



Ministry  
of Justice



# **Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to March 2014**

## **England and Wales**

Ministry of Justice  
Statistics bulletin

Published 14 August 2014

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## Introduction

This report presents the key statistics on activity in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) for England and Wales. It provides information for the latest twelve months (April 2013 to March 2014) with accompanying commentary, analysis and presentation of longer term trends. The information in this publication for the first quarter of 2014 in relation to court proceedings and outcomes is provisional.

The data provides users with information about proven offending and its outcomes in England and Wales. The contents of this bulletin will be of interest to government policy makers in the development of policy and their subsequent monitoring and evaluation. Others will be interested in the way different crimes are dealt with in the CJS. Where appropriate, comparisons are made with different sources covering activity in the CJS – in particular, numbers of crimes recorded by the police, often the starting point for crimes dealt with by other CJS agencies<sup>1</sup>.

In this publication, criminal offences are divided into three main offence groups:

- **Indictable** proceedings cover the more serious offences such as violent and sexual offences and robbery. Initial proceedings are heard at magistrates' courts but they then may be passed on to the Crown Court, either for sentencing or for a full trial with a judge and jury. This group includes both 'indictable only' offences, which can only be tried on indictment in the Crown Court by a judge and jury, and 'triable-either-way' offences which are triable either summarily in a magistrate's court or on indictment in the Crown Court;
- Summary proceedings, which cover less serious offences, are almost always handled entirely in the magistrates' courts when dealt with in court, with the majority completed at the first hearing. They are split into two categories:
  - **Summary non-motoring** proceedings, such as TV license evasion and less serious criminal damage; and
  - **Summary motoring** proceedings, such as speeding and driving whilst disqualified.

A technical document titled "A Guide to Criminal Justice Statistics" is available alongside this bulletin, which provides users with detailed information on the concepts and methods used in compiling this bulletin, including the quality of the data, along with guidance on statistical revisions and forthcoming changes. A copy of the technical document can be found at:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly)

## Changes to data presentation within the report

Tables on an all offence basis previously included in a separate Offences Chapter (last shown in Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to September 2013) have been moved to the overview, out of court disposals and convictions sections where relevant (as was the case with Criminal Justice Statistics 2013 publication).

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<sup>1</sup> Findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales and recorded crime data are published together in statistical bulletins by the Office for National Statistics.

## Potential data issue regarding triable-either-way cases in the magistrates' court:

Investigations are under way due to an apparent difference between numbers of triable-either-way cases in 2013 and 2014 shown in this publication and in Table 3.2a of Court Statistics (quarterly)<sup>2</sup>. Users of these statistics should be aware that figures in this bulletin are showing a slight decline in the last 12 months whereas figures in Court Statistics Quarterly are showing a slight upward trend.

## Interpretation

This publication presents information for the **latest 12 month period (the twelve months ending March 2014)** alongside the same rolling 12 month periods ending March for the previous ten years. The comparison of 12 rolling month periods has the advantage over reporting on shorter timeframes – for example, covering only the latest quarter – of avoiding misinterpretation of short-term fluctuations caused by seasonality (for example, reduced court volumes every December when many of the courts are closed over the Christmas period), and enables the presentation of longer-term trends across comparable reporting periods.

In this publication:

- the “**latest year**” refers to the **12 months ending March 2014**;
- the “**previous year**” refers to the **12 months ending March 2013**; and
- any other reference period will be referred to explicitly.

Further guidance on the symbols and conventions used in the bulletin is provided in the ‘Explanatory notes’ section.

## Future Developments

We are planning to make changes to the **offending history tables** in forthcoming publications, for example we are considering removing first time entrants by police force area tables and introducing new tables to ensure all offences are covered, not just indictable offences. If you have any feedback on the current offending history tables or suggestions for changes you would like to see in the future, your feedback would be greatly appreciated.

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

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<sup>2</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/collections/court-statistics-quarterly](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/court-statistics-quarterly)

## Key Findings

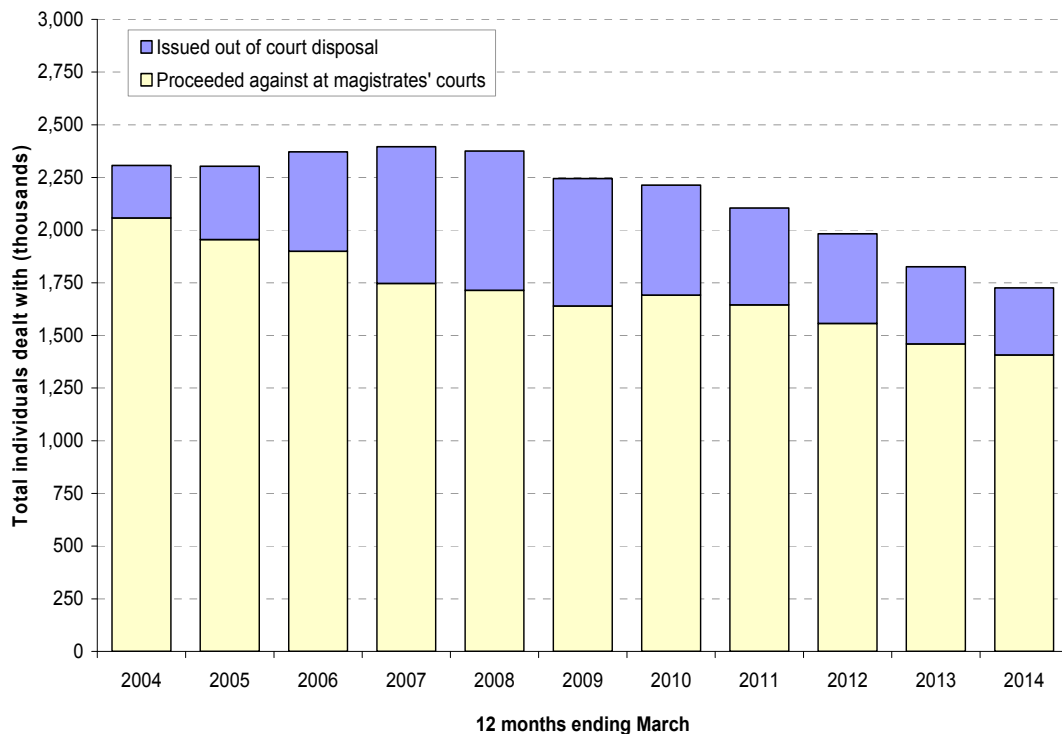
- Total number of individuals (which includes people and companies) dealt with formally by the CJS in England and Wales has been declining since 2007. It is now at a record low level (period 1970 onwards), with 1.73 million individuals dealt with in the latest 12 month period.
- Use of out of court disposals has decreased in the last year by 13%, down to 318,500 in the latest 12 month period. This continues the pattern of decline (52% decrease since year ending March 2008 peak).
- In the latest 12 month period 1.41 million defendants were proceeded against, a 4% decrease compared to the previous year. Over the last 10 years the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' court has declined almost year on year.
- Conviction ratio has remained relatively steady since year ending March 2009 (following on from an increase in the 5 years preceding this). In the latest 12 month period it was 82%.
- Custody rate for indictable offences (27%) is the highest in the decade and has increased in each of the last three years.
- Average custodial sentence length (ACSL) has increased over the last decade, particularly in the last year – up to 15.5 months in the latest 12 month period.
- Number and proportion of convicted offenders who have long criminal histories has increased over the last 10 years, whereas the number of new entrants to the criminal justice system has fallen.

## 1. Overview

Once a suspect has been identified by the police, charged and arrested, the police work with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in deciding the most appropriate course of action in each case. The decision can be made to not take the offender to court, through a number of available “out-of-court disposals”, or to proceed against the defendant at a magistrates’ court.

The total number of individuals, which includes people and companies, who have been dealt with formally by the CJS in England and Wales, in either of these ways, has been declining since the 12 months ending March 2007, with 1.73 million individuals dealt with in the latest 12 month period.

**Figure 1.1: Individuals<sup>3</sup> dealt with formally by the CJS, 12 months ending March 2004 to March 2014**



The total number of individuals formally dealt with by the CJS in England and Wales is generally consistent with total crime and recorded crime trends. In the year ending March 2014 however, despite a reduction in total crime, there was no overall change in recorded crime, yet there was a reduction in individuals formally dealt with by the CJS in England and Wales.

Total crime, as measured by surveys of the general population, has fallen since 2002/03. Latest figures in the Crime in England and Wales, year ending March 2014 publication<sup>3</sup> show there were an estimated 7.3 million incidents of crime against households and resident adults (aged 16 and over). This represents a 14% decrease compared with the previous year's survey and is the lowest estimate since the Crime survey began in 1981.

<sup>3</sup> Includes people and companies. Note also that a single individual can be counted more than once in a given year if they are dealt with by the Criminal Justice System on more than one separate occasion.

Recorded crime in England and Wales reduced year on year between 2002/03 and 2012/13. Recently published police recorded crime figures for 2013/14<sup>4</sup> however, showed no overall change from the previous year, with 3.7 million offences recorded in the year ending March 2014.

The number of individuals dealt with formally by the CJS for the first time has also fallen since the 12 months ending March 2007 – with 166,000 ‘first time entrants’ to the CJS in 12 months ending March 2014, a decline of 50% since 2007. The reduction has been much sharper for juveniles (80% over the same period), reflecting a decreasing number of juvenile offenders reprimanded, issued with a warning or given a youth caution. However, per head of population, the rate of juvenile first time entrants remains higher than for adults.

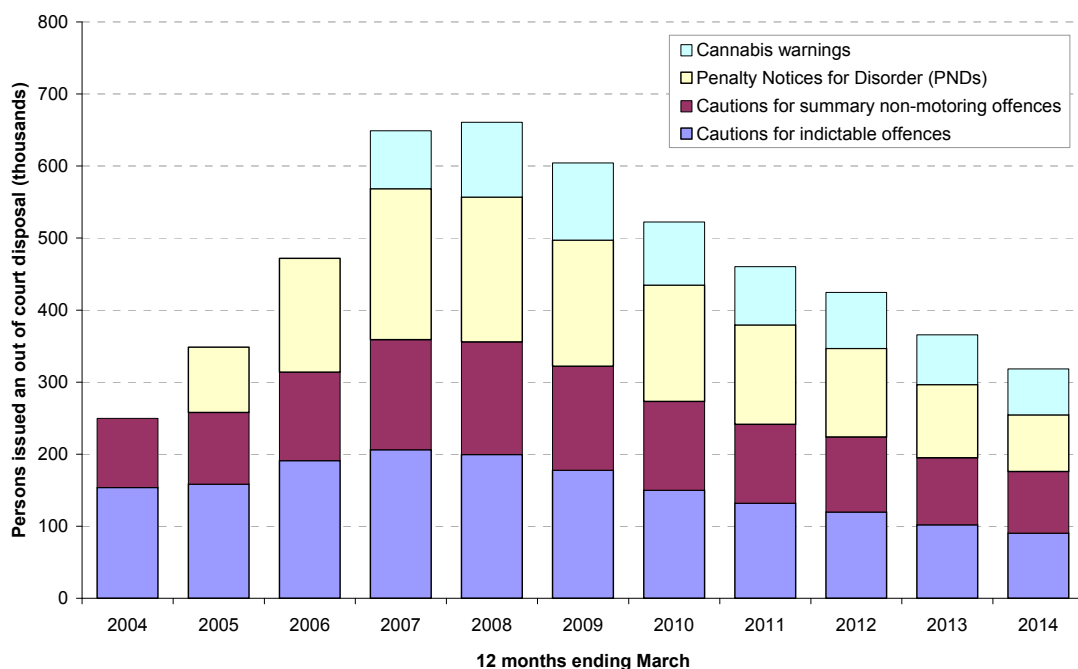
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<sup>4</sup> [www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/period-ending-march-2014/stb-crime-stats.html](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/period-ending-march-2014/stb-crime-stats.html)

## 2. Out of Court Disposals

Until the introduction of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) in 2004 and formal warnings for possession of cannabis in 2005<sup>5</sup>, the only out of court disposal available to police was a caution. Since the 12 months ending March 2004, the use of out of court disposals increased rapidly and peaked in the 12 months ending March 2008, before decreasing year on year – 318,500 individuals were issued with an out of court disposal in the latest period. The increase to the 12 months ending March 2008 coincided with the introduction in 2001 of a target to increase offences brought to justice. The decrease post March 2008 coincided with the replacement of the target in April 2008, with one placing more emphasis on bringing serious crimes to justice. The latter target was subsequently removed in May 2010.

**Figure 2.1: Out of court disposals issued, by disposal, 12 months ending March 2004 to March 2014**



The use of out of court disposals has decreased in the last year by 13%. This continues the decline in the use of out of court disposals which have seen a 52% decrease since the year ending March 2008 peak.

Each type of out of court disposal showed a decrease when compared with the previous year. The biggest decline was in the use of Penalty Notice for Disorder (PNDs) which decreased by 23% (to 78,600 from 101,500) following the cancellation of the use of PNDs for under 18 year olds from 8 April 2013. Total cautions decreased by 10% (to 175,900 from 195,000) and cannabis warnings 8% (to 64,000 from 69,200) over the same period.

In the 12 months ending March 2014, cautions for indictable offences (including triable either way offences) decreased by 11%, to 90,500, from 102,100 in the previous year. There were just over 600 cautions for indictable only offences

<sup>5</sup> The number of cannabis warnings issued in the 12 months ending March 2006 is not available.



(excluding triable either way) in the 12 months ending March 2014, a decline of 18% compared to the previous year. This follows guidance issued by the Ministry of Justice on 14 November 2013, which stated that the use of adult simple cautions, for indictable only offences should be stopped, except in exceptional circumstances. In the 4 month period since the guidance (December 2013 to March 2014) just over 100 adult cautions for indictable only offences have been issued. Legislation in the forthcoming Criminal Justice and Courts Bill will put these changes to adult simple cautions on a statutory footing.

The overall cautioning rate (proportion of offenders who were either cautioned or convicted that were given a caution) for the latest 12 months was 20%, which has declined from a peak of 31% in year ending March 2007. This coincided with the replacement in April 2008 of a target to increase offences brought to justice with more emphasis targeted on serious crime.

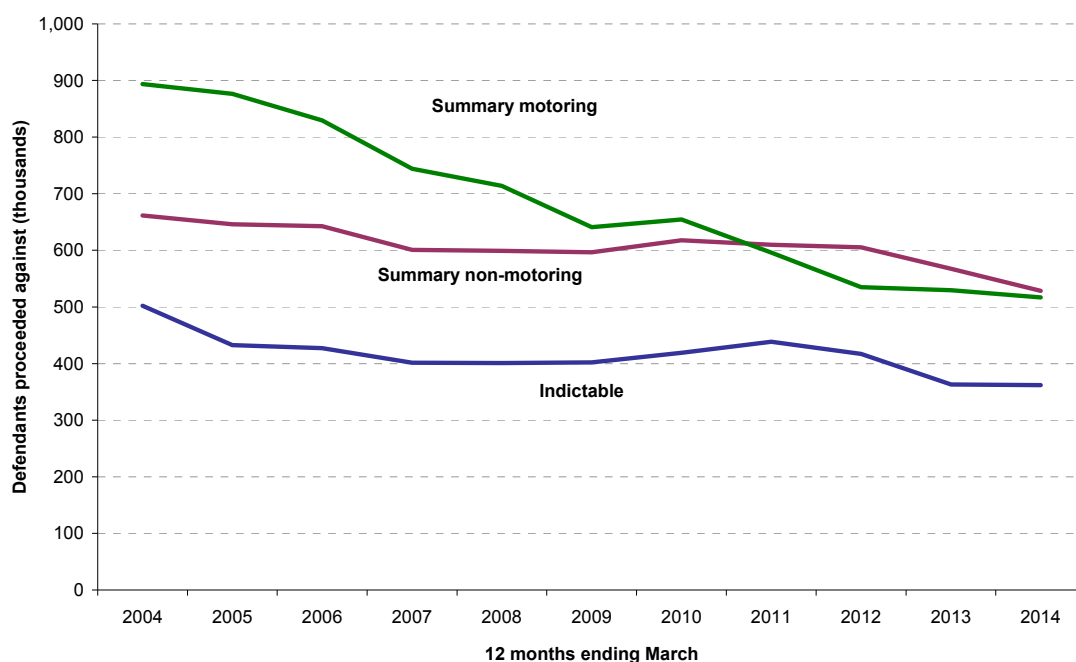
In year ending March 2014, 50% of PNDs (with known outcome: i.e. paid in full or not paid in full excluding unknowns) were paid in full - a decrease of twelve percentage points compared with the year ending March 2013 and a low for the 10 year period.

### 3. Court Proceedings and Remand

Virtually all criminal cases proceeding to court in England and Wales start in a magistrates' court. Since the 12 months ending March 2004, the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' court has declined almost year on year – down to 1.41 million defendants in the latest period – driven chiefly by decreases in summary motoring offences brought before magistrates. The biggest decreases have been for vehicle insurance offences, driving licence related offences and driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs offences.

Prosecutions decreased by 4% in the year ending March 2014 compared with the previous year, with decreases seen in all three main offence groups (indictable, summary motoring and summary non-motoring). The largest decline was seen for summary non-motoring offences which showed a 7% decrease compared with the previous 12 month period. Meanwhile indictable offences decreased by less than 1% (despite there being a 2% increase for those aged 18 and over) and summary motoring offences decreased by 2%.

**Figure 3.1: Defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts, by offence group<sup>6</sup>, 12 months ending March 2004 to March 2014**



Prosecutions for sexual offences, violence against the person offences, fraud offences and public order offences have all increased in line with recorded crime figures<sup>7</sup>.

Prosecutions for sexual offences increased by 21% in the latest period compared with the 12 months ending March 2013 (this compares to a 20% increase in recorded crime). The increase in recorded crime and prosecutions for sexual offences is likely to be partly due to the Operation Yewtree investigation, connected to the Jimmy Savile inquiry. This investigation has led to a 'Yewtree effect' whereby a greater number of victims have come forward to report sexual offences to the police.

<sup>6</sup> Regarding the 2013/14 figures for indictable offences please see the introduction which discusses a potential data issue

<sup>7</sup> [www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/period-ending-march-2014/stb-crime-stats.html](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/period-ending-march-2014/stb-crime-stats.html)

Improved compliance with the recording standards for sexual offences in some police forces may also be a factor.

Prosecutions for fraud offences increased by 9% in the latest period compared with the 12 months ending March 2013, public order offences by 8% and violence against the person offences by 6%. There has also been a 4% increase in prosecutions for shoplifting offences.

Around 6% of all defendants proceeded against are passed on to the Crown Court for trial. Since the 12 months ending March 2011 the volume of defendants tried at the Crown Court has declined, in line with the decline in prosecutions – with 82,600 defendants tried at the Crown Court in the latest year, compared with 106,300 in the 12 months ending March 2011. On 28th May 2013, committal hearings were abolished nationally as part of wider measures to speed up justice and improve efficiencies in the justice system. As a result cases are now being sent straight to the Crown Court as soon as it is clear the matter is serious enough, rather than having to await a committal hearing.

Police remands are the decisions made by a police officer on whether to detain or bail a defendant pending their first appearance in court or send a notice summoning them to appear in court. In the latest year, there were 1.47 million defendants directed by the police to appear at magistrates' courts (including those who failed to appear). The proportion of defendants remanded in custody by the police increased from 11% in the 12 months ending March 2013 to 12% in the latest year. Meanwhile the proportion of those granted bail by the police and those directed to appear via summonses remained stable at 29% and 60% respectively.

Court remands are the court's decision on whether a defendant charged with a criminal offence should be held in custody or released on bail during the period up to and including the trial, or while awaiting sentence. In the latest year, bail was granted to 22% of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts whilst 4% were remanded in custody and the remaining 74% had their case concluded at the magistrates' courts without being remanded.

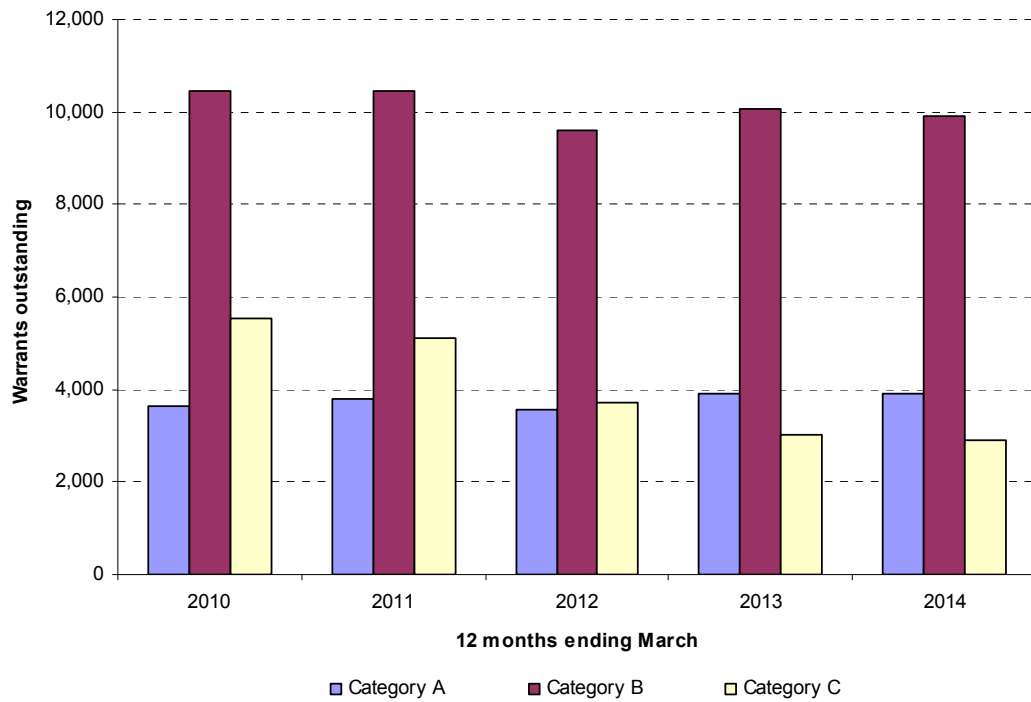
Defendants are more likely to be remanded in custody for indictable offences than summary offences – as a result, the proportion of defendants remanded in custody at the Crown Court is higher than at magistrates' courts. In the latest year, the proportion of defendants tried at the Crown Court who were remanded in custody was 36% (up from 34% in the previous 12 month period) and the proportion remanded on bail was 47% (down from 48% in the previous 12 month period). Of those remanded in custody at the Crown Court, 73% were convicted and sentenced to immediate custody (a decrease from 74% in the previous year).

Failure To Appear (FTA) warrants are issued by courts when defendants do not attend court on a specified date, having either been summonsed or granted bail at an earlier stage. In the latest year, police forces in England and Wales received a total of 70,100 FTA warrants from the courts, of which 86% were executed.

There were a total of 16,700 FTA warrants outstanding at the end of March 2014, a decrease of 2% compared with the position at the end of March 2013. The number of outstanding FTA Warrants fell year-on-year between the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 and the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, prior to a small increase (1%) from the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 to the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

The number of outstanding Category A FTA warrants (which relate to the most serious offences) has increased by less than 1% compared to the previous year. The number of outstanding Category B and C FTA warrants fell by 2% and 4% respectively.

**Figure 3.2: Number of Failure to Appear (FTA) Warrants outstanding in England and Wales, by category of warrant, 12 months ending March 2010 to March 2014**

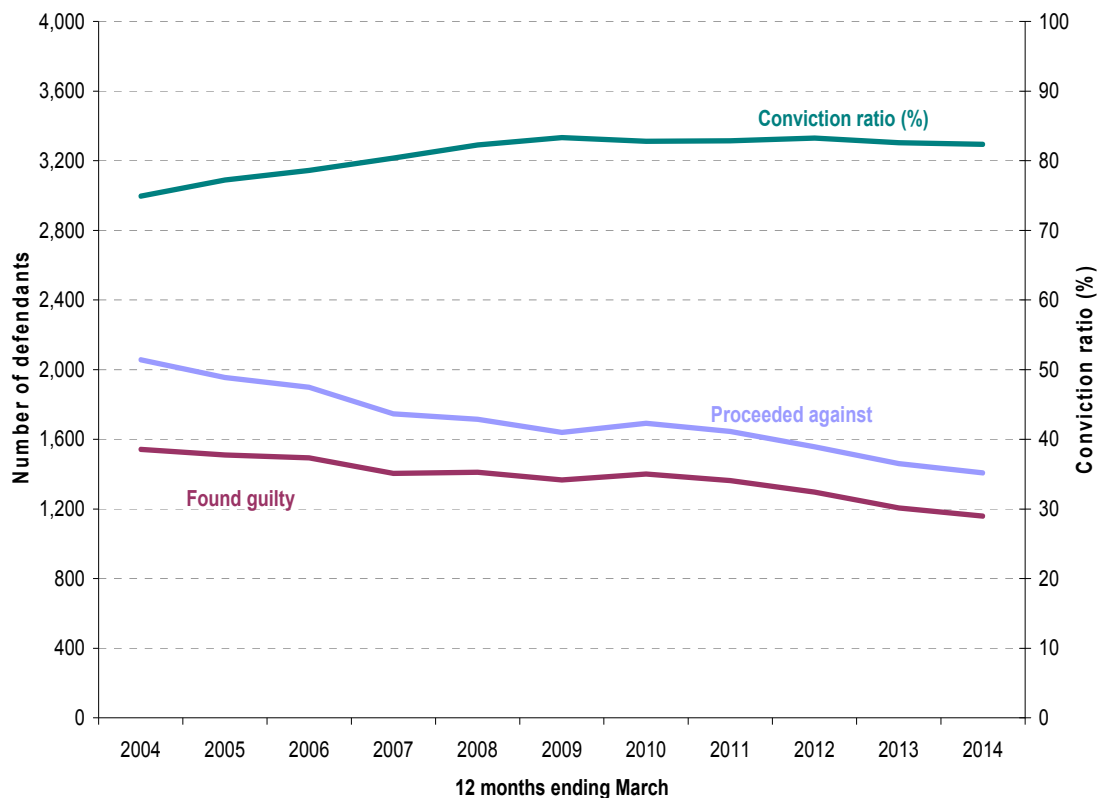


## 4. Offenders Found Guilty

Trends in the number of offenders convicted – that is, defendants who plead or are found guilty – and sentenced at all courts are driven by two factors, namely the number of individuals dealt with through the courts (the trend in prosecutions) and the proportion of those individuals who are found guilty. Conviction ratios are calculated as the number of convictions as a proportion of the number of proceedings. This gives a measure of the relative number of defendants who are found guilty within a given year for a certain offence, when compared with the number who are prosecuted that year for the same offence.

Since the 12 months ending March 2004, convictions have declined almost year on year, in line with declining numbers of individuals proceeded against. The decline in convictions has not been as steep as for proceedings. As a result, the conviction ratio has increased from 75% in the 12 months ending March 2004 to 83% in the 12 months ending March 2009, and has since remained steady, fluctuating between 82% and 83%. In the latest year it was 82%. The complex nature of the CJS means there are a number of possible factors contributing to this change – for example, changes in guilty plea rates, the mix of cases handled in and out of court, impacts of operational changes, and so on – and it is difficult to separately identify the impacts of different factors.

**Figure 4.1: Prosecutions at magistrates' courts and convictions at all courts, with conviction ratio, 12 months ending March 2004 to March 2014**



Sexual offence convictions increased by 5% in the latest year compared with the previous year, an increase was also seen with recorded crime figures<sup>8</sup> (20% increase). Sexual offence prosecutions however increased by 21% over the same

<sup>8</sup> [www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/period-ending-march-2014/stb-crime-stats.html](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/period-ending-march-2014/stb-crime-stats.html)

period, which led to the conviction ratio for sexual offences decreasing from 61% in the 12 months ending March 2013 to 53% in the latest period. The fall in conviction ratio can be explained by considering that prosecutions include cases which may not be finished, i.e. those waiting to go to trial. Sexual offence cases take a longer time to go through the court system than the majority of other offence groups and there are a higher number of incomplete cases. Of those tried at all courts for sexual offences in the latest 12 month period, 69% were convicted – this figure has remained stable for the last 3 years.

## 5. Sentencing

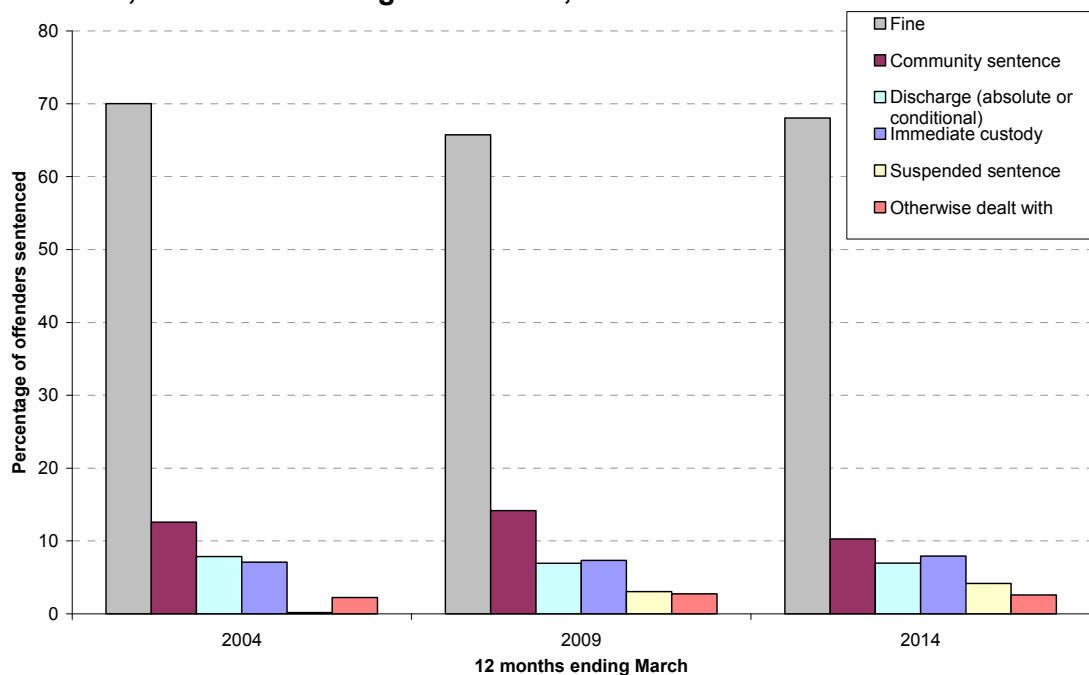
In the 12 months ending March 2014, there were 1.16 million offenders sentenced following a criminal conviction, 4% fewer compared to 12 months ending March 2013.

Fines are the most common sentence given to offenders at all courts (accounting for 68% of offenders sentenced in the latest year), due mainly to the large number of fines issued for summary offences at the magistrates' court. Offenders sentenced for summary offences accounted for 75% of all sentences issued in the latest year. The majority of summary offences (99%) were dealt with entirely in the magistrates' courts, of which 85% were issued fines.

A different distribution of sentences is observed for indictable offences. In the latest year, 27% of offenders sentenced for indictable offences were sentenced to immediate custody (that is, to prison or other form of secure detention), 22% to community sentences, 19% to a fine, and 12% to a Suspended Sentence Order (SSO). Over a quarter of offenders sentenced for indictable offences were sentenced at the Crown Court – of these, 57% received an immediate custodial sentence, reflecting the fact that the most serious offences are likely to be tried on indictment in the Crown Court by a judge and jury.

Overall, the way in which offenders have been sentenced has remained broadly consistent over the last decade. However the use of SSOs rose steadily between the 12 months ending March 2006 and March 2011 – as a result of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, which made SSOs more readily available. More recently the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment Offenders (LASPO) Act 2012 made further changes to the availability of SSOs, resulting in a 12% increase in SSOs for indictable offences between the 12 months ending March 2013 and March 2014. The proportion of offenders given community sentences remained broadly stable until the 12 months ending March 2011, before decreasing in recent years.

**Figure 5.1: Sentencing outcomes (percentages of all offenders sentenced) at all courts, 12 months ending March 2004, March 2009 and March 2014**



The number of persons given a custodial sentence has also fallen over the last two years by 13%, reflecting a decrease in the number of offenders being sentenced, down 11% over the same period.

Between the 12 months ending March 2007 and March 2012, the immediate custody rate (the proportion of all persons sentenced receiving immediate custody) increased up from 6.7% to 8.2%. The custody rate fell slightly to 7.9% in the 12 months to March 2013, before rising to 8.0% in the most recent year. The custody rate for indictable offences in the 12 months to March 2014 was 27%, the highest in the decade and has increased in each of the last three years.

The average custodial sentence length (ACSL), which excludes life and indeterminate sentences, has increased over the last decade, particularly in the last year – up to 15.5 months in 12 months ending March 2014, compared with 14.8 months in the previous 12 month period and 12.5 months in the 12 months ending March 2004. Several factors have contributed to this increase:

- A change in the case-mix of people getting custodial sentences. In the 12 months ending March 2004 indictable offences, (which have a higher ACSL compared to summary offences) accounted for 75% of all immediate custodial sentences, compared to 84% in the 12 months ending March 2014.
- The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act (CJIA) in 2008 restricted the use of indeterminate sentences for Public Protection (IPPs). This coincided with an increase in determinate sentences of 10 years or more.
- The LASPO Act, which was passed on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012, abolished IPPs and replaced them with new Extended Determinate Sentences (EDS). Furthermore it legislated that adult offenders will receive mandatory life sentences for a second serious sexual or violent offence.
- Between 12 months ending March 2004 and March 2014 there has been a steady decrease in the proportion of offenders sentenced to short sentences of more than three and up to six months (from 28% to 19%); while there has been an increase in the proportion of offenders sentenced to more than 18 months and up to three years (from 10% to 13%).
- The proportion of determinate sentences of five years or longer (but less than life) has been increasing steadily since 12 months ending March 2011, with these accounting for 5% of all custodial sentences in 12 months ending 2014 compared with 3% of all custodial sentences in the same period 2011.

Due to current recording issues, an estimate has had to be made, using prison population data, of the number of persons sentenced to immediate custody since 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012 who were given an EDS. The best current estimate is that 900 offenders were sentenced to an EDS between 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, with an ACSL of 8.1 years.

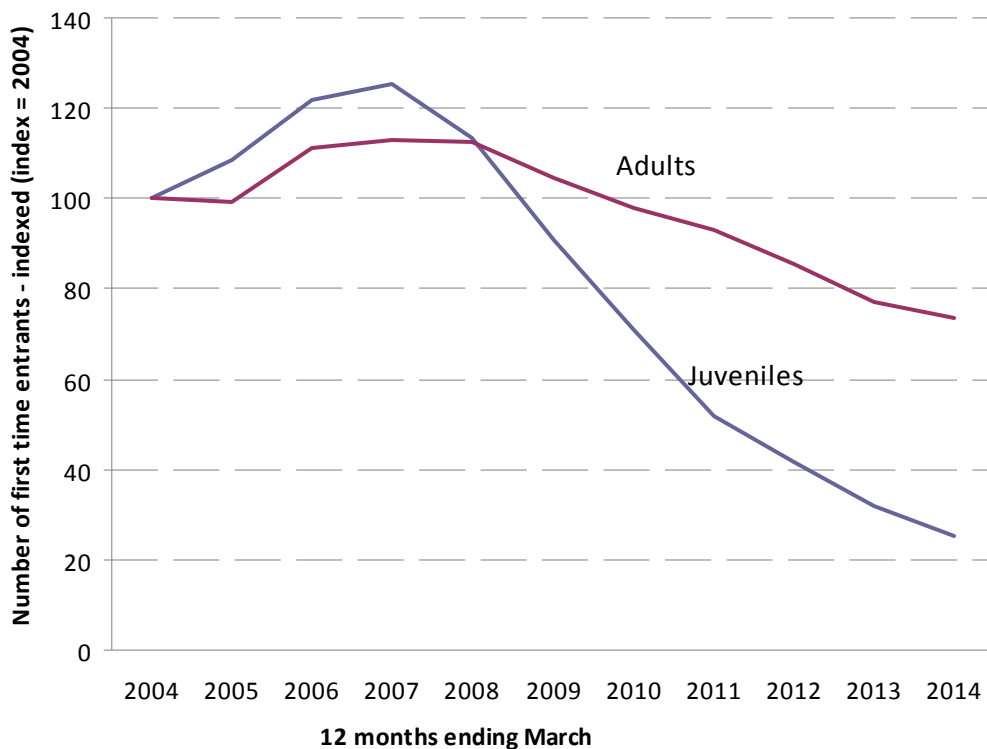
Offenders sentenced for sexual offences have a consistently higher ASCL – 58.7 months in the 12 months ending March 2014, and this has increased in each of the last ten 12 month periods. The custody rate has also increased in each of the last three 12 month periods and was 60% in the 12 months ending March 2014. Only robbery has a higher custody rate (64%).



## 6. Offending Histories

The number of new entrants to the criminal justice system has continued to fall since its peak in the 12 months ending March 2007. Whilst the number and proportion of convicted offenders who have long criminal records has generally been increasing over the last 10 years. The reduction seen in the number of first time entrants has been much sharper for juveniles than for adults.

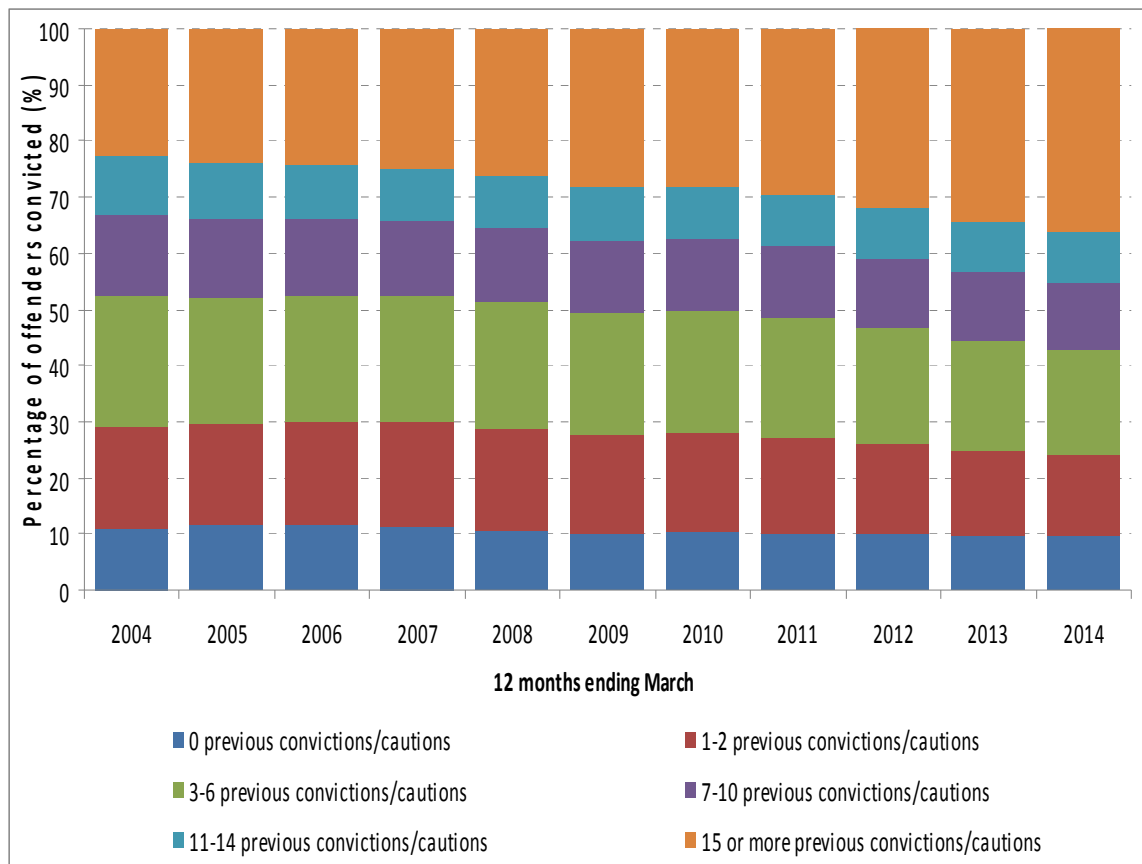
**Figure 6.1: Change in number of juvenile and adult first time entrants to the criminal justice system, 12 months ending March 2004 (index=100) to 12 months ending March 2014**



In the 12 months ending March 2014, just under 105,000 offenders convicted of an indictable offence had 15 or more previous convictions or cautions (long criminal records) at the time. This equates to 36% of all convicted offenders in the year and is up from 23% in the 12 months ending March 2004 (77,200 offenders).

The majority of these prolific offenders already have in excess of 15 previous offences on their record, whereas the group progressing from their 15<sup>th</sup> to their 16<sup>th</sup> conviction or caution has been falling since 2009. This suggests that the increasing numbers of convictions for those with long criminal records are being driven by groups of offenders who already have in excess of 15 previous sanctions (on average around 31 previous sanctions) and not merely by those progressing from their 15<sup>th</sup> to their 16<sup>th</sup> offence.

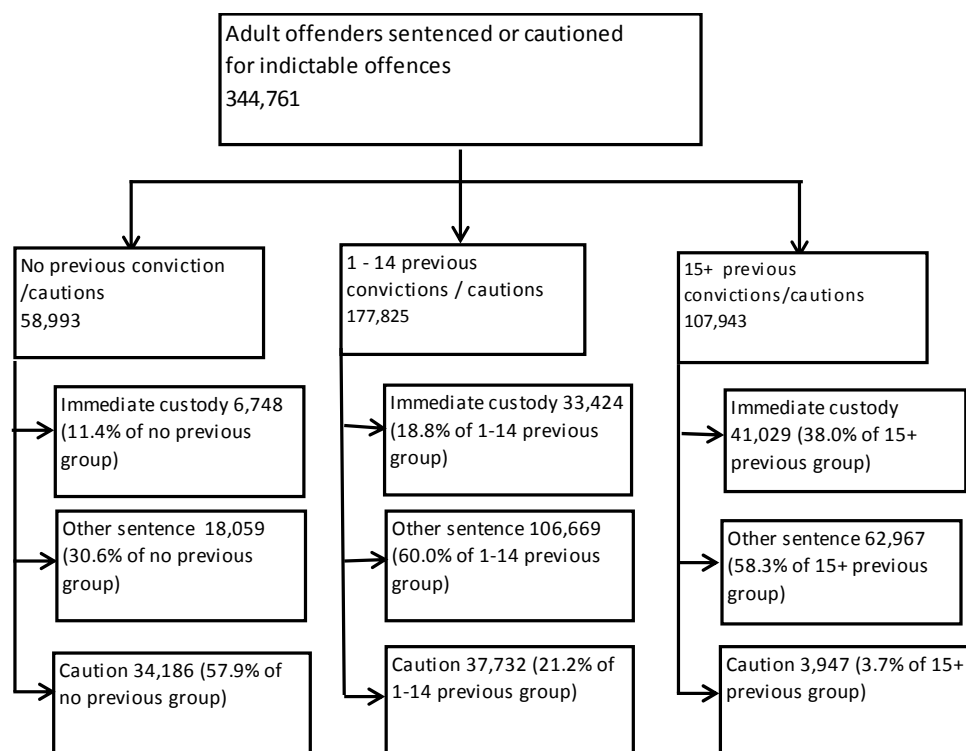
**Figure 6.2 Percentage of offenders convicted of indictable offences, by number of previous convictions or cautions, 12 months ending March 2004 to 12 months ending March 2014**



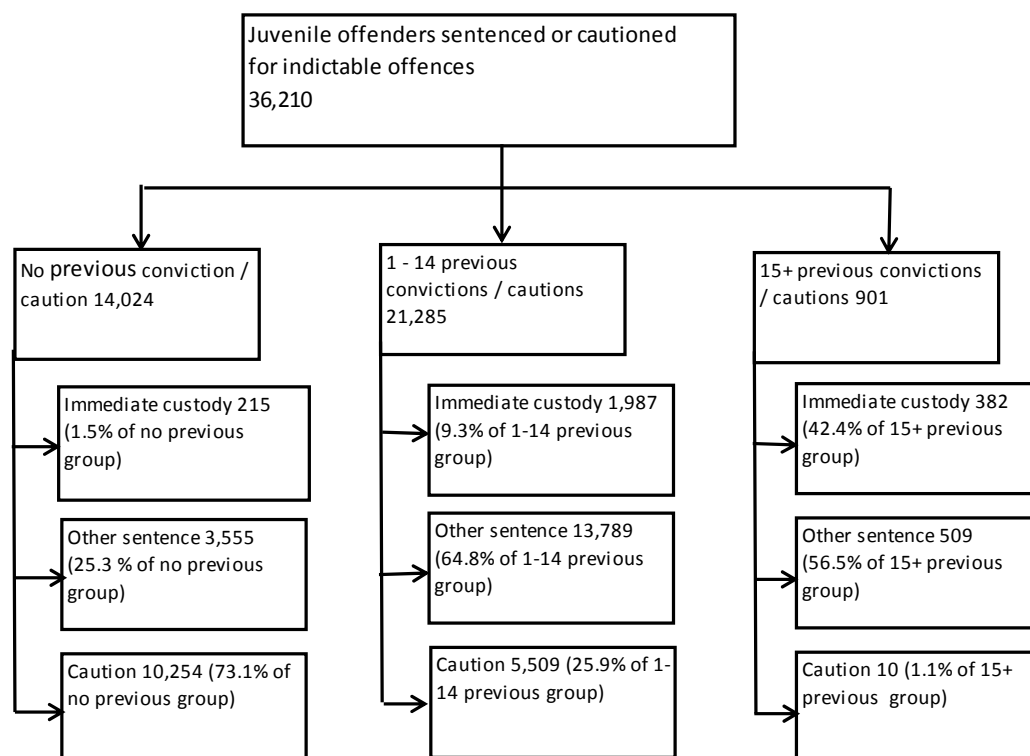
In the 12 months ending March 2014, 60% of those with 15 or more previous cautions and convictions were for offences related to theft – by comparison, only 23% of those with no previous convictions or cautions were convicted for theft offences. In contrast, sexual offences accounted for 8% of convictions for those offenders with no previous history but less than 1% of convictions for those offenders with 15 or more previous convictions or cautions. As might be expected, given that sentencing decisions will typically take into account previous offending history, the proportion of offenders receiving immediate custody for an indictable offence is higher for those groups of offenders with longer criminal histories. In the 12 months ending March 2014, 38% of adults with 15 or more previous convictions or cautions received a custodial sentence compared to 11% for adults with no previous history of offending. The equivalent figures for juveniles were 42% and 2% respectively.

The most common disposal given in the 12 months ending March 2014, for offenders committing an indictable offence with no previous criminal history, was a caution, with this accounting for 73% of juveniles in this group and 58% of adults.

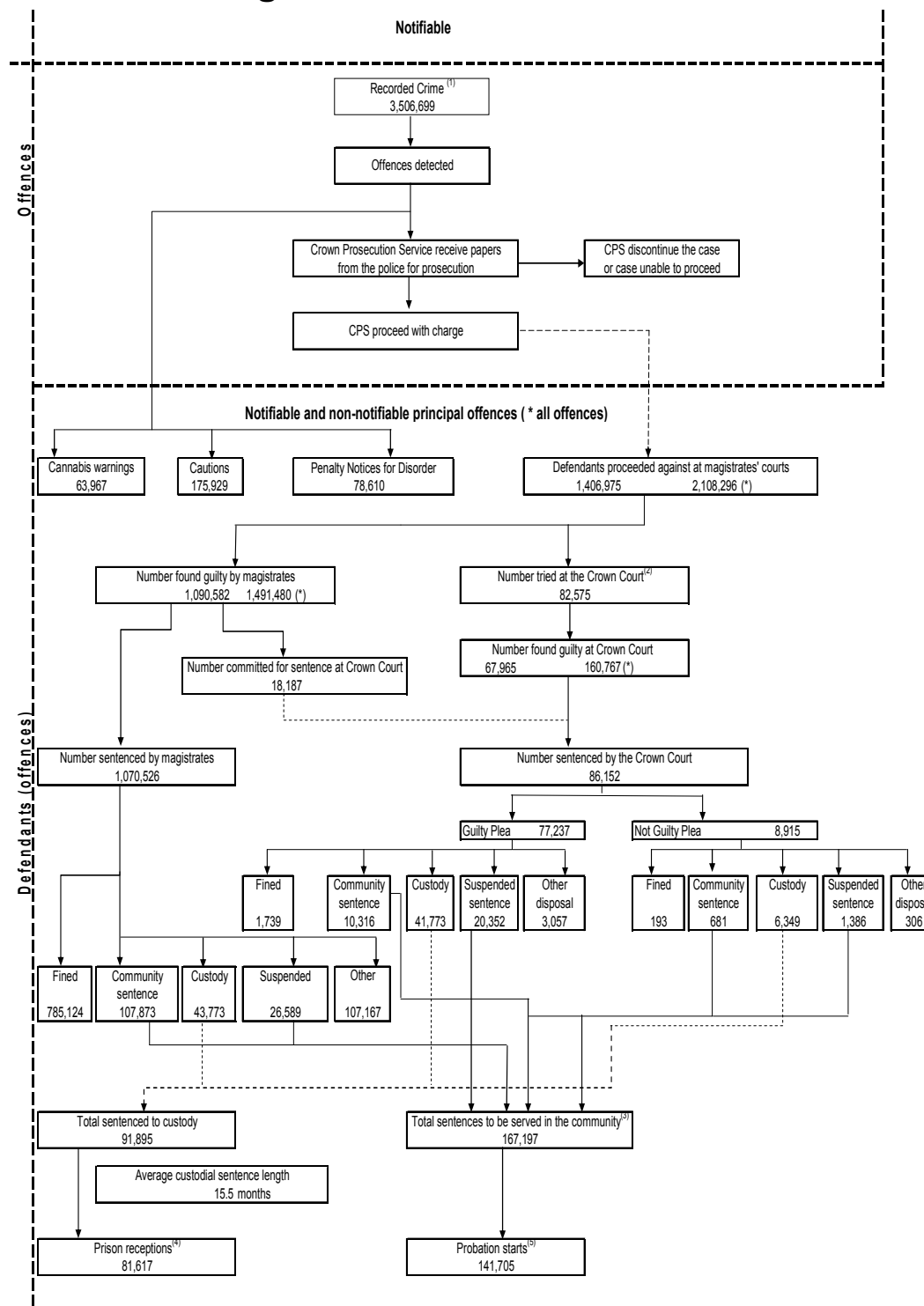
**Figure 6.3 Flow chart showing number of adult offenders cautioned and convicted of indictable offences in England and Wales in 12 months ending March 2014, by previous criminal history and type of disposal received**



**Figure 6.4 Flow chart showing number of juvenile offenders cautioned and convicted of indictable offences in England and Wales in 12 months ending March 2014, by previous criminal history and type of disposal received**



# Flows through the Criminal Justice System, 12 months ending March 2014



(1) Covers all indictable offences, including triable either way, plus a few closely associated summary offences.  
 (2) Defendants tried at the Crown Court in a given year may have been committed for trial by a magistrate in a previous year.  
 (3) Includes community sentences and suspended sentence orders.  
 (4) Receptions for offenders given a custodial sentence (figures include fine defaulters).  
 (5) Offenders starting Community Order or Suspended Sentence Order supervision by the Probation Service.  
 \* Total number of all offences in comparison with the total number of defendants on a principal offence basis.

# Overview Tables

Table Q1.1 - Individuals entering the Criminal Justice System, 12 months ending March 2010 to 12 months ending March 2014

England and Wales

	12 month ending					Percentage change 12 months ending March 2013 to March 2014
	March 2010	March 2011	March 2012	March 2013	March 2014	
<b>Out of court disposals</b>	<b>522,133</b>	<b>460,279</b>	<b>424,620</b>	<b>365,776</b>	<b>318,506</b>	<b>-12.9%</b>
<i>Cannabis warnings</i>	87,332	80,659	77,933	69,236	63,967	-7.6%
<i>Penalty Notices for Disorder<sup>(1)</sup></i>	161,575	138,266	122,805	101,533	78,610	-22.6%
<i>Cautions</i>	273,226	241,354	223,882	195,007	175,929	-9.8%
<b>Defendants proceeded against</b>	<b>1,690,980</b>	<b>1,644,191</b>	<b>1,557,046</b>	<b>1,459,694</b>	<b>1,406,975</b>	<b>-3.6%</b>
<i>Indictable offences<sup>(2)</sup></i>	418,910	438,540	416,911	362,975	361,792	-0.3%
<i>Summary offences</i>	1,272,070	1,205,651	1,140,135	1,096,719	1,045,183	-4.7%
<b>Offenders convicted</b>	<b>1,400,296</b>	<b>1,362,308</b>	<b>1,296,150</b>	<b>1,205,470</b>	<b>1,158,547</b>	<b>-3.9%</b>
<i>Indictable offences</i>	331,170	353,317	339,795	298,080	289,878	-2.8%
<i>Summary offences</i>	1,069,126	1,008,991	956,355	907,390	868,669	-4.3%
<b>Prison receptions<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>93,273</b>	<b>90,783</b>	<b>89,834</b>	<b>84,898</b>	<b>81,617</b>	<b>-3.9%</b>
<b>Probation starts<sup>(4)</sup></b>	<b>167,797</b>	<b>166,219</b>	<b>158,901</b>	<b>144,424</b>	<b>141,705</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>

(1) Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over.

(2) Indictable offences include those triable-either-way.

(3) Receptions for offenders given a custodial sentence (includes fine defaulters).

(4) Offenders starting Community Order or Suspended Sentence Order supervision by the Probation Service.

Table Q1.2 - Offenders sentenced by principal sentence, 12 months ending March 2010 to 12 months ending March 2014

England and Wales						
	12 months ending					Percentage change 12 months ending March 2013 to March 2014
	March 2010	March 2011	March 2012	March 2013	March 2014	
<b>Total offenders sentenced<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>1,398,217</b>	<b>1,360,683</b>	<b>1,294,816</b>	<b>1,203,518</b>	<b>1,156,678</b>	<b>-3.9%</b>
<b>Total persons sentenced<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>1,389,694</b>	<b>1,352,847</b>	<b>1,288,088</b>	<b>1,197,126</b>	<b>1,150,249</b>	<b>-3.9%</b>
Immediate custody (persons)	99,745	102,837	105,452	95,102	91,895	-3.4%
Suspended sentence (persons)	45,913	48,818	47,642	44,032	48,327	9.8%
Community sentence (persons)	190,817	188,235	172,144	139,167	118,870	-14.6%
Fines (all offenders)	938,500	888,596	845,789	813,072	787,056	-3.2%
Other disposals (all offenders)	123,242	132,197	123,789	112,145	110,530	-1.4%
Average custodial sentence length (months) <sup>(3)</sup>	13.7	13.9	14.3	14.8	15.5	4.9%
						<b>Percentage point change</b>
<b>Percentage of those sentenced<sup>(4)</sup></b>						
Immediate custody (persons)	7.2	7.6	8.2	7.9	8.0	0.0
Suspended sentence (persons)	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.7	4.2	0.5
Community sentence (persons)	13.7	13.9	13.4	11.6	10.3	-1.3
Fines (all offenders)	67.1	65.3	65.3	67.6	68.0	0.5
Other disposals (all offenders)	8.8	9.7	9.6	9.3	9.6	0.2

(1) The time lag between conviction and sentencing for cases committed for sentence at Crown Court can result in small differences between total offenders convicted and sentenced within reporting years.

(2) For sentences of immediate custody, suspended sentence and community sentence, 'persons' is the same as 'offenders', as 'others' (such as companies or public bodies) cannot receive these sentences.

(3) Average custodial sentence length excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

(4) May not sum to 100 per cent as all rates are not calculated on the same basis.

Table Q1.3 - Recorded crime and notifiable offence outcomes, 12 months ending March 2004 to 12 months ending March 2014

England and Wales												
	12 months ending											Percentage change 12 months ending March 2013 to March 2014
	March 2004	March 2005	March 2006	March 2007	March 2008	March 2009	March 2010	March 2011	March 2012	March 2013	March 2014	
<b>Recorded crime<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>5,843,549</b>	<b>5,476,771</b>	<b>5,425,691</b>	<b>5,322,377</b>	<b>4,881,140</b>	<b>4,630,383</b>	<b>4,265,036</b>	<b>4,078,475</b>	<b>3,903,581</b>	<b>3,583,191</b>	<b>3,506,699</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>
<b>Out of court disposals</b>	<b>247,767</b>	<b>357,136</b>	<b>498,785</b>	<b>608,127</b>	<b>616,203</b>	<b>560,795</b>	<b>479,474</b>	<b>420,944</b>	<b>391,171</b>	<b>336,672</b>	<b>293,897</b>	<b>-12.7%</b>
Cannabis warnings	n/a	40,138	62,586	80,653	103,804	107,241	87,332	80,659	77,933	69,236	63,967	-7.6%
Penalty Notices for Disorder <sup>(2)</sup>	n/a	51,223	107,513	147,790	136,702	115,625	107,467	90,199	77,915	61,909	45,473	-26.5%
Cautions	247,767	265,775	328,686	379,684	375,697	337,929	284,675	250,086	235,323	205,527	184,457	-10.3%
<b>Proceedings</b>	<b>1,154,051</b>	<b>1,032,331</b>	<b>1,025,047</b>	<b>972,993</b>	<b>977,315</b>	<b>960,685</b>	<b>1,001,162</b>	<b>1,021,961</b>	<b>977,362</b>	<b>879,466</b>	<b>871,619</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>
<b>Convictions</b>	<b>731,384</b>	<b>695,713</b>	<b>720,686</b>	<b>707,579</b>	<b>738,851</b>	<b>754,516</b>	<b>750,449</b>	<b>767,441</b>	<b>743,943</b>	<b>677,283</b>	<b>675,316</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>
<b>Offences taken into consideration</b>	<b>88,204</b>	<b>88,386</b>	<b>103,363</b>	<b>111,328</b>	<b>99,021</b>	<b>96,875</b>	<b>76,244</b>	<b>71,896</b>	<b>63,898</b>	<b>55,197</b>	<b>40,949</b>	<b>-25.8%</b>
<b>Proven offences<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>1,067,355</b>	<b>1,141,235</b>	<b>1,322,834</b>	<b>1,427,034</b>	<b>1,454,075</b>	<b>1,412,186</b>	<b>1,306,167</b>	<b>1,260,281</b>	<b>1,199,012</b>	<b>1,068,152</b>	<b>1,010,162</b>	<b>-5.5%</b>

(1) Excluding fraud offences. For the year ending March 2014 figures, the Office for National Statistics published headline national crime figures that include centralised (Action Fraud) recording of fraud and a separate series which excludes fraud. Due to the staggered move of recording fraud offences by forces to Action Fraud, crime figures are shown excluding fraud offences to allow for consistent comparisons.

(2) Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over. Penalty Notices for Disorder information is only available from 12 months period ending March 2005 onwards.

(3) Includes out of court disposals, convictions and offences taken into consideration.

Table Q1.4 - Recorded crime and notifiable offence outcomes by offence group, 12 months ending March 2013 and 12 months ending March 2014

Offence Group	12 months ending	Recorded crime <sup>(1)</sup>	Cannabis warnings	Penalty Notices for Disorder <sup>(2)</sup>	Cautions	Proceedings	Convictions
Violence against the person	March 2013	601,139	-	-	68,960	200,384	136,245
	March 2014	634,586	-	-	62,138	197,549	135,303
Sexual offences	March 2013	53,620	-	-	1,644	28,630	19,153
	March 2014	64,200	-	-	1,401	33,277	19,864
Robbery	March 2013	65,155	-	-	178	16,096	11,030
	March 2014	57,818	-	-	110	13,510	9,144
Theft offences	March 2013	1,900,948	-	26,871	41,864	236,884	200,199
	March 2014	1,845,243	-	19,342	37,151	237,829	202,396
Criminal damage and arson	March 2013	529,713	-	3,330	23,150	66,779	52,694
	March 2014	506,190	-	1,897	21,487	62,366	50,075
Drug offences	March 2013	208,002	69,236	15,547	41,822	99,510	87,839
	March 2014	198,176	63,967	12,933	38,088	99,183	88,106
Possession of weapons offences	March 2013	19,910	-	-	4,081	22,389	16,290
	March 2014	20,620	-	-	3,355	22,465	16,942
Public order offences	March 2013	132,204	-	16,161	15,105	76,915	58,306
	March 2014	134,433	-	11,301	13,438	72,027	55,680
Miscellaneous crimes against society	March 2013	42,500	-	-	4,601	86,621	63,214
	March 2014	45,433	-	-	4,029	86,434	63,680
Fraud offences <sup>(1)</sup>	March 2013	-	-	-	4,122	45,258	32,313
	March 2014	-	-	-	3,260	46,979	34,126
<b>Total notifiable offences</b>	<b>March 2013</b>	<b>3,553,191</b>	<b>69,236</b>	<b>61,909</b>	<b>205,527</b>	<b>879,466</b>	<b>677,283</b>
	<b>March 2014</b>	<b>3,506,699</b>	<b>63,967</b>	<b>45,473</b>	<b>184,457</b>	<b>871,619</b>	<b>675,316</b>

(1) Excluding fraud offences. For the year ending March 2014 figures, the Office for National Statistics published headline national crime figures that include centralised (Action Fraud) recording of fraud and a separate series which excludes fraud. Due to the staggered move of recording fraud offences by forces to Action Fraud, crime figures are shown excluding fraud offences to allow for consistent comparisons.

(2) Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over.

Table Q1.5 - Summary of criminal justice statistics, 12 months ending March 2004 to 12 months ending March 2014

England and Wales	12 months ending											Thousands	Percentage change 12 months ending Mar-13 to Mar-14										
	March 2004	March 2005	March 2006	March 2007	March 2008	March 2009	March 2010	March 2011	March 2012	March 2013	March 2014												
	<b>Crime measured by Crime Survey for England and Wales<sup>(1)</sup></b>													<b>11,417</b>	<b>10,550</b>	<b>10,581</b>	<b>10,942</b>	<b>9,842</b>	<b>10,283</b>	<b>9,344</b>	<b>9,446</b>	<b>9,345</b>	<b>8,487</b>
<b>Notifiable offences</b>																							
<b>offences recorded by the police<sup>(3)(4)</sup></b>												<b>5,844</b>	<b>5,477</b>	<b>5,426</b>	<b>5,322</b>	<b>4,881</b>	<b>4,630</b>	<b>4,265</b>	<b>4,078</b>	<b>3,904</b>	<b>3,553</b>	<b>3,507</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>
Number of offenders cautioned <sup>(5)</sup>												250	258	314	359	356	322	273	241	224	195	176	-9.8%
of which for indictable offences <sup>(6)</sup>												154	158	191	206	200	178	150	132	120	102	91	-11.3%
Number of offenders issued Penalty Notices for Disorder												*	91	158	209	201	175	162	138	123	102	79	-22.6%
of which for indictable offences <sup>(6)</sup>												*	*	26	42	44	49	59	53	50	42	32	-23.9%
Number of offences detected by means of cannabis warnings (all indictable) <sup>(3)</sup>												*	40	63	81	104	107	87	81	78	69	64	-7.6%
Defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts												2,057	1,955	1,899	1,746	1,714	1,640	1,691	1,644	1,557	1,460	1,407	-3.6%
of which for indictable offences <sup>(6)</sup>												502	433	427	401	401	402	419	439	417	363	362	-0.3%
Defendants found guilty at magistrates' courts												1,481	1,451	1,433	1,344	1,344	1,294	1,321	1,277	1,217	1,138	1,091	-4.1%
of which for indictable offences <sup>(6)</sup>												276	252	256	246	251	252	256	273	264	233	225	-3.6%
Defendants sentenced at the Crown Court after summary conviction												16	15	19	17	17	18	17	19	21	19	18	-4.2%
Defendants tried at the Crown Court												78	76	77	77	82	90	98	106	98	84	83	-1.7%
Defendants found guilty at the Crown Court												60	59	59	59	66	72	79	85	79	68	68	0.1%
of which for indictable offences <sup>(6)</sup>												57	56	57	56	62	69	75	80	76	65	65	0.1%
<b>Total offenders found guilty at both courts</b>												<b>1,541</b>	<b>1,510</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,362</b>	<b>1,296</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>-3.9%</b>
of which for indictable offences <sup>(6)</sup>												334	308	313	302	314	321	331	353	340	298	290	-2.8%
Total offenders found guilty or cautioned <sup>(5)</sup>												1,791	1,768	1,807	1,763	1,766	1,688	1,674	1,604	1,520	1,400	1,334	-4.7%
of which for indictable offences <sup>(6)</sup>												487	466	504	508	513	499	481	485	459	400	380	-4.9%
<b>Total sentenced (offenders)</b>												<b>1,539</b>	<b>1,509</b>	<b>1,491</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>1,408</b>	<b>1,365</b>	<b>1,398</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>1,295</b>	<b>1,204</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>-3.9%</b>
Magistrates' court												1,463	1,434	1,413	1,326	1,326	1,274	1,302	1,257	1,194	1,117	1,071	-4.1%
Crown Court												76	74	78	77	83	91	96	104	100	87	86	-0.8%
Sentence																							
Custody												109	103	102	94	97	100	100	103	105	95	92	-3.4%
Suspended Sentence												3	3	16	37	41	41	46	49	48	44	48	9.8%
Community Sentence												194	201	204	190	195	194	191	188	172	139	119	-14.6%
Fine												1,078	1,054	1,026	943	933	898	939	889	846	813	787	-3.2%
Other Sentences												156	148	144	138	143	132	123	132	124	112	111	-1.4%

\*\* = Not applicable

(1) The offenders dealt with outside of court and defendants proceeded against at magistrates' court in a given year may not relate to the same cases measured by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (known until 1 April 2012 as the British Crime Survey) or those recorded to the police within the same year. The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months prior to interview. Further, offenders found guilty in a given year may have been proceeded against in an earlier year.

(2) Not statistically significant, see Section 8 of the User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales>

(3) Includes British Transport Police.

(4) Excluding fraud offences. For the year ending March 2013 figures, the Office for National Statistics published headline national crime figures that include centralised (Action Fraud) recording of fraud and a separate series which excludes fraud. Due to the staggered move of recording fraud offences by forces to Action Fraud, crime figures are shown excluding fraud offences to allow for consistent comparisons.

(5) Cautions, written warnings and all fixed penalties for summary motoring offences are not covered in this volume but are published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 'Motoring offences and breath tests'.

(6) Indictable offences include those triable-either-way.



**Table 1.6 - Number of offences brought to justice (notifiable) across Local Criminal Justice Board areas, 12 months ending March 2004 to 12 Months ending March 2014**

This table is too large to put in the publication, please see overview tables <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly>

**Table 1.7 - Number of offences brought to justice (notifiable) across Local Criminal Justice Board areas, 12 months ending March 2013 to 12 Months ending March 2014 <sup>(1)</sup>**

CJS Areas	Number of offences (thousands)													
	Recorded Crime <sup>(2)</sup>		Penalty Notice for Disorder		Cannabis Warnings <sup>(P)</sup>		Cautions		Convictions		Offences Taken into Consideration		Offences Brought to Justice	
	12 Month ending March 2013	12 Month ending March 2014	12 months ending March 2013	12 months ending March 2014	12 months ending March 2013	12 months ending March 2014	12 months ending March 2013	12 months ending March 2014	12 months ending March 2013	12 months ending March 2014	12 months ending March 2013	12 months ending March 2014	12 months ending March 2013	12 months ending March 2014
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>3,553.2</b>	<b>3,506.7</b>	<b>61.9</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>205.5</b>	<b>184.5</b>	<b>677.3</b>	<b>675.3</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>1069.2</b>	<b>1010.2</b>
Avon & Somerset	97.9	96.9	1.7	1.2	2.1	1.9	7.3	6.5	21.4	20.9	2.3	2.2	34.8	32.7
Bedfordshire	35.1	36.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	2.0	1.8	6.4	6.3	0.9	0.5	10.0	9.3
British Transport Police	51.7	49.1	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.6	3.0	3.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	6.0	6.2
Cambridgeshire	45.6	44.0	1.1	0.7	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.9	7.8	7.9	0.9	0.8	13.2	12.5
Cheshire	56.6	54.9	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.9	2.9	2.2	11.5	11.9	0.7	0.4	16.7	15.9
Cleveland	39.2	39.0	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	3.6	2.7	11.3	11.2	0.6	0.3	16.6	15.2
Cumbria	23.0	24.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	2.1	1.8	7.4	7.3	0.1	0.1	10.4	10.0
Derbyshire	50.8	52.5	0.7	0.6	1.0	1.0	2.5	2.1	10.6	11.0	0.8	0.6	15.6	15.4
Devon & Cornwall	84.0	85.2	1.1	0.8	1.8	1.8	6.3	5.4	14.5	14.3	1.0	1.2	24.8	23.5
Dorset	39.8	37.2	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.6	2.1	1.7	6.4	6.8	0.3	0.4	9.7	9.8
Co. Durham & Darlington	29.8	32.8	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.4	3.1	3.0	7.9	8.1	0.7	0.6	12.9	12.7
Dyfed Powys	18.7	18.6	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.9	3.7	3.0	6.2	6.3	0.1	0.0	11.8	10.8
Essex	98.6	99.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4	6.0	5.5	17.4	18.8	0.8	1.1	26.8	28.1
Gloucestershire	29.6	29.5	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.4	1.7	1.4	5.1	5.3	0.3	0.5	7.8	7.8
Greater Manchester	180.4	181.9	2.3	1.2	3.4	2.3	7.4	6.3	40.7	40.0	2.4	2.2	56.2	52.0
Gwent	33.9	35.4	1.3	0.9	0.5	0.4	3.2	2.7	9.1	8.2	0.2	0.2	14.3	12.4
Hampshire & Isle of Wight	107.1	103.5	1.7	1.4	2.4	2.4	5.9	5.1	23.7	22.2	1.0	1.1	34.5	32.2
Hertfordshire	52.1	51.4	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.9	4.7	4.1	12.4	11.9	1.4	0.9	22.4	20.6
Humberside	62.8	65.9	1.3	0.8	0.6	0.6	3.5	2.9	14.9	15.3	1.2	0.7	21.4	20.3
Kent	98.4	108.9	2.8	1.7	0.9	1.0	7.9	6.5	17.5	18.7	2.7	0.9	32.0	28.9
Lancashire	92.4	95.4	2.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	6.8	4.8	25.1	23.7	2.7	1.0	37.7	31.6
Leicestershire	58.3	60.8	0.9	0.7	1.1	1.0	4.1	3.4	11.0	10.4	1.8	1.2	18.9	16.6
Lincolnshire	37.1	36.0	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.2	2.1	7.6	6.9	0.5	0.5	11.6	10.5
London	749.3	704.2	10.3	7.3	21.6	19.5	30.9	31.8	102.6	104.2	8.9	6.1	174.4	168.9
Merseyside	89.8	93.3	3.7	3.0	2.6	2.7	4.1	3.7	20.4	20.9	0.4	0.6	31.2	30.8
Norfolk	37.8	38.1	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.9	3.4	3.3	9.9	9.9	1.0	1.1	15.8	15.8
North Wales	37.7	36.5	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6	2.3	2.2	8.9	9.1	0.4	0.3	12.9	12.8
North Yorkshire	34.5	34.5	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.8	1.9	1.9	7.2	7.0	0.5	0.2	12.8	12.1
Northamptonshire	46.3	40.9	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.5	2.6	2.4	20.7	19.9	0.8	0.9	11.4	11.1
Northumbria	66.9	70.1	1.2	0.9	1.4	1.1	6.5	6.8	9.3	9.0	1.1	0.9	30.9	29.6
Nottinghamshire	67.5	68.5	0.5	0.2	1.5	1.3	6.2	5.1	13.7	13.5	1.2	0.7	23.1	20.8
South Wales	83.9	82.1	2.1	1.7	1.2	1.1	4.6	4.6	21.4	22.5	2.0	1.7	31.3	31.6
South Yorkshire	92.6	91.7	2.0	1.4	1.0	0.9	3.5	3.5	15.9	17.3	3.4	1.5	25.8	24.6
Staffordshire	58.1	59.4	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.1	3.8	2.7	10.8	11.2	0.9	0.4	17.7	16.2
Suffolk	39.3	36.4	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.6	2.5	2.2	8.3	8.3	0.5	0.5	12.3	12.0
Surrey	51.8	48.5	1.2	0.9	1.3	1.2	2.3	2.1	9.0	9.1	0.6	0.3	14.4	13.6
Sussex	89.4	83.4	0.9	0.8	1.6	1.3	6.4	5.2	17.4	15.9	0.4	0.1	26.8	23.4
Thames Valley	131.8	127.5	3.6	2.8	2.0	1.7	7.6	7.0	22.0	20.0	1.7	1.5	36.8	32.9
Wanwickshire	29.1	28.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	1.8	1.7	4.0	4.1	0.3	0.5	7.1	6.9
West Mercia	59.5	58.0	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.9	4.2	3.8	11.6	10.7	0.2	0.2	17.7	16.2
West Midlands	168.8	174.5	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.1	6.2	5.4	33.5	34.9	1.0	1.0	44.2	44.2
West Yorkshire	162.4	159.5	2.0	1.6	2.0	1.6	7.9	7.3	28.7	28.2	5.6	4.4	46.2	43.1
Wiltshire	33.6	32.8	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	2.3	1.3	6.1	6.1	0.5	0.3	9.9	8.6

\*\*\* = Not applicable

(P) Provisional

(1) The number of Offences Brought to Justice (OBJT) is in part affected by the number of recorded crimes in an area. If recorded crime in an area falls there will be fewer offences which can potentially be brought to justice.

(2) Excluding fraud offences. For the year ending March 2013 figures, the Office for National Statistics published headline national crime figures that include centralised (Action Fraud) recording of fraud and a separate series which excludes fraud. Due to the staggered move of recording fraud offences by forces to Action Fraud, crime figures are shown excluding fraud offences to allow for consistent comparisons.

**Notes**

TIC and Cannabis warning figures are provisional and may be revised following Home Office validation. National Statistics for the financial year 2013/14 will be published during 2014 by the Home Office. TIC data excludes fraud to allow for a fair comparison over time. Over the last few years the recording of fraud offences and outcomes has moved from police forces to Action Fraud.

## Revisions Policy

In accordance with Principle 2 of the Code of Practice for Office Statistics, the Ministry of Justice is required to publish transparent guidance on its policy for revisions. A copy of this statement can be found at:

[www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/statistics/mojstats/statistics-revisions-policy.pdf](http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/statistics/mojstats/statistics-revisions-policy.pdf)

The Ministry of Justice aims to avoid the need for revisions to publications unless they are absolutely necessary and put systems and processes in place to minimise the number of revisions.

Within the Ministry of Justice's statistical publications there can be three main reasons for statistics to be revised:

- Changes in how either source administrative systems collect information or a change in statistical methodology to improve accuracy and measurement.
- Receipt of subsequent information which alters our understanding of previous periods (for example – late recording on one of the administrative IT systems used operationally).
- Errors in our statistical systems and processes.

Our policy in handling revisions is to be transparent with users about:

- The need for revisions.
- How and when to expect revisions as part of our standard processes.
- The processes by which other revisions will be communicated and published.

To meet these commitments, all of our statistical publications will:

- Ensure that the need for major revisions for any series are pre-announced on the Ministry of Justice website.
- Include a detailed revisions policy within every release.
- Detail how users will be informed of the need for revisions.
- Give detailed and full explanations as to why the revisions were necessary.

In addition, the annual report from the Head of Profession to the National Statistician will:

- Provide information on how many revisions were required to our publications and the reasons for these.
- Publish a time-series of revisions due to errors in our statistical processes and procedures so we can monitor the quality of our outputs.

## Explanatory Notes

The statistics in this bulletin relate to cases in the Crown Court and magistrates' courts in England and Wales during 12 months ending March 2014. This bulletin subsumes a number of previous bulletins including Criminal Statistics: England & Wales, Quarterly Sentencing Statistics, and Young People aged 10-17 receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction.

### Symbols and conventions

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

- = Nil
- \* = Not applicable
- .. = Not available
- (R) = Revised data
- (P) = Provisional data

### Guidance on tables and supplementary volumes

This bulletin is supported by a range of Excel spreadsheet workbooks, pivot tables and CSV files, presenting statistics for the latest calendar year, alongside back series for previous comparable years where applicable. These workbooks, pivot tables and CSV files can be accessed at:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly)

## Contacts

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

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Ministry of Justice, 7th Floor, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ  
Email: [statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk)

General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to: [statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk)

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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