



Ministry of
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Provisional Quarterly Criminal Justice System Information – September 2010

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Introduction

This quarterly statistical bulletin presents an overview of metrics about the Criminal Justice System (CJS). It contains information on:

- The number of Offences Brought to Justice (OBTJ)
- Public Confidence in the fairness and effectiveness of the CJS
- Victim and Witness Satisfaction
- Asset Recovery
- Confiscation Orders
- Enforcement

This bulletin is produced in accordance with arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority. It follows a consistent format and is updated quarterly. The main body of the bulletin compares the most recent data for the period ending September 2010, to an earlier period, typically a year earlier where data are available. Longer term trends are also presented.

Appendix A provides a quarterly breakdown of the asset recovery information, as reported in the England, Wales and Northern Ireland total in the Recovery of criminal assets section.

Appendix B presents the data for OBTJ by CJS area and offence group.

Appendix C presents victim and witness satisfaction with the CJS broken down by ethnicity and gender, for cases closed in the 12 months to June 2010.

Further information about the performance measures reported in this bulletin, along with additional data, is published at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/criminal-justice-system-performance.htm

The Ministry of Justice launched a consultation on improvements to its statistics on 17 November 2010.

Part of this consultation proposed rationalising the number of statistical publications to provide a better overview of trends in the criminal justice system. This would involve elements of this bulletin being incorporated into a quarterly Criminal Statistics bulletin but ceasing reporting of the asset recovery, confiscation orders, FTA warrants, fine payment rate and community penalty breaches measures. In addition, the data collection for the Witness and Victims Experience Survey will cease. For more information, and to give your response to the consultation, please follow the link to the consultation:

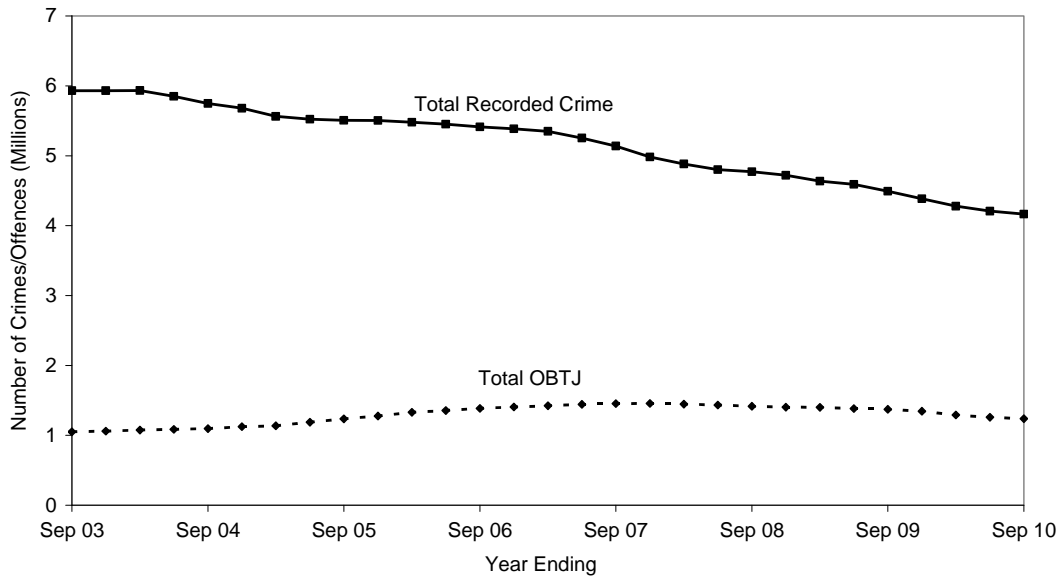
www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultations.htm

Subject to any further responses to the consultation, this is planned to be the final issue of this bulletin.

Bringing offences to justice

The number of Offences Brought to Justice (OBTJ) in England and Wales in the year ending September 2010 was 1.24 million. This is a fall of 10 per cent compared with the year ending September 2009 of 1.37 million. This was driven by a fall in the use of out of court disposals. Over the same period the number of recorded crimes fell 7 per cent from 4.49 million to 4.16 million.

Figure 1: Rolling annual Offences Brought to Justice (OBTJ)⁽¹⁾ and recorded crime



(1) The numbers of Offences Brought to Justice (OBTJ) for 2010 onwards are un-validated data from the courts and police, therefore provided as management information as they are provisional and likely to change.

The number of serious violent offences brought to justice has risen 1 per cent between the year ending September 2009 and the year ending September 2010 from 9,642 to 9,720. The number of recorded crimes for this category has fallen 11 per cent over the same period from 43,577 to 38,982.

The number of serious sexual offences brought to justice has risen 5 per cent between the year ending September 2009 and the year ending September 2010 from 11,768 to 12,303. The number of recorded crimes for this category has risen 8 per cent over the same period from 37,040 to 40,142.

The number of serious acquisitive offences brought to justice has fallen 13 per cent between the year ending September 2009 and the year ending September 2010 from 109,429 to 95,427. The number of recorded crimes for this category has fallen 10 per cent over the same period from 855,388 to 769,628.

Public confidence in the fairness and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System

From the British Crime Survey (BCS), the proportion of adults who think that the Criminal Justice System (CJS) as a whole is fair was 61 per cent for twelve months to September 2010. In comparison with 59 per cent for the twelve months to September 2009, this is a statistically significant increase.

The proportion of adults who think that the CJS as a whole is effective was 42 per cent for the twelve months to September 2010. In comparison with 40 per cent for the twelve months to September 2009, this is a statistically significant increase.

The BCS is a face to face survey run by the Home Office in which a sample of people resident in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of crime and their attitudes towards crime-related issues, including the CJS.

There are seven lead-in questions to each of the headline CJS measures. These were designed to ensure respondents considered the full CJS when answering the overall fairness and effectiveness questions. The lead-in questions were not designed to provide performance information, but they do provide useful indications on confidence. The results are available at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/criminal-justice-system-performance.htm

Experience of the Criminal Justice System for victims and witnesses

There was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of victims and witnesses who were satisfied with their overall contact with the Criminal Justice System (CJS) between the twelve months to September 2009 and the twelve months to September 2010, increasing from 83 per cent to 85 per cent^a.

Data are taken from the Witness and Victim Experience Survey (WAVES). WAVES interviews victims and prosecution witnesses aged 18 and over whose case resulted in a charge, after the case has closed. Sensitive cases, such as sexual offences, domestic violence, crimes involving a fatality, and any crime where the defendant is a member of the victim's or witness' household, are excluded on ethical grounds. WAVES asks victims and witnesses about all aspects of their experience with the CJS, from reporting a crime to the police, to the final outcome of the case at court.

Table A shows data for various key measures of victim and witness satisfaction with aspects of the CJS. To help understand how services are being received and how they might be improved, the provision of key services offered to assist victims and witnesses within the CJS is also measured. Results for this are presented in Table B.

^a This is based on cases closed in the twelve months to September 2009 and to September 2010 respectively.

Table A: Victim and Witness satisfaction with the Criminal Justice System

Satisfaction with the CJS	Levels of satisfaction ³	Percentages ¹ and base sizes ²	
		12 months to September 2009	12 months to September 2010 ⁴
Satisfied with overall contact with the CJS	Satisfied	83	85*
	Neutral	2	2
	Dissatisfied	14	13*
	<i>Base</i>	<i>37,895</i>	<i>37,864</i>
Satisfied with information provided about the CJS process	Satisfied	84	85*
	Neutral	2	2
	Dissatisfied	13	12*
	<i>Base</i>	<i>37,895</i>	<i>37,864</i>
Satisfied with how well they've been kept informed of case progress	Satisfied	79	80*
	Neutral	2	2
	Dissatisfied	19	18*
	<i>Base</i>	<i>37,895</i>	<i>37,864</i>
Satisfied with the way they were treated by CJS staff	Satisfied	90	91*
	Neutral	2	2
	Dissatisfied	7	6*
	<i>Base</i>	<i>37,895</i>	<i>37,864</i>
Satisfied with how they were dealt with prior to attending court	Satisfied	87	86
	Neutral	2	1
	Dissatisfied	11	12
	<i>Base</i>	<i>7,864</i>	<i>7,649</i>
Satisfied with consideration shown before giving evidence in court	Satisfied	91	91
	Neutral	1	1
	Dissatisfied	8	8
	<i>Base</i>	<i>4,497</i>	<i>4,117</i>
Satisfied with court facilities	Satisfied	87	87
	Neutral	2	2
	Dissatisfied	10	9
	<i>Base</i>	<i>7,855</i>	<i>7,645</i>
Victims satisfied with their contact with the Youth Offending Team	Satisfied	83	79
	Neutral	2	5*
	Dissatisfied	13	13
	<i>Base</i>	<i>977</i>	<i>905</i>
Satisfied with the support that the Witness Service provided	Satisfied	96	96
	Neutral	1	1
	Dissatisfied	3	3
	<i>Base</i>	<i>5,529</i>	<i>4,883</i>
Victims satisfied with their contact with Victim Support	Satisfied	83	89*
	Neutral	4	3*
	Dissatisfied	12	8*
	<i>Base</i>	<i>4,555</i>	<i>6,191</i>

* Denotes a statistically significant change at the 5 per cent significance level.

1. Percentages of victims and witnesses, unless otherwise specified.

2. The number of respondents answering each question is shown as "base" in italics.

3. Respondents indicated whether they were "completely", "very" or "fairly" satisfied/dissatisfied. These responses have been aggregated to overall categories representing 'satisfied' or 'dissatisfied'. 'Neutral' respondents stated that they were "Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied".

4. Data are provisional.

Note. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Witness & Victim Experience Survey (Ministry of Justice).

Table B: Victim and Witness satisfaction with the Criminal Justice System, provision of key services

Services offered within the CJS		Percentages ¹ and base sizes ²	
		12 months to September 2009	12 months to September 2010 ³
Victims offered the opportunity to make a Victim Personal Statement	Percentage	42	44*
	<i>Base</i>	<i>19,416</i>	<i>18,684</i>
Victims who felt their views as set out in the Victim Personal Statement were taken into account during the CJS process	Percentage	69	66*
	<i>Base</i>	<i>4,541</i>	<i>4,832</i>
Of those who required emotional/practical support, those who were offered relevant services	Percentage	70	72*
	<i>Base</i>	<i>3,812</i>	<i>3,658</i>
Offered a court familiarisation visit before the trial	Percentage	65	67
	<i>Base</i>	<i>7,864</i>	<i>7,649</i>

* Denotes a statistically significant change at the 5 per cent significance level.

1. Percentages of victims and witnesses, unless otherwise specified.

2. The number of respondents answering each question is shown as "base" in italics.

3. Data are provisional.

Note. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Witness & Victim Experience Survey (Ministry of Justice).

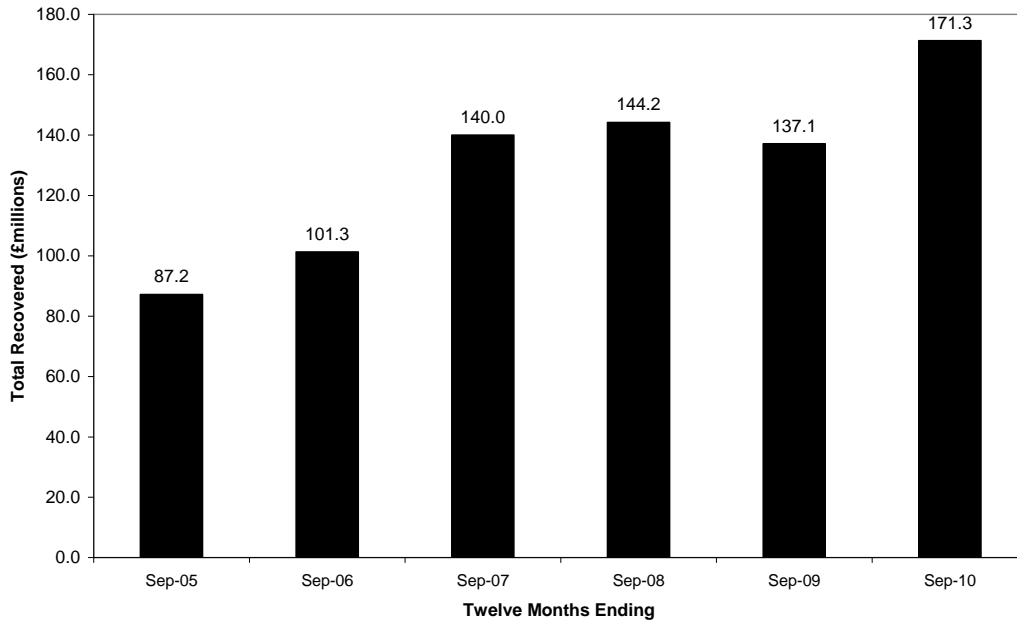
Victim satisfaction with the police (from police user satisfaction surveys), was 83 per cent for the year ending March 2009 in comparison to the baseline of 81 per cent for the year to March 2008^b (statistically significant increase).

^b Victim satisfaction with the police data are available on an annual basis. For further information on this survey please refer to the link provided in the explanatory notes.

Recovery of criminal assets

The value of assets recovered across England, Wales and Northern Ireland for April to September 2010 was £75.1 million. The value of assets recovered for the 12 months ending September 2010 was £171.3 million, an increase from £137.1 million for the 12 months ending September 2009.

Figure 2: The value of assets recovered across England, Wales and Northern Ireland



Confiscation

The amount collected, including compensation, from the enforcement of confiscation^c orders across England and Wales between April and September 2010 was £35 million^d. This compares with a figure of £28.2 million between April and September 2009.

The value of new confiscation orders obtained across England and Wales from April to September 2010 was £48.2 million. This compares with a figure of £48.6 million for April to September 2009.

The number of confiscation orders obtained across England and Wales from April to September 2010 was 2,698. This compares with a figure of 2,284 for April to September 2009.

The number of restraint orders^e obtained across England and Wales from April to September 2010 was 732. This compares with a figure of 666 for April to September 2009.

^c Confiscation is a process for the removal of assets from a convicted criminal. A confiscation order is made to the Crown Court after conviction to deprive the criminal of the benefit obtained from crime.

^d The amount collected for confiscation enforcement from 2009/10 onwards applies only to orders enforced by HMCS and CPS branch and are thus not comparable with figures prior to 2009/10 which applies to orders collected across all agencies.

^e A restraint order is an order to freeze the assets of a suspect.

Enforcement

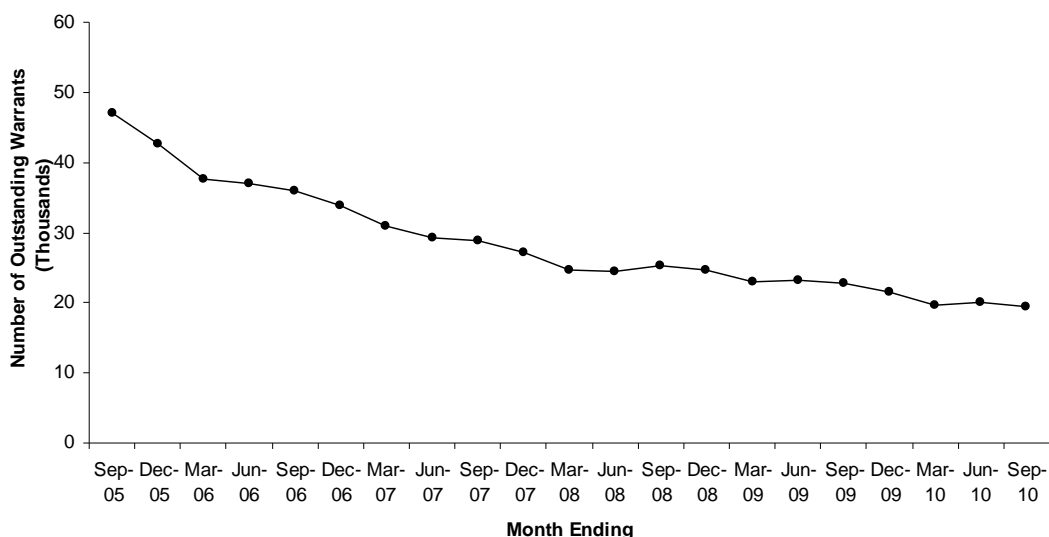
Payment Rate for Financial Impositions

The payment rate for financial impositions across England and Wales was 90 per cent for April to September 2010. This compares with a payment rate of 81 per cent for April to September 2009. The payment rate is calculated by dividing the amount paid to Her Majesty’s Court Service over a month, quarter or financial year (or year to date) by the new net amount owed^f over the same period.

Failure to Appear Warrants

The number of outstanding Failure to Appear^g warrants has decreased from 22,878 at the end of September 2009 to 19,464^h at the end of September 2010.

Figure 3: Number of outstanding Failure to Appear warrants



The Failure to Appear warrant stock/flow ratio was 2.4^h at the end of September 2010. The stock/flow ratio was 2.7 at the end of September 2009, (the stock/flow ratio is calculated as the number of warrants outstanding at the end of the most recent month divided by the average number of warrants received monthly during the most recent 3 months).

The proportion of Category A Failure to Appear warrants executed in a timely manner (within 14 days of receipt), for the quarter ending September 2010, was 71^h per cent. For the quarter ending September 2009 the figure was 67 per cent.

The proportion of Category B Failure to Appear warrants executed in a timely manner (within 21 days of receipt), for the quarter ending September 2010, was 76^h per cent. For the quarter ending September 2009 the figure was 73 per cent.

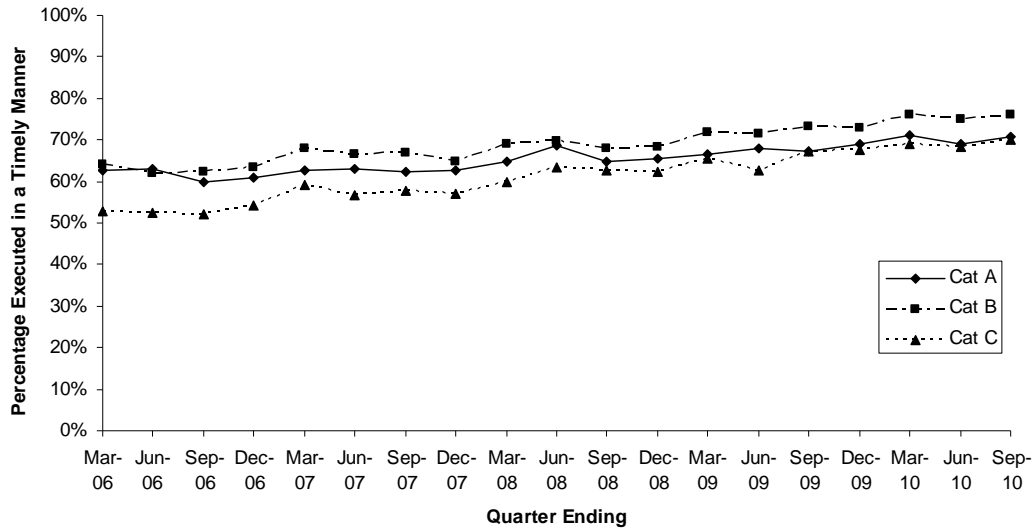
^f Amount imposed plus net transfers minus value of fines legally cancelled minus value of fines administratively cancelled and plus the value of fines written back.

^g Failure to Appear warrants are issued when a defendant commits a bail offence by failing to appear in court.

^h This figure excludes data for Surrey in September 2010, as data was unavailable at the time of publication.

The proportion of Category C Failure to Appear warrants executed in a timely manner (within 28 days of receipt), for the quarter ending September 2010, was 70^h per cent. For the quarter ending September 2009 the figure was 67 per cent.

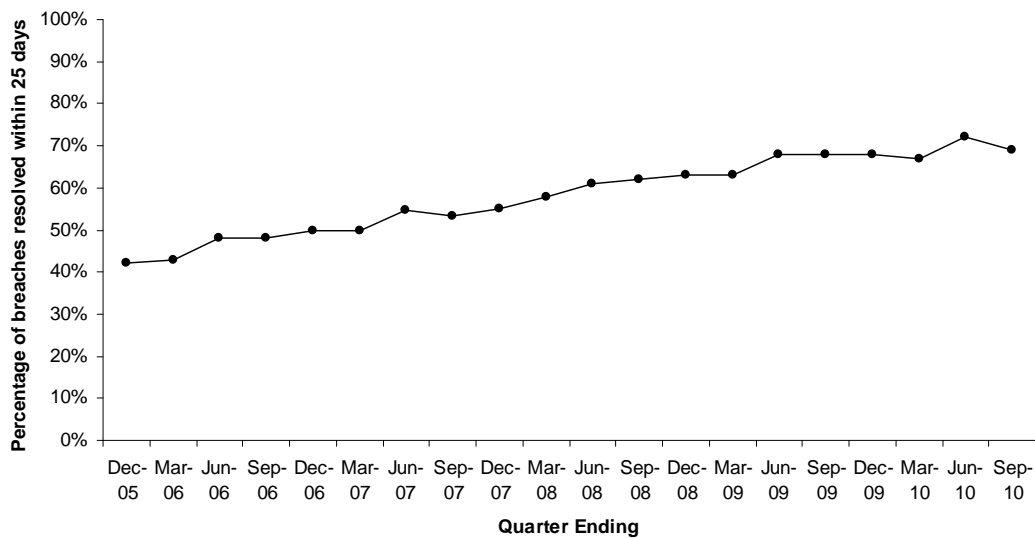
Figure 4: Failure to Appear warrants executed in a timely manner



Community Penalty Breaches

For the quarter ending September 2010, 69 per cent of community penalty breaches were resolved within 25 working days of the relevant Unacceptable Failure to Complyⁱ, compared to 68 per cent for the quarter ending September 2009.

Figure 5: The percentage of community breaches resolved within 25 working days of the relevant unacceptable failure to comply



ⁱ The relevant Unacceptable Failure to Comply is the absence or behaviour which is deemed as unacceptable under Offender Management National Standards and is used by the offender manager/responsible officer to summons the offender to court.

Appendix A: Asset recovery raw quarterly performance data

Table A1 gives the quarterly break down of the value of assets recovered in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Table A1: Value of assets recovered each financial quarter

Financial quarter to	Value of assets recovered (£ millions)
Jun-07	28.99
Sep-07	31.09
Dec-07	34.27
Mar-08	41.35
Jun-08	33.38
Sep-08	35.20
Dec-08	37.30
Mar-09	42.30
Jun-09	31.02
Sep-09	26.50
Dec-09	52.52
Mar-10	43.67
Jun-10	34.77
Sep-10	40.33

Appendix B: Offences Brought to Justice figures by offence group for England and Wales by Criminal Justice System area

Since January 2009, the police forces in England and Wales have published recorded crime figures as online 'crime maps'. The figures are divided into five offence groups – burglary, violence, vehicle crime, robbery, and other notifiable offences. This table presents the data for Offences Brought to Justice (OBTJ) in a similar format to the 'crime maps'. Data are provided for the 12 month period ending September 2010, and for the 12 month period ending September 2009. Crime maps are found here: <http://maps.police.uk/>

Table A2.1: Offences Brought to Justice – by offence group and LCJB area, year ending September 2009

CJS areas	12 months ending September 2009					All notifiable offences
	Burglary	Violence*	Vehicle	Robbery**	Other notifiable offences	
England and Wales	67,979	94,901	47,726	26,482	1,136,000	1,373,088
Avon and Somerset	1,799	1,866	1,407	459	32,021	37,552
Bedfordshire	721	1,337	334	342	9,731	12,465
Cambridgeshire	1,008	1,022	741	394	15,373	18,538
Cheshire	1,147	1,302	941	351	18,590	22,331
Cleveland	1,025	1,700	761	323	18,262	22,071
Cumbria	363	831	159	136	11,062	12,551
Derbyshire	1,059	1,305	759	313	16,490	19,926
Devon and Cornwall	1,470	1,865	1,144	422	29,075	33,976
Dorset	522	775	257	144	11,571	13,269
Durham	761	1,382	276	204	12,144	14,767
Dyfed Powys	501	575	148	185	10,344	11,753
Essex	1,772	2,082	1,383	755	33,343	39,335
Gloucestershire	889	771	686	170	10,988	13,504
Greater Manchester	4,043	5,708	2,306	1,470	56,565	70,092
Gwent	538	985	379	81	14,297	16,280
Hampshire	1,664	2,321	704	526	36,842	42,057
Hertfordshire	1,395	1,941	999	397	21,907	26,639
Humberside	1,315	1,906	781	342	22,089	26,433
Kent	2,253	2,386	1,786	566	35,208	42,199
Lancashire	2,291	2,944	1,921	672	34,983	42,811
Leicestershire	1,350	1,314	1,093	458	17,167	21,382
Lincolnshire	702	961	233	170	12,329	14,395
London	9,995	13,239	5,778	7,109	188,627	224,748
Merseyside	1,890	2,577	1,338	538	40,586	46,929
Norfolk	1,005	820	771	248	14,581	17,425
North Wales	622	1,066	418	319	16,958	19,383
North Yorkshire	810	912	481	235	14,801	17,239
Northamptonshire	666	1,706	416	284	10,816	13,888
Northumbria	1,599	3,463	1,460	599	38,339	45,460
Nottinghamshire	1,765	3,608	963	601	21,269	28,206
South Wales	1,653	2,187	1,691	693	30,606	36,830
South Yorkshire	2,691	4,365	4,426	717	30,256	42,455
Staffordshire	957	1,802	491	300	15,545	19,095
Suffolk	509	1,509	370	162	14,197	16,747
Surrey	555	898	249	350	13,881	15,933
Sussex	1,119	2,819	478	540	30,501	35,457
Thames Valley	1,809	2,141	1,265	873	38,904	44,992
Warwickshire	509	878	333	98	7,896	9,714
West Mercia	1,041	1,746	625	302	20,864	24,578
West Midlands	3,348	7,059	1,910	1,971	54,497	68,785
West Yorkshire	6,148	4,060	4,525	1,418	41,340	57,491
Wiltshire	700	767	540	245	11,155	13,407

Table A2.2: Offences Brought to Justice – by offence group and LCJB area, year ending September 2010

CJS areas	12 months ending September 2010					Other	All
	Burglary	Violence*	Vehicle	Robbery**	Other notifiable offences	notifiable offences	
England and Wales	61,912	88,347	38,770	24,423	1,024,293	1,237,745	
Avon and Somerset	1,506	1,750	1,025	563	30,803	35,647	
Bedfordshire	517	1,209	323	315	8,718	11,082	
Cambridgeshire	1,044	1,031	570	391	14,686	17,722	
Cheshire	1,069	1,178	911	345	17,118	20,621	
Cleveland	783	1,588	546	193	16,185	19,295	
Cumbria	320	727	128	127	9,838	11,140	
Derbyshire	1,124	1,224	621	320	14,077	17,366	
Devon and Cornwall	1,301	1,861	663	291	24,985	29,101	
Dorset	575	820	215	139	10,233	11,982	
Durham	856	1,468	772	181	11,720	14,997	
Dyfed Powys	431	492	188	174	9,301	10,586	
Essex	1,559	1,930	995	673	28,597	33,754	
Gloucestershire	793	572	451	122	8,406	10,344	
Greater Manchester	3,908	5,543	2,568	1,451	51,921	65,391	
Gwent	541	859	265	115	11,796	13,576	
Hampshire	1,286	2,242	734	495	34,723	39,480	
Hertfordshire	1,315	1,869	951	318	20,454	24,907	
Humberside	1,017	2,089	579	309	19,095	23,089	
Kent	1,829	2,084	1,006	466	30,568	35,953	
Lancashire	2,608	3,094	1,996	600	32,452	40,750	
Leicestershire	978	1,275	403	300	16,372	19,328	
Lincolnshire	522	768	210	135	10,220	11,855	
London	9,567	12,513	4,074	7,201	182,110	215,465	
Merseyside	1,457	2,342	791	550	37,564	42,704	
Norfolk	827	873	408	224	13,415	15,747	
North Wales	554	1,096	300	223	14,948	17,121	
North Yorkshire	463	846	199	178	12,801	14,487	
Northamptonshire	675	1,536	442	234	10,729	13,616	
Northumbria	1,384	2,867	964	482	31,837	37,534	
Nottinghamshire	1,603	3,233	1,144	478	20,430	26,888	
South Wales	1,499	2,490	1,226	458	28,006	33,679	
South Yorkshire	3,550	3,529	4,553	663	25,156	37,451	
Staffordshire	795	2,150	567	383	15,923	19,818	
Suffolk	727	1,369	395	134	11,780	14,405	
Surrey	495	769	197	337	12,528	14,326	
Sussex	866	2,215	358	577	26,207	30,223	
Thames Valley	1,474	2,154	1,508	792	32,818	38,746	
Warwickshire	345	761	104	141	6,871	8,222	
West Mercia	844	1,764	406	314	18,127	21,455	
West Midlands	2,426	5,392	1,443	1,603	41,640	52,504	
West Yorkshire	5,918	4,108	3,292	1,166	39,877	54,361	
Wiltshire	561	667	279	262	9,258	11,027	

(1) The count of OBTJ was introduced in 2000 to measure the performance of the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales. An offence is considered to have been brought to justice when a notifiable offence (recorded crime) results in an offender being convicted, cautioned, receiving a penalty notice for disorder or a cannabis warning, or has the offence taken into consideration.

(2) The number of OBTJ is in part affected by the number of recorded crimes in an area. If recorded crime in an area falls there will be fewer offences which can potentially be brought to justice.

(3) It is important to note that there is a difference in the method of counting offences between the recorded crime figures and the OBTJ measure. An incident may result in a single recorded crime being recorded by the police but can result in more than one conviction or caution and can therefore lead to more than one offence being counted as brought to justice. For example, if a crime is recorded and as a result three offenders are convicted each for two offences against the same victim, this counts as a single recorded crime but as six offences brought to justice. In addition, there may be a delay between the crime being recorded and it being brought to justice; this may result in it being included in the recorded crime figures for one period and the OBTJ figures for a later period. Thirdly, a crime may be brought to justice as a different offence to the crime which was recorded originally. E.g. a crime which was recorded as Grievous Bodily Harm could, following investigation and all evidence considered, result in a conviction for Actual Bodily Harm. These factors should be borne in mind when the two series are being

compared.

(4) The numbers of OBJ for 2010 are un-validated data from the courts service and police administrative systems, and are therefore provided as management information only as they are provisional and likely to change. All administrative systems by their nature can update information previously held; business process means that some information relating to a period already published can be subsequently included or amended. Specifically, these counts of OBJ are updated from the figures previously published in the quarterly Criminal Justice System Information bulletin. The final OBJ counts will be published as 'National Statistics' in Criminal Statistics England & Wales, available annually on the Ministry of Justice website.

(5) Both the OBJ and recorded crime data included in the crime maps cover the same offence groups. It should be noted these offence groups are aggregates of offences published elsewhere in 'Criminal Statistics England & Wales' and 'Crime in England & Wales'.

(6) Data shown as available at 02/02/2011.

(7) Excludes PND data for Mar-Sep 2010 for Gloucestershire and May-Sep 2010 for Cleveland and cautions data for Sep 2010 for Dyfed Powys as these data are not yet available.

*Violence includes murder, attempted murder, manslaughter and wounding (including malicious wounding).

**Robbery includes theft from the person.

Appendix C: Victim and witness satisfaction with the Criminal Justice System broken down by ethnicity and gender

The latest available data for victim and witness satisfaction with the Criminal Justice System broken down by ethnicity and gender are provided for cases closed 12 months to June 2010.

Table A3.1 shows the proportion of victims and witnesses who were satisfied or dissatisfied with their contact with the Criminal Justice System (CJS) broken down by ethnicity.

Although the majority of victims and witnesses were satisfied, significantly fewer people in the Black ethnic group (81%) reported being satisfied than in the White ethnic group (85%).

Significantly more people in the Black ethnic group (17%) reported being dissatisfied than in the White, Asian, and Chinese or Other ethnic groups (13%, 13% and 12% respectively). The difference in the proportion of Mixed and White ethnic groups reporting being dissatisfied (17% and 13% respectively) was also significant.

These differences are statistically significant at the 5% level.

Table A3.1: Satisfaction of victims and witnesses with their overall contact with the CJS by ethnicity, cases closed in the 12 months to June 2010

	Percentages and base sizes					
	White	Asian	Black	Mixed	Chinese or Other	Total
Satisfied	85	84	81	81	86	84
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2	2	1	2	2	2
Dissatisfied	13	13	17	17	12	13
<i>Base</i>	33,355	1,938	1,025	695	566	37,579

- (1) Figures may not sum to 100 due to rounding.
 (2) Respondents who did not state their ethnicity excluded.

Source: Witness and Victim Experience Survey, Ministry of Justice

Table A3.2 shows the proportion of victims and witnesses who were satisfied or dissatisfied with their contact with the CJS broken down by gender.

The differences between males and females are not statistically significant at the 5% level.

Table A3.2: Satisfaction of victims and witnesses with their overall contact with the CJS by sex, cases closed in the 12 months to June 2010

	Percentages and base sizes		
	Male	Female	Total
Satisfied	84	85	84
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2	2	2
Dissatisfied	13	13	13
<i>Base</i>	<i>22,267</i>	<i>15,580</i>	<i>37,847</i>

(1) Figures may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

(2) Respondents who did not state their sex, or stated they were transgender are excluded.

Source: Witness and Victim Experience Survey, Ministry of Justice

Explanatory notes

This bulletin covers the quarterly release of information on metrics about the Criminal Justice System (CJS).

Previously, this bulletin presented progress against the Public Service Agreement 24 (PSA 24) indicators as set under HM Treasury's 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. The Coalition Government ended the previous Government's Public Service Agreement framework, and the data in this publication are now presented wherever possible, alongside data from the same period in the previous year.

Release policy

Quarterly information on the performance of the CJS (including performance at Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) level) has been published since October 2003. Archived data from May 2005 to May 2010 is available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100623215624/http://cjsonline.gov.uk/aims_and_objectives/performance_figures/

The data in this Bulletin was classified as Official Statistics in September 2009 and is produced to the standards set out in the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics: www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html

Key quality issues

Revisions

All statistics quoted in this quarterly bulletin are provisional and subject to revision unless otherwise stated. Throughout the tables in this bulletin, all period figures denoted by (r) are based on revised data and replace those provided in the last bulletin. Data are finalised following the publication of the Criminal Statistics Annual Report, the latest publication is available at: www.justice.gov.uk/publications/criminalannual.htm

Issues

Data for victim satisfaction with the police is the same as published in the previous quarter. These data are only available on an annual basis.

During 2008, data (prosecutions, convictions and remands data) from Cardiff Magistrates' court for July and August were corrupted during the transmission to the Ministry of Justice. Despite all efforts by the court staff and IT departments it has proved impossible to retrieve the information. These data are excluded from this report.

The data on FTA warrants for Surrey in September 2010 was unavailable at the time of publication, as a result, the calculations for number of outstanding FTA warrants, Stock-Flow Ratio, and Timeliness in England & Wales exclude this data.

Reliability

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented in this publication are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that some of this data has been extracted by the courts and police forces from a variety of administrative data systems and the detail supplied is therefore subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. It is important that users of the data take these limitations into account when using and interpreting the data presented in this bulletin.

Survey Quality

The data on public confidence and victim and witness satisfaction are based on sample surveys, the British Crime Survey (BCS) and Witness and Victim Experience Survey (WAVES). Surveys are subject to sampling and non sampling errors. The BCS and WAVES are high quality surveys, nevertheless limitations remain. With regard to the sampling error, the margins of error can be calculated. In this bulletin estimates over time are described as differences only when they are statistically significant¹. Information on confidence intervals is available on request from the Ministry of Justice Statistical team.

Definitions

Bringing offences to justice

Bringing offences to justice is one measure of the effectiveness of the CJS. An offence is said to have been brought to justice when a recorded crime results in an offender being convicted, cautioned, issued with a penalty notice for disorder or a cannabis warning, or having an offence taken into consideration at court. The number of Offences Brought to Justice (OBTJs) is in part affected by the number of recorded crimes in an area. If recorded crime in an area falls there will be fewer offences which can potentially be brought to justice.

Comparing the volume of OBTJs with the volume of recorded crime provides a proxy measure of the effectiveness of the CJS in bringing crime to justice. However, there are differences in how recorded crime and OBTJs are measured that mean caution must be taken when comparing the two. For example: an offence may be brought to justice in a different period to the corresponding recorded crime; one crime could result in a number of offenders brought to justice (e.g. a gang committing a burglary); and a crime recorded by the police as one crime (e.g. Grievous Bodily Harm) may, once all the evidence has been considered, be subsequently brought to justice as an alternative offence (e.g. Actual Bodily Harm). England and Wales data excludes British Transport Police.

¹ Tests of statistical significance are used to identify which differences are unlikely to have occurred by chance. In this bulletin tests at the 5% significance levels have been applied, the level at which there is a one in twenty chance of an observed difference being solely due to chance.

Public confidence in the fairness and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System

The level of public confidence in the fairness and effectiveness of the CJS is measured through the BCS.

For each of these, the measure is the proportion of those interviewed who say that they are 'very' or 'fairly' confident, recorded from a four point scale. Don't know and refusal responses are excluded. The questions asked are as follows:

- How confident are you that the CJS as a whole is effective?
- How confident are you that the CJS as a whole is fair?

These questions follow lead-in questions covering issues of effectiveness and fairness.

The BCS is a face-to-face survey run by the Home Office, in which people resident in households in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of crime and their attitudes towards different crime-related issues such as the police and CJS.

In 2009/10, 44,638 respondents aged 16 and over were interviewed (a response rate of 76%). The survey is weighted to adjust for possible non-response bias and ensure the sample reflects the profile of the general population.

Further information on the BCS can be found at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109vol2.pdf

Experience of the CJS for victims and witnesses

Victim and witness satisfaction with the CJS is measured through the WAVES.

WAVES is a national quarterly telephone survey of victims and witnesses focusing exclusively on victims and prosecution witnesses involved in cases which resulted in a criminal charge and which have been closed (i.e. an outcome or verdict has been reached, either at court or because the case was dropped by the prosecution)^k. It includes victims and witnesses who attend court as well as those who do not. The survey, undertaken by Ipsos-MORI, conducts over 37,000 interviews a year.

WAVES covers victims and prosecution witnesses aged 18 and over in the following crime types; violence against the person; robbery; burglary; criminal damage; theft and handling stolen goods. Victims and witnesses in sensitive cases, such as, sexual offences or domestic violence, crimes involving a fatality, and any crime where the defendant was a family member or a member of the witnesses' or victims' household, are not included on ethical grounds. Cases involving drug and motoring offences are excluded. It also excludes police officers or other CJS officials assaulted in the course of duty, and all police or expert witnesses.

^k LCJBs responsible for collecting samples are advised to consider anyone as a victim if they were the injured party in a case, regardless of whether they gave evidence in court. All others who were not the injured party are considered as witnesses. Anyone who gave a witness statement and was listed as a witness is eligible for inclusion, regardless of whether they gave evidence in court. At the beginning of the telephone interview, respondents are asked to clarify whether they were a victim or a witness. This self-classification measure is used for analysis.

WAVES asks victims and witnesses in cases where an offender was charged about all aspects of their experiences with the CJS, from their first contact with the police to their experience at court. Interviews ask people about the extent to which they were satisfied with the services they received.

WAVES data relate to the period in which the case was finalised by the CJS, rather than the interview period. Towards the end of the survey respondents are asked:

- *Overall, were you satisfied with the contact you've had with the Criminal Justice System (CJS)?*

The measure is the proportion of those interviewed who say that they are 'completely', 'very' or 'fairly' satisfied, recorded from a seven point scale. Refusals are excluded.

Respondents are questioned about their experiences of the CJS rather than about their case. Therefore seasonality is not expected within the data.

Data are weighted to adjust to the known proportion of victims and witnesses in each area (as indicated by the sample leads provided by LCJBs) and to adjust for the different sized victim and witness populations between LCJBs. The weighted distribution of respondents matches the known distribution of victims and witnesses as a whole. Data are not weighted by crime type.

Further details can be found at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100402221729/http://lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk/ncjb/114.html>

WAVES asks respondents about their experiences of a number of key services. These include:

Victim Personal Statement (VPS) - The VPS is a written statement that victims can give to the police. It is different from the witness statement, which is a written or video-recorded account of what happened when the crime was committed. The VPS is a record of the personal impact that the crime has had on the victim. It gives the victim a chance to explain, in their own words, how the crime has affected them – whether physically, emotionally, financially or in any other way.

Victim Support - Victim Support is a national charity for victims and witnesses of crime in England and Wales. They give information and offer emotional support and practical help to victims of crime, their family, friends and anyone else affected.

Witness Service - The Witness Service is run by the national charity Victim Support in every criminal court in England and Wales. It is separate from the police, CPS, courts and Witness Care Units. Witness Service volunteers provide help and support on the day of the trial to witnesses and victims who attend court.

Youth Offending Team - Youth Offending Teams are made up of representatives from the police, Probation Service, social services, health, education, drugs and alcohol misuse and housing officers. They are responsible for addressing offending by those up to the age of 17.

Increasing satisfaction with the police

The level of satisfaction with police is measured through police user satisfaction surveys. The level of satisfaction for each of these measures is defined as the percentage of respondents who say that they are 'completely', 'very' or 'fairly' satisfied, recorded from a seven point scale.

Further information on the police user satisfaction survey can be found at:

http://tna.europarchive.org/20100419081706/http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/performance-and-measurement/US_Guidance_2008-09_Revised1.html

Recovery of criminal assets

Asset recovery comprises:

- Confiscation (about 60 per cent of monies recovered at the end of March 2010);
- Cash forfeiture (about 32 per cent);
- Civil recovery and tax recovery (about 8 per cent);
- International asset sharing (less than 1 per cent).

Multiple agencies including Police Forces, Crown Prosecution Service, Her Majesty's Court Service, Serious Fraud Office, and Serious Organised Crime Agency all do asset recovery work and contribute to the total amount collected.

Confiscation

The England and Wales financial year to date figure includes the data from the 42 CJS areas and additionally the British Transport Police, UK Border Agency, East Midlands Special Operations Unit and Trading Standards. Orders included are those that have been investigated by a Police Force or a Regional Asset Recovery Team and prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Fine enforcement

The payment rate for financial impositions is calculated by dividing the amount paid to Her Majesty's Court Service over a month, quarter or financial year (or year to date) by the new net amount owed over the same period. The new net amount owed is the amount imposed plus net transfers minus value of fines legally cancelled minus the value of fines administratively cancelled and plus the amount of fines written back.

Since fines are not always imposed and paid within the same reporting period, it is possible to have a payment rate above 100 per cent. Similarly, the payment rate can be deflated if imposed orders are included where the required payment date has not yet been reached and the fine has not yet been paid.

Defendant attendance

Failure to Appear warrants are issued when defendants fail to comply with bail, and ensure that defendants who commit a Bail Act offence by failing to appear are dealt with for that offence when they are brought back to court.

Warrants are categorised by the police on receipt as either A, B or C according to their priority. Category A warrants are for serious original offences or offenders posing a higher risk whereas Category C warrants are for low level offences. Better performance is indicated by a higher percentage.

The stock/flow ratio is calculated as the number of warrants outstanding at the end of the most recent month divided by the average number of warrants received monthly during the most recent 3 months. Better performance is indicated by a lower stock/flow ratio.

Community penalties

The National Offender Management Service, Her Majesty's Court Service, the National Probation Service, the Youth Justice Board, Youth Offending Teams, the Police, electronic monitoring contractors and the Ministry of Justice work closely together to secure improvements in the compliance with and enforcement of community penalties.

The relevant failure to comply is the absence or behaviour which is deemed as unacceptable under National Standards and is used by the offender manager/responsible officer to summons the offender to court.

Further information on the probation National Standards can be found at:
www.probation2000.com/

Contact points for further information

Latest copies of this and other Ministry of Justice statistical bulletins are available at: www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics.htm

These data are available broken down by Local Criminal Justice Board area at: www.justice.gov.uk/publications/criminal-justice-system-performance.htm

Further information on recorded crime and public confidence can be found at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100418065544/http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/crime-statistics/>

Further information on victim satisfaction with the police can be found at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100418065544/http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/victims/index.html>

Further information on the British Crime Survey can be found at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html

Further information on crime maps can be found at: www.maps.police.uk/

Press enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:

Tel: 020 3334 3555

Email: newsdesk@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

Iain Bell
Ministry of Justice
Justice Statistics Analytical Services
7th Floor
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from: www.statistics.gov.uk

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statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk