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Analytical Services Group

**Court Prosecutions,
Convictions and Out of
Court Disposals
Statistics for Northern
Ireland, 2014 (revised)**

Research and Statistical Bulletin 9/2015

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KEY FINDINGS

PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS

- The number of prosecutions disposed at Crown Court fell 19.2% from 2,553 in 2013 to 2,063 in 2014, reversing the upward trend seen in recent years. The number of prosecutions at magistrates' courts fell from 32,086 in 2013 to 29,417 in 2014, a fall of 8.3%.
- In 2014, 84.5% (26,607) of prosecutions in all courts resulted in a conviction. This compares with 2013 when 83.2% (28,831) of prosecutions in all courts resulted in a conviction.
- The majority, 83.2% (26,207), of prosecutions completed at all courts in 2014, were cases where the defendant was male. In Crown Court, 90.8% (1,873) of prosecutions were against males. In magistrates' courts, 82.7% (24,334) were against males.
- Persons in the 18 – 24 year old age band were most likely to have prosecutions against them in court in 2014. They made up 26.6% (8,388) of all prosecutions at courts in Northern Ireland and 26.7% (7,104) of those convicted at all courts in 2014.
- Most prosecutions completed in all courts over the period were for motoring offences: 12,875 (40.9% of all prosecutions) in 2014. Of all offence categories, drugs offences had the highest conviction rate at all courts, at 92.7% (1,718).

OUT OF COURT DISPOSALS

- A total of 3,728 penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) were issued in 2014; 77.1% of which were to males. Most PNDs were issued for public order offences, with 36.2% (1,350) of all PNDs issued being for offences in that category.
- The number of out of court, diversionary disposals recorded against individuals' criminal records in 2014 was 6,495, a fall of 16.2% from 7,752 in 2013. Most diversionary disposals were dealt with by way of caution, with 77.9% (5,060) of all diversionary disposals dealt with in this way.
- Of all those who received a diversionary disposal in 2014, most were in the younger age categories, with 55.5% (3,602) of all diversionary disposals handed out to the under 25 year old age group.
- In 2014, 75.6% (4,908) of all diversionary disposals were handed down to males.
- Of all diversionary disposals, 19.1% (1,243) were handed down for violence against the person offences and a further 18.8% (1,223) were for drug offences.

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INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents data on the number of prosecutions and convictions for magistrates' courts and the Crown Court in Northern Ireland for the year 2014. Data for the youth court, a special magistrates' court which deals with proceedings against juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17, are included with those for magistrates' courts. Data on those offenders who were dealt with outside the courts, by way of diversionary disposal, i.e., those who receive a caution, informed warning, a youth conference plan or are subject to the community based restorative justice scheme, or by issue of a penalty notice for disorder (PND) during this time period are also included. Some detail on the structure of the known offending population in 2014, with information on the breakdown of offences committed and the disposals received is also included. It was revised on 1 November 2017, to correct some cases where a community disposal had been issued, but which had been errantly recorded as 'other' disposals in the preparation of this bulletin.

COUNTING RULES

What counts as a prosecution/conviction/diversionary disposal?

The data included in the bulletin are based on those for whom court proceedings were completed, or who had an out of court disposal recorded in Northern Ireland during the year 2014. The bulletin counts criminal proceedings brought to court by the Public Prosecution Service on behalf of the PSNI or Harbour Police in Northern Ireland and breaches of community sentences brought by the Probation Board for Northern Ireland. The numbers of prosecutions completed are split into those where a conviction followed and those which did not result in a guilty finding. Prosecutions brought by government departments, other public bodies and private individuals are not included.

For the purposes of this bulletin, out of court disposals are broken into two categories, distinguishing those which result in a criminal record (diversionary disposals) from those which do not (Penalty Notices for Disorder). Diversionary disposals are those instances where an offender is subject to a caution, informed warning, a youth conference plan, or is subject to the community based restorative justice scheme. The purposes of a diversionary disposal are: (i) to offer a proportionate response to low level offending where the offender has admitted the offence, (ii) to deliver swift, simple and effective justice that carries a deterrent effect; (iii) to record an individual's criminal conduct for possible reference in future criminal proceedings or in criminal record or other similar checks; (iv) to reduce the likelihood of reoffending; and (v) to increase the amount of time the police have to spend dealing with more serious crime by reducing the amount of time police officers spend completing paperwork and attending court (in addition to simultaneously reducing the burden on courts themselves).

Penalty Notices for disorder (PNDs) are a fixed penalty designed to tackle low-level, anti-social and nuisance offending for offenders aged 18 and over and are issued for a range of minor offences. They were introduced in Northern Ireland on the 6th June

2012 as a result of the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. PNDs provide police with a swift financial punishment to deal with misbehaviour and a practical deterrent to future re-offending. Further information on PNDs can be accessed at <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/police-issued-penalty-notices> .

What counts as an offence?

Where an offender has had an out of court disposal imposed or been convicted of several offences on the same occasion, only one offence, the principal offence, is counted. The basis for selection of the principal offence is laid down in rules issued by the Home Office and the Department of Justice has developed a methodology applicable to Northern Ireland based on these. In summary, where there is a disposal, the offence which receives the most severe penalty is counted. Other factors which may be considered in selection of the principal offence are the potential sentence that may be imposed in relation to an offence and the perceived seriousness of an offence. Principal offence methodology may be viewed on the DOJ website at the following web link: <http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research.htm>.

For cases brought before a court, the offence counted and used in the compilation of figures in this bulletin is the one on which the court took its final decision. For diversionary disposals, the offence counted is the one recorded at the time the diversionary disposal was issued and, where applicable, subsequently recorded as completed with the Public Prosecution Service (PPS).

In relation to convictions, the principal offence counted is normally the one that draws the most severe disposal at conviction. Offences for which a defendant is convicted are not necessarily the same as those for which the defendant was initially proceeded against, as charges may be amended during the course of a case. The decision recorded is that reached by the court and takes no account of any subsequent appeal to a higher court.

Data source

The data used in this bulletin were taken from the Causeway Data Sharing Mechanism (DSM1). They were extracted primarily based on records contained on the Criminal Records Viewer (CRV). The CRV is held on Causeway and utilises data which originated in the PSNI, PPS and from Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service. Causeway is an interconnected information system, launched as a joint undertaking by the Criminal Justice Organisations (CJOs) in Northern Ireland.

Data quality and validation

Although various validation exercises have been conducted in relation to both prosecutions data and diversions data, to ensure data quality, the statistics contained in this publication nevertheless still originate from various administrative data sources and caution should therefore be exercised when making comparisons with previous years. These data sources have different aims and objectives and are kept for non-statistical purposes.

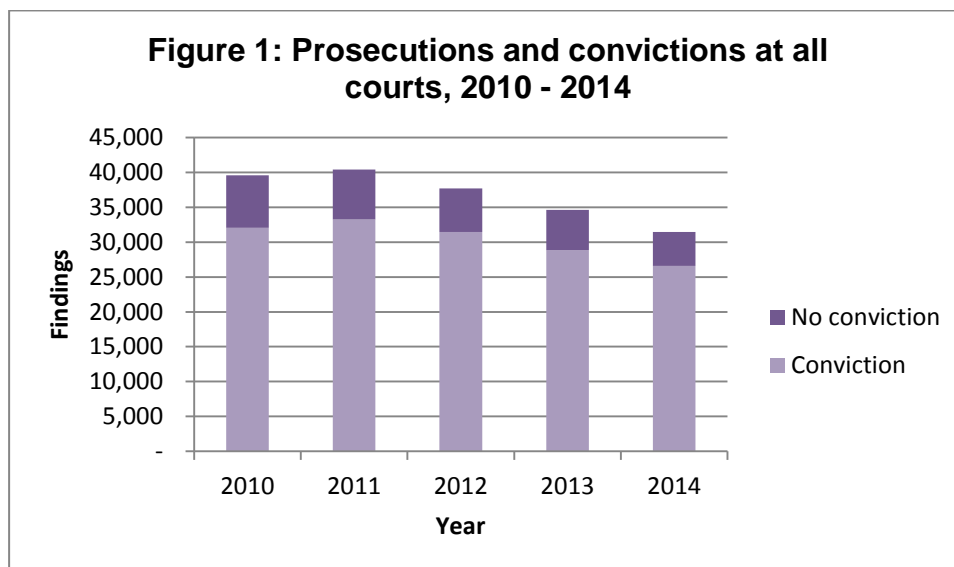
MAIN FINDINGS

The findings detailed in this report are split into two main sections: the first deals with prosecutions and convictions at courts in Northern Ireland in 2014 and the second deals with out of court disposals issued over the same period. All commentary relates to tables listed in Appendix 1 to this document.

Prosecutions and Convictions Overview

The number of prosecutions disposed at all courts was 31,480 in 2014, down 9.1% from 34,639 in 2013. However, the number of prosecutions in magistrates' courts in 2014 was 29,417, a fall of 8.3% from 32,086 in 2013, while the number of prosecutions in Crown Court in 2014 was 2,063, a decrease of 19.2% from the total of 2,553 in 2013.

In 2014, 84.5% (26,607) of prosecutions in all courts resulted in a conviction, a conviction rate up slightly from the rate of 83.2% for 2013, and higher than that for the previous three years: 2010 (81.0%), 2011 (82.2%) and 2012 (83.4%).



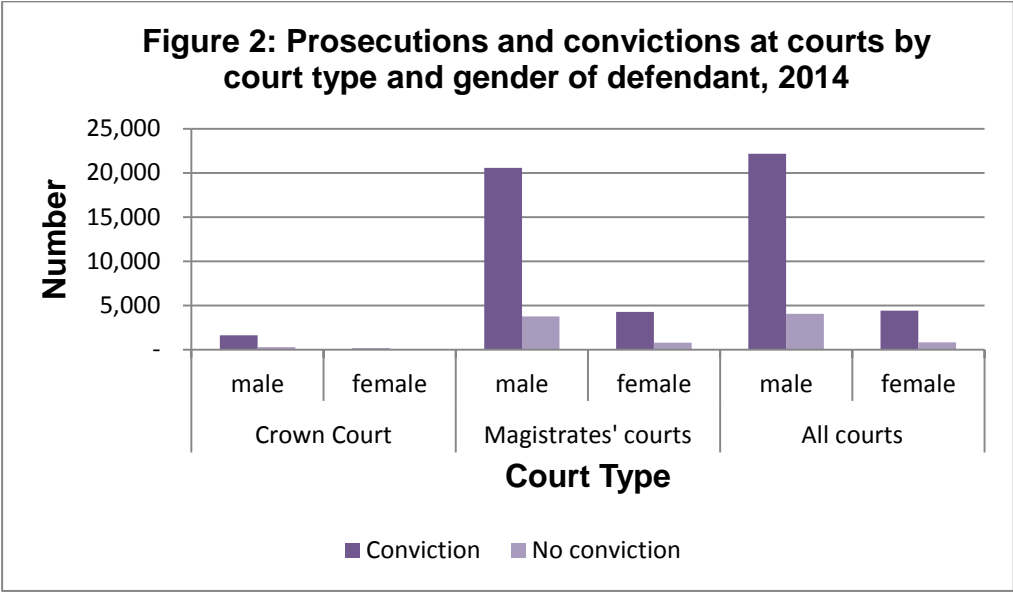
At 84.6% (1,745), the conviction rate for cases disposed at Crown Court was higher in 2014 than that for 2013 (81.5%), or indeed for any year since 2010, when the rate was 80.5%. In magistrates' courts, 84.5% (24,862) cases disposed in 2014 resulted in a conviction. This again was higher than the rate for 2013 (83.4%) and higher than that observed in other recent years (Table1).

Gender

Males constituted the majority of people prosecuted in all courts in 2014. Of all those prosecuted, 83.2% (26,207) were male. In the Crown Court, the proportion of prosecutions brought where the defendant was male was slightly higher at 90.8%

(1,873), whereas, in magistrates' courts, the proportion of prosecutions brought where the defendant was male was 82.7% (24,334).

Prosecutions brought at all courts resulted in a conviction rate of 84.5% for both males and females in 2014. Similarly, in magistrates' courts, the conviction rate for both males and females in 2014 was 84.5%. However, when the gender of the defendant was taken into account in relation to convictions in Crown Court in 2014, the conviction rate for males was 85.4%, compared to a rate of 76.1% for females.

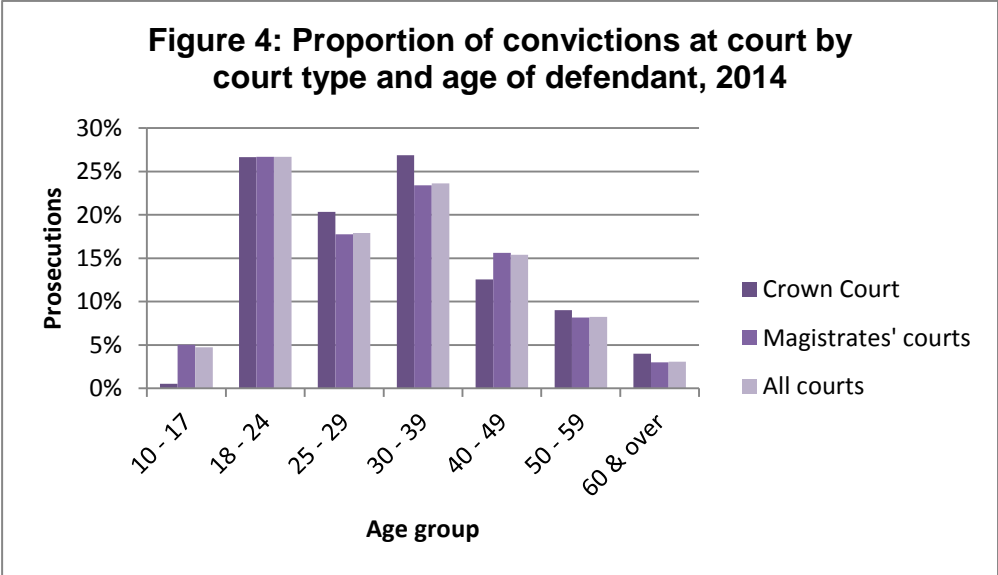
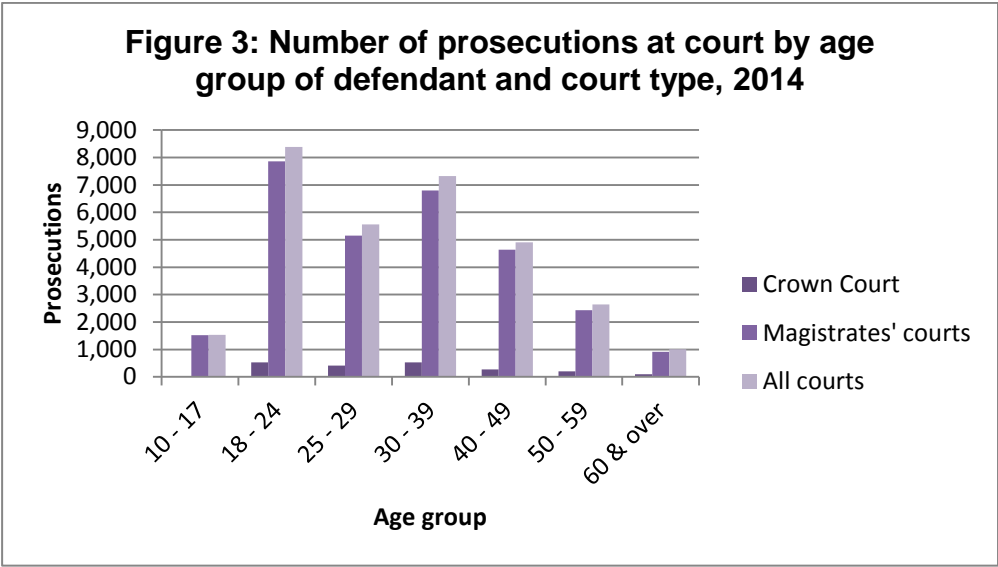


In addition, a small number of prosecutions were classified as against 'others'. This included transgender individuals, companies and other public bodies and those for whom no gender was recorded (Table 2).

Age Group

The age group of defendants for which the highest percentage of prosecutions were brought at all courts in 2014 was the 18 – 24 year old age group. In 2014, 26.6% (8,388) of prosecutions were against this age group. The same was true for prosecutions brought at Crown Court and in magistrates' courts in 2014, with 25.8% (533) of prosecutions in the Crown Court, and 26.7% (7,855) of prosecutions in magistrates' courts brought against defendants in this age group in that year.

The age group of defendants for which the highest percentage of convictions were handed down at all courts in 2014 was similarly the 18 – 24 year old age group. In 2014, 26.7% (7,104) of convictions were handed down to defendants in this age group. Proportionately, defendants in the 18 – 24 year old age group accounted for 26.6% (465) of convictions in the Crown Court and 26.7% (6,639) of convictions in magistrates' courts in 2014.

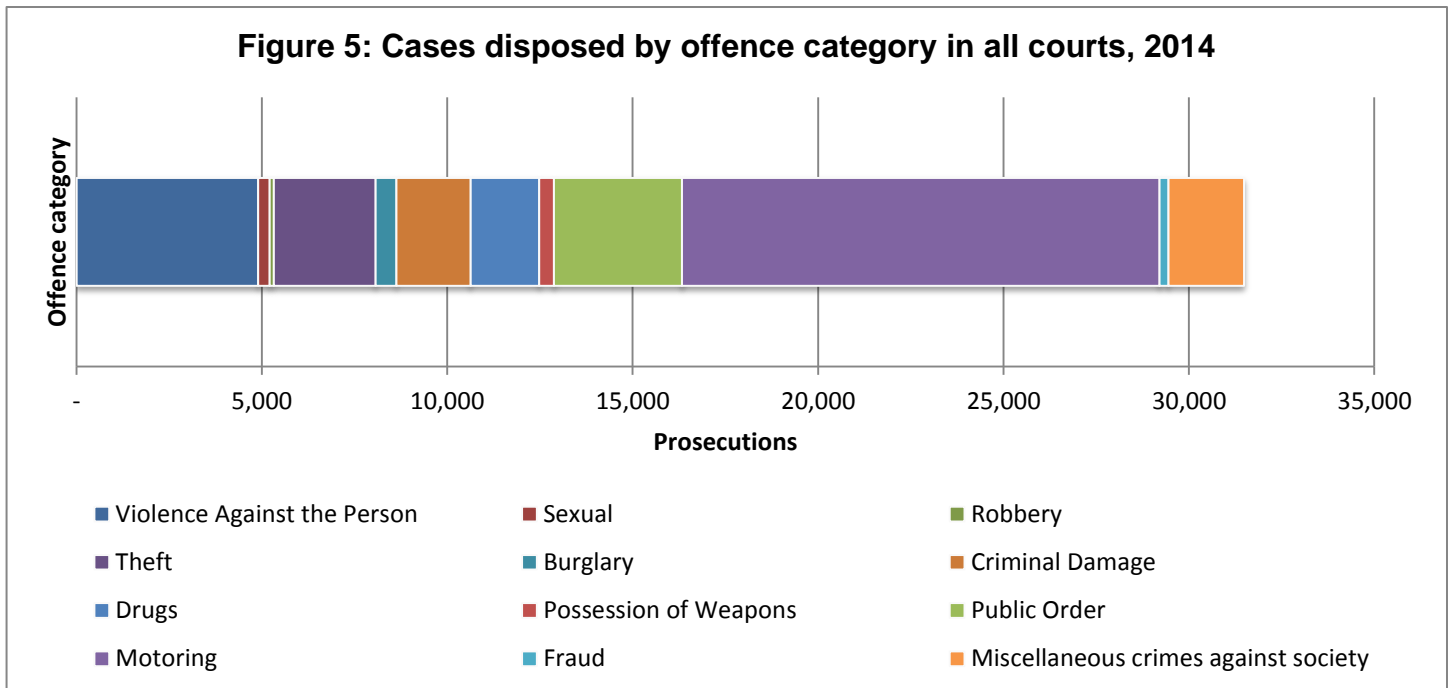


Proportionally, a smaller percentage of prosecutions in Crown Court, 0.9% (18), were against defendants in the 10 – 17 age group in 2014, compared with those in magistrates' courts, 5.2% (1,519). In 2014, the proportion of all convictions handed down in Crown Court to those in the 10 – 17 year old age group was 0.5% (9), whereas in magistrates' courts 5.0% (1,250) all convictions were handed down to defendants in the 10 – 17 year old age group.

The age group with the highest likelihood of conviction in relation to the number of prosecutions brought against a defendant in that group at Crown Court was the 30 – 39 year old group, with 89.2% (469) of prosecutions against a defendant in this age group resulting in a conviction, while, in magistrates' courts, the age group with the highest likelihood of conviction in relation to the number of prosecutions brought against a defendant in that group was the 25 – 29 year old group, 85.7% (4,413) (Tables 3a, 3b and 3c).

Offence Classification

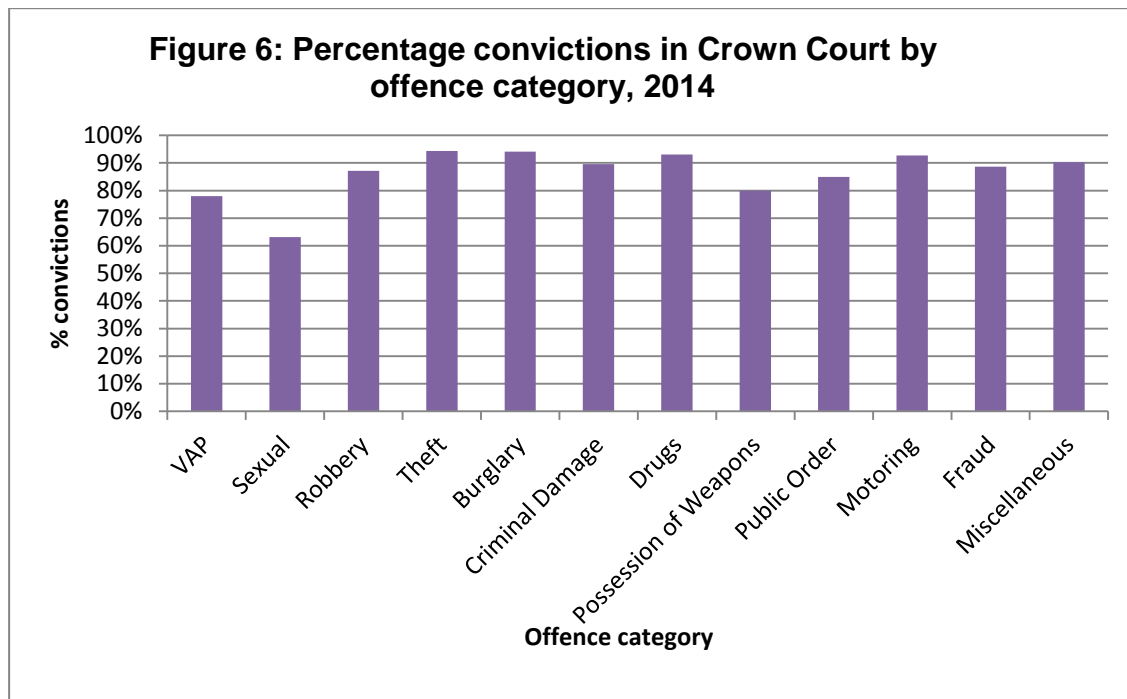
Overall, in all courts, the largest proportion of cases disposed fell into the motoring offences category in 2014, comprising 40.9% (12,875) of all cases disposed at court in that year. Violence against the person (VAP) offences accounted for 15.6% (4,898) of cases disposed at all courts in 2014, while cases where the principal offence fell into the public order category made up 11.0% (3,452) of all cases disposed at court in 2014.



In all courts in 2014, prosecutions brought for drugs offences were most likely to end in conviction, with 92.7% (1,718) of cases in this category resulting in a conviction. Similarly, in cases where the principal offence was in the motoring offences category, 92.2% (11,868) resulted in a conviction. Cases where the principal offence was in the sexual offences category were least likely to result in a conviction in all courts in 2014, with 59.7% (185) of such cases resulting in a conviction.

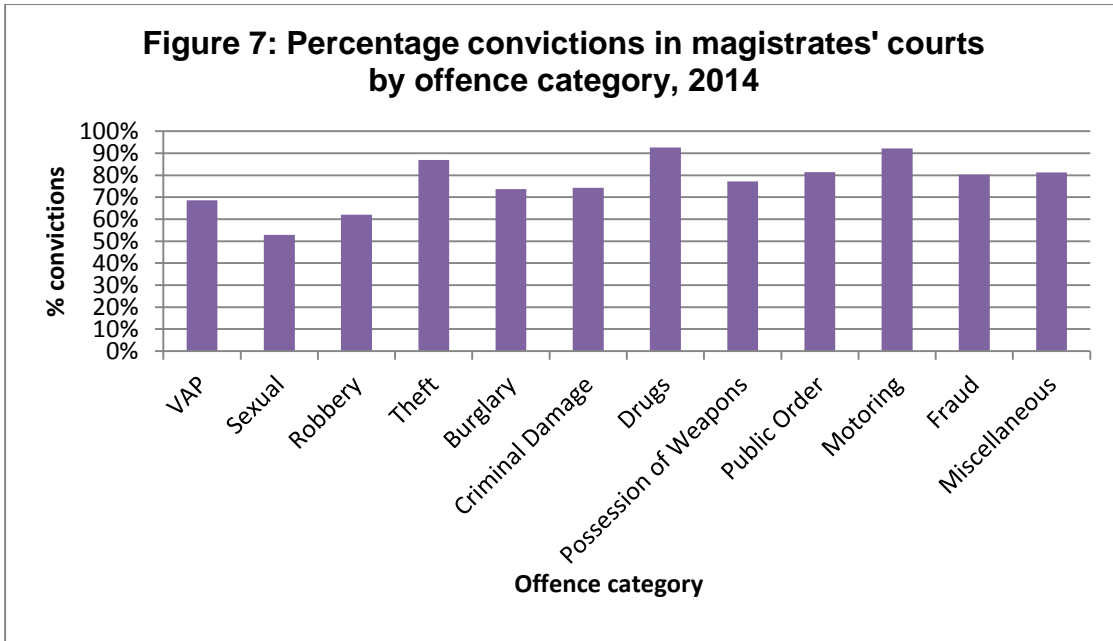
In the Crown Court, the largest proportion of cases disposed fell into the VAP offences category, comprising 23.9% (494) of all cases disposed in 2014, while cases where the principal offence at conviction fell into the drugs category made up 11.9% (245) of all cases disposed at court in that year. Possession of weapons offences were the offence category least likely to be disposed in Crown Court in 2014, with only 1.2% (25) of cases disposed at Crown Court in that year falling into that category. Similarly, relatively few cases in the motoring, fraud and criminal damage offences categories were disposed at Crown Court in 2014, with such cases making up 4.0% (82), 3.8% (79) and 2.3% (48) of the total cases disposed respectively.

In the Crown Court in 2014, prosecutions brought for theft offences were, proportionately, most likely to end in conviction, with 94.4% (101) of prosecutions brought for offences in this category resulting in a conviction. For cases which fell into the burglary offences category, 94.1% (160) resulted in a conviction and, for cases which fell into the motoring category, 92.7% (76) of cases disposed at Crown court in 2014 resulted in a conviction. However, as was the case for all courts, cases which fell into the sexual offences category were least likely to result in a conviction in 2014, when 63.1% (130) of such cases disposed at Crown Court resulted in a conviction.



Overall, in magistrates' courts, the largest proportion of prosecutions fell into the motoring offences category in 2014, comprising 43.5% (12,793) of all cases disposed at magistrates' courts in that year.

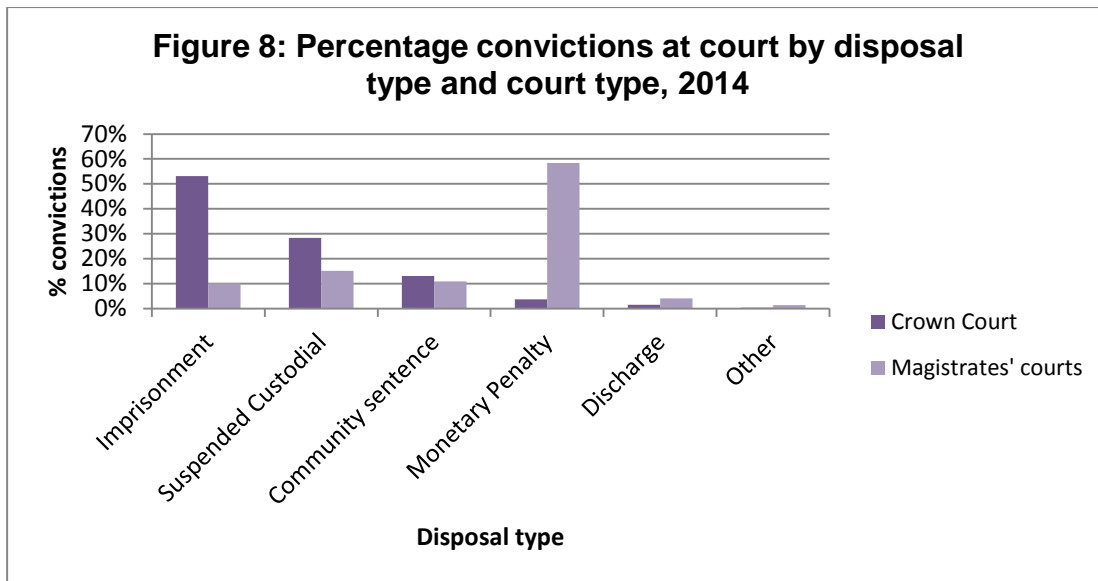
In magistrates' courts in 2014, prosecutions brought for drugs offences were, proportionately, most likely to end in conviction, with 92.6% (1,490) of prosecutions brought for offences in this category resulting in a conviction. Similarly, 92.2% (11,792) of prosecutions for offences in the motoring offences category resulted in a conviction in magistrates' courts in that year. Prosecutions for offences in the sexual offences category resulted in a conviction in 52.9% (55) of such cases disposed in magistrates' courts in 2014 (Table 4).



Court Disposals

Monetary penalties were the most frequently utilised disposal at all courts in 2014, with 54.8% (14,572) of all convictions having this type of disposal as their primary outcome. A custodial outcome was imposed in 13.0% (3,446) of cases at all courts in 2014, with a suspended custodial outcome imposed in a further 16.0% (4,257) of cases. A community sentence was the primary disposal in 11.0% (2,937) of convictions in all courts in 2014.

The type of penalty imposed as a result of conviction varied according to court type in 2014. In Crown Court, 53.1% (926) of disposals had a custodial element, whereas in magistrates' courts 10.1% (2,520) of outcomes had a custodial element. Similarly, in Crown Court, 28.3% (494) of disposals had a suspended custodial element, whereas, in magistrates' courts, 15.1% (3,763) of outcomes had a suspended custodial element. Conversely, in Crown Court, 3.7% (65) of disposals resulted in a monetary penalty as the primary outcome, whereas in magistrates' courts 58.4% (14,507) of disposals resulted in a monetary penalty as the main disposal (Table 5a).



The Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008 allowed for the introduction of three new sentence types within Northern Ireland: two public protection sentences – ‘indeterminate’ and ‘extended’ custodial sentences; and, a further sentence, ‘determinate’ custodial sentence.

The number of convictions where a public protection sentence was handed down in 2014 was 44, 1.3% of all custodial sentences. The number of sentences which combined custody and community supervision elements excluding those released on licence conditions was 825, 23.9% of all custodial sentences handed down at all courts in 2014. Other custodial sentences were handed down in 74.8% (2,577) of cases at all courts in 2014 (Table 5b).

In all courts, the offence category most likely to result in a custodial outcome was robbery, with 81.7% (76) of disposals for offences in this category resulting in this type of outcome in 2014. Conversely, a custodial outcome was least likely for offences in the motoring offences category, with only 2.0% (242) of convictions in all courts for offences in this category resulting in imprisonment. Motoring offences were most likely to be dealt with by way of monetary penalty, with 89.8% (10,653) of convictions at all courts for offences in this category receiving this outcome as their main disposal.

Fraud offences were most likely to attract a suspended custodial sentence at all courts, with 42.6% (87) of convictions for offences in this category receiving such an outcome. A community sentence was the most likely disposal for convictions in the criminal damage offence category, with 30.0% (448) of convictions in this category resulting in such an outcome as their main disposal.

In Crown Court, the offence category most likely to result in a custodial outcome was robbery, with 93.3% (70) of disposals for offences in this category resulting in a custodial outcome in 2014. Similarly, custodial sentences were handed down for 75.0% (120) of convictions where the principal offence was in the burglary category and for 75.0% (15) of convictions where the principal offence was in the possession of weapons offences category. Defendants convicted of fraud offences at Crown

Court were more likely to be dealt with by way of suspended sentence, with 51.4% (36) of convictions for offences in this category receiving this outcome as their main disposal in 2014.

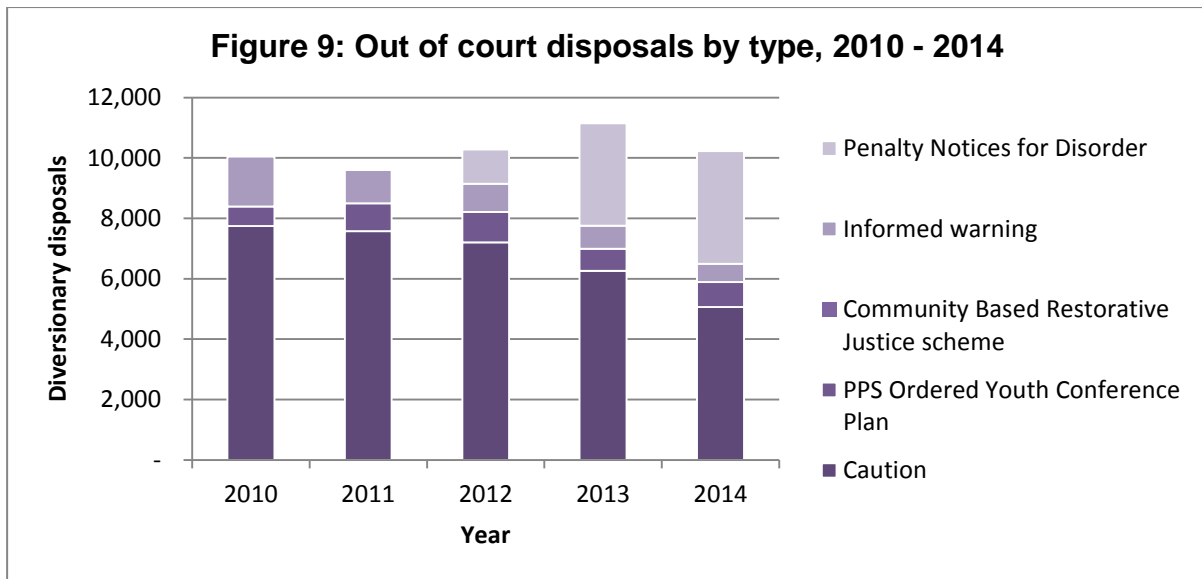
In magistrates' courts, the offence category most likely to result in a custodial outcome was burglary, with 41.3% (119) of disposals for offences in this category resulting in a custodial outcome in 2014. Convictions for fraud offences were most likely to result in a suspended custodial sentence at magistrates' courts, with 38.1% (51) of convictions where the principal offence was in that category being dealt with in that way. Motoring offences were most likely to be dealt with by way of monetary penalty as the main type of disposal, with 90.2% (10,641) of convictions at magistrates' courts for offences in this category, receiving this outcome (Tables 6a, 6b and 6c).

Out of Court Disposals

Non-court disposals allow the police to deal quickly and proportionately with low-level - often first-time - offending which could more appropriately be resolved without a prosecution at court. In Northern Ireland, a range of options exist, such as cautionary disposals, informed warnings, completion of PPS ordered Youth Conferencing Plans and resolution through the Community Based Restorative Justice scheme.

Additionally, PNDs were introduced in Northern Ireland on 6th June 2012 as a result of the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. PNDs are a fixed penalty designed to tackle low-level, anti-social and nuisance offending for offenders aged 18 and over and are issued for a range of minor offences. Unlike other out of court disposals, acceptance of a PND does not result in a criminal record.

The number of out of court disposals was 10,223 in 2014, a fall of 8.3% (923) from the 11,146 issued in 2013. However, while the numbers of cautions issued fell by 19.2% (1,205) and the number of informed warning issued fell by 21.2% (162), the number of PPS ordered Youth conferencing plans rose by 15.2% (110) and the number of PNDs issued rose by 9.8% (334) on 2013 totals. There were no relevant community based restorative justice scheme out of court disposals recorded in 2014 (Table 7).



Penalty Notices for Disorder Disposals

In 2014, 3,728 PNDs were issued, an increase of 9.8% from the total (3,394) issued in 2013. Of these, 77.1% (2,875) were issued to males. Of all those who received a PND, 18 – 24 year olds made up 44.3% (1,650). PNDs were issued mainly for miscellaneous crimes, (36.8%, 1,373) and for public order offences, (36.2%, 1,350), although a significant proportion, (25.2%, 940), were also issued for theft offences in 2014 (Tables 8a, 8b and 8c).

Other out of court (Diversionary) Disposals

In 2014, the number of diversionary disposals issued which were recorded against individuals' criminal records was 6,495, a fall of 16.2% from the figure of 7,752 such disposals issued in 2013. This fall from the totals recorded in the previous, and other recent years may, in part, have been influenced by the continued growth in the use of PNDs, were available, as an option for dealing with low-level offending.

Cautions were the most common form of diversionary disposal, making up 77.9% (5,060) of all diversionary disposals in 2014. Informed warnings made up 12.8% (832) of disposals issued and youth conference plans made up the remaining 9.3% (603) of diversionary disposals in 2014.

Most diversionary disposals were issued to males in 2014, when 75.6% (4,908) of all diversionary disposals were issued to males. This is a slightly smaller proportion than in 2013, when 76.1% (5,901) of all diversionary disposals were issued to males.

Of all diversionary disposals issued in 2014, most were handed out to offenders under the age of 25, with 55.4% (3,602) of all diversionary disposals being received by persons in that age group. This is a slight decrease to the rate for 2013, when 57.9% of all diversionary disposals were issued to those under 25.

Of all offence categories, VAP and drugs offences were the categories for which most diversionary disposals were issued in 2014, with 19.1% (1,243) of all diversionary disposals issued for offences in the VAP category and 18.8% (1,223) of all diversionary disposals issued for offences in the drugs category. Motoring offences were the cause of 15.6% (1,016) of all diversionary disposals in 2014, whereas theft offences accounted for 11.7% (762) and public order offences accounted for 11.3% (731) of all diversionary disposals respectively (Tables 9a, 9b and 9c).

APPENDIX 1 - Tables

Table 1: Prosecutions and convictions in courts in Northern Ireland by court type, 2010 - 2014

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Crown court					
Conviction	1,284	1,494	1,796	2,080	1,745
No conviction	312	345	339	473	318
Total findings	1,596	1,839	2,135	2,553	2,063
% convictions	80.5%	81.2%	84.1%	81.5%	84.6%
Magistrates' courts					
Conviction	30,785	31,752	29,670	26,751	24,862
No conviction	7,231	6,839	5,909	5,335	4,555
Total findings	38,016	38,591	35,579	32,086	29,417
% convictions	81.0%	82.3%	83.4%	83.4%	84.5%
All courts					
Conviction	32,069	33,246	31,466	28,831	26,607
No conviction	7,543	7,184	6,248	5,808	4,873
Total findings	39,612	40,430	37,714	34,639	31,480
% convictions	81.0%	82.2%	83.4%	83.2%	84.5%

Note:

1. Magistrates' courts figures include youth courts.

Table 2: Prosecutions and convictions in courts in Northern Ireland by gender of defendant, 2014

	Male		Female		Other ¹		Total
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	
Crown Court							
Conviction	1,600	91.7%	143	8.2%	2	0.1%	1,745
No conviction	273	85.8%	45	14.2%	-	0.0%	318
Total findings	1,873	90.8%	188	9.1%	2	0.1%	2,063
% convictions	85.4%		76.1%		100.0%		84.6%
Magistrates' courts							
Conviction	20,567	82.7%	4,276	17.2%	19	0.1%	24,862
No conviction	3,767	82.7%	786	17.3%	2	0.0%	4,555
Total findings	24,334	82.7%	5,062	17.2%	21	0.1%	29,417
% convictions	84.5%		84.5%		90.5%		84.5%
All courts							
Conviction	22,167	83.3%	4,419	16.6%	21	0.1%	26,607
No conviction	4,040	82.9%	831	17.1%	2	0.0%	4,873
Total findings	26,207	83.2%	5,250	16.7%	23	0.1%	31,480
% convictions	84.6%		84.2%		91.3%		84.5%

Note:

1. Includes sex not stated, transgender and other offenders, i.e. companies, public bodies, etc.

Table 3a: Prosecutions and convictions at Crown Court by age band of defendant, 2014

Age group	Conviction		No conviction		Total findings	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
10 - 17	9	0.5%	9	2.8%	18	0.9%
18 - 24	465	26.6%	68	21.4%	533	25.8%
25 - 29	355	20.3%	59	18.6%	414	20.1%
30 - 39	469	26.9%	57	17.9%	526	25.5%
40 - 49	219	12.6%	55	17.3%	274	13.3%
50 - 59	157	9.0%	43	13.5%	200	9.7%
60 & over	70	4.0%	27	8.5%	97	4.7%
Not known	1	0.1%	-	0.0%	1	0.0%
Total	1,745	100.0%	318	100.0%	2,063	100.0%

Table 3b: Prosecutions and convictions at magistrates' courts by age band of defendant, 2014

Age group	Conviction		No conviction		Total findings	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
10 - 17	1,250	5.0%	269	5.9%	1,519	5.2%
18 - 24	6,639	26.7%	1,216	26.7%	7,855	26.7%
25 - 29	4,413	17.7%	738	16.2%	5,151	17.5%
30 - 39	5,817	23.4%	976	21.4%	6,793	23.1%
40 - 49	3,880	15.6%	755	16.6%	4,635	15.8%
50 - 59	2,032	8.2%	404	8.9%	2,436	8.3%
60 & over	745	3.0%	163	3.6%	908	3.1%
Not known	86	0.3%	34	0.7%	120	0.4%
Total	24,862	100.0%	4,555	100.0%	29,417	100.0%

Table 3c: Prosecutions and convictions at all courts by age band of defendant, 2014

Age group	Conviction		No conviction		Total findings	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
10 - 17	1,259	4.7%	278	5.7%	1,537	4.9%
18 - 24	7,104	26.7%	1,284	26.3%	8,388	26.6%
25 - 29	4,768	17.9%	797	16.4%	5,565	17.7%
30 - 39	6,286	23.6%	1,033	21.2%	7,319	23.2%
40 - 49	4,099	15.4%	810	16.6%	4,909	15.6%
50 - 59	2,189	8.2%	447	9.2%	2,636	8.4%
60 & over	815	3.1%	190	3.9%	1,005	3.2%
Not known	87	0.3%	34	0.7%	121	0.4%
Total	26,607	100.0%	4,873	100.0%	31,480	100.0%

Table 4: Prosecutions and convictions at courts by offence classification and court type, 2014

Offence classification	Court Type								
	Crown Court			Magistrates' courts			All courts		
	Conviction	No conviction	% conviction	Conviction	No conviction	% conviction	Conviction	No conviction	% conviction
Violence Against the Person	385	109	77.9%	3,021	1,383	68.6%	3,406	1,492	69.5%
Sexual	130	76	63.1%	55	49	52.9%	185	125	59.7%
Robbery	75	11	87.2%	18	11	62.1%	93	22	80.9%
Theft	101	6	94.4%	2,291	345	86.9%	2,392	351	87.2%
Burglary	160	10	94.1%	288	103	73.7%	448	113	79.9%
Criminal Damage	43	5	89.6%	1,450	501	74.3%	1,493	506	74.7%
Drugs	228	17	93.1%	1,490	119	92.6%	1,718	136	92.7%
Possession of Weapons	20	5	80.0%	287	85	77.2%	307	90	77.3%
Public Order	214	38	84.9%	2,604	596	81.4%	2,818	634	81.6%
Motoring	76	6	92.7%	11,792	1,001	92.2%	11,868	1,007	92.2%
Fraud	70	9	88.6%	134	33	80.2%	204	42	82.9%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	243	26	90.3%	1,432	329	81.3%	1,675	355	82.5%
Total	1,745	318	84.6%	24,862	4,555	84.5%	26,607	4,873	84.5%

Table 5a: Number and percentage of convictions by sentencing disposal and court type, 2014

Disposal type	Gender	Crown Court		Magistrates' courts		All courts	
		Number	% convictions	Number	% convictions	Number	% convictions
Custodial	Male	896	56.0%	2,303	11.2%	3,199	14.4%
	Female	30	21.0%	217	5.1%	247	5.6%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	926	53.1%	2,520	10.1%	3,446	13.0%
Suspended Custodial	Male	428	26.8%	3,239	15.7%	3,667	16.5%
	Female	65	45.5%	524	12.3%	589	13.3%
	Other ¹	1	50.0%	-	0.0%	1	4.8%
	Total	494	28.3%	3,763	15.1%	4,257	16.0%
Attendance Centre	Male	-	0.0%	16	0.1%	16	0.1%
	Female	-	0.0%	6	0.1%	6	0.1%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	-	0.0%	22	0.1%	22	0.1%
Combination Order	Male	35	2.2%	190	0.9%	225	1.0%
	Female	5	3.5%	15	0.4%	20	0.5%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	40	2.3%	205	0.8%	245	0.9%
Probation Order/Supervision Order	Male	109	6.8%	748	3.6%	857	3.9%
	Female	17	11.9%	206	4.8%	223	5.0%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	1	5.3%	1	4.8%
	Total	126	7.2%	955	3.8%	1,081	4.1%
Community Service Order	Male	47	2.9%	791	3.8%	838	3.8%
	Female	10	7.0%	94	2.2%	104	2.4%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	57	3.3%	885	3.6%	942	3.5%
Youth Conference Order	Male	5	0.3%	539	2.6%	544	2.5%
	Female	-	0.0%	53	1.2%	53	1.2%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	5	0.3%	592	2.4%	597	2.2%
Community Responsibility Order	Male	-	0.0%	27	0.1%	27	0.1%
	Female	-	0.0%	23	0.5%	23	0.5%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	-	0.0%	50	0.2%	50	0.2%
Monetary Penalty	Male	55	3.4%	11,675	56.8%	11,730	52.9%
	Female	10	7.0%	2,814	65.8%	2,824	63.9%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	18	94.7%	18	85.7%
	Total	65	3.7%	14,507	58.4%	14,572	54.8%
Bound Over	Male	-	0.0%	129	0.6%	129	0.6%
	Female	-	0.0%	35	0.8%	35	0.8%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	-	0.0%	164	0.7%	164	0.6%
Conditional Discharge	Male	12	0.8%	744	3.6%	756	3.4%
	Female	6	4.2%	214	5.0%	220	5.0%
	Other ¹	1	50.0%	-	0.0%	1	4.8%
	Total	19	1.1%	958	3.9%	977	3.7%
Absolute Discharge	Male	8	0.5%	49	0.2%	57	0.3%
	Female	-	0.0%	16	0.4%	16	0.4%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	8	0.5%	65	0.3%	73	0.3%
Other Disposal	Male	5	0.3%	117	0.6%	122	0.6%
	Female	-	0.0%	59	1.4%	59	1.3%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	5	0.3%	176	0.7%	181	0.7%
Total	Male	1,600	100.0%	20,567	100.0%	22,167	100.0%
	Female	143	100.0%	4,276	100.0%	4,419	100.0%
	Other¹	2	100.0%	19	100.0%	21	100.0%
	Total	1,745	100.0%	24,862	100.0%	26,607	100.0%

Note:

1. Includes sex not stated, transgender and other offenders, i.e. companies, public bodies, etc.

* This table was revised in November 2017.

Table 5b: Number and Percentage of custodial sentences by sentencing disposal and court type, 2014

Disposal	Court Type	Number	% custodial sentences
Public Protection Sentences			
Life licences	Crown Court	7	0.8%
	Magistrates' courts	-	0.0%
	All courts	7	0.2%
Indeterminate Custodial Sentence ¹	Crown Court	4	0.4%
	Magistrates' courts	-	0.0%
	All courts	4	0.1%
Extended Custodial Sentence	Crown Court	32	3.5%
	Magistrates' courts	1	0.0%
	All courts	33	1.0%
Prison with a community supervision element			
Determinate Custodial Sentence	Crown Court	633	68.4%
	Magistrates' courts	4	0.2%
	All courts	637	18.5%
Custody Probation Orders	Crown Court	27	2.9%
	Magistrates' courts	-	0.0%
	All courts	27	0.8%
Juvenile justice order	Crown Court	2	0.2%
	Magistrates' courts	159	6.3%
	All courts	161	4.7%
Custody			
Imprisonment ¹	Crown Court	221	23.9%
	Magistrates' courts	2,003	79.5%
	All courts	2,224	64.5%
Young offender centre	Crown Court	-	0.0%
	Magistrates' courts	353	14.0%
	All courts	353	10.2%
Total Custodial	Crown Court	926	100.0%
	Magistrates' courts	2,520	100.0%
	All courts	3,446	100.0%

1. Revised 30 July 2015.

Table 6a: Disposals at Crown Court by offence classification, 2014

Crime category	Number of convictions						
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	Total
Violence against the Person	173	119	71	12	7	3	385
Sexual Offences	92	23	13	1	-	1	130
Robbery	70	3	2	-	-	-	75
Theft	49	35	11	5	1	-	101
Burglary	120	17	17	3	3	-	160
Criminal Damage	22	11	8	2	-	-	43
Drugs Offences	116	73	34	3	2	-	228
Possession of Weapons	15	4	-	1	-	-	20
Public Order Offences	114	62	16	14	7	1	214
Motoring	45	12	7	12	-	-	76
Fraud	24	36	5	3	2	-	70
Miscellaneous crimes against society	86	99	44	9	5	-	243
Total	926	494	228	65	27	5	1,745

Crime category	Percentage of convictions						
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	Total
Violence against the Person	44.9%	30.9%	18.4%	3.1%	1.8%	0.8%	100.0%
Sexual Offences	70.8%	17.7%	10.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.8%	100.0%
Robbery	93.3%	4.0%	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Theft	48.5%	34.7%	10.9%	5.0%	1.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Burglary	75.0%	10.6%	10.6%	1.9%	1.9%	0.0%	100.0%
Criminal Damage	51.2%	25.6%	18.6%	4.7%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Drugs Offences	50.9%	32.0%	14.9%	1.3%	0.9%	0.0%	100.0%
Possession of Weapons	75.0%	20.0%	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Public Order Offences	53.3%	29.0%	7.5%	6.5%	3.3%	0.5%	100.0%
Motoring	59.2%	15.8%	9.2%	15.8%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Fraud	34.3%	51.4%	7.1%	4.3%	2.9%	0.0%	100.0%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	35.4%	40.7%	18.1%	3.7%	2.1%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	53.1%	28.3%	13.1%	3.7%	1.5%	0.3%	100.0%

¹Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Table 6b: Disposals at magistrates' courts by offence classification, 2014

Crime category	Number of convictions						
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	Total
Violence against the Person	569	935	671	604	181	61	3,021
Sexual Offences	7	9	28	9	1	1	55
Robbery	6	2	10	-	-	-	18
Theft	514	642	466	499	166	4	2,291
Burglary	119	78	61	16	14	-	288
Criminal Damage	336	311	440	246	100	17	1,450
Drugs Offences	122	208	197	863	98	2	1,490
Possession of Weapons	68	82	59	44	27	7	287
Public Order Offences	382	621	324	958	258	61	2,604
Motoring	197	529	213	10,641	45	167	11,792
Fraud	19	51	29	26	9	-	134
Miscellaneous crimes against society	181	295	211	601	124	20	1,432
Total	2,520	3,763	2,709	14,507	1,023	340	24,862

Crime category	Percentage of convictions						
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	Total
Violence against the Person	18.8%	31.0%	22.2%	20.0%	6.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Sexual Offences	12.7%	16.4%	50.9%	16.4%	1.8%	1.8%	100.0%
Robbery	33.3%	11.1%	55.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Theft	22.4%	28.0%	20.3%	21.8%	7.2%	0.2%	100.0%
Burglary	41.3%	27.1%	21.2%	5.6%	4.9%	0.0%	100.0%
Criminal Damage	23.2%	21.4%	30.3%	17.0%	6.9%	1.2%	100.0%
Drugs Offences	8.2%	14.0%	13.2%	57.9%	6.6%	0.1%	100.0%
Possession of Weapons	23.7%	28.6%	20.6%	15.3%	9.4%	2.4%	100.0%
Public Order Offences	14.7%	23.8%	12.4%	36.8%	9.9%	2.3%	100.0%
Motoring	1.7%	4.5%	1.8%	90.2%	0.4%	1.4%	100.0%
Fraud	14.2%	38.1%	21.6%	19.4%	6.7%	0.0%	100.0%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	12.6%	20.6%	14.7%	42.0%	8.7%	1.4%	100.0%
Total	10.1%	15.1%	10.9%	58.4%	4.1%	1.4%	100.0%

¹Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

* This table was revised in November 2017.

Table 6c: Disposals in all courts by offence classification, 2014

Crime category	Number of convictions						
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	Total
Violence against the Person	742	1,054	742	616	188	64	3,406
Sexual Offences	99	32	41	10	1	2	185
Robbery	76	5	12	-	-	-	93
Theft	563	677	477	504	167	4	2,392
Burglary	239	95	78	19	17	-	448
Criminal Damage	358	322	448	248	100	17	1,493
Drugs Offences	238	281	231	866	100	2	1,718
Possession of Weapons	83	86	59	45	27	7	307
Public Order Offences	496	683	340	972	265	62	2,818
Motoring	242	541	220	10,653	45	167	11,868
Fraud	43	87	34	29	11	-	204
Miscellaneous crimes against society	267	394	255	610	129	20	1,675
Total	3,446	4,257	2,937	14,572	1,050	345	26,607

Crime category	Percentage of convictions						
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	Total
Violence against the Person	21.8%	30.9%	21.8%	18.1%	5.5%	1.9%	100.0%
Sexual Offences	53.5%	17.3%	22.2%	5.4%	0.5%	1.1%	100.0%
Robbery	81.7%	5.4%	12.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Theft	23.5%	28.3%	19.9%	21.1%	7.0%	0.2%	100.0%
Burglary	53.3%	21.2%	17.4%	4.2%	3.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Criminal Damage	24.0%	21.6%	30.0%	16.6%	6.7%	1.1%	100.0%
Drugs Offences	13.9%	16.4%	13.4%	50.4%	5.8%	0.1%	100.0%
Possession of Weapons	27.0%	28.0%	19.2%	14.7%	8.8%	2.3%	100.0%
Public Order Offences	17.6%	24.2%	12.1%	34.5%	9.4%	2.2%	100.0%
Motoring	2.0%	4.6%	1.9%	89.8%	0.4%	1.4%	100.0%
Fraud	21.1%	42.6%	16.7%	14.2%	5.4%	0.0%	100.0%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	15.9%	23.5%	15.2%	36.4%	7.7%	1.2%	100.0%
Total	13.0%	16.0%	11.0%	54.8%	3.9%	1.3%	100.0%

¹Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

* This table was revised in November 2017.

Table 7: Out of court disposals by type, 2010 - 2014

Disposal type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	% total
Caution	7,749	7,573	7,209	6,265	5,060	49.5%
PPS Ordered Youth Conference Plan	640	927	999	722	832	8.1%
Community Based Restorative Justice scheme	1	1	6	-	-	0.0%
Informed warning	1,657	1,096	929	765	603	5.9%
Penalty Notices for Disorder	N/A	N/A	1,136	3,394	3,728	36.5%
Total	10,047	9,597	10,279	11,146	10,223	100.0%

Note:

1. Penalty Notices for Disorder were introduced in Northern Ireland on 6th June 2012.

Table 8a: Penalty Notices for Disorder issued by gender of recipient, 2014

Gender	Number	% total
Male	2,875	77.1%
Female	852	22.9%
Not known/other	1	0.0%
Total	3,728	100.0%

Table 8b: Penalty Notices for Disorder issued by age band of recipient, 2014

Offender age	Number	% total
10 - 17	2	0.1%
18 - 24	1,650	44.3%
25 - 29	675	18.1%
30 - 39	661	17.7%
40 - 49	400	10.7%
50 - 59	218	5.8%
60 & over	108	2.9%
Not known	14	0.4%
Total	3,728	100.0%

Table 8c: Penalty Notices for Disorder issued by offence classification, 2014

Offence classification	Number	% total
Violence Against the Person	-	0.0%
Sexual	-	0.0%
Robbery	-	0.0%
Theft	940	25.2%
Burglary	-	0.0%
Criminal Damage	65	1.7%
Drugs	-	0.0%
Possession of Weapons	-	0.0%
Public Order	1,350	36.2%
Motoring	-	0.0%
Fraud	-	0.0%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	1,373	36.8%
Total	3,728	100.0%

Table 9a: Diversionary disposals by gender of offender, 2010 - 2014

Gender	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	% total
Male	7,487	7,297	6,957	5,901	4,908	75.6%
Female	2,547	2,285	2,173	1,851	1,584	24.4%
Not known/other	13	15	13	-	3	0.0%
Total	10,047	9,597	9,143	7,752	6,495	100.0%

Table 9b: Diversionary disposals by age band of offender, 2010 - 2014

Offender age	2010	2011	2012	2012	2014	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	% total
10 - 17	2,842	2,516	2,292	1,937	1,614	24.8%
18 - 24	3,384	3,322	2,967	2,554	1,988	30.6%
25 - 29	972	1,002	1,079	829	727	11.2%
30 - 39	1,170	1,130	1,164	926	837	12.9%
40 - 49	840	794	876	765	704	10.8%
50 - 59	461	473	434	420	369	5.7%
60 & over	359	332	300	298	241	3.7%
Not known	19	28	31	23	15	0.2%
Total	10,047	9,597	9,143	7,752	6,495	100.0%

Table 9c: Diversionary disposals issued by type and offence classification, 2014

Offence classification	Disposal type					% total diversions
	Caution	PPS Ordered YCP	CBRJ	Informed warning	Total	
Violence Against the Person	915	89	-	239	1,243	19.1%
Sexual	15	3	-	7	25	0.4%
Robbery	-	-	-	4	4	0.1%
Theft	586	81	-	95	762	11.7%
Burglary	28	6	-	40	74	1.1%
Criminal Damage	335	61	-	149	545	8.4%
Drugs	1,120	58	-	45	1,223	18.8%
Possession of Weapons	81	13	-	33	127	2.0%
Public Order	541	94	-	96	731	11.3%
Motoring	885	68	-	63	1,016	15.6%
Fraud	47	1	-	1	49	0.8%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	507	129	-	60	696	10.7%
Total	5,060	603	-	832	6,495	100.0%

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