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Home Office Statistical Bulletin

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ISSN 1759 7005
ISBN 978-1-78246-412-9

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14

(First edition)

Chris McKee

17th July 2014

HOSB: 01/14

Contents

	Page
Important Information	3
Further Information	4
Executive Summary	5
1 Introduction	6
1.1 Overview	6
1.2 Background: The Outcomes Framework	6
1.3 The Outcomes Framework Introduced in April 2013	6
1.4 The Broader Outcomes Framework Introduced in April 2014	7
1.5 Interpreting the Outcomes Framework	9
1.6 Data Shown in this Bulletin	10
1.7 Police Recorded Crime	10
1.8 Consultation	11
2 Outcomes Statistics for 2013/14	12
2.1 Introduction	12
2.2 Outcome Numbers by Outcome Type and Offence Group	13
2.3 Fraud Outcomes Data – Experimental Statistics	15
3 Future plans for Reporting on Outcomes	18
3.1 Outline of Intentions	18
3.2 Outcomes Based on the Full April 2014 Framework	18
3.3 Outcomes of All Offences Recorded In A Period	21
3.4 The Time Gap Between Offences and Outcomes	22
3.5 Future Timeliness of Outcomes Statistics	23
3.6 Consultation with Users	24
Annex A No-Crimes in England and Wales	25
A1 Definitions and Circumstances for No-Crimes	25
A2 No-Crime Statistics	25
A3 HMIC Findings on the Quality of No-Criming	26
A4 Comparing No-Crimes Across Police Forces	26

Annex B	Former Detection Rates	27
	B1 The Detection Rate Concept	27
	B2 Former Detection Rates	27
Annex C	Crime Outcomes Data Quality	29
	C1 Introduction	29
	C2 Data Sources Used	29
	C3 Data Validation Processes	29
	C4 The Home Office Data Hub	30
Tables	.....	31
Notes	.....	38
References	.....	40

Important information

There was a significant change from the former detections framework to the new outcomes framework in April 2013, and subsequently there is a change to the way in which statistics in this bulletin are presented. Therefore the Chief Statistician and Head of Profession for Statistics in the Home Office, following discussions with the UK Statistics Authority, has requested that the Authority approve that this bulletin is designated as Official Statistics, rather than National Statistics. This reflects the transitional nature of this bulletin and the fact that we are taking this opportunity to consult users of the statistics on how the data should best be presented in future, prior to inviting the UK Statistics Authority to assess the new output. The correspondence between the Chief Statistician in the Home Office and the UK Statistics Authority can be found on the correspondence section of the UK Statistics Authority website:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence>

This decision was also influenced by the recent changes to the designation of police recorded crime data. In accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, statistics based on police recorded crime data were assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The full assessment report can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-268---statistics-on-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf>

Given that the outcomes data come from the same source as police recorded crime data, i.e. the returns sent in by police forces, the issues raised by the UK Statistics Authority in their assessment of crime data are also relevant for the outcomes data.

We have made every effort to ensure that these statistics: meet identified user needs (including providing new analysis and greater transparency); are well explained and readily accessible; are produced according to sound methods; and are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest. However, we are committed to developing and evaluating them further over the next year, based on further communication with both the data providers (police forces) and users of the statistics. It is then our intention that the statistics will be assessed, with a view to them gaining National Statistics status.

Further information

The "Crimes detected in England and Wales, 2012/13" bulletin is available from:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/crimes-detected-in-england-and-wales>

Copies of other Home Office publications (including crime statistics releases prior to April 2012) are available from:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/crime-statistics#publications>

Copies of crime statistics publications from April 2012 are available from the Office for National Statistics website: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+and+Justice>

This includes the *User Guide to Crime Statistics*, a useful reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications that are key to the production and presentation of the crime statistics.

The dates of forthcoming publications are pre-announced and can be found via the UK National Statistics Publication Hub: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html>

For further information about police recorded crime statistics, please email:
crimestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or write to:
Home Office Statistics, 1st Floor, Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

Home Office Responsible Statistician

David Blunt, Chief Statistician and Head of Profession for Statistics
Contact via crimestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

This statistical bulletin is produced to the highest professional standards and is free from political interference. It has been produced by statisticians working in the Home Office Statistics Unit in accordance with the Home Office's [Statement of Compliance](#) with the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*, which covers our policy on revisions and other matters. The Home Office Statistics Unit works under the direct line management of the Home Office Chief Statistician, who reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters.

Executive Summary

BACKGROUND - THE NEW OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

- A new, broader outcomes framework was introduced in two phases from April 2013. This framework, containing 19 categories, covers the full range of ways in which the police can deal with a crime.
- Full data based on this new framework are not yet available. However, in this bulletin preliminary findings based on partial data are presented, and plans for the July 2015 bulletin are outlined.

2013/14 OUTCOMES DATA

The key findings from the 2013/14 outcomes data were:

- Between 2012/13 and 2013/14 the proportion of all offences dealt with by a charge/summons increased from 16.5 per cent to 17.2 per cent, mainly due to an increase in the number of theft offences dealt with in this way. This is the highest rate since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in 2002/03.
- The change in the charge/summons rate varied considerably by offence type, generally reflecting the changes in recorded crime between the two years. This was indicated by the charge/summons rates remaining fairly similar. The number of charge/summons increased for theft offences (up 6%), violent offences (up 6%), and sexual offences (up 17%), but fell for robbery (down 8%) and criminal damage offences (down 4%).
- Charge/summons rates vary considerably by offence type. Over two thirds (68%) of 'possession of weapons' offences were dealt with via a charge/summons, while around one in nine (11%) of theft offences were.
- The number of offences dealt with by a caution in 2013/14 fell for all offence types compared with the previous year, with a particularly large percentage fall for robbery offences (down 41%, from 282 to 166). This was partly due to changes in the guidance on issuing cautions.

INTENTIONS FOR THE JULY 2015 BULLETIN

Next year the Home Office intends to publish analysis of outcomes in two main ways:

1. All outcomes assigned during the previous financial year (2014/15). This will be based on the broader outcomes framework introduced in April 2014 (outcomes 1-19). Preliminary analysis is presented in section 3.2.
2. The subset of outcomes that relate to offences recorded in 2014/15 i.e. excluding those outcomes that relate to offences from previous years. This would indicate, for example, the proportion of offences that resulted in a charge/summons, the proportion that resulted in a suspect not being identified, and the proportion that were still under investigation. Preliminary analysis is presented in section 3.3.

Additionally, the Home Office also intends to present analysis on the time between offences being recorded and an outcome being assigned to them. Preliminary analysis is presented in section 3.4.

1 - Introduction

1.1 – OVERVIEW

This bulletin reports on the outcomes of crimes recorded by the 43 police forces in England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. It replaces the annual detections bulletin following the introduction of the new outcomes framework in April 2013. The move from detections to outcomes is a significant change, with an emphasis on greater transparency on how all crimes recorded by the police are dealt with. The previous focus on detections (i.e. crimes resolved via a sanction against the offender, such as a charge, summons or caution) gave a partial picture of the work police do to investigate and resolve crime.

This publication represents the transition from the old detections bulletin to the new outcomes framework. In section 1.8 we describe our intentions to consult with users of these statistics on how outcomes data are presented in the future.

1.2 – BACKGROUND: THE OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

In October 2012, a public consultation was launched to propose a new framework for recorded crime outcomes, which would replace the existing detections framework. The majority of respondents supported the proposals for this new framework and agreed that it would provide increased transparency on how crimes are dealt with by the police. As discussed in sections 1.4 and 1.5, the new framework provides a more complete set of information on how the police deal with crime, with all crimes now assigned an outcome.

The Government response to this consultation was published in March 2013, with the Government committing to adopt this new framework. This consultation response can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/157796/consultation-response.pdf

1.3 – THE OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK INTRODUCED IN APRIL 2013

Following the consultation, the Government introduced a new crime outcomes framework in April 2013. Given that there was some disagreement in the consultation responses on how to deal with cases where no further action was taken by the police, the Government decided to adopt a phased approach to implementing the new framework. This allowed further discussion with the police and other stakeholders to ensure that the content and terminology used for the final set of additional outcomes was based on a full understanding of their impact.

The outcomes framework introduced in April 2013 therefore did not cover cases where the police took no further action. It did, however, expand the existing detections framework, by providing more detail on out of court disposals. Importantly, data on community resolutions were collected from all police forces on a mandatory basis, having previously been a voluntary collection.

This framework was therefore an important first step in the transition to a full set of crime outcomes in April 2014 (see section 1.4). The outcomes framework introduced in April 2013 can be seen in table 1.1, alongside the detections framework that it replaced.

1.4 – THE BROADER OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK INTRODUCED IN APRIL 2014

In late 2013, the Government finalised the broader outcomes framework that would be introduced in April 2014. This broader framework builds on the nine categories included in the April 2013 outcomes framework, by adding a further ten outcomes. These covered a range of scenarios where a crime would previously have been classed as 'undetected' or 'no further action taken', and therefore never received a formal 'outcome' in the published figures. The new, expanded framework further increases the transparency of police recorded crime data, with every recorded crime now given an outcome. Therefore it will be possible to see the outcome assigned to every crime that is dealt with by the police.

It is important to bear in mind that at any given time, there will also be a subset of offences where the investigation of the crime is still ongoing and an outcome has not yet been assigned. Therefore while every crime will eventually be given an outcome under the April 2014 framework, this may take some time while the crimes are investigated. Data on outcomes for a given period will therefore be subject to ongoing revisions as investigations into crimes are completed and outcomes are assigned. This is discussed further in section 3.3.

Table 1.1 shows the three frameworks alongside each other for comparison:

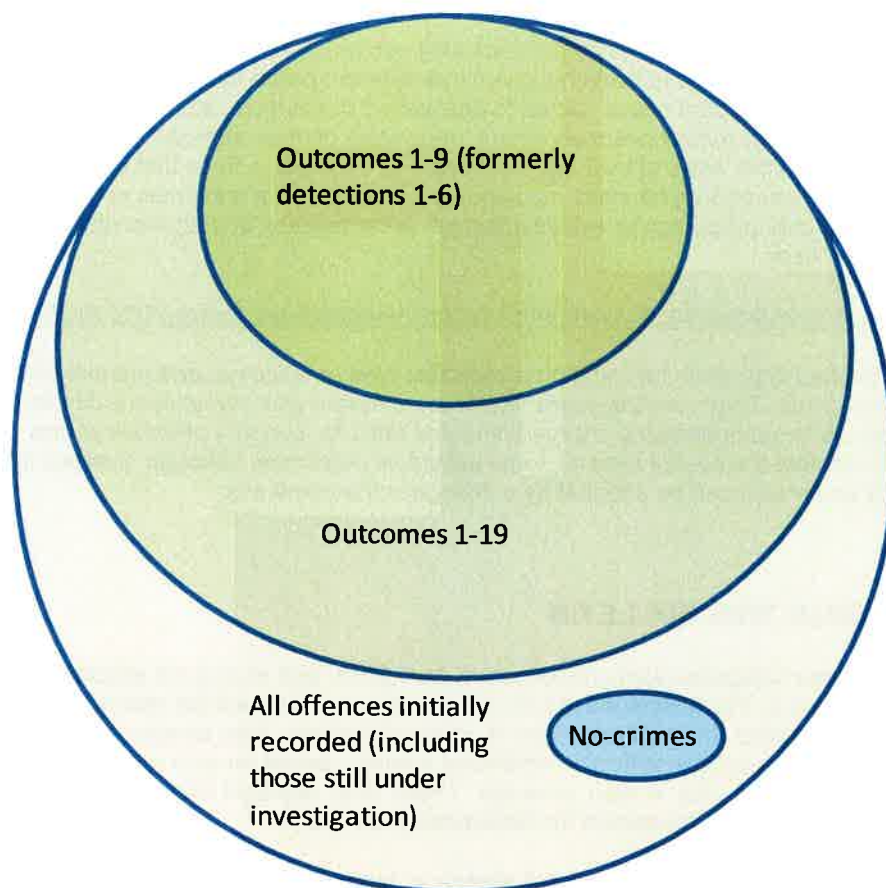
- The detections framework in place until April 2013 (outcomes 1-6)
- The outcomes framework in place between April 2013 and March 2014 (outcomes 1-9)
- The broader outcomes framework in place from April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-19)

Table 1.1: Detection types in place prior to April 2013 and the outcomes frameworks in place thereafter

Detections framework – prior to April 2013 (outcomes 1-6)	Outcomes framework – April 2013 to March 2014 (outcomes 1-9)	Outcomes framework – April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-19)
1. Charge/Summons	1. Charge/Summons	1. Charge/Summons
2. Caution	2. Caution – youths	2. Caution – youths
	3. Caution – adults	3. Caution – adults
3. Taken into consideration (TIC) – previously recorded	4. Taken into consideration (TIC)	4. Taken into consideration (TIC)
4. Taken into consideration (TIC) – not previously recorded		
5. Fixed Penalty Notices	6. Penalty Notices for Disorder	6. Penalty Notices for Disorder
6. Other	5. The Offender has Died (indictable only/sexual offences)	5. The Offender has Died (all offences)
	7. Cannabis Warning	7. Cannabis Warning
	8. Community Resolution	8. Community Resolution
	9. Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS) (indictable only offences)	9. Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS) (all offences)
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	10. Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (Police decision)
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	11. Prosecution prevented - Named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	12. Prosecution prevented - Named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	13. Prosecution prevented - Named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	14. Evidential Difficulties Victim Based – Named suspect not identified: The crime is confirmed but the victim either declines/ or is unable to support further police investigation to identify the offender.
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	15. Named Suspect identified: the crime is confirmed and the victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	16. Named Suspect identified: evidential difficulties prevent further action; victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	17. Prosecution time limit expired: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired.
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	18. Investigation Complete: No suspect identified. Crime investigated as far as reasonably possible - case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>	19. National Fraud Intelligence Bureau - filed (NFIB only) - A crime of fraud has been recorded but has not been allocated for investigation, because the assessment process at the NFIB has determined there are insufficient lines of enquiry to warrant such dissemination.

Figure 1.1 shows how the outcomes framework introduced in April 2014 includes the same categories as the previous detections and outcomes frameworks, but also provides additional information on other crime outcomes.

Figure 1.1 – diagram showing how all crimes initially recorded are dealt with by the police



Note: Not to scale

In addition to expanding the April 2013 outcomes framework, changes have also been made to the guidance provided to the police on recording outcomes. For example, in cases where there is a change in the outcome assigned by the police, the police should change the outcome to reflect the latest recorded. This is particularly relevant in the case of outcome 18, where no suspect is initially identified, but subsequent evidence may identify a suspect and lead to another outcome. In these cases the outcome should be updated to reflect this change, meaning that outcomes data are likely to be revised over time as police forces update the outcomes of some crimes.

1.5 – INTERPRETING THE OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

The outcomes framework changes the way in which the Home Office are able to report on how crimes are dealt with by the police. Under the new outcomes framework a broader range of information on how the police deal with crime will be available, compared with the narrow definition of a detected crime that was available previously. All crimes will now be assigned an outcome. As table 1.1 shows, in addition to the former outcome types (1-6) such as charge/summons and caution, data will now be available on cases where there have been, for example, evidential difficulties in proceeding, or the victim is unwilling to proceed, or no suspect has been found.

As a result, the concept of a detection rate is not appropriate as an overall picture of how crimes are dealt with, or as a measure of police activity. This is because it only considers a small subset of the ways in which the police actually deal with crimes. It can also lead to perverse incentives in target

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14

setting amongst police forces. Therefore in future we do not intend to publish a detection rate that is aligned with those shown in previous years. However, data on the individual outcomes that constituted the detection rate will continue to be collected and published as part of the full set of outcomes (1-19). For 2013/14, these data are shown in chapter 2. For continuity, we show data based on the former detection rate in Annex B of this publication, but urge consideration of the information highlighted here when interpreting this rate.

Great care needs to be taken when making comparisons between police forces. In some cases making any such comparisons may be misleading, given that different police forces use outcomes in different ways and will have a different mix of crimes to deal with. For example, some police forces may implement more community resolutions than others, depending on their approach, the nature of the crimes they deal with and the views of their communities. For example, a force that deals with a disproportionately high number of drug offences may apply a different mix of outcomes compared with a force that deals with a higher proportion of violent offences. A comparison of outcome rates by police force can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014>

This bulletin considers rates only when focusing on a particular type of outcome, and primarily shows breakdowns by offence group. These are the cases where more meaningful comparisons can be drawn. An example would be comparing the charge/summons rates for burglary offences across police forces. It does consider the overall rates of some individual outcomes, although changes in these from one period to the next can be affected by a change in the crime mix.

1.6 – DATA SHOWN IN THIS BULLETIN

The new, broader outcomes categories were introduced in April 2014, and so it is not possible to show a full set of annual statistics in this bulletin based on them. However, they will be reported on in the next annual bulletin, in July 2015. In chapter 3 there is some preliminary data analysis based on the full set of outcomes (1-19) for a subset of forces. Additional analysis based on data provided by some forces via the Home Office Data Hub is also provided. These both highlight the intention to report these data in future bulletins and are presented for consideration by users.

Chapter 2 in this bulletin focuses on outcomes 1-6 shown in table 1.1, as these were the ones for which data was collected between April 2013 and March 2014. This period was before the broader set of outcomes (1-19) was implemented.

The Home Office Data Hub allows forces to provide record-level detail on offences, vastly increasing the opportunities for analysis of police recorded crime data. Crucially in the case of crime outcomes, the Data Hub also allows outcomes to be linked to their relevant offence. Previously, data has only been available on the total number of offences and the total number of outcomes recorded in any given period, with no way of linking the two together to produce figures on a common set of crimes. Using the Data Hub it is possible to see which outcome is applied to each offence. Some preliminary analysis based on this extra information is shown in chapter 3. This analysis is intended to be expanded in future publications. This kind of analysis can provide further transparency for both crime and outcome data.

1.7 – POLICE RECORDED CRIME

The police recorded crime data used in this bulletin are supplied by police forces to the Home Office, and are then published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in "Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2014":

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales>

ONS publish police recorded crime statistics both including and excluding fraud (as measured by a combination of data from the police and Action Fraud). For the reasons documented in chapter 2, the

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14

headline outcome statistics in this bulletin exclude fraud. For consistency, ONS's series of police recorded crime used for comparisons is the version that excludes fraud.

In accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, statistics based on police recorded crime data have been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The full assessment report can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-268---statistics-on-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf>

Recorded crime statistics provide important context to outcomes statistics, and are quoted where relevant in this bulletin.

1.8 – CONSULTATION

To reflect the change in the outcomes framework from April 2014, it is the intention of the Home Office Statistics Unit to present outcomes in a number of different ways in future years, taking advantage of the increased transparency that the new framework brings. Many of these changes are shown in chapter 3, and in section 3.6 a series of questions are asked on these changes, and how valuable users would find them.

The Home Office Statistics Unit invites users to consider these proposed changes and would very much value comments and feedback to help shape future publications.

2 Outcomes Statistics for 2013/14

2.1 – INTRODUCTION

Statistics on crimes recorded by the police that appear in “Crimes in England and Wales: Year ending March 2014” are based on notifiable offences. These include all offences that could possibly be tried by jury (including some less serious offences, such as minor theft, that would not normally be dealt with in this way) plus a few closely related summary (heard only by magistrates) offences, such as assault without injury. For a list of all notifiable offences please see Appendix 1 of the ONS User Guide, which can be found under the Guidance and Methodology section:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales>

The 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales and the British Transport Police provide the Home Office with aggregate returns on the number of notifiable crimes and the number of outcomes they have recorded each year. Historically, it has not been possible to link individual outcomes to the crime that they relate to. However, in chapter 3 the intention to report on these data in future years is discussed, using data available via the Home Office Data Hub.

The outcome (formerly detection) rates described in this chapter are the number of a particular outcome recorded in a period as a proportion of crimes recorded in the same period. In practice, this means that some crime types could show an outcome rate of over 100 per cent, as some outcomes are recorded in a different year to the year that the police recorded the crime. This is sometimes the case for relatively low volume crimes.

Outcome rates are not a direct measure of police investigative performance, and need to be interpreted with care. For example, some of the offences with the highest outcome rates are the offences most influenced, in terms of their recorded numbers, by proactive policing to apprehend offenders. For example, drug offences are often resolved at the point of the crime being ‘discovered’, as are many of the offences in the ‘other crimes against society’ category.

There may also be circumstances in which a crime may have been fully investigated, but an outcome is not recorded. An example would be where the police are satisfied that they have identified an offender, but the victim is unwilling to cooperate further in an investigation, or does not wish for formal action to be taken. These cases are included in the outcome framework (outcomes 1-19) introduced in April 2014, but data on these for all police forces will only be available in future annual publications.

Fraud offences

In April 2011, Action Fraud began taking over the recording of fraud offences from the individual police forces in England and Wales, a process that was completed by the end of March 2013. The implementation of Action Fraud as a single national fraud reporting centre appears to have led to an increase in the number of fraud offences recorded, as this provides an easier way for the public to report such offences, and centralises expertise in these cases. While forces continue to investigate frauds following this change, they do so only for those cases referred to them by Action Fraud.

Outcomes data for the National Fraud Investigation Bureau (NFIB) are included in section 2.3 of this bulletin. However, because this is the first time that these data have been made available, and they are subject to ongoing quality assurance, they should be treated with caution at this stage. They are therefore excluded from the main outcomes figures, given the complexity involved in these data (see figure 2.2).

Community Resolutions

Data on community resolutions were previously collected from police forces on a voluntary basis, and in 2012/13 around half of forces supplied figures to the Home Office. However, for 2013/14 all forces were required to provide these data under the “Other” outcomes category. As a result, the number of outcomes in the “Other” category will be higher than those shown in previous years.

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14

2.2 – OUTCOME NUMBERS BY OUTCOME TYPE AND OFFENCE GROUP

Table 2.1 shows the number of each outcome recorded by the police in 2013/14, by offence group, alongside the number of offences that were recorded during the same period. The outcomes data are based on the limited subset of outcomes for which data were available in 2013/14, namely outcomes 1-6 from table 1.1, plus separate data on cannabis warnings.

Table 2.1: Outcomes recorded in 2013/14, by outcome type (outcomes 1-6) and offence group

Offence group	Recorded crime	England and Wales, Recorded crime					
		Charge/ summons	Cautions	TICs ¹	PNDs ²	Cannabis Warnings ³	Other ⁴
<i>Number of outcomes</i>							
Violence against the person	634,586	166,712	60,722	102	116	n/a	37,081
Sexual offences	64,200	15,254	1,416	70	17	n/a	855
Robbery	57,818	11,448	166	280	0	n/a	103
Theft offences	1,845,243	203,419	31,750	39,147	20,111	n/a	44,146
Criminal damage and arson	506,190	46,195	18,214	1,012	2,047	n/a	19,051
Drug offences	198,176	69,884	34,409	94	14,768	63,967	687
Possession of weapons offences	20,620	14,067	3,083	1	2	n/a	398
Public order offences	134,433	52,519	10,347	38	9,790	n/a	6,202
Misc. crimes against society	45,433	24,491	4,082	205	44	n/a	822
Total	3,506,699	603,989	164,189	40,949	46,895	63,967	109,345
<i>Outcome rate (%)</i>							
Violence against the person		26.3	9.6	0.0	0.0	n/a	5.8
Sexual offences		23.8	2.2	0.1	0.0	n/a	1.3
Robbery		19.8	0.3	0.5	0.0	n/a	0.2
Theft offences		11.0	1.7	2.1	1.1	n/a	2.4
Criminal damage and arson		9.1	3.6	0.2	0.4	n/a	3.8
Drug offences		35.3	17.4	0.0	7.5	32.3	0.3
Possession of weapons offences		68.2	15.0	0.0	0.0	n/a	1.9
Public order offences		39.1	7.7	0.0	7.3	n/a	4.6
Misc. crimes against society		53.9	9.0	0.5	0.1	n/a	1.8
Total		17.2	4.7	1.2	1.3	n/a	3.1

1. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court.

2. Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs).

3. Cannabis Warnings include a small number of community resolutions for possession of cannabis in 2013/14.

4. Mainly consists of community resolutions, plus a small number of cases where the offender has died, or the CPS has decided that prosecution is not in the public interest. This does not include the broader set of outcomes (10-19) introduced in April 2014.

n/a Not applicable.

As table 2.1 shows, the proportion of offences that result in a charge/summons varies considerably by offence type. For example:

- Over two thirds (68%) of 'possession of weapons' offences are dealt with via a charge/summons, whilst around one tenth (11%) of theft offences are.
- Violent (26%) and sexual (24%) offences both had about a quarter of offences leading to a charge/summons.

Given the different natures of the crime types shown in this table, it is unsurprising that some outcome types are more common for some crime types than others. This reflects the severity of the crime types, and the guidance on outcomes given to police forces.

As previously mentioned, the number of outcomes and number of recorded offences should be compared with caution, as the outcomes do not necessarily relate to the same period as the offences. Some of the outcomes will refer to offences that were recorded in previous years, and were allocated an outcome following completion of the investigation. The outcome rate should therefore be treated as indicative only.

Between 2012/13 and 2013/14 the proportion of offences dealt with by a charge/summons increased

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14

from 16.5 per cent to 17.2 per cent. This is the highest rate since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in 2002/03, with the long term trend shown in table A. However, it is important to bear in mind that the change in the charge/summons rate varied considerably by offence type, and that changes in this rate can be influenced by the changes in the crime mix between years. For example, if there is a large increase in the crimes that are more likely to receive a charge/summons in a particular year, you would reasonably expect the 'overall' rate to increase.

Table 2.2 shows that for most offence types, the number of charge/summons in 2013/14 has changed from the previous year in a similar way to the number of recorded crimes. In other words, if recorded crime has increased, the number of charge/summons has also increased, and vice versa.

Table 2.2 – Number of charge/summons by offence group, 2012/13 and 2013/14

	England and Wales, Recorded crime					
	2012/13	2013/14	%	2012/13	2013/14	%
	<i>Number of offences</i>		change	<i>Number of charge/summons</i>		change
Violence against the person	601,139	634,586	5.6	157,835	166,712	5.6
Sexual offences	53,620	64,200	19.7	13,041	15,254	17.0
Robbery	65,155	57,818	-11.3	12,477	11,448	-8.2
Theft offences	1,900,948	1,845,243	-2.9	192,548	203,419	5.6
Criminal damage and arson	529,713	506,190	-4.4	47,909	46,195	-3.6
Drug offences	208,002	198,176	-4.7	70,949	69,884	-1.5
Possession of weapons offence	19,910	20,620	3.6	13,396	14,067	5.0
Public order offences	132,204	134,433	1.7	52,291	52,519	0.4
Misc. crimes against society	42,500	45,433	6.9	24,122	24,491	1.5
Total	3,553,191	3,506,699	-1.3	584,568	603,989	3.3

1. 2012/13 data includes some estimated data on 'making off without payment' offences (see notes page)

The exception to this is theft offences, where the number of recorded crimes has decreased by 2.9 per cent, while the number of charge/summons has increased by 5.6 per cent. This is likely to be driven by shoplifting, which saw an increase in both the number of offences (up 7%) and charge/summons (up 11%) between 2012/13 and 2013/14. Because shoplifting accounted for over half (56%) of all charge/summons assigned to theft offences but only 17 per cent of all theft offences, this helps explain why the crime and charge/summons numbers for theft offences moved in different directions between the two years.

Table 2.2b – Number of charge/summons by offence group, 2012/13 and 2013/14

	England and Wales, Recorded crime					
	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14
	<i>Number of offences</i>		<i>Number of charge/summons</i>		<i>Charge/summons rate (%)</i>	
Shoplifting	300,623	321,008	103,390	114,364	34.4	35.6
All other theft offences ¹	1,600,325	1,524,235	89,158	89,055	5.6	5.8

1. 2012/13 data includes some estimated data on 'making off without payment' offences (see notes page)

Table 2.3 shows a different trend for cautions. The number of offences dealt with via a caution decreased for all offence types between 2012/13 and 2013/14, continuing the fall in the use of this outcome since 2007/08 (Table A). In several cases the fall since 2012/13 was despite the number of offences increasing in this period, with examples being violent and sexual offences. While the decrease in the use of cautions continues the trend since 2007/08, in the last year there have been additional changes in the way that simple cautions were used by the police. For example, in April 2013 the Ministry of Justice announced a review into the use of cautions. Following this, the use of simple cautions for serious offences was ended in September 2013, as described here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chris-grayling-simple-cautions-for-serious-offences-to-be-scraped>

In addition to this, the Ministry of Justice also produced new guidance in November 2013, stating that offenders should not get more than one caution in a two year period for the same or a similar offence.

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14

These two factors, along with an increase in the availability and use of community resolutions by the police, are likely to have driven some of the reduction in cautions between the two years. However, as highlighted above the downward trend began well before these changes.

Table 2.3 – Number of cautions by offence group, 2012/13 and 2013/14

	England and Wales, Recorded crime					
	2012/13	2013/14	%	2012/13	2013/14	%
	change			change		
	<i>Number of offences</i>			<i>Number of cautions</i>		
Violence against the person	601,139	634,586	5.6	67,519	60,722	-10.1
Sexual offences	53,620	64,200	19.7	1,671	1,416	-15.3
Robbery	65,155	57,818	-11.3	282	166	-41.1
Theft offences	1,900,948	1,845,243	-2.9	35,859	31,750	-11.5
Criminal damage and arson	529,713	506,190	-4.4	19,790	18,214	-8.0
Drug offences	208,002	198,176	-4.7	38,526	34,409	-10.7
Possession of weapons offence	19,910	20,620	3.6	3,920	3,083	-21.4
Public order offences	132,204	134,433	1.7	11,634	10,347	-11.1
Misc. crimes against society	42,500	45,433	6.9	4,442	4,082	-8.1
Total	3,553,191	3,506,699	-1.3	183,643	164,189	-10.6

1. 2012/13 data includes some estimated data on 'making off without payment' offences (see notes page)

2.3 – FRAUD OUTCOMES DATA – EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS

The way in which fraud offences are reported has changed in recent years. From April 2011, Action Fraud gradually took responsibility for recording fraud offences. However, because this transfer was rolled out at different times for different forces, the transfer was only completed for all police forces by the end of March 2013¹.

The 2013/14 data are therefore the first full year where all fraud offences were reported to, and recorded by, Action Fraud. We are able to present outcomes data for fraud offences that received an outcome during this period. The source of these data depends on when the offence that led to the outcome occurred. The majority of the data come from the National Fraud Investigation Bureau (NFIB), who recorded all fraud offences in 2013/14 (and some prior to that). However, some data are from police forces, who recorded outcomes relating to some offences from previous years.

This is the first set of data provided by the NFIB in this way and the data are subject to ongoing development and quality assurance. Therefore these statistics are deemed to be experimental statistics and should be interpreted with caution. In next year's publication, a fuller set of statistics on fraud outcomes will be published.

The process by which outcomes are recorded by Action Fraud is shown in the flow chart in figure 2.2.

¹ For more information on the switch to Action Fraud, please see the "Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2014" bulletin, published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS):

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales>

Figure 2.2 – How Fraud Outcomes are Recorded

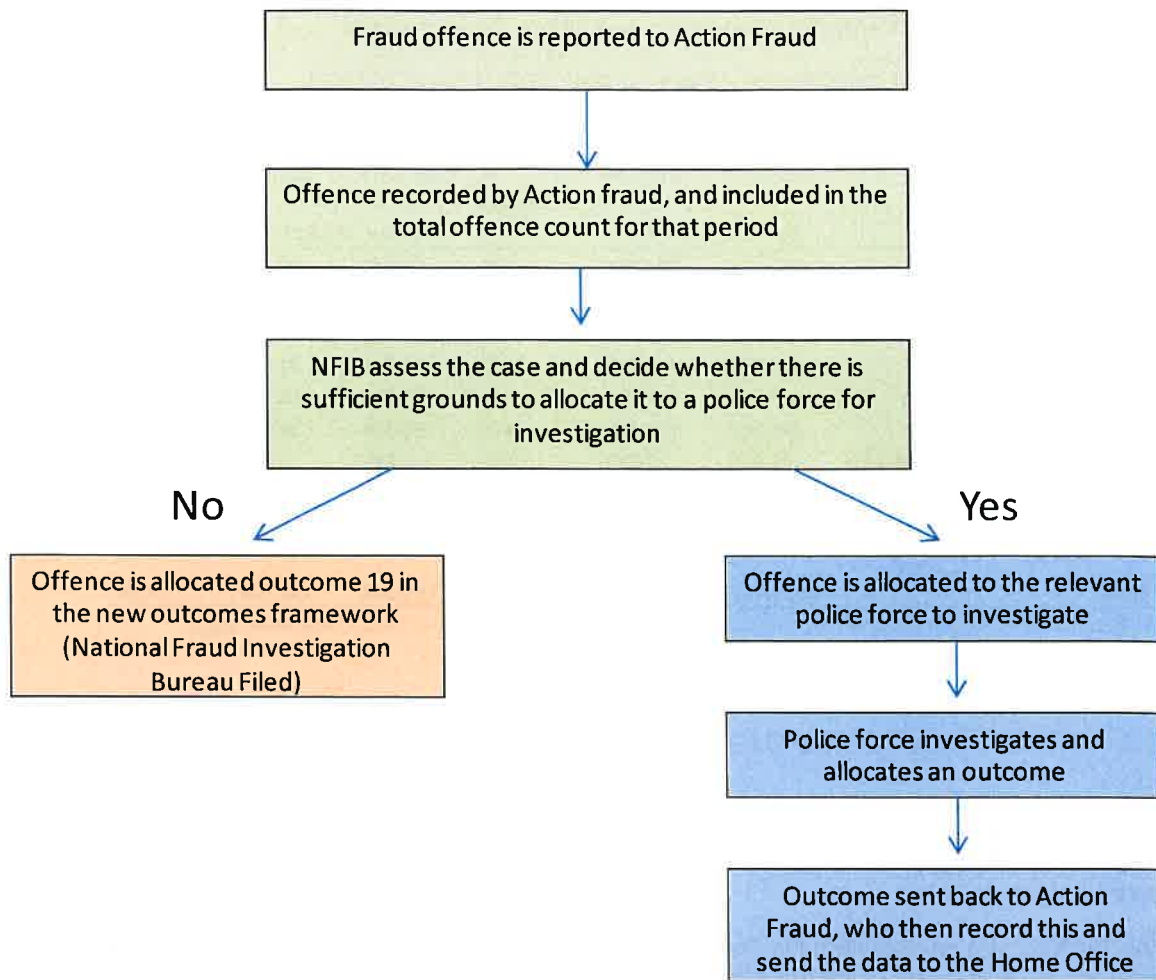


Table 2.4 shows fraud outcomes recorded in 2013/14. As discussed in section 2.1, in some cases outcomes recorded in 2013/14 will relate to offences recorded in earlier years. This table therefore shows the two ways in which fraud outcomes were recorded in 2013/14. The first row shows outcomes that were recorded by police forces in 2013/14. These relate to offences that were recorded by the police force before 2013/14 (before their transition to Action Fraud). The second row shows outcomes recorded by Action Fraud. These relate to offences that were recorded by Action Fraud and were allocated back to police forces to investigate, with an outcome subsequently achieved.

When considering the outcome rates shown in table 2.4, it is important to bear in mind that the outcomes recorded by Action Fraud only account for those offences that were allocated back to police forces to investigate. They do not include those cases where there was deemed to be insufficient grounds for further investigation, and so were not referred back to police forces. The relatively low outcome rates compared with other offence types needs to be considered in this light. In 2013/14 just over 39,000 offences were disseminated back to police forces to investigate. This represents 19 per cent of all offences recorded by Action Fraud.

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14

Table 2.4 – Fraud Outcomes Data, 2013/14 (Experimental Statistics)

Offence group	Total recorded offences ¹	England and Wales, Recorded crime				
		Charge/ summons	Cautions	TICs ²	PNDs ³	Other ⁴
		<i>Number of outcomes</i>				
Outcomes recorded by police forces ²		2,381	227	353	1	189
Outcomes recorded by Action Fraud ³		5,767	1,504	670	13	625
Total	211,344	8,148	1,731	1,023	14	814
		<i>Outcome rate (%)</i>				
Outcome rate		3.9	0.8	0.5	0.0	0.4

1. Almost all of these offences were recorded by Action Fraud.

2. Offences recorded by police forces prior to 2013/14, and outcomes recorded by police forces in 2013/14

3. Offences recorded by Action Fraud in 2013/14, and outcomes recorded by Action Fraud in 2013/14

4. Mainly consists of community resolutions, plus a small number of cases where the offender has died, or the CPS has decided that prosecution is not in the public interest. This does not include the broader set of outcomes (10-19) introduced in April 2014.

In this bulletin, the outcomes data provided by the NFIB only covers the same limited subset of outcomes (outcomes 1-6) as for other crime outcomes shown in section 2.2. However, the data published next year will include the full set of crime outcomes (1-19), including those offences that were filed by the NFIB (outcome 19) where there were deemed to be insufficient grounds for further investigation.

3 Future plans for Reporting on Outcomes

3.1 - OUTLINE OF INTENTIONS

As discussed in chapter 1, an expanded outcomes framework was introduced in April 2014. In the next annual publication in July 2015, the first full year's data based on this full outcomes framework will be published. This chapter sets out how these data will be presented, and asks for feedback from users of the statistics on this approach. It also shows some new analysis based on data provided by a subset of forces via the Home Office Data Hub. There are three main areas where the Home Office proposes to present data in future publications:

- The total number of outcomes recorded in a period, for the full set of outcomes (1-19). For 2013/14, this was possible (see section 2.2) for the limited subset of outcomes (1-6 in table 1.1) that corresponded with the old detections framework. See section 3.2 for more details.
- How crimes recorded in a given period have been dealt with. This involves linking outcomes to the offence that they relate to. This is only possible via the Home Office Data Hub (a record level crime database), which contains information on both the outcome date and the date when the offence was recorded. See section 3.3 for more details.
- The time lag between offences being recorded and an outcome being recorded for that offence. This analysis has not previously been possible from the data that the Home Office hold, but is again made possible by using the Home Office Data Hub. Section 3.4 shows this for the limited subset of outcomes (1-9) on which data was collected in 2013/14. In future years data for the full set of outcomes (1-19) will be published.

3.2 – OUTCOMES BASED ON THE FULL APRIL 2014 FRAMEWORK

In chapter 2, data were presented on the same headline outcome types (outcomes 1-6 in table 1.1) that were reported on in previous years. However, since the introduction of the new framework in April 2014, data are now supplied by most police forces based on the full range of outcomes (1-19). Next year it is intended that this bulletin will be based on these outcomes.

Some police forces have started recording against the new framework slightly later than others, due to the considerable changes to administrative systems that were required. Most of these have started doing so at the beginning of July 2014. This will need to be considered when interpreting the data on the full set of outcomes next year, as some forces will have a full year of data under the new framework, while others will have part of the year based on the full set of outcomes, and part based on the limited subset provided previously.

Figure 3.1 shows partial data for the first two months of the full outcomes framework (1-19), for a subset of police forces. It therefore includes those crimes where there are evidential difficulties, or a suspect is not identified, or where a prosecution is prevented. This is the first time such data have been available. The data are presented for illustrative purposes only, and represent all outcomes recorded by police forces in these months, not just those relating to crimes that were recorded in those months. It therefore allows consideration of police workload, as the figures reflect the total number of each type of outcome that have been assigned in that period. In the next bulletin, it is intended that analysis at police force level will be published.

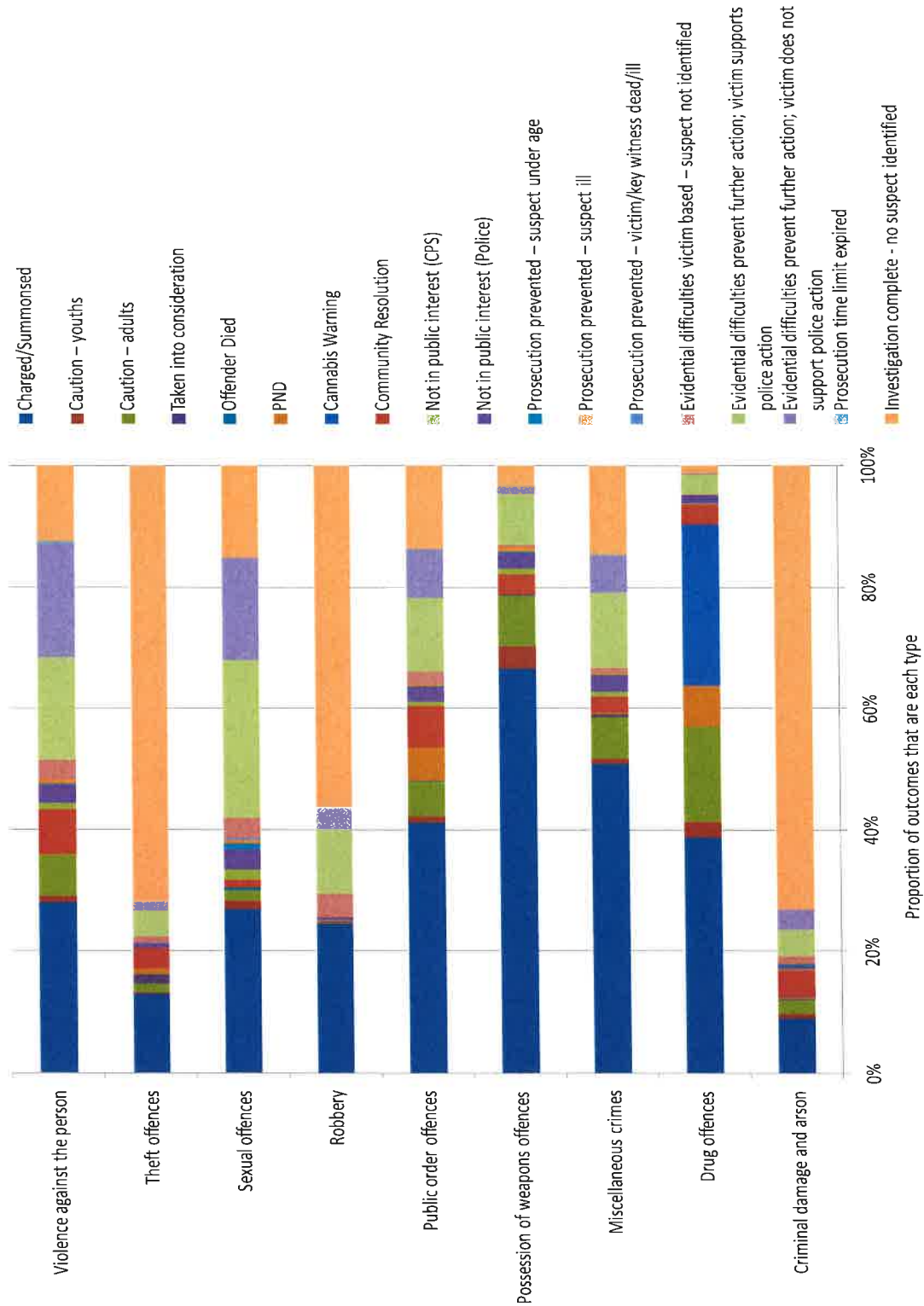
Although the data in figure 3.1 are partial and preliminary, they give an indication of how outcomes vary by offence type. For example:

- Possession of weapons offences are most likely to be resolved by a charge/summons, with around two thirds (67%) of the total outcomes being this type. This contrasts with theft offences, where only 13 per cent of outcomes were charges/summons.
- Sexual offences (46%) and violent offences (39%) had a greater proportion of outcomes where there were evidential difficulties than other crime types.

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14

- Criminal damage and arson offences (73%) and theft offences (72%) were the offence types that were most likely to result in a suspect not being identified. Drug offences were the least likely, with these accounting for only one per cent of outcomes.

Figure 3.1 – Outcomes by outcome type and offence group, indicative data



Source: Home Office Recorded Crime Database, subset of forces, April and May 2014 data
 1. Based on those crimes where an outcome has been assigned. This does not include crimes that are still under investigation i.e. yet to be assigned an outcome.
 2. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables document, which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014>

3.3 – OUTCOMES OF ALL OFFENCES RECORDED IN A PERIOD

As well as looking at the total number of outcomes recorded in a given period, the Home Office Data Hub offers the opportunity to look at how the police deal with all the crimes that they record in a period. For example, when police recorded crime figures are published by the ONS for the year 2014/15, it will be possible to look at the outcomes for all of these crimes. It will then be possible to see the proportion of crimes that resulted in a charge/summons, the proportion that resulted in a caution, the proportion that were still under investigation, and so on. This will provide a level of transparency that has never previously been available.

At present, these data can only be collected for police forces that provide data via the Home Office Data Hub as this allows offences to be linked to their outcome. However, we hope to expand this collection across other police forces from 2014/15 onwards.

Table 3.1 shows data from a subset of forces that have provided data via the Home Office Data Hub in the first two months of 2014/15. This is only for illustrative purposes but gives an indication of the usefulness of the data. For example, it allows you to see what proportion of crimes recorded in a given period are still under investigation, what proportion have been given an outcome, and of the latter group, which outcomes are most common.

Although the figures in table 3.1 are preliminary, they still give an indication of how offences are dealt with by the police. Of the subset of recorded offences shown, at the end of May 2014 74 per cent had been assigned an outcome already, whilst 26 per cent were still under investigation. Of those assigned an outcome, over half had led to a completed investigation with no suspect found.

Table 3.1 – Outcomes of the offences recorded by a subset of forces in early 2014/15

Offences allocated an outcome	74%
Charge/Summons	12%
Caution - Youths	<1%
Caution - Adults	3%
Taken into consideration	<1%
The Offender has Died (all offences)	<1%
Penalty Notice for Disorder	1%
Cannabis warning	1%
Community resolution	3%
Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS) (all offences)	<1%
Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (Police)	1%
Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility	<1%
Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute	<1%
Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence	<1%
Evidential Difficulties Victim Based – Named suspect not identified: The crime is confirmed but the victim either declines/ or is unable to support further police investigation to identify the offender	1%
Named Suspect identified: evidential difficulties prevent further action; victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action	5%
Named Suspect identified: victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action	4%
Prosecution time limit expired: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired	<1%
Investigation Complete: No suspect identified. Crime investigated as far as reasonably possible – case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available	43%
Offences not yet assigned an outcome	26%
Total offences	100%

Source: Home Office Data Hub, subset of forces, April and May 2014 data

To gain the full benefits from this analysis, it is important that it is repeated over time. For example, at the end of 2014/15 it is likely that there will be a significant proportion of crimes recorded in the year that are still under investigation, particularly where the crime was recorded at the end of the year and police investigations are at an early stage. However, many of these crimes will then be dealt with in the following months, with an outcome assigned during the following year. We will continue to revise

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14

this analysis to reflect the evolution of such outcomes, allowing users to see how the crimes in the period are gradually all given an outcome.

3.4 – THE TIME GAP BETWEEN OFFENCES AND OUTCOMES

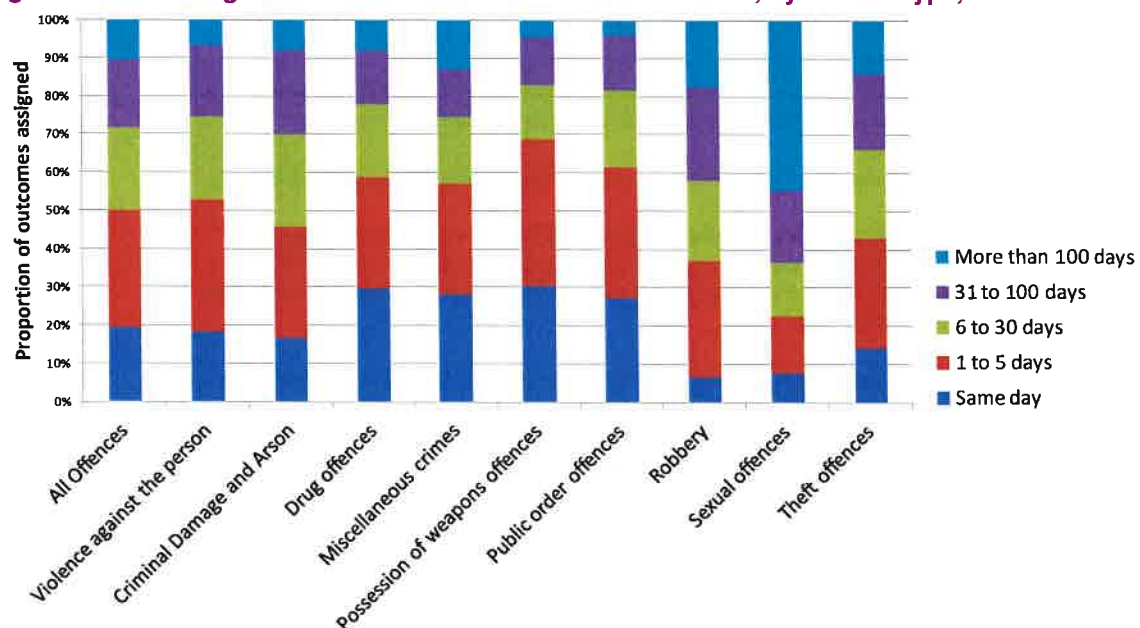
As discussed, until now it has not been possible to link outcomes to their corresponding offences. However, the Home Office Data Hub now allows this analysis to be undertaken for police forces that provide data via this method. This provides a new opportunity for analysis, as it will be possible to compare the date when offences were recorded with the date when an outcome was assigned for that offence.

Figure 3.2 shows some of the early findings from this analysis. This analysis is based on a subset of forces that provide data via the Home Office Data Hub. It should be interpreted with caution as it excludes several police forces, notably the Metropolitan Police, which accounts for a large proportion of crime outcomes. In addition to this, the analysis only covers the April 2013 outcomes framework (outcomes 1-9 in table 1.1), and does not cover the full range of outcomes (1-19) introduced in April 2014. Once these new outcomes are included, the results may differ depending on how quickly the new outcomes are assigned. Nevertheless, this analysis still provides a useful indication of the length of time taken for different crimes to be assigned an outcome.

Figure 3.2 shows the number of days between an offence being recorded and an outcome being assigned for that offence, both for all offences and for specific offence groups. This shows that in 2013/14, 50 per cent of the offences were assigned an outcome within five days of the offence being recorded, and three quarters (75%) were assigned an outcome within 30 days. Ten per cent took more than 100 days to be assigned an outcome.

This picture varies considerably depending on the offence type. For example, sexual offences generally took much longer to be assigned an outcome than other offence types, with almost half (45%) taking over 100 days. This is likely to be due to the complexity of these cases, and the level of investigation needed. In contrast, offences such as possession of weapons were generally resolved much more quickly, with over two thirds (69%) assigned an outcome within five days. This may reflect the nature of this type of offence, where the offender is usually identified and dealt with at the same time as the crime comes to the attention of the police (and is recorded).

Figure 3.2 – The length of time between offences and outcomes, by offence type, 2013/14



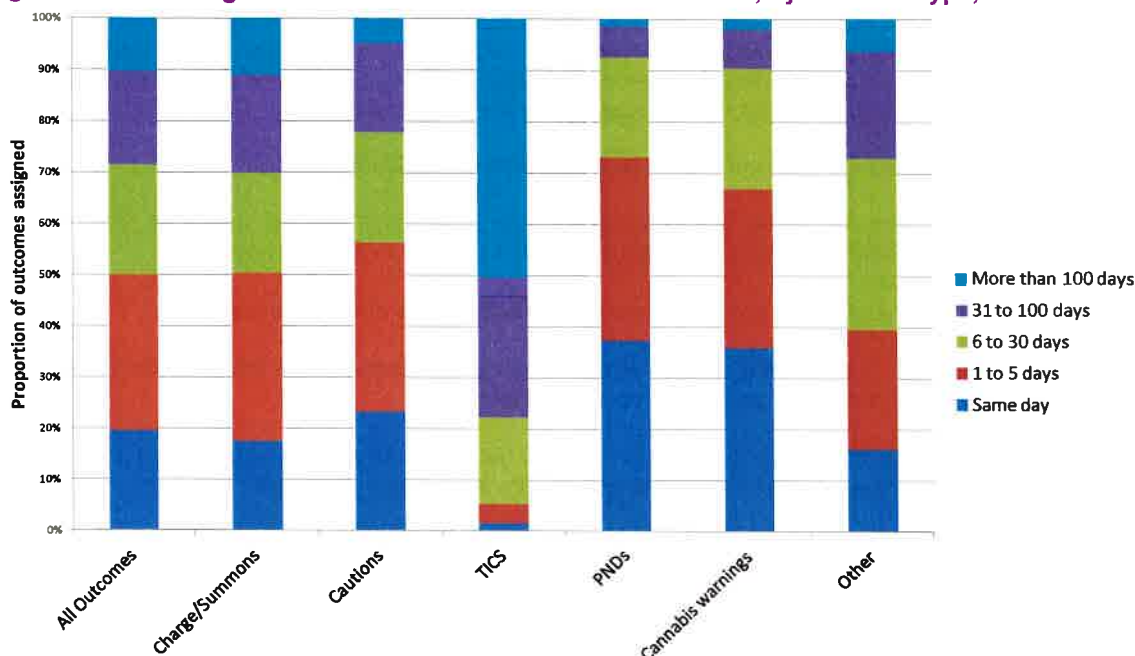
Source: Home Office Data Hub, subset of forces, 2013/14 data

1. Only includes the limited subset of outcomes available in the April 2013 outcomes framework (outcomes 1-9). It does not include the extra outcome types (10-19) in the April 2014 framework.

2. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables document, which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014>

Figure 3.3 shows how the time taken for an outcome to be assigned to a crime varies by outcome type. In the case of Penalty Notices for Disorder and cannabis warnings, most of these outcomes (73% and 67% respectively) are assigned within five days of the offence being recorded. In over a third of cases (37% and 36% respectively), the outcome is assigned on the same day. For charge/summons, 18 per cent of outcomes are assigned on the same day, and for cautions this figure is 23 per cent. As might be expected, Taking into consideration (TIC)s were the outcome type that generally took longest to assign, with half of these (50%) happening more than 100 days after the offence was recorded.

Figure 3.3 – The length of time between offences and outcomes, by outcome type, 2013/14



Source: Home Office Data Hub, subset of forces, 2013/14 data

1. TICs are offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court.
2. PNDs are Penalty Notices for Disorder.
3. Cannabis Warnings include a small number of community resolutions for possession of cannabis in 2013/14.
4. The "other" category mainly consists of community resolutions, plus a small number of cases where the offender has died, or the CPS has decided that prosecution is not in the public interest. This does not include the broader set of outcomes (10-19) introduced in April 2014.
5. Only includes the limited subset of outcomes available in the April 2013 outcomes framework (outcomes 1-9). It does not include the extra outcome types (10-19) in the April 2014 framework.
6. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables document, which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014>

This analysis is based on a subset of forces only. However, as more forces make the transition to the Home Office Data Hub in the coming months, the benefits and extent of the analysis will increase. Next year, this analysis will be updated with the following improvements:

- (a) More forces included, as forces move towards providing data via the Home Office Data Hub.
- (b) The full set of outcomes (1-19) will be included in the analysis.

3.5 – FUTURE TIMELINESS OF OUTCOMES STATISTICS

At present, outcome statistics are published on an annual basis, with the statistics published covering the previous financial year. Going forward, it is intended to present a set of core tables on outcomes on a more regular basis. From early 2015, a small set of tables on a quarterly basis will be published, to show two things:

- (a) The total number of outcomes recorded in the previous quarter, by outcome type and offence type.

- (b) The outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the previous quarter, i.e. how many resulted in charges, cautions, and so on.

As previously discussed, the second of these are likely to be revised considerably from one quarter to the next, as more offences from the period are given an outcome. This constant change will mean that the same table is likely to look quite different with each quarterly update, until eventually all offences recorded in a given period will have been given an outcome.

3.6 – CONSULTATION WITH USERS

This chapter has shown how the Home Office Statistics Unit intends to present data on the full outcomes framework in future publications. However, in order to do this we need to fully understand our users' needs, and we would therefore welcome opinions on these intentions from users of these data. Therefore we would like to gather opinions on the following questions:

1. How do you use the outcomes (and former detections) publications?
2. Do you find it helpful to see outcomes shown both in terms of the total outcomes recorded in a period, and those that specifically relate to crimes recorded in that period?
3. Do you find one of these approaches more useful than the other? If so, why?
4. Would you like to see some of the new outcome types grouped when the data are presented in future? If so, what groups would you like to see?
5. How useful did you find the analysis on the gap between offences being recorded and outcomes being recorded? Could this analysis be improved in any way?
6. Would you find it helpful if a basic set of tables on outcomes were made available on a quarterly basis?
7. Are there any other ways in which you think the changes could be presented better?

Please send responses to these questions, along with any other comments that you may have, to crimestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk by the 10 October 2014. The Home Office Statistics Unit will then publish a short response summarising the results of the consultation, and clarifying our future intentions.

Annex A – No-Crimes in England and Wales

A1 – DEFINITIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES FOR NO-CRIMES

A no-crime occurs when the police have originally recorded an offence, but have subsequently determined that the crime did not take place, or was recorded in error. Cases where an incident is never recorded as a crime in the first place are not included.

Offences may be no-crimes in one of the following situations:

1. The crime was committed outside the jurisdiction of the police force in which it was recorded. In this case it will be no-crimes and referred to the appropriate force.
2. Additional verifiable information becomes available that determines that no notifiable crime has been committed.
3. The crime is part of a crime that has already been recorded.
4. An incident has been recorded as a crime by mistake.
5. The crime was one of assault (not more serious than actual bodily harm) and there is clear evidence that the offender acted in self defence.

In the statistics shown in this section, no-crimes are always recorded in the same financial year as the offence that was originally recorded. So if, for example, an offence was recorded in January and then subsequently no-crimes in the next financial year (e.g. May), the no-crime will be recorded for the previous financial year. This ensures that the total count of offences in any given year is correct.

A2 – NO-CRIME STATISTICS

Data on no-crimes are shown in table A1. This shows that overall, 3.1 per cent of all offences that were initially recorded as crimes in 2013/14 were subsequently no-crimes. However, no-crime rates vary considerably by offence group. The highest no-crime rates were seen for miscellaneous offences, whilst the lowest rates were seen for robbery offences. The no-crime rate for rape offences was 7.3 per cent in 2013/14.

An additional online table shows these no-crime rates for individual forces, and can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/no-crimes-data-2013-to-2014>

An 'Open data' table on no-crimes is also available, showing no-crime data by police force for each of the last three financial years. This is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables>

Table A1: Number and proportion of 'no crimes', by offence group, 2013/14

	Offences initially recorded	No-crimes	Offences recorded	No-crimes as % of offences initially recorded
Violence against the person	656,503	21,917	634,586	3.3
Sexual offences	67,863	3,663	64,200	5.4
<i>of which: Rape</i>	<i>22,368</i>	<i>1,643</i>	<i>20,725</i>	<i>7.3</i>
Robbery	59,004	1,186	57,818	2.0
Theft offences	1,905,234	59,991	1,845,243	3.1
Criminal damage and arson	517,199	11,009	506,190	2.1
Drug offences	202,508	4,332	198,176	2.1
Possession of weapons offences	22,192	1,572	20,620	7.1
Public order offences	140,301	5,868	134,433	4.2
Misc. crimes against society	49,840	4,407	45,433	8.8
Total (excluding fraud offences)	3,620,644	113,945	3,506,699	3.1

1. Excludes fraud offences as responsibility for recording and no-crimes these had transferred to Action Fraud in 2013/14

A3 – HMIC FINDINGS ON THE QUALITY OF NO-CRIMING

In 2012, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of the Constabulary (HMIC) produced a review of Police Crime Recording practices. This included a section on 'no crimes', which found that the average proportion of 'no crime' decisions that were correct was 87 per cent across all crime types, and 84 per cent for violent offences.

The range of correct 'no crime' decisions varied between 75 per cent and 100 per cent across police forces. The full HMIC report can be found here:

<http://www.hmic.gov.uk/media/review-police-crime-incident-reports-20120125.pdf>

HMIC are conducting a further round of crime data integrity inspections in 2013/14. These are investigating the accuracy of crime recording across all police forces, and include a further assessment of the appropriateness and accuracy of no-crime recording. Once these inspections are completed, HMIC intend to produce a final report in Autumn 2014.

An interim report detailing the results from the first 13 forces was published in May 2014. One of the weaknesses that HMIC identified with police recording practices was crimes being inappropriately recorded as no-crimes. The report can be found here:

<http://www.hmic.gov.uk/publication/crime-recording-a-matter-of-fact-interim-report/>

A4 – COMPARING NO-CRIMES ACROSS POLICE FORCES

It is important to exercise caution when comparing no-crime data across police forces. A particularly high or low number of no-crimes should not necessarily be interpreted positively or negatively, as different forces may use no-crimes in different ways. For example, whilst one force may record all crimes immediately and then later no-crime a significant proportion of these, others may wait longer to judge whether an offence constitutes a crime or not, and thus are likely to record fewer no-crimes overall. This means that a firm conclusion cannot be drawn when comparing no-crime numbers across forces, as any differences seen may just reflect differences in recording practices. More details of this can be found in the HMIC reports mentioned above.

Additionally, comparisons between forces need to be made with caution because some forces may deal more frequently with offence types that are more likely to be no-crimes.

Annex B – Former Detection rates

B1: THE DETECTION RATE CONCEPT

In previous detections bulletins, the Home Office has published an overall detection rate, showing the number of detections recorded in a period divided by the number of crimes recorded in the same period. Given the new outcomes framework, the concept of a detection rate is now outdated, as a fuller set of information becomes available to comprehensively show how the police deal with crimes. Therefore, it is no longer appropriate to publish a detection rate as an indicator of how the police deal with crime. However, the outcomes that make up the detection rate will still be published as part of the wider outcomes framework.

The Home Office will not publish a detection rate in the next outcomes bulletin for the following reasons:

1. The full outcomes framework (outcomes 1-19), where every offence has an outcome, means that the concept of an outcome rate no longer has meaning. Eventually the outcome rate will be 100 per cent once all crimes in a period have been fully investigated.
2. The previous detections framework lacked transparency as it only accounted for around 30 per cent of crimes, despite many of the remaining 70 per cent of crimes having been fully investigated, including many cases where suspects have been identified. Therefore while the detection rate was the best tool available in the past, it does not account for the new outcome types.
3. Rates can be misleading when comparing across police forces. These rates are not a direct measure of police investigative performance, and can vary considerably depending on the types of crime that a particular force tends to deal with. Additionally, proactive policing initiatives can also affect the rates for each outcome (and can affect the level of crime recorded). As a result, outcome rates only really have merit when used to compare specific outcome types, for certain crimes. For example, comparing caution rates for criminal damage across forces may be useful. However, comparing the overall outcome rate, or even the caution rate, across forces is far less helpful, as one force may deal with considerably more crimes that are likely to be cautioned than another.

B2: FORMER DETECTION RATES

For comparative purposes and because this is a transitional publication to the new outcomes framework, in this section an overall detection rate and a detection rate for the main crime types are provided. Table B1 shows these for 2013/14, compared with 2012/13. This comparison needs to be treated with additional caution, because in 2013/14 data on community resolutions were provided by almost all police forces. In 2012/13, providing these data was optional and approximately half of all forces provided them. Additionally, there has been a movement away from the use of cautions over the last year (see section 2.2), in some cases towards the use of community resolutions. As a result, the rates across the two years cannot be directly compared. The most reliable comparison is the charge/summons rate.

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14

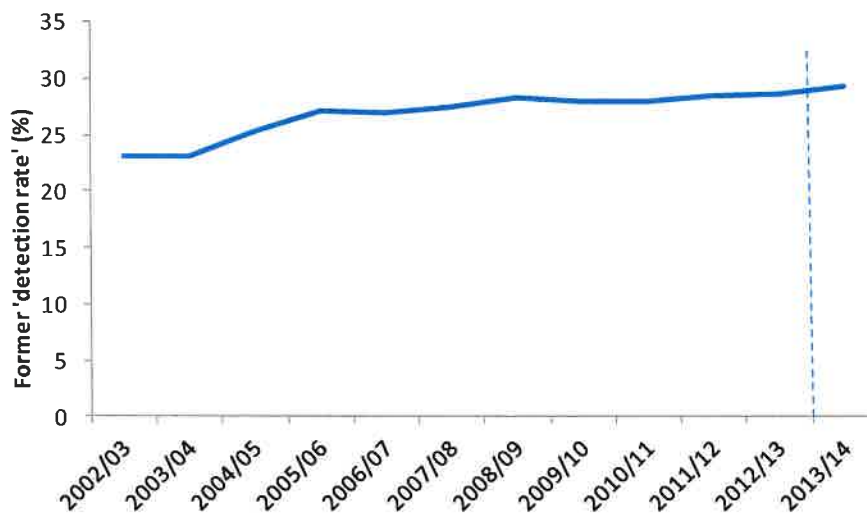
Table B1: Former detection rates by crime type (excluding fraud offences), 2012/13 and 2013/14

	England and Wales, Recorded crime								
	2012/13	2013/14	%	2012/13	2013/14	%	2012/13	2013/14	% point
	Number of offences			Number of detections			Former 'detection rate' (%)		
Violence against the person	601,139	634,586	5.6	248,340	264,733	6.6	41.3	41.7	0.4
Sexual offences	53,620	64,200	19.7	15,283	17,612	15.2	28.5	27.4	-1.1
Robbery	65,155	57,818	-11.3	13,536	11,997	-11.4	20.8	20.7	0.0
Theft offences	1,900,948	1,845,243	-2.9	332,952	338,573	1.7	17.5	18.3	0.8
Criminal damage and arson	529,713	506,190	-4.4	85,101	86,519	1.7	16.1	17.1	1.0
Drug offences	208,002	198,176	-4.7	195,061	183,809	-5.8	93.8	92.8	-1.0
Possession of weapons offences	19,910	20,620	3.6	17,578	17,551	-0.2	88.3	85.1	-3.2
Public order offences	132,204	134,433	1.7	82,117	78,896	-3.9	62.1	58.7	-3.4
Misc. crimes against society	42,500	45,433	6.9	29,450	29,644	0.7	69.3	65.2	-4.0
Total (excluding fraud)	3,553,191	3,506,699	-1.3	1,019,418	1,029,334	1.0	28.7	29.4	0.7

1. 2013/14 rates include data on community resolutions for almost all forces. 2012/13 data only include these data for 22 forces.

2. 2012/13 data includes some estimated data on 'making off without payment' offences (see notes page)

Figure B1: Former detection rate, 2002/03 to 2013/14



1. 2013/14 rates include data on community resolutions for almost all forces, as indicated by the dashed line. 2012/13 data only include these data for 22 forces. Before 2011/12, only a small number of forces were providing data on them.

Annex C – Crime Outcomes Data Quality

C1 - INTRODUCTION

In January 2014, the UK Statistics Authority published its assessment of ONS crime statistics. It found that statistics based on police recorded crime data, having been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, did not meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The UKSA published a list of requirements for these statistics to regain the National Statistics accreditation.

Some of the requirements of this assessment were to provide more detail on how data sources were used to produce these statistics, along with more information on the quality of the statistics. Additionally, there was also a requirement to provide information on the process used by police forces to submit and revise data, and the validation processes used by the Home Office. In order to ensure that this publication meets the high standards required by the UK Statistics Authority, details are provided below.

C2 – DATA SOURCES USED

Police recorded crime data are supplied to the Home Office by the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. These data are supplied to the Home Office on a monthly basis in an aggregated return. In this return, data on outcomes and 'no crimes' are collected alongside recorded crime data for each crime within the notifiable offence list. Notifiable offences include all offences that could possibly be tried by jury (these include some less serious offences, such as minor theft that would not usually be dealt with this way) plus a few additional closely-related summary offences dealt with by magistrates, such as assault without injury.

The monthly data are cumulative, such that each month's return will contain the data for the financial year to date. When a police force wants to make revisions to this data, they usually do this in the latest monthly return, rather than re-sending a return for the period affected. The exception to this rule is when the revisions affect a previous financial year. In these cases the police force will re-send an end of year return for that year.

Outcomes are currently recorded in the month that the outcome is applied, and not the month in which the original offence occurred. For example, if an offence occurred in January and a suspect was subsequently charged in June, the outcome would be recorded in June. This means that the data on outcomes for a given month does not correspond to the data on offences in that month, or even the same year.

No crimes are recorded in the year in which the original offence was recorded. This is to ensure that the total offences for each year are correct, i.e. a no crime for a previous financial year does not get included in the current year, and falsely lower the total number of offences recorded in the current year.

C3 – DATA VALIDATION PROCESSES

As data are collected from police forces on a monthly basis, the Home Office carry out a series of routine checks and feed the results of these back to police forces. These checks include:

- Looking for any offences where there have been a large number of no-crimes since the previous month.
- Looking for any large or unusual changes in offences, outcomes or no-crimes from the previous month.
- Looking for cases where forces have provided data against an offence classification that no longer exists (e.g. the former fraud classifications).
- Comparing offence types and outcome types against the long term trend, to spot any outliers in the monthly data.

Any outliers or anomalies are usually small.

Police forces are then asked to investigate these trends and either provide an explanation, or resubmit figures where an error has occurred. Where resubmission is required, the force will usually just correct the errors in the latest monthly submission, rather than re-send all of the months in question. In the case of forces providing data via the Home Office Data Hub, the force will send modified versions of the affected records. These then supersede the original versions.

C4 – THE HOME OFFICE DATA HUB

As discussed in chapter 1, the Home Office Data Hub allows police forces to provide record-level detail on offences, vastly increasing the opportunities for the analysis of police recorded crime data. At the time of publication, there were 16 forces providing data solely via the Data Hub, with several others in the 'parallel running' phase, where they are sending data both via the CrimSec4 form (the old way of sending police recorded crime data) and via the Data Hub, with a view to switching exclusively to the Data Hub soon. Some other police forces are in the 'testing' phase, and are working to send in reliable data via the Data Hub. The Home Office are working with these forces to help them with this transition, and are committed to achieving a fully operational Data Hub.

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14

Table A: Number of outcomes and outcome rates by outcome type, 2012/13 and 2013/14

Outcome type	England and Wales, Recorded crime												2012/13 to 2013/14	2013/14	2012/13 to 2013/14
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14			
	Number of outcomes														
Charge/summons	771,716	752,069	698,640	700,101	673,714	657,230	681,472	651,757	658,713	633,985	584,568	603,989	3.3		
Cautions	207,818	220,005	257,783	304,461	351,244	351,552	313,702	264,873	232,355	205,760	183,643	164,189	-10.6		
TfCS ¹	91,205	88,204	88,386	103,363	111,328	99,021	96,875	76,244	71,896	63,898	55,197	40,949	-25.8		
PND ^{2,3}	..	3,045	35,919	105,594	139,666	128,978	108,240	102,699	86,010	73,759	59,868	46,895	-21.7		
Cannabis Warnings ³	..	..	40,138	62,586	80,653	103,804	107,241	87,332	80,659	77,933	69,236	63,967	-7.6		
Other ^{4,5,6}	268,021	284,320	265,721	191,187	80,770	911	2,931	7,244	10,375	53,322	66,906	109,345	63.4		
Total number of offences (excluding fraud)⁷	5,791,277	5,843,549	5,476,771	5,425,691	5,322,377	4,881,140	4,630,383	4,265,036	4,078,475	3,903,581	3,553,191	3,506,699	-1.3		
	Outcome rates (%) ⁸														
Charge/summons	13.3	12.9	12.8	12.9	12.7	13.5	14.7	15.3	16.2	16.2	16.5	17.2	0.8		
Cautions	3.6	3.8	4.7	5.6	6.6	7.2	6.8	6.2	5.7	5.3	5.2	4.7	-0.5		
TfCS ¹	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.2	-0.4		
PND ^{2,3}	..	0.1	0.7	1.9	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.3	-0.3		
Cannabis Warnings ³	..	..	0.7	1.2	1.5	2.1	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	-0.1		
Other	4.6	4.9	4.9	3.5	1.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.4	1.9	3.1	1.2		

1. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TfCS).

2. Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) (formerly known as fixed penalty notices) were introduced in several police forces in 2003/04 and nationally in 2004/05.

3. Cannabis Warnings for possession of cannabis were introduced in 2004/05. Since 26 January 2009, Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) can also be given for an offence of cannabis possession. Up to the end of March 2009 such PNDs were counted in the same category as Cannabis Warnings. Cannabis warnings include a small number of community resolutions for possession of cannabis in 2012/13.

4. From 1 April 2007, new rules governing these outcomes significantly limited the occasions on which they could be applied.

5. Includes data on Youth Restorative Disposals (YRDs) submitted to the Home Office from pilots in eight police force areas (Avon and Somerset, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Metropolitan Police, Norfolk, North Wales, Nottinghamshire). The pilot was introduced in 2008/09.

6. Includes community resolution and restorative justice data submitted on a voluntary basis by some police forces in 2011/12 and 2012/13. These data were then submitted by almost all police forces in 2013/14.

7. Total number of recorded crimes, whether assigned an outcome or not.

8. The number of crimes assigned an outcome divided by total number of recorded offences.

9. Data for the years 2002/03 to 2012/13 contains some estimated data on 'making off without payment' offences, following the creation of a back series of data on these outcomes (see notes page).

.. Not available.

70
Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14

Table B: Outcomes by offence group and outcome type, 2009/10 to 2013/14 (excluding fraud)

Violence against the person

Outcome type	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<i>Number of outcomes</i>					
Charge/summons	175,908	177,526	170,008	157,835	166,712
Cautions	90,860	80,375	71,977	67,519	60,722
TICs ¹	189	141	140	89	102
PNDs ²³	214	211	198	216	116
Other ⁴⁵⁶	1,905	2,753	18,177	22,681	37,081
Total recorded offences⁷	699,011	665,486	626,720	601,139	634,586
<i>Outcome rate (%)⁸</i>					
Charge/summons	25.2	26.7	27.1	26.3	26.3
Cautions	13.0	12.1	11.5	11.2	9.6
TICs ¹	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PNDs ²³	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other ⁴⁵⁶	0.3	0.4	2.9	3.8	5.8

Sexual offences

Outcome type	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<i>Number of outcomes</i>					
Charge/summons	13,176	13,708	13,519	13,041	15,254
Cautions	1,789	1,732	1,675	1,671	1,416
TICs ¹	82	90	82	132	70
PNDs ²³	11	8	15	11	17
Other ⁴⁵⁶	107	121	278	428	855
Total recorded offences⁷	53,006	53,940	52,760	53,620	64,200
<i>Outcome rate (%)⁸</i>					
Charge/summons	24.9	25.4	25.6	24.3	23.8
Cautions	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.1	2.2
TICs ¹	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
PNDs ²³	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other ⁴⁵⁶	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.8	1.3

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14

Table B (contd): Outcomes by offence group and outcome type, 2009/10 to 2013/14 (excluding fraud)

Robbery

Outcome type	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<i>Number of outcomes</i>					
Charge/summons	14,367	14,649	14,548	12,477	11,448
Cautions	393	356	283	282	166
TICs ¹	622	676	596	716	280
PNDs ²³	0	0	0	0	0
Other ⁴⁵⁶	22	17	56	61	103
Total recorded offences⁷	75,105	76,189	74,688	65,155	57,818
<i>Outcome rate (%)⁸</i>					
Charge/summons	19.1	19.2	19.5	19.1	19.8
Cautions	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3
TICs ¹	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.5
PNDs ²³	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other ⁴⁵⁶	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2

Theft offences

Outcome type	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<i>Number of outcomes</i>					
Charge/summons	193,592	202,178	204,095	192,548	203,419
Cautions	61,627	51,208	44,007	35,859	31,750
TICs ¹	70,355	66,892	59,729	51,927	39,147
PNDs ²³	44,314	37,688	32,624	26,498	20,111
Other ⁴⁵⁶	3,168	4,706	20,765	26,120	44,146
Total recorded offences⁷	2,132,620	2,107,446	2,074,779	1,900,948	1,845,243
<i>Outcome rate (%)⁸</i>					
Charge/summons	9.1	9.6	9.8	10.1	11.0
Cautions	2.9	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.7
TICs ¹	3.3	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.1
PNDs ²³	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.1
Other ⁴⁵⁶	0.1	0.2	1.0	1.4	2.4

72
 Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14

Table B (contd): Outcomes by offence group and outcome type, 2009/10 to 2013/14 (excluding fraud)

Criminal damage and arson

Outcome type	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<i>Number of outcomes</i>					
Charge/summons	58,305	56,545	52,896	47,909	46,195
Cautions	35,196	28,344	23,086	19,790	18,214
TICs ¹	4,245	3,438	2,889	1,961	1,012
PNDs ²³	9,014	6,036	4,752	3,416	2,047
Other ⁴⁵⁶	1,297	1,698	9,415	12,025	19,051
Total recorded offences⁷	800,645	695,084	626,008	529,713	506,190
<i>Outcome rate (%)⁸</i>					
Charge/summons	7.3	8.1	8.4	9.0	9.1
Cautions	4.4	4.1	3.7	3.7	3.6
TICs ¹	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2
PNDs ²³	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.4
Other ⁴⁵⁶	0.2	0.2	1.5	2.3	3.8

Drug offences

Outcome type	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<i>Number of outcomes</i>					
Charge/summons	76,637	79,213	76,170	70,949	69,884
Cautions	43,534	42,693	41,382	38,526	34,409
TICs ¹	210	141	114	88	94
PNDs ²³	13,489	14,568	15,929	15,906	14,768
Cannabis Warnings	87,332	80,659	77,933	69,236	63,967
Other ⁴⁵⁶	182	132	301	356	687
Total recorded offences⁷	235,584	232,922	229,099	208,002	198,176
<i>Outcome rate (%)⁸</i>					
Charge/summons	32.5	34.0	33.2	34.1	35.3
Cautions	18.5	18.3	18.1	18.5	17.4
TICs ¹	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
PNDs ²³	5.7	6.3	7.0	7.6	7.5
Cannabis Warnings	37.1	34.6	34.0	33.3	32.3
Other ⁴⁵⁶	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14

Table B (contd): Outcomes by offence group and outcome type, 2009/10 to 2013/14 (excluding fraud)

Possession of weapons offences

Outcome type	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<i>Number of outcomes</i>					
Charge/summons	18,946	17,883	16,080	13,396	14,067
Cautions	6,400	5,357	4,723	3,920	3,083
TICs ¹	13	13	7	3	1
PNDs ²³	3	10	5	7	2
Other ⁴⁵⁶	11	32	205	252	398
Total recorded offences⁷	28,758	26,327	23,688	19,910	20,620
<i>Outcome rate (%)⁸</i>					
Charge/summons	65.9	67.9	67.9	67.3	68.2
Cautions	22.3	20.3	19.9	19.7	15.0
TICs ¹	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PNDs ²³	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other ⁴⁵⁶	0.0	0.1	0.9	1.3	1.9

Public order offences

Outcome type	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<i>Number of outcomes</i>					
Charge/summons	71,375	69,408	60,751	52,291	52,519
Cautions	18,879	16,798	13,855	11,634	10,347
TICs ¹	117	126	20	44	38
PNDs ²³	35,586	27,438	20,177	13,762	9,790
Other ⁴⁵⁶	500	778	3,588	4,386	6,202
Total recorded offences⁷	188,254	173,081	150,858	132,204	134,433
<i>Outcome rate (%)⁸</i>					
Charge/summons	37.9	40.1	40.3	39.6	39.1
Cautions	10.0	9.7	9.2	8.8	7.7
TICs ¹	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
PNDs ²³	18.9	15.9	13.4	10.4	7.3
Other ⁴⁵⁶	0.3	0.4	2.4	3.3	4.6

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14

Table B (contd): Outcomes by offence group and outcome type, 2009/10 to 2013/14 (excluding fraud)**Miscellaneous crimes against society**

Outcome type	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<i>Number of outcomes</i>					
Charge/summons	29,451	27,603	25,918	24,122	24,491
Cautions	6,195	5,492	4,772	4,442	4,082
TICs ¹	411	379	321	237	205
PNDs ²³	68	51	59	52	44
Other ⁴⁵⁶	52	138	537	597	822
Total recorded offences⁷	52,053	48,000	44,981	42,500	45,433
<i>Outcome rate (%)^a</i>					
Charge/summons	56.6	57.5	57.6	56.8	53.9
Cautions	11.9	11.4	10.6	10.5	9.0
TICs ¹	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5
PNDs ²³	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other ⁴⁵⁶	0.1	0.3	1.2	1.4	1.8

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14

Table B (contd): Outcomes by offence group and outcome type, 2009/10 to 2013/14 (excluding fraud)

Total offences⁹					
Outcome type	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<i>Number of outcomes</i>					
Charge/summons	651,757	658,713	633,985	584,568	603,989
Cautions	264,873	232,355	205,760	183,643	164,189
TICs ¹	76,244	71,896	63,898	55,197	40,949
PNDs ²³	102,699	86,010	73,759	59,868	46,895
Cannabis Warnings	87,332	80,659	77,933	69,236	63,967
Other ⁴⁵⁶	7,244	10,375	53,322	66,906	109,345
Total recorded offences⁷	4,265,036	4,078,475	3,903,581	3,553,191	3,506,699
<i>Outcome rate (%)⁸</i>					
Charge/summons	15.3	16.2	16.2	16.5	17.2
Cautions	6.2	5.7	5.3	5.2	4.7
TICs ¹	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.2
PNDs ²³	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.3
Cannabis Warnings	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8
Other ⁴⁵⁶	0.2	0.3	1.4	1.9	3.1

1. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).

2. Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) (formerly known as fixed penalty notices) were introduced in several forces in 2003/04 and nationally in 2004/05.

3. Cannabis Warnings for possession of cannabis were introduced in 2004/05. Since 26 January 2009, PNDs can also be given for an offence of cannabis possession. Up to the end of March 2009 such PNDs were counted in the same category as Cannabis Warnings. Cannabis warnings include a small number of community resolutions for possession of cannabis in 2012/13.

4. From 1 April 2007, new rules governing non-sanction detections significantly limited the occasions for which such administrative disposals can be applied.

5. Includes data on Youth Restorative Disposals (YRDs) submitted to the Home Office as non-sanction detections from pilots in eight police force areas (Avon and Somerset, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Metropolitan, Norfolk, North Wales, Nottinghamshire). The pilot was introduced in 2008/09.

6. Includes community resolution and restorative justice data submitted on a voluntary basis by some police forces in 2011/12 and 2012/13. These data were then submitted by almost all police forces in 2013/14.

7. Total number of recorded crimes, whether assigned an outcome or not.

8. The number of crimes assigned an outcome divided by total number of recorded offences.

9. Excludes fraud offences as these are now all recorded by Action Fraud, and so a consistent time series cannot be shown.

10. Data for the years 2002/03 to 2012/13 contains some estimated data on 'making off without payment' offences, following the creation of a back series of data on these outcomes (see notes page)

Notes

For details on the Detections framework, in existence until April 2013, please see Crimes Detected in England & Wales, 2012/13:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crimes-detected-in-england-and-wales-2012-to-2013>

Outcomes Framework

The Detections framework was revised to become the Outcomes framework from April 2013. The purpose of the revision was:

- To **strengthen police discretion** by recognising the full range of possible disposals, including community resolutions, rather than incentivising police officers to pursue a particular outcome because it is perceived as 'better' than others. This will empower officers to exercise their professional judgement to ensure that offenders are dealt with by the most appropriate disposal available, in the knowledge that no one outcome is favoured over others – the emphasis should shift from hitting targets to appropriateness.
- By strengthening police discretion, the framework should in turn help to **promote a more victim-oriented approach**, focused on providing a better service to victims of crime by removing perverse incentives for forces to record and pro-actively pursue certain crimes on the basis of locally-set detection targets, and encouraging police officers to consider the needs of victims, and the potential for engaging them in the process.
- To **further increase transparency** in policing, and trust in national statistics, by providing the public with a richer picture of crime, and how it is dealt with in their area. This broader set of information can be used as a tool by which the public can hold the police to account, and as a basis for constructive engagement between communities, the police, and police and crime commissioners. By giving every crime an outcome, we will help the public understand – and therefore support or challenge – police activity.

General Rules section H of [Home Office Counting Rules](#) contains information on recording outcomes. For Home Office purposes, all recorded crimes will be assigned one of the following outcome types:

Outcome 1: Charge / Summons: A person has been charged or summonsed for the (irrespective of any subsequent acquittal at Court).

Outcome 2: Caution – youths: A youth offender has been cautioned by the police.

Outcome 3: Caution – adults: An adult offender has been cautioned by the police.

Outcome 4: Taken into Consideration (TIC): The offender admits the crime by way of a formal police interview and asks for it to be taken into consideration by the court. There must be an interview where the suspect has made a clear and reliable admission of the offence and which is corroborated with additional verifiable auditable information connecting the suspect to the crime.

Outcome 5: The Offender has Died: The offender has died before proceeding could be initiated.

Outcome 6: Penalty Notices for Disorder: A Penalty Notice for Disorder (or other relevant notifiable offence) has been lawfully issued under Section 1 – 11 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

Outcome 7: Cannabis Warning: A warning for Cannabis possession has been issued in accordance with ACPO guidance.

Outcome 8: Community Resolution: A community Resolution (with or without formal Restorative Justice) has been applied in accordance with ACPO guidance.

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14

Outcome 9: Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS decision): The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) by virtue of their powers under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 decides not to prosecute or authorise any other formal action.

Outcome 10: Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (Police decision) (from April 2014).

Outcome 11: Prosecution prevented - Named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility (from April 2014).

Outcome 12: Prosecution prevented - Named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute (from April 2014).

Outcome 13: Prosecution prevented - Named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence (from April 2014).

Outcome 14: Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect not identified: The crime is confirmed but the victim declines or is unable to support further police action to identify the offender (from April 2014).

Outcome 15: Named Suspect identified: the crime is confirmed and the victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action (from April 2014): The crime is confirmed and the victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action. This includes cases where the suspect has been identified, the victim supports action, the suspect has been circulated as wanted but cannot be traced and the crime is finalised pending further action.

Outcome 16: Named Suspect identified: evidential difficulties prevent further action; victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action (from April 2014).

Outcome 17: Prosecution time limit expired: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired (from April 2014).

Outcome 18: Investigation Complete: No suspect identified (from April 2014): The crime has been investigated as far as reasonably possible - case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available.

Outcome 19: National Fraud Intelligence Bureau - filed (NFIB only) (from April 2014): A crime of fraud has been recorded but has not been allocated for investigation, because the assessment process at the NFIB has determined there are insufficient lines of enquiry to warrant such dissemination.

Making off Without Payment Outcomes

Since April 2013, a new police recorded offence of 'Making off without payment' has been included within 'All other theft offences'. These offences and outcomes were previously included in the 'fraud offences' group. Making off without payment covers offences in which the offender intentionally fails to pay for goods or services, for example by driving away from a petrol station, or running off from a taxi without paying.

In order to provide a consistent back series of data, the Home Office and ONS requested an ad hoc collection from all forces. Following this collection, a back series of data on making off without payment outcomes was created. This consisted mostly of actual data received from police forces, but also some estimated data where police forces were not able to provide data. This back series has been used where outcomes data prior to 2013/14 are shown in this bulletin.

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Home Office

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2014/15

Statistical Bulletin 01/15

Edited by: Jenny Allan

July 2015

Important information

In April 2013, the new outcomes framework was introduced and subsequently there has been a change to the way in which crime outcomes statistics are presented. Provisional statistics from the new outcomes framework were first presented in the 2013/14 bulletin¹, published in July 2014. Since then we have developed the statistics further, and consulted with data providers (police forces) and users of the statistics. Prior to April 2013, official statistics about how crimes were dealt with by the police were narrowly focused on detections (i.e. the number of cases resolved with a charge, caution, etc.).

We continue to ensure that these crime outcomes statistics: meet identified user needs (including providing new analysis and greater transparency); are well explained and readily accessible; are produced according to sound methods; and are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

The statistics presented in this bulletin are designated as Official Statistics, rather than National Statistics.

In January 2014, police recorded crime statistics were found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The full assessment report against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-268---statistics-on-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf

In July 2014, prior to the 2013/14 publication and following correspondence between the Home Office Chief Statistician and the UK Statistics Authority Head of Assessment, it was agreed to publish the Crime Outcomes bulletin as Official Statistics, rather than National Statistics.

This reflects the move to the new outcomes framework, and also the possibility that outcomes data are affected by similar issues to those that led to the de-designation of police recorded crime statistics.

Full details of the correspondence are available here:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/letter-from-david-blunt-to-ed-humpherson---090714.pdf

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/letter-from-ed-humpherson-to-david-blunt---150714.pdf

It is our intention that the statistics will be assessed, with a view to them gaining National Statistics status in due course.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014

Further information

The "Crime Outcomes in England and Wales, 2013/14" bulletin, and previous detections bulletins, are available from:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-statistics

Copies of other Home Office publications (including crime statistics releases prior to April 2012) are available from:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/crime-statistics#publications

Copies of crime statistics publications from April 2012 are available from the Office for National Statistics website: www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+and+Justice

This includes the *User Guide to Crime Statistics*, a useful reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications that are key to the production and presentation of the crime statistics.

The dates of forthcoming publications are pre-announced and can be found via the Gov.uk Statistics Release Calendar: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements

For further information about crime outcomes statistics, please email:

crimestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or write to:

Home Office Statistics, 1st Floor, Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

Home Office Responsible Statistician

David Blunt, Chief Statistician and Head of Profession for Statistics

Contact via crimestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

This statistical bulletin is produced to the highest professional standards and is free from political interference. It has been produced by statisticians working in the Home Office Crime and Policing Statistics Section in accordance with the Home Office's [Statement of Compliance](#) with the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*, which covers our policy on revisions and other matters. The Chief Statistician, as Head of Profession, reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters and oversees all Home Office National and Official Statistics products with respect to the Code, being responsible for their timing, content and methodology.

Contents

	Page
Contents	4
Lists of Figures and Tables	6
Executive Summary	8
1 Introduction	10
1.1 Overview	10
1.2 The full outcomes framework	10
1.3 Data shown in this bulletin	12
1.4 Outcome groupings in this bulletin	12
1.5 Police recorded crime	13
1.6 Transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes')	13
1.7 Data quality	13
2 Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15	15
2.1 Introduction	15
2.2 Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15 by type and offence group	16
2.3 Offences recorded in 2014/15 that had been assigned an outcome, by month recorded	20
3 Outcomes recorded in 2014/15	22
3.1 Introduction	22
3.2 Outcomes recorded in 2014/15 by outcome type and offence group	23
3.3 Outcomes recorded in 2014/15 compared with previous year	25
3.4 Fraud outcomes recorded in 2014/15 (Experimental Statistics)	27
4 The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded in 2014/15	30
4.1 Introduction	30
4.2 The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded	30
5 Transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes')	33

5.1	Definitions and circumstances for transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes')	33
5.2	Transferred or cancelled record (formerly 'no-crime') statistics	33
5.3	Transferred or cancelled records by type (Experimental Statistics)	34
5.4	HMIC findings on the quality of no-criming	35
5.5	Comparing transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes')	35
Annex A: Background to Crime Outcomes		36
A1	Background: the outcomes framework	36
A2	The outcomes framework introduced in April 2013	36
A3	The agreed outcomes framework introduced in April 2014	36
A4	Interpreting the outcomes framework	37
A5	Outcomes consultation 2014	38
A6	Data shown in this bulletin	38
A7	New outcome from April 2015	41
A8	Future timeliness of outcomes statistics	41
A9	Police recorded crime data	41
Annex B: Crime Outcomes Data Quality		42
B1	Introduction	42
B2	Data sources used: aggregated CrimeSec4 returns	42
B3	Data sources used: the Home Office Data Hub	42
B4	Data sources used: voluntary returns	43
B5	Data validation processes	43
Notes		45
References		47

List of figures

1	Introduction	10
2	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15.....	15
Figure 2.1	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15, by outcome group and offence group	19
Figure 2.2	Proportion of offences recorded in 2014/15 that had been assigned an outcome at time data were submitted to the Home Office, by month	21
3	Outcomes recorded in 2014/15.....	22
Figure 3.1	How fraud outcomes are recorded	28
4	The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded in 2014/15.....	30
Figure 4.1	The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded, outcomes recorded, by offence type	31
Figure 4.2	The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded, outcomes recorded, by outcome group.....	32
5	Transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes')	33
Figure 5.1	Transferred or cancelled records by type, recorded by a subset of forces in early 2015/16 (Experimental Statistics)	35
Annex A: Background to Crime Outcomes		36
Figure A	How all offences initially recorded by the police were dealt with in 2014/2015	37

List of tables

1	Introduction	10
Table 1.1	Detection types in place prior to April 2013 and the outcomes frameworks in place thereafter.....	11
Table 1.2	Grouping the outcomes framework from April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-19).....	12
2	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15.....	15
Table 2.1	Number of forces providing data on all outcome types 1-18, by month from which data were provided	15
Table 2.2	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15, by outcome type and group.....	17
Table 2.3	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15, by outcome group and	

	group	18
3	Outcomes recorded in 2014/15.....	22
Table 3.1	Number of forces providing data on the broader outcomes framework, by month from which full data were first provided	22
Table 3.2	Outcomes recorded in 2014/15, by outcome type and offence group.....	23
Table 3.3	Outcomes recorded in 2014/15, by outcome group and offence group	24
Table 3.4	Number of charge/summons recorded in 2013/14 and 2014/15, by offence group	25
Table 3.5	Number of cautions recorded in 2013/14 and 2014/15, by offence group	26
Table 3.6	Fraud outcomes recorded in 2014/15, by outcome type (Experimental Statistics)	29
4	The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded in 2014/15.....	30
Table 4.1	Number of forces providing data via the Home Office Data Hub that have been included in time gap analysis.....	30
5	Transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes')	33
Table 5.1	Number and proportion of transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes'), by offence group, 2013/2014 and 2014/15	34
	Annex A: Background to Crime Outcomes	36
Table A	Forces providing outcomes data.....	40
	Annex B: Crime Outcomes Data Quality.....	42
Table B	Trends in the number of outcomes and outcome rates by outcome type, 2002/03 to 2014/15.....	44

Executive Summary

OVERVIEW

This is the first bulletin based entirely on the full outcomes framework introduced in April 2014. This new outcomes framework allows every crime recorded by the police to be given a detailed outcome, showing how the police deal with crimes (including crimes which are still under investigation).

KEY FINDINGS

For offences recorded in 2014/15, at the time that forces submitted data:

- 93% of offences recorded in 2014/15 had been assigned an outcome. The remaining 7% were still under investigation and will be assigned an outcome in later years.
- For around half (49%) of offences recorded in 2014/15, no suspect had been identified and the case was closed.
 - Within offence groups this ranged from 1% of drug offences to 70% of theft offences. Around 12% of violent and sexual offences had been closed with no suspect identified.
- Possession of weapon offences were most likely to have been assigned a charge / summons outcome (60% of these offences).
- Around one-third (33%) of sexual offences had evidential difficulties outcomes, the offence category with the highest proportion experiencing evidential difficulties. However, sexual offences also had a higher proportion of crimes (37%) from the year that remained under investigation.

Outcomes recorded in 2014/15 (irrespective of when the crime was recorded), compared with the previous year:

- Between 2013/14 and 2014/15, the proportion of charge/summons outcomes recorded in the year as a proportion of total crimes recorded in the year decreased slightly from 17.2% to 16.7%.
- Changes in the number of charge/summons between 2013/14 and 2014/15 vary considerably by crime type, and tend to be influenced by changes in crime volume. For example, where the number of offences of a particular crime category have increased between the years, so have the number of charge/summons in most cases. Rates can be affected by crimes taking time to be solved, so trends in outcome numbers generally track trends in offence numbers with a time lag.

The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded in 2014/15:

- Almost half of offences (46%) were assigned an outcome within five days of the offence being recorded, and 72% of outcomes were assigned within 30 days. 9% of outcomes took more than 100 days to be assigned.
- Sexual offences generally took much longer to be assigned an outcome than other offence types, with 39% taking over 100 days. This is likely to be due to the complexity of these cases and the level of investigation needed.

- Investigation closed with no suspect identified tended to be the outcome assigned most quickly, with 32% assigned on the same day as the crime was recorded, almost all (96%) of which were applied to theft or criminal damage and arson offences.

Transferred or cancelled records in 2014/15:

- 3.1% of all offences that were initially recorded as crimes in 2014/15 were subsequently transferred or cancelled. The proportion of rape offences transferred or cancelled was 5.1%, down from 7.3% in 2013/4.
- Experimental Statistics for April to May 2015 showed that 59% of the transferred and cancelled records were cancelled due to additional verifiable information becoming available that determined that no notifiable crime had been committed.

1 Introduction

1.1 – OVERVIEW

This bulletin reports on the outcomes of crimes recorded by the 43 police forces in England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. In April 2013 the new outcomes framework was introduced, replacing the detections previously recorded. The move from detections to outcomes was a marked change, with an emphasis on greater transparency on how **all** crimes recorded by the police are dealt with. The previous focus on detections gave a partial picture of the work police do to investigate and resolve crime, and its narrow focus resulted in the potential for detection targets which risked driving perverse behaviour with respect to crime recording decisions.

The statistical bulletin "Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2013/14"², which was published in July 2014, reflected the transition from the old detections to the new outcomes framework. This bulletin is therefore the first publication based entirely on the full outcomes framework.

For more information on the background to the new outcomes framework and how it was developed, see Annex A: Background to Crime Outcomes.

1.2 – THE FULL OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

Table 1.1 shows how the framework of nineteen outcomes introduced in April 2014 includes the same categories as the previous detections and outcomes frameworks, but also provides additional information on other crime outcomes.

² www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014

Table 1.1: Detection types in place prior to April 2013 and the outcomes frameworks in place thereafter

Detections framework – prior to April 2013 (outcomes 1-6)	Outcomes framework – April 2013 to March 2014 (outcomes 1-9)	Outcomes framework – April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-19)
1. Charge/Summons	1. Charge/Summons	1. Charge/Summons
2. Caution	2. Caution – youths 3. Caution – adults	2. Caution – youths 3. Caution – adults
3. Taken into consideration (TIC) – previously recorded	4. Taken into consideration (TIC)	4. Taken into consideration (TIC)
4. Taken into consideration (TIC) – not previously recorded		
5. Penalty Notices for Disorder	6. Penalty Notices for Disorder	6. Penalty Notices for Disorder
6. Other	5. The Offender has Died (indictable only/sexual offences)	5. The Offender has Died (all offences)
	7. Cannabis Warning	7. Cannabis/Khat Warning
	8. Community Resolution	8. Community Resolution
	9. Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS) (indictable only offences)	9. Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS) (all offences)
Data not collected by the Home Office	Data not collected by the Home Office	10. Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (Police decision)
Data not collected by the Home Office	Data not collected by the Home Office	11. Prosecution prevented - Named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility
Data not collected by the Home Office	Data not collected by the Home Office	12. Prosecution prevented - Named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute
Data not collected by the Home Office	Data not collected by the Home Office	13. Prosecution prevented - Named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence
Data not collected by the Home Office	Data not collected by the Home Office	14. Evidential Difficulties Victim Based – Named suspect not identified; The crime is confirmed but the victim either declines/ or is unable to support further police investigation to identify the offender.
Data not collected by the Home Office	Data not collected by the Home Office	15. Named Suspect identified; the crime is confirmed and the victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action
Data not collected by the Home Office	Data not collected by the Home Office	16. Named Suspect identified; evidential difficulties prevent further action; victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action
Data not collected by the Home Office	Data not collected by the Home Office	17. Prosecution time limit expired: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired.
Data not collected by the Home Office	Data not collected by the Home Office	18. Investigation Complete: No suspect identified. Crime investigated as far as reasonably possible - case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available
Data not collected by the Home Office	Data not collected by the Home Office	19. National Fraud Intelligence Bureau - filed (NFIB only) - A crime of fraud has been recorded but has not been allocated for investigation, because the assessment process at the NFIB has determined there are insufficient lines of enquiry to warrant such dissemination.

At any given time, there will also be a subset of offences where the investigation of the crime is still ongoing and an outcome has not yet been assigned. Therefore, while every crime will eventually be given an outcome under the April 2014 framework, this may take some time while crimes are investigated. Data on outcomes for crimes recorded in a given period are therefore subject to ongoing revisions as investigations into crimes are completed and final outcomes are assigned. This is discussed further in Chapter 2.

For more information on how to interpret the full outcomes framework, see Annex A: Background to Crime Outcomes.

1.3 – DATA SHOWN IN THIS BULLETIN

This bulletin is based on the new outcomes categories introduced in April 2014. However, given the work involved in amending police force crime recording systems, not all forces were able to supply data from April 2014 for the outcome types not covered by the detection types recorded in previous years (see Table 1.1).

Consequently, some of the 2014/15 data contained in this bulletin do not include all forces. Where necessary, notes on excluded forces are provided. While most forces had started recording the full range of outcomes by summer 2014, the Metropolitan Police provided data from December 2014.

For more details on what data has been excluded from certain periods or analyses, see Annex A: Background to Crime Outcomes.

1.4 – OUTCOME GROUPINGS IN THIS BULLETIN

The full range of outcomes is presented in most tables in this publication and the accompanying data tables. However, the Home Office consulted with users to consider whether some grouping would benefit the presentation of figures. As a result, in some tables and charts, outcomes are grouped to make presentation easier. It is important to recognise that the groupings are merely presentational, to allow simpler illustration in some places.

The resulting groupings shown in Table 1.2 take account of feedback from users. The outcomes one to eighteen recorded by the police are still presented in many tables and the Open Data tables:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables

Table 1.2: Grouping the outcomes framework from April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-19)

Outcome Group	Outcome type(s)
Charged/Summoned	1
Taken into consideration	4
Out-of-court (formal)	2, 3, 6
Out-of-court (informal)	7, 8
Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	15
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	14, 16
Investigation complete – no suspect identified	18
National Fraud Intelligence Bureau - filed (fraud offences recorded by NFIB only)	19

See Table 1.1 for a description of each outcome type.

1.5 – POLICE RECORDED CRIME

The police recorded crime data used in this bulletin are supplied by police forces to the Home Office, and are then published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in "Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2015":

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales

ONS publish police recorded crime statistics both including and excluding fraud (as measured by a combination of crime recorded by the police and Action Fraud). All fraud offences have been recorded by Action Fraud rather than the police since April 2013, so for consistency ONS's series of police recorded crime used for comparisons with previous years is the version that excludes fraud.

1.6 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS (FORMERLY 'NO-CRIMES')

This bulletin contains data on transferred or cancelled records (formerly referred to as 'no-crimes'), which are when the police have originally recorded an offence, but have subsequently determined that the crime did not take place, or was recorded in error. This could occur for one of five reasons, and from April 2015 the data supplied by forces has been split into those five categories:

- 1 Transferred: Crime committed outside the jurisdiction of the police force in which it was recorded – passed to the appropriate force.
- 2 Cancelled: Additional verifiable information that determines that no notifiable crime occurred becomes available.
- 3 Cancelled: Duplicate record or part of a crime already recorded.
- 4 Cancelled: Crime recorded in error.
- 5 Cancelled: Self defence claimed (for specific recorded assaults).

The total numbers of transferred or cancelled records combined are shown in Chapter 5 of this bulletin. Some partial data for the breakdown into the five categories above for April and May 2015 are also presented as Experimental Statistics.

Full data for these new breakdowns for the first full quarter they have been collected (April to June 2015) will be published in October 2015 alongside publication of outcomes data.

1.7 – DATA QUALITY

Given the work involved in amending police force crime recording systems to accommodate the full outcomes framework, not all forces were able to supply full data from April 2014. As a result, the data for 2014/15 do not include all forces in some tables in this bulletin. Where necessary, explanations have been provided as to which forces have not been included for certain quarters or analyses. See Table 1.2 for details of when each police force was able to provide full data on the broader outcomes framework.

The Ministry of Justice has been working with the Home Office, the Crown Prosecution Service and the National Police Chiefs' Council to deliver a project to make the use of out-of-court disposals for adult offenders more effective. In November 2014, as part of this project, three police forces (Leicestershire, Staffordshire and West Yorkshire) commenced a 12 month pilot operation of a simplified model of such outcomes (West Yorkshire Police adopted a phased roll out starting in November 2014 and fully operational in January 2015). All three forces, with the agreement of

Ministers, voluntarily stopped issuing adult simple cautions (part of outcome 3) and cannabis / khat warnings (outcome 7) and limited their use of penalty notices for disorder (outcome 6), instead using the adult conditional caution (part of outcome 3) and the community resolution (outcome 8). The rules and guidance that apply to conditional cautions and community resolutions have been amended for those three forces to reflect this new approach. At conclusion of the pilot period an assessment report will be prepared and consideration given as to the future adoption of this simplified approach. This needs to be borne in mind when looking at the outcomes data for these three forces, as they are likely to have a smaller proportion of outcomes 6 and 7 and greater proportion of outcome 8 than other forces not involved in the pilot.

The Home Office receives monthly data on crime, crime outcomes and transferred or cancelled crimes from police forces. These data are quality assured and analysed by Home Office statisticians and any anomalies or errors identified through this process result in a report being returned to the relevant force for validation or correction.

Prior to the publication of crime outcomes a verification exercise is carried out with all forces. The data held by the Home Office are returned to individual forces asking for confirmation that the data accords with that held on their own systems. Again, forces resubmit data if required.

See Annex B: Crime Outcomes Data Quality for further information.

2 Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15

2.1 - INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers how crimes recorded in 2014/15 have been dealt with, by linking individual outcomes to the offence that they relate to. This provides a level of transparency that has not previously been possible based on the data collected.

This has been done in two ways:

- For 19 forces, data have been collected via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH). This is a record level crime database, which contains information on both the date the outcome is assigned and the date when the offence was recorded;
- As not all forces are currently able to provide data via the HODH, the Home Office made a request to all remaining forces in order to capture these data. Figures were voluntarily provided by a further 19 forces.

The analysis in this chapter is therefore based on data from 38 of the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales (see Table A for further details; the British Transport Police did not provide data). Chapter 3 shows outcomes recorded in 2014/15 regardless of when the offence was recorded, which covers all police forces.

While some forces have been able to supply a full year of data, others will only cover part of the year as either a full year of data was not provided or the data for the full framework does not cover the full year (see Annex B for further explanation). Some forces were unable to provide any data for this voluntary collection, so they have been excluded. To produce meaningful analyses, data have been used for the time periods where a full outcomes breakdown is available for each force. For example, if a force began providing data on the full framework from July 2014 then their crime and outcomes data have been used from July 2014 to March 2015 only. As such, this chapter covers around three-quarters (73%) of all offences recorded in 2014/15. See Table 2.1 for details of the number of forces included.

Table 2.1: Number of forces providing data on all outcome types 1-18, by month from which data were provided

Outcome data (types 1-18) included from ³ :	England and Wales, Recorded crime	
	Number of forces	Proportion of total recorded crime ⁴
April 2014	28	54.6
July 2014	5	8.1
October 2014	4	3.4
December 2014	1	6.6
Total providing data	38	72.7
Months not covered (10 forces as above)		19.3
No data provided	6	8.0
Total	44	100.0

1. See Table A for details of which forces are included

2. Forces' data for both crime and outcomes have been included from the months shown to the end of March 2015

3. The data cover outcomes types 1-18 (Table 1.1) for the entirety of the period for which they are included

4. The proportions of total recorded crime are calculated by multiplying the proportion of total 2014/15 police recorded crime each force accounts for by the proportion of the year that they supplied data

While this new presentation provides increased transparency, all these points need to be considered when interpreting these data and proportions should be seen as indicative.

At the time of forces providing data for 2014/15, it is likely that a number of crimes recorded in the year were still under investigation, particularly crimes recorded near the end of the year that required complex investigations that may still be at an early stage. Many of these crimes will be assigned an outcome during 2015/16 (see section 2.3). Forces that are included for part of the year will have a slightly smaller overall proportion of crimes assigned an outcome since a greater proportion of crimes will have been recorded in more recent months and therefore be less likely to have an outcome.

To gain the full benefits from this analysis, it is important that it is repeated over time. The Home Office will continue to revise this analysis in publication of quarterly tables to reflect the evolution of such outcomes, allowing users to see how the crimes recorded in the period are gradually all given an outcome.

Outcomes of fraud offences recorded in 2014/15 are not included in this chapter because fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces. Chapter 3 covers fraud outcomes recorded in 2014/15 based on data provided by the NFIB.

2.2 – OUTCOMES ASSIGNED TO OFFENCES RECORDED IN 2014/15 BY TYPE AND OFFENCE GROUP

The rates for individual outcome types shown in Tables 2.2 and 2.3 below relate to outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15 for the forces that supplied data across the periods highlighted in Table 2.1. In total, 93% of offences recorded in 2014/15 had been assigned an outcome by the time the data was supplied to the Home Office³. The remaining 7% were yet to be assigned an outcome.

- For around half (49%) of offences recorded in 2014/15, no suspect had been identified and the case was closed (outcome type 18).
- The next most common outcome type was an offender being charged or summonsed (16%).

It is difficult to draw inferences about what may happen to those offences that are yet to have an outcome assigned; while some of these may be crimes that were recently recorded, it may not be appropriate to assume that all crimes yet to be assigned an outcome will be distributed proportionately across outcome groups 1-18 when investigations are complete. For example, suspects may be identified in these cases already and the police may be gathering evidence before formally assigning an outcome; only subsequent quarterly updates to these figures will provide a fuller picture.

³ Thirteen forces submitted data to the Home Office in mid-April 2015 and six forces submitted these in mid/late-May. Data for the remaining 19 forces included in the analysis were taken from the Home Office Data Hub in early June 2015.

Outcomes Assigned to Offences Recorded in 2014/15

Table 2.2: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15, by outcome type and group

		England and Wales, Recorded crime
Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Proportion of offences recorded in 2014/15 ²
1	Charged/Summoned	15.5
4	Taken into consideration¹	0.5
	Out-of-court (formal)	4.6
2	Caution - youths ³	0.6
3	Caution - adults ³	3.1
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	0.9
	Out-of-court (informal)	4.6
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	1.1
8	Community resolution	3.5
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	2.0
5	Offender died	0.0
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	0.2
10	Not in public interest (Police)	1.2
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	0.1
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	0.2
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	0.0
17	Prosecution time limit expired	0.2
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	7.9
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	8.7
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	1.9
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	6.9
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	48.9
Total offences assigned an outcome (type 1-18)		92.7
Offences not yet assigned an outcome		7.3
Total offences		100.0

1. Offences asked to be taken in to consideration by a court (TICs)

2. Number of outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15 divided by number of offences recorded in 2014/15

3. The Metropolitan Police were unable to provide 'caution - youths' separately until December 2014. These are therefore included within 'caution - adults'.

4. Based on 38 forces that supplied data as referenced in Table 2.1

However, as shown in Table 2.3 and Figure 2.1, these proportions varied considerably by offence type. For example, less than 5% of rape, possession of weapon and drug offences had been assigned an outcome of investigation complete – no suspect identified, compared with around 70% of criminal damage and arson and theft offences.

Given the different natures of the various crime types shown, it is unsurprising that some outcome types are more common for some crime types than others. This reflects the severity of each crime type, the local guidance on outcomes given to police forces and the varying difficulty in identifying a suspect for certain crime types. For example, it may be far more difficult to identify a suspect for a criminal damage offence that was not witnessed or caught on CCTV than for a drug offence where the offender is usually identified when the crime comes to the attention of the police, or for an offence where there was substantial forensic evidence.

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2014/15

Table 2.3: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15, by outcome group and offence group

Offence group	England and Wales, Recorded crime									
	Charged/ summonsed	Taken into consideration ¹	Out-of-court (formal) ²	Out-of-court (informal) ³	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest ⁴	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action) ⁵	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	Offences not yet assigned an outcome	Outcome rate (%)
Violence against the person	22.0	0.0	6.3	5.3	4.4	16.90	23.61	12.0	9.4	
Sexual offences	11.3	0.0	1.3	0.7	4.4	16.3	16.8	12.2	36.9	
of which: Rape	8.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.3	15.7	19.7	4.9	48.7	
Robbery	17.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.7	7.3	8.4	50.8	15.0	
Theft offences	10.8	1.0	2.2	2.7	0.9	4.2	3.1	70.0	5.1	
Criminal damage and arson	8.3	0.1	3.1	3.7	1.3	4.6	5.3	69.2	4.3	
Drug offences	33.3	0.0	22.9	27.6	1.8	3.3	0.2	1.1	9.8	
Possession of weapons offences	59.5	0.0	11.8	2.9	4.3	9.2	2.2	4.4	5.7	
Public order offences	31.4	0.0	9.4	5.1	3.4	14.2	15.4	15.8	5.3	
Misc. crimes against society	38.0	0.3	5.6	2.5	4.1	13.5	7.8	12.7	15.5	
Total	15.5	0.5	4.6	4.6	2.0	7.9	8.7	48.9	7.3	

1. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).

2. Includes caution - adults; caution - youths; Penalty Notices for Disorder

3. Includes cannabis/khat w arnings and community resolutions

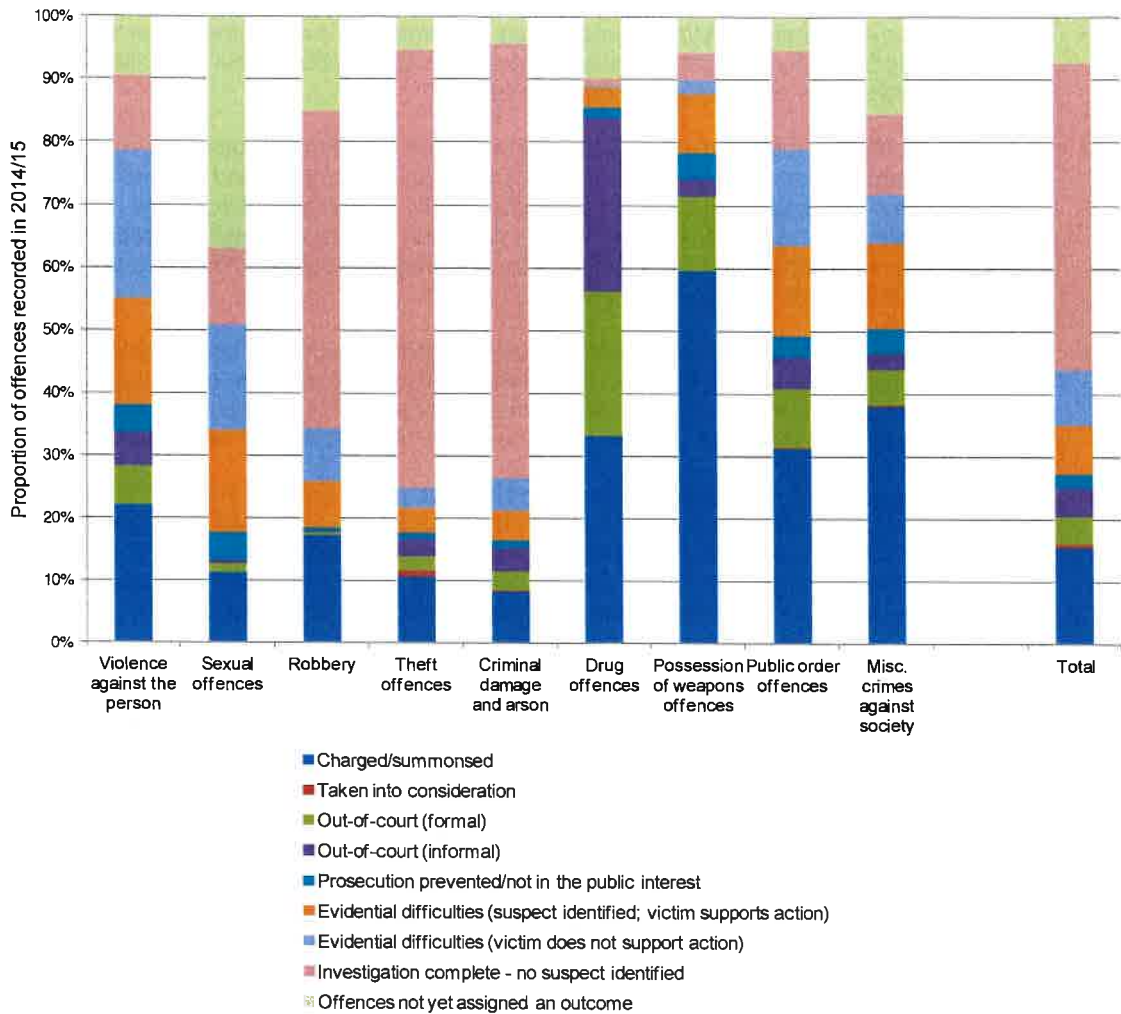
4. Includes not in the public interest (CPS); Not in public interest (Police); Offender Died; Prosecution prevented (suspect under age; suspect too ill; victim/key witness dead/too ill); Prosecution time limit expired

5. Includes evidential difficulties where the suspect was/were as not identified and the victim does not support further action

6. Based on 38 forces that supplied data as referenced in Table 2.1

Outcomes Assigned to Offences Recorded in 2014/15

Figure 2.1: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15, by outcome group and offence group



Source: Home Office Data Hub and voluntary spreadsheet return

1. Based on 38 forces that supplied data as referenced in Table 2.1.
2. The numbers behind this chart are in Table 2.3

Although the data in Table 2.3 and Figure 2.1 do not cover all forces (see Table 2.1), they give a clear indication of how outcomes vary by offence type. For example:

- Possession of weapons was the offence type most likely to be assigned a charge/summons outcome, with around 60% of the crimes recorded in this category receiving a charge/summons.
- This contrasts with criminal damage and arson offences where 8% of crimes recorded in 2014/15 had received a charge/summons, and theft offences where 11% of crimes received a charges/summons. However, these offence groups had the highest proportion of outcomes where no suspect was identified and the case was closed, with 69% of criminal damage and arson and 70% of theft offences recorded in 2014/15 receiving this outcome type.
- While the proportion of sexual offences recorded in 2014/15 that had been resolved by a charge/summons was relatively low compared with other offence groups (11%), a large proportion (37%) of sexual offences recorded in 2014/15 had not yet been assigned an outcome, i.e. the investigation was still ongoing. In particular, almost half (49%) of rape

offences had not yet been assigned an outcome. This reflects the greater complexity of investigations for sexual offences and the extended time period required to assign an outcome.

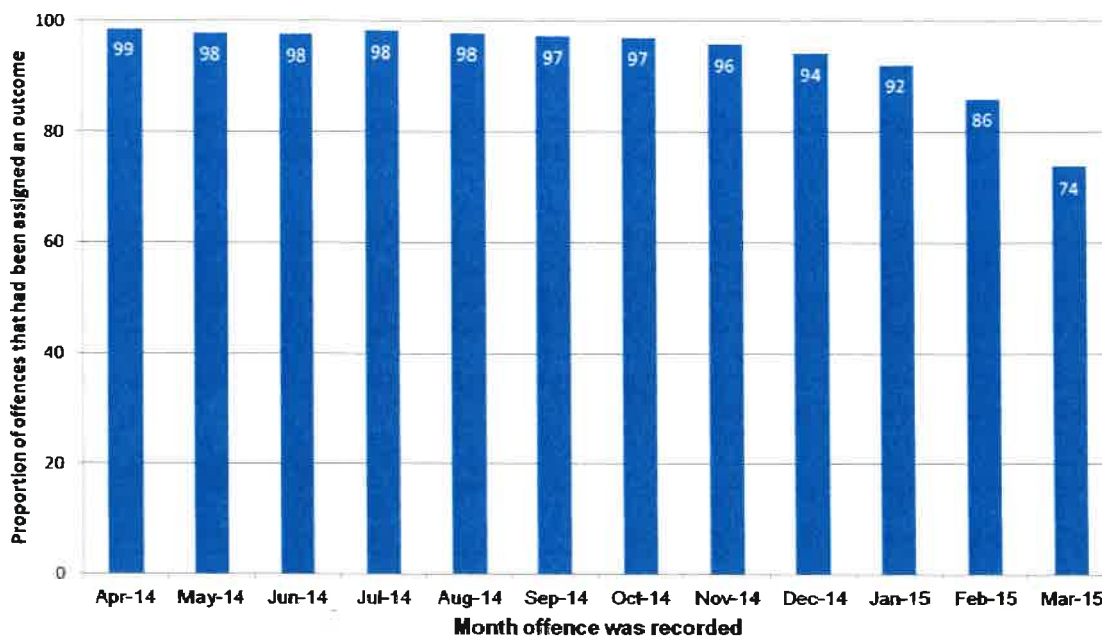
- The proportion of offences yet to be assigned an outcome was lower across other crime types, ranging from 4% (criminal damage and arson) to 15% (robbery and miscellaneous crimes against society) of offences recorded in 2014/15.
- Half of drug offences recorded in 2014/15 were assigned out-of-court outcomes, a far higher proportion than all other offence types. This was unsurprising, with around half (48%) of the out-of-court outcomes for drug offences accounted for by cannabis/khat warnings. Out-of-court disposals were less prevalent for other crime types. The second highest proportion was for possession of weapon offences (15%) which, like drug possession offences, are usually resolved at the time the offence is recorded.
- Violent offences (41%) and sexual offences (33%) recorded in 2014/15 had a greater proportion of outcomes where there were evidential difficulties than other crime types. The proportion was also relatively high for public order offences (30%). These can include where the suspect has been identified, but the victim does not want to proceed with action.
- Drug offences (1%) and possession of weapon offences (4%) recorded in 2014/15 were far less likely than other offence groups to result in the case being closed without a suspect being identified. This is to be expected as, unlike victim-based crime types such as theft, when the offender may be unknown or unobserved, the offender is usually identified and dealt with at the same time as the crime comes to the attention of the police (and is recorded).

2.3 – OFFENCES RECORDED IN 2014/15 THAT HAD BEEN ASSIGNED AN OUTCOME, BY MONTH RECORDED

As shown in Table 2.2, 93% of offences recorded in 2014/15 had been assigned an outcome by the time the data were supplied to the Home Office. However, as expected, this proportion of crimes assigned an outcome was higher for the earlier months and lower for the more recent months, as might be expected given the length of time investigations might take. This is illustrated in Figure 2.2.

Outcomes Assigned to Offences Recorded in 2014/15

Figure 2.2: Proportion of offences recorded in 2014/15 that had been assigned an outcome at the time data were submitted to the Home Office, by month



Source: Home Office Data Hub and voluntary spreadsheet return

1. Based on 38 forces that supplied data as referenced in Table 2.1.

2. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables document, which can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2014-to-2015

Figure 2.2 shows that, at the point that the data were submitted to the Home Office, almost all offences recorded in April 2014 had been assigned an outcome (99%). The proportion remained high (between 97% and 98%) for offences recorded in the next six months before gradually decreasing over time.

Around three-quarters (74%) of offences recorded in March 2015 had been assigned an outcome at the time data were submitted to the Home Office, unsurprisingly a much lower proportion than for all other months. This is because a substantial proportion of offences, in particular those recorded towards the end of the month, will not yet have been assigned an outcome at the point data were submitted to the Home Office

See Chapter 4 for analysis of the average time between an offence being recorded and an outcome being assigned to the corresponding crime.

3 Outcomes recorded in 2014/15

3.1 – INTRODUCTION

The 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales and the British Transport Police provide the Home Office with aggregate returns each month on the number of notifiable crimes and the number of outcomes they have recorded each year.

The analysis presented in this chapter covers all police forces in England and Wales for the full twelve month period for outcomes 1-4, 6 and 7. As explained in section 1.7, some forces only started to supply data for the new outcomes mid-way through the year, and as such the figures for these forces (and, as a result, the totals for England and Wales) are not complete. See Table 1.2 for details.

Table 3.1: Number of forces providing data on the broader outcomes framework, by month from which data were first provided

Outcome data (types 5, 9-18) provided from ³ :	England and Wales, Recorded crime	
	Number of forces	Proportion of total 2014/15 recorded crime ⁴
April 2014	33	64.0
May 2014	3	3.3
June 2014	1	3.7
July 2014	5	5.7
August 2014	1	0.5
December 2014	1	6.6
Total recording data on outcomes 5, 9-18	44	83.7
Months not covered for types 5, 9-18 (11 forces as above)		16.3
Total	44	100.0

1. See Table A for details of which forces are included

2. Data for outcomes 1-4, 6-8 (shown in Table 1.1) recorded in 2014/15 were provided from April 2014 for all 44 forces

3. The data cover outcome types 5, 9-18 (Table 1.1) for the periods shown above, i.e. for 33 forces this is the full year April 2014 to March 2015, for 3 forces this is May 2014 to March 2015 and so on

4. The proportions of recorded crime are calculated by multiplying the proportion of total 2014/15 police recorded crime the force accounts for multiplied by the proportion of the year they have supplied data for

The rates described in this chapter are the number of a particular outcome recorded in a period as a proportion of crimes recorded in the same period – so the outcomes can relate to crimes recorded in previous years. This means that some crime types could show a rate of over 100% against a particular outcome. This is sometimes the case for relatively low volume crimes. Rates are only presented for outcome types where forces provided data to cover the full year, i.e. those that are comparable with previous years (Table 1.1).

While outcome rates can be useful for giving an indication of police activity in resolving crime, they are not a direct measure of police investigative performance and need to be interpreted with care. Some of the offences with the highest rates for particular outcomes are the offences most influenced by proactive policing. For example, possession of weapon and drug offences are often resolved at the point of the crime being 'discovered', as are many of the offences covered by 'miscellaneous crimes against society'.

Outcome data for fraud offences provided by the National Fraud Investigation Bureau (NFIB) are included in section 3.4 of this bulletin. However, they are under development and subject to ongoing quality assurance so should be treated with caution at this stage. They are therefore excluded from the main outcomes figures.

Outcomes Recorded in 2014/15

3.2 – OUTCOMES RECORDED IN 2014/15 BY OUTCOME TYPE AND OFFENCE GROUP

Table 3.2 shows the number of each outcome recorded by the police in 2014/15, by offence group, alongside the number of offences that were recorded during the same period. The outcome data are based on the eighteen outcomes for which data were available in 2014/15, see Table 1.1.

Due to the changes required to administrative systems, eleven police forces started recording against the new framework later than April 2015, which affects how Table 3.2 is interpreted. Most forces (33) have a full year of data under the new framework, but eleven have only part of the year based on the full set of outcomes, and the remainder based on the limited subset of outcomes (see Table 3.1). The numbers for groups which include new outcomes (prosecution prevented or not in the public interest; evidential difficulties; investigation complete – no suspect identified) are therefore lower than we would expect as they have only been recorded for part of the year for some forces.

Table 3.2: Outcomes recorded in 2014/15, by outcome type and offence group

England and Wales, Recorded crime			
Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Number of outcomes	Rate ⁴
1	Charged/Summonsed	596,179	16.7
4	Taken into consideration ¹	23,620	0.7
	Out-of-court (formal)	177,635	5.0
2	Caution - youths ²	20,115	0.6
3	Caution - adults ²	123,559	3.5
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	33,961	0.9
	Out-of-court (informal)	163,865	4.6
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	46,697	1.3
8	Community resolution	117,168	3.3
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	60,417	..
5	Offender died ³	1,128	..
9	Not in public interest (CPS) ³	6,988	..
10	Not in public interest (Police) ³	36,499	..
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age ³	3,655	..
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill ³	7,663	..
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill ³	1,023	..
17	Prosecution time limit expired ³	3,461	..
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)³	262,356	..
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	270,190	..
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action ³	58,653	..
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action ³	211,537	..
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified³	1,516,364	..
Total recorded offences		3,580,638	

1. Offences asked to be taken in to consideration by a court (TICs)

2. The Metropolitan Police were unable to provide 'caution - youths' separately until December 2014. These are therefore included within 'caution - adults'.

3. Eleven forces did not provide data on outcomes 5, 9-18 to cover the full year, and total numbers shown for these outcomes are therefore lower than expected. Details shown in Table 3.1

4. Rate based on number of outcomes recorded in 2014/15 divided by number of offences recorded in 2014/15. Rates shown for outcome types where full year of data was provided by all forces.

The number of outcomes recorded in 2014/15 as a proportion of the number of offences recorded in 2014/15 varies considerably by offence type (Table 3.3).

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2014/15

Table 3.3: Outcomes recorded in 2014/15, by outcome group and offence group

Offence group	Recorded crime	England and Wales, Recorded crime									
		Charged/ Summoned	Taken into consideration ¹	Out-of-court (formal) ²	Out-of-court (informal) ³	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest ^{4, 6}	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action) ^{5, 6}	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action) ^{5, 6}	Investigation complete - no suspect identified ⁶		
		<i>Number of outcomes</i>									
Violence against the person	779,027	178,424	51	54,942	38,425	29,287	116,642	159,196	81,300		
Sexual offences	88,219	15,827	27	1,437	620	4,000	17,004	14,794	10,425		
Robbery	50,236	9,480	105	171	131	262	3,296	3,208	18,957		
Theft offences	1,755,436	196,179	22,386	41,869	43,878	12,399	70,552	46,796	1,059,568		
Criminal damage and arson	503,842	45,707	824	17,995	18,657	4,995	22,849	24,272	316,652		
Drug offences	169,964	64,236	29	40,610	52,907	2,609	5,324	324	1,759		
Possession of weapons offences	21,904	13,708	9	2,802	763	713	1,745	385	789		
Public order offences	159,528	49,995	32	14,527	7,015	4,375	18,269	17,801	21,031		
Misc. crimes against society	52,482	22,623	157	3,282	1,469	1,777	6,675	3,414	5,883		
Total	3,580,638	596,179	23,620	177,635	163,865	60,417	262,356	270,190	1,516,364		
		<i>Rate (%)</i>									
Violence against the person		22.9	0.0	7.1	4.9	**	**	**	**		
Sexual offences		17.9	0.0	1.6	0.7	**	**	**	**		
Robbery		18.9	0.2	0.3	0.3	**	**	**	**		
Theft offences		11.2	1.3	2.4	2.5	**	**	**	**		
Criminal damage and arson		9.1	0.2	3.6	3.7	**	**	**	**		
Drug offences		37.8	0.0	23.9	31.1	**	**	**	**		
Possession of weapons offences		62.6	0.0	12.8	3.5	**	**	**	**		
Public order offences		31.3	0.0	9.1	4.4	**	**	**	**		
Misc. crimes against society		43.1	0.3	6.3	2.8	**	**	**	**		
Total		16.7	0.7	5.0	4.6	**	**	**	**		

1. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs)

2. Includes caution - adults; caution - youths; Penalty Notices for Disorder

3. Includes cannabis/khat warnings and community resolutions

4. Includes not in the public interest (CPS); Not in public interest (Police); Offender Died; Prosecution prevented (suspect under age; suspect too ill; victim/key witness dead/too ill); Prosecution time limit expired

5. Includes evidential difficulties where the suspect was/was not identified and the victim does not support further action

6. Eleven forces did not provide data on outcomes 10-18 to cover the full year, and total numbers shown for these outcomes are therefore lower than expected. Details shown in Table 3.1

7. Rate based on number of outcomes recorded in 2014/15 divided by number of offences recorded in 2014/15. Rates shown for outcome types where full year of data was provided by all forces

Outcomes Recorded in 2014/15

Given the different natures of the crime types shown in Table 3.3, it is to be expected that some outcome types are more common for some crime types than others. As in the previous chapter, this reflects the different nature of the crime types, and the guidance on outcomes given to police forces and decisions made within forces.

Comparing the number of outcomes with the number of recorded offences should be done with caution, as the outcomes do not relate precisely to the same period as the offences. Some of the outcomes will refer to offences that were recorded in previous years, and were allocated an outcome following completion of the investigation. 'Rates' can also be influenced by changes in crime volumes for offence categories. For example, where crime volumes increase or decrease markedly from one year to the next, it is likely that any outcome rate will react more slowly, particularly where investigation times are longer and outcomes are likely to be assigned some time after the crime is recorded. This reflects that in-year comparisons of this nature pair outcomes with a different set of crimes. The rates for individual outcome types (e.g. the charge/summons rate) should therefore be treated as indicative only. This could particularly affect charge/summons rates for sexual offences, where the volume increased markedly between 2013/14 and 2014/15. Analysis in Chapter 2 showed that a large number of sexual offences remain under investigation. For that reason, rates in Table 3.3 can be particularly difficult to interpret as they are affected by changing volumes, especially for those crime types that take longer to investigate and assign an outcome.

The analysis presented in the previous chapter offers a more meaningful comparison between offences and outcomes, which will become increasingly useful when repeated over time.

3.3 – OUTCOMES RECORDED IN 2014/15 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

A comparison between outcomes recorded in 2013/14 and those recorded in 2014/15 is only possible for outcome types that were collected in both years (see Table 1.1).

Between 2013/14 and 2014/15 the proportion of charge/summons outcomes recorded in the year as a proportion of total crimes recorded in the year decreased slightly from 17.2% in 2013/14 to 16.7% in 2014/15. The 2013/14 figure was the highest rate since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in 2002/03. However, as with all outcomes, changes in this rate can be influenced by the changes in the crime mix between years. For example, if there is a large increase in the crimes that are more likely to receive a charge/summons in a particular year, the 'overall' rate would likely increase. The long term trend is shown in Annex Table B.

Table 3.4 shows a comparison of charge/summons rates between 2013/14 and 2014/15. As noted above, the changes from one year to the next should be treated with some caution, especially where they are accompanied by marked changes in crime volumes.

Table 3.4: Number of charge/summons recorded in 2013/14 and 2014/15, by offence group

	England and Wales, Recorded crime					
	2013/14	2014/15	% change	2013/14	2014/15	% change
	<i>Number of offences</i>			<i>Number of charge/summons</i>		
Violence against the person	634,623	779,027	22.8	166,200	178,424	7.4
Sexual offences	64,229	88,219	37.4	15,186	15,827	4.2
Robbery	57,828	50,236	-13.1	11,386	9,480	-16.7
Theft offences	1,845,168	1,755,436	-4.9	203,123	196,179	-3.4
Criminal damage and arson	506,014	503,842	-0.4	46,140	45,707	-0.9
Drug offences	198,215	169,964	-14.3	69,477	64,236	-7.5
Possession of weapons offence	20,621	21,904	6.2	14,005	13,708	-2.1
Public order offences	134,401	159,528	18.7	52,444	49,995	-4.7
Misc. crimes against society	45,440	52,482	15.5	24,406	22,623	-7.3
Total	3,506,539	3,580,638	2.1	602,367	596,179	-1.0

1. All police forces provided data on the number of charges/summons recorded in 2014/15

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2014/15

For all victim-based⁴ offence types (and drug offences), the number of charge/summonses in 2014/15 changed from the previous year in the same direction as the number of recorded crimes. In other words, if recorded crime increased then the number of charge/summonses also increased, and vice versa.

However, there were high percentage increases in violent crime (23%) and sexual offences (37%) recorded by the police in the year to March 2015. These increases are likely to be driven by an improvement in crime recording by the police and an increase in the willingness of victims to report these crimes to the police⁵.

These increases in recorded crime were not matched by similarly large increases in charges/summonses (up by only 7% for violent crime and 4% for sexual offences). This is likely to be due to a number of reasons, but the time lag highlighted above is particularly likely to influence these outcomes, given they tend to have longer investigation times (see Chapter 4).

Table 3.5 shows a more mixed picture for cautions, with the overall number decreased by 12% between 2013/14 and 2014/15. There have recently been important changes in the way that simple cautions are used by the police which heavily influence any comparisons of data between the two years. For example, in April 2013 the Ministry of Justice announced a review into the use of cautions. Following this, the use of simple cautions for serious offences was ended in September 2013, as described here:

www.gov.uk/government/news/chris-grayling-simple-cautions-for-serious-offences-to-be-scrapped

In addition, the Ministry of Justice produced new guidance in November 2013, stating that offenders should not get more than one caution in a two year period for the same or a similar offence. These two factors, along with an increase in the availability and use of community resolutions, are likely to have contributed to the continued reduction in cautions between the two years.

Table 3.5: Number of cautions recorded in 2013/14 and 2014/15, by offence group

	England and Wales, Recorded crime					
	2013/14	2014/15	%	2013/14	2014/15	%
	Number of offences			Number of cautions		
Violence against the person	634,623	779,027	22.8	60,690	54,782	-9.7
Sexual offences	64,229	88,219	37.4	1,412	1,425	0.9
Robbery	57,828	50,236	-13.1	166	171	3.0
Theft offences	1,845,168	1,755,436	-4.9	31,728	26,905	-15.2
Criminal damage and arson	506,014	503,842	-0.4	18,183	16,663	-8.4
Drug offences	198,215	169,964	-14.3	34,396	29,063	-15.5
Possession of weapons offence	20,621	21,904	6.2	3,081	2,798	-9.2
Public order offences	134,401	159,528	18.7	10,345	8,632	-16.6
Misc. crimes against society	45,440	52,482	15.5	4,082	3,235	-20.7
Total	3,506,539	3,580,638	2.1	164,083	143,674	-12.4

1. All police forces provided data on the number of cautions recorded in 2014/15

⁴ Police recorded crime is made up of two broad groupings, 'victim-based crime' and 'other crimes against society'. Victim-based crimes are those offences with a specific identifiable victim. These cover the police recorded crime categories of violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, theft offences, and criminal damage and arson.

⁵ As reported in "Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2015" bulletin, published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS):

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales

3.4 – FRAUD OUTCOMES RECORDED IN 2014/15 (EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS)

The way in which fraud offences are reported and subsequently recorded has changed in recent years. In April 2011, Action Fraud began gradually taking over the recording of fraud offences from the individual police forces in England and Wales, completing in March 2013⁶. The implementation of Action Fraud as a single national fraud reporting centre has led to an increase in the number of fraud offences recorded, as it provides an easier way for the public to report such offences, and centralises expertise in these cases. Action Fraud allocates offences to forces for them to investigate.

The transfer was rolled out at different times for different forces and 2013/14 was therefore the first full year where all fraud offences had been reported to, and recorded by, Action Fraud.

It is now possible to present outcomes data for fraud offences. The source of these outcome data depends on when the fraud offence was recorded. The majority of these data come from the National Fraud Investigation Bureau (NFIB), who recorded fraud offences in 2014/15 and some previous years. However, a small proportion of outcomes relate to offences that were recorded by the police prior to April 2013. Around one-in-twenty (5% of) fraud outcomes were recorded by police forces in 2014/15, and this proportion is likely to reduce in future years as fewer fraud offences recorded prior to 2013 remain without an outcome.

The data set provided by the NFIB is subject to ongoing development and quality assurance. Therefore these statistics are deemed to be Experimental Statistics and should be interpreted with caution.

The process by which outcomes are recorded by Action Fraud is shown in the flow chart in Figure 3.1. Importantly, Action Fraud assess whether the fraud should be investigated and allocates those where sufficient grounds for investigation exist back to forces. The force subsequently assigns an outcome and submits this back to Action Fraud.

⁶ Action Fraud is a public facing national reporting centre that records fraud offences reported directly to them by the public and other organisations. Data from Action Fraud are collated by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB), a government-funded initiative run by the City of London police, who lead national policing on fraud. For more information on the transfer to Action Fraud, please see the "Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2015" bulletin, published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS):

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales

Figure 3.1: How fraud outcomes are recorded

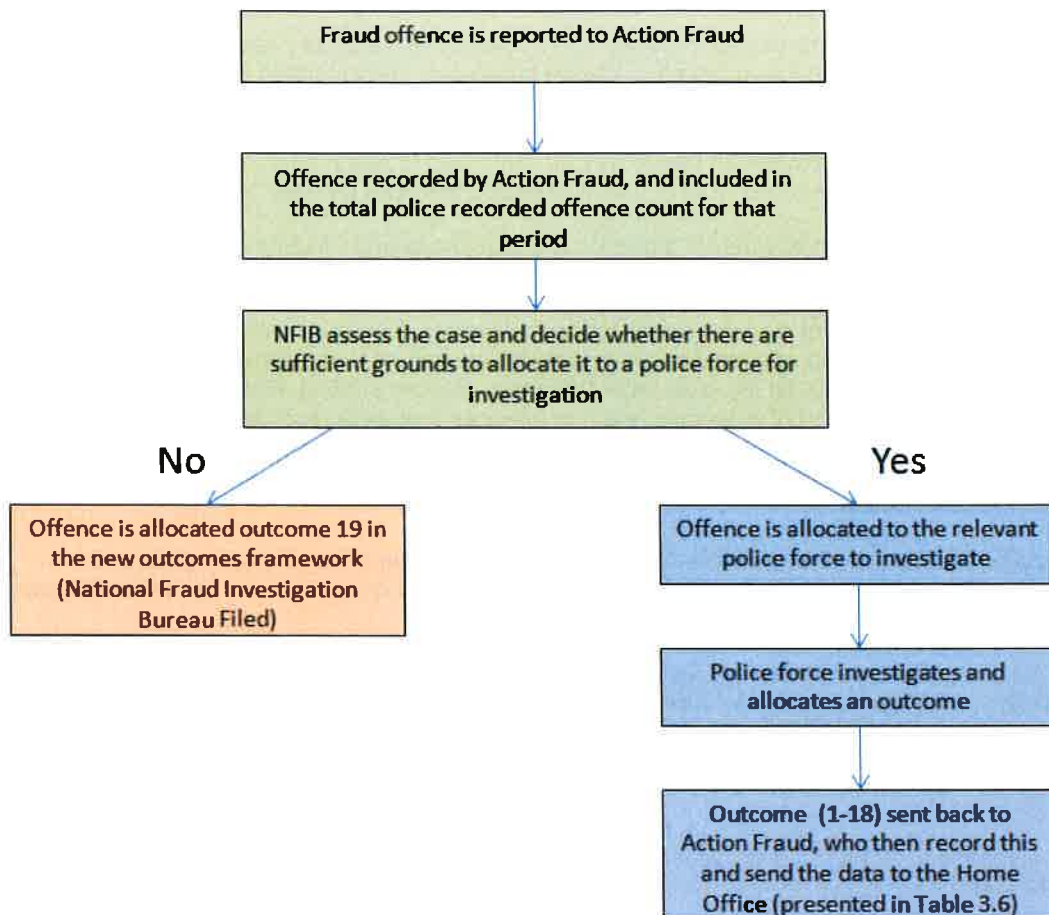


Table 3.6 shows fraud outcomes recorded in 2014/15. The first column shows outcomes that were recorded by police forces in 2014/15, which relate to offences that were recorded by the police force before April 2013 (i.e. before their transition to Action Fraud). The second column shows outcomes recorded by Action Fraud. These relate to offences that were recorded by Action Fraud in 2014/15. The number of outcomes recorded by the police is naturally much lower than the number of outcomes recorded by Action Fraud as they relate onto to those offences recorded prior to April 2013, most of which have already been assigned an outcome.

Outcomes recorded by Action Fraud only cover those offences that were 'disseminated' to police forces to investigate. In line with the rest of this chapter, this does not include those cases where there was deemed to be insufficient grounds for further investigation, and were not referred to police forces by the NFIB (outcome 19). In 2014/15, almost 62,000 fraud offences were disseminated back to police forces to investigate which represents around one-quarter (27%) of offences recorded by Action Fraud. This is higher than the previous year when around one-fifth (19%) of fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud were disseminated to police forces. This is likely to reflect the continued development of this area.

This means the outcome rates shown in Table 3.6 are low compared with other offence types. The rates show the number of each outcome recorded as a proportion of the total number of fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud. For example, the number of charge/summons recorded for fraud in 2014/15 is 4% of the number of fraud offences recorded in 2014/15.

Outcomes Recorded in 2014/15

Table 3.6: Fraud outcomes recorded in 2014/15, by outcome type (Experimental Statistics)

		England and Wales, Recorded crime			
Outcome number	Outcome type	Outcomes recorded by police forces ¹	Outcomes recorded by Action Fraud ²	Total fraud outcomes recorded in 2014/15	Outcome rate
1	Charged/Summoned	465	8,589	9,054	3.9
4	Taken into consideration	15	422	437	0.2
	Out-of-court (formal)	48	1,732	1,780	0.8
2	Caution – youths	2	172	174	0.1
3	Caution – adults	46	1,530	1,576	0.7
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	0	30	30	0.0
	Out-of-court (informal)	28	942	970	0.4
7	Cannabis/Khat Warning	n/a	n/a	n/a	
8	Community Resolution	28	942	970	0.4
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	71	438	509	..
5	Offender died	1	10	11	..
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	20	80	100	..
10	Not in public interest (Police)	45	314	359	..
11	Prosecution prevented: suspect under age	0	2	2	..
12	Prosecution prevented: suspect too ill	1	6	7	..
13	Prosecution prevented: victim/key witness dead/too ill	2	10	12	..
17	Prosecution time limit expired	2	16	18	..
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	299	3,438	3,737	..
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	45	1,380	1,425	..
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	4	283	287	..
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	41	1,097	1,138	..
18	Investigation complete – no suspect identified	253	6,134	6,387	..
Total recorded fraud offences³					230,630

1. Offences recorded by police forces prior to April 2013 and an outcome subsequently recorded by police forces in 2014/15

2. Offences recorded by Action Fraud with outcomes recorded by Action Fraud in 2014/15

3. All of these offences were recorded by Action Fraud

4. Not all police forces were able to provide fraud data for the whole of 2014/15 for all outcome types. While rates are presented for outcome types comparable with previous years, which are more complete, data are partial for all outcome

5. 61,682 frauds were disseminated back to forces in 2014/15, and 23,075 fraud outcomes were recorded in 2014/15

4 The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded in 2014/15

4.1 – INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents data on the time lag between offences being recorded and an outcome being recorded for that offence.

Until recent years it has not been possible to link outcomes to their corresponding offences. However, the availability of record-level data now allows this analysis to be undertaken.

Table 4.1: Number of forces providing data via the Home Office Data Hub that have been included in time gap analysis

HODH data on time gap:	Number of forces	Force proportion of total 2014/15 recorded crime
Included	24	49.6
Not included/provided	20	50.4

1. See Table A for details of which forces are included

Figure 4.1 shows findings based on those forces that provide record-level data via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH). This analysis is broken down into eighteen outcomes introduced in April 2014, so it is possible to see a useful indication of the length of time taken for different crimes to be assigned an outcome on the new framework. The data relate to 24 forces and do not include the Metropolitan Police so should be treated as indicative. As more forces make the transition to the HODH in the coming months, the benefits and extent of the analysis continues to increase.

In order to include outcomes that may have taken a long time to be assigned, the data presented in this chapter cover outcomes that were recorded in 2014/15 regardless of when the offence was initially recorded.

While this analysis gives an indication of the length of time it takes for an outcome to be assigned, it is affected by any time lag between a force achieving an outcome and recording it on their system. In particular, for some of the outcomes with a time lag of 1-5 days the outcome may have been 'actioned' on the same day as the offence was recorded. For example, cannabis warnings will almost entirely be delivered at the time or even before the offence is recorded, but the administrative task of adding the outcome to the crime recording system may happen a few days later.

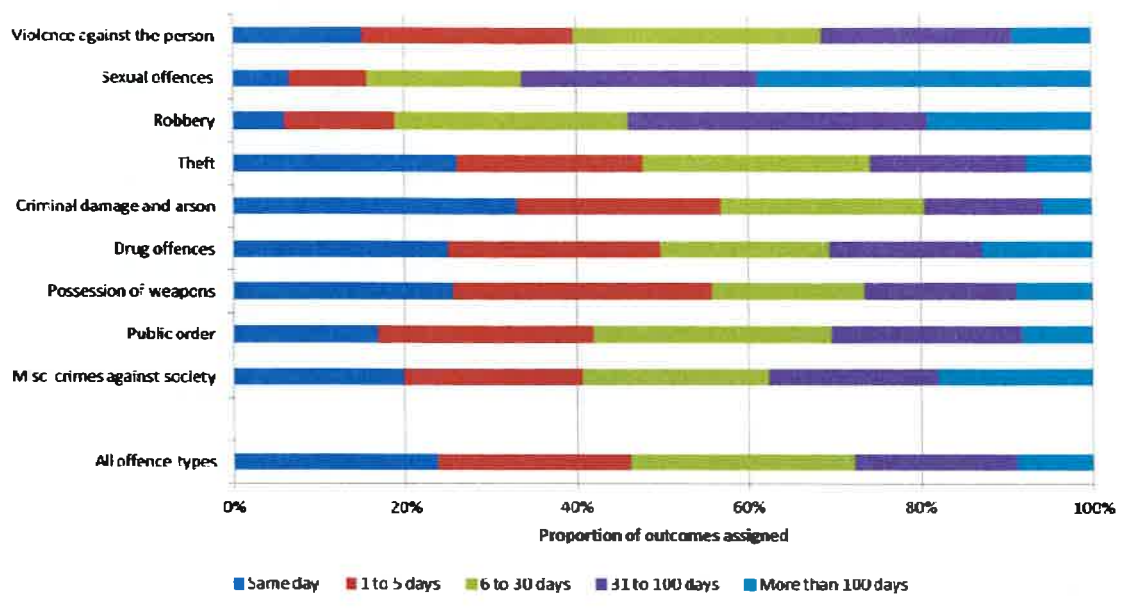
4.2 – THE LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN OFFENCES AND OUTCOMES BEING RECORDED

Figure 4.1 shows the number of days between an offence being recorded and an outcome being assigned for that offence, both for all offences and for specific offence groups. This shows that in 2014/15, almost half (46%) of the outcomes were assigned within five days of the offence being recorded, and around three-quarters (72%) of outcomes were assigned within 30 days. Nine per cent of outcomes took more than 100 days to be assigned.

Sexual offences generally took much longer to be assigned an outcome than other offence types, with 39% taking over 100 days. In particular, over half (54%) of rape offences took over 100 days to be assigned an outcome. This is likely to be due to the complexity of these cases, and the level of investigation needed. In contrast, drug offences, possession of weapons and criminal damage and arson were generally resolved much more quickly, with at least 50% of these offences being assigned an outcome within five days. This reflects the nature of these types of offences, in particular for drug and possession of weapon offences where the offender is usually identified immediately.

The Time Gap Between Offences and Outcomes Recorded in 2014/15

Figure 4.1: The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded, by offence type



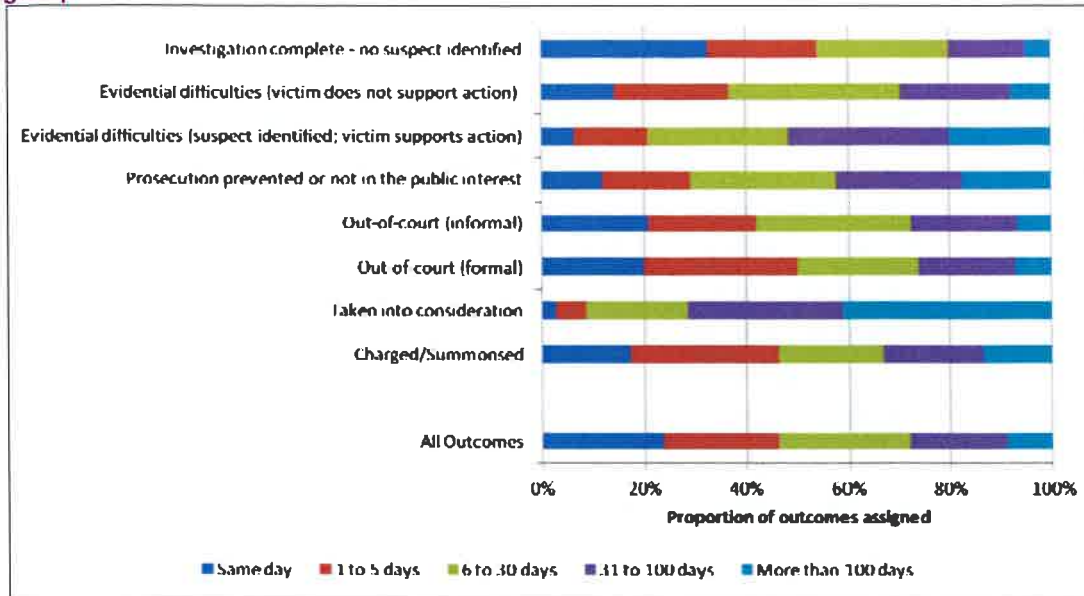
Source: Home Office Data Hub, 24 forces (see Table 4.1), outcomes recorded in 2014/15
 1. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables document, which can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2014-to-2015

Figure 4.2 shows how the time taken for an outcome to be assigned to a crime varies by outcome type.

- Investigations that were completed with no suspect identified tended to be the outcomes assigned most quickly, with around one-third (32%) assigned on the same day. Appendix Table 4a⁷ shows that almost all (96%) of these were applied to offences of theft (68%) or criminal damage and arson (28%).
- For charge/summons, 17% were assigned on the same day the offence was recorded; for formal out-of-court outcomes, 20% were assigned on the same day; and for informal out-of-court outcomes it was 21%.
- Offences which were taken into consideration by the court (TICs) were the outcome type that generally took longest to assign, with 41% of these being assigned more than 100 days after the offence was recorded. This is not surprising, given that these usually arise where the offender admits to the crime some time after it took place. Just over half (52%) of those offences where the outcome was 'evidential difficulties where the victim supported police action' took longer than a month to be assigned.

⁷ Appendix Table 4a can be found in the supplementary online data tables document here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2014-to-2015

Figure 4.2: The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded, by outcome group



Source: Home Office Data Hub, 24 forces (see Table 4.1), outcomes recorded in 2014/15

1. Taken in to consideration (TICs) are offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court.
2. Out-of-court (formal) includes caution - adults; caution - youths; Penalty Notices for Disorder
3. Out-of-court (informal) includes cannabis/khat warnings and community resolutions
4. Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest includes: not in the public interest (CPS); Not in public interest (Police); Offender Died; Prosecution prevented (suspect under age; suspect too ill; victim/key witness dead/too ill); Prosecution time limit expired
5. Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action) includes evidential difficulties where the suspect was/was not identified and the victim does not support further action
6. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables document, which can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2014-to-2015

5 Transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes')

5.1 – DEFINITIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES FOR TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS (FORMERLY 'NO-CRIMES')

A transferred or cancelled record occurs when the police have originally recorded an offence, but have subsequently determined that the crime did not take place, or was recorded in error. Cases where an incident is never recorded as a crime in the first place are not included. Transferred and cancelled records used to be combined as one and were published as 'no crimes' previously.

Offences may be transferred or cancelled in one of the following situations:

- 1 Transferred: Crime committed outside the jurisdiction of the police force in which it was recorded – passed to the appropriate force.
- 2 Cancelled: Additional verifiable information that determines that no notifiable crime occurred becomes available.
- 3 Cancelled: Duplicate record or part of a crime already recorded.
- 4 Cancelled: Crime recorded in error.
- 5 Cancelled: Self defence claimed (for specific recorded assaults).

In the statistics shown in this section, transferred or cancelled records are always recorded in the same financial year as the offence that was originally recorded. So if, for example, an offence was recorded in January and then subsequently transferred or cancelled in the next financial year (e.g. May), the transferred or cancelled record will be recorded for the previous financial year. This ensures that the total count of offences in any given year is correct.

5.2 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORD (FORMERLY 'NO-CRIME') STATISTICS

Data on transferred or cancelled records are shown in Table 5.1. This shows that overall, 3.1% of all offences that were initially recorded as crimes in 2014/15 were subsequently transferred or cancelled. However, transferred or cancelled record rates vary considerably by offence group. The highest transferred or cancelled record rates were for miscellaneous crimes against society (7.2%, down from 8.8% in 2013/14), whilst the lowest rates were seen for robbery offences (1.9%, similar to 2.0% in 2013/14). The transferred or cancelled record rate for rape offences was 5.1%, down from 7.3% in 2013/14.

An additional online table shows these transferred or cancelled record rates for individual forces can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/transferred-or-cancelled-records-2014-to-2015

An Open Data table on transferred or cancelled records is also available, which shows transferred or cancelled record data by police force for each of the last four financial years. This is available here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2014/15

Table 5.1: Number and proportion of transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes'), by offence group, 2013/14 and 2014/15

	England and Wales, Recorded crime							
	Offences initially recorded		Transferred or cancelled records		Offences recorded		Transferred or cancelled records as % of offences initially recorded	
	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15
Violence against the person	656,614	802,196	21,991	23,169	634,623	779,027	3.3	2.9
Sexual offences	67,916	92,476	3,687	4,257	64,229	88,219	5.4	4.6
<i>of which: Rape</i>	22,392	30,833	1,644	1,568	20,748	29,265	7.3	5.1
Robbery	59,017	51,207	1,189	971	57,828	50,236	2.0	1.9
Theft offences	1,905,341	1,812,809	60,173	57,373	1,845,168	1,755,436	3.2	3.2
Criminal damage and arson	517,061	514,399	11,047	10,557	506,014	503,842	2.1	2.1
Drug offences	202,587	174,243	4,372	4,279	198,215	169,964	2.2	2.5
Possession of weapons offences	22,203	23,368	1,582	1,464	20,621	21,904	7.1	6.3
Public order offences	140,278	166,412	5,877	6,884	134,401	159,528	4.2	4.1
Misc. crimes against society	49,837	56,564	4,397	4,082	45,440	52,482	8.8	7.2
Total¹	3,620,854	3,693,674	114,315	113,036	3,506,539	3,580,638	3.2	3.1

1. Excludes fraud offences as responsibility for recording and cancelling these had transferred to Action Fraud by March 2013

2. Transferred or cancelled records were formerly referred to as 'no-crimes'

3. All police forces provided full data on transferred or cancelled records

5.3 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS BY TYPE (EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS)

It has previously not been possible to identify the reason why a record was transferred or cancelled. However, since April 2015 police forces have begun to provide data against the five sub-categories of transferred or cancelled records.

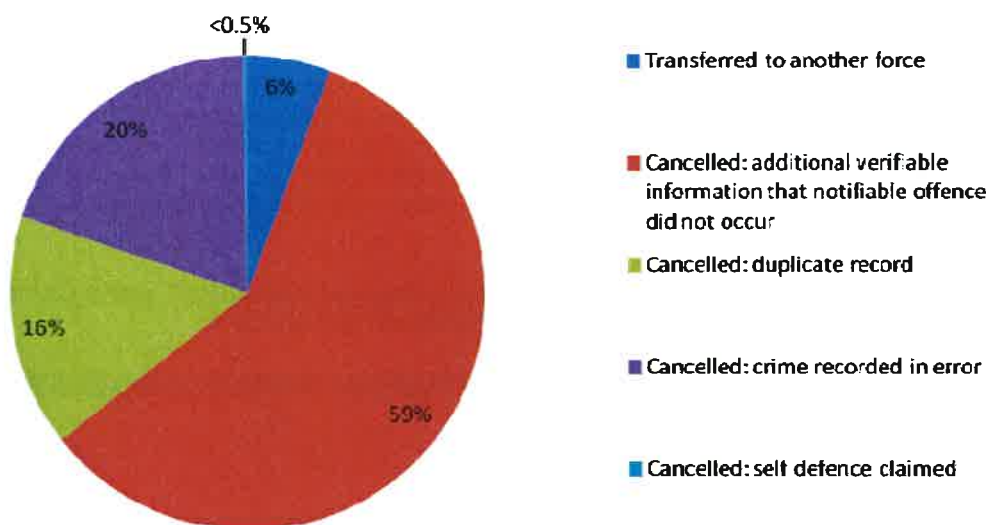
At present, these data have only been received from the subset of forces that have provided data via the Home Office Data Hub for the first two months of 2015/16 and are presented here to give an illustration of the breakdowns (Figure 5.1).

Of the records that were transferred or cancelled in April and May 2015 by 16 forces, over half (59%) were cancelled because additional verifiable information became available that determined that no notifiable crime had been committed.

The proportions for the other types based on the two months of data were: transferred to another force (6%); cancelled due to being duplicate records (16%); recorded in error (20%). Only a very small proportion (less than 0.5%) of all transferred or cancelled records were crimes of assault that had been cancelled due to evidence that the offender acted in self-defence, since these can only be applied to records initially recorded as specific assault offences. However, this was also a very small proportion of the volume of assaults recorded.

Transferred or Cancelled Records (formerly 'no-crimes')

Figure 5.1: Transferred or cancelled records by type, recorded by a subset of forces in early 2015/16 (Experimental Statistics)



Source: Home Office Data Hub, 16 forces, April and May 2015 data

Full data for these new breakdowns will be published for all forces for the first time in October 2015, where data for the first quarter of 2015/16 will be presented.

5.4 – HMIC FINDINGS ON THE QUALITY OF NO-CRIMING

During 2013/14, HMIC carried out crime data integrity inspections in all 43 police forces in England and Wales (and in the British Transport Police). These inspections included an assessment on the accuracy of no-crime records and compliance with the standards set out in the Home Office Counting Rules.

HMIC published a thematic report in November 2014. One of the weaknesses identified in police recording practices was crimes being inappropriately cancelled ('no-crimed'). HMIC found that of their national sample, 20% of transferred or cancelled crimes were removed from the records incorrectly.

The report can be found here: www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/crime-recording-making-the-victim-count.pdf

The transferred or cancelled records rate was lower in 2014/15 than 2013/14 for many offence types, which may reflect forces acting on the results of these inspections.

5.5 – COMPARING TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS (FORMERLY 'NO-CRIMES')

It is important to exercise caution when comparing transferred or cancelled record data across police forces. A particularly high or low number of transferred or cancelled records should not necessarily be interpreted positively or negatively, as different forces may use transferred or cancelled records in different ways. For example, whilst one force may record all crimes immediately and then later transfer or cancel a significant proportion of these, others may wait longer to judge whether an offence constitutes a crime or not, and thus are likely to record fewer transferred or cancelled records overall. This means that a firm conclusion cannot be drawn when comparing transferred or cancelled record numbers across forces, as any differences seen may just reflect differences in recording practices. More details of this can be found in the HMIC reports mentioned above.

Additionally, comparisons between forces need to be made with caution because some forces may deal more frequently with offence types that are more likely to be transferred or cancelled.

Annex A: Background to Crime Outcomes

A1 – BACKGROUND: THE OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

In October 2012, a public consultation was launched which proposed the replacement of detections with a new framework for outcomes which would be applied to all crimes recorded by the police. The majority of respondents supported the proposals for this new framework and agreed that it would provide increased transparency on how crimes are dealt with by the police. The outcomes framework provides a more complete set of information on how the police deal with crime, with all crimes now assigned an outcome.

The Home Office response to this consultation was published in March 2013, with a commitment to adopt this new framework. This consultation response can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/157796/consultation-response.pdf

A2 – THE OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK INTRODUCED IN APRIL 2013

Following the consultation, the new crime outcomes framework was introduced in April 2013. To resolve contrasting views on how to deal with cases where no further action was taken by the police, a phased approach was adopted to implementing the new framework. This allowed further discussion with the police and other stakeholders to ensure that the content and terminology used for the final set of additional outcomes was based on a full understanding of their impact.

The outcomes framework introduced in April 2013 therefore did not cover cases where the police took no further action. It did, however, expand the existing detections measures, by providing more detail on out of court disposals. Importantly, data on community resolutions were collected from all police forces on a mandatory basis.

This framework was therefore an important first step in the transition to a full set of crime outcomes in April 2014. Data based on this transitional framework for 2013/14 were published in July 2014.

A3 – THE AGREED OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK INTRODUCED IN APRIL 2014

In late 2013, the Home Office finalised the full outcomes framework, which was introduced in April 2014. This broader framework built on the nine categories included in the April 2013 outcomes framework. This added ten further types of outcome covering scenarios where a crime would previously have been classed as 'undetected' or 'no further action taken', and therefore never received a formal 'outcome' in the official statistics. The expanded framework further increased the transparency of police recorded crime data, with every recorded crime now given a detailed outcome.

At any given time, there will also be a subset of offences where the investigation of the crime is still ongoing and an outcome has not yet been assigned. Therefore, while every crime will eventually be given an outcome under the full framework, this may take some time while crimes are investigated.

The broader outcomes framework (outcomes 1-19) introduced in April 2014 includes circumstances in which a crime has been fully investigated but no further action has been taken. This includes instances where the police are satisfied that they have identified an offender, but there are evidential difficulties due to the victim being unable to cooperate further in an investigation, or not wishing for formal action to be taken. In some cases, such an outcome may be revised in the future if the investigation is re-opened.

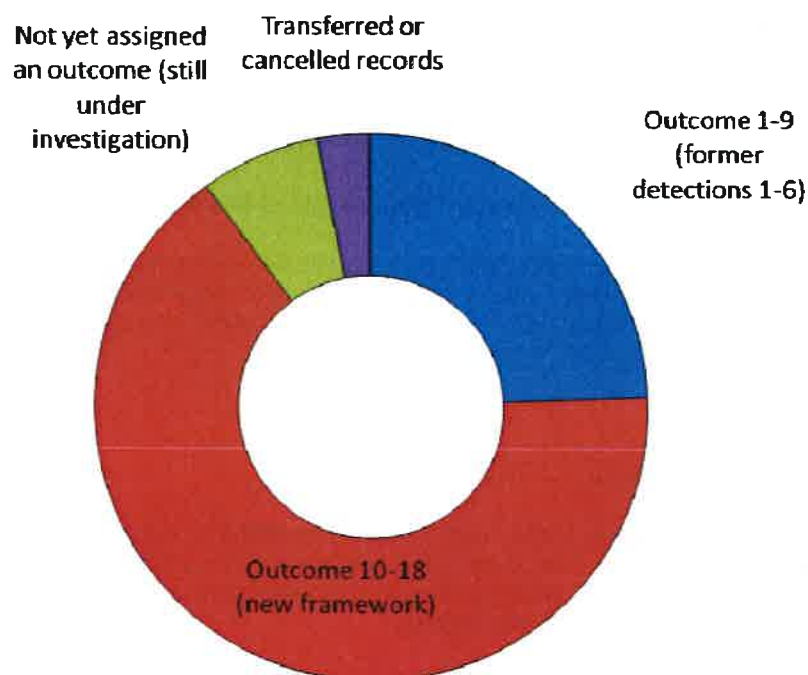
Annex A: Background to Crime Outcomes

Initial data on the broader outcomes framework were published in July 2014 based on limited data available, for the months of April and May 2014. Since then, police forces have continued to supply data to the Home Office and this bulletin is the first time that outcomes data are published for all police forces.

Table 1.1 in Chapter 1 shows the three frameworks alongside each other for comparison:

- The detections in place until April 2013 (outcomes 1-6)
- The outcomes framework in place between April 2013 and March 2014 (outcomes 1-9)
- The broader outcomes framework in place from April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-19).

Figure A: How all offences initially recorded by the police were dealt with in 2014/15



Note: Illustrative based on indicative proportions applied to total 2014/15 recorded crime figures. Does not include fraud offences reported to Action Fraud

In addition to expanding the April 2013 outcomes framework, changes were made to the guidance provided to the police on recording outcomes. For example, in cases where there is a change in the outcome assigned by the police, the police should change the outcome to reflect the latest recorded. This is particularly relevant in cases where no suspect is initially identified (outcome type 18) but subsequent evidence may identify a suspect and lead to another outcome. In such cases the outcome should be updated to reflect this change, meaning that outcomes data will be revised over time as police forces update the outcomes of some crimes.

A4 – INTERPRETING THE OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

The outcomes framework adds greater transparency and clarity to informing how the police deal with crimes. All crimes are now assigned an outcome. As shown in Table 1.1, in addition to the former outcome types (1-6) such as charge/summons and caution, data are now available on cases where

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2014/15

there have been, for example, evidential difficulties in proceeding, the victim is unable to proceed, or no suspect has been found.

The former 'detection rate' was a misleading measure of police activity and resolution of crimes. It only considered a small subset of the ways in which the police actually deal with crimes and as a result could lead to perverse incentives in target setting amongst police forces. Data on the individual outcomes that made up the former 'detection rate' are published as a subset of the broader and more meaningful set of outcomes.

Care needs to be taken when making comparisons of crime outcomes between police forces. In some cases making any such comparisons may be misleading, given that different police forces use outcomes in different ways and will have a different mix of crimes to deal with. For example, some police forces may implement more community resolutions than others, depending on their approach, the nature of the crimes they deal with and the views of their communities. For example, a force that deals with a disproportionately high number of drug offences may apply a different mix of outcomes compared with a force that deals with a higher proportion of violent offences.

Additionally, not all forces were able to supply outcomes data to cover the full year (see Section A6).

Outcome rates for individual police forces can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2014-to-2015

This bulletin considers rates only when focusing on a particular type of outcome, and primarily shows breakdowns by offence group. These are the cases where more meaningful comparisons can be drawn. An example would be comparing the charge/summons rates for burglary offences across police forces or the caution rate for theft offences.

A5 – OUTCOMES CONSULTATION 2014

Included in the 2013/14 outcomes bulletin was a user consultation on the planned presentation of outcomes from 2014/15 onwards. The Home Office invited users to consider the proposed changes to the presentation of these statistics, based on the full outcomes framework, and the responses to this consultation have been used to shape this bulletin.

The consultation responses commonly noted that the traditional approach of considering all outcomes recorded in a year regardless of the offence recording date (which gives a picture of police activity in the year) was seen to be useful in explaining how police investigations had concluded during a period. However, it had the potential to be misinterpreted, for example if outcomes for a period are skewed by a high number of outcomes relating to offences recorded in an earlier period. There was strong interest in considering outcomes linked to offences recorded in the same period, which gives an overview of how crimes recorded by the police in a particular period are dealt with. Looking at the proportion of crimes not yet assigned an outcome can also give an impression of the length of time investigations can take. As there are merits to both approaches, both have been presented in this bulletin. While the consultation has now formally closed, we continually welcome views on how these statistics are presented.

The full response to this consultation was published in February 2015 and can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/407460/response-crime-outcomes-consultation-1314.pdf

A6 – DATA SHOWN IN THIS BULLETIN

Given the work involved in amending police force crime recording systems, not all forces were able to supply data from April 2014 against the full outcomes framework. As such, some of the 2014/15 data contained in this bulletin does not include all forces. Where necessary, explanations have been provided as to where forces have not been included for certain periods or analyses. While most forces

Annex A: Background to Crime Outcomes

had started recording the full range of outcomes by summer 2014, the Metropolitan Police provided data from December 2014.

The Home Office Data Hub (HODH) allows forces to provide record-level detail on offences, vastly increasing the opportunities for analysis of police recorded crime data. Crucially in the case of crime outcomes, the HODH also allows outcomes to be linked to their relevant offence.

Table A shows which forces' data are included in which chapter and which time periods are covered. This is displayed alongside the proportion of total crime recorded by the police in 2014/15 (see Section A9) that was accounted for by each individual force.

Alongside this bulletin, crime outcomes Open Data tables have been published:
www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables

These contain:

- the number of crime outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15 by offence code, outcome type, quarter and police force (for the 38 forces that provided these data)
- the number of crime outcomes recorded by the police in 2014/15 by offence code, outcome type, quarter and police force

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales 2014/15

Table A: Forces providing outcomes data

Force	Chapter 2 data ¹ included from:	How Chapter 2 data provided ² :	Chapter 3 data (outcomes 5, 9-18) ³ from:	Included in Chapter 4 analysis ⁴ ?	Proportion of total 2014/15 recorded crime
Avon and Somerset	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	2.7
Bedfordshire	Jul-14	Manual	Jul-14	No	1.1
British Transport Police	n/a	No data	Apr-14	No	1.3
Cambridgeshire	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.3
Cheshire	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.5
Cleveland	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.2
Cumbria	n/a	No data	Aug-14	No	0.7
Derbyshire	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.4
Devon and Cornwall	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	2.2
Dorset	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.0
Durham	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	No	0.9
Dyfed-Powys	Oct-14	Manual	May-14	No	0.5
Essex	n/a	No data	Apr-14	No	2.8
Gloucestershire	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	0.8
Greater Manchester	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	5.6
Gwent	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	No	1.0
Hampshire	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	No	3.1
Hertfordshire	Jul-14	Manual	Jul-14	No	1.6
Humberside	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.9
Kent	Oct-14	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	3.1
Lancashire	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	2.6
Leicestershire	n/a	No data	Apr-14	No	1.7
Lincolnshire	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.0
London, City of	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	No	0.1
Merseyside	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	2.7
Metropolitan Police	Dec-14	Manual	Dec-14	No	19.8
Norfolk	Oct-14	Manual	Jul-14	Yes	1.2
Northamptonshire	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.3
Northumbria	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	2.0
North Wales	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	No	1.0
North Yorkshire	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	1.0
Nottinghamshire	Oct-14	Manual	Apr-14	No	2.0
South Wales	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	2.5
South Yorkshire	Jul-14	Manual	Jul-14	No	2.6
Staffordshire	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.7
Suffolk	Jul-14	Manual	Jul-14	No	1.1
Surrey	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.4
Sussex	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	No	2.5
Thames Valley	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	3.4
Warwickshire	n/a	No data	Apr-14	No	0.8
West Mercia	Apr-14	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	1.7
West Midlands	Apr-14	Manual	Apr-14	No	4.9
West Yorkshire	Jul-14	HODH	Jun-14	Yes	4.4
Wiltshire	n/a	No data	Apr-14	No	0.9

1. Forces' data for offences and outcomes assigned to offences recorded in 2014/15 have been included from the months shown to the end of March 2015. In Chapter 2, the data cover outcome types 1-18 (Table 1.1) for the entirety of the period for which they are included.

2. 'HODH' means force submitted record-level data via the Home Office Data Hub; 'Manual' means force completed a spreadsheet

2. The data cover outcome types 5, 9-18 (Table 1.1) from the months shown to the end of March 2015. Data for outcomes 1-9 recorded in 2014/15 were provided from April 2014 for all forces

3. The forces indicated supplied record level data to the Home Office via the Home Office Data Hub on offence recorded date and outcome recorded date

A7 – NEW OUTCOME FROM APRIL 2015

From April 2015, crimes where further action is undertaken by another body or agency other than the police, subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the action being taken, will be recorded separately as a new outcome 20. However, during 2014/15 (and therefore in this publication), these were included within outcome 18 (see Table 1.1).

A8 – FUTURE TIMELINESS OF OUTCOMES STATISTICS

Historically, outcome statistics were published on an annual basis, with the statistics published covering the previous financial year. Following consultation with users (see section A5) from 2015/16 onwards it is intended to present a set of core tables on outcomes on a more regular basis. From October 2015, a small set of published tables will be updated on a quarterly basis, to show:

- (a) The outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the latest period, i.e. how many resulted in charges, cautions, and so on, by outcome type, offence type and police force area
- (b) The total number of outcomes recorded in the latest period, by outcome type and offence type

The first of these will be revised considerably the quarter following its publication, and further revised each quarter thereafter by a diminishing amount, as more offences from the period are given a final outcome. Previous quarters will also be updated. This constant change will mean that the same table is likely to look quite different with each quarterly update, until eventually all offences recorded in a given period will have been given an outcome.

A9 – POLICE RECORDED CRIME DATA

The police recorded crime data used in this bulletin are supplied by police forces to the Home Office, and are then published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in "Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2015":

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales

Statistics on crimes recorded by the police that appear in "Crimes in England and Wales: Year ending March 2015" are based on notifiable offences. These include all offences that could possibly be tried by jury (including some less serious offences, such as minor theft, that would not normally be dealt with in this way) plus a few closely related summary offences, i.e. heard only by magistrates, such as assault without injury. For a list of all notifiable offences please see Appendix 1 of the ONS User Guide:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/crime-statistics-methodology/user-guides/index.html

In accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, statistics based on police recorded crime data have been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The full assessment report can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-268---statistics-on-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf

Recorded crime statistics provide important context to outcomes statistics, and are quoted where relevant in this bulletin.

Annex B: Crime Outcomes Data Quality

B1 - INTRODUCTION

In January 2014, the UK Statistics Authority published its assessment of ONS crime statistics. It found that statistics based on police recorded crime data, having been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, did not meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The UKSA published a list of requirements for these statistics to regain the National Statistics accreditation.

Some of the requirements of this assessment were to provide more detail on how data sources were used to produce these statistics, along with more information on the quality of the statistics. Additionally, there was also a requirement to provide information on the process used by police forces to submit and revise data, and the validation processes used by the Home Office. In order to ensure that this publication meets the high standards required by the UK Statistics Authority, details are provided below.

B2 – DATA SOURCES USED: AGGREGATED CRIMSEC4 RETURNS

Police recorded crime data are supplied to the Home Office by the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. For over half of forces these data are supplied to the Home Office in an aggregated return (CrimSec4 form) on a monthly basis. In this return, data on outcomes and transferred or cancelled records (formerly referred to as 'no-crimes') are collected alongside recorded crime data for each crime within the notifiable offence list. Notifiable offences include all offences that could possibly be tried by jury (these include some less serious offences, such as minor theft that would not usually be dealt with this way) plus a few additional closely-related summary offences dealt with by magistrates, such as assault without injury.

The monthly data are cumulative, such that each month's return will contain the data for the financial year to date. When a police force wants to make revisions to this data, they usually do this in the latest monthly return, rather than re-sending a return for the period affected. The exception to this rule is when the revisions affect a previous financial year. In these cases the police force will re-send an end of year return for that year.

Outcomes are recorded on the Crimsec4 form in the month that the outcome is applied, and not the month in which the original offence occurred. For example, if an offence occurred in January and a suspect was subsequently charged in June, the outcome would be recorded in June. This means that the data on outcomes for a given month (presented in Chapter 3) do not correspond to the data on offences in that month, or even the same year. However, in 2014/15 the Home Office made an additional request to forces to capture outcomes that relate to the period the crime was recorded (see Section B4), and these data are presented in Chapter 2.

Transferred or cancelled records are recorded in the year in which the original offence was recorded. This is to ensure that the total offences for each year are correct, i.e. a transferred or cancelled record for a previous financial year does not get included in the current year, and falsely lower the total number of offences recorded in the current year.

B3 – DATA SOURCES USED: THE HOME OFFICE DATA HUB

As discussed in Chapter 1, the Home Office Data Hub (HODH) allows police forces to provide record-level detail on offences, vastly increasing the opportunities for the analysis of police recorded crime data. At the time of publication, there were 17 forces providing their monthly crime, outcomes and transferred or cancelled records data solely via the HODH, with several others in the 'parallel running' phase, where they are sending data both via the old CrimSec4 form and via the HODH, with a view to switching exclusively to the HODH soon. Some other police forces are in the 'testing' phase, and are

Annex B: Crime Outcomes Data Quality

working to send in reliable data via the HODH. The Home Office are continuing to work with these forces to help them with this transition, and are committed to achieving a fully operational HODH.

B4 – DATA SOURCES USED: VOLUNTARY RETURNS

For forces providing record level data via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH; see section B3), it is possible to analyse how crimes recorded in 2014/15 were dealt with by linking individual outcomes with the offence to which they were assigned (Chapter 2).

As not all forces are currently able to provide data via the HODH, the Home Office made a voluntary request to all other forces in order to capture these data from as many forces as possible. Monthly data to October to December 2014 (or April to December 2014 if possible) were first requested in February 2015, with monthly data requested on a quarterly basis for the remainder of 2014/15.

The data presented for 38 forces in Chapter 2 is therefore based on HODH data for nineteen forces and figures voluntarily provided by a further nineteen forces.

Forces voluntarily provided their data to the Home Office on different dates (thirteen forces submitted data in early/mid-April 2015 and six forces submitted these in mid/late-May), and data were taken from the HODH for these forces in early June 2015 (see Table A).

These dates will have an impact on the overall proportion of crimes still under investigation and comparability between forces. For example, the proportion of crimes recorded in March 2015 that had been assigned an outcome at the time of submitting data to the Home Office is likely to be smaller for a force that sent their data return in early April 2015 than for a force that provided this in May, as there had been less time for these offences to be investigated and the outcomes to be assigned.

B5 – DATA VALIDATION PROCESSES

As data are collected from police forces on a monthly basis, the Home Office carry out a series of routine checks and feed the results of these back to police forces. These checks include:

- Looking for any offences where there have been a large number of transferred or cancelled records since the previous month;
- Looking for any large or unusual changes in offences, outcomes or transferred or cancelled records from the previous month;
- Looking for cases where forces have provided data against an offence classification that no longer exists (e.g. the former fraud classifications);
- Comparing offence types and outcome types against the long term trend, to spot any outliers in the monthly data.

Any outliers or anomalies are usually small. Police forces are then asked to investigate these anomalies and either provide an explanation, or resubmit figures where an error has occurred. Where resubmission is required, the force will usually just correct the errors in the latest monthly submission, rather than re-send all of the months in question. In the case of forces providing data via the HODH, the force will send modified versions of the affected records. These then supersede the original versions.

Table B: Trends in the number of outcomes and outcome rates by outcome type, 2002/03 to 2014/15

Outcome type	England and Wales, Recorded crime											% change		
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		2013/14	2014/15
Charge/summons (Outcome 1)	771,716	752,069	698,640	700,101	673,714	657,230	681,472	651,757	658,713	633,985	584,600	602,367	596,179	-1.0
Cautions (Outcomes 2 & 3)	207,818	220,005	257,783	304,461	351,244	351,552	313,702	264,873	232,355	205,760	183,658	164,083	143,674	-12.4
TICs ¹ (Outcome 4)	91,205	88,204	88,386	103,363	111,328	99,021	96,875	76,244	71,896	63,898	55,197	40,960	23,620	-42.3
PNDs ^{2,3} (Outcome 6)	"	3,045	35,919	105,594	139,666	128,978	108,240	102,699	86,010	73,759	59,869	48,097	33,961	-29.4
Cannabis/Khat Warnings ³ (Outcome 7)	"	"	40,138	62,586	80,653	103,804	107,241	87,332	80,659	77,933	69,240	62,722	46,697	-25.5
Other ^{4,5,6} (Outcomes 5, 8 & 9)	268,021	284,320	265,721	191,187	80,770	911	2,931	7,244	10,375	53,322	66,907	109,255	125,284	14.7
Total number of offences (excluding fraud)⁷	5,791,277	5,843,549	5,476,771	5,425,691	5,322,377	4,881,140	4,630,383	4,265,036	4,078,475	3,903,581	3,553,168	3,506,539	3,580,638	2.1
	Rates (%) ⁸											% point change		
Charge/summons (Outcome 1)	13.3	12.9	12.8	12.9	12.7	13.5	14.7	15.3	16.2	16.2	16.5	17.2	16.7	-0.5
Cautions (Outcomes 2 & 3)	3.6	3.8	4.7	5.6	6.6	7.2	6.8	6.2	5.7	5.3	5.2	4.7	4.0	-0.7
TICs ¹ (Outcome 4)	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.2	0.7	-0.5
PNDs ^{2,3} (Outcome 6)	"	0.1	0.7	1.9	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.4	0.9	-0.4
Cannabis/Khat Warnings ³ (Outcome 7)	"	"	0.7	1.2	1.5	2.1	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.3	-0.5
Other ^{4,5,6} (Outcomes 5, 8 & 9)	4.6	4.9	4.9	3.5	1.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.4	1.9	3.1	3.5	0.4

1. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).

2. Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) (formerly known as fixed penalty notices) were introduced in several police forces in 2003/04 and nationally in 2004/05.

3. Cannabis Warnings for possession of cannabis were introduced in 2004/05. Since 26 January 2009, Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) can also be given for an offence of cannabis possession. Up to the end of March 2009 such PNDs were counted in the same category as Cannabis Warnings. Cannabis warnings include a small number of community resolutions for possession of cannabis in 2012/13.

4. From 1 April 2007, new rules governing these outcomes significantly limited the occasions on which they could be applied.

5. Includes data on Youth Restorative Disposals (YRDs) submitted to the Home Office from pilots in eight police force areas (Avon and Somerset, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Metropolitan Police, Norfolk, North Wales, Nottinghamshire). The pilot was introduced in 2008/09.

6. Includes community resolution and restorative justice data submitted on a voluntary basis by some police forces in 2011/12 and 2012/13. These data were then submitted by almost all police forces in 2013/14.

7. Total number of recorded crimes, whether assigned an outcome or not.

8. The number of crimes assigned an outcome divided by total number of recorded offences.

9. Data for the years 2002/03 to 2012/13 contains some estimated data on 'making off without payment' offences, following the creation of a back series of data on these outcomes (see notes page).

10. Data for Outcomes 10-18 are not presented as these were not collected in previous years.

" Not available.

Notes

For full details on the transition from the regime of detections (in existence until April 2013) to the outcomes framework, please see "Crimes Outcomes in England & Wales, 2013/14":

www.gov.uk/government/publications/crimes-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014

Outcomes Framework

Detections were revised to become the outcomes framework from April 2013. The purpose of the revision was:

- To **strengthen police discretion** by recognising the full range of possible disposals, including community resolutions, rather than incentivising police officers to pursue a particular outcome because it is perceived as 'better' than others. This will empower officers to exercise their professional judgement to ensure that offenders are dealt with by the most appropriate disposal available, in the knowledge that no one outcome is favoured over others – the emphasis should shift from hitting targets to appropriateness.
- By strengthening police discretion, the framework should in turn help to **promote a more victim-oriented approach**, focused on providing a better service to victims of crime by removing perverse incentives for forces to record and pro-actively pursue certain crimes on the basis of locally-set detection targets, and encouraging police officers to consider the needs of victims, and the potential for engaging them in the process.
- To **further increase transparency** in policing, and trust in national statistics, by providing the public with a richer picture of crime, and how it is dealt with in their area. This broader set of information can be used as a tool by which the public can hold the police to account, and as a basis for constructive engagement between communities, the police, and police and crime commissioners. By giving every crime an outcome, we will help the public understand – and therefore support or challenge – police activity.

General Rules section H of the [Home Office Counting Rules](#) contains information on recording outcomes. For Home Office purposes, all recorded crimes are assigned one of the following outcome types:

Outcome 1: Charge / Summons: A person has been charged or summonsed for the crime (irrespective of any subsequent acquittal at Court).

Outcome 2: Caution – youths: A youth offender has been cautioned by the police.

Outcome 3: Caution – adults: An adult offender has been cautioned by the police.

Outcome 4: Taken into Consideration (TIC): The offender admits the crime by way of a formal police interview and asks for it to be taken into consideration by the court. There must be an interview where the suspect has made a clear and reliable admission of the offence and which is corroborated with additional verifiable auditable information connecting the suspect to the crime.

Outcome 5: Offender died: The offender has died before proceeding could be initiated.

Outcome 6: Penalty Notices for Disorder: A Penalty Notice for Disorder (or other relevant notifiable offence) has been lawfully issued under Section 1 – 11 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

Outcome 7: Cannabis/Khat Warning: A warning for cannabis or khat possession has been issued in accordance with College of Policing guidance. Note: Khat warnings were introduced from 24 June 2014 and numbers are likely to be small.

Outcome 8: Community Resolution: A Community Resolution (with or without formal Restorative Justice) has been applied in accordance with College of Policing guidance.

Outcome 9: Not in public interest (CPS): Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS decision). The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) by virtue of their powers under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 decides not to prosecute or authorise any other formal action.

Outcome 10: Not in public interest (Police) (from April 2014): Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (Police decision).

Outcome 11: Prosecution prevented – suspect under age (from April 2014): Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility.

Outcome 12: Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill (from April 2014): Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute.

Outcome 13: Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill (from April 2014): Named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence

Outcome 14: Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action (from April 2014): Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect not identified. The crime is confirmed but the victim declines or is unable to support further police action to identify the offender.

Outcome 15: Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action) (from April 2014): Evidential difficulties named suspect identified – the crime is confirmed and the victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action. This includes cases where the suspect has been identified, the victim supports action, the suspect has been circulated as wanted but cannot be traced and the crime is finalised pending further action.

Outcome 16: Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action (from April 2014): Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect identified. The victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action.

Outcome 17: Prosecution time limit expired (from April 2014): Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired (from April 2014).

Outcome 18: Investigation complete –no suspect identified (from April 2014): The crime has been investigated as far as reasonably possible – case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available.

Outcome 19: National Fraud Intelligence Bureau filed (NFIB only) (from April 2014): A crime of fraud has been recorded but has not been allocated for investigation because the assessment process at the NFIB has determined there are insufficient lines of enquiry to warrant such dissemination.

Outcome 20: Action undertaken by another body/agency (from April 2015): Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency other than the police, subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the action being taken. **Note:** during 2014/15 (and therefore in this publication), these were included within outcome 18.

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www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-268---statistics-on-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf

Statistical Bulletins are prepared by staff in Home Office Statistics under the National Statistics Code of Practice and can be downloaded from both the UK Statistics Authority website and GOV.UK:

www.statistics.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/statistics

ISBN: 978-1-78246-825-7

ISSN: 1759-7005



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Home Office

Crime outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2016

Statistical Bulletin HOSB 06/16

Edited by: Jenny Allan

July 2016

Important information

Prior to April 2013, official statistics about how crimes were dealt with by the police were narrowly focused on detections (i.e. the number of cases resolved with a charge, caution, etc.). In April 2013, the new outcomes framework was introduced and subsequently there was a change to the way in which crime outcomes statistics are presented with the broader set of outcomes first collected from the police in April 2014. Provisional statistics from the new outcomes framework were first presented in the year to March 2014 bulletin¹, published in July 2014. The statistics have since been developed further in consultation with data providers (police forces) and users of the statistics.

We continue to ensure that these crime outcomes statistics: meet identified user needs (including providing new analysis and greater transparency); are well explained and readily accessible; are produced according to sound methods; and are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

The statistics presented in this bulletin are designated as Official Statistics, rather than National Statistics.

In January 2014, police recorded crime statistics were found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The full assessment report against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-268---statistics-on-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf

In July 2014, prior to the year to March 2014 publication and following correspondence between the Home Office Chief Statistician and the UK Statistics Authority Head of Assessment, it was agreed to publish the Crime Outcomes bulletin as Official Statistics, rather than National Statistics.

This reflects the move to the new outcomes framework, and also the possibility that outcomes data, being specifically based on recorded crime, are affected by similar issues to those that led to the de-designation of police recorded crime statistics.

Full details of the correspondence are available here:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/letter-from-david-blunt-to-ed-humpherson---090714.pdf

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/letter-from-ed-humpherson-to-david-blunt---150714.pdf

It is our intention that the statistics will be assessed, with a view to them gaining National Statistics status in due course.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014

Further information

"Crime Outcomes in England and Wales, 2014/15", and previous years' bulletins, are available from: www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-statistics

Copies of other Home Office publications (including crime statistics releases prior to April 2012) are available from:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/crime-statistics#publications

Copies of crime statistics publications from April 2012 are available from the Office for National Statistics website: www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

This includes the *User Guide to Crime Statistics*, a useful reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications that are key to the production and presentation of the crime statistics.

The dates of forthcoming publications are pre-announced and can be found via the Gov.uk Statistics Release Calendar: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements

For further information about crime outcomes statistics, please email:

CrimeandPoliceStats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or write to:

Home Office Statistics, 1st Floor, Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

Home Office Responsible Statistician

Damon Wingfield, Head of Crime and Policing Statistics

Contact via CrimeandPoliceStats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

This statistical bulletin is produced to the highest professional standards and is free from political interference. It has been produced by statisticians working in the Home Office Crime and Policing Statistics Section in accordance with the Home Office's [Statement of Compliance](#) with the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*, which covers our policy on revisions and other matters. The Chief Statistician, as Head of Profession, reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters and oversees all Home Office National and Official Statistics products with respect to the Code, being responsible for their timing, content and methodology.

130

Contents

	Page
Contents	4
Lists of figures and tables	6
Executive summary	9
1 Introduction	11
1.1 Overview	11
1.2 The full outcomes framework	11
1.3 Data shown in this bulletin	13
1.4 Outcome groupings in this bulletin	13
1.5 Police recorded crime	14
1.6 Fraud outcomes	14
1.7 Transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes')	14
1.8 Domestic abuse outcomes	14
2 Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016	15
2.1 Introduction	15
2.2 Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 by outcome type and offence group	15
2.3 Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2015: changes over time	19
2.4 Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 compared with the previous year	21
3 Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016	24
3.1 Introduction	24
3.2 Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016 by outcome type and offence group	24
3.3 Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016 compared with the previous year	27
4 The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded	29
4.1 Introduction	29

4.2	The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded, by offence type	29
4.3	The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded, by outcome type	31
5	Transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes')	34
5.1	Definitions and circumstances for transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes')	34
5.2	Transferred or cancelled records by offence group.....	34
5.3	Transferred or cancelled records by category.....	35
5.4	Transferred or cancelled records compared with the previous year	37
5.5	HMIC findings on the quality of 'no-criming'	37
5.6	Comparing transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes')	38
	Annex A: Outcomes assigned to offences flagged as domestic abuse	30
A1	Introduction.....	39
A2	Domestic abuse outcomes by type	39
A3	Domestic abuse outcomes by offence group	40
A4	The length of time between domestic abuse offences and outcomes being recorded.....	42
	Annex B: Fraud outcomes	43
	Annex C: Crime outcomes data quality	47
C1	Introduction.....	47
C2	Data quality considerations	47
C3	Data sources used: aggregated CrimeSec4 returns.....	48
C4	Data sources used: the Home Office Data Hub	48
C5	Data sources used: voluntary returns.....	48
C6	Which forces' data are included	49
C7	Data validation processes	51
C8	Police recorded crime data.....	51
C9	Further information on crime outcomes.....	51
	Notes	54

References 57

List of figures

1	Introduction	11
2	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016	15
Figure 2.1	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group and offence group	17
Figure 2.2	Outcomes assigned to rape offences recorded in the year ending March 2015, by outcome group and publication date	21
Figure 2.3	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2015 (as first published) and the year ending March 2016, by outcome group	22
3	Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016	24
4	The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded	29
Figure 4.1	The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded for outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016, by offence type	30
Figure 4.2	The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded for outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group	32
5	Transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes')	34
Figure 5.1	Transferred or cancelled records by type, year ending March 2016	35
Figure 5.2	Transferred or cancelled records by type broken down by offence group, year ending March 2016	36
Annex A: Outcomes assigned to offences flagged as domestic abuse		39
Figure A1	Proportions of outcomes assigned to domestic abuse flagged offences and offences not flagged as domestic abuse recorded in the year ending March 2016	40
Figure A2	Proportions of outcomes assigned to domestic abuse flagged violence against the person offences and violence against the person offences not flagged as domestic abuse recorded in the year ending March 2016	41
Figure A3	Length of time taken to assign outcomes to domestic abuse flagged offences in the year ending March 2016, by offence group	43
Annex B: Fraud outcomes		44
Figure B1	How fraud outcomes are recorded	44
Annex C: Crime outcomes data quality		47

List of tables

1	Introduction	11
Table 1.1	Detection types in place prior to April 2013 and the outcomes frameworks in place thereafter	12
Table 1.2	Grouping the outcomes framework from April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-21)	14
2	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016	15
Table 2.1	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome type and group	16
Table 2.2	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group and offence group	18
Table 2.3	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2015, when first published compared with latest figures	20
3	Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016	24
Table 3.1	Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome type	25
Table 3.2	Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group and offence group	26
Table 3.3	Number of offences and charge/summons recorded in the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016, by offence group	28
4	The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded	29
Table 4.1	The difference in average (median) length of time taken to assign an outcome between the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016, by offence type	31
Table 4.2	The difference in average (median) length of time taken to assign an outcome between the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016, by outcome group	33
5	Transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes')	34
Table 5.1	Number and proportion of transferred or cancelled records, by offence group, year ending March 2016	35
Table 5.2	Number and proportion of transferred or cancelled records, by offence group, years ending March 2015 and 2016	38
Annex A: Outcomes assigned to offences flagged as domestic abuse		39
Annex B: Fraud outcomes		44
Table B1	Number of fraud offences and disseminations, year ending March 2015 and year ending March 2016	45

Table B2	Fraud outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016, by outcome type	46
Annex C: Crime outcomes data quality		47
Table C1	Forces providing outcomes data.....	49
Table C2	Trends in the number of outcomes and outcome rates by outcome type, year ending March 2003 to year ending March 2016	53

Executive Summary

OVERVIEW

This is the second statistical bulletin based entirely on the full outcomes framework introduced in April 2014. The outcomes framework allows every crime recorded by the police to be given an outcome, showing how the police deal with all crimes (including crimes which are still under investigation).

KEY FINDINGS

Outcomes of crimes recorded in the year ending March 2016:

- Almost half (48%) of offences had been closed with no suspect identified. The proportion of investigations closed with no suspect identified varied by crime type, from around two-thirds of criminal damage and arson offences to five per cent or lower for rapes, possession of weapons and drug offences.
- Thirteen per cent of crimes resulted in someone being charged or summonsed, and in ten per cent of offences the victim did not support (or withdrew support for) police action despite a named suspect being identified. Seven per cent of offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 were still under investigation at the time of data capture.
- The proportion of crimes assigned a charge or summons decreased from 16 per cent to 13 per cent over the last year. Conversely, the proportion of crimes that resulted in evidential difficulties increased from 17 per cent to 22 per cent over the same period. This is likely to at least in part be due to improved recording and increased reporting of crimes that are less likely to result in a charge/summons.

The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016:

The length of time taken to assign an outcome to a crime varies and is dependent on the offence type and the outcome being assigned. Based on a subset of forces for which we have data:

- Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016 took an average of 9 days to be assigned, similar to the previous year. Criminal damage and arson offences had outcomes assigned most quickly, on average 3 days, while sexual offences (81 days) took longest, particularly rape offences (142 days).
- Where crimes were closed with no suspect identified it took an average of 3 days for the outcome to be assigned, whereas it took 36 days to assign an outcome of evidential difficulties where a suspect is identified and the victim supports action.

Transferred or cancelled records in the year ending March 2016:

- Overall 3.3 per cent of crimes originally recorded were subsequently transferred or cancelled in the year ending March 2016, a slight increase from 3.1 per cent in the previous year.
- Half of all transferred or cancelled records were cancelled due to additional verifiable information becoming available that showed no notifiable crime had occurred.

Outcomes of domestic abuse offences recorded in the year ending March 2016:

For the first time, this bulletin contains data provided by a subset of forces on outcomes assigned to crimes which are domestic abuse related.

- A quarter (25%) of the offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 that were flagged as domestic abuse were dealt with by a charge or summons.
- Domestic abuse related offences were more likely than other offences to have evidential difficulties. In the year ending March 2016, 60 per cent of domestic abuse related offences

had evidential difficulties outcomes compared with 19 per cent of offences not flagged as being domestic abuse related.

1 Introduction

1.1 – OVERVIEW

This bulletin reports on the outcomes of crimes recorded by the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. In April 2013 the new outcomes framework was introduced, replacing the previous regime of detections. This move from detections to outcomes was a marked change, with an emphasis on greater transparency on how **all** crimes recorded by the police are dealt with. The previous focus on detections gave a partial picture of the work police do to investigate and resolve crime, and saw performance targets established which risked driving perverse behaviour with respect to crime recording decisions and may also have undermined the victim-focused approach set out in the crime recording standard².

Following consultation with users, the Home Office published the first set of quarterly outcomes tables in October 2015, available from: www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-statistics.

For more information on the background to the outcomes framework and how it was developed, see Annex C: Crime Outcomes Data Quality.

1.2 – THE FULL OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

Since its introduction in April 2013, the outcome framework has evolved to provide full coverage of all outcomes. Table 1.1 shows how the current framework of outcomes builds on former outcomes and detections measures and how it has developed to cover all crimes recorded by the police.

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/counting-rules-for-recorded-crime

138

Table 1.1: Detection types prior to April 2013 and the outcomes frameworks in place thereafter

Detections regime – prior to April 2013 (outcomes 1-6)	Outcomes framework – April 2013 to March 2014 (outcomes 1-9)	Outcomes framework – April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-19)
1. Charge/Summons	1. Charge/Summons	1. Charge/Summons
2. Caution	2. Caution – youths	2. Caution – youths
	3. Caution – adults	3. Caution – adults
3. Taken into consideration – previously recorded	4. Taken into consideration (TIC)	4. Taken into consideration (TIC)
4. Taken into consideration – not previously recorded		
5. Penalty Notice for Disorder	6. Penalty Notice for Disorder	6. Penalty Notice for Disorder
6. Other	5. The offender has died (indictable only/sexual offences)	5. The offender has died (all offences)
	7. Cannabis Warning	7. Cannabis/Khat Warning
	8. Community Resolution	8. Community Resolution
	9. Prosecution not in public interest (CPS) (indictable only offences)	9. Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS) (all offences)
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>		10. Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (police decision)
		11. Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility
		12. Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute
		13. Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence
		14. Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect not identified – the crime is confirmed but the victim declines or is unable to support further police action to identify the offender
		15. Evidential difficulties named suspect identified – the crime is confirmed and the victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action
		16. Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect identified – the victim does not support (or withdraws support from) police action
		17. Prosecution time limit expired – suspect identified but the time limit for prosecution has expired
		18. Investigation complete – no suspect identified. Crime investigated as far as reasonably possible – case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available
		19. National Fraud Intelligence Bureau filed (NFIB only). A crime of fraud has been recorded but has not been allocated for investigation because the assessment process at the NFIB has determined there are insufficient lines of enquiry to warrant such dissemination
		20. Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the action to be taken (from April 2015)
	21. Further investigation, resulting from the crime report, which could provide evidence sufficient to support formal action being taken against the suspect is not in the public interest – police decision (from January 2016)	

In April 2015, a new outcome (outcome 20) was introduced for those offences where further action is taken by another body or agency other than the police (e.g. HM Revenue and Customs), subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the action being taken. Previously these offences were included within outcome 18 (investigation complete, no further action). Data for outcome 20 were first published in the year ending June 2015 data tables, published in October 2015.

In January 2016, a further outcome (outcome 21) was added in response to concerns that the police's use of discretion in deciding how to address offending behaviour was not always effectively recognised. This outcome can be applied where the police decide it is not in the public interest to take any formal action, despite a suspect being identified. Previously these offences could have received any outcome type.

At any given time, there will be a number of offences where the crime investigation is ongoing and an outcome has not yet been assigned. Therefore, while every crime will eventually be given an outcome under the outcomes framework, this may take some time while crimes are investigated. Data on outcomes for crimes recorded in a given period are therefore subject to ongoing revisions as investigations into crimes are completed and final outcomes are assigned. This is discussed further in Chapter 2.

For more information on how to interpret the full outcomes framework, see Annex A: Background to Crime Outcomes in "Crime Outcomes in England and Wales, 2014/15"³.

1.3 – DATA SHOWN IN THIS BULLETIN

This bulletin is based on the new outcomes categories introduced in April 2014, plus the additional outcomes introduced in April 2015 and January 2016. Given the work involved in amending police force crime recording systems, not all forces were able to supply data from April 2014 for the outcome types not previously collected by the Home Office (see Table 1.1). Consequently, year ending March 2015 data are not complete as they do not include a full year of data for all forces. Therefore, comparisons between years are typically made using proportions rather than volumes. Where necessary, notes on excluded forces are provided. While most forces had started recording the full range of outcomes by summer 2014, the Metropolitan Police provided data from December 2014.

For more details on data quality and what data has been excluded from certain periods or analyses, see Annex C: Crime Outcomes Data Quality.

1.4 – OUTCOME GROUPINGS IN THIS BULLETIN

The full range of outcomes is presented in some tables in this publication and the accompanying Open Data tables, available from: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables. However, in order to simplify the presentation of tables and charts in this bulletin, some of the tables in this publication show grouped outcomes.

The groupings used are shown in Table 1.2. These take account of feedback received from users following a consultation in 2014.

³Available from: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2014-to-2015

Table 1.2: Grouping the outcomes framework from April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-21)

Outcome Group	Outcome type(s)
Charged/Summoned	1
Taken into consideration	4
Out-of-court (formal)	2, 3, 6
Out-of-court (informal)	7, 8
Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	15
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	14, 16
Investigation complete – no suspect identified	18
Action undertaken by another body/agency (from April 2015)	20
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest (police decision) (from January 2016)	21

Note: outcome 19 not shown as this applies to fraud offences recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau only

See Table 1.1 for a description of each outcome type.

1.5 – POLICE RECORDED CRIME

The police recorded crime data used in this bulletin are supplied by police forces to the Home Office, and are then published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in “Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2016”:

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

1.6 – FRAUD OUTCOMES

Since April 2013, fraud offences have been recorded by Action Fraud (the national fraud and cyber crime reporting centre) rather than the police. ONS publish police recorded crime statistics both including and excluding fraud (as measured by a combination of crime recorded by the police, Action Fraud and industry sources). Similarly, outcomes of fraud offences are not collected in the same way as other crimes. Action Fraud refer crimes onto the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB), which is run by the police service, and they send fraud offences to police forces who investigate the crimes and then send the outcomes back to the NFIB once they have been assigned. Fraud outcomes are therefore not included in the main body of this bulletin. Experimental data on fraud offences are presented separately in Annex B. Outcomes data presented in the rest of this bulletin do not include outcomes assigned to fraud offences.

1.7 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS (FORMERLY ‘NO-CRIMES’)

This bulletin contains data on transferred or cancelled records (formerly referred to as ‘no-crimes’). These occur after a police force initially records an offence and subsequently determines that the crime did not take place, was recorded in error or should be transferred to another police force. Since April 2015 the data supplied to the Home Office by police forces has been split by the five possible reasons for this, and these are presented in Chapter 5. This is the first bulletin in which a full year of data split in to these categories is available.

1.8 – DOMESTIC ABUSE OUTCOMES

Since April 2015 it has been mandatory for police forces to provide the Home Office with information on the number of offences they record that relate to domestic abuse. For those forces providing record-level data via the Home Office Data Hub it is possible to link crimes relating to domestic abuse to their outcomes. These data are presented for the first time in Annex A.

2 Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016

2.1 - INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers how crimes recorded in the year ending March 2016 have been dealt with by the police, providing additional transparency by linking individual outcomes to the offences that they relate to. These data were first collected from forces voluntarily for the year ending March 2015, with 38 forces supplying data (see Table C1 for more details). For the latest year, data have been supplied by all 44 police forces in England and Wales, including the British Transport Police.

At the time when forces provided data, a number of crimes recorded during that year were still under investigation. These may be crimes recorded in the latter part of the period or those requiring complex and lengthy investigations. These crimes will be assigned an outcome over time, reducing the proportion 'not yet assigned an outcome'. This must be borne in mind particularly when comparing with data from previous time periods (see section 2.4).

Outcomes figures presented in this chapter are the best way of understanding how crimes recorded in the year ending March 2016 have been resolved. To gain the full benefits from this analysis, it will be repeated in future. The Home Office will revise data for the year ending March 2016 on a quarterly basis, publishing updated tables to reflect the progression of such outcomes and giving users a fuller picture of how outcomes have been assigned to the crimes recorded in the period.

2.2 – OUTCOMES ASSIGNED TO OFFENCES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2016 BY OUTCOME TYPE AND OFFENCE GROUP

The rates for individual outcome types shown in Tables 2.1 and 2.2 below relate to outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016. In total, 93 per cent of offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 had been assigned an outcome by the time the data were supplied to the Home Office⁴. The remaining seven per cent were yet to be assigned an outcome.

- For almost half (48%) of offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, no suspect had been identified and the case was closed. These crimes could be reopened at any time if further information comes to light.
- The next most common outcome type was an offender being charged or summonsed (13%).
- In one-in-ten offences (10%) the victim did not support (or withdrew support for) police action despite a named suspect being identified.

It is unlikely that the outcome types that will eventually be assigned to the remaining seven per cent of crimes still under investigation will be distributed in the same way as those already assigned. For example, Table 2.3 (section 2.3) shows that of the crimes recorded in the year ending March 2015 that have had an outcome assigned during the following year, around a quarter received a charge/summons, around 40 per cent had an evidential difficulties outcome and around a further quarter had investigations closed with no suspect identified. In some cases suspects may already be identified and the police may be gathering evidence before formally assigning an outcome, which may subsequently result in a charge or lead to evidential difficulties. Future quarterly updates will provide a fuller picture. See section 2.3 for further information on how the outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2015 have changed over time.

⁴ See Section C6 for when data were provided.

142
Table 2.1: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome type and group

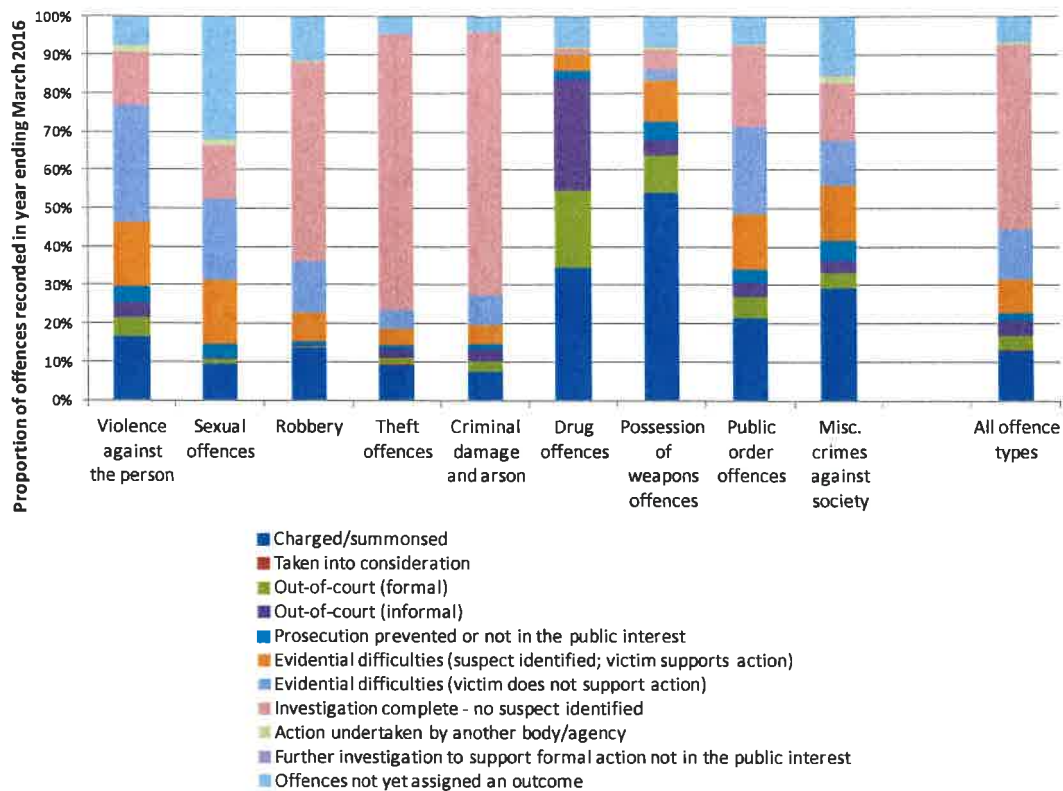
England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes		
Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Proportion of offences recorded in period: ^{3,4}
1	Charged/Summoned	13.1
4	Taken into consideration²	0.2
	Out-of-court (formal)	3.5
2	Caution - youths	0.4
3	Caution - adults	2.5
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	0.6
	Out-of-court (informal)	3.9
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	0.9
8	Community resolution	2.9
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	2.2
5	Offender died	0.0
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	0.2
10	Not in public interest (Police)	1.4
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	0.1
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	0.3
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	0.0
17	Prosecution time limit expired	0.1
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	8.6
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	13.2
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	3.2
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	10.0
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	48.1
20	Action undertaken by another body/agency⁵	0.5
21	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest⁶	0.0
Total offences assigned an outcome (type 1-18, 20, 21)^{5,6}		93.4
Offences not yet assigned an outcome		6.6
Total¹		100.0

1. Year to March 2016 data exclude fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces. Outcome 19 not shown as this applies only to fraud offences recorded by the NFIB.
2. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).
3. Proportions show the percentage of crimes recorded in the year ending March 2016 receiving each outcome.
4. Based on data from all 44 forces as referenced in Table A.
5. Outcome 20 was introduced from April 2015.
6. Outcome 21 was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis.

As shown in Table 2.2 and Figure 2.1, outcome proportions varied considerably by offence type and reflected the nature of the offence. For example, only 5 per cent of possession of weapons offences and 1 per cent of drug offences had been assigned an outcome of investigation complete – no suspect identified, compared with around 70 per cent of criminal damage and arson and theft offences.

Given the different natures of the various offence types shown, it is unsurprising that some outcome types are more common for some crime types than others. This reflects the severity of each offence, the local guidance on outcomes given to police forces and the varying difficulty in identifying a suspect for certain types of offence. For example, it may be far more difficult to identify a suspect for a criminal damage offence that was not witnessed or caught on CCTV than for a drug possession offence where the offender is usually identified when the crime comes to the attention of the police, or for an offence where there was substantial forensic evidence.

Figure 2.1: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group and offence group



Source: Home Office Data Hub and voluntary spreadsheet return
1. The numbers behind this chart are available in Table 2.3

Table 2.2: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group and offence group

Offence group	England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes										
	Charged/ summonsed Outcome rate (%) ⁹	Taken into consideration (TICs) ²	Out-of- court (formal) ³	Out-of- court (informal) ⁴	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest ⁵	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action) ⁶	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action) ⁶	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	Action undertaken by another body/ agency ⁷	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest ⁸	Offences not yet assigned an outcome
Violence against the person	16.8	0.0	4.6	4.0	4.2	16.6	30.6	13.9	1.5	0.1	7.6
Sexual offences of which: Rape	9.6 7.0	0.0 0.0	1.0 0.0	0.5 0.0	3.6 1.5	16.6 15.5	21.1 24.9	14.0 5.4	1.7 0.5	0.1 0.0	31.8 45.0
Robbery	13.7	0.1	0.3	0.2	1.0	7.5	13.5	52.2	0.0	0.0	11.6
Theft offences	9.0	0.5	1.7	2.2	0.9	4.2	4.7	71.9	0.1	0.0	4.6
Criminal damage and arson	7.5	0.1	2.6	3.1	1.2	5.0	7.8	68.6	0.1	0.0	4.0
Drug offences	34.5	0.0	20.3	28.7	2.4	4.1	0.3	1.5	0.1	0.1	7.9
Possession of weapons offences	54.0	0.0	9.9	3.9	4.8	10.6	3.2	5.1	0.4	0.1	7.9
Public order offences	21.5	0.0	5.5	3.8	3.6	14.1	22.8	21.3	0.2	0.1	7.1
Misc. crimes against society	29.2	0.1	4.0	3.2	5.0	14.4	11.8	15.0	2.0	0.3	15.0
All offence types¹	13.1	0.2	3.5	3.9	2.2	8.6	13.2	48.1	0.5	0.0	6.6

1. Year to March 2016 data exclude fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.

2. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).

3. Includes caution - adults; caution - youths; Penalty Notices for Disorder.

4. Includes cannabis/khat warnings and community resolutions.

5. Includes not in the public interest (CPS); Not in public interest (Police); Offender Died; Prosecution prevented (suspect under age; suspect too ill; victim/key witness dead/too ill); Prosecution time limit expired.

6. Includes evidential difficulties where the suspect was/was not identified and the victim does not support further action.

7. Outcome 20 (Action undertaken by another body/agency) was introduced from April 2015.

8. Outcome 21 (Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest) was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis.

9. Proportions show the percentage of each crime type recorded in the year ending March 2016 that received each outcome.

In particular:

- Possession of weapons was the offence group most likely to be assigned a charge/summons outcome, with someone being charged or summonsed for over half (54%) of the crimes recorded in this category. This is likely to be due to the fact that a suspect will have been found in possession and then dealt with for the crime.
- In contrast, 8 per cent of criminal damage and arson offences and 9 per cent of theft offences resulted in a charge or summons. These offence groups had the highest proportion of outcomes where no suspect was identified and the case was closed, with 69 per cent of criminal damage and arson and 72 per cent of theft offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 receiving this outcome type reflecting the fact that victims often report these cases without having been present when the offence occurred.
- While the proportion of sexual offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 that had been resolved by a charge/summons (10%) was relatively low compared with most other offence groups, around one-third (32%) had not yet been assigned an outcome, i.e. the investigation was still ongoing. In particular, almost half (45%) of rape offences had not yet been assigned an outcome. This was higher than for all other offence groups, which ranged from 4 per cent (criminal damage and arson) to 15 per cent (miscellaneous crimes against society). This reflects the greater complexity of investigations for sexual offences and the extended time period required to assign an outcome compared with many other crime types (see Chapter 4).
- Around half (49%) of drug offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 were assigned out-of-court outcomes, a far higher proportion than all other offence types, and half of those were cannabis/khat warnings. Out-of-court outcomes were less prevalent for other offence types. The second highest proportion was for possession of weapon offences (14%) which, like drug possession offences, are often resolved at an early stage as an offender will have been found in possession.
- Violent offences (47%), sexual offences (38%) and public order offences (37%) had a greater proportion of outcomes where there were evidential difficulties than other crime types.
- Drug offences (1%) and possession of weapon offences (5%) were far less likely than other main offence groups to result in the case being closed without a suspect being identified. This is to be expected as, unlike victim-based crime types such as theft, the offender is usually identified at the same time as the crime comes to the attention of the police and is recorded.

2.3 – OUTCOMES ASSIGNED TO OFFENCES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2015: CHANGES OVER TIME

Data for year ending March 2015 are based on 38 forces (accounting for around three-quarters of offences). The forces that supplied data and for which periods are highlighted in Table C1. These have been updated on a quarterly basis since they were first published in July 2015 in order to reflect that some offences recorded during the year ending March 2015 will have had outcomes assigned during the following year.

A comparison of the latest data for year ending March 2015 with those that were published one year earlier is shown in Table 2.3.

146
Table 2.3: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2015, when first published compared with latest figures

		England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes	
Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Proportion of offences recorded in year to March 2015: ²	
		First published (July 2015) ^{3, 4}	Updated (July 2016) ^{3, 4}
1	Charged/Summonsed	15.5	16.9
4	Taken into consideration⁵	0.5	0.6
	Out-of-court (formal)	4.6	4.8
2	Caution - youths ⁶	0.6	0.6
3	Caution - adults ⁶	3.1	3.3
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	0.9	0.9
	Out-of-court (informal)	4.6	4.8
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	1.1	1.2
8	Community resolution	3.5	3.7
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	2.0	2.1
5	Offender died	0.0	0.0
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	0.2	0.2
10	Not in public interest (Police)	1.2	1.3
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	0.1	0.1
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	0.2	0.3
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	0.0	0.0
17	Prosecution time limit expired	0.2	0.1
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	7.9	9.3
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	8.7	9.6
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	1.9	2.0
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	6.9	7.6
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	48.9	50.4
Total offences assigned an outcome (type 1-18)⁷		92.7	98.6
Offences not yet assigned an outcome		7.3	1.4
Total offences¹		100.0	100.0

1. Year to March 2015 exclude fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.
2. Proportions show the percentage of crimes recorded in the year ending March 2015 receiving each outcome. or the force could not initially provide data to cover the full outcomes framework. See Table C1.
4. Proportions as at the time data were provided to the Home Office. This means the proportion of offences assigned an outcome will be higher for the updated figures (published in July 2016) as they have had a longer period since being recorded in which to be assigned. However, not all forces submitted updated year to March 2015 data to the Home Office alongside data for the latest year and may appear to have fewer than expected outcomes assigned during year to March 2015.
5. Offences asked to be taken in to consideration by a court (TICs).
6. The Metropolitan Police were unable to provide 'caution - youths' separately until December 2014. These are therefore included within 'caution - adults'.
7. A very small proportion of offences recorded in year ending March 2015 may have been assigned an outcome 20 following the introduction of this outcome from April 2015. This means that the proportion 'not yet assigned an outcome' in the updated figures may be slightly overstated. Data provided via the Home Office Data Hub indicate that less than 0.1% of crimes recorded in 2014-15 were assigned an outcome 20.

As can be seen in Table 2.3, the proportion of crimes not yet assigned an outcome has fallen in this latest set of figures⁵, meaning six per cent of offences recorded in the year to March 2015 were assigned outcomes during the past year. These outcomes mainly consisted of charge/summonses, evidential difficulties where the suspect was identified, and cases that were closed with no suspect identified.

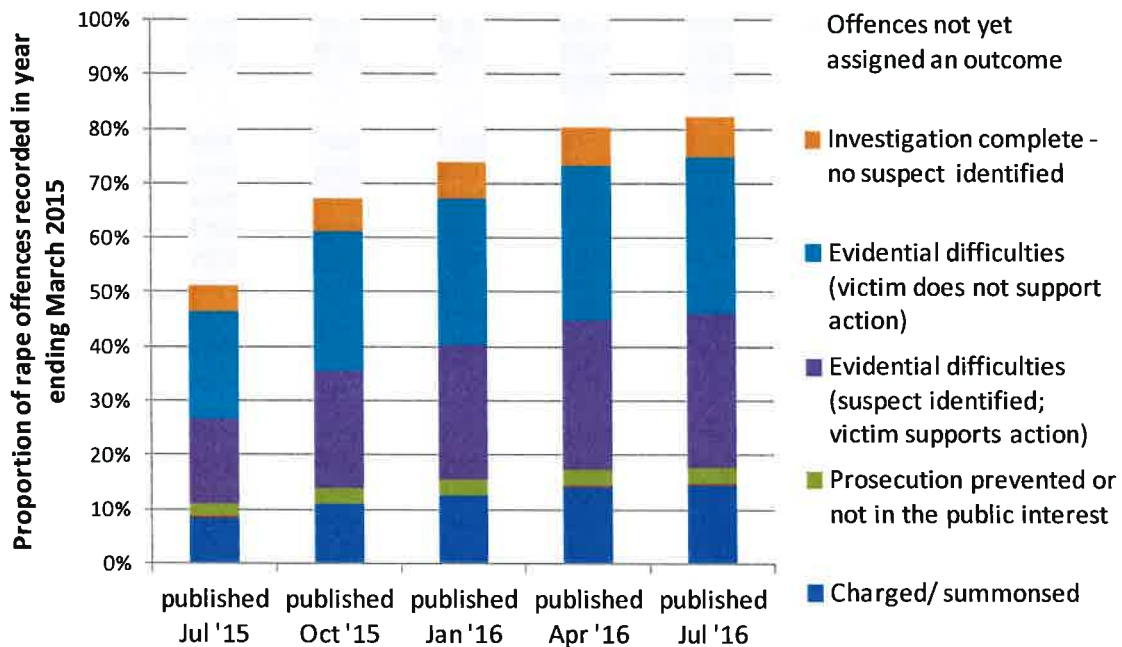
The value of repeating this analysis is particularly evident when looking at crime types where a high proportion of offences had not been assigned an outcome when first published. For example, 37 per cent of sexual offences recorded in the year ending March 2015 had yet to be assigned an outcome

⁵ Not all forces revised their data each quarter after they initially supplied them. Of the 38 forces that provided year ending March 2015 data, 22 updated these alongside data for the year to March 2016. The further 16 forces that did not revise data may appear to have fewer than expected outcomes assigned during year to March 2015.

when the data were first published in July 2015. By the time the latest data were provided to the Home Office this had fallen to twelve per cent.

In particular, the proportion of rape offences recorded in the year ending March 2015 that had not been assigned an outcome has fallen from around half (49%) to eighteen per cent, giving a more complete picture of the outcomes assigned to these offences. Figure 2.2 shows the evolving trend in outcomes of rape offences recorded in the year ending March 2015. Many of the rape offences that had not been assigned an outcome when data were first published resulted in evidential difficulties. A substantial proportion also led to someone being charged or summonsed.

Figure 2.2: Outcomes assigned to rape offences recorded in the year ending March 2015, by outcome group and publication date



Source: Home Office Data Hub and voluntary spreadsheet return

1. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables document, which can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016
2. No rape offences recorded in year ending March 2015 were 'Taken in to Consideration' and less than 0.5 per cent were assigned an out-of-court disposal
3. Data are generally provided to the Home Office two to three months before publication. See Annex C for further information.

It will likely be some time before all crimes recorded in year ending March 2015 have an outcome assigned. Analysis of the average time between an offence being recorded and an outcome being assigned to the corresponding crime is presented in Chapter 4.

2.4 – OUTCOMES ASSIGNED TO OFFENCES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2016 COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Offences recorded in the year ending March 2015 have had an additional year in which an outcome could have been assigned compared with offences recorded in the year ending March 2016. As demonstrated in the previous section, this means that the proportions that have been assigned each outcome type will not be directly comparable.

In order to get an indication of genuine changes over time it is therefore more meaningful to compare figures for the year ending March 2016 with figures for the previous year as at the time they were first published in July 2015⁶.

As can be seen from Figure 2.3, a similar proportion of crimes had been assigned an outcome in both years. However, the proportion of crimes assigned a charge/summons decreased (from 16% to 13%), as did the proportion assigned an out-of-court disposal (from 9% to 7%). Conversely, the proportion of crimes that resulted in evidential difficulties increased, from 17 per cent of crimes recorded in the year ending March 2015 to 22 per cent in the following year.

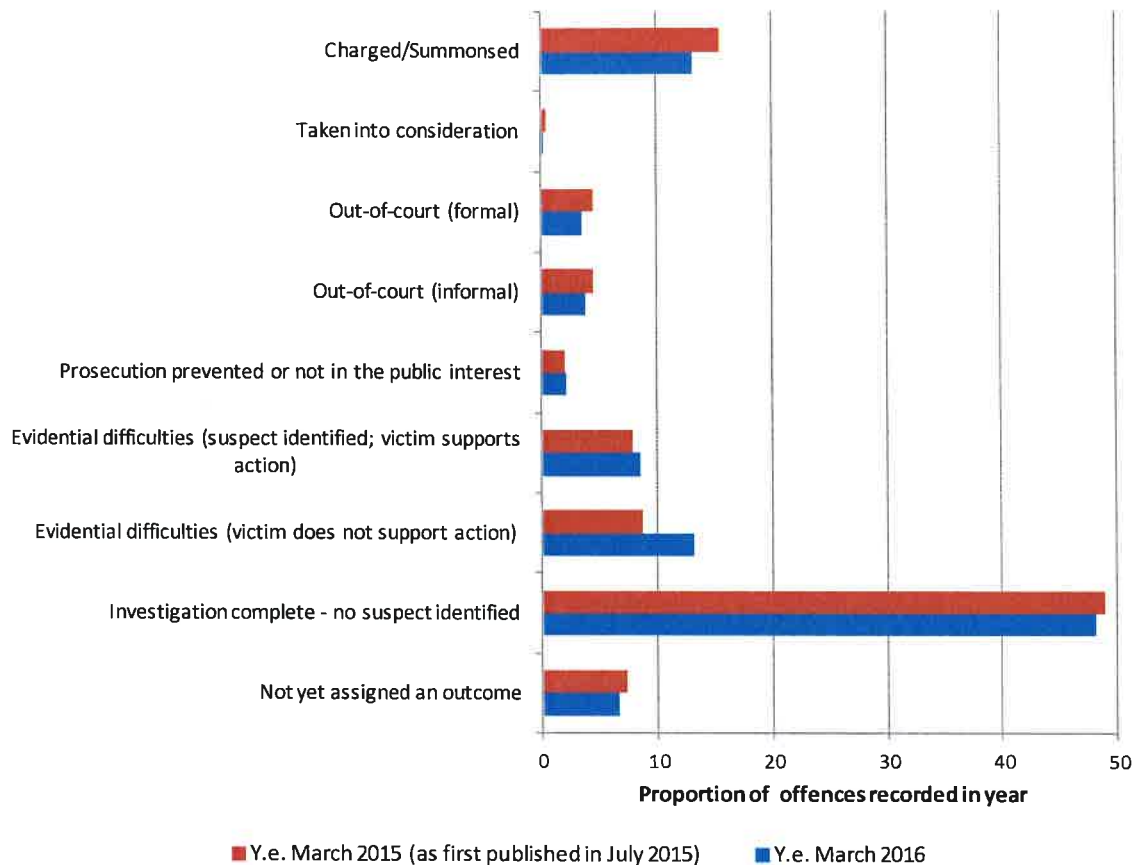
Differences in outcome proportions will be influenced by a number of factors, including but not limited to:

- Improvements in crime recording by the police have led to increases in crime volumes for some crime types, in particular for violence and sexual offences. These increased by 27 per cent and 21 per cent respectively in the year ending March 2016. It is likely that many of the additional offences now being recorded are those that are less likely to be resolved by a charge, summons or other out of court resolution.
- The different crime mix between years. For example, in the year ending March 2015, 22 per cent of crimes recorded by the police were violent offences, rising to 26 per cent in the current year. Part of this increase is due to two newly notifiable offences being included in the harassment crime category ('Disclosure of private sexual photographs and films with the intent to cause distress or anxiety' and 'Sending letters with intent to cause distress or anxiety') which has led to a 90 per cent increase in harassment offences over the year. These new crime types are generally more likely than other types of violent crime to be closed without police identifying a suspect and less likely to be resolved with a charge/summons, caution or community resolution.
- An increased willingness of victims to report crimes to the police, particularly for violent and sexual offences. In particular, Annex A shows that larger proportions of violent and sexual offences that related to domestic abuse experienced evidential difficulties compared with violent and sexual offences that were not domestic abuse related. It is likely that some of the increase in evidential difficulties outcomes is due to crimes that victims would not have reported to the police in previous years.
- The different set of forces' data included in each year. As highlighted previously, not all forces were able to supply data for some or all of the previous year, although this is only likely to have a small impact on outcome rates.

These points highlight the additional transparency of the broader outcomes framework in ensuring every crime receives an outcome and removes the focus on a smaller subset of all crimes and the victims of those crimes.

⁶ While these datasets are broadly comparable, the comparison is not exact as the data are affected by when they are taken from forces' systems. For example, a force taking data from their systems even a few days later can mean one set of crimes has had comparatively longer than the other to have outcomes assigned. Additionally, data for the year ending March 2015 covers around three-quarters of offences because some forces were unable to provide any for this voluntary collection.

Figure 2.3: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2015 (as first published) and the year ending March 2016, by outcome group



Source: Home Office Data Hub and voluntary spreadsheet return

1. The numbers behind this chart are available in Tables 2.1 and 2.3.
2. See Table 1.2 for details of which outcome types each outcome group consists of.
3. Year ending March 2015 data based on 38 forces that supplied data. All forces provided data in year ending March 2016.
4. Data for outcome 20 (Action undertaken by another body/agency) and outcome 21 (Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest) are not shown as these were introduced during year ending March 2016.

3 Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016

3.1 – INTRODUCTION

The outcome volumes and rates described in this chapter relate to outcomes recorded in a year regardless of when the associated crime was recorded. The volumes of outcomes recorded provide a useful indication of police activity in resolving crime.

Rates in this chapter are calculated as the number of outcomes recorded in the year as a proportion of crimes recorded in the same year, which is how rates were presented before it was possible to link crimes with their outcomes. Comparing the number of outcomes with the number of recorded offences in this way should be done with caution, as the outcomes do not relate precisely to the same period as the offences. Some of the outcomes will refer to offences that were recorded in previous years, and were allocated an outcome following completion of the investigation. Some crime types could show a rate of over 100 per cent against a particular outcome, which is sometimes the case for relatively low volume crimes.

Rates presented in this chapter are therefore illustrative rather than 'true' rates and can be influenced by changes in crime volumes. In future years, we intend to remove the 'outcome rates' calculated using unmatched crimes (as in this chapter) as these are less meaningful compared with rates shown in Chapter 2. The analysis presented in the previous chapter offers a more meaningful representation of how a given set of crimes are resolved and become increasingly useful when repeated over time.

3.2 – OUTCOMES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2016 BY OUTCOME TYPE AND OFFENCE GROUP

Table 3.1 shows the number of each outcome recorded by the police in the year ending March 2016 alongside the number of offences that were recorded during the same period. The outcome data are based on all outcome types recorded by the police during the year ending March 2016 (see Table 1.1).

Rates for the 'further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest' outcome are not given as this was only introduced from January 2016.

Table 3.1: Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome type

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes			
Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Number of outcomes	Rate ³
1	Charged/Summonsed	561,836	14.4
4	Taken into consideration²	13,331	0.3
	Out-of-court (formal)	145,549	3.7
2	Caution - youths	18,390	0.5
3	Caution - adults	102,217	2.6
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	24,942	0.6
	Out-of-court (informal)	157,335	4.0
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	36,682	0.9
8	Community resolution	120,653	3.1
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	95,407	2.5
5	Offender died	1,370	0.0
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	9,295	0.2
10	Not in public interest (Police)	61,537	1.6
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	5,282	0.1
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	10,603	0.3
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	1,502	0.0
17	Prosecution time limit expired	5,818	0.1
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	382,014	9.8
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	535,124	13.7
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	131,378	3.4
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	403,746	10.4
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	1,931,798	49.6
20	Action undertaken by another body/agency⁴	19,136	0.5
21	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest⁵	1,370	..
Total recorded offences¹		3,892,947	

1. Excludes (outcomes for) fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.

2. Offences asked to be taken in to consideration by a court (TICs)

3. Rate based on number of outcomes recorded in year divided by number of offences recorded in year.

4. Outcome 20 was introduced from April 2015.

5. Outcome 21 was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis.

Table 3.2 shows the number of each outcome recorded for each offence group in the year ending March 2016. Similarly to Table 2.2, the proportions vary considerably by offence type.

Table 3.2: Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group and offence group

Offence group	Recorded crime ¹	England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes									
		Charged/ Summonsed consideration ²	Out-of-court (formal) ³	Out-of-court (informal) ³	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest ³	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action) ³	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	Action undertaken by another body/agency ⁴	Investigation to support formal action not in the public interest ⁵	Further
<i>Number of outcomes</i>											
Violence against the person	994,444	177,956	48,706	42,173	46,908	179,549	312,555	144,628	14,128	509	
Sexual offences	106,378	17,494	1,310	638	5,039	26,981	27,963	17,328	1,739	68	
Robbery	50,904	8,278	175	143	676	4,987	7,503	29,632	19	3	
Theft offences	1,760,305	174,885	31,377	41,176	18,812	88,440	87,826	1,304,897	940	347	
Criminal damage and arson	539,909	43,353	15,138	18,237	6,785	29,851	43,043	376,352	441	85	
Drug offences	147,557	57,457	31,598	43,696	4,133	7,516	439	2,533	137	77	
Possession of weapons offences	25,502	14,554	2,635	1,036	1,281	2,970	834	1,336	101	22	
Public order offences	204,616	46,164	11,786	8,157	8,218	30,922	47,361	45,096	435	96	
Misc. crimes against society	63,332	21,695	2,824	2,079	3,555	10,798	7,600	9,996	1,196	163	
Total¹	3,892,947	561,836	145,549	157,335	95,407	382,014	535,124	1,931,798	19,136	1,370	
<i>Rate (%)⁶</i>											
Violence against the person		17.9	4.9	4.2	4.7	18.1	31.4	14.5	1.4	**	
Sexual offences		16.4	1.2	0.6	4.7	25.4	26.3	16.3	1.6	**	
Robbery		16.3	0.3	0.3	1.3	9.8	14.7	58.2	0.0	**	
Theft offences		9.9	1.8	2.3	1.1	5.0	5.0	74.1	0.1	**	
Criminal damage and arson		8.0	2.8	3.4	1.3	5.5	8.0	69.7	0.1	**	
Drug offences		38.9	21.4	29.6	2.8	5.1	0.3	1.7	0.1	**	
Possession of weapons offences		57.1	10.3	4.1	5.0	11.6	3.3	5.2	0.4	**	
Public order offences		22.6	5.8	4.0	4.0	15.1	23.1	22.0	0.2	**	
Misc. crimes against society		34.3	4.5	3.3	5.6	17.0	12.0	15.8	1.9	**	
Total¹		14.4	3.7	4.0	2.5	9.8	13.7	49.6	0.5	**	

1. Excludes (outcomes for) fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.

2. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).

3. See Table 1.2 for outcome types included within group.

4. Outcome 20 was introduced from April 2015. During year to March 2015 these were included within outcome type 18.

5. Outcome 21 was introduced on a voluntary basis from January 2016. Figures therefore do not cover the full year or all forces. Prior to this these were included within outcome types 10 or 18.

6. Rate based on number of outcomes recorded in year to March 2016 divided by number of offences recorded in year to March 2016.

As in the previous chapter, different outcome types are more common for different crime types, reflecting the different nature of the crime types, decisions made within forces and the guidance on outcomes given to police forces.

'Rates' can be particularly influenced by changes in crime volumes for certain offence categories, as in-year comparisons pair outcomes with a different set of crimes and should therefore be treated as indicative only. The rates shown in Table 3.2 can be particularly difficult to interpret for those crime types that take longer to investigate and assign an outcome. Where crime volumes increase or decrease markedly from one year to the next, it is likely that any outcome rate will react more slowly.

3.3 – OUTCOMES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2016 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

Overall England and Wales comparisons between outcome volumes recorded in the year ending March 2016 and the previous year are only possible for outcome types that were supplied by all forces during the year ending March 2015 (see Table C1). As explained in Annex C, some forces were only able to start supplying data on the full outcomes framework mid-year. As a result, the year ending March 2015 totals for England and Wales are only complete for the outcomes which were previously 'detection' types (outcomes 1 to 4 and 6 to 8). See Table 1.1 for details.

Changes in outcomes and outcome rates illustrated in this chapter are broadly similar to those seen in Chapter 2, which shows how a set of crimes have been resolved.

For example, between the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016 the proportion of charge/summons outcomes recorded in the year as a proportion of total crimes recorded in the year decreased from 17 per cent to 14 per cent. This represents a reversal in the long-term trend of steady increases between the year ending March 2007 (13%) and the year ending March 2014 (17%), which was the highest rate since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) from April 2002. The trend is shown in Annex Table C2. However, this is likely to be affected by the same issues that affect the "true rates" presented in Chapter 2. These are discussed in section 2.4.

Table 3.3 shows a comparison of the volume of charge/summons recorded between the year ending March 2016 and the previous year.

While the number of charge/summons recorded for sexual offences rose by 10 per cent compared with the previous year, this did not match the level of the larger increase in the number of sexual offences recorded (21 per cent increase). As well as better recording, this offence group is likely to be particularly influenced by the time lag highlighted in section 3.1, given that sexual offences tend to have longer investigation times than other offence groups (see Chapter 4). As shown in Chapter 2, a large number of sexual offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 were still under investigation.

154

Table 3.3: Number of offences and charge/summons recorded in the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016, by offence group

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes						
	Number of offences		% change	Number of charge/summons		% change
	Y.e. March	Y.e. March		Y.e. March	Y.e. March	
	2015	2016		2015	2016	
Violence against the person	780,026	994,444	27.5	178,594	177,956	-0.4
Sexual offences	88,238	106,378	20.6	15,834	17,494	10.5
Robbery	50,245	50,904	1.3	9,485	8,278	-12.7
Theft offences	1,755,123	1,760,305	0.3	196,178	174,885	-10.9
Criminal damage and arson	503,877	539,909	7.2	45,719	43,353	-5.2
Drug offences	169,863	147,557	-13.1	64,287	57,457	-10.6
Possession of weapons offence	21,917	25,502	16.4	13,711	14,554	6.1
Public order offences	159,489	204,616	28.3	49,995	46,164	-7.7
Misc. crimes against society	52,348	63,332	21.0	22,593	21,695	-4.0
Total¹	3,581,126	3,892,947	8.7	596,396	561,836	-5.8

1. Excludes (outcomes for) fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.

2. Police recorded crime data are published by the Office for National Statistics

4 The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded

4.1 – INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents data on the length of time between offences being recorded and an outcome being assigned to that offence. This analysis is broken down by crime type and outcome, so it is possible to see an indication of the length of time taken for different crime types to be assigned an outcome on the new framework. Data are available for the last two years.

Findings are based on those forces that provide record-level data via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH). The benefits and extent of the analysis continues to increase as the HODH continues to evolve and more forces provide good quality record-level data. As shown in Annex Table C1, the data for the year ending March 2016 relate to 32 forces, including the Metropolitan Police, so are likely to be representative of England and Wales.

To preserve consistency, the analysis comparing the current year with the previous year uses a subset of 27 forces that supplied good quality data in both periods. This excludes the Metropolitan Police. See Table C1 for further details.

In order to include outcomes that may have taken a long time to be assigned, the data presented in this chapter cover outcomes that were recorded in the year ending March 2016 regardless of when the offence was initially recorded.

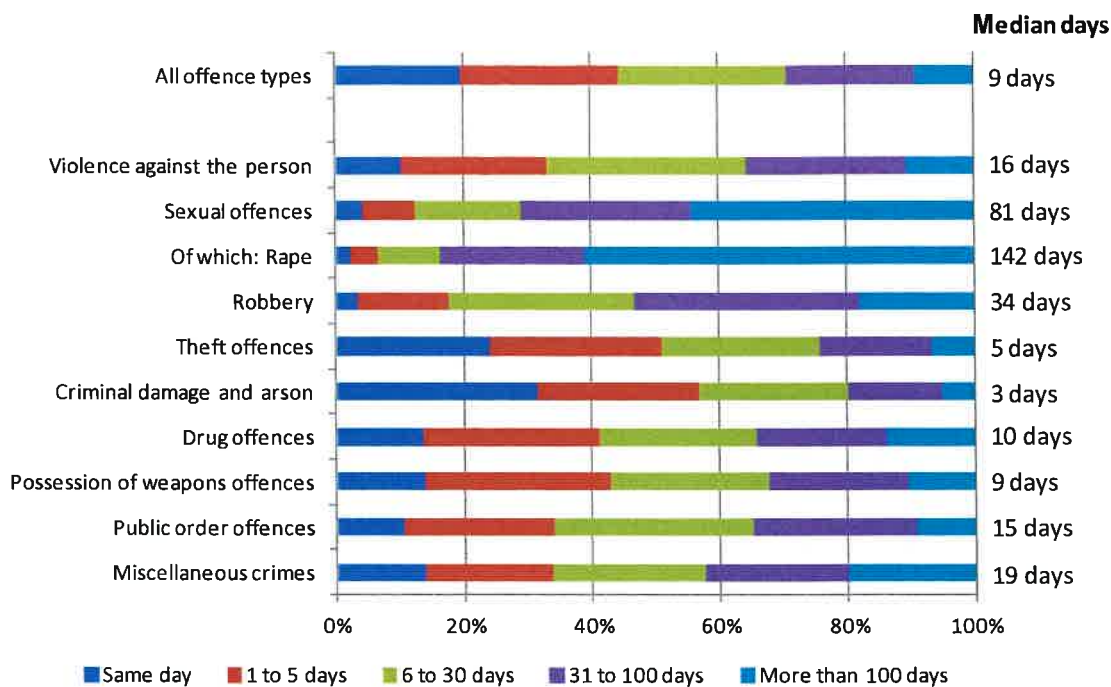
While this analysis gives an indication of the length of time it takes for an outcome to be assigned, it is affected by any delay between a force achieving an outcome and recording it on their system. In particular, for some of the outcomes that take 1-5 days to assign, the outcome may have been 'actioned' on the same day as the offence was recorded but implemented on the system at a later date. For example, cannabis warnings will almost always be issued at the time the offence comes to the attention of the police, but the administrative task of assigning the outcome on the crime recording system may happen some days later.

4.2 – THE LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN OFFENCES AND OUTCOMES BEING RECORDED, BY OFFENCE TYPE

Figure 4.1 shows the number of days between an offence being recorded and an outcome being assigned for that offence, by offence group. In the year ending March 2016, it took nine days on average to assign an outcome; 44 per cent of the outcomes were assigned within five days of the offence being recorded, and around three-quarters (71 per cent) of outcomes were assigned within 30 days. Nine per cent of outcomes took more than 100 days to be assigned.

As expected, sexual offences generally took much longer to be assigned an outcome than other offence types, taking an average of 81 days with 44 per cent taking over 100 days. In particular, rape offences took an average of 142 days to be assigned an outcome, with 61 per cent taking over 100. This is likely to be due to the complexity of these cases and the level of investigation needed. In contrast, drug offences (10 days), possession of weapons (9 days), theft (5 days) and criminal damage and arson (3 days) were generally resolved much more quickly. In some cases, this reflects the nature of these types of offences, in particular for drug and possession of weapon offences where the offender is usually identified immediately. In other cases, this may represent the limited evidence available in investigating the crime (e.g. thefts, where there may be no CCTV, fingerprints or other evidence of the perpetrator).

Figure 4.1: The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded for outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016, by offence type



Source: Home Office Data Hub, 32 forces (see Table C1), outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016

1. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables, which can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

Table 4.1 shows how the average (median) length of time to assign an outcome to particular offence types has changed since the previous year. As this calculation is only possible for 27 forces the figures for the year ending March 2016 will differ from those in Figure 4.1.

Overall, there has been no change in the average number of days taken to assign an outcome. However, there is some variation by crime type:

- The average time for a sexual offence to be assigned an outcome has increased from 70 days in the year ending March 2015 to 78 days in the year ending March 2016. In particular, rape offences increased from 122 days to 132 days during the same period. This could reflect an increase in the complexity of sexual offences being reported to and recorded by the police.
- The average time taken to assign an outcome also increased over the last year for some other offence types: miscellaneous crimes (an extra 5 days), drug offences (extra 4 days) and possession of weapon offences (extra 3 days).
- There were only two offence types which, on average, took less time to assign an outcome in the year ending March 2016 compared with the previous year. These were robbery (3 days less) and theft offences (2 days less).

The National Police Chiefs' Council report *Estimating Demand on the Police Service*⁷ states that "crime types which are more complex to investigate, require more police time and are therefore more costly, are now a greater proportion of police recorded crime".

As this is the first year for which comparisons can be made, for a subset of forces, small changes between the years may be due to natural variation and care should be taken when making any inferences from these changes.

⁷Available from: www.college.police.uk/Documents/Demand_Report_21_1_15.pdf

Table 4.1: The difference in the average (median) length of time taken to assign an outcome between the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016, by offence type

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes			
Median number of days for an outcome to be assigned			
	Y.e. March 2015	Y.e. March 2016	Difference between y.e. March 2015 and y.e. March 2016
Violence against the person	14	14	0
Sexual offences	70	78	8
<i>of which: Rape</i>	122	132	10
Robbery	35	32	-3
Theft offences	7	5	-2
Criminal damage and arson	3	3	0
Drug offences	7	11	4
Possession of weapons offences	5	8	3
Public order offences	13	13	0
Miscellaneous crimes	15	20	5
All crimes (excluding fraud)	8	8	0

Source: Home Office Data Hub, 27 forces (see Table C1), outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016 and outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2015

1. Average number of days taken to assign an outcome calculated using the median number of days

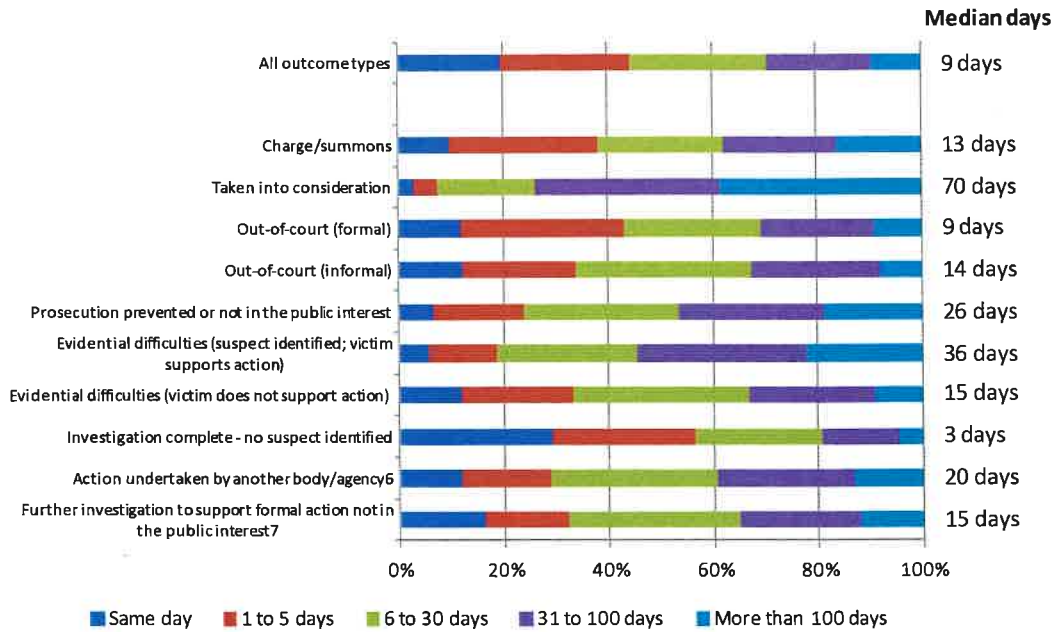
4.3 – THE LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN OFFENCES AND OUTCOMES BEING RECORDED, BY OUTCOME TYPE

Figure 4.2 shows how the time taken for an outcome to be assigned to a crime varies by outcome type. It should be borne in mind that police forces employ different administrative systems and processes which could impact on the amount of time taken to assign some outcomes. For instance some forces may only assign outcomes on their crime recording systems on Monday to Friday, which could impact on any crimes recorded at the weekend.

- Investigations that were completed with no suspect identified tended to be the outcomes assigned most quickly, taking an average of three days to be assigned in the year ending March 2016, with 29 per cent assigned on the same day as the crime was recorded. Appendix Table 4a⁸ shows that the vast majority of these were applied to offences of theft (68%) or criminal damage and arson (26%).
- Charge/summons took an average of 13 days to be assigned, with 38 per cent being assigned within five days of the offence being recorded.
- It is not surprising that 'taken into consideration' by the court generally took the longest to assign (an average of 70 days) as these arise where the offender admits to the crime some time after it took place.

⁸ Appendix Table 4a can be found in the supplementary online data tables here: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

158
Figure 4.2: The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded for outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group



Source: Home Office Data Hub, 32 forces (see Table C1), outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016

1. See Tables 1.1 and 1.2 for details of which outcome types are included in which groups

2. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables, which can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

Table 4.2 shows how the average (median) length of time to assign particular outcomes has changed since the previous year. It should be borne in mind that the volume and types of crimes recorded by forces can change from one year to the next and this will have a bearing on the types of outcomes being assigned and the time taken to assign them.

In particular:

- In the year ending March 2016, it took an average of 12 days to assign a charge/summons, an increase from 10 in the previous year.
- The police took less time, on average, to close a crime without a suspect being identified in the year ending March 2016 (2 days) compared with the previous year (4 days).

Table 4.2: The difference in the average (median) length of time taken to assign an outcome between the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016, by outcome group

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes			
	Median number of days for an outcome to be assigned		
	Y.e. March 2015	Y.e. March 2016	Difference between y.e. March 2015 and y.e. March 2016
Charge/summons	10	12	2
Taken into consideration ²	72	65	-7
Out-of-court (formal)	6	10	4
Out-of-court (informal)	11	15	4
Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	25	21	-4
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	34	35	1
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	15	13	-2
Investigation complete - no suspect identified	4	2	-2
Action undertaken by another body/agency ³	..	14	..
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest ³	..	19	..
All crimes (excluding fraud)	8	8	0

Source: Home Office Data Hub, 27 forces (see Table C1), outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016 and outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2015

1. Average number of days taken to assign an outcome calculated using the median number of days.
2. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).
3. Differences between the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016 are not available for outcome 20 (Action undertaken by another body/agency) or outcome 21 (Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest) as these outcomes were not introduced until April 2015 (outcome 20) and January 2016 (outcome 21).

5 Transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes')

5.1 – DEFINITIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES FOR TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS (FORMERLY 'NO-CRIMES')

A transferred or cancelled record occurs when the police record an offence, but subsequently determine that the crime did not take place, was recorded in error or should be transferred to another force. Cases where an incident was not recorded as a crime in the first place are not included. Offences may be transferred or cancelled in one of the following situations:

- 1 Transferred: Crime committed outside the jurisdiction of the police force in which it was recorded – passed to the appropriate force.
- 2 Cancelled: Additional verifiable information that determines that no notifiable crime occurred becomes available.
- 3 Cancelled: Duplicate record or part of a crime already recorded.
- 4 Cancelled: Crime recorded in error.
- 5 Cancelled: Self defence claimed (for specific recorded assaults).

In the statistics shown in this section, transferred or cancelled records are always recorded in the same financial year as the offence that was originally recorded. So if, for example, an offence was recorded in January and then subsequently transferred or cancelled in the next financial year (e.g. May), the transferred or cancelled record will be recorded for the previous financial year. This ensures that the total count of offences in any given year is correct.

The year ending March 2016 is the first time these breakdowns have been presented covering a full year's worth of data⁹. Prior to April 2015, all 43 police forces in England and Wales (including British Transport Police) supplied the total number of transferred and cancelled records to the Home Office as one combined category ("no-crimes"), with no further explanation of why the crime was classed as such. Therefore, comparisons with previous years are only possible by looking at the total of the five categories.

5.2 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS BY OFFENCE GROUP

Data on records that were transferred or cancelled in the year ending March 2016 are shown in Table 5.1. Overall, 3.3 per cent of crimes originally recorded in the year ending March 2016 were subsequently transferred or cancelled. Most of these (3.1 per cent) were subsequently cancelled and 0.2 per cent of crimes were transferred to another police force.

These proportions varied considerably by offence group. The highest cancelled record rate was for miscellaneous crimes against society (6.8 per cent), whilst the lowest was for robbery (1.7 per cent). The cancelled record rate for rape offences was 4.4 per cent.

The highest proportion of records transferred to another police force was for sexual offences (1.3 per cent in the year ending March 2016), in particular rape offences (1.5 per cent).

⁹ Northamptonshire were unable to provide a breakdown of transferred and cancelled records by type for the year ending March 2016.

Table 5.1: Number and proportion of transferred or cancelled records, by offence group, year ending March 2016

England and Wales, Recorded crime							
	Offences initially recorded ³	Transferred records ³	Cancelled records ³	Offences recorded ³	Transferred records as % of offences initially recorded ³	Cancelled records as % of offences initially recorded ³	Total transferred or cancelled records as % of offences initially recorded (all forces) ⁴
Violence against the person	1,027,479	2,185	30,850	994,444	0.2	3.0	3.3
Sexual offences	112,593	1,418	4,797	106,378	1.3	4.3	5.6
of which: Rape	38,054	566	1,690	35,798	1.5	4.4	6.1
Robbery	51,855	45	906	50,904	0.1	1.7	1.8
Theft offences	1,816,591	2,181	54,105	1,760,305	0.1	3.0	3.1
Criminal damage and arson	552,830	271	12,650	539,909	0.0	2.3	2.4
Drug offences	152,483	132	4,794	147,557	0.1	3.1	3.3
Possession of weapons offences	27,363	19	1,842	25,502	0.1	6.7	6.9
Public order offences	213,865	290	8,959	204,616	0.1	4.2	4.4
Misc. crimes against society	68,371	381	4,658	63,332	0.6	6.8	7.4
Total¹	4,023,430	6,922	123,561	3,892,947	0.2	3.1	3.3

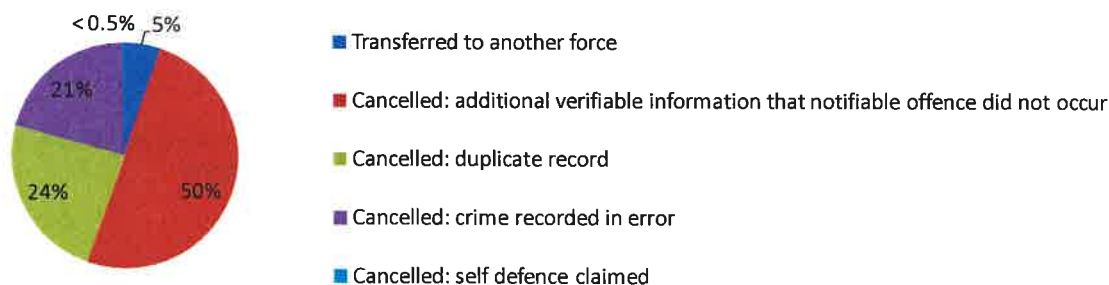
1. Excludes fraud offences as responsibility for recording and transferring/cancelling these had transferred to Action Fraud by March 2013.
 2. Transferred and cancelled records were formerly referred to as 'no-crimes'.
 3. Northamptonshire police provided data on the total number of transferred and cancelled records but did not provide a breakdown by type therefore have been excluded from all but the last column.
 4. The last column includes total transferred and cancelled records for Northamptonshire and therefore provides the total rates for all forces (see Table 5.2).

5.3 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS BY CATEGORY

Data on the reason why a record was transferred or cancelled were collected by the Home Office for the first time during year ending March 2016. Half (50%) of the records that were either transferred or cancelled in the year ending March 2016 were cancelled because additional verifiable information became available that determined that no notifiable crime had been committed.

As shown in Figure 5.1, nearly one-quarter (24%) were cancelled due to being duplicate records, around one-fifth (21%) were recorded in error and five per cent were transferred to another force. Only a very small proportion (less than 0.5 per cent) of all transferred or cancelled records were crimes of assault that had been cancelled due to evidence that the offender acted in self-defence. Although these can only be applied to records initially recorded as specific assault offences, it also comprised a very small proportion of the volume of assaults recorded¹⁰.

Figure 5.1: Transferred or cancelled records by type, year ending March 2016



Source: Police Recorded Crime, Home Office

1. The Metropolitan Police Service are unable to record records cancelled due to self defence claimed.
 2. Northamptonshire were unable to provide a breakdown by transferred and cancelled records type.

The year ending March 2016 is the first time these new breakdowns have been presented at an offence group level (Figure 5.2).

¹⁰ The Metropolitan Police Service are unable to provide figures on the number of transferred and cancelled records that were cancelled due to self defence claimed. However, given the small proportion seen across all forces and the specific nature of when this type can be applied it would still be likely to be low overall.

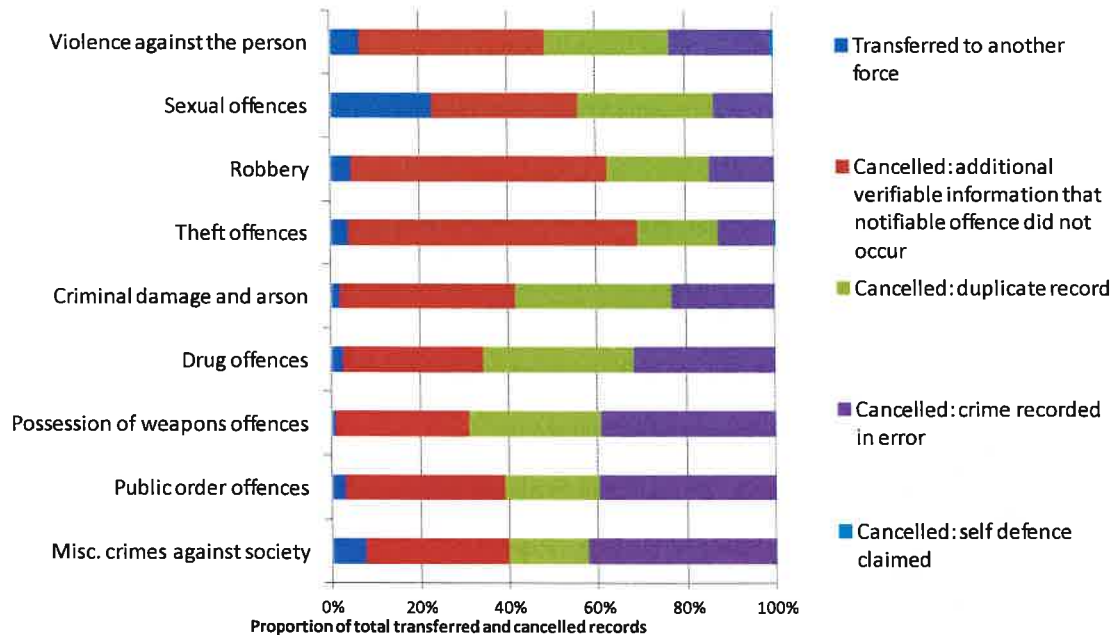
The offence group with the highest proportion of records that were transferred to another force was sexual offences (23%).

The offence group with the highest proportion of crime records that were cancelled because additional verifiable information became available that determined that no notifiable crime had been committed was theft offences (65 per cent of theft records that had been transferred or cancelled). This may be due to the nature of the offence, whereby an item which is first recorded as stolen is subsequently found to have been misplaced. Possession of weapons offences had the lowest proportion of records that were cancelled because additional verifiable information became available that determined that no notifiable crime had been committed (30 per cent of transferred or cancelled records for this offence type).

Of all records that were transferred or cancelled in the year ending March 2016, 24 per cent were cancelled due to being a duplicate record. The main offence group with the highest proportion of these duplicate records was criminal damage and arson (35%) whilst the lowest proportions of duplicate records were seen for miscellaneous crimes against society and theft offences (18%).

The offence group with the highest proportion of transferred or cancelled records that were cancelled because they were recorded in error were miscellaneous crimes against society (42 per cent in the year ending March 2016), followed by possession of weapons (40%) and public order offences (39%). This is in contrast to the proportions of transferred or cancelled records for sexual offences (14%), theft offences (13%) and robbery (15%) which were cancelled due to being recorded in error.

Figure 5.2: Transferred or cancelled records by type broken down by offence group, year ending March 2016



Source: Police Recorded Crime, Home Office

1. The Metropolitan Police Service are unable to record records cancelled due to self defence claimed.
2. Northamptonshire were unable to provide a breakdown by transferred and cancelled records type.

Only specific types of assaults can be cancelled due to evidence that the offence was acted in self-defence, and less than 1 per cent of all violence against the person offences were cancelled for this reason.

5.4 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Comparisons between the year ending March 2016 and the previous year are only possible for the total number of transferred and cancelled records. This is because prior to April 2015, forces supplied the total number to the Home Office as one combined category (“no-crimes”) with no further explanation of why the crime was classed as such. Data shown cover all 44 police forces in England and Wales (including British Transport Police).

As shown in Table 5.2, 3.3 per cent of all offences that were initially recorded as crimes in the year ending March 2016 were subsequently transferred or cancelled, a slight increase from 3.1 per cent in the previous year. Similarly to the year ending March 2015, the offence group with the highest proportion of offences that were transferred or cancelled in the year ending March 2016 was miscellaneous crimes against society (7.4 per cent in year ending March 2016 compared with 7.5 per cent in the previous year) and the lowest rates were seen for robbery offences (1.8 per cent in the year ending March 2016 compared with 1.9 per cent in the previous year).

The transferred or cancelled rate for rape offences in the year ending March 2016 was 6.1 per cent, up from 5.3 per cent in the previous year. It is likely that the increase in the proportion of crimes that were transferred or cancelled is linked to the improvements and developments in crime recording that have been highlighted in earlier chapters. In particular, recording rules changed in April 2015 to ensure crimes were recorded by the police as soon as possible and in any event, within 24 hours. This is likely to have had a particular impact for rape offences. Furthermore, the push for more victim-focused crime recording (as referenced in Chapter 2) is also likely to have led to more crimes being recorded that are subsequently transferred or cancelled as police are now recording crimes at the first (or an early) point of contact and subsequently establishing further into the investigation that such a transfer or cancellation is justified.

Table 5.2: Number and proportion of transferred or cancelled records, by offence group, years ending March 2015 and 2016

	England and Wales, Recorded crime							
	Offences initially recorded		Transferred or cancelled records		Offences recorded		Transferred or cancelled records as % of offences initially recorded	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
Year ending March:								
Violence against the person	803,613	1,027,899	23,587	33,455	780,026	994,444	2.9	3.3
Sexual offences	92,697	112,725	4,459	6,347	88,238	106,378	4.8	5.6
<i>of which: Rape</i>	30,948	38,104	1,648	2,306	29,300	35,798	5.3	6.1
Robbery	51,219	51,861	974	957	50,245	50,904	1.9	1.8
Theft offences	1,813,043	1,817,324	57,920	57,019	1,755,123	1,760,305	3.2	3.1
Criminal damage and arson	514,521	553,102	10,644	13,193	503,877	539,909	2.1	2.4
Drug offences	174,366	152,543	4,503	4,986	169,863	147,557	2.6	3.3
Possession of weapons offences	23,397	27,397	1,480	1,895	21,917	25,502	6.3	6.9
Public order offences	166,478	213,945	6,989	9,329	159,489	204,616	4.2	4.4
Misc. crimes against society	56,606	68,424	4,258	5,092	52,348	63,332	7.5	7.4
Total¹	3,695,940	4,025,220	114,814	132,273	3,581,126	3,892,947	3.1	3.3

1. Excludes fraud offences as responsibility for recording and transferring/cancelling these had transferred to Action Fraud by March 2013.

2. Transferred and cancelled records were formerly referred to as ‘no-crimes’

3. All police forces provided data on the total number of transferred and cancelled records

5.5 – HMIC FINDINGS ON THE QUALITY OF ‘NO-CRIMING’

In 2014, HMIC published findings from their crime data integrity inspections of the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales. These inspections included an assessment on the accuracy of no-crime records and compliance with the standards set out in the Home Office Counting Rules.

One of the weaknesses identified in police recording practices was crimes being inappropriately cancelled (‘no-crimed’). HMIC found that of their national sample, 20 per cent of transferred or cancelled crimes were removed from the records incorrectly.

The report can be found here: www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/crime-recording-making-the-victim-count.pdf

5.6 – COMPARING TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS (FORMERLY ‘NO-CRIMES’)

It is important to exercise caution when comparing transferred or cancelled record data across police forces and between years. A high or low number of transferred or cancelled records should not necessarily be interpreted positively or negatively, as different forces may use transferred or cancelled records in different ways and volumes may be affected by specific locations of forces (in particular for transferred records). Since April 2015 the Home Office Counting Rules have required the police to record a crime at the earliest opportunity, and at most within 24 hours after the reporting officer decides that a crime should be recorded (previously this was within 72 hours). In itself, this is likely to lead to an increase in transferred and cancelled records. However, whilst one force may record all crimes immediately and then later transfer or cancel a more significant proportion of these, others may wait slightly longer to judge whether an offence constitutes a crime or not, and thus are likely to record fewer transferred or cancelled records overall. Transfers in particular are susceptible to local practices. Some forces record all reports as crimes and then transfer where necessary. Others, where it is apparent from the outset that a transfer will be needed, only record an incident and pass that detail on. As a result a firm conclusion should not be drawn when comparing transferred or cancelled record numbers across forces, as any differences seen may just reflect differences in recording practices. More details of this can be found in the HMIC reports mentioned above.

Additionally, some forces may deal more frequently with offence types that are more likely to be transferred or cancelled.

An additional online table showing transferred or cancelled record rates for crime types and forces can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

An Open Data table on transferred or cancelled records is also available, which shows transferred or cancelled record data by police force for each of the last five financial years. This is available here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables

Annex A: Outcomes assigned to offences flagged as domestic abuse

A1 - INTRODUCTION

In April 2015, the Home Office began collecting information from the police on whether recorded offences were related to domestic abuse. Crimes are "flagged" by the police as being domestic abuse related if the offence meets the government definition of domestic violence and abuse¹¹.

This annex covers how domestic abuse flagged offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 have been dealt with. The analyses presented are based on data from 17 of the 44 police forces in England and Wales^{12,13} that supplied adequate data to the Home Office Data Hub.

A2 – DOMESTIC ABUSE OUTCOMES BY TYPE

The rates for individual outcome types shown in Appendix table 1 relate to outcomes assigned to domestic abuse flagged offences recorded in the year ending March 2016. In total, 96 per cent of these offences had been assigned an outcome by the time the data was extracted from the Home Office Data Hub¹⁴. The remaining four per cent were yet to be assigned an outcome.

- A quarter (25%) of domestic abuse flagged offences were dealt with by a charge or summons
- The majority (60%) of domestic abuse flagged offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 had evidential difficulties outcomes (Appendix table 1; Figure A1). This consists of 35 per cent of flagged offences where the victim did not support further action and 26 per cent where the victim supported further action.
- Just two per cent of domestic abuse flagged offences were assigned the outcome 'investigation complete - no suspect identified'. This is perhaps not surprising given that, by definition, in a domestic abuse offence the offender must be a partner, ex-partner or a family member of the victim.

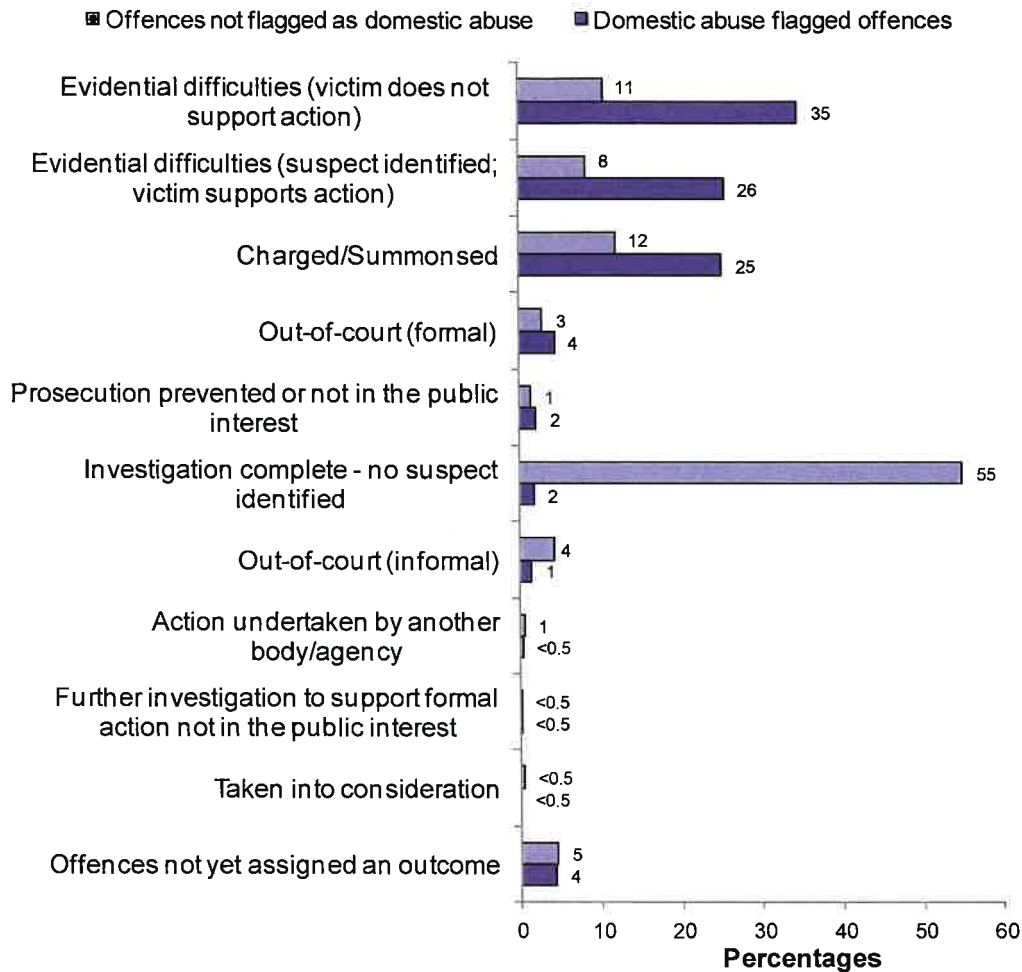
¹¹ Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

¹² Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cleveland, Devon and Cornwall, Gloucestershire, Greater Manchester, Humberside, Kent, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, South Wales, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, Thames Valley and West Yorkshire.

¹³ Figures are not comparable with previous chapters in the publication as the analysis is based on a different subset of forces.

¹⁴ Early June 2016. This proportion is higher than the proportion for all offences, although much of this may be due to different snapshot dates and the inclusion of fewer forces.

Figure A1: Proportions of outcomes assigned to domestic abuse flagged offences and offences not flagged as domestic abuse recorded in the year ending March 2016



Source: Police Recorded Crime, Home Office Data Hub

1. Based on 17 police forces that supplied adequate data

2. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables, which can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

A3 – DOMESTIC ABUSE OUTCOMES BY OFFENCE GROUP

In the 17 forces included in the analysis, violence against the person, criminal damage and arson and sexual offences together comprise 90 per cent of domestic abuse offences (this proportion is the same when all 44 police forces are included in the analysis, these data are available in the Office for National Statistics crime statistics for the year ending March 2016 bulletin¹⁵). The proportions of outcomes assigned varied considerably by offence type:

- A quarter (25%) of domestic abuse flagged violence against the person offences were dealt with by a charge or summons, while 36 per cent had evidential difficulties where the victim did not support further action. In comparison, a lower proportion (14%) of violent offences¹⁶ not flagged as domestic abuse were dealt with by a charge or summons and 30 per cent had evidential difficulties where the victim did not support further action (Figure A2). A fifth (20%) of violence against the person offences not flagged as domestic abuse were assigned the

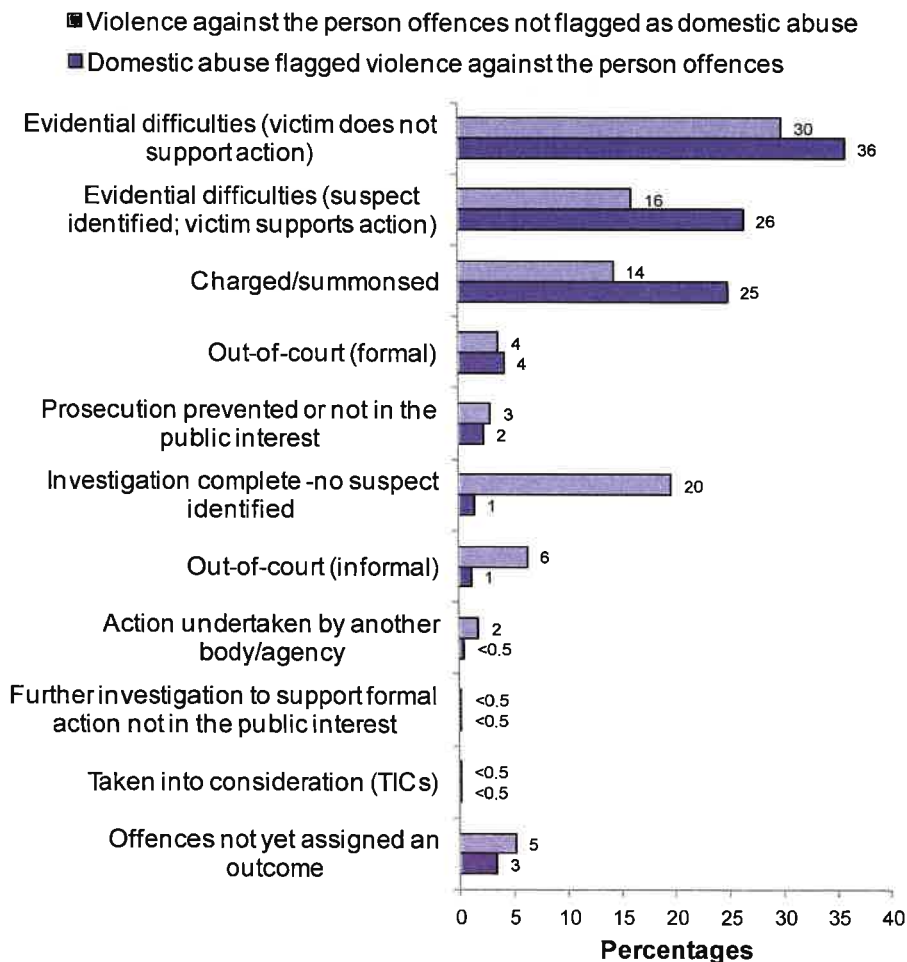
¹⁵ www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

¹⁶ Recorded by the 17 police forces

outcome 'investigation complete - no suspect identified' compared with only 1 per cent of domestic abuse flagged violence against the person offences.

- A far higher proportion of domestic abuse flagged criminal damage and arson offences resulted in a charge or summons than those that were not domestic abuse flagged (29 per cent compared with 5 per cent). The proportion was also much higher for evidential difficulties where the victim did not support action (34 per cent of domestic abuse flagged criminal damage and arson compared with 6 per cent of those that were not flagged as domestic abuse), see Appendix Table A3¹⁷.
- Domestic abuse flagged sexual offences had a larger proportion of offences not yet assigned an outcome (28%) than any of the other offence groups. This is a similar proportion to sexual offences not flagged as domestic abuse (26%), see Appendix Table A3¹⁷.

Figure A2: Proportions of outcomes assigned to domestic abuse flagged violence against the person offences and violence against the person offences not flagged as domestic abuse recorded in the year ending March 2016



Source: Police Recorded Crime, Home Office Data Hub

1. Based on 17 police forces that supplied adequate data

2. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables, which can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

¹⁷Supplementary online data tables available here: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

A4 - THE LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN DOMESTIC ABUSE OFFENCES AND OUTCOMES BEING RECORDED

This section presents data on the length of time between domestic abuse flagged offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 being assigned an outcome, by the time the data was extracted from the Home Office Data Hub (Figure A3). Thus the data are based on the 96 per cent of offences that have been assigned an outcome (Appendix table A1¹⁸). 'Flagging' of domestic abuse offences only begin in April 2015, hence this differs to the analysis in Chapter 4 of this publication, which looks at all outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016, regardless of which year the crime was recorded in.

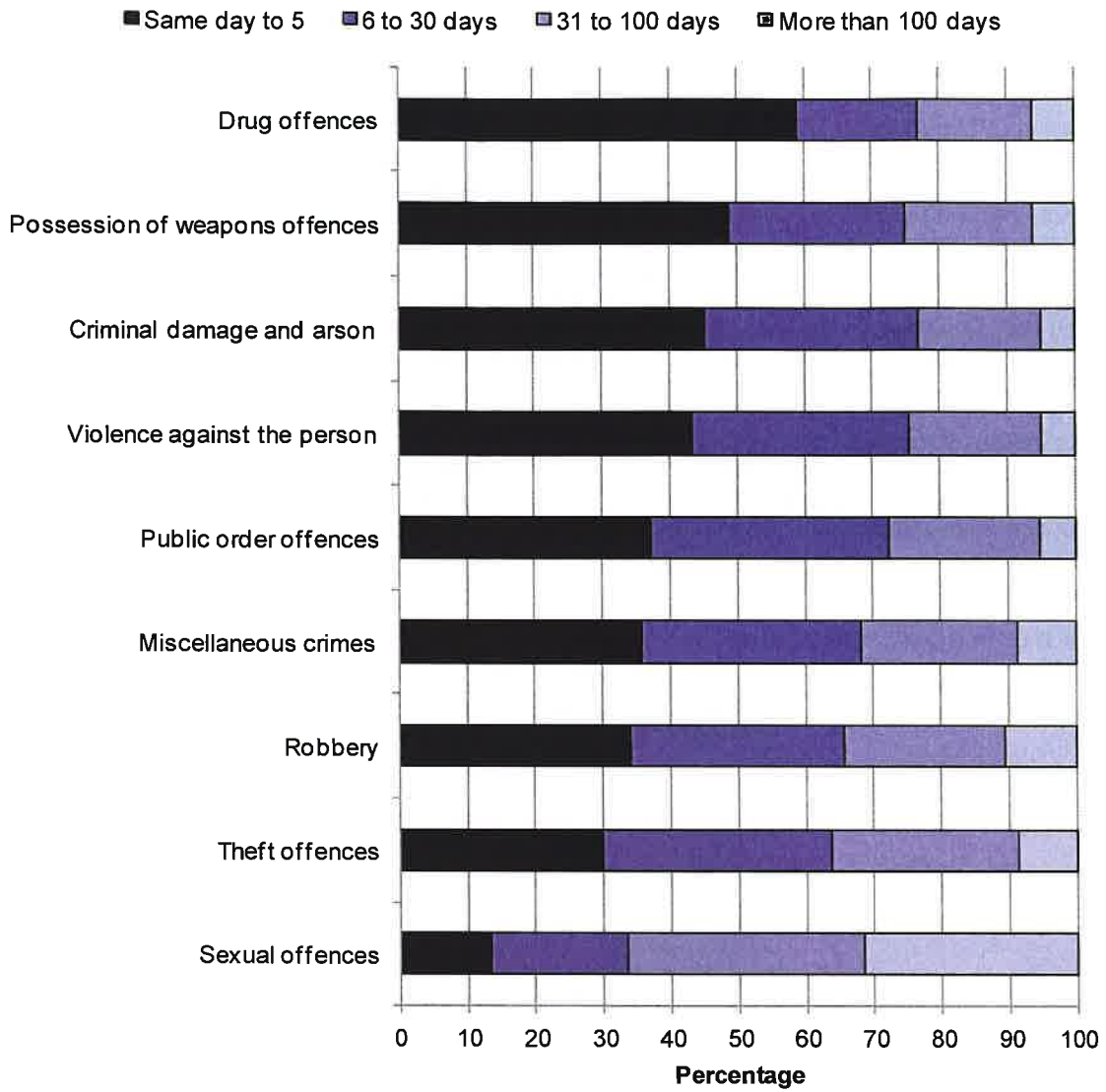
Of the domestic abuse flagged offences assigned an outcome, 42 per cent had been assigned an outcome within five days of the offence being recorded, with around three-quarters (74%) being assigned within 30 days. Six per cent of outcomes took more than 100 days to be assigned.

- Sexual offences flagged as domestic abuse generally took much longer to be assigned an outcome than other domestic abuse related offence types, with 32 per cent taking over 100 days. This proportion is similar to sexual offences not flagged as domestic abuse – 26 per cent took over 100 days.
- Forty three per cent of domestic abuse flagged violence against the person offences were assigned an outcome within five days and three quarters were assigned an outcome within 30 days. In violence against the person offences not flagged as domestic abuse, 36 per cent were assigned an outcome within five days and 68 per cent within 30 days.

The time taken to assign an outcome to each offence type reflects the nature of the offence. Sexual offences tend to be much more complex and require a greater amount of investigation. On the other hand, the offender is usually identified immediately in drug and possession of weapon offences. See Chapter 4 for more information.

¹⁸ Supplementary online data tables available here: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

Figure A3: Length of time taken to assign outcomes to domestic abuse flagged offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, by offence group



Source: Police Recorded Crime, Home Office Data Hub

1. Based on 17 police forces that supplied adequate data

2. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables, which can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

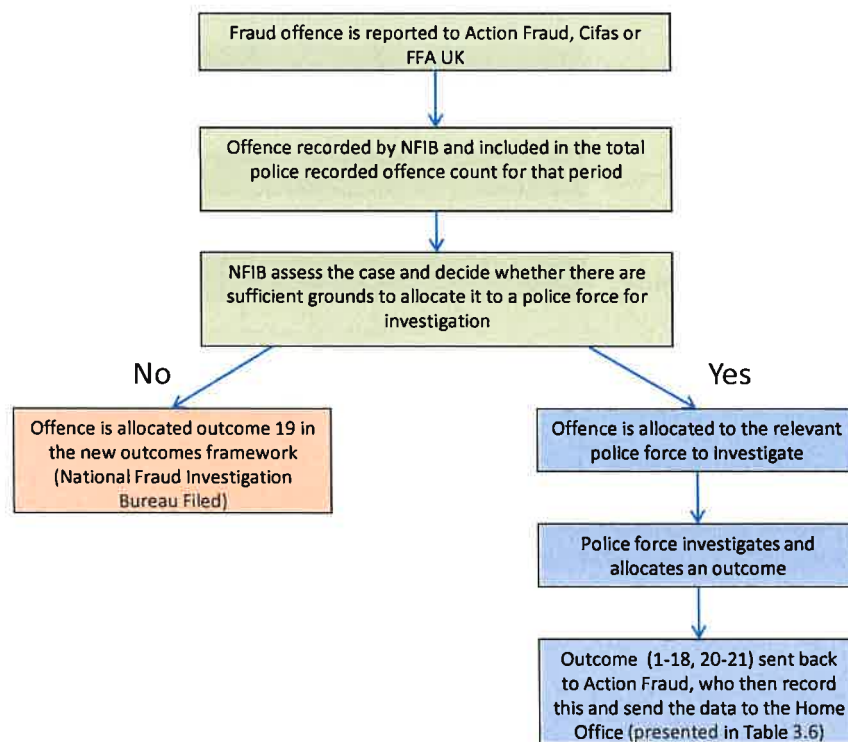
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Annex B: Fraud outcomes

The way in which fraud offences are reported and subsequently recorded has changed in recent years. In April 2011, Action Fraud (the national fraud and cybercrime reporting centre) began gradually taking over the recording of fraud offences from the individual police forces in England and Wales, completing in March 2013. The implementation of Action Fraud as a single national fraud reporting centre has led to an increase in the number of fraud offences recorded, as it provides an easier way for the public to report such offences (via an online reporting tool and a dedicated call centre), and centralises expertise in these cases. The transfer to Action Fraud was rolled out at different times for different forces and the year ending March 2014 was therefore the first full year where all fraud offences previously reported to the police had been reported to, and recorded by, Action Fraud. The police recorded crime series (published by ONS) also incorporates offences reported to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) by two fraud prevention industry bodies: Cifas and Financial Fraud Action UK (FFA UK). The NFIB is responsible for allocating reported offences to forces for them to investigate.

The process by which outcomes are recorded by the NFIB is shown in the flow chart in Figure 3.1. Importantly, the NFIB assess whether the fraud should be investigated and allocates those where sufficient grounds for investigation exist back to forces, these cases are known as disseminations. The force subsequently assigns an outcome and submits this back to the NFIB.

Figure B1: How fraud outcomes are recorded



Outcomes recorded by NFIB only cover those offences that were 'disseminated' to police forces to investigate. Table B1 shows the number of dissemination packages sent to police forces, alongside

the total number of fraud offences recorded, in the year ending March 2015 and in year ending March 2016.

Table B1 – Number of fraud offences and disseminations, year ending March 2015 and year ending March 2016

	England and Wales	
	Year ending March 2015	Year ending March 2016
Number of disseminations	61,682	67,725
Total recorded fraud offences:	593,113	621,017
<i>Number recorded by Action Fraud</i>	<i>230,369</i>	<i>222,502</i>
<i>Number recorded by Cifas and FFA</i>	<i>362,744</i>	<i>398,515</i>

Source: National Fraud Intelligence Bureau

In previous editions of this bulletin, outcomes data for fraud offences were published as experimental statistics. Additional work was carried out this year in terms of quality assurance and it was discovered that NFIB had been supplying fraud outcomes data to the Home Office based on when the force returned the data to NFIB rather than when the outcome was actually recorded. For example, if a force returned a data set to NFIB in April but it contained outcomes recorded in January, February and March, all would be included in the April outcome figure. Therefore, fraud outcomes figures published in previous editions should be interpreted with caution. We have been working with NFIB to rectify this issue and are now able to provide data on the corrected basis for the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016, as shown in Table B2. Note that the outcomes will not necessarily correspond to the disseminations since investigations can sometimes take months or longer to complete. This is illustrated by the inclusion of data on outcomes recorded by police forces, which relate to offences that were recorded by the police force before April 2013 (i.e. before the transition to Action Fraud).

Table B2 - Fraud outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016, by outcome type

		England and Wales					
Outcome number ³	Outcome type/group	Year ending March 2015			Year ending March 2016		
		Outcomes recorded by police ¹	Outcomes recorded by NFIB ²	Total	Outcomes recorded by police ¹	Outcomes recorded by NFIB ²	Total
1	Charged/Summoned	336	8,244	8,580	109	7,338	7,447
4	Taken into consideration	13	358	371	4	384	388
	Out-of-court (formal)	21	1,552	1,573	16	1,081	1,097
2	Caution - youths	0	161	161	11	63	74
3	Caution - adults	21	1,368	1,389	5	994	999
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	0	23	23	0	24	24
	Out-of-court (informal)	5	844	849	1	647	648
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
8	Community resolution	5	844	849	1	647	648
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	58	471	529	40	907	947
5	Offender died	1	12	13	0	32	32
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	20	83	103	8	44	52
10	Not in public interest (Police)	32	338	370	28	643	671
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	0	1	1	0	6	6
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	1	7	8	1	14	15
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	2	13	15	1	140	141
17	Prosecution time limit expired	2	17	19	2	28	30
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	226	3,635	3,861	198	8,922	9,120
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	349	1,474	1,823	195	3,408	3,603
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	327	308	635	178	1,220	1,398
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	22	1,166	1,188	17	2,188	2,205
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	0	6,597	6,597	0	14,995	14,995
20	Investigation transferred to another body/agency	0	2	2	0	714	714
	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest	..	..	..	0	92	92
	Total number of outcomes recorded	1,008	23,177	24,185	563	38,488	39,051

1. Offences recorded by police forces prior to April 2013 with outcomes subsequently recorded by police forces in the year ending March 2015 or the year ending March 2016.

2. Offences recorded by Action Fraud, Cifas and FFA UK with outcomes recorded by NFIB in the year ending March 2015 or the year ending March 2016.

3. The Home Office does not currently collect data on outcome 19 from the NFIB.

The increase in outcomes between the years ending March 2015 and March 2016 is likely to have resulted from the increase in dissemination packages, i.e. an increase in the cases sent to forces to investigate. Correspondingly, there has been an increase in 'investigation complete – no suspect identified' and 'evidential difficulties - suspect identified; victim supports action'.

The data set provided by the NFIB continues to be subject to development and quality assurance and so these statistics should still be treated as experimental. However, the NFIB are introducing a new management information system which is due to go live in September 2016. This should mean that the fraud outcomes data will be more readily accessible and more accurate as the system should allow individual outcomes to be linked to the fraud offences they relate to. The Home Office intends to work closely with NFIB to ensure that the data is as robust as possible and that it meets user needs, including potentially providing a breakdown of the fraud outcomes figures by police force area.

Annex C: Crime Outcomes Data Quality

C1 - INTRODUCTION

In January 2014, the UK Statistics Authority published its assessment of ONS crime statistics. It found that statistics based on police recorded crime data, having been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, did not meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The UKSA published a list of requirements for these statistics to regain the National Statistics accreditation.

Some of the requirements of this assessment were to provide more detail on how data sources were used to produce these statistics, along with more information on the quality of the statistics. Additionally, there was also a requirement to provide information on the process used by police forces to submit and revise data, and the validation processes used by the Home Office. In order to ensure that this publication meets the high standards required by the UK Statistics Authority, details are provided below.

C2 – DATA QUALITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Home Office receives monthly data from police forces on crime, crime outcomes and records that were initially recorded as crimes and subsequently transferred to another police force or cancelled. These data are quality assured and analysed by Home Office statisticians and any anomalies or errors identified through this process result in a report being returned to the relevant force for validation or correction.

Prior to the publication of crime outcomes a verification exercise is carried out with all forces. The data held by the Home Office are returned to individual forces asking for confirmation that the data accords with that held on their own systems and to highlight any perceived inconsistencies in their data. Again, forces resubmit data if required.

Given the work involved in amending police force crime recording systems to accommodate the full outcomes framework, not all forces were able to supply full data from April 2014. As a result some of the year ending March 2015 data does not include all forces, and so where comparisons have been made between the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2016, these may not include all forces and figures will tend to be presented as proportions of crimes. Where necessary, explanations have been provided as to which forces have not been included for certain quarters or analyses. See Table C1 for details of when each police force was able to provide full data on the broader outcomes framework.

The Ministry of Justice has been working with the Home Office, the Crown Prosecution Service and the National Police Chiefs' Council to deliver a project to make the use of out-of-court disposals for adult offenders more effective. In November 2014, as part of this project, three police forces (Leicestershire, Staffordshire and West Yorkshire) commenced a 12 month pilot operation of a simplified model of such outcomes (West Yorkshire Police adopted a phased roll out starting in November 2014 and fully operational in January 2015). All three forces, with the agreement of Ministers, voluntarily stopped issuing adult simple cautions (part of outcome 3) and cannabis / khat warnings (outcome 7) and limited their use of penalty notices for disorder (outcome 6), instead using the adult conditional caution (part of outcome 3) and the community resolution (outcome 8). The rules and guidance that apply to conditional cautions and community resolutions have been amended for those three forces to reflect this new approach. These three pilot forces have continued to operate in accordance with the pilot conditions since the pilot ended in November 2015. This needs to be borne in mind when looking at the outcomes data for these three forces, as they will have a smaller proportion of outcomes 6 and 7 and greater proportion of outcome 8 than other forces.

C3 – DATA SOURCES USED: AGGREGATED CRIMSEC4 RETURNS

Police recorded crime data are supplied to the Home Office by the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. For 16 forces, the year ending March 2016 crime and outcomes data were supplied to the Home Office in an aggregated return (CrimSec4 form) on a monthly basis. In this return, data on outcomes and transferred or cancelled records (formerly referred to as 'no-crimes') are collected alongside recorded crime data for each crime within the notifiable offence list. Notifiable offences include all offences that could possibly be tried by jury (these include some less serious offences, such as minor theft that would not usually be dealt with this way) plus a few additional closely-related summary offences dealt with by magistrates, such as assault without injury.

The monthly data are cumulative, such that each month's return will contain the data for the financial year to date. When a police force wants to make revisions to this data, they usually do this in the latest monthly return, rather than re-sending a return for the period affected. The exception to this rule is when the revisions affect a previous financial year. In these cases the police force will re-send an end of year return for that year.

Outcomes are recorded on the CrimSec4 form in the month that the outcome is applied, and not the month in which the original offence occurred. For example, if an offence occurred in January and a suspect was subsequently charged in June, the outcome would be recorded in June. This means that the data on outcomes for a given month (presented in Chapter 3) do not correspond to the data on offences in that month, or even the same year. However, in the year ending March 2016 the Home Office made an additional request to forces to capture outcomes that relate to the period the crime was recorded (see Section C5), and these data are presented in Chapter 2.

The latest outcomes to be introduced, outcome 20 (since April 2015) and outcome 21 (since January 2016), and the five sub-categories for transferred and cancelled records are not included on CrimSec4 forms and are instead collected via an additional manual collection on a quarterly basis.

Transferred or cancelled records are recorded in the year in which the original offence was recorded. This is to ensure that the total offences for each year are correct, i.e. a transferred or cancelled record for a previous financial year does not get included in the current year, and falsely lower the total number of offences recorded in the current year.

C4 – DATA SOURCES USED: THE HOME OFFICE DATA HUB

The Home Office Data Hub (HODH) allows police forces to provide record-level detail on offences, vastly increasing the opportunities for the analysis of police recorded crime data. At the time of publication, there were 34 forces providing their monthly crime, outcomes and transferred or cancelled records data solely via the HODH, with the majority of the remaining forces in the 'parallel running' phase, where they are sending data both via the CrimSec4 form and via the HODH, with a view to switching exclusively to the HODH soon. The Home Office are continuing to work with these forces to help them with this transition, and are committed to achieving a fully operational HODH.

C5 – DATA SOURCES USED: VOLUNTARY RETURNS

For forces providing record level data via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH; see section C4), it is possible to analyse how crimes recorded in the year ending March 2016 were dealt with by linking individual outcomes with the offence to which they were assigned (Chapter 2).

As not all forces are currently able to provide data via the HODH, the Home Office requested that all other forces voluntarily provide these data separately on a quarterly basis in order to capture data from as many forces as possible. All forces provided these for year ending March 2016.

The data for the year ending March 2016 that are presented in Chapter 2 therefore covers all 44 police forces (including the British Transport Police) and is based on HODH data for 25 forces and figures voluntarily provided by the remaining nineteen forces (see Table C1). Data for year ending March 2016 were taken from the HODH in early June 2016, and the remaining forces voluntarily provided their data for year on different dates between early-April and mid-June 2016. The proportion of crimes recorded in March 2016 that had been assigned an outcome at the time of submitting data to the Home Office is likely to be smaller for a force that sent their data return in early April 2016 than for a force that provided this in May or June, as there had been less time for these offences to be investigated and the outcomes to be assigned. These dates will therefore have an impact on the

overall proportion of crimes still under investigation and comparability between forces. For example, the proportion of crimes recorded in March 2016 that had been assigned an outcome at the time of submitting data to the Home Office is likely to be smaller for a force that sent their data return in early April 2016 than for a force that provided this in May, as there had been less time for these offences to be investigated and the outcomes to be assigned.

Chapter 2 also presents updated data for the year ending March 2015, which was the first year for which these data were collected. Updated figures for the year ending March 2015 reflect the fact that crimes have had an additional year in which to be assigned an outcome. These data are partial as a subset of 38 forces submitted data to the Home Office, and some of these forces were unable to provide a full year of data covering the full range of outcomes (see Table C1). Forces voluntarily provided these data to the Home Office on different dates. Of the 38 forces that provided year ending March 2015 data, 22 updated these alongside data for the year to March 2016. The further 16 forces that did not revise data may appear to have fewer than expected outcomes assigned during year to March 2015, in particular for the two forces (Durham and Dyfed-Powys) that did not update these figures at any point since they were originally provided.

C6 – WHICH FORCES' DATA ARE INCLUDED

Table C1 shows which forces' data are included in which sections of which chapter and which time periods are covered. This is displayed alongside the proportion of total crime recorded by the police in the year ending March 2016 (see Section C8) that was accounted for by each individual force.

176
Table C1: Forces providing outcomes data

Force	Outcomes of offences recorded in period (Chapter 2)			Full data on outcomes recorded (Chapter 3)	Timeliness data (Chapter 4)		% of y.e. March 2016 recorded crime
	Force data included from ¹	How y.e. March 2015 data provided ^{2,3}	How y.e. March 2016 data provided ²	Full outcomes data (types 5, 9-18) ⁴ from	Force data included for y.e. March 2016	Force data included for comparison with y.e. March 2015	
Avon and Somerset	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	3.0
Bedfordshire	Jul-14	Manual	HODH	Jul-14	Yes	No	1.0
British Transport Police	Apr-15	No data	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	1.2
Cambridgeshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.2
Cheshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.3
Cleveland	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.2
Cumbria	Apr-15	No data	Manual	Aug-14	No	No	0.7
Derbyshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.4
Devon and Cornwall	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.0
Dorset	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	1.1
Durham	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	0.9
Dyfed-Powys	Oct-14	Manual	Manual	May-14	Yes	No	0.5
Essex	Apr-15	No data	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	2.9
Gloucestershire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.8
Greater Manchester	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	5.8
Gwent	Apr-14	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.0
Hampshire	Apr-14	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	3.4
Hertfordshire	Jul-14	Manual	Manual	Jul-14	No	No	1.6
Humberside	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.8
Kent	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	No	2.9
Lancashire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.5
Leicestershire	Apr-15	No data	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	1.6
Lincolnshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.9
London, City of	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.1
Merseyside	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.6
Metropolitan Police	Dec-14	Manual	Manual	Dec-14	Yes	No	19.0
Norfolk	Jul-14	Manual	Manual	Jul-14	No	No	1.2
Northamptonshire	Apr-14	HODH	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	1.3
Northumbria	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.4
North Wales	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.0
North Yorkshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.0
Nottinghamshire	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	1.9
South Wales	Apr-14	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.3
South Yorkshire	Jul-14	Manual	Manual	Jul-14	Yes	No	2.6
Staffordshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.8
Suffolk	Jul-14	Manual	Manual	Jul-14	No	No	1.1
Surrey	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.5
Sussex	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.4
Thames Valley	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	3.3
Warwickshire	Apr-15	No data	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.8
West Mercia	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.9
West Midlands	Apr-14	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	4.8
West Yorkshire	Jul-14	HODH	HODH	Jun-14	Yes	Yes	5.2
Wiltshire	Apr-15	No data	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	1.0

1. Forces' data for Chapter 2 have been included between the months shown. Six forces did not provide data for year to March 2015.

2. Twenty-two forces submitted updated year to March 2015 data to the Home Office alongside data for the year to March 2016. The further 16 forces that did not revise these data may appear to have fewer than expected outcomes assigned during year to March 2015.

3. 'HODH' means force submitted record-level data via the Home Office Data Hub; 'Manual' means force completed a spreadsheet

4. Forces were able to provide data covering outcome types 5, 9-18 (and 20 from April 2015) from the months shown onwards. As such, data for outcomes recorded in year ending March 2016 covers all outcome types for all forces.

C7 – DATA VALIDATION PROCESSES

As data are collected from police forces on a monthly basis, the Home Office carry out a series of routine checks and feed the results of these back to police forces. These checks include:

- Looking for any offences where there have been a large number of transferred or cancelled records since the previous month;
- Looking for any large or unusual changes in offences, outcomes or transferred or cancelled records from the previous month;
- Looking for cases where forces have provided data against an offence classification that no longer exists (e.g. the former fraud classifications);
- Comparing offence types and outcome types against the long term trend, to spot any outliers in the monthly data;
- Looking at where cautions (outcomes 2 and 3) have been assigned to rape offences and these are then queried with Force Crime Registrars;
- Checking that outcome 17 has not been applied to any offence which does not have a time limit.

Any outliers or anomalies are usually small. Police forces are then asked to investigate these anomalies and either provide an explanation or resubmit figures where an error has occurred. Where resubmission is required, the force will usually just correct the errors in the latest monthly submission, rather than re-send all of the months in question. In the case of forces providing data via the HODH, the force will send modified versions of the affected records. These then supersede the original versions.

C8 – POLICE RECORDED CRIME DATA

The police recorded crime data used in this bulletin are supplied by police forces to the Home Office, and are then published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in "Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2016":

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

Statistics on crimes recorded by the police that appear in "Crimes in England and Wales: Year ending March 2016" are based on notifiable offences. These include all offences that could possibly be tried by jury (including some less serious offences, such as minor theft, that would not normally be dealt with in this way) plus a few closely related summary offences, i.e. heard only by magistrates, such as assault without injury. For a list of all notifiable offences please see Appendix 1 of the ONS User Guide:

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/methodologies/crimeandjusticemethodology

In accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, statistics based on police recorded crime data have been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The full assessment report can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-268---statistics-on-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf

Recorded crime statistics provide important context to outcomes statistics, and are quoted where relevant in this bulletin.

C9 – FURTHER INFORMATION ON CRIME OUTCOMES

Care needs to be taken when making comparisons of crime outcomes between police forces. In some cases making any such comparisons may be misleading, given that different police forces use outcomes in different ways and will have a different mix of crimes to deal with. For example, some police forces may implement more community resolutions than others, depending on their approach,

172

the nature of the crimes they deal with and the views of their communities. For example, a force that deals with a disproportionately high number of drug offences may apply a different mix of outcomes compared with a force that deals with a higher proportion of violent offences.

For further information on the background to crime outcomes and the development of the full outcomes framework please refer to Annex A of "Crime Outcomes in England and Wales, 2014/15".

Table C2: Trends in the number of outcomes and outcome rates by outcome type, year ending March 2003 to year ending March 2016

Outcome type	England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes															
	ye. Mar 2003	ye. Mar 2004	ye. Mar 2005	ye. Mar 2006	ye. Mar 2007	ye. Mar 2008	ye. Mar 2009	ye. Mar 2010	ye. Mar 2011	ye. Mar 2012	ye. Mar 2013	ye. Mar 2014	ye. Mar 2015	ye. Mar 2016	ye. Mar 2015 to ye. Mar 2016	% change
	Number of outcomes															
Charge/summons (Type 1)	771,716	752,069	698,640	700,101	673,714	657,230	681,472	651,757	668,713	633,985	584,600	602,390	596,396	561,836	561,836	-5.8
Cautions (Types 2 & 3)	207,818	220,005	257,783	304,461	351,244	351,552	313,702	284,873	232,355	205,760	183,658	164,084	143,801	120,607	120,607	-16.1
TICs ¹ (Type 4)	91,205	88,204	88,386	103,363	111,328	99,021	96,875	76,244	71,896	63,898	55,197	40,959	23,557	13,331	13,331	-43.4
PNDs ^{2,3} (Type 6)	...	3,045	35,919	105,594	139,666	128,978	108,240	102,699	86,010	73,759	59,869	48,098	33,940	24,942	24,942	-26.5
Cannabis/Khat Warnings ³ (Type 7)	...	...	40,138	62,586	80,653	103,804	107,241	87,332	80,659	77,933	69,240	62,725	46,662	36,682	36,682	-21.4
Other ^{4,5,6} (Types 5, 8 & 9)	268,021	284,320	265,721	191,187	80,770	911	2,931	7,244	10,375	53,322	66,907	109,255	125,215	131,318	131,318	4.9
Total number of offences⁷	5,791,277	5,843,549	5,476,771	5,425,691	5,322,377	4,881,140	4,630,383	4,265,036	4,078,475	3,903,581	3,553,168	3,506,545	3,581,126	3,892,947	3,892,947	8.7
	Rates (%) ⁸															
Charge/summons (Type 1)	13.3	12.9	12.8	12.9	12.7	13.5	14.7	15.3	16.2	16.2	16.5	17.2	16.7	14.4	14.4	-2.2
Cautions (Types 2 & 3)	3.6	3.8	4.7	5.6	6.6	7.2	6.8	6.2	5.7	5.3	5.2	4.7	4.0	3.1	3.1	-0.9
TICs ¹ (Type 4)	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.2	0.7	0.3	0.3	-0.3
PNDs ^{2,3} (Type 6)	...	0.1	0.7	1.9	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.6	-0.3
Cannabis/Khat Warnings ³ (Type 7)	...	...	0.7	1.2	1.5	2.1	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.3	0.9	0.9	-0.4
Other ^{4,5,6} (Types 5, 8 & 9)	4.6	4.9	4.9	3.5	1.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.4	1.9	3.1	3.5	3.4	3.4	-0.1

1. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).

2. Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) were introduced in several police forces in the year ending March 2004 and nationally in the year ending March 2005.

3. Cannabis Warnings for possession of cannabis were introduced in the year ending March 2005. Since 26 January 2009, Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) can also be given for an offence of cannabis possession. Up to the end of March 2009 such PNDs were counted in the same category as Cannabis Warnings. Cannabis warnings include a small number of community resolutions for possession of cannabis in the year ending March 2013.

4. From 1 April 2007, new rules governing these outcomes significantly limited the occasions on which they could be applied.

5. Includes data on Youth Restorative Disposals (YRDs) submitted to the Home Office from pilots in eight police force areas (Avon and Somerset, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Metropolitan Police, Norfolk, North Wales, Nottinghamshire). The pilot was introduced in the year ending March 2009.

6. Includes community resolution and restorative justice data submitted on a voluntary basis by some police forces in the years ending March 2012 and March 2013. These data were then submitted by almost all police forces in the year ending March 2014 and all forces from the year ending March 2015.

7. Total number of recorded crimes, whether assigned an outcome or not. Excludes (outcomes for) fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.

8. The number of crimes assigned an outcome divided by total number of recorded offences.

9. Data for the years ending March 2003 to March 2013 contains some estimated data on 'making off without payment' offences, following the creation of a back series of data on these outcomes (see notes page).

10. Data for Outcomes 10-18 are not presented as these were not collected in previous years.

... Not available.

180

Notes

For full details on the transition from the regime of detections (in existence until April 2013) to the outcomes framework, please see "Crimes Outcomes in England & Wales, 2013/14":

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014

Outcomes Framework

Detections were revised to become the outcomes framework from April 2013. The purpose of the revision was:

- To **strengthen police discretion** by recognising the full range of possible disposals, including community resolutions, rather than incentivising police officers to pursue a particular outcome because it is perceived as 'better' than others. This will empower officers to exercise their professional judgement to ensure that offenders are dealt with by the most appropriate disposal available, in the knowledge that no one outcome is favoured over others – the emphasis should shift from hitting targets to appropriateness.
- By strengthening police discretion, the framework should in turn help to **promote a more victim-oriented approach**, focused on providing a better service to victims of crime by removing perverse incentives for forces to record and pro-actively pursue certain crimes on the basis of locally-set detection targets, and encouraging police officers to consider the needs of victims, and the potential for engaging them in the process.
- To **further increase transparency** in policing, and trust in national statistics, by providing the public with a richer picture of crime, and how it is dealt with in their area. This broader set of information can be used as a tool by which the public can hold the police to account, and as a basis for constructive engagement between communities, the police, and police and crime commissioners. By giving every crime an outcome, we will help the public understand – and therefore support or challenge – police activity.

General Rules section H of the [Home Office Counting Rules](#) (HOCR) contains information on recording outcomes. For Home Office purposes, all recorded crimes are assigned one of the following outcome types:

Outcome 1: Charge / Summons: A person has been charged or summonsed for the crime (irrespective of any subsequent acquittal at Court).

Outcome 1A [introduced in April 2016, voluntary]: Charge / Summons – alternative offence: A person has been charged or summonsed for the crime, but following the application of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) charging standards and the provisions of the HOCR, the charge/summons relates to an alternative offence to that recorded (irrespective of any subsequent acquittal at court).

Outcome 2: Caution – youths: A youth offender has been cautioned by the police.

Outcome 2A [introduced in April 2016, voluntary]: Youth Caution – alternative offence: A youth offender has been cautioned by the police, but following the application of the CPS charging standards and the provisions of the HOCR, the caution relates to an alternative offence to that recorded.

Outcome 3: Caution – adults: An adult offender has been cautioned by the police.

Outcome 3A [introduced in April 2016, voluntary]: Adult Caution – alternative offence: An adult offender has been cautioned by the police, but following the application of the CPS charging standards and the provisions of the HOCR, the caution relates to an alternative offence to that recorded.

Outcome 4: Taken into Consideration (TIC): The offender admits the crime by way of a formal police interview and asks for it to be taken into consideration by the court. There must be an interview where the

suspect has made a clear and reliable admission of the offence and which is corroborated with additional verifiable auditable information connecting the suspect to the crime.

Outcome 5: Offender died: The offender has died before proceeding could be initiated.

Outcome 6: Penalty Notices for Disorder: A Penalty Notice for Disorder (or other relevant notifiable offence) has been lawfully issued under Section 1 – 11 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

Outcome 7: Cannabis/Khat Warning: A warning for cannabis or khat possession has been issued in accordance with College of Policing guidance. Note: Khat warnings were introduced from 24 June 2014 and numbers are likely to be small.

Outcome 8: Community Resolution: A Community Resolution (with or without formal Restorative Justice) has been applied in accordance with College of Policing guidance.

Outcome 9: Not in public interest (CPS): Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS decision). The CPS by virtue of their powers under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 decides not to prosecute or authorise any other formal action.

Outcome 10: Not in public interest (Police) (from April 2014): Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (Police decision).

Outcome 11: Prosecution prevented – suspect under age (from April 2014): Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility.

Outcome 12: Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill (from April 2014): Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute.

Outcome 13: Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill (from April 2014): Named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence

Outcome 14: Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action (from April 2014): Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect not identified. The crime is confirmed but the victim declines or is unable to support further police action to identify the offender.

Outcome 15: Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action) (from April 2014): Evidential difficulties named suspect identified – the crime is confirmed and the victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action. This includes cases where the suspect has been identified, the victim supports action, the suspect has been circulated as wanted but cannot be traced and the crime is finalised pending further action.

Outcome 16: Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action (from April 2014): Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect identified. The victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action.

Outcome 17: Prosecution time limit expired (from April 2014): Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired (from April 2014).

Outcome 18: Investigation complete –no suspect identified (from April 2014): The crime has been investigated as far as reasonably possible – case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available.

Outcome 19: National Fraud Intelligence Bureau filed (NFIB only) (from April 2014): A crime of fraud has been recorded but has not been allocated for investigation because the assessment process at the NFIB has determined there are insufficient lines of enquiry to warrant such dissemination.

Outcome 20: Action undertaken by another body/agency (from April 2015): Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency other than the police, subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the action being taken.

Outcome 21: Not in the public interest – suspect identified (from January 2016) Further investigation resulting from the crime report that could provide evidence sufficient to support formal action being taken against the suspect is not in the public interest – police decision.

New outcomes introduced from April 2016

It is possible for a crime to be recorded and for the suspect to be charged or cautioned but for that charge or caution to be for an offence other than that recorded.

The recording standards reflect the law and in reaching charging decisions the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) set out a range of standards and guidance that both they themselves and the police, in cases where the police are the charging decision makers, must follow. These standards may frequently dictate that an alternative is to be charged to that recorded. For example, an assault may be recorded as a crime of Actual Bodily Harm (because that is the offence in law committed) but the CPS will direct that the offence to be charged is one of Common Assault.

Therefore, in April 2016 three new outcomes were introduced on a voluntary basis until they become mandatory in April 2017. These outcomes reflect where the charge/summons (outcome 1A), youth caution (outcome 2A) or adult caution (outcome 3A) relates to an alternative offence to that recorded.

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Statistical Bulletins are prepared by staff in Home Office Statistics under the National Statistics Code of Practice and can be downloaded from GOV.UK:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/statistics

ISBN: 978-1-78655-161-0

ISSN: 1759-7005



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Home Office

Crime outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2017 second edition

Statistical Bulletin HOSB 09/17

Edited by: Daniel Heap

July 2017

186.

Important information

Before April 2013, official statistics about how the police deal with crimes focused narrowly on 'detections' (the number of cases resolved with a charge, caution, etc.). In April 2013, the Home Office introduced the new outcomes framework and changed the presentation of crime outcomes statistics. From April 2014 onwards, police forces have supplied data to the Home Office on the broader set of outcomes. The year to March 2014 bulletin¹, published in July 2014, showed the first provisional statistics from the new outcomes framework. We have since developed the statistics with input from police forces and users.

We continue to ensure that these crime outcomes statistics:

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

The statistics in this bulletin are designated as Official Statistics, rather than National Statistics.

In January 2014, the UK Statistics Authority found that police recorded crime statistics did not meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The full assessment report against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-268---statistics-on-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf

In July 2014, the Home Office Chief Statistician and the UK Statistics Authority Head of Assessment agreed to badge the year to March 2014 Crime Outcomes bulletin as Official Statistics, rather than National Statistics. This reflects the move to the new outcomes framework, and also the possibility that outcomes data are affected by similar issues to those that led to the de-designation of police recorded crime statistics.

Full details are available here:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/letter-from-david-blunt-to-ed-humpherson---090714.pdf

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/letter-from-ed-humpherson-to-david-blunt---150714.pdf

It is our intention that the statistics will be assessed, with a view to them gaining National Statistics status in due course.

Errata

Following publication of 'Crime outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2017' an inconsistency was noted between Tables A1 and B2. Table B2 was identified as incorrect. Further, a compilation inconsistency was noted in the Supplementary Police Force Area outcomes table where the components of some outcomes for Welsh police force areas were not reflected in the total for Wales. These tables have now been updated in line with our revisions policy for statistical publications.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014

Further information

"Crime Outcomes in England and Wales, 2015/16", and previous years' bulletins, are available from: www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-statistics

Copies of other Home Office publications (including crime statistics releases prior to April 2012) are available from:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/crime-statistics#publications

Copies of crime statistics publications from April 2012 are available from the Office for National Statistics website: www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

This includes the *User Guide to Crime Statistics*, a useful reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications that are key to the production and presentation of the crime statistics.

The dates of forthcoming publications are pre-announced and can be found via the Gov.uk Statistics Release Calendar: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements

For further information about crime outcomes statistics, please email:

CrimeandPoliceStats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or write to:

Home Office Statistics, 1st Floor, Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

Home Office Responsible Statistician

Kevin Smith, Programme Director of Crime and Policing Statistics

Contact via CrimeandPoliceStats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

This statistical bulletin is produced to the highest professional standards and is free from political interference. It has been produced by statisticians working in the Home Office Crime and Policing Statistics Section in accordance with the Home Office's [Statement of Compliance](#) with the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*, which covers our policy on revisions and other matters. The Chief Statistician, as Head of Profession, reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters and oversees all Home Office National and Official Statistics products with respect to the Code, being responsible for their timing, content and methodology.

Contents

	Page
Contents	4
Lists of figures and tables	6
Executive summary	10
1 Introduction	12
1.1 Overview	12
1.2 The full outcomes framework	12
1.3 Data shown in this bulletin	14
1.4 Outcome groupings in this bulletin	14
1.5 Police recorded crime	15
1.6 Fraud outcomes	15
1.7 Transferred or cancelled records (formerly 'no-crimes')	15
1.8 Domestic abuse outcomes.....	15
2 Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017	16
2.1 Introduction	16
2.2 Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 by outcome type and offence group	16
2.3 Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016: changes over time	20
2.4 Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 compared with the previous year	22
3 Fraud outcomes	24
3.1 Introduction	24
3.2 Disseminations and outcomes in the year ending March 2017 by outcome type	25
3.3 Disseminations and outcomes in the year ending March 2017 by police force area	28
3.4 Future work on fraud outcomes	30
4 How domestic abuse-related offences were dealt with by the police	31

- 4.1 Introduction 31
- 4.2 How domestic abuse offences were dealt with by the police by outcome type..... 31
- 4.3 How domestic abuse offences were dealt with by the police by offence group 32
- 4.4 The length of time between domestic abuse offences and outcomes being recorded 35
- 4.5 How domestic abuse offences were dealt with by the police in the year ending March 2016: changes over time 36
- 4.6 Outcomes assigned to sexual offences that were domestic abuse-related recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group and publication date 38
- 5 The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded 41**
 - 5.1 Introduction 41
 - 5.2 The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded, by offence type 41
 - 5.3 The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded, by outcome type 43
- 6 Transferred or cancelled records 46**
 - 6.1 Definitions and circumstances for transferred or cancelled records 46
 - 6.2 Transferred or cancelled records by offence group 46
 - 6.3 Transferred or cancelled records by category 47
 - 6.4 Transferred or cancelled records compared with the previous year 49
 - 6.5 Comparing transferred or cancelled records 50
- Annex A: Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016 51**
 - A1 Introduction 51
 - A2 Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016 by outcome type and offence group 51
 - A3 Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016 compared with the previous year 53
- Annex B: Crime outcomes data quality..... 54**
 - B1 Introduction 54
 - B2 Data quality considerations 54
 - B3 Data sources used: aggregated Crimes ec4 returns 54

B4	Data sources used: the Home Office Data Hub	55
B5	Data sources used: voluntary returns	55
B6	Which forces' data are included	56
B7	Data validation processes	58
B8	Police recorded crime data	58
B9	Further information on crime outcomes	58
Notes	.....	61
References	.....	64

List of figures

1	Introduction.....	12
2	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017	16
Figure 2.1	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017, by outcome group and offence group	18
Figure 2.2	Outcomes assigned to rape offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group and publication date	22
Figure 2.3	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 (as first published) and the year ending March 2017, by outcome group	23
3	Fraud outcomes	24
Figure 3.1	How fraud outcomes are recorded	25
4	How offences flagged as domestic abuse were dealt with by the police.....	31
Figure 4.1	Proportions of outcomes assigned to domestic abuse-related offences and offences not domestic abuse-related recorded in the year ending March 2017	32
Figure 4.2	Proportions of outcomes assigned to domestic abuse-related violence against the person offences compared with non-domestic abuse related violence against the person offences recorded in the year ending March 2017	34
Figure 4.3	Length of time taken to assign outcomes to domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2017, by offence group	36
Figure 4.4	Outcomes assigned to sexual offences that were domestic abuse-related recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group and publication date	38
Figure 4.5	Outcomes assigned to domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 (as first published) and the year ending March 2017, by outcome group	40

5	The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded	41
Figure 5.1	The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded for outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017, by offence type	42
Figure 5.2	The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded for outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017, by outcome group	44
6	Transferred or cancelled records	46
Figure 6.1	Transferred or cancelled records by type, year ending March 2017	48
Figure 6.2	Transferred or cancelled records by type broken down by offence group, year ending March 2017	49
Annex A: Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017		51
Annex B: Crime outcomes data quality.....		54

List of tables

1	Introduction.....	12
Table 1.1	Detection types in place prior to April 2013 and the outcomes frameworks in place thereafter	13
Table 1.2	Grouping the outcomes framework from April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-21).....	15
2	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017	16
Table 2.1	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017, by outcome type and group	17
Table 2.2	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017, by outcome group and offence group	19
Table 2.3	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, when first published compared with latest figures	21
3	Fraud outcomes	24
Table 3.1	Number of fraud offences and disseminations, year ending March 2016 and year ending March 2017	26
Table 3.2	Fraud outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2017, by outcome type	27
Table 3.3	Fraud outcomes recorded and disseminated offences in the year ending March 2017	29
4	How offences flagged as domestic abuse were dealt with by the police.....	31

Table 4.1	Outcomes assigned to domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, when first published compared with latest figures	37
5	The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded	41
Table 5.1	The difference in the average (median) length of time taken to assign an outcome between the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2017, by offence type	43
Table 5.2	The difference in the average (median) length of time taken to assign an outcome between the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2017, by outcome group	45
6	Transferred or cancelled records	46
Table 6.1	Number and proportion of transferred or cancelled records, by offence group, year ending March 2016	47
Table 6.2	Number and proportion of transferred or cancelled records, by offence group, years ending March 2016 and 2017	50
Annex A: Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016		51
Table A1	Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017, by outcome type	52
Table A2	Number of offences and charge/summons recorded in the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2017, by offence group	53
Annex B: Crime outcomes data quality		54
Table B1	Forces providing outcomes data	57
Table B2	Trends in the number of outcomes and outcome rates by outcome type, year ending March 2003 to year ending March 2017	60

194

Executive Summary

OVERVIEW

This bulletin is based on the full outcomes framework introduced in April 2014. Under this framework, every crime recorded by the police will eventually get a police outcome. This shows how the police deal with all crimes, and those still under investigation.

KEY FINDINGS

How the police dealt with crimes recorded in the year ending March 2017:

- Police forces closed almost half (48%) of offences with no suspect identified. This proportion varied by crime type. Around two-thirds (68%) of criminal damage and arson offences were closed with no suspect identified, compared with around 1 in 20 (6% or lower) rape or drug offences.
- One in nine offences (11%) resulted in a charge or summons. In 13 per cent of offences the victim did not support (or withdrew support for) police action despite a named suspect being identified. The police were still investigating six per cent of offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 when these data were extracted in late June 2017.
- The proportion of offences that resulted in a charge or summons decreased from 14 per cent to 11 per cent over the last year. Conversely, the proportion of offences that resulted in evidential difficulties increased from 23 per cent to 26 per cent. This is likely to be partly due to improved crime recording processes by the police which according to the Office for National Statistics is a factor that has contributed to the increase in police recorded crime. While the rate for charge summons has decreased, the actual number of charge summons has decreased from 536 thousand to 484 thousand.

How long it took for offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 to get a police outcome:

The length of time it took police forces to assign an outcome to a crime varied. It depended on the offence type and the type of outcome. Based on a subset of forces:

- It took police forces an average of 8 days to assign the outcomes they recorded in the year ending March 2017, a decrease of 3 days compared to the year to March 2016.
- On average, forces assigned outcomes to criminal damage and arson most quickly, 3 days after they recorded the crime. Sexual offences (79 days) took longest, particularly rape offences (144 days).
- Where police forces closed investigations without identifying a suspect, it was on average 2 days after the crime was recorded. It took 39 days for forces to assign an outcome of evidential difficulties where a suspect was identified and the victim supported action.

Crimes that were cancelled or transferred to another police force in the year ending March 2017:

- Of all crimes originally recorded in the year ending March 2017, three per cent were later transferred to other police forces or cancelled. That was a similar proportion to the previous year.
- Of transferred or cancelled records, 41 per cent were cancelled when additional verifiable information became available showing that no crime had occurred.

How the police dealt with domestic-abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2017:

- Police forces charged or summonsed someone for almost a fifth (18%) of the domestic abuse related offences that they recorded.

- Police forces were more likely assign outcomes of evidential difficulties to domestic abuse related offences than other offences. Around two-thirds (65%) of domestic abuse related offences resulted in outcomes of evidential difficulties compared with 22 per cent of other offences.

Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017 for fraud offences:

For the first time, this bulletin contains a) data on the number of fraud offences disseminated nationally and by police force area level and b) data on the number of outcomes based on the full outcomes by police force area level.

- The total number of fraud offences disseminated to police decreased by four per cent from the last year, although the total number of recorded fraud offences increased by five per cent.
- The number of fraud offences assigned a charge or summons fell by 17 per cent between the year ending March 2016 and year ending March 2017.
- The total number of fraud outcomes recorded by police increased by 14 per cent over the last year. This increase was largely driven by an increase in offences closed with no suspect identified.

1 Introduction

1.1 – OVERVIEW

This bulletin reports on outcomes that police forces have assigned to offences recorded by the police. It covers the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police.

In April 2013, the Home Office introduced the new outcomes framework, replacing 'detections'. This new framework provides greater transparency on how **all** crimes recorded by the police are dealt with. The previous 'detections' gave a partial picture of the work police do to investigate and resolve crime. This resulted in performance targets, which risked driving perverse crime recording decisions. It may also have undermined the victim-focused approach set out in the crime recording standard².

As well as this annual publication, the Home Office also publishes quarterly outcomes tables. These are published here www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-statistics.

For more detailed background on the outcomes framework and how it was developed, see Annex C: Crime Outcomes Data Quality.

1.2 – THE FULL OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

The Home Office introduced the outcomes framework in April 2013. Since then it has developed to cover a broader range of outcome types for police forces to use. Table 1.1 shows how the current outcomes framework builds on former outcome and detection types. Police forces now assign an outcome to all crimes that they record.

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/counting-rules-for-recorded-crime

Table 1.1: Detection types prior to April 2013 and the outcomes frameworks in place thereafter

Detections regime – prior to April 2013 (outcomes 1-6)	Outcomes framework – April 2013 to March 2014 (outcomes 1-9)	Outcomes framework – April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-19)
1. Charge/Summons	1. Charge/Summons	1. Charge/Summons
2. Caution	2. Caution – youths	2. Caution – youths
	3. Caution – adults	3. Caution – adults
3. Taken into consideration – previously recorded	4. Taken into consideration (TIC)	4. Taken into consideration (TIC)
4. Taken into consideration – not previously recorded		
5. Penalty Notice for Disorder	6. Penalty Notice for Disorder	6. Penalty Notice for Disorder
6. Other	5. The offender has died (indictable only/sexual offences)	5. The offender has died (all offences)
	7. Cannabis Warning	7. Cannabis/Khat Warning
	8. Community Resolution	8. Community Resolution
	9. Prosecution not in public interest (CPS) (indictable only offences)	9. Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS) (all offences)
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>		10. Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (police decision)
		11. Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility
		12. Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute
		13. Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence
		14. Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect not identified – the crime is confirmed but the victim declines or is unable to support further police action to identify the offender
		15. Evidential difficulties named suspect identified – the crime is confirmed and the victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action
		16. Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect identified – the victim does not support (or withdraws support from) police action
		17. Prosecution time limit expired – suspect identified but the time limit for prosecution has expired
		18. Investigation complete – no suspect identified. Crime investigated as far as reasonably possible – case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available
		19. National Fraud Intelligence Bureau filed (NFIB only). A crime of fraud has been recorded but has not been allocated for investigation because the assessment process at the NFIB has determined there are insufficient lines of enquiry to warrant such dissemination
		20. Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the action to be taken (from April 2015)
	21. Further investigation, resulting from the crime report, which could provide evidence sufficient to support formal action being taken against the suspect is not in the public interest – police decision (from January 2016)	

198

In April 2015, the Home Office introduced a new outcome type (outcome 20). Outcome 20 is for offences where further action is taken by another body or agency other than the police, for example HM Revenue and Customs. The victim (or person acting on their behalf) must be made aware of the action being taken. Previously these offences were included within outcome 18 (investigation complete, no suspect identified). The Home Office first published data for outcome 20 in the year ending June 2015 data tables, published in October 2015.

In January 2016, the Home Office added a further outcome type (outcome 21). This addressed concerns that police discretion in deciding how to deal with offending was not always effectively recognised. Police forces can now apply this outcome where they decide it is not in the public interest to take formal action, despite identifying a suspect. Previously, police forces could assign any outcome type to these offences.

While police forces will eventually give an outcome to every crime, this may take some time. At any given point, police forces will be undertaking crime investigations to which they will not yet have assigned an outcome. Police forces will therefore submit revised data to the Home Office as investigations are completed. This is discussed further in Chapter 2.

For more information on interpreting the outcomes framework, see Annex A: Background to Crime Outcomes in "Crime Outcomes in England and Wales, 2014/15"³.

1.3 – DATA IN THIS BULLETIN

This bulletin is based on the new outcomes categories introduced in April 2014, plus the additional outcome types introduced since then. Data are supplied by the majority of police via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH). The HODH allows police forces to provide record-level data on recorded crime alongside outcomes and transferred or cancelled records data for each crime. Those forces not yet using the HODH provide a manual return with the same information. It is hoped that remaining "non-live" forces will all be submitting data via the HODH within the next year.

For more details on data quality and data not included in certain periods or analyses, see Annex B: Crime Outcomes Data Quality.

1.4 – OUTCOME GROUPINGS IN THIS BULLETIN

However, some of the tables and charts in this bulletin show grouped outcomes to simplify presentation. To simplify presentation, some tables in this bulletin show outcomes grouped together. For transparency, Open Data tables are also published that show the full range of police outcomes. These are accessible from: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables.

Table 1.2 shows the groupings. These take account of user feedback following a consultation in 2014.

³Available from: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2014-to-2015

Table 1.2: Grouping the outcomes framework from April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-21)

Outcome Group	Outcome type(s)
Charged/Summoned	1
Taken into consideration	4
Out-of-court (formal)	2, 3, 6
Out-of-court (informal)	7, 8
Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	15
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	14, 16
Investigation complete – no suspect identified	18
Action undertaken by another body/agency (from April 2015)	20
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest (police decision) (from January 2016)	21

Note: outcome 19 not shown as this applies to fraud offences recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau only

See Table 1.1 for a description of each outcome type.

1.5 – POLICE RECORDED CRIME

Police forces supplied the recorded crime data used in this bulletin to the Home Office. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published these in “Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2017”:

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

1.6 – FRAUD OUTCOMES

Since April 2013, Action Fraud (the national fraud and cyber crime reporting centre) have been responsible for recording fraud offences, rather than individual police forces. ONS publish police recorded crime statistics both including and excluding fraud. As well as offences recorded by Action Fraud, the ONS also publish data on the number of frauds recorded by FFA UK and CIFAS. Similarly, outcomes of fraud offences are not collected in the same way as other crimes. The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) review Action Fraud reports, along with FFA UK and Cifas reports. The NFIB allocate fraud offences with viable information to the relevant police forces in dissemination packages. The police forces investigate the offences, and allocate an outcome to each individual offence. Each police force submits the outcomes to NFIB on a monthly basis. Fraud outcomes are therefore not included in the main body of this bulletin. We have presented experimental data on fraud offences separately in Chapter 3. Outcomes data in the rest of this bulletin do not include outcomes of fraud offences.

1.7 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS

This bulletin contains data on transferred or cancelled records (formerly referred to as ‘no-crimes’). These are when a police force initially record an offence and later decide that the crime did not take place, was recorded in error or should be transferred to another police force. Since April 2015, police forces have supplied data to the Home Office split by the five reasons why the police may transfer or cancel a records. Chapter 5 shows these data.

1.8 – DOMESTIC ABUSE OUTCOMES

Since April 2015, police forces must provide the Home Office with the number of offences they record that are domestic-abuse related. For forces providing record-level data via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH) it is possible to link domestic abuse related crimes to their outcomes. Chapter 4 covers these data.

2 Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017

2.1 - INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers how the police have dealt with crimes recorded in the year ending March 2017. The Home Office first collected these data from police forces for the year ending March 2015, when 38 forces voluntarily supplied data (see Table C1 for details). For the latest year, all 44 police forces in England and Wales supplied data to the Home Office, including the British Transport Police.

When forces provided data to the Home Office, a number of crimes were still under investigation. This includes, for example, crimes recorded in the last few weeks of the period and crimes that need complex and lengthy investigations. Police forces will assign an outcome to these crimes over time, meaning that the proportion 'not yet assigned an outcome' will gradually reduce. This affects comparisons with data from earlier time periods (see section 2.4).

The outcomes figures in this chapter help us to understand how the police have resolved crimes recorded in the year ending March 2017. As not all investigations will have been completed, updated tables will be published for the years ending March 2016 and 2017 on a quarterly basis. This will give users a fuller picture of how the police have assigned outcomes to the crimes recorded in the period, particularly those crimes that have yet to receive an outcome.

2.2 – HOW OFFENCES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2017 WERE DEALT WITH BY THE POLICE, BY OUTCOME TYPE AND OFFENCE GROUP

The rates shown in Tables 2.1 and 2.2 relate to offences that police forces recorded in the year ending March 2017. In total, at the time the data were supplied to the Home Office⁴, police forces had assigned an outcome to 94 per cent of the offences that they recorded in the year. Police forces had not yet assigned an outcome to the remaining six per cent of crimes.

For almost half (48%) of offences recorded in the year ending March 2017, police forces had not identified a suspect and had closed the case. If further information comes to light then forces could reopen these crimes at any time.

- In 11 per cent of offences, the crime was resolved by charge or summons.
- In 13% of offences the victim did not support (or withdrew support for) police action despite a named suspect being identified.

It is unlikely that the outcome types that will eventually be assigned to the remaining six per cent of crimes still under investigation will be distributed in the same way as those already assigned. For example, Table 2.3 (section 2.3) shows that of the crimes recorded in the year ending March 2016 which have been assigned an outcome during the following year, a quarter (25%) of these outcomes were charge/summons, 40 per cent had an evidential difficulties outcome and twenty one per cent had investigations closed with no suspect identified.. Future quarterly updates will provide a fuller picture. See section 2.3 for further information on how the outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 have changed over time.

⁴ See Section B6 for when data were provided.

Table 2.1: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017, by outcome type and group

Outcome number	Outcome type/group	England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes	
		Proportion of offences recorded in period: ²	
		Year to March 2016 ^{3,4}	Year to March 2017 ^{4,5}
1	Charged/Summoned	13.8	11.2
4	Taken into consideration⁶	0.3	0.2
	Out-of-court (formal)	3.6	2.6
2	Caution - youths ⁴	0.5	0.3
3	Caution - adults ⁴	2.6	1.9
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	0.6	0.4
	Out-of-court (informal)	4.0	3.2
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	0.9	0.8
8	Community resolution	3.0	2.4
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	2.2	1.3
5	Offender died	0.0	0.0
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	0.2	0.1
10	Not in public interest (Police)	1.4	0.7
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	0.1	0.1
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	0.3	0.3
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	0.0	0.0
17	Prosecution time limit expired	0.1	0.1
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	9.3	9.3
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	13.6	16.7
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	3.3	3.9
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	10.3	12.8
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	48.7	47.7
20	Action undertaken by another body/agency	0.5	0.8
21	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest⁷	0.1	0.9
Total offences assigned an outcome (type 1-18, 20, 21)		96.1	93.9
Offences not yet assigned an outcome		3.9	6.1
Total offences¹		100.0	100.0

1. Year to March 2016 and year to March 2017 exclude fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces. Outcome 19 not shown as this applies only to fraud offences recorded by the NFIB.

2. Proportions show the percentage of crimes recorded in the year receiving each outcome.

3. Based on data from all 44 forces covering the full year to March 2016. Of these, 18 forces did not submit updated year to March 2016 data to the Home Office for this publication. These forces may therefore appear to have fewer than expected outcomes assigned during that period as their numbers have not been updated since first published. See Table A for details.

4. Proportions as at the time data were provided to the Home Office. This means the proportion of offences assigned an outcome will be higher for year to March 2016 than for year to September 2016, as the former have had a longer period since being recorded in which to be assigned.

5. Based on data from all 44 forces. Of these, two forces had previously provided data for year to March 2016 but did not subsequently provide data for April to September 2016 for this publication. Data for these two forces have been included from October 2015 to March 2016 only. See Table A for details.

6. Offences asked to be taken in to consideration by a court (TICs).

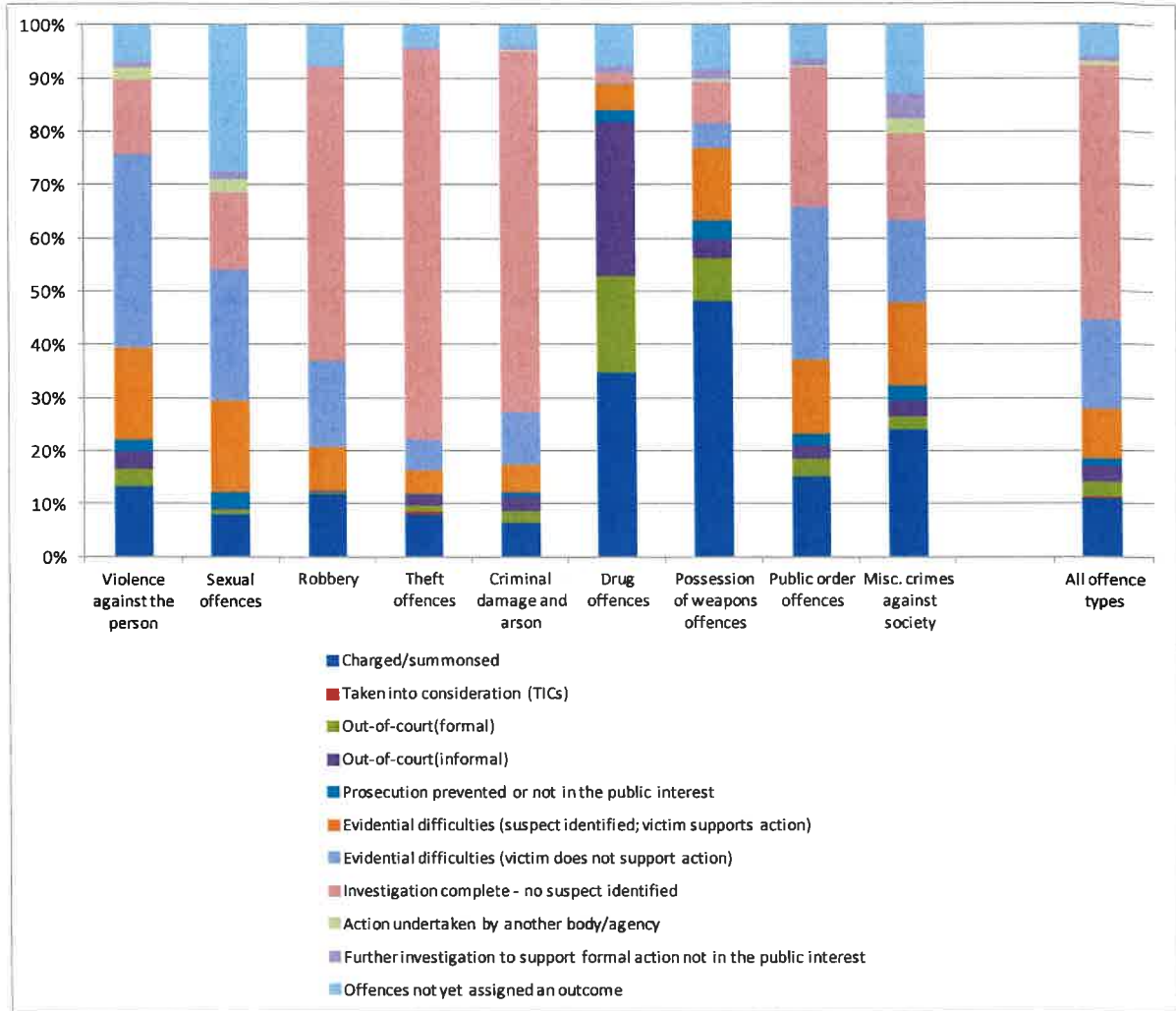
7. Outcome 21 was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis and became mandatory from April 2016.

As shown in Table 2.2 and Figure 2.1, outcome proportions varied considerably by offence type. For example, eight per cent of possession of weapons offences and two per cent of drug offences had been assigned an outcome of investigation complete – no suspect identified, compared with 73 per cent of theft offences and 70 per cent of criminal damage and arson offences.

Given the different nature of the offence types shown, it is unsurprising that some outcome types are more common for particular crimes. This reflects the severity of each offence, the local guidance on

outcomes given to police forces and the varying difficulty in identifying a suspect for certain types of offence. For example, it may be far more difficult to identify a suspect for a criminal damage offence that was not witnessed or caught on CCTV than for a drug possession offence where the offender is usually identified when the crime comes to the attention of the police, or for an offence where there was substantial forensic evidence.

Figure 2.1: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017, by outcome group and offence group



Source: Home Office Data Hub (HODH) and voluntary spreadsheet return
 1. The numbers behind this chart are available in Table 2.3

Table 2.2: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017, by outcome group and offence group

Offence group	Outcome rate (%) ¹	Charged/ summonsed	Taken into consideration (TICs) ²	Out-of- court (formal) ³	Out-of- court (informal) ⁴	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest ⁵	Evidential difficulties identified; victim supports action)	Evidential difficulties not support action) ⁶	Investigatio n complete by another agency	Action undertaken by another body/ agency	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest ⁷	Offences not yet assigned an outcome
Violence against the person	13.4	0.0	3.3	3.1	2.4	17.2	36.2	14.2	2.1	1.2	6.9	
Sexual offences	8.0	0.0	0.8	0.4	3.0	17.4	24.5	14.3	2.5	1.6	27.4	
of which: Rape	5.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	17.4	28.4	5.7	1.0	0.3	39.9	
Robbery	11.8	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	8.2	16.2	55.1	0.1	0.1	7.8	
Theft offences	8.0	0.5	1.2	1.8	0.4	4.4	5.8	73.1	0.1	0.5	4.3	
Criminal damage and arson	6.4	0.0	2.1	2.7	0.8	5.3	10.0	67.7	0.2	0.4	4.3	
Drug offences	34.8	0.0	17.9	29.1	2.1	4.9	0.3	1.6	0.2	1.2	7.8	
Possession of weapons offences	48.1	0.0	8.1	3.5	3.6	13.4	4.7	7.7	0.7	1.9	8.3	
Public order offences	15.2	0.0	3.2	2.7	2.1	14.1	28.5	26.2	0.3	1.5	6.3	
Misc. crimes against society	23.9	0.1	2.5	3.0	3.0	15.7	15.4	16.2	2.7	4.8	12.9	
All offence types ¹	11.2	0.2	2.6	3.2	1.3	9.3	16.7	47.7	0.8	0.9	6.1	

1. Year to March 2017 data exclude fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.

2. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).

3. Includes caution - adults; caution - youths; Penalty Notices for Disorder.

4. Includes cannabis/khat warnings and community resolutions.

5. Includes not in the public interest (CPS); Not in public interest (Police); Offender Died; Prosecution prevented (suspect under age; suspect too ill; victim/key witness dead/too ill); Prosecution time limit expired.

6. Includes evidential difficulties where the suspect was/was not identified and the victim does not support further action.

7. Outcome 21 (Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest) was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis and became mandatory from April 2016.

8. Proportions show the percentage of crimes recorded in the year receiving each outcome.

204

In the year ending March 2017:

- Possession of weapons was the offence group most likely to be assigned a charge/summons outcome, with nearly half (48%) of the crimes recorded in this category assigned this outcome. This is likely to be because to most suspects are found in possession by the police and then dealt with for the offence.
- In contrast, six per cent of criminal damage and arson offences and eight per cent of theft offences resulted in a charge or summons. These offence groups also had the highest proportion of outcomes where no suspect was identified and the case was closed (68% for criminal damage; 72% for arson). This is probably because victims often report these cases without having been present when the offence occurred.
- Sexual offences were the offence group most likely not to have been assigned an outcome, with 30 per cent of offences still under investigation. This was higher than for all other offence groups, which ranged from 4 per cent (criminal damage and theft offences) to 13 per cent (miscellaneous crimes against society). This reflects the greater complexity of investigations for sexual offences and the extended time period required to assign an outcome compared with many other crime types. Eight per cent of sexual offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 were resolved by a charge/summons
- Nearly half (47%) of drug offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 were assigned out-of-court outcomes, a far higher proportion than all other offence types. The second highest proportion was for possession of weapon offences (12%) which, like drug possession offences, are often resolved at an early stage as an offender will have been found in possession.
- Violent offences (53%), sexual offences (42%) and public order offences (43%) had a greater proportion of outcomes where there were evidential difficulties than other crime types.
- Drug offences (2%) and possession of weapon offences (8%) were far less likely than other main offence groups to result in the case being closed without a suspect being identified. This is to be expected as, unlike victim-based crime types such as theft, the offender is usually identified at the same time as the crime comes to the attention of the police.

2.3 – OUTCOMES ASSIGNED TO OFFENCES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2016: CHANGES OVER TIME

Data for year ending March 2016 were first published in July 2016. These have been updated on a quarterly basis since they were first published in order to reflect that some offences recorded during the year ending March 2016 will have had outcomes assigned during the following year. See Table C1 for details of forces that subsequently supplied updated outcomes data for the year ending March 2016.

A comparison of the latest data for year ending March 2016 with those published one year earlier is shown in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, when first published compared with latest figures

		England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes	
Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Proportion of offences recorded in year to March 2016:	
		First published (July 2016) ²	Updated (July 2017) ²
1	Charged/Summonsed	13.1	13.8
4	Taken into 3	0.2	0.3
	Out-of-court (formal)	3.5	3.6
2	Caution - youths	0.4	0.5
3	Caution - adults	2.5	2.6
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	0.6	0.6
	Out-of-court (informal)	3.9	4.0
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	0.9	0.9
8	Community resolution	2.9	3.0
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	2.2	2.2
5	Offender died	0.0	0.0
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	0.2	0.2
10	Not in public interest (Police)	1.4	1.4
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	0.1	0.1
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	0.3	0.3
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	0.0	0.0
17	Prosecution time limit expired	0.1	0.1
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	8.6	9.3
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	13.2	13.6
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	3.2	3.3
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	10.0	10.3
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	48.1	48.7
20	Action undertaken by another body/agency	0.5	0.5
21	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest	0.0	0.1
Total offences assigned an outcome (type 1-18)		93.4	96.1
Offences not yet assigned an outcome		6.6	3.9
Total offences¹		100.0	100.0

1. Proportions show the percentage of crimes recorded in the year ending March 2016 receiving each outcome.

2. Proportions as at the time data were provided to the Home Office. This means the proportion of offences assigned an outcome will be higher for the updated figures (published in July 2017 as they have had a longer period since being recorded in which to be assigned. However, not all forces submitted updated year to March 2016 data to the Home Office alongside data for the latest year and may appear to have fewer than expected outcomes assigned during year to March 2015.

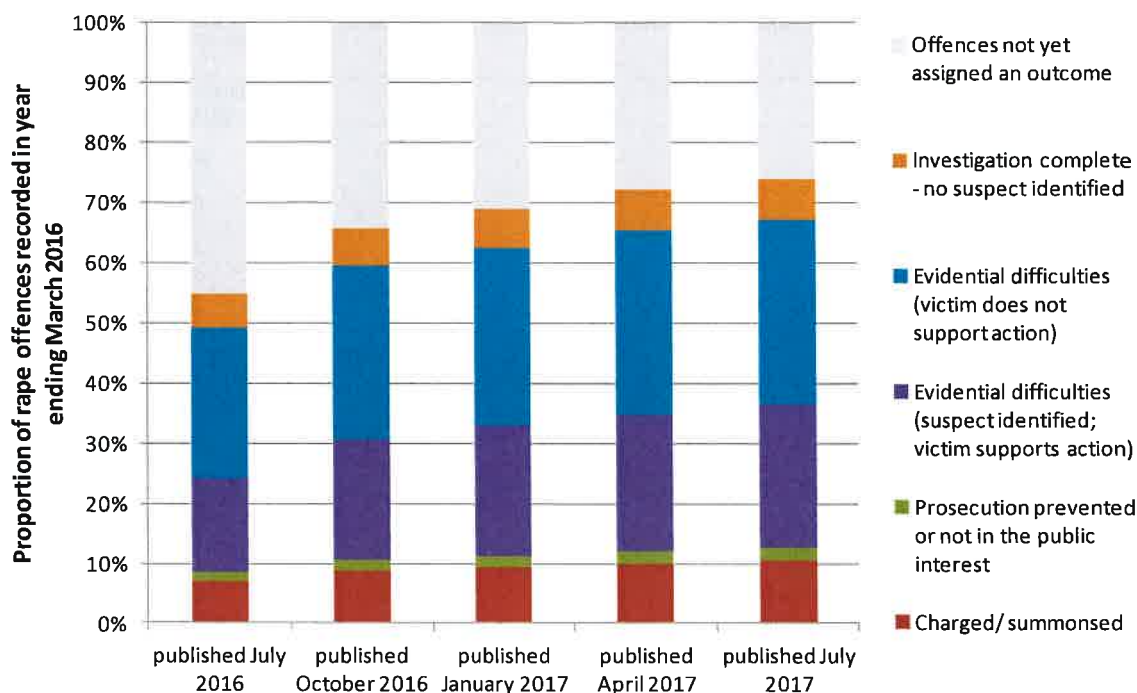
3. Offences asked to be taken in to consideration by a court (TICs).

As can be seen in Table 2.3, the proportion of crimes not yet assigned an outcome has fallen in this latest set of figures, with 2.7 per cent of offences recorded in the year to March 2016 assigned outcomes during the past year. These outcomes mainly consisted of charge/summonses, evidential difficulties where the suspect was identified, and cases that were closed with no suspect identified.

The value of repeating this analysis is particularly evident when looking at crime types where a high proportion of offences had not been assigned an outcome when first published. For example, 32 per cent of sexual offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 had yet to be assigned an outcome when the data were first published in July 2016. By the time the latest data were provided to the Home Office this had fallen to 18 per cent.

In particular, the proportion of rape offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 that had not been assigned an outcome has fallen from 45 to 18 per cent, giving a more complete picture of the outcomes assigned to these offences. Figure 2.2 shows the evolving trend in outcomes of rape offences recorded in the year ending March 2016. Many of the rape offences that had not been assigned an outcome when data were first published resulted in evidential difficulties. A substantial proportion were also dealt with by charge or summonses.

Figure 2.2: Outcomes assigned to rape offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group and publication date



Source: Home Office Data Hub and voluntary spreadsheet return

1. Proportions show the percentage of crimes recorded in the year ending March 2016 receiving each outcome.
2. No rape offences recorded in year ending March 2016 were 'Taken in to Consideration'
3. Data are generally provided to the Home Office two to three months before publication. See Annex C of 'Crime Outcomes in England and Wales, year ending March 2016' for further information.

Analysis of the average time between an offence being recorded and an outcome being assigned to the corresponding crime is presented in Chapter 4.

2.4 – OUTCOMES ASSIGNED TO OFFENCES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2017 COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 have had an additional year in which an outcome could have been assigned compared with offences recorded in the year ending March 2017. As demonstrated in the previous section, this means that the proportions that have been assigned each outcome type will not be directly comparable.

In order to get an indication of genuine changes over time it is therefore more meaningful to compare figures for the year ending March 2017 with figures for the previous year as at the time they were first published in July 2016⁵.

As can be seen from Figure 2.3, a similar proportion of crimes had been assigned an outcome in both years. However, the proportion of crimes assigned a charge/summons decreased (from 13% to 11%), as did the proportion assigned an out-of-court disposal (from 7% to 6%). Conversely, the proportion of crimes that resulted in evidential difficulties increased, from 22 per cent of crimes recorded in the year ending March 2016 to 26 per cent in the latest year.

Differences in outcome proportions will be influenced by a number of factors, including but not limited to:

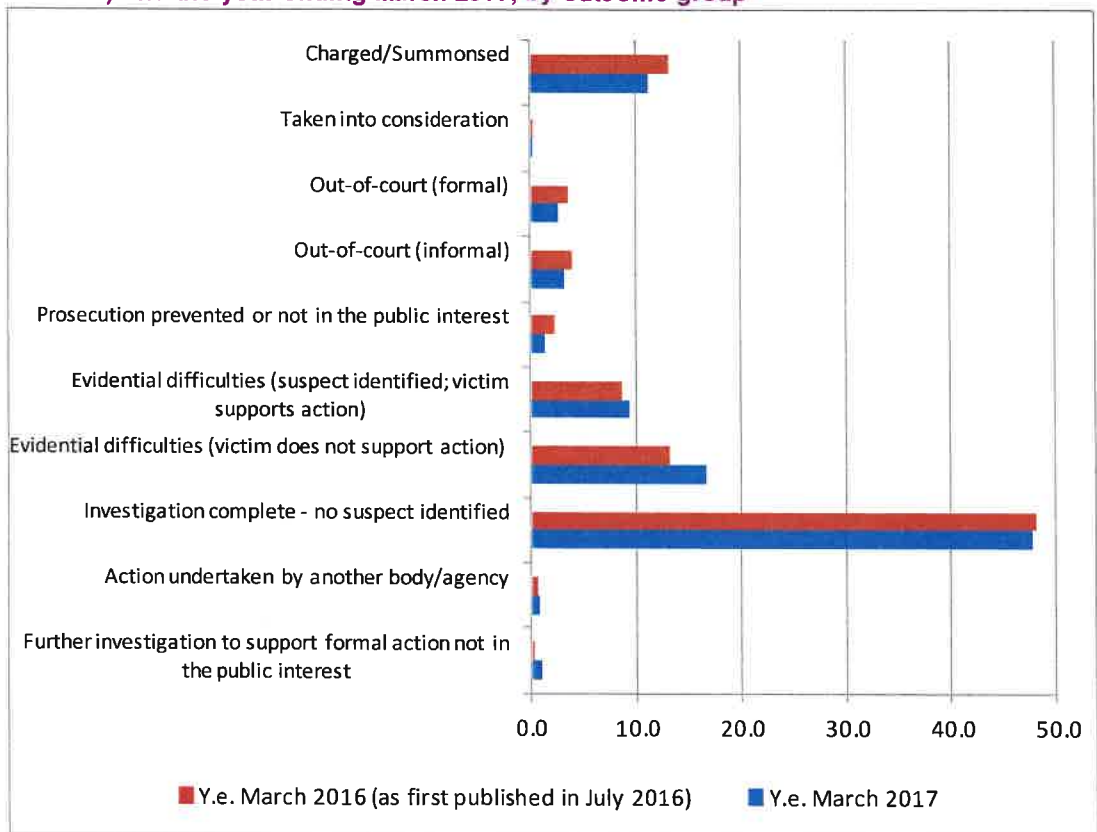
- Improvements in crime recording by the police have led to increases in crime volumes for some crime types, in particular for violence and sexual offences. These increased by 18 per cent and 14 per cent respectively in the year ending March 2017. It is likely that many of the

⁵ While these datasets are broadly comparable, the comparison is not exact as the data are affected by when they are taken from forces' systems. For example, a force taking data from their systems even a few days later can mean one set of crimes has had comparatively longer than the other to have outcomes assigned. Additionally, data for the year ending March 2015 covers around three-quarters of offences because some forces were unable to provide any for this voluntary collection.

additional offences now being recorded are those that are less likely to be resolved by a charge/summons or other out of court resolution.

- An increased willingness of victims to report crimes to the police, particularly for violent and sexual offences. In particular, chapter 4 shows that larger proportions of violent and sexual offences that were domestic-abuse related experienced evidential difficulties compared with violent and sexual offences that were not domestic-abuse related. It is possible that some of the increase in evidential difficulties outcomes is due to crimes that victims would not have reported to the police in previous years.
- The different set of forces' data included in each year. As highlighted previously, not all forces were able to supply data for some or all of the previous year, although this is only likely to have a small impact on outcome rates.

Figure 2.3: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 (as first published) and the year ending March 2017, by outcome group



Source: Home Office Data Hub and voluntary spreadsheet return
 1. The numbers behind this chart are available in Tables 2.1 and 2.3.
 2. See Table 1.2 for details of which outcome types are included in each outcome group.

3 Fraud outcomes

3.1 – INTRODUCTION

The way in which fraud offences are reported and subsequently recorded has changed in recent years. In April 2011, Action Fraud (the UK's national fraud and cybercrime reporting centre) began gradually taking over the recording of fraud offences from individual police forces in England and Wales, completing in March 2013. The implementation of Action Fraud as a single national fraud reporting centre has led to an increase in the number of fraud offences recorded, as it provides an easier way for individuals and businesses to report such offences (via an online reporting tool and a dedicated call centre), and centralises expertise in these cases.

The transfer to Action Fraud was rolled out at different times for different forces. The year ending March 2014 was therefore the first full year where all fraud offences previously reported to the police were recorded by Action Fraud. Action Fraud reports are reviewed by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB), who are responsible for allocating reported offences to forces for them to investigate. The police recorded crime series (published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)) also incorporates offences reported to the NFIB by two fraud prevention industry bodies: Cifas and Financial Fraud Action UK (FFA UK).

The NFIB outcomes recording process is shown in the flow chart in Figure 3.1. Cifas, FFA UK and Action Fraud reports are automatically scored by NFIB's scoring matrix. This analyses all reports and identifies key information supplied in a report, as well as searching for any matching data within the system in existing reports. As well as receiving crime reports, Action Fraud also receives information reports. These are reports from an individual or business which do not meet the criteria to be classed as a crime, but still report on fraudulent activity. Police forces can use these reports for intelligence purposes.

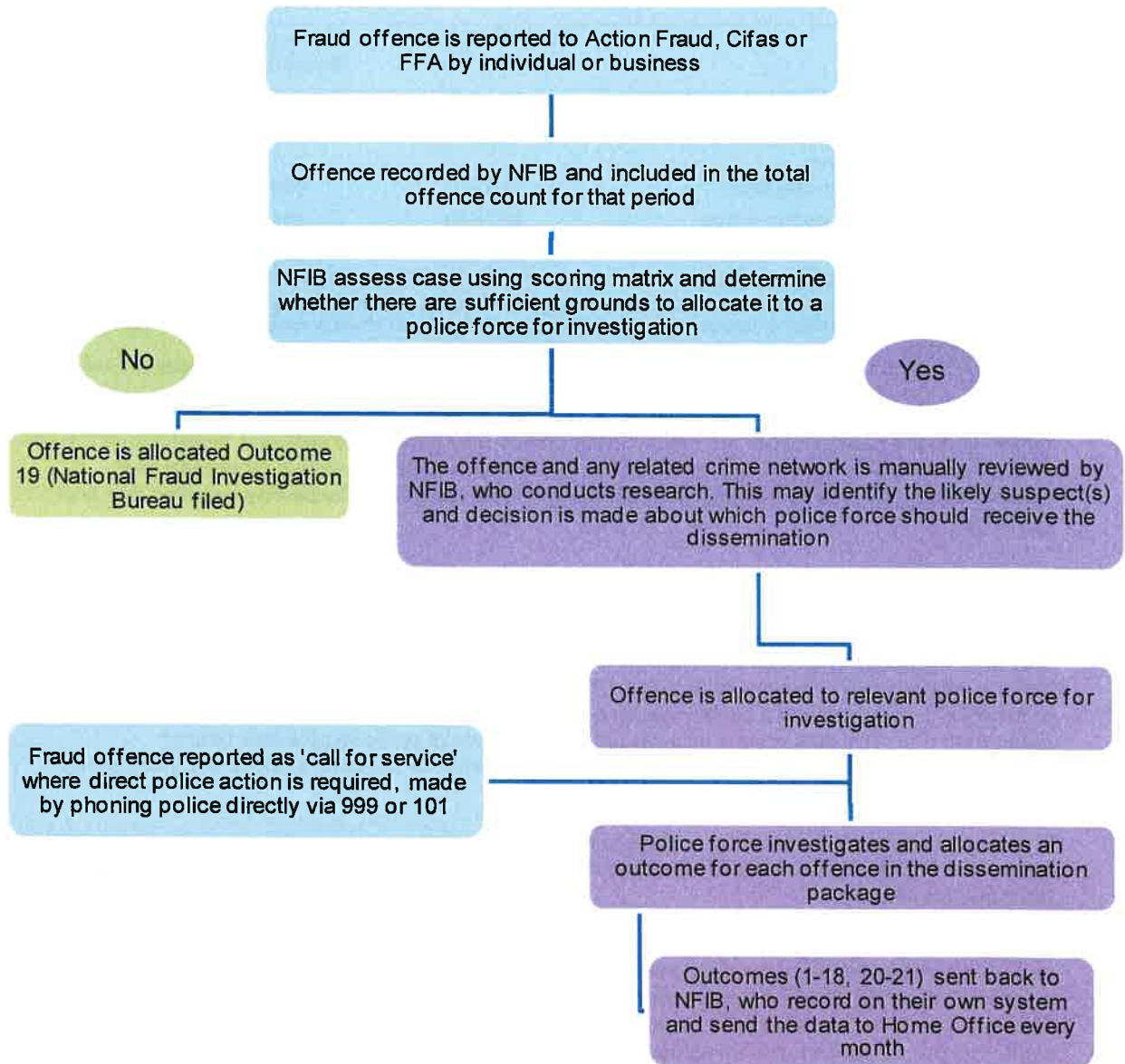
NFIB use a database which constantly reviews all crime reports against all other data held in the database. This can then link offences which share a piece of information, such as a telephone number. The reports are scored based on a viability criteria, and automatically produces crime networks with a viability ranking. A team reviews these networks and determines if there is realistic chance of identifying the offender through personal information, such as a telephone number, postal address or bank account. The team conducts research to help identify the suspect(s), such as requesting information from a bank or making a telecommunications subscriber check.

If it is judged that there are sufficient grounds for investigation and enforcement is viable, the NFIB allocates these cases to the most appropriate police force or other law enforcement agency. These allocations are known as dissemination packages, and each dissemination can contain multiple offences. The police force investigates the offences, and allocates an outcome to each individual offence. Each police force submits the outcomes to NFIB on a monthly basis, who then submit them to the Home Office.

For crime reports where sufficient grounds for investigation do not exist, the reports are still kept on NFIB's database. As new crime reports are submitted, more data may be linked to existing crime reports and increase their viability for investigation.

In addition to investigating offences disseminated from NFIB, a police force can also receive fraud related 'calls for service'. This is when victims of fraud require an active police response, and dial either 999 or 101 to contact the police directly. Police forces will deal with fraud directly if certain criteria are met, such as at the time of the call for service, the offender is committing or has recently committed the offence. As with disseminated offences, the outcomes of calls for service for fraud offences are submitted to NFIB.

Figure 3.1: How fraud outcomes are recorded



3.2 – DISSEMINATIONS AND OUTCOMES IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2017 BY OUTCOME TYPE

DISSEMINATIONS

Outcomes recorded by NFIB only cover those offences from calls for service, and offences sent in dissemination packages to police forces to investigate. Outcomes are not recorded when the offence is passed to another law enforcement agency, such as Trading Standards. Table 3.1 shows the number of dissemination packages sent to police forces and the number of offences within those packages. This is alongside the total number of fraud offences recorded, in the year ending March 2016 and in the year ending March 2017.

Table 3.1 – Number of fraud offences and disseminations, year ending March 2016 and year ending March 2017

	England and Wales		
	Year ending March 2016	Year ending March 2017	Percentage change (%)
Number of disseminations	17,258	16,781	-2.8
Total number of fraud offences within disseminations¹	67,475	64,501	-4.4
Total recorded fraud offences² :	619,205	649,770	4.9
<i>Number recorded by Action Fraud</i>	220,691	264,056	19.6
<i>Number recorded by Cifas and FFA</i>	398,514	385,710	-3.2

Source: National Fraud Intelligence Bureau

1. Some offences can be included in more than one dissemination, or can be disseminated to a force in multiple months. This number reflects the total number of unique offences, and offences which are part of two or more dissemination packages are only counted once.

2. The total for 2016/17 includes four fraud offences recorded by police forces after the transfer of responsibility to Action Fraud.

Each dissemination package can be made up of any number of offences, from one to hundreds. This depends on the fraud network, as many similar crimes may be linked together if investigators believe one suspect or set of suspects is responsible. An offence can be included in more than one dissemination, if it links to multiple crime networks. However, each offence only receives one final outcome.

OUTCOMES

In previous editions of this bulletin, outcomes data for fraud offences were published as experimental statistics. Additional work has been carried out in terms of disseminations that discovered NFIB had been supplying disseminations data to the Home Office without removing duplicate dissemination references. For example, if a dissemination contained ten fraud offences it counted ten disseminations rather than one. This was greatly inflating the figures, and not reflecting the true total of disseminations. Therefore, dissemination numbers published in previous editions are incorrect and should not be used.

This issue has now been rectified, and we can now derive the correct number of unique dissemination references from the data. Table 3.1 contains data on the corrected basis for the year ending March 2016 and March 2017.

It is important to note that the number of outcomes will not necessarily correspond to the number of disseminations in a given year since investigations can take months or longer to complete. A large number of offences disseminated to police in 2016/17 are still under investigation. Between the year ending March 2016 and March 2017, the total number of disseminations fell along with the total number of fraud offences disseminated. However, the total number of recorded fraud offences increased over the same period. This may be due to improvements in recording, but there was not enough information within the reports to make them viable for law enforcement. If enforcement is deemed to be not viable, NFIB will consider other activity such as disruption or intelligence activity.

Table 3.2 shows the number of outcomes recorded by the police in years ending March 2016 and March 2017, by outcome type, along with the total number of fraud offences recorded during the same time periods.

Table 3.2 - Fraud outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2017, by outcome type

		England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes		
		Year ending March 2016	Year ending March 2017	
Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Number of outcomes ²	Number of outcomes ²	Percentage change
1	Charged/Summoned	7,751	6,402	-17
4	Taken into consideration¹	406	206	-49
	Out-of-court (formal)	1,105	944	-15
2	Caution - youths	64	55	-14
3	Caution - adults	1,016	878	-14
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	25	11	-56
	Out-of-court (informal)	672	594	-12
7	Cannabis/Khat warning ³	n/a	n/a	n/a
8	Community resolution	672	594	-12
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	931	740	-21
5	Offender died	32	22	-31
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	46	128	178
10	Not in public interest (Police)	664	524	-21
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	6	6	0
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	15	10	-33
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	140	41	-71
17	Prosecution time limit expired	28	9	-68
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	9,104	10,191	12
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	3,461	4,511	30
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	1,227	1,562	27
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	2,234	2,949	32
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	15,149	18,318	21
20	Action undertaken by another body/agency	727	1,127	55
21	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest⁴	92	1,854	1,915
Total number of fraud outcomes		39,398	44,887	14
Total fraud offences disseminated to police		67,475	64,501	-4
Total recorded fraud offences		619,205	649,770	5

1. Offences asked to be taken in to consideration by a court (TICs)

2. Offences recorded by Action Fraud, Cifas and FFA UK with outcomes recorded by NFIB in the year ending March 2016 or year ending March 2017.

3. Outcome 7 does not apply to fraud offences.

4. Outcome 21 was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis and became mandatory from April 2016.

5. The Home Office does not currently collect data on outcome 19 from the NFIB.

There was an increase of over 5,000 outcomes (14%) between the years ending March 2016 and March 2017, even though the total number of fraud offences disseminated to the police decreased over the same period by four per cent. The increase in outcomes is largely driven by an increase in Outcome 18 'investigation complete – no suspect identified' which increased by over 3,000 (21%) between the two years.

272

There was a large proportional increase in Outcome 21 'Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest', which went from less than 100 outcomes in year ending March 2016 to 1,854 outcomes in the year ending March 2017. This outcome was only introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis, and it became mandatory from April 2016.

The number of Outcome 1 'Charged/summonsed' fell by almost 1,500 between the two years, a decrease of 17 per cent.

3.3 – DISSEMINATIONS AND OUTCOMES IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2017 BY POLICE FORCE AREA

Table 3.2 shows the different fraud outcomes nationally. As part of the Home Office's aim to improve the quality of fraud statistics and increase transparency, the outcome data are now available for the first time at police force area level. The data are available in the accompanying Open Data tables for 2016/17, accessible from: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables

A summary of the number of disseminations and outcomes by police force area is shown in Table 3.3. It is important to note that the number of outcomes will not necessarily correspond to the number of disseminations in a given year since investigations can take months or longer to complete. A large number of offences disseminated to police in 2016/17 are still under investigation. Therefore comparing the number of offences to disseminated offences should be done with caution, as the outcomes do not relate to the same period as the offences.

The offences were disseminated to forces in 2016/17 but the actual offence may have occurred in a past year. The offence will only be disseminated to forces when there is enough information to make it viable, and it could link to new reports. As an example, an offence could occur in 2015/16 but does not score highly enough on NFIB's matrix to make it viable for enforcement. Another offence occurs in 2016/17 which links to the first offence with a shared offender name, and provides more information such as a bank account. Now both offences receive a viability score, and are disseminated to the relevant force for investigation.

Table 3.3 - Fraud outcomes recorded and disseminated offences in the year ending March 2017

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes		
Year ending March 2017		
Police force	Number of disseminated offences ¹	Number of outcomes ²
Avon & Somerset	946	537
Bedfordshire	625	179
Cambridgeshire	580	486
Cheshire	537	187
Cleveland	214	292
Cumbria	160	338
Derbyshire	476	562
Devon & Cornwall ³	1,017	0
Dorset	324	827
Durham	178	223
Essex	1,705	279
Gloucestershire	269	518
Greater Manchester	6,023	1,988
Hampshire	996	368
Hertfordshire	1,059	1,087
Humberside	513	914
Kent	1,284	2,664
Lancashire	1,273	288
Leicestershire	782	438
Lincolnshire	360	349
London, City of ⁴	2,640	919
Merseyside	1,746	736
Metropolitan Police	24,081	13,561
Norfolk	450	170
Northamptonshire	735	1,093
Northumbria	534	1,116
North Yorkshire	190	29
Nottinghamshire	601	1,317
South Yorkshire	911	577
Staffordshire	1,351	1,142
Suffolk	506	10
Surrey	785	1,195
Sussex	916	1,324
Thames Valley	1,845	599
Warwickshire	261	240
West Mercia	391	638
West Midlands	3,892	3,690
West Yorkshire	1,767	458
Wiltshire	461	896
Dyfed-Powys	181	249
Gwent	200	504
North Wales	264	517
South Wales	521	1,151
Total 43 forces⁵	64,474	44,655
British Transport Police	27	232
Total⁵	64,501	44,887

1. Number of offences within dissemination packages. The number of outcomes will not necessarily correspond to the number of disseminations in a given year since investigations can take months or longer to complete. A large number of offences disseminated to police in 2016/17 are still under investigation.

2. Outcomes recorded by NFIB in the year ending March 2017. There are known data quality issues, and the Home Office and NFIB are working with forces to improve data.

3.. Devon and Cornwall were sent reminder emails by NFIB, but did not provide outcomes data for this period.

4. City of London includes City of London Police, National Lead Force, Insurance Fraud Enforcement Department, and Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit.

5. The overall total does not equal the total for all forces. Some offences can be included in more than one dissemination, or can be disseminated to a force in multiple months. This number reflects the total number of unique offences, and offences which are part of two or more dissemination packages are only counted once. Each offence, no matter how many times it is disseminated, is assigned only one final outcome.

214

3.4 – FUTURE WORK ON FRAUD OUTCOMES

The data set provided by the NFIB continues to be subject to development and quality assurance and so these statistics should still be treated as experimental. However, the NFIB are introducing a new management information system which is due to go live in 2018. This should mean that the fraud outcomes data will be more readily accessible and more accurate as the system should allow individual outcomes to be linked to the fraud offences they relate to. The Home Office intends to work closely with NFIB to ensure that the data is as robust as possible and that it meets user needs.

Future publications could potentially include outcomes assigned to offences disseminated to police in a given year. This could also include data on the length of time between fraud offences being disseminated to the police and when an outcome is assigned to that offence. This will depend on forces providing good quality data to NFIB, and the data being available to the Home Office. These new pieces of analysis would bring fraud in line with the other crime types and the analysis presented in previous chapters.

4 How domestic abuse-related offences were dealt with by the police

4.1 INTRODUCTION

In April 2015, the Home Office began collecting information from the police on whether recorded offences were related to domestic abuse. Crimes are "flagged" by the police as being domestic abuse-related if the offence meets the government definition of domestic violence and abuse⁶.

This chapter covers how the police have dealt with domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2017. The analyses presented are based on data from 34 of the 44 police forces in England and Wales^{7,8} that supplied adequate data to the Home Office Data Hub. These police forces recorded 89 per cent of all domestic abuse-related offences in England and Wales in 2016/17.

4.2 HOW DOMESTIC ABUSE OFFENCES WERE DEALT WITH BY THE POLICE BY OUTCOMES TYPE

The rates shown in Figure 4.1 relate to domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2017. In total, 94 per cent of these offences had been assigned an outcome at the time the data were extracted from the Home Office Data Hub⁹. Police forces had not yet assigned an outcome to the remaining six per cent of offences. Domestic abuse-related offence outcomes are compared below with offences that were not domestic abuse-related, these differences reflect the nature of different crime types within each category.

- Almost a fifth (18%) of domestic abuse-related offences were dealt with by a charge or summons. This is a higher proportion than offences that were not domestic abuse-related (10%).
- Around two-thirds (65%) of offences had an evidential difficulties outcome (table 4.1). This is almost three times the proportion of offences that were not domestic abuse-related that had an evidential difficulties outcome (22%).
- Evidential difficulties for domestic abuse-related offences consisted of 42 per cent of offences where the victim did not support further action and 24 per cent where the victim supported further action.
- Just two per cent of domestic abuse-related offences were assigned the outcome 'investigation complete - no suspect identified' compared with over half (54%) of offences that were not domestic abuse-related. This is to be expected given that, by definition, in a domestic abuse-related offence the offender must be a partner, ex-partner or a family member of the victim.

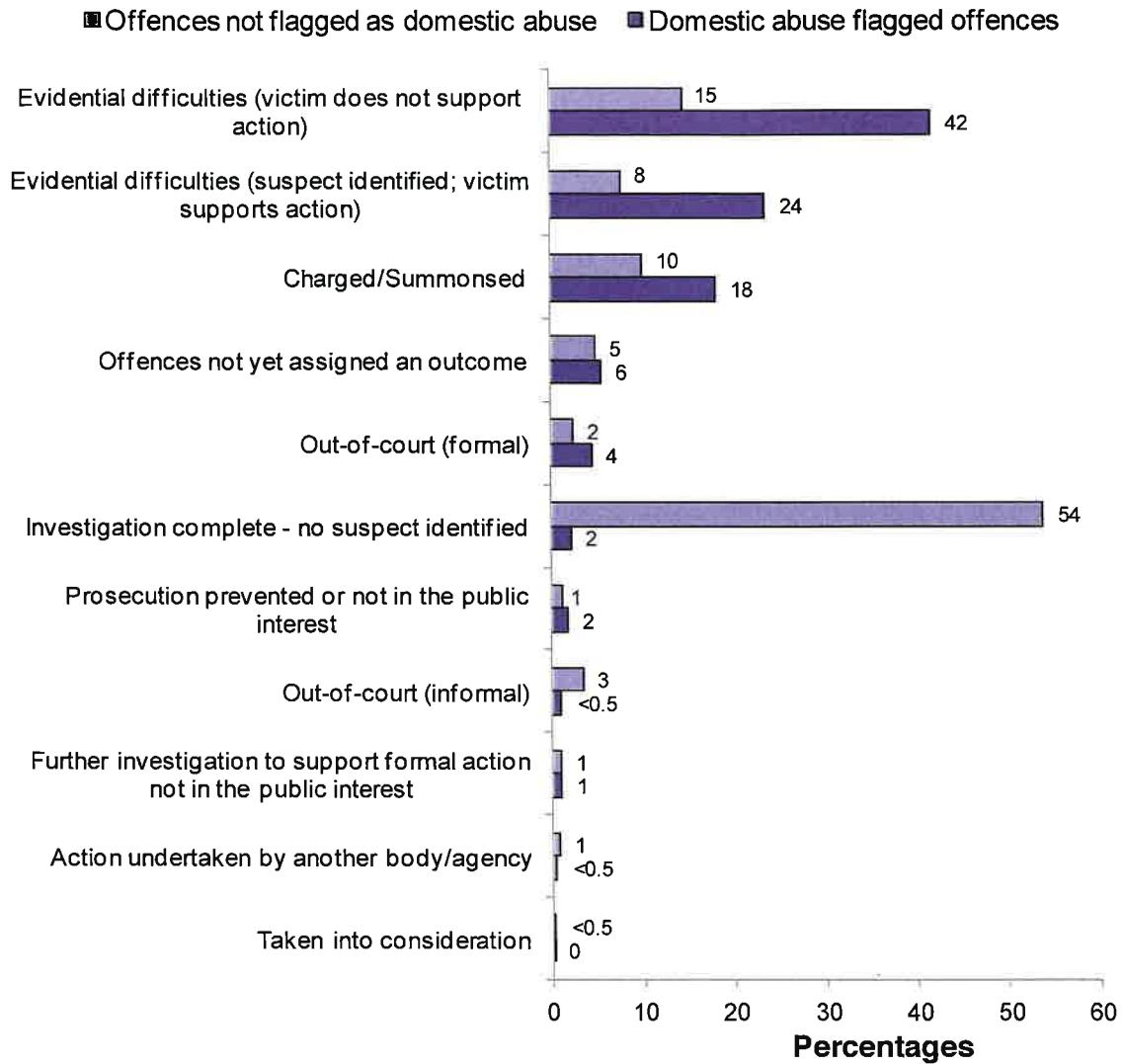
⁶ Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

⁷ Avon and Somerset, Bedfordshire, British Transport Police, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cleveland, Devon and Cornwall, Durham, Dyfed-Powys, Gloucestershire, Greater Manchester, Gwent, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Humberside, Kent, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Metropolitan Police, North Wales, North Yorkshire, Northamptonshire, Northumbria, South Wales, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, Sussex, Thames Valley, Wawickshire, West Mercia, West Yorkshire and Wiltshire.

⁸ The analysis in this chapter is based on a different subset of forces than previous chapters.

⁹ Early June 2017. This proportion is higher than the proportion for all offences, although much of this may be due to different snapshot dates and the inclusion of fewer forces.

Figure 4.1; Proportions of outcomes assigned to domestic abuse-related offences and offences not domestic abuse-related recorded in the year ending March 2017



Source: Police Recorded Crime, Home Office Data Hub

1. Based on 34 police forces that supplied adequate data

2. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables, which can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

4.3 HOW DOMESTIC ABUSE-RELATED OFFENCES WERE DEALT WITH BY THE POLICE BY OFFENCE GROUP

This section presents data on how police forces dealt with domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2017, by offence group. Almost four-fifths (77%) of domestic abuse-related offences were for violence against the person offences (this proportion is the same when all 44 police forces are included in the analysis, these data are available in the Office for National Statistics crime statistics for the year ending March 2017 bulletin¹⁰). How the offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 were dealt with by police varied considerably by offence type:

- Almost a fifth (18%) of domestic abuse-related violence against the person offences were dealt with by a charge or summons. A further 43 per cent had evidential difficulties where the victim did not support further action and a quarter had evidential difficulties where the victim supported action. (Figure 4.2)

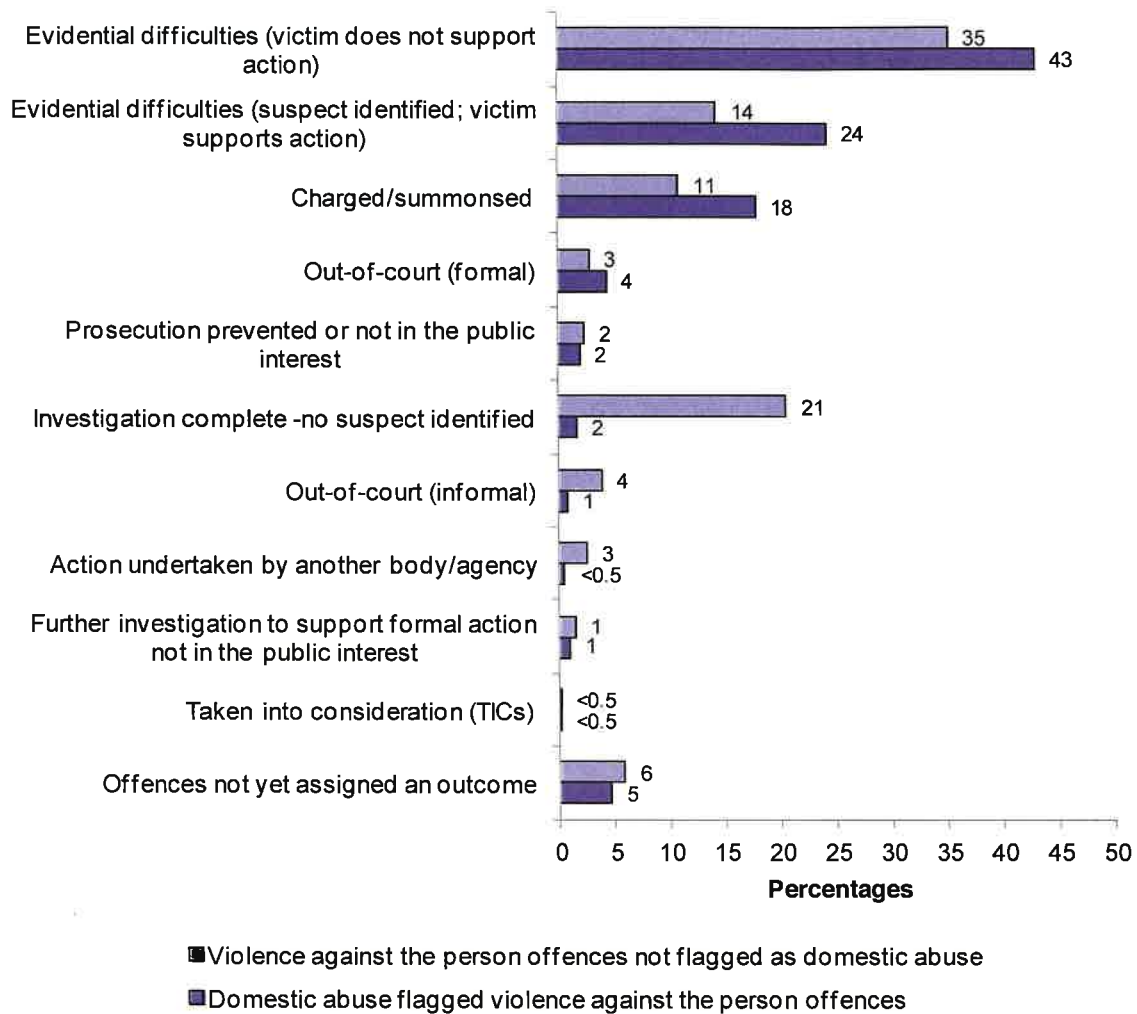
¹⁰ www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

- Only two per cent of domestic abuse-related violence against the person offences were assigned an outcome of 'investigation complete - no suspect identified' compared with a fifth (21%) of violence against the person offences that were not domestic abuse-related.
- A far higher proportion of domestic abuse-related criminal damage and arson offences resulted in a charge or summons (22%) than those that were not domestic abuse-related (5%). The proportion was also much higher for evidential difficulties where the victim did not support action (41% of domestic abuse-related criminal damage and arson compared with 8% of those that were not domestic abuse-related), see Table 4.2¹¹.
- Domestic abuse-related sexual offences had a larger proportion of offences not yet assigned an outcome (32%) than any of the other offence groups. This is a slightly higher proportion than sexual offences that were not domestic abuse-related (27%), see Table 4.2.

¹¹Supplementary online data tables available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2016-to-2017>

218

Figure 4.2: Proportions of outcomes assigned to domestic abuse-related violence against the person offences compared with non-domestic abuse related violence against the person offences recorded in the year ending March 2017



Source: Police Recorded Crime, Home Office Data Hub

1. Based on 34 police forces that supplied adequate data

2. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables, which can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

Coercive and controlling behaviour

On 29 December 2015, the government introduced a new criminal offence of “coercive and controlling behaviour in an intimate or familial relationship”. The new law captures coercive control through psychological and emotional abuse that may fall short of physical violence¹². Almost 90 per cent of coercive control offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 had been assigned an outcome by the time the data were extracted from the Home Office Data Hub. Just over 10 per cent of coercive control offences were dealt with by a charge or summons, while 40 per cent had evidential difficulties where the victim did not support further action and 32 per cent had evidential difficulties where the victim did support action.

¹² As is common with new offences, the number of these offences recorded by the police has increased over the last year. Additionally, from 1 July 2016, the Home Office Counting Rules were amended so that offences of coercive control should take precedence over assault offences (apart from assault with intent to cause serious harm), criminal damage, theft and sexual offences amounting to voyeurism or exposure. This would have led to an increase in the number of coercive control offences recorded by the police.

4.4 - THE LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN DOMESTIC ABUSE-RELATED OFFENCES AND OUTCOMES BEING RECORDED

This section presents data on the length of time between domestic abuse-related offences being recorded in the year ending March 2017 and an outcome being assigned to that offence, by the time the data were extracted from the Home Office Data Hub (Figure 4.3). Data are based on the 94 per cent of offences that have been assigned an outcome (Table 4.3¹³).

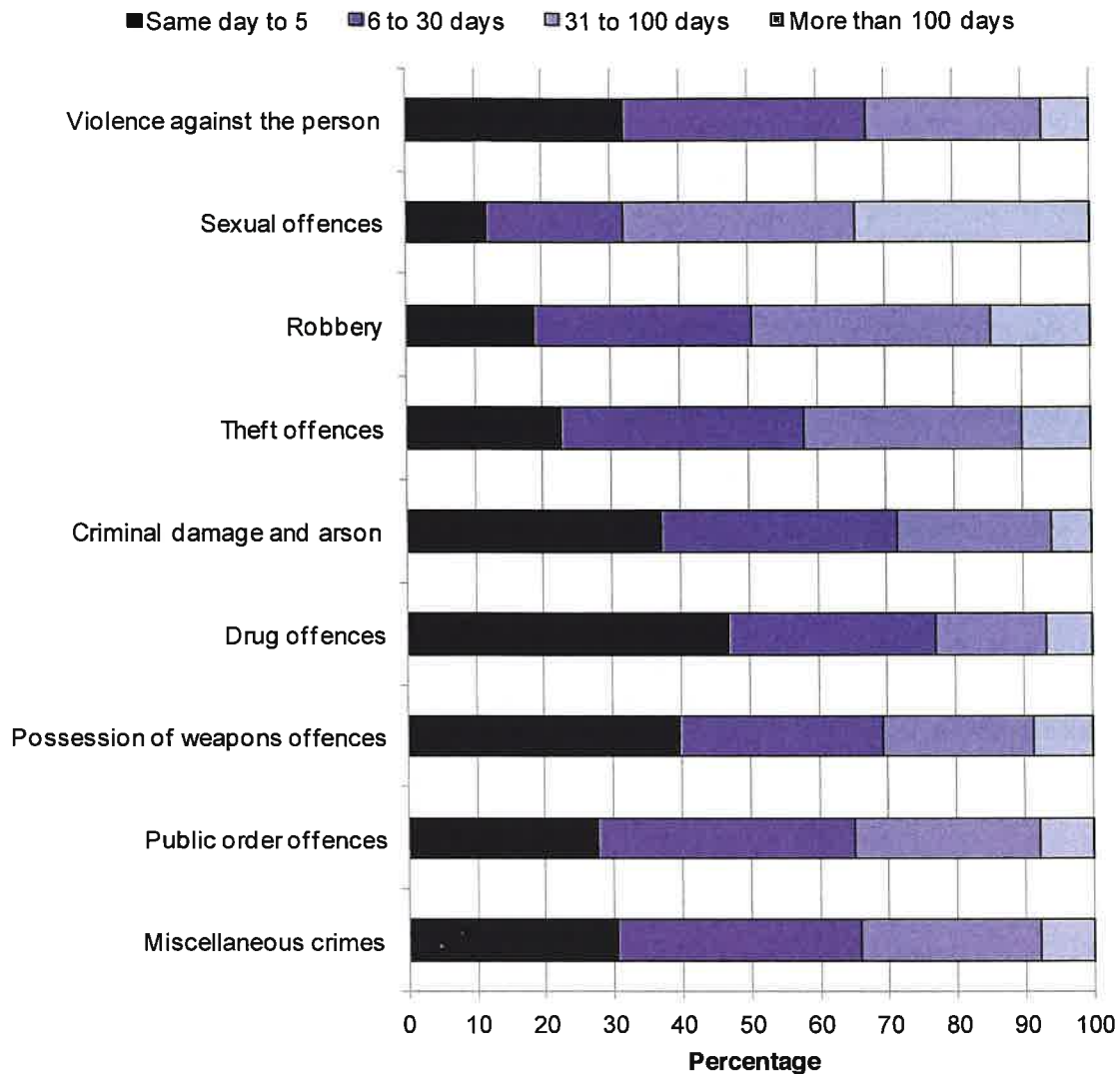
Of the domestic abuse-related offences assigned an outcome, almost a third (31%) had been assigned an outcome within five days of the offence being recorded and two thirds (66%) had been assigned an outcome within 30 days. Eight per cent of outcomes took more than 100 days to be assigned.

- Sexual offences that were domestic abuse-related generally took much longer to be assigned an outcome than other domestic abuse-related offence types, with 34 per cent taking over 100 days. This proportion is slightly higher than sexual offences that were not domestic abuse-related – 27 per cent took over 100 days.
- Almost a third (32%) of domestic abuse-related violence against the person offences were assigned an outcome within five days and over two thirds (67%) were assigned an outcome within 30 days. For violence against the person offences not domestic abuse-related, the figures were similar, with 32 per cent being assigned an outcome within five days and 64 per cent within 30 days.

The time taken to assign an outcome to each offence type reflects the nature of the offence. Sexual offences tend to be much more complex and require a greater amount of investigation. See Chapter 5 for more information.

¹³ Supplementary online data tables available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2016-to-2017>

Figure 4.3: Length of time taken to assign outcomes to domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2017, by offence group



Source: Police Recorded Crime, Home Office Data Hub

1. Based on 34 police forces that supplied adequate data

2. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables, which can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

4.5 - HOW DOMESTIC ABUSE-RELATED OFFENCES WERE DEALT WITH BY THE POLICE IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2016: CHANGES OVER TIME

Data for year ending March 2016 were based on 17 forces¹⁴. A comparison of the latest data for year ending March 2016 (based on the same 17 forces) with those that were published one year earlier is shown in Table 4.1 below.

The proportion of domestic abuse-related offences not yet assigned an outcome has fallen in this latest set of figures, with three per cent of offences recorded in the year to March 2016 assigned outcomes during the past year. These outcomes were mostly charge/summons and evidential difficulties.

¹⁴ Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cleveland, Devon and Cornwall, Gloucestershire, Greater Manchester, Humberside, Kent, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, South Wales, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, Thames Valley and West Yorkshire.

Table 4.1: Outcomes assigned to domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2016, when first published compared with latest figures

		England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes	
Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Proportion of offences recorded in year to March 2016: ³	
		First published (July 2016) ^{4, 5}	Updated (July 2017) ^{4, 5}
1	Charged/Summonsed	25	26
4	Taken into consideration¹	0	0
	Out-of-court (formal)	4	4
2	Caution - youths	0	0
3	Caution - adults	4	4
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	0	0
	Out-of-court (Informal)	1	1
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	0	0
8	Community resolution	1	1
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	2	2
5	Offender died	0	0
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	0	0
10	Not in public interest (Police)	1	1
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	0	0
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	0	0
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	0	0
17	Prosecution time limit expired	0	0
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	26	27
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	35	36
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support action	1	1
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support action	34	35
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	2	2
20	Action undertaken by another body/agency	0	0
21	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest	0	0
Total offences assigned an outcome (type 1-18, 20, 21)		96	99
Offences not yet assigned an outcome		4	1
Total offences		100	100

1. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs)

2. Proportions based on number of outcomes assigned to domestic abuse flagged offences recorded in 2016/17 divided by number of domestic abuse flagged offences recorded in 2016/17

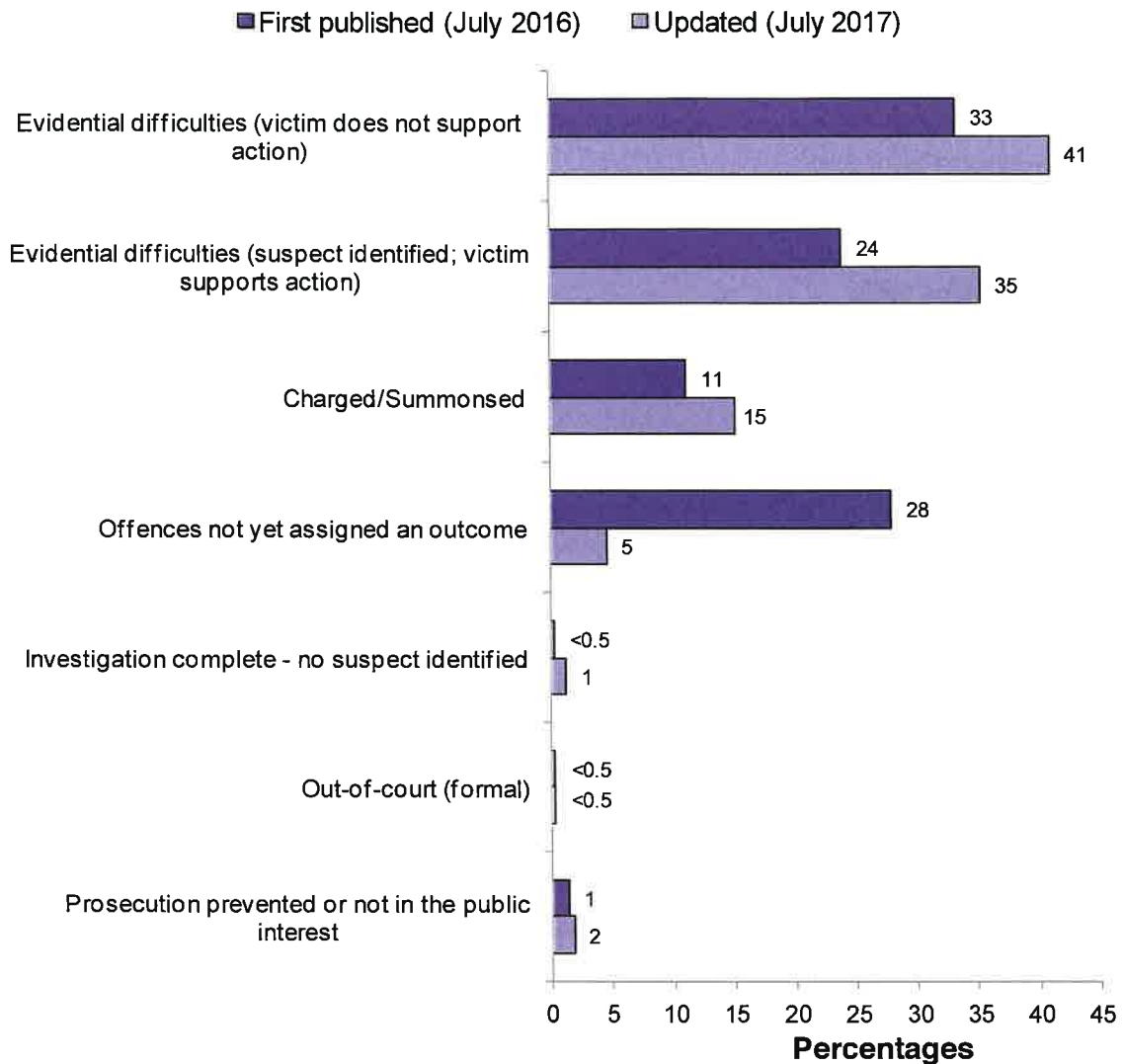
3. Based on 17 police forces that supplied adequate data

4. Proportions as at the time data were provided to the Home Office. This means the proportion of offences assigned an outcome will be higher for the updated figures (published in July 2017) as they have had a longer period since being recorded in which to be assigned. However, not all forces submitted updated year to March 2016 data to the Home Office alongside data for the latest year and may appear to have fewer than expected outcomes assigned during year to March 2016.

In particular, the proportion of sexual offences that were domestic abuse-related recorded in the year ending March 2016 that had not been assigned an outcome has fallen from 28 per cent to five per cent, giving a more complete picture of the outcomes assigned to these offences. Figure 4.4 shows the evolving trend in outcomes of sexual offences recorded in the year ending March 2016. Many of the sexual offences that had not been assigned an outcome when data were first published resulted in evidential difficulties or charge/summons.

222

Figure 4.4: Outcomes assigned to sexual offences that were domestic abuse-related recorded in the year ending March 2016, by outcome group and publication date



4.6 - HOW DOMESTIC ABUSE-RELATED OFFENCES WERE DEALT WITH BY THE POLICE IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2017 COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR

As in Chapter 2, in order to get an indication of genuine changes over time it is more meaningful to compare figures for the year ending March 2017 with figures for the previous year as at the time they were first published in July 2016¹⁵. As there were only data for 17 forces for year ending March 2016 these comparisons are carried out on these forces¹⁶ only.

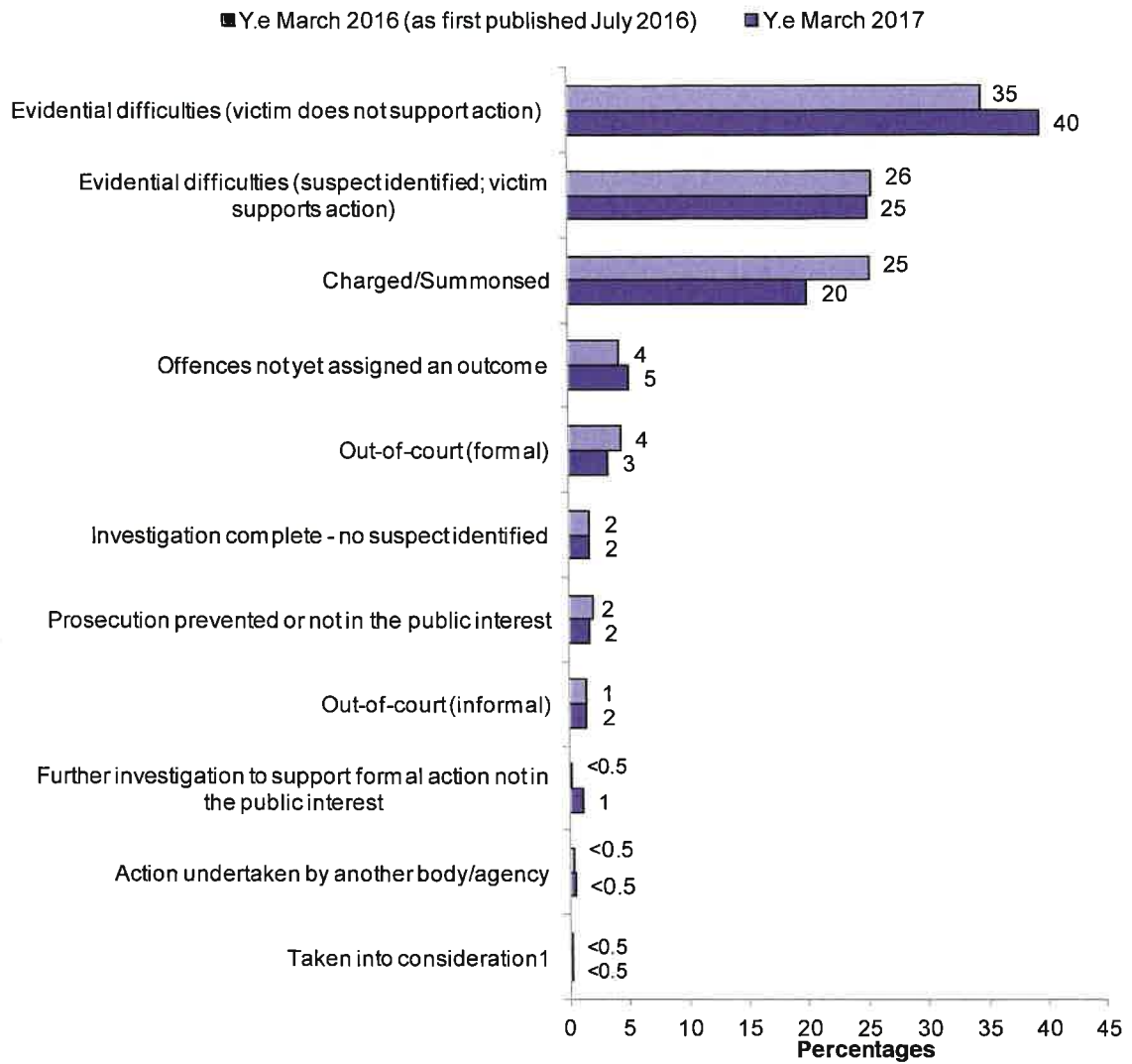
As shown in Figure 4.5, a similar proportion of crimes had been assigned an outcome in both years. However, the proportion of domestic abuse-related offences assigned a charge/summons decreased (from 25% to 20%). Conversely, the proportion of offences that resulted in evidential difficulties (victim does not support action) increased, from 35 per cent to 40 per cent in the following year. This is a similar trend to all offences (see Chapter 2).

¹⁶ Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cleveland, Devon and Cornwall, Gloucestershire, Greater Manchester, Humberside, Kent, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, South Wales, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, Thames Valley and West Yorkshire.

Differences in outcome proportions will be influenced by a number of factors, including but not limited to:

- Improvements in crime recording by the police have led to increases in crime volumes for some crime types, in particular for violence and sexual offences. It is likely that many of the additional offences now being recorded are those that are less likely to be resolved by a charge, summons or other out of court resolution than offences that would have previously been recorded.
- An increased willingness of victims to report crimes to the police, particularly for domestic abuse related offences. It is likely that some of the increase in evidential difficulties outcomes is due to crimes that victims would not have reported to the police in previous years.

Figure 4.5: Outcomes assigned to domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2016 (as first published July 2016) and the year ending March 2017, by outcome group



5 The time gap between offences and outcomes recorded

5.1 – INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents data on the length of time between recording an offence and assigning an outcome to that offence. The analysis is broken down by crime type and outcome, so it is possible to see an indication of the length of time taken for different crime types to be assigned an outcome. Data are available for the last two years. Time, in days, is presented by median average as this measure is less susceptible to being skewed by a small number of unusually high or low values.

Findings are based on those forces that provide record-level data via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH) plus those "non-live" forces providing data of sufficient quality. The benefits and extent of the analysis continues to increase as the HODH continues to evolve and more forces provide good quality record-level data. As shown in Annex Table B1, the data for the year ending March 2017 relate to 39 forces, including the Metropolitan Police, so are likely to be representative of England and Wales.

In order to include outcomes that may have taken a long time to be assigned, the data presented in this chapter cover outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017 regardless of when the offence was initially recorded.

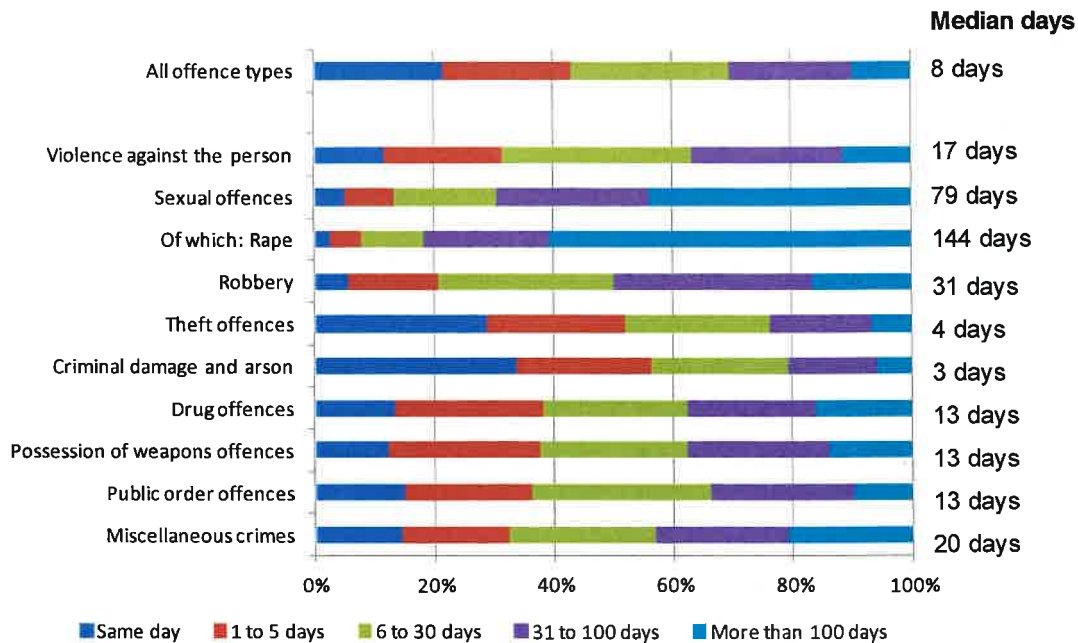
While this analysis gives an indication of the length of time to assign an outcome, it is affected by any delay between a force achieving an outcome and recording it on their system. In particular, for some of the outcomes that take 1-5 days to assign, the outcome may have been 'actioned' on the same day as the offence was recorded but implemented on the system at a later date. For example, cannabis warnings will almost always be issued at the time the offence comes to the attention of the police. However, the administration of assigning the outcome on the crime recording system may happen some days later.

5.2 – THE LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN OFFENCES AND OUTCOMES BEING RECORDED, BY OFFENCE TYPE

Figure 5.1 shows the median number of days between the police recording an offence and assigning an outcome to that offence, by offence group. In the year ending March 2017, it took a median of eight days to assign an outcome to an offence. Furthermore, 44 per cent of the outcomes were assigned within five days of the offence being recorded, and nearly three-quarters (70 per cent) of outcomes were assigned within 30 days. Ten per cent of outcomes took more than 100 days to be assigned.

Sexual offences generally took much longer to have outcomes assigned than other offence types. The median was 79 days, with 44 per cent taking over 100 days. The median number of days for rape offences to be assigned an outcome was 144 days, with 61 per cent taking over 100 days. This is likely to be due to the complexity of these cases and the level of investigation needed. In contrast, theft (4 days) and criminal damage and arson (3 days) were generally resolved much more quickly. In some cases, this reflects the nature of these types of offences, with the offender identified immediately. In other cases, this may represent the limited evidence available in investigating the crime (e.g. thefts, where there may be no CCTV, fingerprints or other evidence of the perpetrator).

Figure 5.1: The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded for outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017, by offence type



Source: Home Office Data Hub,

1. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables, which can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

Table 5.1 shows how the median length of time to assign an outcome to particular offence types has changed since the previous year.

The median number of days taken to assign an outcome in the year ending March 2017 has fallen by 3 days compared with the previous year. However, there is some variation by crime types:

- The median time for a sexual offence to be assigned an outcome has decreased from 80 days in the year ending March 2016 to 79 days in the year ending March 2017. However, rape offences increased from 138 days to 144 days during the same period. This could reflect an increase in the complexity of sexual offences being reported to and recorded by the police.
- Median days to assign an outcome also fell for robbery (3 days less), theft (3 days less), criminal damage (1 days less) and public order offences (3 days less).
- The median time taken to assign an outcome also increased over the last year for some offence types: drug offences (extra 3 days) and possession of weapon offences (extra 4 days).

The Children's Commissioner's Office published their report 'Investigating Child Sexual Abuse'¹⁷ in April 2017. They used data obtained from the Home Office Data Hub for 18 police forces for 2012/13 to 2015/16. They analysed this alongside national data from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). They reported that investigation processes take longer for child sexual abuse cases than for adult sexual offences. They noted that this may be due to the relative complexity of child sexual abuse offences.

¹⁷ <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Investigating-Child-Sexual-Abuse-CCO-April-2017-1.2-1.pdf>

Table 5.1: The difference in the average (median) length of time taken to assign an outcome between the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2017, by offence type

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes			
Median number of days for an outcome to be assigned			
	Y.e. March 2016	Y.e. March 2017	Difference between y.e. March 2016 and y.e. March 2017
Violence against the person	17	17	0
Sexual offences	80	79	-1
<i>of which: Rape</i>	138	144	6
Robbery	34	31	-3
Theft offences	7	4	-3
Criminal damage and arson	4	3	-1
Drug offences	10	13	3
Possession of weapons offences	9	13	4
Public order offences	16	13	-3
Miscellaneous crimes	20	20	0
All crimes (excluding fraud)	11	8	-3

Source: Home Office Data Hub, 40 forces (see Table C1), outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017 and outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017

1. Average number of days taken to assign an outcome calculated using the median number of days

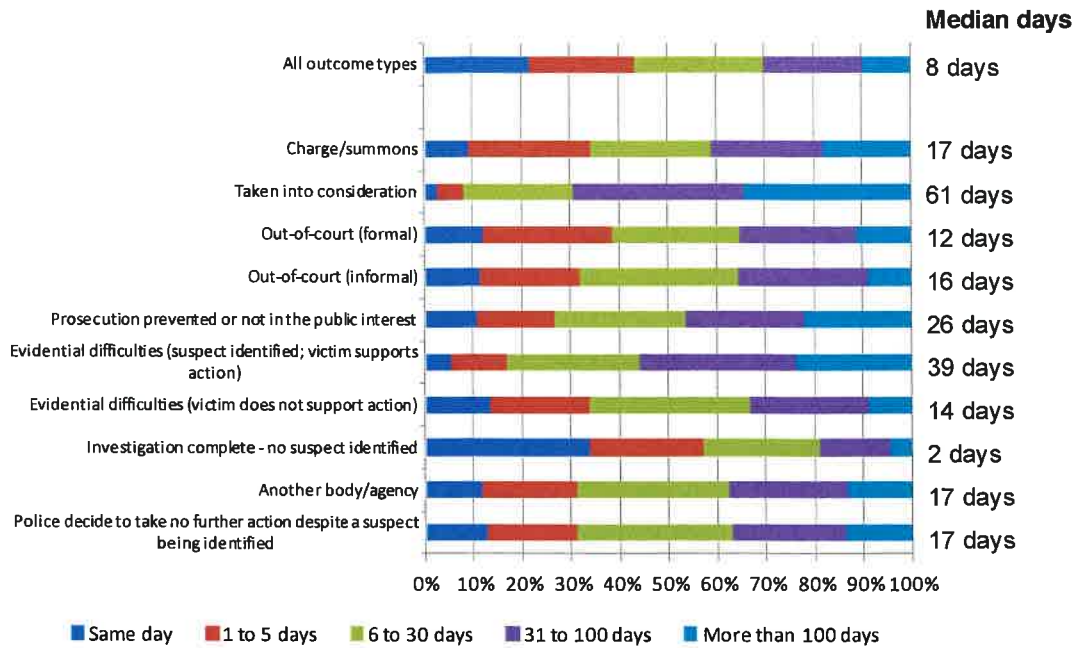
5.3 – THE LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN OFFENCES AND OUTCOMES BEING RECORDED, BY OUTCOME TYPE

Figure 5.2 shows how the time taken for a crime to have an outcome assigned varies by outcome type. Police forces employ different administrative systems and processes which could affect the amount of time taken to assign some outcomes. For instance some forces may only assign outcomes on their crime recording systems on Monday to Friday, which will affect crimes recorded at the weekend.

- Investigations completed with no suspect identified tended to be the outcomes assigned most quickly, taking a median of two days to be assigned in the year ending March 2017. Around a third of offences (34%) were assigned this outcome on the same day as the crime was recorded.
- Charge/summons took a median of 17 days to assign, with 34 per cent assigned within five days of the offence being recorded.
- Outcomes of 'taken into consideration' by the court generally took the longest to assign (a median of 61 days). This is expected as these arise where the offender admits to the crime some time after it took place.

228

Figure 5.2: The length of time between offences and outcomes being recorded for outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017, by outcome group



Source: Home Office Data Hub,

1. See Tables 1.1 and 1.2 for details of which outcome types are included in which groups

2. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables, which can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

Table 5.2 shows how the average (median) length of time to assign particular outcomes has changed since the previous year. Volume and type of crimes recorded by forces can change from one year to the next and this will have a bearing on the types of outcomes being assigned and the time taken to assign them.

In particular:

- In the year ending March 2017, it took an average of 17 days to assign a charge/summons, an increase from 14 in the previous year.
- The police took less time, on average, to close a crime without a suspect being identified in the year ending March 2017 (2 days) compared with the previous year (4 days).

Table 5.2: The difference in the average (median) length of time taken to assign an outcome between the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2017, by outcome group

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes			
Median number of days for an outcome to be assigned			
	Y.e. March 2016	Y.e. March 2017	Difference between y.e. March 2016 and y.e. March 2017
Charge/summons	14	17	3
Taken into consideration ²	65	61	-4
Out-of-court (formal)	10	12	2
Out-of-court (informal)	14	16	2
Prosecution prevented or not in the public int	27	26	-1
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victi	36	39	3
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support	16	14	-2
Investigation complete - no suspect identifiec	4	2	-2
Action undertaken by another body/agency ³	19	17	-2
Further investigation to support formal action	17	17	0
All crimes (excluding fraud)	11	8	-3

Source: Home Office Data Hub, 40 forces (see Table C1), outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017 and outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016

1. Average number of days taken to assign an outcome calculated using the median number of days.
2. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).
3. Differences between the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2017 are not available for outcome 20 (Action undertaken by another body/agency) or outcome 21 (Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest) as these outcomes were not introduced until April 2015 (outcome 20) and January 2016 (outcome 21).

6 Transferred or cancelled records

6.1 – DEFINITIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES FOR TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS

A transferred or cancelled record occurs when the police record an offence, but later determine that the crime did not take place, was recorded in error or should be transferred to another force. Cases where an incident was not recorded as a crime in the first place are not included. Offences may be transferred or cancelled in one of the following situations:

- 1 Transferred: Crime committed outside the jurisdiction of the police force in which it was recorded – passed to the appropriate force.
- 2 Cancelled: Additional verifiable information that determines that no notifiable crime occurred becomes available.
- 3 Cancelled: Duplicate record or part of a crime already recorded.
- 4 Cancelled: Crime recorded in error.
- 5 Cancelled: Self defence claimed (for specific recorded assaults).

In the statistics shown in this section, transferred or cancelled records are always recorded in the same financial year as the offence that was originally recorded. So if, for example, an offence was recorded in January and then subsequently transferred or cancelled in the next financial year (e.g. May), the transferred or cancelled record will be recorded for the previous financial year. This ensures that the total count of offences in any given year is correct.

The year ending March 2016 was the first time these breakdowns have been presented covering a full year's worth of data¹⁸. Prior to April 2015, all 43 police forces in England and Wales (including British Transport Police) supplied the total number of transferred and cancelled records to the Home Office as one combined category ("no-crimes"), with no further explanation of why the crime was classed as such. Therefore, a full comparison is only possible for the two most recent years. Comparing years before March 2016 can only be done by looking at the total of the five categories.

6.2 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS BY OFFENCE GROUP

Data on records that were transferred or cancelled in the year ending March 2017 are shown in Table 5.1. Overall, 3.2 per cent of crimes originally recorded in the year ending March 2017 were subsequently transferred or cancelled. Most of these (2.8%) were subsequently cancelled and 0.4 per cent of crimes were transferred to another police force.

These proportions varied considerably by offence group. The highest cancelled record rate was for possession of weapons (6 per cent), whilst the lowest was for robbery (1.5 per cent). The cancelled record rate for rape offences was 3.9 per cent.

The highest proportion of records transferred to another police force was for sexual offences (1.9 per cent in the year ending March 2017), with two percent of rape offences being transferred.

¹⁸ Northamptonshire were unable to provide a breakdown of transferred and cancelled records by type for the year ending March 2016.

Table 6.1: Number and proportion of transferred or cancelled records, by offence group, year ending March 2017

England and Wales, Recorded crime							
	Offences recorded	Transferred records	Cancelled records	Offences recorded ²	Transferred records as % of offences initially recorded	Cancelled records as % of offences initially recorded	Total transferred or cancelled records as % of offences initially recorded (all forces)
Violence against the person	1,205,634	5,533	32,675	1,167,426	0.5	2.7	3.2
Sexual offences	128,610	2,487	5,010	121,113	1.9	3.9	5.8
<i>of which: Rape</i>	43,741	870	1,721	41,150	2.0	3.9	5.9
Robbery	60,448	287	930	59,231	0.5	1.5	2.0
Theft offences	1,935,491	8,555	50,178	1,876,758	0.4	2.6	3.0
Criminal damage and arson	577,308	694	12,873	563,741	0.1	2.2	2.4
Drug offences	140,673	177	4,154	136,342	0.1	3.0	3.1
Possession of weapons offences	32,963	122	1,972	30,869	0.4	6.0	6.4
Public order offences	294,405	920	10,529	282,956	0.3	3.6	3.9
Misc. crimes against society	81,937	429	4,444	77,064	0.5	5.4	5.9
Total¹	4,501,210	20,074	124,486	4,356,650	0.4	2.8	3.2

1. Excludes fraud offences as responsibility for recording and transferring/cancelling these had transferred to Action Fraud by March 2013.

2. Transferred and cancelled records were formerly referred to as 'no-crimes'.

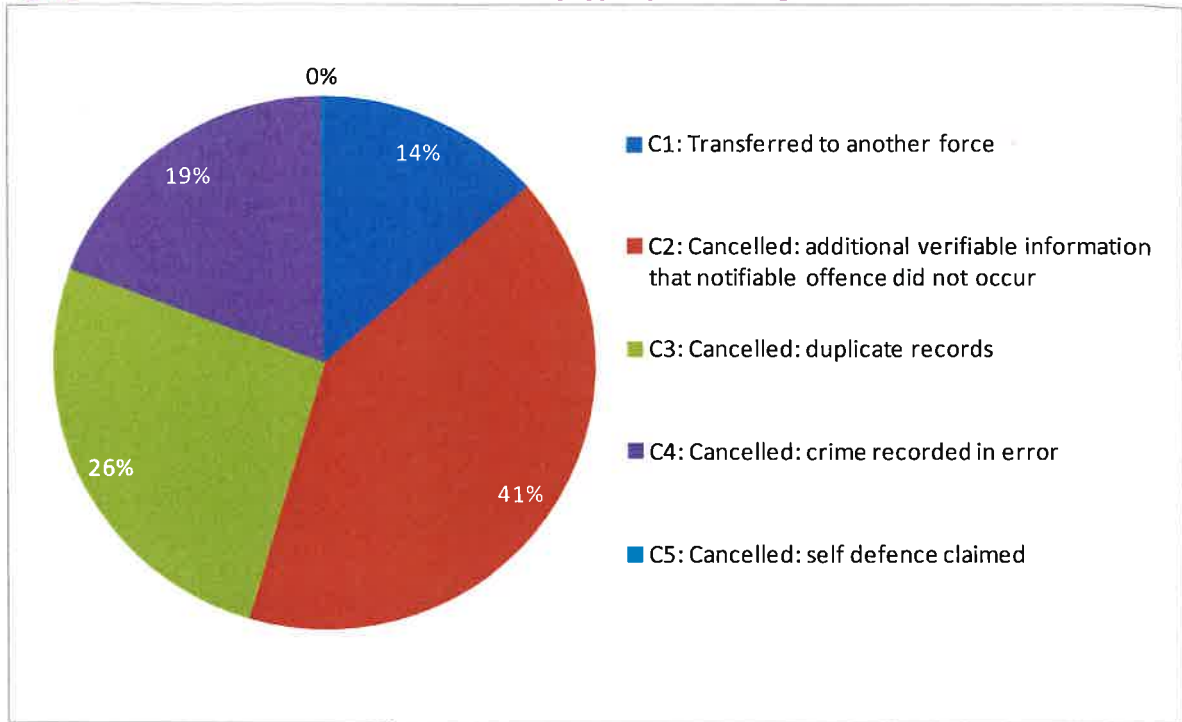
6.3 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS BY CATEGORY

Looking at the five categories of transferred and cancelled records; 40 per cent of the records that were either transferred or cancelled in the year ending March 2017 were cancelled because additional verifiable information became available that determined that no notifiable crime had been committed.

As shown in Figure 7.1, around a quarter (26%) were cancelled due to being duplicate records, around one-fifth (19%) were recorded in error and 14 per cent of records were transferred to another force. This is an increase from the previous year when only five per cent of offences were transferred to another force. Only a very small proportion (less than 0.5 per cent) of all transferred or cancelled records were crimes of assault that had been cancelled due to evidence that the offender acted in self-defence. Although these can only be applied to records initially recorded as specific assault offences, it also comprised a very small proportion of the volume of assaults recorded¹⁹.

¹⁹ The Metropolitan Police Service are unable to provide figures on the number of transferred and cancelled records that were cancelled due to self defence claimed. However, given the small proportion seen across all forces and the specific nature of when this type can be applied it would still be likely to be low overall.

232
Figure 6.1: Transferred or cancelled records by type, year ending March 2017



Source: *Police Recorded Crime, Home Office*

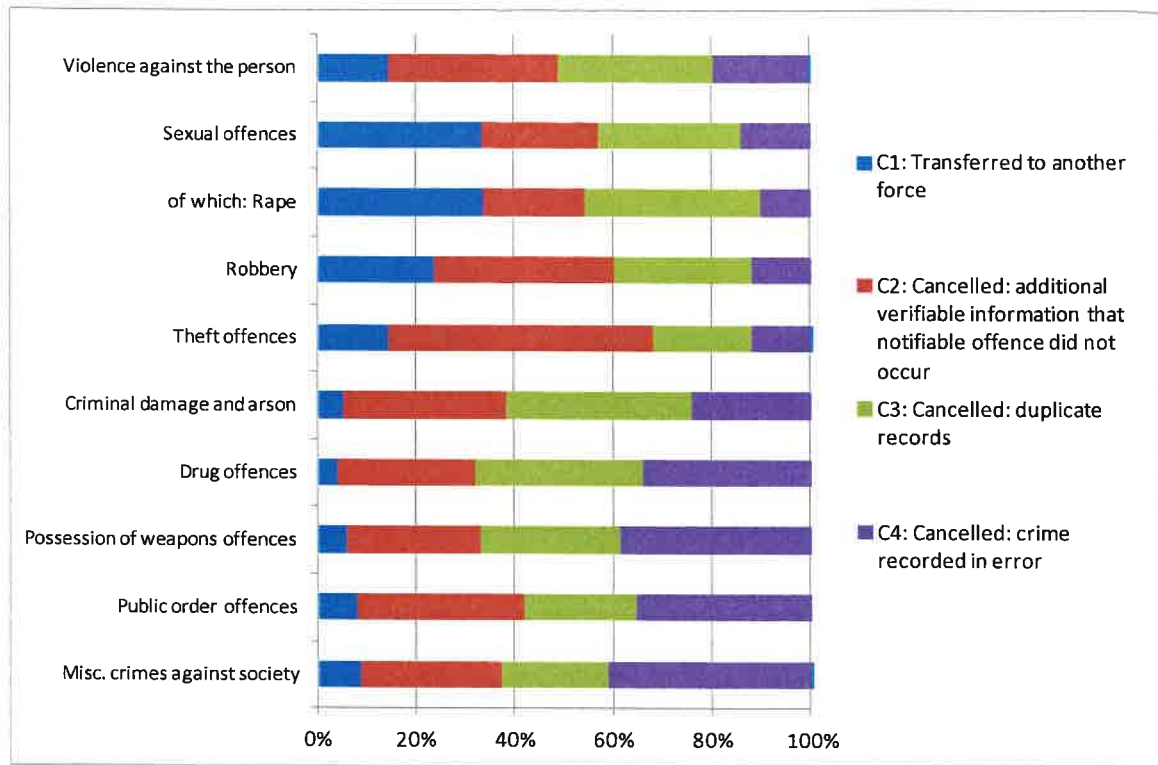
The offence group with the highest proportion of records that were transferred to another force was sexual offences (33% of all transferred and cancelled offences of this type).

The offence group with the highest proportion of crime records that were cancelled because additional verifiable information became available that determined that no notifiable crime had been committed was theft offences (53 per cent of theft records that had been transferred or cancelled). This may be due to the nature of the offence, whereby an item which is first recorded as stolen is subsequently found not to have been stolen or misplaced. Of all offence groups sexual offences had the lowest percentage of transferred or cancelled records due to additional verifiable information becoming available, at 24 per cent

Of all records that were transferred or cancelled in the year ending March 2017, 26 per cent were cancelled due to being a duplicate record. The main offence group with the highest proportion of these duplicate records was criminal damage and arson (37%) whilst the lowest proportion of duplicate records was seen for theft offences (20%).

The offence group with the highest proportion of transferred or cancelled records that were cancelled because they were recorded in error were miscellaneous crimes against society (41 per cent in the year ending March 2016), followed by possession of weapons (38%). This is in contrast to the proportions of transferred or cancelled records for sexual offences (14%), theft offences (12%) and robbery (12%) which were cancelled due to being recorded in error.

Figure 6.2: Transferred or cancelled records by type broken down by offence group, year ending March 2017



Source: *Police Recorded Crime, Home Office*

Only specific types of assaults can be cancelled due to evidence that the offence was acted in self-defence, and less than one per cent of all violence against the person offences were cancelled for this reason.

6.4 – TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Comparisons of transferred and cancelled records for the current and previous year are now possible for the first time.

Table 7.2 shows that 3.2 per cent of all offences that were initially recorded as crimes in the year ending March 2017 were subsequently transferred or cancelled, a slight decrease from 3.3 per cent in the previous year. In the year ending March 2017, the offence group with the highest proportion of offences that were transferred or cancelled was possession of weapons (6.4%). In the previous year, miscellaneous crimes against society had the highest proportion (7.5%). The lowest rates were seen for robbery offences (2.0% in the year ending March 2017 compared with 1.8% in the previous year).

The transferred or cancelled rate for rape offences in the year ending March 2017 was 5.9 per cent, a slight decrease from 6.1 per cent in the previous year.

234

Table 6.2: Number and proportion of transferred or cancelled records, by offence group, years

Year ending March:	England and Wales, Recorded crime							
	Offences initially recorded		Transferred or cancelled records		Offences recorded		Transferred or cancelled records as % of offences initially recorded	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Violence against the person	1,027,899	1,205,634	33,455	38,208	994,444	1,167,426	3.3	3.2
Sexual offences	112,725	128,610	6,347	7,497	106,378	121,113	5.6	5.8
of which: Rape	38,104	43,741	2,306	2,591	35,798	41,150	6.1	5.9
Robbery	51,861	60,448	957	1,217	50,904	59,231	1.8	2.0
Theft offences	1,817,324	1,935,491	57,019	58,733	1,760,305	1,876,758	3.1	3.0
Criminal damage and arson	553,102	577,308	13,193	13,567	539,909	563,741	2.4	2.4
Drug offences	152,543	140,673	4,986	4,331	147,557	136,342	3.3	3.1
Possession of weapons offences	27,397	32,963	1,895	2,094	25,502	30,869	6.9	6.4
Public order offences	213,945	294,405	9,329	11,449	204,616	282,956	4.4	3.9
Misc. crimes against society	68,424	81,937	5,092	4,873	63,332	77,064	7.4	5.9
Total¹	4,025,220	4,501,210	132,273	144,560	3,892,947	4,356,650	3.3	3.2

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

1. Excludes fraud offences as responsibility for recording and transferring/cancelling these had transferred to Action Fraud by March 2013.

2. Transferred and cancelled records were formerly referred to as 'no-crimes'

3. All police forces provided data on the total number of transferred and cancelled records

6.5 – COMPARING TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS

It is important to exercise caution when comparing transferred or cancelled records data across police forces and between years. A high or low number of transferred or cancelled records should not necessarily be interpreted positively or negatively, as different forces may use transferred or cancelled records in different ways and volumes may be affected by specific locations of forces (in particular for transferred records). Since April 2015, the Home Office Counting Rules have required the police to record a crime at the earliest opportunity, and at most within 24 hours after the reporting officer decides that a crime should be recorded (previously this was within 72 hours). This is likely to lead to an increase in the number of transferred and cancelled records. However, whilst one force may record all crimes immediately and then later transfer or cancel a more significant proportion of these, others may wait slightly longer to judge whether an offence constitutes a crime or not, and thus are likely to record fewer transferred or cancelled records overall. Transfers in particular are susceptible to local practices. Some forces record all reports as crimes and then transfer where necessary. Others, where it is apparent from the outset that a transfer will be needed, only record an incident and pass that detail on. As a result a firm conclusion should not be drawn when comparing transferred or cancelled record data across forces, as any differences seen may just reflect differences in recording practices. More details of this can be found in the HMIC reports mentioned above.

Additionally, some forces may deal more frequently with offence types that are more likely to be transferred or cancelled.

An additional online table showing transferred or cancelled record rates for crime types and forces can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2016-to-2017>

An Open Data table on transferred or cancelled records is also available, which shows transferred or cancelled record data by police force for each of the last five financial years. This is available here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables

ANNEX A Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017

A1 – INTRODUCTION

The outcome volumes and rates described in this chapter relate to outcomes recorded in a year regardless of when the associated crime was recorded. The volumes of outcomes recorded provide a useful indication of police activity in resolving crime.

Rates are calculated as the number of outcomes recorded in the year as a proportion of crimes recorded in the same year, which is how rates were presented before it was possible to link crimes with their outcomes. It is still useful to look at outcomes in this way as an additional measure of police activity in relation to crime.

Comparing the number of outcomes with the number of recorded offences in this way should be done with caution, as the outcomes do not relate precisely to the same period as the offences. Some of the outcomes will refer to offences that were recorded in previous years, and were allocated an outcome following completion of the investigation. Some crime types could show a rate of over 100 per cent against a particular outcome, which is sometimes the case for relatively low volume crimes.

Rates presented here are therefore illustrative rather than 'true' rates and can be influenced by changes in crime volumes. The analysis presented in chapter 2 offers a more meaningful representation of how a given set of crimes are resolved and become increasingly useful when repeated over time.

A2 – OUTCOMES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2017 BY OUTCOME TYPE AND OFFENCE GROUP

Table A1 shows the number of each outcome recorded by the police in the years ending March 2016 and March 2017 alongside the number of offences that were recorded during the same period. The outcome data are based on all outcome types recorded by the police during these years (see Table 1.1).

Table A1: Outcomes recorded in the years ending March 2016 and March 2017, by outcome type

Outcome number	Outcome type/group	England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes			
		Year ending March 2016		Year ending March 2017	
		Number of outcomes	Rate ²	Number of outcomes	Rate ²
1	Charged/Summoned	561,541	14.4	527,076	12.2
4	Taken into consideration ³	13,266	0.3	11,088	0.3
	Out-of-court (formal)	145,096	3.7	118,824	2.8
2	Caution - youths	18,364	0.5	15,711	0.4
3	Caution - adults	101,789	2.6	84,902	2.0
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	24,943	0.6	18,211	0.4
	Out-of-court (informal)	156,299	4.0	143,458	3.3
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	36,553	0.9	33,514	0.8
8	Community resolution	119,746	3.1	109,944	2.5
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	94,568	2.4	61,017	1.4
5	Offender died	1,343	0.0	1,285	0.0
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	9,218	0.2	3,483	0.1
10	Not in public interest (Police)	61,029	1.6	30,259	0.7
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	5,286	0.1	6,471	0.1
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	10,607	0.3	11,546	0.3
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	1,493	0.0	1,558	0.0
17	Prosecution time limit expired	5,592	0.1	6,415	0.1
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	381,788	9.8	448,866	10.4
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	534,346	13.7	743,569	17.2
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	131,224	3.4	173,084	4.0
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	403,122	10.4	570,485	13.2
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	1,924,214	49.5	2,123,533	49.2
20	Action undertaken by another body/agency	19,585	0.5	34,763	0.8
21	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest ⁴	1,299	0.0	37,789	0.9
Total recorded offences¹		3,888,053		4,315,500	

1. Excludes (outcomes for) fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.

2. Rate based on number of outcomes recorded in year divided by number of offences recorded in year.

3. Offences asked to be taken in to consideration by a court (TICs)

4. Outcome 21 was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis and became mandatory from April 2016.

As in the previous chapter, different outcome types are more common for different crime types, reflecting the variability of the crime in general, decisions made within forces and the guidance on outcomes given to police forces.

'Rates' can be influenced by changes in crime volumes for certain offence categories, as in-year comparisons pair outcomes with a different set of crimes and should therefore be treated as indicative only. The rates shown in Table 3.2 can be particularly difficult to interpret for those crime types that take longer to investigate and assign an outcome. Where crime volumes increase or decrease markedly from one year to the next, it is likely that any outcome rate will react more slowly.

A3 – OUTCOMES RECORDED IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2017 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

Table A2 shows a comparison of the volume of charge/summons recorded between the year ending March 2017 and the previous year.

The number of charge/summons fell six per cent compared with the previous year, whilst recorded crime increased by 11 per cent. In the same period the number of evidential difficulties outcomes recorded has increased by 30 per cent (Table A1).

Table A2: Number of offences and charge/summons recorded in the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2017, by offence group

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes						
	Number of offences		% change	Number of charge/summons		
	Y.e. March 2016	Y.e. March 2017		Y.e. March 2016	Y.e. March 2017	% change
	Violence against the person	992,366		1,167,426	17.6	177,817	167,812	-5.6
Sexual offences	106,131	121,113	14.1	17,668	15,844	-10.3
Robbery	51,110	59,231	15.9	8,315	7,817	-6.0
Theft offences	1,757,984	1,876,758	6.8	174,657	161,659	-7.4
Criminal damage and arson	539,439	563,741	4.5	43,279	39,120	-9.6
Drug offences	148,706	136,342	-8.3	57,476	52,953	-7.9
Possession of weapons offence	25,626	30,869	20.5	14,481	15,594	7.7
Public order offences	204,259	282,956	38.5	46,088	44,753	-2.9
Misc. crimes against society	62,432	77,064	23.4	21,630	21,524	-0.5
Total¹	3,888,053	4,315,500	11.0	561,411	527,076	-6.1

1. Excludes (outcomes for) fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.

2. Police recorded crime data are published by the Office for National Statistics

Annex B: Crime Outcomes Data Quality

B1 - INTRODUCTION

In January 2014, the UK Statistics Authority published its assessment of ONS crime statistics. It found that statistics based on police recorded crime data, assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, did not meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The UKSA published a list of requirements for these statistics to regain the National Statistics accreditation.

Some of the requirements of this assessment were to provide more detail on how data sources were used to produce these statistics, along with more information on the quality of the statistics. Additionally, there was also a requirement to provide information on the process used by police forces to submit and revise data, and the validation processes used by the Home Office. In order to ensure that this publication meets the high standards required by the UK Statistics Authority, details are provided below.

B2 – DATA QUALITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Home Office receives monthly data from police forces on crime, crime outcomes and records that were initially recorded as crimes and subsequently transferred to another police force or cancelled. These data are quality assured and analysed by Home Office statisticians and any anomalies or errors identified through this process result in a report being returned to the relevant force for validation or correction.

Prior to the publication of crime outcomes a verification exercise is carried out with all forces. The data held by the Home Office are returned to individual forces asking for confirmation that the data accords with that held on their own systems and to highlight any perceived inconsistencies in their data. Again, forces resubmit data if required.

The Ministry of Justice has been working with the Home Office, the Crown Prosecution Service and the National Police Chiefs' Council to deliver a project to make the use of out-of-court disposals for adult offenders more effective. In November 2014, as part of this project, three police forces (Leicestershire, Staffordshire and West Yorkshire) commenced a 12 month pilot operation of a simplified model of such outcomes (West Yorkshire Police adopted a phased roll out starting in November 2014 and fully operational in January 2015). All three forces, with the agreement of Ministers, voluntarily stopped issuing adult simple cautions (part of outcome 3) and cannabis / khat warnings (outcome 7) and limited their use of penalty notices for disorder (outcome 6), instead using the adult conditional caution (part of outcome 3) and the community resolution (outcome 8). The rules and guidance that apply to conditional cautions and community resolutions have been amended for those three forces to reflect this new approach. These three pilot forces have continued to operate in accordance with the pilot conditions since the pilot ended in November 2015. Some other forces have subsequently also limited their use of some out of court disposals. This may lead to apparent falls in some of these outcome types (e.g. cannabis/khat warnings) which may be accompanied by increases in outcomes 3 and 8 which will have been used in their place.

B3 – DATA SOURCES USED: AGGREGATED CRIMSEC4 RETURNS

Police recorded crime data are supplied to the Home Office by the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. For 9 forces, the year ending March 2017 crime and outcomes data were supplied to the Home Office in an aggregated return (Crimsec4 form) on a monthly basis. In this return, data on outcomes and transferred or cancelled records (formerly referred to as 'no-crimes') are collected alongside recorded crime data for each crime within the notifiable offence list. Notifiable offences include all offences that could possibly be tried by jury (these include some less serious offences, such as minor theft that would not usually be dealt with this way) plus a few additional closely-related summary offences dealt with by magistrates, such as assault without injury.

The monthly data are cumulative, such that each month's return will contain the data for the financial year to date. When a police force wants to make revisions to this data, they usually do this in the latest monthly return, rather than re-sending a return for the period affected. The exception to this rule is when the revisions affect a previous financial year. In these cases the police force will re-send an end of year return for that year.

Outcomes are recorded on the Crimsec4 form in the month that the outcome is applied, and not the month in which the original offence occurred. For example, if an offence occurred in January and a suspect was subsequently charged in June, the outcome would be recorded in June. This means that the data on outcomes for a given month (presented in Chapter 3) do not correspond to the data on offences in that month, or even the same year. However, in the years ending March 2016 and March 2017, the Home Office made an additional request to forces to capture outcomes that relate to the period the crime was recorded (see Section C5), and these data are presented in Chapter 2.

The latest outcomes to be introduced, outcome 20 (since April 2015) and outcome 21 (since January 2016), and the five sub-categories for transferred and cancelled records are not included on CrimSec4 forms and are instead collected via an additional manual collection on a quarterly basis.

Transferred or cancelled records are recorded in the year in which the original offence was recorded. This is to ensure that the total offences for each year are correct, i.e. a transferred or cancelled record for a previous financial year does not get included in the current year, and falsely lower the total number of offences recorded in the current year.

B4 – DATA SOURCES USED: THE HOME OFFICE DATA HUB

The Home Office Data Hub (HODH) allows police forces to provide record-level detail on offences, vastly increasing the opportunities for the analysis of police recorded crime data. At the time of publication, there were 37 forces providing their monthly crime, outcomes and transferred or cancelled records data solely via the HODH, with the majority of the remaining forces in the 'parallel running' phase, where they are sending data both via the Crimsec4 form and via the HODH, with a view to switching exclusively to the HODH soon. The Home Office are continuing to work with these forces to help them with this transition, and are committed to achieving a fully operational HODH.

B5 – DATA SOURCES USED: VOLUNTARY RETURNS

For forces providing record level data via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH; see section C4), it is possible to analyse how crimes recorded in the year ending March 2017 were dealt with by linking individual outcomes with the offence to which they were assigned (Chapter 2).

As not all forces are currently able to provide data via the HODH, the Home Office requested that all other forces voluntarily provide these data separately on a quarterly basis in order to capture data from as many forces as possible. All forces provided these for year ending March 2017.

The data for the year ending March 2017 that are presented in Chapter 2 therefore covers all 44 police forces (including the British Transport Police) and is based on HODH data for 34 forces and figures voluntarily provided by forces ten forces (see Table C1). Data for year ending March 2017 were taken from the HODH in early June 2017, and the remaining forces voluntarily provided their data for year on different dates between early-April and mid-June 2017. The proportion of crimes recorded in March 2017 that had been assigned an outcome at the time of submitting data to the Home Office is likely to be smaller for a force that sent their data return in early April 2017 than for a force that provided this in May or June, as there had been less time for these offences to be investigated and the outcomes to be assigned. These dates will therefore have an impact on the overall proportion of crimes still under investigation and comparability between forces. For example, the proportion of crimes recorded in March 2017 that had been assigned an outcome at the time of submitting data to the Home Office is likely to be smaller for a force that sent their data return in early April 2017 than for a force that provided this in May, as there had been less time for these offences to be investigated and the outcomes to be assigned.

Chapter 2 also presents updated data for the year ending March 2016. Updated figures for the year ending March 2016 reflect the fact that crimes have had an additional year in which to be assigned an outcome.) Forces voluntarily provided these data to the Home Office on different dates. Of the forces that provided year ending March 2016 data, 39 updated these alongside data for the year to March 2017. The 5 forces that did not revise data may appear to have fewer than expected outcomes assigned during year to March 2016,

240

B6 – WHICH FORCES' DATA ARE INCLUDED

Table C1 shows which forces' data are included in which sections of which chapter and which time periods are covered. This is displayed alongside the proportion of total crime recorded by the police in the year ending March 2016 (see Section C8) that was accounted for by each individual force.

Table B1: Forces providing outcomes data

Force	Outcomes of offences recorded in period (Chapter 2)			Full data on outcomes recorded (Annex A)	Timeliness data (Chapter 5)		% of March 2017 recorded crime
	Force data included from ¹	How y.e. March 2016 data provided ^{2,3}	How y.e. March 2017 data provided ²	Full outcomes data (types 5, 9-18) from ⁴	Force data included for y.e. March 2017	Force data included for comparison with y.e. March 2016	
Avon and Somerset	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	No	No	3.1
Bedfordshire	Jul-14	HODH	HODH	Jul-14	Yes	Yes	1.0
British Transport Police	Apr-15	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.2
Cambridgeshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.2
Cheshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.5
Cleveland	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.2
Cumbria	Apr-15	Manual	Manual	Aug-14	Yes	Yes	0.6
Derbyshire	Apr-14	HODH	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	1.2
Devon and Cornwall	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.0
Dorset	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.0
Durham	Apr-14	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.1
Dyfed-Powys	Oct-14	Manual	Manual	May-14	Yes	Yes	0.5
Essex	Apr-15	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	2.8
Gloucestershire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.7
Greater Manchester	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	6.1
Gwent	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.0
Hampshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	3.5
Hertfordshire	Jul-14	Manual	HODH	Jul-14	Yes	Yes	1.7
Humberside	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.8
Kent	Apr-14	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	3.1
Lancashire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.5
Leicestershire	Apr-15	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	No	No	1.6
Lincolnshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.9
London, City of	Apr-14	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.1
Merseyside	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.6
Metropolitan Police	Dec-14	Manual	HODH	Dec-14	Yes	Yes	17.8
Norfolk	Jul-14	Manual	Manual	Jul-14	Yes	Yes	1.2
Northamptonshire	Apr-14	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.3
Northumbria	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.9
North Wales	Apr-14	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.9
North Yorkshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.9
Nottinghamshire	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.9
South Wales	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.3
South Yorkshire	Jul-14	Manual	HODH	Jul-14	Yes	Yes	2.8
Staffordshire	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.8
Suffolk	Jul-14	Manual	N/A	Jul-14	No	No	1.1
Surrey	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.5
Sussex	Apr-14	Manual	Manual	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	2.4
Thames Valley	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	3.2
Warwickshire	Apr-15	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	0.9
West Mercia	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.9
West Midlands	Apr-14	HODH	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	4.8
West Yorkshire	Jul-14	HODH	HODH	Jun-14	Yes	Yes	5.5
Wiltshire	Apr-15	Manual	HODH	Apr-14	Yes	Yes	1.0

1. Forces' data for Chapter 2 have been included between the months shown. Six forces did not provide data for year to March 2015.

2. Twenty-four forces submitted updated year to March 2016 data to the Home Office alongside data for the year to March 2017. The further 19 forces that did not revise these data may appear to have fewer than expected outcomes assigned during year to March 2016.

3. 'HODH' means force submitted record-level data via the Home Office Data Hub; 'Manual' means force completed a spreadsheet

4. Forces were able to provide data covering outcome types 5, 9-18 (and 20 from April 2015) from the months shown onwards. As such, data for outcomes recorded in year ending March 2017 covers all outcome types for all forces.

B7 – DATA VALIDATION PROCESSES

As data are collected from police forces on a monthly basis, the Home Office carry out a series of routine checks and feed the results of these back to police forces. These checks include:

- Looking for any offences where there have been a large number of transferred or cancelled records since the previous month;
- Looking for any large or unusual changes in offences, outcomes or transferred or cancelled records from the previous month;
- Looking for cases where forces have provided data against an offence classification that no longer exists (e.g. the former fraud classifications);
- Comparing offence types and outcome types against the long term trend, to spot any outliers in the monthly data;
- Looking at where cautions (outcomes 2 and 3) have been assigned to rape offences and these are then queried with Force Crime Registrars;
- Checking that outcome 17 has not been applied to any offence which does not have a time limit.
- Checking that outcome 7 has not been applied to any non-cannabis or khat offences.

Any outliers or anomalies are usually small. Police forces are then asked to investigate these anomalies and either provide an explanation or resubmit figures where an error has occurred. Where resubmission is required, the force will usually just correct the errors in the latest monthly submission, rather than re-send all of the months in question. In the case of forces providing data via the HODH, the force will send modified versions of the affected records. These then supersede the original versions.

B8 – POLICE RECORDED CRIME DATA

The police recorded crime data used in this bulletin are supplied by police forces to the Home Office, and are then published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in "Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2017":

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

Statistics on crimes recorded by the police that appear in "Crimes in England and Wales: Year ending March 2017" are based on notifiable offences. These include all offences that could possibly be tried by jury (including some less serious offences, such as minor theft, that would not normally be dealt with in this way) plus a few closely related summary offences, i.e. heard only by magistrates, such as assault without injury. For a list of all notifiable offences please see Appendix 1 of the ONS User Guide:

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/methodologies/crimeandjusticemethodology

In accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, statistics based on police recorded crime data have been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The full assessment report can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-268--statistics-on-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf

Recorded crime statistics provide important context to outcomes statistics, and are quoted where relevant in this bulletin.

B9 – FURTHER INFORMATION ON CRIME OUTCOMES

Care needs to be taken when making comparisons of crime outcomes between police forces. In some cases making any such comparisons may be misleading, given that different police forces use outcomes in different ways and will have a different mix of crimes to deal with. For example, some police forces may implement more community resolutions than others, depending on their approach, the nature of the crimes they deal with and the views of their communities. For example, a force that

deals with a disproportionately high number of drug offences may apply a different mix of outcomes compared with a force that deals with a higher proportion of violent offences.

For further information on the background to crime outcomes and the development of the full outcomes framework please refer to Annex A of "Crime Outcomes in England and Wales, 2014/15".

Table B2: Trends in the number of outcomes and outcome rates by outcome type, year ending March 2003 to year ending March 2017

Outcome type	England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes																
	Ye. Mar 2004	Ye. Mar 2005	Ye. Mar 2006	Ye. Mar 2007	Ye. Mar 2008	Ye. Mar 2009	Ye. Mar 2010	Ye. Mar 2011	Ye. Mar 2012	Ye. Mar 2013	Ye. Mar 2014	Ye. Mar 2015	Ye. Mar 2016	Ye. Mar 2017	Ye. Mar 2016 to Ye. Mar 2017	% change	
Charges/summons (Type 1)	752,069	698,640	700,101	673,714	657,230	681,472	651,757	658,713	633,985	584,600	602,390	596,396	561,541	527,076	100,613	-16.3	
Cautions (Types 2 & 3)	220,005	257,783	304,461	351,244	351,552	313,702	264,873	232,355	205,760	183,658	164,084	143,801	120,153	100,613	11,088	-16.4	
TICs ¹ (Type 4)	88,204	88,386	103,363	111,328	99,021	96,875	76,244	71,896	63,898	55,197	40,959	23,557	13,266	18,211	33,940	-27.0	
PND ^{2,3} (Type 6)	3,045	35,919	105,594	139,666	128,978	108,240	102,699	86,010	73,759	59,869	48,098	33,940	24,943	33,514	36,553	-8.3	
Cannabis/khat Warnings ³ (Type 7)	40,138	62,586	80,653	80,653	103,804	107,241	87,332	80,659	77,933	69,240	62,725	46,662	36,553	33,514	36,553	-12.0	
Other ^{4,5,6} (Types 5, 8 & 9)	284,320	265,721	191,187	80,770	911	2,931	7,244	10,375	53,322	66,907	109,255	125,215	130,307	114,712	114,712	11.0	
Total number of offences⁷	5,843,549	5,476,771	5,425,691	5,322,377	4,881,140	4,630,383	4,265,036	4,078,475	3,903,581	3,553,168	3,506,545	3,573,963	3,888,053	4,315,500	4,315,500	11.0	
																% point change	
Charges/summons (Type 1)	12.9	12.8	12.9	12.7	13.5	14.7	15.3	16.2	16.2	16.5	17.2	16.7	14.4	12.2	14.4	-2.2	
Cautions (Types 2 & 3)	3.8	4.7	5.6	6.6	7.2	6.8	6.2	5.7	5.3	5.2	4.7	4.0	3.1	2.3	3.1	-0.8	
TICs ¹ (Type 4)	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.2	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	-0.1	
PND ^{2,3} (Type 6)	0.1	0.7	1.9	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.6	-0.2	
Cannabis/khat Warnings ³ (Type 7)	..	0.7	1.2	1.5	2.1	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.9	-0.2	
Other ^{4,5,6} (Types 5, 8 & 9)	4.9	4.9	3.5	1.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.4	1.9	3.1	3.5	3.4	2.7	3.4	-0.7	

- Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).
- Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) were introduced in several police forces in the year ending March 2004 and nationally in the year ending March 2005.
- Cannabis Warnings for possession of cannabis were introduced in the year ending March 2005. Since 26 January 2009, Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) can also be given for an offence of cannabis possession. Up to the end of March 2009 such PNDs were counted in the same category as Cannabis Warnings. Cannabis warnings include a small number of community resolutions for possession of cannabis in the year ending March 2013.
- From 1 April 2007, new rules governing these outcomes significantly limited the occasions on which they could be applied.
- Includes data on Youth Restorative Dispositals (YRDs) submitted to the Home Office from pilots in eight police force areas (Avon and Somerset, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Metropolitan Police, Norfolk, North Wales, Nottinghamshire). The pilot was introduced in the year ending March 2009.
- Includes community resolution and restorative justice data submitted on a voluntary basis by some police forces in the years ending March 2012 and March 2013. These data were then submitted by almost all police forces in the year ending March 2014 and all forces from the year ending March 2015.
- Total number of recorded crimes, whether assigned an outcome or not. Excludes (outcomes for) fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.
- The number of crimes assigned an outcome divided by total number of recorded offences.
- Data for the years ending March 2003 to March 2013 contains some estimated data on 'making off without payment' offences, following the creation of a back series of data on these outcomes (see notes page).
- Data for Outcomes 10-18 are not presented as these were not collected in previous years.

Notes

For full details on the transition from the regime of detections (in existence until April 2013) to the outcomes framework, please see "Crimes Outcomes in England & Wales, 2013/14":

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014

Outcomes Framework

Detections were revised to become the outcomes framework from April 2013. The purpose of the revision was:

- To **strengthen police discretion** by recognising the full range of possible disposals, including community resolutions, rather than incentivising police officers to pursue a particular outcome because it is perceived as 'better' than others. This will empower officers to exercise their professional judgement to ensure that offenders are dealt with by the most appropriate disposal available, in the knowledge that no one outcome is favoured over others – the emphasis should shift from hitting targets to appropriateness.
- By strengthening police discretion, the framework should in turn help to **promote a more victim-oriented approach**, focused on providing a better service to victims of crime by removing perverse incentives for forces to record and pro-actively pursue certain crimes on the basis of locally-set detection targets, and encouraging police officers to consider the needs of victims, and the potential for engaging them in the process.
- To **further increase transparency** in policing, and trust in national statistics, by providing the public with a richer picture of crime, and how it is dealt with in their area. This broader set of information can be used as a tool by which the public can hold the police to account, and as a basis for constructive engagement between communities, the police, and police and crime commissioners. By giving every crime an outcome, we will help the public understand – and therefore support or challenge – police activity.

General Rules section H of the [Home Office Counting Rules](#) (HOCR) contains information on recording outcomes. For Home Office purposes, all recorded crimes are assigned one of the following outcome types:

Outcome 1: Charge / Summons: A person has been charged or summonsed for the crime (irrespective of any subsequent acquittal at Court).

Outcome 1A [introduced in April 2016, voluntary]: Charge / Summons – alternative offence: A person has been charged or summonsed for the crime, but following the application of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) charging standards and the provisions of the HOCR, the charge/summons relates to an alternative offence to that recorded (irrespective of any subsequent acquittal at court).

Outcome 2: Caution – youths: A youth offender has been cautioned by the police.

Outcome 2A [introduced in April 2016, voluntary]: Youth Caution – alternative offence: A youth offender has been cautioned by the police, but following the application of the CPS charging standards and the provisions of the HOCR, the caution relates to an alternative offence to that recorded.

Outcome 3: Caution – adults: An adult offender has been cautioned by the police.

Outcome 3A [introduced in April 2016, voluntary]: Adult Caution – alternative offence: An adult offender has been cautioned by the police, but following the application of the CPS charging standards and the provisions of the HOCR, the caution relates to an alternative offence to that recorded.

Outcome 4: Taken into Consideration (TIC): The offender admits the crime by way of a formal police interview and asks for it to be taken into consideration by the court. There must be an interview where the

246

suspect has made a clear and reliable admission of the offence and which is corroborated with additional verifiable auditable information connecting the suspect to the crime.

Outcome 5: Offender died: The offender has died before proceeding could be initiated.

Outcome 6: Penalty Notices for Disorder: A Penalty Notice for Disorder (or other relevant notifiable offence) has been lawfully issued under Section 1 – 11 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

Outcome 7: Cannabis/Khat Warning: A warning for cannabis or khat possession has been issued in accordance with College of Policing guidance. Note: Khat warnings were introduced from 24 June 2014 and numbers are likely to be small.

Outcome 8: Community Resolution: A Community Resolution (with or without formal Restorative Justice) has been applied in accordance with College of Policing guidance.

Outcome 9: Not in public interest (CPS): Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS decision). The CPS by virtue of their powers under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 decides not to prosecute or authorise any other formal action.

Outcome 10: Not in public interest (Police) (from April 2014): Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (Police decision).

Outcome 11: Prosecution prevented – suspect under age (from April 2014): Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility.

Outcome 12: Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill (from April 2014): Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute.

Outcome 13: Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill (from April 2014): Named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence

Outcome 14: Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified: victim does not support further action (from April 2014): Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect not identified. The crime is confirmed but the victim declines or is unable to support further police action to identify the offender.

Outcome 15: Evidential difficulties (suspect identified: victim supports action) (from April 2014): Evidential difficulties named suspect identified – the crime is confirmed and the victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action. This includes cases where the suspect has been identified, the victim supports action, the suspect has been circulated as wanted but cannot be traced and the crime is finalised pending further action.

Outcome 16: Evidential difficulties: suspect identified: victim does not support further action (from April 2014): Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect identified. The victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action.

Outcome 17: Prosecution time limit expired (from April 2014): Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired (from April 2014).

Outcome 18: Investigation complete –no suspect identified (from April 2014): The crime has been investigated as far as reasonably possible – case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available.

Outcome 19: National Fraud Intelligence Bureau filed (NFIB only) (from April 2014): A crime of fraud has been recorded but has not been allocated for investigation because the assessment process at the NFIB has determined there are insufficient lines of enquiry to warrant such dissemination.

Outcome 20: Action undertaken by another body/agency (from April 2015): Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency other than the police, subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the action being taken.

Outcome 21: Not in the public interest – suspect identified (from January 2016) Further investigation resulting from the crime report that could provide evidence sufficient to support formal action being taken against the suspect is not in the public interest – police decision.

New outcomes introduced from April 2016

It is possible for a crime to be recorded and for the suspect to be charged or cautioned but for that charge or caution to be for an offence other than that recorded.

The recording standards reflect the law and in reaching charging decisions the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) set out a range of standards and guidance that both they themselves and the police, in cases where the police are the charging decision makers, must follow. These standards may frequently dictate that an alternative is to be charged to that recorded. For example, an assault may be recorded as a crime of Actual Bodily Harm (because that is the offence in law committed) but the CPS will direct that the offence to be charged is one of Common Assault.

Therefore, in April 2016 three new outcomes were introduced on a voluntary basis until they become mandatory in April 2017. These outcomes reflect where the charge/summons (outcome 1A), youth caution (outcome 2A) or adult caution (outcome 3A) relates to an alternative offence to that recorded.

References

The Home Office (2016), "Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2015/16", and subsequent quarterly data tables. Available at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-statistics

Office for National Statistics (2017), "Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2017".

Available at:

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

Office for National Statistics (2017), "User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales".

Available at:

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/methodologies/crimeandjusticemethodology

UK Statistics Authority (2014) "Assessment Report 268". Available at:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-268---statistics-on-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf

Statistical Bulletins are prepared by staff in Home Office Statistics under the National Statistics Code of Practice and can be downloaded from GOV.UK:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/statistics

ISBN: 978-1-78655-418-5

ISSN: 1759-7005



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Home Office

Crime outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2018

Statistical Bulletin HOSB 10/18

July 2018

Important information

Before April 2013, official statistics about how the police deal with crimes focused narrowly on 'detections' (the number of cases resolved with a charge, caution, etc.). In April 2013, the Home Office introduced the new outcomes framework and changed the presentation of crime outcomes statistics. From April 2014 onwards, police forces have supplied data to the Home Office on the broader set of outcomes. The year to March 2014 bulletin¹, published in July 2014, showed the first provisional statistics from the new outcomes framework. We have since developed the statistics with input from police forces and users.

We continue to ensure that these crime outcomes statistics:

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

The statistics in this bulletin are designated as Official Statistics, rather than National Statistics.

In January 2014, the UK Statistics Authority found that police recorded crime statistics did not meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The full assessment report against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-268---statistics-on-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf

In July 2014, the Home Office Chief Statistician and the UK Statistics Authority Head of Assessment agreed to badge the year to March 2014 Crime Outcomes bulletin as Official Statistics, rather than National Statistics. This reflects the move to the new outcomes framework, and also the possibility that outcomes data are affected by similar issues to those that led to the de-designation of police recorded crime statistics.

Full details are available here:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/letter-from-david-blunt-to-ed-humpherson---090714.pdf

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/letter-from-ed-humpherson-to-david-blunt---150714.pdf

It is our intention that the statistics will be assessed, with a view to them gaining National Statistics status in due course.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014

Further information

Previous years' "Crime Outcomes in England and Wales" bulletins, are available from:
www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-statistics

Copies of other Home Office publications (including crime statistics releases prior to April 2012) are available from:
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/crime-statistics#publications

Copies of crime statistics publications from April 2012 are available from the Office for National Statistics website: www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

This includes the *User Guide to Crime Statistics*, a useful reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications that are key to the production and presentation of the crime statistics.

The dates of forthcoming publications are pre-announced and can be found via the Gov.uk Statistics Release Calendar: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements

For further information about crime outcomes statistics, please email:
CrimeandPoliceStats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or write to:
Crime and Policing Statistics, 6th Floor, Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

Home Office Responsible Statistician

John Flatley, Programme Director of Crime and Policing Statistics
Contact via CrimeandPoliceStats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

This statistical bulletin is produced to the highest professional standards and is free from political interference. It has been produced by statisticians working in the Home Office Crime and Policing Statistics Section in accordance with the Home Office's [Statement of Compliance](#) with the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*, which covers our policy on revisions and other matters. The Chief Statistician, as Head of Profession, reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters and oversees all Home Office National and Official Statistics products with respect to the Code, being responsible for their timing, content and methodology.

Contents

	Page
Contents	4
Lists of figures and tables	5
Executive summary	8
1 Introduction	10
1.1 Overview	10
1.2 The full outcomes framework	10
1.3 Outcome groupings in this bulletin	10
1.4 Supplementary data tables	11
2 Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2018	12
2.1 Introduction	12
2.2 How outcomes vary by outcome type	12
2.3 How outcomes vary by offence group	13
2.4 Longer-term trends in how crimes are resolved	17
3 The time gap between offences recorded and outcomes being assigned	18
3.1 Timeliness by outcome type	18
3.2 Change in time to assign outcomes compared to previous years	19
4 How offences flagged as domestic abuse were dealt with by the police	22
4.1 Introduction	22
4.2 How domestic abuse offences were dealt with by the police by outcome type	22
4.3 Trends in how domestic abuse offences were dealt with by the police	23
5 Outcomes assigned to fraud offences in the year to March 2018	25
5.1 Introduction	27
5.2 Fraud disseminations and outcomes in the year ending March 2018 – Headline findings	27
5.3 Outcomes recorded against fraud offences by outcome type	27
5.4 Disseminations and outcomes by police force area	29

5.5	Future work on fraud outcomes.....	31
Technical Annex.....		32
A1	Overview.....	32
A2	The crime outcomes framework.....	32
	A2.1 Fraud outcomes.....	34
	A2.3 Domestic Abuse outcomes.....	34
A3	Outcomes definition and methodology.....	34
A4	Timeliness.....	36
A5	Transferred and cancelled records.....	37
	A5.1 Overview.....	37
	A5.2 Definitions and methodology.....	37
	A5.3 Comparing transferred and cancelled records.....	37
A6	Crime outcomes data quality.....	38
	A6.1 Introduction.....	38
	A6.2 Data quality considerations.....	38
	A6.3 Crime outcomes data sources.....	38
	A6.4 Data Validation processes.....	40
	A6.5 Further information on crime outcomes.....	40
References.....		42

List of figures

1	Introduction.....	10
2	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017.....	12
Figure 2.1	Outcome proportions by outcome group and offence group.....	14
3	The time gap between offences recorded and outcomes being assigned.....	18
Figure 3.1	The time taken for outcomes to be assigned for offences broken down by offence groups.....	18
Figure 3.2	The time taken for sexual offences to receive an outcome, broken down by the type of outcome given to the crime.....	19
4	How offences flagged as domestic abuse were dealt with by the police.....	22

Figure 4.1	Proportions of outcomes assigned to domestic abuse-related offences and offences not domestic abuse-related recorded in the year ending March 2018	23
Figure 4.2	Outcomes assigned to domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 (as first published) and the year ending March 2018, by outcome group	24
5	Outcomes assigned to fraud offences in the year ending March 2018.....	25
Figure 5.1	How fraud outcomes are recorded	26
Technical Annex		32

List of tables

1	Introduction	10
Table 1.1	Grouping the outcomes framework from April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-21).....	11
2	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017	12
Table 2.1	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 and March 2018, by outcome type and group	13
Table 2.2	Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2018, by outcome group and offence group	16
3	The time gap between offences recorded and outcomes being assigned	18
Table 3.1	The difference in the average (median) length of time taken to assign an outcome between the year ending March 2017 and the year ending March 2018, by offence type	20
Table 3.2	The difference in the average (median) length of time taken to assign an outcome between the year ending March 2017 and the year ending March 2018, by outcome group	20
4	How offences flagged as domestic abuse were dealt with by the police	22
5	Outcomes assigned to fraud offences in the year ending March 2018.....	25
Table 5.1	Number of fraud offences and disseminations, year ending March 2017 and year ending March 2018	27
Table 5.2	Fraud outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017 and the year ending March 2018, by outcome type	28
Table 5.3	Fraud outcomes recorded and disseminated offences in the year ending March 2018	30

Technical Annex **32**

Table A1.1 Detection types prior to April 2013 and the outcomes frameworks in place
 thereafter..... **33**

Executive Summary

OVERVIEW

This bulletin is based on the full outcomes framework introduced in April 2014. Under this framework, every crime recorded by the police will eventually get a police outcome. This shows how the police deal with all crimes, and those still under investigation.

KEY FINDINGS

How the police dealt with crimes recorded in the year ending March 2018:

- Police forces closed almost half (48%) of offences with no suspect identified, a similar proportion to last year. This proportion varied by crime type. Three quarters (75%) of theft offences were closed with no suspect identified, compared with around 7 per cent of rape offences and 2 per cent of drugs offences.
- The proportion of crimes which resulted in a charge/summons fell by two percentage points, from 11% to 9% (equivalent to an annual reduction of 41,215). This continues a downward trend seen since the introduction of the Outcomes framework in year ending March 2015 when 15% of crimes were resolved with a charge/summons.
- Conversely, the proportion of offences that resulted in evidential difficulties increased from 26 per cent to 29 per cent. This is likely to be partly due to improved crime recording processes by the police which according to the Office for National Statistics is a factor that has contributed to the increase in police recorded crime.
- A further factor is likely to be the changing crime mix with rising numbers of complex crimes such as sexual abuse, and an increasing volume of digital evidence which may require more intensive work to investigate.

How long it took for offences recorded in the year ending March 2018 to get a police outcome:

The length of time it took police forces to assign an outcome to a crime varied. It depended on the offence type and the type of outcome.

- It took police forces an average of 6 days to assign the outcomes they recorded in the year ending March 2018, a decrease of 2 days compared to the year to March 2017.
- As in previous years, there was considerable variation by type of offence. Sexual offences took the longest time to assign an outcome (median of 73 days) and theft and criminal damage/arson the least (median of 2 days).
- The median length of time for investigations to be closed with no suspect identified fell from 2 days to 1 day.

How the police dealt with domestic-abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2018:

- Higher proportions of domestic abuse-related offences received a charge/summons than those that were not domestic abuse-related (15% and 9% respectively).
- Almost 7 out of 10 (69%) of domestic-abuse related offences had an evidential difficulties outcome. This is almost three times higher than the proportion of offences that were not domestic abuse-related (24%).
- The proportion of domestic abuse-related offences assigned a charge/summons decreased (from 18% to 15%) compared with the previous year. Conversely, the proportion of offences that resulted in the category "evidential difficulties - victim does not support action" increased (up from 41% to 48%)

Outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2018 for fraud offences:

The bulletin contains a) data on the number of fraud offences disseminated nationally and by police force area level and b) data on the number of outcomes based on the full outcomes by police force area level.

- There were 638,882 fraud offences recorded in the year end March 2018 which were reviewed by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) for possible investigation and enforcement action.
- There is no direct correlation between offences disseminated and outcomes. Outcomes assigned during 2017/18 could be for offences disseminated prior to year. Investigations can take months or longer to complete.
- Of fraud offences disseminated to the police there was an increase of 3 per cent in the number give an outcome of charge summons in the year to March 2018 compared with the year to March 2017.

259-

1 Introduction

1.1 – OVERVIEW

This bulletin reports on outcomes that police forces have assigned to offences recorded by the police. It covers the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police.

In April 2013, the Home Office introduced the new outcomes framework, replacing 'detections'. This new framework provides greater transparency on how **all** crimes recorded by the police are dealt with. The previous 'detections' gave a partial picture of the work police do to investigate and resolve crime. This resulted in performance targets, which risked driving perverse crime recording decisions. It may also have undermined the victim-focused approach set out in the crime recording standard².

As well as this annual publication, the Home Office also publishes quarterly outcomes tables. These are published here www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-statistics.

For more detailed background on the outcomes framework and how it was developed, see Annex A6: Crime Outcomes Data Quality.

1.2 – THE FULL OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

The Home Office introduced the outcomes framework in April 2013. Since then it has developed to cover a broader range of outcome types for police forces to use. Annex table A1.1 shows how the current outcomes framework builds on former outcome and detection types. Detailed descriptions of each outcome type, can be found in the technical annex.

While police forces will eventually give an outcome to every crime, this may take some time. At any given point, police forces will be undertaking crime investigations to which they will not yet have assigned an outcome. Police forces will therefore submit revised data to the Home Office as investigations are completed.

1.3 – OUTCOME GROUPINGS IN THIS BULLETIN

Some of the tables and charts in this bulletin show grouped outcomes to simplify presentation. For transparency, Open Data tables are also published that show the full range of police outcomes. These are accessible from: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables.

Table 1.1 shows the groupings. These take account of user feedback following a consultation in 2014.

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/counting-rules-for-recorded-crime

Table 1.1: Grouping the outcomes framework from April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-21)

Outcome Group	Outcome type(s)
Charged/Summoned	1
Taken into consideration	4
Out-of-court (formal)	2, 3, 6
Out-of-court (informal)	7, 8
Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	15
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	14, 16
Investigation complete – no suspect identified	18
Action undertaken by another body/agency (from April 2015)	20
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest (police decision) (from January 2016)	21

Note: outcome 19 not shown as this applies to fraud offences recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau only

See technical annex A6.5 for detailed descriptions of each outcome type.

1.4 – SUPPLEMENTARY DATA TABLES

The bulletin chapters below discuss key topics of interest in the outcomes data. Data presented in these chapters as both charts and tables is available online via bulletin tables published on the Home Office website. In addition to the tables found in a main bulletin, a number of supplementary tables are available here which provide additional data on the topics discussed, plus data on areas not covered. Data on transferred and cancelled records, and "old-style" outcomes (see Technical Annex for explanation of the two outcome styles) are also published here. Supplementary data tables for this publication can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2017-to-2018>

2 Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2018

2.1 - INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers how the police have dealt with crimes recorded in the year ending March 2018. It should be noted that not all offences recorded have yet to be assigned final outcomes. A complete picture of how crimes have been resolved by the police will become available in updated tables which are published on a quarterly basis. The recording of fraud offences has been centralised via Action Fraud (the UK's national fraud and cyber-crime reporting centre) and for this reason outcome for these offences are not included in the data presented in Chapters 2, 3 or 4. Outcomes for fraud offences are covered in Chapter 5.

When comparing crime outcomes data over time it is important to consider the broader context and changing crime caseloads. In 2014, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary published a critical national thematic report on crime recording which revealed significant under-recording of crimes that had been reported by victims to the police. This has been followed by a programme of rolling inspections of forces to examine compliance with the Home Office Crime Recording standards. This has led to improved compliance and increased caseloads as more crimes are (correctly) recorded than in previous years. In addition, the Office for National Statistics have commented that some of the increases in the lower volume but more serious categories of crime (such as homicide and knife crime) may be genuine. In addition, it is thought that more victims of sexual offences and domestic abuse have been willing to come forward to report crimes to the police than has happened in the past.

As a result, the volume of the crime caseload being dealt with by the police has grown. In addition, there is evidence to suggest that the crime mix has changed in recent years with rising numbers of complex crimes like sexual abuse, child abuse and domestic abuse. The increasing volume of digital evidence (which may require more intensive work to investigate) across a wide spectrum of offences from harassment to sexual offences may also be an issue. At the same time, many forces have adopted local policies to prioritise the use of investigative resources.

These factors are likely to have an impact on the distribution of outcomes over time and across forces.

2.2 – HOW OUTCOMES VARY BY OUTCOME TYPE

Table 2.1 summarises outcomes given to all crimes recorded in the year to March 2018 at the time that data was finalised for analysis (June 2018). It also shows how this compares with outcomes given to crimes recorded in the previous year. For comparability, we present outcomes for the year to March 2017 as they appeared when first published in July 2017³.

As was the case last year, almost half of offences (48%) were closed with no suspect identified. However, this varied considerably by offence type (see figure 2.1 and table 2.2).

A slightly higher proportion of offences than last year resulted in evidential difficulties (29%). This is nearly three percentage points higher than last year (26%) and most of the increase was due to cases where suspects had been identified, but the victim did not want further action to be taken.

This affected the charge/summons rate, which fell by two percentage points from 11% to 9% (equivalent to a drop of 41,215 charge/summons). There was also a drop in the number and proportion of offences resolved through out of court resolutions. This was seen across the range of out of court outcomes but the largest volume reductions were in the use of adult cautions (down by 0.6% or 17,043) and Community Resolutions (down by 0.4% or 7,940).

Other outcomes were in similar proportions to last year, and around 6% of cases in both years were still outstanding at a similar time of analysis. However, given the increased volume of crime being dealt with by the police, a similar proportion yielded a higher number of cases not yet assigned an

³ Published open data tables show the current picture for March 2017 data which have had a further 12 months for an outcome to be applied, see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables>

outcome at year end March 2018 (around 46,000 higher than the previous year). Longer-term trends are examined in section 2.3 below.

Table 2.1: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2017 and March 2018, by outcome type and group

Outcome number	Outcome type/group	England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes			
		Proportion of offences recorded in period: ²		Volume of offences recorded in period: ²	
		Year to March 2017 (as first published in July 2017) ^{3,4}	Year to March 2018 ⁵	Year to March 2017 (as first published in July 2017) ^{3,4}	Year to March 2018 ⁵
1	Charged/Summonsed	11.2	9.1	483,932	442,717
4	Taken into consideration⁶	0.2	0.1	8,941	6,758
	Out-of-court (formal)	2.6	1.8	112,172	87,597
2	Caution - youths ⁴	0.3	0.2	13,868	11,139
3	Caution - adults ⁴	1.9	1.3	80,651	63,608
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	0.4	0.3	17,653	12,850
	Out-of-court (informal)	3.2	2.6	137,214	127,587
7	Cannabis/Khat warning	0.8	0.6	32,738	31,051
8	Community resolution	2.4	2.0	104,476	96,536
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	1.3	1.3	56,418	62,461
5	Offender died	0.0	0.0	1,076	1,819
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	0.1	0.0	2,629	2,112
10	Not in public interest (Police)	0.7	0.6	28,290	29,917
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	0.1	0.2	6,064	7,623
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	0.3	0.2	10,987	11,909
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill	0.0	0.0	1,605	1,716
17	Prosecution time limit expired	0.1	0.2	5,767	7,365
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	9.3	8.9	401,555	434,500
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	16.7	20.0	721,406	975,333
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	3.9	4.6	167,515	226,125
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	12.8	15.4	553,891	749,208
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	47.7	47.5	2,059,076	2,316,610
20	Action undertaken by another body/agency	0.8	0.9	32,613	46,195
21	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest⁷	0.9	1.4	37,960	67,025
Total offences assigned an outcome (type 1-18, 20, 21)		93.9	93.6	4,051,287	4,566,783
Offences not yet assigned an outcome		6.1	6.4	264,213	310,217
Total offences¹		100.0	100.0	4,315,500	4,877,000

1. Year to March 2017 and year to March 2018 exclude fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces. Outcome 19 not shown as this applies only to fraud offences recorded by the NFIB.

2. Proportions show the percentage of crimes recorded in the year receiving each outcome.

3. Based on data from all 44 forces covering the full year to March 2017. Of these, 3 forces did not submit updated year to March 2017 data to the Home Office for this publication. These forces may therefore appear to have fewer than expected outcomes assigned during that period as their numbers have not been updated since first published. See Table A for details.

4. Proportions as at the time data were provided to the Home Office.

5. Based on data from all 44 forces.

6. Offences asked to be taken in to consideration by a court (TICs).

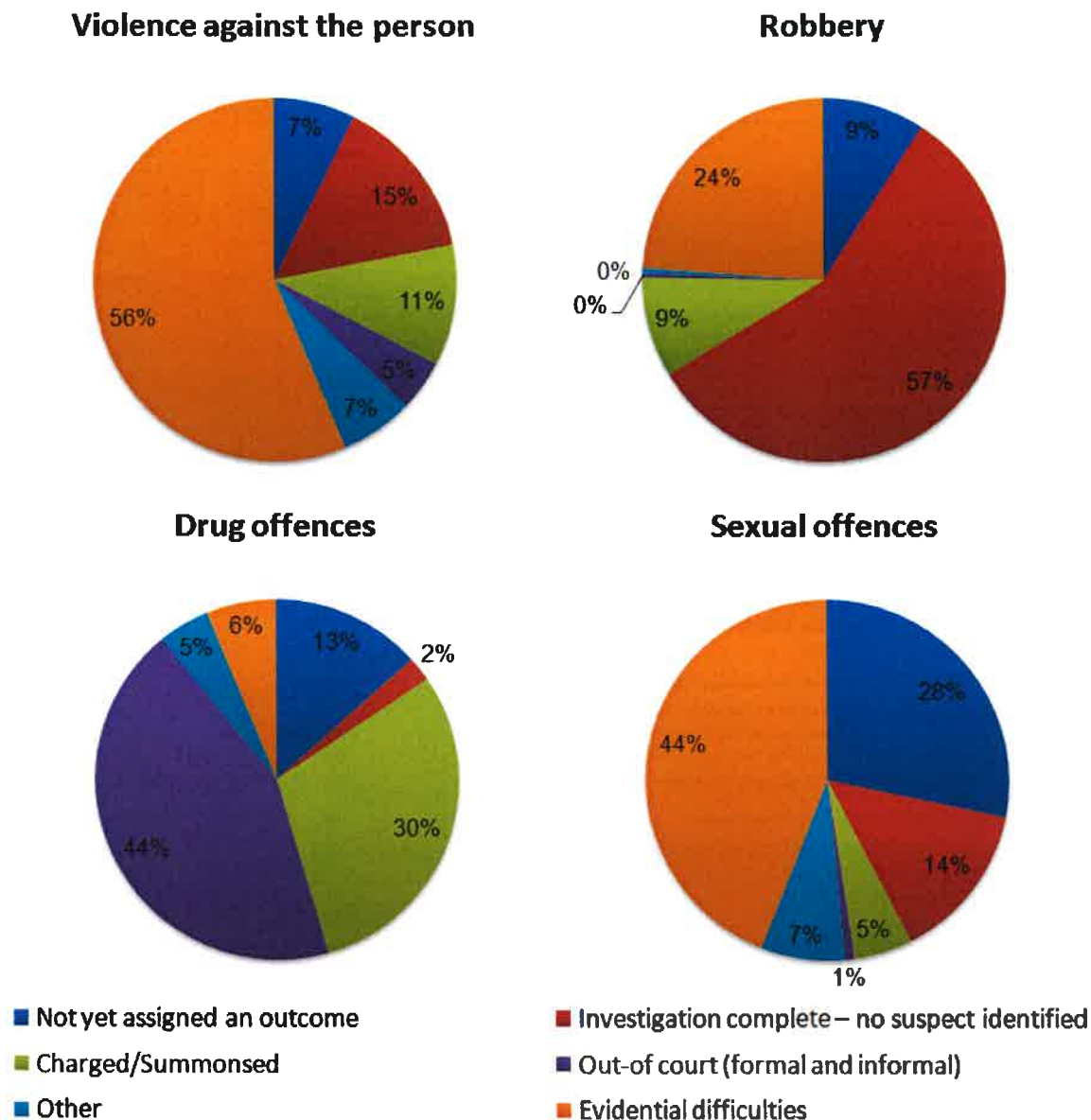
7. Outcome 21 was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis and became mandatory from April 2016.

2.3 – HOW OUTCOMES VARY BY OFFENCE GROUP

How crimes are resolved vary considerably by the type of offence committed and reflect factors such as nature of the offence, differing police force priorities and the varying challenges in gathering evidence. For example, it will be far more difficult to identify a suspect for a criminal damage offence that was not witnessed or caught on CCTV than for a drug possession offence where the police apprehended the offender when the crime came to their attention. Similarly, an offence where substantial forensic evidence exists will be easier to proceed with than one where such evidence does not exist. The willingness of victims or witnesses to engage with the police can also vary by type of offence.

The variation in outcomes across offence groups is highlighted by the differences in the four offences illustrated in Figure 2.1 (a fuller breakdown of can be found in Table 2.2).

Figure 2.1: Outcome proportions by outcome group^{1,2,3} and offence group. See Table 2.2 for a more detailed breakdown including all offence and outcome types.



Source: Home Office Data Hub (HODH) and voluntary spreadsheet return

1. Other outcomes include "Taken into consideration", "Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest", "Action undertaken by another body/agency" and "Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest"
2. Out-of-court (formal and informal) outcomes include cannabis/khat warnings, community resolutions, cautions for youths and adults and penalty notice for disorder.
3. Evidential difficulties outcomes include

In the four offence groups illustrated, around three quarters of drug offences received either a charge/summons or an out-of-court outcome (44%) or charge/summons (30%). Out-of-court outcomes, such as cautions and Community Resolutions, are typically used for dealing with less serious offences; however, the suspect has to admit guilt for the out-of-court outcome to be applied.

However, within the overall category of drug offences there was a difference between how possession of cannabis and other drugs were resolved⁴. Cannabis possession had a charge rate of 23% with 60%

⁴ See <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables>

of these offences receiving out of court outcomes (of which 38% were cannabis/khat warnings). In contrast, for other drugs the charge rate was higher (43%) and there was much less use of out-of-court outcomes (8%). For drugs possession offences, the overall charge rate and out-of-court outcome rate are both driven by outcomes for possession of cannabis (81,765 offences in 2017/18) which is much more prevalent than other drugs (26,918 offences in 2017/18). It should also be noted that different police forces have differing approaches to using out-of court outcomes. For example, Lancashire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire do not use cannabis/ khat warnings for possession of cannabis offences, deciding to use Community Resolutions instead.

While three-quarters of drug offences resulted in either a charge/summons or an out of court disposal, the other three offences illustrated in Figure 2.1 had much lower rates. For example, robbery had a much higher rate of offences which resulted in no suspect being identified (57%). Given the nature of the offence, victims of robbery may not be able to provide much information about offenders and there may not be good evidence available to identify a suspect if they weren't caught on CCTV and there is no other evidence.

Sexual offences were most likely to have not yet been assigned an outcome (28%) reflecting the greater complexity of investigations for such offences and the extended time required to assign an outcome compared with many other crime types (see chapter 3). This contributed to the low proportion of sexual offences with a charge/summons (5%). Other contributory factors included a higher than average proportion of cases assigned to one of the evidential difficulties categories. For example, in around a third of rape offences (34%) cases were closed because the victim did not support further police action against a suspect. Conversely, given the nature of the crime, sexual offences had much lower level of suspects not identified (14% compared with an average of 47% for all offences).

Violence against the person offences were most likely to result in victims not supporting police action (41%). The unwillingness of victims to support police action contributes to the overall low charge rate for violence offences (11%). Unwillingness of victims to support action was more likely to be a factor in cases involving domestic abuse (see Chapter 4). Violence against the person is a broad offence group covering a wide spectrum of offending from homicide and serious violent crime through to lower volume assault, and stalking. Outcomes varied within this offence group. For example, the charge/summons rate for assault with injury offences was nearly twice as high as that for assault without injury (12% and 7% respectively). Most of this difference was accounted for by victims of assault without injury not supporting police action.

Malicious communications offences accounted for 11% of all recorded violence against the person offences in the year end March 2018 but had one of the lowest charge/summons rates (at 3%). In part this reflected a higher proportion of cases that resulted in no suspect being identified (22%) and in victims not supporting police action (46%).

Table 2.2: Outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the year ending March 2018, by outcome group and offence group

Offence group	Charged/summonsed	Taken into consideration (TICs) ²	Out-of-court (formal) ³	Out-of-court (informal) ⁴	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest ⁵	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim action) ⁶	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action) ⁶	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	Action undertaken by another body/agency	Further investigation to support public interest ⁷	Offences not assigned yet	England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes	
												7.1	7.2
Violence against the person	10.7	0.0	2.1	2.4	2.3	15.4	40.9	14.6	2.4	1.8	7.3	28.3	6.4
Sexual offences	5.2	0.0	0.5	0.4	2.5	15.7	28.3	14.2	2.8	2.1	28.3	28.3	6.4
of which: Rape	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	15.0	34.3	7.1	1.1	0.3	37.9	37.9	6.4
Robbery	8.9	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	6.5	17.4	57.2	0.1	0.1	9.1	9.1	6.4
Theft offences	6.6	0.3	0.8	1.4	0.4	4.2	6.6	75.0	0.1	0.7	3.9	3.9	6.4
Criminal damage and arson	5.5	0.0	1.5	2.3	0.8	5.2	12.6	67.4	0.2	0.6	3.8	3.8	6.4
Drug offences	29.9	0.0	15.1	28.6	2.3	5.8	0.4	2.2	0.3	2.0	13.4	13.4	6.4
Possession of weapons offences	39.6	0.0	6.1	4.8	3.6	14.3	6.8	11.0	0.8	3.0	10.0	10.0	6.4
Public order offences	10.9	0.0	2.0	2.1	1.8	12.8	30.9	30.5	0.4	2.9	5.7	5.7	6.4
Misc. crimes against society	17.1	0.1	1.7	2.4	2.3	14.4	19.6	17.9	3.1	7.1	14.4	14.4	6.4
Total year to March 2018	9.1	0.1	1.8	2.6	1.3	8.9	20.0	47.5	0.9	1.4	6.4	6.4	6.4

1. Year to March 2018 data exclude fraud offences. Fraud offences are now recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) rather than police forces.
 2. Offences asked to be taken into consideration by a court (TICs).
 3. Includes caution - adults; caution - youths; Penalty Notices for Disorder.
 4. Includes cannabis/khat warnings and community resolutions.
 5. Includes not in the public interest (CPS); Not in public interest (Police); Offender Died; Prosecution prevented (suspect under age; suspect too ill; victim/key witness dead/too ill); Prosecution time limit expired.
 6. Includes evidential difficulties where the suspect was/was not identified and the victim does not support further action.
 7. Outcome 21 (Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest) was introduced from January 2016 on a voluntary basis and became mandatory from April 2016.
 8. Proportions show the percentage of crimes recorded in the year receiving each outcome.

2.4 – LONGER TERM TRENDS IN HOW CRIMES RESOLVED

Since the introduction of the crime outcomes framework there has been a downward trend in the proportion of charge/summons applied within the same year that the crime is recorded (falling from 15% to 9%). There has also been a growing proportion of cases recorded where victims do not support police action (from 9% to 20%). These two trends are likely to have been influenced by the changing caseload and crime mix being dealt with by the police. On-going work has improved the recording of crime by police forces which has both increased the volume forces are dealing with and changed the crime mix to include more complex cases, such as sexual offences and domestic abuse, which can be more challenging to resolve. At the same time, while more crimes are now being reported to the police by victims in a growing proportion of cases the victim either doesn't support further action or police are unable to contact them. A more detailed time series of outcomes since the new framework was introduced for the year end March 2015 can be found in Table 2.3 in the online bulletin tables⁵.

Key questions – why are charge rates falling? And why are the numbers of charges falling despite increases in police recorded crime?

The charge/summons rate for offences recorded in the year to March 2018 currently stands at 9%, compared with 11% when corresponding data for year end March 2017 was first published. Additionally, the volume of charges is falling, from 483,932 to 442,717 for offences (a 9% fall). This reduction has occurred at the same time as the volume of crimes (excluding fraud) recorded by the police has risen (from 4.3 million to 4.9 million). Along with a growing caseload, there is evidence to suggest that a higher proportion of crimes being recorded are in offence types which are the most challenging to investigate. For example, the number of recorded sexual offences has increased by 24% in the latest year, from 121,450 to 150,732. This means that the caseload has both grown and become more complex.

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2017-to-2018>

3 – The time gap between offences recorded and outcomes being assigned

This section aims to demonstrate the previously raised point that some crimes are more complex to investigate than others, particularly rape and sexual offences. This can mean it takes more time to assign an outcome to an offence after initial recording.

In order to include outcomes that may have taken a long time to assign, the data presented in this chapter cover outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2018, regardless of when the offence was initially recorded. Time, in days, is presented by median average as this measure is less susceptible to being skewed by a small number of unusually high or low values.

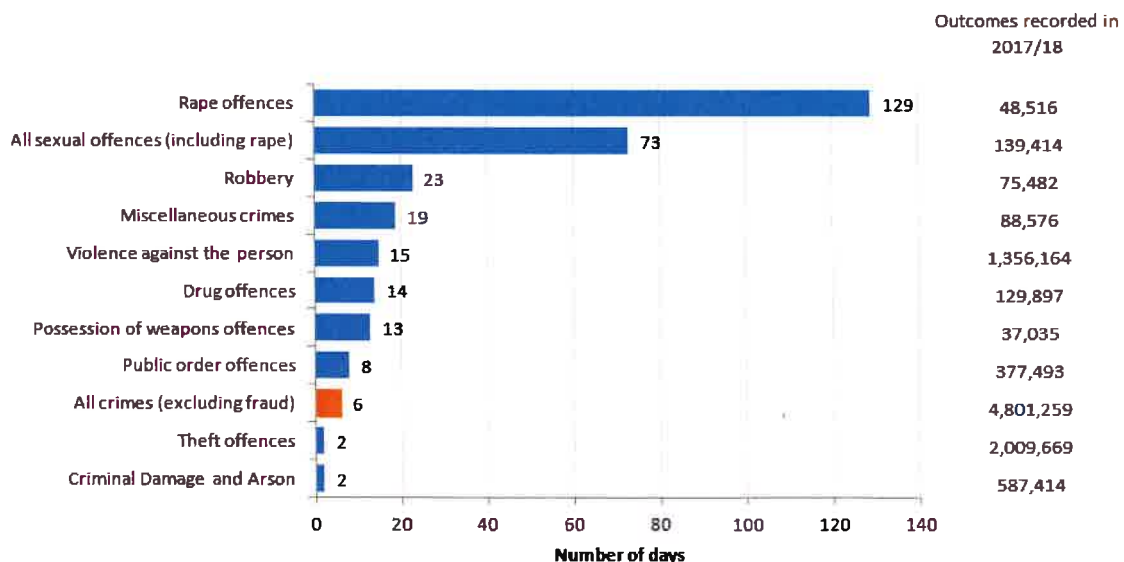
3.1 – TIMELINESS BY OFFENCE AND OUTCOME TYPE

In the year ending March 2018, it took an average of 6 days to assign an outcome to an offence. Furthermore, nearly half (47.3%) of all outcomes were assigned within five days of recording the offence, and close to three quarters (71.3%) within 30 days. A detailed breakdown of time taken to assign outcomes to offences by offence type is in supplementary table S3.1 in the online bulletin tables⁶.

More insightful analysis can be made by breaking down overall figures by offence and outcome types, as shown in Figure 3.1 below:

Figure 3.1: The time taken for outcomes to be assigned for offences broken down by offence groups.

For context, the volume of crimes in each category recorded in 2017/18 is included on the right hand side of the chart.



Source: Home Office Data Hub

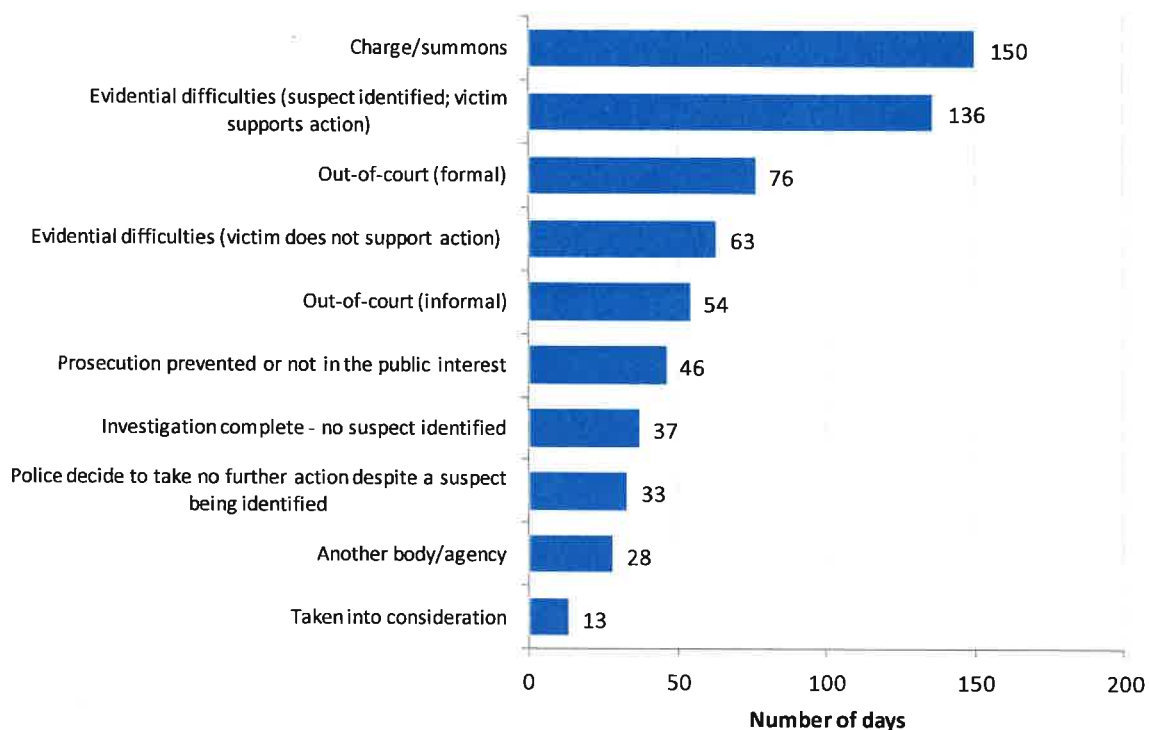
Sexual offences generally took much longer to have outcomes assigned than other offence types. The median was 73 days, with 41 per cent taking over 100 days. For rape offences, a subset of sexual offences, the median average for an outcome to be assigned was 129 days, with 56 per cent taking over 100 days. The length of time reflects the sensitive nature and complexity of investigating sexual offences.

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2017-to-2018>

In contrast to sexual offences, theft offences and criminal damage and arson offences took an average of 2 days for outcomes to be assigned. This reflects the nature of these types of offences, whereby police identify offenders immediately, or evidence to locate a suspect is unavailable (e.g. no CCTV).

A detailed breakdown of the amount of time for sexual offences to receive an outcome by the type of outcome applied is presented in Figure 3.2. This shows that charges and summons for sexual offences take the longest amount of time to be assigned, at an average of 150 days.

Figure 3.2 The time taken for sexual offences to receive an outcome, broken down by the type of outcome given to the crime. The average length of time taken for a sexual offence to be given a charge outcome is 150 days, over twice as long as the overall average.



3.2 – CHANGE IN TIME TO ASSIGN OUTCOMES COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS

Table 3.1 shows how the median length of time to assign an outcome to particular offence types has generally decreased in the year ending March 2018 compared to the year ending March 2017. Theft offences were resolved 50% more quickly in the latest year compared to the previous year. This may reflect the fact that some police forces have recently said they will only investigate thefts if the goods are over a certain value (Sources: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-41633205> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42492488>). Only drug offences have shown an increase in median days for an outcome to be assigned to an offence, from 13 days in the years ending March 2017 to 14 days in the year ending March 2018.

Overall, there has been a 25% reduction in the time for outcomes to be assigned, from 8 days in the year ending March 2017 to 6 days in the year ending March 2018. This continues a downward trend in time taken for outcomes to be assigned, from a peak of 11 days in the year ending March 2016. In part, this may reflect growing familiarity with the new framework as the new approach to resolving outcomes has bed-in.

269.

Table 3.1: The difference in the average (median) length of time taken to assign an outcome between the year ending March 2017 and the year ending March 2018, by offence type

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes				
Median number of days for an outcome to be assigned				
	Y.e. March 2016	Y.e. March 2017	Y.e. March 2018	Difference between y.e March 2017 and y.e March 2018
Violence against the person	17	17	15	-2
Sexual offences	80	79	73	-6
of which: Rape	138	144	129	-15
Robbery	34	31	23	-8
Theft offences	7	4	2	-2
Criminal Damage and Arson	4	3	2	-1
Drug offences	10	13	14	1
Possession of weapons offences	9	13	13	0
Public order offences	16	13	8	-5
Miscellaneous crimes	20	20	19	-1
All crimes (excluding fraud)	11	8	6	-2

Source: Home Office Data Hub, outcomes recorded in the years ending March 2016, March 2017 and March 2018

Table 3.2 shows how the average length of time to assign particular outcomes has changed since the previous year. The time taken to charge someone increased from 17 days in the year ending March 2017 to 18 days in the year ending March 2018. The time taken for investigations to be closed with no suspect identified decreased from 2 days in the year ending March 2017 to just 1 day in the year ending March 2018.

Table 3.2: The difference in the average (median) length of time taken to assign an outcome between the year ending March 2017 and the year ending March 2018, by outcome group

England and Wales, Recorded crime and outcomes				
Median number of days for an outcome to be assigned				
	Y.e March 2016	Y.e. March 2017	Y.e. March 2018	Difference between y.e March 2017 and y.e March 2018
Charge/summons	14	17	18	1
Taken into consideration	65	61	67	6
Out-of-court (formal)	10	12	16	4
Out-of-court (informal)	14	16	17	1
Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	27	26	26	0
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	36	39	40	1
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	16	14	12	-2
Investigation complete - no suspect identified	4	2	1	-1
Action undertaken by another body/agency	19	17	21	4
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest	17	17	13	-4
All crimes (excluding fraud)	11	8	6	-2

Source: Home Office Data Hub, outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2016, March 2017 and outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2018

Key question – why is the overall time taken for outcomes to be assigned to crimes decreasing?

With the volume of police recorded crime up in the latest year, and policing numbers remaining largely unchanged, it might be expected that the time for outcomes to be assigned to crimes to would increase rather than decrease. There are likely to be a range of factors behind this decrease including the changing crime mix and use of local policies to prioritise investigative resource. The largest volume increases in recorded crime have been in a number of categories least likely to have good evidence to follow-up or deemed a lower priority for investigation, such as theft and low level violence.

4 How domestic abuse-related offences were dealt with by the police

4.1 INTRODUCTION

There is not currently a specific offence of domestic abuse and such crimes will be recorded under a specific criminal offence, such as actual bodily harm. In April 2015, the Home Office began collecting information from the police via the Home Office Data Hub (see technical annex for description) on whether recorded offences were related to domestic abuse from police forces in England and Wales and the British Transport police. Crimes are "flagged" by the police as being domestic abuse-related if the offence meets the government definition of domestic violence and abuse⁷.

This chapter covers how the police have dealt with domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2018. The analyses presented are based on data from 29 police forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police⁸) that supplied adequate data⁹. These police forces recorded 69 per cent of all domestic abuse-related offences in England and Wales in 2017/18. Further detailed data can be found in supplementary online tables¹⁰.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publish an annual cross-governmental bulletin on domestic abuse which includes further analysis on domestic abuse-related outcomes. The latest publication can be found at [here](#) and will be updated in November 2018.

4.2 HOW DOMESTIC ABUSE OFFENCES WERE DEALT WITH BY THE POLICE BY OUTCOMES TYPE

The rates shown in Figure 4.1 cover domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending March 2018. In total, 93 per cent of these offences had been assigned an outcome at the time the data were extracted from the Home Office Data Hub¹¹. Police forces had not yet assigned an outcome to the remaining seven per cent of offences. Domestic abuse-related offence outcomes are compared below with offences that were not domestic abuse-related; some of the differences found will reflect the differing crime types within each category.

- A higher proportion (15%) of domestic abuse-related offences were dealt with by a charge or summons than offences that were not domestic abuse-related (9%).
- Almost 7 out of 10 (69%) domestic abuse-related offences had an evidential difficulties outcome. This is almost three times the proportion of offences that were not domestic abuse-related that had an evidential difficulties outcome (25%).
- Evidential difficulties for domestic abuse-related offences consisted of 47 per cent of offences where the victim did not support further action and 22 per cent where the victim supported further action.
- Just two per cent of domestic abuse-related offences were assigned the outcome 'investigation complete - no suspect identified' compared with over half (52%) of offences that were not domestic abuse-related. This is to be expected given that, by definition, in a domestic abuse-related offence the offender must be a partner, ex-partner or a family member of the victim.

⁷ Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

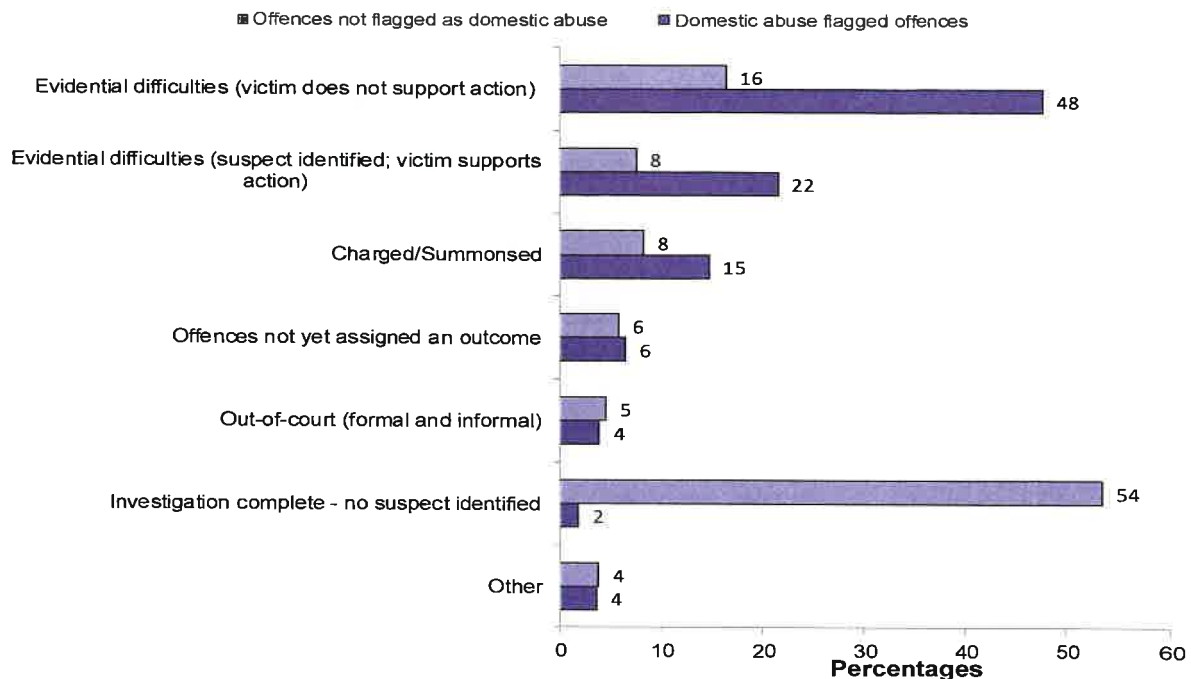
⁸ Avon and Somerset, Bedfordshire, British Transport Police, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cleveland, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Durham, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Metropolitan Police, Norfolk, North Wales, North Yorkshire, Northamptonshire, Northumbria, South Wales, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Thames Valley, West Yorkshire and Wiltshire.

⁹ The analysis in this chapter is based on a different subset of forces than previous chapters.

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2017-to-2018>

¹¹ Mid-June 2018 This proportion is higher than the proportion for all offences, although much of this may be due to different snapshot dates and the inclusion of fewer forces.

Figure 4.1; Proportions of outcomes assigned to domestic abuse-related offences and offences not domestic abuse-related recorded in the year ending March 2018



Source: Police Recorded Crime, Home Office Data Hub

1. Based on 29 police forces that supplied adequate data

2. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables, which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2017-to-2018>

4.3 – TRENDS IN HOW DOMESTIC ABUSE-RELATED OFFENCES WERE DEALT WITH BY THE POLICE

In order to get an indication of genuine changes over time it is more meaningful to compare figures for the year ending March 2018 with figures for the previous year as at the time they were first published in July 2017. As there were only data for 26 comparable forces for both years these comparisons are carried out on these forces¹² only.

As shown in Figure 4.2, a similar proportion of crimes had been assigned an outcome in both years. However, the proportion of domestic abuse-related offences assigned a charge/summons decreased (from 18% to 15%). Conversely, the proportion of offences that resulted in evidential difficulties (victim does not support action) increased, from 42 per cent to 47 per cent in the following year. This is a similar trend to all offences (see Chapter 2).

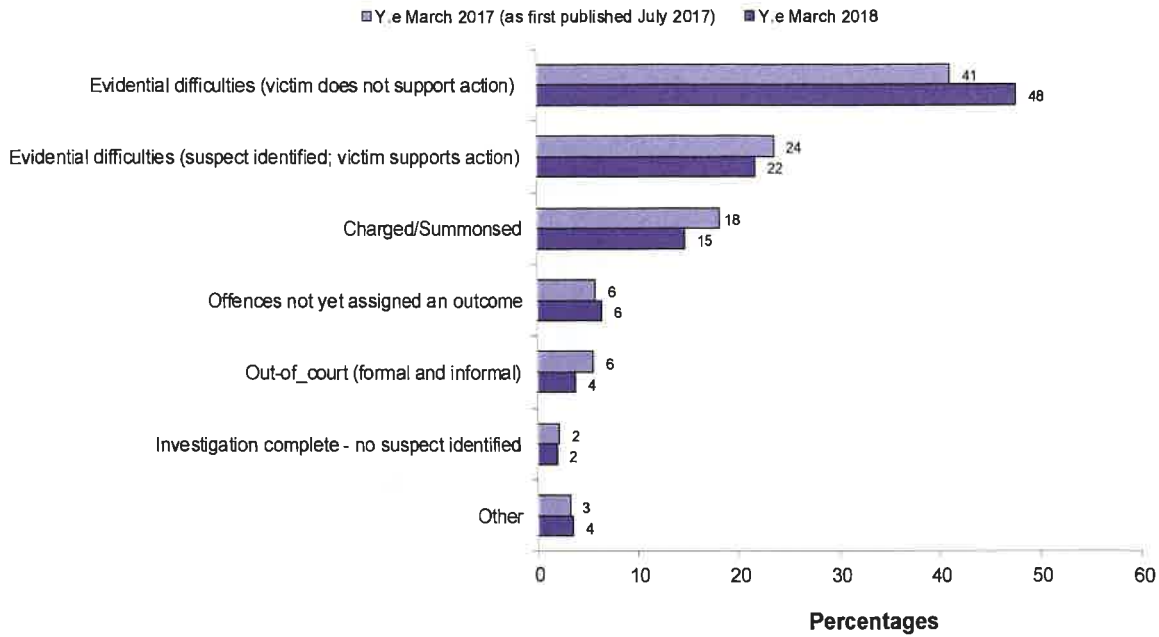
Differences in outcome proportions will be influenced by a number of factors, including but not limited to:

- Improvements in crime recording by the police which have led to increases in crime volumes for some crime types, in particular for violence and sexual offences. It is likely that many of the additional offences now being recorded are those that are less likely to be resolved by a charge, summons or other out of court resolution than offences that would have previously been recorded.
- An increased willingness of victims to report crimes to the police, particularly for domestic abuse related offences. It is likely that some of the increase in evidential difficulties outcomes is due to crimes that victims may not have reported to the police in previous years.

Figure 4.2: Outcomes assigned to domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the year ending

¹² Avon and Somerset, Bedfordshire, British Transport Police, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cleveland, Devon and Cornwall, Durham, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Metropolitan Police, North Wales, North Yorkshire, Northamptonshire, Northumbria, South Wales, Staffordshire, Surrey, Thames Valley, West Yorkshire and Wiltshire.

March 2017 (as first published) and the year ending March 2018, by outcome group



Source: Police Recorded Crime, Home Office Data Hub

1. Based on 26 police forces that supplied adequate data

2. The numbers behind this chart are in the supplementary online data tables, which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2017-to-2018>

Key questions - why haven't we got the whole picture? And why are there a large percentage of cases with evidential difficulties?

The number of forces that supplied adequate data to the Home Office Data Hub was 29 of the 43 police forces in England and Wales and the British Transport Police. This is less than the number of forces (34) for the equivalent time period last year. Similarly there are 26 forces who supplied adequate data in both 2016/17 and 2017/18 consecutively. Changes to individual police force recording systems and demand on police resources are thought to be the reasons for this.

Domestic abuse outcomes data typically have a high rate of cases with evidential difficulties and figures show the proportion of this is increasing. Of the forces supplying adequate data, 42% of domestic abuse flagged offences had an outcome of evidential difficulties where the victim did not support action in 2016/17 compared with 47% in 2017/18. Improvements in police recorded crime and increased willingness of victims to report crime that they wouldn't have in previous years are likely to be the drivers of this.

5 Outcomes assigned to fraud offences in the year ending March 2018

5.1 INTRODUCTION

In April 2011, Action Fraud (the UK's national fraud and cybercrime reporting centre) began gradually taking over the recording of fraud offences from individual police forces in England and Wales. This transition completed in March 2013. The implementation of Action Fraud as a single national fraud reporting centre has led to an increase in the number of fraud offences recorded, as it provides an easier way for individuals and businesses to report such offences (via an online reporting tool and a dedicated call centre), and centralises expertise in these cases. The transfer to Action Fraud was rolled out at different times in different forces. The year ending March 2014 was therefore the first full year where all fraud offences previously reported to the police were recorded centrally.

Action Fraud reports are reviewed by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB), based at the City of London Police, who are responsible for allocating offences to forces for them to investigate. The police recorded crime series published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), also incorporates offences reported to the NFIB by two fraud prevention industry bodies: Cifas and Financial Fraud Action UK (FFA UK). Data on fraud offences broken down by industry body are shown in Table 3.1.

The NFIB outcomes recording process is shown in the flow chart in Figure 3.1. Reports from Cifas, FFA UK and Action Fraud are automatically assessed by the NFIB's systems, using a scoring matrix to determine whether there are sufficient grounds to allocate the case to the police for investigation. The NFIB's system constantly reviews all crime reports against all other data held in the database and looks for links between offences which share a piece of information, such as a telephone number, email address or website URL. The reports are scored based on a viability criteria, and the NFIB's system automatically produces crime networks with a viability ranking. The team reviews these networks and determines if there is a realistic chance of identifying the offender through personal information, such as a telephone number, postal address or bank account. The team conducts research to help identify suspect(s), such as requesting information from a bank or making a telecommunications subscriber check.

Where it is judged that there are sufficient grounds for investigation and enforcement is viable, the NFIB allocates these cases to the most appropriate police force or other law enforcement agency. Cases closed at one point may be re-opened if new information comes to light. For example, an offence could have occurred in 2016/17 but not scored highly enough on NFIB's matrix to make it viable for enforcement at the time. Then another offence could have occurred in 2017/18 which links to the 2016/17 offence with a shared offender name, and provides more information such as a bank account. Then both offences could have received a viability score above the threshold, resulting in both offences being disseminated to the relevant force for investigation.

NFIB allocations to forces are referred to as "dissemination packages", and each package can contain multiple offences. The police force investigates the offences and allocates an appropriate outcome to each individual offence. Rather than return these outcomes to the Home Office with other recorded crimes, each police force submits the outcomes to the NFIB on a monthly basis, who in-turn pass aggregate reports to the Home Office.

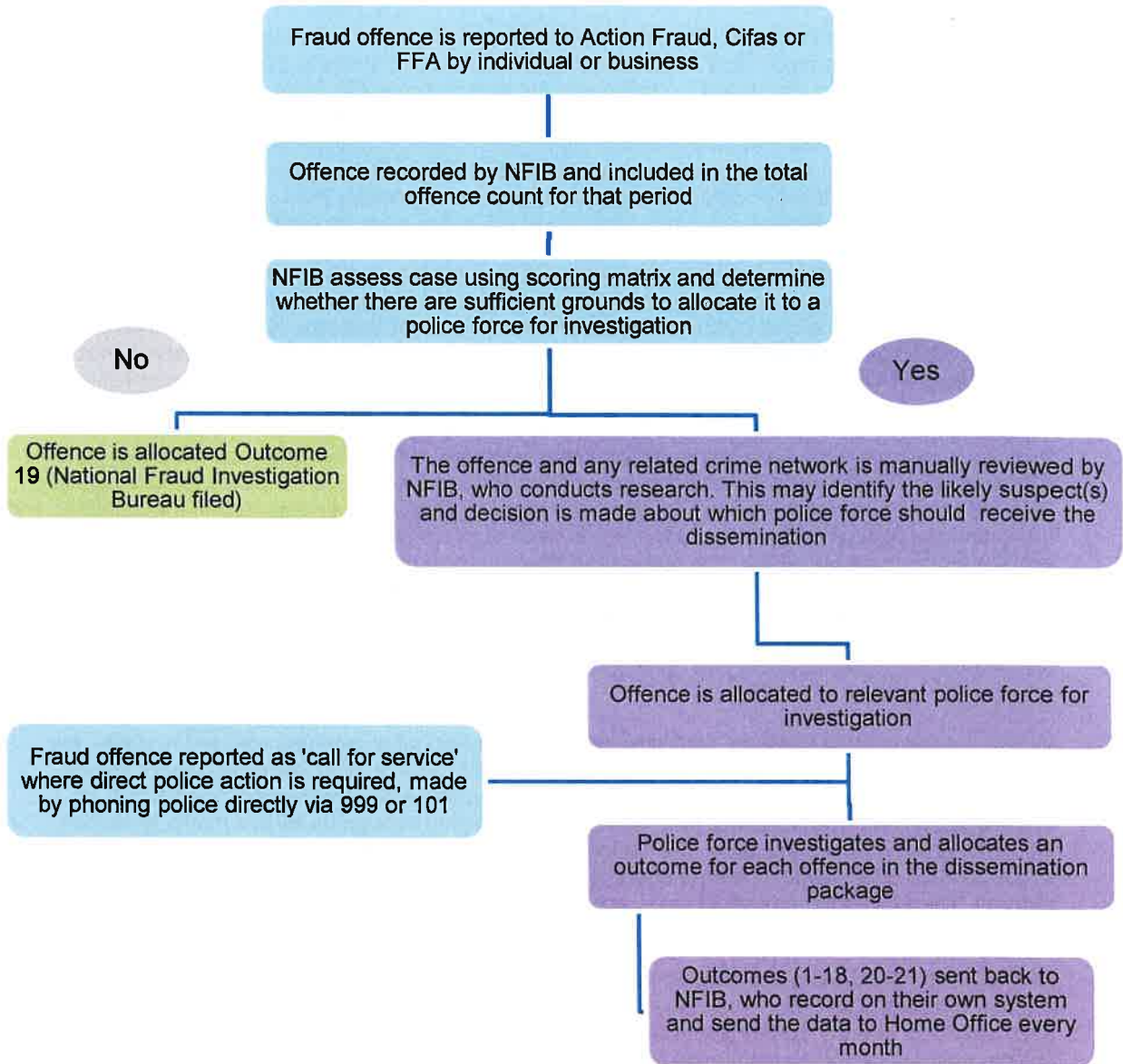
For crime reports where sufficient grounds for investigation do not exist, the reports remain on the NFIB's database. As new crime reports are submitted, more data may be linked to existing crime reports which may increase their viability for investigation.

In addition to investigating offences disseminated from NFIB, a police force can also receive fraud-related 'calls for service' direct from members of the public. This is when victims of fraud require an active police response, and dial either 999 or 101 to contact the police directly. Police forces will deal with fraud directly if certain criteria are met, such as if at the time of the call for service, the offender is in the act of committing, or has recently committed, the offence. As with disseminated offences, the outcomes of calls for service for fraud offences are submitted by the relevant force to the NFIB.

It should be noted that, unlike other outcomes data presented in this bulletin, it is not possible to link individual outcomes to offences as the data streams at present are based on aggregate totals. It is important to note that the number of outcomes will not necessarily correspond to the number of disseminations in a given year since investigations can take months, or longer, to complete. A large number of offences disseminated to the police in the year to March 2018 are still under investigation.

In addition, some outcomes data will relate to offences recorded in previous years. Caution should be used when comparing the number of outcomes to disseminated offences and in comparing fraud outcomes with other offence types.

Figure 5.1: How fraud outcomes are recorded



The Home Office have invested in a new IT analytics engine for the Action Fraud/NFIB capability, which is expected to improve the reporting and reviewing process. It is due to go live in 2018. The victim reporting process will be greatly improved through the implementation of a streamlined, more intuitive online portal for crime reporting and individuals will be able to 'track my crime' for the first time.

In 2017, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspected approaches to fraud, particularly focussed on referrals made to forces by Action Fraud, within their PEEL effectiveness inspections. In their report 'PEEL: Police effectiveness 2017', they stated: "Inspection findings showed forces are providing a mixed response to this type of crime; some are more advanced than others in dealing with referrals, in conducting effective investigations and in providing reassurance and support to victims". HMICFRS plan to carry out a thematic inspection of fraud in the future which will review police handling of fraud offences in more detail.

5.2 FRAUD DISSEMINATIONS AND OUTCOMES IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2018 – HEADLINE FINDINGS

The findings from the fraud disseminations and outcomes data for the year ending March 2018 are presented below. Comparisons with the data for the year ending March 2017 are also shown (the latter presented as published last year to allow comparisons to be made). It is anticipated that future publications will include updated data for all available years, as well as presenting the data for the previous year, as originally published. This will be in line with the presentation of crime outcomes for other crime types.

Outcomes recorded by NFIB only cover those offences that have been dealt with by forces either as a result of a direct call for service or as part of a dissemination package sent by NFIB to them for investigation. Outcomes are not recorded when the offence is passed to another law enforcement agency, such as Trading Standards.

Table 5.1 shows the number of dissemination packages sent to police forces and the number of offences within those packages. By way of context, these are presented alongside the total number of fraud offences recorded in the years ending March 2017 and March 2018.

Each dissemination package can be made up of any number of offences, from one to hundreds. This depends on the size of the suspected fraud network, as many similar crimes may be linked together if investigators believe one suspect or set of suspects is responsible. An offence can be included in more than one dissemination, if it links to multiple crime networks. However, each offence only receives one final outcome.

Table 5.1 – Number of fraud offences and disseminations, year ending March 2017 and year ending March 2018

	England and Wales		
	Year ending March 2017	Year ending March 2018	Percentage change
Total number of fraud offences:	652,362	638,882	-2%
<i>Number recorded by Action Fraud</i>	261,943	277,561	6%
<i>Number recorded by Cifas and FFA</i>	390,419	361,321	-7%
Total number of fraud offences within disseminations^{2,3}	64,501	49,861	-23%
Number of disseminations^{2,4}	16,781	11,094	-34%

1. Caution should be taken when comparing data for fraud offences and disseminations. Data presented are for offences and disseminations recorded within the year. Offences which are disseminated will not necessarily be disseminated in the year the offences was recorded.

2. Figures for disseminations in the year ending March 2017 are as published in 'Crime outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2017: data tables second edition'.

3. Some offences can be included in more than one dissemination, or can be disseminated to a force in multiple months. This number reflects the total number of unique offences, and offences which are part of two or more dissemination packages are only counted once.

4. In the year to March 2018, there were an additional 9 dissemination packages sent to the 'National Lead Force' (part of City of London Police). At the time of publication, data were not available for numbers of fraud offences within these disseminations, therefore these data have been excluded from the table.

It is important to note that the number of outcomes will not necessarily correspond to the number of disseminations in a given year since investigation can take months, or longer, to complete. A large number of offences disseminated to the police in the year ending March 2018 are still under investigation.

5.3 OUTCOMES RECORDED AGAINST FRAUD OFFENCES BY OUTCOME TYPE

Table 5.2 shows the number of outcomes recorded by the police against fraud offences in the year ending March 2018, by outcome type. These are presented alongside the total number of fraud offences disseminated to the police and the total number of recorded fraud offences for the latest and previous years.

277

Table 5.2 - Fraud outcomes recorded in the year ending March 2017 and the year ending March 2018, by outcome type

Outcome number	Outcome type/group	Year ending March 2017 ²	Year ending March 2018	Percentage change
		Number of outcomes ³	Number of outcomes ³	
1	Charged/Summoned	6,402	6,572	3%
4	Taken Into Consideration¹	206	238	16%
	Out-of-court (formal)	944	824	-13%
2	Caution - youths	55	29	-47%
3	Caution - adults	878	790	-10%
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	11	5	-55%
	Out-of-court (informal)	594	679	14%
7	Cannabis/Khat warning ⁴	n/a	n/a	n/a
8	Community resolution	594	679	14%
	Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	740	870	18%
5	Offender died	22	67	205%
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	128	200	56%
10	Not in public interest (Police)	524	484	-8%
11	Prosecution prevented - suspect under age	6	3	-50%
12	Prosecution prevented - suspect too ill	10	20	100%
13	Prosecution prevented - victim/key witness dead/too ill	41	75	83%
17	Prosecution time limit expired	9	21	133%
15	Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	10,191	12,009	18%
	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	4,511	5,789	28%
14	Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	1,562	1,932	24%
16	Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	2,949	3,857	31%
18	Investigation complete - no suspect identified	18,318	20,152	10%
20	Action undertaken by another body/agency	1,127	1,480	31%
21	Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest	1,854	3,697	99%
	Total number of fraud outcomes	44,887	52,310	17%
	Total fraud offences disseminated to police⁵	64,501	49,861	-23%
	Total recorded fraud offences	652,362	638,882	-2%

1. Offences asked to be taken in to consideration by a court (TICs).

2. Figures as published in 'Crime outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2017: data tables second edition'.

3. Offences recorded by Action Fraud, Cifas and FFA UK with outcomes recorded by NFIB in the year ending March 2017 or the year ending March 2018.

4. Outcome 7 does not apply to fraud offences.

5. In the year to March 2018, there were an additional 9 dissemination packages sent to the 'National Lead Force' (part of City of London Police). At the time of publication, data were not available for numbers of fraud offences within these disseminations, therefore these data have been excluded from the table.

6. The Home Office does not currently collect data on outcome 19 from the NFIB.

Table 3.2 shows that, compared with other crime types, a relatively low number of recorded fraud offences result in an outcome. This is largely due to the fact that a relatively small proportion of those recorded are disseminated to police forces for investigation. In addition, some fraud cases can take months, or longer, to investigate due to the complex nature of some of the cases.

Between the year ending March 2017 and March 2018, there was a 2% fall in total fraud offences recorded. Over the same period, the total number of fraud offences within disseminations also fell, by 23%. In contrast, over the same period, the total number of outcomes recorded against fraud offences increased, by 17%.

The NFIB advise that a number of factors have influenced the fall in fraud disseminations. There was a reduction of reviewing capacity within the NFIB over the last year. Additionally, the NFIB have taken a more conservative approach to assessing viability for further investigation, and placed an increased concentration on organised crime. Organised crime may have a larger impact on victims, though result in fewer recorded outcomes.

While there was a decrease in the number of disseminations in the last year, there was a rise of around 7,500 in cases that had been assigned an outcome (17%) compared with the previous year. This increase was largely driven by three outcome types: 'Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)' which increased by 1,818 offences (18%), 'Investigation complete – no

suspect identified' which rose by 1,834 offences (10%), and 'Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest' which increased by 1,843 offences (99%). These increases may be partly due to the fact that reporting of fraud outcomes to the Home Office became mandatory in April 2017 and led to further improvements in recording practices by forces.

The total number of recorded fraud offences has decreased compared with the year ending March 2017. The fall was driven by a 10% fall in offences recorded by Cifas, though this was offset by a 6% increase in fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud. There was no change in the level of fraud offences recorded by FFA UK.

The increase in offences recorded by Action Fraud was largely driven by increases in "advance fee payment fraud" and "other advance fee frauds". Further information on fraud offences data for the year to March 2018 can be found in 'Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2018', published by the ONS.

5.4 DISSEMINATIONS AND OUTCOMES BY POLICE FORCE AREA

Table 3.3 shows fraud outcome and dissemination data for the years ending March 2017 and March 2018 by police force area. The data are also available in the accompanying 'Fraud outcomes in England and Wales open data, year ending March 2018', broken down by both police force area and outcome type.

As previously mentioned, it is important to note that the number of outcomes will not necessarily correspond to the number of disseminations in a given year since investigations can take months or longer to complete. Therefore, comparing the number of offences to disseminated offences should be done with caution, as the not all offences recorded in the year will be disseminated in the same year.

The offences were disseminated to forces in 2017/18 but the actual offence may have occurred in a previous year. The offence will only be disseminated to forces when there is enough information to make it viable for investigation or enforcement action.

276
Table 5.3 - Fraud outcomes recorded and disseminated offences in the year ending March 2018

Police Force	Number of disseminated offences ¹			Number of outcomes ²		
	Year ending March 2017 ³	Year ending March 2018	Percentage change	Year ending March 2017 ³	Year ending March 2018	Percentage change
Avon and Somerset	946	446	-53%	537	1,023	91%
Bedfordshire	625	465	-26%	179	463	159%
Cambridgeshire	580	510	-12%	486	966	99%
Cheshire	537	609	13%	187	403	116%
Cleveland	214	221	3%	292	262	-10%
Cumbria	160	74	-54%	338	387	14%
Derbyshire	476	447	-6%	562	765	36%
Devon and Cornwall ⁴	1,014	502	-50%		871	
Dorset	324	222	-31%	827	705	-15%
Durham	178	144	-19%	223	488	119%
Essex	1,705	1,531	-10%	279	1,676	501%
Gloucestershire	269	165	-39%	518	339	-35%
Greater Manchester	6,023	3,510	-42%	1,988	1,493	-25%
Hampshire	996	673	-32%	368	1,462	297%
Hertfordshire	1,059	706	-33%	1,087	1,538	41%
Humberside	513	300	-42%	914	572	-37%
Kent	1,284	1,956	52%	2,664	2,829	6%
Lancashire	1,273	759	-40%	288	475	65%
Leicestershire	782	760	-3%	438	289	-34%
Lincolnshire	360	205	-43%	349	772	121%
London, City of ⁵	2,640	552	-79%	919	782	-15%
Merseyside	1,746	942	-46%	736	1,611	119%
Metropolitan	24,081	22,081	-8%	13,561	12,970	-4%
Norfolk	450	232	-48%	170	467	175%
North Yorkshire	735	216	-71%	1,093	33	-97%
Northamptonshire	534	788	48%	1,116	678	-39%
Northumbria	190	306	61%	29	927	3097%
Nottinghamshire	601	418	-30%	1,317	1,925	46%
South Yorkshire	911	428	-53%	577	672	16%
Staffordshire	1,351	1,348	0%	1,142	1,198	5%
Suffolk	506	287	-43%	10	395	3850%
Surrey	785	910	16%	1,195	1,887	58%
Sussex	916	828	-10%	1,324	1,827	38%
Thames Valley	1,845	1,083	-41%	599	867	45%
Warwickshire	261	243	-7%	240	403	68%
West Mercia	391	477	22%	638	676	6%
West Midlands	3,892	2,974	-24%	3,690	2,462	-33%
West Yorkshire	1,767	917	-48%	458	1,302	184%
Wiltshire	461	219	-52%	896	809	-10%
Dyfed-Powys	181	47	-74%	249	115	-54%
Gwent	200	70	-65%	504	404	-20%
North Wales	264	239	-9%	517	788	52%
South Wales	521	412	-21%	1,151	1,178	2%
Total 43 forces⁶	64,474	49,858	-23%	44,655	52,154	17%
British Transport Police	27	3	-89%	232	156	-33%
Total⁶	64,501	49,861	-23%	44,887	52,310	17%

1. Number of offences within dissemination packages. The number of outcomes will not necessarily correspond to the number of disseminations in a given year since investigations can take months or longer to complete. A large number of offences disseminated to police in 2017/18 are still under investigation.

2. Outcomes recorded by NFIB in the year ending March 2017. There are known data quality issues, and the Home Office and NFIB are working with forces to improve data.

3. Figures as published in 'Crime outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2017: data tables second edition'.

4. As above, data for the year to March 2017 are as originally published. At the time the 2016/17 figures were originally published, data for Devon and Cornwall were not available. It is now known that Devon and Cornwall recorded 474 outcomes against fraud offences during this period.

5. City of London includes City of London Police, National Lead Force and Insurance Fraud Enforcement Department. In the year to March 2018, there were 9 dissemination packages sent to the 'National Lead Force' (part of City of London Police). At the time of publication, data were not available for numbers of fraud offences within these disseminations, therefore these data have been excluded from the table.

6. The overall total does not equal the total for all forces. Some offences can be included in more than one dissemination, or can be disseminated to a force in multiple months. This number reflects the total number of unique offences, and offences which are part of two or more dissemination packages are only counted once. Each offence, no matter how many times it is disseminated, is assigned only one final outcome.

5.5 FUTURE WORK ON FRAUD OUTCOMES

The dataset provided by the NFIB continues to be subject to development and quality assurance and so these statistics should still be treated as experimental.

The Home Office continues to work with the NFIB to improve data quality for fraud offences, disseminations and outcomes. In future publications, the Home Office intends to publish fraud outcomes data for outcomes recorded against offences recorded in the year. This would be in line with the presentation of outcomes data against other crime types within this publication, allowing more meaningful comparisons with other crime types.

271

Technical Annex

A1. OVERVIEW

Before April 2013, the official statistics focused on “detections” (the number of cases resolved with a charge, caution, etc.) to reflect how the police deal with crimes. Since April 2014, police forces have supplied data to the Home Office on the broader set of outcomes. The first provisional statistics from the new outcomes framework were published in the Year to March 2014 bulletin. We have since developed the statistics with input from police forces and users.

A2. THE CRIME OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

Detections were revised to become the outcomes framework from April 2013. The purpose of the revision was:

- To **strengthen police discretion** by recognising the full range of possible disposals, including community resolutions, rather than incentivising police officers to pursue a particular outcome because it is perceived as ‘better’ than others. This will empower officers to exercise their professional judgement to ensure that offenders are dealt with by the most appropriate disposal available, in the knowledge that no one outcome is favoured over others – the emphasis should shift from hitting targets to appropriateness.
- By strengthening police discretion, the framework should in turn help to **promote a more victim-oriented approach**, focused on providing a better service to victims of crime by removing perverse incentives for forces to record and pro-actively pursue certain crimes on the basis of locally-set detection targets, and encouraging police officers to consider the needs of victims, and the potential for engaging them in the process.
- To **further increase transparency** in policing, and trust in national statistics, by providing the public with a richer picture of crime, and how it is dealt with in their area. This broader set of information can be used as a tool by which the public can hold the police to account, and as a basis for constructive engagement between communities, the police, and police and crime commissioners. By giving every crime an outcome, we will help the public understand – and therefore support or challenge – police activity.

New outcomes introduced from April 2016

It is possible for a suspect to be charged or cautioned but for the charge or caution to be for a different offence to the one recorded.

The recording standards reflect the law and in reaching charging decisions the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) set out a range of standards and guidance that both they and the police must follow. These standards frequently dictate that an alternate offence be charged to that recorded. For example, an assault may be recorded as a crime of Actual Bodily Harm (because that is the offence in law committed) but the CPS will direct that the offence charged is Common Assault.

Therefore, in April 2016 three new outcomes were introduced on a voluntary basis until they become mandatory in April 2017. These outcomes reflect where the charge/summons (outcome 1A), youth caution (outcome 2A) or adult caution (outcome 3A) relates to an alternative offence to that recorded.

For full details on the transition from the regime of detections (in existence until April 2013) to the outcomes framework, please see “Crimes Outcomes in England & Wales, 2013/14”:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014

Table A1.1: Detection types prior to April 2013 and the outcomes frameworks in place thereafter

Detections regime – prior to April 2013 (outcomes 1-6)	Outcomes framework – April 2013 to March 2014 (outcomes 1-9)	Outcomes framework – April 2014 onwards (outcomes 1-19)
1. Charge/Summons	1. Charge/Summons	1. Charge/Summons
2. Caution	2. Caution – youths	2. Caution – youths
	3. Caution – adults	3. Caution – adults
3. Taken into consideration – previously recorded	4. Taken into consideration (TIC)	4. Taken into consideration (TIC)
4. Taken into consideration – not previously recorded		
5. Penalty Notice for Disorder	6. Penalty Notice for Disorder	6. Penalty Notice for Disorder
6. Other	5. The offender has died (indictable only/sexual offences)	5. The offender has died (all offences)
	7. Cannabis Warning	7. Cannabis/Khat Warning
	8. Community Resolution	8. Community Resolution
	9. Prosecution not in public interest (CPS) (indictable only offences)	9. Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS) (all offences)
<i>Data not collected by the Home Office</i>		10. Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (police decision)
		11. Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility
		12. Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute
		13. Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence
		14. Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect not identified – the crime is confirmed but the victim declines or is unable to support further police action to identify the offender
		15. Evidential difficulties named suspect identified – the crime is confirmed and the victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action
		16. Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect identified – the victim does not support (or withdraws support from) police action
		17. Prosecution time limit expired – suspect identified but the time limit for prosecution has expired
		18. Investigation complete – no suspect identified. Crime investigated as far as reasonably possible – case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available
		19. National Fraud Intelligence Bureau filed (NFIB only). A crime of fraud has been recorded but has not been allocated for investigation because the assessment process at the NFIB has determined there are insufficient lines of enquiry to warrant such dissemination
		20. Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the action to be taken (from April 2015)
	21. Further investigation, resulting from the crime report, which could provide evidence sufficient to support formal action being taken against the suspect is not in the public interest – police decision (from January 2016)	

A2.1 FRAUD OUTCOMES

Since April 2013, Action Fraud (the national fraud and cyber crime reporting centre) have been responsible for recording fraud offences, rather than individual police forces. ONS publish police recorded crime statistics both including and excluding fraud. As well as offences recorded by Action Fraud, the ONS also publish data on the number of frauds recorded by FFA UK and CIFAS. Similarly, outcomes of fraud offences are not collected in the same way as other crimes. The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) review Action Fraud reports, along with FFA UK and Cifas reports. The NFIB allocate fraud offences with viable information to the relevant police forces in dissemination packages. The police forces investigate the offences, and allocate an outcome to each individual offence. Each police force submits the outcomes to NFIB on a monthly basis. Fraud outcomes are therefore not included in the main body of this bulletin. We have presented experimental data on fraud offences separately in Chapter X. Outcomes data in the rest of this bulletin do not include outcomes of fraud offences.

Future work on fraud outcomes

The data set provided by the NFIB continues to be subject to development and quality assurance and so these statistics should still be treated as experimental. However, the NFIB are introducing a new management information system which is due to go live in 2018. This should mean that the fraud outcomes data will be more readily accessible and more accurate as the system should allow individual outcomes to be linked to the fraud offences they relate to. The Home Office intends to work closely with NFIB to ensure that the data is as robust as possible and that it meets user needs.

Future publications could potentially include outcomes assigned to offences disseminated to police in a given year. This could also include data on the length of time between fraud offences being disseminated to the police and when an outcome is assigned to that offence. This will depend on forces providing good quality data to NFIB, and the data being available to the Home Office. These new pieces of analysis would bring fraud in line with the other crime types and the analysis presented in previous chapters.

A2.3 DOMESTIC ABUSE OUTCOMES

Since April 2015, police forces must provide the Home Office with the number of offences they record that are domestic-abuse related. For forces providing record-level data via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH) it is possible to link domestic abuse related crimes to their outcomes. Chapter XXX covers these data.

A3. OUTCOMES DEFINITIONS AND METHODOLOGY

A3.1 FORCE OUTCOMES FOR OFFENCES RECORDED IN QUARTER (NEW STYLE)

This method looks at outcomes for offences recorded in the same period in which the offence was recorded, rather than just a measure of total outcomes recorded in a period. It allows crimes to be traced from when they were recorded to when they were given the outcome. As every crime will eventually receive an outcome, this measure can be used to show how an increasing number of crimes recorded in a certain period are resolved over time. This is particularly effective for tracking sexual offences over time, as many of these do not receive their outcome in the same year in which they are recorded.

A3.4 FORCE OUTCOMES RECORDED IN QUARTER (OLD STYLE)

These outcome volumes relate to outcomes recorded in that year regardless of when the associated crime was recorded. Rates can be calculated as the number of outcomes recorded in the year as a proportion of crimes recorded in the same year. This is how rates were presented before it was possible to link crimes with their outcomes. It is still useful to look at outcomes in this way as an additional measure of police activity in relation to crime.

Comparing the number of outcomes with the number of recorded offences in this way should be done with caution, because proportion of the outcomes relate to offences recorded in previous years. Some crime types could show a rate of over 100 per cent against a particular outcome, which is sometimes the case for relatively low volume crimes.

Rates presented for outcomes recorded in the year are therefore illustrative rather than 'true' rates and can be influenced by changes in crime volumes. The analysis presented in chapter 2 offers a more meaningful representation of how a given set of crimes are resolved and become increasingly useful when repeated over time.

A4. TIMELINESS

Timeliness is a measure of the time taken between an offence being recorded and its outcome being assigned. This measure can be used as a proxy for the efficiency of police investigations, but should not be considered a firm measure.

While the analysis in chapter 3 gives an indication of the length of time to assign an outcome, it is affected by any delay between a force achieving an outcome and recording it on their system. In particular, for some of the outcomes that take 1-5 days to assign, the outcome may have been 'actioned' on the same day as the offence was recorded but implemented on the system at a later date. For example, cannabis warnings will almost always be issued at the time the offence comes to the attention of the police. However, the administration of assigning the outcome on the crime recording system may happen some days later.

A5. TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS

A5.1 OVERVIEW

Transferred or cancelled records (formerly referred to as 'no-crimes') occur when a police force records an offence and later decide that the crime did not take place, was recorded in error or should be transferred to another police force. Since April 2015, police forces have supplied data to the Home Office split by the five reasons why the police may transfer or cancel records. It is important to note that cases where an incident was not recorded as a crime in the first place are not included.

Data on transferred and cancelled records can be found in the supplementary bulletin tables S1.1 to S1.3 available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2017-to-2018>

A5.2 DEFINITIONS AND METHODOLOGY

Since April 2015, police forces have supplied data to the Home Office split by the five reasons why the police may transfer or cancel records.

- 1 Transferred: Crime committed outside the jurisdiction of the police force in which it was recorded – passed to the appropriate force.
- 2 Cancelled: Additional verifiable information that determines that no notifiable crime occurred becomes available.
- 3 Cancelled: Duplicate record or part of a crime already recorded.
- 4 Cancelled: Crime recorded in error.
- 5 Cancelled: Self-defence claimed (for specific recorded assaults).

Transferred or cancelled records are always recorded in the same financial year as the offence was originally recorded. For example, if an offence was recorded in January and then subsequently transferred or cancelled in the next financial year (e.g. May), the transferred or cancelled record will be recorded for the previous financial year. This ensures that the total count of offences in any given year is correct.

A5.3 COMPARING TRANSFERRED OR CANCELLED RECORDS

It is important to exercise caution when comparing transferred or cancelled records data across police forces and between years. A full comparison is only possible for the most recent years, after March 2016. Comparing years before March 2016 can only be done by looking at the total of the five categories. Prior to April 2015, all 43 police forces in England and Wales (including British Transport Police) supplied the total number of transferred and cancelled records to the Home Office as one combined category ("no-crimes"), with no further explanation of why the crime was classed as such.

A high or low number of transferred or cancelled records should not necessarily be interpreted positively or negatively, because different forces may use transferred or cancelled records in different ways and volumes may be affected by specific locations of forces (in particular for transferred records). Since April 2015, [the Home Office Counting Rules](#) have required the police to record a crime at the earliest opportunity, and at most within 24 hours after the reporting officer decides that a crime should be recorded (previously this was within 72 hours). This is likely to result in increased numbers of transferred and cancelled records. However, whilst one force may record all crimes immediately and then later transfer or cancel a more significant proportion of these, others may wait slightly longer to judge whether an offence constitutes a crime or not, and thus are likely to record fewer transferred or cancelled records overall. Transfers in particular are susceptible to local practices. As a result, a firm conclusion should not be drawn when comparing transferred or cancelled record data across forces, as any differences seen may just reflect differences in recording practices. More details of this can be found in the HMIC reports.

An Open Data table on transferred or cancelled records by police force is available here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables

A6. CRIME OUTCOMES DATA QUALITY

A6.1 INTRODUCTION

The UK Statistics Authority published its assessment of ONS crime statistics in January 2014. It found that statistics based on police recorded crime data, assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, did not meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The UKSA published a list of requirements for these statistics to regain the National Statistics accreditation.

Some of the requirements of this assessment were to provide more detail on how data sources were used to produce these statistics, along with more information on the quality of the statistics. Additionally, there was also a requirement to provide information on the process used by police forces to submit and revise data, and the validation processes used by the Home Office. In order to ensure that this publication meets the high standards required by the UK Statistics Authority, details are provided below.

A6.2 DATA QUALITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Home Office receives monthly data from police forces on crime, crime outcomes and records that were initially recorded as crimes and subsequently transferred to another police force or cancelled. These data are quality assured and analysed by Home Office statisticians and any anomalies or errors identified through this process result in a report being returned to the relevant force for validation or correction.

Prior to the publication of crime outcomes a verification exercise is carried out with all forces. The data held by the Home Office are returned to individual forces asking for confirmation that the data accords with that held on their own systems and to highlight any perceived inconsistencies in their data. Again, forces resubmit data if required.

The Ministry of Justice has been working with the Home Office, the Crown Prosecution Service and the National Police Chiefs' Council to deliver a project to make the use of out-of-court disposals for adult offenders more effective. In November 2014, as part of this project, three police forces (Leicestershire, Staffordshire and West Yorkshire) commenced a 12 month pilot operation of a simplified model of such outcomes (West Yorkshire Police adopted a phased roll out starting in November 2014 and fully operational in January 2015). All three forces, with the agreement of Ministers, voluntarily stopped issuing adult simple cautions (part of outcome 3) and cannabis / khat warnings (outcome 7) and limited their use of penalty notices for disorder (outcome 6), instead using the adult conditional caution (part of outcome 3) and the community resolution (outcome 8). The rules and guidance that apply to conditional cautions and community resolutions have been amended for those three forces to reflect this new approach. These three pilot forces have continued to operate in accordance with the pilot conditions since the pilot ended in November 2015. Some other forces have subsequently also limited their use of some out of court disposals. This may lead to apparent falls in some of these outcome types (e.g. cannabis/khat warnings) which may be accompanied by increases in outcomes 3 and 8 which will have been used in their place.

A6.3 CRIME OUTCOMES DATA SOURCES:

- Aggregated Crimsec4 return: an aggregated return supplied on monthly basis from small number of police forces
- Home Office Data Hub (HODH): The HODH allows police forces to provide record-level detail on offences, vastly increasing the opportunities for the analysis of police recorded crime data.
- Voluntary returns: the Home Office requested that all forces providing Crimsec4, voluntarily provide additional outcomes data on a quarterly basis

Crimsec4

Police recorded crime data are supplied to the Home Office by the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. Each year a small number of forces supply crime and outcomes data to the Home Office in an aggregated return (Crimsec4 form) on a monthly basis. In this return, data on outcomes and transferred or cancelled records (formerly referred to as 'no-crimes') are collected alongside recorded crime data for each crime within the notifiable offence list. Notifiable offences include all offences that could possibly be tried by jury (these include some less serious offences, such as minor theft that would not usually be dealt with this way) plus a few additional closely-related summary offences dealt with by magistrates, such as assault without injury.

The monthly data are cumulative, such that each month's return will contain the data for the financial year to date. When a police force wants to make revisions to this data, they usually do this in the latest monthly return, rather than re-sending a return for the period affected. The exception to this rule is when the revisions affect a previous financial year. In these cases the police force will re-send an end of year return for that year.

Outcomes are recorded on the Crimsec4 form in the month that the outcome is applied, and not the month in which the original offence occurred. For example, if an offence occurred in January and a suspect was subsequently charged in June, the outcome would be recorded in June. This means that the data recorded on a Crimsec4 do not correspond to the data on offences in that month, or even the same year. However since the year ending March 2016 the Home Office has additionally requested that forces capture outcomes that relate to the period the crime was recorded. Most forces are now providing outcomes data via the Home Office Data Hub (see below) which can also capture outcomes relating to the period in which the crime was recorded. These data are presented in Chapter 2.

The latest outcomes introduced, outcome 20 (since April 2015) and outcome 21 (since January 2016), and the five sub-categories for transferred and cancelled records are not included on CrimSec4 forms and are instead collected via an additional manual collection on a quarterly basis.

The Home Office Data Hub

The Home Office Data Hub (HODH) allows police forces to provide record-level detail on offences, vastly increasing the opportunities for the analysis of police recorded crime data. At the time of publication, there were 42 forces providing their monthly crime, outcomes and transferred or cancelled records data solely via the HODH, with the majority of the remaining forces in the 'parallel running' phase, where they are sending data both via the Crimsec4 form and via the HODH, with a view to switching exclusively to the HODH soon. The Home Office are continuing to work with these forces to help them with this transition, and are committed to achieving a fully operational HODH.

The voluntary returns

As not all forces are currently able to provide data via the HODH, the Home Office requested that all other forces provide additional outcomes data on a quarterly basis to capture outcomes data from all police forces.

The data presented in Chapter 2 covers all 44 police forces (including the British Transport Police) and is based on HODH for 42 forces and manual returns from the remaining forces. Data for year ending March is usually taken from the HODH in early June, and the remaining forces voluntarily provided their data for year on different dates between early-April and mid-June. The proportion of crimes recorded in March that had been assigned an outcome at the time of submitting data to the Home Office is likely to be smaller for a force that sent their data return in early April than for a force that provided this in May or June, because there had been less time for these offences to be investigated and the outcomes to be assigned. These dates will therefore have an impact on the overall proportion of crimes still under investigation and comparability between forces.

Chapter 2 also presents updated data for the previous financial year. Therefore, these updated figures reflect the fact that crimes have had an additional year in which to be assigned an outcome.

A6.4 DATA VALIDATION PROCESSES

The Home Office carry out a series of routine checks and feed the results of these back to police forces on monthly basis. These checks include:

- Looking for any offences where there have been a large number of transferred or cancelled records since the previous month;
- Looking for any large or unusual changes in offences, outcomes or transferred or cancelled records from the previous month;
- Looking for cases where forces have provided data against an offence classification that no longer exists (e.g. the former fraud classifications);
- Comparing offence types and outcome types against the long-term trend, to spot any outliers in the monthly data;
- Looking at where cautions (outcomes 2 and 3) have been assigned to rape offences and these are then queried with Force Crime Registrars;
- Checking that outcome 17 has not been applied to any offence which does not have a time limit.
- Checking that outcome 7 has not been applied to any non-cannabis or khat offences.

Any outliers or anomalies are usually small. Police forces are then asked to investigate these anomalies and either provide an explanation or resubmit figures where an error has occurred. Where resubmission is required, the force will usually just correct the errors in the latest monthly submission, rather than re-send all of the months in question. In the case of forces providing data via the HODH, the force will send modified versions of the affected records. These then supersede the original versions.

A6.5 FURTHER INFORMATION ON CRIME OUTCOMES

Care needs to be taken when making comparisons of crime outcomes between police forces. In some cases making any such comparisons may be misleading, given that different police forces use outcomes in different ways and will have a different mix of crimes to deal with. For example, some police forces may implement more community resolutions than others, depending on their approach, the nature of the crimes they deal with and the views of their communities. For example, a force that deals with a disproportionately high number of drug offences may apply a different mix of outcomes compared with a force that deals with a higher proportion of violent offences.

General Rules Section H of the [Home Office Counting Rules](#) (HOCR) contains information on recording outcomes. For Home Office purposes, all recorded crimes are assigned one of the following outcome types:

Outcome 1: Charge / Summons: A person has been charged or summonsed for the crime (irrespective of any subsequent acquittal at Court).

Outcome 1A [introduced in April 2016, voluntary]: Charge / Summons – alternative offence: A person has been charged or summonsed for the crime, but following the application of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) charging standards and the provisions of the HOCR, the charge/summons relates to an alternative offence to that recorded (irrespective of any subsequent acquittal at court).

Outcome 2: Caution – youths: A youth offender has been cautioned by the police.

Outcome 2A [introduced in April 2016, voluntary]: Youth Caution – alternative offence: A youth offender has been cautioned by the police, but following the application of the CPS charging standards and the provisions of the HOCR, the caution relates to an alternative offence to that recorded.

Outcome 3: Caution – adults: An adult offender has been cautioned by the police.

Outcome 3A [introduced in April 2016, voluntary]: Adult Caution – alternative offence: An adult offender has been cautioned by the police, but following the application of the CPS charging standards and the provisions of the HOCR, the caution relates to an alternative offence to that recorded.

Outcome 4: Taken into Consideration (TIC): The offender admits the crime by way of a formal police interview and asks for it to be taken into consideration by the court. There must be an interview where the

suspect has made a clear and reliable admission of the offence and which is corroborated with additional verifiable auditable information connecting the suspect to the crime.

Outcome 5: Offender died: The offender has died before proceeding could be initiated.

Outcome 6: Penalty Notices for Disorder: A Penalty Notice for Disorder (or other relevant notifiable offence) has been lawfully issued under Section 1 – 11 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

Outcome 7: Cannabis/Khat Warning: A warning for cannabis or khat possession has been issued in accordance with College of Policing guidance. Note: Khat warnings were introduced from 24 June 2014 and numbers are likely to be small.

Outcome 8: Community Resolution: A Community Resolution (with or without formal Restorative Justice) has been applied in accordance with College of Policing guidance.

Outcome 9: Not in public interest (CPS): Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS decision). The CPS by virtue of their powers under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 decides not to prosecute or authorise any other formal action.

Outcome 10: Not in public interest (Police) (from April 2014): Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (Police decision).

Outcome 11: Prosecution prevented – suspect under age (from April 2014): Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility.

Outcome 12: Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill (from April 2014): Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute.

Outcome 13: Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill (from April 2014): Named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence

Outcome 14: Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action (from April 2014): Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect not identified. The crime is confirmed but the victim declines or is unable to support further police action to identify the offender.

Outcome 15: Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action) (from April 2014): Evidential difficulties named suspect identified – the crime is confirmed and the victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action. This includes cases where the suspect has been identified, the victim supports action, the suspect has been circulated as wanted but cannot be traced and the crime is finalised pending further action.

Outcome 16: Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action (from April 2014): Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect identified. The victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action.

Outcome 17: Prosecution time limit expired (from April 2014): Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired (from April 2014).

Outcome 18: Investigation complete –no suspect identified (from April 2014): The crime has been investigated as far as reasonably possible – case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available.

Outcome 19: National Fraud Intelligence Bureau filed (NFIB only) (from April 2014): A crime of fraud has been recorded but has not been allocated for investigation because the assessment process at the NFIB has determined there are insufficient lines of enquiry to warrant such dissemination.

Outcome 20: Action undertaken by another body/agency (from April 2015): Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency other than the police, subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the action being taken.

Outcome 21: Not in the public interest – suspect identified (from January 2016) Further investigation resulting from the crime report that could provide evidence sufficient to support formal action being taken against the suspect is not in the public interest – police decision.

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Statistical Bulletins are prepared by staff in Home Office Statistics under the National Statistics Code of Practice and can be downloaded from GOV.UK:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/statistics

ISBN: 978-1-78655-688-2

ISSN: 1759-7005

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