



# Criminal court statistics quarterly, England and Wales, July to September 2021

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

## Main points

<b>COVID-19 and associated actions impacted on most criminal court measures</b>		The recovery at the criminal courts continues following the initial impacts of the COVID-19 response. The latest figures continue to reflect the pandemic response.
<b>Magistrates' court: outstanding case volumes continued to decrease</b>	↓	Case disposals increased and remained above receipts – although both remain below pre-COVID levels. Outstanding cases continued to fall, down 4% on the previous quarter and 15% on the previous year.
<b>Crown Court: outstanding case volumes stabilise</b>	→	Receipts continued to fall, while disposals stabilised close to pre-COVID levels. As a result, outstanding cases stabilised down 1% on the previous quarter to 59,928.
<b>Crown Court: increase in age of outstanding cases</b>	↑	The median age of an outstanding case in Q3 2021 was 174 days - this has increased by 50% on the previous year. Around 23% of cases have been outstanding for a year or more, up from 15% in Q3 2020 and 7% in Q3 2019.
<b>Crown Court: increase in the volume of trial listings</b>	↑	In Q3 2021 there were 6,185 trials listed at the Crown Court. This represents a 15% increase on the previous quarter with volumes returning to pre-COVID levels.
<b>Timeliness decrease at the magistrates' court</b>	↓	The time from offence to completion at the magistrates' court fell by 5% on the previous quarter. Decreases were seen across all timeliness stages, both pre-court and at court.
<b>End-to-end timeliness: increase in time from offence to completion</b>	↑	The time from offence to completion at the Crown Court continued to rise (11%) with median estimates up from 406 days in Q2 2021 to 449 days in Q3 2021.

The technical guide to 'Criminal court statistics' and 'Language interpreter and translation services in courts and tribunals' can be found at the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-criminal-court-statistics>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/guide-to-language-interpreter-and-translation-services-statistics>

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### Statistician's comment

This report covers the period to the end of September 2021 and continues to show the impact of the COVID-19 response on criminal courts and the recovery from measures put in place to minimise risks to court users.

Following the limited operation of the criminal courts, particularly during Spring 2020,<sup>1</sup> and the gradual reintroduction of jury trials<sup>2</sup> during the reporting period, the figures published today show the continued recovery in the system.

The volume of listed trials at both the magistrates' courts and the Crown Court continues to increase, returning to pre-COVID levels.

Disposals at the magistrates' courts and Crown Courts continue to rise from series lows in Q2 2020. Disposals were above receipts at the Crown Court meaning that the outstanding caseload has fallen for the first time since the end of 2018. The latest management information from Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS) to November 2021 show small monthly reductions in outstanding volumes beyond Q3 2021, suggesting that the Crown Court backlog is stabilising.

Timeliness estimates for defendants dealt with at the magistrates' court show that durations have fallen back from series peaks but remain above pre-COVID levels. Whereas the continued impacts of the COVID response are still evident at the Crown Court where durations continue to increase.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmcts-management-information>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.judiciary.uk/announcements/jury-trial-sites-4/>

# 1. Changes to note

## Common Platform and reform to criminal court data<sup>3</sup>

'Common Platform' is a new digital case management system for the magistrates' and Crown Courts. The system seeks to streamline data collection, data accessibility and improve the way criminal cases are processed across the Criminal Justice System. It will eventually replace the existing 'legacy' criminal court systems Libra (magistrates') and XHIBIT (Crown), with a single, streamlined system.

Early adopter courts across England and Wales are testing the system before the subsequent rollout to all criminal courts concludes. Derbyshire magistrates' and Crown Court began this process in September 2020 and the roll out has continued across England and Wales<sup>4</sup>. Common Platform has been rolled out (as at January 2022) in 101 courts and is live in 32 Crown Courts and 69 magistrates' courts. New cases entering courts from the point at which they adopt the Common Platform are held on the new system – cases that began at court prior to that court transitioning to Common Platform will remain on the 'legacy' system (e.g., LIBRA or XHIBIT).

Most measures relating to magistrates' courts and Crown Court cases include both 'legacy' and Common Platform estimates on a 'best equivalent' basis for the first time in this publication. This includes all key breakdowns in published tables and associated data tools such as offence group, case type and remand status for example.

- It has not been possible to include data relating to trial efficiency at the Crown Court (Table C2) – we estimate this omission accounts for less than 1% of the total trials listed and will not impact trends presented. This will be updated for the next publication.

Methodologies are as similar as possible however there are areas of known difference. The 'legacy' and 'new' data systems are fundamentally different, they do not record information in the same way and as such it is not possible to exactly replicate the existing published methodologies.

Areas of known difference that impact the statistics in this release include: the allocation of case type (such as triable-either-way, indictable only, committed for sentence and appeal), the inability to account for case transfers, main hearing allocation and changes to case ownership.

We will continue to develop data processes from the new system in collaboration with HMCTS and partner agencies as the Common Platform roll out continues. As we continue to develop these solutions, some series may be disrupted, with an increased likelihood of revisions to data in future.

We are committed to ensuring that published statistics remain accurate, robust and coherent for users during the operational transition of data systems at the criminal courts. For further information regarding the extent of the differences summarised above please see the [Guide to criminal court statistics](#).

## Outstanding caseload refresh

We have made changes to the methodology used to calculate the outstanding caseload at the Crown Court. These changes have resulted from close collaborative working with analytical and operational teams in HMCTS to ensure that we provide this high profile measure in the most accurate and coherent way across both the published National Statistics and management information.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/common-platform-system-tested-in-criminal-courts>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hmcts-common-platform-participating-criminal-courts>

The key changes made in this release include:

- reinstating cases to the outstanding caseload that were previously removed by a cut-off date applied to the 'date of receipt'. This was previously used to address perceived data quality concerns in the published back series following the migration of data from CREST to XHIBIT. Following a data quality assurance exercise this validation has been removed. There are a small number of committed for sentence cases which significantly impact trends in the mean estimates and will require further investigation – as such this breakdown has been temporarily removed from the release. Reinstating these cases has led to an increase of around 1% (~450 cases) to the outstanding caseload on average across the series (2014-2021) and has led to the revision of our 'experimental statistics' which estimate the average age of outstanding cases.
- reinstating cases to the outstanding caseload that were previously removed as they were assigned to closed courts. These cases remain open and under the oversight of another court, so should be included. Reinstating these cases has led to an increase of around 50 cases in the latest outstanding estimate.
- removing cases from outstanding caseload that have been deleted, which court staff can no longer progress and are considered complete. Removing these cases has led to a decrease of around 500 cases in the latest outstanding estimate.

The changes in methodology have been made to allow a consistent comparison over time; the figures in this release should not be compared to those included in previous editions. Full details and the extent of the impacts of the changes made can be found in the ['Guide to criminal court statistics'](#).

### **Magistrates' timeliness revision**

Revisions have been made to Tables T1 – T3 following the identification of an error in the validation process. The improvement of this measure has resulted in small reductions of less than 1% to published defendant counts and mean timeliness estimates.

### **Adult rape data appendix**

We are publishing an additional appendix setting out national 'adult rape' performance measures which form part of the [CJS scorecard](#) release. The data included in these tables forms the 'CPS charge to case completion in court' stage of the scorecard.

### **Failure to Appear Warrants**

Failure to Appear Warrants data is not included in this publication. A substantial proportion of the magistrates' courts casework has moved onto the Common Platform and currently information regarding result codes, which facilitates this dataset, is not extracted from the new case management system. As a result, it is not possible for HMCTS analysts to produce reliable and robust estimates of the failure to appear warrants data. HMCTS will resume production of this series when data is available, robust and quality assured.

### **Enforcement of financial impositions**

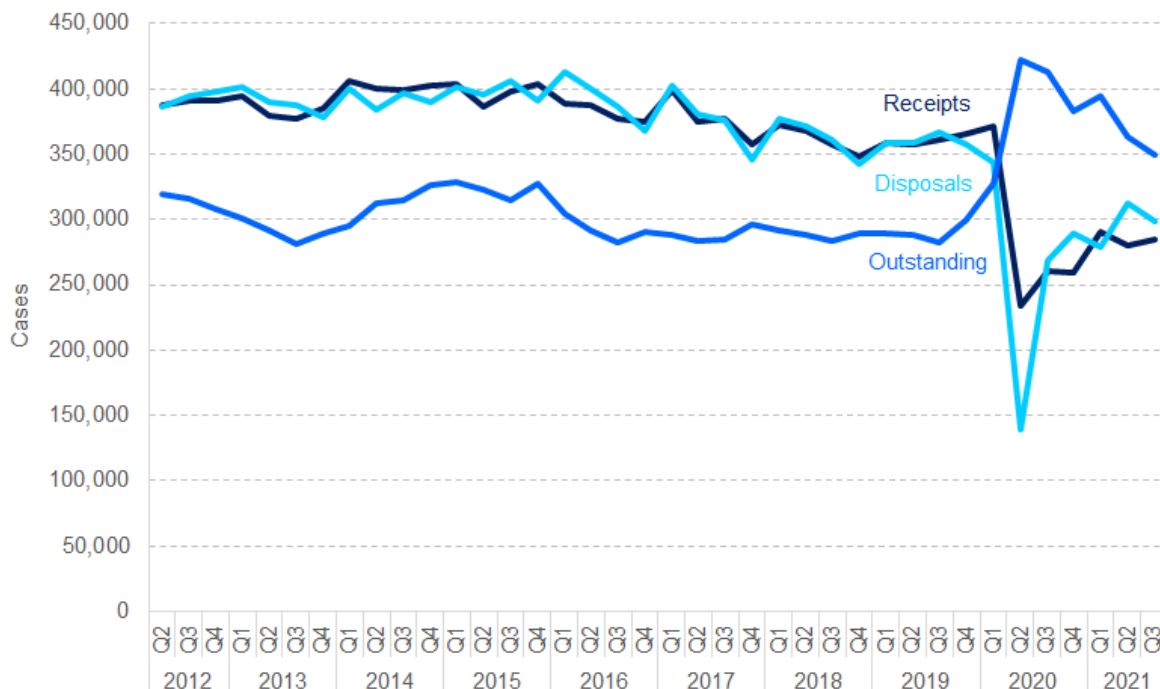
Enforcement data is not included in this publication following a data loading error which has resulted in a temporarily incomplete data set. It has not been possible for HMCTS to resolve the issue ahead of the publication. The decision has been taken to remove the enforcement data rather than provide partial and misleading reported totals for Q3 2021. The data will be reinstated as soon as it is possible to do so.

## 2. Criminal cases in the magistrates' courts

**Criminal case receipts and disposals at the magistrates' courts continue to recover but both remain below pre-COVID levels. Outstanding cases continued to fall from a series peak in Q2 2020.**

Receipts rose by 2% on the previous quarter and disposals fell by 4%. Despite this, disposals remained above receipts, as such outstanding cases fell by 4% on the previous quarter and 15% on the previous year.

**Figure 1: Magistrates' courts caseload, Q2 2012 – Q3 2021 (Source: Table M1)**



### Magistrates' court caseload

Receipts and disposals have tended to rise from series lows in Q2 2020 with the phased reopening of courts<sup>5</sup>. However, levels remain well below those seen prior to the pandemic following the review of court arrangements on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020<sup>6</sup> and the return of restrictions in January 2021<sup>7</sup>.

- Receipts in the magistrates' courts increased by 2% on the previous quarter but have increased by 10% compared with the previous year. Volumes remain around 21% lower than levels seen pre-COVID (e.g. compared to Q3 2019).
- The volume of cases disposed decreased, down 4% on the previous quarter but remaining 11% up on the previous year. The latest quarterly fall is most acutely seen in a 12% reduction in 'for trial' disposals in the latest quarter. Overall disposals remain 19% below levels seen pre-COVID.
- There were 349,277 outstanding cases at the magistrates' court at the end of Q3 2021, this represents a 4% reduction on the previous quarter (362,842) and 17% down on the series peak in Q2 2020 (422,179). The quarterly decrease was seen for all case types (excluding breaches), with 'for trial' outstanding cases down 7% on the previous quarter.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-face-to-face-hearings-as-courts-reopen>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.judiciary.uk/announcements/review-of-court-arrangements-due-to-covid-19-message-from-the-lord-chief-justice/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.judiciary.uk/announcements/message-from-the-lord-chief-justice-latest-covid-19-restrictions/>

The latest published [HMCTS management information](#) provides monthly volumes of receipts, disposals and outstanding cases for all case types at the magistrates' courts (e.g., including civil and enforcement in addition to criminal cases).

Data to November 2021 shows receipts remained above disposals. As a result, the outstanding caseload increased by 2% in the latest period.

### Trial efficiency

The total number of listed trials in magistrates' courts has continued to increase following historical lows in Q2 2020.

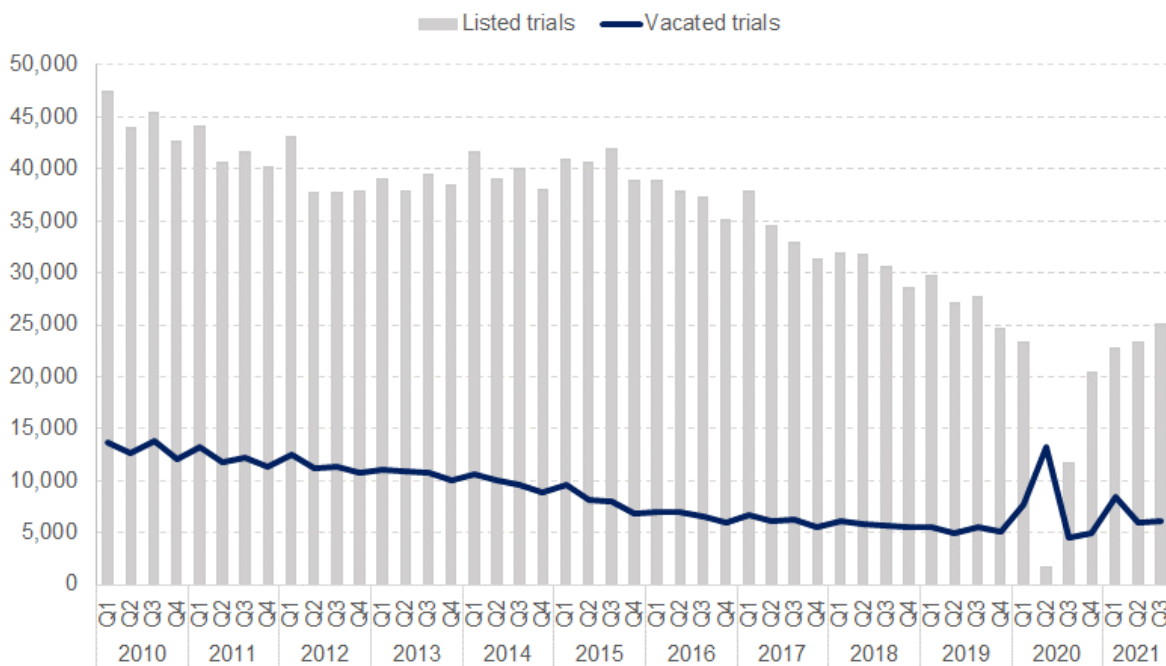
There were 25,143 trials listed for Q3 2021, a 7% increase on the previous quarter (23,431). The trial listed volumes have returned to levels seen pre-COVID.

- Of trials listed for Q3 2021, the proportion that were ineffective (23%) remained above pre-COVID levels and increased on the previous quarter (21%). A corresponding decrease can be seen in the effective trial rate (down from 43% to 41%), while cracked trial rates remained stable (36%).

Vacated trials are trials which have been removed from the listing before the date of the trial, they are counted in the period the vacation happened rather than the date when they were due to be listed (as for effective, cracked and ineffective estimates).

There were 6,066 trial vacations in Q3 2021, this represents a small increase on the previous quarter (up 2%) and remains above levels seen pre-COVID (11% above Q3 2019).

**Figure 2: Magistrates' courts listed trials and vacated trials, Q1 2010 – Q3 2021**  
(Source: Table M2)



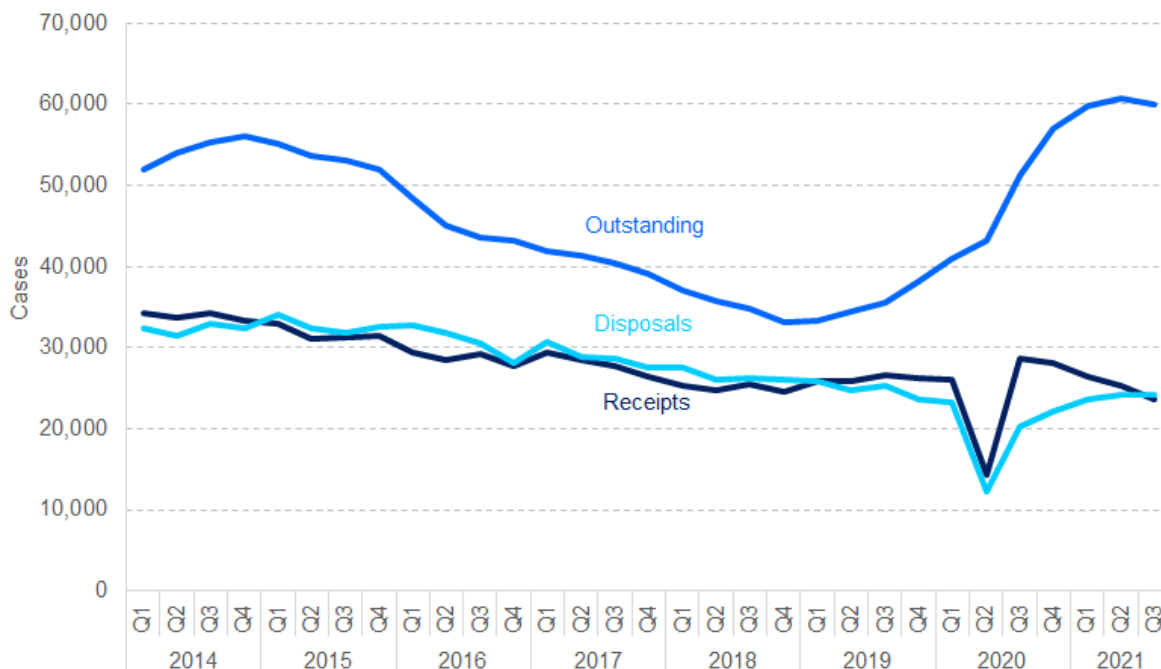


### 3. Criminal cases in the Crown Court

#### The volume of outstanding cases at the Crown Court has stabilised

In Q3 2021 receipts into the Crown Court fell below disposals, while disposals maintained levels seen in the previous quarter. As a result, the volume of outstanding cases has stabilised.

Figure 3: Crown Court caseload, Q1 2014 – Q3 2021 (Source: Table C1)



#### Crown Court caseload

The increased throughput from the magistrates' courts as part of the ongoing recovery from the pandemic response saw the volume of receipts at the Crown Court exceed pre-COVID levels in late 2020. Subsequent receipts have fallen and are now below pre-COVID levels.

The phased reintroduction of jury trials<sup>8</sup> means disposals at the Crown Court have risen since series lows seen in Q2 2020 and in Q3 2021 volumes were above receipts for the first time since the end of 2018.

- There were 23,621 case receipts into the Crown Court in Q3 2021. This represents a fall on the previous quarter (7%), with volumes falling below pre-COVID levels.
- There were 24,160 case disposals at the Crown Court in Q3 2021. This is unchanged on the previous quarter following increases seen since a series low in Q2 2020 and have maintained pre-COVID levels.

At the end of Q3 2021 there were an estimated 59,928 outstanding cases at the Crown Court, an increase of 17% on Q3 2020 (51,281 cases) and 1% down on the previous quarter (60,812), suggesting that the outstanding caseload has stabilised.

- This stabilising is true across all case types. The volume of outstanding 'for trial' cases fell by 2% on the previous quarter, while sentencing and appeal outstanding case volumes show little change on the previous quarter.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.judiciary.uk/announcements/jury-trial-sites-4/>

The latest published [HMCTS management information](#) provides monthly volumes of receipts, disposals and outstanding cases for all case types at the Crown Court.

The data to November 2021 shows that receipts have maintained lower levels seen and remain below disposals. This has caused the outstanding caseload to reduce to levels seen in early 2021 and have shown consistent monthly falls since August 2021.

### Analysis of the outstanding caseload at the Crown Court – experimental statistics

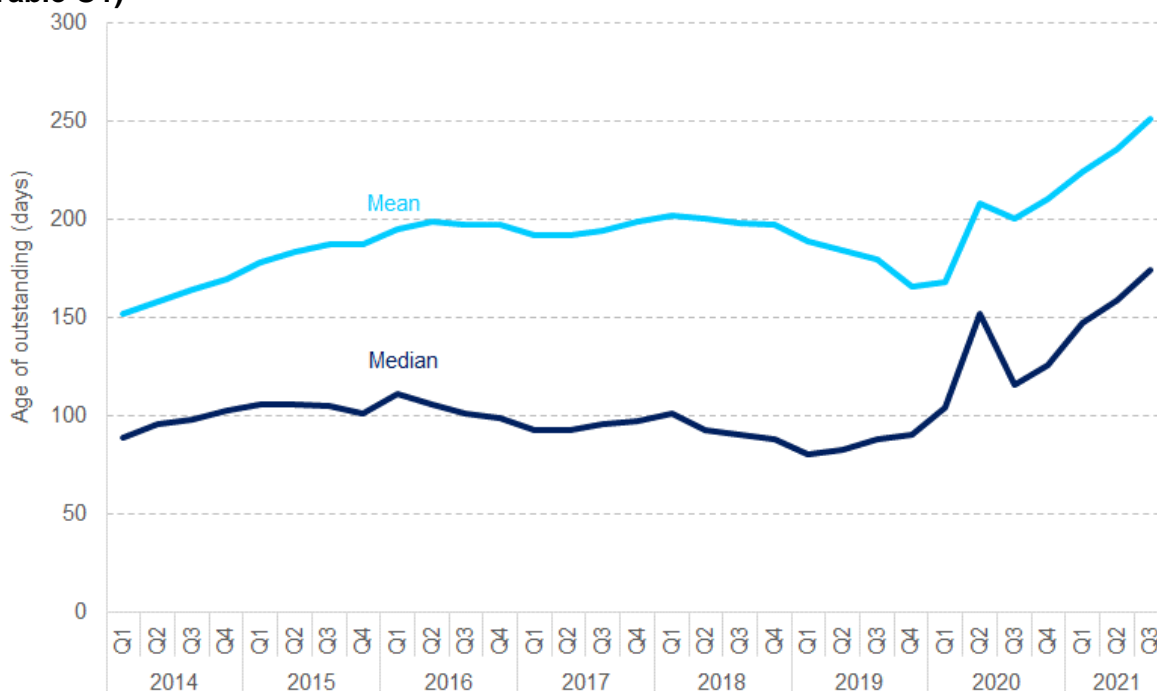
To address additional interest in the outstanding case estimates at the Crown Court this release includes ‘experimental statistics’ providing estimates of the average length of time (days) that a case has been outstanding.

The age of an outstanding case is calculated from the point of receipt into the Crown Court and the latest outstanding date, e.g., as at the end of September 2021.

The average age of an outstanding case has increased sharply during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

- In Q3 2021 the median (174 days) and mean (251 days) estimates continued to rise, up 9% and 6% respectively on the previous quarter.
- The quarterly increase in average age is true across all case types to varying degrees, with the largest proportionate increase seen in ‘for trial’ cases – with median (201 days) and mean (265 days) up by 12% and 7% respectively.

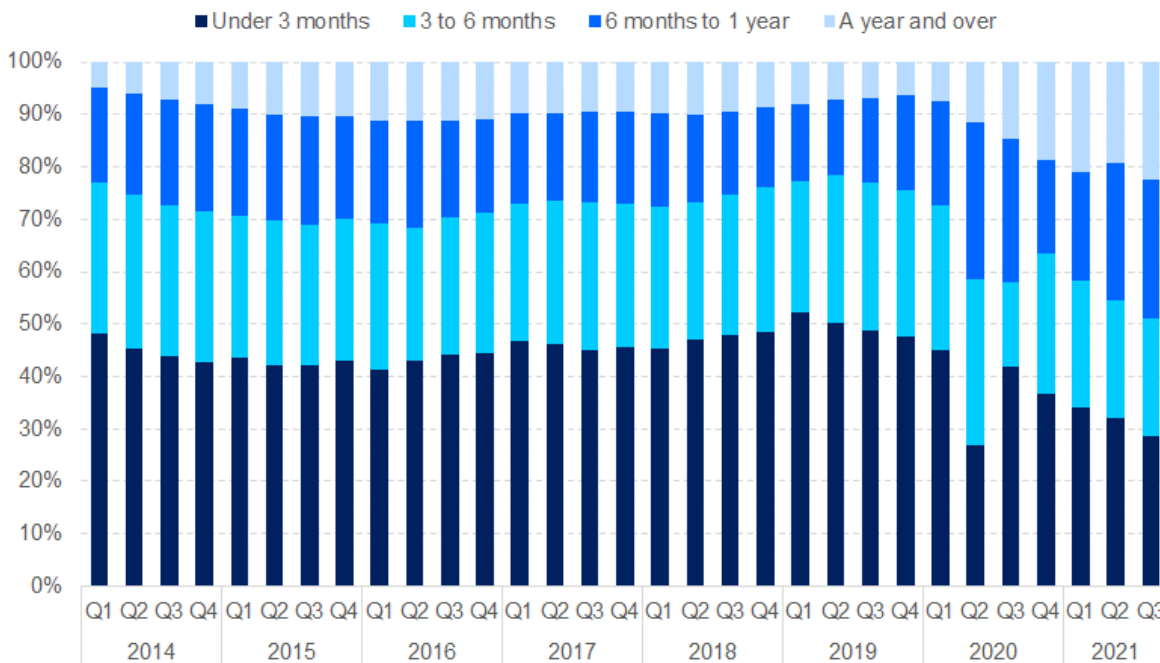
**Figure 4: Age of outstanding cases at the Crown Court, Q1 2014 – Q3 2021 (Source: Table O1)**



At the end of Q3 2021 there were 13,202 outstanding cases that had been outstanding for a year or more. This represents 23% of the outstanding caseload and has increased sharply across the COVID period – from 15% in Q3 2020 to 23% in Q3 2021. This is up on the previous quarter (19% in Q2 2021) and is the highest proportion seen across the series (2014-2021).



**Figure 5: Proportion of outstanding cases at the Crown Court by grouped age, Q1 2014 – Q3 2021 (Source: Table O3)**

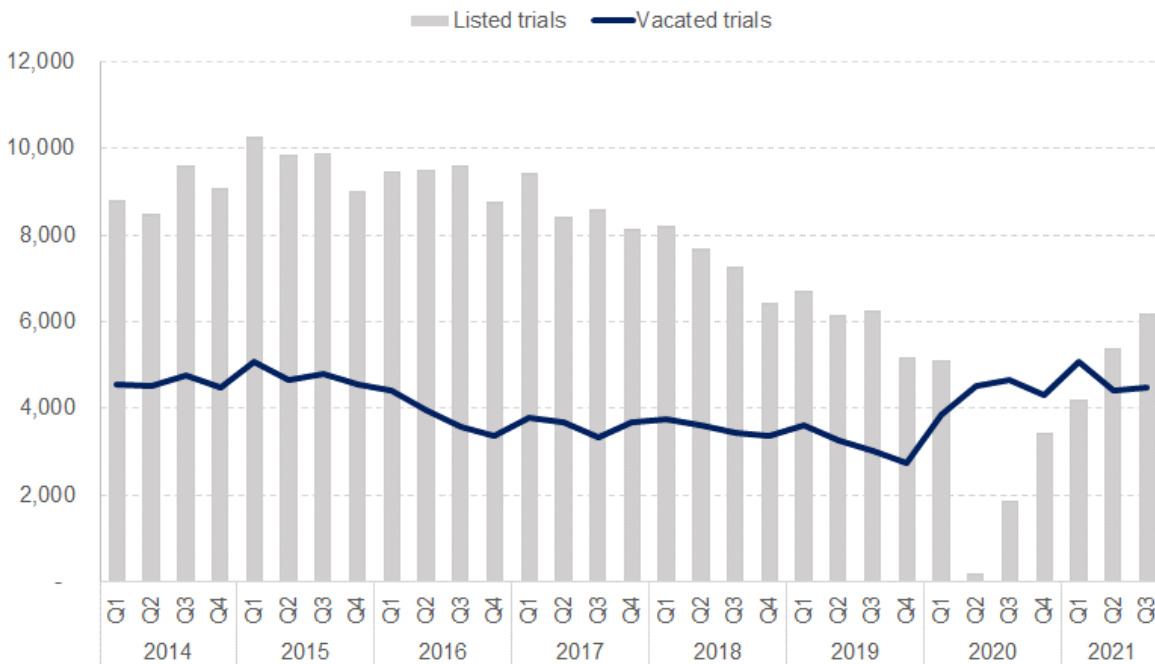


**Trial efficiency**

The volume of trials at the Crown Court was falling prior to the pandemic, since 2015. There were 6,185 trials listed for Q3 2021, a 15% increase on the previous quarter with volumes returning to pre-COVID levels.

The effective trial rate fell back below pre-COVID levels, from 51% in Q2 2021 to 45% in Q3 2021. A corresponding increase can be seen in the ineffective trial rate, from 20% to 25%.

**Figure 6: Crown Court listed trials and vacated trials, Q1 2014 – Q3 2021 (Source: Table C2)**



Vacated trials are trials which have been removed from the listing before the date of the trial. They are counted in the period the vacation happened rather than the date when they were due to be listed (e.g., as for effective, cracked and ineffective estimates). There were 4,478 vacated trials in Q3 2021, this has maintained higher levels seen since Q2 2020.

## **Guilty plea rate**

The pattern of the guilty plea rate reflects the restricted ability of courts to progress jury trials (i.e., cases where a not guilty plea is entered) in the early stages of the pandemic and changes in the makeup of cases which were disposed.

For defendants dealt with in 'for trial' cases at the Crown Court in Q3 2021, 69% entered a guilty plea<sup>9</sup>. This has fallen back from a series peak in Q2 2020 (79%) and is at levels seen pre-COVID as more 'not guilty' trial cases complete.

In Q3 2021, 17% of all defendants dealt with at the Crown Court entered a not guilty plea. This represents a rise on the previous quarter (16%) and previous year (8%), although it is still below the series average (around 20%).

## **Average waiting time at the Crown Court**

The waiting time estimates are a 'lagged measure' and defendants are counted at the point of their case being disposed of. As such the waiting time estimates provide a 'backwards' look at the durations spent between receipt and main hearing at the Crown Court.

The median waiting time<sup>10</sup> for defendants dealt with at the Crown Court was 8.9 weeks in Q3 2021. This represents an increase from 6.9 weeks on Q3 2020 and returns to levels previously seen in 2016.

The median waiting time for defendants dealt with in 'for trial' cases has increased sharply on the previous year, from 11.7 weeks to 18.0 weeks in Q3 2021 – a series peak. This is due to continued increases in waiting times for defendants who enter a not guilty plea, up sharply from 27.7 weeks in Q3 2020 to 39.6 weeks in Q3 2021 – a series peak. The proportion of defendants dealt with following a not guilty plea has increased on the previous quarter but remains below pre-COVID levels.

## **Average hearing time at the Crown Court**

The hearing time estimates are a 'lagged measure' and cases are counted at the point of disposal. As such the hearing time estimates provide a 'backwards' look at the duration of hearings at the Crown Court.

The median hearing time<sup>11</sup> of 'for trial' cases where a not guilty plea was entered, was 12.2 hours. This has returned to levels previous seen pre-COVID (ranging from 10.4 to 12.1 hours) and is down on the series peak seen in Q2 2020 (15.0 hours).

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<sup>9</sup> Guilty plea rate is the number of defendants pleading guilty to all counts as a proportion of those with a plea.

<sup>10</sup> The waiting time is the duration between a case being sent to the Crown Court and the first main hearing.

<sup>11</sup> The hearing time is the time a case spends being heard in the Crown Court, including preliminary hearings, main hearings, and hearings where a sentence is given to a defendant.

## 4. Timeliness

### Timeliness at the magistrates' courts fell, while Crown Court timeliness continued to increase

The median time from offence to completion at the magistrates' court fell by 5% from 200 days in Q2 2021 to 191 days in Q3 2021. At the Crown Court, the median time from receipt to completion continued to increase and reach a series peak of 151 days.

New experimental statistics using a new data linking methodology have been developed using the Ministry of Justices open-source statistical '[Splink](#)' package to provide updated end-to-end timeliness estimates. Currently the data provides only national level estimates of timeliness from offence to completion for defendants whose cases have been completed at the Crown Court (Table T4). We will continue to develop the new linked end-to-end timeliness methodology and expand the available data to bring it back in line with the previous published series (e.g., by court, offence group and publication of 'all court' estimates of timeliness).

Alongside the gradual development of the experimental statistics we will continue to try to best meet user demands via more granular data on separate ('unlinked') timeliness estimates for magistrates' courts and Crown Court.

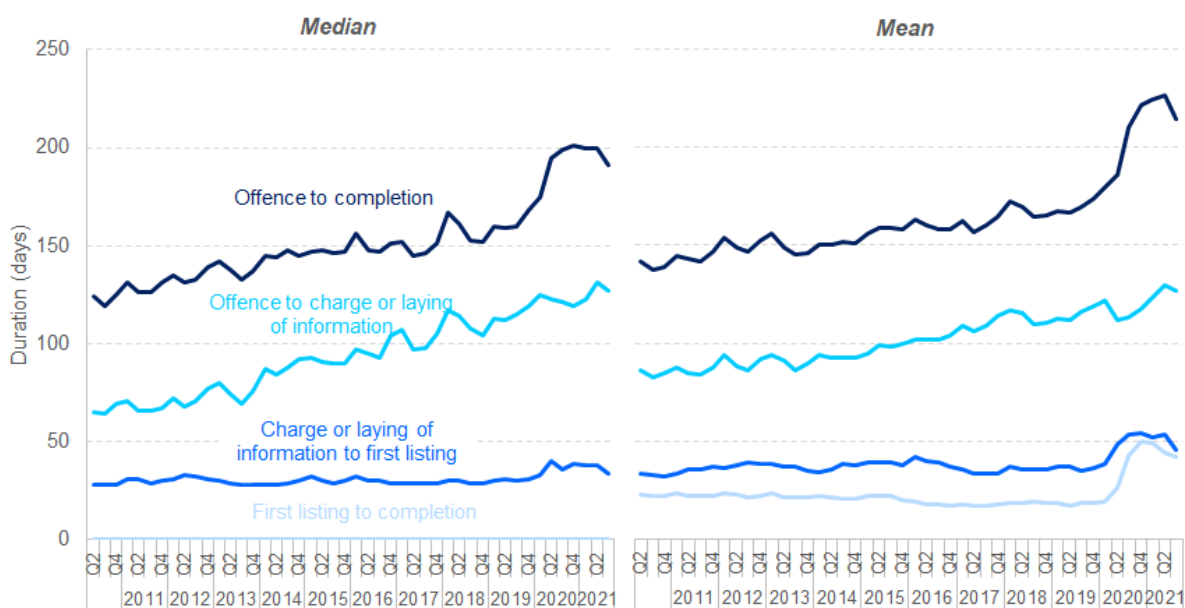
- *Magistrates' court timeliness estimates (T1 – T3)* – providing estimates of the time from offence to completion for defendants dealt with at the magistrates' courts.
- *Crown Court timeliness estimates (E1 – E2)* – providing estimates of the time from case receipt to completion for defendants dealt with at the Crown Court only.

### Magistrates' courts timeliness

Timeliness at the magistrates' courts measures the time from an offence being committed through key stages of the criminal justice system including charge, first listing at the magistrates' court and subsequent completion at court.

The median duration from offence to completion of defendants dealt with at the magistrates' courts (191 days) fell by 5% on the previous quarter (200 days).

**Figure 7: Average number of days from offence to completion for defendants dealt with at the magistrates' courts by stage, Q2 2010 – Q3 2021 (Source: Table T3)**



- 'Pre-court' time fell - the median time from 'offence to charge' decreased by 3% from a series high of 131 days in Q2 2021 to 127 days in Q3 2021. The median time

from 'charge to first listing' fell by 11% on the previous quarter (from 38 days to 34 days).

- 'At court' median duration remained stable at 0 days, where the first listing and completion occur on the same day. However, the mean duration for all cases fell slightly on the previous quarter (down 5%) to 42 days – this follows sharp increases seen over the COVID period and the latest estimate remains well above levels seen pre-COVID (e.g., 19 days in Q3 2019).

### Crown Court timeliness - experimental statistics

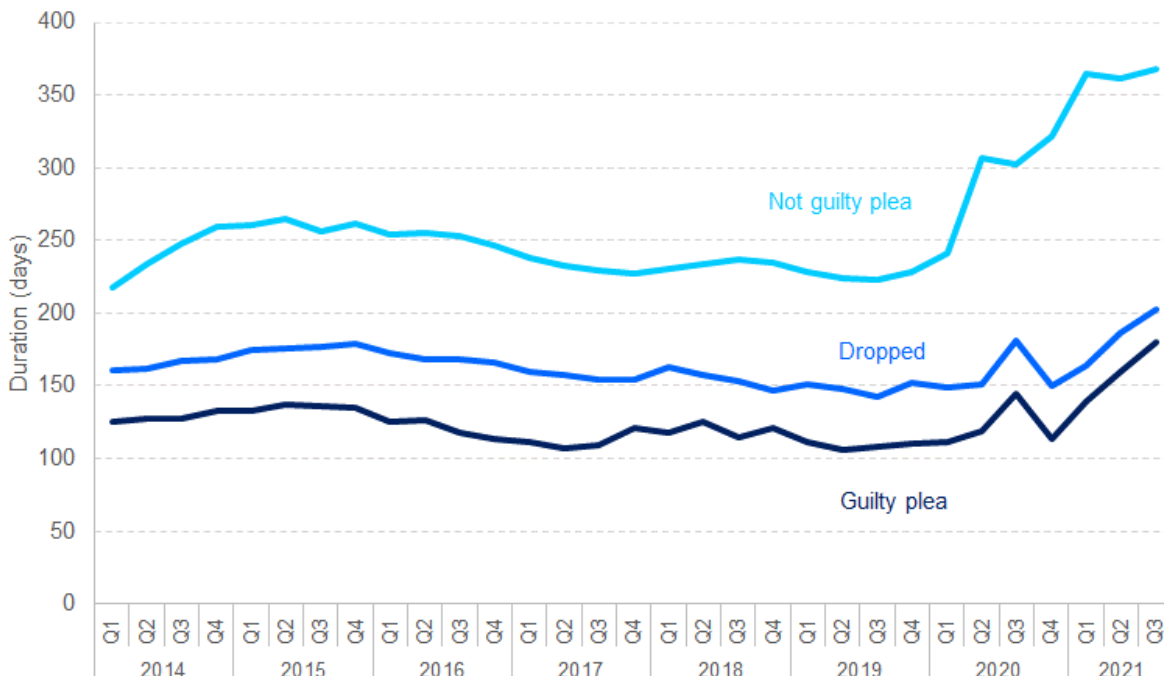
Timeliness at the Crown Court is measured from the point of a case entering a Crown Court, reaching a main hearing and then completion at court. This data series remains in development and as such it is considered 'experimental statistics'. Data presented here is not produced on the same basis as linked end-to-end timeliness data (see Table T4). The measurement is based on defendants whose cases have been completed, as such this is a 'backwards' looking measurement of timeliness between receipt and completion at the Crown Court.

The median duration from case receipt to completion at the Crown Court increased 32% on the previous year, up from 114 days in Q3 2020 to 151 days in Q3 2021.

Increases can be seen across both 'receipt to main hearing' (from 47 days in Q3 2020 to 70 days in Q3 2021) and 'main hearing to completion' (from 5 days in Q3 2020 to 22 days in Q3 2021).

The annual increase in overall median timeliness at the Crown Court can be seen in both 'for trial' cases (up 38%) and sentence case (up 24%).

**Figure 8 – Median duration from receipt to completion in 'for trial' cases by plea at the Crown Court, Q1 2014 – Q3 2021 (Source: E2)**



- In 'for trial' cases where a not guilty plea was entered, the median duration from receipt to completion at the Crown Court increased by 22% on the previous year, from 307 days in Q3 2020 to 368 days in Q3 2021. Increases can be seen both from 'receipt to main hearing' and from 'main hearing to completion'. However, most time is spent from 'receipt to main hearing' - with a median of 291 days in Q3 2021, up 44% on the previous year (202 days in Q3 2020).

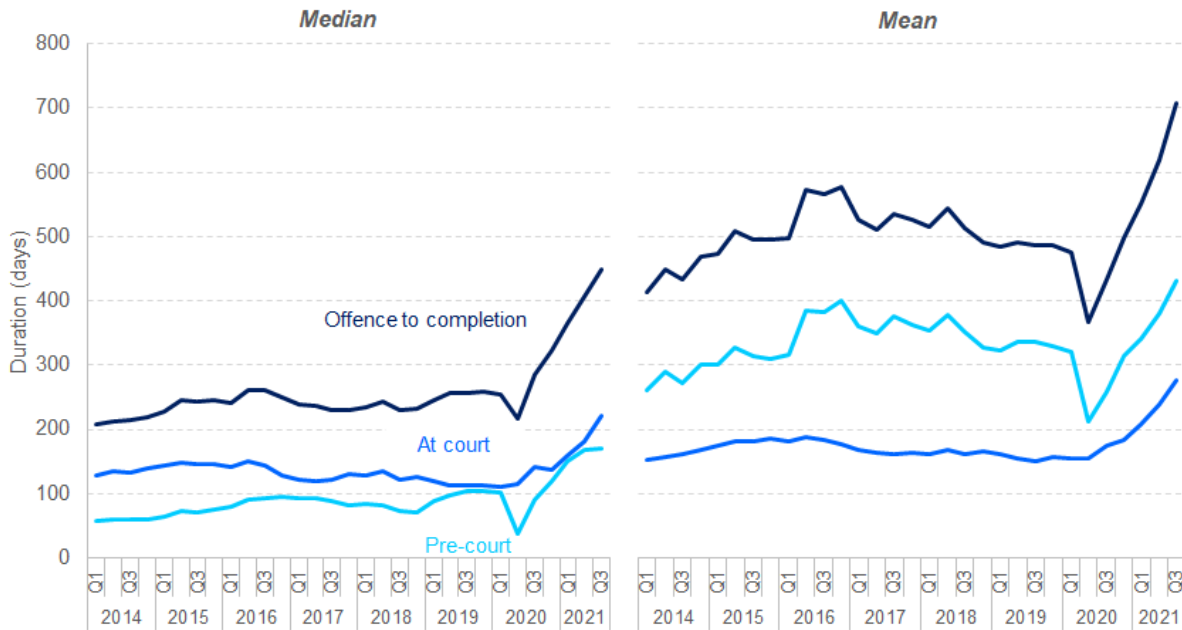
- In 'for trial' cases where a guilty plea was entered, the median duration from receipt to completion at the Crown Court increased by 24% from 145 days in Q3 2020 to 180 days in Q3 2021.

### Linked end-to-end timeliness - experimental statistics

New experimental statistics using a new data linking methodology have been developed using the Ministry of Justices open-source statistical '[Splink](#)' package to provide end-to-end timeliness estimates.

The timeliness estimates include Common Platform data for the first time and as such the full series has been revised back as far as possible (Q3 2020).

**Figure 9 – Average number of days from offence to completion for defendants dealt with at the Crown Court, Q1 2014 – Q3 2021 (Source: T4)**



In Q3 2021, the median duration from offence to completion for defendants dealt with at the Crown Court was 449 days – this is the longest duration seen across the series (Q1 2014 – Q3 2021) and has increased sharply following the COVID-19 pandemic response. The latest median estimate represents an increase of 57% on the previous year (286 days in Q3 2020) and 11% on the previous quarter (406 days in Q2 2021).

Increases can be seen across both median and mean estimates in time spent 'pre-court' (e.g., from offence to first listing) and 'at court' (e.g., from first listing at the magistrates' courts to completion at the Crown Court).

## 5. Experimental Statistics - language interpreter and translation services

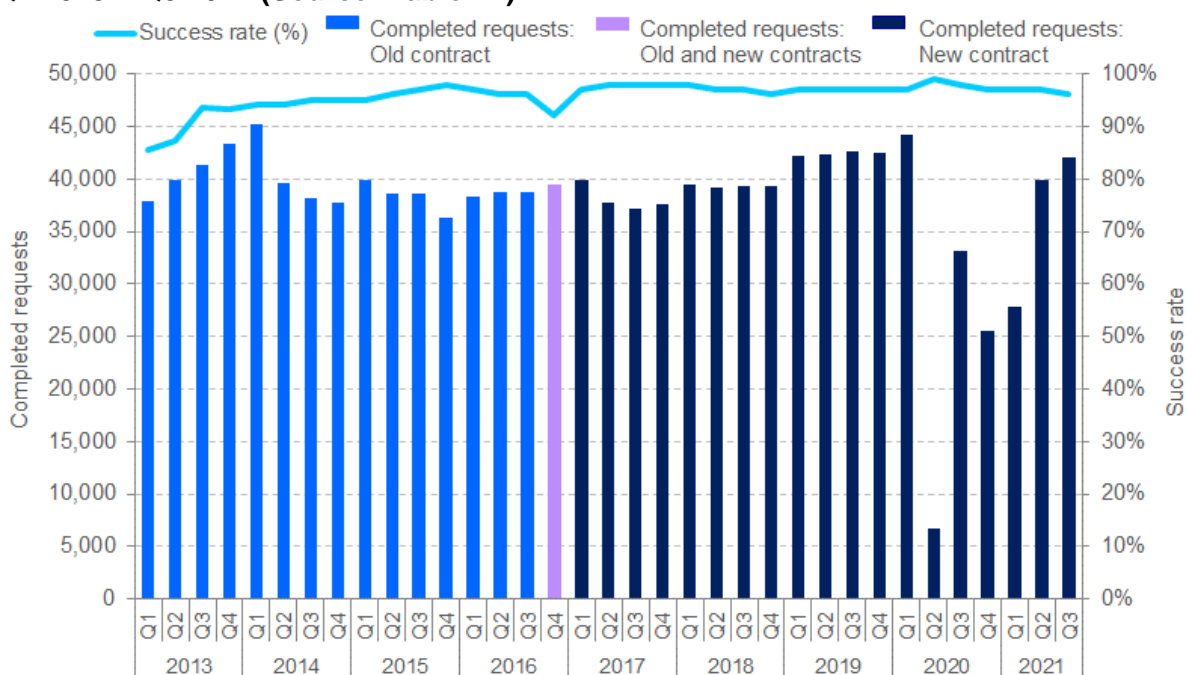
**The number of completed language service requests increased on the previous quarter and the success rate remained broadly stable.**

There were 42,059 completed requests in Q3 2021, up 5% on the previous quarter. The success rate for requests was 96%, broadly stable with the rate seen since 2017.

### Completed service requests

There were 42,059 completed requests in Q3 2021, up 5% on the previous quarter (39,903) and well above the volumes seen in the previous year (33,143) – back to levels seen prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Figure 10: Number of completed language service requests and overall success rate, Q1 2013 – Q3 2021 (Source: Table L1)**



### Success rate

The overall success rate of requests was 96% in Q3 2021, this is similar to rates seen since 2017. The proportion of cancellations (which are excluded from the success rate calculation) increased in Q2 2020 to 34% – this has fallen back to 23% in Q3 2021 but remains above pre-COVID proportions (~14% between 2012 and 2019).

### Complaints and complaint rate

The number of complaints has remained very low since Q2 2020, with only 128 complaints made in Q3 2021. This represents a 20% fall on the previous quarter (160) and is well below levels seen pre-COVID (~778 between 2012 and 2019). The overall complaint rate has remained well below 1% since Q3 2020.

### 'Off-contract' requests

The number of 'off-contract' requests in Q3 2021 more than doubled on the previous quarter, up from 409 in Q2 2021 to 1,039 in Q3 2021. This is the highest volume of 'off-contract' requests seen since Q3 2013.



## 6. Further information on criminal courts data

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

### Accompanying files

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

- Two technical guides providing background information and standalone quality guide.
- A set of overview tables, covering each section of this bulletin.
- Pivot tools and underlying data which feature further breakdowns of published data.

### National Statistics status

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. This bulletin recently underwent a compliance check with the Office for Statistics Regulation and retained its National Statistics status in January 2019.<sup>12</sup> 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 which 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.

### Experimental Statistics status

Experimental statistics are produced under the remit of the Code of Practice for Statistics. They are also produced impartially and are free from political influence<sup>13</sup>.



### Future publications

Our statisticians regularly review the content of publications. Development of new and improved statistical outputs is usually dependent on reallocating existing resources. As part of our continual review and prioritisation, we welcome user feedback on existing outputs including content, breadth, frequency and methodology. Please send any comments you have on this publication including suggestions for further developments or reductions in content to the contacts listed below.

### Contact

Press enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:

Tel: 020 3334 3536 Email: [newsdesk@justice.gov.uk](mailto:newsdesk@justice.gov.uk)

Other enquiries and feedback about these statistics should be directed to the Justice Statistics Analytical Services division of the Ministry of Justice:

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**URL:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-court-statistics>

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/compliance-check-on-court-statistics/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/monitoring-and-assessment/code-of-practice/>