



Home Office

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2014/15

Statistical Bulletin 01/15

Edited by: Jenny Allan

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Important information

In April 2013, the new outcomes framework was introduced and subsequently there has been a change to the way in which crime outcomes statistics are presented. Provisional statistics from the new outcomes framework were first presented in the 2013/14 bulletin¹, published in July 2014. Since then we have developed the statistics further, and consulted with data providers (police forces) and users of the statistics. Prior to April 2013, official statistics about how crimes were dealt with by the police were narrowly focused on detections (i.e. the number of cases resolved with a charge, caution, etc.).

We continue to ensure that these crime outcomes statistics: meet identified user needs (including providing new analysis and greater transparency); are well explained and readily accessible; are produced according to sound methods; and are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

The statistics presented in this bulletin are designated as Official Statistics, rather than National Statistics.

In January 2014, police recorded crime statistics were found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The full assessment report against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-268---statistics-on-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf

In July 2014, prior to the 2013/14 publication and following correspondence between the Home Office Chief Statistician and the UK Statistics Authority Head of Assessment, it was agreed to publish the Crime Outcomes bulletin as Official Statistics, rather than National Statistics.

This reflects the move to the new outcomes framework, and also the possibility that outcomes data are affected by similar issues to those that led to the de-designation of police recorded crime statistics.

Full details of the correspondence are available here:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/letter-from-david-blunt-to-ed-humpherson---090714.pdf

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/letter-from-ed-humpherson-to-david-blunt---150714.pdf

It is our intention that the statistics will be assessed, with a view to them gaining National Statistics status in due course.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014

Further information

The “Crime Outcomes in England and Wales, 2013/14” bulletin, and previous detections bulletins, are available from:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-statistics

Copies of other Home Office publications (including crime statistics releases prior to April 2012) are available from:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/crime-statistics#publications

Copies of crime statistics publications from April 2012 are available from the Office for National Statistics website: www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+and+Justice

This includes the *User Guide to Crime Statistics*, a useful reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications that are key to the production and presentation of the crime statistics.

The dates of forthcoming publications are pre-announced and can be found via the Gov.uk Statistics Release Calendar: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements

For further information about crime outcomes statistics, please email:

crimestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or write to:

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This statistical bulletin is produced to the highest professional standards and is free from political interference. It has been produced by statisticians working in the Home Office Crime and Policing Statistics Section in accordance with the Home Office’s [Statement of Compliance](#) with the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*, which covers our policy on revisions and other matters. The Chief Statistician, as Head of Profession, reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters and oversees all Home Office National and Official Statistics products with respect to the Code, being responsible for their timing, content and methodology.

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Executive Summary

OVERVIEW

This is the first bulletin based entirely on the full outcomes framework introduced in April 2014. This new outcomes framework allows every crime recorded by the police to be given a detailed outcome, showing how the police deal with crimes (including crimes which are still under investigation).

KEY FINDINGS

For offences recorded in 2014/15, at the time that forces submitted data:

- 93% of offences recorded in 2014/15 had been assigned an outcome. The remaining 7% were still under investigation and will be assigned an outcome in later years.
- For around half (49%) of offences recorded in 2014/15, no suspect had been identified and the case was closed.
 - Within offence groups this ranged from 1% of drug offences to 70% of theft offences. Around 12% of violent and sexual offences had been closed with no suspect identified.
- Possession of weapon offences were most likely to have been assigned a charge / summons outcome (60% of these offences).
- Around one-third (33%) of sexual offences had evidential difficulties outcomes, the offence category with the highest proportion experiencing evidential difficulties. However, sexual offences also had a higher proportion of crimes (37%) from the year that remained under investigation.

Outcomes recorded in 2014/15 (irrespective of when the crime was recorded), compared with the previous year:

- Between 2013/14 and 2014/15, the proportion of charge/summons outcomes recorded in the year as a proportion of total crimes recorded in the year decreased slightly from 17.2% to 16.7%.
- Changes in the number of charge/summons between 2013/14 and 2014/15 vary considerably by crime type, and tend to be influenced by changes in crime volume. For example, where the number of offences of a particular crime category have increased between the years, so have the number of charge/summons in most cases. Rates can be affected by crimes taking time to be solved, so trends in outcome numbers generally track trends in offence numbers with a time lag.

The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded in 2014/15:

- Almost half of offences (46%) were assigned an outcome within five days of the offence being recorded, and 72% of outcomes were assigned within 30 days. 9% of outcomes took more than 100 days to be assigned.
- Sexual offences generally took much longer to be assigned an outcome than other offence types, with 39% taking over 100 days. This is likely to be due to the complexity of these cases and the level of investigation needed.

- Investigation closed with no suspect identified tended to be the outcome assigned most quickly, with 32% assigned on the same day as the crime was recorded, almost all (96%) of which were applied to theft or criminal damage and arson offences.

Transferred or cancelled records in 2014/15:

- 3.1% of all offences that were initially recorded as crimes in 2014/15 were subsequently transferred or cancelled. The proportion of rape offences transferred or cancelled was 5.1%, down from 7.3% in 2013/4.
- Experimental Statistics for April to May 2015 showed that 59% of the transferred and cancelled records were cancelled due to additional verifiable information becoming available that determined that no notifiable crime had been committed.

1 Introduction

1.1 – OVERVIEW

This bulletin reports on the outcomes of crimes recorded by the 43 police forces in England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. In April 2013 the new outcomes framework was introduced, replacing the detections previously recorded. The move from detections to outcomes was a marked change, with an emphasis on greater transparency on how **all** crimes recorded by the police are dealt with. The previous focus on detections gave a partial picture of the work police do to investigate and resolve crime, and its narrow focus resulted in the potential for detection targets which risked driving perverse behaviour with respect to crime recording decisions.

The statistical bulletin “Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14”², which was published in July 2014, reflected the transition from the old detections to the new outcomes framework. This bulletin is therefore the first publication based entirely on the full outcomes framework.

For more information on the background to the new outcomes framework and how it was developed, see Annex A: Background to Crime Outcomes.

1.2 – THE FULL OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

Table 1.1 shows how the framework of nineteen outcomes introduced in April 2014 includes the same categories as the previous detections and outcomes frameworks, but also provides additional information on other crime outcomes.

² www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014

Table 1.1: Detection types in place prior to April 2013 and the outcomes frameworks in place thereafter

Detections framework – prior to April 2013 (outcomes 1-6)	Outcomes framework – April 2013 to March 2014 (outcomes 1-9)	Outcomes framework – April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-19)
1. Charge/Summons	1. Charge/Summons	1. Charge/Summons
2. Caution	2. Caution – youths 3. Caution – adults	2. Caution – youths 3. Caution – adults
3. Taken into consideration (TIC) – previously recorded	4. Taken into consideration (TIC)	4. Taken into consideration (TIC)
4. Taken into consideration (TIC) – not previously recorded		
5. Penalty Notices for Disorder	6. Penalty Notices for Disorder	6. Penalty Notices for Disorder
6. Other	5. The Offender has Died (indictable only/sexual offences)	5. The Offender has Died (all offences)
	7. Cannabis Warning	7. Cannabis/Khat Warning
	8. Community Resolution	8. Community Resolution
	9. Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS) (indictable only offences)	9. Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS) (all offences)
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	10. Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (Police decision)
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	11. Prosecution prevented - Named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	12. Prosecution prevented - Named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	13. Prosecution prevented - Named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	14. Evidential Difficulties Victim Based – Named suspect not identified: The crime is confirmed but the victim either declines/ or is unable to support further police investigation to identify the offender.
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	15. Named Suspect identified: the crime is confirmed and the victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	16. Named Suspect identified: evidential difficulties prevent further action; victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	17. Prosecution time limit expired: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired.
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	18. Investigation Complete: No suspect identified. Crime investigated as far as reasonably possible - case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	19. National Fraud Intelligence Bureau - filed (NFIB only) - A crime of fraud has been recorded but has not been allocated for investigation, because the assessment process at the NFIB has determined there are insufficient lines of enquiry to warrant such dissemination.

At any given time, there will also be a subset of offences where the investigation of the crime is still ongoing and an outcome has not yet been assigned. Therefore, while every crime will eventually be given an outcome under the April 2014 framework, this may take some time while crimes are investigated. Data on outcomes for crimes recorded in a given period are therefore subject to ongoing revisions as investigations into crimes are completed and final outcomes are assigned. This is discussed further in Chapter 2.

For more information on how to interpret the full outcomes framework, see Annex A: Background to Crime Outcomes.

1.3 – DATA SHOWN IN THIS BULLETIN

This bulletin is based on the new outcomes categories introduced in April 2014. However, given the work involved in amending police force crime recording systems, not all forces were able to supply data from April 2014 for the outcome types not covered by the detection types recorded in previous years (see Table 1.1).

Consequently, some of the 2014/15 data contained in this bulletin do not include all forces. Where necessary, notes on excluded forces are provided. While most forces had started recording the full range of outcomes by summer 2014, the Metropolitan Police provided data from December 2014.

For more details on what data has been excluded from certain periods or analyses, see Annex A: Background to Crime Outcomes.

1.4 – OUTCOME GROUPINGS IN THIS BULLETIN

The full range of outcomes is presented in most tables in this publication and the accompanying data tables. However, the Home Office consulted with users to consider whether some grouping would benefit the presentation of figures. As a result, in some tables and charts, outcomes are grouped to make presentation easier. It is important to recognise that the groupings are merely presentational, to allow simpler illustration in some places.

The resulting groupings shown in Table 1.2 take account of feedback from users. The outcomes one to eighteen recorded by the police are still presented in many tables and the Open Data tables: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables

Table 1.2: Grouping the outcomes framework from April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-19)

Outcome Group	Outcome type(s)
Charged/Summonsed	1
Taken into consideration	4
Out-of-court (formal)	2, 3, 6
Out-of-court (informal)	7, 8
Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	15
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	14, 16
Investigation complete – no suspect identified	18
National Fraud Intelligence Bureau - filed (fraud offences recorded by NFIB only)	19

See Table 1.1 for a description of each outcome type.

1.5 – POLICE RECORDED CRIME

The police recorded crime data used in this bulletin are supplied by police forces to the Home Office, and are then published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in “Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2015”:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales

ONS publish police recorded crime statistics both including and excluding fraud (as measured by a combination of crime recorded by the police and Action Fraud). All fraud offences have been recorded by Action Fraud rather than the police since April 2013, so for consistency ONS’s series of police recorded crime used for comparisons with previous years is the version that excludes fraud.

1.6 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS (FORMERLY ‘NO-CRIMES’)

This bulletin contains data on transferred or cancelled records (formerly referred to as ‘no-crimes’), which are when the police have originally recorded an offence, but have subsequently determined that the crime did not take place, or was recorded in error. This could occur for one of five reasons, and from April 2015 the data supplied by forces has been split into those five categories:

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

The total numbers of transferred or cancelled records combined are shown in Chapter 5 of this bulletin. Some partial data for the breakdown into the five categories above for April and May 2015 are also presented as Experimental Statistics.

Full data for these new breakdowns for the first full quarter they have been collected (April to June 2015) will be published in October 2015 alongside publication of outcomes data.

1.7 – DATA QUALITY

Given the work involved in amending police force crime recording systems to accommodate the full outcomes framework, not all forces were able to supply full data from April 2014. As a result, the data for 2014/15 do not include all forces in some tables in this bulletin. Where necessary, explanations have been provided as to which forces have not been included for certain quarters or analyses. See Table 1.2 for details of when each police force was able to provide full data on the broader outcomes framework.

The Ministry of Justice has been working with the Home Office, the Crown Prosecution Service and the National Police Chiefs’ Council to deliver a project to make the use of out-of-court disposals for adult offenders more effective. In November 2014, as part of this project, three police forces (Leicestershire, Staffordshire and West Yorkshire) commenced a 12 month pilot operation of a simplified model of such outcomes (West Yorkshire Police adopted a phased roll out starting in November 2014 and fully operational in January 2015). All three forces, with the agreement of

Ministers, voluntarily stopped issuing adult simple cautions (part of outcome 3) and cannabis / khat warnings (outcome 7) and limited their use of penalty notices for disorder (outcome 6), instead using the adult conditional caution (part of outcome 3) and the community resolution (outcome 8). The rules and guidance that apply to conditional cautions and community resolutions have been amended for those three forces to reflect this new approach. At conclusion of the pilot period an assessment report will be prepared and consideration given as to the future adoption of this simplified approach. This needs to be borne in mind when looking at the outcomes data for these three forces, as they are likely to have a smaller proportion of outcomes 6 and 7 and greater proportion of outcome 8 than other forces not involved in the pilot.

The Home Office receives monthly data on crime, crime outcomes and transferred or cancelled crimes from police forces. These data are quality assured and analysed by Home Office statisticians and any anomalies or errors identified through this process result in a report being returned to the relevant force for validation or correction.

Prior to the publication of crime outcomes a verification exercise is carried out with all forces. The data held by the Home Office are returned to individual forces asking for confirmation that the data accords with that held on their own systems. Again, forces resubmit data if required.

See Annex B: Crime Outcomes Data Quality for further information.

2 Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15

2.1 - INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers how crimes recorded in 2014/15 have been dealt with, by linking individual outcomes to the offence that they relate to. This provides a level of transparency that has not previously been possible based on the data collected.

This has been done in two ways:

- For 19 forces, data have been collected via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH). This is a record level crime database, which contains information on both the date the outcome is assigned and the date when the offence was recorded;
- As not all forces are currently able to provide data via the HODH, the Home Office made a request to all remaining forces in order to capture these data. Figures were voluntarily provided by a further 19 forces.

The analysis in this chapter is therefore based on data from 38 of the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales (see Table A for further details; the British Transport Police did not provide data). Chapter 3 shows outcomes recorded in 2014/15 regardless of when the offence was recorded, which covers all police forces.

While some forces have been able to supply a full year of data, others will only cover part of the year as either a full year of data was not provided or the data for the full framework does not cover the full year (see Annex B for further explanation). Some forces were unable to provide any data for this voluntary collection, so they have been excluded. To produce meaningful analyses, data have been used for the time periods where a full outcomes breakdown is available for each force. For example, if a force began providing data on the full framework from July 2014 then their crime and outcomes data have been used from July 2014 to March 2015 only. As such, this chapter covers around three-quarters (73%) of all offences recorded in 2014/15. See Table 2.1 for details of the number of forces included.

Table 2.1: Number of forces providing data on all outcome types 1-18, by month from which data were provided

	England and Wales, Recorded crime	
Outcome data (types 1-18) included from ³ :	Number of forces	Proportion of total recorded crime ⁴
April 2014	28	54.6
July 2014	5	8.1
October 2014	4	3.4
December 2014	1	6.6
Total providing data	38	72.7
Months not covered (10 forces as above)		19.3
No data provided	6	8.0
Total	44	100.0

1. See Table A for details of which forces are included

2. Forces' data for both crime and outcomes have been included from the months shown to the end of March 2015

3. The data cover outcomes types 1-18 (Table 1.1) for the entirety of the period for which they are included

4. The proportions of total recorded crime are calculated by multiplying the proportion of total 2014/15 police recorded crime each force accounts for by the proportion of the year that they supplied data

While this new presentation provides increased transparency, all these points need to be considered when interpreting these data and proportions should be seen as indicative.

At the time of forces providing data for 2014/15, it is likely that a number of crimes recorded in the year were still under investigation, particularly crimes recorded near the end of the year that required complex investigations that may still be at an early stage. Many of these crimes will be assigned an outcome during 2015/16 (see section 2.3). Forces that are included for part of the year will have a slightly smaller overall proportion of crimes assigned an outcome since a greater proportion of crimes will have been recorded in more recent months and therefore be less likely to have an outcome.

To gain the full benefits from this analysis, it is important that it is repeated over time. The Home Office will continue to revise this analysis in publication of quarterly tables to reflect the evolution of such outcomes, allowing users to see how the crimes recorded in the period are gradually all given an outcome.

Outcomes of fraud offences recorded in 2014/15 are not included in this chapter because fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces. Chapter 3 covers fraud outcomes recorded in 2014/15 based on data provided by the NFIB.

2.2 – OUTCOMES ASSIGNED TO OFFENCES RECORDED IN 2014/15 BY TYPE AND OFFENCE GROUP

The rates for individual outcome types shown in Tables 2.2 and 2.3 below relate to outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15 for the forces that supplied data across the periods highlighted in Table 2.1. In total, 93% of offences recorded in 2014/15 had been assigned an outcome by the time the data was supplied to the Home Office³. The remaining 7% were yet to be assigned an outcome.

- For around half (49%) of offences recorded in 2014/15, no suspect had been identified and the case was closed (outcome type 18).
- The next most common outcome type was an offender being charged or summonsed (16%).

It is difficult to draw inferences about what may happen to those offences that are yet to have an outcome assigned; while some of these may be crimes that were recently recorded, it may not be appropriate to assume that all crimes yet to be assigned an outcome will be distributed proportionately across outcome groups 1-18 when investigations are complete. For example, suspects may be identified in these cases already and the police may be gathering evidence before formally assigning an outcome; only subsequent quarterly updates to these figures will provide a fuller picture.

³ Thirteen forces submitted data to the Home Office in mid-April 2015 and six forces submitted these in mid/late-May. Data for the remaining 19 forces included in the analysis were taken from the Home Office Data Hub in early June 2015.

Table 2.2: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15, by outcome type and group

		England and Wales, Recorded crime
Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Proportion of offences recorded in 2014/15 ²
1	Charged/Summonsed	15.5
4	Taken into consideration¹	0.5
	Out-of-court (formal)	4.6
2	Caution - youths ³	0.6
3	Caution - adults ³	3.1
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	0.9
	Out-of-court (informal)	4.6
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	1.1
8	Community resolution	3.5
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	2.0
5	Offender died	0.0
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	0.2
10	Not in public interest (Police)	1.2
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	0.1
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	0.2
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	0.0
17	Prosecution time limit expired	0.2
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	7.9
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	8.7
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	1.9
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	6.9
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	48.9
Total offences assigned an outcome (type 1-18)		92.7
Offences not yet assigned an outcome		7.3
Total offences		100.0

1. Offences asked to be taken in to consideration by a court (TICs)

2. Number of outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15 divided by number of offences recorded in 2014/15

3. The Metropolitan Police were unable to provide 'caution - youths' separately until December 2014. These are therefore included within 'caution - adults'.

4. Based on 38 forces that supplied data as referenced in Table 2.1

However, as shown in Table 2.3 and Figure 2.1, these proportions varied considerably by offence type. For example, less than 5% of rape, possession of weapon and drug offences had been assigned an outcome of investigation complete – no suspect identified, compared with around 70% of criminal damage and arson and theft offences.

Given the different natures of the various crime types shown, it is unsurprising that some outcome types are more common for some crime types than others. This reflects the severity of each crime type, the local guidance on outcomes given to police forces and the varying difficulty in identifying a suspect for certain crime types. For example, it may be far more difficult to identify a suspect for a criminal damage offence that was not witnessed or caught on CCTV than for a drug offence where the offender is usually identified when the crime comes to the attention of the police, or for an offence where there was substantial forensic evidence.

Table 2.3: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15, by outcome group and offence group

Offence group	England and Wales, Recorded crime									
	Charged/ summonsed	Taken into consideration ¹	Out-of-court (formal) ²	Out-of-court (informal) ³	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest ⁴	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action) ⁵	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	Offences not yet assigned an outcome	Outcome rate (%)
Violence against the person	22.0	0.0	6.3	5.3	4.4	16.90	23.61	12.0	9.4	
Sexual offences	11.3	0.0	1.3	0.7	4.4	16.3	16.8	12.2	36.9	
<i>of which: Rape</i>	8.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.3	15.7	19.7	4.9	48.7	
Robbery	17.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.7	7.3	8.4	50.8	15.0	
Theft offences	10.8	1.0	2.2	2.7	0.9	4.2	3.1	70.0	5.1	
Criminal damage and arson	8.3	0.1	3.1	3.7	1.3	4.6	5.3	69.2	4.3	
Drug offences	33.3	0.0	22.9	27.6	1.8	3.3	0.2	1.1	9.8	
Possession of weapons offences	59.5	0.0	11.8	2.9	4.3	9.2	2.2	4.4	5.7	
Public order offences	31.4	0.0	9.4	5.1	3.4	14.2	15.4	15.8	5.3	
Misc. crimes against society	38.0	0.3	5.6	2.5	4.1	13.5	7.8	12.7	15.5	
Total	15.5	0.5	4.6	4.6	2.0	7.9	8.7	48.9	7.3	

1. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).

2. Includes caution - adults; caution - youths; Penalty Notices for Disorder

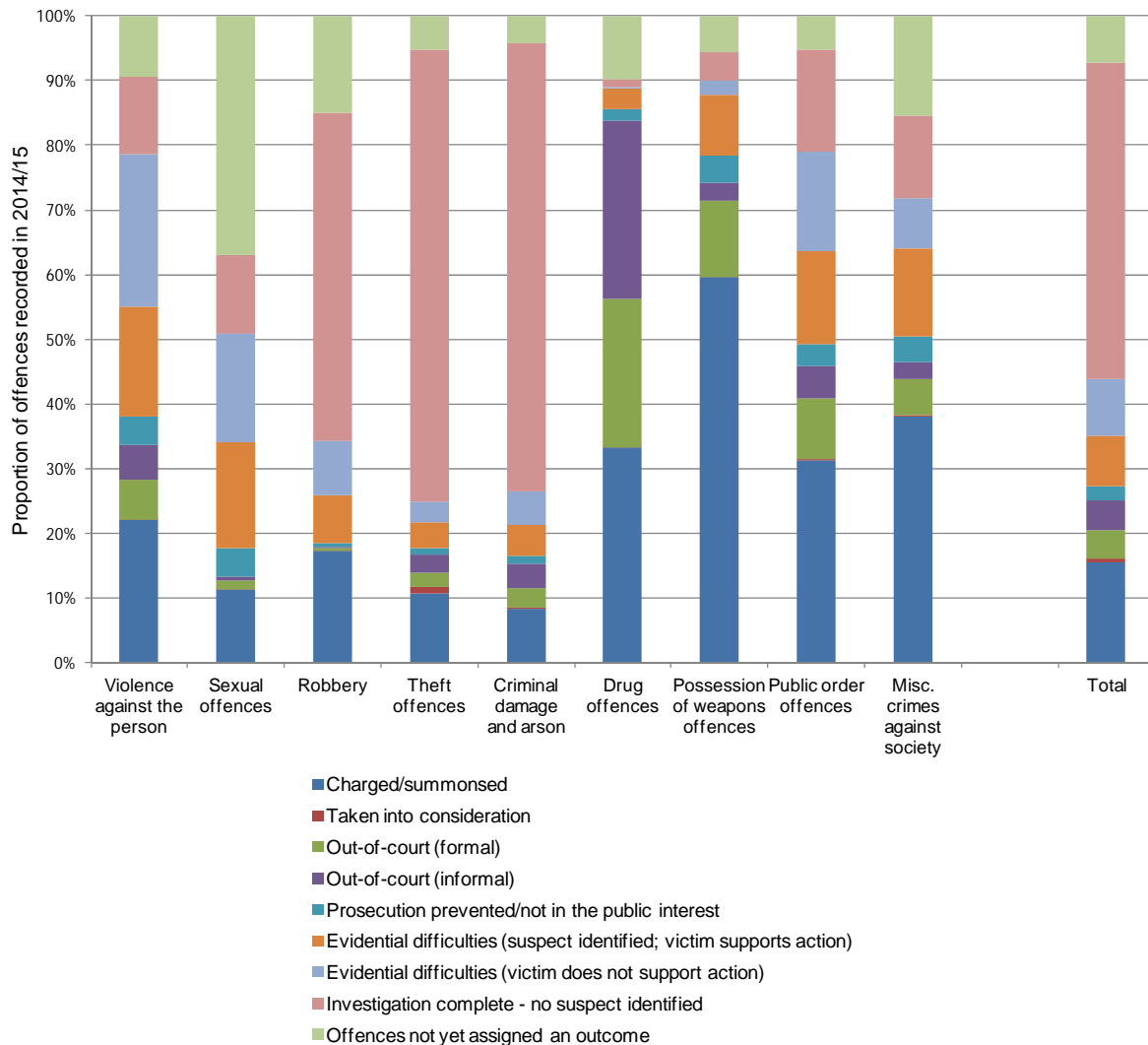
3. Includes cannabis/khat warnings and community resolutions

4. Includes not in the public interest (CPS); Not in public interest (Police); Offender Died; Prosecution prevented (suspect under age; suspect too ill; victim/key witness dead/too ill); Prosecution time limit expired

5. Includes evidential difficulties where the suspect was/was not identified and the victim does not support further action

6. Based on 38 forces that supplied data as referenced in Table 2.1

Figure 2.1: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15, by outcome group and offence group



Source: Home Office Data Hub and voluntary spreadsheet return

1. Based on 38 forces that supplied data as referenced in Table 2.1.
2. The numbers behind this chart are in Table 2.3

Although the data in Table 2.3 and Figure 2.1 do not cover all forces (see Table 2.1), they give a clear indication of how outcomes vary by offence type. For example:

- Possession of weapons was the offence type most likely to be assigned a charge/summons outcome, with around 60% of the crimes recorded in this category receiving a charge/summons.
- This contrasts with criminal damage and arson offences where 8% of crimes recorded in 2014/15 had received a charge/summons, and theft offences where 11% of crimes received a charges/summons. However, these offence groups had the highest proportion of outcomes where no suspect was identified and the case was closed, with 69% of criminal damage and arson and 70% of theft offences recorded in 2014/15 receiving this outcome type.
- While the proportion of sexual offences recorded in 2014/15 that had been resolved by a charge/summons was relatively low compared with other offence groups (11%), a large proportion (37%) of sexual offences recorded in 2014/15 had not yet been assigned an outcome, i.e. the investigation was still ongoing. In particular, almost half (49%) of rape

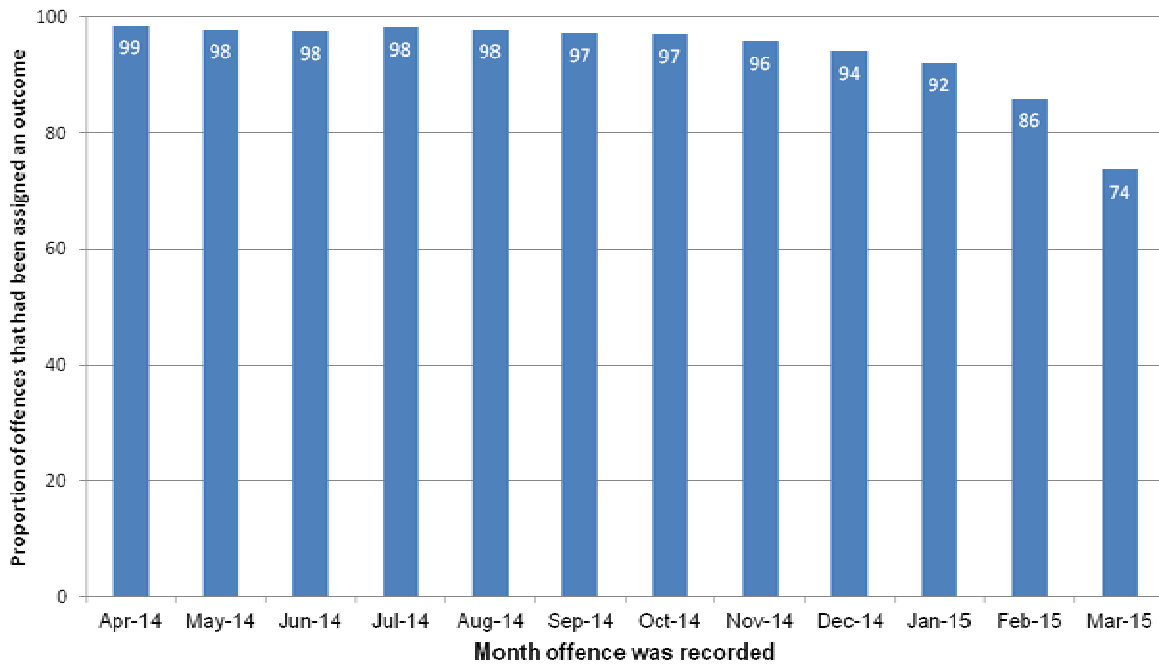
offences had not yet been assigned an outcome. This reflects the greater complexity of investigations for sexual offences and the extended time period required to assign an outcome.

- The proportion of offences yet to be assigned an outcome was lower across other crime types, ranging from 4% (criminal damage and arson) to 15% (robbery and miscellaneous crimes against society) of offences recorded in 2014/15.
- Half of drug offences recorded in 2014/15 were assigned out-of-court outcomes, a far higher proportion than all other offence types. This was unsurprising, with around half (48%) of the out-of-court outcomes for drug offences accounted for by cannabis/khat warnings. Out-of-court disposals were less prevalent for other crime types. The second highest proportion was for possession of weapon offences (15%) which, like drug possession offences, are usually resolved at the time the offence is recorded.
- Violent offences (41%) and sexual offences (33%) recorded in 2014/15 had a greater proportion of outcomes where there were evidential difficulties than other crime types. The proportion was also relatively high for public order offences (30%). These can include where the suspect has been identified, but the victim does not want to proceed with action.
- Drug offences (1%) and possession of weapon offences (4%) recorded in 2014/15 were far less likely than other offence groups to result in the case being closed without a suspect being identified. This is to be expected as, unlike victim-based crime types such as theft, when the offender may be unknown or unobserved, the offender is usually identified and dealt with at the same time as the crime comes to the attention of the police (and is recorded).

2.3 – OFFENCES RECORDED IN 2014/15 THAT HAD BEEN ASSIGNED AN OUTCOME, BY MONTH RECORDED

As shown in Table 2.2, 93% of offences recorded in 2014/15 had been assigned an outcome by the time the data were supplied to the Home Office. However, as expected, this proportion of crimes assigned an outcome was higher for the earlier months and lower for the more recent months, as might be expected given the length of time investigations might take. This is illustrated in Figure 2.2.

Figure 2.2: Proportion of offences recorded in 2014/15 that had been assigned an outcome at the time data were submitted to the Home Office, by month



Source: Home Office Data Hub and voluntary spreadsheet return

1. Based on 38 forces that supplied data as referenced in Table 2.1.

2. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables document, which can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2014-to-2015

Figure 2.2 shows that, at the point that the data were submitted to the Home Office, almost all offences recorded in April 2014 had been assigned an outcome (99%). The proportion remained high (between 97% and 98%) for offences recorded in the next six months before gradually decreasing over time.

Around three-quarters (74%) of offences recorded in March 2015 had been assigned an outcome at the time data were submitted to the Home Office, unsurprisingly a much lower proportion than for all other months. This is because a substantial proportion of offences, in particular those recorded towards the end of the month, will not yet have been assigned an outcome at the point data were submitted to the Home Office

See Chapter 4 for analysis of the average time between an offence being recorded and an outcome being assigned to the corresponding crime.

3 Outcomes recorded in 2014/15

3.1 – INTRODUCTION

The 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales and the British Transport Police provide the Home Office with aggregate returns each month on the number of notifiable crimes and the number of outcomes they have recorded each year.

The analysis presented in this chapter covers all police forces in England and Wales for the full twelve month period for outcomes 1-4, 6 and 7. As explained in section 1.7, some forces only started to supply data for the new outcomes mid-way through the year, and as such the figures for these forces (and, as a result, the totals for England and Wales) are not complete. See Table 1.2 for details.

Table 3.1: Number of forces providing data on the broader outcomes framework, by month from which data were first provided

Outcome data (types 5, 9-18) provided from ³ :	England and Wales, Recorded crime	
	Number of forces	Proportion of total 2014/15 recorded crime ⁴
April 2014	33	64.0
May 2014	3	3.3
June 2014	1	3.7
July 2014	5	5.7
August 2014	1	0.5
December 2014	1	6.6
Total recording data on outcomes 5, 9-18	44	83.7
Months not covered for types 5, 9-18 (11 forces as above)		16.3
Total	44	100.0

1. See Table A for details of which forces are included

2. Data for outcomes 1-4, 6-8 (shown in Table 1.1) recorded in 2014/15 were provided from April 2014 for all 44 forces

3. The data cover outcome types 5, 9-18 (Table 1.1) for the periods shown above, i.e. for 33 forces this is the full year April 2014 to March 2015, for 3 forces this is May 2014 to March 2015 and so on

4. The proportions of recorded crime are calculated by multiplying the proportion of total 2014/15 police recorded crime the force accounts for multiplied by the proportion of the year they have supplied data for

The rates described in this chapter are the number of a particular outcome recorded in a period as a proportion of crimes recorded in the same period – so the outcomes can relate to crimes recorded in previous years. This means that some crime types could show a rate of over 100% against a particular outcome. This is sometimes the case for relatively low volume crimes. Rates are only presented for outcome types where forces provided data to cover the full year, i.e. those that are comparable with previous years (Table 1.1).

While outcome rates can be useful for giving an indication of police activity in resolving crime, they are not a direct measure of police investigative performance and need to be interpreted with care. Some of the offences with the highest rates for particular outcomes are the offences most influenced by proactive policing. For example, possession of weapon and drug offences are often resolved at the point of the crime being 'discovered', as are many of the offences covered by 'miscellaneous crimes against society'.

Outcome data for fraud offences provided by the National Fraud Investigation Bureau (NFIB) are included in section 3.4 of this bulletin. However, they are under development and subject to ongoing quality assurance so should be treated with caution at this stage. They are therefore excluded from the main outcomes figures.

3.2 – OUTCOMES RECORDED IN 2014/15 BY OUTCOME TYPE AND OFFENCE GROUP

Table 3.2 shows the number of each outcome recorded by the police in 2014/15, by offence group, alongside the number of offences that were recorded during the same period. The outcome data are based on the eighteen outcomes for which data were available in 2014/15, see Table 1.1.

Due to the changes required to administrative systems, eleven police forces started recording against the new framework later than April 2015, which affects how Table 3.2 is interpreted. Most forces (33) have a full year of data under the new framework, but eleven have only part of the year based on the full set of outcomes, and the remainder based on the limited subset of outcomes (see Table 3.1). The numbers for groups which include new outcomes (prosecution prevented or not in the public interest; evidential difficulties; investigation complete – no suspect identified) are therefore lower than we would expect as they have only been recorded for part of the year for some forces.

Table 3.2: Outcomes recorded in 2014/15, by outcome type and offence group

England and Wales, Recorded crime			
Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Number of outcomes	Rate ⁴
1	Charged/Summoned	596,179	16.7
4	Taken into consideration¹	23,620	0.7
	Out-of-court (formal)	177,635	5.0
2	Caution - youths ²	20,115	0.6
3	Caution - adults ²	123,559	3.5
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	33,961	0.9
	Out-of-court (informal)	163,865	4.6
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	46,697	1.3
8	Community resolution	117,168	3.3
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	60,417	..
5	Offender died ³	1,128	..
9	Not in public interest (CPS) ³	6,988	..
10	Not in public interest (Police) ³	36,499	..
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age ³	3,655	..
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill ³	7,663	..
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill ³	1,023	..
17	Prosecution time limit expired ³	3,461	..
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)³	262,356	..
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	270,190	..
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action ³	58,653	..
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action ³	211,537	..
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified³	1,516,364	..
Total recorded offences		3,580,638	

1. Offences asked to be taken in to consideration by a court (TICs)

2. The Metropolitan Police were unable to provide 'caution - youths' separately until December 2014. These are therefore included within 'caution - adults'.

3. Eleven forces did not provide data on outcomes 5, 9-18 to cover the full year, and total numbers shown for these outcomes are therefore lower than expected. Details shown in Table 3.1

4. Rate based on number of outcomes recorded in 2014/15 divided by number of offences recorded in 2014/15. Rates shown for outcome types where full year of data was provided by all forces.

The number of outcomes recorded in 2014/15 as a proportion of the number of offences recorded in 2014/15 varies considerably by offence type (Table 3.3).

Table 3.3: Outcomes recorded in 2014/15, by outcome group and offence group

Offence group	Recorded crime	England and Wales, Recorded crime							
		Charged/ Summoned	Taken into consideration ¹	Out-of-court (formal) ²	Out-of-court (informal) ³	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest ^{4, 6}	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action) ⁶	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action) ^{5, 6}	Investigation complete - no suspect identified ⁶
		<i>Number of outcomes</i>							
Violence against the person	779,027	178,424	51	54,942	38,425	29,287	116,642	159,196	81,300
Sexual offences	88,219	15,827	27	1,437	620	4,000	17,004	14,794	10,425
Robbery	50,236	9,480	105	171	131	262	3,296	3,208	18,957
Theft offences	1,755,436	196,179	22,386	41,869	43,878	12,399	70,552	46,796	1,059,568
Criminal damage and arson	503,842	45,707	824	17,995	18,657	4,995	22,849	24,272	316,652
Drug offences	169,964	64,236	29	40,610	52,907	2,609	5,324	324	1,759
Possession of weapons offences	21,904	13,708	9	2,802	763	713	1,745	385	789
Public order offences	159,528	49,995	32	14,527	7,015	4,375	18,269	17,801	21,031
Misc. crimes against society	52,482	22,623	157	3,282	1,469	1,777	6,675	3,414	5,883
Total	3,580,638	596,179	23,620	177,635	163,865	60,417	262,356	270,190	1,516,364
		<i>Rate (%)</i>							
Violence against the person		22.9	0.0	7.1	4.9	..	..	..	..
Sexual offences		17.9	0.0	1.6	0.7	..	..	..	..
Robbery		18.9	0.2	0.3	0.3	..	..	..	..
Theft offences		11.2	1.3	2.4	2.5	..	..	..	..
Criminal damage and arson		9.1	0.2	3.6	3.7	..	..	..	..
Drug offences		37.8	0.0	23.9	31.1	..	..	..	..
Possession of weapons offences		62.6	0.0	12.8	3.5	..	..	..	..
Public order offences		31.3	0.0	9.1	4.4	..	..	..	..
Misc. crimes against society		43.1	0.3	6.3	2.8	..	..	..	..
Total		16.7	0.7	5.0	4.6	..	..	..	..

1. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs)

2. Includes caution - adults; caution - youths; Penalty Notices for Disorder

3. Includes cannabis/khat warnings and community resolutions

4. Includes not in the public interest (CPS); Not in public interest (Police); Offender Died; Prosecution prevented (suspect under age; suspect too ill; victim/key witness dead/too ill); Prosecution time limit expired

5. Includes evidential difficulties where the suspect was/was not identified and the victim does not support further action

6. Eleven forces did not provide data on outcomes 10-18 to cover the full year, and total numbers shown for these outcomes are therefore lower than expected. Details shown in Table 3.1

7. Rate based on number of outcomes recorded in 2014/15 divided by number of offences recorded in 2014/15. Rates shown for outcome types where full year of data was provided by all forces

Given the different natures of the crime types shown in Table 3.3, it is to be expected that some outcome types are more common for some crime types than others. As in the previous chapter, this reflects the different nature of the crime types, and the guidance on outcomes given to police forces and decisions made within forces.

Comparing the number of outcomes with the number of recorded offences should be done with caution, as the outcomes do not relate precisely to the same period as the offences. Some of the outcomes will refer to offences that were recorded in previous years, and were allocated an outcome following completion of the investigation. 'Rates' can also be influenced by changes in crime volumes for offence categories. For example, where crime volumes increase or decrease markedly from one year to the next, it is likely that any outcome rate will react more slowly, particularly where investigation times are longer and outcomes are likely to be assigned some time after the crime is recorded. This reflects that in-year comparisons of this nature pair outcomes with a different set of crimes. The rates for individual outcome types (e.g. the charge/summons rate) should therefore be treated as indicative only. This could particularly affect charge/summons rates for sexual offences, where the volume increased markedly between 2013/14 and 2014/15. Analysis in Chapter 2 showed that a large number of sexual offences remain under investigation. For that reason, rates in Table 3.3 can be particularly difficult to interpret as they are affected by changing volumes, especially for those crime types that take longer to investigate and assign an outcome.

The analysis presented in the previous chapter offers a more meaningful comparison between offences and outcomes, which will become increasingly useful when repeated over time.

3.3 – OUTCOMES RECORDED IN 2014/15 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

A comparison between outcomes recorded in 2013/14 and those recorded in 2014/15 is only possible for outcome types that were collected in both years (see Table 1.1).

Between 2013/14 and 2014/15 the proportion of charge/summons outcomes recorded in the year as a proportion of total crimes recorded in the year decreased slightly from 17.2% in 2013/14 to 16.7% in 2014/15. The 2013/14 figure was the highest rate since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in 2002/03. However, as with all outcomes, changes in this rate can be influenced by the changes in the crime mix between years. For example, if there is a large increase in the crimes that are more likely to receive a charge/summons in a particular year, the 'overall' rate would likely increase. The long term trend is shown in Annex Table B.

Table 3.4 shows a comparison of charge/summons rates between 2013/14 and 2014/15. As noted above, the changes from one year to the next should be treated with some caution, especially where they are accompanied by marked changes in crime volumes.

Table 3.4: Number of charge/summons recorded in 2013/14 and 2014/15, by offence group

	England and Wales, Recorded crime					
	2013/14	2014/15	% change	2013/14	2014/15	% change
	Number of offences			Number of charge/summons		
Violence against the person	634,623	779,027	22.8	166,200	178,424	7.4
Sexual offences	64,229	88,219	37.4	15,186	15,827	4.2
Robbery	57,828	50,236	-13.1	11,386	9,480	-16.7
Theft offences	1,845,168	1,755,436	-4.9	203,123	196,179	-3.4
Criminal damage and arson	506,014	503,842	-0.4	46,140	45,707	-0.9
Drug offences	198,215	169,964	-14.3	69,477	64,236	-7.5
Possession of weapons offence	20,621	21,904	6.2	14,005	13,708	-2.1
Public order offences	134,401	159,528	18.7	52,444	49,995	-4.7
Misc. crimes against society	45,440	52,482	15.5	24,406	22,623	-7.3
Total	3,506,539	3,580,638	2.1	602,367	596,179	-1.0

1. All police forces provided data on the number of charges/summons recorded in 2014/15

For all victim-based⁴ offence types (and drug offences), the number of charge/summons in 2014/15 changed from the previous year in the same direction as the number of recorded crimes. In other words, if recorded crime increased then the number of charge/summons also increased, and vice versa.

However, there were high percentage increases in violent crime (23%) and sexual offences (37%) recorded by the police in the year to March 2015. These increases are likely to be driven by an improvement in crime recording by the police and an increase in the willingness of victims to report these crimes to the police⁵.

These increases in recorded crime were not matched by similarly large increases in charges/summons (up by only 7% for violent crime and 4% for sexual offences). This is likely to be due to a number of reasons, but the time lag highlighted above is particularly likely to influence these outcomes, given they tend to have longer investigation times (see Chapter 4).

Table 3.5 shows a more mixed picture for cautions, with the overall number decreased by 12% between 2013/14 and 2014/15. There have recently been important changes in the way that simple cautions are used by the police which heavily influence any comparisons of data between the two years. For example, in April 2013 the Ministry of Justice announced a review into the use of cautions. Following this, the use of simple cautions for serious offences was ended in September 2013, as described here:

www.gov.uk/government/news/chris-grayling-simple-cautions-for-serious-offences-to-be-scrapped

In addition, the Ministry of Justice produced new guidance in November 2013, stating that offenders should not get more than one caution in a two year period for the same or a similar offence. These two factors, along with an increase in the availability and use of community resolutions, are likely to have contributed to the continued reduction in cautions between the two years.

Table 3.5: Number of cautions recorded in 2013/14 and 2014/15, by offence group

	England and Wales, Recorded crime					
	2013/14	2014/15	%	2013/14	2014/15	%
	Number of offences			Number of cautions		
		change			change	
Violence against the person	634,623	779,027	22.8	60,690	54,782	-9.7
Sexual offences	64,229	88,219	37.4	1,412	1,425	0.9
Robbery	57,828	50,236	-13.1	166	171	3.0
Theft offences	1,845,168	1,755,436	-4.9	31,728	26,905	-15.2
Criminal damage and arson	506,014	503,842	-0.4	18,183	16,663	-8.4
Drug offences	198,215	169,964	-14.3	34,396	29,063	-15.5
Possession of weapons offence	20,621	21,904	6.2	3,081	2,798	-9.2
Public order offences	134,401	159,528	18.7	10,345	8,632	-16.6
Misc. crimes against society	45,440	52,482	15.5	4,082	3,235	-20.7
Total	3,506,539	3,580,638	2.1	164,083	143,674	-12.4

1. All police forces provided data on the number of cautions recorded in 2014/15

⁴ Police recorded crime is made up of two broad groupings, 'victim-based crime' and 'other crimes against society'. Victim-based crimes are those offences with a specific identifiable victim. These cover the police recorded crime categories of violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, theft offences, and criminal damage and arson.

⁵ As reported in "Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2015" bulletin, published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS):

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales

3.4 – FRAUD OUTCOMES RECORDED IN 2014/15 (EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS)

The way in which fraud offences are reported and subsequently recorded has changed in recent years. In April 2011, Action Fraud began gradually taking over the recording of fraud offences from the individual police forces in England and Wales, completing in March 2013⁶. The implementation of Action Fraud as a single national fraud reporting centre has led to an increase in the number of fraud offences recorded, as it provides an easier way for the public to report such offences, and centralises expertise in these cases. Action Fraud allocates offences to forces for them to investigate.

The transfer was rolled out at different times for different forces and 2013/14 was therefore the first full year where all fraud offences had been reported to, and recorded by, Action Fraud.

It is now possible to present outcomes data for fraud offences. The source of these outcome data depends on when the fraud offence was recorded. The majority of these data come from the National Fraud Investigation Bureau (NFIB), who recorded fraud offences in 2014/15 and some previous years. However, a small proportion of outcomes relate to offences that were recorded by the police prior to April 2013. Around one-in-twenty (5% of) fraud outcomes were recorded by police forces in 2014/15, and this proportion is likely to reduce in future years as fewer fraud offences recorded prior to 2013 remain without an outcome.

The data set provided by the NFIB is subject to ongoing development and quality assurance. Therefore these statistics are deemed to be Experimental Statistics and should be interpreted with caution.

The process by which outcomes are recorded by Action Fraud is shown in the flow chart in Figure 3.1. Importantly, Action Fraud assess whether the fraud should be investigated and allocates those where sufficient grounds for investigation exist back to forces. The force subsequently assigns an outcome and submits this back to Action Fraud.

⁶ Action Fraud is a public facing national reporting centre that records fraud offences reported directly to them by the public and other organisations. Data from Action Fraud are collated by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB), a government-funded initiative run by the City of London police, who lead national policing on fraud. For more information on the transfer to Action Fraud, please see the “Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2015” bulletin, published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS):

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales

Figure 3.1: How fraud outcomes are recorded

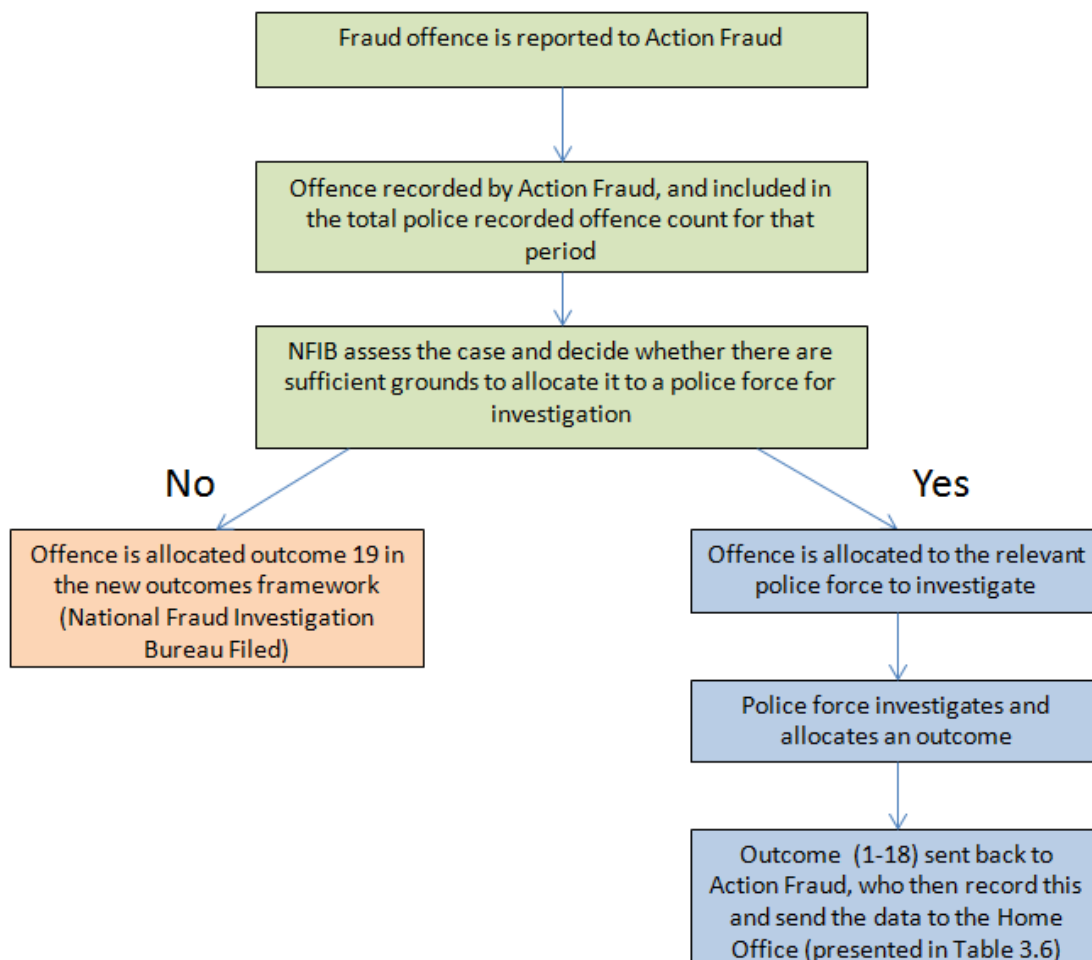


Table 3.6 shows fraud outcomes recorded in 2014/15. The first column shows outcomes that were recorded by police forces in 2014/15, which relate to offences that were recorded by the police force before April 2013 (i.e. before their transition to Action Fraud). The second column shows outcomes recorded by Action Fraud. These relate to offences that were recorded by Action Fraud in 2014/15. The number of outcomes recorded by the police is naturally much lower than the number of outcomes recorded by Action Fraud as they relate onto to those offences recorded prior to April 2013, most of which have already been assigned an outcome.

Outcomes recorded by Action Fraud only cover those offences that were ‘disseminated’ to police forces to investigate. In line with the rest of this chapter, this does not include those cases where there was deemed to be insufficient grounds for further investigation, and were not referred to police forces by the NFIB (outcome 19). In 2014/15, almost 62,000 fraud offences were disseminated back to police forces to investigate which represents around one-quarter (27%) of offences recorded by Action Fraud. This is higher than the previous year when around one-fifth (19%) of fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud were disseminated to police forces. This is likely to reflect the continued development of this area.

This means the outcome rates shown in Table 3.6 are low compared with other offence types. The rates show the number of each outcome recorded as a proportion of the total number of fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud. For example, the number of charge/summons recorded for fraud in 2014/15 is 4% of the number of fraud offences recorded in 2014/15.

Table 3.6: Fraud outcomes recorded in 2014/15, by outcome type (Experimental Statistics)

England and Wales, Recorded crime					
Outcome number	Outcome type	Outcomes recorded by police forces ¹	Outcomes recorded by Action Fraud ²	Total fraud outcomes recorded in 2014/15	Outcome rate
1	Charged/Summoned	465	8,589	9,054	3.9
4	Taken into consideration	15	422	437	0.2
	Out-of-court (formal)	48	1,732	1,780	0.8
2	Caution – youths	2	172	174	0.1
3	Caution – adults	46	1,530	1,576	0.7
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	0	30	30	0.0
	Out-of-court (informal)	28	942	970	0.4
7	Cannabis/Khat Warning	n/a	n/a	n/a	
8	Community Resolution	28	942	970	0.4
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	71	438	509	..
5	Offender died	1	10	11	..
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	20	80	100	..
10	Not in public interest (Police)	45	314	359	..
11	Prosecution prevented: suspect under age	0	2	2	..
12	Prosecution prevented: suspect too ill	1	6	7	..
13	Prosecution prevented: victim/key witness dead/too ill	2	10	12	..
17	Prosecution time limit expired	2	16	18	..
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	299	3,438	3,737	..
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	45	1,380	1,425	..
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	4	283	287	..
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	41	1,097	1,138	..
18	Investigation complete – no suspect identified	253	6,134	6,387	..
Total recorded fraud offences³					230,630

1. Offences recorded by police forces prior to April 2013 and an outcome subsequently recorded by police forces in 2014/15

2. Offences recorded by Action Fraud with outcomes recorded by Action Fraud in 2014/15

3. All of these offences were recorded by Action Fraud

4. Not all police forces were able to provide fraud data for the whole of 2014/15 for all outcome types. While rates are presented for outcome types comparable with previous years, which are more complete, data are partial for all outcome

5. 61,682 frauds were disseminated back to forces in 2014/15, and 23,075 fraud outcomes were recorded in 2014/15

4 The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded in 2014/15

4.1 – INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents data on the time lag between offences being recorded and an outcome being recorded for that offence.

Until recent years it has not been possible to link outcomes to their corresponding offences. However, the availability of record-level data now allows this analysis to be undertaken.

Table 4.1: Number of forces providing data via the Home Office Data Hub that have been included in time gap analysis

HODH data on time gap:	Number of forces	Force proportion of total 2014/15 recorded crime
Included	24	49.6
Not included/provided	20	50.4

1. See Table A for details of which forces are included

Figure 4.1 shows findings based on those forces that provide record-level data via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH). This analysis is broken down into eighteen outcomes introduced in April 2014, so it is possible to see a useful indication of the length of time taken for different crimes to be assigned an outcome on the new framework. The data relate to 24 forces and do not include the Metropolitan Police so should be treated as indicative. As more forces make the transition to the HODH in the coming months, the benefits and extent of the analysis continues to increase.

In order to include outcomes that may have taken a long time to be assigned, the data presented in this chapter cover outcomes that were recorded in 2014/15 regardless of when the offence was initially recorded.

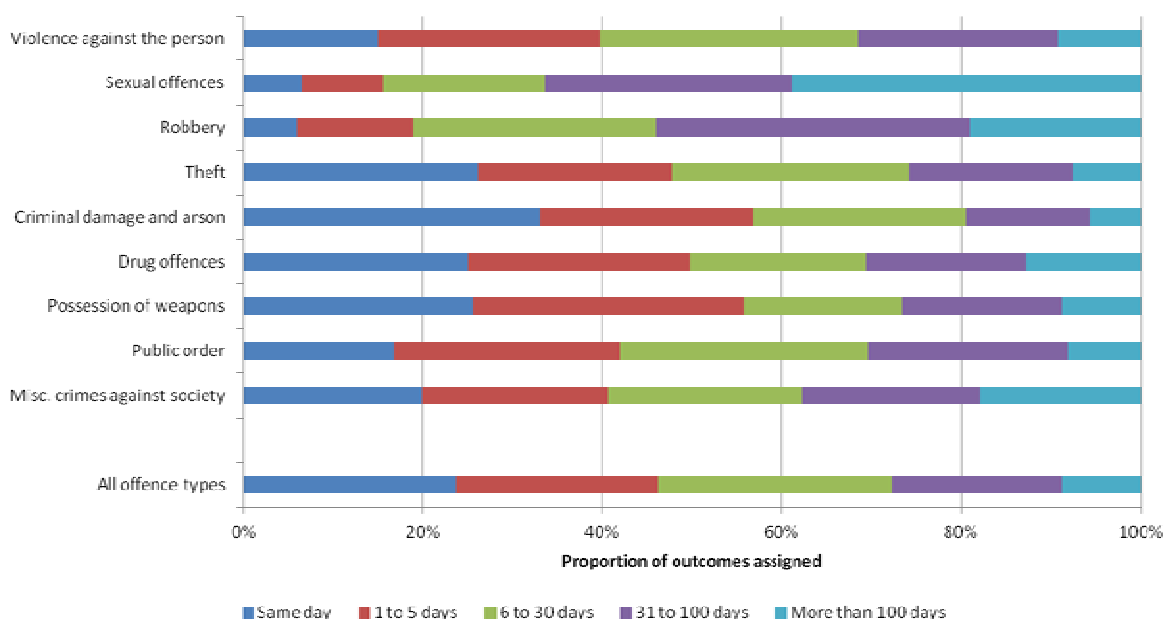
While this analysis gives an indication of the length of time it takes for an outcome to be assigned, it is affected by any time lag between a force achieving an outcome and recording it on their system. In particular, for some of the outcomes with a time lag of 1-5 days the outcome may have been 'actioned' on the same day as the offence was recorded. For example, cannabis warnings will almost entirely be delivered at the time or even before the offence is recorded, but the administrative task of adding the outcome to the crime recording system may happen a few days later.

4.2 – THE LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN OFFENCES AND OUTCOMES BEING RECORDED

Figure 4.1 shows the number of days between an offence being recorded and an outcome being assigned for that offence, both for all offences and for specific offence groups. This shows that in 2014/15, almost half (46%) of the outcomes were assigned within five days of the offence being recorded, and around three-quarters (72%) of outcomes were assigned within 30 days. Nine per cent of outcomes took more than 100 days to be assigned.

Sexual offences generally took much longer to be assigned an outcome than other offence types, with 39% taking over 100 days. In particular, over half (54%) of rape offences took over 100 days to be assigned an outcome. This is likely to be due to the complexity of these cases, and the level of investigation needed. In contrast, drug offences, possession of weapons and criminal damage and arson were generally resolved much more quickly, with at least 50% of these offences being assigned an outcome within five days. This reflects the nature of these types of offences, in particular for drug and possession of weapon offences where the offender is usually identified immediately.

Figure 4.1: The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded, by offence type



Source: Home Office Data Hub, 24 forces (see Table 4.1), outcomes recorded in 2014/15

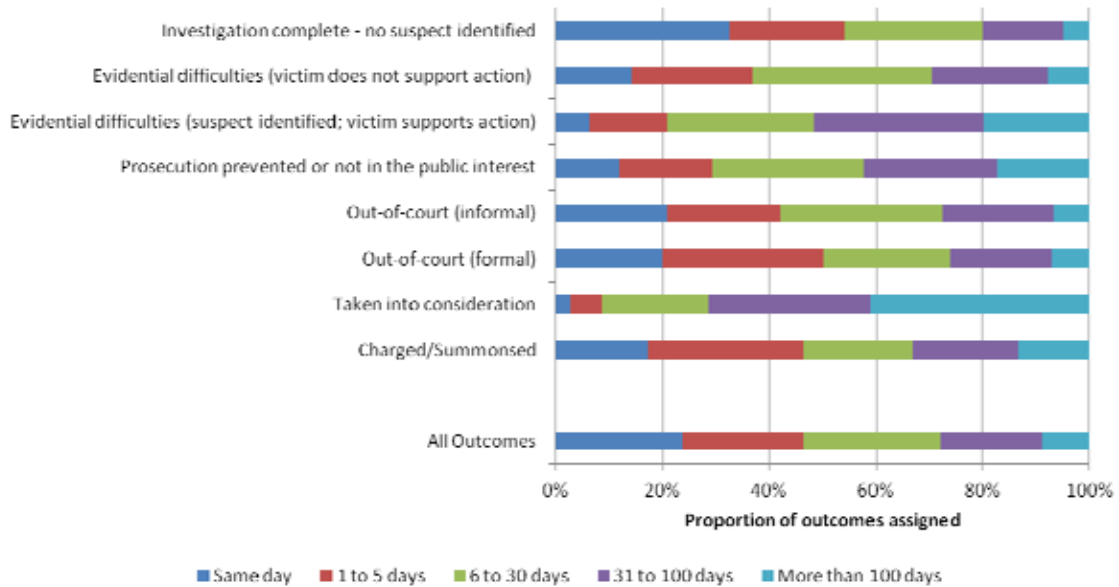
1. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables document, which can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2014-to-2015

Figure 4.2 shows how the time taken for an outcome to be assigned to a crime varies by outcome type.

- Investigations that were completed with no suspect identified tended to be the outcomes assigned most quickly, with around one-third (32%) assigned on the same day. Appendix Table 4a⁷ shows that almost all (96%) of these were applied to offences of theft (68%) or criminal damage and arson (28%).
- For charge/summons, 17% were assigned on the same day the offence was recorded; for formal out-of-court outcomes, 20% were assigned on the same day; and for informal out-of-court outcomes it was 21%.
- Offences which were taken into consideration by the court (TICs) were the outcome type that generally took longest to assign, with 41% of these being assigned more than 100 days after the offence was recorded. This is not surprising, given that these usually arise where the offender admits to the crime some time after it took place. Just over half (52%) of those offences where the outcome was 'evidential difficulties where the victim supported police action' took longer than a month to be assigned.

⁷ Appendix Table 4a can be found in the supplementary online data tables document here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2014-to-2015

Figure 4.2: The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded, by outcome group



Source: Home Office Data Hub, 24 forces (see Table 4.1), outcomes recorded in 2014/15

1. Taken in to consideration (TICs) are offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court.
2. Out-of-court (formal) includes caution - adults; caution - youths; Penalty Notices for Disorder
3. Out-of-court (informal) includes cannabis/khat warnings and community resolutions
4. Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest includes: not in the public interest (CPS); Not in public interest (Police); Offender Died; Prosecution prevented (suspect under age; suspect too ill; victim/key witness dead/too ill); Prosecution time limit expired
5. Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action) includes evidential difficulties where the suspect was/was not identified and the victim does not support further action
6. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables document, which can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2014-to-2015

5 Transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes')

5.1 – DEFINITIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES FOR TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS (FORMERLY 'NO-CRIMES')

A transferred or cancelled record occurs when the police have originally recorded an offence, but have subsequently determined that the crime did not take place, or was recorded in error. Cases where an incident is never recorded as a crime in the first place are not included. Transferred and cancelled records used to be combined as one and were published as 'no crimes' previously.

Offences may be transferred or cancelled in one of the following situations:

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

In the statistics shown in this section, transferred or cancelled records are always recorded in the same financial year as the offence that was originally recorded. So if, for example, an offence was recorded in January and then subsequently transferred or cancelled in the next financial year (e.g. May), the transferred or cancelled record will be recorded for the previous financial year. This ensures that the total count of offences in any given year is correct.

5.2 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORD (FORMERLY 'NO-CRIME') STATISTICS

Data on transferred or cancelled records are shown in Table 5.1. This shows that overall, 3.1% of all offences that were initially recorded as crimes in 2014/15 were subsequently transferred or cancelled. However, transferred or cancelled record rates vary considerably by offence group. The highest transferred or cancelled record rates were for miscellaneous crimes against society (7.2%, down from 8.8% in 2013/14), whilst the lowest rates were seen for robbery offences (1.9%, similar to 2.0% in 2013/14). The transferred or cancelled record rate for rape offences was 5.1%, down from 7.3% in 2013/14.

An additional online table shows these transferred or cancelled record rates for individual forces can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/transferred-or-cancelled-records-2014-to-2015

An Open Data table on transferred or cancelled records is also available, which shows transferred or cancelled record data by police force for each of the last four financial years. This is available here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables

Table 5.1: Number and proportion of transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes'), by offence group, 2013/14 and 2014/15

	England and Wales, Recorded crime							
	Offences initially recorded		Transferred or cancelled records		Offences recorded		Transferred or cancelled records as % of offences initially recorded	
	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15
Violence against the person	656,614	802,196	21,991	23,169	634,623	779,027	3.3	2.9
Sexual offences	67,916	92,476	3,687	4,257	64,229	88,219	5.4	4.6
<i>of which: Rape</i>	22,392	30,833	1,644	1,568	20,748	29,265	7.3	5.1
Robbery	59,017	51,207	1,189	971	57,828	50,236	2.0	1.9
Theft offences	1,905,341	1,812,809	60,173	57,373	1,845,168	1,755,436	3.2	3.2
Criminal damage and arson	517,061	514,399	11,047	10,557	506,014	503,842	2.1	2.1
Drug offences	202,587	174,243	4,372	4,279	198,215	169,964	2.2	2.5
Possession of weapons offences	22,203	23,368	1,582	1,464	20,621	21,904	7.1	6.3
Public order offences	140,278	166,412	5,877	6,884	134,401	159,528	4.2	4.1
Misc. crimes against society	49,837	56,564	4,397	4,082	45,440	52,482	8.8	7.2
Total¹	3,620,854	3,693,674	114,315	113,036	3,506,539	3,580,638	3.2	3.1

1. Excludes fraud offences as responsibility for recording and cancelling these had transferred to Action Fraud by March 2013

2. Transferred or cancelled records were formerly referred to as 'no-crimes'

3. All police forces provided full data on transferred or cancelled records

5.3 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS BY TYPE (EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS)

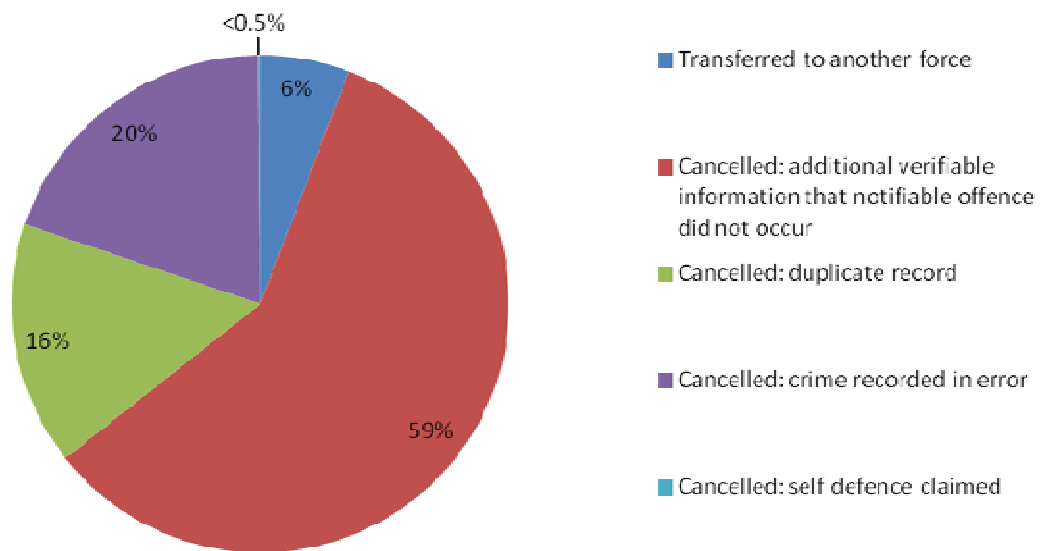
It has previously not been possible to identify the reason why a record was transferred or cancelled. However, since April 2015 police forces have begun to provide data against the five sub-categories of transferred or cancelled records.

At present, these data have only been received from the subset of forces that have provided data via the Home Office Data Hub for the first two months of 2015/16 and are presented here to give an illustration of the breakdowns (Figure 5.1).

Of the records that were transferred or cancelled in April and May 2015 by 16 forces, over half (59%) were cancelled because additional verifiable information became available that determined that no notifiable crime had been committed.

The proportions for the other types based on the two months of data were: transferred to another force (6%); cancelled due to being duplicate records (16%); recorded in error (20%). Only a very small proportion (less than 0.5%) of all transferred or cancelled records were crimes of assault that had been cancelled due to evidence that the offender acted in self-defence, since these can only be applied to records initially recorded as specific assault offences. However, this was also a very small proportion of the volume of assaults recorded.

Figure 5.1: Transferred or cancelled records by type, recorded by a subset of forces in early 2015/16 (Experimental Statistics)



Source: Home Office Data Hub, 16 forces, April and May 2015 data

Full data for these new breakdowns will be published for all forces for the first time in October 2015, where data for the first quarter of 2015/16 will be presented.

5.4 – HMIC FINDINGS ON THE QUALITY OF NO-CRIMING

During 2013/14, HMIC carried out crime data integrity inspections in all 43 police forces in England and Wales (and in the British Transport Police). These inspections included an assessment on the accuracy of no-crime records and compliance with the standards set out in the Home Office Counting Rules.

HMIC published a thematic report in November 2014. One of the weaknesses identified in police recording practices was crimes being inappropriately cancelled ('no-crimed'). HMIC found that of their national sample, 20% of transferred or cancelled crimes were removed from the records incorrectly.

The report can be found here: www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/crime-recording-making-the-victim-count.pdf

The transferred or cancelled records rate was lower in 2014/15 than 2013/14 for many offence types, which may reflect forces acting on the results of these inspections.

5.5 – COMPARING TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS (FORMERLY 'NO-CRIMES')

It is important to exercise caution when comparing transferred or cancelled record data across police forces. A particularly high or low number of transferred or cancelled records should not necessarily be interpreted positively or negatively, as different forces may use transferred or cancelled records in different ways. For example, whilst one force may record all crimes immediately and then later transfer or cancel a significant proportion of these, others may wait longer to judge whether an offence constitutes a crime or not, and thus are likely to record fewer transferred or cancelled records overall. This means that a firm conclusion cannot be drawn when comparing transferred or cancelled record numbers across forces, as any differences seen may just reflect differences in recording practices. More details of this can be found in the HMIC reports mentioned above.

Additionally, comparisons between forces need to be made with caution because some forces may deal more frequently with offence types that are more likely to be transferred or cancelled.

Annex A: Background to Crime Outcomes

A1 – BACKGROUND: THE OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

In October 2012, a public consultation was launched which proposed the replacement of detections with a new framework for outcomes which would be applied to all crimes recorded by the police. The majority of respondents supported the proposals for this new framework and agreed that it would provide increased transparency on how crimes are dealt with by the police. The outcomes framework provides a more complete set of information on how the police deal with crime, with all crimes now assigned an outcome.

The Home Office response to this consultation was published in March 2013, with a commitment to adopt this new framework. This consultation response can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/157796/consultation-response.pdf

A2 – THE OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK INTRODUCED IN APRIL 2013

Following the consultation, the new crime outcomes framework was introduced in April 2013. To resolve contrasting views on how to deal with cases where no further action was taken by the police, a phased approach was adopted to implementing the new framework. This allowed further discussion with the police and other stakeholders to ensure that the content and terminology used for the final set of additional outcomes was based on a full understanding of their impact.

The outcomes framework introduced in April 2013 therefore did not cover cases where the police took no further action. It did, however, expand the existing detections measures, by providing more detail on out of court disposals. Importantly, data on community resolutions were collected from all police forces on a mandatory basis.

This framework was therefore an important first step in the transition to a full set of crime outcomes in April 2014. Data based on this transitional framework for 2013/14 were published in July 2014.

A3 – THE AGREED OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK INTRODUCED IN APRIL 2014

In late 2013, the Home Office finalised the full outcomes framework, which was introduced in April 2014. This broader framework built on the nine categories included in the April 2013 outcomes framework. This added ten further types of outcome covering scenarios where a crime would previously have been classed as 'undetected' or 'no further action taken', and therefore never received a formal 'outcome' in the official statistics. The expanded framework further increased the transparency of police recorded crime data, with every recorded crime now given a detailed outcome.

At any given time, there will also be a subset of offences where the investigation of the crime is still ongoing and an outcome has not yet been assigned. Therefore, while every crime will eventually be given an outcome under the full framework, this may take some time while crimes are investigated.

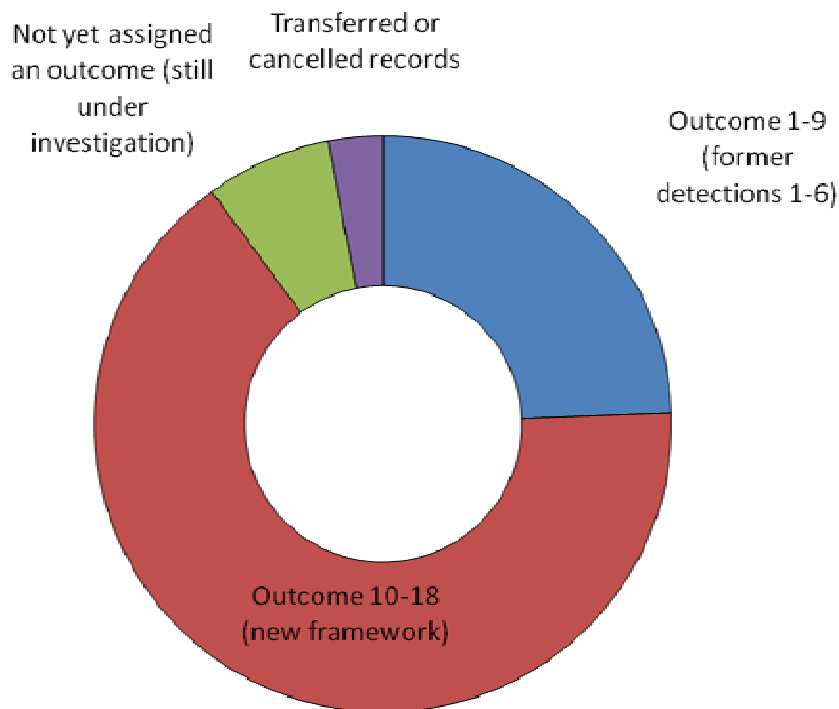
The broader outcomes framework (outcomes 1-19) introduced in April 2014 includes circumstances in which a crime has been fully investigated but no further action has been taken. This includes instances where the police are satisfied that they have identified an offender, but there are evidential difficulties due to the victim being unable to cooperate further in an investigation, or not wishing for formal action to be taken. In some cases, such an outcome may be revised in the future if the investigation is re-opened.

Initial data on the broader outcomes framework were published in July 2014 based on limited data available, for the months of April and May 2014. Since then, police forces have continued to supply data to the Home Office and this bulletin is the first time that outcomes data are published for all police forces.

Table 1.1 in Chapter 1 shows the three frameworks alongside each other for comparison:

- The detections in place until April 2013 (outcomes 1-6)
- The outcomes framework in place between April 2013 and March 2014 (outcomes 1-9)
- The broader outcomes framework in place from April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-19).

Figure A: How all offences initially recorded by the police were dealt with in 2014/15



Note: Illustrative based on indicative proportions applied to total 2014/15 recorded crime figures. Does not include fraud offences reported to Action Fraud

In addition to expanding the April 2013 outcomes framework, changes were made to the guidance provided to the police on recording outcomes. For example, in cases where there is a change in the outcome assigned by the police, the police should change the outcome to reflect the latest recorded. This is particularly relevant in cases where no suspect is initially identified (outcome type 18) but subsequent evidence may identify a suspect and lead to another outcome. In such cases the outcome should be updated to reflect this change, meaning that outcomes data will be revised over time as police forces update the outcomes of some crimes.

A4 – INTERPRETING THE OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

The outcomes framework adds greater transparency and clarity to informing how the police deal with crimes. All crimes are now assigned an outcome. As shown in Table 1.1, in addition to the former outcome types (1-6) such as charge/summons and caution, data are now available on cases where

there have been, for example, evidential difficulties in proceeding, the victim is unable to proceed, or no suspect has been found.

The former 'detection rate' was a misleading measure of police activity and resolution of crimes. It only considered a small subset of the ways in which the police actually deal with crimes and as a result could lead to perverse incentives in target setting amongst police forces. Data on the individual outcomes that made up the former 'detection rate' are published as a subset of the broader and more meaningful set of outcomes.

Care needs to be taken when making comparisons of crime outcomes between police forces. In some cases making any such comparisons may be misleading, given that different police forces use outcomes in different ways and will have a different mix of crimes to deal with. For example, some police forces may implement more community resolutions than others, depending on their approach, the nature of the crimes they deal with and the views of their communities. For example, a force that deals with a disproportionately high number of drug offences may apply a different mix of outcomes compared with a force that deals with a higher proportion of violent offences.

Additionally, not all forces were able to supply outcomes data to cover the full year (see Section A6).

Outcome rates for individual police forces can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2014-to-2015

This bulletin considers rates only when focusing on a particular type of outcome, and primarily shows breakdowns by offence group. These are the cases where more meaningful comparisons can be drawn. An example would be comparing the charge/summons rates for burglary offences across police forces or the caution rate for theft offences.

A5 – OUTCOMES CONSULTATION 2014

Included in the 2013/14 outcomes bulletin was a user consultation on the planned presentation of outcomes from 2014/15 onwards. The Home Office invited users to consider the proposed changes to the presentation of these statistics, based on the full outcomes framework, and the responses to this consultation have been used to shape this bulletin.

The consultation responses commonly noted that the traditional approach of considering all outcomes recorded in a year regardless of the offence recording date (which gives a picture of police activity in the year) was seen to be useful in explaining how police investigations had concluded during a period. However, it had the potential to be misinterpreted, for example if outcomes for a period are skewed by a high number of outcomes relating to offences recorded in an earlier period. There was strong interest in considering outcomes linked to offences recorded in the same period, which gives an overview of how crimes recorded by the police in a particular period are dealt with. Looking at the proportion of crimes not yet assigned an outcome can also give an impression of the length of time investigations can take. As there are merits to both approaches, both have been presented in this bulletin. While the consultation has now formally closed, we continually welcome views on how these statistics are presented.

The full response to this consultation was published in February 2015 and can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/407460/response-crime-outcomes-consultation-1314.pdf

A6 – DATA SHOWN IN THIS BULLETIN

Given the work involved in amending police force crime recording systems, not all forces were able to supply data from April 2014 against the full outcomes framework. As such, some of the 2014/15 data contained in this bulletin does not include all forces. Where necessary, explanations have been provided as to where forces have not been included for certain periods or analyses. While most forces

had started recording the full range of outcomes by summer 2014, the Metropolitan Police provided data from December 2014.

The Home Office Data Hub (HODH) allows forces to provide record-level detail on offences, vastly increasing the opportunities for analysis of police recorded crime data. Crucially in the case of crime outcomes, the HODH also allows outcomes to be linked to their relevant offence.

Table A shows which forces' data are included in which chapter and which time periods are covered. This is displayed alongside the proportion of total crime recorded by the police in 2014/15 (see Section A9) that was accounted for by each individual force.

Alongside this bulletin, crime outcomes Open Data tables have been published:
www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables

These contain:

- the number of crime outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15 by offence code, outcome type, quarter and police force (for the 38 forces that provided these data)
- the number of crime outcomes recorded by the police in 2014/15 by offence code, outcome type, quarter and police force

Table A: Forces providing outcomes data

Force	Chapter 2 data ¹ included from:	How Chapter 2 data provided ² :	Chapter 3 data (outcomes 5, 9-18) ³ from:	Included in Chapter 4 analysis ⁴ ?	Proportion of total 2014/15 recorded crime
Avon and Somerset	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	2.7
Bedfordshire	Jul-14	Manual	Jul-14	No	1.1
British Transport Police	n/a	No data	Apr-14	No	1.3
Cambridgeshire	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.3
Cheshire	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.5
Cleveland	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.2
Cumbria	n/a	No data	Aug-14	No	0.7
Derbyshire	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.4
Devon and Cornwall	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	2.2
Dorset	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.0
Durham	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	No	0.9
Dyfed-Powys	Oct-14	Manual	May-14	No	0.5
Essex	n/a	No data	Apr-14	No	2.8
Gloucestershire	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	0.8
Greater Manchester	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	5.6
Gwent	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	No	1.0
Hampshire	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	No	3.1
Hertfordshire	Jul-14	Manual	Jul-14	No	1.6
Humberside	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.9
Kent	Oct-14	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	3.1
Lancashire	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	2.6
Leicestershire	n/a	No data	Apr-14	No	1.7
Lincolnshire	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.0
London, City of	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	No	0.1
Merseyside	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	2.7
Metropolitan Police	Dec-14	Manual	Dec-14	No	19.8
Norfolk	Oct-14	Manual	Jul-14	Yes	1.2
Northamptonshire	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.3
Northumbria	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	2.0
North Wales	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	No	1.0
North Yorkshire	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	1.0
Nottinghamshire	Oct-14	Manual	Apr-14	No	2.0
South Wales	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	2.5
South Yorkshire	Jul-14	Manual	Jul-14	No	2.6
Staffordshire	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.7
Suffolk	Jul-14	Manual	Jul-14	No	1.1
Surrey	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.4
Sussex	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	No	2.5
Thames Valley	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	3.4
Warwickshire	n/a	No data	Apr-14	No	0.8
West Mercia	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.7
West Midlands	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	No	4.9
West Yorkshire	Jul-14	HODH	Jun-14	Yes	4.4
Wiltshire	n/a	No data	Apr-14	No	0.9

1. Forces' data for offences and outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15 have been included from the months shown to the end of March 2015. In Chapter 2, the data cover outcome types 1-18 (Table 1.1) for the entirety of the period for which they are included.

2. 'HODH' means force submitted record-level data via the Home Office Data Hub; 'Manual' means force completed a spreadsheet

2. The data cover outcome types 5, 9-18 (Table 1.1) from the months shown to the end of March 2015. Data for outcomes 1-9 recorded in 2014/15 were provided from April 2014 for all forces

3. The forces indicated supplied record level data to the Home Office via the Home Office Data Hub on offence recorded date and outcome recorded date

A7 – NEW OUTCOME FROM APRIL 2015

From April 2015, crimes where further action is undertaken by another body or agency other than the police, subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the action being taken, will be recorded separately as a new outcome 20. However, during 2014/15 (and therefore in this publication), these were included within outcome 18 (see Table 1.1).

A8 – FUTURE TIMELINESS OF OUTCOMES STATISTICS

Historically, outcome statistics were published on an annual basis, with the statistics published covering the previous financial year. Following consultation with users (see section A5) from 2015/16 onwards it is intended to present a set of core tables on outcomes on a more regular basis. From October 2015, a small set of published tables will be updated on a quarterly basis, to show:

- (a) The outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the latest period, i.e. how many resulted in charges, cautions, and so on, by outcome type, offence type and police force area
- (b) The total number of outcomes recorded in the latest period, by outcome type and offence type

The first of these will be revised considerably the quarter following its publication, and further revised each quarter thereafter by a diminishing amount, as more offences from the period are given a final outcome. Previous quarters will also be updated. This constant change will mean that the same table is likely to look quite different with each quarterly update, until eventually all offences recorded in a given period will have been given an outcome.

A9 – POLICE RECORDED CRIME DATA

The police recorded crime data used in this bulletin are supplied by police forces to the Home Office, and are then published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in “Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2015”:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales

Statistics on crimes recorded by the police that appear in “Crimes in England and Wales: Year ending March 2015” are based on notifiable offences. These include all offences that could possibly be tried by jury (including some less serious offences, such as minor theft, that would not normally be dealt with in this way) plus a few closely related summary offences, i.e. heard only by magistrates, such as assault without injury. For a list of all notifiable offences please see Appendix 1 of the ONS User Guide:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/crime-statistics-methodology/user-guides/index.html

In accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, statistics based on police recorded crime data have been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The full assessment report can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-268---statistics-on-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf

Recorded crime statistics provide important context to outcomes statistics, and are quoted where relevant in this bulletin.

Annex B: Crime Outcomes Data Quality

B1 - INTRODUCTION

In January 2014, the UK Statistics Authority published its assessment of ONS crime statistics. It found that statistics based on police recorded crime data, having been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, did not meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The UKSA published a list of requirements for these statistics to regain the National Statistics accreditation.

Some of the requirements of this assessment were to provide more detail on how data sources were used to produce these statistics, along with more information on the quality of the statistics. Additionally, there was also a requirement to provide information on the process used by police forces to submit and revise data, and the validation processes used by the Home Office. In order to ensure that this publication meets the high standards required by the UK Statistics Authority, details are provided below.

B2 – DATA SOURCES USED: AGGREGATED CRIMSEC4 RETURNS

Police recorded crime data are supplied to the Home Office by the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. For over half of forces these data are supplied to the Home Office in an aggregated return (CrimSec4 form) on a monthly basis. In this return, data on outcomes and transferred or cancelled records (formerly referred to as ‘no-crimes’) are collected alongside recorded crime data for each crime within the notifiable offence list. Notifiable offences include all offences that could possibly be tried by jury (these include some less serious offences, such as minor theft that would not usually be dealt with this way) plus a few additional closely-related summary offences dealt with by magistrates, such as assault without injury.

The monthly data are cumulative, such that each month’s return will contain the data for the financial year to date. When a police force wants to make revisions to this data, they usually do this in the latest monthly return, rather than re-sending a return for the period affected. The exception to this rule is when the revisions affect a previous financial year. In these cases the police force will re-send an end of year return for that year.

Outcomes are recorded on the Crimsec4 form in the month that the outcome is applied, and not the month in which the original offence occurred. For example, if an offence occurred in January and a suspect was subsequently charged in June, the outcome would be recorded in June. This means that the data on outcomes for a given month (presented in Chapter 3) do not correspond to the data on offences in that month, or even the same year. However, in 2014/15 the Home Office made an additional request to forces to capture outcomes that relate to the period the crime was recorded (see Section B4), and these data are presented in Chapter 2.

Transferred or cancelled records are recorded in the year in which the original offence was recorded. This is to ensure that the total offences for each year are correct, i.e. a transferred or cancelled record for a previous financial year does not get included in the current year, and falsely lower the total number of offences recorded in the current year.

B3 – DATA SOURCES USED: THE HOME OFFICE DATA HUB

As discussed in Chapter 1, the Home Office Data Hub (HODH) allows police forces to provide record-level detail on offences, vastly increasing the opportunities for the analysis of police recorded crime data. At the time of publication, there were 17 forces providing their monthly crime, outcomes and transferred or cancelled records data solely via the HODH, with several others in the ‘parallel running’ phase, where they are sending data both via the old CrimSec4 form and via the HODH, with a view to switching exclusively to the HODH soon. Some other police forces are in the ‘testing’ phase, and are

working to send in reliable data via the HODH. The Home Office are continuing to work with these forces to help them with this transition, and are committed to achieving a fully operational HODH.

B4 – DATA SOURCES USED: VOLUNTARY RETURNS

For forces providing record level data via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH; see section B3), it is possible to analyse how crimes recorded in 2014/15 were dealt with by linking individual outcomes with the offence to which they were assigned (Chapter 2).

As not all forces are currently able to provide data via the HODH, the Home Office made a voluntary request to all other forces in order to capture these data from as many forces as possible. Monthly data to October to December 2014 (or April to December 2014 if possible) were first requested in February 2015, with monthly data requested on a quarterly basis for the remainder of 2014/15.

The data presented for 38 forces in Chapter 2 is therefore based on HODH data for nineteen forces and figures voluntarily provided by a further nineteen forces.

Forces voluntarily provided their data to the Home Office on different dates (thirteen forces submitted data in early/mid-April 2015 and six forces submitted these in mid/late-May), and data were taken from the HODH for these forces in early June 2015 (see Table A).

These dates will have an impact on the overall proportion of crimes still under investigation and comparability between forces. For example, the proportion of crimes recorded in March 2015 that had been assigned an outcome at the time of submitting data to the Home Office is likely to be smaller for a force that sent their data return in early April 2015 than for a force that provided this in May, as there had been less time for these offences to be investigated and the outcomes to be assigned.

B5 – DATA VALIDATION PROCESSES

As data are collected from police forces on a monthly basis, the Home Office carry out a series of routine checks and feed the results of these back to police forces. These checks include:

- Looking for any offences where there have been a large number of transferred or cancelled records since the previous month;
- Looking for any large or unusual changes in offences, outcomes or transferred or cancelled records from the previous month;
- Looking for cases where forces have provided data against an offence classification that no longer exists (e.g. the former fraud classifications);
- Comparing offence types and outcome types against the long term trend, to spot any outliers in the monthly data.

Any outliers or anomalies are usually small. Police forces are then asked to investigate these anomalies and either provide an explanation, or resubmit figures where an error has occurred. Where resubmission is required, the force will usually just correct the errors in the latest monthly submission, rather than re-send all of the months in question. In the case of forces providing data via the HODH, the force will send modified versions of the affected records. These then supersede the original versions.

Table B: Trends in the number of outcomes and outcome rates by outcome type, 2002/03 to 2014/15

Outcome type	England and Wales, Recorded crime													2013/14 to 2014/15
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	
<i>Number of outcomes</i>														%
														change
Charge/summons (Outcome 1)	771,716	752,069	698,640	700,101	673,714	657,230	681,472	651,757	658,713	633,985	584,600	602,367	596,179	-1.0
Cautions (Outcomes 2 & 3)	207,818	220,005	257,783	304,461	351,244	351,552	313,702	264,873	232,355	205,760	183,658	164,083	143,674	-12.4
TICs ¹ (Outcome 4)	91,205	88,204	88,386	103,363	111,328	99,021	96,875	76,244	71,896	63,898	55,197	40,960	23,620	-42.3
PNDs ^{2,3} (Outcome 6)	..	3,045	35,919	105,594	139,666	128,978	108,240	102,699	86,010	73,759	59,869	48,097	33,961	-29.4
Cannabis/Khat Warnings ³ (Outcome 7)	..	..	40,138	62,586	80,653	103,804	107,241	87,332	80,659	77,933	69,240	62,722	46,697	-25.5
Other ^{4,5,6} (Outcomes 5, 8 & 9)	268,021	284,320	265,721	191,187	80,770	911	2,931	7,244	10,375	53,322	66,907	109,255	125,284	14.7
Total number of offences (excluding fraud)⁷	5,791,277	5,843,549	5,476,771	5,425,691	5,322,377	4,881,140	4,630,383	4,265,036	4,078,475	3,903,581	3,553,168	3,506,539	3,580,638	2.1
<i>Rates (%)⁸</i>														% point
														change
Charge/summons (Outcome 1)	13.3	12.9	12.8	12.9	12.7	13.5	14.7	15.3	16.2	16.2	16.5	17.2	16.7	-0.5
Cautions (Outcomes 2 & 3)	3.6	3.8	4.7	5.6	6.6	7.2	6.8	6.2	5.7	5.3	5.2	4.7	4.0	-0.7
TICs ¹ (Outcome 4)	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.2	0.7	-0.5
PNDs ^{2,3} (Outcome 6)	..	0.1	0.7	1.9	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.4	0.9	-0.4
Cannabis/Khat Warnings ³ (Outcome 7)	..	..	0.7	1.2	1.5	2.1	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.3	-0.5
Other ^{4,5,6} (Outcomes 5, 8 & 9)	4.6	4.9	4.9	3.5	1.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.4	1.9	3.1	3.5	0.4

1. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).

2. Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) (formerly known as fixed penalty notices) were introduced in several police forces in 2003/04 and nationally in 2004/05.

3. Cannabis Warnings for possession of cannabis were introduced in 2004/05. Since 26 January 2009, Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) can also be given for an offence of cannabis possession. Up to the end of March 2009 such PNDs were counted in the same category as Cannabis Warnings. Cannabis warnings include a small number of community resolutions for possession of cannabis in 2012/13.

4. From 1 April 2007, new rules governing these outcomes significantly limited the occasions on which they could be applied.

5. Includes data on Youth Restorative Disposals (YRDs) submitted to the Home Office from pilots in eight police force areas (Avon and Somerset, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Metropolitan Police, Norfolk, North Wales, Nottinghamshire). The pilot was introduced in 2008/09.

6. Includes community resolution and restorative justice data submitted on a voluntary basis by some police forces in 2011/12 and 2012/13. These data were then submitted by almost all police forces in 2013/14.

7. Total number of recorded crimes, whether assigned an outcome or not.

8. The number of crimes assigned an outcome divided by total number of recorded offences.

9. Data for the years 2002/03 to 2012/13 contains some estimated data on 'making off without payment' offences, following the creation of a back series of data on these outcomes (see notes page)

10. Data for Outcomes 10-18 are not presented as these were not collected in previous years

.. Not available.

Notes

For full details on the transition from the regime of detections (in existence until April 2013) to the outcomes framework, please see “Crimes Outcomes in England & Wales, 2013/14”:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/crimes-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014

Outcomes Framework

Detections were revised to become the outcomes framework from April 2013. The purpose of the revision was:

- To **strengthen police discretion** by recognising the full range of possible disposals, including community resolutions, rather than incentivising police officers to pursue a particular outcome because it is perceived as ‘better’ than others. This will empower officers to exercise their professional judgement to ensure that offenders are dealt with by the most appropriate disposal available, in the knowledge that no one outcome is favoured over others – the emphasis should shift from hitting targets to appropriateness.
- By strengthening police discretion, the framework should in turn help to **promote a more victim-oriented approach**, focused on providing a better service to victims of crime by removing perverse incentives for forces to record and pro-actively pursue certain crimes on the basis of locally-set detection targets, and encouraging police officers to consider the needs of victims, and the potential for engaging them in the process.
- To **further increase transparency** in policing, and trust in national statistics, by providing the public with a richer picture of crime, and how it is dealt with in their area. This broader set of information can be used as a tool by which the public can hold the police to account, and as a basis for constructive engagement between communities, the police, and police and crime commissioners. By giving every crime an outcome, we will help the public understand – and therefore support or challenge – police activity.

General Rules section H of the [Home Office Counting Rules](#) contains information on recording outcomes. For Home Office purposes, all recorded crimes are assigned one of the following outcome types:

Outcome 1: Charge / Summons: A person has been charged or summonsed for the crime (irrespective of any subsequent acquittal at Court).

Outcome 2: Caution – youths: A youth offender has been cautioned by the police.

Outcome 3: Caution – adults: An adult offender has been cautioned by the police.

Outcome 4: Taken into Consideration (TIC): The offender admits the crime by way of a formal police interview and asks for it to be taken into consideration by the court. There must be an interview where the suspect has made a clear and reliable admission of the offence and which is corroborated with additional verifiable auditable information connecting the suspect to the crime.

Outcome 5: Offender died: The offender has died before proceeding could be initiated.

Outcome 6: Penalty Notices for Disorder: A Penalty Notice for Disorder (or other relevant notifiable offence) has been lawfully issued under Section 1 – 11 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

Outcome 7: Cannabis/Khat Warning: A warning for cannabis or khat possession has been issued in accordance with College of Policing guidance. Note: Khat warnings were introduced from 24 June 2014 and numbers are likely to be small.

Outcome 8: Community Resolution: A Community Resolution (with or without formal Restorative Justice) has been applied in accordance with College of Policing guidance.

Outcome 9: Not in public interest (CPS): Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS decision). The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) by virtue of their powers under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 decides not to prosecute or authorise any other formal action.

Outcome 10: Not in public interest (Police) (from April 2014): Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (Police decision).

Outcome 11: Prosecution prevented – suspect under age (from April 2014): Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility.

Outcome 12: Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill (from April 2014): Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute.

Outcome 13: Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill (from April 2014): Named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence

Outcome 14: Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action (from April 2014): Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect not identified. The crime is confirmed but the victim declines or is unable to support further police action to identify the offender.

Outcome 15: Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action) (from April 2014): Evidential difficulties named suspect identified – the crime is confirmed and the victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action. This includes cases where the suspect has been identified, the victim supports action, the suspect has been circulated as wanted but cannot be traced and the crime is finalised pending further action.

Outcome 16: Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action (from April 2014): Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect identified. The victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action.

Outcome 17: Prosecution time limit expired (from April 2014): Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired (from April 2014).

Outcome 18: Investigation complete –no suspect identified (from April 2014): The crime has been investigated as far as reasonably possible – case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available.

Outcome 19: National Fraud Intelligence Bureau filed (NFIB only) (from April 2014): A crime of fraud has been recorded but has not been allocated for investigation because the assessment process at the NFIB has determined there are insufficient lines of enquiry to warrant such dissemination.

Outcome 20: Action undertaken by another body/agency (from April 2015): Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency other than the police, subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the action being taken. **Note:** during 2014/15 (and therefore in this publication), these were included within outcome 18.

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