



16 July 2015

## Statistical News Release: Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2014/15

The latest statistics on crime outcomes are released today. This is the first bulletin based entirely on the new outcomes framework which was initially introduced in April 2013 and expanded further to a broader framework in April 2014. This also introduces a new preferred measure for outcomes data, by presenting the outcomes assigned by the police to all offences recorded in the year (2014/15). This is shown in chapter 2 and is in response to positive feedback from a consultation with users undertaken in Autumn 2014. The bulletin contains:

1. Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15 – the new preferred method
2. Outcomes recorded in 2014/15 (irrespective of when the crime was recorded) – the traditional representation
3. An analysis into the time gap between offences and outcomes
4. Transferred and cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes') with some preliminary findings from 2015/16 data

### Key Points from the Outcome Data for 2014/15

- 93% of offences recorded in 2014/15 had been assigned an outcome at the time of compiling the report. The remaining 7% were still under investigation and will be assigned an outcome in future.
- Figures varied by crime type – so while only 4% of criminal damage and arson crimes had yet to be assigned an outcome, figures were much higher for sexual offences (37%) and in particular rape (49%), due to the length of time taken investigating these crimes.
- Around 16% of crimes recorded in 2014/15 had resulted in a charge/summons by the police. This figure is likely to rise when the remaining 7% of crimes that are still under investigation have an outcome assigned.
- For around half (49%) of offences recorded in 2014/15, no suspect had been identified and the case was closed. Within offence groups this ranged from 1% of drug offences, 4% of possession of weapon offences and 5% of rapes, to 70% of theft offences and 69% of criminal damage. Around 12% of violence and 12% of sexual offences had been closed with no suspect identified.
- Around one-third (33%) of sexual offences had evidential difficulties outcomes, the offence category with the highest proportion experiencing evidential difficulties.
- As this is the first year data has been available on the new framework, there are limited opportunities for comparing over time. However, based on the 'old' measure, for outcomes recorded in 2014/15 (irrespective of when the crime was recorded), the proportion of charge/summons outcomes recorded in the year as a proportion of total crimes recorded in the year remained similar at 17%.

- Almost half of offences (46%) were assigned an outcome within five days of the offence being recorded, and 72% of outcomes were assigned within 30 days. 9% of outcomes took more than 100 days to be assigned. Sexual offences generally took much longer to be assigned an outcome than other offence types, with 39% taking over 100 days. This is likely to be due to the complexity of these cases and the level of investigation needed.
- Investigations that were completed with no suspect identified tended to be the outcomes assigned most quickly, with 32% assigned on the same day as the crime was recorded.

#### Transferred and cancelled crimes (formerly no-crimes) for 2014/15

The proportion of crimes that were transferred and cancelled (formerly termed 'no-crimes') was 3.1%, fairly similar to the 3.2% seen in 2013/14. From April 2015, police forces have supplied a greater level of information about why individual crimes are transferred and cancelled. Each will be assigned one of the following categories:

- Transferred: Crime committed outside the jurisdiction of the police force in which it was recorded – passed to the appropriate force.
- Cancelled: Additional verifiable information that determines that no notifiable crime occurred becomes available.
- Cancelled: Duplicate record or part of a crime already recorded.
- Cancelled: Crime recorded in error.
- Cancelled: Self defence claimed (for specific recorded assaults).

Statistics based on this new level of detail will be published in future and chapter 5 of the bulletin highlights some provisional data.

From October 2015, we intend updating open data tables on outcomes and transferred and cancelled crimes quarterly, at the same time as ONS publish their quarterly crime statistics.

#### Background - Key Aspects of the New Framework

- From April 2014, the police have assigned one of 18 outcome types to every crime that is recorded. This contrasts with the former detections regime, where only around 30% of crimes were assigned an 'outcome'.
- The new framework provides much greater transparency on the ways police resolve all crimes. For more information on the full transition from detections to outcomes, see chapter 1 of the bulletin.

#### **Notes**

1. 'Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2014/15' is available online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2014-to-2015>

2. Also released today is 'Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly First Release to March 2015' available on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales>.

3. Throughout the 'Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2014/15' bulletin, the total numbers for both offences recorded and assigned an outcome by the police are shown excluding fraud offences. This is due to a change in the recording of fraud offences as the result of the implementation of Action Fraud as a national reporting centre. Outcome data for offences recorded by Action Fraud are presented for the first time in this bulletin, as experimental statistics. These are subject to further development and quality assurance.

**For all press enquiries, please contact the Home Office Press Office who will liaise with Home Office Statistics:**

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