



Ministry
of Justice



Criminal court statistics quarterly, England and Wales

April to June 2015

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

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Introduction

The statistical bulletin

This is the fourth edition of the statistical bulletin, Criminal court statistics quarterly (CCSQ) presenting statistics relating to activity in criminal cases in the magistrates' courts and the Crown Court in England and Wales. These statistics were previously published within Court Statistics Quarterly which, after consultation, has been split into separate policy focused publications.

The publication provides provisional figures for the latest quarter (April to June 2015) and annual figures for 2014 with accompanying commentary and analysis. The figures themselves give a summary overview of the volume of cases dealt with by these courts over time. The statistics are used to monitor court workloads, to assist in the development of policy, and their subsequent monitoring and evaluation.

Information on the enforcement of financial impositions can be found in Annex A. The annex provides updated management information on the collection of financial imposition through Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS). Experimental statistics on legal representation of defendants can be found in Annex B. Management information on juror summons and the juror utilisation rate for 2014 is provided in Annex C.

Criminal Courts; an overview

Magistrates' courts

Virtually all criminal court cases start in the magistrates' courts. The less serious offences are handled entirely in magistrates' courts, with over 90% of all cases being dealt with in this way. The more serious offences are passed on to the Crown Court, either for sentencing after the defendant has been found guilty in the magistrates' court, or for trial with a judge and jury.

As part of wider measures in the justice system, committal hearings were abolished nationally¹ at the end of May 2013. As a result of the change, triable-either-way cases can now be sent straight to the Crown Court as soon as it is clear the matter is serious enough, rather than having to await a committal hearing.

The Crown Court

The Crown Court deals with cases received from the magistrates' courts for sentencing, trial or appeal against magistrates' courts' decision.

Of those proceeded against in the magistrates' courts, 7% of defendants are sent to the Crown Court for trial.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/news/faster-justice-as-unnecessary-committal-hearings-are-abolished

Triable-either-way cases can be sent to the Crown Court for trial if the magistrates' courts decide the matter is serious enough or if a defendant elects to be tried by judge and jury.

Indictable only cases can only be tried on indictment in the Crown Court as they cannot be heard summarily at the magistrates' courts.

Committed for sentence cases are transferred to the Crown Court for sentencing only after a defendant has been convicted in a magistrates' court. This would occur where a magistrate believes that their sentencing powers are insufficient to apply an appropriate sanction to the defendant.

In its appellate jurisdiction the Crown Court deals mainly with appeals against conviction and/or sentence in respect of criminal offences, including consequential orders, e.g. disqualification from driving, and against the making of certain stand alone orders, e.g. Anti-Social Behaviour Orders. The Crown Court may dismiss or allow the appeal and vary all or any part of the sentence. Appeals are usually heard by a Circuit Judge sitting with no more than four lay magistrates (normally two).

Average waiting time at the Crown Court

"Average waiting time" is the time between sending a case to the Crown Court and the start of the substantive hearing.

Average hearing time at the Crown Court

The 'average hearing time' relates to the average duration of all hearings heard in the Crown Court, including preliminary hearings, main hearings, and hearings where a sentence is given to a defendant.

Data and court processes

Information about the systems and data included in this publication can be found in the '**A guide to criminal court statistics**' which is published alongside this report. It also includes a **glossary** which provides brief definitions for the terms used in this report.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-criminal-court-statistics

Changes and revisions in this publication

Information on case types in magistrates' courts

The Ministry of Justice receives information from the magistrates' court database, Libra, via two different routes. Information on defendants feeds into the Court Proceedings Database (CPD) and underpins the Criminal Justice Statistics (CJS) quarterly publication. Information on caseload feeds into the Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Services' (HMCTS) Performance Database and underpins this publication, Criminal court statistics quarterly (CCSQ).

Prior to the publication of the CCSQ bulletin covering January to March 2015, a difference was identified between the way that certain offence types are classified within the two data sources of the CPD and the HMCTS Performance Database. This resulted in slightly different trends in the number of cases at sub group case type level when making comparisons between the two National Statistics publications.

The decision was made to delay the publication of a table, and exclude data broken down by case type in other tables, in that edition of CCSQ, while work was undertaken to investigate both data sources and devise a solution of how best to present the data in both publications. A statistical notice was released announcing this delay, available at:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/437732/ccsq-statistical-notice-january-march-2015.pdf

Investigative work has since been carried out and has confirmed that there is no reason to believe that there is any cause for concern regarding the underlying data. The apparent difference in trends has been identified as being due to a re-classification of certain offences in the HMCTS Performance Database to align more closely with legal definitions.

We are currently carrying out further analytical work to establish the feasibility of amending the classification of offences in the CPD to align with the classification system used in the HMCTS Performance Database. A report on that analytical work will be included in the annual publication of CJS in May 2016, along with any back revisions of statistics required to meet the recommendations of that report.

Release of annual Criminal court statistics quarterly tables

Annual tables for magistrates' courts and Crown Court, including tabulated breakdowns by region, are typically published in June each year as part of the CCSQ January to March publication. However, whilst attention was devoted to the investigative work on the magistrates' courts data outlined above, we delayed the production of these annual tables to allow us to publish a full set of annual tables once the solution had been identified. These annual tables have now been published

within this release – see Annex D for a full list of tables released (with tables prefixed by AM, AC and AT the annual tables referred to). Annual juror statistics are also included in tables prefixed J, with commentary included in Annex C of this bulletin.

Legal representation in the Crown Court

‘Annex B: Legal representation in the Crown Court’ is now included within the current publication rather than as a separate document. This will be included as part of each annual publication, with the next update scheduled for publication in June 2016 covering 2015 annual figures.

Changes to table names

Several tables have been renamed to emphasise that they are related to timeliness (e.g. ‘M5’ from the last quarterly publication is now ‘T1’). Table names are detailed in Annex D.

Key Findings

This report presents statistics relating to activity in criminal cases in the magistrates' courts and the Crown Court in England and Wales in the second quarter of 2015 (April to June). It also provides annual figures for 2014.

- At magistrates' courts, the number of disposals at Q2 2015 is now higher than receipts for the first time since Q3 2013.
- Following a steady increase in the number of outstanding cases in the Crown Court, there has been a small decrease since Q4 2014. This reflects that Crown Court receipts are continuing to decline, with a decrease of 8% over the past 12 months, whilst disposals are continuing to increase, with an increase of 4% over the same period.
- The overall number of days from first listing in the magistrates' courts to completion in the Crown Court has increased from 164 days to 204 days between Q2 2013 and Q2 2015. This 2015 figure is the highest throughout the time series. The amount of time spent at magistrates' courts fell substantially from 22 days to 5 days between 2013 and 2014, following the abolition of committal hearings, and this figure of 5 days has remained consistent over the past year.
- Average waiting times have continued to increase in trial cases since Q2 2014, but have remained fairly steady in non-trial cases. Over a longer period, triable-either-way cases and indictable only cases have increased by 5.7 weeks and 4.6 weeks respectively between Q2 2013 and Q2 2015.

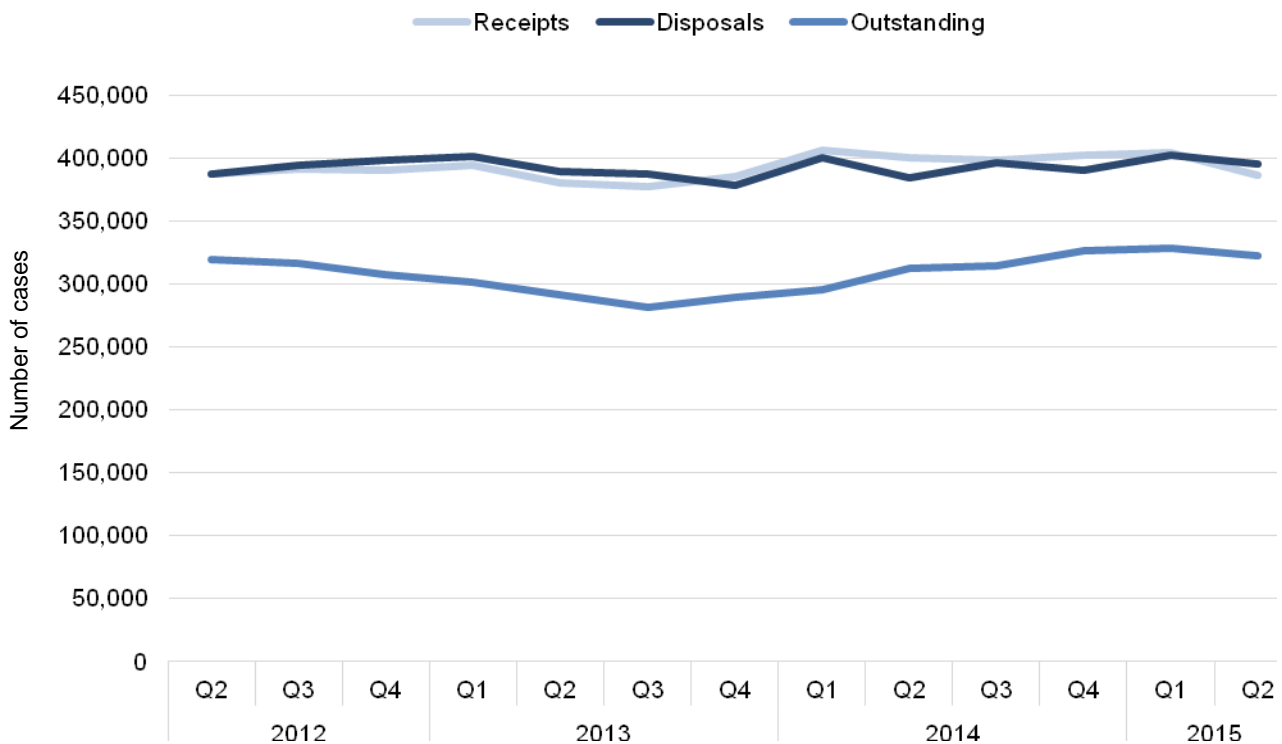
Criminal Courts

At the end of the fourth quarter of 2014, there were around 240 magistrates' courts and approximately 80 Crown Court locations across England and Wales.

1. Criminal cases in the magistrates' courts

Figure 1 below shows the magistrates' courts caseload for England and Wales.

Figure 1: Magistrates' courts caseload, Q2 2012 to Q2 2015



Receipts in the magistrates' courts (figure 1)

Following a rise in receipts in the magistrates' courts between Q3 2013 and Q1 2014, receipts remained stable up to early 2015. However, receipts have since decreased by 4% between Q1 2015 and Q2 2015.

Disposals (figure 1)

Disposals have fluctuated since 2013 and indicate a slight rise overall more recently; in Q2 2015 there was a 3% increase when compared to the same quarter in 2014. The number of disposals at Q2 2015 is now higher than receipts for the first time since Q3 2013.

Outstanding cases (figure 1)

The number of outstanding cases has risen since late 2013 and into 2015, increasing by 14% between Q3 2013 and Q2 2015. However since Q1 2015, the figure has slightly decreased by 2%.

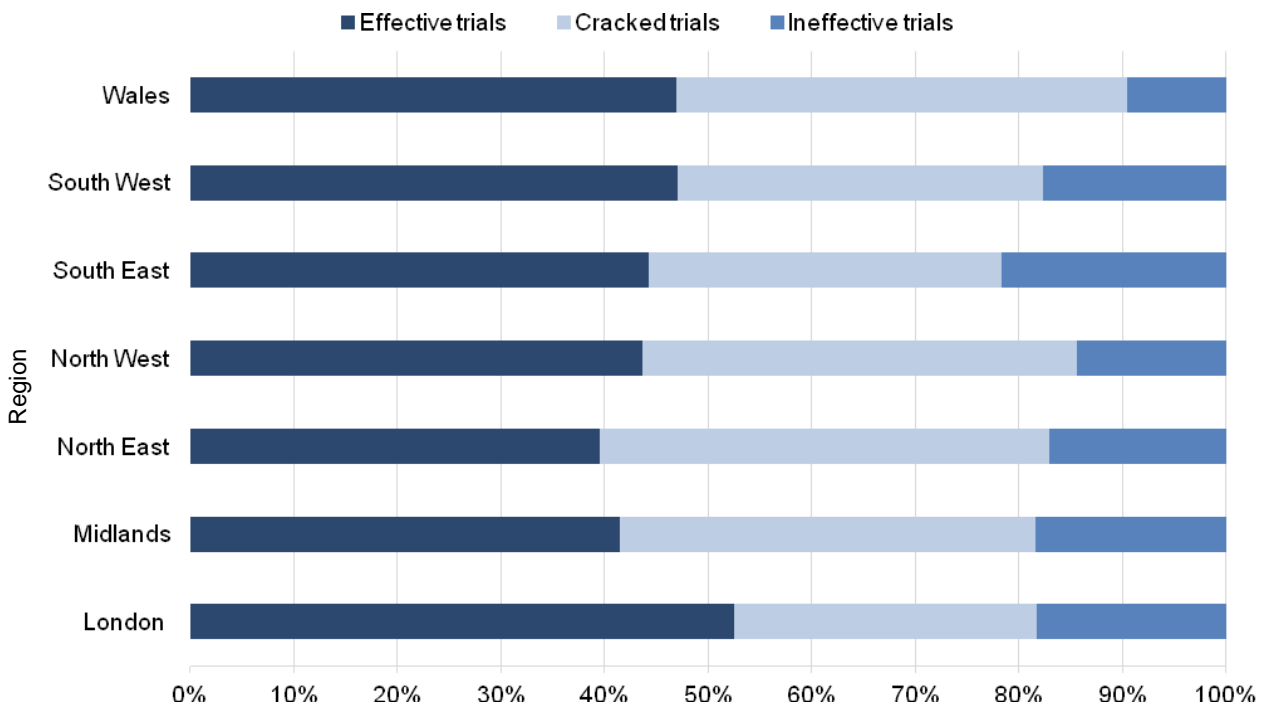
Annual table: effectiveness of magistrates' courts trials by region (figure 2)

In comparison to the other regions within England and Wales, London has the largest proportion of effective trials in 2014 (52%). It also has the lowest proportion of cracked trials (29%).

In contrast, the North East has the lowest proportion of effective trials (40%) and the highest proportion of cracked trials, joint with Wales (43%).

The South East has the greatest percentage of ineffective trials (22%) whereas Wales has the least (10%).

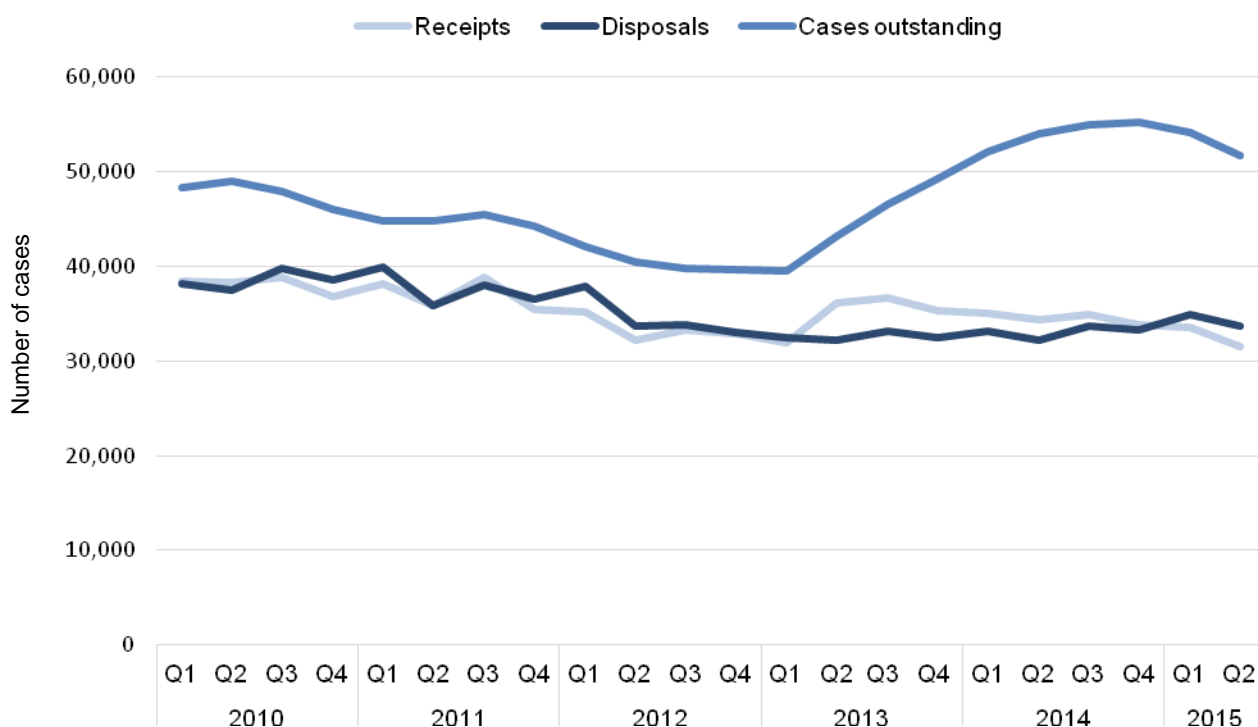
Figure 2: Effectiveness of magistrates' courts' trials in England and Wales by region, 2014



2. Criminal cases in the Crown Court

Figure 3 below shows the Crown Court caseload for England and Wales.

Figure 3: Crown Court caseload, Q1 2010 to Q2 2015



Receipts in the Crown Court (figure 3)

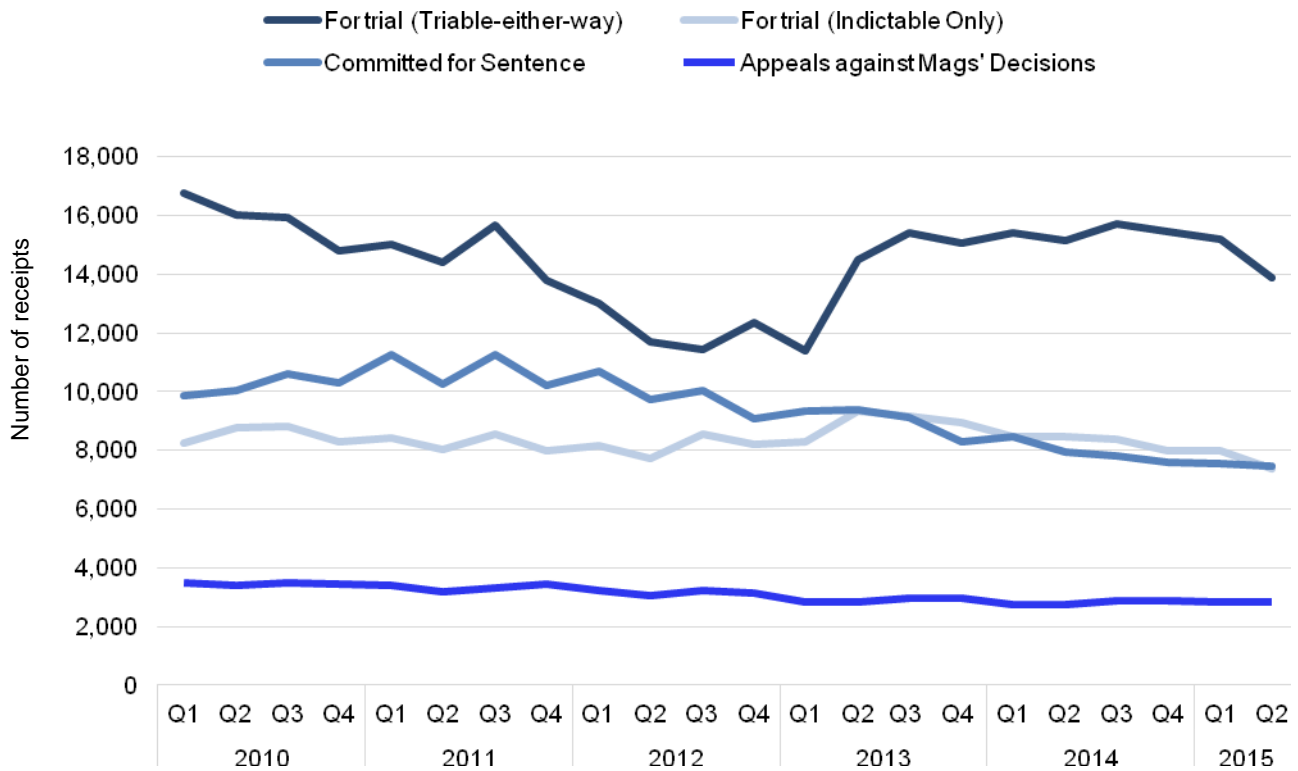
Following a peak in the number of cases received by the Crown Court in Q3 2013, there has been a downward trend in the overall number of receipts in the subsequent time periods. There were 31,566 cases received by the Crown Court in Q2 2015, a decrease of 8% since Q2 2014.

Receipts by case type (figure 4)

Triable-either-way cases had been increasing throughout 2013. They then steadied in 2014 followed by a decline in the most recent quarters, with an 8% drop over the last twelve months.

There have been downward trends in receipts for indictable only cases and for cases committed for sentence. Receipts for indictable only cases have decreased by 13% between Q2 2014 and Q2 2015, whilst cases committed for sentence decreased by 6% over the same period. Both indictable only cases and cases committed for sentence decreased by 21% between Q2 2013 and Q2 2015.

Figure 4: Crown Court receipts by case type, Q1 2010 to Q2 2015



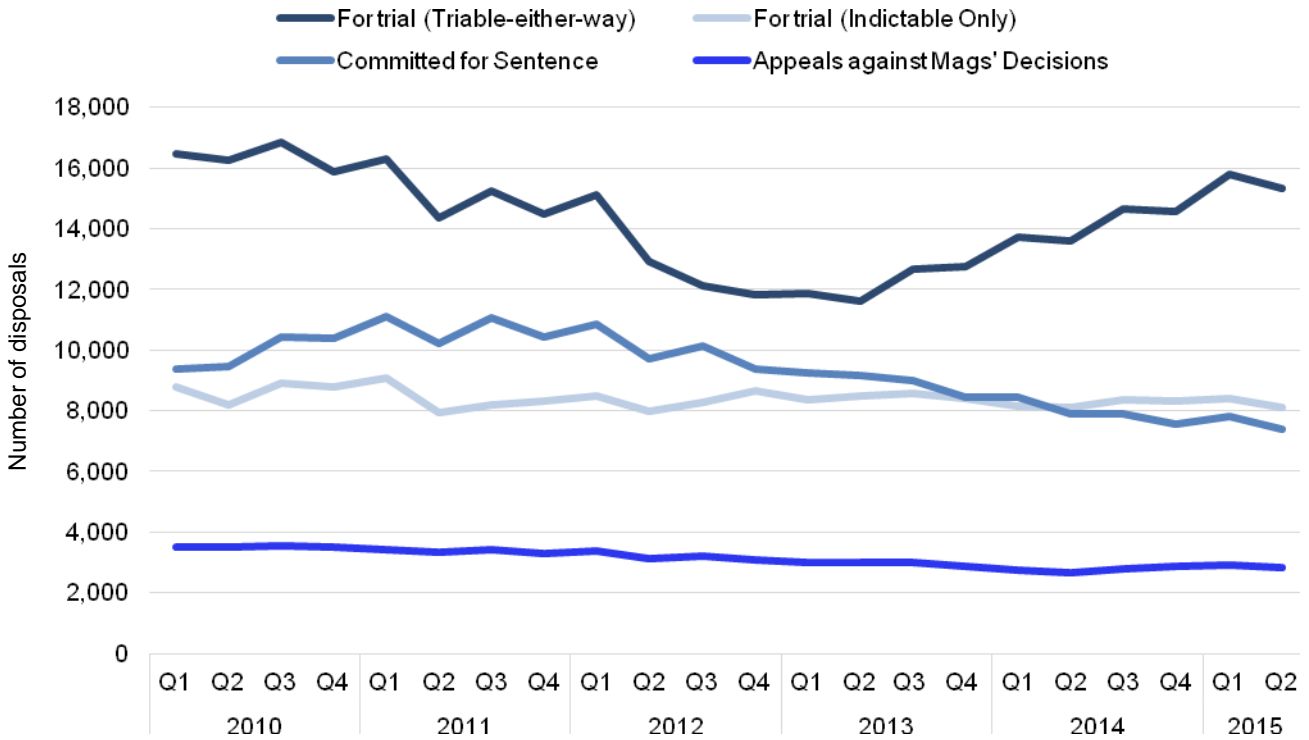
Disposals in the Crown Court (figure 3)

There were 33,685 disposals at the Crown Court in Q2 2015, an increase of 4% from Q2 2014. Disposals remained fairly steady in 2012 and 2013 before the most recent increase.

Disposals by case type (figure 5)

Disposals of triable-either-way cases have increased by 32% since Q2 2013 and by 13% since Q2 2014. Indictable only disposals remained relatively stable throughout both these time periods.

Figure 5: Crown Court disposals by case type, Q1 2010 to Q2 2015



Outstanding cases in the Crown Court (figure 3)

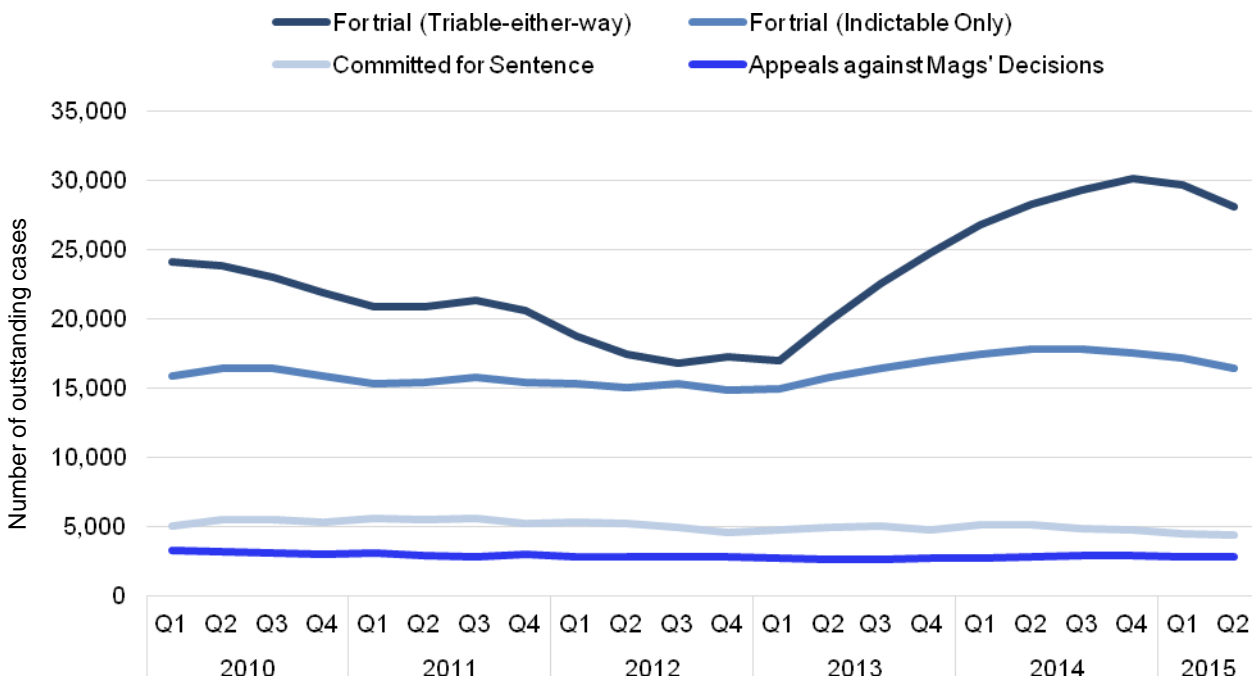
There were 51,752 outstanding cases in the Crown Court in Q2 2015, a decrease of 4% from Q2 2014. This decline reflects the number of disposals being higher than receipts over the last two quarters.

Outstanding cases by case type (figure 6)

The trend in triable-either-way outstanding cases has followed a similar trend to the overall number of outstanding cases, with a substantial increase from Q1 2013 up to Q4 2014 followed by a declining trend thereafter. Overall this represents an increase of 66% since the first quarter of 2013.

Outstanding indictable only cases also increased after Q1 2013 but started to decline from Q3 2014. In Q2 2015 the number of outstanding indictable only cases had declined by 8% from Q2 2014. However, the number of outstanding indictable only cases in Q2 2015 have not returned to levels prior to the increase in early 2013.

Figure 6: Crown Court outstanding cases by type, Q1 2010 to Q2 2015



Annual tables: Crown Court data by region

Additional tables have been added in this quarter’s publication, covering regional breakdowns of Crown Court data in England and Wales for 2014. Other tables show information regarding guilty plea rates, acquittals and jury verdicts from 2007 to 2014 which have remained relatively stable over this time period.

3. Timeliness

Offence to completion in the magistrates’ courts

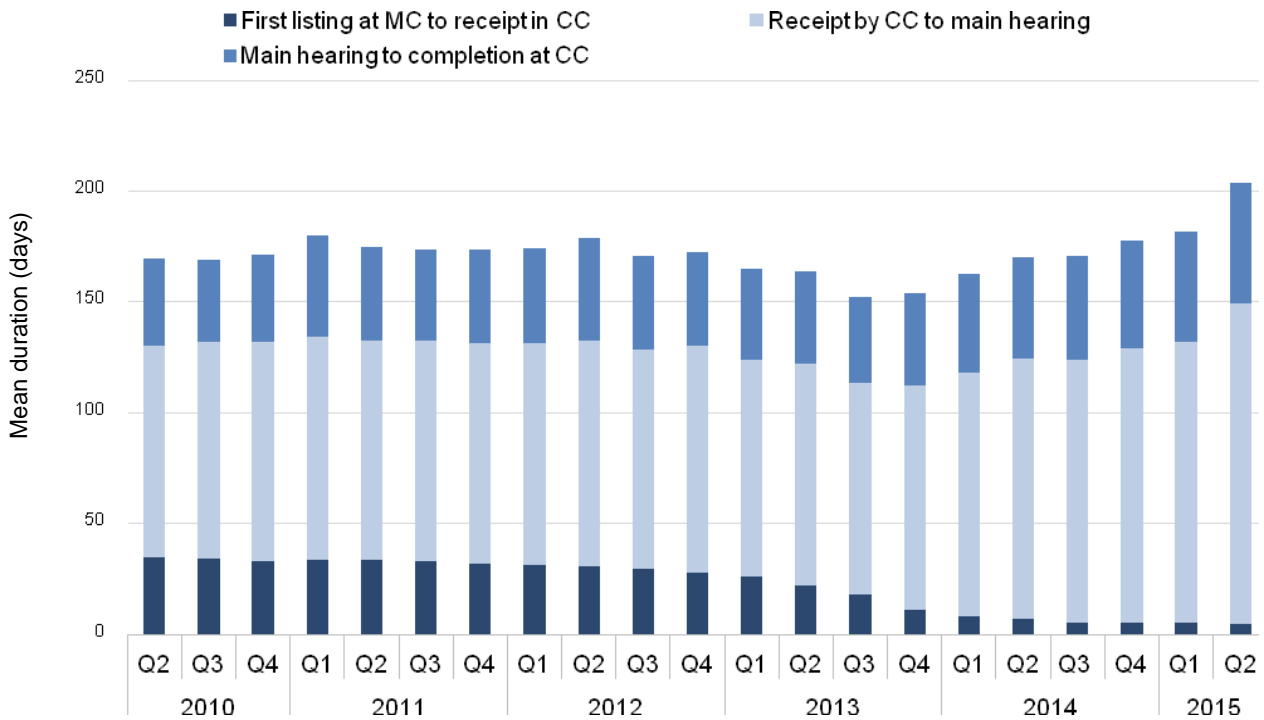
For cases dealt with entirely in the magistrates’ courts, the number of days from offence to completion increased overall from 146 days to 155 days in the 12 months to Q2 2015. However, in the first two quarters of 2015, the number of days remained stable.

First listing in the magistrates’ courts to completion in the Crown Court (figure 7 – Crown Court criminal cases)

For cases committed for trial at the Crown Court, the mean time from first listing at the magistrates’ court to receipt by the Crown Court has fallen substantially, from 22 days in Q2 2013 to 5 days in Q2 2015. This is due to the abolition of committal hearings. This average figure of 5 days has remained consistent over the past year.

However, time from receipt by the Crown Court to main hearing and main hearing to completion have increased, resulting in the overall number of days from first listing to completion increasing from 164 to 204 days between Q2 2013 and Q2 2015.

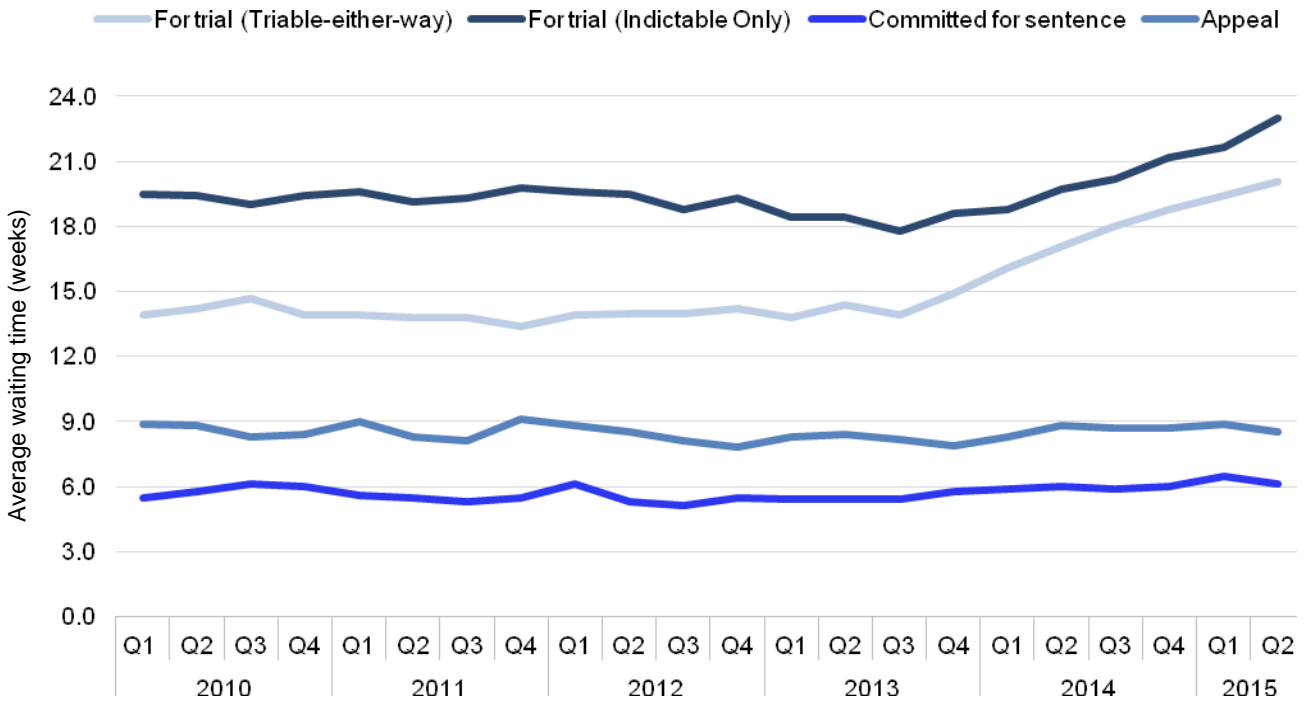
Figure 7: Average number of days (mean) from first listing in the magistrates' courts to completion in the Crown Court, for Crown Court criminal cases, Q2 2010 to Q2 2015



Average waiting times at Crown Court (figure 8)

Average waiting times have increased in trial cases since Q2 2014, but have remained fairly steady in non-trial cases. Over a longer period, triable-either-way cases and indictable only cases have increased by 5.7 weeks and 4.6 weeks respectively between Q2 2013 and Q2 2015.

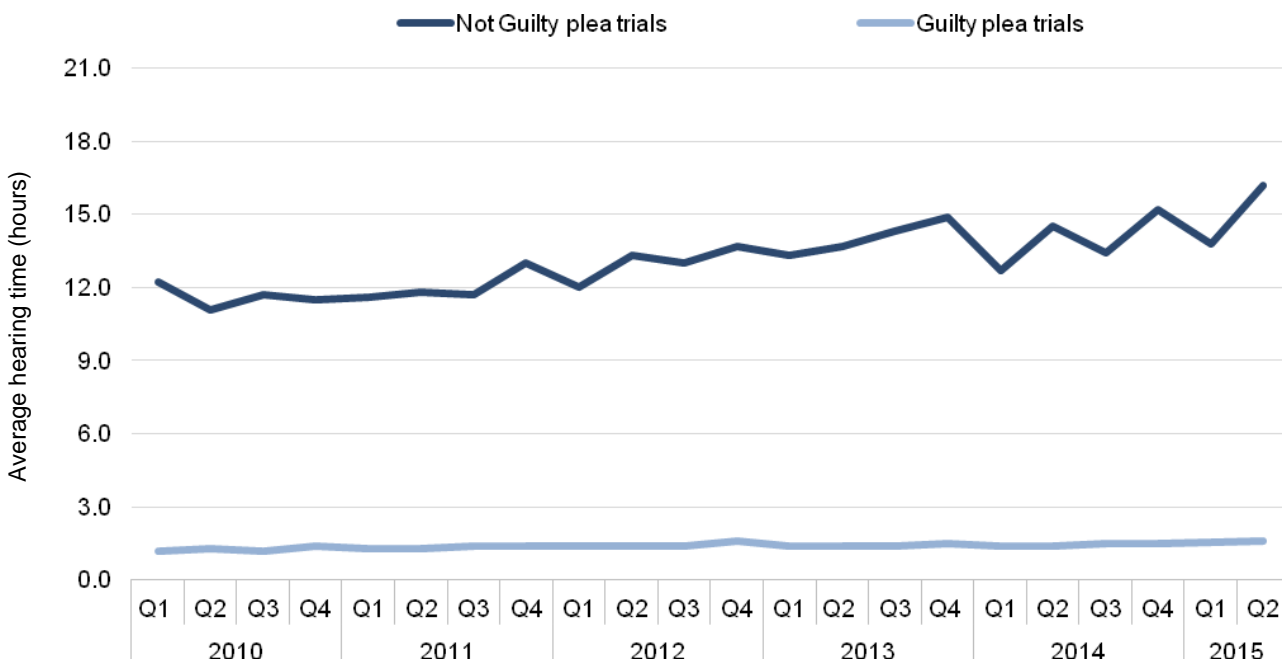
Figure 8: Average waiting time (weeks) at the Crown Court, Q1 2010 to Q2 2015



Average hearing times at Crown Court (figure 9)

In Q2 2015, the average hearing time for trials involving a not guilty plea was 16.2 hours, the highest since the time series commenced in 2009.

Figure 9: Average hearing time (hours) at the Crown Court, Q1 2010 to Q2 2015



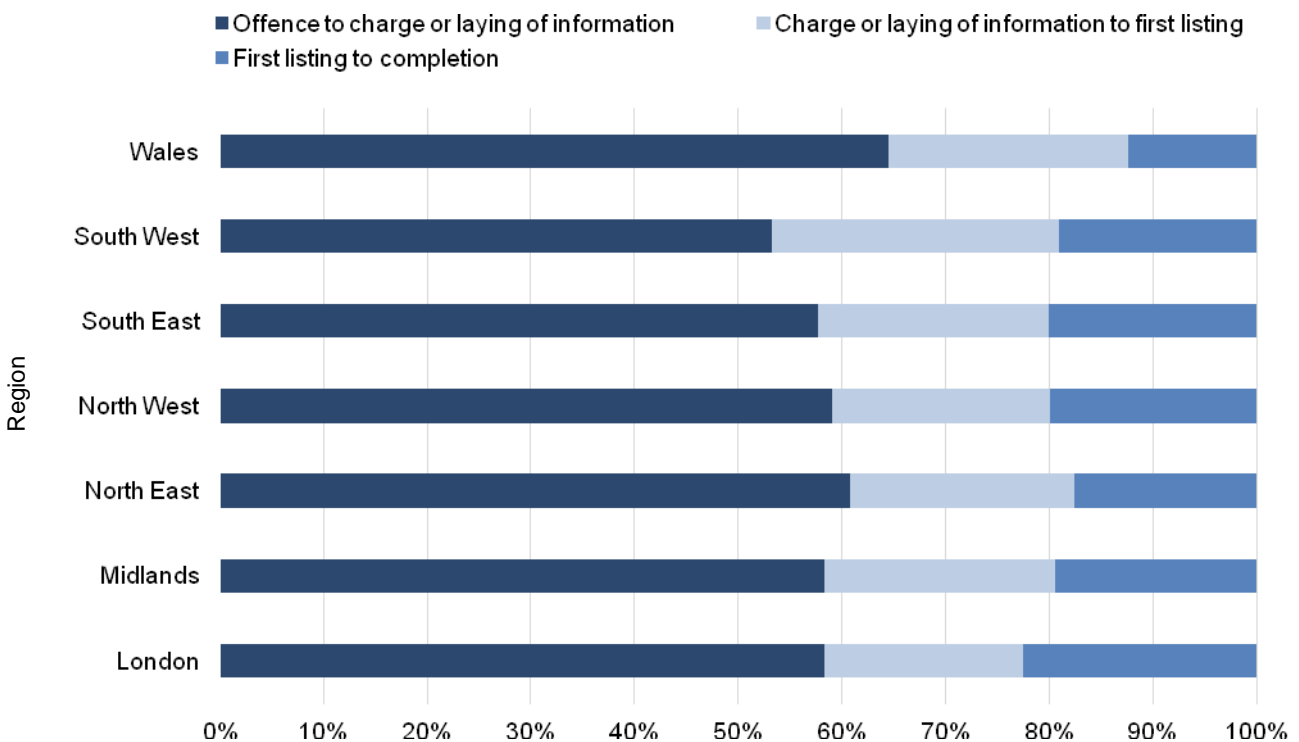
Annual table: Breakdown of average number of days from offence to completion for criminal cases by region (figure 10)

In England and Wales at 2014, the South West had the lowest proportion of time spent from 'offence to charge' (53%), and the highest proportion of time spent at 'charge to first listing' (28%) compared to other regions.

Wales had the highest proportion of time spent from 'offence to charge' (65%), but the lowest proportion of time from 'first listing to completion' (12%)

Despite having the highest proportion of time spent from 'first listing to completion' (23%), London had the lowest proportion of time spent from 'charge to first listing' (19%).

Figure 10: Proportion of average number of days taken from offence to completion for criminal cases in England and Wales, 2014



Annex A: Enforcement of financial impositions

The following section provides updated management information on the collection of financial impositions through Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS).

Financial impositions are ordered by the criminal courts for payment by offenders at sentencing and include financial penalties such as fines, prosecutors' costs, compensation orders and victim surcharge. Financial penalties are the most commonly used sentence and form a significant part of HMCTS' collection and enforcement business. Accounting centres also enforce penalty notices for disorder and fixed penalty notices registered as fines for enforcement. The financial imposition statistics presented here do not include confiscation orders.

Financial impositions and amounts paid (Table A1)

Financial penalties can be imposed by the magistrates' courts and the Crown Court; however they are all collected and enforced by the HMCTS National Compliance and Enforcement Service.

In Q2 2015, the total value of financial penalties paid, regardless of the age of the imposition, was £86 million; a 23% increase when compared with the same quarter in 2014, but remaining unchanged against Q1 2015.

Financial impositions and amounts paid by imposition type (Table A2)

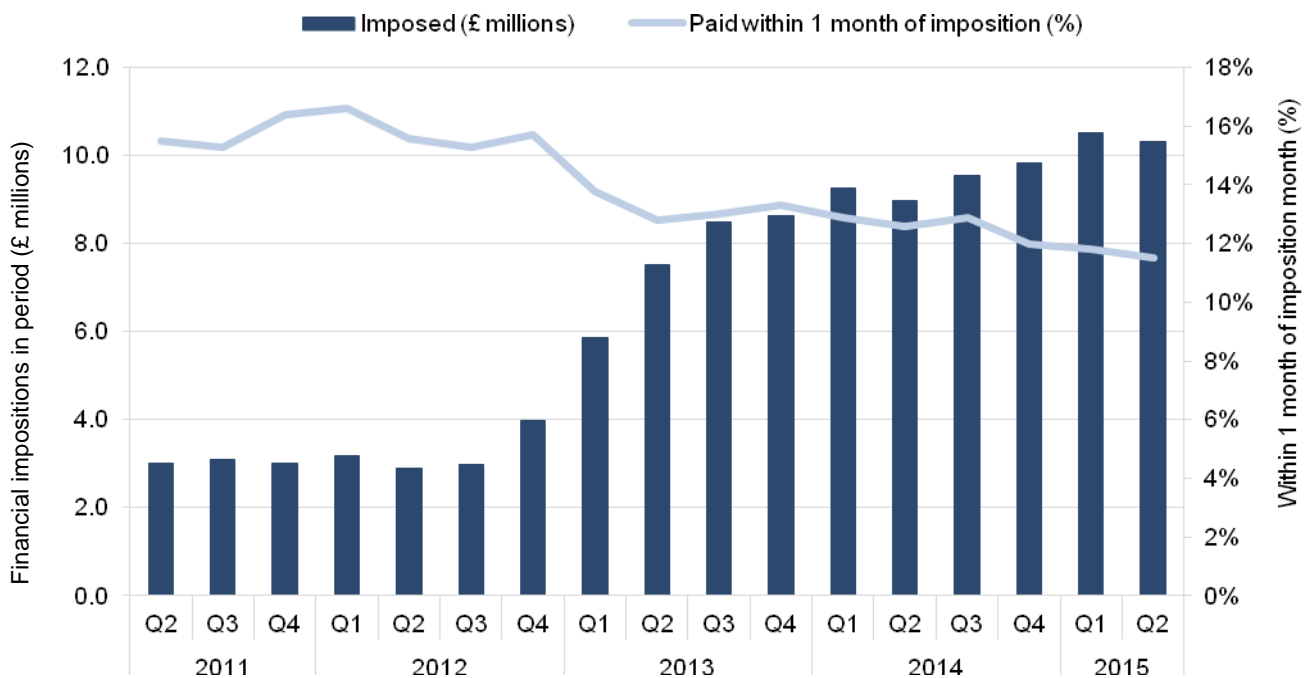
The total value of impositions in the Q2 2015 (£125.2 million) increased by 18% when compared to Q2 2014. In Q2 2015, 10% (£12.7 million) of all financial impositions imposed by the criminal courts were paid within the imposition month.

Victim surcharge is an additional surcharge which is added to the fines that are imposed. The receipts obtained from the collection of these monies by HMCTS are passed to the Justice Policy Group of the MoJ to fund victims' services. The amount imposed has been increasing since its scope and amounts payable were extended in October 2012². The increases seen have slowed and stabilised at this higher level in 2014, with the proportion of impositions collected within one month of imposition stable at around 12%.

Financial impositions (£ million) for victim surcharge (Table A2)

Each year there are a number of financial penalties that are cancelled, either administratively or legally. Legal cancellations can be applied after the case has been reconsidered by a judge or a magistrate and may follow a change in circumstances. Administrative cancellations are only applied in accordance with a strict write off policy, e.g. where the defendant has not been traced; these can then be re-instated if the defendant is then traced.

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/victim-surcharge-circular-october-2012

Figure 11: Financial impositions (£ million) for victim surcharge, Q2 2011 to Q2 2015

Financial imposition accounts opened and closed (Table A3)

An account is opened when a financial penalty is ordered in court and is closed when the imposition against the account has been paid or the imposition is cancelled. Where a defendant has more than one financial penalty and/or account, these can be consolidated into one account.

There were 320,150 accounts opened in Q2 2015, an increase of 6% when compared to the same period in the previous year. Of the accounts opened in the Q2 2015, 10% (32,062) were closed within the month of imposition.

Outstanding financial impositions (Table A4)

The amount outstanding is irrespective of the age of the imposition or the payment terms, and excludes all impositions already paid as well as both legal and administrative cancellations. Payment terms may include arrangements for offenders to pay amounts owed over a period of time.

In Q2 2015, the total value of financial impositions outstanding in England and Wales was £588 million. The falling trend observed since April 2011 has increased again since the beginning of 2014, and shows an increase of 7% since Q2 2014.

Annex B: Legal representation in the Crown Court (experimental statistics)

These figures are the same as those published in the 2014 Q1 release in June 2015, but are also included in this release because they will now be included within each annual publication.

Representation by year

The proportion of defendants dealt with in the Crown Court who are known to have had legal representation³ has remained stable between 2010 and 2014. During 2014, 94% (89,111) of defendants were represented by a solicitor or advocate at the first hearing whilst 6% (5,561) of defendants had no or unknown representation at first hearing. This compares to 95% and 5% respectively in 2010.

The proportion of defendants represented at first hearing by an advocate only, with no solicitor representation, has increased over the last 5 years. Of those in 2014, 13% (11,339) did not have a solicitor, compared to 2% (2,274) in 2010.

Representation and hearings

In 2014, 30% of represented defendants had two or less hearings, compared with 17% of defendants whose representation was unknown or were known to be unrepresented. Conversely, 17% of represented defendants had six or more hearings, compared with 24% who had no or unknown representation.

Annex C: Juror Statistics

There were 355,014 juror summons issued in 2014, a 6% decrease compared to the number of juror summons issued in 2013. In the same year around 26% of all juror summons were excused, no change when compared with the previous year.

In 2014 there were 170,547 jurors supplied to the court. The juror utilisation rate is the number of sitting days divided by the sum of sitting, non-sitting and non-attendance days. Over the last 8 years the juror utilisation rate has increased to reach its current rate of 72% in 2014. This may be the result of the introduction of a programme on the part of HMCTS to avoid placing more of a burden on jurors than necessary and make the best use of their time.

³ Representation is classed as defendants who were known to be represented by an advocate or solicitor at first hearing.

Annex D: List of Accompanying Tables and CSV

Accompanying this publication are the following tables:

Table M1	Receipts, disposals and outstanding criminal cases in the magistrates' courts in England and Wales, annually 2012 - 2014, quarterly Q2 2012 – Q2 2015
Table M2	Effectiveness of magistrates' courts' trials in England and Wales, annually 2003 - 2014, quarterly Q1 2010 – Q2 2015
Table M3	Key reasons for ineffective magistrates' courts' trials in England and Wales, annually 2006 - 2014, quarterly Q1 2010 – Q2 2015
Table M4	Key reasons for cracked magistrates' courts' trials in England and Wales, annually 2010 - 2014, quarterly Q1 2010 – Q2 2015
Table AM1	Annual table: Effectiveness of magistrates' courts' trials in England and Wales by region, 2014
Table C1	Receipts, disposals and outstanding cases in the Crown Court in England and Wales, annually 2000 - 2014, quarterly Q1 2010 – Q2 2015
Table C2	Effectiveness of Crown Court trials in England and Wales, annually 2007 - 2014, quarterly Q1 2010 – Q2 2015
Table C3	Key reasons for ineffective Crown Court trials in England and Wales, annually 2007 - 2014, quarterly Q1 2010 – Q2 2015
Table C4	Key reasons for cracked Crown Court trials in England and Wales, annually 2007 - 2014, quarterly Q1 2010 – Q2 2015
Table C5	Defendants dealt with in trial cases in the Crown Court by plea in England and Wales, annually 2001 - 2014, quarterly Q1 2010 – Q2 2015
Table C6	Defendants dealt with in trial cases by stage at which guilty plea was entered and accepted in the Crown Court, by receipt type, England and Wales, annually 2010 - 2014, quarterly Q1 2010 – Q2 2014
Table C7	Defendants dealt with in trial cases where a guilty plea was entered before a trial, during trial or at a cracked trial, and accepted in the Crown Court, by receipt type, England and Wales, annually 2010 - 2014, quarterly Q1 2010 – Q2 2015
Table C8	Average waiting times in the Crown Court in England and Wales, annually 2000 - 2014, quarterly Q1 2010 – Q2 2015
Table C9	Average waiting times (weeks) in the Crown Court for defendants dealt with in trial cases, by plea and remand type, England and Wales, annually 2007 - 2014, quarterly Q1 2010 – Q2 2015
Table C10	Average hearing and waiting times for trial cases in the Crown Court by plea in England and Wales, annually 2000 - 2014, quarterly Q1 2010 – Q2 2015

Table C11	Average hearing times (hours) in the Crown Court for cases disposed of, by case type and plea, England and Wales, annually 2007 - 2014, quarterly Q1 2010 – Q2 2015
Table C12	Appeals (against decisions of magistrates' courts) dealt with in the Crown Court, by appeal type and result, England and Wales, annually 2007 - 2014, quarterly Q1 2010 – Q2 2015
Table AC1	Annual table: Receipts, disposals and outstanding cases in the Crown Court by region, 2014
Table AC2	Annual table: Cases disposed of in the Crown Court by case type and number of defendants involved, 2007- 2014
Table AC3	Annual table: Cases dealt with in the Crown Court by type of judge and region, 2014
Table AC4	Annual table: Cases disposed of and proportion heard by High Court judges in the Crown Court, by class and region, 2014
Table AC5	Annual table: Effectiveness of Crown Court trials by region, 2014
Table AC6	Annual table: Defendants dealt with in trial cases in the Crown Court showing result according to plea, 2007- 2014
Table AC7	Annual table: Defendants acquitted in trial cases in the Crown Court after a not guilty plea, by manner of acquittal, 2007-2014
Table AC8	Annual table: Defendants convicted after a not guilty plea in trial cases in the Crown Court, by number of jurors dissenting to the verdict, 2007-2014
Table AC9	Annual table: Summary statistics on hearing times, waiting times, plea rates and juror utilisation in the Crown Court, by region, 2007-2014
Table T1	Average number of days from offence to completion, percentage of proceedings completed at first listing and average number of hearings for criminal cases at the magistrates' courts by initial plea, England and Wales, annually 2010 - 2014, quarterly Q2 2010 – Q2 2015
Table T2	Average number of days taken from offence to completion for all criminal cases at the magistrates' courts in England and Wales, annually 2010 - 2014, quarterly Q2 2010 – Q2 2015
Table T3	Average number of days taken from offence to completion for all summary cases at the magistrates' courts in England and Wales, annually 2010 - 2014, quarterly Q2 2010 – Q2 2015
Table T4	Average number of days taken from offence to completion for Crown Court criminal cases in England and Wales, annually 2010 - 2014, quarterly Q2 2010 – Q2 2015
Table T5	Average number of days taken from offence to completion for criminal cases in England and Wales, annually 2010 - 2014, quarterly Q2 2010 – Q2 2015
Table T6	Average number of days taken from offence to completion for all criminal cases by offence group, in England and Wales, Q4 2013 and Q2 2015

Table AT1	Annual table: Average number of days taken from offence to completion for criminal cases by region, 2014
Table A1	Enforcement of financial penalties in the magistrates' courts, England and Wales, annually 2004 - 2014, quarterly Q1 2010 – Q2 2015
Table A2	HMCTS management information: Financial impositions and amounts paid by imposition type, England and Wales, annual 2011 - 2014, quarterly Q2 2011 – Q2 2015
Table A3	HMCTS management information: Number of financial imposition accounts opened and closed, annually 2011 - 2014, quarterly Q2 2011 – Q2 2015
Table A4	HMCTS management information: Total amount of financial impositions outstanding, annually 2011 - 2014, quarterly Q2 2011 – Q2 2015
Table B1	Advocate and solicitor representation, at first hearing, of defendants dealt with in the Crown Court, England and Wales, annually 2010 – 2014
Table B2	Representation status, at first hearing, of defendants dealt with in the Crown Court, England and Wales, annually 2010 – 2014
Table B3	Number of hearings in the Crown Court, by representation status at first hearing, England and Wales, annually 2010 – 2014
Table J1	Summary jury summoning figures in the Crown Court, 2007 - 2014
Table J2	Juror sitting days and juror utilisation in the Crown Court, England and Wales, 2006 - 2014

There are also a number of csv files that support this publication, these include:

- National and court level workload activity and case progression data
- National and court level timeliness data

Annex E: Explanatory notes

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics, it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The statistics in this bulletin relate to cases in the magistrates' courts and the Crown Court in England and Wales. Calendar year statistics are also provided.

Breakdowns of many of the summary figures presented in this bulletin, such as split by court or by HMCTS area, are available in the Comma Separated Value (CSV) files that accompany this publication.

Revisions

The statistics in the latest quarter are provisional, and are therefore liable to revision to take account of any late amendments to the administrative databases from which these statistics are sourced. The standard process for revising the published statistics to account for these late amendments is as follows:

- An initial revision to the statistics for the latest quarter may be made when the next edition of this bulletin is published. Further revisions may be made when the figures are reconciled at the end of the year. If revisions are needed in the subsequent year this will be clearly annotated in the tables.

For more information please see the [**Guide to criminal court statistics.**](#)

Symbols and conventions

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

- .. = Not applicable
- = Not available
- 0 = Nil
- (r) = Revised data
- (p) = Provisional data

Previous editions

Previous editions of Court Statistics Quarterly can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/court-statistics-quarterly#court-statistics-quarterly-reports

Future publication

The next publication of Criminal court statistics quarterly is scheduled to be published on 17th December 2015, covering the period July to September 2015.

Contacts

Press enquiries on the contents of this bulletin should be directed to the Ministry of Justice or Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS) press offices:

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

Feedback

The structure and content of this report is continually being reviewed to reflect user requirements. If you have any feedback about these changes, or the report more generally, please contact the production team through the Justice Statistics Analytical Services division of the Ministry of Justice:

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