

How long youth cases take

A joint inspection conducted by

Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary

HM Magistrates' Courts Service Inspectorate

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Foreword

One of the principal aims of those who are involved in the criminal justice system is to develop ways in which the individual agencies can work more closely together, to deliver a better quality service to the public.

Three of the criminal justice Inspectorates – the Inspectorates of Constabulary (HMIC), the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Magistrates' Courts Service (MCSI) – have collaborated in producing this report. It addresses a key issue of the moment: the speed with which the criminal justice system deals with young offenders – especially *persistent* young offenders – while ensuring that all the decisions necessary to the proper disposal of each case remain of the highest possible quality.

Youth justice has been subject to a range of recent initiatives and legislative proposals. Our report shows that real progress is achievable and is already being made in a number of important areas. We have also highlighted issues that, in our view, require further action and consideration in order to improve the system as a whole. Perhaps most importantly the report demonstrates that, for the system to achieve success, it is vital that individual agencies work together to produce the best for all those involved, rather than take action which benefits only themselves.

We hope that this report will be an important contribution to the debate about how best to deal with youth justice issues. We hope that it will be the first in a series of joint studies to be undertaken by the Inspectorates of the criminal justice system.

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Introduction

A number of major studies have been conducted in recent years to quantify the scale of youth offending in England and Wales. In addition, the present government has made reducing delays in dealing with persistent young offenders one of its priorities.

In 1997, the three Inspectorates, in consultation with the Home Office, decided to consider the processing of youth cases through the criminal justice system. In particular, we wanted to identify how long the key stages of the process took and to seek to identify the most effective way of dealing with these cases while maintaining the highest standards of quality decision-making. The intention was to provide the Home Office with data to assist them in setting standards for the handling of youth prosecutions. The findings in relation to how long cases were found to be taking are contained in the Chapter *Findings: How Long Youth Cases Take* (Chapter 4).

In addition, the inspection team took the opportunity to explore the processes currently in use to bring youths before the courts, and those deployed to dispose of their cases finally. A number of obstacles to progress were identified, but the inspectors were also keen to learn of the steps being taken to deliver improvements. Chapter 5 – *Findings: Case Management Issues* – details our findings in those areas. We have drawn some conclusions from our findings and, where appropriate, have followed those conclusions with a number of recommendations. Those conclusions and recommendations can be found in Chapters 1 and 2.

The data contained in this report had an intended audience from the outset, and was speedily forwarded to the Home Office. The audience for the recommendations is a less straightforward issue. We hope, however, that individual agencies will identify those recommendations which are relevant to them, and that government departments will find the recommendations helpful in informing future policy decisions.

Acknowledgements

The three Inspectorates gratefully acknowledge the assistance given by the agency staff of the eight sites inspected. A list of the people interviewed, or otherwise involved, appears at Annex B. The Inspectorate staff contributing to this project are listed at Annex C.

In addition, we would like to thank all the members of staff who assisted in arranging interviews and retrieving files for examination by the inspection team.

Vital assistance was also provided by Judith Salkeld and the staff of the Lord Chancellor's Department's typing pool in Gateshead.

1: Executive Summary

- 1.1 In September 1998, the Home Office and Lord Chancellor's Department issued a joint circular entitled "Measuring performance to reduce delays in the youth justice system". That circular set an initial target for all areas of completing at least 50% of persistent young offender cases within 71 days. The Government also announced guidelines on the length of time that each stage of the youth justice process should take in a straightforward case involving a persistent young offender (see paragraph 4.3).
- 1.2 Our evidence suggests that the target set by the Government for the processing of persistent young offenders is achievable – in our sample 62.5% of cases involving persistent young offenders were finalised within 71 days of arrest.
- 1.3 Performance across our sample sites was, however, variable. It will be important, if all areas are to achieve the initial target of 50% of cases completed within 71 days, for ideas and initiatives to spread quickly from one area to another.
- 1.4 Our findings suggest that two time intervals where progress is being made are:
- arrest to charge (72.5% of the persistent sample in two days); and
 - charge to first appearance (25.9% of the persistent sample in seven days, with some sites achieving much better performance – reducing the use of summons processes will make a further impact on this figure).
- 1.5 Our findings for the period between first appearance to start of a trial in the youth court were, however, less promising. Not a single case achieved the target of completing this process within 28 days, and the cases involving persistent young offenders took, on average, 75 days from first appearance to start of trial (and 40 days from the entering of a not guilty plea to the trial).
- 1.6 Part of the period between first appearance and trial, and particularly between a not guilty plea and the trial, usually included a pre-trial review (PTR) – 78.6% of persistent young offender cases were adjourned for PTR following a not guilty plea. One site has already decided to dispense with PTRs in youth cases, and others may need to follow, if the target of 28 days is to be achieved. Two keys to speeding the process, but not reducing the quality of the decision-making, are:
- the CPS and defence solicitors being in a position to take a plea at the first hearing; and
 - the CPS and the defence solicitors being in a position at the moment of plea to discuss the issues normally discussed at a separate PTR hearing: for example, witness requirements, points of law, etc.
- 1.7 For the parties to be ready to make such progress at first appearance, however, a certain minimum amount of preparatory work has to be undertaken. Slavish adherence to a principle of charge to first appearance within seven days may cut across the need to complete the necessary preparatory work required to make progress at the first hearing in cases where a not guilty plea is entered. Some schemes encountered during this inspection have distinguished between indications of guilt or denial, to determine which "track" a prosecution should follow. We believe further study is needed into the impact of not guilty pleas, and the timing of first appearances of such cases.

- 1.8 Similarly, further work is needed to explore the impact of PTRs. As we note above, some believe that they should be dispensed with, if time targets are to be met. Others are resistant to this idea, citing the effectiveness of their current schemes in reducing the number of cases proceeding to trial. We support the view that there is no inherent reason why the issues explored at most PTRs could not be covered at the entering of a plea, but our experience suggests that a significant cultural change will be needed to achieve this. Again, it raises the issue of when the work should be undertaken – prior to a first appearance, or subsequent to the court having seized control of the case?
- 1.9 Many issues affecting the period between first appearance and start of a trial also apply to cases ultimately committed to the Crown Court. Our sample found that only 16.1% of cases took 28 days or less between first appearance and committal, and the average period was 59.8 days. More encouragingly, 68.2% of cases proceeded from identification of venue for trial to committal within 28 days, again highlighting the potential if the work necessary to determine mode of trial is completed prior to a first appearance.
- 1.10 Although outside of the remit of MCSI, the access to CPS data also allowed examination of the time periods controlled by the Crown Court; no cases met the target of plea and directions hearing (PDH) to Crown court trial within 28 days (the average period was 52.71 days), while only 6.7% of cases achieved the target of committal to PDH within 14 days (the average period was 37.5 days). As we note elsewhere, only 6.5% of Crown Court cases met the arrest to finalisation target of 71 days, and the average processing period for these cases was 168.3 days.

2: Summary of Recommendations

- 2.11 Police forces should proceed via summons only in those cases which cannot proceed by way of charge (except in certain road traffic offence cases).¹
[See paragraphs 5.6 – 5.9]

Target:¹ All England & Wales police forces

- 2.21 The use of a juvenile liaison panel system should not prevent early charging, and a speedy referral to the panel, where appropriate, could still occur after a charge has been laid. Effective liaison arrangements need to be in place to enable the CPS to have timely input into the panel system.¹– [See paragraphs 5.10 – 5.12]

Target:¹ All England & Wales police forces, all CPS offices

- 2.31 All fast track agreements should:¹
- be contained in a single document;
 - be agreed by the appropriate criminal justice agencies;
 - identify those cases and categories of offender which should be fast tracked; and
 - set out time limits for the key stages of the processing of fast tracked youth offenders – those time limits should be subject to periodic review and should, wherever possible, reflect the national guidelines. [See paragraphs 5.19 – 5.20]

Target:¹ All England & Wales police forces, all CPS offices & all magistrates' courts (with the involvement of other relevant agencies)

- 2.41 With regard to the timing of first appearances:¹
- if a guilty plea is anticipated, the police file should contain a copy of statements and short descriptive notes to expedite the provision of advance information. Evidence from our inspection indicates that seven days is a realistic maximum period from charge to first appearance;
 - if it is anticipated that the defendant will plead not guilty, he or she should be bailed for 28 days to allow a full police file to be submitted before first appearance; and
 - full files should contain the availability dates of all witnesses (including police witnesses), to allow the case to be listed for trial on the day that a plea is entered. [See paragraph 5.22]

Target:¹ All England & Wales police forces

- 2.5I **The CPS should ensure advance information is available at the first hearing. I**
[See paragraphs 5.27 – 5.28]
Target: All CPS offices
- 2.6I The proposal contained in the Access to Justice Bill to abolish the means test criteria for grant of legal aid should help to speed up a number of cases, and we support this measure. [See paragraphs 5.29 – 5.30]
- 2.7I **All agencies involved should discuss the use of PTRs in youth court cases, to consider whether their current format adds sufficient value to the process. I**
[See paragraphs 5.31 – 5.35]
Target: All CPS offices & all magistrates' courts (with the involvement of other relevant agencies)
In addition, we believe that the examination of this issue should be a priority for further joint inspectorate work.
Target: Criminal Justice Inspectorates
- 2.8I **Local liaison over youth case processing should include discussion of effective ways to link cases at the earliest possible opportunity. [See paragraphs 5.38 – 5.42]**
Target: All England & Wales police forces, all CPS offices & all magistrates' courts (with the involvement of other relevant agencies)
- 2.9I Court and CPS papers should be endorsed fully with:
 - the name of the party applying for the adjournment;
 - the reason for the application;
 - whether the application was opposed;
 - whether the application was granted for the full period requested; and
 - the actions required by each party prior to the next hearing. I
 [See paragraphs 5.43 – 5.46]
Target: All CPS offices & all magistrates' courts

3: Methodology

- 3.11 The inspection was conducted to determine how long youth cases are taking to process. The main emphasis was on how long cases involving **persistent young offenders** take from arrest to completion, but the study also examined the progress of cases involving spree offenders, cases committed to the Crown Court, and a random group of youth cases that did not meet any of the other criteria.
- 3.21 The period under examination in the study was *charge to first disposal (an admission or finding of guilt at the magistrates' court, or committal to the Crown Court)*. The publication of the government targets led to the development of extra data collection so that the period from charge to completion could also be measured.
- 3.31 The **persistent young offender** sample consisted of cases that meet the government's definition, that is, a young person aged 10–17 years who has been sentenced by any criminal court in the UK on three or more occasions for one or more recordable offences, *and* within three years of the last sentencing occasion is subsequently arrested or has information laid against him for a further recordable offence.
- 3.41 For **spree offenders**, the inspection team adopted the following definition: *a young person aged 10–17 years who first appears in court in respect of a third set of proceedings before an earlier commenced first set of proceedings has been concluded* (see the glossary of terms at Annex D for a fuller explanation of the spree category of offender).
- 3.51 The **Crown Court** sample consisted of young persons charged with a grave crime and committed to the Crown Court.
- 3.61 The **random** sample was made up of young persons charged with a recordable crime, but who did not fall into any of the other three sample categories.
- 3.71 The inspection team drew data from eight sites. Each site consisted of a single magistrates' court and the corresponding police and CPS offices. The sites chosen were a mixture of cities, medium sized towns and rural areas. The target sample for the study of 400 cases, drawn equally from the sites, was made up as follows:
- persistent young offenders – 10 cases
 - spree young offenders – 10 cases
 - Crown Court young offenders – 10 cases
 - random sample young offenders – 20 cases
- 3.81 The CPS took responsibility for identifying the cases, counting back completed cases in each category from a cut-off date of 30 September 1998. A case consisted of a single CPS file; in some cases more than one offence was involved if dealt with by the police as a single arrest episode. Crown Court cases were included in the sample at point of committal. Details were then supplied to the two other agencies so that the corresponding case files for the young people identified by the CPS could be drawn from those agencies' file archives.
- 3.91 The final sample available to the inspection team proved to be less than the original target of 400 cases. In some sites, particularly the rural ones, sufficient persistent, spree and Crown Court cases could not be identified without "counting back" so far into the past that the data gathered would have had little relevance to a study trying to achieve a snapshot of what is happening with cases now. In some other cases, it proved difficult to match files identified by the CPS with those maintained by the other agencies, and, as a result, the file sample drawn from the court and police sources was often smaller than that identified by the CPS: at one site, the police did not keep files beyond 21 days of case completion; at another, the court despatched all papers to the Crown Court and did not keep a copy.

- 3.10 As a result of the difficulties outlined above, the final sample size was as follows:
- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| ■ persistent young offenders | – | 58 |
| ■ spree young offenders | – | 28 |
| ■ Crown Court young offenders | – | 36 |
| ■ random sample young offenders | – | 150 |
| Total sample | – | 272 offenders (426 offences) |
- 3.11 Having identified the sample, staff from the three Inspectorates examined the files from their corresponding agencies. Information from the files was entered on to a common database devised by the CPSI. As well as the core data regarding processing times, information was also gathered about some of the events taking place. For example, during the court phase of proceedings, interrogations were made of CPS and court files to determine the reasons given when cases were adjourned, and the actions expected before the next appearance. It was intended to compare the databases generated by the individual Inspectorates, to identify inconsistencies of recording and approach.
- 3.12 In practice, the core data relating to processing times proved easier to gather than the inquisitorial data. File endorsements generally provided insufficient information for inspectors to reconstruct events with any great certainty. We return to that issue at paragraph 5.36.
- 3.13 Having completed the data capture at eight sites, four sites (identified as sites A – D) were chosen for a further stage of the study. The sites were visited by teams made up of staff from the three Inspectorates and interviews were conducted with staff from each of the agencies involved in the study. The information gathered during this phase of the inspection forms the basis of the findings detailed in Chapter 15 of this report: *Findings: Case Management Issues*.
- 3.14 We measured the cases in our sample against an announced government target of 50% of persistent young offender cases being completed within 71 days (see paragraph 4.2). We decided to include in our sample cases that did not lead to a sentence (for example, cases that led to an acquittal), as we were interested in the impact such cases could have on the overall target. We are conscious that such an approach makes it difficult to make a direct correlation between our data and the government objective of halving the 1996 average of 142 days from arrest to sentence – an objective which will be measured, ultimately, by a system of complete data capture being introduced by the Home Office and the LCD.
- 3.15 We are also aware that our snapshot of sample cases is subject to variations usually associated with such sampling methods. We were advised that the size and design of our persistent young offender sample could be subject to a margin of error of at least 12 percentage points.
- 3.16 Our early conversations with Home Office staff, however, confirmed our view that an analysis of present success in getting individual cases finalised in a 71-day period provides an indication, albeit on the basis of a snapshot at a limited number of sites, of what could be achieved. We were particularly interested in learning of the strategies being deployed to meet the target.

4: Findings: How Long Youth Cases Take

- 4.1 As outlined in paragraphs 3.3 - 3.5, the inspection examined cases in four categories:
- persistent young offenders;
 - spree young offenders;
 - young offenders committed to the Crown Court; and
 - a random group of young offenders.
- 4.2 In September 1998, the Home Office and Lord Chancellor's Department issued a joint circular entitled Measuring performance to reduce delays in the youth justice system. That circular set an initial target for all areas of completing at least 50% of persistent young offender cases within 71 days. The government also announced guidelines on the length of time each stage of the youth justice process should take in a straightforward case involving a persistent young offender.
- 4.3 The guidelines were developed in consultation with the Youth Court Working Group, which is a sub-group of the Trials Issues Group, and in light of the good practice recommended in the inter-departmental circular entitled Tackling Delays in the Youth Justice System and experience from those operating fast tracking schemes. The guidelines (issued in September 1998) are as follows, and are expressed in terms of calendar rather than working days:

<i>Cases dealt with in Youth Court</i>		<i>Cases committed to Crown Court</i>	
Arrest - charge	2 days	Arrest to charge	2 days
Charge - first appearance	7 days	Charge - first appearance	7 days
First appearance - start of trial	28 days	First appearance - committal to Crown Court	28 days
Verdict - sentence	14 days	Committal - PDH at Crown Court	14 days
		PDH - start of Crown Court trial	28 days
		Verdict - sentence	14 days

We measured the cases in our inspection against the overall 71 day target, and against the guidelines issued for each stage of the process.

4.4 The length of time taken for each category, as expected, varied. Full details can be found at Annex E [Table 4], but the following key findings emerged:

- Persistent young offenders – 62.5% finalised within 71 days of arrest
- Spree offenders – 40% finalised within 71 days of arrest
- Crown Court category offenders – 6.5% finalised within 71 days of arrest
- Random category offenders – 52.6% finalised within 71 days of arrest.

Overall, 54.1% of offenders had their cases finalised within 71 days (see paragraph 3.14).

4.5 Encouragingly, therefore, for the overall sample, the target of completing at least 50% of persistent young offender cases within 71 days was exceeded.

4.6 That overall good performance, however, masks variable performance at the eight sites. The following table illustrates the disparity. Strategies deployed at some of the sites are discussed in the following Chapter.

Site	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
% of persistent young offenders finalised within 71 days	100	75	55.6	62.5	50	100	16.7	N/A
% of spree offenders finalised within 71 days	100	N/A	10	N/A	N/A	100	100	N/A
% of Crown Court category offenders finalised within 71 days	0	0	0	33.3	N/A	0	N/A	N/A
% of random category offenders finalised within 71 days	89.5	85.7	42.1	30.8	60	11.1	33.3	42.9
Overall % of offenders finalised within 71 days	69.7	65.2	30.4	40.7	57.8	35.3	29.2	42.9

- 4.7i The data gathered was also analysed against the guidelines set for each stage of the process. The results were as follows:

	<i>Persistent young offenders</i>	<i>Spree offenders</i>	<i>Crown Court category offenders</i>	<i>Random category offenders</i>	<i>Overall</i>
Arrest to charge within two days of arrest	72.5%	73.3%	65.8%	58.8%	65.8%
Charge to first appearance within 7 days	25.9%	48.1%	55.6%	10.1%	23.4%
First appearance to start of Trial at youth court within 28 days	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
First disposal to finalisation within 14 days	65%	46.7%	6.5%	64.9%	54.1%
Committed to Crown Court within 28 days of first appearance	–	–	16.1%	–	16.1%

- 4.8 Again, the overall figures mask varying levels of performance at each site and details can be found at Annex E [Table 5].
- 4.9 We also examined average processing times. The findings here are, once more, encouraging with regard to persistent young offenders – with their cases averaging 71.8 days from arrest to completion. With regard to spree offenders, however, the picture was less encouraging. Although (as noted above) 40% were completed within 71 days, the average processing period was 132.3 days. Rapid processing of each offence, and avoiding delay in sentencing to “roll-up” offending episodes, are key elements, if the 71 day target is to be met and, ultimately, exceeded. We return to this issue in Chapter 5: *Findings: Case Management Issues*.
- 4.10 Processing times are also affected by the remand status of defendants during the lifetime of a case. The following table illustrates our findings regarding the impact of remand status (and whether a defendant attends all hearings) on achieving case completion within 71 days. Once more the spree category of offenders displays slower progress.

Arrest to finalisation in 71 days: Impact of bail/custody

	<i>Persistent young offenders</i>	<i>Spree offenders</i>	<i>Crown Court category offenders</i>	<i>Random category offenders</i>	<i>Overall</i>
Defendant on bail throughout	65.2%	40%	0%	52.5%	53.1%
Defendant in custody/care throughout	100%	66.7%	10%	100%	41.2%

Arrest to finalisation in 71 days: Impact of defendant's presence

	<i>Persistent young offenders</i>	<i>Spree offenders</i>	<i>Crown Court category offenders</i>	<i>Random category offenders</i>	<i>Overall</i>
Defendant attended all hearings	68.8%	45.5%	12%	56.7%	49.1%
Defendant did not attend all hearings	37.5%	25%	0%	27.3%	24%

- 4.11 The issue of defendants not attending court when required to do so will need to be addressed in relation to future target setting. As tighter targets are set over time, those cases delayed by defendant absence will begin to have a greater influence on success rates overall. We believe that consideration should be given to devising methods of disaggregating such cases within the overall monitoring and reporting of statistics, so that progress in those cases which properly pass through the system may be more accurately assessed.

5: Findings: Case Management Issues

- 5.1 As part of the inspection process, staff from the three Inspectorates interviewed agency representatives at four of the eight sites who took part in the data collection phase of the inspection. During those interviews, a number of initiatives were identified which appear to contribute to speeding up the progress of youth cases. We have considered those initiatives, and our own analysis, to examine each stage of the prosecution process:
- arrest to charge;
 - charge to first appearance;
 - first appearance to first disposal (plea or finding of guilt, discontinuance or committal); and
 - first appearance to completion.
- 5.2 Files were interrogated in an attempt to identify reasons for delays. The amount of detail available to inspectors, however, was limited as file endorsements did not, as a matter of routine, record the state of readiness of all parties, nor did they regularly indicate what action was expected before a subsequent appearance. In addition, the files provided little information in relation to what was happening during some hearings; for example, in only 0.8% of adjournments did we find a record of the adjournment application being opposed – although we are sure that these challenges would have been far more common in practice.
- 5.3 Details of the case examination data can be found in Annex E [Table 8]. In summary, we found (of adjournments we classified as avoidable):
- 26.8% were requested by the CPS;
 - 49.5% were requested by the defence;
 - 22.1% were requested by the court (almost all for pre-trial reviews); and
 - 1.6% were requested by other agencies.

We analysed reasons for adjournment requests using the following categories:

<i>CPS requests</i>	<i>Defence requests</i>	<i>Court requests</i>	<i>Other agency requests</i>
CPS papers not ready	Defendant failed to attend	Pre-Trial Review	Information missing
Police papers not ready	Lack of instructions	Other reasons	Other reasons
Disclosure not provided	Disclosure not considered		
Awaiting police information	Legal Aid to sort out		
Other reasons	Discuss case with CPS		
	Other reasons		

- 5.4 Taking the defence and CPS requests together, the largest single cause of an adjournment request was the absence of the defendant (accounting for almost 50% of the defence requests). However, a significant number of requests (19.1% for the defence, and 33.3% for the CPS) were linked to the serving and/or consideration of advance disclosure information, and the figures were even higher in relation to persistent offenders (25% for the defence, and 50% for the CPS).
- 5.5 The establishment of effective means of serving timely advance disclosure information would appear to be an area where progress would be beneficial to the overall processing of cases. Overall, cases averaged 3.5 appearances, with:
- persistent young offenders averaging 3.3 appearances [High – 18, Low – 1]
 - spree offenders averaging 4.9 appearances [High – 12, Low – 2]
 - Crown Court offenders averaging 6.5 appearances [High – 12, Low – 2], and
 - random category cases averaging 2.6 appearances [High – 11, Low – 1]

Arrest to charge

- 5.6 At a number of sites, the summons procedure was used to bring young offenders before the youth court. The National Manual of Guidance for the Preparation, Processing and Submission of files, which standardised police prosecution file procedures, has been in existence since 1992 (revised in October 1997). It clearly emphasises the importance of using the charge and bail procedure. The Home Office Victims and Procedures Unit reinforced that message in Home Office Circular 24 of 1998.
- 5.7 There will always be occasions when, without a power of arrest, the police have no choice but to summons. This inspection, however, revealed a number of occasions when offenders are arrested, interviewed and then disposed of by being reported for summons rather than by being charged. Summons cases tend to drift along with less urgency than charge cases, as they do not have the benefit of the same rigid time guidelines which are imposed by the Manual of Guidance on charge cases (see Annex A).
- 5.8 Examples from our study illustrate the impact on processing times that the use of the summons process can have. For example:

ABH offence occurred 28/1/98. The offender was arrested, interviewed and reported for summons on 4/2/98. The information was laid on 16/3/98 with a first court date of 16/4/98. If the offender had been charged on 4/2/98 and the usual four to five week bail period granted the first court date would have been four to five weeks earlier.

Burglary offence 2/6/98. The offender was not arrested but a voluntary interview took place at a police station on 10/6/98 when he was reported for summons. The information was laid on 24/7/98 with a first court date of 11/8/98. Again, if the offender had been charged and bailed on 10/6/98 the first court date would have been four weeks earlier.

- 5.9 In our view, the use of a summons procedure causes unnecessary delay and we endorse the guidance issued that forces should proceed via summons only in those cases which cannot proceed by way of charge (except in certain road traffic offence cases).
- 5.10 We were also told, at some sites, that referral to a "Youth Panel" or Juvenile Liaison Panel causes delay. For example:

Attempted robbery at knifepoint by two youths on a 76 year-old woman on 7/5/98. The offenders were arrested and admitted the offence in interview. The youths were reported to the Youth Panel. The Panel agreed prosecution on 27/5/98 but the case proceeded by way of summons with the information laid on 9/6/98 and a first court date of 28/7/98. As a result, arrest to first appearance took nearly 12 weeks.

- 5.11 At one site, where a fast track scheme had been introduced, we encountered confusion among police officers over whether the panel system was still operating.
- 5.12 We support the view, expressed at some sites, that the use of a panel system should not prevent early charging, and that a speedy referral to the panel, where appropriate, could still occur after a charge has been laid.
- 5.13 At some sites, we were informed by police decision makers that, at times, officers needed to be reminded of the role that the proper use of section 47(3) [Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984] bail could play in the effective processing of youth cases. In one force area, new guidelines had been issued on charging and the use of 47(3) bail. For example, if an offender is involved in five thefts, but the officers only have the losers' statements for three of those offences, the offender should be released on bail while the remaining statements are obtained. Once they are received, the offender should be charged with all five theft offences and all five offences should receive their first court listing on the same day. We would support such an approach, provided any subsequent investigation is conducted expeditiously. Forces should ensure the use of such practice to reduce the overall processing time.

Charge to first appearance

- 5.14 Some sites were operating fast track schemes designed to bring young offenders before a court quickly. The distinguishing features of each scheme are outlined in the following paragraphs. We have not attempted to prescribe an "ideal scheme", but would encourage all readers involved in such schemes to give consideration to introducing elements currently missing from their own arrangements.
- 5.15 In area A, a fast track scheme has operated for all youth cases since 1997. Salient features include:
- Those youths with offences already before the court are charged and bailed for seven days or to their next court date, whichever is less. Youths not currently in the court system are charged and bailed for 21 days.
 - Youth case files are regarded as a top priority by the police Administrative Support Unit (ASU) and the officer in the case should complete all necessary paperwork by the end of the day following arrest, to avoid problems with rest days and the shift system in operation.

- (5.15)l ➤ The CPS has agreed to accept expedited files that contain less documentation than a standard abbreviated file, and in those cases which follow the “seven day or less” route, the CPS accepts hand-written, rather than typed statements.l
- The police have agreed to provide the CPS with an extra copy of the evidence in the seven day cases for service on the defence at the first appearance. Where the police have not supplied such documentation, the court allows the CPS to use their copier, so that progress can be made. We were informed that cases are never adjourned for lack of advance information and that defence solicitors have been provided with pigeonholes at the courthouse to facilitate speedy service of papers.l
- We were informed that the initial resistance experienced from defence solicitors has been overcome, and that all local defence solicitors expect, and are willing, to read advance disclosure and (at least) enter a plea at the first appearance. A culture has been established of expecting to make progress at each hearing and any adjournments granted are for the minimum possible period, often from a Tuesday Youth Court to the Thursday one.l
- 5.16 In area B:l
- Cases in which the police anticipate a guilty plea result in the defendant being bailed to a court between two and seven days hence. Where the police anticipate a not guilty plea, the bail date will be between 14 and 21 days hence.l
- A youth court Duty Solicitor scheme has been instigated and has been credited with assisting in increasing the number of cases that proceed at the first appearance.l
- The court has produced information leaflets for parents which stress that the court intends to make progress at the first appearance, and sets out what parents should do in advance of that hearing.l
- 5.17 In area C:l
- Significant improvement in file quality was reported following the establishment of a specialist police unit responsible for file quality in youth cases. The creation of the specialist unit has improved provision of advance information at the first hearing from 25% to 70%.l
- The police are introducing a system to identify persistent offenders before court. The charge sheets will be modified to highlight to the CPS and the court that the charge relates to a persistent young offender. The court will receive the charge sheet the next day, and the defendant will be bailed to court within seven days.l
- The CPS Prosecution Team Leader (PTL) deals with straightforward cases immediately and allocates the rest to experienced prosecutors.l
- A clerk sitting without magistrates conducts the first court hearing for all youths appearing on bail. Those first hearings deal with administrative matters such as legal aid and advance information. Two other youth courts sit simultaneously and cases can be transferred, if substantive progress can be made.l
- Senior designated specialists from both the CPS and the court participate at the court hearings. It was reported to us that this level of involvement ensures an open dialogue so that cases can be finalised, if possible, without reference to other staff. The rota system deployed by both agencies has arranged that the same clerks and prosecutors are involved on specific days. We were informed that, as a result, the parties are aware of what has happened at previous appearances. As we comment elsewhere, however, we do not believe such arrangements, no matter what other benefits that they may achieve, should be used to justify the minimal information contained in many file endorsements.l

- 5.18 Agency staff interviewed expressed general satisfaction with the way their local fast track schemes were operating, albeit with some recognition that the schemes were fairly new and may require some modification in the light of experience. Area A has operated its scheme since 1997 and has performed well in terms of overall throughput, but we have some concerns that the drive to achieve speedy progress may be affecting the quality of decision-making. In particular, the CPS prosecutors make decisions on files that contain less documentation than that found in a standard abbreviated file, and are also accepting hand-written statements. We are concerned that the CPS should be able to make informed decisions, in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors, on the basis of all the relevant information.
- 5.19 The fast track schemes that we encountered appeared to be well-understood by the majority of staff whom we interviewed. The schemes that we heard of had not been detailed in single documents or service level agreements, although we heard frequent reference to them being detailed in minutes of meetings, and individual agencies had often drawn up guidance notes for use by their own staff. At times, however, we did encounter some confusion over how the schemes operated, and this difficulty appeared to be most acute when a member of staff who had been involved in negotiating the scheme either left or was transferred within their organisation. For some agencies, particularly the police, the confusion was compounded by officers having contact with differing schemes operating in the area in which they worked. For other staff not directly involved, there was confusion over how the fast track scheme impacted on their own work. For example, in one area (as noted above), police juvenile liaison officers were unclear how the fast tracking scheme affected arrangements for the Juvenile Liaison Panel operating in their area. Some staff were unclear to which particular offenders the scheme in their area applied.
- 5.20 **We believe all fast track agreements should:**
- be contained in a single document;
 - be agreed by the appropriate criminal justice agencies;
 - identify those cases and categories of offender which should be fast tracked; and
 - set out time limits for the key stages of the processing of fast tracked youth offenders – those time limits should be subject to periodic review and should, wherever possible, reflect the national guidelines.
- 5.21 The appropriate criminal justice agencies should ensure that staff are aware of, and correctly apply, the provisions of the agreement. In addition, the appropriate criminal justice agencies should agree key joint performance indicators to monitor the effectiveness of any fast track agreement.
- 5.22 One key element in the process for getting cases to court that are ready to make progress is that the police officer in the case, and the custody sergeant, should make a realistic assessment of the anticipated plea at time of charge. We recognise that in some cases the defendant will remain silent during interview or deny the offence, even though the evidence against him or her is overwhelming. In these cases, as in those where the defendant admits the offence, the custody sergeant should make a realistic assessment of the anticipated plea. The fast track schemes which we encountered were handling cases where a not guilty plea was indicated in different ways.

- (5.22) For example, in Area A, no distinction was made between the type of plea expected, while in Area B, cases where a not guilty plea was expected were bailed for a longer period. We acknowledge that the guidelines issued do not distinguish between cases with different expected pleas, but we believe there are advantages in handling them differently. We consider that the following features should apply to charging and bail procedures:
- **if a guilty plea is anticipated, the police file should contain a copy of the statements and short descriptive notes to expedite the provision of advance information.** Evidence from our inspection indicates that seven days is a realistic maximum period from charge to first appearance;
 - **if it is anticipated that the defendant will plead not guilty, he or she should be bailed for 28 days to allow a full police file to be submitted before first appearance;**
 - **full files should contain the availability dates of all witnesses (including police witnesses) to allow the case to be listed for trial on the day a plea is entered.** At some sites, cases were adjourned to seek or update witness availability. We consider that such adjournments are an area of delay that improved communication should reduce.
- 5.23 At some sites, a number of files were forwarded to the CPS for advice. At other sites, advice files were not found in the sample. Advice files have been the subject of a specific thematic review by the CPSI (Thematic Report 3/98). We wish to emphasise here, however, that, as the request and provision of advice necessarily take time, it should only be sought in appropriate cases.
- 5.24 The point of entry into the court system of cases with anticipated not guilty pleas will also impact on schemes (such as PTRs) designed to expedite cases within the court system and we return to this issue in paragraphs 5.31 & 7.32.
- 5.25 All representatives of the agencies interviewed spoke of the resources required to implement fast track schemes. For the police and CPS, changes have usually been achieved by a redeployment of existing resources, but for the courts, some other considerations also apply. At some of the sites that we visited, the youth courts do not sit each week and, as a result, achieving the guideline of charge to first appearance within seven days is difficult. Some areas have increased the frequency of their youth courts, but that increase has only been achieved through reducing adult court sittings. Areas with small workloads, and infrequent court sittings, may never meet the present (or future) targets.
- 5.26 In addition, convening extra youth courts places a greater burden on the Youth Panel, which may require extra magistrates (who cannot be brought into use quickly). The impact of new initiatives on the work of youth court magistrates should be monitored to assist in the planning of future Youth Court Panel recruitment and training.

First appearance to first disposal (plea or finding of guilt, discontinuance or committal)

- 5.27 We discussed at each site the actions that need to be taken to enable progress to be made at each hearing. We heard of a number of initiatives designed to assist progress. For example:
- In area B, a dedicated youth court Duty Solicitor scheme has been introduced with the co-operation of local solicitors. In addition, the Justices' Clerk has organised training events for solicitors to explain the court's policy and strategy for reducing delay; those events are accredited for Continuing Professional Development of solicitors.
 - At a number of courts, we heard of local co-operation between agencies to speed up the production of advance information. For example, at one site, we heard how the court would copy police statements on behalf of the CPS, so that papers could be served on the defence in court. In the light of our findings at paragraph 5.3, we regard such initiatives as an important contributing factor in reducing unnecessary delay.
- 5.28 **We believe that the CPS should ensure advance information is available at the first hearing.**
- 5.29 Several courts explained that priority was accorded to processing legal aid claims relating to youth court cases. In area A, cases are adjourned for seven days only to enable legal aid issues to be resolved. It was mentioned to inspectors that obtaining details relating to the means of parents was a significant delaying factor for some cases. At one court, staff said that they considered that resolving this issue was the most important change that they would wish for to reduce delay.
- 5.30 **The proposal contained in the Access to Justice Bill to abolish the means test criteria for grant of legal aid should help to speed up a number of cases, and we support this measure.**
- 5.31 We also explored ways in which the period between first appearance and the start of a youth court trial could be kept to a minimum (as noted elsewhere, not a single case in our study met the guideline target of achieving the start of a youth court trial within 28 days).
- 5.32 The view was expressed to us that where the offence is denied, and the police are aware of that from the outset, the date set for first appearance after charge should be sufficient to allow the police to compile a full file. Those making that point feel that there is nothing to be gained by bailing for a short period (for example, within the seven days set down in the guidelines). In their view, this would merely remove the delay period into the court process (due to the CPS seeking an adjournment to receive and consider the full file). The target should be for the police to submit a full file before the first appearance in cases where they anticipate a not guilty plea (including documents providing full details of witness availability).

- 5.33 Others, however, took the view that it is better for the court to seize control of matters at an early stage and be in a position to ensure all parties expedite matters. This type of control exercised by the court, in addition, raises the issue of Pre-Trial Reviews (PTRs). PTRs were in use at a number of sites visited. For example:
- In area C, both the court and CPS staff believe that the PTR system introduced early in 1998 is successful. Designated prosecutors and clerks hold open discussions in the absence of magistrates (and, initially, in the absence of the defendant). Trial dates are not fixed until the PTR hearing. We were told that the system used has reduced the number of “cracked” trials. However, we were also informed that files often needed to be upgraded once a not guilty plea has been entered, and we were informed that some PTRs have to be adjourned due to file deficiencies. In our study, this court was experiencing the greatest delay between first appearance and start of youth court trial (averaging 101 days).
 - Area A was also pleased with its PTR system, and we were told that 50% of cases do not proceed to trial beyond the PTR hearing. Adjournments between the PTR hearing and the trial are usually very short and, unlike the scheme deployed in area C, magistrates are involved in the PTR hearings – although some interviewees expressed the view that, perhaps, fuller discussions between the agencies would take place, if the hearings were conducted before clerks only.
- 5.34 In area B, changes had occurred shortly before our visit. Until recently, the court had operated a PTR scheme for all not guilty pleas, but the introduction of the 28 day guideline for plea to trial led to a change. Now, if a young person enters a not guilty plea, the court adjourns direct to trial date (within 28 days) without recourse to an interim PTR.
- 5.35 **In the light of our findings, we believe that there is scope for further research into the impact of PTRs in the youth court, particularly in connection with the guideline issued of first appearance to trial within 28 days. Examination of this issue will need to consider when indicated pleas of not guilty should enter the system (see paragraphs 5.22 – 5.24) – there may be overall benefits if a file is complete, and the CPS are “trial ready” at the point a formal plea is entered. At a local level, all agencies involved should consult about the use of PTRs in youth court cases, to consider whether their current format adds sufficient value to the process.** The stance adopted locally will impact on the agencies’ ability to meet targets – some targets for individual stages of the process may need to be exceeded in the interests of meeting the overall target.
- 5.36 Many issues relating to trial preparation also apply to the preparation of cases for committal to the Crown Court. Discussions with agency representatives at the inspection sites highlighted the importance of the police and CPS identifying “grave crime” cases at the earliest opportunity. Cases that meet agreed criteria should be prepared as committal files from the outset of proceedings.

First appearance to completion

- 5.37 All the factors considered above impact on the overall length of time that it takes to complete cases. Other factors, however, also play their part.
- 5.38 One feature of youth offending that we explored was that of “spree offending” – youths who commit further offences once already in the court system. Our data, as we expected, confirmed that this group of offenders can take longer to deal with – only 40% of offenders had their lead case (the case that brought them into our study) completed within 71 days, and their combined offences would often keep them within the youth court system for a considerable period of time (average time – 132.3 days).

- 5.39 Past case law has encouraged youth courts to sentence “in total”, rolling up a number of cases and conducting one sentencing exercise. Recently, magistrates have been encouraged to sentence cases as they become ready for disposal, and we found evidence from the sites visited that this ethos is taking firm hold.
- 5.40 We believe that the processing of cases is assisted by the early linking of cases. In some areas, we encountered good use of information technology to ensure that offenders involved in new offences were charged and bailed to days when they were already appearing in court. In other areas, we encountered agencies working hard to supply written and oral information that could assist the police in identifying relevant dates. For example, in one area, the Youth Justice Service supplied details of forthcoming court appearances to custody staff, so that any new matters could be charged to those dates.
- 5.41 In other areas, however, we received reports of difficulties in linking cases. In one, the police custody computer was able to inform charging officers of the dates to which other offences had been bailed, but they did not have any information once cases had made their first appearance in court. We also encountered some difficulty in areas where information about subsequent appearances was available, because, on some occasions, new matters had been charged to dates set aside for trials.
- 5.42 **Our evidence suggests that local liaison over youth case processing should include discussion of effective ways to link cases at the earliest possible opportunity.**
- 5.43 During our file examination stage, we interrogated files in relation to the reasons given at court when cases were adjourned. In many instances, the level of information recorded on files did not allow us to provide definitive answers to many of our questions. During our visits, we explored with all agency staff the issue that we collectively called “file endorsement”.
- 5.44 In some areas, staff justified the sparsity of information contained in file endorsements by saying that, because the same court and prosecution staff were involved in dealing with subsequent appearances of adjourned cases, they could draw upon their personal knowledge of what happened on a previous occasion. It was also pointed out to us that, at some sites, the court register sheets supplied to magistrates provided them with information regarding the number of previous appearances.
- 5.45 We believe, however, that case management would be improved by clerks inquiring at each appearance into the readiness of parties to proceed, and for each agency’s file endorsements to record the reasons given for adjournments, and the actions expected to take place at the next hearing. Such information should be routinely provided to magistrates at the next hearing.
- 5.46 **We recommend that court and CPS papers are endorsed fully with:**
- the name of the party applying for the adjournment;
 - the reason for the application;
 - whether the application was opposed;
 - whether the application was granted for the full period requested; and
 - the actions required by each party prior to the next hearing.
- 5.47 We believe that defence solicitors would also benefit from adopting such an approach.

- 5.48 We did not specifically examine arrangements for the production of pre-sentence reports (PSRs). At one site, however, we were able to speak to a representative of the local Youth Justice Service and were able to explore with that agency and the court, the steps being taken to expedite the production of PSRs and to reduce the period between plea/finding of guilt and sentence. The following features emerged:
- When cases are adjourned for a PSR, the Youth Justice Service provides the court with a date and time for the first interview with the offender. Those details are often incorporated into the offender's bail conditions;
 - A service level agreement between the Youth Justice Service and the CPS has resulted in effective and efficient arrangements for sentencing information packages to pass from the CPS to the Youth Justice Service;
 - The Youth Justice Service is prepared to produce "stand-down" reports in certain circumstances, and will fast track other PSRs. Good use is made of recently prepared PSRs, something that has become more relevant since the court ceased to "roll-up" offences prior to a single sentencing exercise. Some young people have experienced several sentencing episodes in a relatively short period, and in some instances, the court was able to make use of previously produced reports and oral updates to move quickly to sentence.
- 5.49 As mentioned in paragraph 4.11 & 4.12, the absence of defendants from hearings can also impact on the success sites will experience in achieving, and improving upon, present targets. The impact of such cases on monitoring of targets needs further consideration.
- 5.50 We believe the issue of the Crown Court cases, and their impact on target setting, will also need further exploration. At present, the interim target does not distinguish between final venues. Our findings suggest that, for cases ultimately dealt with at the Crown Court, a target of 71 days from arrest to completion of the youth court element of the proceedings may be more realistic.

6: Closing Remarks

The preceding chapters outline the findings of this, the first joint inspection commissioned and carried out by three of the Criminal Justice System Inspectorates. The findings in Chapters 4 and 5 illustrate that real progress can be made, and throughout our work we were impressed by the genuine willingness of the three agencies which we inspected to work together to produce overall improvements in the time that it takes for youth cases to be processed.

The inspection was limited in scale, but we hope that the findings have relevance to a wide audience. Many of the initiatives that we came across at our inspection sites reflect our experience in the main activity inspections of our individual agencies. We are confident that these findings provide a realistic “snapshot” of progress being made across England and Wales; the data collection set in train by the Home Office and the Lord Chancellor’s Department in September 1998 will soon start to provide a fuller picture.

Notwithstanding the impact of that data collection exercise, we believe our recommendations, if adopted, will assist in the overall aim of reducing the time that it takes to deal with persistent young offenders. Many of them will also assist in improving case management in general. The three Inspectorates involved in this exercise will take the opportunity offered by their individual inspection activities to explore with the relevant agencies the impact and effectiveness of the recommendations contained in this report.

Annex A

Case Processing: The “Manual of Guidance” Time Guidelines

The following guidelines, relevant to this inspection, are found in the *Manual of Guidance for the Preparation, Processing and Submission of Files*.¹

<p>Abbreviated files (only applicable to anticipated guilty plea cases) ¹</p>	<p>Charge to first court appearance should be a maximum period of four weeks. The police file should be submitted to the CPS a maximum of two weeks after charge. ¹</p>
<p>Full files (Indictable only cases, special category cases and anticipated not guilty pleas) ¹</p>	<p>Charge to first court appearance should be a maximum period of five weeks. ¹</p> <p>The police file should be submitted to the CPS a maximum of three weeks after charge. ¹</p>
<p>Summons cases ¹</p>	<p>The laying of information should take place a maximum of three weeks after the completion of the investigation or the reporting for process.</p> <p>In cases involving a referral to a Juvenile Liaison Panel this period may be extended to four weeks.</p> <p>In cases where an advice file is submitted to the CPS this period may be extended to five weeks. ¹</p> <p>The period between the laying of the information and the first listing at court in juvenile cases should be no longer than three weeks. ¹</p> <p>Within these guidelines it is anticipated that the Magistrates' Court should take no longer than one week from the laying of the information to produce the summons and accompanying documentation for service on the defendant. ¹</p>

Annex B

Agency Representatives

Tracey Atkins	Head of ASUI	Hampshire Police
Inspector Battersby	Administrative Support Unit	Merseyside Police
Jonathan Black	Clerk to the Justices	Basingstoke Magistrates' Court
Neil Campbell	Deputy Clerk to the Justices	Trowbridge Magistrates' Court
Maria Corri	Senior Crown Prosecutor	Mersey North, CPS Mersey/Lancashire
Lorraine Deeney	Court Clerk	Leeds Magistrates' Court
Norman Draper	Justices' Chief Executive I	Knowsley Magistrates' Court
D J Dulwich	Clerk to the Justices	Trowbridge Magistrates' Court
Gerry Fenlon	Principal Legal Adviser	Knowsley Magistrates' Court
Inspector Ferguson	Criminal Justice Support	West Yorkshire Police
Martin Goldman	Prosecution Team Leader	Leeds North, CPS Yorkshire
Jane Goveas	Justice Liaison Officer	Basingstoke Magistrates' Court
Lesley Groom	Scheduling Manager	Basingstoke Magistrates' Court
Chief Inspector Hobson	Criminal Justice Support	West Yorkshire Police
Richard Holland	Justices' Chief Executive	Leeds Magistrates' Court
Harry Ireland	Branch Crown Prosecutor	Wiltshire, CPS Severn Thames
Christine Jackson	Office Manager	Knowsley Magistrates' Court
Guy Knell	Prosecution Team Leader	Wiltshire, CPS Severn Thames
Bob Marshall	Branch Crown Prosecutor	Leeds North, CPS Yorkshire
Derek Middleton	Principal Court Clerk	Leeds Magistrates' Court
St. John Pilkington	Clerk to the Justices	Grantham Magistrates' Court
Carolyn Pilmore-Bedford	Justices' Chief Executive I	Bexley Magistrates' Court
David Pryor	Justices' Chief Executive I	Hexham Magistrates' Court
Hilary Reeve	Prosecution Team Leader	Basingstoke, CPS South East
David Renwick	Branch Crown Prosecutor	Basingstoke, CPS South East
Jane Roden	Branch Crown Prosecutor	Mersey North, CPS Mersey/Lancashire
Amanda Sawetz	Senior Crown Prosecutor	Wiltshire, CPS Severn Thames
Adrian Smith	Senior Principal Court Clerk	Leeds Magistrates' Court
Stephen Whaley	Clerk to the Justices	Brecon Magistrates' Court

Annex C

Inspectorate Staff

HMCI

Peter Hampson
John Foxl
Craig Mackeyl
Magnus Gudmundssonl
John Slaterl
Tony Grantl
Ken Arnottl
Alison Hastingsl
Sue Beamsl

CPSI

Roger Dawl
Jonathan Carverl
Steve Robinsonl
Guy Woodhaml

HM MCSI

Margaret Pinderl
Sarah McAdaml
John McCalll
Penny Rickardsl
Lori Buckleyl
Steve Jacobsl

Annex D

Glossary of Terms

Discontinuance	Cases terminated by the CPS before evidence is offered – including those which are withdrawn before court and those which are withdrawn at court.
First listing	The date that a case is first listed whether or not the defendant appears or the summons is served.
Indictable offences	An offence which must be tried in the Crown Court.
Persistent young offenders	A <i>persistent young offender</i> has been defined by the government as a young person aged 10–17 years who has been sentenced by any criminal court in the UK on three or more occasions for one or more recordable offences, <i>and</i> within three years of the last sentencing occasion is subsequently arrested or has information laid against him for a further recordable offence.
Pre-sentence report	Requested by magistrates to help their decision on the sentencing of an individual. The responsibility of youth justice or probation services. National standards set out the requirements.
Spree offenders	For the purposes of this inspection, the following definition of a <i>spree offender</i> was developed: A young person who – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ first appears in court in respect of a third set of proceedings ■ where that set of proceedings and the second set of proceedings relate to incidents, each of which occurred after the court appearance for the first set of proceedings ■ before the first set of proceedings has been concluded; and ■ with no set of proceedings involving an adult co-defender.

Example

1.3.98	First offence committed	first court appearance on 8.3.98
15.3.98	Second offence committed	first court appearance on 29.3.98
27.3.98	Third offence committed	first court appearance on 31.3.98

The offender becomes a spree offender on 31.3.98. If the second or third offences had been committed before 8.3.98 (the first court appearance) he would not be classified as a spree offender. Neither would he be so, if either the first or second set of proceedings concluded before 31.3.98.

The file subject to this inspection is that relating to the third set of proceedings. Proceedings brought for breach of bail do not count as separate sets of proceedings.

Summary offences	Offences which have to be tried in magistrates' courts.
Youth courts	Criminal courts for 10 – 17 year old offenders presided over by three lay magistrates.

Annex E

Statistical Tables

- 11 File sample profile
- 21 Offence profile
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Note:

The following tables provide information in greater depth than is possible in the main text of the report. Some of the information is provided in a variety of formats: percentages, averages and absolute figures. Wherever possible, we have tried to present the information in a way that links cogently with targets set. However, it should be remembered that some of the sample areas are very small and, wherever possible, readers should cross-reference percentages with the early tables which provide a breakdown by category (random, persistent etc.) and type of offence. The size of the sample in relation to spree offenders and Crown Court cases makes those figures more vulnerable if used to identify trends and tendencies.

Table 1: File sample profile

Category	Number	% of sample
Random cases	150	55.1%
Persistent offender cases	58	21.3%
Spree offender cases	28	10.3%
Crown Court cases	36	13.2%
Crown Court cases (random)	(26)	(72.2%)
Crown Court cases (persistent)	(9)	(25%)
Crown Court cases (spree)	(1)	(2.8%)
TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFENDERS	272	

File sample profile – overall

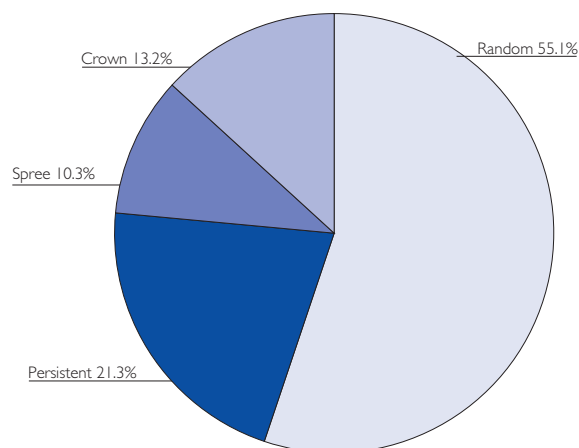


Table 2: Offence profile – by offence category

Offence category	Random		Persistent		Spree		Crown		Overall	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Theft and fraud	71	31.3%	45	57.7%	25	49%	30	42.9%	171	40.1%
Offences against the person	41	18.1%	5	6.4%	4	7.8%	13	18.6%	63	14.8%
Public order	32	14.1%	15	19.2%	2	3.9%	3	4.3%	52	12.2%
Road traffic	37	16.3%	2	2.6%	12	23.5%	0	0%	51	12%
Criminal damage	25	11%	4	5.1%	3	5.9%	6	8.6%	38	8.9%
Drugs	10	4.4%	3	3.8%	4	7.8%	8	11.4%	25	5.9%
Sexual	4	1.8%	3	3.8%	1	2%	8	11.4%	16	3.8%
Firearms	5	2.2%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1.4%	6	1.4%
Post and telecommunications	1	0.4%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0.2%
Public justice	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1.4%	1	0.2%
Others	1	0.4%	1	1.3%	0	0%	0	0%	2	0.5%
TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFENCES	227	100%	78	100%	51	100%	70	100%	426	100%

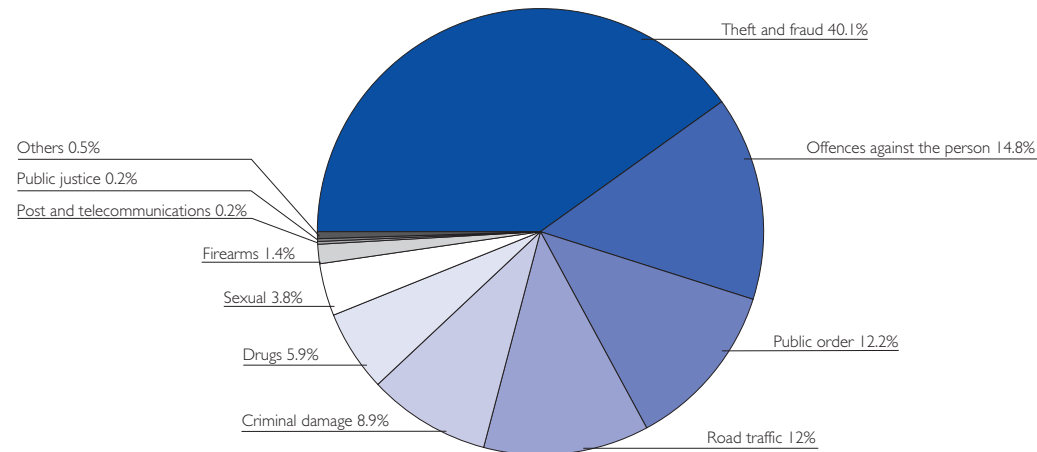


Table 3: Defendant profile

Offence category	Number	% of sample
SEXI		
Male	244	89.7%
Female	28	10.3%
AGEI		
10 years old	0	0%
11 years old	0	0%
12 years old	8	3%
13 years old	15	5.6%
14 years old	34	12.6%
15 years old	53	19.7%
16 years old	60	22.3%
17 years old	99	36.8%

Lead defendant profile – by age

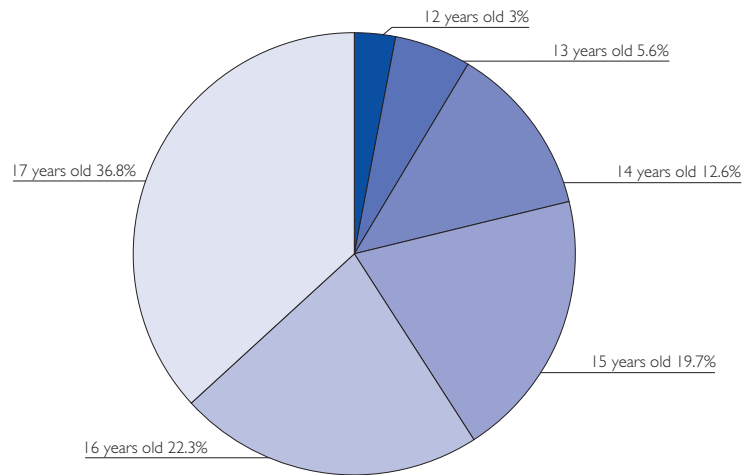


Table 4: Average processing periods – Home Office time interval guidelines (all periods in calendar days)

Category/Target	Random		Persistent		Spree		Crown		Overall	
	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average
Arrest – charge in 2 days	58.8%	11.5	72.5%	6.4	73.3%	4.3	74.2%	7.5	65.8%	9.3
Charge – file receipt in 7 days	14.7%	17.6	24.9%	12.5	58.3%	10.5	62.5%	9.6	27.8%	14.7
Charge – first appearance in 7 days	10.1%	31.5	25.9%	22	48.1%	17	55.6%	16.9	23.4%	26
File receipt – registration in 3 days	86.4%	1.7	82.9%	1.3	91.7%	0.8	96%	0.5	87.6%	1.3
File receipt – review in 7 days	58.7%	9	58.7%	8.7	72.7%	4.4	83.5%	2.4	64.9%	7.6
Identification of defence – 1 advance information in 14 days	76.1%	7.1	73.1%	9.4	85.7%	7.1	47.6%	18.8	72%	9.4
Full file request – receipt in 21 days	68.7%	14.9	87.5%	10.5	100%	4.3	50%	18.3	71.4%	13.7
First appearance – YC trial in 28 days	0%	69.9	0%	75	0%	106.5	NAI	NAI	0%	91.7
Not guilty plea – YC trial in 28 days	11.1%	52.4	0%	40	50%	69.5	NAI	NAI	83.3%	54.3
First appearance – committal in 28 days	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	16.1%	59.8	16.1%	59.8
MOT – committal in 28 days	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	68.2%	29.5	68.2%	29.5
Committal – PDH in 14 days	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	6.7%	37.5	6.7%	37.5
PDH – CC trial in 28 days	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	0%	52.7	0%	52.7
Charge to first disposal in 71 days	75.7%	53.8	79.3%	46.8	85.2%	45.9	58.3%	8	75.1%	55.2
First appearance to first disposal in 71 days	92%	22.4	89.7%	24.8	92.9%	28.9	80.6%	64.1	90%	29.1
First appearance to finalisation in 71 days	86.6%	34.6	81%	48.3	74%	75.7	11.8%	147.3	73.7%	55.8
ARREST TO FINALISATION IN 71 DAYS	52.6%	76.7	62.5%	71.8	40%	132.3	6.5%	168.3	54.1%	94.8
ARREST TO FINALISATION IN 100 DAYS	77.2%	76.7	80%	71.8	53.3%	132.3	32.3%	168.3	68.4%	94.8

Rows in **bold** denote Home Office time interval guidelines (Joint Home Office LCD circular – 11 September 1998)

Arrest to finalisation in 71 days – Home Office time interval guidelines

Category/Target	Random		Persistent		Spree		Crown		Overall	
	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average
All cases ¹	52.6%	76.7	62.5%	71.8	40%	132.3	6.5%	168.3	54.1%	94.8
Guilty plea cases (Youth court) ¹	59.5%	68.1	66.7%	60.5	45.5%	132.1	NAI	NAI	59.8%	72.5
Bail throughout ¹	52.5%	80.6	65.2%	63	40%	103.4	0%	194.6	53.1%	96
Custody/care throughout ¹	100%	44.5	100%	31.5	66.7%	119.3	10%	126.6	41.2%	104.5
Attended all hearings ¹	56.7%	74.6	68.8%	60.6	45.5%	110.1	12%	147.6	49.1%	83.3
Did not attend one or more hearing(s) ¹	27.3%	115.7	37.5%	116.6	25%	193.5	0%	254.5	24%	155.4
Not guilty plea – resolved PTRI	50%	91.4	0%	174	0%	223	NAI	NAI	35.7%	118.5
Not guilty plea – cracked trial ¹	20%	121.6	100%	51	0%	206	NAI	NAI	14.3%	123.5
Not guilty plea – trial ¹	0%	146.3	33.3%	83.7	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	18.8%	118.9

All cases – Home Office time interval guidelines

Category/Target	Random		Persistent		Spree		Crown		Overall	
	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average
Arrest – charge in 2 days ¹	58.8% ¹	11.5 ¹	72.5% ¹	6.4 ¹	73.3% ¹	4.3 ¹	74.2% ¹	7.5 ¹	65.8% ¹	9.3 ¹
Charge – first appearance in 7 days ¹	10.1% ¹	31.5 ¹	25.9% ¹	22 ¹	48.1% ¹	17 ¹	55.6% ¹	16.9 ¹	23.4% ¹	26 ¹
First appearance – YC trial in 28 days ¹	0% ¹	69.9 ¹	0% ¹	75 ¹	0% ¹	106.5 ¹	NAI	NAI	0% ¹	91.7 ¹
First appearance – committal in 28 days ¹	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	16.1% ¹	59.8 ¹	16.1% ¹	59.8 ¹
Committal – PDH in 14 days ¹	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	6.7% ¹	37.5 ¹	6.7% ¹	37.5 ¹
PDH – CC trial in 28 days ¹	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	0% ¹	52.7 ¹	0% ¹	52.7 ¹
ARREST TO FINALISATION IN 71 DAYS ¹	52.6% ¹	76.7 ¹	62.5% ¹	71.8 ¹	40% ¹	132.3 ¹	6.5% ¹	168.3 ¹	54.1% ¹	94.8 ¹

Youth court guilty plea cases – Home Office time interval guidelines

Category/Target	Random		Persistent		Spree		Crown		Overall	
	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average
Arrest – charge in 2 days ¹	64.9% ¹	9.9 ¹	88.9% ¹	2.2 ¹	81.8% ¹	1.7 ¹	NAI	NAI	71.5% ¹	7.2 ¹
Charge – first appearance in 7 days ¹	9.2% ¹	31.9 ¹	17.5% ¹	24.2 ¹	47.8% ¹	16.7 ¹	NAI	NAI	17% ¹	27.6 ¹
ARREST TO FINALISATION IN 71 DAYS ¹	59.5% ¹	68.1 ¹	66.7% ¹	60.5 ¹	45.5% ¹	132.1 ¹	NAI	NAI	59.8% ¹	72.5 ¹

Defendant on bail throughout – Home Office time interval guidelines

Category/Target	Random		Persistent		Spree		Crown		Overall	
	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average
Arrest – charge in 2 days I	53.2%I	15.2I	73.9%I	6.2I	60%I	8.8I	61.5%I	16.2I	56.2%I	12.9I
Charge – first appearance in 7 days I	6.5%I	32.6I	6.5%I	29.8I	33.3%I	24.4I	6.7%I	34.9I	6.7%I	29.4I
First appearance – YC trial in 28 days I	0%I	74.9I	0%I	75I	0%I	47I	NAI	NAI	0%I	71.8I
PDH – CC trial in 28 daysI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	0%I	51.1I	0%I	51.1I
ARREST TO FINALISATION IN 71 DAYS I	52.5%I	80.6I	65.2%I	63I	40%I	103.4I	0%I	194.6I	53.1%I	96I

Defendant in custody/care throughout – Home Office time interval guidelines

Category/Target	Random		Persistent		Spree		Crown		Overall	
	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average
Arrest – charge in 2 daysI	100%I	0.5I	100%I	0.5I	100%I	0I	100%I	0.2I	100%I	0.2I
Charge – first appearance in 7 days I	100%I	1I	66.7%I	5.5I	66.7%I	15.3I	100%I	1.2I	81.5%I	5.29I
First appearance – YC trial in 28 days I	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	0%I	166I	NAI	NAI	0%I	166I
PDH – CC trial in 28 daysI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	0%I	50.7I	0%I	50.7I
ARREST TO FINALISATION IN 71 DAYS I	100%I	44.5I	100%I	31.5I	66.7%I	119.3I	10%I	126.6I	41.2%I	104.5I

Defendant attended all hearings – Home Office time interval guidelines

Category/Target	Random		Persistent		Spree		Crown		Overall	
	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average
Arrest – charge in 2 days I	59.6%I	11.8I	71.9%I	6.3I	72.7%I	4.5I	80%I	9.2I	78.3%I	9.8I
Charge – first appearance in 7 days I	10.7%I	30.7I	19.6%I	23.5I	42.1%I	20I	17.8%I	56.7%I	21.8%I	26.4I
First appearance – YC trial in 28 days I	0%I	75.3I	0%I	NAI	0%I	106.5I	NAI	NAI	0%I	83.1I
First appearance – committal in 28 days I	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI				
Committal – PDH in 14 days I	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI				
PDH – CC trial in 28 days I	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	0%I	54.9I	0%I	54.9I
ARREST TO FINALISATION IN 71 DAYS I	56.7%I	74.6I	68.8%I	60.6I	45.5%I	110.1I	12%I	147.6I	49.1%I	83.3I

Defendant did not attend all hearings – Home Office time interval guidelines

Category/Target	Random		Persistent		Spree		Crown		Overall	
	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average
Arrest – charge in 2 days I	54.5%I	9.7I	75%I	6.9I	75%I	3.8I	100%I	0.2%I	72.4%I	6.1I
Charge – first appearance in 7 days I	5.6%I	36.1I	50%I	16I	62.5%I	9.9I	50%I	9I	28.8%I	24.9I
First appearance – YC trial in 28 days I	0%I	59I	0%I	75I	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	0%I	50.4I
PDH – CC trial in 28 days I	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	0%I	55I	0%I	38.5I
ARREST TO FINALISATION IN 71 DAYS I	27.3%I	115.7I	37.5%I	116.6I	25%I	193.5I	0%I	254.5I	24%I	155.4I

Not guilty plea resolved at PTR – Home Office time interval guidelines

Category/Target	Random		Persistent		Spree		Crown		Overall	
	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average
Arrest – charge in 2 days I	80%I	8.7I	66.7%I	15.7I	100%I	0I	NAI	NAI	78.6%I	9.6I
Charge – first appearance in 7 days I	17.6%I	26I	44.4%I	19.7I	50%I	22I	NAI	NAI	28.6%I	23.7I
ARREST TO FINALISATION IN 71 DAYS I	50%I	91.4I	0%I	174I	0%I	223I	NAI	NAI	35.7%I	118.5I

Cracked trials – Home Office time interval guidelines

Category/Target	Random		Persistent		Spree		Crown		Overall	
	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average
Arrest – charge in 2 days I	60%I	7I	100%I	0I	100%I	0I	NAI	NAI	62.5%I	5.6I
Charge – first appearance in 7 days I	40%I	21.4I	100%I	4.5I	50%I	20I	NAI	NAI	55.6%I	17.3I
ARREST TO FINALISATION IN 71 DAYS I	20%I	121.6I	100%I	51I	0%I	206I	NAI	NAI	14.3%I	123.5I

Trials – Home Office time interval guidelines

Category/Target	Random		Persistent		Spree		Crown		Overall	
	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average
Arrest – charge in 2 daysI	33.3%I	21.1I	42.9%I	11I	NKI	NKI	NAI	NAI	41.2%I	15.7I
Charge – first appearance in 7 days I	22.2%I	33.7I	100%I	1I	0%I	40.5I	NAI	NAI	17.6%I	30.5I
First appearance – YC trial in 28 days I	0%I	69.9I	0%I	75I	0%I	106.5I	NAI	NAI	0%I	91.7I
ARREST TO FINALISATION IN 71 DAYS I	0%I	146.3I	33.3%I	83.7I	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	18.8%I	118.9I

Grave crime cases – Home Office time interval guidelines

Category/Target	Random		Persistent		Spree		Crown		Overall	
	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average	Achieved	Average
Arrest – charge in 2 daysI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	74.2%I	7.5I	74.2%I	7.5I
Charge – first appearance in 7 days I	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	55.6%I	16.9I	55.6%I	16.9I
First appearance – YC trial in 28 days I	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI
First appearance – committal in 28 daysI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	16.1%I	59.8I	16.1%I	59.8I
Arrest – committal in 71 daysI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	50%I	96I	50%I	96I
Committal – PDH in 14 daysI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	6.7%I	37.5I	6.7%I	37.5I
PDH – CC trial in 28 daysI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	0%I	52.7I	0%I	52.7I
ARREST TO FINALISATION IN 71 DAYS I	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	6.5%I	168.3I	6.5%I	168.3I

Table 5: Average processing periods by site – key dates (all periods in calendar days)

Category/Target	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D	Site E	Site F	Site G	Site H	Overall
Charge to first appearance	13.8	16.7	25.5	33.4	25.3	38.3	36.1	35.1	26
First appearance to MOT or plea	7.4	13.5	30.6	10.7	9.5	9.6	19.5	7	15.5
First appearance to trial (all cases)	112.9	105	146.6	98.8	55.3	72	101	42	68.3
Plea to trial (Youth Court)	NA	6	10	49	43.7	44	70.7	42	59.8
First appearance to committal	43.6	40.9	103.2	44.5	NA	34.8	NA	NA	54.3
MOT to committal	35	23.7	36.1	25	NA	21.5	NA	NA	52.7
Committal to PDH	36.8	38.7	42.7	25.8	NA	43	NA	NA	29.5
PDH to trial	5	66	9	37.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	37.5
Committal to finalisation	135.1	74.3	91.4	37	NA	87.3	NA	NA	92.1
First appearance to finalisation	49	43.3	96.6	40.1	32.1	54.3	52.8	19.7	55.8
First appearance to first disposal	18.4	22.9	54.9	19.8	22.9	23.9	37.6	10.8	29.1
Charge to first disposal	32.2	39.5	80.4	53.2	48.2	62.1	74	45.9	55.2
Charge to finalisation	63.3	59.1	122	73.4	57.4	92.5	89.8	54.8	82.2

Table 6: Average processing periods – custody/bail (all periods in calendar days)

Category	Defendant in custody			Defendant on bail/summons				Overall		
	High	Low	AVERAGE	High	Low	AVERAGE	High	Low	AVERAGE	
Charge to first appearance	21	01	0.51	801	01	30.31	801	01	261	
First appearance to MOT or pleal	651	11	37.11	1211	01	14.71	1311	01	15.51	
First appearance to trial 1	1761	741	124.81	1451	421	88.81	2881	221	68.31	
First appearance to committal	1121	191	63.31	1091	141	47.71	2131	91	59.81	
Plea to trial	1131	461	811	911	221	46.41	1131	221	54.31	
PDH to trial	451	181	35.21	661	411	51.11	1471	181	52.71	
MOT to committal	491	81	26.41	421	71	25.11	621	71	29.51	
Committal to PDHI	551	111	31.51	581	61	38.11	941	61	37.51	
Committal to finalisation	3501	111	94.21	3331	271	108.91	3501	31	92.11	
Charge to first disposal	2061	151	57.21	2281	01	551	2281	01	55.21	
First appearance to finalisation	4211	151	104.71	5111	01	54.81	5111	01	55.81	
First appearance to first disposal	1661	91	53.41	2001	01	24.81	2131	01	29.11	
Charge to finalisation	4221	151	108.91	5271	41	851	5271	41	82.21	

Table 7: Case finalisation by appearance

Numbers represent cases finalised at each appearance – percentages represent cumulative proportion of sample

Appearance	Random		Persistent		Spree		Crown		Overall	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
First	46	30.9%	11	1.9%	0	0%	0	0%	57	21%
Second	42	59.1%	20	53.4%	5	17.9%	2	5.6%	69	46.5%
Third	3	79.9%	9	69%	5	35.7%	2	11.1%	47	63.8%
Fourth	15	89.9%	7	81%	4	50%	4	22.2%	30	74.9%
Fifth	6	94%	4	87.9%	4	64.3%	8	44.4%	22	83%
Sixth	3	96%	2	91.4%	4	78.6%	6	61.1%	15	88.6%
Seventh	3	98%	1	93.1%	3	89.3%	2	66.7%	9	91.9%
Eighth	1	98.7%	1	94.8%	0	89.3%	4	77.8%	6	94.1%
Ninth	0	98.7%	0	94.8%	1	92.9%	1	80.6%	2	94.8%
Tenth	1	99.3%	1	96.6%	0	92.9%	1	83.3%	3	95.9%
Eleventh	1	100%	1	98.3%	1	96.4%	4	94.4%	7	98.5%
Twelfth +	0	100%	1	100%	1	100%	2	100%	4	100%

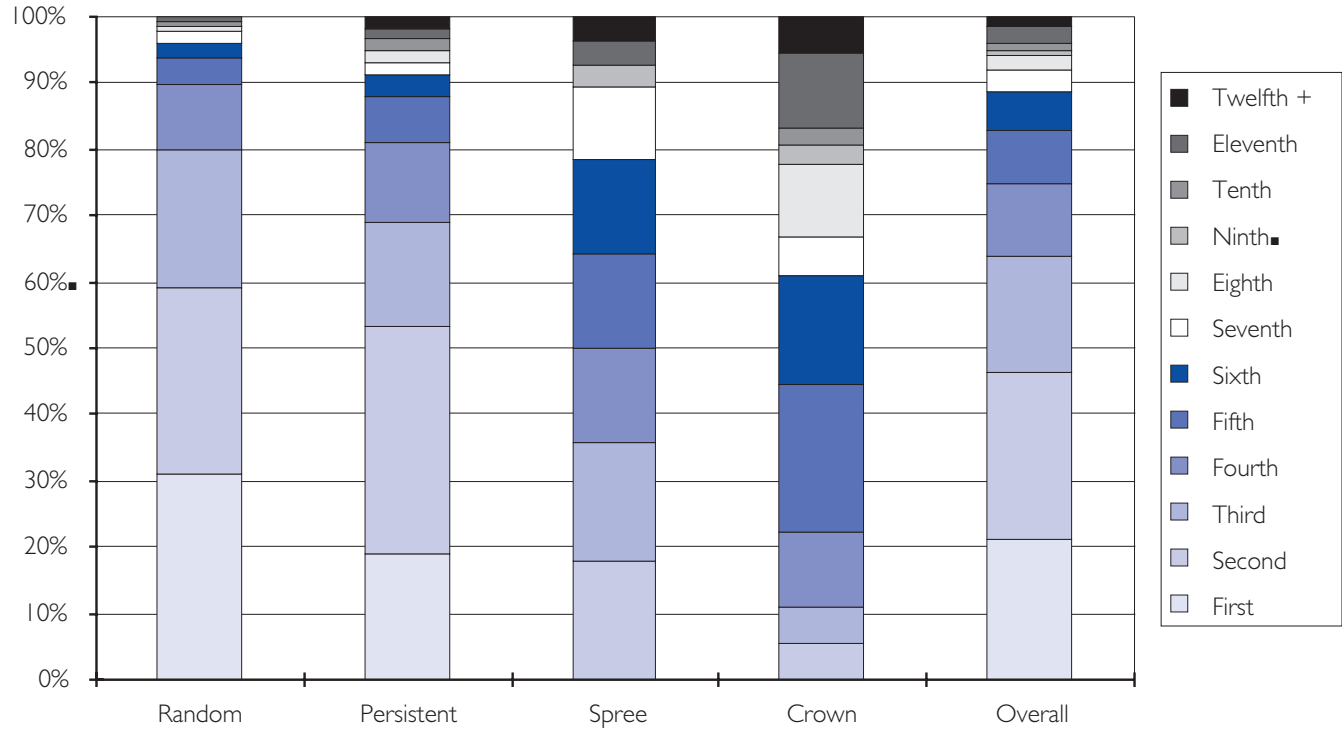


Table 8: Case examination data

Category	Random			Persistent			Spree			Crown			Overall		
	Yes	No	%	Yes	No	%	Yes	No	%	Yes	No	%	Yes	No	%
PRE-COURT PREPARATION															
Case fast tracked	23	126	15.4%	16	42	27.6%	11	17	39.3%	7	29	19.4%	57	214	21%
Right type of file submitted	129	19	87.2%	56	2	96.6%	28	0	100%	34	2	94.4%	247	23	91.5%
If not, right type of file requested	2	14	12.2%	0	11	0%	NA	NA	NA	1	11	50%	3	16	15.8%
Necessary papers and evidence present in initial file	123	26	82.6%	51	7	87.9%	28	0	100%	32	4	88.9%	234	37	86.3%
If not, police required to rectify deficiency	9	17	34.6%	2	5	28.6%	NA	NA	NA	3	1	75%	14	23	37.8%
Such a request necessary and reasonable	9	0	100%	2	0	100%	NA	NA	NA	3	0	100%	14	0	100%
FIRST APPEARANCE – READINESS TO PROCEED															
Defendant attended	131	18	87.9%	51	7	87.9%	25	3	89.3%	34	2	94.4%	241	30	88.9%
If not, warrant issued	4	10	28.6%	6	1	85.7%	2	1	66.7%	1	1	50%	13	13	50%
Warrant without bail	3	1	75%	6	0	100%	2	0	100%	1	0	100%	12	1	92.3%
CPS in a position to proceed	138	10	93.2%	53	5	91.4%	26	2	92.9%	29	7	80.6%	247	24	91.1%
Defendant's other offences known	14	1	93.3%	19	0	100%	24	2	92.3%	5	0	100%	58	3	95.1%
Case listed to link with those offences	5	9	35.7%	3	16	15.8%	14	14	50%	3	2	60%	25	4	37.9%
If not, case adjourned to link with those offences	6	3	66.7%	13	3	81.3%	1	1	91.7%	2	0	100%	32	7	82.1%
Other defendants on this file linked	16	0	100%	9	0	100%	3	1	75%	1	2	84.6%	39	3	92.9%
If not, case adjourned to link up with those defendants	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	1	0%	2	0	84.6%	2	1	66.7%
Defendants on other file(s) linked	1	0	100%	0	1	0%	1	1	50%	NA	NA	NA	2	2	50%
If not, case adjourned to link up with those defendants	NA	NA	NA	0	1	0%	2	0	100%	NA	NA	NA	2	1	66.7%

<i>Category</i>	<i>Random</i>	<i>Persistent</i>	<i>Spree</i>	<i>Crown</i>	<i>Overall</i>
ALL PRELIMINARY HEARINGS – READINESS TO PROCEEDI					
Defendant attended	89.1%I	91.8%I	91.2%I	91%I	90.5%
If not, warrant issuedI	27.7%I	78.6%I	58.3%I	60%I	47.2%I
Warrant without bail I	60%I	100%I	100%I	66.7%I	82.3%I
CPS in a position to proceedI	98.2%I	94.7%I	97.8%I	80.7%I	94.8%I
Defendant's other offences knownI	90.9%I	95.3%I	95.6%I	94.7%I	94.7%I
Case listed to linkI	60%I	64.1%I	84.4%I	68.4%I	74.4%
If not, case adjourned to linkI	56.3%I	87%I	76.2%I	50%I	72.7%I
Other defendants on this file linked I	97.1%I	100%I	78.3%I	88.2%I	91.5%
If not, case adjourned to link I	100%I	NAI	40%I	100%I	70%I
Defendants on other file(s) linkedI	100%I	33.3%I	92.3%I	NAI	76.2%
If not, case adjourned to link I	NAI	25%I	100%I	NAI	66.7%I
REMAND STATUS					
In custody – first appearancel	3.3%I	25.9%I	46.4%I	54.3%I	19.2%I
Conditional bail – first appearancel	9.3%I	24.1%I	17.9%I	22.9%I	15.1%I
Unconditional bail – first appearancel	68.7%I	46.6%I	35.7%I	20%I	54.2%I
Summons – first appearancel	18.7%I	3.4%I	0%I	2.9%I	11.4%
In custody – second appearancel	5.3%I	43.5%I	46.4%I	50%I	26.8%I
Conditional bail – second appearancel	14.9%I	26.1%I	21.4%I	30%I	20.7%I
Unconditional bail – second appearancel	79.8%I	30.4%I	32.1%I	20%I	52.5%
In custody – third appearancel	5.6%I	33.3%I	43.5%I	52.6%I	25.8%I
Conditional bail – third appearancel	20.4%I	45.8%I	34.8%I	36.8%I	30.8%I
Unconditional bail – third appearancel	74.1%I	20.8%I	21.7%I	10.5%I	43.3%
In custody – fourth appearancel	9.1%I	23.1%I	55.6%I	84.6%I	39.4%I
Conditional bail – fourth appearancel	18.2%I	53.8%I	22.2%I	15.4%I	25.8%I
Unconditional bail – fourth appearancel	72.7%I	23.1%I	22.2%I	0%I	34.9%I

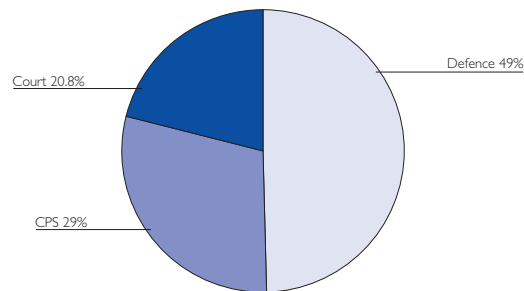
<i>Category</i>	<i>Random</i>	<i>Persistent</i>	<i>Spree</i>	<i>Crown</i>	<i>Overall</i>
PLEA TAKING – BY HEARING (YOUTH CASES)I					
Plea taken – first appearanceI	59.9%I	46.4%I	26.7%I	NAI	51.8%I
Plea taken – second appearanceI	28.8%I	33.9%I	30%I	NAI	30.3%I
Plea taken – third appearanceI	6.8%I	5.4%I	23.3%I	NAI	8.7%I
Plea taken – fourth appearanceI	2.3%I	9.3%I	10%I	NAI	5%I
Plea taken – fifth appearance I	0.8%I	1.8%I	3.3%I	NAI	1.4%I
Plea taken – sixth appearanceI	0.8%I	1.8%I	3.3%I	NAI	1.4%I
Plea taken – seventh appearanceI	0%I	1.8%I	0%I	NAI	0.5%I
Plea taken – eighth appearanceI	0%I	0%I	3.3%I	NAI	0.5%I
Plea taken after more than eight appearancesI	0.8%I	0%I	0%I	NAI	0.5%I
MODE OF TRIAL – BY HEARING (CROWN COURT CASES)I					
Mode of trial – first appearanceI	NAI	NAI	NAI	16.7%I	16.7%I
Mode of trial – second appearanceI	NAI	NAI	NAI	33.3%I	33.3%I
Mode of trial – third appearanceI	NAI	NAI	NAI	19.4%I	19.4%I
Mode of trial – fourth appearanceI	NAI	NAI	NAI	25%I	25%I
Mode of trial – fifth appearanceI	NAI	NAI	NAI	2.8%I	2.8%I
Mode of trial – sixth appearanceI	NAI	NAI	NAI	2.8%I	2.8%I
Mode of trial – seventh appearanceI	NAI	NAI	NAI	0%I	0%I
Mode of trial – eighth appearanceI	NAI	NAI	NAI	0%I	0%I

Category	Random	Persistent	Spree	Crown	Overall
CASE PROGRESSION (YOUTH COURT CASES)					
Sentenced immediately on guilty plea	59%	41.5%	7.4%	-1	46.4%
Adjourned for PSRI	35%	39%	55.6%	-1	39.3%
Adjourned for other information	2%	0%	0%	-1	1.2%
Not sentenced for other reasons	4%	19.5%	37%	-1	13.1%
Immediately adjourned for trial on a 1 not guilty plea	20%	7.1%	0%	-1	14.9%
Adjourned for PTRI	66.7%	78.6%	33.3%	-1	68.1%
Not adjourned for trial for other reasons	13.3%	14.3%	66.7%	-1	17%

CASE LENGTH BY NUMBER OF HEARINGS																
	High	Low	AVG	High	Low	AVG	High	Low	AVG	High	Low	AVG	High	Low	AVG	
Average number of hearings per case	111	11	2.6	181	11	3.3	121	21	4.9	121	21	6.5	181	11	3.5	
Average number of hearings after conviction	61	01	0.5	111	01	0.9	101	01	2.1	31	01	0.7	111	01	0.8	

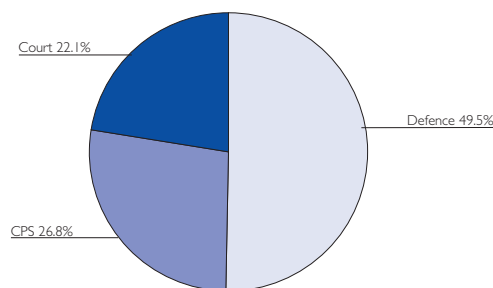
Category	Random	Persistent	Spree	Crown	Overall
ADJOURNMENTS (OTHER THAN TO LINK IN, FOR TRIAL OR FOR SENTENCE)					
Requested by CPSI	22.9% ¹	16.2% ¹	23.1% ¹	48.9% ¹	29% ¹
Requested by defencel	51.4% ¹	54.1% ¹	57.7% ¹	46.8% ¹	49% ¹
Requested by courtl	22.9% ¹	29.7% ¹	19.2% ¹	4.3% ¹	20.8% ¹
Requested by other agencyl	2.9% ¹	0% ¹	0% ¹	0% ¹	1.2% ¹
Adjournment requests opposedl	0% ¹	1.9% ¹	0% ¹	2.1% ¹	0.8% ¹
Opposed by CPSI	NAI	1.9% ¹	NAI	0% ¹	0.4% ¹
Opposed by Defencel	NAI	0% ¹	NAI	2.1% ¹	0.4% ¹
Opposed by Courtl	NAI	0% ¹	NAI	0% ¹	0% ¹
Adjournment requests that should have l been opposedl	12.9% ¹	13% ¹	15.4% ¹	17% ¹	17.1% ¹
Such adjournments grantedl	100% ¹	100% ¹	100% ¹	100% ¹	100% ¹
Such adjournments that were avoidablel	77.1% ¹	68.5% ¹	84.6% ¹	76.6% ¹	77.6% ¹
Where request not opposed, then length l of adjournment challengedl	0% ¹	0% ¹	0% ¹	0% ¹	0% ¹
Adjournment granted for the full period l requestedl	100% ¹	100% ¹	100% ¹	100% ¹	100% ¹

Adjournments (other than to link in, for trial or for sentence)



Category	Random	Persistent	Spree	Crown	Overall
BREAKDOWN OF AVOIDABLE ADJOURNMENTS¹					
Requested by CPSI	24.2%¹	16.2%¹	22.7%¹	47.2%¹	26.8%¹
CPS papers not ready ¹	17.4% ¹	0% ¹	0% ¹	17.6% ¹	13.7% ¹
Police papers not ready ¹	17.4% ¹	33.3% ¹	0% ¹	52.9% ¹	29.4% ¹
Disclosure not provided ¹	26.1% ¹	50% ¹	100% ¹	17.6% ¹	33.3% ¹
Awaiting police information ¹	8.7% ¹	0% ¹	0% ¹	0% ¹	3.9% ¹
Other reasons ¹	30.4% ¹	16.7% ¹	0% ¹	11.8% ¹	19.6% ¹
Requested by defencel	46.3%¹	54.1%¹	54.5%¹	50%¹	49.5%¹
Defendant failed to attend ¹	31.8% ¹	50% ¹	75% ¹	44.4% ¹	43.6% ¹
Lack of instructions ¹	25% ¹	15% ¹	16.7% ¹	16.7% ¹	20.2% ¹
Disclosure not considered ¹	22.7% ¹	25% ¹	0% ¹	11.1% ¹	19.1% ¹
Legal aid to sort out ¹	4.5% ¹	5% ¹	8.3% ¹	0% ¹	3.2% ¹
Discuss case with CPSI ¹	6.8% ¹	0% ¹	0% ¹	5.6% ¹	4.3% ¹
Other reasons ¹	9.1% ¹	5% ¹	0% ¹	22.2% ¹	9.6% ¹
Requested by court¹	26.3%¹	29.7%¹	22.7%¹	2.8%¹	22.1%¹
Pre-trial review ¹	100% ¹	100% ¹	100% ¹	0% ¹	97.6% ¹
Other reasons ¹	0% ¹	0% ¹	0% ¹	100% ¹	2.4% ¹
Requested by other agency¹	3.2%¹	0%¹	0%¹	0%¹	1.6%¹
Information missing ¹	33.3% ¹	NAI ¹	NAI ¹	NAI ¹	33.3% ¹
Other reasons ¹	66.7% ¹	NAI ¹	NAI ¹	NAI ¹	66.7% ¹

Avoidable adjournments



Overall picture – all case categories

