



Statistical Notice

Information on case types at
magistrates' courts and annual tables

Thursday 25 June 2015

Introduction

This document provides information around two areas which are not being published in this edition of the Criminal court statistics quarterly (CCSQ) publication, January to March 2015 – specifically:

- Case type breakdowns in magistrates' courts;
- Additional detailed annual tables

(1) Information on case types at magistrates' courts

The Ministry of Justice receives information from the magistrates' court database, Libra, via two different routes. Information on defendants feeds into the Court Proceedings Database (CPD) and underpins the Criminal Justice Statistics (CJS) quarterly publication. Information on caseload feeds into the Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Services' (HMCTS) Performance Database and underpins this publication, CCSQ.

A difference has been identified between the way that certain offence types are classified within the two data sources of the CPD and the HMCTS Performance Database. This results in slightly different trends in the number of cases at sub group case type level when making comparisons between the two National Statistics publications.

Work is underway, working with colleagues in HMCTS, to investigate both data sources and devise a solution of how best to present the data in both publications and ensure consistent messaging around trends.

Whilst this is being investigated, we have delayed the publication, in CCSQ, of the following table:

- Table M7 – Average number of days taken from offence to completion for all summary cases at the magistrates' courts, quarter 1 2010 to quarter 1 2015

Further, we have presented the information on **total cases only** (i.e. excluded data broken down by case type) in the following tables:

- Table M1 – Receipts, disposals and outstanding criminal cases at the magistrates' courts, quarter 2 2012 to quarter 1 2015;
- Table M5 – Average time from offence to completion, percentage of proceedings completed at first listing and average number of hearings for all criminal cases at the magistrates' courts by initial plea, quarter 2 2012 to quarter 1 2015
- Table M6 – Average number of days taken from offence to completion for all criminal cases at the magistrates' courts, quarter 2 2012 to quarter 1 2015;
- Table C13 – Average number of days taken from offence to completion for criminal cases, quarter 2 2010 to quarter 1 2015;
- Table C14 – Average number of days taken from offence to completion for criminal cases by offence group, quarter 1 2014 & quarter 1 2015.

It should be noted that Crown Court data are not affected by the same issues.

Timescales for release of delayed information

We are aiming to devise a solution to the issue ahead of the next CJS quarterly publication in August and we will then publish tables, including the breakdowns by case types, within the next quarterly publication of CCSQ, pre-announced for 24 September 2015.

In the meantime, if users wish to use data on case type, provisional data up to December 2014 can be found in the previous publication, which can be accessed at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-court-statistics-quarterly-october-to-december-2014>

Queries on how to use and interpret the data can be made to the lead statistician responsible for this publication, with contact details provided at the end of this notice.

(2) Release of annual Criminal Court Statistics tables in the next publication

Whilst attention is devoted to the investigative work on the magistrates' courts data outlined in (1) above, we are delaying the production of the annual tables for both magistrates' courts and Crown Court (such as providing tabulated regional breakdowns) which would typically accompany the January to March publication. This allows us to publish a full set of annual tables, for both magistrates' courts and Crown Court, in September.

Timescales for release of delayed information

These tables will be released with the next quarterly publication, pre-announced for 24 September 2015. This publication will include the final quarterly figures for 2014, revised figures for January to March 2015, the first release of April to June 2015 data, and the additional annual tables mentioned above. We are also aiming to devise the solution to the presentational issue outlined in (1) in time to include the case type breakdown in magistrates' courts for all time periods up to April to June 2015.

Contacts

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

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

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