



Ministry  
of Justice

# **Guide to criminal court statistics transparency files**

## **Background**

The data is provided in a comma separated value (CSV) machine-readable format so that it can easily be imported into analytical software packages. This format enables the user to manipulate and aggregate the published data in different ways.

Below there is a full description of the variables and the list of possible values for each dataset provided.

The criminal court statistics data is provided in three separate transparency files, namely:

- criminal\_csq\_2013\_q2
- criminal\_courts\_csq\_2013\_q2
- criminal\_courts\_timeliness\_csq\_2013\_q2

## **Criminal CSQ**

The criminal transparency file provides a machine-readable version of the data from tables 3.1 to 3.11.

## **Variable**

**Quarter:** This is the quarter and year to which the data relates. The earliest year from which any of the data is available is 2000.

## Criminal courts transparency

The Criminal Courts timeliness transparency provides various caseload and trial data at individual Court level for the Crown Court and Local Justice Area (LJA) level for Magistrates' courts. Caseload data for Magistrates' courts only includes completed proceedings while the Crown Court contains the type of cases received by the court; such as committed for trial, sent for trial, committed for sentence and appeals. Data for both the Magistrates' and the Crown Court includes the number of listed trials and vacated trials. Of the listed trials, it also records how many were effective, cracked or ineffective, and the reasons why they were cracked or ineffective.

### Variables

**Quarter:** This is the quarter and year to which the data relates. The earliest year from which any of the data is available is Jan-Mar 2012.

**CourtType:** The type of court the data relates. The values are either 'Crown' or 'Magistrates'

**Court:** Contains the Local Justice Area (LJA) if courtType is Magistrates or Court name if courtType is Crown. LJAs have been re-organised over time, and courts are closed/merged for periods of time or permanently. This means that the LJA/Court name boundaries used are the boundaries used at the time of recording for previous periods.

**LCJB:** The Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) is a collection of local agencies (e.g. police, probation, court service and CPS) that have responsibility for overseeing and co-ordinating a joined up Criminal Justice approach within their area. There are around 50 boards across England and Wales.

### Data interrogation

The table below describes how each variable should be used.

| Variables | Values required   |
|-----------|---|
| Quarter   | Select the quarter of interest  |
| CourtType | ' <b>Magistrates</b> ' for Magistrates' courts only<br>' <b>Crown</b> ' for Crown Court only<br>' <b>Magistrates</b> ' and ' <b>Crown</b> ' for both Magistrates' and Crown Court |
| Court     | Select the court/LJA of interest  |
| LCJB      | Select the LCJB area of interest  |

## Criminal timeless transparency

The criminal court timeliness transparency data seeks to provide the user with Local Justice Authority/Crown Court breakdowns of average timeliness in weeks from offence to case completion (including all sub-sections, e.g.) for all criminal cases in England and Wales for the full amount of time for which data is available. This includes further timeliness breakdowns such as offence to charge, charge to first listing, first listing to completion aim at maximising the usage of data by users so analytical work can be carried out independently.

## Variables

**Quarter:** This is the quarter and year to which the data relates. The earliest year from which any of the data is available is Jan-Mar 2011 at present.

**Court type:** This is the court at which the case was completed. The total is for all criminal cases, which excludes committals from the magistrates' courts to ensure that no double counting takes place.

**LCJB area:** The Local Criminal Justice Board is a collection of local agencies (e.g. police, probation, court service and CPS) that have responsibility for overseeing and co-ordinating a joined up Criminal Justice approach within their area. There are around 50 boards across England and Wales.

**LJA/Court name:** The Local Justice Area (magistrates' cases) or Court name (Crown cases) relates to the location of the court in which the case received a completion. LJAs have been re-organised over time, and courts are closed/merged for periods of time or permanently. This means that the LJA/Court name boundaries used are the boundaries used at the time of recording for previous periods.

## Data interrogation

As the majority of the data provided in the timeliness data are averages it is not possible to simply aggregate the data to produce annual or national totals.

As such, caution must be taken to ensure that data is filtered correctly and accurately.

The tables below give a guide to the variables which need to present and the filters which need to set in order to produce desired totals, e.g. by using the Microsoft Excel Pivot Table tool:

### National totals

| Variables  | Values required                  |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| Court type | All                              |
| LCJB       | Include 'England and Wales' only |
| Quarter    | -                                |

### LCJB

| Variables  | Values required             |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| Court type | All                         |
| LCJB       | Exclude 'England and Wales' |
| Quarter    | -                           |

### LJA level

| Variables      | Values required      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Court type     | 'magistrates' court' |
| LJA/Court name | Exclude '-'          |
| Quarter        | -                    |

### Crown court level

| Variables      | Values required |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Court type     | 'Crown Court'   |
| LJA/Court name | Exclude '-'     |
| Quarter        | -               |