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Analytical Services Group

**Court Prosecutions,
Convictions and Out of
Court Disposals
Statistics for Northern
Ireland, 2015 (Revised)**

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KEY FINDINGS

PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS

- The number of prosecutions disposed at Crown Court¹ fell 36.4% from 2,063 in 2014 to 1,312 in 2015, reversing the upward trend seen in the years from 2011 to 2014. The number of prosecutions at magistrates' courts fell from 29,417 in 2014 to 28,004 in 2015, a fall of 4.8%.
- In 2015, 83.2% (24,379) of prosecutions in all courts resulted in a conviction. This compares with 2014 when 84.5% (26,607) of prosecutions in all courts resulted in a conviction.
- The majority, 83.1% (24,349), of prosecutions completed at all courts in 2015, were cases where the defendant was male. In Crown Court, 89.3% (1,172) of prosecutions were against males. In magistrates' courts, 82.8% (23,177) were against males.
- Persons in the 18 – 24 year old age band were most likely to have prosecutions against them in court in 2015. They made up 26.4% (7,737) of all prosecutions at courts in Northern Ireland and 27.1% (6,609) of those convicted at all courts in 2015.
- Of all offence categories, motoring offences made up the largest proportion of prosecutions at all courts: 11,604 (39.6% of all prosecutions) in 2015. Of all offence categories, drugs offences had the highest conviction rate at all courts, at 93.2% (1,990).

OUT OF COURT DISPOSALS

- A total of 3,370 penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) were issued in 2015, 76.0% of which were to males. Public order offences constituted the largest proportion of PNDs issued, with 34.5% (1,163) of all PNDs issued for offences in this category.
- The number of out of court, diversionary disposals recorded against individuals' criminal records in 2015 was 5,940, a fall of 8.5% from 6,495 in 2014. Most diversionary disposals were dealt with by way of caution, with 78.9% (4,686) of all diversionary disposals dealt with in this way.
- Of all those who received a diversionary disposal in 2015, most were in the younger age categories, with 57.1% (3,394) of all diversionary disposals handed out to the under 25 year old age group.
- In 2015, 75.4% (4,477) of all diversionary disposals were handed down to males.
- Of all diversionary disposals, 23.4% (1,387) were handed down for drug offences and a further 19.9% (1,184) were for violence against the person offences.

¹ The introduction of new rules in May 2015 in relation to legal aid remuneration resulted in Counsel and a number of solicitors withdrawing their representation from a range of Crown Court cases. This has affected defendants' access to legally aided representation and has had an impact on disposals and delay within the Crown Court process during the period.

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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 2015. 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 2015, with information on the breakdown of offences committed and the disposals received is also included. Tables in this publication which present breakdowns in relation to offence categories (Tables 4, 6a, 6b, 6c and 9c) were revised in September 2016 following an internal Department of Justice exercise which made a small number of changes to offence classifications utilised in calculation of sub totals for these tables.

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 2015. 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:

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/methodology-paper-adoption-and-implementation-principal-offence-northern-ireland>.

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 2015 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 29,316 in 2015, down 6.9% from 31,480 in 2014. Similarly, the number of prosecutions in magistrates' courts in 2015 was 28,004, a fall of 4.8% from 29,417 in 2014, while the number of prosecutions in Crown Court in 2015 was 1,312, a decrease of 36.4% from the total of 2,063 in 2014. The introduction of new rules in May 2015 in relation to legal aid remuneration resulted in Counsel and a number of solicitors withdrawing their representation from a range of Crown Court cases. This has affected defendants' access to legally aided representation and has had an impact on disposals and delay within the Crown Court process during the period.

In 2015, 83.2% (24,379) of prosecutions in all courts resulted in a conviction, a conviction rate down slightly from the rate of 84.5% for 2014, and similar to that for the years 2012 (83.4%) and 2013 (83.2%).

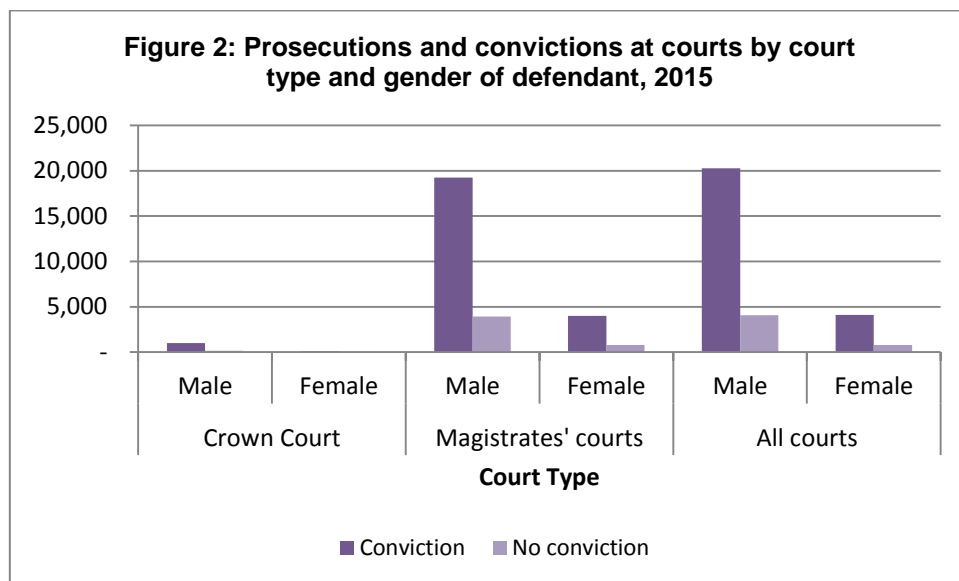


At 85.9% (1,127), the conviction rate for cases disposed at Crown Court was higher in 2015 than that for 2014 (84.6%), or indeed for any year since 2011, when the rate was 81.2%. In magistrates' courts, 83.0% (23,252) cases disposed in 2015 resulted in a conviction. This again was higher than the rate for 2011 (82.3%), but lower than that observed in other recent years (Table 1).

Gender

Males constituted the majority of people prosecuted in all courts in 2015. Of all those prosecuted, 83.1% (24,349) were male. In the Crown Court, the proportion of prosecutions brought where the defendant was male was slightly higher at 89.3% (1,172), whereas, in magistrates' courts, the proportion of prosecutions brought where the defendant was male was 82.8% (23,177).

Prosecutions brought at all courts resulted in a conviction rate of 83.2% for males and 83.6% for females in 2015. In magistrates' courts in 2015, the conviction rate for males was 83.1% and, for females, was 83.6%. However, when the gender of the defendant was taken into account in relation to convictions in Crown Court in 2015, the conviction rate for males was 86.1%, compared to a rate of 84.6% for females.



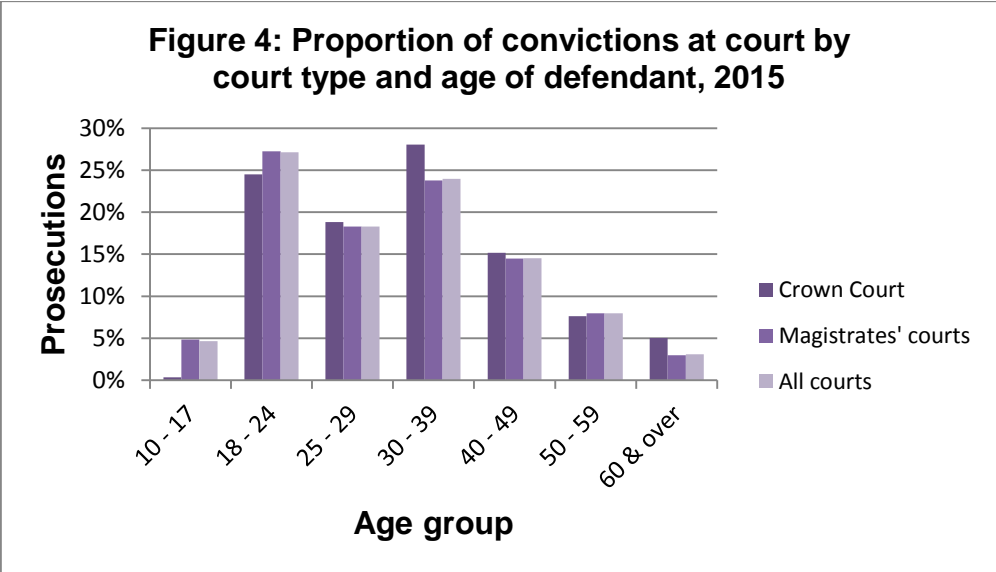
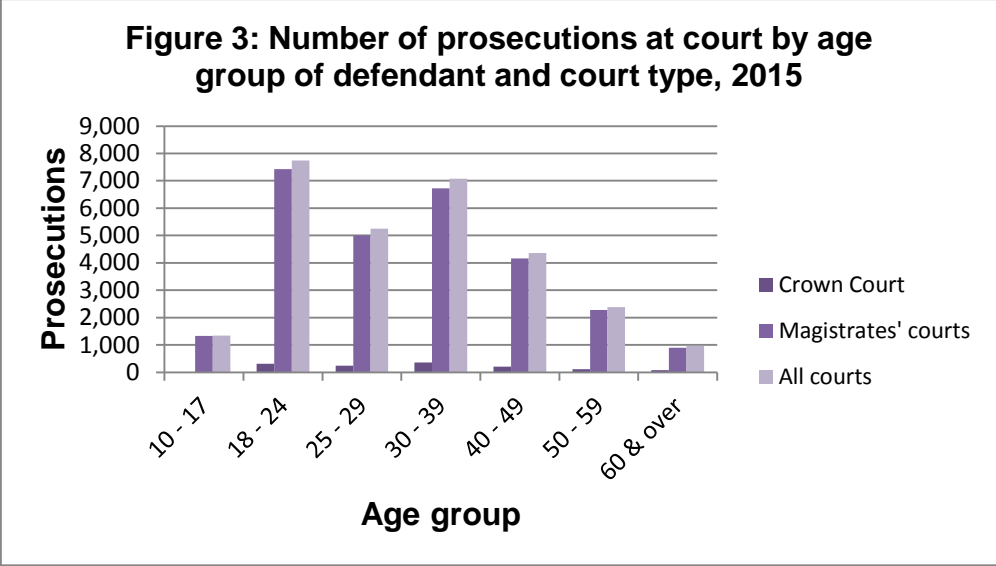
In addition, a small number of prosecutions were classified as against 'others'. This included transgender individuals, companies and other public bodies and those for whom no gender was recorded (Table 2).

Age Group

The age group of defendants for which the highest percentage of prosecutions were brought at all courts in 2015 was the 18 – 24 year old age group. In 2015, 26.4% (7,737) of prosecutions were against this age group. The same was true for prosecutions brought in magistrates' courts in 2015, with 26.5% (7,423) of prosecutions brought against defendants in this 18 – 24 year old age group. However, at Crown Court, the age group of defendants for which the highest percentage of prosecutions were brought was the 30 – 39 year old age group. In 2015, 27.0% (354) of prosecutions were brought against defendants in this age group.

The age group of defendants for which the highest percentage of convictions were handed down at all courts in 2015 was similarly the 18 – 24 year old age group. In

2015, 27.1% (6,609) of convictions were handed down to defendants in this age group. Proportionately, defendants in the 18 – 24 year old age group accounted for 24.5% (276) of convictions in the Crown Court and 27.2% (6,333) of convictions in magistrates' courts in 2015.



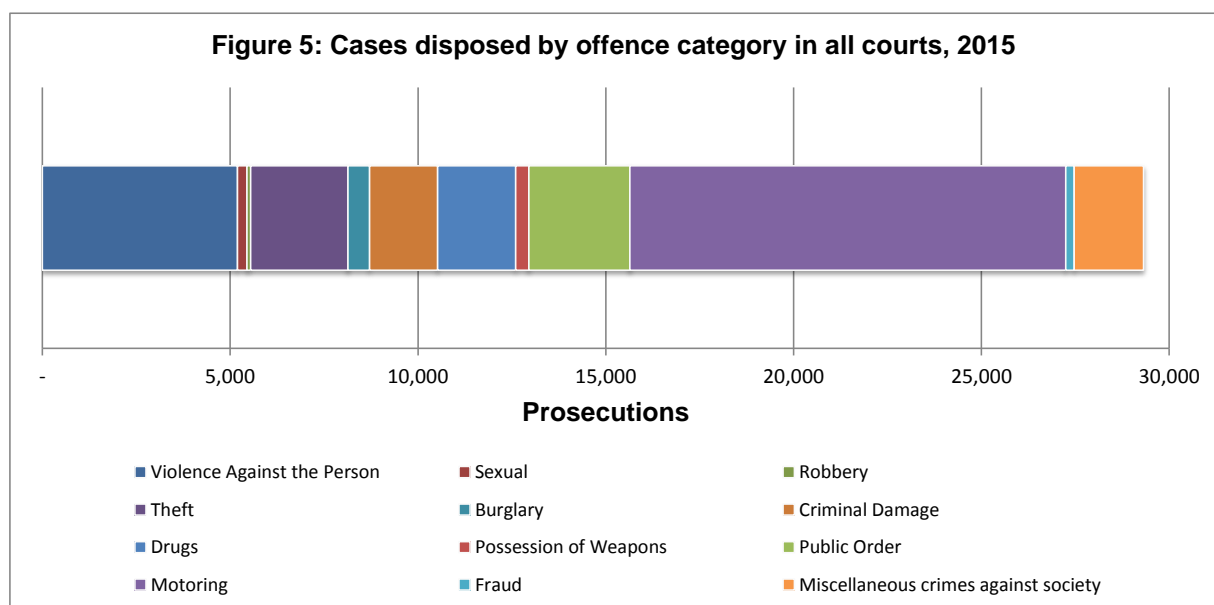
Proportionally, a smaller percentage of prosecutions in Crown Court, 0.8% (10), were against defendants in the 10 – 17 age group in 2015, compared with those in magistrates' courts, 4.8% (1,334). In 2015, the proportion of all convictions handed down in Crown Court to those in the 10 – 17 year old age group was 0.4% (4), whereas in magistrates' courts 4.9% (1,132) all convictions were handed down to defendants in the 10 – 17 year old age group.

The age group with the highest likelihood of conviction at Crown Court was the 30 – 39 year old group, with 89.3% (316) 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 was the 18 – 24 year old group, 85.3% (6,333) (Tables 3a, 3b and 3c).

Offence Classification

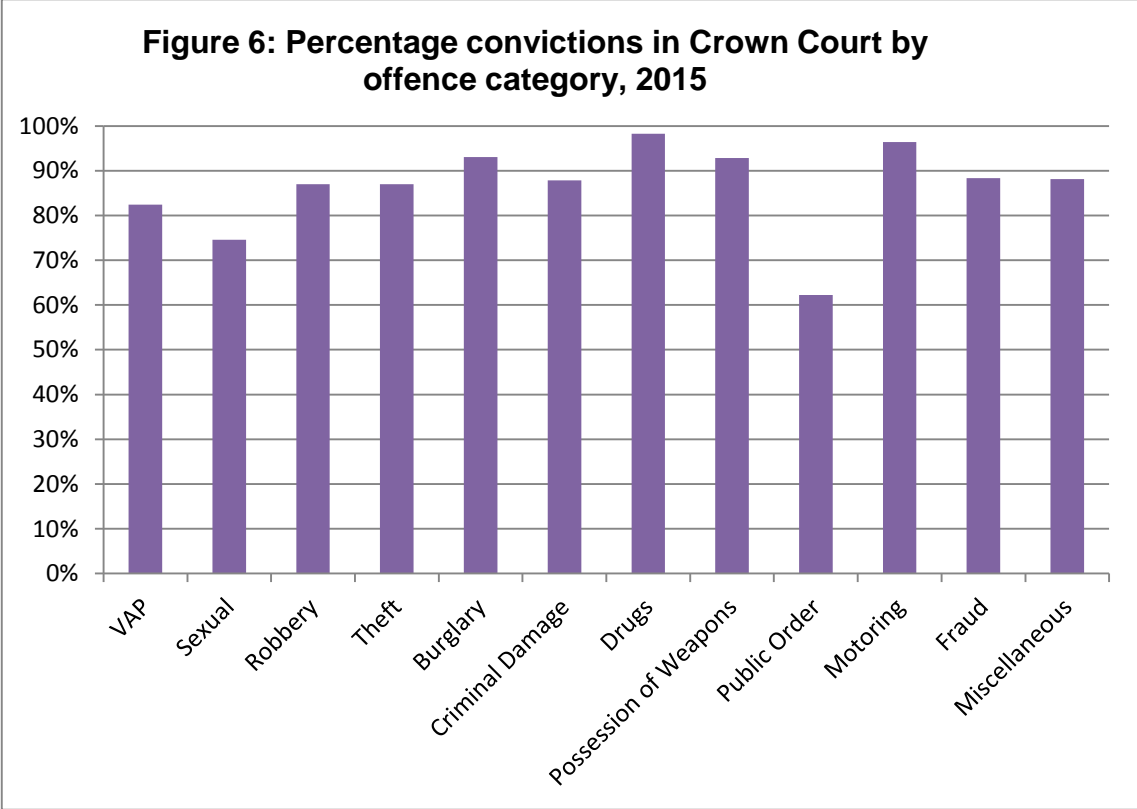
Overall, across all courts, the largest proportion of cases disposed fell into the motoring offences category in 2015, comprising 39.6% (11,604) of all cases disposed at court in that year. Violence against the person (VAP) offences accounted for 17.7% (5,193) of cases disposed at all courts in 2015, while cases where the principal offence fell into the public order category made up 9.2% (2,694) of all cases disposed at court in 2015.



In all courts in 2015, prosecutions brought for drugs offences were most likely to end in conviction, with 93.2% (1,933) of cases in this category resulting in a conviction. Similarly, in cases where the principal offence was in the motoring offences category, 91.6% (10,626) 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 2015, with 64.2% (163) of such cases resulting in a conviction.

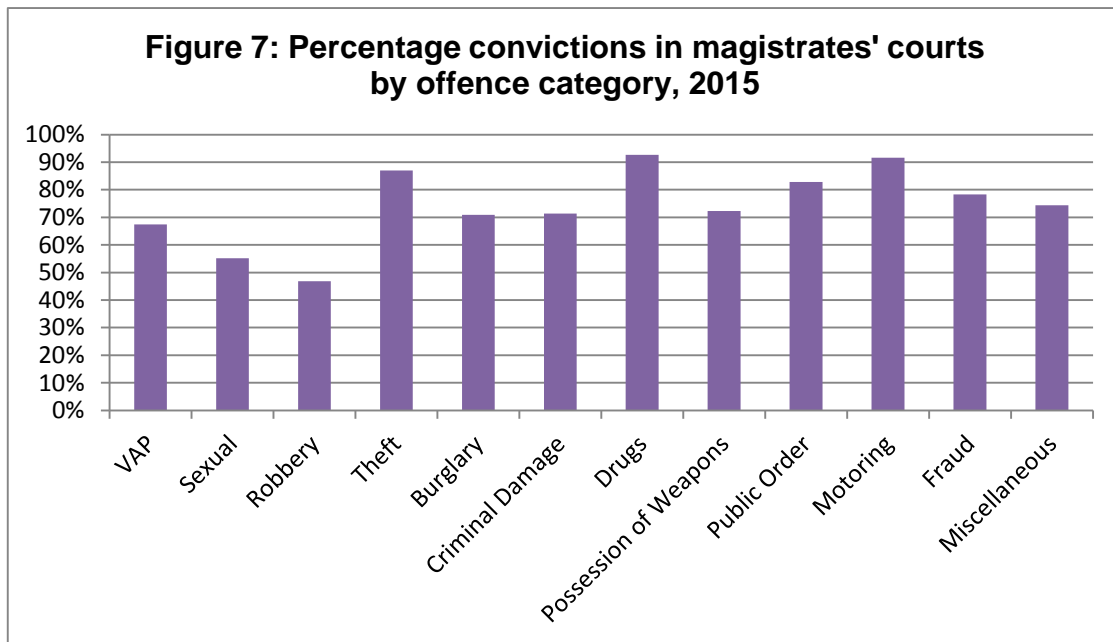
In the Crown Court, the largest proportion of cases disposed fell into the VAP offences category, comprising 28.2% (370) of all cases disposed in 2015, while cases where the principal offence at conviction fell into the drugs category made up 17.7% (232) of all cases disposed at court in that year. Possession of weapons offences were the offence category least likely to be disposed in Crown Court in 2015, with only 1.1% (14) of cases disposed at Crown Court in that year falling into that category. Similarly, relatively few cases in the fraud, criminal damage and motoring offences categories were disposed at Crown Court in 2015, with such cases making up 3.3% (43), 3.1% (41) and 2.1% (28) of the total cases disposed respectively.

In the Crown Court in 2015, prosecutions brought for drugs offences were, proportionately, most likely to end in conviction, with 98.3% (228) of prosecutions brought for offences in this category resulting in a conviction. For cases which fell into the motoring category, 96.4% (27) resulted in a conviction and, for cases which fell into the burglary offences category, 93.0% (80) of cases disposed at Crown court in 2015 resulted in a conviction. However, cases which fell into the public order offences category were least likely to result in a conviction in 2015, when 62.2% (51) 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 2015, comprising 41.3% (11,576) of all cases disposed at magistrates’ courts in that year.

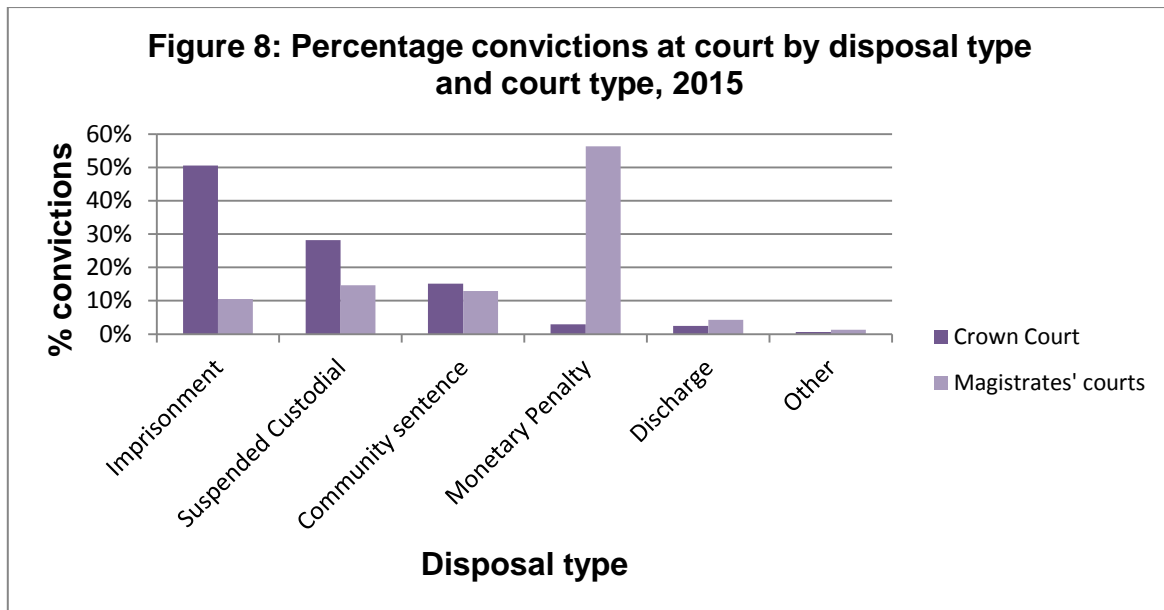
In magistrates’ courts in 2015, prosecutions brought for drugs offences were, proportionately, most likely to end in conviction, with 92.6% (1,705) of prosecutions brought for offences in this category resulting in a conviction. Similarly, 91.6% (10,599) of prosecutions for offences in the motoring offences category resulted in a conviction in magistrates’ courts in that year. Prosecutions for offences in the robbery offences category resulted in a conviction in 46.9% (15) of such cases disposed in magistrates’ courts in 2015 (Table 4).



Court Disposals

Monetary penalties were the most frequently utilised disposal at all courts in 2015, with 53.9% (13,129) of all convictions having this type of disposal as their primary outcome. A custodial outcome was imposed in 12.4% (3,013) of cases at all courts in 2015, with a suspended custodial outcome imposed in a further 15.3% (3,733) of cases. A community sentence was the primary disposal in 13.0% (3,174) of convictions in all courts in 2015.

The type of penalty imposed as a result of conviction varied according to court type in 2015. In Crown Court, 50.6% (570) of disposals had a custodial element, whereas in magistrates' courts 10.5% (2,443) of outcomes had a custodial element. Similarly, in Crown Court, 28.2% (318) of disposals had a suspended custodial element, whereas, in magistrates' courts, 14.7% (3,415) of outcomes had a suspended custodial element. Conversely, in Crown Court, 2.9% (33) of disposals resulted in a monetary penalty as the primary outcome, whereas in magistrates' courts 56.3% (13,096) 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 2015 was 41, 1.4% of all custodial sentences. The number of sentences which combined custody and community supervision elements excluding those released on licence conditions was 556, 18.5% of all custodial sentences handed down at all courts in 2015. Other custodial sentences were handed down in 80.2% (2,416) of cases at all courts in 2015 (Table 5b).

In all courts, the offence category most likely to result in a custodial outcome was robbery, with 84.0% (63) of disposals for offences in this category resulting in this type of outcome in 2015. Conversely, a custodial outcome was least likely for offences in the motoring category, with only 1.8% (192) 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 89.2% (9,478) 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 36.3% (65) 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 28.6% (373) 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 95.0% (57) of disposals for offences in this category resulting in a custodial outcome in 2015. Similarly, custodial sentences were handed down for 65.0% (52) of convictions where the principal offence was in the burglary category and for 62.5% (55) of convictions where the principal offence was in the sexual

offences category. Defendants convicted of fraud offences at Crown Court were more likely to be dealt with by way of suspended sentence, with 60.5% (23) of convictions for offences in this category receiving this outcome as their main disposal in 2015.

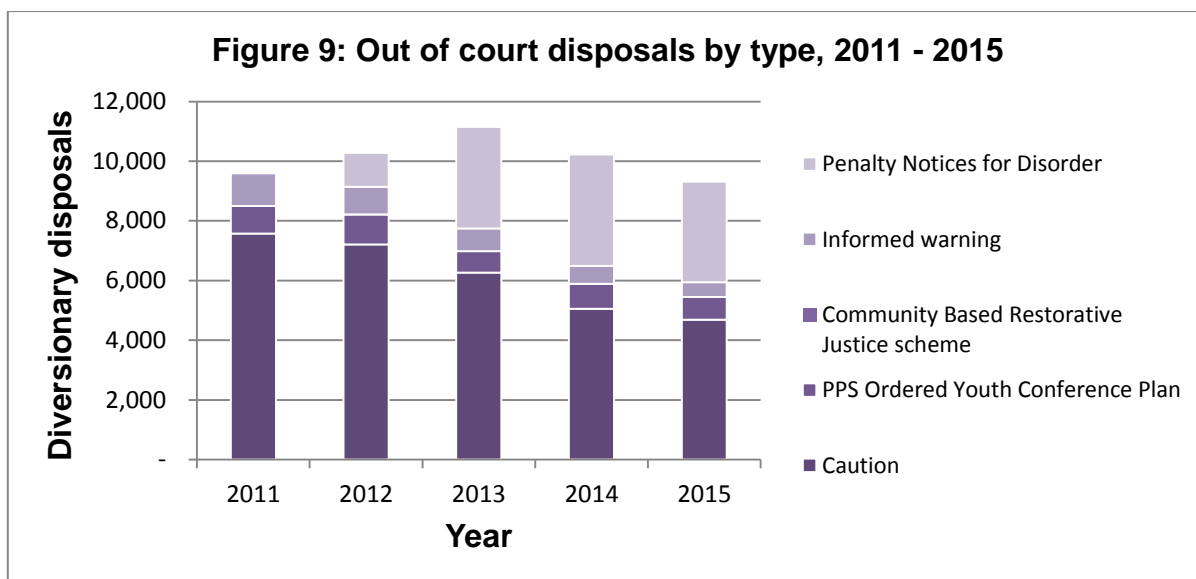
In magistrates' courts, the offence category most likely to result in a custodial outcome was robbery, with 40.0% (6) of disposals for offences in this category resulting in a custodial outcome in 2015. Convictions for fraud offences were most likely to result in a suspended custodial sentence at magistrates' courts, with 29.8% (42) 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 89.4% (9,476) 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 9,310 in 2015, a fall of 8.9% (913) from the 10,223 issued in 2014. However, while the number of informed warning issued fell by 19.4% (117), the number of PNDs issued fell by 9.6% (358), the number of PPS ordered Youth conferencing plans fell by 7.7% (64) and the number of cautions issued fell by just 7.4% (374) on 2014 totals. There were no relevant community based restorative justice scheme out of court disposals recorded in 2015 (Table 7).



Penalty Notices for Disorder Disposals

In 2015, 3,370 PNDs were issued, a decrease of 9.6% from the total (3,728) issued in 2014. Of these, 76.0% (2,560) were issued to males. Of all those who received a PND, 18 – 24 year olds made up 40.9% (1,378). PNDs were issued mainly for public order offences, (34.5%, 1,163) and for offences in the miscellaneous crimes category, (32.8%, 1,106), although a substantial proportion, (30.8%, 1,038), were also issued for theft offences in 2015 (Tables 8a, 8b and 8c).

Other Out of Court (Diversiónary) Disposals

In 2015, the number of diversionary disposals issued which were recorded against individuals' criminal records was 5,940, a fall of 8.5% from the figure of 6,495 such disposals issued in 2014. This fall from the totals recorded in the previous, and other recent years may, in part, have been influenced by the continued 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 78.9% (4,686) of all diversionary disposals in 2015. Youth Conference Plans made up 12.9% (768) of disposals issued and informed warnings made up the remaining 8.2% (486) of diversionary disposals in 2015.

Most diversionary disposals were issued to males in 2015, when 75.4% (4,477) of all diversionary disposals were issued to males. This is a slightly smaller proportion than in 2014, when 75.6% (4,908) of all diversionary disposals were issued to males.

Of all diversionary disposals issued in 2015, most were handed out to offenders under the age of 25, with 57.1% (3,394) of all diversionary disposals being received

by persons in that age group. This is a slight increase to the rate for 2014, when 55.5% of all diversionary disposals were issued to those under 25.

Of all offence categories, drugs and VAP offences were the categories for which diversionary disposals were most frequently issued in 2015, with 23.4% (1,387) of all diversionary disposals issued for offences in the drugs category and 19.9% (1,184) of all diversionary disposals issued for offences in the VAP category. Motoring offences were the cause of 12.8% (761) of all diversionary disposals in 2015, whereas theft offences accounted for 10.7% (636). Offences in the miscellaneous crimes category accounted for 10.4% (617) and criminal damage offences accounted for 9.3% (553) 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, 2011 – 2015.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Crown court					
Conviction	1,494	1,796	2,080	1,745	1,127
No conviction	345	339	473	318	185
Total findings	1,839	2,135	2,553	2,063	1,312
% convictions	81.2%	84.1%	81.5%	84.6%	85.9%
Magistrates' courts					
Conviction	31,752	29,670	26,751	24,862	23,252
No conviction	6,839	5,909	5,335	4,555	4,752
Total findings	38,591	35,579	32,086	29,417	28,004
% convictions	82.3%	83.4%	83.4%	84.5%	83.0%
All courts					
Conviction	33,246	31,466	28,831	26,607	24,379
No conviction	7,184	6,248	5,808	4,873	4,937
Total findings	40,430	37,714	34,639	31,480	29,316
% convictions	82.2%	83.4%	83.2%	84.5%	83.2%

Note:

1. Magistrates' courts figures include youth courts.

Table 2: Prosecutions and convictions in courts in Northern Ireland by gender of defendant, 2015.

	Male		Female		Other ¹		Total
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	
Crown court							
Conviction	1,009	89.5%	115	10.2%	3	0.3%	1,127
No conviction	163	88.1%	21	11.4%	1	0.5%	185
Total findings	1,172	89.3%	136	10.4%	4	0.3%	1,312
% convictions	86.1%		84.6%		75.0%		85.9%
Magistrates' courts							
Conviction	19,260	82.8%	3,983	17.1%	9	0.0%	23,252
No conviction	3,917	82.4%	783	16.5%	52	1.1%	4,752
Total findings	23,177	82.8%	4,766	17.0%	61	0.2%	28,004
% convictions	83.1%		83.6%		14.8%		83.0%
All courts							
Conviction	20,269	83.1%	4,098	16.8%	12	0.0%	24,379
No conviction	4,080	82.6%	804	16.3%	53	1.1%	4,937
Total findings	24,349	83.1%	4,902	16.7%	65	0.2%	29,316
% convictions	83.2%		83.6%		18.5%		83.2%

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, 2015.

Age group	Conviction		No conviction		Total findings	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
10 - 17	4	0.4%	6	3.2%	10	0.8%
18 - 24	276	24.5%	38	20.5%	314	23.9%
25 - 29	212	18.8%	34	18.4%	246	18.8%
30 - 39	316	28.0%	38	20.5%	354	27.0%
40 - 49	171	15.2%	31	16.8%	202	15.4%
50 - 59	86	7.6%	22	11.9%	108	8.2%
60 & over	57	5.1%	15	8.1%	72	5.5%
Not known	5	0.4%	1	0.5%	6	0.5%
Total	1,127	100.0%	185	100.0%	1,312	100.0%

Table 3b: Prosecutions and convictions at magistrates' courts by age band of defendant, 2015.

Age group	Conviction		No conviction		Total findings	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
10 - 17	1,132	4.9%	202	4.3%	1,334	4.8%
18 - 24	6,333	27.2%	1,090	22.9%	7,423	26.5%
25 - 29	4,250	18.3%	759	16.0%	5,009	17.9%
30 - 39	5,528	23.8%	1,194	25.1%	6,722	24.0%
40 - 49	3,367	14.5%	797	16.8%	4,164	14.9%
50 - 59	1,858	8.0%	422	8.9%	2,280	8.1%
60 & over	694	3.0%	198	4.2%	892	3.2%
Not known	90	0.4%	90	1.9%	180	0.6%
Total	23,252	100.0%	4,752	100.0%	28,004	100.0%

Table 3c: Prosecutions and convictions at all courts by age band of defendant, 2015.

Age group	Conviction		No conviction		Total findings	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
10 - 17	1,136	4.7%	208	4.2%	1,344	4.6%
18 - 24	6,609	27.1%	1,128	22.8%	7,737	26.4%
25 - 29	4,462	18.3%	793	16.1%	5,255	17.9%
30 - 39	5,844	24.0%	1,232	25.0%	7,076	24.1%
40 - 49	3,538	14.5%	828	16.8%	4,366	14.9%
50 - 59	1,944	8.0%	444	9.0%	2,388	8.1%
60 & over	751	3.1%	213	4.3%	964	3.3%
Not known	95	0.4%	91	1.8%	186	0.6%
Total	24,379	100.0%	4,937	100.0%	29,316	100.0%

Table 4: Prosecutions and convictions at courts by offence classification and court type, 2015.

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	305	65	82.4%	3,253	1,570	67.4%	3,558	1,635	68.5%
Sexual	88	30	74.6%	75	61	55.1%	163	91	64.2%
Robbery	60	9	87.0%	15	17	46.9%	75	26	74.3%
Theft	67	10	87.0%	2,183	327	87.0%	2,250	337	87.0%
Burglary	80	6	93.0%	348	143	70.9%	428	149	74.2%
Criminal Damage	36	5	87.8%	1,266	508	71.4%	1,302	513	71.7%
Drugs	228	4	98.3%	1,705	136	92.6%	1,933	140	93.2%
Possession of Weapons	13	1	92.9%	243	93	72.3%	256	94	73.1%
Public Order	51	31	62.2%	2,164	448	82.8%	2,215	479	82.2%
Motoring	27	1	96.4%	10,599	977	91.6%	10,626	978	91.6%
Fraud	38	5	88.4%	141	39	78.3%	179	44	80.3%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	134	18	88.2%	1,260	433	74.4%	1,394	451	75.6%
Total	1,127	185	85.9%	23,252	4,752	83.0%	24,379	4,937	83.2%

Note: Figures within Table 9c were revised in September 2016.

Table 5a: Number and percentage of convictions by sentencing disposal and court type, 2015.

Disposal type	Gender	Crown Court		Magistrates' courts		All courts	
		Number	% convictions	Number	% convictions	Number	% convictions
Custodial	Male	544	53.9%	2,263	11.7%	2,807	13.8%
	Female	26	22.6%	180	4.5%	206	5.0%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	570	50.6%	2,443	10.5%	3,013	12.4%
Suspended Custodial	Male	268	26.6%	2,860	14.8%	3,128	15.4%
	Female	50	43.5%	554	13.9%	604	14.7%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	1	11.1%	1	8.3%
	Total	318	28.2%	3,415	14.7%	3,733	15.3%
Attendance Centre	Male	-	0.0%	37	0.2%	37	0.2%
	Female	-	0.0%	18	0.5%	18	0.4%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	-	0.0%	55	0.2%	55	0.2%
Combination Order	Male	28	2.8%	315	1.6%	343	1.7%
	Female	4	3.5%	47	1.2%	51	1.2%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	32	2.8%	362	1.6%	394	1.6%
Probation Order/Supervision Order	Male	74	7.3%	844	4.4%	918	4.5%
	Female	11	9.6%	232	5.8%	243	5.9%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	85	7.5%	1,076	4.6%	1,161	4.8%
Community Service Order/ Youth Conference Order	Male	45	4.5%	1,289	6.7%	1,334	6.6%
	Female	9	7.8%	173	4.3%	182	4.4%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	54	4.8%	1,462	6.3%	1,516	6.2%
Community Responsibility Order	Male	-	0.0%	24	0.1%	24	0.1%
	Female	-	0.0%	24	0.6%	24	0.6%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	-	0.0%	48	0.2%	48	0.2%
Monetary Penalty	Male	23	2.3%	10,647	55.3%	10,670	52.6%
	Female	7	6.1%	2,441	61.3%	2,448	59.7%
	Other ¹	3	100.0%	8	88.9%	11	91.7%
	Total	33	2.9%	13,096	56.3%	13,129	53.9%
Bound Over	Male	-	0.0%	92	0.5%	92	0.5%
	Female	-	0.0%	31	0.8%	31	0.8%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	-	0.0%	123	0.5%	123	0.5%
Conditional Discharge	Male	20	2.0%	724	3.8%	744	3.7%
	Female	7	6.1%	224	5.6%	231	5.6%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	27	2.4%	948	4.1%	975	4.0%
Absolute Discharge	Male	1	0.1%	36	0.2%	37	0.2%
	Female	-	0.0%	17	0.4%	17	0.4%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	1	0.1%	53	0.2%	54	0.2%
Other Disposal	Male	6	0.6%	129	0.7%	135	0.7%
	Female	1	0.9%	42	1.1%	43	1.0%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	7	0.6%	171	0.7%	178	0.7%
Total	Male	1,009	100.0%	19,260	100.0%	20,269	100.0%
	Female	115	100.0%	3,983	100.0%	4,098	100.0%
	Other¹	3	100.0%	9	100.0%	12	100.0%
	Total	1,127	100.0%	23,252	100.0%	24,379	100.0%

Note:

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

Table 5b: Number and percentage of custodial sentences by sentencing disposal and court type, 2015.

Disposal	Court Type	Number	% custodial sentences
Public Protection Sentences			
Life licences	Crown Court	6	1.1%
	Magistrates' courts	-	0.0%
	All courts	6	0.2%
Indeterminate Custodial Sentence	Crown Court	2	0.4%
	Magistrates' courts	-	0.0%
	All courts	2	0.1%
Extended Custodial Sentence	Crown Court	32	5.6%
	Magistrates' courts	1	0.0%
	All courts	33	1.1%
Prison with a community supervision element			
Determinate Custodial Sentence	Crown Court	407	71.4%
	Magistrates' courts	1	0.0%
	All courts	408	13.5%
Custody Probation Orders	Crown Court	13	2.3%
	Magistrates' courts	-	0.0%
	All courts	13	0.4%
Juvenile justice order	Crown Court	-	0.0%
	Magistrates' courts	135	5.5%
	All courts	135	4.5%
Custody			
Imprisonment	Crown Court	110	19.3%
	Magistrates' courts	1,956	80.1%
	All courts	2,066	68.6%
Young offender centre	Crown Court	-	0.0%
	Magistrates' courts	350	14.3%
	All courts	350	11.6%
Total Custodial	Crown Court	570	100.0%
	Magistrates' courts	2,443	100.0%
	All courts	3,013	100.0%

Table 6a: Disposals at Crown Court by offence classification, 2015.

Crime category	Number of convictions						Total
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	
Violence against the Person	129	96	51	12	14	3	305
Sexual Offences	55	16	16	-	-	1	88
Robbery	57	1	2	-	-	-	60
Theft	37	19	9	1	1	-	67
Burglary	52	13	15	-	-	-	80
Criminal Damage	22	6	5	-	1	2	36
Drugs Offences	137	60	25	4	2	-	228
Possession of Weapons	7	4	1	-	1	-	13
Public Order Offences	13	23	7	4	4	-	51
Motoring	12	8	4	2	-	1	27
Fraud	11	23	3	-	1	-	38
Miscellaneous crimes against society	38	49	33	10	4	-	134
Total	570	318	171	33	28	7	1,127

Crime category	Percentage of convictions						Total
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	
Violence against the Person	42.3%	31.5%	16.7%	3.9%	4.6%	1.0%	100.0%
Sexual Offences	62.5%	18.2%	18.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	100.0%
Robbery	95.0%	1.7%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Theft	55.2%	28.4%	13.4%	1.5%	1.5%	0.0%	100.0%
Burglary	65.0%	16.3%	18.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Criminal Damage	61.1%	16.7%	13.9%	0.0%	2.8%	5.6%	100.0%
Drugs Offences	60.1%	26.3%	11.0%	1.8%	0.9%	0.0%	100.0%
Possession of Weapons	53.8%	30.8%	7.7%	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%	100.0%
Public Order Offences	25.5%	45.1%	13.7%	7.8%	7.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Motoring	44.4%	29.6%	14.8%	7.4%	0.0%	3.7%	100.0%
Fraud	28.9%	60.5%	7.9%	0.0%	2.6%	0.0%	100.0%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	28.4%	36.6%	24.6%	7.5%	3.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	50.6%	28.2%	15.2%	2.9%	2.5%	0.6%	100.0%

Note:

1. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.
2. Figures within Table 6a were revised in September 2016.

Table 6b: Disposals at magistrates' courts by offence classification, 2015.

Crime category	Number of convictions						Total
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	
Violence against the Person	613	893	885	620	193	49	3,253
Sexual Offences	19	15	17	16	3	5	75
Robbery	6	1	6	-	2	-	15
Theft	501	548	459	483	181	11	2,183
Burglary	139	92	91	12	13	1	348
Criminal Damage	294	254	368	249	97	4	1,266
Drugs Offences	168	255	276	892	114	-	1,705
Possession of Weapons	56	61	55	44	24	3	243
Public Order Offences	282	530	294	793	206	59	2,164
Motoring	180	483	283	9,476	27	150	10,599
Fraud	11	42	45	30	13	-	141
Miscellaneous crimes against society	174	241	224	481	128	12	1,260
Total	2,443	3,415	3,003	13,096	1,001	294	23,252

Crime category	Percentage of convictions						Total
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	
Violence against the Person	18.8%	27.5%	27.2%	19.1%	5.9%	1.5%	100.0%
Sexual Offences	25.3%	20.0%	22.7%	21.3%	4.0%	6.7%	100.0%
Robbery	40.0%	6.7%	40.0%	0.0%	13.3%	0.0%	100.0%
Theft	23.0%	25.1%	21.0%	22.1%	8.3%	0.5%	100.0%
Burglary	39.9%	26.4%	26.1%	3.4%	3.7%	0.3%	100.0%
Criminal Damage	23.2%	20.1%	29.1%	19.7%	7.7%	0.3%	100.0%
Drugs Offences	9.9%	15.0%	16.2%	52.3%	6.7%	0.0%	100.0%
Possession of Weapons	23.0%	25.1%	22.6%	18.1%	9.9%	1.2%	100.0%
Public Order Offences	13.0%	24.5%	13.6%	36.6%	9.5%	2.7%	100.0%
Motoring	1.7%	4.6%	2.7%	89.4%	0.3%	1.4%	100.0%
Fraud	7.8%	29.8%	31.9%	21.3%	9.2%	0.0%	100.0%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	13.8%	19.1%	17.8%	38.2%	10.2%	1.0%	100.0%
Total	10.5%	14.7%	12.9%	56.3%	4.3%	1.3%	100.0%

Note:

1. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.
2. Figures within Table 6b were revised in September 2016.

Table 6c: Disposals in all courts by offence classification, 2015.

Crime category	Number of convictions						Total
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	
Violence against the Person	742	989	936	632	207	52	3,558
Sexual Offences	74	31	33	16	3	6	163
Robbery	63	2	8	-	2	-	75
Theft	538	567	468	484	182	11	2,250
Burglary	191	105	106	12	13	1	428
Criminal Damage	316	260	373	249	98	6	1,302
Drugs Offences	305	315	301	896	116	-	1,933
Possession of Weapons	63	65	56	44	25	3	256
Public Order Offences	295	553	301	797	210	59	2,215
Motoring	192	491	287	9,478	27	151	10,626
Fraud	22	65	48	30	14	-	179
Miscellaneous crimes against society	212	290	257	491	132	12	1,394
Total	3,013	3,733	3,174	13,129	1,029	301	24,379

Crime category	Percentage of convictions						Total
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	
Violence against the Person	20.9%	27.8%	26.3%	17.8%	5.8%	1.5%	100.0%
Sexual Offences	45.4%	19.0%	20.2%	9.8%	1.8%	3.7%	100.0%
Robbery	84.0%	2.7%	10.7%	0.0%	2.7%	0.0%	100.0%
Theft	23.9%	25.2%	20.8%	21.5%	8.1%	0.5%	100.0%
Burglary	44.6%	24.5%	24.8%	2.8%	3.0%	0.2%	100.0%
Criminal Damage	24.3%	20.0%	28.6%	19.1%	7.5%	0.5%	100.0%
Drugs Offences	15.8%	16.3%	15.6%	46.4%	6.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Possession of Weapons	24.6%	25.4%	21.9%	17.2%	9.8%	1.2%	100.0%
Public Order Offences	13.3%	25.0%	13.6%	36.0%	9.5%	2.7%	100.0%
Motoring	1.8%	4.6%	2.7%	89.2%	0.3%	1.4%	100.0%
Fraud	12.3%	36.3%	26.8%	16.8%	7.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	15.2%	20.8%	18.4%	35.2%	9.5%	0.9%	100.0%
Total	12.4%	15.3%	13.0%	53.9%	4.2%	1.2%	100.0%

Note:

1. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.
2. Figures within Table 6c were revised in September 2016.

Table 7: Out of court disposals by type, 2011 – 2015.

Disposal type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	% total
Caution	7,573	7,209	6,265	5,060	4,686	50.3%
PPS Ordered Youth Conference Plan	927	999	722	832	768	8.2%
Community Based Restorative Justice scheme	1	6	-	-	-	0.0%
Informed warning	1,096	929	765	603	486	5.2%
Penalty Notices for Disorder	N/A	1,136	3,394	3,728	3,370	36.2%
Total	9,597	10,279	11,146	10,223	9,310	100.0%

Note:

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

Table 8a: Penalty Notices for Disorder issued by gender of recipient, 2015.

Gender	Number	% total
Male	2,560	76.0%
Female	809	24.0%
Not known/other	1	0.0%
Total	3,370	100.0%

Table 8b: Penalty Notices for Disorder issued by age band of recipient, 2015.

Offender age	Number	% total
10 - 17	2	0.1%
18 - 24	1,378	40.9%
25 - 29	556	16.5%
30 - 39	649	19.3%
40 - 49	375	11.1%
50 - 59	271	8.0%
60 & over	127	3.8%
Not known	12	0.4%
Total	3,370	100.0%

Table 8c: Penalty Notices for Disorder issued by offence classification, 2015.

Offence classification	Number	% total
Violence Against the Person	-	0.0%
Sexual	-	0.0%
Robbery	-	0.0%
Theft	1,038	30.8%
Burglary	-	0.0%
Criminal Damage	63	1.9%
Drugs	-	0.0%
Possession of Weapons	-	0.0%
Public Order	1,163	34.5%
Motoring	-	0.0%
Fraud	-	0.0%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	1,106	32.8%
Total	3,370	100.0%

Table 9a: Diversionary disposals by gender of offender, 2011 – 2015.

Gender	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	% total
Male	7,297	6,957	5,901	4,908	4,477	75.4%
Female	2,285	2,173	1,851	1,584	1,459	24.6%
Not known/other	15	13	-	3	4	0.1%
Total	9,597	9,143	7,752	6,495	5,940	100.0%

Table 9b: Diversionary disposals by age band of offender, 2011 – 2015.

Offender age	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	% total
10 - 17	2,516	2,292	1,937	1,614	1,503	25.3%
18 - 24	3,322	2,967	2,554	1,988	1,891	31.8%
25 - 29	1,002	1,079	829	727	629	10.6%
30 - 39	1,130	1,164	926	837	791	13.3%
40 - 49	794	876	765	704	541	9.1%
50 - 59	473	434	420	369	320	5.4%
60 & over	332	300	298	241	251	4.2%
Not known	28	31	23	15	14	0.2%
Total	9,597	9,143	7,752	6,495	5,940	100.0%

Table 9c: Diversionary disposals issued by type and offence classification, 2015.

Offence classification	Disposal type					% total diversions
	Caution	PPS Ordered YCP	CBRJ	Informed warning	Total	
Violence Against the Person	891	248	-	88	1,184	19.9%
Sexual	19	12	-	2	33	0.6%
Robbery	1	1	-	-	2	0.0%
Theft	493	95	-	63	636	10.7%
Burglary	21	34	-	3	59	1.0%
Criminal Damage	316	136	-	51	553	9.3%
Drugs	1,251	41	-	65	1,387	23.4%
Possession of Weapons	80	25	-	11	115	1.9%
Public Order	385	67	-	88	540	9.1%
Motoring	670	46	-	45	761	12.8%
Fraud	47	3	-	1	53	0.9%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	512	60	-	69	617	10.4%
Total	4,686	768	-	486	5,940	100.0%

Note: Figures within Table 9c were revised in September 2016.

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