



Criminal court statistics quarterly, England and Wales, April to June 2018

*Including statistics on the use of language interpreter and translation services
in courts and tribunals*

Main points

**Outstanding cases in
magistrates' courts
have decreased**



Despite a 2% decrease in magistrates' disposals in Q2 2018, they remained higher than receipts for a second consecutive quarter, which resulted in the number of outstanding cases decreasing by 1% in Q2 2018.

**Outstanding cases in
the Crown Court have
fallen**



Crown Court disposals remained higher than receipts in the quarter, continuing to drive the decrease in outstanding cases to 34,300 in Q2 2018, the lowest number in the quarterly time series.

**Despite decreasing,
violence against the
person still had the
highest number of
outstanding cases in
the Crown Court**



In Q2 2018 the number of outstanding violence against the person cases decreased from 7,100 in Q1 2018 to 6,800, whilst continuing to have the highest volume of receipts, disposals and outstanding cases.

**The average number of
days from first listing to
completion in the
Crown Court has
remained fairly stable**



For cases completing in the Crown Court, the average number of days from first listing to completion in the Crown Court increased from 176 days in Q1 2018 to 177 days in Q2 2018, remaining fairly stable since the start of 2017.

**Total financial
impositions have
decreased**



Total financial impositions have decreased by 3% in Q2 2018, mostly driven by a 23% decrease in compensation.

**Interpreters: The
success rate of
completed requests fell
slightly**



The success rate for completed service requests decreased from 98% in Q1 2018 to 97% in Q2 2018.

The technical guide to Criminal court statistics can be found here:

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

For full and detailed commentary please refer to the annual publication:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-court-statistics-annual-january-to-march-2018

**We have changed how our quarterly bulletins look, and would welcome any
feedback to commentary.champions@justice.gsi.gov.uk**

For other feedback related to the content of this publication, please let us know at
CJS_Statistics@justice.gsi.gov.uk

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Additional tables

This quarter, a new jurors table has been introduced which looks at jury summoning figures in the Crown Court by age group. In the future, this will be included in all annual bulletins.

Revisions to timeliness tables

Improvements in the data matching methodology for timeliness records have allowed us to capture between 0.1% to 2.8% more defendants in our timeliness tables. This had negligible impact on mean and median timeliness data at an aggregate level.

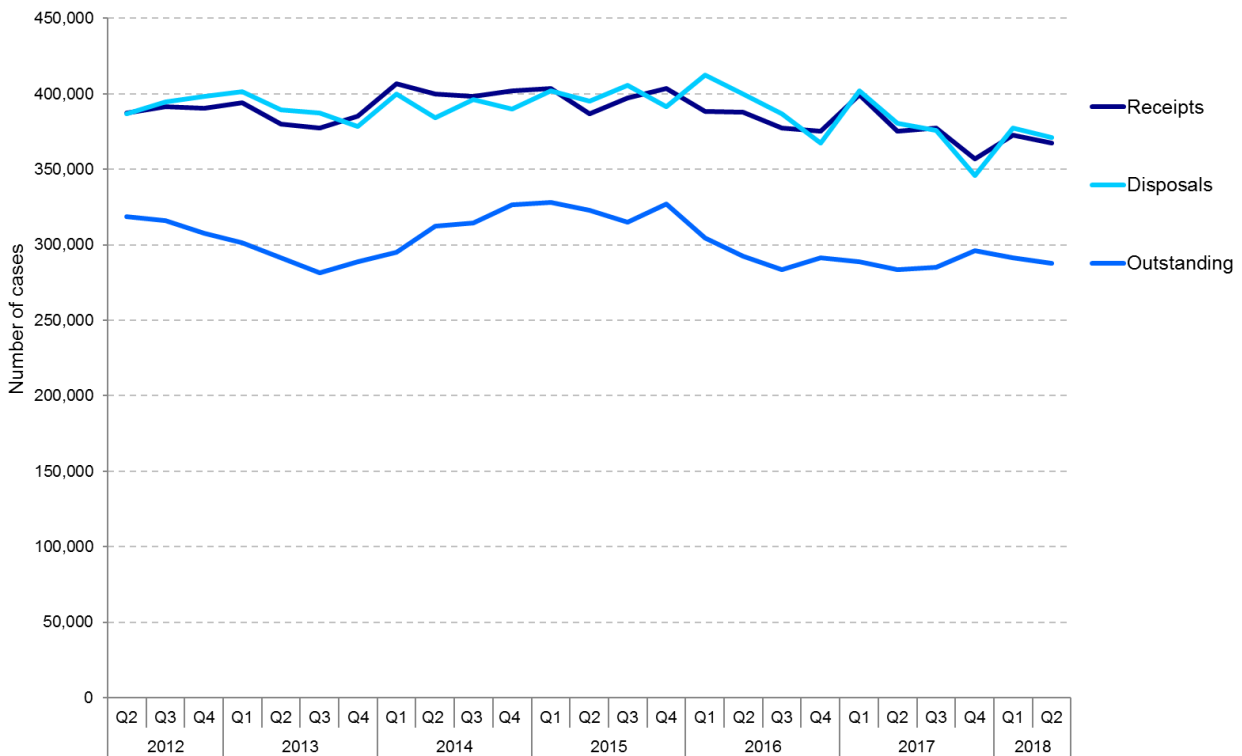
¹ This report sits alongside 'Criminal justice statistics quarterly' and the differences between the two publications are outlined in the technical guide.

1. Criminal cases in the magistrates' courts

Outstanding cases in magistrates' courts have decreased

With disposals remaining higher than receipts in Q2 2018, the total number of outstanding cases has decreased by 1%, continuing the decrease in the number of outstanding cases seen in Q1 2018.

Figure 1: Magistrates' courts caseload, Q2 2012 to Q2 2018 (Source: Table M1)



Magistrates' court caseload (Figure 1)

Receipts (Figure 1)

In the latest quarter the total number of receipts decreased by 1% from 372,500 in Q1 2018 to 367,500 in Q2 2018.

Disposals (Figure 1)

Disposals have also decreased, by 2% in the latest quarter to 371,100, and by 2% from 380,400 in Q2 2017.

Outstanding (Figure 1)

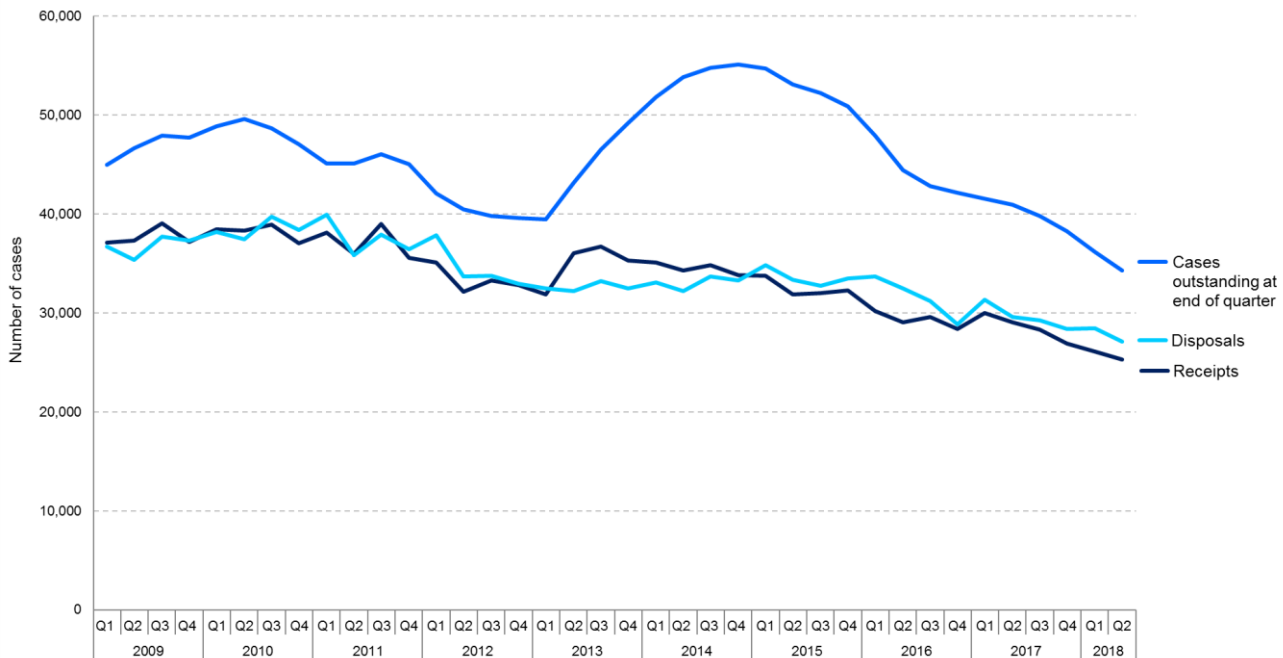
Due to the number of disposals still being higher than receipts, the total number of outstanding cases continued to decrease in Q2 2018 by 1% to 288,000. Outstanding cases have increased by 2% from 283,500 since Q2 2017.

2. Criminal cases in the Crown Court

Outstanding cases in Crown Court have fallen

Disposals remained higher than receipts in Q2 2018, continuing to drive the decrease in outstanding cases to 34,300 in Q2 2018, the lowest number in the quarterly time series.

Figure 2: Crown Court caseload, Q1 2009 to Q2 2018 (Source: Table C1)



Receipts (Figure 2)

Receipts have fallen by 3% since Q1 2018 and by 13% since Q2 2017. Receipts for both triable-either-way cases and indictable only cases have seen a reduction of 4% since Q1 2018.

Disposals (Figure 2)

Disposals have fallen by 5% since Q1 2018 and overall by 8% since Q2 2017. In the latest quarter, triable-either-way disposals fell by 6%, whilst indictable only disposals decreased by 8%.

Outstanding (Figure 2)

Outstanding cases in the Crown Court have decreased since Q4 2014, due to disposals remaining higher than receipts since Q1 2015. Outstanding cases have declined by 16% since Q2 2017; in the latest quarter they decreased by 5% to 34,300 cases, the lowest number in the quarterly time series.

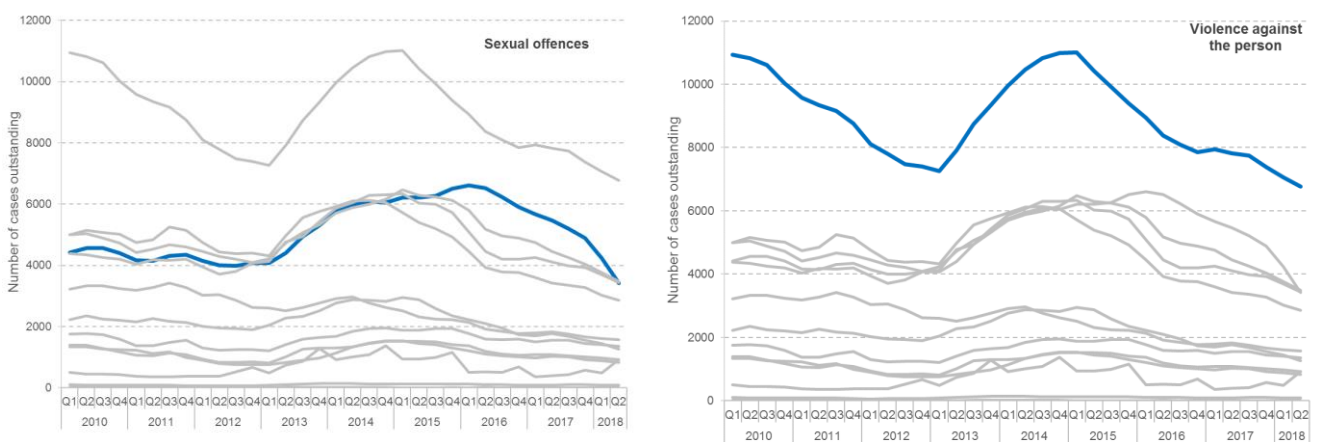
Triable-either-way cases have fallen by 5% in the latest quarter and by 18% since Q2 2017. Indictable only cases followed a similar pattern decreasing by 7% in the latest quarter and by 19% since Q2 2017.

3. Receipts, disposals and outstanding cases in the Crown Court by offence group

Violence against the person still had the highest number of outstanding cases while sexual offence outstanding cases continued to fall

In Q2 2018 the number of outstanding violence against the person cases decreased to 6,800, whilst continuing to have the highest volume of receipts, disposals and outstanding cases.

Figure 3: Outstanding cases by offence group, for trial cases, Q1 2010 – Q2 2018 (Source: Pivot table 1)



Crown Court receipts, disposals and outstanding cases by offence group (Figure 3)

Violence against the person had the highest number of receipts, at 3,400 in Q2 2018. Disposals for violence against the person cases (3,600) continued to be higher than receipts in Q2 2018 driving the 4% decline in outstanding cases in the latest quarter. Outstanding cases for violence against the person have declined since Q2 2015 (10,400), and are at their lowest level in the quarterly time series, now standing at 6,800 in Q2 2018.

In Q2 2018, outstanding cases for sexual offence cases fell to similar levels of outstanding cases for miscellaneous crimes against society and drug offences. The number of outstanding cases for sexual offences peaked in Q1 2016 at 6,600 cases and have been decreasing since; previously the number of outstanding sexual offence cases had been the second largest number of outstanding cases. In Q2 2018 there were 3,400 outstanding sexual offence cases, a decrease of 19% from 4,200 cases in the previous quarter, and the lowest level in the quarterly time series. This was partly driven by a 22% decrease in receipts for sexual offence cases in Q2 2018, falling from 1,400 in Q1 2018 to 1,100 in Q2 2018.

4. Timeliness

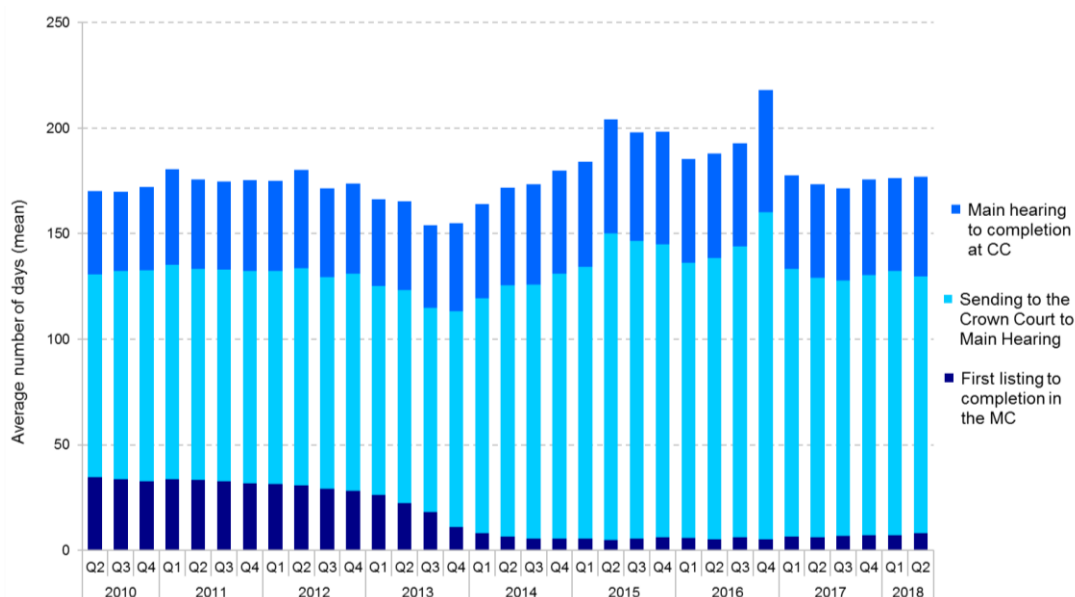
The average number of days (mean) from first listing in the magistrates' court to completion in the Crown Court have remained fairly stable since the start of 2017

For cases completing in the Crown Court the average number of days from first listing to completion in the Crown Court has been fairly stable since the start of 2017, increasing from 176 in Q1 2018 to 177 days in Q2 2018. (Table T4).

Average hearing times for not guilty plea trials was 16.9 hours in Q2 2018

Average hearing times for not guilty plea trials in the Crown Court increased from 13.8 hours in Q1 2018 to 16.9 hours in Q2 2018², this was predominantly driven by an increase in hearing times for indictable only trials where there was a not guilty plea. Times for all guilty plea trials increased slightly from 1.7 hours in Q1 2018 to 1.8 hours in the latest quarter (Table C7).

Figure 4: Average number of days (mean) from first listing in the magistrates' courts to completion in the Crown Court, for Crown Court criminal cases, Q2 2010 to Q2 2018 (Source: Table T4)



Crown Court criminal cases - First listing in the magistrates' courts to completion in the Crown Court (Figure 4)

There was a slight increase in the amount of time taken, overall, from first listing to completion in the Crown Court, from 176 days in Q1 2018 to 177 days in Q2 2018. Whilst there was an increase of 3 days from main hearing to completion in Q2 there was a similar decrease, in sending to the Crown Court to main hearing. Overall the mean number of days is higher in Q2 by a single day; this can be attributed to a day increase in first listing to completion, from 7 days in Q1 2018 to 8 days in Q2 2018.

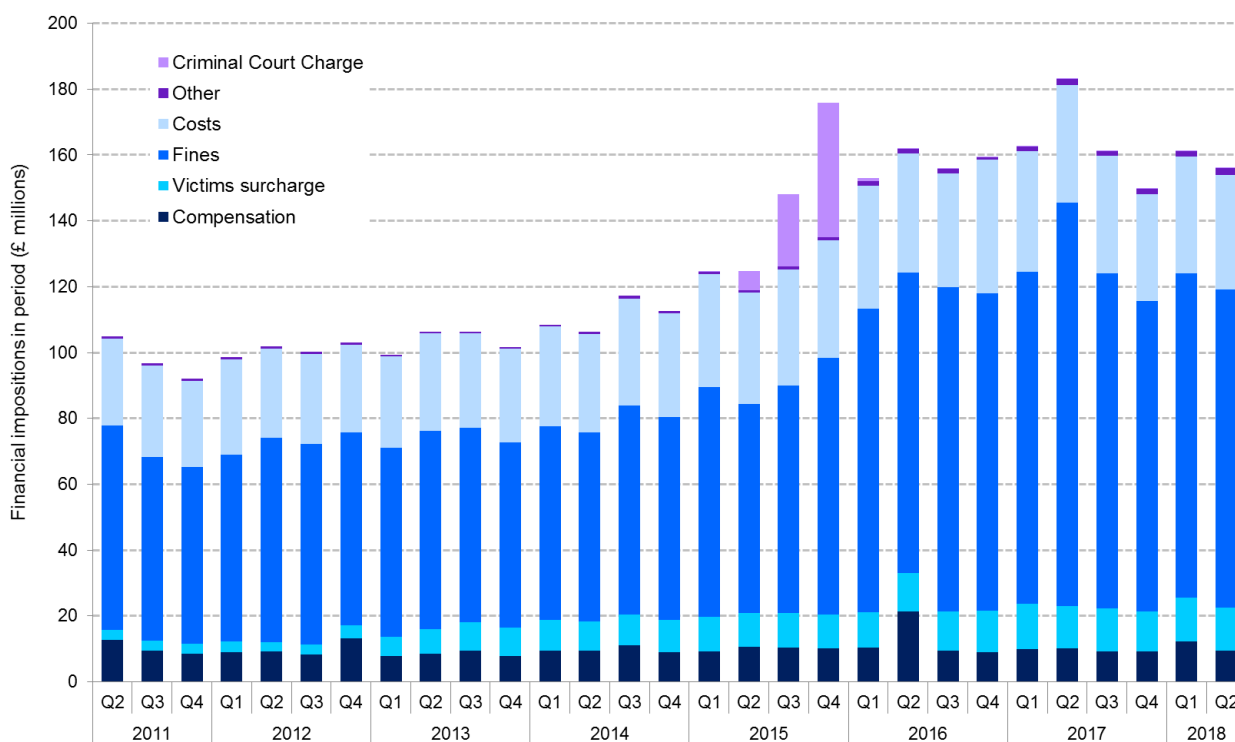
² Due to revisions in when cases close, the average hearing time for not guilty pleas tends to be downwardly revised in the next quarter. Over the past 5 quarters, the average revision has been -1.7 hours from the provisional values given in the previous quarters.

5. Enforcement of financial impositions

Total financial impositions have decreased in the latest quarter

Total financial impositions have decreased by 3% in Q2 2018, mostly driven by a 23% decrease in compensation.

Figure 5: HMCTS management information: Financial impositions by imposition type, England and Wales, Q2 2011 – Q2 2018 (Source: Table A2)



Financial impositions and amounts paid by imposition type (Figure 5, table A2)

Between Q1 2018 and Q2 2018 total financial impositions decreased by 3% to £156m. This decline was mostly driven by a decrease in compensation impositions of nearly £3m. Overall since Q2 2017, total financial impositions decreased by 15% from £183m in Q2 2017.

In Q2 2018, 8% (£12m) of all criminal court financial impositions were paid within the imposition month, a similar proportion to in Q1 2018.

Outstanding financial impositions (Table A4)

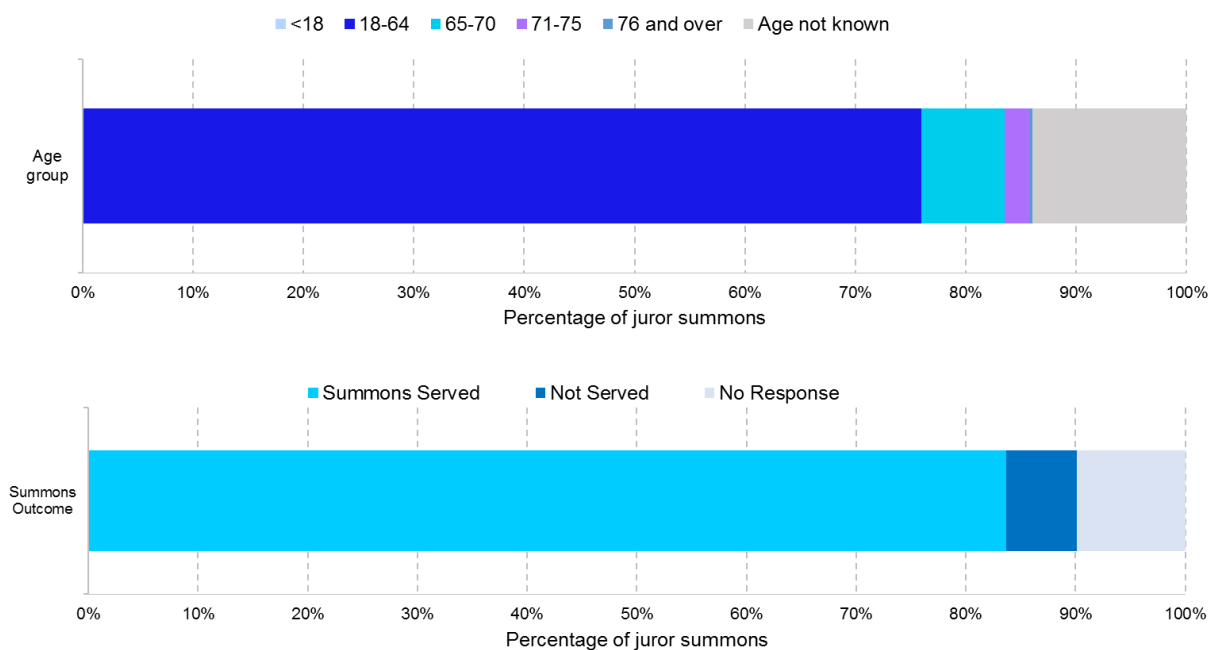
In Q2 2018, the total value of financial impositions outstanding in England and Wales was £1,053m. The amount of outstanding financial impositions has been increasing since Q1 2014, and showed an increase of £158m (18%) between Q2 2017 and Q2 2018. Over the past 4 quarters the total value of financial impositions outstanding has grown steadily at a rate of 4% each quarter.

Annex A: Juror Statistics

In 2017, those aged 18-64 made up 88% of juror summons where age was known³.

Juror summons for those aged 18-64 made up 88% of juror summons where age was known in 2017 (198,500), whilst summons for those aged 65-70 made up 9% of juror summons where age was known (19,600).

Figure 6: All jury summoning figures in the Crown Court by age group and summons outcome, including age not known (Source: Table J1)



Annex A is a guest chapter looking at juror summons figures broken down by age-group. After this quarter, these figures will be included in the annual publication alongside the current juror statistics tables.

Summons by age group (Figure 6, Table J1)

There was a total of 261,200 juror summons in 2017, of these age data was available for 224,800 (86%). Of the summons where age data was available, 198,500 (88%) were for those aged 18-64. For those with available age data, the majority (92%) of summons were served in 2017. Summons to those over 76 years had higher rates of serving (98%) and lower rates of summons disqualification (1%).

In the under 18 and 'age not known' age groups the percentage of those serving their juror summons was much lower, at 40% and 30% respectively. Similarly, no response rates were much higher than other age groups, at 20% for under 18s and 63% where age was not known. Summons to under 18s were disqualified 20% of the time, the highest of any age group.

³ In 2017, the age of 14% of jurors summoned was unknown, as shown by figure 6. The commentary in this section reports overall figures as a percentage of only the summons where age data was available to give a clearer breakdown of ages. Table J1 includes data for summons where age was both known and unknown.

Annex B: The use of language interpreter and translation services in courts and tribunals⁴

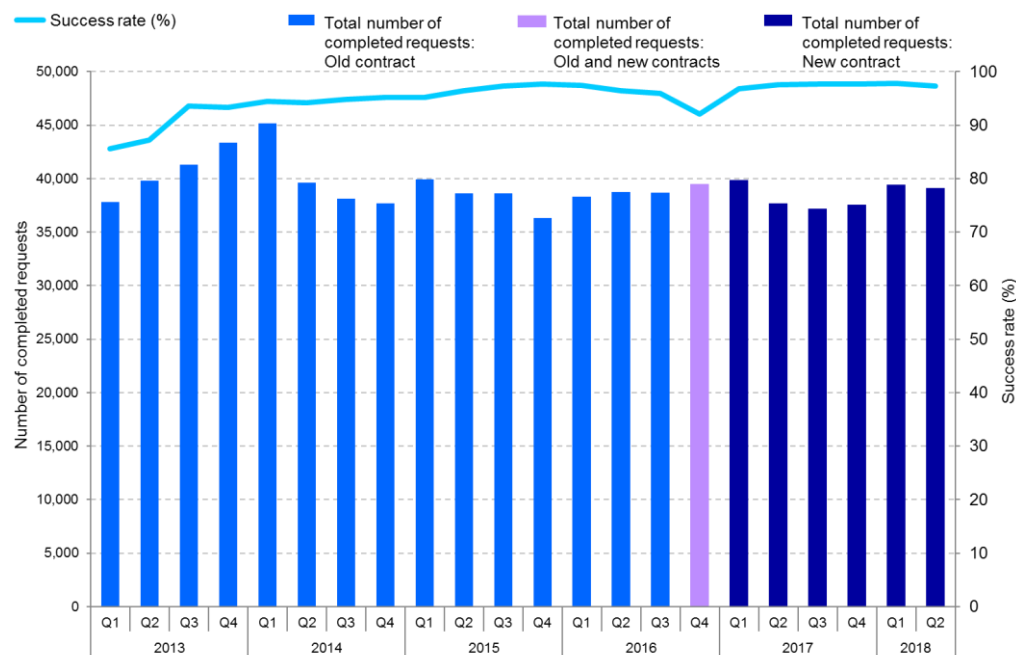
The total number of completed service requests decreased slightly in Q2 2018

A total of 39,100 completed service requests for language interpreter and translation services were made in Q2 2018, a 1% decrease compared to Q1 2018.

The success rate of completed service requests decrease slightly in Q2 2018

The success rate for completed service requests was 97% in Q2 2018, down from 98% in Q1 2018.

Figure 6: Number of completed language service requests and overall success rate, Q1 2013 to Q2 2018 (Source: Table L1)



Completed service requests (Table L1)

The figures comprise data from two separate suppliers, thebigword Group Ltd for face to face interpretation, and Clarion UK Ltd for non-spoken languages (special services). In Q2 2018, criminal courts made the greatest use of face-to-face language interpreter and translation services at 42%, whilst 32% were for tribunal cases, 17% were for civil and family court cases, and 9% of requests were for other cases.

Success rate (Figure 6)

The success rate for standard language requests has remained around 98% since Q1 2018, whilst the languages without DPSI⁵ success rate has also remained broadly stable, at 90% in Q2 2018. Special services has decreased by 2 percentage points to 94% since Q1 2018.

⁴ The statistics on the use of language interpreter and translation services in courts and tribunals are Official Statistics, except the statistics under the new contracts which are 'Provisional Statistics'.

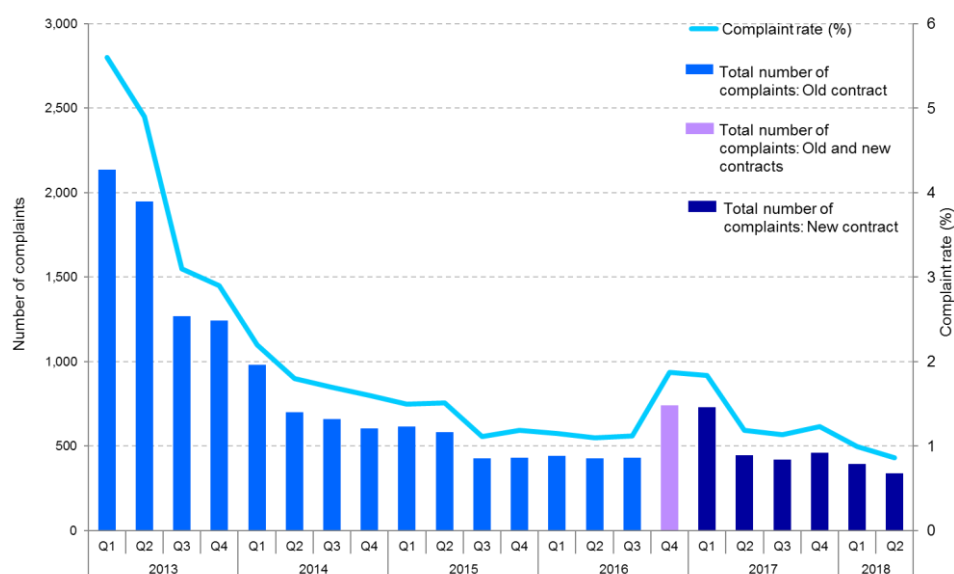
The total number of complaints for completed service requests decreased in Q2 2018

The number of complaints decreased from 393 in Q1 2018 to 340 in Q2 2018, the complaint rate has remained about the same at just under 1% in Q2 2018.

The total number of 'off contract' service requests increased in Q2 2018

The number of 'off contract' service requests increased from 345 requests in Q1 2018 to 378 in Q2 2018.

Figure 7: Number of complaints and complaint rate, Q1 2013 to Q2 2018 (Source: Table L2)

**Number of complaints and complaint rate (Figure 7)**

The most common cause of complaint was 'interpreter did not attend' which accounted for 26% (89) of all complaints made in Q2 2018. This was an increase of 3 percentage points compared to the last quarter. In the previous quarter the most frequent complaint had been 'interpreter was late', but this decreased by 10 percentage points to 17% (58) in Q2 2018.

The complaint rate for each requestor type remained fairly stable between Q1 2018 and Q2 2018. In Q2 2018 the complaint rate was highest in 'other' cases at 2%, whilst criminal courts and civil & family courts had complaint rates of less than 1% and tribunals had a complaint rate of just over 1%.

'Off contract' requests (Table L3)

'Off contract' requests at tribunals increased from 177 in Q1 2018 to 216 in Q2 2018 whilst criminal courts decreased from 139 to 134. The number of 'off contract' requests made by civil & family courts in Q1 2018 (29) remained similar to Q2 2018 (28).

Tribunals accounted for 57% (216) of all completed 'off contract' service requests, criminal courts accounted for 35% (134), while civil & family courts accounted for 7% (28).

⁵ Languages categorised under 'languages without DPSI' were described in previous publications as 'rare' languages; use of the new description of 'languages permitted exceptional qualification requirements' is considered to more accurately reflect the current position on the availability and use of different qualification requirements for these languages.

Further information on criminal courts data

The data presented in this publication are provisional. Final data for each calendar year is published in June each year in our Criminal Courts Statistics annual bulletin, following further data cleaning and the incorporation of additional cases not available in our original extracts of administrative data.

Accompanying files

As well as this bulletin, the following products are published as part of this release:

- Two technical guides providing background information on ‘Criminal Court Statistics’ and ‘Statistics on the use of languages and interpreters in courts and tribunals’, including data collection and processing, as well as relevant revisions policies and legislation.
- A set of overview tables, covering each section of this bulletin.
- A set of pivot tables containing Crown Court data broken down by offence group.
- 3 CSV files which feature court level breakdowns of published data:
 - Criminal Courts listings transparency.
 - Criminal Courts timeliness.
 - Crown Court receipts, disposals and outstanding cases by offence group.

National Statistics status

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority’s regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.



It is the Ministry of Justice’s responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected for National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

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