



Ministry
of Justice

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

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Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly (CJSQ)

The CJSQ publication covers trends in recorded crime, the use of out of court disposals, prosecutions at criminal courts, convictions, defendant remand status 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 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:

- Overview
- Out of Court Disposals
- Prosecutions & 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 – overall trends cross-cutting police recorded crime/charge data, out of court disposals, prosecutions, convictions and sentencing.
- Tables Q2.1 to Q2.3, A2.1 and A2.2 – out of court disposals data relating to PNDs and cautions.
- Tables Q3.1 to Q3.4 and A3.1 – prosecutions and convictions.
- Tables Q4.1 to Q4.5 – remand status pre-court, at magistrates’ court and at Crown Court.
- Tables Q5.1 to Q5.4 – sentencing outcomes.
- Tables A6.1 to A6.4 – 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, users should be aware that the new processing of criminal court sentencing data has only been applied to data 2017 onwards and, therefore, data prior to 2017 is still derived from the old processing system. Users should consult the [technical appendix](#) published alongside the 2023 Q2 report for explanations of any notable impacts due to the change in data processing methods.

Data tools

The **annual** publication includes a set of interactive data tools, allowing more in-depth breakdowns of our published data – see Table 1 in Annex A for details.

- **Outcomes by offence data tool*** – data on prosecutions, convictions and sentencing on a principal offence basis at criminal courts.
- **Magistrates’ court data tool** – similar to the outcomes by offence tool; including the specific results of proceedings at Magistrates’ courts (e.g. committed for trial at Crown Court, etc.). Also includes plea at magistrates’ courts.
- **Crown Court data tool** – similar to the outcomes by offence tool; including Crown Court specific results and plea at Crown Court
- **Remands data tool** – defendants principal remand status prior to appearing at court, at magistrates’, and at Crown Court.
- **Out of court disposals data tool** – cautions and Penalty Notices for Disorder issued and outcomes.
- **All offence prosecutions and convictions data tool** – prosecution/conviction figures on an all-offence basis (including all offences that a defendant was dealt with for; principal offences and non-principal offences).

**Please note that the Outcomes by Offence tool was also released as part of the year ending June 2022, 2023 and 2024 publications.*

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

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 files. These files are in an accessible format that can be used to create pivot tools or enter data into other programs/tools.

Offence group classification

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

Defendants prosecuted for combination of offences (csv)

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

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.

Category	Variable	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 data tool
<i>Time 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 information</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	Y (cautions) NA (PNDs)	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
<i>Other</i>	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
	Remand status pre-court	NA	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA
	Remand status at magistrates' court	NA	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA
	Remand status at Crown Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA
<i>Out of Court Disposals</i>	Caution type	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA	NA
	PNDs: issued by	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA	NA

	PNDs: where issued	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA	NA
	PNDs: outcome	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA	NA
<i>Measures and outcome details</i>	Proceeded against/Prosecutions	Y	Y	NA	NA	N	Y
	Convictions	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y
	Sentenced and Sentence outcomes	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