

# Quarterly reporting on the number of magistrate appointments

## Q2 2026-27

### 1. Introduction

The Ministry of Justice recognises the importance of transparency in the recruitment of magistrates. We began publishing quarterly figures showing the number of magistrates appointed in England and Wales in the first quarter of 2026/27 alongside the annual Diversity of the Judiciary: 2026 statistics, published in July 2026. As announced in that publication, this standalone report provides the number of magistrate appointments by region and quarter for 2024/25, 2025/26 and the first two quarters of 2026/27.

Unlike the summary figures published alongside the annual diversity figures, this publication includes a regional breakdown of appointments.

### 2. Latest quarter

A total of 809 magistrates were appointed in England and Wales in Q2 2026/27, representing a 19% increase from the previous quarter and more than doubling compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

By region, the number of magistrates appointed in Q2 2026/27 (July to September) was:

- London: 120
- Midlands: 160
- North East: 81
- North West: 122
- South East: 88
- South West: 147
- Wales: 91

**Table: Number of magistrate appointments in England and Wales, by region and quarter, Q1 2024-25 to Q2 2026-27**

| Year    | Quarter        | London | Midlands | North East | North West | South East | South West | Wales | England and Wales Total |
|---------|----------------|--------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|-------------------------|
| 2024/25 | Q1 (Apr - Jun) | 46     | 11       | 82         | 15         | 0          | 41         | 26    | <b>221</b>              |
|         | Q2 (Jul - Sep) | 59     | 77       | 58         | 15         | 0          | 2          | 19    | <b>230</b>              |
|         | Q3 (Oct - Dec) | 60     | 50       | 50         | 0          | 1          | 1          | 0     | <b>162</b>              |
|         | Q4 (Jan - Mar) | 94     | 38       | 85         | 0          | 59         | 0          | 8     | <b>284</b>              |
| 2025/26 | Q1 (Apr - Jun) | 59     | 111      | 59         | 26         | 72         | 8          | 52    | <b>387</b>              |
|         | Q2 (Jul - Sep) | 78     | 42       | 25         | 35         | 155        | 36         | 0     | <b>371</b>              |
|         | Q3 (Oct - Dec) | 40     | 21       | 36         | 86         | 125        | 28         | 0     | <b>336</b>              |
|         | Q4 (Jan - Mar) | 71     | 27       | 27         | 69         | 265        | 69         | 41    | <b>569</b>              |
| 2026/27 | Q1 (Apr - Jun) | 90     | 180      | 36         | 102        | 196        | 49         | 25    | <b>678</b>              |
|         | Q2 (Jul - Sep) | 120    | 160      | 81         | 122        | 88         | 147        | 91    | <b>809</b>              |

**Data sources and notes:**

- Data prior to 2026/27 has been extracted from Magistrate Applicant Tracking System, and so do not match exactly the figures in Table 3.6 of the annual reports.
- However, data for 2026/27 are extracted from the Judicial Office HR database and should be considered provisional.