



Ministry
of Justice



Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to September 2014

England and Wales

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

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Contents

Contents.....	1
Introduction	2
Key Findings	4
1. Overview	5
2. Out of Court Disposals	8
3. Court Proceedings and Remand.....	10
4. Offenders Found Guilty	13
5. Sentencing	14
6. Offending Histories.....	16
Flows through the Criminal Justice System, 12 months ending September 2014	19
Overview Tables	20
Annex A: Further Information Available	27
Annex B: Revisions Policy	28
Annex C: Explanatory Notes	29
Contacts	30

Introduction

This report presents the key statistics on activity in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) for England and Wales. It provides information for the latest twelve months (October 2013 to September 2014) with accompanying commentary, analysis and presentation of longer term trends. Where appropriate, comparisons are made with different sources covering activity in the CJS – in particular, numbers of crimes recorded by the police. The information in this publication for the first three quarters of 2014 is provisional.

In this publication, criminal offences are divided into three main offence groups:

- **Indictable** proceedings cover the more serious offences such as violent and sexual offences and robbery. Initial proceedings are heard at magistrates' courts but they then may be passed on to the Crown Court, either for sentencing, or for a full trial with a judge and jury. This group includes both 'indictable only' offences, which can only be tried on indictment in the Crown Court by a judge and jury and 'triable-either-way' offences, which are triable either summarily in a magistrates' court or on indictment in the Crown Court;
- Summary proceedings which cover less serious offences are almost always handled entirely in the magistrates' courts when dealt with in court, with the majority completed at the first hearing. They are split into two categories:
 - **Summary non-motoring** proceedings, such as TV license evasion and less serious criminal damage; and
 - **Summary motoring** proceedings, such as speeding and driving whilst disqualified.

The majority of information presented in this publication is reported on the principal offence and principal sentence. Where proceedings involve more than one offence, the principal offence is reported. The basis for the selection of the principal offence is as follows:

- Where a defendant is found guilty of one offence and acquitted of another, the offence selected is the one for which they are found guilty;
- Where a defendant is found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest sentence is imposed;
- Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

The offence shown for each court proceeding is the one for which the court took its final decision and is not necessarily the same as the offence for which the defendant was initially prosecuted. Unless otherwise stated, the sentence shown is the most severe sentence or order given for the principal offence (i.e. the principal sentence), secondary sentences given for the principal offence and sentences for non-principal offences are not counted in the tables.

Interpretation

This publication presents information for the **latest 12 month period (the twelve months ending September 2014)** alongside the same rolling 12 month periods ending September for the previous ten years. The comparison of 12 rolling month periods has the advantage over reporting on shorter timeframes – for example, covering only the latest quarter – of avoiding misinterpretation of short-term fluctuations caused by seasonality (for example, reduced court volumes every December when many of the courts are closed over the Christmas period), and enables the presentation of longer-term trends across comparable reporting periods.

In this publication:

- the “**latest year**” refers to the **12 months ending September 2014**;
- the “**previous year**” refers to the **12 months ending September 2013**;
- and
- any other reference period will be referred to explicitly.

Further guidance on the symbols and conventions used in the bulletin is provided in the ‘Annex C: Explanatory Notes’ section.

A technical document titled “A Guide to Criminal Justice Statistics” is available alongside this publication, which provides users with detailed information on the concepts and methods used in its compilation.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly

Data Quality issue regarding triable-either-way cases in the magistrates’ court:

Investigations are under way to resolve apparent differences presented in this bulletin and those in results from other data-sources regarding the numbers of triable-either-way cases in 2013 and 2014.

Changes to Offending Histories Information:

This quarter two more datasets have been added to the offending histories data tool, which was introduced in the last publication. The data tool can now be used to interrogate all data on cautions and sentences over the last decade.

Future Developments

Following on from a consultation on ‘Changes to Criminal Justice Statistics’ publication held between 20 November 2014 and 22 January 2015, we will be introducing changes to the next publication. Please see below – [Response to Consultation on Changes to Criminal Justice Statistics publication](#) for more details:

The next publication in the series – ‘Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to December 2014’ will be published on 21 May 2015.

Key Findings

Individuals formally dealt with by the Criminal Justice System (CJS)

The total number of individuals (which includes people and companies) dealt with formally by the CJS in England and Wales has declined since September 2007. In the year ending September 2014 it was the lowest on record (period 1970 to date).

The use of out of court disposals is now less than half of the peak in year ending September 2007 and in the latest year there was a decrease of 16%. This compares with a slight decrease (around the 3% to 4% mark) in prosecutions, convictions and number of offenders sentenced in the latest year.

Conviction ratio (number of convictions as a proportion of the number of proceedings) has remained relatively stable since year ending September 2009 (following on from an increase in the 5 years preceding this). In the latest year it was 83% compared to 82% in the previous year.

In the latest year there has been an increase in the number of defendants tried at the Crown Court (84,500 compared to 82,700 in year ending September 2013). The increase in trials in the last year is predominantly due to a rise in sexual offence, drug offence, public order offence and violence against the person trials.

Sentencing

The average custodial sentence length (ACSL) in the latest year was 15.8 months. It has increased in each year since year ending September 2006, when it was 12.3 months.

The most common sentence for an indictable offence is immediate custody. The immediate custody rate for indictable offences in the latest year was just under 28%, the highest in the decade and has increased in each of the last four years.

Criminal Histories

The number of first time entrants dealt with by the CJS continues to decline and has fallen by 52% since year ending September 2007. The reduction has been much sharper for juveniles (81% over the same period) than adults.

The number of offenders with no previous convictions or cautions sentenced for indictable offences has increased by 4% in 12 months ending September 2014.

The number of adult offenders given a suspended sentence for an indictable offence has increased by 12% in the last 12 months. This has been driven by an 18% increase in the number of adult offenders given suspended sentences despite having 15 or more previous cautions or convictions.

Sexual Offences

Prosecutions for sexual offences are the highest in the decade and increased by 11% in the latest year. Offenders sentenced for sexual offences had an average custodial sentence length (ASCL) of 60.9 months, a rise of 3.4 months compared with year ending September 2013.

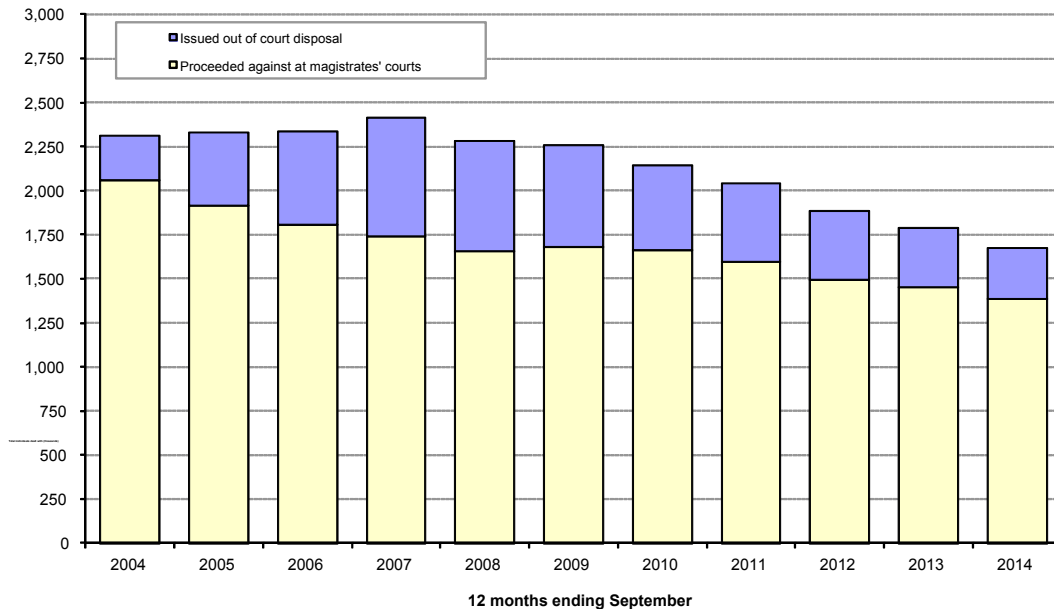
1. Overview

Individuals formally dealt with by Criminal Justice System

Once a suspect has been identified by the police, arrested and charged, the police work with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in deciding the most appropriate course of action in each case. The decision can be made to not take the offender to court, but to use an “out-of-court disposals”, or to proceed against the defendant at a magistrates’ court.

The total number of individuals (which includes people and companies) who have been dealt with formally by the CJS in England and Wales, has been declining since the 12 months ending September 2007, with 1.67 million individuals dealt with in the latest 12 month period.

Figure 1.1: Individuals¹ dealt with formally by the CJS, 12 months ending September 2004 to September 2014



The total number of individuals formally dealt with by the CJS in England and Wales is generally consistent with total crime and recorded crime trends. In the year ending September 2014 however, despite a reduction in total crime, there was no overall change in recorded crime, yet there was a reduction in individuals formally dealt with by the CJS in England and Wales.

Total crime, as measured by the Crime Survey for England and Wales is the lowest estimate since the survey began in 1981. Latest figures in the Crime in England and Wales, Year Ending September 2014 publication show there were an estimated 7.0 million incidents of crime against households and resident adults (aged 16 and over). This represents an 11% decrease compared with the previous year.

Recorded crime in England and Wales reduced year on year between year ending September 2004 and year ending September 2013. Recently published police

¹ Includes people and companies. Note also that a single individual can be counted more than once in a given year if they are dealt with by the Criminal Justice System on more than one separate occasion.

recorded crime figures² however, showed no overall change from the previous year, with 3.7 million offences recorded in the year ending September 2014.

The total number of individuals (which includes people and companies) dealt with formally by the CJS in England and Wales has been declining since the 12 months ending September 2007. It is now at a record low (period 1970 to date). The use of out of court disposals is now less than half of the peak in year ending September 2007 and in the latest year there was a decrease of 16%. This compares with a slight decrease (around the 3 to 4% mark) in prosecutions, convictions and number of offenders sentenced in the latest year.

Conviction ratio (number of convictions as a proportion of the number of proceedings) has remained relatively stable since year ending September 2009 (following on from an increase in the 5 years preceding this). In the latest year it was 83% compared to 82% in the previous year.

Sentencing

The average custodial sentence length (ACSL), which excludes life and indeterminate sentences, has increased in each year since September 2006. In the 12 months ending September 2014 it was 15.8 months, compared with 15.3 months in the previous 12 month period and 12.3 months in the 12 months ending September 2006. The more rapid increase in ACSL since the 12 months ending September 2012 is due in part to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act, which abolished Indeterminate sentences for Public Protection (IPPs) and replaced them with new Extended Determinate Sentences (EDS). IPP and life sentences are not considered when calculating the ACSL, but EDS are included.

The most common sentence for an indictable offence is immediate custody which is consistent with the previous two years, before which a community sentence was the most common. The immediate custody rate for indictable offences in the 12 months ending September 2014 was just under 28%, the highest in the decade and has increased in each of the last four years.

Criminal Histories³

The number of individuals dealt with formally by the Criminal Justice System for the first time, has also fallen since the 12 months ending September 2007 – with 160,900 First Time Entrants (FTE) to the CJS in 12 months ending September 2014, a decline of 52% since September 2007. The reduction has been much sharper for juveniles (81% over the same period), reflecting a decreasing number of juvenile offenders reprimanded, issued with a warning or given a youth caution. However, per head of population, the rate of juvenile first time entrants remains higher than for adults.

The number of adult offenders given a fully suspended sentence for an indictable offence has increased by 12% in the last 12 months. This has been driven by an 18% increase in the number of adult offenders given fully suspended sentences despite having 15 or more previous cautions or convictions. The LASPO Act 2012 amended the provisions relating to suspended sentence orders so as to allow for, amongst

² www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/year-ending-september-2014/index.html

³ Data Sourced from Police National Computer.

other things, custodial sentences of two years or less to be suspended, where previously only custodial sentences of 12 months or less could be suspended. This change applied to offenders sentenced on, or after 3 December 2012.

The number of offenders with no previous convictions or cautions sentenced for indictable offences has increased by 4% in 12 months ending September 2014. This increase has been mainly driven by an increase of juvenile offenders with no previous convictions and cautions convicted for possession of weapons and public order offences (by 41% and 62% respectively).

Sexual Offences

Prosecutions for sexual offences are the highest in the decade and increased by 11% in the latest year (this compares to a 21% increase in recorded crime). The increase in recorded crime and prosecutions for sexual offences is likely to be partly due to the Operation Yewtree investigation, connected to the Jimmy Savile inquiry and the resulting media attention. This investigation has led to a greater number of victims coming forward to report sexual offences to the police. Improved compliance with the recording standards for sexual offences in some police forces may also be a factor.

Sexual offence convictions increased by 5% in the latest year and sexual offence 'trials' at Crown Court have increased by 8%. The conviction ratio (number of convictions as a proportion of the number of proceedings) for sexual offences has decreased from just under 57% in the year ending September 2013, to 54% in the latest period. The fall in conviction ratio can be explained as prosecutions include cases which may not be finished, i.e. the trial is ongoing. Sexual offence cases take a longer time to go through the court system than the majority of other offence groups⁴ and there are a higher number of outstanding cases.

Offenders sentenced for sexual offences had an ACSL of 60.9 months. This has risen by 3.4 months, compared with year ending September 2013 and reflects a wider increase in the past 10 years. The custody rate has also increased in each of the last three 12 month periods and was 60% in the 12 months ending September 2014. Only robbery has a higher custody rate (66%).

Of all those convicted for sexual offences in the latest 12 months, around 46% of their first offences were for the same offence category and just 5% of all their previous were also sexual offences.

Violence Against The Person

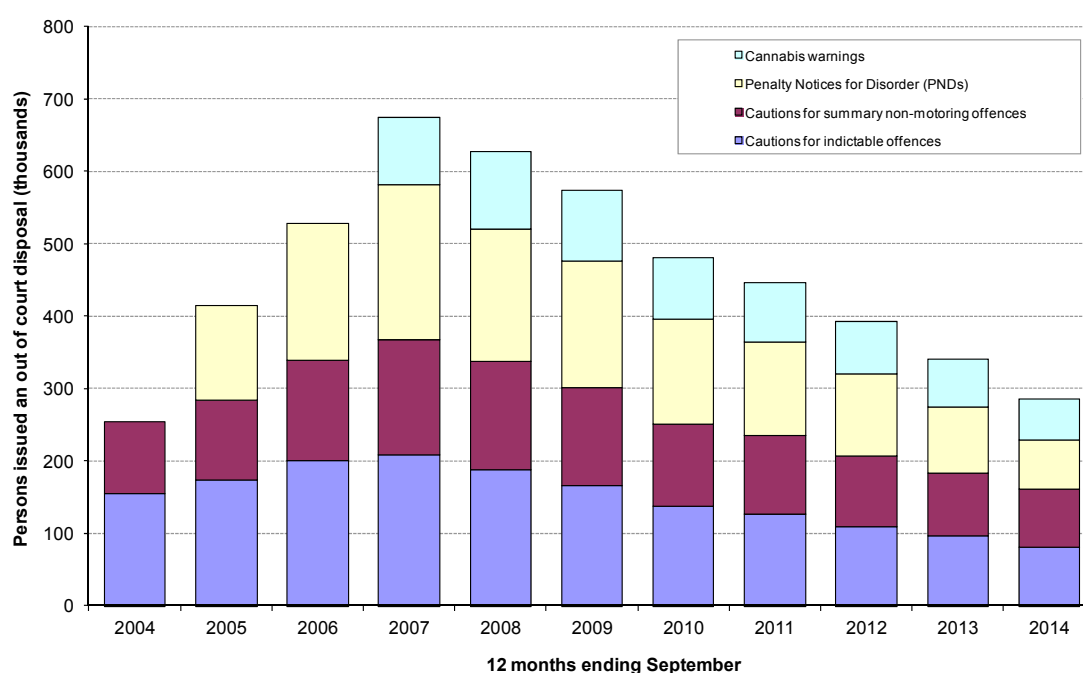
In the latest year police recorded figures for violence against the person increased by 16%. The renewed focus on the quality of crime recording is thought to have prompted improved compliance with national recording standards in some police forces and led to this increase in recorded crime. Violence against the person proceedings for indictable offences have increased by 4% in the latest year, convictions increased by 3% and the conviction ratio has decreased by 1 percentage point, to 69%.

3. See Criminal Court Statistics Quarterly: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-court-statistics-quarterly-july-to-september-2014

2. Out of Court Disposals

Until the introduction of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) in 2004 and formal warnings for possession of cannabis in 2005⁵, the only out of court disposal available to police was a caution. Since the 12 months ending September 2004, the use of out of court disposals increased rapidly and peaked in the 12 months ending September 2007, before decreasing year on year. Just over 285,000 individuals were issued with an out of court disposal in the latest year. The increase up to the 12 months ending September 2007 coincided with the introduction in 2001 of a target to increase offences brought to justice. The decrease post September 2007 coincided with the replacement of the target in April 2008, with one placing more emphasis on bringing serious crimes to justice. The latter target was subsequently removed in May 2010. The decrease in out of court disposals is also linked to the introduction of community resolutions in 2009, which are not included in out of court disposal figures. Instead of the offence being handled by the justice system, a community resolution can be issued by the police officer called in to deal with the crime, by which the officer decides an appropriate manner for the offender to redeem himself/herself before the victim.

Figure 2.1: Out of court disposals issued, by disposal, 12 months ending September 2004 to September 2014



The use of out of court disposals has decreased by just over a half since the year ending September 2007 peak (58% decrease). In the last year alone, there was a decrease of 16% in out of court disposals issued.

The largest decline in the use of out of court disposals in the last year has been in Penalty Notice for Disorder (PNDs), which decreased by just under a quarter. The reduction in PNDs follows the cancellation of the use of PNDs for under 18 year olds, from 8th April 2013. Total cautions have decreased by 13% and cannabis warnings by 16% over the same period.

⁵ The number of cannabis warnings issued in the 12 months ending September 2006 is not available.

In the latest period, just over half of PNDs were paid in full - a slight decrease of 1 percentage point compared with the year ending September 2013 and a low for the 10 year period.

In the latest 12 months, cautions for indictable offences (including triable either way offences) decreased by 16%, to just over 81,000. Cautions for theft and drug offences make up just under three quarters of all indictable offence cautions.

There were just over 500 cautions issued for indictable only offences (excluding triable either way) in the 12 months ending September 2014 (including conditional cautions that we can't currently differentiate from simple cautions) compared with just over 700 in the previous year. This follows guidance issued to police forces on 14th November 2013, which stated that the use of adult simple cautions for indictable only offences should be stopped, except in exceptional circumstances. In the 10 month period since the guidance (December 2013 to September 2014) just over 300 adult cautions for indictable only offences have been issued compared with just under 400 in the 10 month period December 2012 to September 2013. Legislation in the forthcoming Criminal Justice and Courts Bill will put these changes to adult simple cautions on a statutory footing.

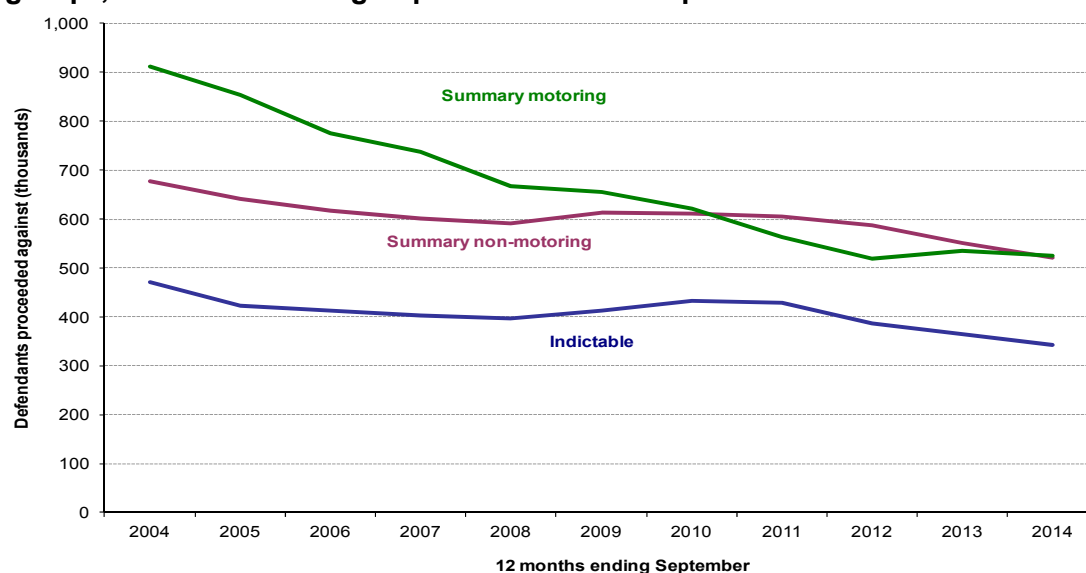
The overall cautioning rate (proportion of offenders who were either cautioned or convicted, that were given a caution) for the latest 12 months was 19%, which has declined from a peak of 32% in year ending September 2007.

3. Court Proceedings and Remand

Virtually all criminal cases proceeding to court in England and Wales start in a magistrates' court. Since the 12 months ending September 2004, the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' court has declined almost year on year – down to 1.39 million defendants in the latest period – driven primarily by decreases in summary motoring offences brought before magistrates. The biggest decreases have been for vehicle insurance offences, driving licence related offences and driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs offences.

Prosecutions decreased by 4% in the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year, with decreases seen in all three main offence groups (indictable, summary motoring and summary non-motoring). The largest decline was seen for indictable and summary non-motoring offences, which both had a 6% decrease, compared with the previous 12 month period. Summary motoring offence prosecutions decreased by 2%.

Figure 3.1: Defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts, by offence group⁶, 12 months ending September 2004 to September 2014



The recent decline in indictable prosecutions is driven by decreases in theft, drug, miscellaneous crime against society offences (e.g. failing to surrender to bail) and criminal damage and arson. Prosecutions for sexual offences, violence against the person offences, fraud offences and public order offences have all increased, as have recorded crime figures⁷ for these offence groups. In the latest year, sexual offence prosecutions have risen by 11%, violence against the person prosecutions by 4%, fraud offence prosecutions by 2% and public order offence prosecutions by 1%.

Around 6% of all defendants proceeded against are passed on to the Crown Court for trial. The volume of completed trials at the Crown Court declined between year ending September 2010 and September 2013, in line with the decline in prosecutions – from 104,000 to 82,700. On 28th May 2013, committal hearings were abolished nationally as part of wider measures to speed up justice and improve efficiencies in the justice system. As a result cases are now being sent straight to the Crown Court as soon as it is clear the matter is serious enough, rather than having to await a

⁶ Regarding the 2013 and 2014 figures for indictable offences, please see the introduction which discusses a data quality issue.

⁷ www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/year-ending-september-2014/index.html

committal hearing. In the latest year to September 2014 there has been an increase in the number of defendants tried at the Crown Court (84,500 compared to 82,700 in year ending September 2013). The increase in trials in the last year is predominantly due to a rise in sexual offence, drug offence, public order offence and violence against the person trials.

Police remands are decisions made by a police officer, on whether to detain or bail a defendant pending their first appearance in court, or send a notice summoning them to appear in court. In the latest year, there were 1.45 million defendants directed to appear at magistrates' courts (including those who failed to appear). The proportion of defendants remanded in custody by the police remained stable at 11% in the last 12 months, compared with the previous year. The proportion of defendants arrested and bailed by police decreased to 28% in the latest year, from 29% in the previous year, whilst the proportion being summonsed increased from 60%, to 61%.

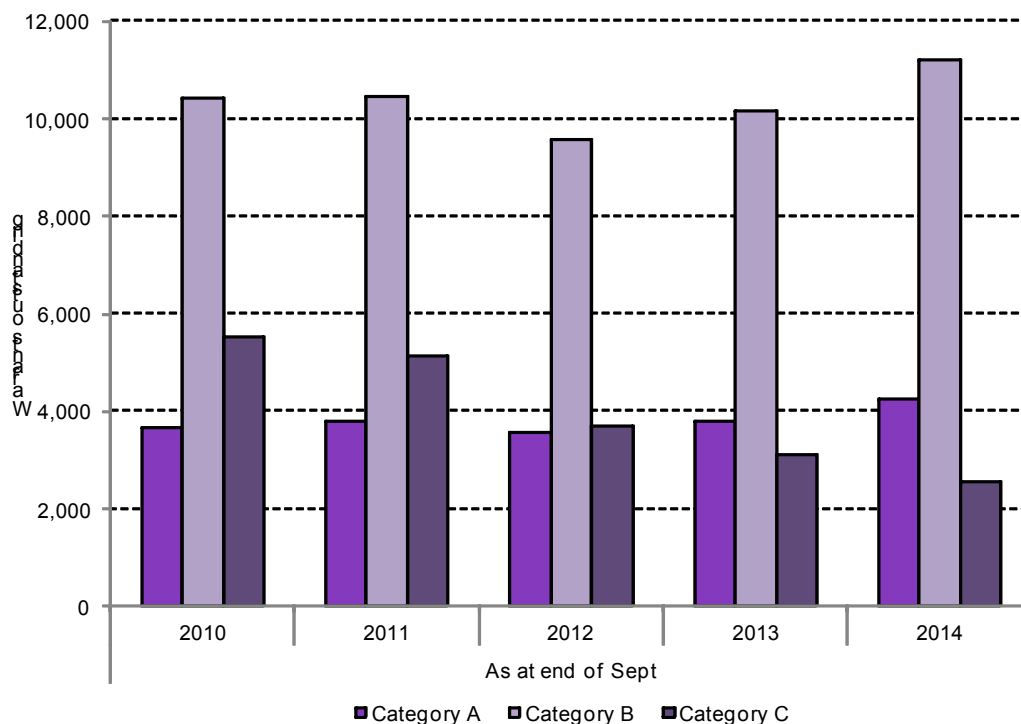
Court remands are the court's decision on whether a defendant charged with a criminal offence should be held in custody, or released on bail during the period up to and including the trial, or while awaiting sentence. In the latest year, bail was granted to 22% of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts, while 4% were remanded in custody and the remaining 74% had their case concluded at the magistrates' courts without being remanded.

Defendants are more likely to be remanded in custody for indictable offences than summary offences – as a result, the proportion of defendants remanded in custody at the Crown Court is higher than at magistrates' courts. In the latest year, the proportion of defendants tried at the Crown Court who were remanded in custody was 37% (up from 35% in the previous 12 month period) and the proportion remanded on bail was 47% (the same as the previous 12 month period). Of those remanded in custody at the Crown Court, 72% were convicted and sentenced to immediate custody (compared to 73% in the previous year).

Failure To Appear (FTA) warrants are issued by courts when defendants do not attend court on a specified date, having either been summonsed or granted bail at an earlier stage. In the latest year, police forces in England and Wales received a total of 70,600 FTA warrants from the courts, of which 85% were executed.

There were just over 18,000 FTA warrants outstanding at the end of September 2014. The number of outstanding FTA warrants fell year-on-year, between the 12 months ending September 2008 and September 2012. However, in more recent years (from the 12 months ending September 2012 to September 2014) there have been increases in FTA warrants outstanding.

Figure 3.2: Number of Failure to Appear (FTA) Warrants outstanding in England and Wales, by category of warrant⁸, as at end of September, 2010 to 2014



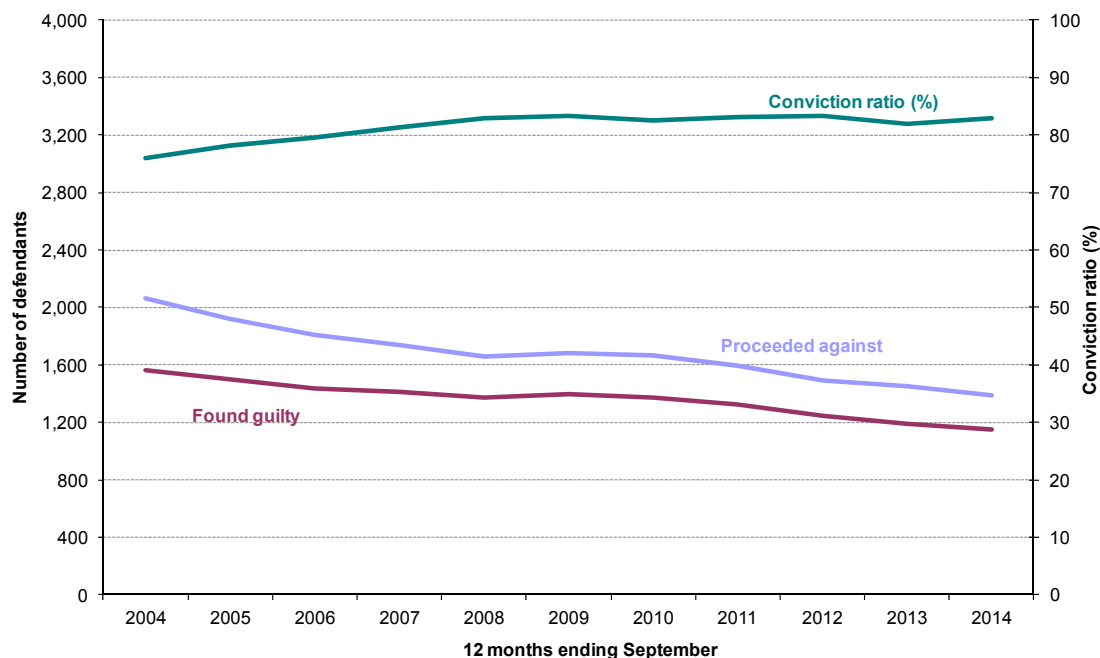
⁸ Categorisation of a warrant is the process that determines the executing agency and the timescales that it should be executed in. Generally, Category A warrants relate to the most serious offence. Some of the additional factors to be considered are the risk to the public and the intelligence value.

4. Offenders Found Guilty

Trends in the number of offenders convicted (defendants who plead or are found guilty) and sentenced at all courts are driven by a number of factors, including the number of individuals dealt with through the courts (the trend in prosecutions) and the proportion of those individuals who plead or are found guilty. Conviction ratios are calculated as the number of convictions as a proportion of the number of proceedings. This gives a measure of the relative number of defendants who are found guilty within a given year for a certain offence, when compared with the number who are prosecuted that year for the same offence. It is worth noting that offenders found guilty in a given year may well have been proceeded against in a previous year.

Convictions decreased by 3% and prosecutions decreased by 4% in the year ending September 2014, compared with the previous year. Since the 12 months ending September 2004, convictions have declined almost year on year, in line with declining numbers of individuals proceeded against. The decline in convictions has not been as steep as for proceedings. As a result, the conviction ratio increased from 76% in the 12 months ending September 2004, to 83% in the 12 months ending September 2009 and has since remained relatively stable, fluctuating between 82% and 83%. In the latest year it was 83% compared to 82% in the previous year. The complex nature of the CJS means there are a number of possible factors contributing to this change – for example, changes in guilty plea rates, the mix of cases handled in and out of court, impacts of operational changes and so on – and it is difficult to separately identify the impacts of different factors.

Figure 4.1: Prosecutions at magistrates' courts and convictions at all courts, with conviction ratio, 12 months ending September 2004 to September 2014

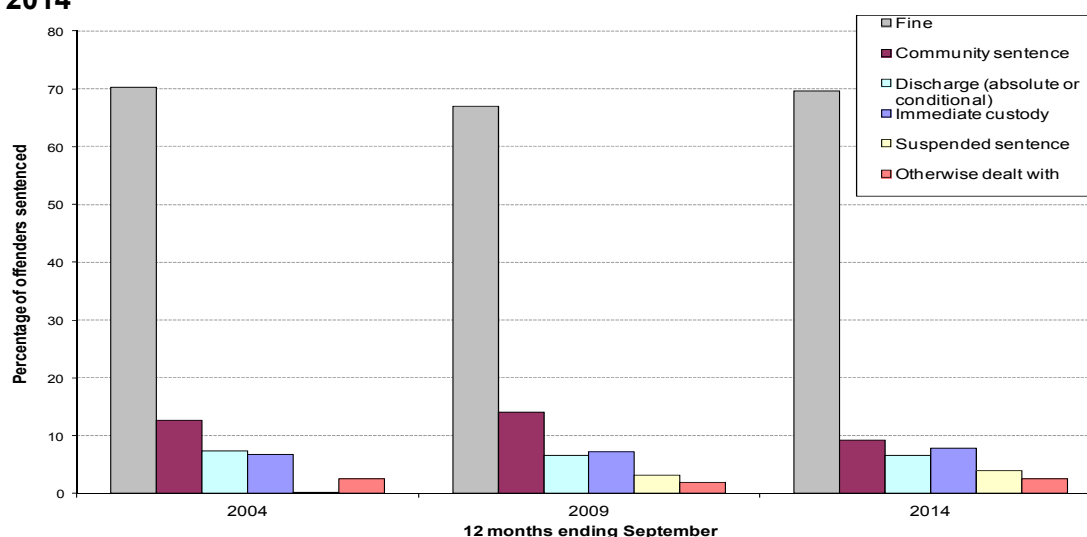


5. Sentencing

The most common sentence given to all offenders is a fine (just over two thirds of offenders sentenced in the last 12 months had this sentence outcome). This is due mainly to the large number of fines issued for summary offences at the magistrates' court. Offenders sentenced for summary offences accounted for three quarters of all sentences issued in the latest year. In the last 12 months, summary offences were dealt with almost entirely in the magistrates' courts and in 86% of these cases, fines were issued.

The number of persons given a custodial sentence has fallen over the last three years by 14%, reflecting a decrease in the overall number of offenders being sentenced, down by 13% over the same period. Despite the fall in the number of custodial sentences, the prison population has continued to increase, at an annual growth of around 1%. This continues to be driven by increases in the remand population, and a greater number of adult sentenced sex offender prisoners.

Figure 5.1: Sentencing outcomes (percentages of all offenders sentenced) at all courts, 12 months ending September 2004, September 2009 and September 2014



Immediate custody is the third most common sentence after fines and community sentences, with just under 8% of offenders being sentenced to immediate custody in the latest 12 months. The immediate custody rate (proportion of persons sentenced to prison) peaked at just over 8% in 12 months ending September 2012, having previously risen 1.6 percentage points between the 12 months ending September 2007 and September 2012.

The use of Suspended Sentence Orders (SSOs) rose steadily between the 12 months ending September 2006 and September 2011 – as a result of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, which made SSOs more readily available. More recently the LASPO Act 2012 made further changes to the availability of SSOs, which have been accompanied by a 2% increase in SSOs for indictable offences between the 12 months ending September 2013 and September 2014. The proportion of offenders given community sentences has fallen since the 12 months ending September 2005, with a greater rate of decline in more recent years.

Immediate custody is the most common sentence for indictable offences. The immediate custody rate for indictable offences in the 12 months to September 2014

was just under 28%, the highest in the decade and has increased in each of the last four years. This has been primarily driven by an increase in the custody rate for sexual, theft, robbery and criminal damage.

In the latest year, 20% of offenders sentenced for indictable offences received community sentences, 19% a fine, and 12% a Suspended Sentence Order (SSO). Almost a third of offenders sentenced for indictable offences, were sentenced at the Crown Court – of these, 57% received an immediate custodial sentence, reflecting the fact that the most serious offences are likely to be tried on indictment in the Crown Court, by a judge and jury.

The average custodial sentence length (ACSL), which excludes life and indeterminate sentences, has increased in each year since September 2006. In the 12 months ending September 2014 it was 15.8 months, compared with 15.3 months in the previous 12 month period and 12.3 months in the 12 months ending September 2006. Several factors have contributed to this increase:

- A change in the case-mix of people getting custodial sentences. In the 12 months ending September 2004, indictable offences (which have a higher ACSL compared to summary offences) accounted for 75% of all immediate custodial sentences, compared to 84% in the latest period.
- The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act (CJIA) in 2008 restricted the use of Indeterminate sentences for Public Protection (IPPs). This coincided with an increase in determinate sentences of 10 years or more.
- The LASPO Act, which was passed on 3rd December 2012, abolished IPPs and replaced them with new Extended Determinate Sentences (EDS). Unlike IPPs, EDS are included in ACSL calculation. Furthermore it legislated that adult offenders will receive mandatory life sentences for a second serious sexual or violent offence.
- Between 12 months ending September 2006 and September 2014, there has been a steady decrease in the proportion of offenders sentenced to short sentences of more than three and up to six months (from 26% to 19%); while there has been an increase in the proportion of offenders sentenced to more than 18 months and up to three years (from 11% to 13%).

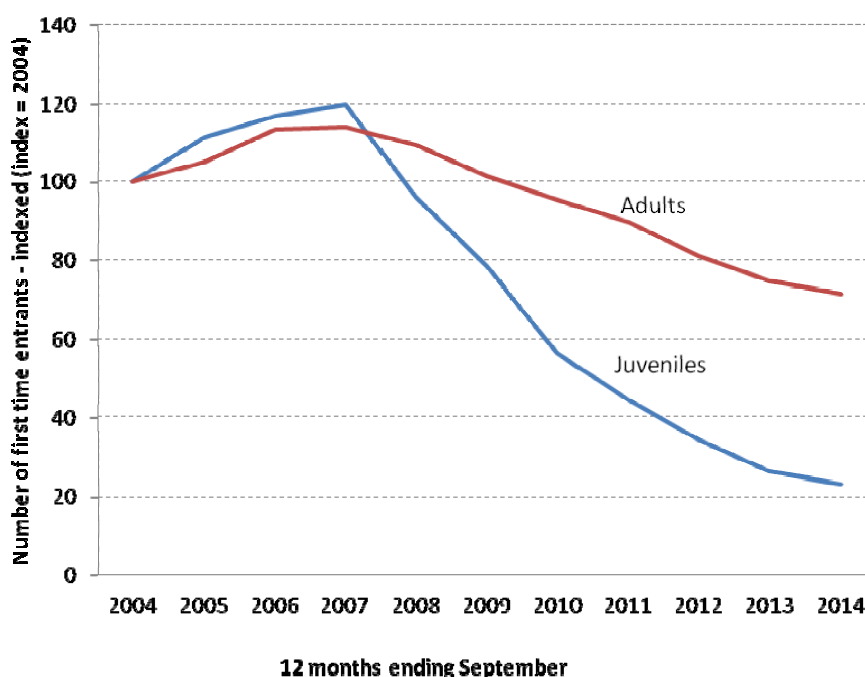
The ACSL for Indictable Offences rose by 0.6 months compared to the previous year, from 17.8 months to 18.4 months and has risen from 15.9 months in year ending September 2004. There was no change in the ACSL for Summary motoring and Summary non motoring offences, where ACSL was 3.1 months and 2.6 months respectively. The greatest uplift in the ACSL compared with the previous year has been for indictable sexual offences, robbery offences and drug offences, which increased by 3.4, 2.6 and 1.7 months respectively. The ACSL for indictable sexual offences in the last 12 month period was 60.9 months, the highest of any offence group and a rise of 3.4 months, compared with year ending September 2013.

Due to recording issues, an estimate has been made, using both sentencing and prison population data, of the number of persons sentenced to immediate custody since 3rd December 2012 who were given an EDS. The best current estimate is that 1,201 offenders were sentenced to an EDS between 3rd December 2012 and 30th September 2014, with an ACSL of 8.1 years.

6. Offending Histories⁹

The number of new entrants¹⁰ to the criminal justice system has continued to fall since its peak in the 12 months ending September 2007. Whilst the number and proportion of convicted offenders who have long criminal records has been steadily increasing over the last 10 years. The reduction seen in the number of first time entrants has been much sharper for juveniles than for adults.

Figure 6.1 Change in number of juvenile and adult first time entrants to the criminal justice system, 12 months ending September 2004 (index=100) to 12 months ending September 2014



In the latest period, 12 months ending September 2014, just over 103,200 adult offenders convicted of an indictable offence had 15 or more previous cautions or convictions (long criminal records). Around 2 in every 5 adults convicted in the latest period had a long criminal record compared to just over a quarter in the same period 10 years ago. Despite having long criminal records there has been an 18% increase in adults receiving a suspended sentence following a conviction for an indictable offence. This increase has coincided with changes made under LASPO, which allowed judges to suspended custodial sentence of up to 2 years.

The majority of prolific offenders already have in excess of 15 previous offences on their record, whereas those progressing from their 15th to their 16th conviction or caution have been falling since 12 months ending September 2009. Whereas the group with the longest criminal records have on average 33 previous cautions or convictions stemming back over 19 years. This suggests that the increasing numbers of convictions for those with long criminal records are being driven by groups of

⁹ Data Sourced from Police National Computer.

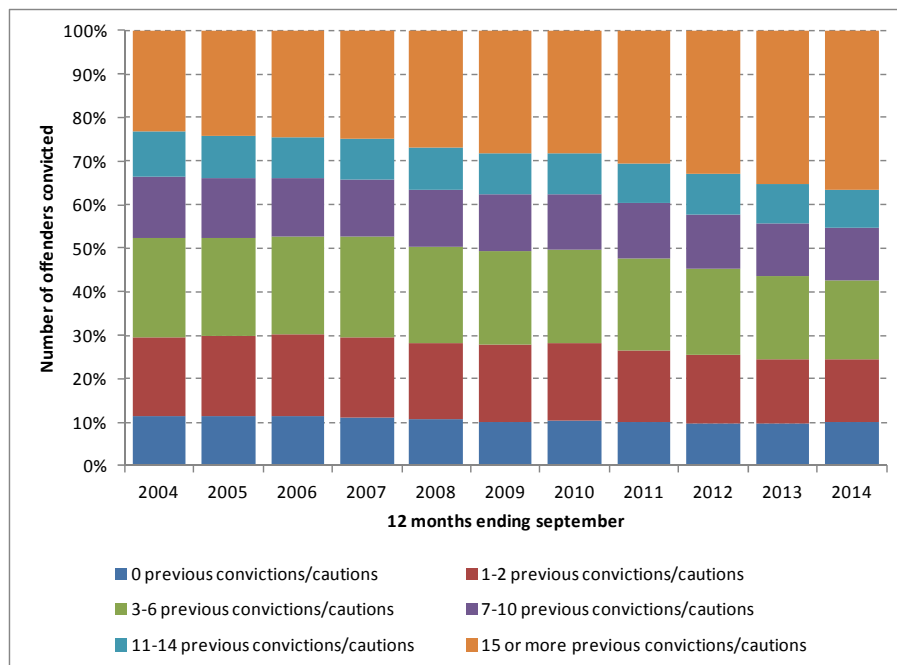
¹⁰ A first time entrant to the Criminal Justice System as an offender residing in England and Wales, who has received their first caution or conviction for an offence processed by a police force in England or Wales or by the British Transport Police.

offenders who already have in excess of 15 previous sanctions (on average around 33 previous sanctions) and not merely by those progressing from their 15th to their 16th offence.

The number of offenders with no previous convictions and cautions sentenced for indictable offences has increased by 4% in the latest period. This increase has been mainly driven by an increase of juvenile offenders with no previous convictions and cautions convicted for possession of weapons and public order offences (by 41% and 63% respectively).

Over the last four years, the proportion of offenders cautioned or convicted for recordable summary offences with no previous conviction or caution has remained stable at around 29%.

Figure 6.2 Percentage of offenders convicted of indictable offences, by number of previous convictions or cautions, 12 months ending September 2004 to 12 months ending September 2014



In the latest period 60% of those convicted of an indictable offence with 15 or more previous cautions and convictions were convicted for offences related to theft – by comparison, only 23% of those with no previous convictions or cautions were convicted for theft offences. Of those convicted for theft offences in the latest 12 months, around 49% of their first offence were for theft and around 51% of all their previous offences were also theft.

Of all those convicted for sexual offences in the last 12 months, around 46% of their first offences were for the same offence category and just 5% of all their previous were also sexual offences.

As might be expected, given that sentencing decisions will typically take into account previous offending history, the proportion of offenders receiving immediate custody for an indictable offence is higher for those groups of offenders with longer criminal histories. In the latest period, 39% of adults with 15 or more previous cautions or convictions received a custodial sentence for indictable offences compared to 12% for adults with no previous history of offending. The equivalent figures for juveniles were 39% and 1% respectively.

The most common disposal given in the latest period for offenders committing an indictable offence with no previous criminal history was a caution, with this accounting for 70% of juveniles in this group and 56% of adults.

Figure 6.3 Flow chart showing number of adult offenders cautioned and convicted for indictable offences in England and Wales in 12 months ending September 2014, by previous criminal history and type of disposal received

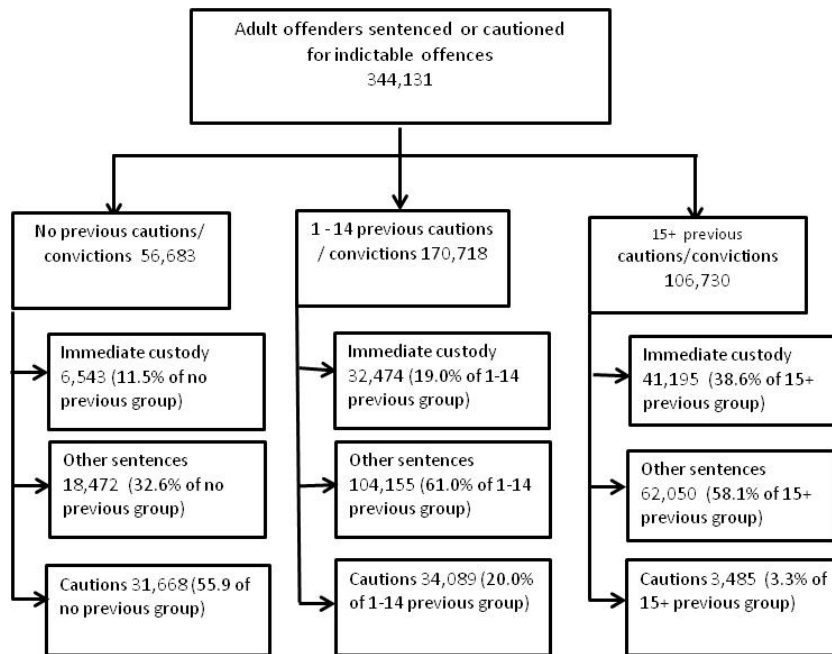
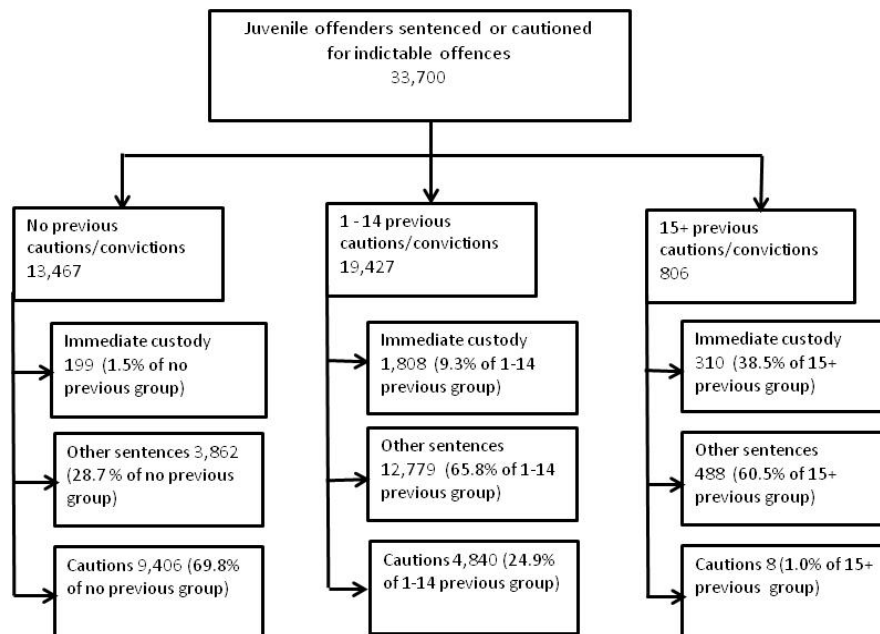
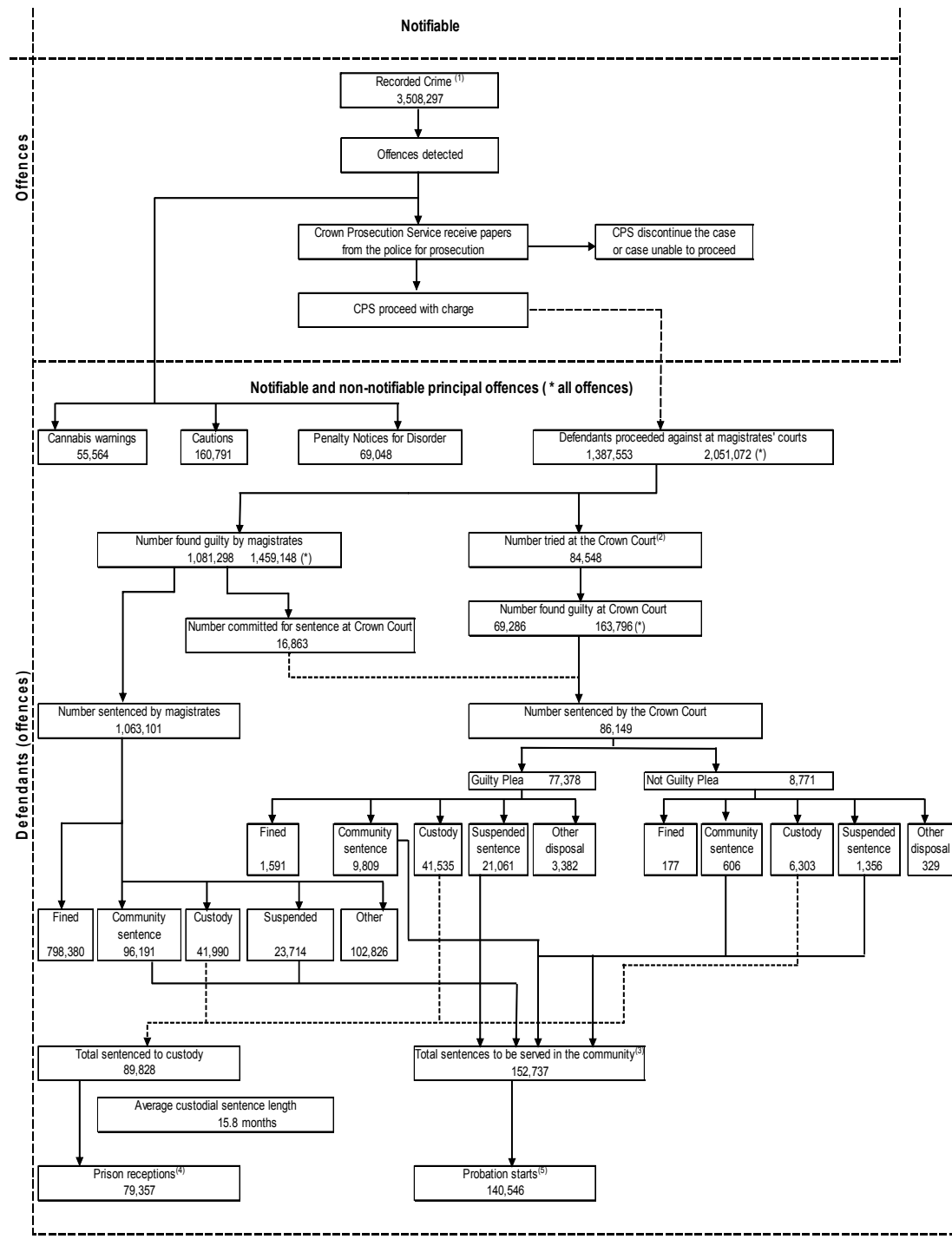


Figure 6.4 Flow chart showing number of juvenile offenders cautioned and convicted for indictable offences in England and Wales in 12 months ending September 2014, by previous criminal history and type of disposal received



Flows through the Criminal Justice System, 12 months ending September 2014



(1) Covers all indictable offences, including triable either way, plus a few closely associated summary offences.
 (2) Defendants tried at the Crown Court in a given year may have been committed for trial by a magistrate in a previous year.
 (3) Includes community sentences and suspended sentence orders.
 (4) Receptions for offenders given a custodial sentence (figures include fine defaulters).
 (5) Offenders starting Community Order or Suspended Sentence Order supervision by the Probation Service.
 * Total number of all offences in comparison with the total number of defendants on a principal offence basis.

Overview Tables

Table Q1.1 - Individuals entering the Criminal Justice System, 12 months ending September 2009 to 12 months ending September 2014

England and Wales	12 months ending						Percentage change 12 months ending September 2013 to September 2014
	September 2009	September 2010	September 2011	September 2012	September 2013	September 2014	
Out of court disposals	574,530	480,817	445,971	392,396	340,158	285,403	-16.1%
Cannabis warnings	98,086	84,535	80,697	72,172	65,994	55,564	-15.8%
Penalty Notices for Disorder ⁽¹⁾	174,720	145,686	130,270	112,535	89,936	69,048	-23.2%
Cautions	301,724	250,596	235,004	207,689	184,228	160,791	-12.7%
Defendants proceeded against	1,681,906	1,665,259	1,597,204	1,493,482	1,450,044	1,387,553	-4.3%
Indictable offences ⁽²⁾	413,133	433,089	429,849	387,588	363,984	341,746	-6.1%
Summary offences	1,268,773	1,232,170	1,167,355	1,105,894	1,086,060	1,045,807	-3.7%
Offenders convicted	1,400,417	1,375,491	1,328,278	1,244,886	1,187,299	1,150,584	-3.1%
Indictable offences	327,626	344,711	348,330	318,638	294,646	275,460	-6.5%
Summary offences	1,072,791	1,030,780	979,948	926,248	892,653	875,124	-2.0%
Prison receptions⁽³⁾	96,378	90,999	89,982	88,465	83,139	79,357	-4.5%
Probation starts⁽⁴⁾	169,823	166,917	162,467	151,793	145,847	140,546	-3.6%

(1) Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over. Penalty notices should no longer be available for persons aged under 18 from 8 April 2013.

(2) Indictable offences include those triable-either-way.

(3) Receptions for offenders given a custodial sentence (includes fine defaulters).

(4) Offenders starting Community Order or Suspended Sentence Order supervision by the Probation Service.

Table Q1.2 - Offenders sentenced by principal sentence, 12 months ending September 2009 to 12 months ending September 2014

England and Wales	12 months ending						Percentage change 12 months ending September 2013 to September 2014
	September 2009	September 2010	September 2011	September 2012	September 2013	September 2014	
Total offenders sentenced⁽¹⁾	1,398,752	1,373,317	1,326,966	1,243,431	1,184,982	1,149,250	-3.0%
Total persons sentenced⁽²⁾	1,390,057	1,365,372	1,319,638	1,236,820	1,178,522	1,142,918	-3.0%
Immediate custody (persons)	100,350	100,308	104,679	101,213	93,123	89,828	-3.5%
Suspended sentence (persons)	43,876	47,303	48,843	45,470	46,596	46,131	-1.0%
Community sentence (persons)	197,865	189,159	180,190	156,715	128,011	106,606	-16.7%
Fines (all offenders)	936,435	905,965	865,079	822,496	806,096	800,148	-0.7%
Other disposals (all offenders)	120,226	130,582	128,175	117,537	111,156	106,537	-4.2%
Average custodial sentence length (months) ⁽³⁾	13.4	13.8	14.1	14.5	15.3	15.8	0.5 months
Percentage of those sentenced							Percentage point change
Immediate custody (persons)	7.2	7.3	7.9	8.2	7.9	7.9	0.0
Suspended sentence (persons)	3.2	3.5	3.7	3.7	4.0	4.0	0.1
Community sentence (persons)	14.2	13.9	13.7	12.7	10.9	9.3	-1.5
Fines (all offenders)	67.4	66.4	65.6	66.5	68.4	70.0	1.6
Other disposals (all offenders)	8.6	9.6	9.7	9.5	9.4	9.3	-0.1

(1) The time lag between conviction and sentencing for cases committed for sentence at Crown Court can result in small differences between total offenders convicted and sentenced within reporting years.

(2) For sentences of immediate custody, suspended sentence and community sentence, 'persons' is the same as 'offenders', as 'others' (such as companies or public bodies) cannot receive these sentences.

(3) Average custodial sentence length excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

Table Q1.3 - Recorded crime and notifiable offence ⁽¹⁾ outcomes, 12 months ending September 2004 to 12 months ending September 2014

	12 months ending											Percentage change 12 months ending September 2013 to September 2014
	September 2004	September 2005	September 2006	September 2007	September 2008	September 2009	September 2010	September 2011	September 2012	September 2013	September ⁽²⁾ 2014	
Recorded crime ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	5,663,047	5,432,067	5,375,250	5,128,672	4,764,826	4,482,005	4,150,393	3,981,712	3,688,256	3,525,926	3,508,297	-0.5%
Out of court disposals	271,689	382,368	561,531	630,793	497,834	506,711	440,420	410,415	359,988	313,734	263,812	-15.9%
Cannabis warnings ⁽⁵⁾	73,245	93,198	106,930	98,086	84,535	80,697	72,172	65,994	55,564	-15.8%
Penalty Notices for Disorder ⁽⁶⁾	15,601	86,047	130,329	149,656	121,467	116,196	96,197	83,909	69,505	53,953	39,021	-27.7%
Cautions	256,088	296,321	357,957	387,939	269,437	292,429	259,688	245,809	218,311	193,787	169,227	-12.7%
Proceedings	1,106,530	1,031,217	983,038	985,654	959,820	989,635	1,019,472	996,596	929,162	875,537	832,316	-4.9%
Convictions	718,817	714,581	710,755	723,889	744,862	759,157	762,147	752,862	714,459	674,520	651,597	-3.4%
Offences taken into consideration ⁽⁷⁾	85,902	92,986	106,703	102,386	95,075	85,272	70,764	67,999	58,043	45,816	32,842	-28.3%
Proven offences ⁽⁷⁾	1,076,408	1,189,935	1,378,989	1,457,048	1,337,771	1,351,140	1,273,331	1,231,276	1,132,490	1,034,070	948,251	-8.3%

(1) Notifiable offences include the more serious types of crimes that can be tried in the Crown Court (i.e. indictable and triable either way offences), plus a few of the remaining crimes that can only be tried in the magistrates' courts (i.e. summary offences).

(2) The year to September 2014 figure for Cannabis warnings and offences taken into consideration, excludes data from the British Transport Police for April - June 2014, as this is not available.

(3) Data on recorded crime, cannabis warnings and offences taken into consideration are not classified as national statistics.

(4) Excludes fraud offences. Due to the staggered move of recording fraud offences by Police Forces to Action Fraud, crime figures are shown excluding fraud.

(5) Cannabis warning and offences taken into consideration figures are provisional and will be revised following Home Office validation. Financial year 2014/15 will be published in 2015 by the Home Office.

(6) Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over. Penalty notices should no longer be available for persons aged under 18 from 8 April 2013.

(7) Includes out of court disposals, convictions and offences taken into consideration.

Table Q1.4 - Recorded crime and notifiable offence ⁽¹⁾ outcomes by offence group, 12 months ending September 2013 and 12 months ending September 2014

Offence Group	12 months ending	Recorded crime ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	Cannabis warnings ⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	Penalty Notices for Disorder ⁽⁶⁾	Cautions	Proceedings	Convictions
Violence against the person	September 2013	604,123	-	-	64,821	197,425	134,018
	September 2014	699,832	-	-	58,101	195,575	134,641
Sexual offences ⁽⁷⁾	September 2013	59,608	-	-	1,601	30,199	19,690
	September 2014	72,977	-	-	1,310	33,046	20,049
Robbery	September 2013	61,843	-	-	151	14,357	10,104
	September 2014	53,080	-	-	90	12,203	8,078
Theft offences	September 2013	1,886,803	-	23,543	39,010	238,052	201,847
	September 2014	1,785,473	-	16,491	33,740	226,857	193,744
Criminal damage and arson	September 2013	518,368	-	2,593	22,090	64,617	51,369
	September 2014	497,466	-	1,529	20,130	59,882	48,001
Drug offences	September 2013	201,188	65,994	14,345	40,100	100,512	88,683
	September 2014	186,657	55,564	11,853	34,530	93,660	84,503
Possession of weapons offences	September 2013	20,160	-	-	3,753	22,470	16,438
	September 2014	20,942	-	-	2,980	21,408	16,426
Public order offences	September 2013	130,876	-	13,472	14,129	74,570	56,359
	September 2014	143,768	-	9,148	12,065	64,023	51,058
Miscellaneous crimes against society	September 2013	42,957	-	-	4,391	87,557	63,502
	September 2014	48,102	-	-	3,410	81,266	61,462
Fraud offences	September 2013	N/A	-	-	3,741	45,778	32,510
	September 2014	N/A	-	-	2,871	44,396	33,635
Total notifiable offences	September 2013	3,525,926	65,994	53,953	193,787	875,537	674,520
	September 2014	3,508,297	55,564	39,021	169,227	832,316	651,597

(1) Notifiable offences include the more serious types of crimes that can be tried in the Crown Court (i.e. indictable and triable either way offences), plus a few of the remaining crimes that can only be tried in the magistrates courts (i.e. summary offences).

(2) Data on recorded crime and cannabis warnings are not classified as national statistics.

(3) Excludes fraud offences. Due to the staggered move of recording fraud offences by Police Forces to Action Fraud, crime figures are shown excluding fraud.

(4) The year to September 2014 figure for Cannabis warnings excludes one quarter of data from British Transport Police for April - June 2014, as this is not available.

(5) Cannabis warning are provisional and will be revised following Home Office validation. Financial year 2014/15 will be published in 2015 by the Home Office.

(6) Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over. Penalty notices should no longer be available for persons aged under 18 from 8 April 2013.

(7) Conviction ratios are calculated as the number of convictions as a proportion of the number of proceedings. This gives a measure of the relative number of defendants who are found guilty within a given year for a certain offence, when compared with the number who are prosecuted that year for the same offence. It is worth noting that offenders found guilty in a given year may well have been proceeded against in a previous year. For offences that take longer to go through the courts (such as sexual offences) the conviction ratio may not tell the full story.

Table Q1.5 - Summary of criminal justice statistics, 12 months ending September 2004 to 12 months ending September 2014

England and Wales	12 months ending											Thousands
												Percentage change 12 months ending
	Sep-04	Sep-05	Sep-06	Sep-07	Sep-08	Sep-09	Sep-10	Sep-11	Sep-12	Sep-13	Sep-14	September 2013 to September 2014
Crime measured by Crime Survey for England and Wales ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	10,941	10,690	11,138	10,811	10,523	9,930	9,348	9,689	8,748	7,921	7,026	-11.3%
Notifiable offences												
- offences recorded by the police ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	5,663	5,432	5,375	5,129	4,765	4,482	4,150	3,982	3,688	3,526	3,508	-0.5%
Number of offenders cautioned ⁽⁵⁾	254	284	339	367	338	302	251	235	208	184	161	-12.7%
of which for indictable offences ⁽⁶⁾	155	174	201	209	188	165	138	127	109	96	81	-15.8%
Number of offenders issued Penalty Notices for Disorder	..	131	188	214	183	175	146	130	113	90	69	-23.2%
of which for indictable offences ⁽⁶⁾	..	17	34	46	44	58	55	51	46	38	28	-25.2%
Number of offences detected by means of cannabis warnings (all indictable) ⁽³⁾⁽⁷⁾⁽⁸⁾	73	93	107	98	85	81	72	66	56	-15.8%
Defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts	2,060	1,917	1,807	1,742	1,657	1,682	1,665	1,597	1,493	1,450	1,388	-4.3%
of which for indictable offences ⁽⁶⁾	471	423	414	403	397	413	433	430	388	364	342	-6.1%
Defendants found guilty at magistrates' courts	1,505	1,439	1,378	1,352	1,304	1,325	1,292	1,246	1,171	1,120	1,081	-3.4%
of which for indictable offences ⁽⁶⁾	266	251	252	248	249	256	266	270	248	230	209	-9.1%
Defendants sentenced at the Crown Court after summary conviction	16	17	18	16	18	18	17	20	21	19	17	-9.3%
Defendants tried at the Crown Court	78	76	75	80	86	93	104	103	91	83	85	2.2%
Defendants found guilty at the Crown Court	60	59	58	63	69	75	83	83	74	67	69	2.7%
of which for indictable offences ⁽⁶⁾	57	57	55	60	66	71	79	78	70	65	66	2.7%
Total offenders found guilty at both courts	1,565	1,498	1,436	1,415	1,373	1,400	1,375	1,328	1,245	1,187	1,151	-3.1%
of which for indictable offences ⁽⁶⁾	323	307	307	308	315	328	345	348	319	295	275	-6.5%
Total offenders found guilty or cautioned ⁽⁵⁾	1,819	1,782	1,775	1,782	1,711	1,702	1,626	1,563	1,453	1,372	1,311	-4.4%
of which for indictable offences ⁽⁶⁾	479	482	508	517	503	493	483	475	428	391	357	-8.8%
Total sentenced (offenders)	1,564	1,496	1,435	1,414	1,372	1,399	1,373	1,327	1,243	1,185	1,149	-3.0%
Magistrates' court	1,488	1,420	1,358	1,335	1,285	1,306	1,273	1,224	1,149	1,099	1,063	-3.3%
Crown Court	76	76	76	79	87	93	101	103	94	86	86	0.1%
Sentence												
Custody	107	103	98	93	100	100	100	105	101	93	90	-3.5%
Suspended Sentence	3	6	29	39	42	44	47	49	45	47	46	-1.0%
Community Sentence	199	203	195	194	191	198	189	180	157	128	107	-16.7%
Fine	1,099	1,041	973	948	896	936	906	865	822	806	800	-0.7%
Other Sentences	157	143	140	140	145	120	131	128	118	111	107	-4.2%

(1) The offenders dealt with outside of court and defendants proceeded against at magistrates' court in a given year may not relate to the same cases measured by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (known until 1 April 2012 as the British Crime Survey) or those recorded to the police within the same year. The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months prior to interview. Further, offenders found guilty in a given year may have been proceeded against in an earlier year.

(2) In 2014 ONS completed a re-weighting programme which incorporated using Census 2011 population estimates and made small changes to the method (see [methodological paper](#) for more information). The re-weighting was carried out for all financial year datasets and the year ending September 2010, all other time periods have not been re-weighted and still use pre Census 2011 population estimates.

(3) Data on recorded crime and cannabis warnings are not classified as national statistics.

(4) Excludes fraud offences. Due to the staggered move of recording fraud offences by Police Forces to Action Fraud, crime figures are shown excluding fraud.

(5) Cautions, written warnings and all fixed penalties for summary motoring offences are not covered in this volume but are published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 'Motoring offences and breath tests'.

(6) Indictable offences include those triable-either-way.

(7) Cannabis warning figures are provisional and will be revised following Home Office validation. Financial year 2014/15 will be published in 2015 by the Home Office.

(8) The year to September 2014 figure for Cannabis warnings and offences taken into consideration, excludes data from the British Transport Police for April - June 2014, as this is not available.

Table Q1.6 - "Proven Offenders" in the criminal justice system, by offence group and outcomes, 12 months ending September 2013 and 12 months ending September 2014

England and Wales

Offence Group	12 months ending	Cannabis warnings ⁽¹⁾	Penalty Notices for Disorder ⁽²⁾	Cautions	Proceedings	Convictions	Conviction Ratio (%) ⁽³⁾	Proven Offenders ⁽⁴⁾	Sentenced ⁽⁵⁾	Discharged	Fine	Community Sentence	Suspended Sentence	Otherwise dealt with	Custody	Custody Rate (%) ⁽⁶⁾	Average Custodial Sentence Length (months) ⁽⁷⁾
Violence against the person	Sep-13	-	-	8,809	34,787	24,374	70.1	33,183	24,105	889	1,347	4,266	5,374	1,781	10,448	43.3	24.6
	Sep-14	-	-	7,394	36,299	25,056	69.0	32,450	24,843	955	1,499	3,559	5,884	2,232	10,714	43.1	23.6
Sexual offences	Sep-13	-	-	1,424	10,002	5,679	56.8	7,103	5,649	90	122	1,403	547	114	3,373	59.7	57.5
	Sep-14	-	-	1,166	11,107	5,973	53.8	7,139	5,962	92	124	1,438	621	120	3,567	59.8	60.9
Robbery	Sep-13	-	-	146	10,283	7,142	69.5	7,288	7,146	24	28	1,980	516	84	4,514	63.2	38.3
	Sep-14	-	-	82	9,032	5,755	63.7	5,837	5,769	13	2	1,394	447	116	3,797	65.8	40.9
Theft and handling stolen goods	Sep-13	-	23,543	32,885	139,986	121,959	87.1	178,387	120,957	22,144	16,309	33,457	10,412	7,129	31,506	26.0	9.2
	Sep-14	-	16,491	28,178	130,625	113,275	86.7	157,944	112,720	21,567	16,980	25,388	9,561	9,429	29,795	26.4	9.2
Criminal damage and Arson	Sep-13	-	-	3,014	6,052	4,594	75.9	7,608	4,501	877	593	1,630	306	344	751	16.7	25.9
	Sep-14	-	-	1,645	3,598	2,563	71.2	4,208	2,534	407	262	757	237	245	626	24.7	25.1
Drug offences	Sep-13	65,994	14,345	36,653	63,575	57,316	90.2	174,308	56,583	9,737	20,854	9,938	4,785	2,278	8,991	15.9	30.3
	Sep-14	55,564	11,853	31,631	57,440	51,942	90.4	150,990	51,486	8,637	19,680	7,270	5,302	1,794	8,803	17.1	32.0
Possession of weapons offences	Sep-13	-	-	3,355	13,451	9,985	74.2	13,340	9,883	527	797	3,644	2,042	307	2,566	26.0	13.3
	Sep-14	-	-	2,696	12,720	9,529	74.9	12,225	9,499	506	786	3,222	2,024	344	2,617	27.6	13.3
Public order offences	Sep-13	-	-	3,090	16,920	15,837	93.6	18,927	15,784	1,024	2,701	2,633	2,374	2,294	4,758	30.1	7.4
	Sep-14	-	-	2,811	17,105	16,685	97.5	19,496	16,584	1,168	2,986	2,440	2,668	2,501	4,821	29.1	7.1
Miscellaneous crimes against society	Sep-13	-	-	3,838	53,010	35,655	67.3	39,493	35,529	2,861	10,196	6,940	4,286	2,735	8,511	24.5	9.5
	Sep-14	-	-	3,006	47,492	31,915	67.2	34,921	31,833	2,145	8,852	5,631	4,515	2,590	8,100	26.0	10.3
Fraud offences	Sep-13	-	-	3,201	15,918	12,105	76.0	15,306	11,916	1,061	1,098	3,944	3,037	226	2,550	21.4	15.0
	Sep-14	-	-	2,580	16,328	12,767	78.2	15,347	12,590	1,394	1,446	4,181	2,937	275	2,357	18.7	15.2
Indictable offences ⁽⁸⁾	Sep-13	65,994	37,888	96,415	363,984	294,646	81.0	494,943	292,053	39,234	54,045	69,835	33,679	17,292	77,968	26.8	17.8
	Sep-14	55,564	28,344	81,189	341,746	275,460	80.6	440,557	273,820	36,884	52,617	55,280	34,196	19,646	75,197	27.5	18.4
Summary non-motoring	Sep-13	-	52,048	87,813	551,475	438,287	79.5	578,148	438,482	39,120	322,384	47,054	9,287	8,192	12,445	2.8	2.6
	Sep-14	-	40,704	79,602	520,930	419,375	80.5	539,681	419,648	35,676	312,623	41,862	8,726	8,647	12,114	2.9	2.6
Summary motoring offences	Sep-13	-	-	-	534,585	454,366	85.0	454,366	454,447	5,373	429,667	11,122	3,630	1,945	2,710	0.6	3.1
	Sep-14	-	-	-	524,877	455,749	86.8	455,749	455,782	3,994	434,908	9,464	3,209	1,690	2,517	0.6	3.1
Summary Offences	Sep-13	-	52,048	87,813	1,086,060	892,653	82.2	1,032,514	892,929	44,493	752,051	58,176	12,917	10,137	15,155	1.7	2.7
	Sep-14	-	40,704	79,602	1,045,807	875,124	83.7	995,430	875,430	39,670	747,531	51,326	11,935	10,337	14,631	1.7	2.7
All Offences	Sep-13	65,994	89,936	184,228	1,450,044	1,187,299	81.9	1,527,457	1,184,982	83,727	806,096	128,011	46,596	27,429	93,123	7.9%	15.3
	Sep-14	55,564	69,048	160,791	1,387,553	1,150,584	82.9	1,435,987	1,149,250	76,554	800,148	106,606	46,131	29,983	89,828	7.9%	15.8

(1) Data on cannabis warnings are not classified as national statistics. The year to June 2014 figure for Cannabis warnings excludes data from the British Transport Police for April - June 2014, as this is not available.

(2) Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over.

(3) Conviction ratios are calculated as the number of convictions as a proportion of the number of proceedings. This gives a measure of the relative number of defendants who are found guilty within a given year for a certain offence, when compared with the number who are prosecuted that year for the same offence. It is worth noting that offenders found guilty in a given year may well have been proceeded against in a previous year. For offences that take longer to go through the courts (such as sexual offences) the conviction ratio may not tell the full story.

(4) Defendants who have been proven to have committed an offence (includes convictions, cautions, cannabis warnings and Penalty Notices for Disorder).

(5) Figures are based on defendants sentenced each year. Some of those sentenced may have been found guilty in a previous year so the number of offenders sentenced may exceed the number of guilty defendants.

(6) Custody rate is calculated as the proportion of the total number of persons sentenced who are sentenced to immediate custody.

(7) Average custodial sentence length excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

(8) Indictable offences include those triable-either-way.

Table 1.7 - Number of offences brought to justice (notifiable¹) across Local Criminal Justice Board areas, 12 months ending September 2013 to 12 Months ending September 2014⁽²⁾

CJS Areas	Number of offences (thousands)													
	Recorded Crime ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾		Penalty Notice for Disorder		Cannabis Warnings ⁽³⁾⁽⁵⁾⁽⁸⁾		Cautions		Convictions		Offences Taken into Consideration		Offences Brought to Justice ⁽⁷⁾	
	12 Month ending Sept 2013	12 Month ending Sept 2014	12 months ending Sept 2013	12 months ending Sept 2014	12 months ending Sept 2013	12 months ending Sept 2014	12 months ending Sept 2013	12 months ending Sept 2014	12 months ending Sept 2013	12 months ending Sept 2014	12 months ending Sept 2013	12 months ending Sept 2014	12 months ending Sept 2013	12 months ending Sept 2014
England & Wales	3,525.9	3,508.3	54.0	39.0	66.0	55.6	193.8	169.2	674.5	651.6	45.8	32.8	1,034.1	948.3
Avon & Somerset	96.0	96.4	1.5	0.8	2.1	1.3	6.8	6.1	21.0	19.4	2.3	1.7	33.6	29.3
Bedfordshire	35.5	38.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	1.9	1.7	6.2	6.1	0.7	0.5	9.5	8.9
British Transport Police	51.0	46.8	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.3	3.0	2.6	0.1 ⁽⁸⁾	0.1 ⁽⁸⁾	0.1	0.1	5.9	5.2
Cambridgeshire	43.6	45.7	0.9	0.6	1.2	0.9	2.1	1.9	7.8	7.5	0.6	1.0	12.7	11.8
Cheshire	56.8	52.8	0.6	0.4	0.9	0.9	2.5	2.2	11.4	12.5	0.4	0.4	15.9	16.4
Cleveland	39.8	38.0	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	3.2	2.3	11.6	9.9	0.4	0.4	16.2	13.4
Cumbria	24.0	23.9	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	2.0	1.7	7.3	7.3	0.1	0.1	10.1	9.7
Derbyshire	51.9	52.2	0.7	0.6	1.0	1.0	2.4	2.1	10.5	11.2	0.5	0.5	15.1	15.4
Devon & Cornwall	86.0	82.0	0.9	0.6	1.8	1.6	5.6	5.0	14.0	13.6	1.1	1.1	23.4	21.9
Dorset	38.8	35.9	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.5	1.9	1.8	6.6	6.9	0.3	0.4	9.8	9.8
Co. Durham & Darlington	30.8	33.4	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.4	3.1	2.9	7.7	8.2	0.6	0.6	12.4	12.6
Dyfed Powys	18.4	18.6	0.6	0.4	0.9	0.8	3.3	2.3	6.2	5.7	0.0	0.1	11.1	9.4
Essex	99.2	99.9	1.3	1.0	1.5	1.2	5.8	5.0	18.5	18.3	1.1	0.8	28.2	26.4
Gloucestershire	29.6	29.4	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.3	1.5	1.3	5.3	5.1	0.4	0.6	7.8	7.4
Greater Manchester	178.3	189.4	1.8	0.8	2.8	2.0	6.8	5.9	39.9	38.1	2.1	1.6	53.4	48.4
Gwent	34.7	35.8	1.0	0.8	0.4	0.3	3.1	2.2	8.8	7.1	0.3	0.2	13.6	10.5
Hampshire & Isle of Wight	104.4	101.5	1.6	1.2	2.4	2.0	5.3	4.8	22.6	21.4	1.1	0.8	33.0	30.2
Hertfordshire	50.6	54.8	1.9	1.5	1.7	1.7	4.4	3.8	12.3	11.2	1.2	0.8	21.4	19.1
Humberside	64.0	66.6	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.5	3.1	2.4	15.2	14.1	1.1	0.5	20.9	18.2
Kent	104.3	111.8	2.3	1.3	1.0	0.9	7.3	5.4	17.9	18.5	1.5	0.7	30.0	26.8
Lancashire	93.6	94.4	1.5	0.9	1.0	0.9	5.6	3.8	24.0	22.5	1.7	0.7	33.8	28.8
Leicestershire	59.2	60.4	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.9	3.6	3.1	10.5	10.1	1.1	1.0	16.9	15.5
Lincolnshire	36.4	35.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.1	2.0	7.4	6.6	0.5	0.4	11.2	9.9
London	722.7	699.4	9.0	7.3	17.7	17.7	31.7	30.6	104.5	100.5	7.6	3.0	173.1	159.1
Merseyside	90.9	95.3	3.2	2.5	2.6	2.6	3.6	3.4	20.4	20.7	0.5	0.5	30.3	29.6
Norfolk	37.6	41.4	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.8	3.5	3.2	9.7	10.1	1.0	1.0	15.6	15.6
North Wales	36.4	36.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.2	2.0	8.9	9.1	0.3	0.3	12.6	12.4
North Yorkshire	34.3	34.6	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.7	1.7	1.9	8.9	8.9	0.3	0.2	12.0	12.0
Northamptonshire	43.2	42.8	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.5	2.5	2.5	7.3	6.6	0.8	0.7	11.5	10.5
Northumbria	69.9	69.2	1.1	0.7	1.2	1.0	6.5	6.2	20.4	19.3	1.0	0.7	30.3	28.0
Nottinghamshire	69.1	69.7	0.3	0.2	1.4	1.1	5.6	3.8	13.1	14.0	0.9	0.6	21.4	19.6
South Wales	83.7	86.7	1.9	1.6	1.2	0.9	4.7	4.2	21.9	21.4	2.2	1.3	32.0	29.4
South Yorkshire	92.8	93.2	1.7	1.1	0.9	0.8	3.3	3.3	16.5	17.1	1.9	1.5	24.4	23.8
Staffordshire	58.2	59.4	1.0	0.6	1.1	0.8	3.2	2.6	10.6	11.3	0.7	0.4	16.6	15.7
Suffolk	38.2	35.8	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.6	2.4	1.9	8.2	8.4	0.6	0.4	12.3	11.4
Surrey	50.8	48.0	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.0	2.1	2.2	9.1	8.5	0.3	0.4	13.7	13.0
Sussex	85.3	86.1	0.8	0.7	- ⁽⁹⁾	- ⁽⁹⁾	5.9	5.1	16.6	14.9	0.3	0.2	- ⁽⁹⁾	- ⁽⁹⁾
Thames Valley	131.3	122.1	3.3	2.2	1.8	1.6	7.2	6.6	21.8	19.5	1.5	1.1	35.5	31.0
Warwickshire	29.0	27.1	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2	1.8	1.4	3.9	4.2	0.5	0.3	7.1	6.3
West Mercia	57.7	58.5	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.8	4.1	3.2	11.1	11.0	0.2	0.1	16.9	15.6
West Midlands	172.4	174.2	1.9	1.4	1.2	0.9	5.8	5.2	34.1	34.2	1.0	0.7	44.0	42.4
West Yorkshire	162.8	152.3	2.0	1.2	1.7	1.4	7.4	7.2	28.5	25.1	4.7	4.3	44.4	39.2
Wiltshire	32.7	32.1	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	2.0	0.9	6.2	5.8	0.4	0.3	9.5	7.8

(1) Notifiable offences include the more serious types of crimes that can be tried in the Crown Court (i.e. indictable and triable either way offences), plus a few of the remaining crimes that can only be tried in the magistrates courts (i.e. summary offences).

(2) The number of Offences Brought to Justice (OBTJ) is in part affected by the number of recorded crimes in an area.

(3) Data on recorded crime, cannabis warnings and offences taken into consideration are not classified as national statistics.

(4) Excludes fraud offences. Due to the staggered move of recording fraud offences by Police Forces to Action Fraud, crime figures are shown excluding fraud.

(5) Cannabis warning and offences taken into consideration figures are provisional and will be revised following Home Office validation. Financial year 2014/15 will be published in 2015 by the Home Office.

(6) The year to September 2014 figure for Cannabis warnings and offences taken into consideration, excludes data from the British Transport Police for April - June 2014, as this is not available.

(7) Includes out of court disposals, convictions and offences taken into consideration.

(8) Offences brought to justice for the British Transport Police exclude the majority of convictions for this police force as their convictions are mostly included within the local police force area based on their Local Justice Area. For this reason it is not appropriate to compare offences brought to justice for the British Transport Police with other police force areas.

(9) The number of cannabis warnings in Sussex in the 12 months to September 2013 and 12 months to September 2014 have not been shown. Due to the cumulative nature of the data collection within financial year, Forces' figures are correct when looking at full financial years. However, within year adjustments to Q4 of the financial year 2013/14 mean that meaningful figures for the 12 months to September 2013 and 12 months ending September 2014 can't be given.

Annex A: Further Information Available

This publication is accompanied by a range of Excel spreadsheet workbooks which contain the following information:

- Overview Tables: (Includes a range of summary Criminal Justice System tables and information by notifiable offences).
- Out of Court Disposal Tables: (Includes statistical information on penalty notices for disorder, cautions and cautioning rates).
- Court Proceeding Tables: (Includes statistical information on proceedings, remands, trials and failure to appear warrants).
- Conviction Tables: (Includes statistical information on convictions and conviction ratios).
- Sentencing Tables (Includes statistical information on sentencing outcomes).
- Offending Histories Tables: (Includes statistical information on histories of offenders and first time offenders)
- Offending Histories Data Tool: (The data tool can be used to interrogate information on histories of offenders and first time offenders over last decade).

A technical document titled “A Guide to Criminal Justice Statistics” is available alongside this publication, which provides users with detailed information on the concepts and methods used in its compilation.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly

The calendar year end publication which is published in May each year contains more information than the quarterly updates.

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly-december-2013.

Additional information published includes:

- CJS Outcomes by Offence 2009 to 2013 (pivot table)
- Motoring Tables / Supplementary Motoring Tables
- Outcomes by Offence Table
- All Courts and Cautions (csv)
- Magistrates’ Court (csv)
- Crown Court (csv)
- Sentencing (csv)
- Record Level (csv)
- Penalty Notices For Disorder by Police Force Area (csv)
- Cautions by Police Force Area (csv)
- Court Outcomes by Police force Area (csv)

Annex B: Revisions Policy

In accordance with Principle 2 of the Code of Practice for Office Statistics, the Ministry of Justice is required to publish transparent guidance on its policy for revisions. A copy of this statement can be found at:

www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/statistics/moistats/statistics-revisions-policy.pdf

The Ministry of Justice aims to avoid the need for revisions to publications unless they are absolutely necessary and put systems and processes in place to minimise the number of revisions.

Within the Ministry of Justice's statistical publications there can be three main reasons for statistics to be revised:

- Changes in how either source administrative systems collect information or a change in statistical methodology to improve accuracy and measurement.
- Receipt of subsequent information which alters our understanding of previous periods (for example – late recording on one of the administrative IT systems used operationally).
- Errors in our statistical systems and processes.

Our policy in handling revisions is to be transparent with users about:

- The need for revisions.
- How and when to expect revisions as part of our standard processes.
- The processes by which other revisions will be communicated and published.

To meet these commitments, all of our statistical publications will:

- Ensure that the need for major revisions for any series are pre-announced on the Ministry of Justice website.
- Include a detailed revisions policy within every release.
- Detail how users will be informed of the need for revisions.
- Give detailed and full explanations as to why the revisions were necessary.

In addition, the annual report from the Head of Profession to the National Statistician will:

- Provide information on how many revisions were required to our publications and the reasons for these.
- Publish a time-series of revisions due to errors in our statistical processes and procedures so we can monitor the quality of our outputs.

Annex C: Explanatory Notes

The statistics in this bulletin relate to cases in the Crown Court and magistrates' courts in England and Wales during 12 months ending September 2014. This bulletin subsumes a number of previous bulletins including Criminal Statistics: England & Wales, Quarterly Sentencing Statistics, and Young People aged 10-17 receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction.

Symbols and conventions

The following symbols have been used throughout the tables in this bulletin:

- = Nil
- * = Not applicable
- .. = Not available
- (R) = Revised data
- (P) = Provisional data

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