant). The annual figures show a statistically significant decrease in the estimated average time from offence to completion from 91 days in 2007 to 80 days in 2008.

Adult defendants in completed charged cases

The estimated average time from charge to completion for adult charged cases was 6.9 weeks, compared with 7.9 weeks in December 2007. The estimated average number of hearings per defendant was 2.3, compared with 2.7 in December 2007.

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 indictable/triable-either-way cases – December and Annual
- 9 Youth defendants in completed criminal cases – December and Annual
- 13 NEW SECTION: Adult defendants in completed charged cases
- 15 Timeliness standard results

ANNUAL ANALYSIS REPORTS

- 17 Offence group
- 19 Initiation and Proceedings type
- 21 Area

TABLES (p.23)

- Table 1: All defendants in completed indictable/triable-either-way cases
- Table 2: Youth defendants in completed criminal cases
- Table 3: Adult defendants in completed charged cases
- Tables 4a-6b: Timeliness standard results
- Table 7: Indictable cases by offence group
- Table 8: Indictable cases by initiation type
- Table 9: Indictable cases by proceedings type
- Table 10a,b: Indictable cases by area
- Table 11: Indictable cases by LCJB Area 2006-8

NOTES

- 39 Methodology
- 40 Confidence intervals and margins of error
- 40 Adult defendants in completed charged cases
- 40 Quality and completeness of data
- 42 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 have been published every quarter for both charged cases in adult courts and for all youth court (youth defendants only) cases. However, it is intended that these timeliness standards will no longer be presented in future bulletins. They will be replaced by a section on results for 'Adult defendants in completed charged cases', which are presented for the first time in this bulletin. 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 four sections. The first section includes a description of the results from the December 2008 survey and 2008 overall. The second section contains annual reports. The third section contains tables of detailed results from the latest survey and previous surveys, while the final section holds methodological notes and further information. The results in the first section are in six parts: the first two and the last one cover information on all defendants taken from the main survey week, while the fifth covers adult charged cases from the main survey week. The third and fourth cover information collected on youth defendants over a four-week survey period – as follows:
 - Indictable cases: December 2008 results
 - Indictable cases: 2008 results
 - Youth defendants: December 2008 results
 - Youth defendants: 2008 results
 - Adult defendants in charged cases: December 2008 results
 - Timeliness standard results: December 2008 results
3. The results presented in this report are given per defendant. The December 2008 results for all completed criminal cases are based on a sample of 7,254 defendants (in indictable cases) from a one-week survey period. The youth defendant results are based on a sample of 6,827 defendants (4,556 in indictable cases and 2,271 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). 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. In future bulletins it is envisaged that median values will be presented alongside mean values for timeliness, and a technical annex will be provided. In addition, new measures for adult defendants in completed charged cases are presented for the first time in this bulletin. Only national results for these are presented here, although this will be developed in future bulletins. It is intended that these will replace the timeliness standards used up till now, although that information will be available upon request. Any suggestions or comments regarding these changes to the TIS bulletin content would be welcome; contact details are at the back of this publication.
6. **Missing data:** no youth data was received from the Dorset area and a number of other clerkships in time for this bulletin. Late-received data will be included in amended December figures in subsequent bulletins.

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

ALL DEFENDANTS IN COMPLETED INDICTABLE/ TRIAL-EITHER-WAY CASES: DECEMBER 2008

Main finding

The estimated average time from offence to completion for all defendants in completed indictable/trial-either-way cases decreased from 108 days in December 2007 to 107 days in December 2008.

Time Intervals

(see Figure 1 and Table 1)

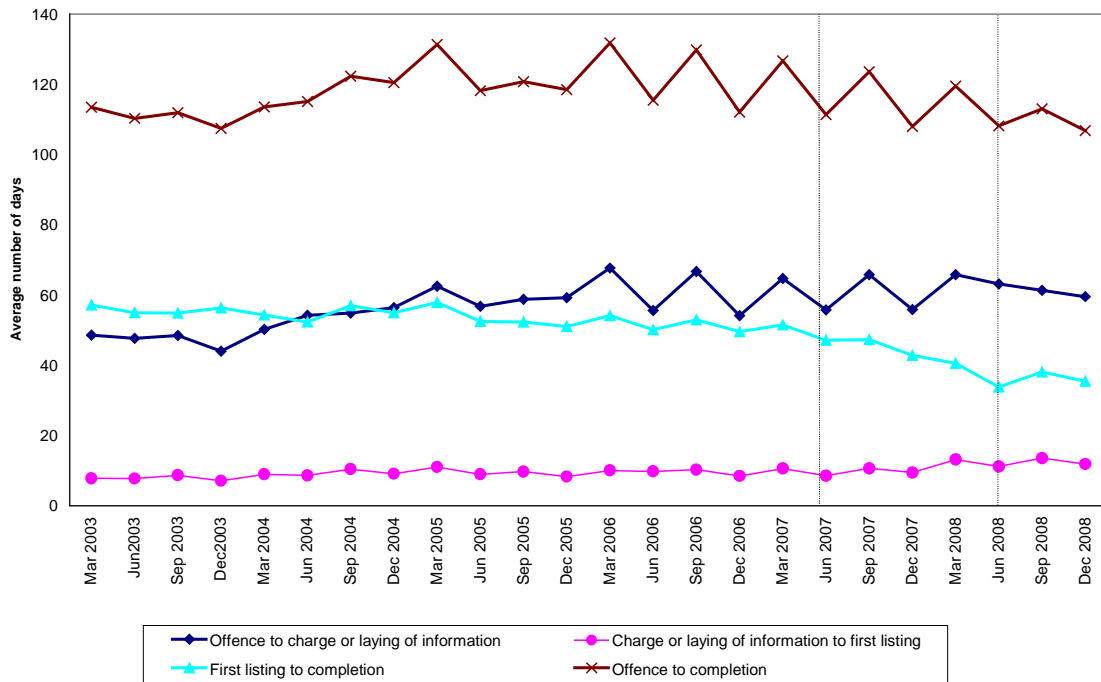
- The estimated average time from offence to completion in December 2008 was 107 days, a decrease from 108 days in December 2007; this decrease is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to charge or laying of information was 60 days in December 2008, an increase from 56 days in December 2007; this increase is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from charge or laying of information to first listing was 12 days in December 2008, an increase from 9 days in December 2007; this increase is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion was 35 days in December 2008, a decrease from 43 days in December 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.

Adjournments

(see Table 1)

- There was an estimated average of 1.4 adjournments in December 2008, a decrease from 1.8 adjournments in December 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average length of adjournments in December 2008 was 25 days, an increase from 24 days in December 2007.
- An estimated 40 per cent of defendants in December 2008 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 36 per cent in December 2007.

Figure 1: Estimated average time by stage of proceedings (all defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases), March 2003 to December 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/triable-either-way cases in June and December. New guidance has been issued which appears to be resolving this problem by redressing any under-reporting. However this could affect comparisons to previous surveys.

ALL DEFENDANTS IN COMPLETED INDICTABLE/TRIABLE-EITHER-WAY CASES: 2008 ANNUAL RESULTS

Main Finding

The annual results for all defendants in indictable/triable-either-way cases show a decrease in the estimated average time from offence to completion from 118 days in 2007 to 112 days in 2008.

Time Intervals

(see Figure 2 and Table 1)

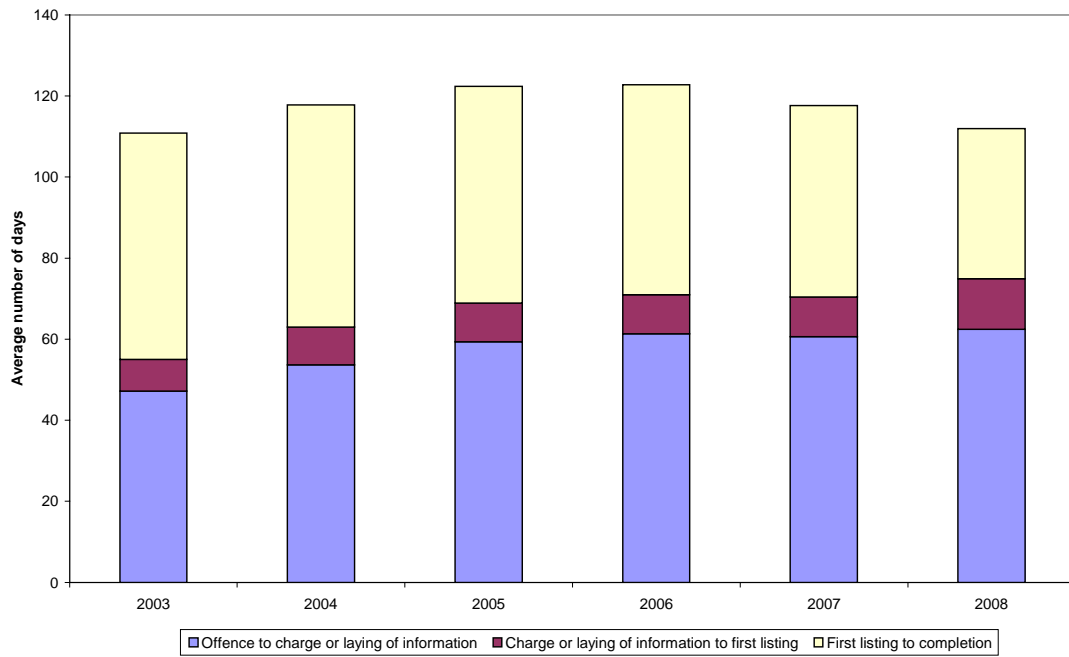
- The estimated average time from offence to completion in 2008 was 112 days, a decrease from 118 days in 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to charge or laying of information in 2008 was 62 days, an increase from 61 days in 2007; this increase is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from charge or laying of information to first listing in 2008 was 12 days, an increase from 10 days in 2007; this increase is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from first listing to completion in 2008 was 37 days, a decrease from 47 days in 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.

Adjournments

(see Table 1)

- There was an estimated average of 1.5 adjournments for all completed indictable/triable-either-way cases in 2008, a decrease from 2.0 adjournments in 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average length of adjournments in 2008 was 25 days, an increase from 23 days in 2007.
- An estimated 39 per cent of defendants in 2008 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 32 per cent in 2007.

Figure 2: Annual results for all defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases by stage of proceedings 2003 to 2008



YOUTH DEFENDANTS IN ALL COMPLETED CASES: DECEMBER 2008 RESULTS

Main Finding

The estimated average time from offence to completion for youth defendants in all criminal cases decreased from 90 days in December 2007 to 83 days in December 2008.

Time Intervals

(see Figure 3 and Table 2)

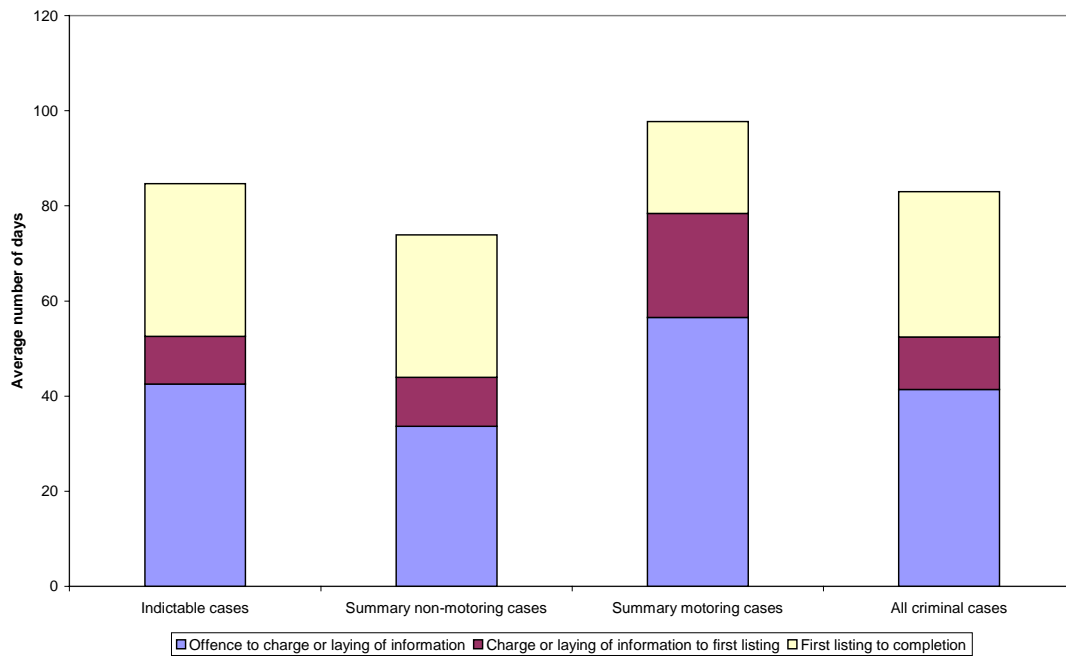
- The estimated average time from offence to completion for all youth defendants in completed criminal cases in December 2008 was 83 days, a decrease from 90 days in December 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to completion for youth defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases was 85 days in December 2008, a decrease from 93 days in December 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to completion for completed summary non-motoring cases was 74 days in December 2008, a decrease from 77 days in December 2007; this decrease is not statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to completion for completed summary motoring cases was 98 days in December 2008, a decrease from 99 days in December 2007; this decrease is not statistically significant.

Adjournments

(see Table 2)

- There was an estimated average of 1.5 adjournments for youth defendants in all completed criminal cases in December 2008, a decrease from 1.8 in December 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average length of adjournments in December 2008 was 21 days, an increase from 19 days in December 2007.
- An estimated 40 per cent of youth defendants in December 2008 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 36 per cent in December 2007.

Figure 3: Estimated average time by stage of proceedings for youth defendants in completed criminal cases, December 2008



YOUTH DEFENDANTS IN ALL COMPLETED CRIMINAL CASES: 2008 ANNUAL RESULTS

Main Findings

The annual figure for the estimated average time from offence to completion for youth defendants in all criminal cases was 80 days in 2008, a decrease from 91 days in 2007.

Time Intervals

(see Figure 4 and Table 2)

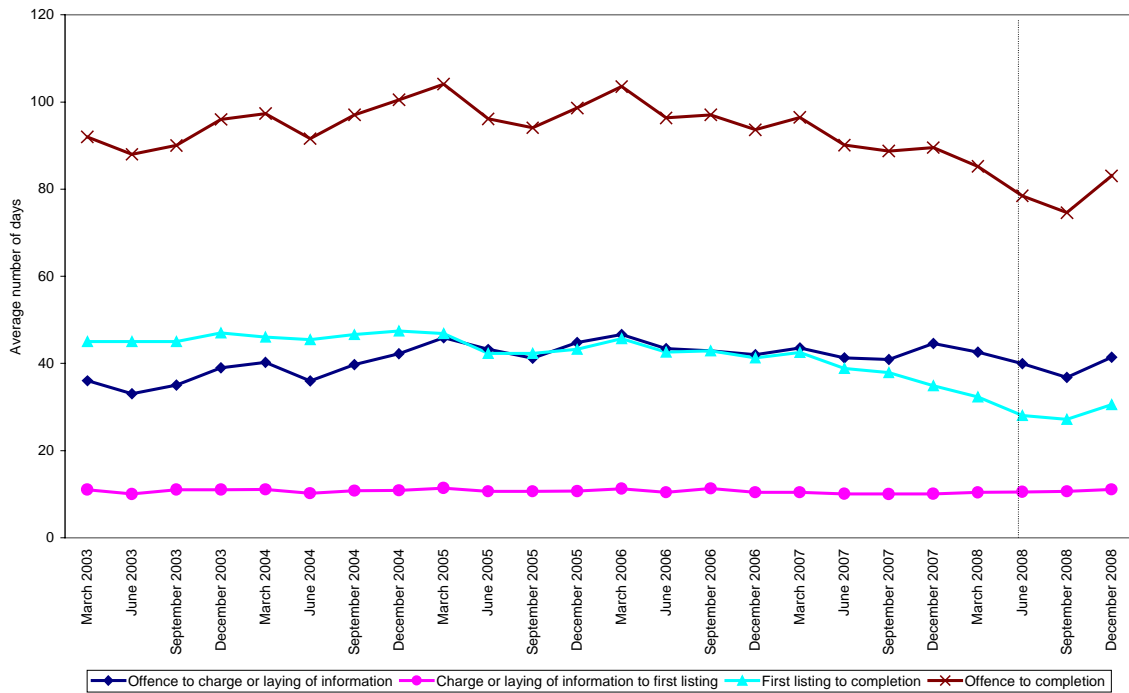
- The estimated average time from offence to completion for all youth defendants in completed criminal cases in 2008 was 80 days, a decrease from 91 days in 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to completion for youth defendants in completed indictable/triable-either-way cases was 82 days in 2008, a decrease from 94 days in 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to completion for completed summary non-motoring cases in 2008 was 71 days, a decrease from 83 days in 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average time from offence to completion for completed summary motoring cases in 2008 was 94 days, a decrease from 95 days in 2007; this decrease is not statistically significant.

Adjournments

(see Table 2)

- There was an estimated average of 1.5 adjournments for youth defendants in all completed criminal cases in 2008, a decrease from 2.0 adjournments in 2007; this decrease is statistically significant.
- The estimated average length of adjournments for all youth defendants in completed criminal cases in 2008 was 20 days, an increase from 19 days in 2007.
- An estimated 39 per cent of youth defendants in completed criminal cases in 2008 had their cases completed at first listing, an increase from 33 per cent in 2007.

Figure 4: Estimated average time by stage of proceedings (youth defendants in completed criminal cases), March 2003 to December 2008



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

ADULT DEFENDANTS IN COMPLETED CHARGED CASES: DECEMBER 2008

Following the introduction of CJSSS (Criminal Justice: Simple, Speedy, Summary) in 2007/2008 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Magistrates' Courts, performance measures have been established for adult charged criminal cases excluding those sent or committed to the Crown Court for trial. The ambition is that, over time, the average time from charge to completion will be 6 weeks or less. The average number of hearings for a case to be completed in the Magistrates' Court is also monitored.

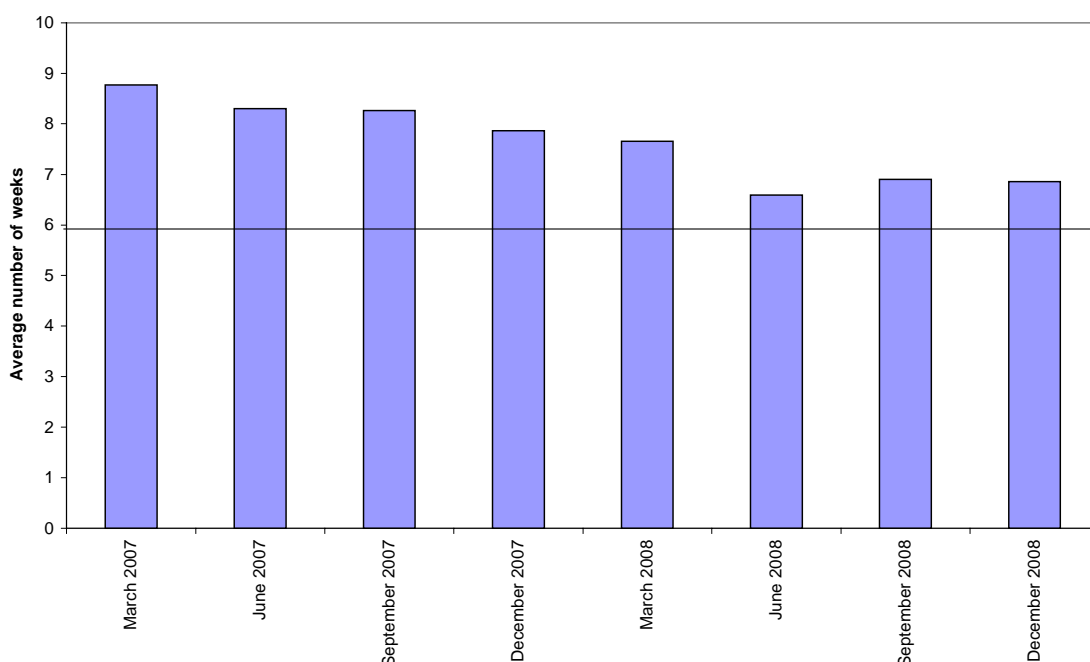
Main Findings

In December 2008 the estimated average time from charge to completion was 6.9 weeks. There was an estimated average of 2.3 hearings for completed adult charged cases.

Average time from charge to completion (see Figure 5 and Table 3)

- The estimated average time from charge to disposal for completed adult charged cases in December 2008 was 6.9 weeks (48 days), compared with 7.9 weeks (55 days) in December 2007.

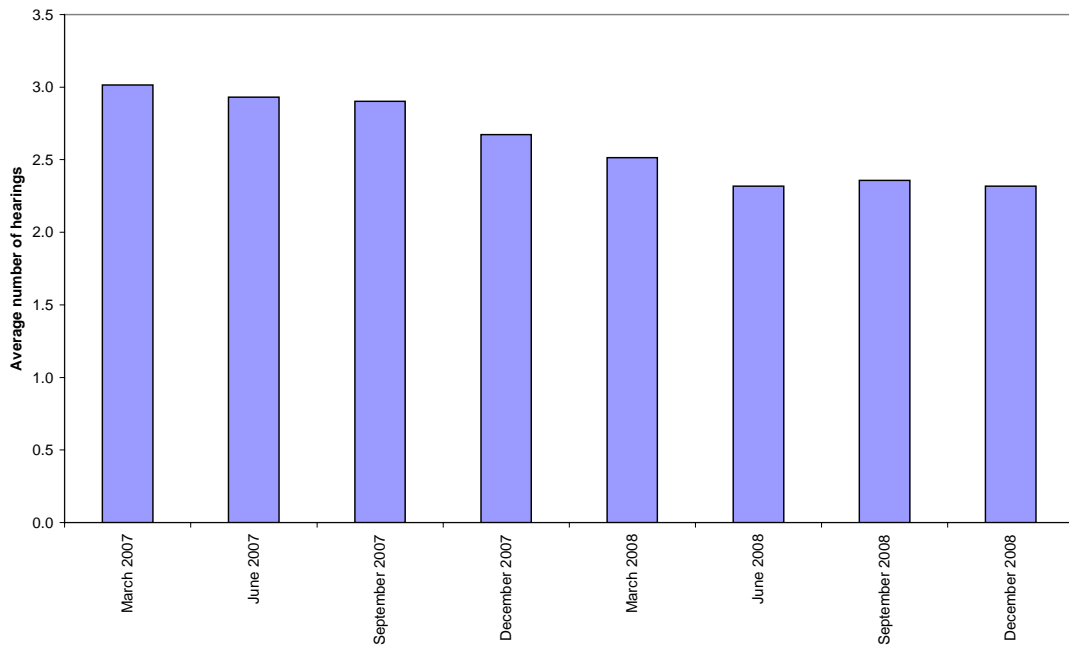
Figure 5: Estimated average time from date of charge to completion



Average number of hearings per defendant (see Figure 6 and Table 3)

- The estimated average number of hearings for adult charged cases in December 2008 was 2.3 hearings, compared with an estimated average of 2.7 hearings in December 2007.

Figure 6: Estimated average number of hearings per case



These figures cover adult charged cases, excluding those sent or committed to the Crown Court for trial.

TIMELINESS STANDARD RESULTS

N.B. This is intended to be the final bulletin in which these timeliness standard results will be presented. This information will however be available upon request. In future bulletins only the section on charged cases will be presented, to reflect recent performance measures. For any issues relating to this proposal, please see contact details at the back of this bulletin.

Standards for cases heard in adult courts (including youth defendants) are based on charged indictable/ triable-either-way 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 (December 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 4 to 6)

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

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

41 LCJB areas managed to complete 80 per cent or more of youth cases within the standards (one area did not return any youth data in time for inclusion in the bulletin).

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

All 24 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.

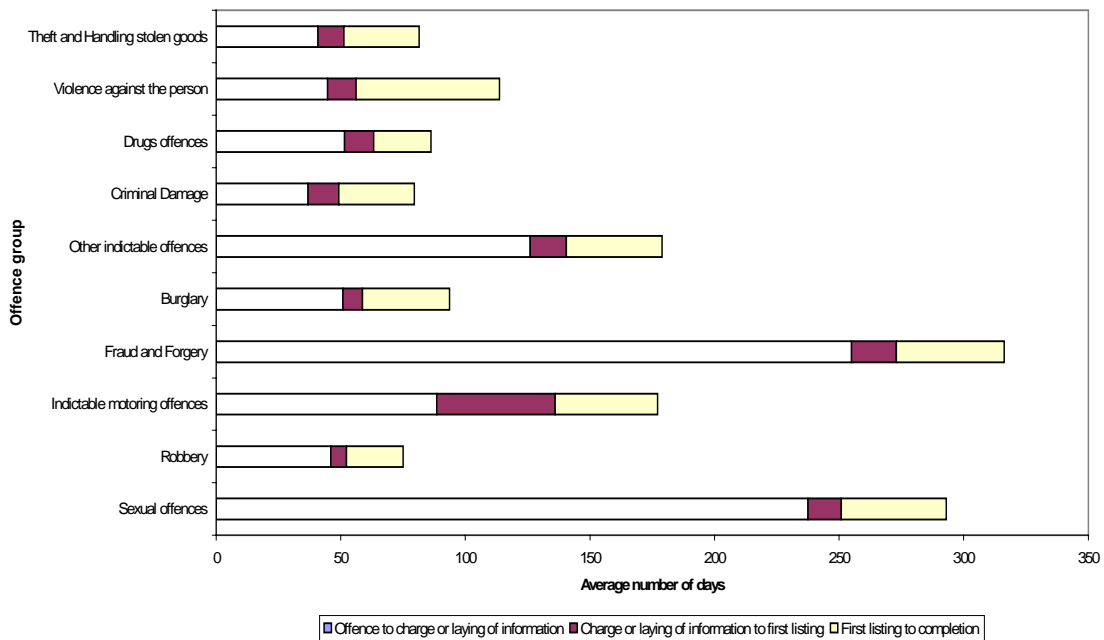
ANNUAL ANALYSIS REPORTS: INDICTABLE/ TRIAL-EITHER-WAY CASES

The following analysis is published annually in the December bulletin to provide a more detailed look at timeliness of completed indictable/trial-either-way cases.

ANALYSIS BY OFFENCE GROUP: INDICTABLE/ TRIAL-EITHER-WAY CASES (see Figure 7, Table 7)

1. Figure 7 shows the average time taken for defendants in completed indictable/ trial-either-way cases by offence group and stage of proceedings in 2008.
2. The average time from offence to completion decreased for all offence types between 2007 and 2008, except for 'Indictable Motoring Offences', 'Sexual Offences' and 'Other Indictable Offences'.
3. Table 7 shows that the offence group accounting for the largest proportion of defendants in the sample of indictable/ trial-either-way cases was 'Theft and Handling Stolen Goods' offences (32 per cent of all defendants). For these defendants the average time from offence to completion decreased from 91 days in 2007 to 81 days in 2008. Looking at the component stages, the change mainly stems from reduction in the first listing to completion stage.
4. The average time from offence to charge / laying of information was the stage that showed the greatest variation between offence groups. In 2008, the longest average time taken from offence to charge or laying of information occurred in 'Fraud and Forgery' cases (3 per cent of defendants), an average of 255 days, while the shortest time occurred in 'Criminal Damage' cases (8 per cent of defendants), where the average was 37 days. Table 7 gives more detailed information on time intervals by offence group.
5. Between 2007 and 2008 the average time from offence to charge / laying of information decreased in all offence groups except 'Drug Offences', 'Indictable Motoring Offences', 'Sexual Offences' and 'Other Indictable Offences', where times increased. The average time from charge / laying of information to first listing increased for all offence groups except 'Fraud and Forgery', 'Robbery' and 'Sexual Offences' which remained unchanged. Average times for the other offence groups remained unchanged. The average time from first listing to completion fell for all offence groups.

Figure 7: Estimated average time by offence group and stage of proceedings, all defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way



cases, 2008

The groups are ordered according to the size of the sample, with the highest number of defendants in the 'Theft and Handling of stolen goods' group and the smallest number of defendants in the 'Sexual offences' group.

The unusually long time from charge/ laying of information to first listing for indictable motoring offences is due to an unusually large number of summonsed cases, which on average have longer time intervals than charged cases, being included in the March and September surveys for a few courthouses that processed large numbers of these cases in the survey weeks. This is being investigated further.

ANALYSIS BY INITIATION AND PROCEEDINGS TYPE: INDICTABLE/TRIABLE-EITHER-WAY CASES

(see Figures 8,9 and Tables 8,9)

1. Figures 8 and 9 show the average time taken by stage of proceedings for defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases by initiation type (charge or summons, Figure 8) and proceedings type (Figure 9) in 2008. Detailed results for defendants in indictable/ triable-either-way cases by initiation type can be found in Table 8, and by proceedings type in Table 9.
2. In 2008 overall, 94 per cent of defendants proceeded against for indictable/ triable-either-way cases were charged, with the remainder being summonsed, compared to 96 per cent in 2007. This difference may be an artefact due to inconsistency in data collection; see Note 5 for more information. As shown in Figure 8, offence to completion times were on average substantially longer for those summonsed than for those charged, on average 321 days for summonsed cases compared to 99 days for charged cases. Average times for all stages: offence to charge / laying of information, charge / laying of information to first listing and first listing to completion were also longer in summonsed cases than in charged cases.
3. The average time from offence to completion decreased for 'Initial guilty plea' and 'Initial not guilty plea' proceeding types between 2007 and 2008 and increased for all other proceeding types. The shortest average interval from offence to completion was 74 days, for the 61 per cent of defendants in the sample with initial guilty pleas.
4. Between 2007 and 2008 the average time from offence to charge/laying of information increased for all proceeding types except 'Initial guilty plea', which decreased and 'Other proceedings types (including withdrawn)' which remained unchanged. The average time from charge / laying of information to first listing increased for all proceeding types. The average time from first listing to completion decreased for all proceeding types, except 'No plea recorded (tried in absence)' which increased.
5. Table 9 also shows the average number of adjournments for defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases by type of proceedings. Defendants where the initial plea was guilty had the lowest number of adjournments with an average of 1.0 in 2008, whilst defendants who had

an initial plea of not guilty had the highest number of adjournments with an average of 3.2 in 2008.

Figure 8: Estimated average time by initiation type and stage of proceedings, all defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases, 2008

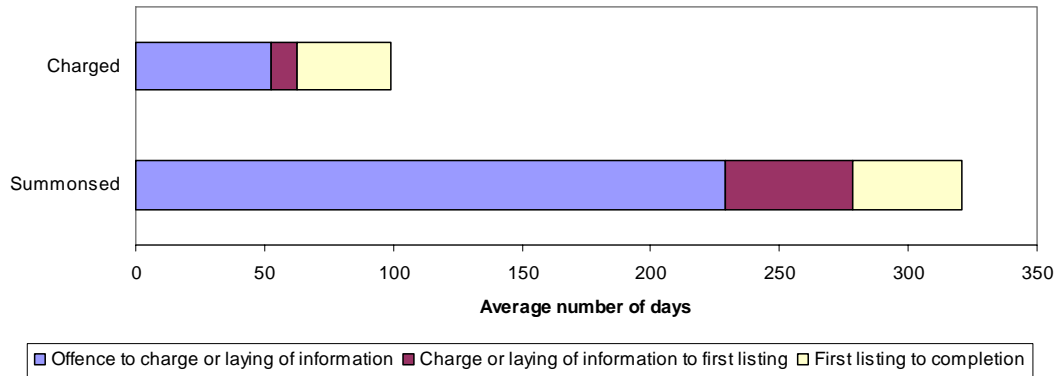
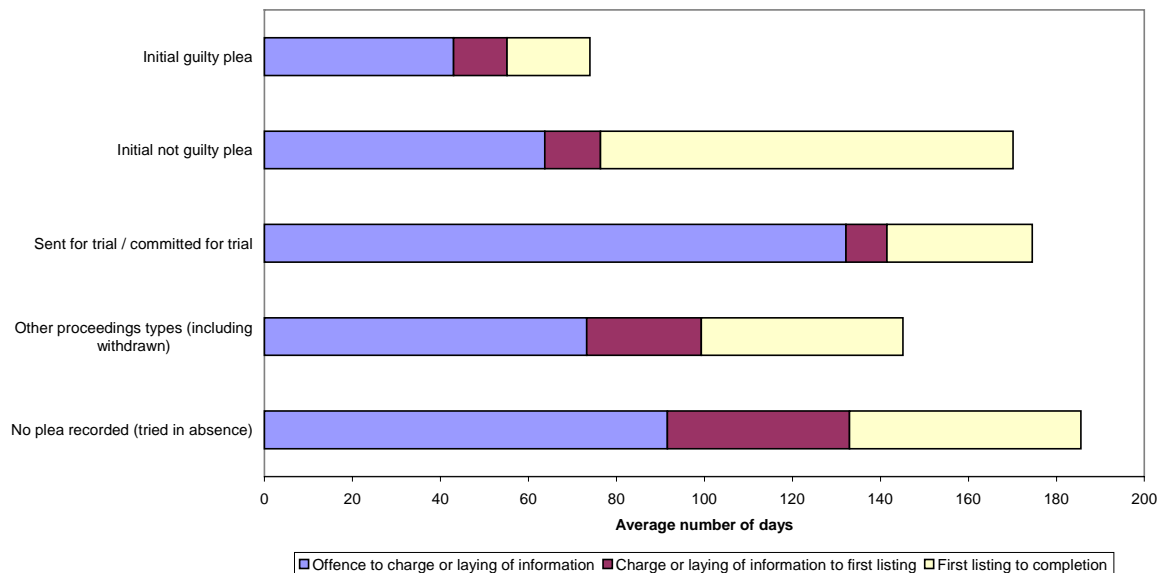


Figure 9: Estimated average time by proceedings type and stage of proceedings, all defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases, 2008



The groups are ordered according to the size of the sample, with the highest number of defendants in the 'Initial guilty plea' group and the smallest number of defendants in the 'No plea recorded' group.

ANALYSIS BY LCJB AREA: INDICTABLE/TRIABLE-EITHER-WAY CASES

(see Figure 10, Tables 10,11)

1. Tables 10a (LCJB, Local Criminal Justice Board), 10b (HMCS, HM Courts Service) and 11 (LCJB) give results on the average time taken for defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases by Area.
2. The average times from offence to charge / laying of information varied between the 42 Areas. In 2008 the estimated average time over this interval varied from 38 days in Cambridgeshire (+/-9 days; the margin of error tells us that we would expect the number of days to lie between 29 days and 47 days) to 103 days (+/-30 days) in Wiltshire. The average for England and Wales overall was 62 days (+/-2 days).
3. The estimated average times from charge / laying of information to first listing also showed regional variation. In 2008 these varied from 6 days (+/-1 days) in West Midlands to 21 days in both Hampshire and Isle of Wight (+/-2 days) and Hertfordshire (+/-3 days), compared to 12 days (+/-0 days) on average for England and Wales overall.
4. In 2008 the estimated average time from first listing to completion ranged from 27 days (+/-3 days) in South Wales, to 58 days (+/-16 days) in Bedfordshire. The average time in 2008 for England and Wales overall was 37 days (+/-1 day). In comparison, in 2007 the average time ranged from 29 days (+/-5 days) in Norfolk, to 80 days (+/-12 days) in Dorset. The average time from first listing to completion in 2007 overall was 47 days (+/-1 day).
5. Figure 10 shows the distribution of the estimated average time from first listing to completion for completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases in the 42 Areas for both 2007 and 2008. It shows that this period varied widely between the Areas and that the distribution has changed between 2007 and 2008.
6. The number of areas where the period from first listing to completion was more than 50 days on average has decreased since 2007. 16 areas had an estimated average time from first listing to completion of more than 50 days in 2007, compared to 2 areas in 2008.

7. Table 11 shows the estimated average time from first listing to completion for LCJB Areas for each year from 2006 to 2008. The decrease from an estimated average of 47 days in 2007 to 37 days in 2008 for England and Wales as a whole was reflected by decreases in 38 out of 42 Areas.

Figure 10: Distribution of the estimated average time from first listing to completion by LCJB Area, 2007 and 2008

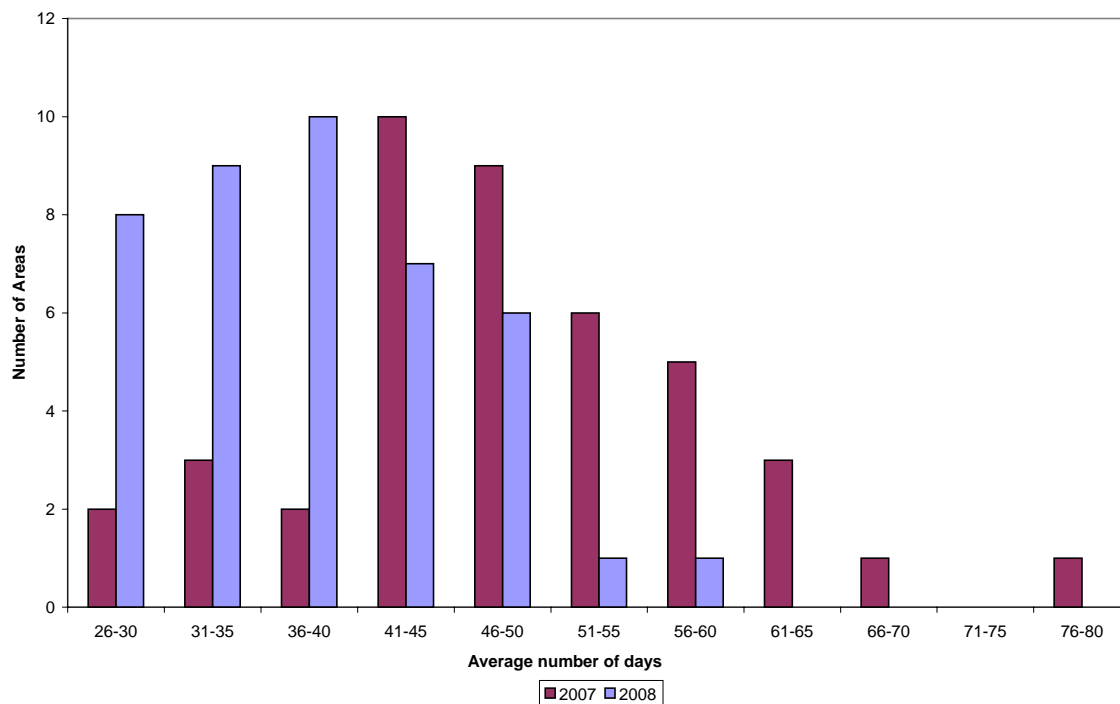


TABLE 1: All defendants in completed indictable / triable-either-way cases, 2003 to December 2008

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)
2003	47	2	8	0	56	1	111	2	30%	0%	2.2	0.0	26	33,084
2004	54	2	9	0	55	1	118	2	30%	1%	2.1	0.0	26	28,493
2005	59	2	10	0	54	1	122	2	31%	1%	2.1	0.0	26	28,127
2006	61	2	10	0	52	1	123	2	30%	1%	2.1	0.0	25	27,730
2007 ⁽²⁾	61	2	10	0	47	1	118	2	32%	1%	2.0	0.0	23	28,756
2008	62	2	12	0	37	1	112	2	39%	1%	1.5	0.0	25	29,584
2006 March	68	4	10	0	54	2	132	4	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	26	7,391
2006 June ⁽³⁾	56	4	10	0	50	2	115	4	30%	1%	2.0	0.1	24	6,835
2006 September	67	4	10	0	53	2	130	5	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	25	7,126
2006 December	54	3	8	0	50	2	112	4	30%	1%	2.1	0.1	24	6,378
2007 March	65	4	11	1	51	2	127	4	29%	1%	2.2	0.1	23	7,126
2007 June ⁽²⁾	56	4	8	0	47	2	111	4	31%	1%	2.1	0.1	23	7,178
2007 September	66	4	11	0	47	2	124	4	32%	1%	2.0	0.1	23	7,600
2007 December	56	3	9	0	43	2	108	4	36%	1%	1.8	0.1	24	6,852
2008 March	66	4	13	1	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	61	4	14	0	38	2	113	4	38%	1%	1.5	0.1	26	7,530
2008 December	60	4	12	0	35	2	107	4	40%	1%	1.4	0.1	25	7,254

(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 +/- the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) See paragraph 4 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.

TABLE 2: Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, 2003 to December 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)	
Indictable cases														
2003	33	1	8	0	50	1	91	1	25%	1%	2.5	0.0	21	23,652
2004	37	1	8	0	51	1	97	1	26%	1%	2.4	0.0	21	22,948
2005	43	1	9	0	48	1	100	1	28%	1%	2.3	0.0	21	21,729
2006	45	1	9	0	46	1	100	1	28%	1%	2.3	0.0	20	22,637
2007	44	1	9	0	41	1	94	1	30%	1%	2.1	0.0	19	22,560
2008	42	1	9	0	31	1	82	1	37%	1%	1.6	0.0	20	19,073
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 ^(2,*)	41	3	9	0	30	1	80	3	37%	1%	1.5	0.1	19	4,766
2008 September	38	2	9	0	29	1	76	3	37%	1%	1.5	0.1	19	4,495
2008 December ^(**)	43	2	10	0	32	2	85	3	38%	1%	1.5	0.1	21	4,556
Summary non-motoring cases														
2003	28	1	10	0	43	1	80	2	32%	1%	2.0	0.1	21	7,285
2004	32	1	10	0	44	1	85	2	33%	1%	2.1	0.1	21	8,006
2005	36	1	10	0	41	1	88	2	33%	1%	2.0	0.1	21	8,087
2006	36	1	11	0	43	1	90	2	32%	1%	2.0	0.1	21	8,393
2007	36	2	10	0	37	1	83	2	34%	1%	1.9	0.0	19	8,890
2008	32	1	10	0	28	1	71	2	41%	1%	1.4	0.0	20	6,979
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 ^(2,*)	33	3	10	1	26	2	69	4	43%	2%	1.4	0.1	19	1,685
2008 September	28	2	11	1	26	2	65	3	41%	2%	1.3	0.1	20	1,664
2008 December ^(**)	34	2	10	1	30	2	74	4	41%	2%	1.4	0.1	21	1,726

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 4 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

(**) December 2008 figures do not include Dorset.

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

TABLE 2 (continued): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, 2003 to December 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)
Summary motoring														
2003	57	2	22	1	31	1	109	2	40%	1%	1.5	0.1	21	6,221
2004	60	2	22	1	29	1	111	2	44%	1%	1.3	0.0	22	5,660
2005	59	2	21	1	28	2	108	3	47%	1%	1.3	0.1	22	4,558
2006	55	2	21	1	25	2	100	3	47%	2%	1.2	0.1	20	3,707
2007	50	2	19	1	25	2	95	3	48%	2%	1.3	0.1	20	3,092
2008	53	2	21	1	20	2	94	3	52%	2%	1.0	0.1	20	2,367
2007 March	54	4	20	1	26	3	100	5	47%	3%	1.4	0.1	19	840
2007 June ⁽²⁾	46	4	17	1	30	5	93	7	45%	4%	1.4	0.1	21	768
2007 September	45	4	18	1	23	3	86	5	49%	4%	1.2	0.1	19	803
2007 December	57	4	20	1	22	3	99	6	51%	4%	1.1	0.1	20	681
2008 March ^(*)	53	4	21	2	21	3	94	6	52%	4%	0.9	0.1	22	629
2008 June ^(2,*)	54	5	20	2	21	4	95	7	49%	4%	1.1	0.1	20	608
2008 September	48	4	21	2	18	3	87	6	55%	4%	0.9	0.1	19	585
2008 December ^(**)	57	5	22	2	19	3	98	6	52%	4%	1.0	0.1	20	545
All criminal cases														
2003	36	1	11	0	46	1	92	1	29%	0%	2.2	0.0	21	37,158
2004	40	1	11	0	46	1	97	1	30%	0%	2.2	0.0	21	36,614
2005	44	1	11	0	44	1	98	1	31%	0%	2.1	0.0	21	34,374
2006	44	1	11	0	43	1	98	1	31%	0%	2.1	0.0	20	34,737
2007	43	1	10	0	39	1	91	1	33%	0%	2.0	0.0	19	34,542
2008	40	1	11	0	30	1	80	1	39%	1%	1.5	0.0	20	28,419
2007 March	44	1	10	0	43	1	96	2	30%	1%	2.2	0.1	20	8,868
2007 June ⁽²⁾	41	1	10	0	39	1	90	2	32%	1%	2.0	0.1	19	8,989
2007 September	41	2	10	0	38	1	89	2	33%	1%	1.9	0.0	20	8,490
2007 December	45	1	10	0	35	1	90	2	36%	1%	1.8	0.0	19	8,195
2008 March ^(*)	43	1	10	0	32	1	85	2	38%	1%	1.6	0.0	20	7,789
2008 June ^(2,*)	40	2	11	0	28	1	78	2	40%	1%	1.5	0.0	19	7,059
2008 September	37	2	11	0	27	1	75	2	39%	1%	1.4	0.0	19	6,744
2008 December ^(**)	41	2	11	0	31	1	83	2	40%	1%	1.5	0.0	21	6,827

(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 4 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.

(**) December 2008 figures do not include Dorset.

TABLE 3: Adult defendants in completed charged cases, excluding those committed or sent to the Crown Court for trial, March 2007 to December 2008

England and Wales

	Charge to completion		Average time from charge to completion in days	Hearings		Sample size
	Estimated average time from charge to completion in weeks	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- weeks)		Estimated average number of hearings per defendant	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾	Number of defendants
2007 March	8.8	0.3	61	3.0	0.1	8,603
2007 June ⁽²⁾	8.3	0.3	58	2.9	0.1	8,537
2007 September	8.3	0.3	58	2.9	0.1	9,096
2007 December	7.9	0.3	55	2.7	0.0	8,313
2008 March	7.7	0.3	54	2.5	0.0	8,654
2008 June ⁽²⁾	6.6	0.0	46	2.3	0.0	8,712
2008 September	6.9	0.0	48	2.4	0.0	8,642
2008 December	6.9	0.3	48	2.3	0.0	8,241

(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 4 of the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007 and June 2008 surveys.

TABLE 4a: Timeliness standards (charge/ laying of information to completion); adult court charged cases (including youth defendants) & youth court cases (youth defendants only); by LCJB Area; December 2008

England and Wales						
LCJB AREA	Adult Court Charged			Youth Court		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size
	(per cent)	range	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	range	(Number of Defendants)
Avon and Somerset	87%	(81%-91%)	220	93%	(86%-96%)	124
Bedfordshire	83%	(70%-91%)	59	80%	(67%-89%)	61
Cambridgeshire	85%	(77%-90%)	125	86%	(76%-92%)	80
Cheshire	90%	(84%-94%)	161	94%	(89%-97%)	148
Cleveland	89%	(82%-93%)	158	94%	(87%-97%)	95
Cumbria	93%	(86%-97%)	89	95%	(89%-98%)	88
Derbyshire	83%	(75%-88%)	149	95%	(90%-98%)	131
Devon and Cornwall	90%	(84%-93%)	204	93%	(89%-96%)	181
Dorset ⁽³⁾	87%	(80%-92%)	119	-	-	0
Durham	87%	(79%-92%)	109	95%	(88%-98%)	86
Dyfed Powys	84%	(72%-91%)	68	98%	(91%-100%)	60
Essex	88%	(84%-92%)	268	96%	(93%-98%)	228
Gloucestershire	90%	(84%-94%)	142	-	-	18
Greater Manchester	94%	(92%-96%)	514	95%	(92%-97%)	386
Gwent	91%	(81%-96%)	74	95%	(87%-98%)	63
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	86%	(81%-89%)	315	95%	(91%-98%)	169
Hertfordshire	77%	(69%-83%)	186	90%	(83%-95%)	111
Humberside	88%	(82%-93%)	145	90%	(83%-95%)	124
Kent	88%	(82%-92%)	202	93%	(87%-96%)	153
Lancashire	88%	(84%-91%)	338	95%	(91%-97%)	260
Leicestershire	89%	(81%-95%)	85	91%	(80%-96%)	57
Lincolnshire	92%	(83%-96%)	74	87%	(76%-93%)	69
London	90%	(88%-91%)	1581	92%	(90%-94%)	917
Merseyside	86%	(82%-90%)	374	94%	(89%-96%)	173
Norfolk	91%	(83%-95%)	100	92%	(83%-96%)	74
North Wales	87%	(79%-92%)	109	95%	(87%-98%)	65
North Yorkshire	90%	(83%-95%)	111	95%	(89%-98%)	108
Northamptonshire	80%	(70%-87%)	95	91%	(84%-96%)	94
Northumbria	86%	(81%-89%)	314	92%	(89%-94%)	360
Nottinghamshire	88%	(82%-92%)	181	89%	(82%-94%)	122
South Wales	93%	(89%-95%)	268	97%	(94%-99%)	182
South Yorkshire	92%	(88%-95%)	231	95%	(91%-98%)	168
Staffordshire	87%	(80%-92%)	151	98%	(93%-99%)	128
Suffolk	89%	(81%-94%)	103	97%	(92%-99%)	113
Surrey	90%	(82%-94%)	109	91%	(82%-96%)	79
Sussex	92%	(88%-95%)	265	93%	(87%-96%)	154
Thames Valley	82%	(77%-86%)	369	96%	(92%-98%)	214
Warwickshire	94%	(86%-97%)	80	100%	(92%-100%)	43
West Mercia	91%	(85%-95%)	167	94%	(87%-97%)	110
West Midlands	93%	(91%-95%)	718	95%	(93%-97%)	377
West Yorkshire	82%	(77%-86%)	350	84%	(79%-87%)	360
Wiltshire	76%	(63%-85%)	70	88%	(81%-92%)	149
England and Wales	88%	(88%-89%)	9550	93%	(92%-94%)	6682

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes:

- (1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. Please see the 'Notes' section for more information.
- (2) The confidence range indicates the range of values within which the true value is likely to fall.
- (3) 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.
- (4) Adult court charged cases also include youth defendant cases heard in adult courts. Youth court figures exclude youth defendants heard in an adult court.
- (5) No youth data was returned from Dorset in time for the bulletin.

TABLE 4b: Timeliness standards (charge/ laying of information to completion); adult court charged cases (including youth defendants) & youth court cases (youth defendants only); by HMCS Area; December 2008

England and Wales						
HMCS Area	Adult Court Charged			Youth Court		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size
	(per cent)	range	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	range	(Number of Defendants)
Avon and Somerset	87%	(81%-91%)	220	93%	(86%-96%)	124
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire	84%	(80%-87%)	513	92%	(89%-95%)	400
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	94%	(92%-96%)	537	95%	(92%-97%)	299
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	90%	(87%-93%)	579	96%	(93%-98%)	359
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	88%	(84%-91%)	328	93%	(89%-95%)	267
Cheshire and Merseyside	87%	(84%-90%)	535	94%	(90%-96%)	321
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	87%	(84%-89%)	581	93%	(90%-95%)	541
Cumbria and Lancashire	89%	(85%-92%)	427	95%	(92%-97%)	348
Devon and Cornwall	90%	(84%-93%)	204	93%	(89%-96%)	181
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire ⁽²⁾	86%	(82%-90%)	331	89%	(83%-93%)	167
Greater Manchester	94%	(92%-96%)	514	95%	(92%-97%)	386
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	86%	(81%-89%)	315	95%	(91%-98%)	169
Humber and South Yorkshire	91%	(87%-93%)	376	93%	(90%-96%)	292
Kent	88%	(82%-92%)	202	93%	(87%-96%)	153
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire	87%	(81%-90%)	254	90%	(85%-93%)	220
London (Central and South)	90%	(87%-92%)	601	92%	(88%-95%)	241
London (North and West)	89%	(87%-91%)	980	92%	(90%-94%)	676
Mid and West Wales	88%	(81%-92%)	147	99%	(94%-100%)	98
North and West Yorkshire	84%	(80%-87%)	461	86%	(83%-89%)	468
North Wales	87%	(79%-92%)	109	95%	(87%-98%)	65
Nottingham and Derbyshire	85%	(81%-89%)	330	92%	(88%-95%)	253
South East Wales	93%	(89%-95%)	263	96%	(92%-98%)	207
Surrey and Sussex	91%	(88%-94%)	374	92%	(88%-95%)	233
Thames Valley	82%	(77%-86%)	369	96%	(92%-98%)	214
England and Wales	88%	(88%-89%)	9550	93%	(92%-94%)	6682

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes:

- (1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. Please see the 'Notes' section for more information.
- (2) The confidence range indicates the range of values within which the true value is likely to fall.
- (3) 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.
- (4) Adult court charged cases also include youth defendant cases heard in adult courts. Youth court figures exclude youth defendants heard in an adult court.
- (5) No youth data was returned from Dorset in time for the bulletin.

TABLE 5a: Timeliness standards (charge/ laying of information to completion); adult court charged cases (including youth defendants); by LCJB Area; December 2008

England and Wales

LCJB Area	Initial Guilty Plea			Trials			Committals		
	Standard = 59 days			Standard = 143 days			Standard = 101 days		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size
	(per cent)	range	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	range	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	range	(Number of Defendants)
Avon and Somerset	83%	(75%-89%)	138	89%	(77%-95%)	54	-	-	28
Bedfordshire	90%	(77%-96%)	41	-	-	11	-	-	7
Cambridgeshire	78%	(67%-86%)	86	-	-	14	-	-	25
Cheshire	89%	(81%-94%)	110	91%	(75%-97%)	32	-	-	19
Cleveland	89%	(81%-94%)	106	87%	(73%-94%)	45	-	-	7
Cumbria	93%	(84%-97%)	61	-	-	26	-	-	2
Derbyshire	93%	(84%-97%)	81	65%	(49%-79%)	55	-	-	13
Devon and Cornwall	91%	(85%-95%)	142	82%	(66%-91%)	44	-	-	18
Dorset ⁽⁵⁾	87%	(77%-93%)	82	-	-	22	-	-	15
Durham	85%	(72%-93%)	54	-	-	24	97%	(83%-99%)	31
Dyfed Powys	82%	(68%-91%)	51	-	-	13	-	-	4
Essex	89%	(83%-93%)	176	82%	(68%-90%)	55	97%	(86%-100%)	37
Gloucestershire	91%	(83%-95%)	96	92%	(79%-97%)	39	-	-	7
Greater Manchester	95%	(92%-97%)	327	88%	(79%-94%)	93	98%	(92%-99%)	94
Gwent	88%	(77%-94%)	59	-	-	13	-	-	2
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	92%	(88%-95%)	245	55%	(38%-71%)	56	-	-	14
Hertfordshire	86%	(78%-91%)	122	55%	(38%-71%)	56	-	-	8
Humberside	89%	(81%-94%)	101	-	-	24	-	-	20
Kent	88%	(81%-93%)	130	86%	(74%-93%)	59	-	-	13
Lancashire	87%	(82%-91%)	221	85%	(75%-92%)	81	97%	(86%-100%)	36
Leicestershire	92%	(80%-97%)	48	86%	(70%-94%)	36	-	-	1
Lincolnshire	96%	(87%-99%)	54	-	-	18	-	-	2
London	89%	(87%-91%)	944	85%	(81%-89%)	381	97%	(94%-98%)	256
Merseyside	86%	(80%-90%)	238	87%	(77%-92%)	89	89%	(77%-96%)	47
Norfolk	90%	(80%-96%)	63	-	-	23	-	-	14
North Wales	88%	(78%-94%)	76	-	-	25	-	-	8
North Yorkshire	97%	(90%-99%)	86	-	-	14	-	-	11
Northamptonshire	77%	(64%-86%)	70	-	-	14	-	-	11
Northumbria	86%	(80%-90%)	204	82%	(71%-90%)	78	94%	(79%-98%)	32
Nottinghamshire	87%	(79%-93%)	110	84%	(70%-92%)	49	-	-	22
South Wales	90%	(84%-94%)	177	100%	(94%-100%)	60	97%	(83%-99%)	31
South Yorkshire	92%	(86%-95%)	149	91%	(81%-96%)	67	-	-	15
Staffordshire	88%	(80%-93%)	106	84%	(66%-93%)	31	-	-	14
Suffolk	87%	(76%-93%)	75	-	-	11	-	-	17
Surrey	99%	(92%-100%)	68	-	-	29	-	-	12
Sussex	93%	(88%-96%)	181	90%	(79%-96%)	61	-	-	23
Thames Valley	84%	(79%-89%)	219	69%	(57%-78%)	102	98%	(89%-100%)	48
Warwickshire	94%	(85%-98%)	67	-	-	7	-	-	6
West Mercia	88%	(81%-93%)	113	95%	(82%-99%)	38	-	-	16
West Midlands	93%	(90%-95%)	430	92%	(87%-95%)	176	99%	(95%-100%)	112
West Yorkshire	87%	(82%-91%)	220	65%	(52%-76%)	83	87%	(74%-94%)	47
Wiltshire	79%	(64%-89%)	52	-	-	17	-	-	1
England and Wales	89%	(88%-90%)	6179	83%	(81%-84%)	2225	96%	(95%-97%)	1146

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes:

- (1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. Please see the 'Notes' section for more information.
- (2) The confidence range indicates the range of values within which the true value is likely to fall
- (3) 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.
- (4) Figures include youth defendant cases heard in adult courts.
- (5) No youth data was returned from Dorset in time for the bulletin.

TABLE 5b: Timeliness standards (charge/ laying of information to completion); adult court charged cases (including youth defendants); by HMCS Area; December 2008

England and Wales									
HMCS Area	Initial Guilty Plea			Trials			Committals		
	Standard = 59 days			Standard = 143 days			Standard = 101 days		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size
	(per cent)	range	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	range	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	range	(Number of Defendants)
Avon and Somerset	83%	(75%-89%)	138	89%	(77%-95%)	54	-	-	28
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire	88%	(84%-91%)	339	66%	(56%-76%)	122	96%	(87%-99%)	52
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	94%	(91%-96%)	331	91%	(85%-95%)	117	99%	(94%-100%)	89
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	89%	(85%-92%)	385	91%	(85%-95%)	135	97%	(88%-99%)	59
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	84%	(79%-89%)	224	94%	(83%-98%)	48	98%	(90%-100%)	56
Cheshire and Merseyside	87%	(82%-90%)	348	88%	(80%-93%)	121	91%	(81%-96%)	66
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	87%	(82%-90%)	364	83%	(75%-89%)	147	96%	(88%-99%)	70
Cumbria and Lancashire	89%	(84%-92%)	282	87%	(79%-92%)	107	97%	(86%-100%)	38
Devon and Cornwall	91%	(85%-95%)	142	82%	(66%-91%)	44	-	-	18
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire ⁽⁵⁾	87%	(81%-91%)	230	85%	(74%-91%)	78	-	-	23
Greater Manchester	95%	(92%-97%)	327	88%	(79%-94%)	93	98%	(92%-99%)	94
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	92%	(88%-95%)	245	55%	(38%-71%)	56	-	-	14
Humber and South Yorkshire	91%	(86%-94%)	250	88%	(79%-93%)	91	97%	(85%-100%)	35
Kent	88%	(81%-93%)	130	86%	(74%-93%)	59	-	-	13
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire	87%	(81%-92%)	172	84%	(72%-91%)	68	-	-	14
London (Central and South)	90%	(86%-93%)	379	84%	(76%-90%)	125	97%	(91%-99%)	97
London (North and West)	89%	(86%-91%)	565	86%	(81%-90%)	256	97%	(93%-99%)	159
Mid and West Wales	84%	(75%-91%)	103	-	-	27	-	-	17
North and West Yorkshire	90%	(86%-93%)	306	63%	(50%-74%)	97	88%	(76%-94%)	58
North Wales	88%	(78%-94%)	76	-	-	25	-	-	8
Nottingham and Derbyshire	90%	(84%-93%)	191	74%	(63%-83%)	104	97%	(85%-100%)	35
South East Wales	90%	(85%-94%)	184	100%	(94%-100%)	59	-	-	20
Surrey and Sussex	94%	(91%-97%)	249	82%	(72%-89%)	90	94%	(81%-98%)	35
Thames Valley	84%	(79%-89%)	219	69%	(57%-78%)	102	98%	(89%-100%)	48
England and Wales	89%	(88%-90%)	6179	83%	(81%-84%)	2225	96%	(95%-97%)	1146

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes:

- (1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. Please see the 'Notes' section for more information.
- (2) The confidence range indicates the range of values within which the true value is likely to fall
- (3) 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.
- (4) Figures include youth defendant cases heard in adult courts.
- (5) No youth data was returned from Dorset in time for the bulletin.

TABLE 6a: Timeliness standards (charge/ laying of information to completion); youth court cases (youth defendants only); by LCJB Area; December 2008

England and Wales									
LCJB Area	Initial Guilty Plea			Trials			Committals		
	Standard = 59 days			Standard = 176 days			Standard = 101 days		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size
	(per cent)	range	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	range	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	range	(Number of Defendants)
Avon and Somerset	93%	(86%-97%)	89	90%	(75%-98%)	31	-	-	4
Bedfordshire	78%	(62%-91%)	40	-	-	21	-	-	0
Cambridgeshire	83%	(72%-92%)	65	-	-	13	-	-	2
Cheshire	92%	(85%-96%)	101	98%	(89%-100%)	46	-	-	1
Cleveland	93%	(85%-98%)	76	-	-	19	-	-	0
Cumbria	95%	(86%-99%)	59	-	-	29	-	-	0
Derbyshire	94%	(87%-97%)	93	100%	(91%-100%)	37	-	-	1
Devon and Cornwall	93%	(87%-96%)	135	95%	(85%-99%)	44	-	-	2
Dorset ⁽⁵⁾	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0
Durham	93%	(84%-98%)	61	-	-	23	-	-	2
Dyfed Powys	98%	(90%-100%)	52	-	-	8	-	-	0
Essex	98%	(94%-99%)	182	90%	(76%-97%)	39	-	-	7
Gloucestershire	-	-	14	-	-	4	-	-	0
Greater Manchester	94%	(90%-96%)	246	98%	(94%-100%)	121	-	-	19
Gwent	94%	(84%-98%)	52	-	-	11	-	-	0
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	94%	(88%-97%)	125	100%	(91%-100%)	39	-	-	5
Hertfordshire	92%	(83%-97%)	71	87%	(73%-96%)	39	-	-	1
Humberside	90%	(82%-96%)	84	90%	(76%-97%)	39	-	-	1
Kent	93%	(87%-97%)	117	92%	(78%-98%)	36	-	-	0
Lancashire	93%	(89%-96%)	179	97%	(91%-99%)	74	-	-	7
Leicestershire	88%	(73%-97%)	34	-	-	23	-	-	0
Lincolnshire	83%	(71%-92%)	53	-	-	16	-	-	0
London	92%	(89%-94%)	506	93%	(90%-95%)	361	94%	(84%-98%)	50
Merseyside	97%	(92%-99%)	102	88%	(78%-95%)	68	-	-	3
Norfolk	89%	(77%-96%)	53	-	-	21	-	-	0
North Wales	94%	(85%-98%)	53	-	-	11	-	-	1
North Yorkshire	94%	(87%-98%)	84	-	-	21	-	-	3
Northamptonshire	89%	(79%-96%)	57	94%	(79%-99%)	31	-	-	6
Northumbria	91%	(87%-94%)	243	94%	(88%-97%)	115	-	-	2
Nottinghamshire	87%	(77%-94%)	76	93%	(81%-98%)	42	-	-	4
South Wales	96%	(90%-98%)	118	100%	(94%-100%)	63	-	-	1
South Yorkshire	94%	(87%-97%)	109	98%	(90%-100%)	51	-	-	8
Staffordshire	97%	(91%-99%)	77	98%	(90%-100%)	50	-	-	1
Suffolk	97%	(91%-99%)	96	-	-	16	-	-	1
Surrey	92%	(82%-98%)	52	-	-	27	-	-	0
Sussex	93%	(86%-97%)	102	91%	(79%-97%)	45	-	-	7
Thames Valley	94%	(89%-97%)	126	97%	(91%-99%)	73	-	-	15
Warwickshire	100%	(91%-100%)	38	-	-	5	-	-	0
West Mercia	93%	(86%-97%)	87	-	-	22	-	-	1
West Midlands	95%	(91%-97%)	237	96%	(91%-98%)	128	-	-	12
West Yorkshire	82%	(76%-87%)	225	87%	(80%-92%)	123	-	-	12
Wiltshire	91%	(84%-95%)	117	78%	(61%-92%)	32	-	-	0
England and Wales	92%	(92%-93%)	4486	94%	(93%-95%)	2017	96%	(92%-98%)	179

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes:

- (1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. Please see the 'Notes' section for more information.
- (2) The confidence range indicates the range of values within which the true value is likely to fall
- (3) 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.
- (4) Figures include youth defendant cases heard in adult courts.
- (5) No youth data was returned from Dorset in time for the bulletin.

TABLE 6b: Timeliness standards (charge/ laying of information to completion); youth court cases (youth defendants only); by HMCS Area; December 2008

England and Wales									
HMCS Area	Initial Guilty Plea			Trials			Committals		
	Standard = 59 days			Standard = 176 days			Standard = 101 days		
	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size	Cases within standard	Margin of error	Sample Size
	(per cent)	range	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	range	(Number of Defendants)	(per cent)	range	(Number of Defendants)
Avon and Somerset	93%	(86%-97%)	89	90%	(74%-97%)	31	-	-	4
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire	94%	(90%-96%)	293	88%	(79%-93%)	99	-	-	8
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	94%	(90%-97%)	196	97%	(91%-99%)	95	-	-	8
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	96%	(93%-98%)	243	96%	(91%-99%)	110	-	-	6
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	91%	(86%-94%)	214	100%	(93%-100%)	50	-	-	3
Cheshire and Merseyside	95%	(90%-97%)	203	92%	(85%-96%)	114	-	-	4
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	92%	(88%-94%)	380	95%	(90%-97%)	157	-	-	4
Cumbria and Lancashire	94%	(90%-96%)	238	97%	(92%-99%)	103	-	-	7
Devon and Cornwall	93%	(87%-96%)	135	95%	(85%-99%)	44	-	-	2
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire ⁽⁵⁾	92%	(85%-95%)	131	81%	(63%-91%)	36	-	-	0
Greater Manchester	94%	(90%-96%)	246	98%	(94%-100%)	121	-	-	19
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	94%	(88%-97%)	125	100%	(91%-100%)	39	-	-	5
Humber and South Yorkshire	92%	(87%-95%)	193	94%	(87%-98%)	90	-	-	9
Kent	93%	(87%-97%)	117	92%	(77%-97%)	36	-	-	0
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire	87%	(80%-92%)	144	96%	(88%-99%)	70	-	-	6
London (Central and South)	91%	(84%-95%)	140	94%	(86%-97%)	93	-	-	8
London (North and West)	92%	(89%-95%)	366	93%	(89%-95%)	268	93%	(80%-98%)	42
Mid and West Wales	99%	(93%-100%)	78	-	-	19	-	-	1
North and West Yorkshire	85%	(80%-89%)	309	89%	(82%-93%)	144	-	-	15
North Wales	94%	(84%-98%)	53	-	-	11	-	-	1
Nottingham and Derbyshire	91%	(85%-94%)	169	96%	(89%-99%)	79	-	-	5
South East Wales	94%	(89%-97%)	144	100%	(94%-100%)	63	-	-	0
Surrey and Sussex	93%	(87%-96%)	154	90%	(81%-95%)	72	-	-	7
Thames Valley	94%	(89%-97%)	126	97%	(90%-99%)	73	-	-	15
England and Wales	92%	(92%-93%)	4486	94%	(93%-95%)	2017	96%	(92%-98%)	179

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes:

- (1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. Please see the 'Notes' section for more information.
- (2) The confidence range indicates the range of values within which the true value is likely to fall
- (3) 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.
- (4) Figures include youth defendant cases heard in adult courts.
- (5) No youth data was returned from Dorset in time for the bulletin.

TABLE 7: Completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases by offence group, 2006 to 2008

		England and Wales								Sample Sampled defendants as a percentage of all proceeded against for indictable offences (Per cent)
		Estimated average number of days from:								
		Offence to charge or laying of information		Charge or laying of information to first listing		First listing to completion		Offence to completion		
		(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	
Burglary										
	2006 ⁽³⁾	62	7	7	1	47	3	117	8	7%
	2007	61	6	7	1	44	3	112	7	7%
	2008 ⁽⁴⁾	51	6	8	1	35	3	94	7	6%
Criminal Damage										
	2006 ⁽³⁾	37	3	9	0	50	3	96	5	9%
	2007	38	3	9	0	45	3	92	4	8%
	2008 ⁽⁴⁾	37	4	12	1	30	2	79	5	8%
Drugs Offences										
	2006 ⁽³⁾	51	3	10	1	30	3	91	4	11%
	2007	48	3	9	1	29	2	87	4	11%
	2008 ⁽⁴⁾	52	3	12	0	23	2	86	4	13%
Fraud and Forgery										
	2006 ⁽³⁾	285	31	18	2	68	12	371	34	3%
	2007	281	32	18	2	44	5	343	34	3%
	2008 ⁽⁴⁾	255	27	18	1	43	5	316	28	3%
Indictable Motoring Offences										
	2006 ⁽³⁾	48	6	16	2	49	7	114	10	2%
	2007	56	8	16	2	54	8	127	12	2%
	2008 ⁽⁴⁾	88	8	48 ⁽⁵⁾	4	41	8	177	12	3%
Robbery										
	2006 ⁽³⁾	49	5	6	1	43	5	98	7	3%
	2007	56	10	6	1	35	3	97	11	3%
	2008 ⁽⁴⁾	46	7	6	1	23	3	75	8	3%
Sexual Offences										
	2006 ⁽³⁾	214	37	11	2	54	6	280	38	2%
	2007	168	29	13	3	47	5	227	29	3%
	2008 ⁽⁴⁾	238	42	13	2	42	8	293	43	2%
Theft and Handling Stolen Goods										
	2006 ⁽³⁾	47	3	8	0	43	1	97	3	32%
	2007	43	2	9	0	39	1	91	3	33%
	2008 ⁽⁴⁾	41	2	11	0	30	2	81	3	32%
Violence Against the Person										
	2006 ⁽³⁾	47	2	10	0	76	2	133	3	23%
	2007	46	2	10	0	70	2	125	3	23%
	2008 ⁽⁴⁾	45	2	11	0	58	2	114	3	22%
Other Indictable Offences										
	2006 ⁽³⁾	87	8	12	1	51	3	151	9	9%
	2007	108	10	13	1	48	4	169	10	8%
	2008 ⁽⁴⁾	126	13	15	1	38	2	179	13	8%
England & Wales 2006		61	2	10	0	52	1	123	2	100%
England & Wales 2007		61	2	10	0	47	1	118	2	100%
England & Wales 2008		62	2	12	0	37	1	112	2	100%

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) Changes in survey methodology were introduced with the June 2007 and June 2008 surveys; see notes section for more information.

(3) June 06 figures exclude data for North Yorkshire Area.

(4) No youth data was returned from Dorset in time for the bulletin.

(5) This unusually long time is due to large numbers of summonsed cases being processed during the March and September survey weeks by a few courthouses.

Table 8: Completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases by initiation type and stage of proceedings, 2006 to 2008

England and Wales

		Estimated average number of days from:								Sample
		Offence to charge or laying of information		Charge or laying of information to first listing		First listing to completion		Offence to completion		Sampled defendants as a percentage of all proceeded against for indictable offences (Per cent)
		(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number of days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number of days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number of days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number of days)	
Defendants charged										
	2006 ⁽³⁾	54	2	8	0	51	1	113	2	95%
	2007	52	2	8	0	47	1	107	2	96%
	2008 ⁽⁴⁾	52	2	10	0	37	1	99	2	94%
Defendants summonsed										
	2006 ⁽³⁾	223	18	35	1	59	6	317	20	5%
	2007	256	22	38	1	47	4	341	22	4%
	2008 ⁽⁴⁾	229	17	49	2	43	3	321	17	6%
England & Wales	2006	61	2	10	0	52	1	123	2	100%
England & Wales	2007	61	2	10	0	47	1	118	2	100%
England & Wales	2008	62	2	12	0	37	1	112	2	100%

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

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

(2) See paragraph 4 of the notes section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007 and June 2008 surveys.

(3) June 06 figure excludes data for North Yorkshire Area, as data was unavailable.

(4) No youth data was returned from Dorset in time for the bulletin.

(5) It is likely that summonsed indictable/triable-either-way cases were being under reported for June and December surveys. Please see the notes section for more details.

Table 9: Completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases by proceedings type group and stage of proceedings, 2006 to 2008

England and Wales

	Estimated average number of days from:								Adjournments	Sample
	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	Sampled defendants as a percentage of all proceeded against for (Per cent)
	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)		
Initial guilty plea										
2006 ⁽³⁾	46	2	9	0	28	1	83	2	1.4	58%
2007	45	2	10	0	25	1	80	2	1.4	59%
2008 ⁽⁴⁾	43	2	12	0	19	1	74	2	1.0	61%
Initial not guilty plea										
2006 ⁽³⁾	60	3	10	0	123	3	193	4	4.2	22%
2007	59	3	10	1	113	2	182	4	4.1	22%
2008 ⁽⁴⁾	64	3	13	1	94	2	170	4	3.2	20%
No plea recorded (tried in absence)										
2006 ⁽³⁾	75	19	15	2	70	16	160	24	2.3	1%
2007	77	15	20	3	45	7	141	16	2.2	1%
2008 ⁽⁴⁾	92	10	41	5	53	20	186	22	1.6	1%
Sent for trial/committed for trial										
2006 ⁽³⁾	118	8	9	1	40	2	166	8	1.6	15%
2007	116	8	8	1	37	1	162	8	1.6	16%
2008 ⁽⁴⁾	132	9	9	0	33	1	174	9	1.3	16%
Other Proceedings										
2006 ⁽³⁾	75	12	15	2	52	9	142	15	1.8	3%
2007	73	10	13	2	51	9	138	14	2.0	3%
2008 ⁽⁴⁾	73	11	26	3	46	11	145	16	1.4	2%
England & Wales 2006	61	2	10	0	52	1	123	2	2.1	100%
England & Wales 2007	61	2	10	0	47	1	118	2	2.0	100%
England & Wales 2008	62	2	12	0	37	1	112	2	1.5	100%

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) Changes in survey methodology were introduced with the June 2007 and June 2008 surveys; see notes section for more information.

(3) June 06 figures exclude data for North Yorkshire Area.

(4) No youth data was returned from Dorset in time for the bulletin.

Table 10a: Estimated average time taken for defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases, by stages of proceedings and LCJB Area, 2008

England and Wales											
	Estimated average number of days from:								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		
	(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⁾ (+/- days)	
Avon and Somerset	66	14	11	1	44	7	121	16	1.8	0.2	773
Bedfordshire	57	18	13	3	58	16	127	26	1.7	0.3	172
Cambridgeshire	38	9	12	1	29	4	79	10	1.3	0.2	404
Cheshire	71	22	17	1	30	4	118	22	1.2	0.1	530
Cleveland	45	7	7	1	37	6	89	9	2.1	0.3	698
Cumbria	44	10	13	1	37	6	94	13	1.3	0.2	349
Derbyshire	63	15	12	1	45	6	120	17	1.6	0.2	400
Devon and Cornwall	53	8	17	1	36	5	105	10	1.4	0.2	571
Dorset ⁽³⁾	58	14	18	2	46	9	123	18	1.6	0.3	348
Durham	83	22	12	2	36	6	132	24	1.5	0.2	333
Dyfed-Powys	59	13	18	2	29	6	107	15	1.2	0.2	230
Essex	59	10	17	1	31	4	106	11	1.0	0.1	867
Gloucestershire	64	31	18	2	30	7	111	32	1.2	0.2	272
Greater Manchester	82	11	9	0	31	4	121	12	1.2	0.1	1,753
Gwent	83	19	12	2	28	6	124	20	1.2	0.2	219
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	73	10	21	2	40	4	134	12	1.4	0.1	928
Hertfordshire	66	29	21	3	41	6	129	30	1.3	0.2	344
Humberside	51	13	10	1	33	5	94	15	1.6	0.2	443
Kent	65	12	15	1	49	6	130	14	1.9	0.2	710
Lancashire	50	9	10	1	37	4	97	10	1.5	0.1	1,038
Leicestershire	52	7	15	1	50	6	117	10	2.0	0.2	455
Lincolnshire	58	14	17	2	34	6	109	15	1.3	0.2	360
London	66	6	13	1	34	2	113	6	1.4	0.1	4,952
Merseyside	92	15	16	1	42	9	150	17	1.4	0.1	1,028
Norfolk	40	11	13	1	33	16	86	19	1.2	0.2	320
North Wales	58	12	14	2	32	4	104	14	1.5	0.2	401
North Yorkshire	46	13	14	1	37	7	97	15	1.3	0.2	431
Northamptonshire	77	16	16	2	33	5	126	18	1.8	0.2	315
Northumbria	54	10	11	1	46	7	111	13	1.8	0.2	974
Nottinghamshire	51	9	10	1	42	5	103	11	1.8	0.2	541
South Wales	65	11	9	1	27	3	101	12	1.4	0.1	828
South Yorkshire	39	9	8	1	37	5	84	11	1.3	0.1	709
Staffordshire	89	24	13	2	40	7	141	26	1.7	0.2	357
Suffolk	69	12	11	1	29	4	109	14	1.4	0.2	337
Surrey	63	21	14	1	52	8	130	23	1.7	0.2	362
Sussex	51	7	9	1	41	5	101	9	1.5	0.1	723
Thames Valley	57	10	11	1	43	5	111	11	1.5	0.1	921
Warwickshire	58	17	9	1	34	10	101	23	1.1	0.2	242
West Mercia	82	20	15	2	36	5	134	21	1.5	0.2	436
West Midlands	58	7	6	1	29	3	93	8	1.2	0.1	2,046
West Yorkshire	50	6	11	1	47	4	108	8	2.1	0.2	1,207
Wiltshire	103	30	20	3	46	10	169	31	1.5	0.3	257
All England and Wales	62	2	12	0	37	1	112	2	1.5	0.0	29,584

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

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

(2) See paragraph 4 of the notes section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 survey

(3) No youth data was returned from Dorset in time for the bulletin.

Table 10b: Estimated average time taken for defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases, by stage of proceedings and HMCS Area, 2008

Table 10b: Average time taken for defendants in indictable cases, by stage of proceedings and HMCS Area, 2008
England and Wales

	Estimated average number of days from:								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		
	(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⁾ (+/- days)	
Avon and Somerset	66	14	11	1	44	7	121	16	1.8	0.2	773
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire	60	10	17	1	37	3	114	11	1.2	0.1	1,383
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire	64	9	6	0	29	3	100	11	1.2	0.1	1,427
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	66	9	11	1	34	3	110	9	1.4	0.1	1,654
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	49	6	12	1	30	5	91	8	1.3	0.1	1,061
Cheshire and Merseyside	85	12	16	1	38	6	139	14	1.3	0.1	1,558
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	56	7	10	1	41	4	107	8	1.9	0.1	2,005
Cumbria and Lancashire	49	7	11	1	37	3	96	8	1.5	0.1	1,387
Devon and Cornwall	53	8	17	1	36	5	105	10	1.4	0.2	571
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire ⁽⁴⁾	73	14	19	1	41	5	133	15	1.4	0.1	877
Greater Manchester	82	11	9	0	31	4	121	12	1.2	0.1	1,753
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	73	10	21	2	40	4	134	12	1.4	0.1	928
Humber and South Yorkshire	44	8	9	1	35	4	88	9	1.4	0.1	1,152
Kent	65	12	15	1	49	6	130	14	1.9	0.2	710
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire	61	7	16	1	40	3	117	8	1.8	0.1	1,130
London (Central and South)	73	10	9	1	31	2	113	10	1.4	0.1	1,714
London (North and West)	62	7	15	1	36	3	113	8	1.4	0.1	3,238
Mid and West Wales	57	10	12	1	27	4	96	11	1.3	0.1	464
North Wales	58	12	14	2	32	4	104	14	1.5	0.2	401
North and West Yorkshire	49	6	11	1	45	3	105	7	1.9	0.1	1,638
Nottingham and Derbyshire	56	8	11	1	43	4	111	10	1.7	0.1	941
South East Wales	72	12	11	1	28	3	111	13	1.3	0.1	813
Surrey and Sussex	55	8	11	1	45	4	111	10	1.6	0.1	1,085
Thames Valley	57	10	11	1	43	5	111	11	1.5	0.1	921
All England and Wales	62	2	12	0	37	1	112	2	1.5	0.0	29,584

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

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

(2) See paragraph 4 of the notes section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 survey

(3) HMCS administrative areas were restructured as above, as of 1st April 2007.

(4) No youth data was returned from Dorset in time for the bulletin.

Table 11: Estimated average time from first listing to completion for defendants in completed indictable/ triable-either-way cases, by LCJB Area, 2006 to 2008

England and Wales

	Estimated average number of days from first listing to completion					
	2006		2007		2008	
	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)
Avon and Somerset	51	5	53	5	44	7
Bedfordshire	97	20	64	13	58	16
Cambridgeshire	48	7	44	8	29	4
Cheshire	71	10	56	9	30	4
Cleveland	56	7	49	5	37	6
Cumbria	38	6	30	5	37	6
Derbyshire	73	9	49	7	45	6
Devon and Cornwall	43	6	42	5	36	5
Dorset	68	19	80	12	46	9
Durham	57	8	53	7	36	6
Dyfed-Powys	57	13	49	8	29	6
Essex	38	4	39	4	31	4
Gloucestershire	55	11	42	8	30	7
Greater Manchester	46	2	47	4	31	4
Gwent	48	3	51	10	28	6
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	57	10	39	4	40	4
Hertfordshire	36	3	55	7	41	6
Humberside	72	8	42	5	33	5
Kent	43	7	64	8	49	6
Lancashire	61	7	54	5	37	4
Leicestershire	55	4	56	8	50	6
Lincolnshire	66	10	47	7	34	6
London	61	9	42	2	34	2
Merseyside	58	7	47	5	42	9
Norfolk	44	9	29	5	33	16
North Wales	46	5	43	6	32	4
North Yorkshire	43	8	50	7	37	7
Northamptonshire	74	11	42	7	33	5
Northumbria	59	5	66	6	46	7
Nottinghamshire	49	7	48	6	42	5
South Wales	34	3	43	5	27	3
South Yorkshire	42	4	45	5	37	5
Staffordshire	67	7	64	7	40	7
Suffolk	42	8	33	6	29	4
Surrey	52	10	59	8	52	8
Sussex	69	10	59	8	41	5
Thames Valley	55	5	52	6	43	5
Warwickshire	44	12	35	8	34	10
West Mercia	75	12	57	8	36	5
West Midlands	42	2	32	3	29	3
West Yorkshire	51	4	44	4	47	4
Wiltshire	64	13	49	8	46	10
All England and Wales	52	1	47	1	37	1

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

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

(2) Because HMCS administrative areas were restructured as of 1st April 2007, year-on-year comparison by the 24 new HMCS areas is not included here. See also Table 10a.

(3) See paragraph 4 of the notes section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007 and June 2008 surveys.

(4) June 06 figure excludes data for North Yorkshire Area, as data was unavailable.

(5) No youth data was returned from Dorset in time for this bulletin.

NOTES

Methodology

1. The Time Intervals Survey (TIS) data are collected from courts over a survey period every quarter. Information on all completed indictable/triable-either-way cases in Magistrates' Courts is collected over a one-week period every quarter. Information on completed summary cases is additionally collected in the first and third quarters. Information on youth defendants in completed criminal cases is collected over a four-week period every quarter ending at the same time as the main sample week of each survey. 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 sampled, 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 when 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. 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.
4. Changes to the data collection of TIS: since 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). 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.

5. In 2006/2007, inconsistency in timings for offence to charge between the March/September and June/December surveys was observed. This was due to a lower proportion of summons indictable/triable-either-way cases in the June/December surveys. Since these cases tend to have longer than average times from offence to charge, any change in the proportion of them in the sample could affect the results. New guidance was issued to address any under-reporting, and this appears to have resolved the inconsistency. However, comparisons to previous surveys may be affected by this issue. Further investigation of the effect of varying proportions of indictable summons cases is planned.

Confidence Intervals and Margins of Error

6. 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.
7. In the case of margins of error for the timeliness standards (Tables 4a to 6b), 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.

New chapter on adult defendants in completed charged cases

8. Following the introduction of CJSSS (Criminal Justice: Simple, Speedy, Summary) in 2007/2008 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Magistrates' Courts, performance measures have been established for adult charged criminal cases excluding those sent or committed to the Crown Court for trial. The ambition is that the average time from charge to completion will be 6 weeks or less. The average number of hearings for a case to be completed in the Magistrates' Court is also monitored. Monitoring of these measures uses data from the quarterly, one-week TIS sample. CJSSS was rolled out across the LCJB areas between August 2007 and April 2008, so the full effect can only be seen in surveys from June 2008 onwards at the national level.

Quality and completeness of the data

9. 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 that appear implausible are referred back to the court for confirmation. Since the introduction of OPT in June 2007 data quality has improved as data is validated at the point of input.
10. Records where the defendant was charged or had information laid against them over ten years after the offence occurred are excluded. This affects very few defendants.

11. Recording procedures have undergone changes over the years, which will have led to small discontinuities in the data series. These are signified by vertical separations in the charts. They are as follows:

June 2007

- Surveys from June 2007 onwards have collected data on adult cases via a web-based data collection tool, the HMCS Performance Database (called One Performance Truth or OPT). One benefit of OPT is that it introduces data validation at the point of input.

June 2008

- From June 2008, it has also been possible to collect youth data from the four-week sample via OPT (although the pre-existing method is still available).

12. 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.

13. Some courts and clerkships have occasionally been unable to participate in the collection of data due to local circumstances. Clerkship refers to a grouping of one or more courts; it is no longer used as a classification except in the Mystic system, which is still used to collect some youth data. The table below 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.

14. 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. No youth data was received from Dorset for December 2008 in time for the bulletin, but late-received data will be included in amended results in future bulletins.

Proportions of clerkships/courthouses making returns, and sample sizes, December 2003 to December 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/ triable-either- way cases
December 2003	99%	100%	7,888
December 2004	100%	100%	6,865
December 2005	95%	98%	6,489
December 2006	100%	99%	6,378
December 2007	99%	99%	6,852
December 2008	TBC ⁽⁵⁾	100%	7,254

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.

(5) Investigations are currently going on as to the number of clerkships that actively submit data for the Time Intervals Survey. Although there is no definitive figure as yet, we know that the proportion of clerkships making returns for the December 08 survey is in excess of 90%.

Further Information

This bulletin is a National Statistics publication prepared by the Constitution and Access to Justice Analytical Service in the Ministry of Justice and by the Business Information Division in HM Courts Service. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs, and are produced free from any political interference. Comments on this publication or suggestions would be welcomed. If you have any enquiries about figures in this bulletin or wish to request further analysis of the data (a fee may be charged), contact Leslie Afonso at the address below:

Leslie Afonso
Constitution and Access to Justice Analytical Service
Ministry of Justice
8.03, 8th Floor
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ
Tel: 020 3334 3085
email: leslie.afonso@justice.gsi.gov.uk

For further copies of this bulletin, contact Jenny Spowart at the following address:

Jenny Spowart
Business Information Division
Her Majesty's Court Service
3.34, 3rd Floor
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ
Tel: 020 3334 6896
email: jenny.spowart@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be addressed to:

Press Office
Ministry of Justice
10th Floor
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ
Tel: 020 3334 3536
email: pressofficenewsdesk@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Current and previous editions of this publication are available for download at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/timeintervals.htm

General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to:

statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Other National Statistics publications, and general information about the official statistics system of the UK, are available from:

www.statistics.gov.uk

© Crown copyright
Produced by the Ministry of Justice

Alternative formats are available on request from statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk