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Analytical Services Group

Court Prosecutions, Convictions and Out of Court Disposals Statistics for Northern Ireland, 2016

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KEY FINDINGS

PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS

- The number of prosecutions disposed at Crown Court¹ increased 43.4% from 1,312 in 2015 to 1,882 in 2016, reversing the downward trend seen in the years from 2014 to 2015. The number of prosecutions at magistrates' courts fell from 28,004 in 2015 to 25,767 in 2016, a fall of 8.0%.
- In 2016, 83.0% (22,956) of prosecutions in all courts resulted in a conviction. This compares with 2015 when 83.2% (24,379) of prosecutions in all courts resulted in a conviction.
- The majority, 83.0% (22,937), of prosecutions completed at all courts in 2016, were cases where the defendant was male. In Crown Court, 89.4% (1,682) of prosecutions were against males. In magistrates' courts, 82.5% (21,255) were against males.
- Persons in the 18 – 24 year old age band accounted for the most prosecutions in court in 2016. They made up 25.9% (7,151) of all prosecutions at courts in Northern Ireland and 26.2% (6,019) of those convicted at all courts in 2016.
- Of all offence categories, motoring offences made up the largest proportion of prosecutions at all courts: 11,060 (40.0% of all prosecutions) in 2016. Of all offence categories, drugs offences had the highest conviction rate at all courts, at 94.0% (1,882).

OUT OF COURT DISPOSALS

- A total of 2,898 penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) were issued in 2016, 76.7% of which were to males. Miscellaneous crimes against society constituted the largest proportion of PNDs issued, with 34.6% (1,004) of all PNDs issued for offences in this category.
- The number of out of court, diversionary disposals recorded against individuals' criminal records in 2016 was 5,335, a fall of 10.2% from 5,940 in 2015. Most diversionary disposals were dealt with by way of caution, with 80.7% (4,306) of all diversionary disposals dealt with in this way.
- Of all those who received a diversionary disposal in 2016, most were in the younger age categories, with 52.2% (2,784) of all diversionary disposals handed out to the under 25 year old age group.
- In 2016, 74.5% (3,972) of all diversionary disposals were handed down to males.
- Of all diversionary disposals, 22.2% (1,182) were handed down for drug offences and a further 21.4% (1,140) 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 affected defendants' access to legally aided representation in 2015 and may have had an impact on disposals and delay within the Crown Court process during the period. The dispute ended on 11th February 2016.

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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 2016. 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 2016, with information on the breakdown of offences committed and the disposals received is also included.

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 2016. The bulletin counts criminal proceedings brought to court by the Public Prosecution Service on behalf of the PSNI, the National Crime Agency, the Airport Constabulary or Harbour Police in Northern Ireland and breaches of community sentences brought by the Probation Board for Northern Ireland. Some prosecutions brought on behalf of the UK Border Agency are also included. 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.

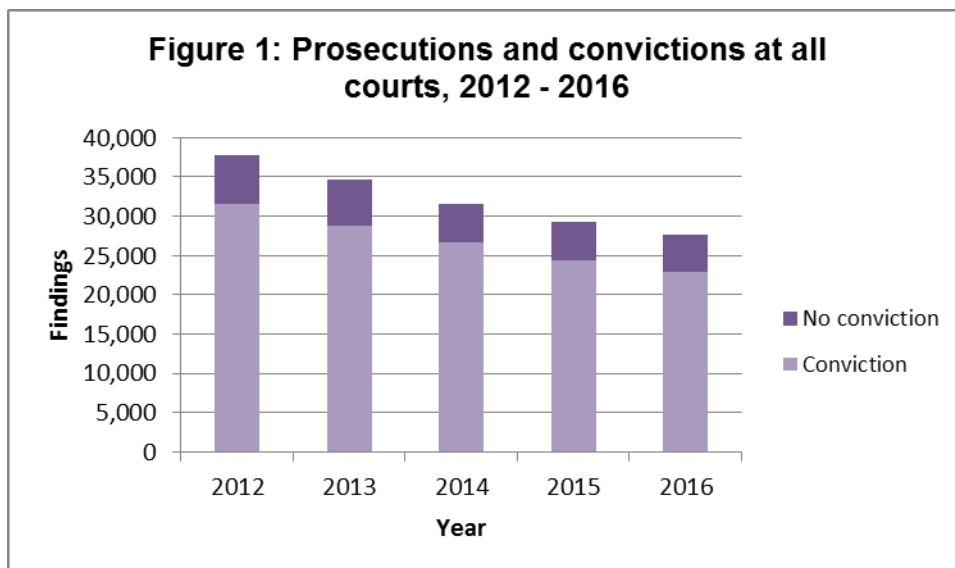
MAIN FINDINGS

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 2016 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 27,649 in 2016, down 5.7% from 29,316 in 2015. Similarly, the number of prosecutions in magistrates' courts in 2016 was 25,767, a fall of 8.0% from 28,004 in 2015, while the number of prosecutions in Crown Court in 2016 was 1,882, an increase of 43.4% from the total of 1,312 in 2015. The introduction of new rules in May 2015 in relation to legal aid remuneration resulted in a number of solicitors and counsel withdrawing their representation from a range of court cases. This affected defendants' access to legal aid representation and may have had an impact on disposals and delay within the Crown Court process during the period. The dispute ended on 11th February 2016.

In 2016, 83.0% (22,956) of prosecutions in all courts resulted in a conviction, a conviction rate similar to that of 83.2% for 2015, and similar to that for the years 2012 (83.4%) and 2013 (83.2%).

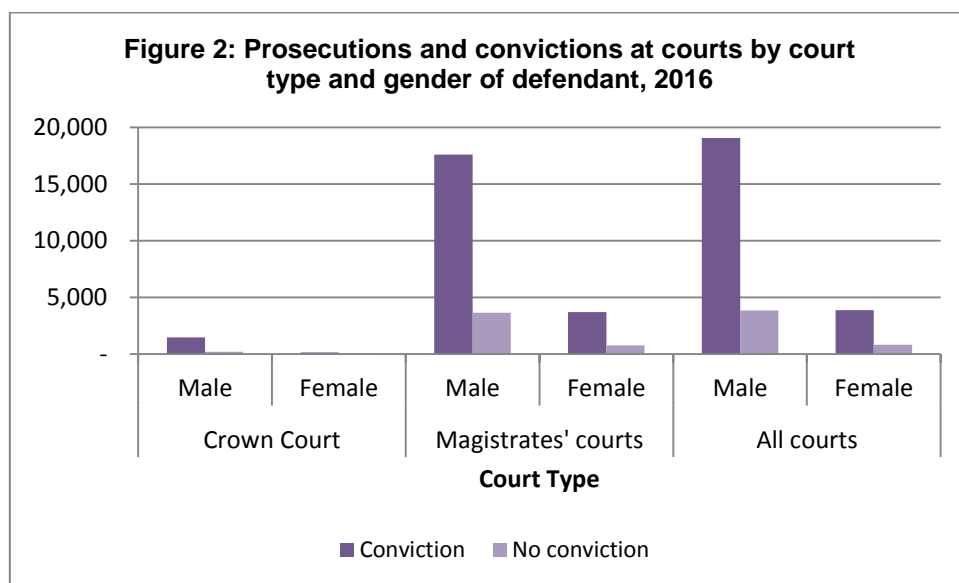


At 86.2% (1,623), the conviction rate for cases disposed at Crown Court was higher in 2016 than that for 2015 (85.9%), or indeed for any year since 2012, when the rate was 84.1%. In magistrates' courts, 82.8% (21,333) cases disposed in 2016 resulted in a conviction. This was lower than that observed in all other recent years (Table 1).

Gender

Males constituted the majority of people prosecuted in all courts in 2016. Of all those prosecuted, 83.0% (22,937) were male. In the Crown Court, the proportion of prosecutions brought where the defendant was male was slightly higher at 89.4% (1,682), whereas, in magistrates' courts, the proportion of prosecutions brought where the defendant was male was 82.5% (21,255).

Prosecutions brought at all courts resulted in a conviction rate of 83.2% for males and 82.4% for females in 2016. In magistrates' courts in 2016, the conviction rate for males was 82.8% and, for females, was 82.7%. However, when the gender of the defendant was taken into account in relation to convictions in Crown Court in 2016, the conviction rate for males was 87.6%, compared to a rate of 74.5% for females.



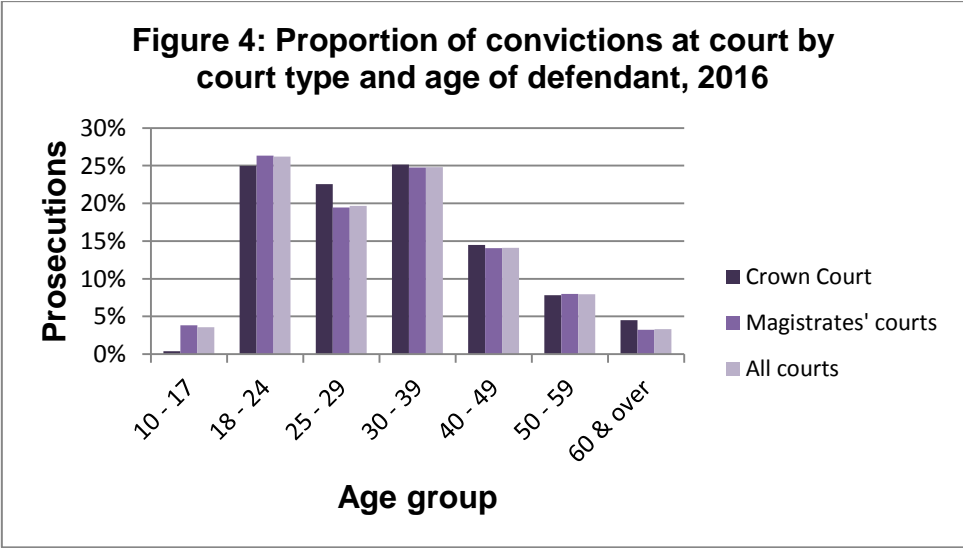
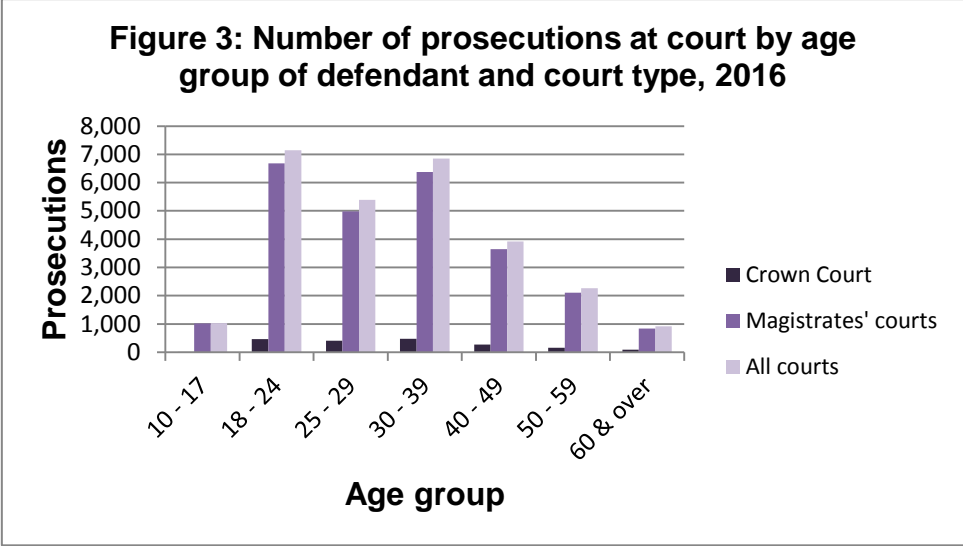
In addition, a small number of prosecutions were classified as against 'others'. This included transgender individuals, companies and other public bodies and those for whom no gender was recorded (Table 2).

Age Group

The age group of defendants for which the highest percentage of prosecutions were brought at all courts in 2016 was the 18 – 24 year old age group. In 2016, 25.9% (7,151) of prosecutions were against this age group. The same was true for prosecutions brought in magistrates' courts in 2016, with 25.9% (6,682) 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 2016, 25.2% (475) 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 2016 was similarly the 18 – 24 year old age group. In

2016, 26.2% (6,019) of convictions were handed down to defendants in this age group. Proportionately, defendants in the 18 – 24 year old age group accounted for 25.0% (405) of convictions in the Crown Court and 26.3% (5,614) of convictions in magistrates' courts in 2016.

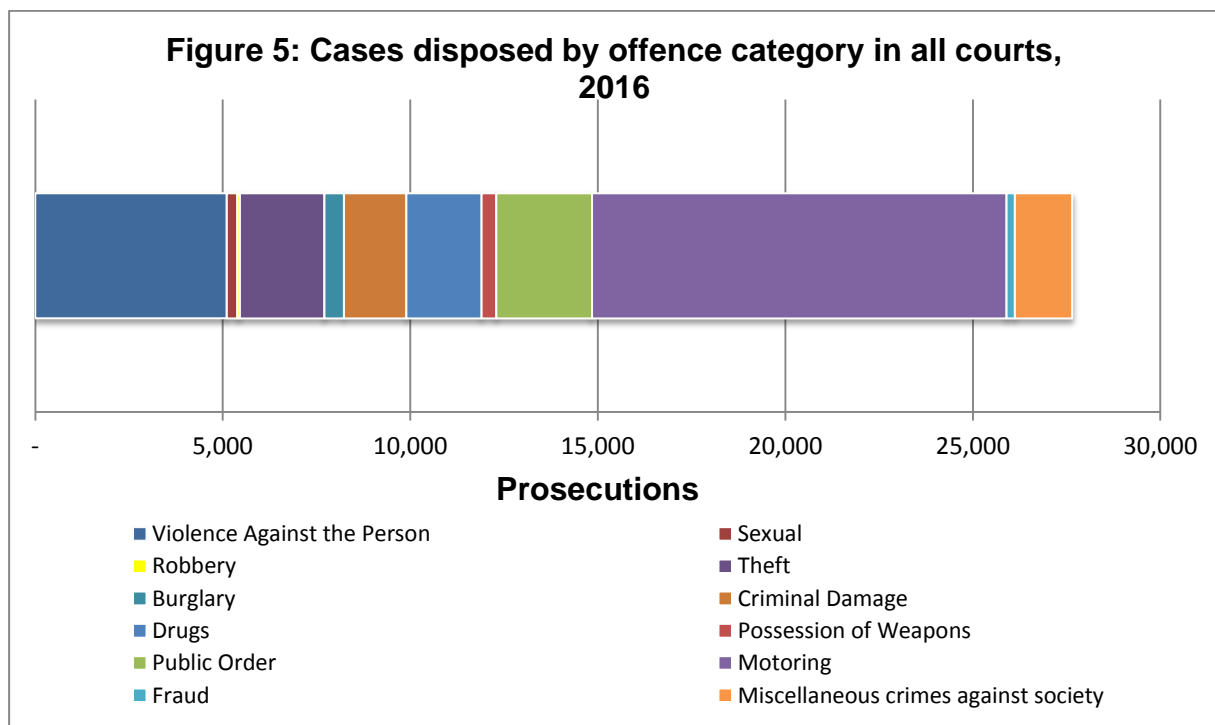


Proportionally, a smaller percentage of prosecutions in Crown Court, 0.3% (6), were against defendants in the 10 – 17 age group in 2016, compared with those in magistrates' courts, 4.0% (1,024). In 2016, the proportion of all convictions handed down in Crown Court to those in the 10 – 17 year old age group was 0.4% (6), whereas in magistrates' courts, 3.8% (817) all convictions were handed down to defendants in the 10 – 17 year old age group.

The adult age group with the highest likelihood of conviction at Crown Court was the 25 – 29 year old group, with 90.6% (366) 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, 84.0% (5,614) (Tables 3a, 3b and 3c).

Offence Classification

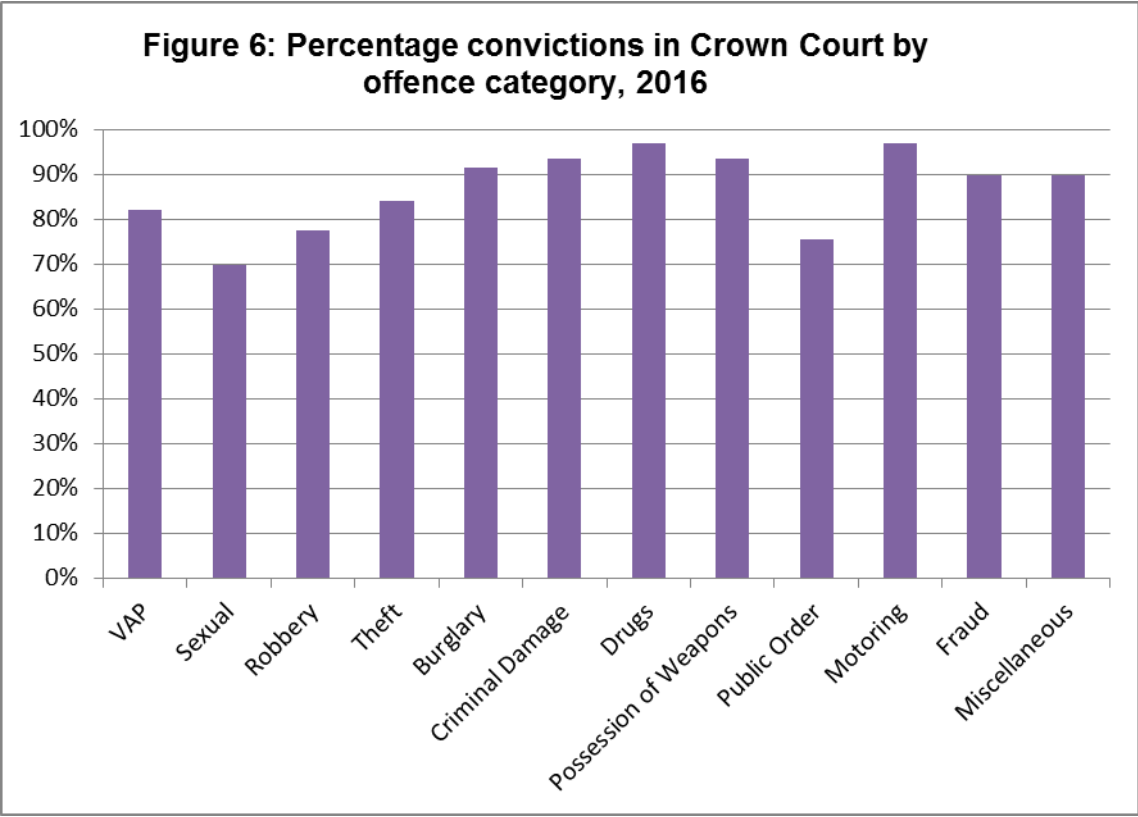
Overall, across all courts, the largest proportion of cases disposed fell into the motoring offences category in 2016, comprising 40.0% (11,060) of all cases disposed at court in that year. Violence against the person (VAP) offences accounted for 18.5% (5,106) of cases disposed at all courts in 2016, while cases where the principal offence fell into the public order category made up 9.2% (2,546) of all cases disposed at court in 2016.



In all courts in 2016, prosecutions brought for drugs offences were most likely to end in conviction, with 94.0% (1,882) of cases in this category resulting in a conviction. Similarly, in cases where the principal offence was in the motoring offences category, 92.4% (10,214) 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 2016, with 63.9% (179) of such cases resulting in a conviction.

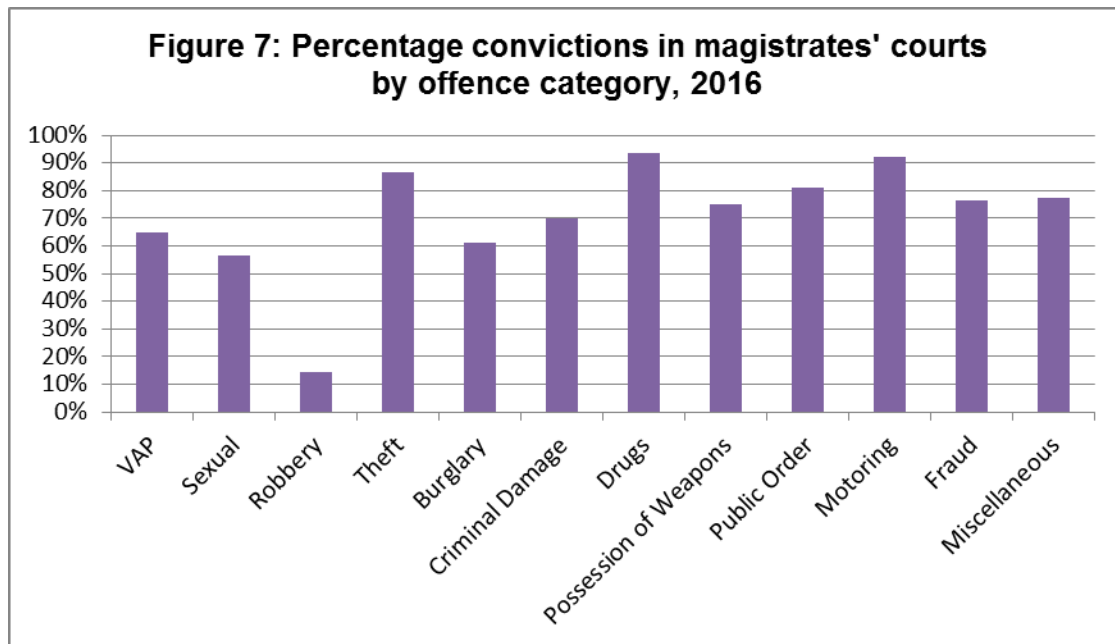
In the Crown Court, the largest proportion of cases disposed fell into the VAP offences category, comprising 25.3% (476) of all cases disposed in 2016, while cases where the principal offence at conviction fell into the drugs category made up 18.3% (344) of all cases disposed at court in that year. Possession of weapons offences were the offence category least likely to be disposed in Crown Court in 2016, with only 1.6% (30) of cases disposed at Crown Court in that year falling into that category. Similarly, relatively few cases in the robbery, fraud, criminal damage and motoring offences categories were disposed at Crown Court in 2016, with such cases making up 3.1% (58), 2.6% (49), 3.2% (61) and 3.4% (64) of the total cases disposed respectively.

In the Crown Court in 2016, prosecutions brought for motoring were, proportionately, most likely to end in conviction, with 96.9% (62) of prosecutions brought for offences in this category resulting in a conviction. For cases which fell into the drugs category, 96.8% (333) resulted in a conviction and, for cases which fell into the criminal damage category, 93.4% (57) of cases disposed at Crown court in 2016 resulted in a conviction. Cases which fell into the sexual offences category however, were least likely to result in a conviction in 2016, when 69.9% (109) 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 2016, comprising 42.7% (10,996) of all cases disposed at magistrates' courts in that year.

In magistrates' courts in 2016, prosecutions brought for drugs offences were, proportionately, most likely to end in conviction, with 93.4% (1,549) of prosecutions brought for offences in this category resulting in a conviction. Similarly, 92.3% (10,152) 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 however, resulted in a conviction in 56.5% (70) of such cases, disposed in magistrates' courts in 2016 (Table 4).

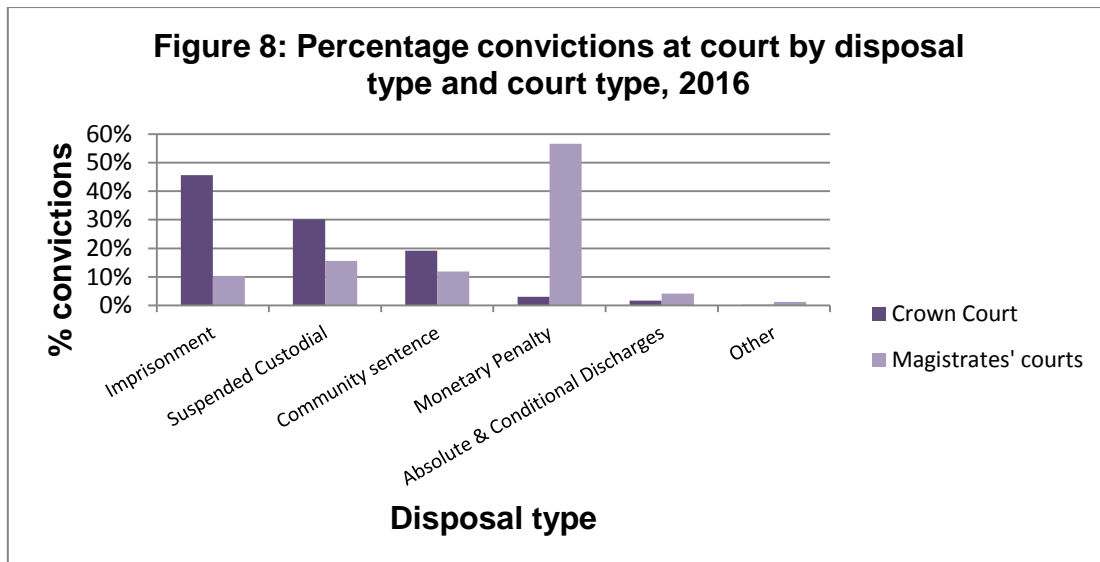


Court Disposals

Monetary penalties were the most frequently utilised disposal at all courts in 2016, with 52.8% (12,129) of all convictions having this type of disposal as their primary outcome. A custodial outcome was imposed in 12.9% (2,953) of cases at all courts in 2016, with a suspended custodial outcome imposed in a further 16.6% (3,822) of cases. A community sentence² was the primary disposal in 12.4% (2,854) of convictions in all courts in 2016.

The type of penalty imposed as a result of conviction varied according to court type in 2016. In Crown Court, 45.7% (741) of disposals had a custodial element, whereas in magistrates' courts 10.4% (2,212) of outcomes had a custodial element. Similarly, in Crown Court, 30.1% (489) of disposals had a suspended custodial element, whereas, in magistrates' courts, 15.6% (3,333) of outcomes had a suspended custodial element. Conversely, in Crown Court, 3.0% (49) of disposals resulted in a monetary penalty as the primary outcome, whereas in magistrates' courts 56.6% (12,080) of disposals resulted in a monetary penalty as the main disposal (Table 5a).

² Community Sentences includes the following disposals: Attendance Centre, Combination /Enhanced Combination Order, Probation/Supervision Order, Community Service Order, Youth Conference Order and Community Responsibility Order.



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 2016 was 42, 1.4% of all custodial sentences. The number of sentences which combined custody and community supervision elements excluding those released on licence conditions was 586, 19.8% of all custodial sentences handed down at all courts in 2016. Other custodial sentences were handed down in 78.7% (2,325) of cases at all courts in 2016 (Table 5b).

In all courts, the offence category most likely to result in a custodial outcome was robbery, with 85.1% (40) of disposals for offences in this category resulting in this type of outcome in 2016. Conversely, a custodial outcome was least likely for offences in the motoring category, with only 2.2% (228) 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 87.9% (8,977) 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 43.7% (76) of convictions for offences in this category receiving such an outcome. A community sentence was the most likely disposal for convictions in the sexual offence category, with 38.0% (68) 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 88.9% (40) of disposals for offences in this category resulting in a custodial outcome in 2016. Similarly, custodial sentences were handed down for 65.5% (93) of convictions where the principal offence was in the burglary category and for 51.1% (170) of convictions where the principal offence was in the drugs offences category. Defendants convicted of fraud offences at Crown Court were more likely to be dealt with by way of suspended sentence, with 59.1% (26) of

convictions for offences in this category receiving this outcome as their main disposal in 2016.

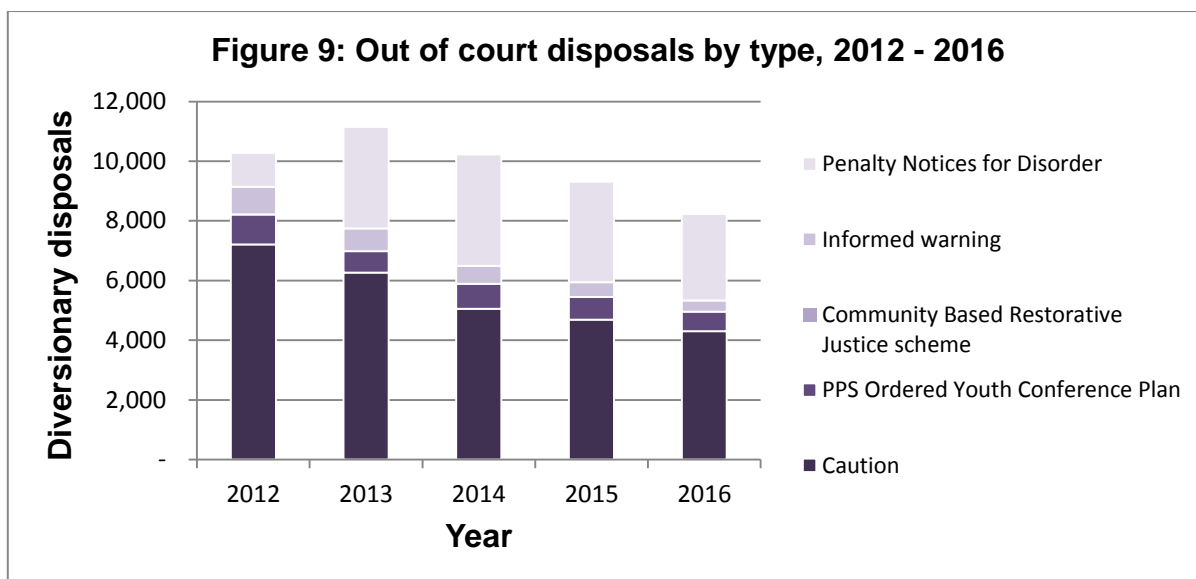
In magistrates' courts, the offence category most likely to result in a custodial outcome was burglary, with 40.2% (90) of disposals for offences in this category resulting in a custodial outcome in 2016. Convictions for fraud offences were most likely to result in a suspended custodial sentence at magistrates' courts, with 38.5% (50) 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 88.4% (8,971) 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 8,233 in 2016, a fall of 11.6% (1,077) from the 9,310 issued in 2015. However, while the number of informed warning issued fell by 23.3% (113), the number of PNDs issued fell by 14.0% (472), the number of PPS ordered Youth Conferencing Plans fell by 14.6% (112) and the number of cautions issued fell by just 8.1% (380) on 2015 totals. There were no relevant community based restorative justice scheme out of court disposals recorded in 2016 (Table 7).



Penalty Notices for Disorder Disposals

In 2016, 2,898 PNDs were issued, a decrease of 14.0% from the total (3,370) issued in 2015. Of these, 76.7% (2,222) were issued to males. Of all those who received a PND, 18 – 24 year olds made up 42.1% (1,219). PNDs were issued mainly for public order offences (32.8%, 950) and for offences in the miscellaneous crimes category (34.6%, 1,004), although a substantial proportion (30.4%, 881), were also issued for theft offences in 2016 (Tables 8a, 8b and 8c).

Other Out of Court (Diversions) Disposals

In 2016, the number of diversionary disposals issued which were recorded against individuals' criminal records was 5,335, a fall of 10.2% from the figure of 5,940 such disposals issued in 2015. 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, where available, as an option for dealing with low-level offending.

Cautions were the most common form of diversionary disposal, making up 80.7% (4,306) of all diversionary disposals in 2016. Youth Conference Plans made up 12.3% (656) of disposals issued and informed warnings made up the remaining 7.0% (373) of diversionary disposals in 2016.

Most diversionary disposals were issued to males in 2016, when 74.5% (3,972) of all diversionary disposals were issued to males. This is a slightly smaller proportion than in 2015, when 75.3% (4,477) of all diversionary disposals were issued to males.

Of all diversionary disposals issued in 2016, most were handed out to offenders under the age of 25, with 52.2% (2,784) of all diversionary disposals being received

by persons in that age group. This is a slight decrease to the rate for 2015, when 57.1% 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 2016, with 22.2% (1,182) of all diversionary disposals issued for offences in the drugs category and 21.4% (1,140) of all diversionary disposals issued for offences in the VAP category. Motoring offences were the cause of 13.8% (737) of all diversionary disposals in 2016, whereas theft offences accounted for 11.5% (611). Offences in the miscellaneous crimes category accounted for 9.6% (511) and criminal damage offences accounted for 8.3% (441) 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, 2012 – 2016.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Crown court					
Conviction	1,796	2,080	1,745	1,127	1,623
No conviction	339	473	318	185	259
Total findings	2,135	2,553	2,063	1,312	1,882
% convictions	84.1%	81.5%	84.6%	85.9%	86.2%
Magistrates' courts					
Conviction	29,670	26,751	24,862	23,252	21,333
No conviction	5,909	5,335	4,555	4,752	4,434
Total findings	35,579	32,086	29,417	28,004	25,767
% convictions	83.4%	83.4%	84.5%	83.0%	82.8%
All courts					
Conviction	31,466	28,831	26,607	24,379	22,956
No conviction	6,248	5,808	4,873	4,937	4,693
Total findings	37,714	34,639	31,480	29,316	27,649
% convictions	83.4%	83.2%	84.5%	83.2%	83.0%

Note: Magistrates' courts figures include youth courts.

Table 2: Prosecutions and convictions in courts in Northern Ireland by gender of defendant, 2016.

	Male		Female		Other ¹		Total
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	
Crown Court							
Conviction	1,474	90.8%	149	9.2%	-	0.0%	1,623
No conviction	208	80.3%	51	19.7%	-	0.0%	259
Total findings	1,682	89.4%	200	10.6%	-	0.0%	1,882
% convictions	87.6%		74.5%				86.2%
Magistrates' courts							
Conviction	17,602	82.5%	3,721	17.4%	10	0.0%	21,333
No conviction	3,653	82.4%	777	17.5%	4	0.1%	4,434
Total findings	21,255	82.5%	4,498	17.5%	14	0.1%	25,767
% convictions	82.8%		82.7%		71.4%		82.8%
All courts							
Conviction	19,076	83.1%	3,870	16.9%	10	0.0%	22,956
No conviction	3,861	82.3%	828	17.6%	4	0.1%	4,693
Total findings	22,937	83.0%	4,698	17.0%	14	0.1%	27,649
% convictions	83.2%		82.4%		71.4%		83.0%

Note: 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, 2016.

Age group	Conviction		No conviction		Total findings	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
10 - 17	6	0.4%	-	0.0%	6	0.3%
18 - 24	405	25.0%	64	24.7%	469	24.9%
25 - 29	366	22.6%	38	14.7%	404	21.5%
30 - 39	408	25.1%	67	25.9%	475	25.2%
40 - 49	235	14.5%	38	14.7%	273	14.5%
50 - 59	127	7.8%	35	13.5%	162	8.6%
60 & over	73	4.5%	14	5.4%	87	4.6%
Not known	3	0.2%	3	1.2%	6	0.3%
Total	1,623	100.0%	259	100.0%	1,882	100.0%

Table 3b: Prosecutions and convictions at magistrates' courts by age band of defendant, 2016.

Age group	Conviction		No conviction		Total findings	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
10 - 17	817	3.8%	207	4.7%	1,024	4.0%
18 - 24	5,614	26.3%	1,068	24.1%	6,682	25.9%
25 - 29	4,148	19.4%	833	18.8%	4,981	19.3%
30 - 39	5,284	24.8%	1,090	24.6%	6,374	24.7%
40 - 49	3,001	14.1%	649	14.6%	3,650	14.2%
50 - 59	1,701	8.0%	408	9.2%	2,109	8.2%
60 & over	690	3.2%	145	3.3%	835	3.2%
Not known	78	0.4%	34	0.8%	112	0.4%
Total	21,333	100.0%	4,434	100.0%	25,767	100.0%

Table 3c: Prosecutions and convictions at all courts by age band of defendant, 2016.

Age group	Conviction		No conviction		Total findings	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
10 - 17	823	3.6%	207	4.4%	1,030	3.7%
18 - 24	6,019	26.2%	1,132	24.1%	7,151	25.9%
25 - 29	4,514	19.7%	871	18.6%	5,385	19.5%
30 - 39	5,692	24.8%	1,157	24.7%	6,849	24.8%
40 - 49	3,236	14.1%	687	14.6%	3,923	14.2%
50 - 59	1,828	8.0%	443	9.4%	2,271	8.2%
60 & over	763	3.3%	159	3.4%	922	3.3%
Not known	81	0.4%	37	0.8%	118	0.4%
Total	22,956	100.0%	4,693	100.0%	27,649	100.0%

Table 4: Prosecutions and convictions at courts by offence classification and court type, 2016.

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	390	86	81.9%	3,001	1,629	64.8%	3,391	1,715	66.4%
Sexual	109	47	69.9%	70	54	56.5%	179	101	63.9%
Robbery	45	13	77.6%	2	12	14.3%	47	25	65.3%
Theft	95	18	84.1%	1,850	290	86.4%	1,945	308	86.3%
Burglary	142	13	91.6%	224	141	61.4%	366	154	70.4%
Criminal Damage	57	4	93.4%	1,125	483	70.0%	1,182	487	70.8%
Drugs	333	11	96.8%	1,549	110	93.4%	1,882	121	94.0%
Possession of Weapons	28	2	93.3%	274	90	75.3%	302	92	76.6%
Public Order	101	33	75.4%	1,961	451	81.3%	2,062	484	81.0%
Motoring	62	2	96.9%	10,152	844	92.3%	10,214	846	92.4%
Fraud	44	5	89.8%	130	40	76.5%	174	45	79.5%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	217	25	89.7%	995	290	77.4%	1,212	315	79.4%
Total	1,623	259	86.2%	21,333	4,434	82.8%	22,956	4,693	83.0%

Table 5a: Number and percentage of convictions by sentencing disposal and court type, 2016.

Disposal type	Gender	Crown Court		Magistrates' courts		All courts	
		Number	% convictions	Number	% convictions	Number	% convictions
Custodial	Male	703	47.7%	2,015	11.4%	2,718	14.2%
	Female	38	25.5%	197	5.3%	235	6.1%
	Other ¹	-	-	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	741	45.7%	2,212	10.4%	2,953	12.9%
Suspended Custodial	Male	425	28.8%	2,834	16.1%	3,259	17.1%
	Female	64	43.0%	499	13.4%	563	14.5%
	Other ¹	-	-	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	489	30.1%	3,333	15.6%	3,822	16.6%
Attendance Centre	Male	-	0.0%	10	0.1%	10	0.1%
	Female	-	0.0%	10	0.3%	10	0.3%
	Other ¹	-	-	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	-	0.0%	20	0.1%	20	0.1%
Combination Order	Male	95	6.4%	315	1.8%	410	2.1%
	Female	1	0.7%	35	0.9%	36	0.9%
	Other ¹	-	-	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	96	5.9%	350	1.6%	446	1.9%
Probation Order/Supervision Order	Male	139	9.4%	788	4.5%	927	4.9%
	Female	19	12.8%	219	5.9%	238	6.1%
	Other ¹	-	-	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	158	9.7%	1,007	4.7%	1,165	5.1%
Community Service Order	Male	49	3.3%	698	4.0%	747	3.9%
	Female	5	3.4%	86	2.3%	91	2.4%
	Other ¹	-	-	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	54	3.3%	784	3.7%	838	3.7%
Youth Conference Order	Male	4	0.3%	296	1.7%	300	1.6%
	Female	-	0.0%	57	1.5%	57	1.5%
	Other ¹	-	-	2	20.0%	2	20.0%
	Total	4	0.2%	355	1.7%	359	1.6%
Community Responsibility Order	Male	-	0.0%	24	0.1%	24	0.1%
	Female	-	0.0%	2	0.1%	2	0.1%
	Other ¹	-	-	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	-	0.0%	26	0.1%	26	0.1%
Monetary Penalty	Male	36	2.4%	9,779	55.6%	9,815	51.5%
	Female	13	8.7%	2,295	61.7%	2,308	59.6%
	Other ¹	-	-	6	60.0%	6	60.0%
	Total	49	3.0%	12,080	56.6%	12,129	52.8%
Bound Over	Male	-	0.0%	62	0.4%	62	0.3%
	Female	-	0.0%	31	0.8%	31	0.8%
	Other ¹	-	-	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	-	0.0%	93	0.4%	93	0.4%
Conditional Discharge	Male	16	1.1%	631	3.6%	647	3.4%
	Female	8	5.4%	226	6.1%	234	6.0%
	Other ¹	-	-	2	20.0%	2	20.0%
	Total	24	1.5%	859	4.0%	883	3.8%
Absolute Discharge	Male	4	0.3%	24	0.1%	28	0.1%
	Female	-	0.0%	14	0.4%	14	0.4%
	Other ¹	-	-	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	4	0.2%	38	0.2%	42	0.2%
Other Disposal	Male	3	0.2%	126	0.7%	129	0.7%
	Female	1	0.7%	50	1.3%	51	1.3%
	Other ¹	-	-	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	4	0.2%	176	0.8%	180	0.8%
Total	Male	1,474	100.0%	17,602	100.0%	19,076	100.0%
	Female	149	100.0%	3,721	100.0%	3,870	100.0%
	Other¹	-	-	10	100.0%	10	100.0%
	Total	1,623	100.0%	21,333	100.0%	22,956	100.0%

Note: 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, 2016.

Disposal	Court Type	Number	% custodial sentences
Public Protection Sentences			
Life licences	Crown Court	9	1.2%
	Magistrates' courts	-	0.0%
	All courts	9	0.3%
Indeterminate Custodial Sentence	Crown Court	3	0.4%
	Magistrates' courts	-	0.0%
	All courts	3	0.1%
Extended Custodial Sentence	Crown Court	30	4.0%
	Magistrates' courts	-	0.0%
	All courts	30	1.0%
Prison with a community supervision element			
Determinate Custodial Sentence	Crown Court	499	67.3%
	Magistrates' courts	5	0.2%
	All courts	504	17.1%
Custody Probation Orders	Crown Court	12	1.6%
	Magistrates' courts	-	0.0%
	All courts	12	0.4%
Juvenile justice order	Crown Court	-	0.0%
	Magistrates' courts	70	3.2%
	All courts	70	2.4%
Custody			
Imprisonment	Crown Court	186	25.1%
	Magistrates' courts	1,856	83.9%
	All courts	2,042	69.2%
Young offender centre	Crown Court	2	0.3%
	Magistrates' courts	281	12.7%
	All courts	283	9.6%
Total Custodial	Crown Court	741	100.0%
	Magistrates' courts	2,212	100.0%
	All courts	2,953	100.0%

Table 6a: Disposals at Crown Court by offence classification, 2016.

Crime category	Number of convictions						
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	Total
Violence against the Person	162	138	68	14	6	2	390
Sexual Offences	54	15	38	-	2	-	109
Robbery	40	3	2	-	-	-	45
Theft	42	35	12	4	2	-	95
Burglary	93	21	25	1	2	-	142
Criminal Damage	28	10	14	3	1	1	57
Drugs Offences	170	112	49	2	-	-	333
Possession of Weapons	13	6	8	-	1	-	28
Public Order Offences	40	22	19	13	7	-	101
Motoring	28	13	14	6	-	1	62
Fraud	12	26	5	-	1	-	44
Miscellaneous crimes against society	59	88	58	6	6	-	217
Total	741	489	312	49	28	4	1,623

Crime category	Percentage of convictions						
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	Total
Violence against the Person	41.5%	35.4%	17.4%	3.6%	1.5%	0.5%	100.0%
Sexual Offences	49.5%	13.8%	34.9%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Robbery	88.9%	6.7%	4.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Theft	44.2%	36.8%	12.6%	4.2%	2.1%	0.0%	100.0%
Burglary	65.5%	14.8%	17.6%	0.7%	1.4%	0.0%	100.0%
Criminal Damage	49.1%	17.5%	24.6%	5.3%	1.8%	1.8%	100.0%
Drugs Offences	51.1%	33.6%	14.7%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Possession of Weapons	46.4%	21.4%	28.6%	0.0%	3.6%	0.0%	100.0%
Public Order Offences	39.6%	21.8%	18.8%	12.9%	6.9%	0.0%	100.0%
Motoring	45.2%	21.0%	22.6%	9.7%	0.0%	1.6%	100.0%
Fraud	27.3%	59.1%	11.4%	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%	100.0%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	27.2%	40.6%	26.7%	2.8%	2.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	45.7%	30.1%	19.2%	3.0%	1.7%	0.2%	100.0%

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Table 6b: Disposals at magistrates' courts by offence classification, 2016.

Crime category	Number of convictions						
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	Total
Violence against the Person	617	855	719	529	235	46	3,001
Sexual Offences	11	15	30	9	4	1	70
Robbery	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Theft	421	498	379	406	141	5	1,850
Burglary	90	72	48	8	6	-	224
Criminal Damage	250	257	317	215	78	8	1,125
Drugs Offences	122	237	266	835	89	-	1,549
Possession of Weapons	55	81	70	46	17	5	274
Public Order Offences	266	525	246	713	183	28	1,961
Motoring	200	519	277	8,971	22	163	10,152
Fraud	14	50	26	27	13	-	130
Miscellaneous crimes against society	166	224	162	321	109	13	995
Total	2,212	3,333	2,542	12,080	897	269	21,333

Crime category	Percentage of convictions						
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	Total
Violence against the Person	20.6%	28.5%	24.0%	17.6%	7.8%	1.5%	100.0%
Sexual Offences	15.7%	21.4%	42.9%	12.9%	5.7%	1.4%	100.0%
Robbery	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Theft	22.8%	26.9%	20.5%	21.9%	7.6%	0.3%	100.0%
Burglary	40.2%	32.1%	21.4%	3.6%	2.7%	0.0%	100.0%
Criminal Damage	22.2%	22.8%	28.2%	19.1%	6.9%	0.7%	100.0%
Drugs Offences	7.9%	15.3%	17.2%	53.9%	5.7%	0.0%	100.0%
Possession of Weapons	20.1%	29.6%	25.5%	16.8%	6.2%	1.8%	100.0%
Public Order Offences	13.6%	26.8%	12.5%	36.4%	9.3%	1.4%	100.0%
Motoring	2.0%	5.1%	2.7%	88.4%	0.2%	1.6%	100.0%
Fraud	10.8%	38.5%	20.0%	20.8%	10.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	16.7%	22.5%	16.3%	32.3%	11.0%	1.3%	100.0%
Total	10.4%	15.6%	11.9%	56.6%	4.2%	1.3%	100.0%

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Table 6c: Disposals in all courts by offence classification, 2016.

Crime category	Number of convictions						
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	Total
Violence against the Person	779	993	787	543	241	48	3,391
Sexual Offences	65	30	68	9	6	1	179
Robbery	40	3	4	-	-	-	47
Theft	463	533	391	410	143	5	1,945
Burglary	183	93	73	9	8	-	366
Criminal Damage	278	267	331	218	79	9	1,182
Drugs Offences	292	349	315	837	89	-	1,882
Possession of Weapons	68	87	78	46	18	5	302
Public Order Offences	306	547	265	726	190	28	2,062
Motoring	228	532	291	8,977	22	164	10,214
Fraud	26	76	31	27	14	-	174
Miscellaneous crimes against society	225	312	220	327	115	13	1,212
Total	2,953	3,822	2,854	12,129	925	273	22,956

Crime category	Percentage of convictions						
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	Total
Violence against the Person	23.0%	29.3%	23.2%	16.0%	7.1%	1.4%	100.0%
Sexual Offences	36.3%	16.8%	38.0%	5.0%	3.4%	0.6%	100.0%
Robbery	85.1%	6.4%	8.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Theft	23.8%	27.4%	20.1%	21.1%	7.4%	0.3%	100.0%
Burglary	50.0%	25.4%	19.9%	2.5%	2.2%	0.0%	100.0%
Criminal Damage	23.5%	22.6%	28.0%	18.4%	6.7%	0.8%	100.0%
Drugs Offences	15.5%	18.5%	16.7%	44.5%	4.7%	0.0%	100.0%
Possession of Weapons	22.5%	28.8%	25.8%	15.2%	6.0%	1.7%	100.0%
Public Order Offences	14.8%	26.5%	12.9%	35.2%	9.2%	1.4%	100.0%
Motoring	2.2%	5.2%	2.8%	87.9%	0.2%	1.6%	100.0%
Fraud	14.9%	43.7%	17.8%	15.5%	8.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	18.6%	25.7%	18.2%	27.0%	9.5%	1.1%	100.0%
Total	12.9%	16.6%	12.4%	52.8%	4.0%	1.2%	100.0%

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Table 7: Out of court disposals by type, 2012 – 2016.

Disposal type	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	% total
Caution	7,209	6,265	5,060	4,686	4,306	52.3%
PPS Ordered Youth Conference Plan	999	722	832	768	656	8.0%
Community Based Restorative Justice scheme	6	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Informed warning	929	765	603	486	373	4.5%
Penalty Notices for Disorder	1,136	3,394	3,728	3,370	2,898	35.2%
Total	10,279	11,146	10,223	9,310	8,233	100.0%

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

Table 8a: Penalty Notices for Disorder issued by gender of recipient, 2016.

Gender	Number	% total
Male	2,222	76.7%
Female	676	23.3%
Not known/other	-	0.0%
Total	2,898	100.0%

Table 8b: Penalty Notices for Disorder issued by age band of recipient, 2016.

Offender age	Number	% total
10 - 17	-	0.0%
18 - 24	1,219	42.1%
25 - 29	485	16.7%
30 - 39	566	19.5%
40 - 49	330	11.4%
50 - 59	187	6.5%
60 & over	108	3.7%
Not known	3	0.1%
Total	2,898	100.0%

Table 8c: Penalty Notices for Disorder issued by offence classification, 2016.

Offence classification	Number	% total
Violence Against the Person		0.0%
Sexual		0.0%
Robbery		0.0%
Theft	881	30.4%
Burglary		0.0%
Criminal Damage	63	2.2%
Drugs		0.0%
Possession of Weapons		0.0%
Public Order	950	32.8%
Motoring		0.0%
Fraud		0.0%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	1,004	34.6%
Total	2,898	100.0%

Table 9a: Diversionary disposals by gender of offender, 2012 – 2016.

Gender	2012	2013	2014	2015	2106	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	% total
Male	6,957	5,901	4,908	4,477	3,972	74.5%
Female	2,173	1,851	1,584	1,459	1,361	25.5%
Not known/other	13	-	3	4	2	0.0%
Total	9,143	7,752	6,495	5,940	5,335	100.0%

Table 9b: Diversionary disposals by age band of offender, 2012 – 2016.

Offender age	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	% total
10 - 17	2,292	1,937	1,614	1,503	1,196	22.4%
18 - 24	2,967	2,554	1,988	1,891	1,588	29.8%
25 - 29	1,079	829	727	629	603	11.3%
30 - 39	1,164	926	837	791	760	14.2%
40 - 49	876	765	704	541	567	10.6%
50 - 59	434	420	369	320	356	6.7%
60 & over	300	298	241	251	252	4.7%
Not known	31	23	15	14	13	0.2%
Total	9,143	7,752	6,495	5,940	5,335	100.0%

Table 9c: Diversionary disposals issued by type and offence classification, 2016.

Offence classification	Disposal type					% total diversions
	Caution	PPS Ordered YCP	CBRJ	Informed warning	Total	
Violence Against the Person	867	205	-	68	1,140	21.4%
Sexual	18	13	-	1	32	0.6%
Robbery	-	1	-	-	1	0.0%
Theft	466	84	-	61	611	11.5%
Burglary	9	13	-	1	23	0.4%
Criminal Damage	287	109	-	45	441	8.3%
Drugs	1,105	41	-	36	1,182	22.2%
Possession of Weapons	80	21	-	11	112	2.1%
Public Order	375	58	-	62	495	9.3%
Motoring	638	56	-	43	737	13.8%
Fraud	44	2	-	4	50	0.9%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	417	53	-	41	511	9.6%
Total	4,306	656	-	373	5,335	100.0%

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