



Ministry of  
**JUSTICE**



# **Court Statistics Quarterly July to September 2011**

Ministry of Justice  
Statistics bulletin

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# Introduction

This report presents statistics on activity in the county, family, magistrates' and Crown courts of England and Wales. It gives provisional figures for the latest quarter (July to September 2011) with accompanying commentary and analysis.

The commentary includes for each type of court, a brief description of the function and jurisdiction of the courts concerned together with an explanation of some of the main procedures involved.

The figures themselves give a summary overview of the volume of cases dealt with by these courts over time, with statistics also broken down for the main types of case involved. The statistics are used to monitor court workloads, to assist in the development of policy, and their subsequent monitoring and evaluation.

Calendar year court statistics are also published by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in the statistics report *Judicial and Court Statistics (JCS)*, which contains more detailed breakdowns of the figures, along with additional data on the activity of other types of court such as the Supreme Court and High Court.

These statistic bulletins, along with the Excel tables and the comma-separated values (CSV) file formats for each chapter, are available from the MoJ website. Following the merger of the *Court Statistics Quarterly (CSQ)* and *Company Winding Up and Bankruptcy Petition Statistics* publications announced on 12 May 2011, a separate CSV file is included with this bulletin covering insolvency actions from 1999 onwards by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) region, Government Office Region and county courts.

[www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/courts-and-sentencing/index.htm](http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/courts-and-sentencing/index.htm)

Statistics on the work of the tribunals in England and Wales and non-devolved tribunals in Scotland and Northern Ireland during the period July to September 2011 are also published by the MoJ at the same time as this report. These quarterly tribunals statistics, along with annual statistics, can be found in separate reports on the MoJ website, at:

[www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/tribunals/index.htm](http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/tribunals/index.htm)

**Annex A** provides summary information on data sources for the figures given in this report, along with a brief discussion on data quality. **Annex B** provides high-level findings for the courts and tribunals which are administered by HMCTS.

There is also a **Glossary** section which provides brief definitions for the terms used in this report.

Information about statistical revisions, forthcoming changes and the symbols and conventions used in the bulletin are given in the **Explanatory notes** section.

If you have any feedback, questions or requests for further information about this statistics bulletin, please direct them to the appropriate contact given at the end of this report.

## Background

The vast majority of criminal and civil cases in England and Wales are dealt with at the Crown, magistrates' and county courts.

The vast majority of civil cases which do not involve family matters or failure to pay council tax or child maintenance are handled in the county courts. These cases are typically related to debt, the repossession of property, personal injury and insolvency. Once a claim has been served, the usual options for the defendant are to do nothing, pay up, admit the claim and ask for more time to pay up, and/or dispute the claim. The vast majority of claims are either not defended, or they are settled or are withdrawn before a hearing or trial. Particularly important, complex or substantial cases are dealt with in the High Court.

All family matters are dealt with at Family Proceedings Courts (which are part of the magistrates' courts), at county courts or in the Family Division of the High Court. Family courts deal with matters such as: parental disputes, local authority intervention to protect children, matrimonial cases such as divorce petitions, the financial provisions for children after divorce or relationship breakdown, domestic violence remedies and adoption.

Virtually all criminal court cases start in a magistrates' court. The less serious offences are handled entirely in magistrates' courts. More serious offences are passed on to the Crown Court, either for sentencing after the defendant has been found guilty in a magistrates' court, or for a full trial with a judge and jury. The Crown Court also receives appeals against decisions of the magistrates' courts.

Cases in the magistrates' courts are heard by either two or three lay magistrates (local people who volunteer their services, who may not have formal legal qualifications but would have undertaken a training programme to develop the necessary skills) or by one District Judge (legally qualified, paid, full-time professionals, who are usually based in the larger cities and normally hear the more complex or sensitive cases). Crown Court cases may be heard by Circuit Judges, Recorders or a High Court Judge, depending on the seriousness of the offence.

## Main findings

These statistics are used to monitor the type and volume of cases that are received and processed through the court system of England and Wales. The analyses in this report are mainly comparisons made between the latest quarter and the equivalent quarter of previous years. Seasonal variations affecting the workload of the courts may impact on comparisons with other periods.

### County courts (non-family)

Civil (non family) cases in the county courts typically relate to debt, the repossession of property, personal injury and insolvency. Over the period Q1 (January to March) 2008 to Q3 (July to September 2011) covered by the tables in this report, there have been notable declines in claims issued, enforcement applications and small claim hearings and trials, while defences made have remained relatively flat.

#### Key points

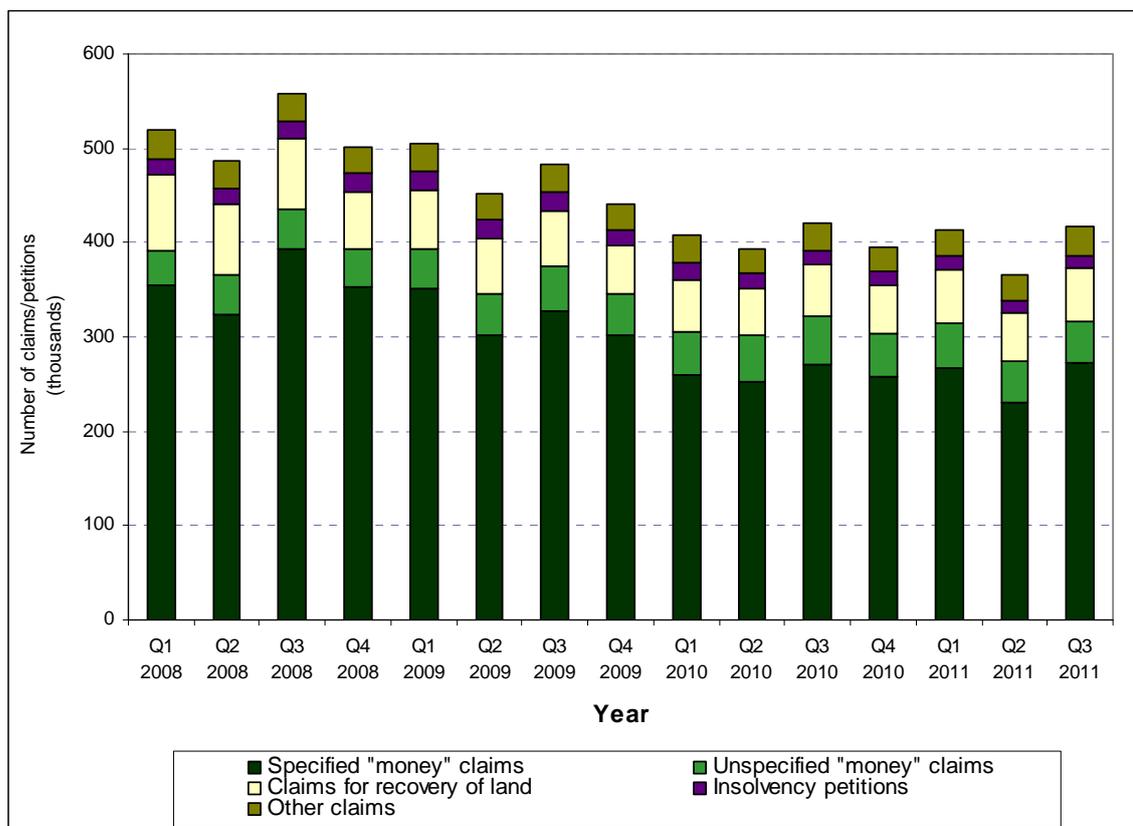
- There were **416,500 claims issued** during the third quarter of 2011, one per cent fewer than in the third quarter of 2010 and continuing the general decline since the first quarter of 2008. The decrease since the third quarter of 2010 comprises falls in insolvency petitions, unspecified 'money' (typically personal injury related) claims, and return of goods claims, while mortgage and landlord possession claims, specified 'money' (typically debt related) claims, and other 'non-money' claims have risen.
- The general fall in repossession claims since the end of 2008 coincides with the introduction of the Mortgage Pre-Action Protocol (MPAP), which gives clear guidance on what the courts expect lenders and borrowers to have done prior to a claim being issued. It encourages more pre-action contact between lender and borrower and as such enables more efficient use of the court's time and resources.

Only a small proportion of claims are defended, with defended cases that are not settled or withdrawn generally resulting in a small claim hearing or trial.

- **72,500 defences were made** in the third quarter of 2011, four per cent fewer than in the third quarter of 2010. This broadly reflects the one per cent fall in 'money' claims, with the vast majority of defences being made to such claims.
- **9,100 small claim hearings** took place in the third quarter of 2011, a decrease of 12 per cent compared with the third quarter of 2010. On average, small claim hearings occurred 30 weeks after the claim was originally made, down from 31 weeks in the third quarter of 2010.
- **3,700 'fast track'** (generally for cases with claim amounts over £5,000 but not more than £25,000) **and 'multi track'** (generally for cases for more than £25,000) **trials** were disposed of, a decrease of 16 per cent compared with the third quarter of 2010. On average, trials occurred 57 weeks after the claim was originally made, up from 54 weeks in the third quarter of 2010 and continuing the general upward trend seen since 2008.

- **71,500 applications for enforcement of judgment amounts** were made (via warrants of execution, attachment of earnings orders, third party debt orders and charging orders) during the third quarter of 2011, a 13 per cent decrease on the same period of the year before.
- **33,500 warrants of possession were issued**, an increase of three per cent on the equivalent quarter of 2010, with county court bailiffs making **16,600 repossessions of properties**, a 20 per cent increase on the third quarter of 2010. 7,300 of the properties were on behalf of mortgage lenders, 23 per cent more than in the third quarter of 2010.

**Figure 1: Claims issued in the county courts, by type of case, England and Wales, Q1 2008 to Q3 2011**



### Family matters

Family cases deal with issues such as parental disputes, child protection cases, divorce and separation, and cases of domestic violence. Volumes of many types of family cases have shown a fairly steady trend in recent years.

#### Key points

- There were **30,400 decrees absolute granted for the dissolution of marriage** in the third quarter of 2011; a decrease of one per cent compared to the third quarter of 2010.

- **5,500 domestic violence orders were made** in the third quarter of 2011; a drop of 14 per cent on the 6,500 in the same period in the previous year. **Domestic violence applications** decreased 15 per cent to 5,500 in the third quarter of 2011, compared with the corresponding quarter in 2010.
- On matters affecting children, there were **7,700 children involved in public law applications** made in the third quarter of 2011, a 28 per cent increase on the same period for 2010.<sup>1</sup>
- There were **30,200 children involved in private law applications** made in the third quarter of 2011; a five per cent decrease on the third quarter of 2010. The trend in the number of children involved in private law applications has been downward since late 2009.<sup>1</sup>
- Starting at the end of 2009, an upgrade to the administrative system in all county courts and Family Proceedings Courts was rolled out nationally. This upgrade was completed in December 2010 following a staggered rollout. During the compilation of the previous quarter's figures for public and private law applications, issues were identified concerning the way in which cases that are transferred between courts are being counted. This issue resulted from the system upgrade which now records transfers between courts differently to ensure that no duplicate records of these transfers are held in the system. Therefore, the methodology to count public and private law applications will be reviewed and updated to ensure that transfers are counted accurately and, as such, previously published data for 2010 and 2011 may be subject to revision

### **Magistrates' courts and the Crown Court**

Nearly all criminal court cases start in a magistrates' court, with the more serious offences passed on to the Crown Court.

Key points for the magistrates' courts

- There were **439,700 criminal proceedings completed in magistrates' courts** in the third quarter of 2011, around six per cent fewer than in the same period of 2010. The trend in recent years has been a decreasing volume of completed criminal proceedings.
- **41,700 trials were recorded in magistrates' courts**, with 43 per cent recorded as effective. Rates of effective, cracked and ineffective trials in the magistrates' courts have remained relatively stable during the last three years.
- The total **value of fines paid in magistrates' courts was £70 million** in the third quarter of 2011, compared with £76 million in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

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<sup>1</sup> The data compilation methodology for the public and private law application figures is under review. Therefore, the figures for 2010 and 2011 may be subject to revision. Please refer to Annex A for further details.

### Key points for the Crown Court

- There were a total of **38,600 cases received** in the Crown Court in the third quarter of 2011, a marginal fall compared to the 38,800 cases received in the third quarter of 2010.
- There were around **10,500 trial listings** in the Crown Court in the third quarter of 2011, compared to 11,200 in the third quarter of 2010. Of these, 46 per cent were recorded as 'effective', with 39 per cent 'cracked' and 15 per cent 'ineffective'. The rates of effective, cracked and ineffective trials have remained consistent over the past two years.

### Timeliness of criminal proceedings

This report also contains experimental statistics on the timeliness of criminal proceedings across both magistrates' and Crown tiers of court.

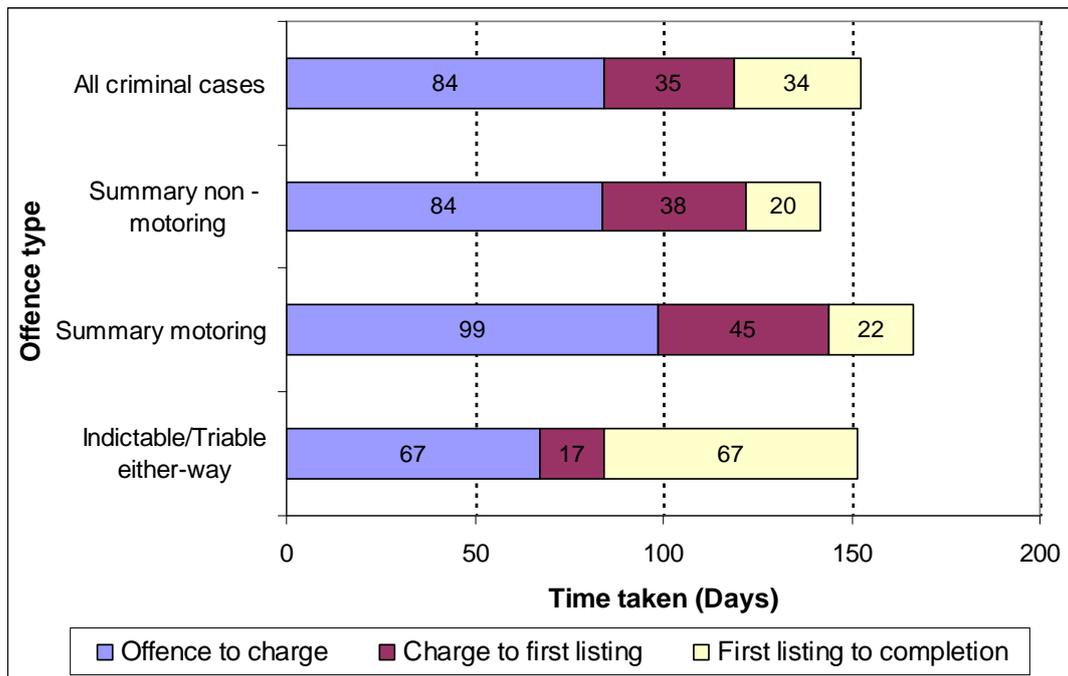
#### Key points

- For defendants whose cases finally completed in either a magistrates' court or Crown Court during the third quarter of 2011, the average time taken between the dates an offence was committed and the completion for all criminal cases was **152 days**.
- The average time from offence to charge/laying of information was **84 days**; the average time from charge/laying of information to the first hearing in a magistrates' court was **35 days**, and the average time from the first hearing to completion was **34 days**.
- The average offence to completion time for indictable/ triable either-way cases was **152 days**, compared to **142 days** for summary non-motoring cases and **166 days** for summary motoring cases.

The 'average waiting time' refers to the average time between the date of sending or committal to the Crown Court and the start of the substantive Crown Court hearing.

- In the third quarter of 2011, the 'average waiting time', for defendants where a not guilty plea was entered, was **24 weeks (172 days)**, compared to **12 weeks (84 days)** for defendants where a guilty plea was entered.

**Figure 2: Average time taken from offence to completion, for all defendants in completed criminal proceedings by offence type, England and Wales, Q3 2011**



The timeliness of criminal proceedings will vary based on the seriousness of the offence and the time taken to charge a defendant. Indictable cases are concerned with the most serious offences sent to the Crown Court for trial or sentencing after a short duration in the magistrates' courts, increasing the average time from first listing to completion. Triable either way cases are less serious than indictable cases, but can be dealt with at either a magistrates' court or before a judge and jury at the Crown Court.

Summary offences are less serious cases. A defendant is not usually entitled to trial by jury, so these cases take less court time, but on average it will take longer for summary cases before a charge or summons is brought.

# Commentary

## County courts (non-family) [Tables 1.1 – 1.7]

In the third quarter of 2011 there were around 210 county courts in England and Wales. The vast majority of civil cases (as opposed to criminal cases) which do not involve family matters or failure to pay council tax or child maintenance are dealt with by the county courts. These cases are typically related to debt (these generally being issued for a specified amount of money), the repossession of property, personal injury (these generally being issued for an unspecified amount of money), and insolvency. Particularly important, complex or substantial cases are instead dealt with in the High Court. All county courts are assigned at least one District Judge, and some at least one Circuit Judge.

Information on the data sources used for the county court statistics can be found in **Annex A**. Explanations for some of the main terms used in this section can be found in the **Glossary**.

### Claims issued

Historically, the normal method of taking someone to court regarding a civil (non-family) matter, is for the person (the claimant) doing so to complete a claim form and take it into a county court. However, the creation of electronic services has meant that claims for a specified amount of money (where the claim is for a set amount of money) or the repossession of property can be made via the internet ([www.moneyclaim.gov.uk](http://www.moneyclaim.gov.uk) and [www.possessionclaim.gov.uk](http://www.possessionclaim.gov.uk)). In addition, claimants who issue a large number of claims for a specified amount of money each year (e.g. banks, credit card and store card issuers, utility companies, debt recovery companies) can do so by filing them in computer readable form to the Claim Production Centre (CPC). Most of the work of the CPC is done at a central processing unit attached to Northampton county court.

In the third quarter of 2011 there were 416,500 claims (or petitions) issued, a decrease of one per cent compared to the third quarter of 2010, and an increase of 14 per cent on the second quarter of 2011. Compared with the same quarter in 2010, there was a 25 per cent decrease in insolvency petitions (although, see the paragraph below), a 12 per cent fall in claims for an unspecified amount of money and a one per cent decrease in return of goods' claims. In contrast, there was an increase of 13 per cent in other non 'money' claims, a rise of two per cent in mortgage and landlord possession claims, and a one per cent increase in claims for a specified amount of money.

For the first time in the third quarter of 2011, the insolvency petition figures were gathered from the same source as the other claim issues data. In particular, due to extra quality assurance procedures that were applied as a result, the figures for this quarter are three per cent lower overall than if they had been produced under the previous compilation process. Please see **Annex A** for more details. When the change in source is adjusted for there was a 16 per cent fall in insolvency petitions (including those made at Royal courts of Justice) since the third quarter of 2010. This comprised a 32 per cent decrease in bankruptcy petitions presented by debtors, a seven per cent rise in bankruptcy petitions presented by creditors, and a

12 per cent increase in company winding up petitions (to dissolve a company that cannot pay its debts).

### **Case progression, hearings and judgments**

Whether the claim is issued online or through the county courts, a copy of the claim form along with a response pack is sent to (served on) the defendant who has 14 days to respond to the claim. The defendant can do nothing, pay up (either the full amount of the claim or in part), admit the claim and ask for more time to pay (in full or part), and/or dispute (defend) the claim (in full or part).

In the third quarter of 2011, 72,500 defences were made, a decrease of four per cent compared with the third quarter of 2010. The decrease broadly corresponds with the one per cent decrease in 'money' claims over the same period, the vast majority of defences being to 'money' claims, whether for specified or unspecified amounts.

If the claim is defended, the usual procedure is for further information to be provided by the parties, following which the case is allocated by a judge to one of three case-management 'tracks'. In total, there were 44,300 allocations to one of these tracks in the third quarter of 2011, a one per cent decrease compared with the same quarter in 2010. This was made-up of, in ascending order of case complexity and degree of judicial involvement:

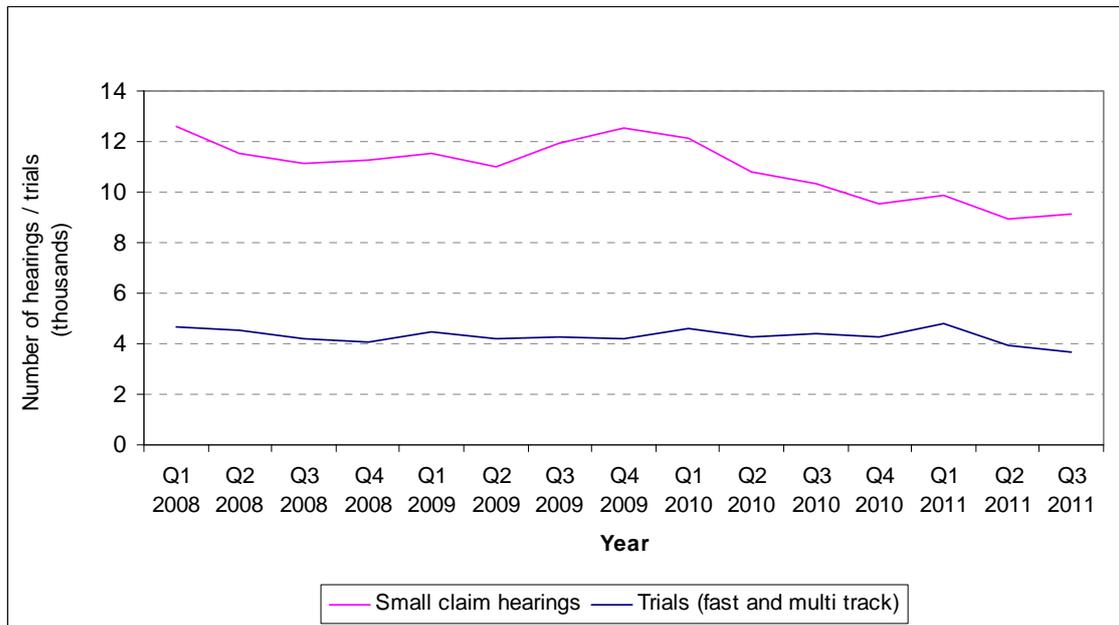
- 21,100 allocations to the 'small claim track', an increase of one per cent compared to the third quarter of 2010. This track is generally for cases with a claim value of up to £5,000 which do not require substantial preparation by the parties involved. The hearings are designed to be accessible to people who do not have representation by a solicitor or counsel, and are dealt with in about an hour.
- 17,500 allocations to the 'fast track', a decrease of one per cent compared to the same quarter of 2010. This track is generally for cases with a claim value of between £5,000 and not more than £25,000, with issues not complex enough to merit more than a one day trial.
- 5,800 allocations to the 'multi track', a decrease of nine per cent compared to the third quarter of 2010. This track is generally for cases with a claim value exceeding £25,000 with issues complex enough to need preliminary hearings. They generally last more than one day at trial.

Defended cases which are not settled or withdrawn generally result in a small claim hearing or trial. In total, there were 12,800 trials and small claim hearings in the third quarter of 2011, a decrease of 13 per cent compared to the third quarter of 2010. This comprised:

- 3,700 'fast track' and 'multi track' trials, a decrease of 16 per cent compared with the third quarter of 2010. Given cases typically take around six months to proceed from allocation to trial, this is against a background of an eight per cent rise in allocations to the 'fast and multi tracks' between the first quarter of 2010 and the first quarter of 2011. It therefore seems to reflect a lower proportion of cases which were allocated to the 'fast and multi tracks' then being disposed of at trials. On average, trials occurred 57 weeks after the claim was originally made, up from 54 weeks in the third quarter of 2010. This reflected rises in the average times taken to allocation (from 20 weeks to 22 weeks) and following allocation (from 33 weeks to 35 weeks).

- 9,100 small claim hearings, a decrease of 12 per cent compared with the third quarter of 2010. Given cases typically take around three months to proceed from allocation to small claim hearing, this fall was much greater than the three per cent fall in allocations to the small claim track between the second quarter of 2010 and the second quarter of 2011. On average, small claim hearings occurred 30 weeks after the claim was originally made, down from 31 weeks in the same quarter of 2010.

**Figure 1.1: Hearings in the county courts, by type, England and Wales, Q1 2008 to Q3 2011**



## Enforcement

There are various methods of enforcing a monetary judgment amount through the county courts. The most common method is the warrant of execution against a debtor's goods. This is where unless the amount owed is paid, items owned by the debtor can be recovered by a bailiff acting on behalf of the court and sold. Alternatively various types of court orders can be obtained. The attachment of earnings order enables payment through the debtor's employer. The third party debt order enables payment by freezing and then seizing money owed by a third party to the debtor. The charging order obtains security for the payment against the debtor's assets. This may be followed by an order for sale which forces the sale of these assets.

There were 71,500 applications for enforcement of judgment amounts (via warrants of execution, attachment of earnings orders, third party debt orders and charging orders) during the third quarter of 2011, a 13 per cent decrease on the same period the year before. In particular during the third quarter of 2011:

- 34,500 warrants of execution were issued, a 13 per cent decrease on the third quarter of 2010.

- 21,700 applications were made for charging orders, a fall of 17 per cent on the third quarter of 2010 and continuing the decline over the last few years. There were also 90 orders for sale, down from 120 in the same quarter of 2010.
- 14,300 applications were made for attachment of earnings orders, a decrease of six per cent on the same quarter of 2010.
- 960 applications were made for third party debt orders, three per cent more than in the third quarter of 2010.

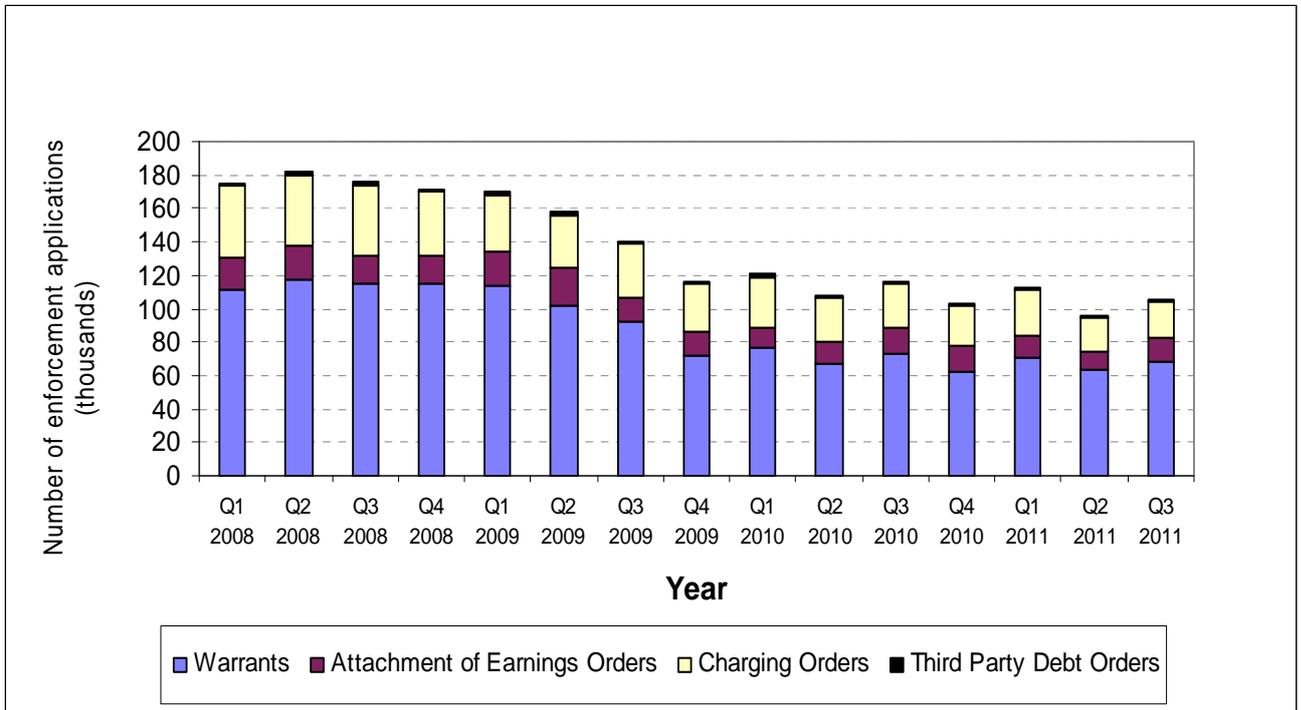
In certain circumstances a debtor may apply to a county court to combine debts with a total not exceeding £5,000 into a single administration order. Once the debts have been examined and found to be correctly calculated a District Judge can make an order for the debtor to make regular payments to the court. The court will then distribute the money to the creditors. There were 100 applications made for administration orders in the third quarter of 2011, down from 170 in the same quarter of 2010.

To assist in determining which of the above is the most appropriate method of enforcing a judgment, creditors can apply for an order to obtain information from the judgment debtors. This requires debtors to provide details of their means. There were 6,600 orders made to obtain information from debtors in the third quarter of 2011, an increase of 13 per cent compared with the third quarter of 2010.

To enforce non-monetary decisions made by the county courts, various types of warrants can be issued. In particular during the third quarter of 2011:

- 33,500 warrants of possession were issued to repossess property, three per cent more than in the equivalent quarter of 2010.
- 16,600 repossessions of properties were made by county court bailiffs, a 20 per cent increase on the third quarter of 2010 after a downtrend trend between 2008 and 2010. 7,300 of the properties were on behalf of mortgage lenders, 23 per cent more than in the third quarter of 2010.
- 490 warrants of delivery were issued to obtain the return of particular goods or items. This represented a decrease of 22 per cent on the third quarter of 2010.
- 230 warrants of committal were issued, down from 390 in the third quarter of 2010. These warrants enforce an order for which the penalty for failure to comply is imprisonment by authorising the bailiff to arrest and deliver the person to prison or the court.

**Figure 1.2: Enforcement applications in the county courts, by type, England and Wales, Q1 2008 to Q3 2011**



## Family matters [Tables 2.1 – 2.6]

Family matters are dealt with in England and Wales under the Children Act 1989 at Family Proceedings Courts (which are part of the Magistrates' Courts), at County Courts or in the Family Division of the High Court. Family courts deal with matters such as: parental disputes, local authority intervention to protect children, matrimonial cases such as divorce petitions, the financial provisions for children after divorce or relationship breakdown, domestic violence remedies and adoption.

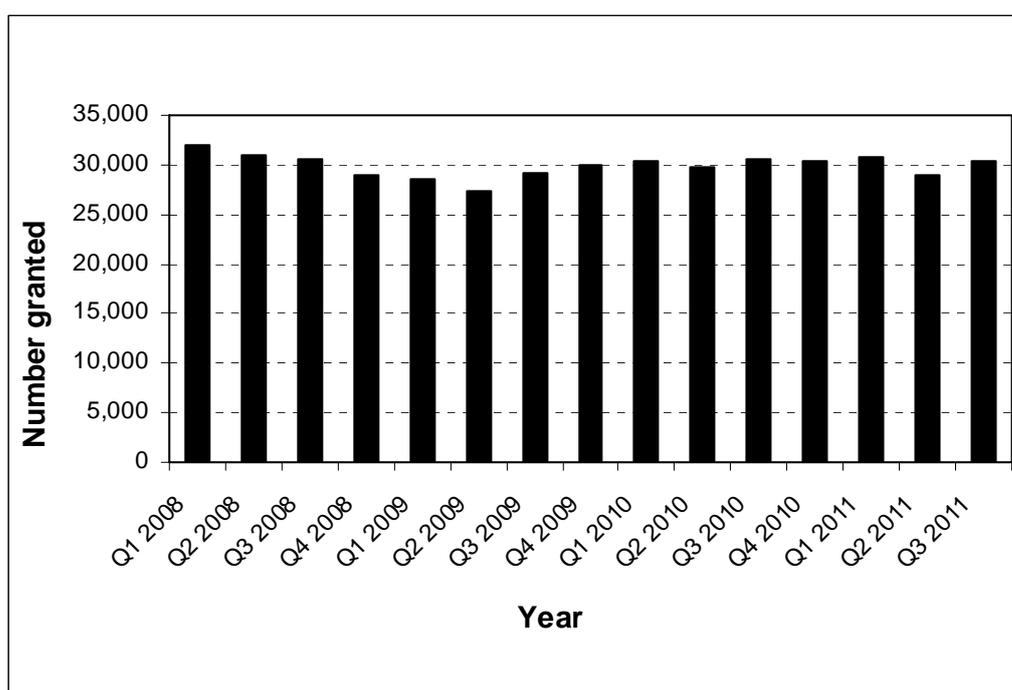
Information on the data sources used for family statistics can be found in **Annex A**. Explanations for some of the main terms used in this section can be found in the **Glossary**.

### Matrimonial matters

There are two ways to legally end a marriage. An individual can apply for a decree absolute of divorce, which ends a valid marriage; or a decree of nullity, which declares that the marriage itself is void. No application can be made for divorce within the first year of marriage. An alternative to divorce is a decree of judicial separation. This does not legally end the marriage but clears the parties from the obligation to live together.

There were 34,600 petitions filed for dissolution of marriage in the third quarter of 2011; a decrease of one per cent compared with the third quarter of 2010. The number of decrees absolute granted decreased to 30,400 in the third quarter of 2011 from the 30,600 in the equivalent quarter of 2010. Following a decrease in petitions for dissolution and decrees absolute granted in the second quarter of 2011, figures have increased back to levels observed in previous quarters.

**Figure 2.1: Dissolution of marriage - decrees absolute granted, Q1 2008 to Q3 2011**



### Ancillary relief – financial disputes post-divorce/separation

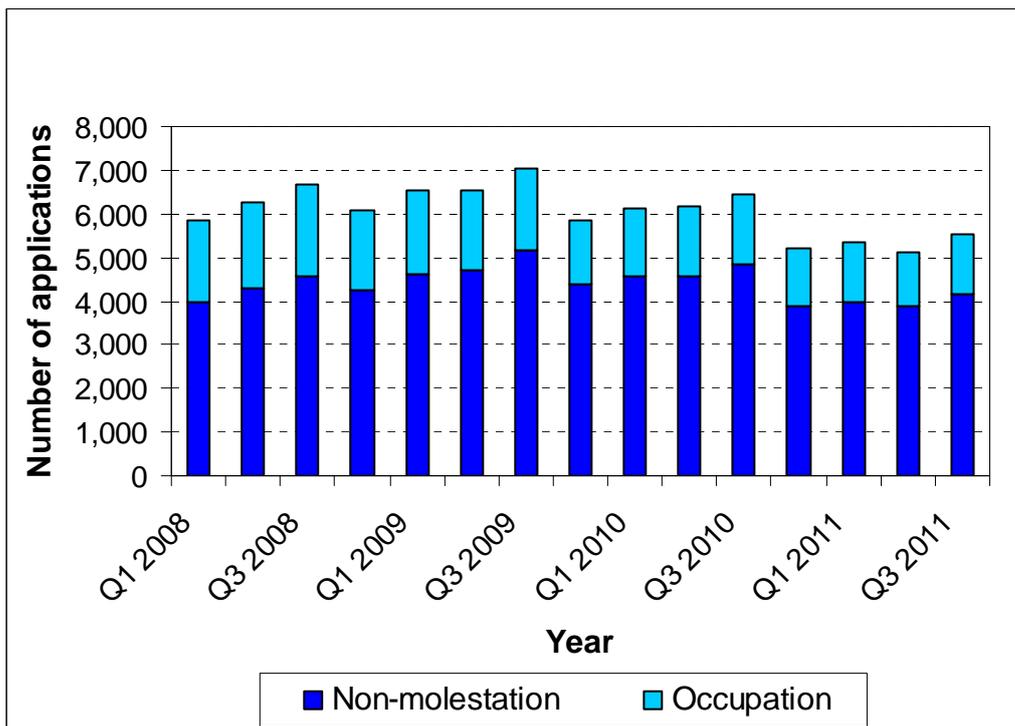
During or after a divorce, a marriage annulment, or a judicial separation, there may still be a need for the court to settle disputes over money or property. The court can make a financial order, known as ancillary relief. Ancillary relief orders may deal with the arrangements for, for example, the sale or transfer of property, maintenance payments, or the sharing of a pension.

Following a decline in late 2008, there had been little change in the number of orders (at around 20,000) made to settle financial disputes post-divorce or post-separation, until the drop in the second quarter of 2011 to 18,500 orders. The number of ancillary orders made in the third quarter of 2011 (20,500) has risen back to the levels observed in previous quarters.

### Domestic violence

The Family Law Act 1996 provides domestic violence remedies in county courts and magistrates' courts, with the vast majority carried out in the former. Two types of order can be applied for: a non-molestation order – which prevents the applicant and/or any relevant children from being molested by someone who has previously been violent towards them; or an occupation order – which can define rights of the occupation of the home by the parties involved. Since July 2007, failing to obey the restrictions of a non-molestation order has been a criminal offence for which someone could be prosecuted. A power of arrest is therefore no longer required on these orders.

**Figure 2.2: Domestic Violence applications made in the county courts, Q1 2008 to Q3 2011**



There were 5,500 applications to county courts for domestic violence remedies, compared to 6,500 in the third quarter of 2010, a 15 per cent decrease. Similarly, some 5,500 domestic violence orders were made in the third quarter of 2011, a 14 per cent drop compared to the same quarter of the previous year. However, the figures for domestic violence applications and orders made in the third quarter of 2011 are higher than in the previous three quarters. For the third quarter of 2011, the proportion of applications which were made for non-molestation orders was 76 per cent and the proportion of all orders made which were for non-molestation was 86 per cent.

It needs to be noted that the statistics presented in this bulletin relate to applications for, and grants of, the above domestic violence order types by the family courts. They do not relate to prosecutions or convictions for criminal offences regarding matters of domestic violence, nor do they cover prosecutions or convictions for breaching a non-molestation order.

### **Forced Marriage Protection Orders**

The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 came into force on 25 November 2008. The Act amended Part IV of the Family Law Act to enable 15 designated county courts (as well as the High Court) to make Forced Marriage Protection Orders to prevent forced marriages from occurring and to offer protection to victims who might have already been forced into a marriage.

Applications for Forced Marriage Protection Orders increased to 40 in the third quarter of 2011, compared with 35 in the same period in 2010. Orders made increased in the third quarter of 2011 to 46, up from 42 in the corresponding quarter of 2010.

### **Public Law**

Starting at the end of 2009, an upgrade to the administrative system in all county courts and Family Proceedings Courts was rolled out nationally. This upgrade was completed in December 2010 following a staggered rollout. During the compilation of the previous quarter's figures for public and private law applications, issues were identified concerning the way in which cases that are transferred between courts are being counted. This issue resulted from the system upgrade which now records transfers between courts differently to ensure that no duplicate records of these transfers are held in the system. Therefore, the methodology to count public and private law applications will be reviewed and updated to ensure that transfers are counted accurately and, as such, previously published data for 2010 and 2011 may be subject to revision.

Public law cases are those brought by local authorities or an authorised person (currently only the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) to protect the child and ensure they get the care they need. They can apply for a range of different orders. Types of order include a care or supervision order which determines whether the child should be looked after or supervised by the local authority, or an emergency protection order which allows an individual or local authority to take a child away from a place where they are in immediate danger to a place of safety.

There was a 28 per cent increase in the total number of children involved in public law applications made in the third quarter of 2011 compared to the equivalent period in 2010, from 6,000 to 7,700.

### **Private Law**

Private law cases are those brought to court by two or more parties who are trying to resolve a private dispute. This is generally where parents have split up and there is a disagreement about contact with the children or with which parent they should live. A range of different types of court order can be applied for. For example, a residence order settles where the child should live, while a contact order specifies the conditions under which the divorced or separated parents may spend time with a child.

The number children involved in private law applications made in the third quarter of 2011 decreased to 30,200 from 31,800 in the third quarter of 2010; a five per cent decrease.

### **Timeliness of care proceedings**

Statistics on the time taken to complete care and supervision cases in the family courts of England and Wales are given in Table 2.6. This table presents summary statistics showing the time, in weeks, between the date an application for a care or supervision order was lodged and the date a care, supervision, or other substantive order was made in the case, for those cases disposed of during each quarter, starting from the second quarter of 2010. In the third quarter of 2011, 50 per cent of such disposals had occurred within 50 weeks for all courts.

Separate figures for the county courts and the High Court, and family proceedings courts are also shown.

## **Magistrates' courts [Tables 3.1 – 3.3]**

In the third quarter of 2011 there were around 276 magistrates' courts across England and Wales. Virtually all criminal court cases start in a magistrates' court. The less serious offences are handled entirely in magistrates' courts. More serious offences are passed on to the Crown Court.

Information on the data sources used for the magistrates' courts statistics can be found in **Annex A**. This bulletin contains experimental statistics on the timeliness of criminal proceedings in the magistrates' courts sourced from court administrative datasets, which can be found in the chapter **Timeliness of criminal proceedings**.

Explanations for some of the main terms used in this section can be found in the **Glossary**.

### **Caseload**

There were around 439,700 criminal proceedings completed in magistrates' courts in the third quarter of 2011; compared with the same quarter of 2010 the caseload decreased by six per cent.

Summary proceedings, which cover the relatively minor offences and are dealt with entirely within the magistrates' courts, make up around two-thirds of cases. Some 129,200 of these cases are related to adult summary motoring proceedings. These include offences such as speeding, driving while disqualified and drunken driving. There were fourteen per cent fewer summary motoring proceedings than in the third quarter of 2010.

Adult summary non-motoring proceedings comprised 35 per cent of cases (around 153,100 cases). These include offences such as failure to pay a television licence, minor assault and criminal damage. The number of these cases has increased by around five per cent compared with the third quarter of 2010.

Adult indictable/ triable-either-way proceedings made up 23 per cent of cases (around 100,300 cases); they have decreased by eight per cent compared with the third quarter of 2010. These cases relate to the more serious offences, for example theft and handling of stolen goods, violence against the person and drug offences. These offences may be dealt with entirely by a magistrates' court, or may be transferred to the Crown Court, depending on the severity of the offence, or by the defendant, if they elect to have a trial by jury.

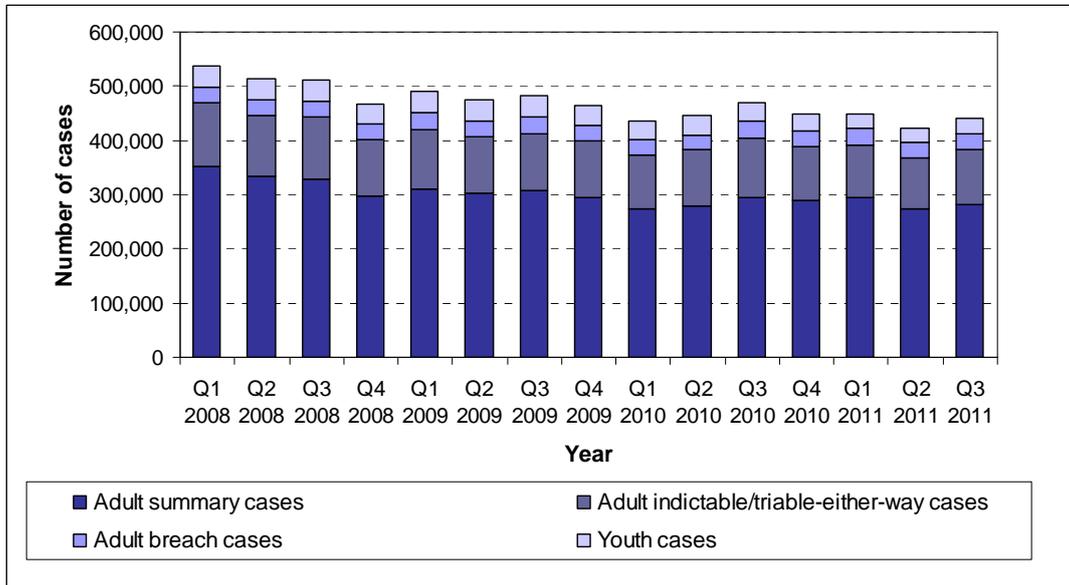
In the third quarter of 2011, there were 29,700 adult breach cases (seven per cent of all criminal cases). These are cases where the defendant breached the conditions of an order that was previously imposed by a court. The number of adult breaches decreased by five per cent compared with the third quarter of 2010.

Youth proceedings comprised six per cent of the criminal cases dealt with in the magistrates' courts (around 27,300 cases) in the third quarter of 2011. These comprise all offences where the defendant was aged between 10 and 17. The number of youth proceedings decreased by 16 per cent compared with the third quarter of 2010.

In arriving at these totals, every separate offence that is dealt with during the course of a case is counted. However, if two or more offences from a case are

dealt with on the same day, then only one is counted (generally the most serious offence is selected) for statistics by case type.

**Figure 3.1: Magistrates' court criminal workload, Q1 2008 to Q3 2011**



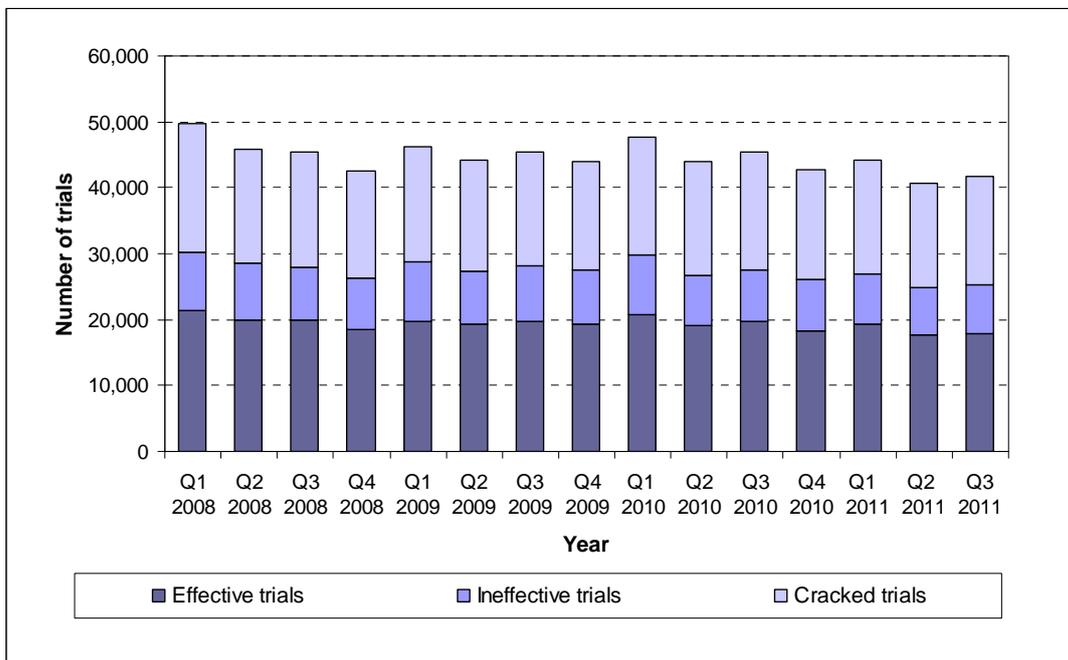
### **Trials**

A trial in the magistrates' court is a hearing at which the prosecution produces evidence to prove the case against the defendant. For a summary offence, if a defendant pleads not guilty, or does not give a plea, then there is a trial. Similarly, for either-way offences that are contested, a trial may occur in the magistrates' courts or in the Crown Court.

Magistrates' courts record the number and outcome of trials. A trial which commences on a scheduled date and reaches a conclusion is recorded as an 'Effective' trial. An 'Ineffective' trial does not commence on the due date and requires re-listing. In contrast, a 'Cracked' trial does not commence on the day and the trial is not re-listed, as the case has reached a conclusion. Cracked trials are usually the result of an acceptable plea being entered by the defendant on the day, or where the prosecution offers no evidence against the defendant.

In the third quarter of 2011, around 41,700 trials were recorded in magistrates' courts. Of these trials, 43 per cent were recorded as effective, 18 per cent were ineffective and 39 per cent were recorded as cracked. Rates of effective, cracked and ineffective trials in the magistrates' courts have remained relatively stable over the last three years.

**Figure 3.2: Effectiveness of recorded trials in magistrates' courts, Q1 2008 to Q3 2011**



### Enforcement

Fines are the most commonly used sentence in magistrates' courts. The total value of fines paid has generally risen over the last two years. In the third quarter of 2011, however, the amount paid in England and Wales was £70 million, a nine per cent decrease compared with the same quarter of 2010.

## The Crown Court [Tables 4.1 – 4.3]

The Crown Court deals with serious criminal cases; this consists of around five per cent of criminal cases<sup>2</sup> that filter beyond the magistrates' courts. It is formally a single court and sits in approximately 77 different locations across England and Wales.

Information on the data sources used for the Crown Court statistics can be found in **Annex A**. This bulletin contains experimental statistics on the timeliness of criminal proceedings in the magistrates' courts sourced from court administrative datasets, which can be found in the chapter **Timeliness of criminal proceedings**.

Explanations for some of the main terms used in this section can be found in the **Glossary**.

### Caseload

The Crown Court deals with four types of cases: committals for trial, cases sent for trial, committals for sentence, and appeals against magistrates' decisions. Figure 4.1 compares the Crown Court receipts by case type over the last 15 quarters.

#### Committal for Trial

Committal for trial cases are those which can be heard at either the magistrates' court or the Crown Court. A defendant can elect to be tried at the Crown Court or magistrates can decide that the circumstances of the case are sufficiently serious that it should be dealt with in the Crown Court.

In the third quarter of 2011, around 15,700 committed for trial cases were received, a decrease of two per cent compared to the same period last year. In this quarter, around 15,500 committed for trial cases were completed within the Crown Court, a decrease of eight per cent on the third quarter of 2010. There were around 20,900 cases outstanding at the end of the third quarter, a nine per cent decrease on the third quarter of 2010.

#### Sent for Trial

Cases are 'sent for trial' by a magistrates' court because they can only be heard by the Crown Court due to the seriousness of the offence.

In the third quarter of 2011, around 8,500 cases were sent for trial, a decrease of three per cent on the same quarter in 2010. Around 8,400 cases were completed, a decrease of six per cent on the third quarter of 2010. In addition, around 15,500 cases were outstanding at the end of the third quarter, a six per cent decrease from the third quarter 2010.

#### Committed for Sentence

Cases 'committed for sentence' are those transferred to the Crown Court for sentencing after a defendant has been convicted (found guilty) in a magistrates'

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<sup>2</sup> Not taking into consideration cases dealt with in the magistrates' courts and committed for sentence to the Crown Court and appeals against decisions in the magistrates' courts based on 2010 data.

court. This would occur where a magistrate believes that their sentencing powers are insufficient to apply an appropriate sanction to the defendant.

In the third quarter of 2011, around 11,200 cases were committed for sentence in the Crown Court and 11,100 cases were completed during this period. Around 5,300 cases remained outstanding at the end of the third quarter.

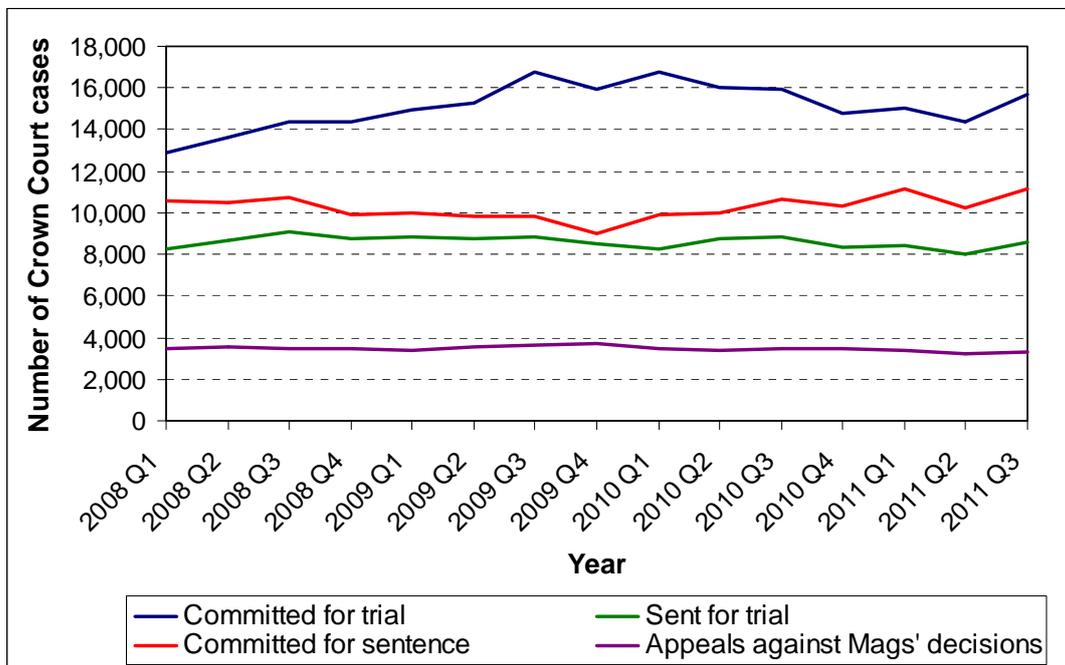
Compared to the same period in 2010, the number of committed for sentence cases received increased by five per cent, the number of cases completed increased by six per cent and the number of cases outstanding decreased by three per cent.

### Appeals

The Crown Court also deals with appeals against a conviction or sentence given by a magistrates' court.

During the third quarter of 2011, the Crown Court received around 3,300 appeals against magistrates' courts' decisions and completed around 3,500 appeals cases, leaving around 2,700 appeals outstanding at the end of the quarter. Compared with the third quarter of 2010, the number of appeals received in the Crown Court decreased by six per cent and the number of cases outstanding decreased by 13 per cent.

**Figure 4.1: Crown Court receipts, by case type, Q1 2008 to Q3 2011**



### **Trials**

A trial in the Crown Court is a hearing at which the prosecution produces evidence to prove the case against the defendant, resulting in a verdict. The defendant has an opportunity to enter a plea against the charges they are to face in a preliminary

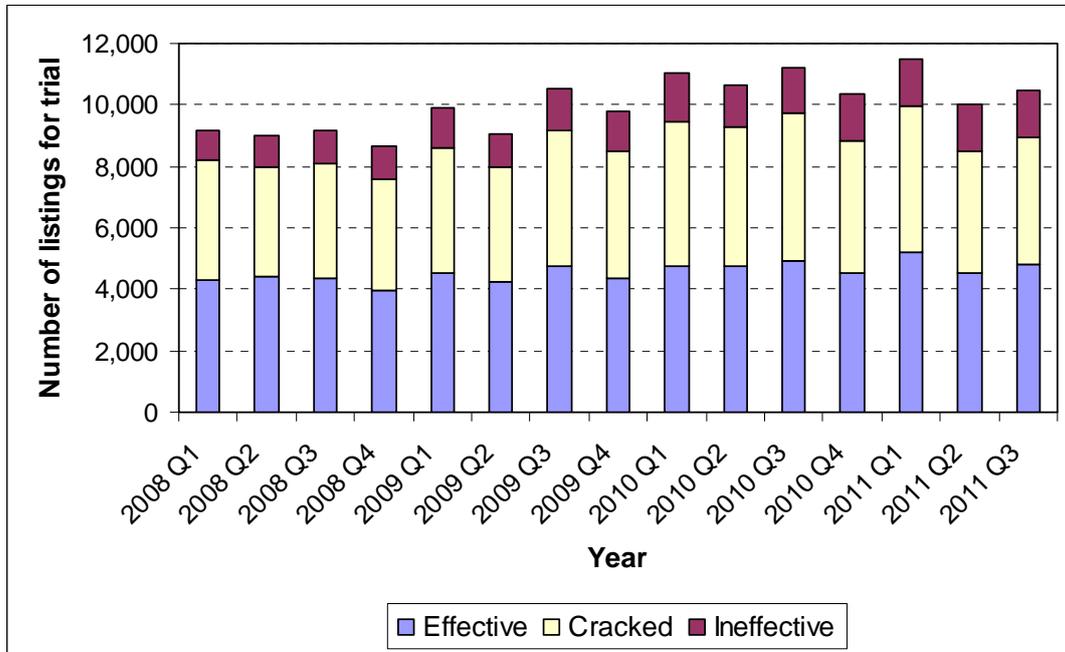
hearing, before the start of any trial. If they decide to plead not guilty, then the case will be listed for full trial at a later date.

The Crown Court records the outcome of each main trial listed as 'effective', 'ineffective' or 'cracked'. Definitions of these terms can be found in the magistrates' courts commentary section and in the **Glossary** under magistrates' courts.

In the third quarter of 2011, around 10,500 trials were recorded in the Crown Court, a decrease of six per cent compared with the same period in 2010.

Of these trials listed, 46 per cent were recorded as effective, 39 per cent were recorded as cracked and 15 per cent were recorded as ineffective. The rates of effective, cracked and ineffective trials have remained constant over the last couple of years.

**Figure 4.2: Effectiveness of cases listed for trial, Q1 2008 to Q3 2011**



**Defendants**

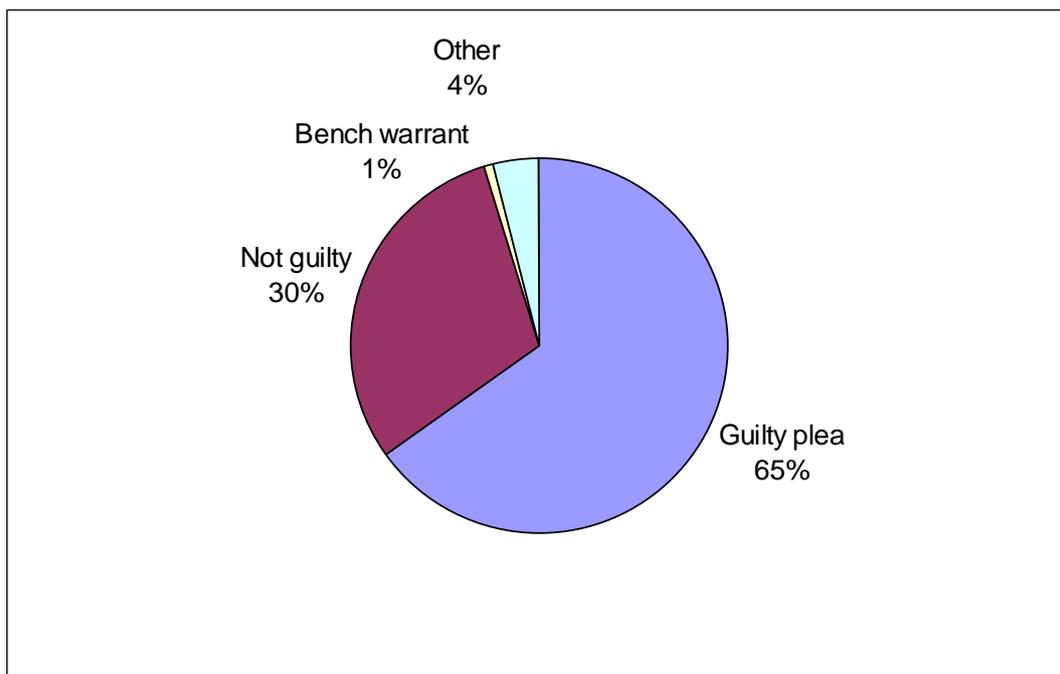
A guilty plea is recorded if a defendant either: (a) pleads guilty to all counts; (b) pleads guilty to some counts, not guilty to others and no jury is sworn in respect of the not guilty counts; or (c) pleads not guilty to some or all counts, but offers a guilty plea to alternatives which are accepted (providing no jury is sworn in respect of other counts). A case is treated as a guilty plea only if pleas of guilty are recorded in respect of all defendants.

In the third quarter of 2011, the Crown Court dealt with 26,500 defendants involved in committed or sent for trial cases, a decrease of eight per cent compared with the third quarter of 2010.

Of these, 65 per cent pleaded guilty to all counts and 30 per cent pleaded not guilty to at least one count, and four per cent did not enter a plea. The guilty plea rate is

the number of defendants pleading guilty to all counts as a proportion of all defendants with a plea. In the third quarter of 2011, the guilty plea rate was 68 per cent, a one percentage point reduction compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

**Figure 4.3: Defendants in committed or sent for trial cases dealt with in the Crown Court, by plea, Q3 2011**



## Timeliness of criminal proceedings [Tables 5.1 – 5.5]

### Overall timeliness of criminal proceedings in the criminal courts

This report contains statistics on the end-to-end timeliness of criminal proceedings across both magistrates' and Crown tiers of the criminal courts (see Tables 5.1 and 5.2). These statistics are sourced from the administrative data systems used in the magistrates' courts and Crown Court, and have been produced by linking together records held on the two datasets. **Annex A** of this report provides more information about the data sources used and how records have been matched.

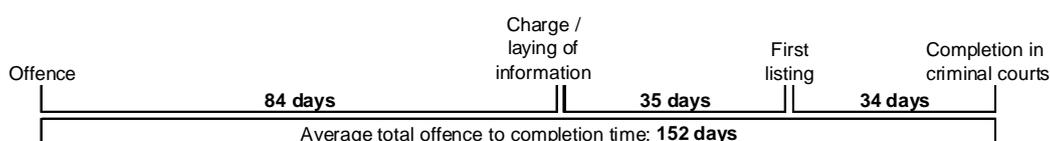
The statistics measure the overall offence to completion time in the criminal courts, including intermediate stages in that process. "Offence to completion time" refers to the time taken between the date an offence is committed and date of the final outcome (completion) of the defendant's case, in either the magistrates' courts or the Crown Court. For defendants whose case is sent or committed to the Crown Court, these statistics measure the entire duration from offence to completion in the Crown Court, including the time the case was initially dealt with in the magistrates' courts before being passed to the Crown Court.

For criminal proceedings, the time between the date of an offence and the date of charge/laying of information involves gathering evidence and charging or laying information against the defendant. The time between the date of the first hearing in the magistrates' court, also known as the first listing, and the date a case was completed in the magistrates' courts, relates to the time taken to conclude the case in court.

For defendants whose case completed during the third quarter of 2011, the average offence to completion time for all criminal cases was 152 days, a marginal increase compared to the third quarter of the previous year. Of those 152 days, there were, on average:

- 84 days between the date of the offence and the date the defendant was charged or summonsed to court;
- 35 days between the date the defendant was charged or summonsed to court and the first listing of the case in a magistrates' court;
- 34 days between the first listing of the case in a magistrates' court and the final completion of the case in either a magistrates' court or the Crown Court.

**Figure 5.1: Average offence to completion time, all criminal proceedings, Q3 2011**



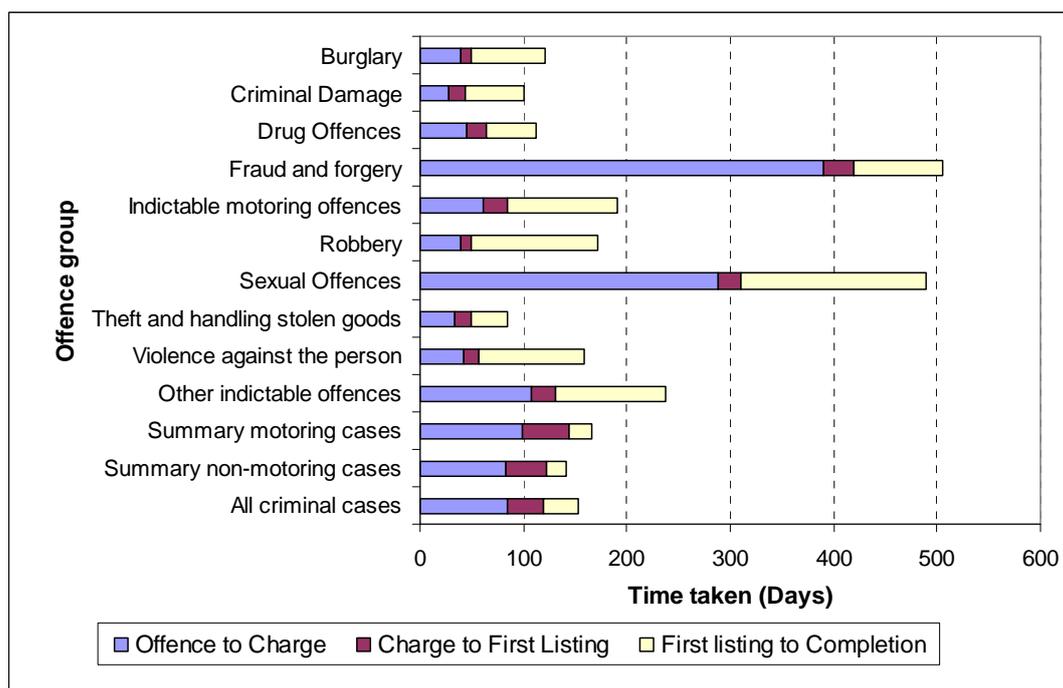
Note: Figures do not add to the total due to rounding

Indictable/triable either-way proceedings took an average of 152 days from offence to the date the defendant's case was completed at either the magistrates' courts or Crown Court, a decrease of five per cent compared to the third quarter of the previous year.

Summary motoring proceedings took an average of 166 days from the date an offence was committed to the date the defendant's case was completed in either the magistrates' courts or the Crown Court, compared with 142 days for summary non-motoring offences cases.

Statistics are also available broken down by broad offence group. For criminal proceedings which completed during the third quarter of 2011, those which related to the theft and handling of stolen goods took the shortest length of time generally, concluding on average within 85 days of the offence being committed. On average, criminal proceedings involving fraud and forgery offences, and criminal proceedings involving sexual offences took the longest time to conclude, at 506 days and 490 days respectively. However, for both sexual offences and fraud and forgery, there is a long time between offence and charge. This is likely to be due to these offences often being reported to the police some time after the actual offence took place. In this period, sexual offences took an average of 180 days from first listing to completion in either the magistrates' courts or the Crown Court.

**Figure 5.2: Timeliness of criminal proceedings in criminal courts, by offence group, Q3 2011**



### Timeliness of criminal proceedings in the magistrates' courts

This bulletin also contains experimental statistics on the timeliness of criminal proceedings in the magistrates' courts specifically, sourced from court administrative datasets (see Table 5.3). Prior to June 2011, statistics on the duration of criminal proceedings in the magistrates' courts have been taken from the quarterly *Time Intervals Survey (TIS)*, which was based on a sample of cases,

namely those which completed during a specified week each quarter. Reports of the results of the *TIS* can be found on the MoJ website at:

[www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/courts-and-sentencing/magistrates-times.htm](http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/courts-and-sentencing/magistrates-times.htm)

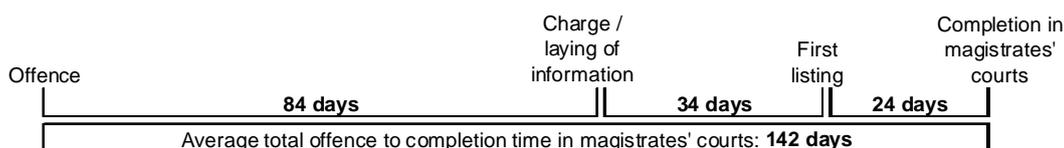
The *TIS* was discontinued from June 2011. This was due to recent improvements in the quality of timeliness data held on the magistrates' courts' administrative system.

Timeliness of criminal proceeding in magistrates' courts refers to the time taken between the date an offence was committed and the completion of a defendant's case in the magistrates' courts' (i.e. either a final decision is reached in the magistrates' court, or the case is passed to the Crown Court for trial or sentence).

In the third quarter of 2011, the average time taken from offence to completion in the magistrates' courts for all criminal proceedings was 142 days, a two per cent increase compared with the third quarter of the previous year. Of these 142 days, there were, on average:

- 84 days between the date of the offence and the date the defendant was charged or summonsed to court;
- 34 days between the date the defendant was charged or summonsed to court and the first listing of the case in a magistrates' court;
- 24 days between the first listing of the case and the completion of the defendant's case in a magistrates' court.

**Figure 5.3: Average offence to completion time in magistrates' courts, Q3 2011**



Indictable/triable either way criminal proceedings took an average of 115 days from the date an offence was committed to the date the defendant's case was completed in the magistrates' courts, compared with an average of 142 days for summary non-motoring cases and 166 days for summary motoring cases.

### **Timeliness of criminal proceedings in the Crown Court**

This bulletin also contains statistics giving information about the timeliness of proceedings when dealt with in the Crown Court specifically. These relate to the average waiting time and the average hearing time, which are explained below. For criminal proceedings dealt with in the Crown Court, these stages are included within the overall offence to completion time statistics presented in the first subsection of this chapter.

### Average waiting time

'Average waiting time' refers to the average time between the date of sending or committal to the Crown Court and the start of the substantive Crown Court hearing. In the third quarter of 2011, the average waiting time for cases committed for trial was 13.9 weeks, compared to 14.7 weeks in the third quarter of the previous year. The average waiting time was 19.4 weeks for cases sent for trial, compared to 19.0 weeks in the third quarter of the previous year. In those 'committed for trial' and 'sent for trial' cases where a not guilty plea was entered, the average waiting time was 24.6 weeks, a slight decrease on the same quarter of the previous year. The average waiting time was 12.0 weeks for those cases where a guilty plea was entered, a four per cent decrease on the third quarter of 2010.

The average waiting time was 5.3 weeks for cases which were committed to the Crown Court for sentence, a 12 per cent decrease on the third quarter of 2010, and 8.1 weeks for appeals against magistrates' decisions.

### Average hearing time

The 'average hearing time' relates to the average duration of all hearings heard in the Crown Court, including preliminary hearings, main hearings, and hearings where a sentence is given to a defendant. In the third quarter of 2011 the average hearing time was 13.7 hours for cases where a not guilty plea was entered, an increase of 17 per cent compared with the third quarter of the previous year. The average hearing time was 1.6 hours for cases where a guilty plea was entered, 0.5 hours for cases committed for sentence and one hour for appeals; these figures have generally remained steady over the last three years.

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**Table 1.1**  
**County courts (non-family)**

Summary statistics on claims issued<sup>1</sup>, England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011

Year	Quarter	Specified 'money' claims <sup>2</sup>	Unspecified 'money' claims <sup>3</sup>	Total 'money' claims	Claims for recovery of land <sup>4</sup>	Claims for return of goods	Other non- 'money' claims <sup>5</sup>	Total non- 'money' claims	Number of claims/petitions	
									Total insolvency petitions <sup>5</sup>	Total proceedings started
2008		1,426,389	160,248	<b>1,586,637</b>	290,958	8,652	107,605	<b>407,215</b>	70,272	<b>2,064,124</b>
2009		1,281,105	178,969	<b>1,460,074</b>	230,125	10,269	102,726	<b>343,120</b>	76,211	<b>1,879,405</b>
2010		1,040,589	190,582	<b>1,231,171</b>	210,392	8,388	100,666	<b>319,446</b>	65,919	<b>1,616,536</b>
2008	Q1	355,464	36,874	<b>392,338</b>	80,006	2,324	27,628	<b>109,958</b>	16,772	<b>519,068</b>
	Q2	324,223	40,918	<b>365,141</b>	75,417	2,049	25,720	<b>103,186</b>	17,412	<b>485,739</b>
	Q3	393,574	41,427	<b>435,001</b>	75,524	2,056	27,327	<b>104,907</b>	17,304	<b>557,212</b>
	Q4	353,128	41,029	<b>394,157</b>	60,011	2,223	26,930	<b>89,164</b>	18,784	<b>502,105</b>
2009	Q1	350,634	43,201	<b>393,835</b>	61,275	2,440	27,328	<b>91,043</b>	20,424	<b>505,302</b>
	Q2	301,735	44,182	<b>345,917</b>	59,004	2,617	24,353	<b>85,974</b>	19,211	<b>451,102</b>
	Q3	327,144	47,215	<b>374,359</b>	59,117	2,606	26,397	<b>88,120</b>	19,686	<b>482,165</b>
	Q4	301,592	44,371	<b>345,963</b>	50,729	2,606	24,648	<b>77,983</b>	16,890	<b>440,836</b>
2010	Q1	260,186	45,567	<b>305,753</b>	54,123	2,615	25,390	<b>82,128</b>	19,508	<b>407,389</b>
	Q2	252,802	48,253	<b>301,055</b>	49,890	2,322	24,362	<b>76,574</b>	16,551	<b>394,180</b>
	Q3	269,955	51,254	<b>321,209</b>	54,986	1,756	26,392	<b>83,134</b>	15,732	<b>420,075</b>
	Q4	257,646	45,508	<b>303,154</b>	51,393	1,695	24,522	<b>77,610</b>	14,128	<b>394,892</b>
2011	Q1	267,154	46,842	<b>313,996</b>	56,619	1,725	26,051	<b>84,395</b>	14,993	<b>413,384</b>
	Q2 (r)	231,310	43,412	<b>274,722</b>	51,447	1,645	24,469	<b>77,561</b>	12,862	<b>365,145</b>
	Q3 (p)	271,965	45,215	<b>317,180</b>	56,202	1,737	29,700	<b>87,639</b>	11,722	<b>416,541</b>

**Source:**

HM Courts and Tribunals Service CaseMan system, Possession Claim Online and manual returns

**Notes:**

1 Excluding where claims are re-issued

2 Claims issued for a specified amount of money, including those made through the Claim Production Centre, County Court Bulk Centre and Money Claim Online  
<https://www.moneyclaim.gov.uk/web/mco/welcome>

3 Claims issued for an unspecified amount of money

4 Includes claims made via Possession Claim Online <https://www.possessionclaim.gov.uk/pool/>. These National Statistics are also published in the Mortgage and landlord possession statistics:  
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/civil-justice/mortgage-possession.htm>

5 Includes claims to evict trespassers, and for interim possession orders, landlord and tenancy applications (generally for a new tenancy agreement), injunctions (to make somebody do something or to stop them doing it), enforcement of Tribunal awards and of orders made in Magistrates' courts, pre-issue applications (to obtain an order for disclosure of information prior to issue of a claim), and orders for costs only

6 Includes petitions issued in the District Registries of the High Court but not in the Royal Courts of Justice - the figures in Table 1.2 (Company windings-up and bankruptcy petitions issued, England and Wales) include both

**Table 1.2**  
**County courts (non-family)**

Company windings up and bankruptcy petitions issued (including in the Royal Courts of Justice)<sup>1</sup>, England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011<sup>2</sup>

Year	Quarter	Number of petitions			Total (including RCJ) <sup>1</sup>
		Company windings up <sup>3</sup>	Individual bankruptcy <sup>4</sup>		
			Creditor's petitions	Debtor's petitions	
2008		12,559	20,678	55,663	<b>88,900</b>
2009		12,419	18,852	62,864	<b>94,135</b>
2010		10,723	17,548	51,957	<b>80,228</b>
2008	Q1	3,054	4,771	12,985	<b>20,810</b>
	Q2	2,927	5,655	13,565	<b>22,147</b>
	Q3	3,196	5,539	13,749	<b>22,484</b>
	Q4	3,382	4,713	15,364	<b>23,459</b>
2009	Q1	3,461	4,535	16,775	<b>24,771</b>
	Q2	3,187	4,955	16,145	<b>24,287</b>
	Q3	3,101	5,214	16,266	<b>24,581</b>
	Q4	2,670	4,148	13,678	<b>20,496</b>
2010	Q1	2,777	4,329	16,348	<b>23,454</b>
	Q2	2,635	4,494	13,004	<b>20,133</b>
	Q3	2,801	4,455	11,959	<b>19,215</b>
	Q4	2,510	4,270	10,646	<b>17,426</b>
2011	Q1	2,765	4,274	11,508	<b>18,547</b>
	Q2 (r)	3,316	4,046	9,519	<b>16,881</b>
	Q3 <sup>2</sup> (p)	3,128	4,595	7,905	<b>15,628</b>

**Source:**

HM Courts and Tribunals Service CaseMan system and manual returns

**Notes:**

1 Includes petitions issued in the Royal Courts of Justice (RCJ) of the High Court as well as in the District Registries of the High Court and the county courts - the figures excluding the RCJ are shown in Table 1.1

2 Care should be taken when making comparisons of insolvency figures for Q3 2011 with those from previous periods. The figures for Q3 2011 are sourced from CaseMan, with those for previous quarters being sourced from manual counts made by court staff

3 'Winding up' is the process by which a company's existence is terminated, whether due to insolvency or for another reason

4 Where an individual has debts that s/he is unable to pay

**Table 1.3**  
**County courts (non-family)**

Summary statistics on claims defended and allocations to track<sup>1</sup>, England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011

Year	Quarter	Number of defences <sup>2</sup>	Number of allocations to track <sup>3</sup>			Total
			Small claim	Fast track <sup>4</sup>	Multi track <sup>4</sup>	
2008		<b>298,796</b>	83,928	53,255	26,722	<b>163,905</b>
2009		<b>315,934</b>	93,073	61,415	25,495	<b>179,983</b>
2010		<b>290,941</b>	79,924	65,665	23,104	<b>168,693</b>
2008	Q1	<b>70,545</b>	18,920	12,951	6,707	<b>38,578</b>
	Q2	<b>74,303</b>	19,955	12,805	6,656	<b>39,416</b>
	Q3	<b>77,780</b>	23,121	14,093	6,823	<b>44,037</b>
	Q4	<b>76,168</b>	21,932	13,406	6,536	<b>41,874</b>
2009	Q1	<b>77,355</b>	21,927	14,240	6,928	<b>43,095</b>
	Q2	<b>78,816</b>	23,094	14,573	6,258	<b>43,925</b>
	Q3	<b>82,659</b>	25,551	16,763	6,487	<b>48,801</b>
	Q4	<b>77,104</b>	22,501	15,839	5,822	<b>44,162</b>
2010	Q1	<b>72,140</b>	20,036	16,096	5,967	<b>42,099</b>
	Q2	<b>71,445</b>	19,746	15,342	5,376	<b>40,464</b>
	Q3	<b>75,433</b>	20,795	17,687	6,325	<b>44,807</b>
	Q4	<b>71,923</b>	19,347	16,540	5,436	<b>41,323</b>
2011	Q1	<b>69,831</b>	20,467	17,698	6,040	<b>44,205</b>
	Q2 (r)	<b>67,292</b>	19,206	15,525	5,426	<b>40,157</b>
	Q3 (p)	<b>72,471</b>	21,053	17,522	5,772	<b>44,347</b>

**Source:**

HM Courts and Tribunals Service CaseMan system and Possession Claim Online

**Notes:**

1 Where a claim is defended, further information is gathered before it is allocated to one of the three case management "tracks" shown depending on the value, complexity and importance of the case and the consequential level of judicial involvement required. There may be more than one defence or allocation to track in a case

2 The number of defences excludes those recorded on the grounds of the defendant having already paid the amount claimed. Despite some cases involving more than one defendant, it is much lower than the number of claims issued (see Table 1.1) because the vast majority of claims are not disputed

3 The number of allocations to track is lower than the number of defences primarily because defended cases are often settled/withdrawn before they are allocated to track

4 A new and higher claim value limit was introduced for fast track cases on 6 April 2009. Since 1999 claims have generally been allocated to the fast track which have a value exceeding the limit of the small claims track (£5,000 for most claim types) but not more than £15,000 (those with a value over £15,000 generally being allocated to the multi track). For all proceedings issued on or after 6 April 2009, the limit has been raised from £15,000 to £25,000

**Table 1.4**  
**County courts (non-family)**  
 Summary statistics on trials/small claim hearings, England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011

Year	Quarter	Small claim cases		Fast and Multi Track cases			Number of disposal hearings <sup>5</sup> logged as completed <sup>6</sup>
		Number of hearings <sup>1,2</sup>	Average time between issue & hearing (weeks) <sup>3</sup>	Number of trials <sup>1,2</sup>	Average time (weeks)		
				Between issue & allocation to track <sup>3</sup>	Between allocation to track & trial <sup>3</sup>	Between issue & trial <sup>3,4</sup>	
2008		46,519	29	17,462	21	32	5,225
2009		46,963	31	17,115	21	32	5,944
2010		42,786	31	17,517	20	33	6,149
2008	Q1	12,592	30	4,687	21	32	1,324
	Q2	11,544	29	4,524	21	31	1,465
	Q3	11,120	29	4,180	21	31	1,299
	Q4	11,263	29	4,071	20	32	1,137
2009	Q1	11,504	30	4,442	20	32	1,396
	Q2	11,001	31	4,221	21	32	1,584
	Q3	11,928	31	4,263	20	32	1,367
	Q4	12,530	30	4,189	21	32	1,597
2010	Q1	12,162	31	4,609	20	33	1,446
	Q2	10,769	31	4,249	20	34	1,196
	Q3	10,331	31	4,369	20	33	1,855
	Q4	9,524	30	4,290	21	34	1,652
2011	Q1	9,897	30	4,782	21	33	1,212
	Q2 (r)	8,926	30	3,934	21	34	411
	Q3 (p)	9,102	30	3,678	22	35	449

**Source:**

HM Courts and Tribunals Service CaseMan system

**Notes:**

- 1 The number of trials/small claim hearings are much lower than the number of allocations to track because most cases allocated to track are settled/withdrawn before a hearing
- 2 There may be more than one trial or small claim hearing in a case
- 3 Figures relate to cases whose trials or small claims hearings took place during the relevant quarter or year. For many cases the original date of issue and allocation date will have been in an earlier period
- 4 These figures are different to the sums of the average times between issue and allocation to track and between allocation to track and trial, as not all allocation to track details are known
- 5 To decide the amount to be paid following an interlocutory (or interim) judgment being made for the claimant (this judgment typically being made either where the defendant has not responded to the claim within the allotted time period or where s/he admits liability but does not offer to pay a specified amount of money in satisfaction of the claim)
- 6 Unlike for small claim hearings and trials, court staff are not required to record the outcomes of disposal hearings into CaseMan, the main administrative system in the county courts. These figures are therefore lower than the actual number of disposal hearings, with the extent of the undercounting varying over time

**Table 1.5**  
**County courts (non-family)**

Summary statistics on warrants issued<sup>1,2</sup> by type, England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011

Year	Quarter	Number of warrants			
		Execution <sup>3</sup>	Delivery <sup>4</sup>	Possession <sup>5</sup>	Committal <sup>6</sup>
2008		294,823	2,500	159,337	1,353
2009		236,293	2,307	139,131	1,103
2010		150,828	2,179	124,914	1,387
2008	Q1	69,307	575	40,798	375
	Q2	74,904	641	41,332	356
	Q3	73,191	653	40,969	336
	Q4	77,421	631	36,238	286
2009	Q1	74,382	685	38,099	289
	Q2	65,593	624	34,769	260
	Q3	55,495	533	35,739	268
	Q4	40,823	465	30,524	286
2010	Q1	43,371	576	32,020	280
	Q2	35,365	539	30,837	453
	Q3	39,477	627	32,674	388
	Q4	32,615	437	29,383	266
2011	Q1	35,705	587	34,341	238
	Q2 (r)	30,761	652	31,482	199
	Q3 (p)	34,492	486	33,520	228

**Source:**

HM Courts and Tribunals Service CaseMan system and Possession Claim Online

**Notes:**

- 1 Excludes the re-issuing of warrants
- 2 Includes warrants issued in the County Court Bulk Centre and via Money Claim Online <https://www.moneyclaim.gov.uk/web/mcol/welcome> and Possession Claim Online <https://www.possessionclaim.gov.uk/pcol/>
- 3 Allows saleable items owned by the debtor to be sold unless the amount due under the warrant is paid
- 4 For the return of goods or items
- 5 For the repossession of property
- 6 For enforcing an order where the penalty for failing to comply is imprisonment. It authorises the bailiff to arrest and deliver the person to prison or the court

**Table 1.6**  
**County courts (non-family)**

Repossessions<sup>1</sup> of property by county court bailiffs<sup>2</sup>, by type, England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011

Year	Quarter	Type of case					Number of repossessions	
		Mortgage repossession <sup>3</sup>	Social landlord repossession	Private landlord repossession	Accelerated repossession	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total	
2008		35,823	20,249	4,445	7,575	2,074	<b>70,166</b>	
2009		32,468	18,309	4,623	5,079	2,077	<b>62,556</b>	
2010		23,622	16,864	5,291	5,763	2,190	<b>53,730</b>	
2008	Q1	7,982	5,393	1,100	2,020	527	<b>17,022</b>	
	Q2	9,161	4,815	1,055	2,008	486	<b>17,525</b>	
	Q3	10,076	5,294	1,207	1,957	539	<b>19,073</b>	
	Q4	8,604	4,747	1,083	1,590	522	<b>16,546</b>	
2009	Q1	9,289	5,258	1,254	1,422	531	<b>17,754</b>	
	Q2	8,042	4,384	1,012	1,223	474	<b>15,135</b>	
	Q3	8,159	4,657	1,244	1,293	530	<b>15,883</b>	
	Q4	6,978	4,010	1,113	1,141	542	<b>13,784</b>	
2010	Q1	6,892	4,862	1,344	1,300	575	<b>14,973</b>	
	Q2	5,928	4,020	1,329	1,262	510	<b>13,049</b>	
	Q3	5,902	4,250	1,374	1,682	572	<b>13,780</b>	
	Q4	4,900	3,732	1,244	1,519	533	<b>11,928</b>	
2011	Q1	6,545	4,717	1,448	1,761	604	<b>15,075</b>	
	Q2	6,174	3,833	1,392	1,860	537	<b>13,796</b>	
	Q3 (p)	7,279	5,140	1,627	2,056	472	<b>16,574</b>	

**Source:**

HM Courts and Tribunals Service CaseMan system and Possession Claim Online

**Notes:**

1 The vast majority of warrant of possession outcomes are repossession, the warrant being suspended by an order made by the court and the warrant being withdrawn

2 Includes warrants issued via Possession Claim Online <https://www.possessionclaim.gov.uk/pco/>

3 These figures differ from actual repossessions figures provided by Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) [www.cml.org.uk](http://www.cml.org.uk) for a number of reasons, the biggest being that the latter include 'voluntary' repossessions (where the property has been repossessed without the need for a bailiff). In addition the CML cover the UK rather than England and Wales only, and exclude repossessions by lenders who are not CML members

4 Includes repossessions from trespassers

**Table 1.7**  
**County courts (non-family)**

Summary statistics on enforcement-related orders applied for and made, England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011

Year	Quarter	Number of applications/orders									
		Attachment of earnings orders <sup>1,2</sup>		Third party debt orders <sup>3</sup>		Charging orders <sup>4</sup>		Orders for Sale <sup>5</sup>	Administration orders <sup>6</sup>		Orders to obtain information from judgment debtors <sup>8</sup>
		Applications	Orders made <sup>2</sup>	Applications	Orders made	Applications	Orders made		Applications	Orders made <sup>7</sup>	
2008		73,844	60,588	7,564	2,041	164,812	135,702	-	1,883 (r)	2,686 (r)	30,261
2009		72,316	61,336	7,137	2,176	127,179	111,311	-	1,230 (r)	1,894 (r)	29,672
2010		54,200	46,684	4,315	1,500	108,847	93,619	507	694 (r)	1,023 (r)	22,811
2008	Q1	19,763	15,870	1,602	458	42,464	31,627	-	491 (r)	743 (r)	6,944
	Q2	20,129	14,602	1,686	467	42,848	34,042	-	503	722 (r)	7,885
	Q3	16,845	15,717	2,119	545	41,600	36,758	-	472	587 (r)	7,768
	Q4	17,107	14,399	2,157	571	37,900	33,275	-	417	634 (r)	7,664
2009	Q1	20,943	15,614	2,128	604	33,465	28,612	-	397 (r)	610 (r)	8,454
	Q2	22,710	16,085	1,946	551	32,202	29,329	-	320 (r)	492 (r)	8,083
	Q3	15,095	16,439	1,615	558	31,899	27,503	113	267 (r)	430 (r)	7,451
	Q4	13,568	13,198	1,448	463	29,613	25,867	138	246 (r)	362	5,684
2010	Q1	11,800	12,759	1,347	448	31,069	25,381	141	224 (r)	313 (r)	6,258
	Q2	12,524	10,663	1,073	360	26,518	24,117	159	180	274	6,179
	Q3	15,304	11,467	928	386	26,185	23,018	121	165	261	5,792
	Q4	14,572	11,795	967	306	25,075	21,103	86	125 (r)	175 (r)	4,582
2011	Q1	12,451	13,726	1,197	354	28,103	24,032	122	133	170 (r)	5,702
	Q2	11,124	11,103	1,000	378	20,598	20,462	97	107	145 (r)	5,548
	Q3 (p)	14,334	11,181	959	343	21,711	19,661	92	97	127	6,564

**Source:**

HM Courts and Tribunals Service CaseMan system and manual returns

**Notes:**

- 1 Attachment of earnings' orders oblige the debtor's employer to deduct a set sum from the debtor's pay and forward it to the court
  - 2 Includes the making of varied orders and suspended orders enabling the debtor to make payments to the court directly but upon failure to do so will result in the debtor's employer being contacted
  - 3 Third party debt orders secure payment by freezing and then seizing money owed or payable by a third party to a debtor
  - 4 Charging orders obtain security for the payment against an asset(s) owned by the debtor, typically property
  - 5 A court order forcing the debtor to sell an asset(s), typically a property, following a charging order. These data are only available from July 2009
  - 6 Administration orders enable a debtor to combine a judgement debt and at least one other debt (with total indebtedness not exceeding £5,000) into a single order for the making of regular payments into court to be distributed to the creditors in the appropriate proportions listed by the debtor
  - 7 Multiple orders may be made following an application e.g. where an original order is revoked and then re-instated
  - 8 Formerly known as the oral examination procedure which was changed on 26 March 2002, the process being streamlined and standardised to enable information to be obtained faster
- (r) An explanation of the revisions to the number of applications for administration orders and administration orders made can be found in Annex A

**Table 2.1**  
**Family matters**

Summary statistics on matrimonial proceedings, England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011 <sup>1,2</sup>

Year	Quarter	Number of cases							
		Dissolution of marriage			Nullity of marriage			Judicial separation	
		Petition filed	Decrees nisi	Decrees absolute	Petition filed	Decrees nisi	Decrees absolute	Petition filed	Decrees granted
2008		128,837	120,868	122,661	331	214	200	421	214
2009		132,148	119,260	115,174	291	197	198	362	198
2010		133,499	125,345	121,265	298	166	156	300	171
2008	Q1	32,896	31,254	32,047	69	55	51	111	54
	Q2	33,456	29,702	30,964	81	52	46	108	49
	Q3	32,513	31,739	30,650	101	58	51	107	57
	Q4	29,972	28,173	29,000	80	49	52	95	54
2009	Q1	32,636	28,284	28,652	81	47	48	87	55
	Q2	32,560	28,011	27,393	73	45	54	104	41
	Q3	34,476	32,558	29,214	70	54	50	82	47
	Q4	32,476	30,407	29,915	67	51	46	89	55
2010	Q1	34,589	31,108	30,403	64	41	46	74	39
	Q2	33,414	29,962	29,854	82	30	33	77	44
	Q3	34,761	33,361	30,633	87	52	32	65	38
	Q4	30,735	30,914	30,375	65	43	45	84	50
2011	Q1	34,735	30,707	30,875	79	49	50	79	53
	Q2 (r)	29,540	29,059	28,978	71	45	43	62	47
	Q3 (p)	34,554	31,515	30,360	91	68	64	38	25

**Source:**  
HM Courts and Tribunals Service FamilyMan system

**Notes:**  
1 More detailed statistics on divorces in England and Wales are available from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) at: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/population/families/marriages-cohabitations-civil-partnerships-and-divorces>. Data in ONS publications are based on marriage and adoption data provided by the General Register Office and divorce data provided by the HM Courts and Tribunals Service

2 Statistics on the number of divorces occurring each year in England and Wales are also published by the ONS. The Ministry of Justice's (MoJ) divorce statistics are sourced directly from the FamilyMan system, while the ONS data are compiled from "D105" forms used by the courts to record decrees absolute, which are supplied to ONS for compiling the central index of decrees absolute. There are small differences between the number of divorces as recorded by the two sets of statistics: 1.2 per cent for 2009 data. There are believed to be some differences in the quality assurance and compilation processes currently used to produce the statistics. Statisticians at the MoJ and ONS are working together with the HM Courts and Tribunals Service to reconcile these differences as closely as possible. However, some of this difference will be accounted for by the fact that the two sets of figures do not count precisely the same cases: for example, the ONS statistics include annulments while the MoJ figures do not; conversely the MoJ data include dissolutions of civil partnerships which are excluded from the ONS counts

**Table 2.2****Family matters**

Disposal of applications for ancillary relief made in the county courts, England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011

Year	Quarter	Disposal of applications				Disposal of contested or initially contested cases		
		Uncontested <sup>1</sup>	Initially contested, subsequently consented	Contested	Total	In respect of child(ren)	Not in respect of child(ren)	Total
2008		67,042	17,976	5,541	<b>90,559</b>	11,596	11,921	<b>23,517</b>
2009		58,311	16,839	4,733	<b>79,883</b>	11,011	10,561	<b>21,572</b>
2010		59,849	18,174	4,267	<b>82,290</b>	12,300	10,141	<b>22,441</b>
2008	Q1	17,141	4,833	1,446	<b>23,420</b>	3,052	3,227	<b>6,279</b>
	Q2	17,698	4,687	1,544	<b>23,929</b>	2,981	3,250	<b>6,231</b>
	Q3	16,763	4,456	1,376	<b>22,595</b>	2,919	2,913	<b>5,832</b>
	Q4	15,440	4,000	1,175	<b>20,615</b>	2,644	2,531	<b>5,175</b>
2009	Q1	14,443	4,142	1,246	<b>19,831</b>	2,788	2,600	<b>5,388</b>
	Q2	14,079	3,739	1,106	<b>18,924</b>	2,562	2,283	<b>4,845</b>
	Q3	15,028	4,423	1,235	<b>20,686</b>	2,744	2,914	<b>5,658</b>
	Q4	14,761	4,535	1,146	<b>20,442</b>	2,917	2,764	<b>5,681</b>
2010	Q1	14,327	4,854	1,053	<b>20,234</b>	3,136	2,771	<b>5,907</b>
	Q2	15,241	4,328	1,045	<b>20,614</b>	2,852	2,521	<b>5,373</b>
	Q3	15,397	4,524	1,039	<b>20,960</b>	3,120	2,443	<b>5,563</b>
	Q4	14,884	4,468	1,130	<b>20,482</b>	3,192	2,406	<b>5,598</b>
2011	Q1	14,718	5,301	1,282	<b>21,301</b>	3,827	2,756	<b>6,583</b>
	Q2 (r)	12,768	4,565	1,210	<b>18,543</b>	3,472	2,303	<b>5,775</b>
	Q3 (p)	14,762	4,546	1,174	<b>20,482</b>	3,206	2,514	<b>5,720</b>

**Source:**

HM Courts and Tribunals Service FamilyMan system

**Note:**

1 Uncontested applications do not have a court hearing

**Table 2.3**  
**Family matters**

Domestic Violence: Applications and orders made in the county courts, England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011 <sup>1</sup>

Year	Quarter	Applications made <sup>2</sup>			Orders made <sup>3</sup>		
		Non-molestation	Occupation	Total	Non-molestation	Occupation	Total
2008		17,141	7,738	<b>24,879</b>	19,367	5,099	<b>24,466</b>
2009		18,903	7,124	<b>26,027</b>	20,662	4,203	<b>24,865</b>
2010		17,843	6,106	<b>23,949</b>	20,444	3,643	<b>24,087</b>
2008	Q1	3,993	1,878	<b>5,871</b>	4,463	1,261	<b>5,724</b>
	Q2	4,303	1,942	<b>6,245</b>	4,887	1,315	<b>6,202</b>
	Q3	4,592	2,086	<b>6,678</b>	5,223	1,331	<b>6,554</b>
	Q4	4,253	1,832	<b>6,085</b>	4,794	1,192	<b>5,986</b>
2009	Q1	4,636	1,924	<b>6,560</b>	4,941	1,118	<b>6,059</b>
	Q2	4,710	1,837	<b>6,547</b>	5,055	1,120	<b>6,175</b>
	Q3	5,161	1,897	<b>7,058</b>	5,597	1,054	<b>6,651</b>
	Q4	4,396	1,466	<b>5,862</b>	5,069	911	<b>5,980</b>
2010	Q1	4,564	1,562	<b>6,126</b>	5,125	916	<b>6,041</b>
	Q2	4,551	1,622	<b>6,173</b>	5,172	932	<b>6,104</b>
	Q3	4,829	1,623	<b>6,452</b>	5,507	969	<b>6,476</b>
	Q4	3,899	1,299	<b>5,198</b>	4,640	826	<b>5,466</b>
2011	Q1	3,962	1,366	<b>5,328</b>	4,560	787	<b>5,347</b>
	Q2 (r)	3,865	1,248	<b>5,113</b>	4,493	785	<b>5,278</b>
	Q3 (p)	4,178	1,338	<b>5,516</b>	4,783	761	<b>5,544</b>

**Source:**  
HM Courts and Tribunals Service FamilyMan system

**Notes:**

- 1 Does not include orders made in Family Proceedings Courts
- 2 Applications for arrest warrants are not included
- 3 The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 made breach of a non-molestation order a criminal and arrestable offence as of July 2007, making it no longer necessary for courts to attach a power of arrest to non-molestation orders

**Table 2.4**  
**Family matters**

Forced Marriage Protection Orders: Applications and orders made in the High Court and county courts, England and Wales, Q4 2008 - Q3 2011<sup>1</sup>

Year	Quarter	Applications made	Orders made <sup>2</sup>
2009		96	101
2010		116	149
2008 <sup>1</sup>	Q4	5	7
2009	Q1	16	25
	Q2	19	22
	Q3	30	18
	Q4	31	36
2010	Q1	25	23
	Q2	25	39
	Q3	35	42
	Q4	31	45
2011	Q1	38	57
	Q2	21	25
	Q3 (p)	40	46

**Source:**

HM Courts and Tribunals Service summary returns

**Notes:**

1 Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPOs) were introduced by the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act on 25 November 2008

2 The number of orders made generally exceed the number of applications as FMPOs are sometimes made during the course of applications for other family orders, and there is no differentiation between interim orders and final orders

**Table 2.5****Family matters**

Matters affecting children: Number of children involved in Public and Private Law applications made in each tier of court, England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011 <sup>1,2</sup>

Year	Quarter	Public Law				Private Law <sup>3</sup>			
		FPC <sup>4</sup>	CC	HC	Total	FPC <sup>4</sup>	CC	HC	Total
2008		14,200	5,180	380	<b>19,760</b>	18,040	101,440	1,020	<b>120,500</b>
2009		19,760	5,770	290	<b>25,810</b>	27,670	108,670	1,150	<b>137,480</b>
2010		18,000	5,890	370	<b>24,250</b>	21,680	100,470	670	<b>122,820</b>
2008	Q1	3,920	1,330	100	<b>5,350</b>	4,920	23,670	190	<b>28,790</b>
	Q2	2,710	1,320	90	<b>4,120</b>	4,250	25,900	240	<b>30,390</b>
	Q3	3,320	1,310	80	<b>4,720</b>	4,160	27,370	290	<b>31,820</b>
	Q4	4,260	1,220	100	<b>5,570</b>	4,700	24,500	300	<b>29,500</b>
2009	Q1	4,780	1,390	70	<b>6,230</b>	6,680	25,990	300	<b>32,970</b>
	Q2	5,070	1,530	60	<b>6,660</b>	6,990	27,250	260	<b>34,500</b>
	Q3	4,860	1,360	90	<b>6,300</b>	6,970	28,590	350	<b>35,910</b>
	Q4	5,050	1,490	70	<b>6,610</b>	7,020	26,840	240	<b>34,110</b>
2010	Q1	4,910	1,490	90	<b>6,490</b>	6,570	26,050	160	<b>32,780</b>
	Q2	4,530	1,420	110	<b>6,060</b>	6,140	25,000	190	<b>31,330</b>
	Q3	4,460	1,470	100	<b>6,020</b>	5,020	26,620	150	<b>31,780</b>
	Q4	4,100	1,510	70	<b>5,680</b>	3,950	22,800	170	<b>26,920</b>
2011	Q1 (p)	5,660	1,460	100	<b>7,220</b>	5,500	24,750	240	<b>30,490</b>
	Q2 (p)	5,410	1,690	80	<b>7,180</b>	4,170	20,180	240	<b>24,580</b>
	Q3 (p)	5,840	1,790	60	<b>7,700</b>	4,940	25,050	200	<b>30,190</b>

**Source:**

HM Courts and Tribunals Service FamilyMan system and summary returns

**Notes:**

Abbreviations: FPC=Family Proceedings Court, CC = County Court, HC = High Court

1 Figures relate to the number of children subject to each application

2 The data compilation methodology for the public and private law application figures is under review. Therefore, the figures for 2010 and 2011 may be subject to revision. Please refer to Annex A for further details

3 Private Law applications exclude adoptions

4 Prior to 2011, figures for Special Guardianship Orders in the Family Proceedings Courts were only available for those courts which shared premises and administrative systems with county courts. The total has, therefore, been estimated based on the proportion of the total public law and private law applications made in each tier of court

Figures have been rounded to the nearest ten. Totals may not add up due to rounding

**Table 2.6**  
**Family matters**

Summary statistics on the timeliness of care proceedings in Family Proceedings Courts, county courts and the High Court, England and Wales, Q2 2010 - Q3 2011 <sup>1</sup>

Year	Quarter	Disposal of care and supervision applications <sup>2</sup>								Total disposals <sup>3</sup>	Average case duration (weeks)
		Disposals within 30 weeks <sup>3</sup>	% disposed within 30 weeks	Disposals within 50 weeks <sup>3</sup>	% disposed within 50 weeks	Disposals within 52 weeks <sup>3</sup>	% disposed within 52 weeks	Disposals within 80 weeks <sup>3</sup>	% disposed within 80 weeks		
All courts <sup>4</sup>											
2010	Q2	530	17%	1,630	51%	1,710	54%	2,770	88%	3,170	53
	Q3	640	18%	1,870	53%	1,970	56%	3,070	87%	3,520	51
	Q4	790	18%	2,010	47%	2,110	49%	3,620	84%	4,290	54
2011	Q1	620	15%	1,960	48%	2,100	51%	3,330	81%	4,120	56
	Q2 (r)	710	17%	2,030	49%	2,130	51%	3,470	83%	4,170	55
	Q3 (p)	720	17%	2,160	50%	2,280	53%	3,630	84%	4,320	55
County courts and the High Court											
2010	Q2	230	13%	830	45%	890	48%	1,560	84%	1,850	59
	Q3	270	13%	950	47%	1,020	50%	1,700	84%	2,030	56
	Q4	370	14%	1,010	40%	1,090	43%	2,010	80%	2,530	59
2011	Q1	260	11%	900	38%	980	42%	1,780	76%	2,350	62
	Q2 (r)	370	15%	960	41%	1,020	43%	1,850	78%	2,370	60
	Q3 (p)	330	14%	1,050	44%	1,120	47%	1,880	79%	2,360	60
Family Proceedings Courts <sup>4</sup>											
2010	Q2	290	22%	800	60%	830	62%	1,220	92%	1,320	45
	Q3	370	25%	910	61%	960	64%	1,370	92%	1,490	45
	Q4	420	24%	990	57%	1,030	58%	1,610	91%	1,760	47
2011	Q1	360	21%	1,050	59%	1,120	63%	1,560	88%	1,770	48
	Q2 (r)	340	19%	1,070	60%	1,110	62%	1,620	90%	1,790	48
	Q3 (p)	390	20%	1,110	56%	1,160	59%	1,750	89%	1,960	49

**Source:**  
HM Courts and Tribunals Service FamilyMan system and summary returns

**Notes:**

- 1 The number of disposals relate to the number of children subject to each order, where an application for a Care or Supervision Order was made
- 2 Valid disposal types from the FamilyMan system include Care Orders, Supervision Orders, Residence Orders, Special Guardianship Orders, Orders Refused, Order of No Orders and Orders Withdrawn
- 3 Figures have been rounded to the nearest ten. Totals may not add up due to rounding
- 4 Prior to 2011, some Family Proceedings Courts provided their data on a summary return. Disposals from the summary return can only distinguish between Care Orders, Supervision Orders and Other Orders. As we cannot separate out the different types of disposals recorded in the Other Orders category, disposals types other than those listed in note 2 may be included for these courts

**Table 3.1**  
**Magistrates' courts**  
 Completed proceedings, England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011

Year	Quarter	Criminal					Total number of completed criminal proceedings	Civil & family applications	Other cases <sup>1</sup>
		Adult summary motoring proceedings	Adult summary non-motoring proceedings	Adult indictable/triable either way	Adult breach proceedings	Youth proceedings			
2008		696,279	613,430	449,894	116,167	155,370	<b>2,031,140</b>	130,000	846,634
2009		644,018	571,280	420,430	121,345	155,559	<b>1,912,632</b>	122,067	852,058
2010		591,128	546,656	410,529	117,777	131,269	<b>1,797,359</b>	135,377	855,045
2008	Q1	190,111	161,745	116,658	28,893	39,470	<b>536,877</b>	33,868	205,344
	Q2	178,705	153,942	114,280	28,663	39,433	<b>515,023</b>	33,019	212,714
	Q3	172,447	155,098	115,209	29,776	38,782	<b>511,312</b>	34,202	215,504
	Q4	155,016	142,645	103,747	28,835	37,685	<b>467,928</b>	28,911	213,072
2009	Q1	166,007	144,620	108,903	31,358	40,109	<b>490,997</b>	28,927	219,271
	Q2	160,497	141,957	103,434	29,105	39,138	<b>474,131</b>	30,168	211,624
	Q3	161,750	145,193	105,303	30,974	38,758	<b>481,978</b>	31,803	219,392
	Q4	155,764	139,510	102,790	29,908	37,554	<b>465,526</b>	31,169	201,771
2010	Q1	150,336	123,980	97,860	28,788	34,426	<b>435,390</b>	31,996	214,302
	Q2	147,287	131,567	103,395	28,177	35,251	<b>445,677</b>	33,496	213,087
	Q3	150,038	145,373	109,340	31,393	32,675	<b>468,819</b>	34,577	222,611
	Q4	143,467	145,736	99,934	29,419	28,917	<b>447,473</b>	35,308	205,045
2011	Q1	146,916	146,912	97,457	30,844	27,297	<b>449,426</b>	36,590	214,835
	Q2 (r)	131,780	143,073	93,808	28,101	25,894	<b>422,656</b>	32,123	204,692
	Q3 (p)	129,217	153,138	100,294	29,691	27,335	<b>439,675</b>	31,383	213,715

**Source:**  
 Completed Proceedings, HM Courts and Tribunals Service's One Performance Truth Database (OPT)

**Notes:**  
<sup>1</sup> Other cases include means enquiries, representation orders and special jurisdiction

**Table 3.2**  
**Magistrates' courts**

Effectiveness of recorded trials, England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011

Year	Quarter	Total number of trials	Effective trials		Ineffective trials		Cracked trials	
			Number	Percentage of total trials	Number	Percentage of total trials	Number	Percentage of total trials
2008		<b>183,511</b>	79,722	43%	33,423	18%	70,366	38%
2009		<b>179,858</b>	78,169	43%	33,609	19%	68,080	38%
2010		<b>179,794</b>	77,973	43%	32,376	18%	69,445	39%
2008	Q1	<b>49,697</b>	21,282	43%	8,973	18%	19,442	39%
	Q2	<b>45,887</b>	19,996	44%	8,513	19%	17,378	38%
	Q3	<b>45,374</b>	19,908	44%	8,092	18%	17,374	38%
	Q4	<b>42,553</b>	18,536	44%	7,845	18%	16,172	38%
2009	Q1	<b>46,202</b>	19,722	43%	8,977	19%	17,503	38%
	Q2	<b>44,105</b>	19,328	44%	8,075	18%	16,702	38%
	Q3	<b>45,480</b>	19,737	43%	8,370	18%	17,373	38%
	Q4	<b>44,071</b>	19,382	44%	8,187	19%	16,502	37%
2010	Q1	<b>47,592</b>	20,757	44%	9,112	19%	17,723	37%
	Q2	<b>44,051</b>	19,071	43%	7,738	18%	17,242	39%
	Q3	<b>45,476</b>	19,818	44%	7,711	17%	17,947	39%
	Q4	<b>42,675</b>	18,327	43%	7,815	18%	16,533	39%
2011	Q1	<b>44,184</b>	19,323	44%	7,539	17%	17,322	39%
	Q2(r)	<b>40,640</b>	17,718	44%	7,201	18%	15,721	39%
	Q3(p)	<b>41,736</b>	17,796	43%	7,533	18%	16,407	39%

**Source:**

Trials, HM Courts and Tribunals Service's One Performance Truth Database (OPT)

**Table 3.3**  
**Magistrates' courts**

Enforcement of financial penalties in the magistrates' courts,<sup>1,2</sup> England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011

<b>Year</b>	<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Amount Paid (£ millions)</b>
2008		251
2009		251
2010		281
2008	Q1	63
	Q2	64
	Q3	65
	Q4	60
2009	Q1	59
	Q2	60
	Q3	62
	Q4	70
2010	Q1	67
	Q2	70
	Q3	76
	Q4	68
2011	Q1	68
	Q2	69
	Q3 (p)	70

**Source:**

Debt Analysis Return (DAR), HM Courts and Tribunals Service's One Performance Truth Database (OPT)

**Notes:**

1 Magistrates' courts submit information on the enforcement of financial penalties using the Debt Analysis Return

2 The amount paid represents the amount of financial penalties collected by the courts in the given quarter

**Table 4.1**  
**The Crown Court**

Receipts<sup>1</sup>, Disposals<sup>2</sup> and Outstanding<sup>3</sup> cases by case type, England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011

Year	Quarter	Total Receipts	Committed for trial			Sent for trial			Committed for sentence			Appeals against Mags' decisions		
			Receipts	Disposals	Cases outstanding	Receipts	Disposals	Cases outstanding	Receipts	Disposals	Cases outstanding	Receipts	Disposals	Cases outstanding
2008		<b>145,715</b>	55,302	53,654	20,553	34,738	34,081	15,759	41,656	41,337	5,270	14,019	14,008	2,873
2009		<b>150,711</b>	62,838	59,840	23,655	34,869	34,471	16,243	38,663	38,868	4,592	14,341	13,982	3,223
2010		<b>152,336</b>	63,541	65,478	21,923	34,147	34,660	15,865	40,828	39,693	5,271	13,820	14,067	3,010
2008	Q1	<b>35,226</b>	12,913	13,008	18,803	8,264	8,394	14,994	10,562	10,179	5,756	3,487	3,486	2,873
	Q2	<b>36,392</b>	13,639	13,458	19,040	8,681	8,459	15,219	10,492	10,659	5,436	3,580	3,613	2,831
	Q3	<b>37,623</b>	14,345	13,566	19,835	9,069	8,587	15,709	10,709	10,571	5,496	3,500	3,546	2,785
	Q4	<b>36,474</b>	14,405	13,622	20,553	8,724	8,641	15,759	9,893	9,928	5,270	3,452	3,363	2,873
2009	Q1	<b>37,138</b>	14,922	14,353	21,244	8,795	8,852	15,795	10,029	10,156	5,047	3,392	3,349	2,916
	Q2	<b>37,311</b>	15,249	14,129	22,316	8,722	8,300	16,191	9,810	9,500	5,206	3,530	3,481	2,962
	Q3	<b>39,073</b>	16,738	15,622	23,454	8,873	8,605	16,465	9,794	9,917	4,978	3,668	3,602	3,025
	Q4	<b>37,189</b>	15,929	15,736	23,655	8,479	8,714	16,243	9,030	9,295	4,592	3,751	3,550	3,223
2010	Q1	<b>38,399</b>	16,752	16,477	24,125	8,261	8,767	15,887	9,885	9,395	5,004	3,501	3,514	3,252
	Q2	<b>38,237</b>	16,035	16,275	23,868	8,776	8,189	16,473	10,026	9,482	5,452	3,400	3,516	3,146
	Q3	<b>38,848</b>	15,952	16,864	23,010	8,800	8,900	16,384	10,614	10,447	5,481	3,482	3,546	3,072
	Q4	<b>36,852</b>	14,802	15,862	21,923	8,310	8,804	15,865	10,303	10,369	5,271	3,437	3,491	3,010
2011	Q1	<b>37,963</b>	14,998	16,319	20,707	8,392	9,132	15,220	11,185	11,107	5,372	3,388	3,429	2,997
	Q2 (r)	<b>35,792</b>	14,377	14,418	20,740	8,031	8,017	15,294	10,201	10,203	5,346	3,183	3,333	2,861
	Q3 (p)	<b>38,641</b>	15,653	15,457	20,920	8,548	8,355	15,477	11,157	11,093	5,292	3,283	3,465	2,679

Source:  
HM Courts and Tribunals Service CREST system

**Notes:**

- 1 Receipts include committals direct from the magistrates' court, bench warrants executed (trial and sentence only) and cases transferred in, less cases transferred out
- 2 Disposals are total cases dealt with
- 3 Outstanding cases at end of the period

**Table 4.2**  
**The Crown Court**

Summary statistics on effectiveness of cases listed for trial, England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011

Year	Quarter	Number of listings for trial	Ineffective trials		Cracked trials		Effective trials	
			Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2008		<b>35,985</b>	4,169	12%	14,772	41%	17,044	47%
2009		<b>39,262</b>	4,926	13%	16,437	42%	17,899	46%
2010		<b>43,261</b>	5,921	14%	18,389	43%	18,951	44%
2008	Q1	<b>9,189</b>	990	11%	3,872	42%	4,327	47%
	Q2	<b>9,001</b>	1,036	12%	3,559	40%	4,406	49%
	Q3	<b>9,162</b>	1,079	12%	3,751	41%	4,332	47%
	Q4	<b>8,633</b>	1,064	12%	3,590	42%	3,979	46%
2009	Q1	<b>9,881</b>	1,260	13%	4,070	41%	4,551	46%
	Q2	<b>9,071</b>	1,064	12%	3,757	41%	4,250	47%
	Q3	<b>10,528</b>	1,331	13%	4,467	42%	4,730	45%
	Q4	<b>9,782</b>	1,271	13%	4,143	42%	4,368	45%
2010	Q1	<b>11,050</b>	1,579	14%	4,703	43%	4,768	43%
	Q2	<b>10,648</b>	1,372	13%	4,522	42%	4,754	45%
	Q3	<b>11,206</b>	1,449	13%	4,858	43%	4,899	44%
	Q4	<b>10,357</b>	1,521	15%	4,306	42%	4,530	44%
2011	Q1	<b>11,509</b>	1,553	13%	4,735	41%	5,221	45%
	Q2 (r)	<b>10,006</b>	1,508	15%	3,956	40%	4,542	45%
	Q3 (p)	<b>10,488</b>	1,523	15%	4,128	39%	4,837	46%

**Source:**

HM Courts and Tribunals Service CREST system

Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding

**Table 4.3**  
**The Crown Court**

Defendants dealt with in cases committed or sent for trial,<sup>1</sup> by plea, England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011

Year	Quarter	Total number of defendants	Plea entered				No plea entered				Guilty pleas as % of defendants with plea
			Guilty (to all counts)		Not Guilty <sup>2</sup>		Bench warrant		Other		
			Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
2008		<b>96,027</b>	65,571	68%	27,923	29%	444	0.5%	2,089	2%	70%
2009		<b>104,418</b>	71,442	68%	29,835	29%	514	0.5%	2,627	3%	71%
2010		<b>112,702</b>	77,243	69%	32,711	29%	407	0.4%	2,341	2%	70%
2008	Q1	<b>23,626</b>	16,165	68%	6,874	29%	77	0.3%	510	2%	70%
	Q2	<b>24,154</b>	16,554	69%	7,016	29%	95	0.4%	489	2%	70%
	Q3	<b>24,083</b>	16,369	68%	7,076	29%	123	0.5%	515	2%	70%
	Q4	<b>24,164</b>	16,483	68%	6,957	29%	149	0.6%	575	2%	70%
2009	Q1	<b>25,657</b>	17,778	69%	7,336	29%	73	0.3%	470	2%	71%
	Q2	<b>24,799</b>	17,253	70%	6,929	28%	115	0.5%	502	2%	71%
	Q3	<b>26,805</b>	18,396	69%	7,681	29%	114	0.4%	614	2%	71%
	Q4	<b>27,157</b>	18,015	66%	7,889	29%	212	0.8%	1,041	4%	70%
2010	Q1	<b>28,729</b>	19,987	70%	8,144	28%	82	0.3%	516	2%	71%
	Q2	<b>27,457</b>	18,926	69%	7,895	29%	85	0.3%	551	2%	71%
	Q3	<b>28,968</b>	19,630	68%	8,607	30%	102	0.4%	629	2%	70%
	Q4	<b>27,548</b>	18,700	68%	8,065	29%	138	0.5%	645	2%	70%
2011	Q1	<b>28,665</b>	19,432	68%	8,474	30%	103	0.4%	656	2%	70%
	Q2 (r)	<b>25,334</b>	17,172	68%	7,459	29%	123	0.5%	580	2%	70%
	Q3 (p)	<b>26,511</b>	17,203	65%	8,034	30%	249	0.9%	1,025	4%	68%

**Source:**  
HM Courts and Tribunals Service CREST system

**Notes:**  
1 Includes cases where a bench warrant was issued, no plea recorded, indictment to lie on file, found unfit to plead, and other results  
2 Includes cases where defendants plead not guilty to all counts and also cases where defendants plead not guilty to some counts  
Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding

**Table 5.1**  
**Magistrates' courts and Crown Court**

Experimental statistics: Timeliness measures for all defendants in completed criminal cases<sup>1,2,3</sup> by offence type<sup>4</sup>, England and Wales, Q2 2010 - Q3 2011

Year	Quarter	Criminal cases															
		All criminal cases				Indictable/Triable either way				Summary motoring				Summary non-motoring			
		Offence to charge or laying of information - Mean (days)	Charge or laying of information to first listing - Mean (days)	First listing to completion - Mean (days)	Offence to completion - Mean (days)	Offence to charge or laying of information - Mean (days)	Charge or laying of information to first listing - Mean (days)	First listing to completion - Mean (days)	Offence to completion - Mean (days)	Offence to charge or laying of information - Mean (days)	Charge or laying of information to first listing - Mean (days)	First listing to completion - Mean (days)	Offence to completion - Mean (days)	Offence to charge or laying of information - Mean (days)	Charge or laying of information to first listing - Mean (days)	First listing to completion - Mean (days)	Offence to completion - Mean (days)
2010	Q2 (p)	88	33	33	<b>153</b>	79	17	65	<b>161</b>	105	45	21	<b>170</b>	76	32	22	<b>130</b>
	Q3 (p)	85	32	33	<b>150</b>	76	17	67	<b>159</b>	101	44	21	<b>166</b>	76	31	21	<b>128</b>
	Q4 (p)	87	31	33	<b>150</b>	75	16	68	<b>159</b>	103	41	19	<b>164</b>	79	31	21	<b>131</b>
2011	Q1 (p)	89	33	37	<b>159</b>	76	18	74	<b>169</b>	106	44	23	<b>173</b>	81	33	23	<b>137</b>
	Q2 (p)	86	35	34	<b>155</b>	70	18	69	<b>157</b>	103	46	22	<b>172</b>	82	36	21	<b>138</b>
	Q3 (p)	84	35	34	<b>152</b>	67	17	67	<b>152</b>	99	45	22	<b>166</b>	84	38	20	<b>142</b>

**Source:**

Libra Management Information System Timeliness Analysis Report (TAR) and CREST linked court data, HM Courts and Tribunals Service

**Notes:**

1 Includes all cases concluded in either the magistrates' courts or Crown Court during the specified time period and excludes cases completed in the magistrates' courts but not completed in the Crown Court

2 Excludes breaches and cases with an offence to completion time greater than ten years

3 These are experimental statistics sourced from the CREST linked court data and includes around 95% of completed proceedings. TAR figures are only available from April 2010

4 Only one offence is counted for each defendant in the case. If two or more cases complete on the same day, the case with the longest duration is included

Figures may not sum to the total due to rounding

**Table 5.2**  
**Magistrates' courts and Crown Court**

Experimental statistics: Timeliness measures for all defendants in completed criminal cases<sup>1,2,3</sup> by offence grouping<sup>4,5</sup>  
England and Wales, Q3 2011

Offence group	Average time taken (days)			Offence to completion
	Offence to charge or laying of information	Charge or laying of information to first listing	First listing to completion	
<u>All indictable/triable-either-way cases</u>				
Burglary	39	10	71	121
Criminal Damage	28	16	56	100
Drug Offences	45	19	48	112
Fraud and forgery	391	28	87	506
Indictable motoring offences	61	23	106	190
Robbery	40	10	123	173
Sexual Offences	288	22	180	490
Theft and handling stolen goods	34	15	36	85
Violence against the person	42	15	102	159
Other indictable offences	108	23	107	238
<u>Summary motoring cases</u>	99	45	22	166
<u>Summary non-motoring cases</u>	84	38	20	142
<b>All criminal cases</b>	84	35	34	152

**Source:**

Libra Management Information System Timeliness Analysis Report (TAR) and CREST linked court data, HM Courts and Tribunals Service

**Notes:**

1 Includes all cases concluded in either the magistrates' courts or Crown Court during the specified time period and excludes cases completed in the magistrates' courts but not completed in the Crown Court

2 Excludes breaches, appeals and cases with an offence to completion time greater than ten years

3 These are experimental statistics sourced from the CREST linked court data and includes around 95% of completed proceedings. TAR figures are only available from April 2010

4 Only one offence is counted for each defendant in the case. If two or more cases complete on the same day, the case with the longest duration is included

5 Cases have been classified according to the Home Office offence classification

Figures may not sum to the total due to rounding

**Table 5.3**  
**Magistrates' courts**

Experimental statistics: Timeliness measures for all defendants in criminal cases<sup>1,2,3</sup> completed in the magistrates' courts, by offence type<sup>4</sup>, England and Wales, Q2 2010 - Q3 2011<sup>5</sup>

Year	Quarter	Criminal cases															
		All criminal cases				Indictable/Triable either way				Summary motoring				Summary non-motoring			
		Offence to charge or laying of information - Mean (days)	Charge or laying of information to first listing - Mean (days)	First listing to completion - Mean (days)	Offence to completion - Mean (days)	Offence to charge or laying of information - Mean (days)	Charge or laying of information to first listing - Mean (days)	First listing to completion - Mean (days)	Offence to completion - Mean (days)	Offence to charge or laying of information - Mean (days)	Charge or laying of information to first listing - Mean (days)	First listing to completion - Mean (days)	Offence to completion - Mean (days)	Offence to charge or laying of information - Mean (days)	Charge or laying of information to first listing - Mean (days)	First listing to completion - Mean (days)	Offence to completion - Mean (days)
2010	Q2 (p)	88	33	24	<b>144</b>	79	16	31	<b>126</b>	105	45	21	<b>170</b>	76	32	21	<b>129</b>
	Q3 (p)	84	32	24	<b>139</b>	71	17	32	<b>119</b>	101	44	21	<b>166</b>	76	31	21	<b>128</b>
	Q4 (p)	86	31	23	<b>140</b>	74	16	31	<b>121</b>	103	41	19	<b>164</b>	79	31	21	<b>131</b>
2011	Q1 (p)	89	33	27	<b>148</b>	76	18	36	<b>130</b>	106	44	23	<b>173</b>	80	33	23	<b>137</b>
	Q2 (p)	87	35	25	<b>146</b>	72	18	33	<b>123</b>	103	46	22	<b>172</b>	82	36	21	<b>138</b>
	Q3 (p)	84	34	24	<b>142</b>	67	17	31	<b>115</b>	99	45	22	<b>166</b>	84	38	20	<b>142</b>

**Source:**

Libra Management Information System Timeliness Analysis Report (TAR), HM Courts and Tribunals Service

**Notes:**

- 1 Includes cases completed in magistrates' courts during the specified time period
  - 2 Excludes breaches and cases with an offence to completion time greater than ten years
  - 3 Include all cases completed in the magistrates' courts, including those sent for trial or committed for trial which were not yet completed at the Crown Court in the quarter specified
  - 4 Only one offence is counted for each defendant in the case. If two or more cases complete on the same day, the case with the longest duration is included
  - 5 TAR figures are only available from April 2010
- Figures may not sum to the total due to rounding

**Table 5.4**  
**The Crown Court**

Summary statistics on average waiting times in the Crown Court, England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011

Year	Quarter	All defendants dealt with	Committed for trial <sup>1</sup>			Sent for trial <sup>1</sup>			Committed for sentence <sup>2</sup>			Appeal <sup>3</sup>		
			Number dealt with	Average waiting time (weeks)	% dealt with in 16 weeks	Number dealt with	Average waiting time (weeks)	% dealt with in 26 weeks	Number dealt with	Average waiting time (weeks)	% dealt with in 10 weeks	Number dealt with	Average waiting time (weeks)	% dealt with in 14 weeks
2008		<b>130,319</b>	57,653	13.5	73%	35,948	18.6	78%	24,611	5.7	92%	12,107	8.7	86%
2009		<b>136,224</b>	64,411	13.5	74%	36,866	18.6	78%	23,082	5.7	92%	11,865	8.9	86%
2010		<b>143,863</b>	71,512	14.2	71%	38,442	19.3	77%	21,972	5.9	93%	11,937	8.6	86%
2008	Q1	<b>31,970</b>	14,080	14.0	71%	8,965	19.0	77%	6,105	6.2	90%	2,820	8.7	86%
	Q2	<b>33,025</b>	14,558	13.6	73%	9,024	18.9	77%	6,308	5.7	91%	3,135	8.5	86%
	Q3	<b>32,882</b>	14,533	13.2	74%	8,936	18.2	79%	6,247	5.5	93%	3,166	8.5	86%
	Q4	<b>32,442</b>	14,482	13.0	74%	9,023	18.2	79%	5,951	5.4	92%	2,986	9.1	84%
2009	Q1	<b>33,968</b>	15,666	12.8	75%	9,448	18.2	79%	6,033	5.7	91%	2,821	9.3	84%
	Q2	<b>32,776</b>	15,253	13.5	74%	8,929	18.7	78%	5,598	6.0	92%	2,996	9.2	87%
	Q3	<b>34,964</b>	16,782	13.9	73%	9,295	18.5	79%	5,869	5.5	93%	3,018	8.4	86%
	Q4	<b>34,516</b>	16,710	13.7	73%	9,194	19.0	77%	5,582	5.5	92%	3,030	8.5	87%
2010	Q1	<b>36,309</b>	18,258	13.9	72%	9,873	19.5	77%	5,245	5.5	92%	2,933	8.9	85%
	Q2	<b>35,223</b>	17,736	14.2	71%	9,085	19.4	77%	5,418	5.8	93%	2,984	8.8	85%
	Q3	<b>36,969</b>	18,372	14.7	69%	9,865	19.0	77%	5,724	6.1	93%	3,008	8.3	87%
	Q4	<b>35,362</b>	17,146	13.9	72%	9,619	19.4	76%	5,585	6.0	94%	3,012	8.4	88%
2011	Q1	<b>36,499</b>	17,883	13.9	71%	10,023	19.6	76%	5,793	5.6	92%	2,800	9.0	86%
	Q2 (r)	<b>32,904</b>	15,760	13.8	71%	8,871	19.1	77%	5,464	5.5	93%	2,809	8.3	87%
	Q3 (p)	<b>34,549</b>	16,293	13.9	71%	8,944	19.4	77%	6,381	5.3	93%	2,931	8.1	87%

**Source:**  
HM Courts and Tribunals Service CREST system

- Notes:**
- 1 Trial figures excludes cases where a bench warrant was issued, no plea recorded, indictment to lie on file, found unfit to plead, and other results
  - 2 Committals for sentence exclude committals after breach, 'bring backs' and deferred sentences
  - 3 Appeals exclude cases abandoned before appearance in court

**Table 5.5****The Crown Court**

Summary statistics on average hearing times and average waiting times in the Crown Court, England and Wales, Q2 2008 - Q3 2011

Year	Quarter	Average hearing time (hours)				Average waiting time (weeks)			
		Not Guilty plea trials <sup>1</sup>	Guilty plea trials <sup>1</sup>	Committal for sentence <sup>2</sup>	Appeal <sup>3</sup>	Not Guilty plea trials <sup>1</sup>	Guilty plea trials <sup>1</sup>	Committal for sentence <sup>2</sup>	Appeal <sup>3</sup>
2008		12.7	1.4	0.5	1.0	24.2	11.7	5.7	8.7
2009		13.0	1.3	0.5	1.0	24.1	11.7	5.7	8.9
2010		11.6	1.3	0.5	1.1	24.5	12.4	5.9	8.6
2008	Q1	12.6	1.5	0.6	1.0	24.4	12.4	6.2	8.7
	Q2	12.6	1.3	0.5	1.1	24.5	11.9	5.7	8.5
	Q3	11.9	1.3	0.5	1.0	24.0	11.3	5.5	8.5
	Q4	13.9	1.3	0.5	1.1	23.8	11.3	5.4	9.1
2009	Q1	12.9	1.3	0.5	1.1	23.4	11.3	5.7	9.3
	Q2	13.4	1.3	0.5	1.0	24.0	12.0	6.0	9.2
	Q3	12.3	1.2	0.5	1.0	24.5	11.8	5.5	8.4
	Q4	13.2	1.2	0.5	1.0	24.3	11.8	5.5	8.5
2010	Q1	12.2	1.2	0.5	1.0	24.5	12.3	5.5	8.9
	Q2	11.1	1.3	0.5	1.0	24.7	12.3	5.8	8.8
	Q3	11.7	1.2	0.5	1.0	24.7	12.5	6.1	8.3
	Q4	11.5	1.4	0.5	1.2	24.1	12.3	6.0	8.4
2011	Q1	13.1	1.4	0.5	1.1	24.1	12.2	5.7	9.0
	Q2 (r)	12.8	1.4	0.5	1.0	24.2	12.0	5.5	8.3
	Q3 (p)	13.7	1.6	0.5	1.0	24.6	12.0	5.3	8.1

**Source:**

HM Courts and Tribunals Service CREST system

**Notes:**

1 Trial figures excludes cases where a bench warrant was issued, no plea recorded, indictment to lie on file, found unfit to plead, and other results

2 Committals for sentence exclude committals after breach, 'bring backs' and deferred sentences

3 Appeals exclude cases abandoned before appearance in court

## Annex A: Data sources and data quality

This annex gives brief details of data sources for the figures given in this report, along with a brief discussion on data quality. Further information can be found in *Judicial and Court Statistics 2010* via the MoJ website at

[www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/courts-and-sentencing/index.htm](http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/courts-and-sentencing/index.htm)

### County courts (non-family)

This information has principally been produced using the Management Information System (MIS), a data warehousing facility drawing data directly from court-based administrative systems. Most data shown in the tables have been sourced from the county court administrative system CaseMan, used by court staff for case management purposes. This contains good quality information about the incidence and dates of major events in a case's progress through the court system. Statistical quality assurance procedures include the identification and removal of duplicate entries for the same event in a case, and checks that data have been collated for all courts to ensure completeness.

For the first time in Q3 2011, the numbers of insolvency petitions are sourced from CaseMan. For previous quarters these figures were sourced from manual counts made by court staff. Primarily due to the removal of duplicate entries, which is possible with the CaseMan administrative data, the figures for Q3 2011 are three per cent lower overall than if they had been sourced from the manual returns. Looking at specific categories of insolvency case, company winding up petitions are half of one per cent lower, creditors bankruptcy petitions are four per cent lower, and debtors bankruptcy petitions are three per cent lower. This should be taken into consideration when making comparisons of insolvency figures for Q3 2011 with those from previous periods.

The following data are considered to be of lower quality:

- The numbers of insolvency petitions (up to Q2 2011), applications for administration orders, administration orders made and orders for sale are sourced from manual counts made by court staff. Since April 2009 these have been recorded in the One Performance Truth (OPT) database, a web-based data monitoring system allowing direct inputting of performance data by court staff. Prior to April 2009 they were inputted into the Business Management System, designed for the purpose of monitoring and assessing court workloads. Quality assurance measures are in place to ensure that data are of sufficient quality, including querying with courts where their counts look unusually high or low and obtaining corrected figures if errors are identified.
- The numbers of small claims hearings, trials and repossessions of property by county court bailiffs are sourced from CaseMan. The accuracy of the trial/small claim hearing counts is dependent on court staff entering the correct hearing types and outcome codes onto the system. The accuracy of the repossession figures is dependent on court staff entering the correct warrant outcome codes onto the system.

Revisions have been made to administration applications and administration orders figures shown in Table 1.7. Further quality assurance of source data since the last edition of this bulletin has indicated that some manual counts provided by courts

which were included in the figures should in fact have been excluded. A comparison of the old and new figures for each year and quarter from Q1 2008 to Q2 2011 is provided in Table A1. This shows that overall for the period from Q1 2008 to Q2 2011 the numbers of applications for administration orders have been revised downwards by 20 per cent, and administration orders by six per cent.

**Table A1: Changes to summary statistics on administration orders<sup>1,2</sup> England and Wales, 2006 - Q2 2011**

		Number of applications for administration orders			Number of administration orders		
		Old	New	% change	Old	New	% change
2006		3,181	2,945	-7%	4,480	4,377	-2%
2007		2,407	2,219	-8%	3,683	3,587	-3%
2008		2,065	1,883	-9%	2,795	2,686	-4%
2009		1,948	1,230	-37%	2,019	1,894	-6%
2010		797	694	-13%	1,124	1,023	-9%
2008	Q1	673	491	-27%	802	743	-7%
	Q2	503	503	0%	737	722	-2%
	Q3	472	472	0%	606	587	-3%
	Q4	417	417	0%	650	634	-2%
2009	Q1	556	397	-29%	628	610	-3%
	Q2	581	320	-45%	549	492	-10%
	Q3	515	267	-48%	480	430	-10%
	Q4	296	246	-17%	362	362	0%
2010	Q1	310	224	-28%	367	313	-15%
	Q2	180	180	0%	274	274	0%
	Q3	165	165	0%	261	261	0%
	Q4	142	125	-12%	222	175	-21%
2011	Q1	133	133	0%	185	170	-8%
	Q2	107	107	0%	180	145	-19%

**Source:**

HMCTS manual returns

**Notes:**

1 Administration orders enable a debtor to combine a judgement debt and at least one other debt (with total indebtedness not exceeding £5,000) into a single order for the making of regular payments into court to be distributed to the creditors in the appropriate proportions listed by the debtor

2 Multiple orders may be made following an application e.g. where an original order is revoked and then re-instated

## Family matters

The data on the family matters has been sourced from the family court administrative system FamilyMan, used by court staff for case management purposes and contains good quality information about a case's progress through the family courts. Some data for 2010 and earlier years are also sourced from the HMCTS Performance database. Statistical quality assurance procedures include the identification and removal of duplicate entries for the same case on the administrative systems, and checks that data have been collated for all courts to ensure completeness.

Some points to note about counting rules in the statistics are as follows.

- A disposal which occurs in one quarter or year may relate to an application which was initially made in an earlier period.
- An application of one type may lead to an order of a different type being made.
- The statistics on matrimonial, ancillary relief and domestic violence proceedings are counted by case. The statistics on public law and private law proceedings relate to the number of children which are subject to applications: for example, if two children are the subject of a single case then the children would be counted separately in the statistics. Different types of orders may be made in respect of different children involved in a case.

Figures on the number of matrimonial proceedings are given in Table 2.1. Statistics on the number of divorces occurring each year in England and Wales are also published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The MoJ's divorce statistics are sourced directly from the FamilyMan system, while the ONS data are compiled from 'D105' forms used by the courts to record decrees absolute, which are supplied to ONS for compiling the central index of decrees absolute. There are small differences between the number of divorces as recorded by the two sets of statistics: 1.2 per cent for 2009 data. There are believed to be some differences in the quality assurance and compilation processes currently used to produce the statistics. Statisticians at the MoJ and ONS are working together with HMCTS to reconcile these differences as closely as possible. However, some of this difference will be accounted for by the fact that the two sets of figures do not count precisely the same cases: for example, the ONS statistics include annulments while the MoJ figures do not; conversely the MoJ data include dissolutions of civil partnerships which are excluded from the ONS counts.

The information on Forced Marriage Protection Orders in Table 2.4 was taken from the HMCTS Performance database. This is a regularly updated, web-based performance system which enables aggregation to national level of returns from individual courts.

Public law and private law Children Act figures are given in Table 2.5. Starting at the end of 2009, an upgrade to the administrative system in all county courts and Family Proceedings Courts was rolled out nationally. This upgrade was completed in December 2010 following a staggered rollout. During the compilation of the previous quarter's figures for public and private law applications, issues were identified concerning the way in which cases that are transferred between courts are being counted. This issue resulted from the system upgrade which now records transfers between courts differently to ensure that no duplicate records of these transfers are held in the system. Therefore, the methodology to count public and private law applications will be reviewed and updated to ensure that transfers are

counted accurately and, as such, previously published data for 2010 and 2011 may be subject to revision.

### **Magistrates' courts**

The statistics on completed proceedings in Table 3.1 are sourced from the OPT database, which was rolled out across magistrates' courts during 2008 and is populated based on information contained on the Libra MIS. This contains good quality information about magistrates' courts' caseloads. Data provided by the courts must be checked and verified at case level by court staff before being submitted on OPT, and the centrally collated data are subject to further checks including the investigation of apparent anomalies in the data.

The MoJ's publication *Criminal Justice Statistics (CJS)* also contains data on the criminal cases in the magistrates' courts. The figures are derived from the same core source as those presented in this report (the Libra system), but they are not directly comparable as there are known differences between them. These are due to a number of factors, including differences in the data collation methods and counting methodologies used, which reflect different underlying drivers of the analyses being performed. By way of broad illustration, *CJS* counts numbers of defendants and focuses on the final outcomes of criminal court proceedings, whilst *CSQ* counts numbers of cases and focuses on flows through the court system. Work is currently under way to investigate and review the differences between the two sets of statistics and their compilation processes with a view to aligning them in the future.

The statistics on the effectiveness of recorded trials and the enforcement of financial penalties are also sourced from the OPT database.

The experimental statistics on the timeliness of criminal proceedings completed in the magistrates' courts in Table 5.3 are sourced from an extract taken from the Libra MIS. More information can be found in the "Timeliness of criminal proceedings" section of this Annex.

### **The Crown Court**

This information has been produced using the MIS, a data warehousing facility drawing data directly from court-based administrative systems. Most data shown in this bulletin have been sourced from the Crown Court administrative system CREST, used by court staff for case management purposes. This contains good quality information about the incidence and dates of major events as each case progress in the Crown Court. Statistical quality assurance procedures include the identification and removal of duplicate entries, checks of apparent anomalies and checks for completeness.

The MoJ's publication *CJS* also contains data on the criminal cases in the Crown Court. The figures are derived from the same core source as those presented in this report (the CREST system), but they are not directly comparable as there are known differences between them. These are due to a number of factors, including differences in the data collation methods and counting methodologies used, which reflect different underlying drivers of the analyses being performed. By way of broad illustration, *CJS* counts numbers of defendants and focuses on the final outcomes of criminal court proceedings, whilst *CSQ* counts numbers of cases and focuses on flows through the court system. Work is currently under way to investigate and review the differences between the two sets of statistics and their compilation processes with a view to aligning them in the future.

## Timeliness of criminal proceedings

Experimental statistics on the timeliness of criminal proceedings completed in the criminal courts (magistrates' courts and the Crown Court) in Tables 5.1 and 5.2 are sourced from linking together extracts taken from CREST and the Libra MIS.

The datasets are produced by firstly collecting all Crown Court cases disposed of in the specified quarter and looking for a match for the defendant with the same offence in the magistrates' court data. Records are linked based on a combination of variables including given name, middle name, family name, date of birth, sex, postcode, a committal date, and two identifiers: the Arrest/Summons Number (ASN) and Pre-Trials Issue Unique Reference Number (PTIURN). Where the case is fully disposed in the magistrates' courts during the specified time period, the timeliness data for such cases is collected from the Libra MIS extract and added to the dataset.

A range of quality assurance measures have been carried out on the data. These include ensuring the data are complete, case events follow a logical date sequence with recorded offence information, and all breach cases are excluded. Times are analysed for anomalies or error, including the removal of cases with recorded durations of over ten years to ensure the average times reported are not distorted by incorrect data. Data cleaning is also carried out prior to matching the magistrates' and Crown Court datasets to ensure that minor differences between the recording of similar entries on the two systems do not materially affect the ability to match records.

The CREST system and Libra MIS reports provide good quality data and a high rate of data linking, with typically around 95 per cent of Crown Court records on CREST being successfully linked to a defendant recorded at a magistrates' court case on the Libra MIS extract.

The experimental statistics on the timeliness of criminal proceedings completed in the magistrates' courts in Table 5.3 are sourced from the Libra MIS extract. Previously, statistics on the duration of criminal proceedings in the magistrates' courts were taken from the quarterly *Time Intervals Survey (TIS)*, which was based on a sample of cases, namely those which completed during a specified week each quarter. Due to recent improvements in the quality of data held on magistrates' courts administrative systems, with effect from June 2011 the *TIS* has been discontinued, and replaced by these new administratively sourced statistics. The Libra MIS extract provides good quality information on the timeliness of all criminal cases which complete in magistrates' courts, whether they are finally dealt with or passed on to the Crown Court for trial. As a result of this change in source, the statistics are now based on all criminal proceedings dealt with in the magistrates' courts and not a sample as previously provided in the *TIS*.

Detailed information on previous magistrates' courts' timeliness sourced from the *TIS* can be found on the MoJ website at:

[www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/courts-and-sentencing/magistrates-times.htm](http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/courts-and-sentencing/magistrates-times.htm)

## **Annex B – HM Courts and Tribunals Service**

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) was created on 1 April 2011. It is an agency of the MoJ and is responsible for the administration of the criminal, civil and family courts and tribunals in England and Wales and non-devolved tribunals in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

This executive summary page provides high-level findings for the courts and tribunals which are administered by HMCTS during the quarter 1 July to 30 September 2011.

### **All Tribunals Combined**

- The statistics for the quarter July to September 2011 include, for the first time, figures for the Residential Property Tribunal (RPT), which joined HMCTS on 1 July 2011. Figures for earlier quarters do not include RPT information. In this report, changes compared to earlier periods are made excluding RPT figures, so that the comparisons are on a like-with-like basis.
- Between July and September 2011, there were 180,400 receipts or cases. Excluding the RPT, receipts fell by 19 per cent over the same quarter of the previous year, and a ten per cent drop on the number in the same quarter of 2009-10. There were 187,800 disposals in July to September 2011. When the RPT is excluded, this was an increase of three per cent on the same quarter of 2010-11 and 16 per cent on that for 2009-10.
- For all tribunals combined, the caseload outstanding was 742,800, 64 per cent of this was for multiple Employment Tribunals claims. The caseload outstanding fell by around 10,000 (when RPT outstanding caseload was excluded) on the amount at 30 June 2011, but was still five per cent higher than it was on 30 September 2010. For some Tribunals, the caseload outstanding fell in the last year by: 26 per cent for Immigration and Asylum; 11 per cent for Social Security and Child Support; nine per cent for single Employment Tribunal cases; 16 per cent for Mental Health; and by 21 per cent for Criminal Injuries Compensation. The caseload outstanding increased for some tribunals, including Financial Services and Markets and Pensions Regulator and Tax First tier tribunal.

### **Social Security and Child Support**

Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) appeals jurisdiction, part of the First Tier Tribunal arranges and carries out independent hearings for appeals on decisions made by the Department for Work and Pensions (including Jobcentre Plus, Child Support Agency and Disability and Carers Service), as well as other government departments (HM Revenue and Customs) and local authorities.

- There were 90,700 receipts to SSCS between July and September 2011, a decrease of 20 per cent compared to the same quarter of 2010-11. This was a 14 per cent increase compared to the July to September quarter of 2009-10.
- There were 111,500 disposals made by SSCS, a 20 per cent increase compared to the July to September quarter of 2010-11 and a 70 per cent increase when compared with the same quarter of 2009-10.

- There were 87,700 SSCS hearing clearances (those cases disposed of at hearing) during July to September 2011, a 29 per cent increase on the number in the same quarter of 2010-11.
- There was an 11 per cent increase in the number of disposals associated with Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and Incapacity Benefit (IB).

## **Employment Tribunals**

The Employment Tribunals are independent judicial bodies who determine disputes between employers and employees over employment rights.

- Between July and September 2011, Employment Tribunals received 40,300 cases, a 30 per cent decrease in overall claims to Employment Tribunals, compared to the same quarter of the previous year. The number of single claims decreased slightly, whilst the number of multiple claims went down by 41 per cent and was affected by the number of re-submitted airline cases received in July to September 2010.
- In July to September 2011, there were 26,700 disposals made by the Employment Tribunals<sup>3</sup>, a 16 per cent fall compared to the same quarter of the previous year. The number of single disposed cases fell by four per cent and multiple disposed cases fell by 27 per cent.

## **First Tier Immigration and Asylum Tribunal**

All references to Immigration and Asylum refer to the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber). It is an independent Tribunal dealing with appeals against decisions made by the Home Secretary and his officials in immigration, asylum and nationality matters.

- Compared to the same quarter of 2010-11, there was a fall of 11 per cent in overall numbers of Immigration and Asylum receipts to 32,200 during July to September of 2011. The overall fall in receipts was reflected in all case types, with receipts for Asylum<sup>4</sup> dropping by 21 per cent and those for Family Visit Visa<sup>5</sup> reducing by 16 per cent.
- The number of Immigration and Asylum disposals was 32,700 between July and September 2011, 20 per cent fewer than in the same quarter of 2010-11.

## **Special Educational Needs and Disability**

Parents whose children have special educational needs can appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) against decisions made by Local Authorities in England about their children's education.

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<sup>3</sup> There may be a small undercount due to change of computer system during the year.

<sup>4</sup> Appeals against a refusal to grant asylum, including asylum claims which raise Human Rights grounds.

<sup>5</sup> Appeals against decisions not to allow temporary visits to see family in the UK.

- In the academic year 2010-11, there were 3,600 Special Educational Needs (SEN) appeals, a nine per cent increase on the number registered in the previous year.
- There were 3,900 SEN disposals in the academic year 2010-11, a 32 per cent increase on those in the previous year.

# Glossary

This glossary provides a brief description of the main terms used in the **Commentary** section of this report. For further information, please contact the Justice Statistics Analytical Services division using the details provided in the **Contacts** section at the end of this bulletin.

## County courts (non-family)

Administration order: Combines a debtor's debts under certain conditions (see note 6 to Table 1.7), enabling the debtor to make regular payments to the court which are then distributed to the various creditors.

Attachment of earnings order: Obliges the debtor's employer to deduct a set sum from the debtor's pay and forward it to the court.

Bankruptcy petitions: Petitions made by a debtor (who owes the debt) or one or more creditors where an individual is unable to pay his or her debt(s).

Charging order: Enables the creditor to obtain security for the payment against an asset(s), typically property, owned by the debtor.

Claims for recovery of land: These include claims for the repossession of property by a mortgage lender, social or private landlord e.g. where the mortgagee or tenant fails to keep up with mortgage or rental payments.

Company windings up petitions: Petitions made by a creditor, shareholder or director to wind up (or dissolve) a company which cannot pay its creditor(s), to whom debt is owed.

Orders for sale: A court order forcing the debtor to sell an asset(s), typically a property, following a charging order.

Other claims: These include, amongst others, claims for the return of goods, injunctions (to make somebody do something or to stop them doing it), and insolvency petitions (where a company or individual has debts that they are unable to pay).

Small claim/'fast track'/'multi track' cases: If a claim is defended, the next step is for further information to be provided by the parties following which a judge in the county court assigns the case to one of three case management tracks. The 'small claims track' is for less complex cases, which generally have claim values of up to £5,000. The 'fast track' is for more complicated cases, generally with a claim value of over £5,000 and up to £15,000 for proceedings issued before 6 April 2009, otherwise £25,000. The 'multi track' is for the most complex cases which are not allocated to the small claim or 'fast track'. Many defended cases are settled by the parties involved, or withdrawn, either before or after allocation to one of these tracks. Around half of cases allocated to the small claims track are resolved at small claims hearings while a lower proportion of cases allocated to the 'fast or multi track' are disposed of by trials.

Specified 'money' claims: Claims made by an individual, company or organisation for a specified amount of money.

Third party debt order: Enables the creditor to secure payment by freezing and then seizing money owed or payable by a third party to the debtor.

Unspecified 'money' claims: Claims made by an individual, company or organisation for an unspecified amount of money.

Warrant of committal: Enforces a judgment for which the penalty for failure to comply is imprisonment. It authorises the bailiff to arrest the person and deliver them to prison or court.

Warrant of delivery: Enforces a judgment for the return of particular goods or items.

Warrant of execution: To enforce a judgment made in a county court, where unless the amount due under the warrant is paid, saleable items owned by the debtor can be recovered by the court and sold.

Warrant of possession: To enforce a court order for the repossession of property.

## **Family matters**

Ancillary Relief: This refers to a number of different types of order used to settle financial disputes during divorce proceedings. Examples include: periodical payments, pension sharing, property adjustment and lump sums, and they can be made in favour of either the former spouse or the couple's children.

Application: The act of asking the court to make an order.

Decree Absolute: This is the final order made in divorce proceedings that can be applied for six weeks and one day after a decree nisi has been given. Once this is received, the couple are no longer legally married and are free to remarry.

Decree Nisi: This is the first order made in divorce proceedings and is given when the court is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for granting the divorce. It is used to apply for a decree absolute.

Disposal: Completion of a case, where an outcome is determined by an order being made or refused or where the application is withdrawn.

Dissolution: The legal termination of a marriage by a decree of divorce, nullity or presumption of death or of a civil partnership by the granting of a dissolution order.

Divorce: This is the legal ending of a marriage.

Judicial Separation: This is a type of order that does not dissolve a marriage but absolves the parties from the obligation to live together. This procedure might, for instance, be used if religious beliefs forbid or discourage divorce.

Non-molestation Order: This is a type of civil injunction used in domestic violence cases. It prevents the applicant and/or any relevant children from being molested by someone who has previously been violent towards them. Since July 2007, failing to obey the restrictions of these orders has been a criminal offence for which someone could be arrested.

Nullity: This is where a marriage is ended by being declared not valid. This can either be because the marriage was void (not allowed by law) or because the

marriage was voidable (the marriage was legal but there are circumstances that mean it can be treated as if it never took place).

Occupation Order: This is a type of civil injunction used in domestic violence cases. It restricts the right of a violent partner to enter or live in a shared home.

Order: The document bearing the seal of the court recording its decision in a case.

Petition: (for divorce): An application for a decree nisi or a judicial separation order.

Private Law: Refers to Children Act 1989 cases where two or more parties are trying to resolve a private dispute. This is commonly where parents have split up and there is a disagreement about contact with, or residence of, their children.

Public Law: Refers to Children Act 1989 cases where there are child welfare issues and a local authority, or an authorised person, is stepping in to protect the child and ensure they get the care they need.

### **Magistrates' courts**

Adult breach proceedings: Proceedings against an adult defendant (aged 18 or over) who has breached an order which was previously imposed against him/her.

Adult indictable cases: The most serious offences, such as murder and rape, which must be heard at the Crown Court. The involvement of the magistrates' court is generally brief: a decision is made on whether to grant bail, and other legal issues, such as reporting restrictions, are considered. The case is then passed to the Crown Court.

Adult summary proceedings: The less serious offences, where the defendant is an adult (aged 18 or over). The defendant is not usually entitled to trial by jury, so these cases are disposed of in the magistrates' courts. Summary offences are subdivided into Summary Motoring and Summary Non-Motoring cases:

- Adult summary motoring proceedings: Offences such as driving whilst disqualified, speeding and failure to stop.
- Adult summary non-motoring proceedings: Offences such as TV license evasion, minor assaults and criminal damage where less than £5000 worth of damage is caused.

Adult triable-either-way cases: These are more serious than summary offences, and can be dealt with either by magistrates or before a judge and jury at the Crown Court. Such offences include dangerous driving and theft and handling stolen goods. A defendant can invoke his/her right to trial in the Crown Court, or the magistrates can decide that a case is sufficiently serious that it should be dealt with in the Crown Court where tougher sentences can be imposed if the defendant is found guilty.

'Cracked' trial: A trial where, on the day, an acceptable plea is offered by the defendant or the prosecution offers no evidence against the defendant.

Criminal proceeding: The administration of justice in cases involving an individual who has been accused of a crime, beginning with the initial investigation of the crime and concluding either with an acquittal or conviction.

'Effective' trial: A trial which begins on the scheduled date and reaches a conclusion.

'Ineffective' trial: A trial that does not go ahead on the scheduled trial date due to action or inaction by one or more of the prosecution, the defence or the court and a further listing for trial is required.

Youth proceedings: These are proceedings of any type where the defendant is a youth, aged between 10 and 17.

## **The Crown Court**

The Crown Court is a unitary court which sits in approximately 77 different locations across England and Wales. It deals with serious criminal cases, which can be classified into the following four categories:

- (a) Sent for trial cases: Cases sent for trial by the magistrates' court because they can only be heard by the Crown Court.
- (b) Committed for trial cases: Cases which can be heard in either a magistrates' court or the Crown Court. A defendant can elect to be tried in the Crown Court or a magistrate can decide that a case is sufficiently serious that it should be dealt with in the Crown Court.
- (c) Committed for sentence cases: Cases transferred to the Crown Court for sentencing where defendants are found guilty in the magistrates' court. This happens if a magistrate is of the opinion that a greater punishment should be imposed than they are allowed to impose.
- (d) Appeals against the decisions of magistrates' courts.

Disposal: The completion of a case referred to the Crown Court.

Guilty plea: A guilty plea is recorded if a defendant either: (i) pleads guilty to all counts; (ii) pleads guilty to some counts and not guilty to others and no jury is sworn in respect of the not guilty counts; or (iii) pleads not guilty to some or all counts but offers a guilty plea to alternatives which are accepted (providing no jury is sworn in respect of other counts). A case is treated as a guilty plea only if pleas of guilty are recorded in respect of all defendants.

Hearing time: The total duration of all hearings heard in the Crown Court for each case including preliminary, main and sentence hearings.

Receipt: A case referred to the Crown Court.

Waiting time: The length of time between the date of sending or committal, and the start of the substantive Crown Court hearing.

*Definitions of 'effective', 'cracked' and 'ineffective' trials are under the magistrates' courts section.*

## **Timeliness of criminal proceedings**

Charge or laying of information: This relates to when the defendant is first charged at a police station (for charged cases, where an individual is arrested and formally accused of a crime at a police station) or when the information is laid (for

summonsed cases, where an individual receives a written summons advising that an action has been begun against them, and that they are required either to appear in person, or to respond in writing, to the court regarding the alleged offence).

Completion in magistrates' courts: When a defendant's case is completed in the magistrates' courts, either when a final decision is reached or the case is passed to the Crown Court.

Completion: When a defendant's case is completed and a final decision is reached in either the magistrates' courts or the Crown Court.

Date of offence: This relates to the date the alleged offence was committed.

First listing: The first hearing of the case in a magistrates' court, whether or not the defendant is present.

## Explanatory notes

1. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

2. The statistics in this bulletin relate to cases in the county, family, Crown and magistrates' courts in England and Wales during the third quarter (July to September) of 2011. This is the eleventh set of quarterly court statistics to be published by the MoJ. The first bulletin in this series was entitled *Provisional Court Statistics*. Calendar year statistics are published by the MoJ in the statistics report *JCS*.
3. Breakdowns of many of the summary figures presented in this bulletin, such as split by case type or by HMCTS area, are available on request. Please contact the Justice Statistics Analytical Services division using the details in the **Contacts** section.
4. **Revisions:** The statistics for the third quarter of 2011 are provisional, and are therefore liable to revision to take account of any late amendments to the administrative databases from which these statistics are sourced. The standard process for revising the published statistics to account for these late amendments is as follows. An initial revision to the statistics for the latest quarter may be made when the next edition of this bulletin is published. Final figures for this quarter, and for other quarters in the same calendar year, will be published in the bulletin presenting the statistics for the first of the following year.

### Symbols and conventions

The following symbols have been used throughout the tables in this bulletin:

- = Not applicable
- 0 = Nil
- (r) = Revised data
- (p) = Provisional data

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General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

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