



Ministry
of Justice

A User Guide to Criminal Justice System Statistics Quarterly (CJSQ)

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National Statistics Publication: Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly (CJSQ)

The CJSQ publication covers trends in the use of out of court disposals, defendants prosecuted, offenders convicted, remand and sentencing decisions. Each quarterly publication includes the statistical bulletin and overview tables. The annual publication, year ending December, also includes trends in motoring offences and the data tools (see below).

Products published as part of the CJSQ publication

The statistical bulletin

The bulletin is published with each **quarterly** publication, in pdf and html formats, covering the key trends within the Criminal Justice System the most recent year.

- Quarter 1: Year ending March
- Quarter 2: Year ending June
- Quarter 3: Year ending September
- Quarter 4: Year ending December (**annual** publication)

The bulletin covers the following chapters:

- Out of Court Disposals
- Prosecutions and Convictions
- Remands
- Sentencing
- Motoring (**annual** only)

Overview tables

The overview tables cover the trends year ending a given quarter for the CJS. “Q” tables are produced for all editions, “A” tables are included in the annual edition only.

- Tables Q1.1 to Q1.4, A1.1 and A1.2 – cover overall trends cross-cutting prosecutions, convictions, sentences, out of court disposals and police charge/recorded crime data.
- Tables Q2.1 to Q2.3, A2.1 and A2.2 – cover out of court disposals data relating to PNDs and Cautions.
- Tables Q3.1 to Q3.5 and A3.1 – cover prosecutions and convictions.
- Tables Q4.1 to Q4.5 – cover remands pre-court and at magistrates’ and the Crown Court.
- Tables Q5.1 to Q5.4 – cover sentencing outcomes.
- Tables A6.1 to A6.4 – cover motoring offences.

Technical guide

A Technical guide is published with each **quarterly** publication, providing further information on how the data is collected and processed, as well as information on the revisions policy and legislation relevant to sentencing trends and background on CJS.

Between May 2023 and January 2024, work was undertaken to develop and deliver significant improvements to the criminal court sentencing data. Although these changes have a limited impact on overall existing trends across the time series (2010 to date), users should be aware that the new processing of criminal court sentencing data has only been applied in full to 2017 onwards and, therefore, 2010 to 2016 is still derived from the old system. Users should consult the technical appendix for explanations of notable impacts due to the change in data processing methods between 2016 and 2017. For transparency, we updated the annual interactive data tools published in CJSQ 2022 Q4 (May 2023 release) to ensure users have access to the revised figures for

breakdowns by offence characteristics and offender demographics – these replace previous versions of the tools, which have been moved to a separate folder on the CJSQ 2022 Q4 landing page for archiving, but we urge users to use the new versions.

Data tools

The **annual** publication includes a set of interactive data tools, allowing more in-depth breakdowns of our published data, including, but not limited to, individual offences, demographics (sex, ethnicity, age) and Police Force Area – see Table 1 in Annex A for details.

- **Outcomes by offence*** – data on prosecutions, convictions and sentences on a principal offence basis at all courts, breakdown to individual Home Office offence codes (including filters for type/period of disqualification for motoring offences)
- **Magistrates' court** – similar to the outcomes by offence tool; including the results of proceedings at Magistrates' courts e.g. proceedings discontinued, charge dismissed, committed for trial at Crown Court etc. Also includes plea at magistrates' courts.
- **Crown court** – similar to the outcomes by offence tool; including the results of defendants appearing at Crown Courts e.g. not tried, acquitted and sentenced etc. Also includes plea at Crown Court
- **Remands tool** – includes remand status with the police, magistrates', and Crown Courts: not remanded, bail and custody
- **Out of court disposals** – includes Cautions (caution type, where issued and their outcome) and Penalty Notices for Disorder (where issued and their outcome)
- **All offence prosecutions and convictions by Home Office offence code tool** – includes offences on an all offence basis, that is, the total number of offences a defendant is prosecuted for (principle offences plus non-principal offences)

Feedback from users on the annual tools highlighted that a longer time series was desirable in each excel pivot tool to enable comparisons. We have acted on this in the December 2022 publication, and most tools have a time series of 2010 – 2022 (other than the remand and all offence tool). During this change, we have developed the annual tools to improve the accuracy of statistics and usability (please see the Changes and revisions section of December 2022 publication for more details). As a result, the tools produced in the December 2022 publication should be seen as the true source of information on prosecutions, convictions, sentencing and remand decisions rather than those published in earlier versions of CJSQ. We will consider publishing tools with earlier time periods in future publications where feasible.

**Please note that the Outcomes by Offence tool was also released mid-year as part of the year ending June 2022 Q2 and June 2023 Q3 publication - feedback is welcomed on whether this should be a permanent addition.*

Please refer to the footnotes and guidance within each pivot tool for more information.

Offence group classification

The **annual** publication includes the machine-readable offence group classification, allowing users to look up offences and their corresponding Home Office offence codes for use in our data tools.

Highlight row 1 and *Ctrl+Shift+L* to turn filters on within the Excel worksheet. For more specific searches use custom filter.

Defendants prosecuted for combination of offences (csv)

The **annual** publication includes a CSV for the combination of offences for which a defendant has been prosecuted. The zip file contains a Word document with instructions on how to access and manipulate the CSV contained.

This was not originally included in the December 2022 publication as we were working on a methodology to include cases from the Common Platform system (the new digital case management system for the magistrates' and Crown Court) and was uploaded in January 2024.

Data behind interactive tools

The data contained within all of the data tools published alongside the **annual** edition can be found in CSV format in the Data behind the interactive tools zip file. These files are in an accessible format that can be used to create pivot tools or enter data into other programs.

We are aware of an issue some users have found when trying to access our data tools using a MacBook. By accessing the CSVs in this folder and looking to your settings, this issue is able to be mitigated and MacBook users can create their own pivot tools.

Infographic

The **annual** publication includes an infographic in PDF format, showing visualisations of key messages from the publication.

For feedback or questions related to the content of this publication, please contact us at CJS_Statistics@justice.gov.uk

Annex A

Table 1: Variables available in each data tool, 2023.

		Outcomes by offence data tool	Magistrates' court data tool	Crown Court data tool	Out of court disposals data tool	Remands data tool	All offence prosecutions and convictions by Home Office offence code
	Variables available	2010-2023	2010-2023	2010-2023	2010-2023	2012-2023	2013-2023
<i>Period</i>	Year	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Quarter	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Month	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Offence details</i>	Offence type	Y	Y	Y	Y (cautions) NA (PNDs)	Y	Y
	Offence group	Y	Y	Y	Y (cautions) NA (PNDs)	Y	Y
	Offence	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	HO offence code	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
	Motoring offence flag	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y
<i>Demo-graphics</i>	Sex	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Ethnicity	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Detailed ethnicity	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
	Age group	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Age range	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Court type/Courts	N	NA	NA	NA	Y	N
	Case type	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y
	Plea at magistrates' court	N	Y	NA	NA	Y	N
	Plea at the Crown Court	N	NA	Y	NA	Y	N
	Police Force Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	SJP Flag (ATCM only)	Y	Y	NA	NA	Y	Y
<i>Principal/All-offence</i>	Principal Offence	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
	All-offence	N	N	N	N	N	Y
	Cautions	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA	NA

<i>Out of Court Disposals</i>	Caution type	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA	NA
	PNDs	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA	NA
	PNDs: issued by	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA	NA
	PNDs: where issued	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA	NA
<i>Remands</i>	Failure to Appear (FTA)	NA	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA
	Remand status pre-court	NA	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA
	Remand status with magistrates'	NA	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA
	Remand status at the Crown Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA
<i>Measures and outcome details</i>	Proceeded against/Prosecutions	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y
	Found guilty/Convictions	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y
	Sentenced and Sentence outcome	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	N
	Detailed sentence outcome	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	N
	Outcome Without Conviction	N	Y	Y	NA	Y	N
	Custodial Sentence Length	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	N
	Average custodial sentence length (months)	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	N
	Custody rate (%)	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	N
	Average fine (excl. companies)	Y	Y	Y	NA	N	N
	Average fine (companies)	Y	Y	Y	NA	N	
	Average Compensation	Y	Y	Y	NA	N	N
	Period of Driving Disqualification	Y	Y	Y	NA	NA	N
	Driving Disposal Type	Y	Y	Y	NA	NA	N

Key

Y = Present in the data tool

N = Not present in the data tool

NA = Not applicable in that tool