Home Office

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2019

Statistical Bulletin HOSB 12/19

July 2019

Important information

Before April 2013, official statistics about how the police deal with crimes focused narrowly on 'detections' (the number of cases resolved with a formal or informal criminal justice outcome). In April 2013, the Home Office introduced the new outcomes framework and changed the presentation of its crime outcomes statistics.

From April 2014 onwards, police forces have supplied data to the Home Office on a broader set of outcomes including those that do not result in a formal or informal criminal justice outcome. The year to March 2014 bulletin[1], published in July 2014, showed the first provisional statistics from the new outcomes framework. We have since developed the statistics with input from police forces and users.

We continue to ensure that these police recorded crime outcomes statistics are:

- meeting identified user needs, including providing new analysis and greater transparency;
- well explained and readily accessible;
- produced according to sound methods; and
- managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

The statistics in this bulletin are designated as Official Statistics as in January 2014, the UK Statistics Authority found that police recorded crime statistics did not 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, the Home Office Chief Statistician and the UK Statistics Authority Head of Assessment agreed to badge the year to March 2014 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 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.

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

Further information

Previous editions of this bulletin included a chapter analysing outcomes for domestic abuse related offences. This has not been produced for this edition as it is our intention for it to be included in the cross-government compendium on Domestic Abuse due to be released by the Office for National Statistics in November 2019.

Previous editions of "Crime Outcomes in England and Wales" 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/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

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.

For further information about crime outcomes statistics, please email:
CrimeandPoliceStats@homeoffice.gov.uk or write to:
Crime and Policing Statistics, 6th Floor, Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

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OVERVIEW

This bulletin is based on the full police recorded crime outcomes framework introduced in April 2014. Under this framework, every notifiable crime recorded by the police will get assigned a case outcome including those still under investigation.

KEY FINDINGS

How the police dealt with crimes recorded in the year ending March 2019:

- Compared with the previous year, the proportion of crimes resulting in a charge/summons fell by one percentage points, from 9% to 8% (equivalent to an annual reduction of 39,496). This continues a downward trend seen since the introduction of the Outcomes framework in year ending March 2015 when 15% of crimes were resolved with a charge/summons.

- There was also a drop in the number and proportion of offences resolved by out of court resolutions. The largest volume reductions were in the use of adult cautions (down by 0.3% or 9,401) and Cannabis/Khat Warnings (down by 0.2% or 10,768).

- Conversely, the proportion of offences that were closed as a result of "evidential difficulties" increased from 29 per cent to 32 per cent. These trends are likely to reflect improved crime recording processes by the police and a changing crime caseload.

- Police forces closed almost half (44%) of offences with no suspect identified, a similar proportion to last year. This proportion varied by crime type with around 74% of theft offences closed in this way compared with 9 per cent of rape offences and 2 per cent of drugs offences.

How long it took for offences recorded in the year ending March 2019 to get a police outcome:

As in previous years, the length of time it took police forces to assign an outcome to a crime varied by both offence type and the type of outcome.

- Overall, an (median) average of 9 days was taken from the date the crime was recorded to assign the outcome. This was an increase of 3 days compared with the previous year. There are likely to be a range of factors behind the rise including increasing volume of offences and complexity of caseloads being dealt with by the police.

- Nearly half (45.9%) of all outcomes were assigned within five days of recording the offence, and over two thirds (70.4%) within 30 days.

- Sexual offences took the longest time to assign an outcome (median of 77 days) and theft the least (median of 2 days).

- 'Possession of Weapons' and 'Drug Offences' have seen the largest increase in median days, increasing from 13 and 14 in the previous year to 18 and 21 in the latest one.

- The median length of time for investigations to be closed with no suspect identified was 1 day, similar to previous years.

1   Introduction

1.1 – OVERVIEW

This bulletin reports on outcomes that police forces have assigned to notifiable offences recorded by the police in England and Wales. It covers the 43 territorial police forces, plus the British Transport Police.

In April 2013, the Home Office introduced the new outcomes framework, replacing 'detections'. This new framework provides greater transparency on how **all** notifiable crimes recorded by the police are dealt with. The previous 'detections' framework gave only a partial picture of the work police do to investigate and resolve such crimes. A narrow focus on "detections" fed through into performance targets, which risked driving perverse crime recording decisions. It may also have undermined the victim-focused approach set out in the National Crime Recording Standard[2].

As well as this annual publication, the Home Office also publishes quarterly outcomes tables without commentary. These are published here www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-statistics.

For more detailed background on the outcomes framework and how it was developed, see Annex A6: Crime Outcomes Data Quality.

1.2 – THE FULL OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

Since its introduction in April 2013, the framework has developed to cover a broader range of outcome types for police forces to use. Detailed descriptions of each outcome type, can be found in the technical annex.

While all crimes will eventually have an outcome, this may take considerable time for some offences. At any given point, police forces will be undertaking crime investigations to which they will not yet have assigned a final outcome. Police forces will therefore submit revised data to the Home Office as investigations are completed and data previously published will be revised in subsequent releases.

1.3 – OUTCOME GROUPINGS IN THIS BULLETIN

Some of the tables and charts in this bulletin show grouped outcomes to simplify presentation. For transparency, Open Data tables are also published that show the full range of police outcomes. These are accessible from: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables.

For statistical purposes, all recorded crimes are assigned one outcome type please refer to General Rules Section H of the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) for information on recording outcomes.

Table 1.1 shows the grouping of outcomes used in this report. These take account of user feedback following a consultation in 2014.

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[2] www.gov.uk/government/publications/counting-rules-for-recorded-crime

Table 1.1: Grouping the outcomes framework from April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-21)

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
Action undertaken by another body/agency (**from April 2015**)	20
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest (police decision) (**from January 2016**)	21

Note: outcome 19 not shown as this applies to fraud offences recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau only which are reported on separately (see section 4).

See technical annex A6.5 for detailed descriptions of each outcome type.

1.4 – SUPPLEMENTARY DATA TABLES

The chapters in this bulletin discuss key topics of interest in the outcomes data. Data presented in these chapters as both charts and tables are available online via bulletin tables published on the Home Office website.

In addition to the tables found in a main bulletin, a number of supplementary tables area available here which provide additional data on the topics discussed, plus data on areas not covered. Data on transferred and cancelled records, and "old-style" outcomes are also published here https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2018-to-2019

1.5 OUTCOMES FOR OFFENCES RECORDED IN QUARTER (NEW STYLE)

This is the principle method used to present data in this bulletin, It looks at outcomes for offences recorded in the same period in which the offence was recorded, rather than just a measure of total outcomes recorded in a period. It allows crimes to be traced from when they were recorded to when they were given the outcome. As every crime will eventually receive an outcome, this measure can be used to show how an increasing number of crimes recorded in a certain period are resolved over time. This is particularly effective for tracking sexual offences over time, as many of these do not receive their outcome in the same year in which they are recorded.

1.6 OUTCOMES RECORDED IN QUARTER (OLD STYLE)

These outcome volumes relate to outcomes recorded in that year regardless of when the associated crime was recorded. Rates can be calculated as the number of outcomes recorded in the year as a proportion of crimes recorded in the same year. This is how rates were presented before it was possible to link individual crimes with their outcomes. It is still useful to look at outcomes in this way as an additional measure of police activity in relation to crime. However, comparing the number of outcomes with the number of recorded offences in this way should be done with caution, because proportion of the outcomes relate to offences recorded in previous years. Some crime types could show a rate of over 100 per cent against a particular outcome, which is sometimes the case for relatively low volume crimes.

2   Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2019

2.1 - INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers how the police have dealt with crimes recorded in the year ending March 2019. It should be noted that not all offences recorded have yet been assigned an outcome. A complete picture of how crimes have been resolved by the police will become available in updated tables which are published on a quarterly basis.

Since April 2011 the recording of fraud and computer misuse act (CMA) offences has been centralised via Action Fraud (the UK's national fraud and cyber-crime reporting centre) and managed by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) at the City of London Police. The analysis presented in Chapters 2 and 3 is restricted to those offences initially recorded by the territorial forces and BTP and therefore exclude fraud and CMA offences. From the data supplied to the Home Office by the NFIB, it is not currently possible to link individual outcomes to offences at record level. Therefore, the outcomes shown in Chapter 4 are presented on an "old style" basis and not directly comparable with other offences.

When comparing crime outcomes data over time it is important to consider the broader context and changing crime caseloads. In 2014, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary published a critical report on crime recording which revealed significant under-recording of crimes that had been reported by victims to the police. This has been followed by a programme of rolling inspections of forces to examine compliance with the Home Office's National Crime Recording Standards. This has led to improved compliance and increased caseloads as more crimes are (correctly) recorded than in previous years. The HMICFRS has estimated in their recent 'State of Policing' report that police forces recorded around 490,000 more crimes during 2018 due to improved recording[3].

In addition to improvements in recording, the Office for National Statistics have commented that some of the increases in recorded crime are likely to reflect genuine changes in society. These include more criminality and a greater willingness of some victims to come forward to report crimes to the police than has happened in the past.

As a result, since 2013/14 the volume of the crime caseload being dealt with by the police has grown. In addition, the crime mix has also changed with rising numbers of more complex offences like sexual abuse, child abuse and domestic abuse. The increasing volume of digital evidence (which may require more intensive work to investigate) across a wide spectrum of offences from harassment to sexual offences is also thought to have added to the investigative demands on the police. At the same time, many forces have adopted local policies to prioritise the use of investigative resources. These factors are likely to have an impact on the distribution of outcomes over time and across forces.

2.2 – HOW OUTCOMES VARIED BY OUTCOME TYPE

Table 2.1 summarises outcomes given to all crimes recorded in the year to March 2019 at the time that data was finalised for analysis (June 2019). It also shows how this compares with outcomes given to crimes recorded in the previous year. For comparability, we present outcomes for the year to March 2018 as they appeared when first published in July 2018[4]. Most outcomes were in similar proportions to last year with the exception of the following (see figure 2.1 and table 2.2):

- The charge/summons rate, fell from 403,221 (9.1%) to 403,221 (7.8%) (equivalent to a drop of 39,496 charge/summons). This continues a downward trend since the year ending March 2015 when the comparable rate was 15.5%.

- There has also been a fall in both formal and informal out of court disposals. The former fell by 0.4% (from 87,597 to 73,486), and the latter by 0.3% (from 127,587 to 120,825).

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3 see https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/state-of-policing-2018.pdf

4 Published open data tables show the current picture for March 2019 data which have had a further 12 months for an outcome to be applied, see:
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables

- There was a fall in the proportion of outcomes where no suspect was identified (44.4%) compared with the previous year (47.5%).

- A slightly higher proportion of offences than last year were closed as a result of "evidential difficulties" where the victim did not want further action to be taken (23%), a three-percentage point increase. Within this group, there was a three percentage point rise in the number of outcomes with evidential difficulties where the victim did not want further action to be taken despite a suspect being identified. There was also a one percentage point increase in evidential difficulties where the victim did support further action.

- The number of offences not assigned an outcome at the year-end rose from 6.4% last year to 7.6% this. This was a volume increase of 82,492 offences.

Table 2.1: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2018 and March 2019, by outcome type and group, England and Wales

| | | England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes | | | |
| | | Volume of offences recorded in period:[2] | | Proportion of offences recorded in period:[2] | |
Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Year to March 2018 (as first published in July 2018)[3,4]	Year to March 2019[4,5]	Year to March 2018 (as first published in July 2018)[3,4]	Year to March 2019[4,5]
1	**Charged/Summonsed**	**442,717**	**403,221**	**9.1**	**7.8**
4	**Taken into consideration[6]**	**6,758**	**5,371**	**0.1**	**0.1**
	Out-of-court (formal)	**87,597**	**73,486**	**1.8**	**1.4**
2	Caution - youths[4]	11,139	8,558	0.2	0.2
3	Caution - adults[4]	63,608	54,207	1.3	1.0
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	12,850	10,721	0.3	0.2
	Out-of-court (informal)	**127,587**	**120,825**	**2.6**	**2.3**
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	31,051	20,283	0.6	0.4
8	Community resolution	96,536	100,542	2.0	1.9
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	**62,461**	**75,305**	**1.3**	**1.5**
5	Offender died	1,819	1,288	0.0	0.0
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	2,112	1,717	0.0	0.0
10	Not in public interest (Police)	29,917	35,386	0.6	0.7
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	7,623	7,394	0.2	0.1
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	11,909	12,403	0.2	0.2
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	1,716	7,373	0.0	0.1
17	Prosecution time limit expired	7,365	9,744	0.2	0.2
15	**Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)**	**434,500**	**511,370**	**8.9**	**9.9**
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	**975,333**	**1,170,467**	**20.0**	**22.6**
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	226,125	247,238	4.6	4.8
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	749,208	923,229	15.4	17.8
18	**Investigation complete - no suspect identified**	**2,316,610**	**2,299,245**	**47.5**	**44.4**
20	**Action undertaken by another body/agency**	**46,195**	**54,391**	**0.9**	**1.1**
21	**Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest[7]**	**67,025**	**72,648**	**1.4**	**1.4**
	Total offences assigned an outcome (type 1-18, 20, 21)	**4,566,783**	**4,786,329**	**93.6**	**92.4**
	Offences not yet assigned an outcome	**310,217**	**392,709**	**6.4**	**7.6**
	Total offences[1]	**4,877,000**	**5,179,038**	**100.0**	**100.0**

1. Year to March 2018 and year to March 2019 exclude fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces. Outcome 19 not shown as this applies only to fraud offences recorded by the NFIB.

2. Proportions show the percentage of crimes recorded in the year receiving each outcome.

3. Based on data from all 44 forces covering the full year to March 2018.

4. Proportions as at the time data were provided to the Home Office.

5. Data for Lancashire Police is excluded for September 2018 - March 2019 due to administrative reasons.

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

7. Outcome 21 was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis and became mandatory from April 2016.

2.3 – HOW OUTCOMES VARIED BY OFFENCE GROUP

How crimes are resolved varied considerably by the type of crime and reflect factors such as nature of the offence, differing police force priorities and the varying challenges in gathering evidence. For example, it will 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 possession offence where the police apprehended the offender when the crime came to their attention. Similarly, an offence where substantial forensic evidence exists will be easier to proceed with than one where such evidence does not.

The willingness of victims or witnesses to engage with the police can also vary by type of offence. Some crimes will require longer time to investigate and this can impact on the distribution of outcomes. For example, a fairly large proportion of sexual offences recorded during 2018/19 had not yet been assigned an outcome (27%) when the latest analysis was undertaken. This and the relatively high proportion of cases closed with evidential difficulties reflect challenges associated with investigating such crimes, such as lack of evidence and/or support of the victim.

The variation in outcomes across offence groups is highlighted by the differences in the four offences illustrated in Figure 2.1 (a fuller breakdown of can be found in Table 2.2).

While 68% of drug offences resulted in either a charge/summons or an out of court disposal, the other three offences illustrated in Figure 2.1 had much lower rates of such outcomes. For example, robbery had a much higher rate of offences resulting in no suspect being identified (57%). This is to be expected given the nature of the offence as victims of robbery may not be able to provide much information about offenders and there may not be good evidence available to identify a suspect if they weren't caught on CCTV and there is no other evidence. Offences involving violence against the person or sexual offences are much more likely to have an outcome of evidential difficulties compared with offences involving robbery or drug offences.

Figure 2.1: Outcome proportions by outcome group[1,2,3] and offence group, for year ending March 2019, England and Wales
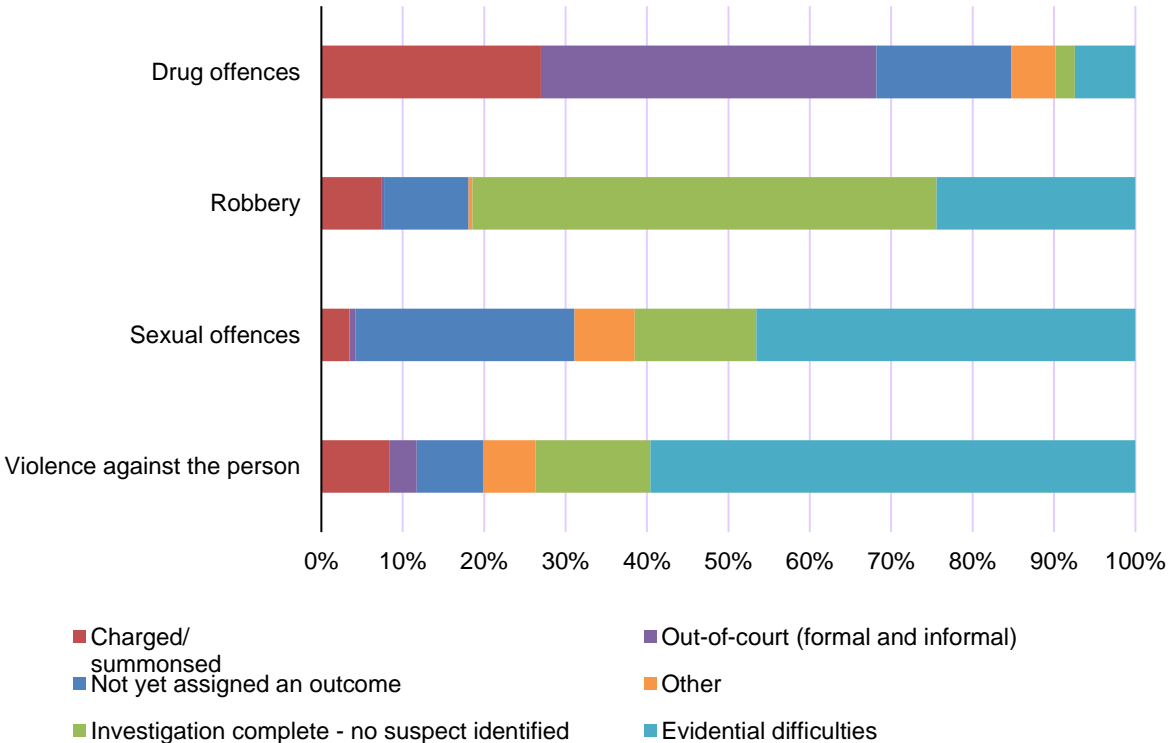
Source: Home Office Data Hub (HODH) and voluntary spreadsheet return

1. Other outcomes include "Taken into consideration", "Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest", "Action undertaken by another body/agency" and "Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest"
2. Out-of-court (formal and informal) outcomes include cannabis/khat warnings, community resolutions, cautions for youths and adults and penalty notice for disorder.
3. Evidential difficulties outcomes include occurrences where the victim does and does not support action.

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Drug offences

- Around 68% of drug offences received either a charge/summons (27%) or an out-of-court disposal (41%). Out-of-court outcomes, such as cautions and Community Resolutions, are typically used for dealing with less serious offences; however, the suspect must admit guilt for the out-of-court outcome to be applied.

- Within the overall category of drug offences there was a difference between how possession of cannabis and other drugs were resolved[5]. Cannabis possession had a charge rate of 21% with 57% of these offences receiving out of court outcomes (of which 39% were cannabis/khat warnings). In contrast, for other drugs the charge rate was higher (42%) and there was much less use of out-of-court outcomes (26%).

- For drugs possession offences, the overall charge rate and out-of-court outcome rate were both driven by outcomes for possession of cannabis (70,359 offences in 2018/19) which is much more prevalent than other drugs (20,314 offences in 2018/19).

- It should also be noted that police forces have differing approaches to using out-of court outcomes. For example, Lancashire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire do not use cannabis/ khat warnings for possession of cannabis offences, instead using Community Resolutions.

Sexual offences were

- most likely to have not yet been assigned an outcome (27%) reflecting the greater complexity of investigations and the extended time required to assign an outcome compared with most other crime types (see chapter 3).

- This contributed to the low proportion of sexual offences with a charge/summons (3.5%). Other contributory factors included a higher than average proportion of cases assigned to one of the evidential difficulties categories. For example, in two in five of rape offences (39%) cases were closed because the victim did not support further police action against a suspect.

- Conversely, given the nature of the crime, sexual offences had much lower level of suspects not identified (15% compared with an average of 44% for all offences).

Violence against the person is a broad offence group covering a wide spectrum of offending from homicide and serious violent crime through to lower volume assault. It also includes offences involving non-physical abuse such as harassment and stalking.

- Generally, Violence against the person offences were most likely to result in victims not supporting police action (43%).

- The unwillingness of victims to support police action contributed to the overall low charge/summons rate for violence offences (8%).

- Outcomes varied within this offence group, e.g. the charge/summons rate for assault with injury offences was three percentage points lower than that for assault without injury (11% and 8% respectively). Most of this difference was accounted for by victims of assault without injury not supporting police action.

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5 See https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes

Offence group	Charged/ summonsed	Taken into consideration (TICs)[2]	Out-of-court (formal)[3]	Out-of-court (informal)[4]	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest[5]	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)[6]	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	Action undertaken by another body/ agency	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest[7]	Offences not yet assigned an outcome
											Outcome rate (%)[8]
Violence against the person	8.3	0.0	1.5	1.9	2.3	16.2	43.3	14.1	2.4	1.7	8.1
Sexual offences	3.5	0.0	0.4	0.3	2.5	15.4	31.1	14.9	3.0	1.9	26.9
of which: Rape	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	15.2	39.4	8.9	1.1	0.2	32.2
Robbery	7.4	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	6.7	17.7	57.0	0.1	0.1	10.4
Theft offences	5.7	0.3	0.5	1.2	0.5	4.4	7.1	74.4	0.1	0.7	5.0
Criminal damage and arson	5.3	0.0	1.3	2.0	0.9	5.9	14.8	63.7	0.2	0.7	5.2
Drug offences	27.0	0.0	12.9	28.3	2.8	6.9	0.6	2.4	0.3	2.3	16.5
Possession of weapons offences	35.9	0.0	5.2	4.2	4.2	15.6	8.0	11.2	0.8	3.3	11.7
Public order offences	9.1	0.0	1.6	1.7	2.1	13.8	32.1	28.9	0.5	2.7	7.4
Misc. crimes against society	13.8	0.0	1.2	2.0	2.5	15.0	22.3	17.5	3.1	7.1	15.3
Total year to March 2019[1]	**7.8**	**0.1**	**1.4**	**2.3**	**1.5**	**9.9**	**22.6**	**44.4**	**1.1**	**1.4**	**7.6**

1. Year to March 2019 data exclude fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.

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

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

4. Includes cannabis/khat warnings and community resolutions.

5. 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 exp

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

7. Outcome 21 (Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest) was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis and became mandatory from April 2016.

8. Proportions show the percentage of crimes recorded in the year receiving each outcome.

2.4 – LONGER TERM TRENDS IN HOW CRIMES RESOLVED

Since the introduction of the crime outcomes framework there has been a downward trend in the proportion of offences with a charge/summons applied within the same year that the crime was recorded (falling from 15% to 8%).

There has also been a growing proportion of cases recorded where victims did not support police action (from 9% to 23%). These two trends are likely to have been influenced by the changing caseload and crime mix being dealt with by the police. On-going work to improve crime recording by police forces has both increased the volume forces are dealing with and changed the crime mix to include more complex cases, such as sexual offences and domestic abuse, which can be more challenging to resolve. At the same time, while more crimes are now being recorded in a growing proportion of cases the victim either doesn't support further action or police are unable to contact them.

A more detailed time series of outcomes since the new framework was introduced for the year end March 2015 can be found in Table 2.3 in the online bulletin tables[6].

Key questions – why are charge rates falling despite increases in police recorded crime?

The charge/summons rate for offences recorded in the year to March 2019 currently stands at 8%, compared with 9% when corresponding data for year end March 2018 was first published. Additionally, the volume of charges is falling, from 442,717 to 403,221 for offences (a 9% fall). This reduction has occurred at the same time as the volume of crimes (excluding fraud) recorded by the police has risen (from 4.9 million to 5.2 million). Along with a growing caseload, there is evidence to suggest that a higher proportion of crimes being recorded are in offence types which are the most challenging to investigate. For example, the number of recorded sexual offences has increased by 7% in the latest year, from 151,120 to 162,030. This means that the caseload has both grown and become more complex.

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[6] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2018-to-2019

3 – The time gap between offences recorded and outcomes being assigned

This section explores the variation in the time that has elapsed from the initial recording of crime to the point at which an outcome has been finalised.

The data presented in this chapter cover outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2019, regardless of when the offence was initially recorded to give a more complete picture. Time, in days, is presented by median average as this measure is less susceptible to being skewed by a small number of unusually high or low values. It should be noted that this measure will not always reflect the actual time taken to deal with an individual case since, for example there may be a delay between an offender being charged and the force record management system being updated.
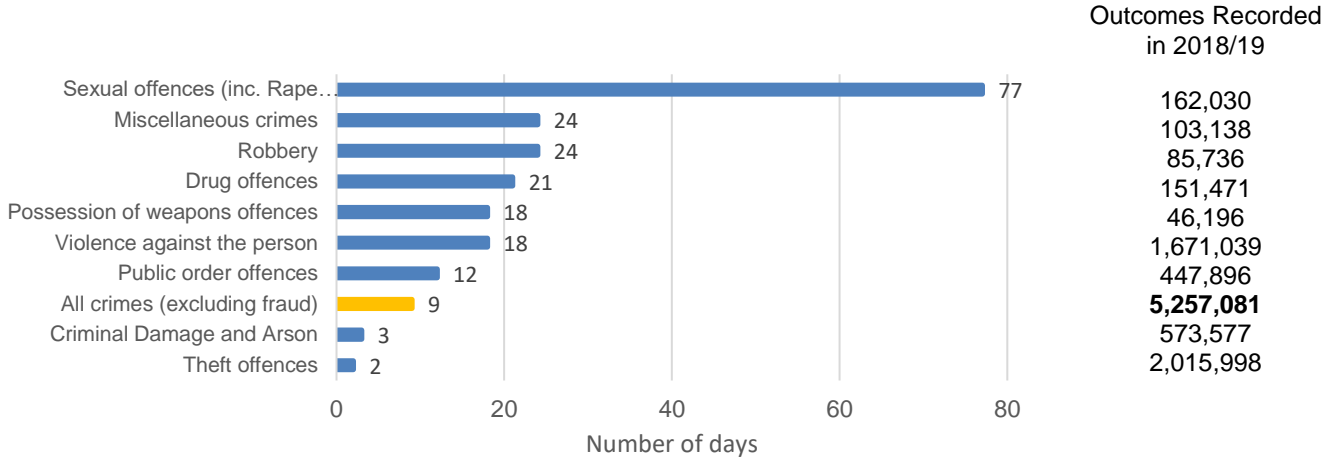
3.1 – TIMELINESS BY OFFENCE AND OUTCOME TYPE

In the year ending March 2019, it took a median of 9 days to assign an outcome to an offence. Furthermore, nearly half (45.9%) of all outcomes were assigned within five days of recording the offence, and over two-thirds (70.4%) within 30 days.

More insightful analysis can be made by breaking down overall figures by offence and outcome types, as shown below:

Figure 3.1: The time taken (median days) for outcomes to be assigned for offences broken down by offence groups, England and Wales

For context, the volume of crimes in each category recorded in 2018/19 is included on the right hand side of the chart.

	Number of days	Outcomes Recorded in 2018/19
Sexual offences (inc. Rape…	77	162,030
Miscellaneous crimes	24	103,138
Robbery	24	85,736
Drug offences	21	151,471
Possession of weapons offences	18	46,196
Violence against the person	18	1,671,039
Public order offences	12	447,896
All crimes (excluding fraud)	9	**5,257,081**
Criminal Damage and Arson	3	573,577
Theft offences	2	2,015,998

Source: Home Office Data Hub

Table 3.1 shows the median length of time to assign an outcome by offence type for the last four years. The number of median days to assign an outcome has increased from 6 days in the year ending for March 2018 to 9 days by March 2019.

This contrasts with the previous years where the number of median days to assign an outcome to an offence had been decreasing. However, this is likely to reflect a range of factors which will vary by offence type.

The median days to assign an outcome for 'Drug offences' has increased to 21 days in year ending March 2019 from 14 days in the previous year. At the same time the number of drug offences has also risen by 11% to 151,000 offences. Previously, such offences had fallen every year since its peak of 244,000 recorded in March 2009.The increase in the volume of such offences may have contributed to the rise in time for outcomes to be assigned. Some forces have also noted a backlog of forensic examinations including analysis of items such as mobile phones to ascertain evidence of dealing. This is likely to have also contributed to the increase in median days.

Table 3.1: The difference in the average (median) length of time taken to assign an outcome between the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2019, by offence type

	England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes				
	Median number of days for an outcome to be assigned[1]				Difference between y.e March 2018 and y.e March 2019
	Y.e. March 2016	Y.e. March 2017	Y.e. March 2018	Y.e. March 2019[2]	
Violence against the person	17	17	15	18	3
Sexual offences	80	79	73	77	4
of which: Rape	138	144	129	126	-3
Robbery	34	31	23	24	1
Theft offences	7	4	2	2	0
Criminal Damage and Arson	4	3	2	3	1
Drug offences	10	13	14	21	7
Possession of weapons offences	9	13	13	18	5
Public order offences	16	13	8	12	4
Miscellaneous crimes	20	20	19	24	5
All crimes (excluding fraud)	**11**	**8**	**6**	**9**	**3**

1. Median Days for Y.E March 2016 to Y.E March 2018 are as first published.
2. Only includes data for forces who send offence-level data to the Home Office Data Hub.

Table 3.1 also shows

- Overall, theft offences took the least time to assign an outcome; a median of 2 days. This was the same median average as last year and follows a previous trend for cases to be closed more quickly. The previous trend was thought to reflect local police priorities for investigating crimes.

- Criminal damage and arson offences took an average of 3 days for outcomes to be assigned. This reflects the nature of these types of offence, whereby police identify offenders immediately, or evidence to locate a suspect is unavailable (e.g. no CCTV).

- The median days to assign an outcome for 'Possession of weapons offences' has also increased to 18 days for the year ending March 2019 from 9 days (year ending March 2016). This rise could be a result of an increase in number of offences, over the same period the number of 'Possession of weapons offences' has increased by 80% (to 46,196 offences).

Figure 3.2: The difference in the average (median) length of time taken to assign an outcome between the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2018, by outcome group.
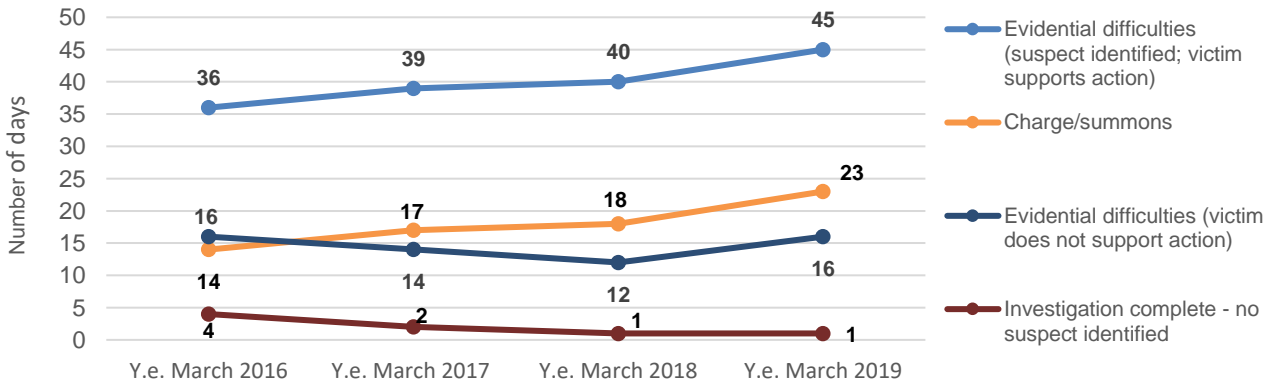
Figure 3.2 shows the average length of time to assign outcomes by type of outcome and how this has changed over the past four years

- The time taken to charge someone has gradually been increasing from 14 days in the year ending March 2016 to 23 days in the year ending March 2019.

- The number of days to assign outcome 'evidential difficulties (victim does supports action)', has gone up from 36 days in the year ending March 2016 to 45 days in the year ending March 2019, highlighting that more cases are proving to be more complex to investigate.

- The time taken for investigations to be closed with no suspect identified has decreased from 4 days in the year ending March 2016 to just 1 day in the year ending March 2019 possibly reflecting greater use of "screening" in forces to prioritise the police response to demand.

Key question – why is the overall time taken for outcomes to be assigned to crimes changed?

There are likely to be a range of factors behind the changes in time taken for outcomes to be assigned which will vary by crime type. The increase in the time taken to charge/summons is likely to reflect increasing volumes and complexity of caseloads being dealt with by the police. The additional demands being faced by the police may also explain the reduced time to close cases with no suspect identified as police prioritise their investigative resources.

With regard to drugs more long-term investigations around county lines operations, which are inherently more challenging to investigate and prove. These investigations may also include modern slavery and accompanying sexual offences which will impact on timeliness of recording outcomes against those crimes on top of increasing the resource needed to investigate.

As in previous years, sexual offences took much longer to have outcomes assigned than other offence types, often because they are more challenging to investigate. The median was 77 days, with 42 per cent taking over 100 days.

For rape offences, a subset of sexual offences, the median average for an outcome to be assigned was 126 days, with 56 per cent taking over 100 days. The length of time reflects the sensitive nature and complexity of investigating such offences.

A detailed breakdown of the amount of time for sexual offences to receive an outcome by the type of outcome applied is presented in Figure 3.3. This shows that;

- Charges and summons for sexual offences took the longest amount of time to be assigned, at a medium of 195 days up from 150 days the previous year. Furthermore, 63% of sexual offences resulting in a charge closed after 100 days of investigating.

- The number median days for cases closed due to evidential difficulties where victim supported action has increased to an average of 158 days from 133 days the previous year.

Figure 3.3 The time taken (median days) for sexual offences to receive an outcome, broken down by the type of outcome, for year ending March 2017 and 2018, England and Wales
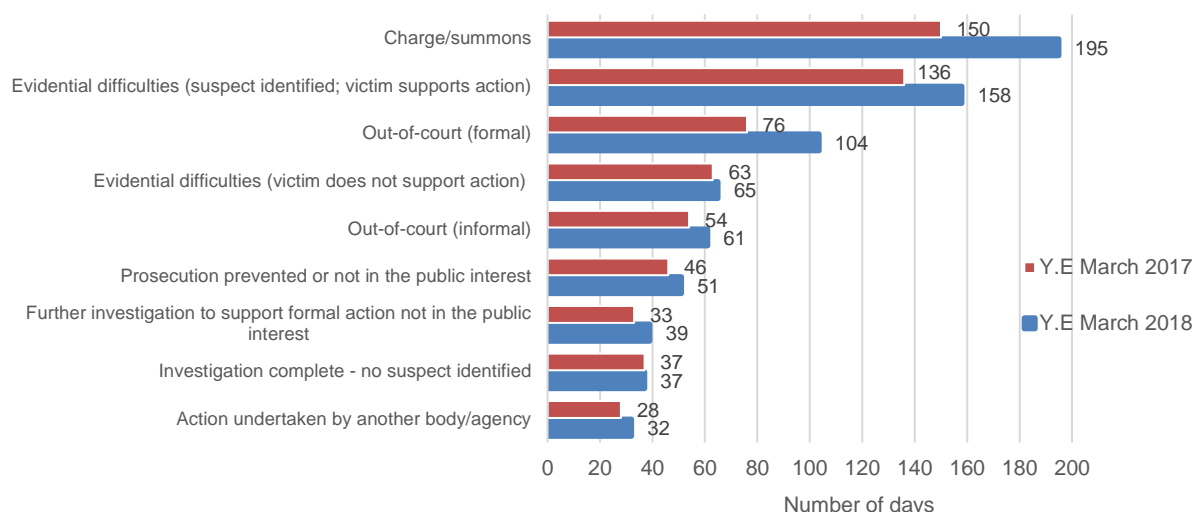
Source: Home Office Data Hub

3.2 – LENGTH OF TIME TAKEN TO ASSIGN OUT COME BY OUTCOME TYPES

As mentioned above nearly half (45.9%) of all outcomes were assigned within five days of recording the offence, and over two-thirds (70.4%) within 30 days. Table 3.2 below shows how this varied by offence group.

Table 3.2 Timeliness: The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded for outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2019, by offence type, England and Wales

				England and Wales, Recorded crime	
	Same day	1 to 5 days	6 to 30 days	31 to 100 days	More than 100 days
Violence against the person	12%	21%	31%	24%	13%
Sexual offences	5%	8%	19%	26%	42%
Of which: Rape	3%	5%	13%	24%	56%
Robbery	9%	22%	25%	28%	16%
Theft offences	32%	28%	20%	14%	7%
Criminal damage and arson	33%	25%	22%	13%	7%
Drug offences	11%	21%	24%	21%	23%
Possession of weapons offences	12%	22%	25%	22%	18%
Public order offences	17%	24%	29%	20%	10%
Miscellaneous crimes	14%	18%	25%	21%	22%
All offence types	**22%**	**24%**	**25%**	**18%**	**11%**

Source: Home Office Data Hub

Over the last four years the number of offences taking over 100 days to charge has increased, see Figure 3.4. For the year ending March 2019, almost a quarter of all offences with an outcome of charge/summons took over 100 days to close, compared with 16% for the year ending March 2016.

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Figure 3.4: The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded for charge/summons in the year ending March 2016 to March 2019, England and Wales
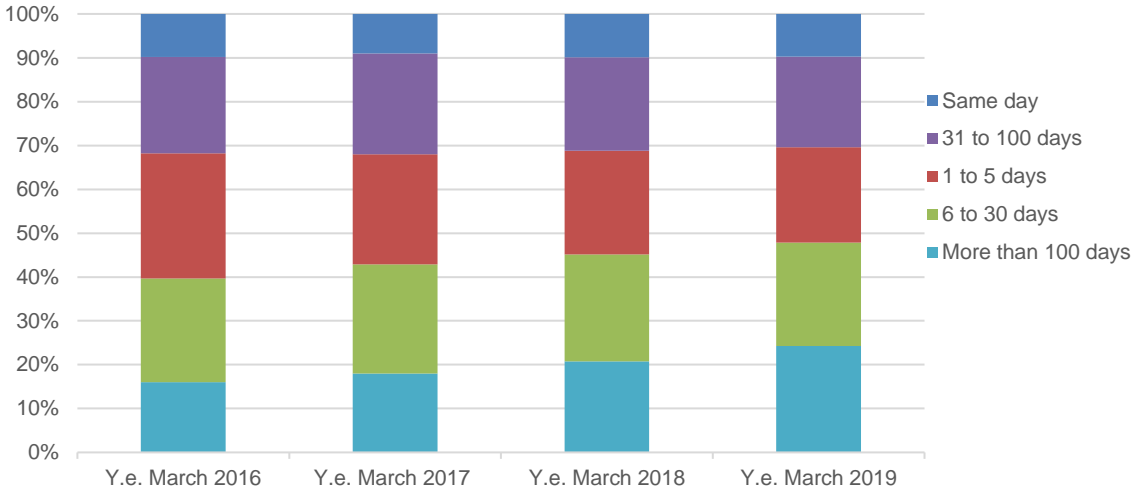
Source: Home Office Data Hub

Drug offences took longer to close, with just under a quarter of offences closed after 100 days. This has also increased from 19% for the year ending March 2018. Of those drug offences which resulted in a charge, 31% took over 100 days to close in the year ending March 2019. This has also increased from 27% for the year ending March 2018, suggesting that cases are taking longer to resolve which may be due to backlogs in forensic testing. There are also more complex cases as associated with "County Lines" and modern slavery investigations as highlighted by recent report by The Children's Society[7].

In contrast for the year ending March 2019, one out of every three theft and criminal damage and arson offences were closed on the same day (see table 3.2). This was similar to the previous year where 32.5% and 35.5% closed on the same day respectively.

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[7] See https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/tackling-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/county-lines-resources

4   Outcomes assigned to fraud and computer misuse offences in the year ending March 2019

4.1 INTRODUCTION

In April 2011, Action Fraud (the UK's national fraud and cybercrime reporting centre) began gradually taking over the recording of fraud offences from individual police forces in England and Wales. This transition completed in March 2013. The implementation of Action Fraud as a single national fraud and cyber crime reporting centre has led to an increase in the number of fraud and Computer Misuse Act (CMA) offences recorded, as it provides an easier way for individuals and businesses to report such offences (via an online reporting tool and a dedicated call centre) and centralises expertise in these cases. The transfer to Action Fraud was rolled out at different times in different forces. The year ending March 2014 was therefore the first full year where all fraud offences and offences under the CMA previously reported to the police were recorded centrally.

Action Fraud reports are reviewed by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB), based at the City of London Police, who are responsible for allocating offences to forces for them to investigate. The police recorded crime series published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), also incorporates offences reported to the NFIB by two fraud prevention industry bodies: Cifas and UK Finance.

It should be noted that, unlike other outcomes data presented in this bulletin, it is not possible to link individual outcomes to offences as the recorded fraud data streams at present is based on aggregate totals. The figures presented in this chapter are based on the old-style outcomes framework, i.e. they do not necessarily correspond to the offences recorded within the year. Nor do the number of outcomes necessarily correspond to the number of disseminations in a given year since investigations can take months, or longer, to complete. A large number of offences disseminated to the police in the year to March 2018 are still under investigation. In addition, some outcomes data will relate to offences recorded in previous years. Caution should be used when comparing the number of outcomes to disseminated offences and in comparing fraud outcomes with other offence types. For further information on NFIB outcomes recording process please see the Technical Annex Section.

4.2 FRAUD DISSEMINATIONS AND OUTCOMES IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2019 – HEADLINE FINDINGS

The findings from the fraud disseminations and outcomes data for the year ending March 2019 are presented below. Table 4.1 shows the number of dissemination packages sent to police forces and the number of offences within those packages. By way of context, these are presented alongside the total number of fraud offences recorded in the years ending March 2018 and March 2019.

Table 4.1 – Number of fraud and CMA offences and disseminations, year ending March 2018 and year ending March 2019

	Year ending March 2018	Year ending March 2019	England and Wales Percentage change
Total number of fraud offences:	638,882	693,418	9%
Number recorded by Action Fraud	277,561	311,083	12%
Number recorded by Cifas [2]	276,997	313,175	13%
Number recorded by UK Finance [2]	84,328	69,160	-18%
Total number of fraud offences within disseminations [3,4]	49,861	38,415	-23%
Number of disseminations [3,5]	11,094	10,868	-2%

1. Caution should be taken when comparing data for fraud offences and disseminations. Data presented are for offences and disseminations recorded within the year. Offences which are disseminated will not necessarily be disseminated in the year the offences was recorded.

2. In October 2018, Action Fraud launched a new fraud and cyber-crime reporting service. The transition to the new system is not yet complete and there has been a pause in the data feed from Cifas to the NFIB. Although fraud continues to be recorded by Cifas, cases from October 2018 have not yet been 'referred' to the NFIB, therefore the Cifas figures and any NFIB totals presented in this bulletin and accompanying data tables are based on provisional data provided by Cifas. Once the issue has been resolved the NFIB will hold a full copy of the data, allowing Cifas figures to be treated as confirmed and recognised as 'referred' to the NFIB. Furthermore, UK Finance figures are an underestimate of around 8,000 records due to an administrative problem related to the migration of records to the new NFIB system therefore the scale of the decrease in the latest year is likely to be significantly smaller than reported in these figures.

3. Figures for disseminations in the year ending March 2018 are as published in 'Crime outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2018: data tables'.

4. Some offences can be included in more than one dissemination, or can be disseminated to a force in multiple months. This number reflects the total number of unique offences, and offences which are part of two or more dissemination packages are only counted once.

5. Data on the number of disseminations packages sent to the 'National Lead Force' (part of City of London Police) have been excluded from the table.

Each dissemination package can be made up of any number of offences, from one to hundreds. This depends on the size of the suspected fraud network, as many similar crimes may be linked together if investigators believe one suspect or set of suspects is responsible. An offence can be included in more than one dissemination, if it links to multiple crime networks. However, each offence only receives one final outcome.

It is important to note that the number of outcomes will not necessarily correspond to the number of disseminations in a given year since investigation can take months, or longer, to complete. A large number of offences disseminated to the police in the year ending March 2019 are still under investigation and outcomes have not yet been finalised.

4.3 OUTCOMES RECORDED BY OUTCOME TYPE

Table 4.2 shows the number of outcomes recorded by the police against fraud offences in the year ending March 2019, by outcome type. These are presented alongside the total number of fraud offences disseminated to the police and the total number of recorded fraud offences for the latest and previous year. Compared with other crime types, a relatively low number of recorded fraud offences result in an outcome. This is largely due to the fact that a relatively small proportion of those recorded are disseminated to police forces for investigation. In addition, some fraud offences can take months, or longer, to investigate due to the complex nature of some of the cases.

Table 4.2 shows the total number of recorded fraud offences has increased (up 9% to 693,418 offences) compared with the year ending March 2018. The rise was largely driven increases in offences recorded by Cifas (up 13% to 313,175 offences) and Action Fraud (up 12% to 311,083 offences). The increase was offset by an 18% fall in offences (down to 69,160 offences) recorded by UK Finance.[8] While there was a 9% increase in total fraud offences recorded, the total number of fraud offences within disseminations fell, by 23% (from 49,861 to 38,415 offences). However, there was a 9% fall in the volume of cases closed as 'investigation complete: no suspect identified' (down by 1,747).

Over the same period, the total number of outcomes recorded against fraud and CMA offences increased, by 3%. However, this rise was largely driven by an increase in the number of offences being assigned an outcome of 'Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest' which increased by 2,489 offences (67%). There was also a 9% fall in the volume of cases which resulted in a charge or summons (down from 6,572 to 5,997).

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[8] In October 2018, Action Fraud launched a new fraud and cyber-crime reporting service. The transition to the new system is not yet complete and there has been a pause in the data feed from Cifas to the NFIB. Although fraud continues to be recorded by Cifas, cases from October 2018 have not yet been 'referred' to the NFIB, therefore the Cifas figures and any NFIB totals presented in this bulletin and accompanying data tables are based on provisional data provided by Cifas. Once the issue has been resolved the NFIB will hold a full copy of the data, allowing Cifas figures to be treated as confirmed and recognised as 'referred' to the NFIB. Furthermore, UK Finance figures are an underestimate of around 8,000 records due to an administrative problem related to the migration of records to the new NFIB system therefore the scale of the decrease in the latest year is likely to be significantly smaller than reported in these figures.

Table 4.2 - Fraud and CMA outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2018 and the year ending March 2019, by outcome type

Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Year ending March 2018[2] Number of outcomes[3]	Year ending March 2019 Number of outcomes[3]	Percentage change
1	**Charged/Summonsed**	6,572	5,997	-9%
4	**Taken Into Consideration**[1]	238	190	-20%
	Out-of-court (formal)	824	676	-18%
2	Caution - youths	29	40	38%
3	Caution - adults	790	634	-20%
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	5	2	-60%
	Out-of-court (informal)	679	539	-21%
7	Cannibis/Khat warning[4]	n/a	n/a	
8	Community resolution	679	539	-21%
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	870	899	3%
5	Offender died	67	34	-49%
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	200	164	-18%
10	Not in public interest (Police)	484	583	20%
11	Prosecution prevented - suspect under age	3	5	67%
12	Prosecution prevented - suspect too ill	20	12	-40%
13	Prosecution prevented - victim/key witness dead/too ill	75	89	19%
17	Prosecution time limit expired	21	12	-43%
15	**Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)**	12,009	12,432	4%
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	5,789	6,340	10%
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	1,932	1,739	-10%
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	3,857	4,601	19%
18	**Investigation complete - no suspect identified**	20,152	18,405	-9%
20	**Action undertaken by another body/agency**	1,480	2,102	42%
21	**Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest**	3,697	6,186	67%
	Total number of fraud outcomes[5]	52,310	53,766	3%
	Total fraud offences disseminated to police[6]	49,861	38,415	-23%
	Total recorded fraud offences	638,882	693,418	9%

1. Offences asked to be taken in to consideration by a court (TICs).
2. Figures for the year ending March 2018 are as published in 'Crime outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2018: data tables'.
3. Offences recorded by Action Fraud, Cifas and UK Finance with outcomes recorded by NFIB in the year ending March 2018 or the year ending March 2019.
4. Outcome 7 does not apply to fraud offences.
5. The number of recorded fraud outcomes for the year to March 2019 are likely to be an underestimate as several forces were unable to provide complete data. Due to administrative reasons Lancashire police were unable to provide fraud outcomes data for December 2018 to March 2019.
Although North Wales police provided data for the full year, the data are likely to be an underestimate due to technical reasons.
Data for Cambridgeshire have been excluded as they were unable to provide full data.

6. Data on the number of disseminations sent to the 'National Lead Force' (part of City of London Police) have been excluded from the table.
7. The Home Office does not currently collect data on outcome 19 from the NFIB.

> **Key questions – why is there a fall in fraud disseminations?**
>
> The NFIB advise that a number of factors have influenced the fall in fraud disseminations including a reduction of reviewing capacity within the NFIB over the last year. This predominantly occurred following the introduction of the new Action Fraud reporting system in October 2018. Furthermore, the NFIB has adopted a more qualitative method of disseminating crimes using the intelligence and resources available, as well as developing ways to provide 'Protect' advice to victims through campaigns and victim care disseminations (which are not officially reported on). Additionally, the NFIB have taken a more conservative approach to assessing viability for further investigation to place a greater focus on organised crime.

4.4 DISSEMINATIONS AND OUTCOMES BY POLICE FORCE AREA

Table 4.3 shows fraud outcome and dissemination data for the years ending March 2018 and March 2019 by Police Force Area (PFA). This data should be interpreted with caution as there may be considerable time lag between a case being referred to a local police force for investigation and an outcome being finalised and volumes of referrals vary across forces and over time. The data are also available in the accompanying 'Fraud outcomes in England and Wales open data, year ending March 2019', broken down by both PFA and outcome type.

As previously mentioned, it is important to note that the number of outcomes will not necessarily correspond to the number of disseminations in a given year since investigations can take months or longer to complete. Therefore, comparing the number of offences to disseminated offences should be done with caution, as the not all offences recorded in the year will be disseminated in the same year.

The offences were disseminated to forces in 2018/19 but the actual offence outcomes may relate to a crime that had occurred in a previous year. The offence will only be disseminated to forces when NFIB judge there is enough information to make it viable for investigation or enforcement action.

Table 4.3 - Fraud outcomes recorded and disseminated offences in the years ending March 2018 and March 2019

Police Force	Number of disseminated offences[1]			Number of outcomes		
	Year ending March 2018[2]	Year ending March 2019	Percentage change	Year ending March 2018	Year ending March 2019	Percentage change
Avon and Somerset	446	472	6%	1,023	1,013	-1%
Bedfordshire	465	461	-1%	463	466	1%
Cambridgeshire[3]	510	335	-34%	966	-	n/a
Cheshire	609	363	-40%	403	790	96%
Cleveland	221	206	-7%	262	245	-6%
Cumbria	74	105	42%	387	735	90%
Derbyshire	447	346	-23%	765	1,325	73%
Devon and Cornwall	502	366	-27%	871	1,168	34%
Dorset	222	257	16%	705	736	4%
Durham	144	122	-15%	488	207	-58%
Essex	1,531	1,019	-33%	1,676	1,099	-34%
Gloucestershire	165	139	-16%	339	167	-51%
Greater Manchester	3,510	2,997	-15%	1,493	1,338	-10%
Hampshire	673	509	-24%	1,462	1,078	-26%
Hertfordshire	706	671	-5%	1,538	1,270	-17%
Humberside	300	286	-5%	572	327	-43%
Kent	1,956	1,041	-47%	2,829	2,067	-27%
Lancashire[3]	759	517	-32%	475	324	-32%
Leicestershire	760	718	-6%	289	581	101%
Lincolnshire	205	272	33%	772	953	23%
London, City of[4]	552	279	-49%	782	247	-68%
Merseyside	942	943	0%	1,611	1,193	-26%
Metropolitan	22,081	15,984	-28%	12,970	12,850	-1%
Norfolk	232	212	-9%	467	845	81%
North Yorkshire	216	139	-36%	33	97	194%
Northamptonshire	788	682	-13%	678	903	33%
Northumbria	306	297	-3%	927	945	2%
Nottinghamshire	418	488	17%	1,925	2,974	54%
South Yorkshire	428	353	-18%	672	1,091	62%
Staffordshire	1,348	520	-61%	1,198	1,653	38%
Suffolk	287	428	49%	395	670	70%
Surrey	910	391	-57%	1,887	2,917	55%
Sussex	828	605	-27%	1,827	1,462	-20%
Thames Valley	1,083	975	-10%	867	1,160	34%
Warwickshire	243	295	21%	403	564	40%
West Mercia	477	300	-37%	676	1,049	55%
West Midlands	2,974	2,418	-19%	2,462	2,178	-12%
West Yorkshire	917	1,199	31%	1,302	936	-28%
Wiltshire	219	170	-22%	809	731	-10%
Dyfed-Powys	47	44	-6%	115	332	189%
Gwent	70	80	14%	404	364	-10%
North Wales[3]	239	232	-3%	788	1,325	68%
South Wales	412	300	-27%	1,178	1,312	11%
Total 43 forces[3,5]	**49,858**	**38,409**	**-23%**	**52,154**	**53,687**	**3%**
British Transport Police	3	6	100%	156	79	-49%
Total[3,5]	**49,861**	**38,415**	**-23%**	**52,310**	**53,766**	**3%**

1. Number of offences within dissemination packages. The number of outcomes will not necessarily correspond to the number of disseminations in a given year since investigations can take months or longer to complete. A large number of offences disseminated to police in 2018/19 are still under investigation.

2. Figures for the year ending March 2018 are as published in 'Crime outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2018: data tables'.

3. The number of recorded fraud outcomes for the year to March 2019 are likely to be an underestimate as several forces were unable to provide complete data. Due to administrative reasons Lancashire police were unable to provide fraud outcomes data for December 2018 to March 2019.
Although North Wales police provided data for the full year, the data are likely to be an underestimate due to technical reasons.
Data for Cambridgeshire have been excluded as they were unable to provide full data.

4. Data on the number of disseminations sent to the 'National Lead Force' (part of City of London Police) have been excluded from the table.

5. The overall total does not equal the total for all forces. Some offences can be included in more than one dissemination, or can be disseminated to a force in mutliple months. This number reflects the total number of unique offences, and offences which are part of two or more dissemination packages are only counted once. Each offence, no matter how many times it is disseminated, is assigned only one final outcome.

4.5 FUTURE WORK ON FRAUD OUTCOMES

The dataset provided by the NFIB continues to be subject to development and quality assurance and so these statistics continue to be badged as experimental.

In October 2018, Action Fraud launched a new fraud and cyber-crime reporting service. It was hoped that the new system would provide richer information on outcomes against fraud offences recorded in the year which would bring the data in line with the presentation of other crime types. However, it has not yet been possible to provide this information for this publication and the Home Office continues to work with the NFIB to improve data quality.

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