



Ministry
of Justice

Response to consultation on changes to Criminal Justice Statistics

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Contents

Introduction	3
Summary of responses	4
Changes to Criminal Justice Statistics.....	5
Annex A – Revised motoring offence groups.....	7

Introduction

The [Criminal Justice Statistics quarterly](#) presents key statistics on activity in the Criminal Justice System for England and Wales providing users with information about proven offending and its outcomes. From 20 November 2014 to 22 January 2015, the Ministry of Justice ran a [consultation](#) on changes to the Criminal Justice Statistics quarterly. These changes aim to improve the way in which information is made available to users.

The proposed changes and consultation reflect an internal review which the producers of Criminal Justice Statistics undertook to consider how:

- the publication can better meet user needs and,
- the dissemination of information can be improved

A separate review was conducted on the motoring offences tables.

Users' views were invited on these changes and we received 9 responses to the consultation. Of those responses 5 were from charities, 2 were from other government departments, 1 was from a Criminal Justice Board and 1 from a business.

This document provides feedback on the comments received and clarifies the changes planned.

Summary of responses

Nine responses were received in response to the consultation. Of those 5 were from charities, 2 were from other government departments, 1 was from a Criminal Justice Board and 1 from a business. In general respondents agreed with the proposed changes, with several commenting that the new structure will make it easier to access information of interest. Respondents though were keen to ensure that they would still be able to access all the information they required.

Below is a summary of the main comments received, respondents have been contacted separately in regards to very specific questions raised.

1. Differentiation between the annual and quarterly publications

Several respondents commented that they would welcome clarity over the differentiation of information contained in the quarterly and annual publications.

2. Data changes

The consultation note proposed two main data changes; the inclusion of selected quarterly data to more prominently flag up any recent changes and the separation of indictable offences into 'indictable only' and 'triable either way' offences. Respondents supported both of these proposals, although one commented that it would be useful to still be able to see the sentencing trends for all indictable offences.

3. The use of CSVs and pivot tables to replace standard tables

Users supported the proposed move to CSVs and pivot tables with several commenting that this would enable their organisations to obtain breakdowns not currently provided within tables and that the information should be easier to find. Although respondents did comment that it was important to provide guidance on how to use the new tables.

4. Changes to motoring offence tables

The consultation note proposed two changes to the way motoring offences data are produced; to move from an all offence basis to a principal offence basis¹ in the line with the rest of the publication and to reduce the number of tables published and instead provide the majority of data within a pivot table. There were no objections to moving the tables to a principal offence basis nor to providing the data within a pivot table as long as there is no loss of information to users. One respondent commented that the motoring tables were currently difficult to find, whilst another respondent commented that pivot tables should make the processing of data easier and potentially allow new analyses.

Two respondents requested that the motoring offence group "Causing death or bodily harm" be disaggregated and following this feedback we have reviewed the offence groups used within the motoring data and propose to use a revised classification going forward. See Annex A for details.

Finally two respondents asked about whether it is possible to link data on injuries and fatalities with court outcomes data. Whilst this is beyond the scope of this consultation, we will discuss this separately with the charities who made this request.

¹ When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Changes to Criminal Justice Statistics

Following feedback from users, the following changes will be introduced to the annual publication (due for publication on 21 May 2015) and subsequent quarterly and annual editions.

1. **Clearly differentiate between the annual and the quarterly publications**

We will ensure the website, the introduction to the publication and the tables clearly state the differences between the information published at the annual calendar year end and quarterly points. The title of the publication will also specifically mention the inclusion of annual information.

2. **Structure of Criminal Justice Statistics publications**

Following consultation the quarterly publication will provide a short snapshot of approximately 20 tables and the annual publication a more detailed publication of approximately 35 - 40 tables. The majority of information will be made available within interactive data tools (pivot tables with detailed guidance on how they can be used).

By reducing the number of tables and instead providing information in a more flexible format, it will become far easier for users to locate and extract the specific information they require

3. **Inclusion of quarterly data**

Selected quarterly information covering total cautions, proceedings, convictions and the main sentence outcomes will be presented in addition to the 12 months to statistics, to flag up any recent changes more prominently. The commentary will discuss the seasonal element while bringing out quarterly changes.

4. **Separation of indictable offences into 'indictable only' and 'triable either way' offences**

This change will bring Criminal Justice Statistics publication in to line with other Departmental Publications (e.g. Court Statistics Quarterly). Information will be presented by four offence groups rather than the current three:

1. 'Indictable Only' offences, which can only be tried on indictment in the Crown Court by a judge and jury
2. 'Triable-either-way' offences which are triable either summarily in a magistrate's court or on indictment in the Crown Court,
3. Summary motoring
4. Summary non-motoring.

5. **Inclusion of lower level offence information (annual publication only)**

We are investigating the feasibility of publishing information at offence-level to compliment the annual edition of the publication. This will initially be as an experimental output and initially only for drug offences. User feedback will be reviewed after 3 months and a decision will be taken as to whether to extend the output and include it as part of future annual Criminal Justice Statistics publications.

6. Changes to the motoring offence tables (annual publication only)

From the 2014 annual publication the motoring offences tables will be provided on a principal offence, bringing the chapter in line with the rest of the publication. Findings of guilt will continue to be provided additionally on an all offence basis.

Following comments received from users, the producers of the publication have reviewed the offence groups used within the motoring tables and propose an updated motoring offence grouping. The new grouping is based on feedback from users of what they use the data for as well as the number of cases within each group. The new motoring offence groups are set out within Annex A.

As with the rest of the publication, the number of motoring tables be greatly reduced and the data will be made available within an interactive data tool.

Annex A – Revised motoring offence groups

Offence groups to be published in the tables	Offences to be included within the interactive data tool
Causing death by dangerous driving	Causing death by dangerous driving
Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs
Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving
Causing death by driving unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured drivers	Causing death by driving unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured drivers
Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking
Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	Causing serious injury by dangerous driving
Causing bodily harm by wanton or furious driving	Causing bodily harm by wanton or furious driving
Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment
Dangerous driving	Dangerous driving
Drink-driving	Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit
	Driving and failing to provide specimen for analysis (breath, blood or urine)
	In charge of motor vehicle with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit
	In charge of motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs (impairment)
	In charge of motor vehicle and failing to provide specimen for analysis (breath, blood or urine)
Other offences related to drink- or drug-driving	In charge of stolen vehicle while unfit through drink (impairment)
	In charge of stolen vehicle while unfit through drugs (impairment)
	Unfit to drive through drink (impairment)
	Unfit to drive through drugs (impairment)
	Unfit to drive through drink or drugs (impairment)
	Failing to provide specimen for initial breath test
	Failing to allow specimens of blood to be subjected to laboratory test
Using or causing others to use a mobile phone whilst driving	Using or causing others to use a mobile phone whilst driving
Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)
Failing to stop or provide information after accident	Failing to stop after accident
	Failing to report accident within 24 hours
	Failing to give name and address after accident
Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	Causing injury or damage by aggravated vehicle taking
	Summary aggravated vehicle taking
	Causing criminal damage of £5000 or under by aggravated vehicle taking
	Theft of a motor vehicle

Driving licence related offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Driving while disqualified Driving or causing or permitting another person to drive other than in accordance with licence Making false statements to obtain or failure to produce revoked licence Other licence offences
Vehicle insurance offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks Keeping vehicle which does not meet insurance requirements Making false statement or withholding information in order to obtain a certificate of insurance Other insurance offences
Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	Vehicle registration and excise licence offences
Work record and employment offences	Work record and employment offences
Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Driving licence Insurance certificate Registration and licensing Work Record Operator's licence Test certificate Mishandling or faking parking documents Forging, altering or making document or authority to drive card or certificate with intent to deceive
Defective vehicle parts	Defective vehicle parts
Test offences	Test offences
Speed limit offences	Speed limit offences
Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)
Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required
Miscellaneous (other) offences	Miscellaneous (other) offences