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Analytical Services Group

Court Prosecutions, Convictions and Out of Court Disposals Statistics for Northern Ireland, 2017

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KEY FINDINGS

PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS

- The number of prosecutions disposed at Crown Court in 2017 was 1,587, a decrease of 15.7%, from 1,882 in 2016. The number of prosecutions at magistrates' courts rose from 25,767 in 2016 to 26,767 in 2017, a rise of 3.9%.
- In 2017, 83.3% (23,630) of prosecutions in all courts resulted in a conviction. This compares with 2016 when 83.0% (22,956) of prosecutions in all courts resulted in a conviction.
- The majority, 81.9% (23,214), of prosecutions completed at all courts in 2017, were cases where the defendant was male. In Crown Court, 89.2% (1,416) of prosecutions were against males. In magistrates' courts, 81.4% (21,798) were against males.
- Persons in the 30 – 39 year old age band made up 26.4% (7,497) of all prosecutions at courts in Northern Ireland and 26.4% (6,228) of those convicted at all courts in 2017, more defendants than in any other age band.
- Of all offence categories, motoring offences made up the largest proportion of prosecutions at all courts: 12,514 (44.1% of all prosecutions) in 2017. Of all offence categories, drugs offences had the highest conviction rate at all courts, at 93.3% (1,872).
- Monetary penalties were the most frequently utilised disposal at all courts in 2017, with 55.6% (13,147) of all convictions having this type of disposal as their primary outcome. A custodial outcome was imposed in 12.3% (2,910) of cases at all courts in 2017.

OUT OF COURT DISPOSALS

- A total of 2,002 Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) were issued in 2017, 80.0% of which were to males. Miscellaneous crimes against society constituted the largest proportion of PNDs issued, with 39.3% (786) of all PNDs issued for offences in this category.
- The number of out of court, diversionary disposals recorded against individuals' criminal records in 2017 was 4,715, a fall of 11.6% from 5,335 in 2016. Most diversionary disposals were dealt with by way of caution, with 79.1% (3,728) of all diversionary disposals dealt with in this way.
- Of all those who received a diversionary disposal in 2017, most were in the younger age categories, with 50.9% (2,400) of all diversionary disposals handed out to the under 25 year old age group.
- In 2017, 74.8% (3,525) of all diversionary disposals were handed down to males.
- Of all diversionary disposals, 22.4% (1,054) were handed down for drug offences and a further 21.4% (1,007) were for violence against the person 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 2017. 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 2017, with information on the breakdown of offences committed and the disposals received is also included.

The data upon which the publication is based are used to inform policy decisions within the Department of Justice, as well as to inform answers to NI Assembly questions and requests from other Government organisations, and the general public. Information from the 'prosecutions, convictions and diversions' database are also used in the DoJ 'reoffending' and 'first time offender' datasets.

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 2017. 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.

Quality assurance 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.

As recorded above, the data used to derive the information in this publication originates from the Causeway Data Sharing Mechanism (DSM1). The information extracted, while subject to human data entry error, should be considered relatively accurate, as the source data will be taken from the main information tools used by the criminal justice organisations concerned, which will have vested interests in the reliability of the data populating the fields used for this analysis.

The procedure undertaken to derive the statistics has the following stages. A data download is extracted from Causeway, which includes details on individual offences disposed at court or through an out-of-court disposal in the relevant time period. A series of rigorous validation exercises are then conducted, to ensure that the information produced is as accurate as possible.

The purpose of these Quality Assurance/Validation procedures is to ensure the data extracted is accurate and complete. Both automated and manual checks are carried out, at individual offence level, and data corrected to ensure:

- that all key fields are complete and logical;
- that a general check of the data as a whole suggests no other anomalies.

Any discrepancies identified are checked against the Integrated Court Operations System (ICOS) and the Criminal Records Viewer. Issues are resolved on an individual offence related basis.

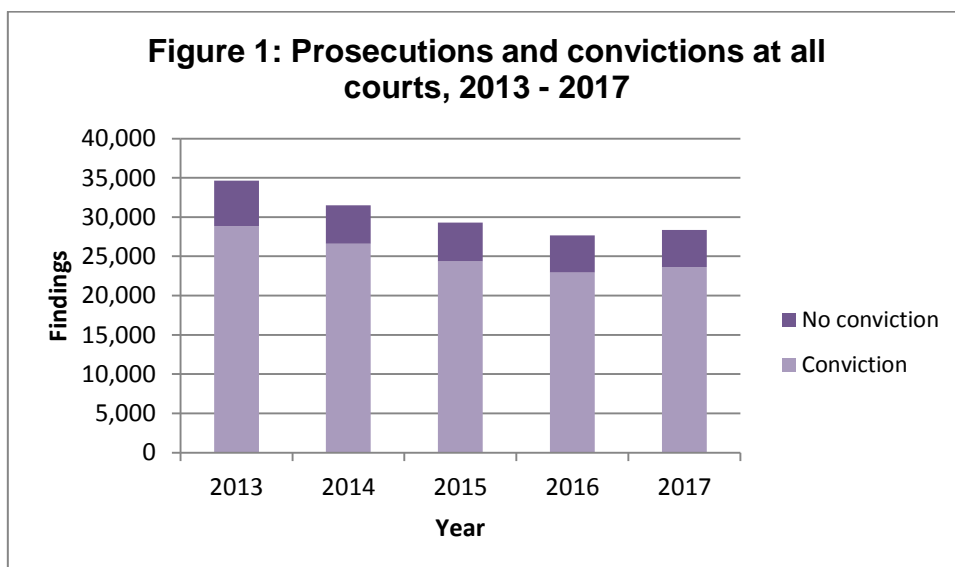
MAIN FINDINGS

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 2017 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 28,354 in 2017, up 2.5% from 27,649 in 2016. Similarly, the number of prosecutions in magistrates' courts in 2017 was 26,767, a rise of 3.9% from 25,767 in 2016, while the number of prosecutions in Crown Court in 2017 was 1,587, a decrease of 15.7% from the total of 1,882 in 2016.

In 2017, 83.3% (23,630) of prosecutions in all courts resulted in a conviction, a conviction rate slightly higher than that observed in 2016 (83.0%) and similar to that for 2015 (83.2%), and for 2013 (83.2%).



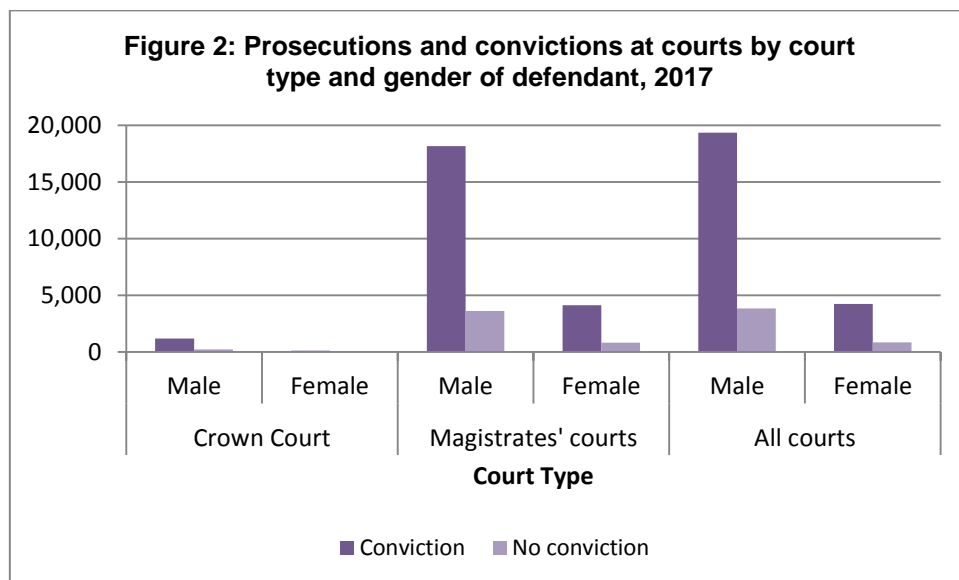
At 83.9% (1,332), the conviction rate for cases disposed at Crown Court was lower in 2017 than that for 2016 (86.2%). The only year in the last 5 years which had a lower conviction rate was 2013, when the rate was 81.5%. In magistrates' courts, 83.3% (22,298) cases disposed in 2017 resulted in a conviction. This was higher than that observed in 2016 (82.8%) and in 2015 (83.0%) (Table 1).

Gender

Males constituted the majority of people prosecuted in all courts in 2017. Of all those prosecuted, 81.9% (23,214) were male. In the Crown Court, the proportion of prosecutions brought where the defendant was male was slightly higher at 89.2%

(1,416), whereas, in magistrates' courts, the proportion of prosecutions brought where the defendant was male was 81.4% (21,798).

Prosecutions brought at all courts resulted in a conviction rate of 83.4% for males and 83.1% for females in 2017. In magistrates' courts in 2017, the conviction rate for males was 83.3% and, for females, was 83.2%. However, when the gender of the defendant was taken into account in relation to convictions in Crown Court in 2017, the conviction rate for males was 84.4%, compared to a rate of 79.9% for females.

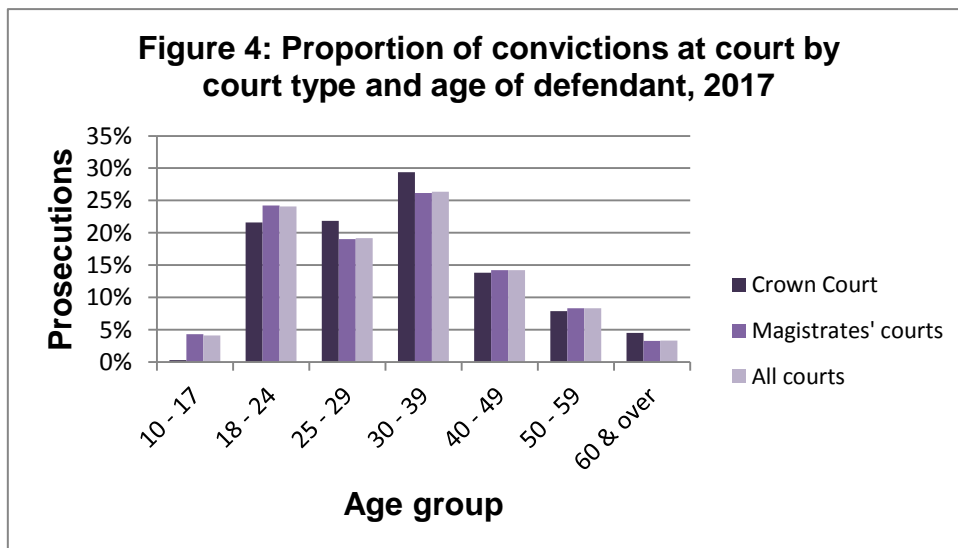
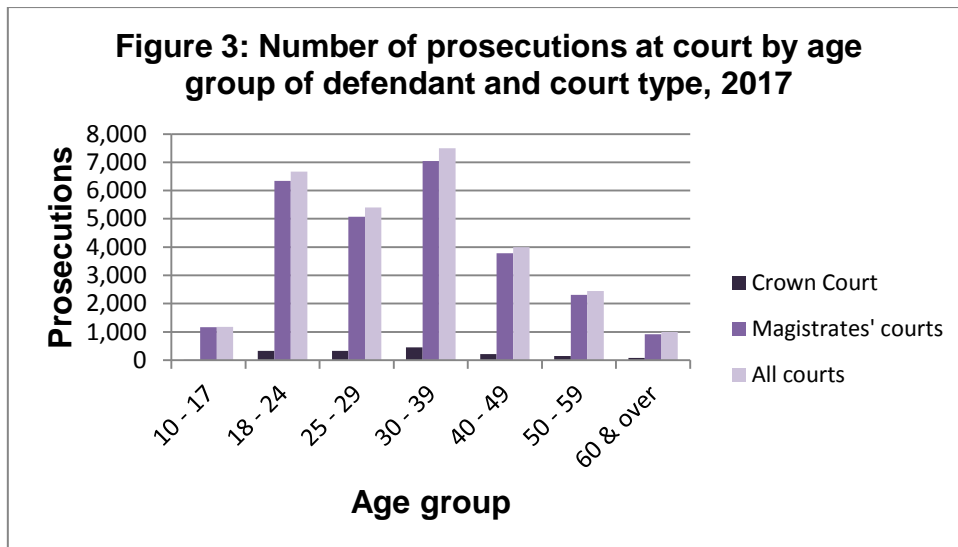


In addition, a small number of prosecutions were classified as against 'others'. This included transgender individuals, companies and other public bodies and those for whom no gender was recorded (Table 2).

Age Group

The age group of defendants for which the highest percentage of prosecutions were brought at all courts in 2017 was the 30 – 39 year old age group. In 2017, 26.4% (7,497) of prosecutions were against this age group. The same was true for prosecutions brought in magistrates' courts in 2017, with 26.3% (7,043) of prosecutions brought against defendants in this 30 – 39 year old age group. At Crown Court, the age group of defendants for which the highest percentage of prosecutions were brought was also the 30 – 39 year old age group. In 2017, 28.6% (454) 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 2017 was similarly the 30 – 39 year old age group. In 2017, 26.4% (6,228) of convictions were handed down to defendants in this age group. Proportionately, defendants in the 30 – 39 year old age group accounted for 29.4% (391) of convictions in the Crown Court and 26.2% (5,837) of convictions in magistrates' courts in 2017.

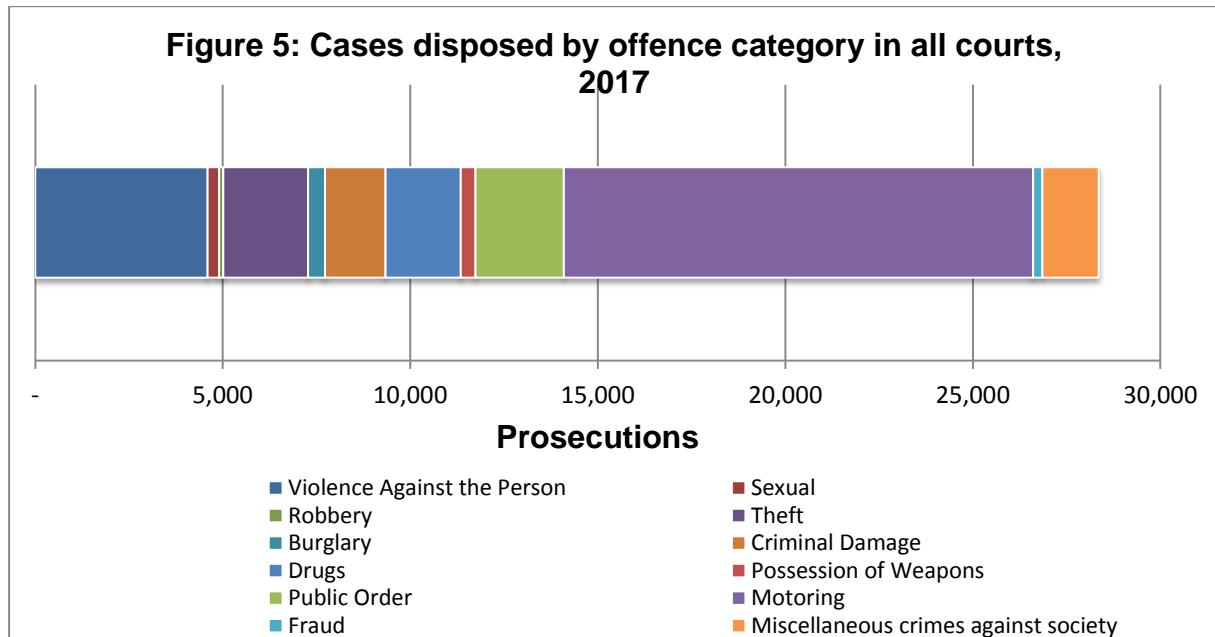


Proportionally, a smaller percentage of prosecutions in Crown Court, 0.8% (12), were against defendants in the 10 – 17 age group in 2017, compared with those in magistrates' courts, 4.4% (1,168). In 2017, the proportion of all convictions handed down in Crown Court to those in the 10 – 17 year old age group was 0.3% (4), whereas in magistrates' courts, 4.3% (965) 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 87.7% (291) 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, 85.1% (5,397) (Tables 3a, 3b and 3c).

Offence Classification

Overall, across all courts, the largest proportion of cases disposed fell into the motoring offences category in 2017, comprising 44.1% (12,514) of all cases disposed at court in that year. Violence against the person (VAP) offences accounted for 16.2% (4,597) of cases disposed at all courts in 2017, while cases where the principal offence fell into the public order category made up 8.3% (2,350) of all cases disposed at court in 2017.

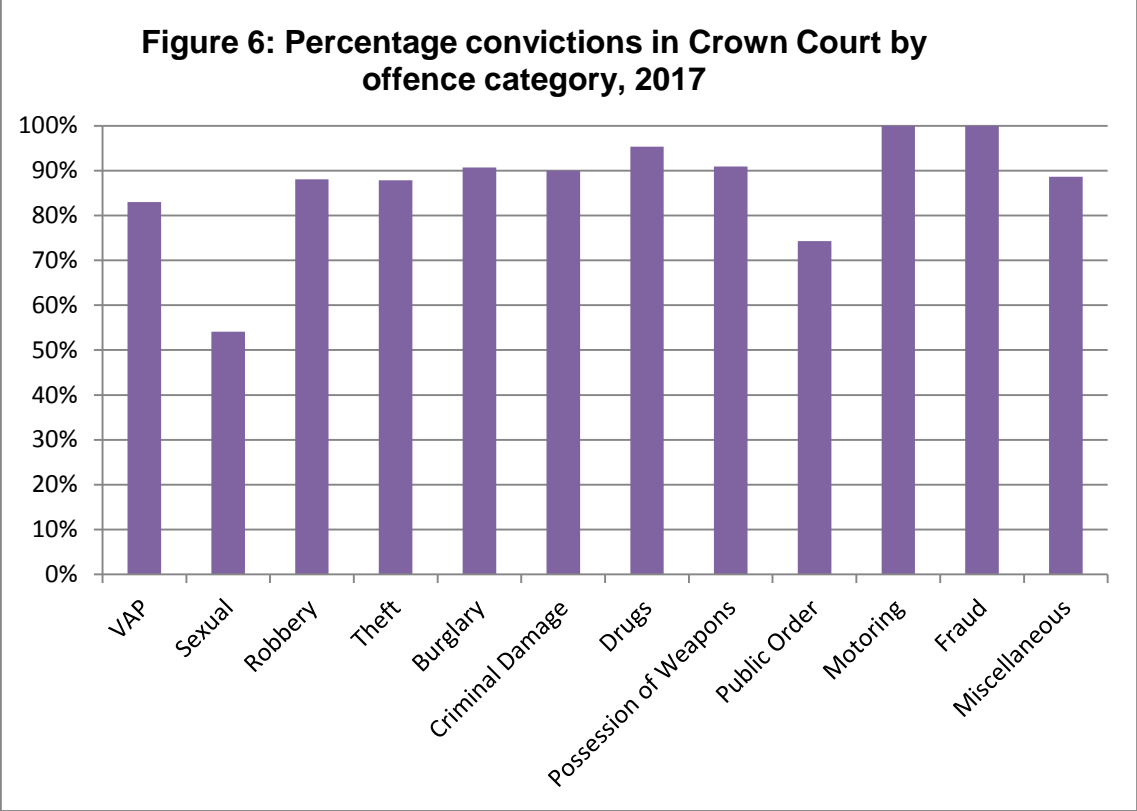


In all courts in 2017, prosecutions brought for drugs offences were most likely to end in conviction, with 93.3% (1,872) of cases in this category resulting in a conviction. Similarly, in cases where the principal offence was in the motoring offences category, 91.6% (11,465) resulted in a conviction. Cases where the principal offence was in the sexual offences category were least likely to result in a conviction in all courts in 2017, with 54.1% (164) of such cases resulting in a conviction.

In the Crown Court, the largest proportion of cases disposed fell into the VAP offences category, comprising 26.3% (418) of all cases disposed in 2017, while cases where the principal offence at conviction fell into the drugs category made up 14.9% (236) 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 2017, with only 1.4% (22) of cases disposed at Crown Court in that year falling into that category. Similarly, relatively few cases in the criminal damage, fraud, motoring, theft and robbery offences categories were disposed at Crown Court in 2017, with such cases making up 2.5% (40), 3.4% (54), 4.2% (66), 5.2% (82) and 5.8% (92) of the total cases disposed respectively.

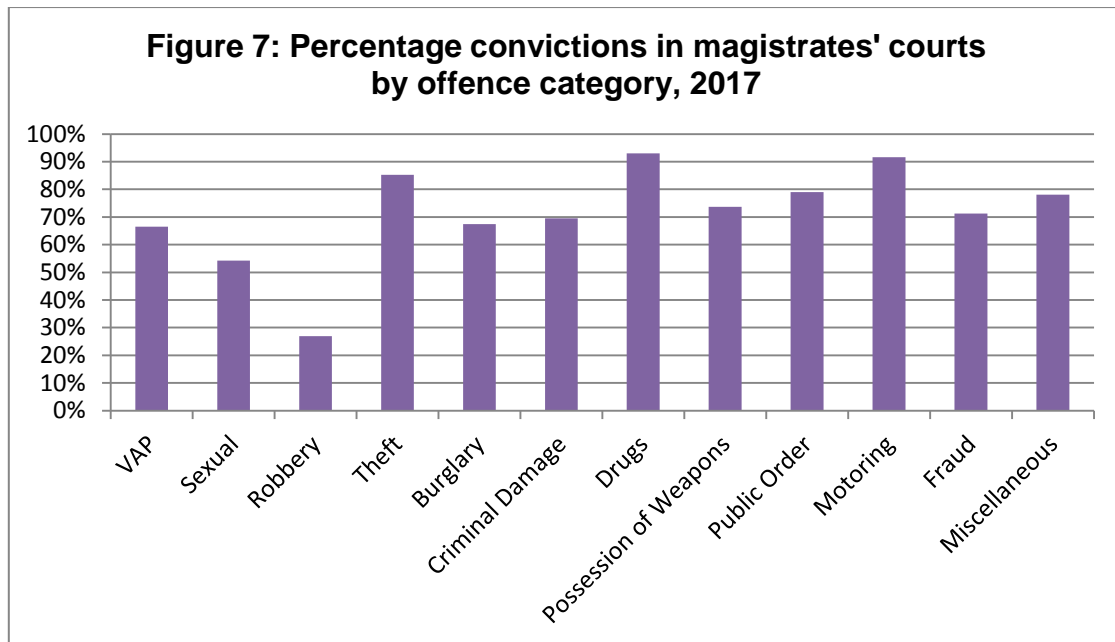
In the Crown Court in 2017, prosecutions brought for motoring offences and for fraud offences were, proportionately, most likely to end in conviction, with 100.0%, (66) and (54) respectively, of prosecutions brought for offences in these categories resulting in

a conviction. For cases which fell into the drugs category, 95.3% (225) resulted in a conviction and, for cases which fell into the possession of weapons category, 90.9% (20) of cases disposed at Crown court in 2017 resulted in a conviction. Cases which fell into the sexual offences category however, were least likely to result in a conviction in 2017, when 54.1% (106) 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 2017, comprising 46.5% (12,448) of all cases disposed at magistrates’ courts in that year.

In magistrates’ courts in 2017, prosecutions brought for drugs offences were, proportionately, most likely to end in conviction, with 93.1% (1,647) of prosecutions brought for offences in this category resulting in a conviction. Similarly, 91.6% (11,399) 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 54.2% (58) of such cases, disposed in magistrates’ courts in 2017 (Table 4).

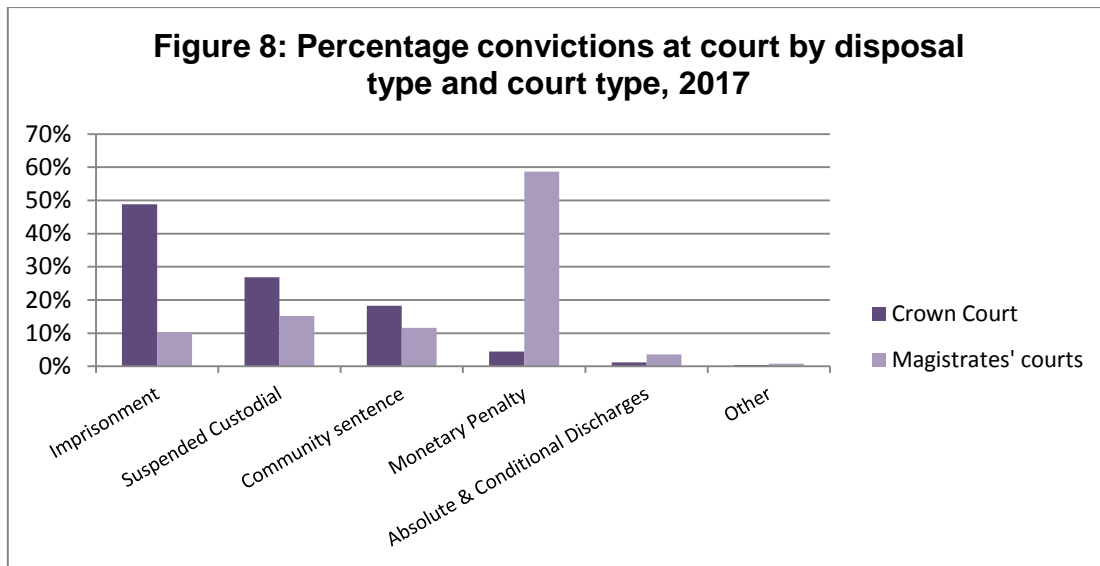


Court Disposals

Monetary penalties were the most frequently utilised disposal at all courts in 2017, with 55.6% (13,147) of all convictions having this type of disposal as their primary outcome. A custodial outcome was imposed in 12.3% (2,910) of cases at all courts in 2017, with a suspended custodial outcome imposed in a further 15.8% (3,734) of cases. A community sentence¹ was the primary disposal in 12.0% (2,837) of convictions in all courts in 2017.

The type of penalty imposed as a result of conviction varied according to court type in 2017. In Crown Court, 48.9% (651) of disposals had a custodial element, whereas in magistrates' courts 10.1% (2,259) of outcomes had a custodial element. Similarly, in Crown Court, 26.9% (358) of disposals had a suspended custodial element, whereas, in magistrates' courts, 15.1% (3,376) of outcomes had a suspended custodial element. Conversely, in Crown Court, 4.4% (59) of disposals resulted in a monetary penalty as the primary outcome, whereas in magistrates' courts 58.7% (13,088) of disposals resulted in a monetary penalty as the main disposal (Table 5a).

¹ 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 2017 was 29, 1.0% of all custodial sentences. The number of sentences which combined custody and community supervision elements excluding those released on licence conditions was 630, 21.6% of all custodial sentences handed down at all courts in 2017. Other custodial sentences accounted for 77.4% (2,251) of those cases where a custodial sentence was handed down, at all courts, in 2017 (Table 5b).

In all courts, the offence category most likely to result in a custodial outcome was robbery, with 84.1% (74) of disposals for offences in this category resulting in this type of outcome in 2017. Conversely, a custodial outcome was least likely for offences in the motoring category, with only 2.4% (276) 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 87.5% (10,028) 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 39.0% (76) of convictions for offences in this category receiving such an outcome. A custodial sentence was the most likely outcome for convictions in the sexual offence category, with 39.0% (64) 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 90.1% (73) of disposals for offences in this category resulting in a custodial outcome in 2017. Similarly, custodial sentences were handed down for 75.7% (81) of convictions where the principal offence was in the burglary category and for 60.6% (40) of convictions where the principal offence was in the motoring offences category. Defendants convicted of fraud offences at Crown Court were

more likely to be dealt with by way of suspended sentence, with 57.4% (31) of convictions for offences in this category receiving this outcome as their main disposal in 2017.

In magistrates' courts, the offence category most likely to result in a custodial outcome was burglary, with 41.9% (93) of disposals for offences in this category resulting in a custodial outcome in 2017. Convictions for fraud offences were most likely to result in a suspended custodial sentence at magistrates' courts, with 31.9% (45) 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 87.9% (10,024) of convictions at magistrates' courts for offences in this category, receiving this outcome (Tables 6a, 6b and 6c).

Out of Court Disposals

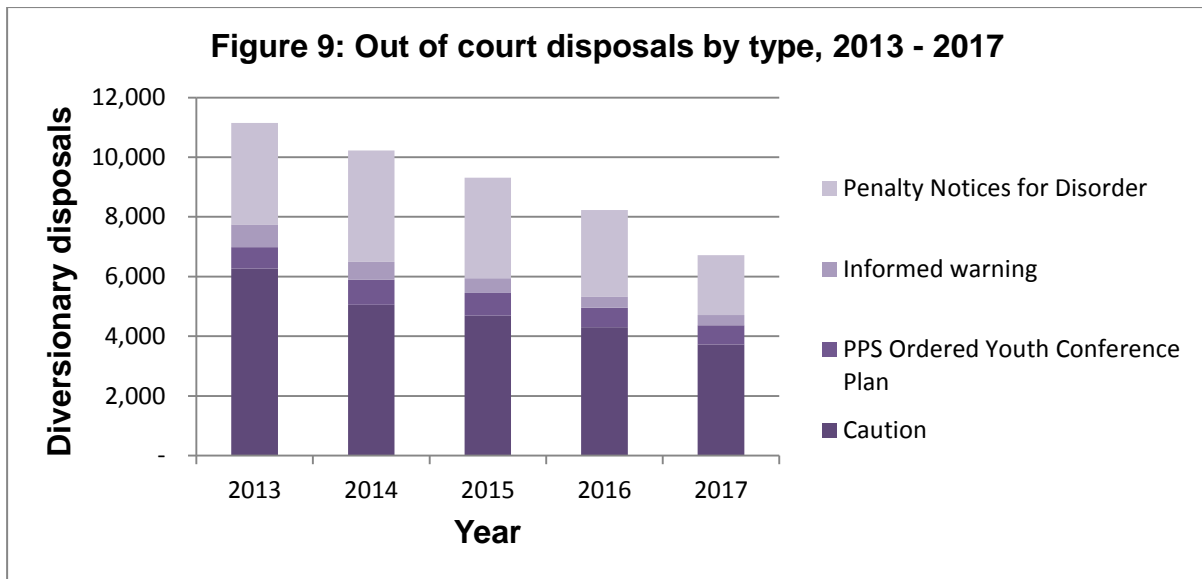
Non-court disposals allow the police to deal quickly and proportionately with low-level - often first-time - offending which could more appropriately be resolved without a prosecution at court. In Northern Ireland, a range of options exist, such as cautionary disposals, informed warnings and completion 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 6,717 in 2017, a fall of 18.4% (1,516) from the 8,233 issued in 2016. However, while the number of PPS ordered Youth Conferencing Plans fell by just 2.7% (18), the number of PNDs issued fell by 30.9% (896). The number of informed warnings issued fell by 6.4% (24) and the number of cautions issued fell by 13.4% (578) on 2016 totals. There were no relevant community based restorative justice scheme out of court disposals recorded in 2017 (Table 7).

Penalty Notice for Disorder Disposals

In 2017, 2,002 PNDs were issued, a decrease of 30.9% from the total (3,898) issued in 2016. Of these, 80.0% (1,602) were issued to males. Of all those who received a PND, 18 – 24 year olds made up 39.9% (799). PNDs were issued mainly for public order offences (33.3%, 666) and for offences in the miscellaneous crimes category (39.3%, 786), although a substantial proportion (25.4%, 508), were also issued for theft offences in 2017 (Tables 8a, 8b and 8c).



Other Out of Court (Diversionary) Disposals

In 2017, the number of diversionary disposals issued which were recorded against individuals' criminal records was 4,715, a fall of 11.6% from the figure of 5,335 such disposals issued in 2016. 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 79.1% (3,728) of all diversionary disposals in 2017. Youth Conference Plans made up 13.5% (638) of disposals issued and informed warnings made up the remaining 7.4% (349) of diversionary disposals in 2017.

Most diversionary disposals were issued to males in 2017, when 74.8% (3,525) of all diversionary disposals were issued to males. This is a slightly larger proportion than in 2016, when 74.5% (3,972) of all diversionary disposals were issued to males.

Of all diversionary disposals issued in 2017, most were handed out to offenders under the age of 25, with 50.9% (2,400) of all diversionary disposals being received by persons in that age group. This is a slight decrease to the rate for 2016, when 52.2% 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 2017, with 22.4% (1,054) of all diversionary disposals issued for offences in the drugs category and 21.4% (1,007) of all diversionary disposals issued for offences in the VAP category. Motoring offences were the cause of 16.9% (799) of all diversionary disposals in 2017, whereas theft offences accounted for 8.8% (417). Offences in the miscellaneous crimes category accounted for 8.7% (409) and public order offences accounted for 8.4% (398) 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, 2013 – 2017.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Crown court					
Conviction	2,080	1,745	1,127	1,623	1,332
No conviction	473	318	185	259	255
Total findings	2,553	2,063	1,312	1,882	1,587
% convictions	81.5%	84.6%	85.9%	86.2%	83.9%
Magistrates' courts					
Conviction	26,751	24,862	23,252	21,333	22,298
No conviction	5,335	4,555	4,752	4,434	4,469
Total findings	32,086	29,417	28,004	25,767	26,767
% convictions	83.4%	84.5%	83.0%	82.8%	83.3%
All courts					
Conviction	28,831	26,607	24,379	22,956	23,630
No conviction	5,808	4,873	4,937	4,693	4,724
Total findings	34,639	31,480	29,316	27,649	28,354
% convictions	83.2%	84.5%	83.2%	83.0%	83.3%

Note: Magistrates' courts figures include youth courts.

Table 2: Prosecutions and convictions in courts in Northern Ireland by gender of defendant, 2017.

	Male		Female		Other ¹		Total
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	
Crown Court							
Conviction	1,195	89.7%	135	10.1%	2	0.2%	1,332
No conviction	221	86.7%	34	13.3%	-	0.0%	255
Total findings	1,416	89.2%	169	10.6%	2	0.1%	1,587
% convictions	84.4%		79.9%		100.0%		83.9%
Magistrates' courts							
Conviction	18,163	81.5%	4,123	18.5%	12	0.1%	22,298
No conviction	3,635	81.3%	830	18.6%	4	0.1%	4,469
Total findings	21,798	81.4%	4,953	18.5%	16	0.1%	26,767
% convictions	83.3%		83.2%		75.0%		83.3%
All courts							
Conviction	19,358	81.9%	4,258	18.0%	14	0.1%	23,630
No conviction	3,856	81.6%	864	18.3%	4	0.1%	4,724
Total findings	23,214	81.9%	5,122	18.1%	18	0.1%	28,354
% convictions	83.4%		83.1%		77.8%		83.3%

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, 2017.

Age group	Conviction		No conviction		Total findings	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
10 - 17	4	0.3%	8	3.1%	12	0.8%
18 - 24	288	21.6%	46	18.0%	334	21.0%
25 - 29	291	21.8%	41	16.1%	332	20.9%
30 - 39	391	29.4%	63	24.7%	454	28.6%
40 - 49	184	13.8%	29	11.4%	213	13.4%
50 - 59	105	7.9%	38	14.9%	143	9.0%
60 & over	60	4.5%	26	10.2%	86	5.4%
Not known	9	0.7%	4	1.6%	13	0.8%
Total	1,332	100.0%	255	100.0%	1,587	100.0%

Table 3b: Prosecutions and convictions at magistrates' courts by age band of defendant, 2017.

Age group	Conviction		No conviction		Total findings	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
10 - 17	965	4.3%	203	4.5%	1,168	4.4%
18 - 24	5,397	24.2%	943	21.1%	6,340	23.7%
25 - 29	4,245	19.0%	828	18.5%	5,073	19.0%
30 - 39	5,837	26.2%	1,206	27.0%	7,043	26.3%
40 - 49	3,171	14.2%	617	13.8%	3,788	14.2%
50 - 59	1,859	8.3%	447	10.0%	2,306	8.6%
60 & over	726	3.3%	190	4.3%	916	3.4%
Not known	98	0.4%	35	0.8%	133	0.5%
Total	22,298	100.0%	4,469	100.0%	26,767	100.0%

Table 3c: Prosecutions and convictions at all courts by age band of defendant, 2017.

Age group	Conviction		No conviction		Total findings	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
10 - 17	969	4.1%	211	4.5%	1,180	4.2%
18 - 24	5,685	24.1%	989	20.9%	6,674	23.5%
25 - 29	4,536	19.2%	869	18.4%	5,405	19.1%
30 - 39	6,228	26.4%	1,269	26.9%	7,497	26.4%
40 - 49	3,355	14.2%	646	13.7%	4,001	14.1%
50 - 59	1,964	8.3%	485	10.3%	2,449	8.6%
60 & over	786	3.3%	216	4.6%	1,002	3.5%
Not known	107	0.5%	39	0.8%	146	0.5%
Total	23,630	100.0%	4,724	100.0%	28,354	100.0%

Table 4: Prosecutions and convictions at courts by offence classification and court type, 2017.

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	347	71	83.0%	2,778	1,401	66.5%	3,125	1,472	68.0%
Sexual	106	90	54.1%	58	49	54.2%	164	139	54.1%
Robbery	81	11	88.0%	7	19	26.9%	88	30	74.6%
Theft	72	10	87.8%	1,857	321	85.3%	1,929	331	85.4%
Burglary	107	11	90.7%	222	107	67.5%	329	118	73.6%
Criminal Damage	36	4	90.0%	1,099	481	69.6%	1,135	485	70.1%
Drugs	225	11	95.3%	1,647	123	93.1%	1,872	134	93.3%
Possession of Weapons	20	2	90.9%	272	97	73.7%	292	99	74.7%
Public Order	78	27	74.3%	1,773	472	79.0%	1,851	499	78.8%
Motoring	66	-	100.0%	11,399	1,049	91.6%	11,465	1,049	91.6%
Fraud	54	-	100.0%	141	57	71.2%	195	57	77.4%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	140	18	88.6%	1,045	293	78.1%	1,185	311	79.2%
Total	1,332	255	83.9%	22,298	4,469	83.3%	23,630	4,724	83.3%

Table 5a: Number and percentage of convictions by sentencing disposal and court type, 2017.

Disposal type	Gender	Crown Court		Magistrates' courts		All courts	
		Number	% convictions	Number	% convictions	Number	% convictions
Custodial	Male	623	52.1%	1,975	10.9%	2,598	13.4%
	Female	28	20.7%	284	6.9%	312	7.3%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	651	48.9%	2,259	10.1%	2,910	12.3%
Suspended Custodial	Male	295	24.7%	2,853	15.7%	3,148	16.3%
	Female	63	46.7%	523	12.7%	586	13.8%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	358	26.9%	3,376	15.1%	3,734	15.8%
Attendance Centre	Male	-	0.0%	25	0.1%	25	0.1%
	Female	-	0.0%	33	0.8%	33	0.8%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	-	0.0%	58	0.3%	58	0.2%
Combination Order	Male	76	6.4%	308	1.7%	384	2.0%
	Female	9	6.7%	42	1.0%	51	1.2%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	85	6.4%	350	1.6%	435	1.8%
Probation Order/Supervision Order	Male	97	8.1%	737	4.1%	834	4.3%
	Female	19	14.1%	201	4.9%	220	5.2%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	3	25.0%	3	21.4%
	Total	116	8.7%	941	4.2%	1,057	4.5%
Community Service Order	Male	35	2.9%	737	4.1%	772	4.0%
	Female	7	5.2%	102	2.5%	109	2.6%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	42	3.2%	839	3.8%	881	3.7%
Youth Conference Order	Male	-	0.0%	330	1.8%	330	1.7%
	Female	-	0.0%	64	1.6%	64	1.5%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	-	0.0%	394	1.8%	394	1.7%
Community Responsibility Order	Male	-	0.0%	8	0.0%	8	0.0%
	Female	-	0.0%	4	0.1%	4	0.1%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	-	0.0%	12	0.1%	12	0.1%
Monetary Penalty	Male	50	4.2%	10,480	57.7%	10,530	54.4%
	Female	7	5.2%	2,601	63.1%	2,608	61.2%
	Other ¹	2	100.0%	7	58.3%	9	64.3%
	Total	59	4.4%	13,088	58.7%	13,147	55.6%
Bound Over	Male	-	0.0%	48	0.3%	48	0.2%
	Female	-	0.0%	18	0.4%	18	0.4%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	-	0.0%	66	0.3%	66	0.3%
Conditional Discharge	Male	13	1.1%	550	3.0%	563	2.9%
	Female	1	0.7%	208	5.0%	209	4.9%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	1	8.3%	1	7.1%
	Total	14	1.1%	759	3.4%	773	3.3%
Absolute Discharge	Male	1	0.1%	23	0.1%	24	0.1%
	Female	1	0.7%	9	0.2%	10	0.2%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	1	8.3%	1	7.1%
	Total	2	0.2%	33	0.1%	35	0.1%
Other Disposal	Male	5	0.4%	89	0.5%	94	0.5%
	Female	-	0.0%	34	0.8%	34	0.8%
	Other ¹	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	5	0.4%	123	0.6%	128	0.5%
Total	Male	1,195	100.0%	18,163	100.0%	19,358	100.0%
	Female	135	100.0%	4,123	100.0%	4,258	100.0%
	Other¹	2	100.0%	12	100.0%	14	100.0%
	Total	1,332	100.0%	22,298	100.0%	23,630	100.0%

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

2. Disposals for Attendance Centres, Combination Orders, Probation Order/Supervision Orders, Community Service Orders, Youth Conference Orders and Community Responsibility Orders are classified as Community sentences elsewhere in this report.

Table 5b: Number and percentage of custodial sentences by sentencing disposal and court type, 2017.

Disposal	Court Type	Number	% custodial sentences
Public Protection Sentences			
Life licences	Crown Court	5	0.8%
	Magistrates' courts	-	0.0%
	All courts	5	0.2%
Indeterminate Custodial Sentence	Crown Court	2	0.3%
	Magistrates' courts	-	0.0%
	All courts	2	0.1%
Extended Custodial Sentence	Crown Court	22	3.4%
	Magistrates' courts	-	0.0%
	All courts	22	0.8%
Prison with a community supervision element			
Determinate Custodial Sentence	Crown Court	486	74.7%
	Magistrates' courts	6	0.3%
	All courts	492	16.9%
Custody Probation Orders	Crown Court	15	2.3%
	Magistrates' courts	-	0.0%
	All courts	15	0.5%
Juvenile justice order	Crown Court	-	0.0%
	Magistrates' courts	123	5.4%
	All courts	123	4.2%
Custody			
Imprisonment	Crown Court	121	18.6%
	Magistrates' courts	1,863	82.5%
	All courts	1,984	68.2%
Young offender centre	Crown Court	-	0.0%
	Magistrates' courts	267	11.8%
	All courts	267	9.2%
Total Custodial	Crown Court	651	100.0%
	Magistrates' courts	2,259	100.0%
	All courts	2,910	100.0%

Table 6a: Disposals at Crown Court by offence classification, 2017.

Crime category	Number of convictions						
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	Total
Violence against the Person	154	106	70	8	7	2	347
Sexual Offences	49	14	39	1	1	2	106
Robbery	73	2	6	-	-	-	81
Theft	33	19	17	3	-	-	72
Burglary	81	14	11	-	1	-	107
Criminal Damage	20	6	7	2	1	-	36
Drugs Offences	111	62	40	11	1	-	225
Possession of Weapons	10	9	-	1	-	-	20
Public Order Offences	17	21	13	22	4	1	78
Motoring	40	13	9	4	-	-	66
Fraud	18	31	4	1	-	-	54
Miscellaneous crimes against society	45	61	27	6	1	-	140
Total	651	358	243	59	16	5	1,332

Crime category	Percentage of convictions						
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	Total
Violence against the Person	44.4%	30.5%	20.2%	2.3%	2.0%	0.6%	100.0%
Sexual Offences	46.2%	13.2%	36.8%	0.9%	0.9%	1.9%	100.0%
Robbery	90.1%	2.5%	7.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Theft	45.8%	26.4%	23.6%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Burglary	75.7%	13.1%	10.3%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	100.0%
Criminal Damage	55.6%	16.7%	19.4%	5.6%	2.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Drugs Offences	49.3%	27.6%	17.8%	4.9%	0.4%	0.0%	100.0%
Possession of Weapons	50.0%	45.0%	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Public Order Offences	21.8%	26.9%	16.7%	28.2%	5.1%	1.3%	100.0%
Motoring	60.6%	19.7%	13.6%	6.1%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Fraud	33.3%	57.4%	7.4%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	32.1%	43.6%	19.3%	4.3%	0.7%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	48.9%	26.9%	18.2%	4.4%	1.2%	0.4%	100.0%

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

Table 6b: Disposals at magistrates' courts by offence classification, 2017.

Crime category	Number of convictions						Total
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	
Violence against the Person	584	815	691	505	150	33	2,778
Sexual Offences	15	11	20	8	1	3	58
Robbery	1	2	3	1	-	-	7
Theft	448	533	381	354	140	1	1,857
Burglary	93	55	58	10	6	-	222
Criminal Damage	248	256	304	209	77	5	1,099
Drugs Offences	135	256	275	895	85	1	1,647
Possession of Weapons	48	72	65	56	27	4	272
Public Order Offences	260	470	209	657	162	15	1,773
Motoring	236	621	367	10,024	33	118	11,399
Fraud	23	45	25	33	14	1	141
Miscellaneous crimes against society	168	240	196	336	97	8	1,045
Total	2,259	3,376	2,594	13,088	792	189	22,298

Crime category	Percentage of convictions						Total
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	
Violence against the Person	21.0%	29.3%	24.9%	18.2%	5.4%	1.2%	100.0%
Sexual Offences	25.9%	19.0%	34.5%	13.8%	1.7%	5.2%	100.0%
Robbery	14.3%	28.6%	42.9%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Theft	24.1%	28.7%	20.5%	19.1%	7.5%	0.1%	100.0%
Burglary	41.9%	24.8%	26.1%	4.5%	2.7%	0.0%	100.0%
Criminal Damage	22.6%	23.3%	27.7%	19.0%	7.0%	0.5%	100.0%
Drugs Offences	8.2%	15.5%	16.7%	54.3%	5.2%	0.1%	100.0%
Possession of Weapons	17.6%	26.5%	23.9%	20.6%	9.9%	1.5%	100.0%
Public Order Offences	14.7%	26.5%	11.8%	37.1%	9.1%	0.8%	100.0%
Motoring	2.1%	5.4%	3.2%	87.9%	0.3%	1.0%	100.0%
Fraud	16.3%	31.9%	17.7%	23.4%	9.9%	0.7%	100.0%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	16.1%	23.0%	18.8%	32.2%	9.3%	0.8%	100.0%
Total	10.1%	15.1%	11.6%	58.7%	3.6%	0.8%	100.0%

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

Table 6c: Disposals in all courts by offence classification, 2017.

Crime category	Number of convictions						
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	Total
Violence against the Person	738	921	761	513	157	35	3,125
Sexual Offences	64	25	59	9	2	5	164
Robbery	74	4	9	1	-	-	88
Theft	481	552	398	357	140	1	1,929
Burglary	174	69	69	10	7	-	329
Criminal Damage	268	262	311	211	78	5	1,135
Drugs Offences	246	318	315	906	86	1	1,872
Possession of Weapons	58	81	65	57	27	4	292
Public Order Offences	277	491	222	679	166	16	1,851
Motoring	276	634	376	10,028	33	118	11,465
Fraud	41	76	29	34	14	1	195
Miscellaneous crimes against society	213	301	223	342	98	8	1,185
Total	2,910	3,734	2,837	13,147	808	194	23,630

Crime category	Percentage of convictions						
	Imprisonment	Suspended custodial	Community sentence	Monetary Penalty	Discharge	Other	Total
Violence against the Person	23.6%	29.5%	24.4%	16.4%	5.0%	1.1%	100.0%
Sexual Offences	39.0%	15.2%	36.0%	5.5%	1.2%	3.0%	100.0%
Robbery	84.1%	4.5%	10.2%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Theft	24.9%	28.6%	20.6%	18.5%	7.3%	0.1%	100.0%
Burglary	52.9%	21.0%	21.0%	3.0%	2.1%	0.0%	100.0%
Criminal Damage	23.6%	23.1%	27.4%	18.6%	6.9%	0.4%	100.0%
Drugs Offences	13.1%	17.0%	16.8%	48.4%	4.6%	0.1%	100.0%
Possession of Weapons	19.9%	27.7%	22.3%	19.5%	9.2%	1.4%	100.0%
Public Order Offences	15.0%	26.5%	12.0%	36.7%	9.0%	0.9%	100.0%
Motoring	2.4%	5.5%	3.3%	87.5%	0.3%	1.0%	100.0%
Fraud	21.0%	39.0%	14.9%	17.4%	7.2%	0.5%	100.0%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	18.0%	25.4%	18.8%	28.9%	8.3%	0.7%	100.0%
Total	12.3%	15.8%	12.0%	55.6%	3.4%	0.8%	100.0%

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

Table 7: Out of court disposals by type, 2013 – 2017.

Disposal type	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	% total
Caution	6,265	5,060	4,686	4,306	3,728	55.5%
PPS Ordered Youth Conference Plan	722	832	768	656	638	9.5%
Informed warning	765	603	486	373	349	5.2%
Penalty Notices for Disorder	3,394	3,728	3,370	2,898	2,002	29.8%
Total	11,146	10,223	9,310	8,233	6,717	100.0%

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

Table 8a: Penalty Notices for Disorder issued by gender of recipient, 2017.

Gender	Number	% total
Male	1,602	80.0%
Female	397	19.8%
Not known/other	3	0.1%
Total	2,002	100.0%

Table 8b: Penalty Notices for Disorder issued by age band of recipient, 2017.

Offender age	Number	% total
10 - 17	-	0.0%
18 - 24	799	39.9%
25 - 29	346	17.3%
30 - 39	422	21.1%
40 - 49	213	10.6%
50 - 59	146	7.3%
60 & over	70	3.5%
Not known	6	0.3%
Total	2,002	100.0%

Table 8c: Penalty Notices for Disorder issued by offence classification, 2017.

Offence classification	Number	% total
Violence Against the Person	-	0.0%
Sexual	-	0.0%
Robbery	-	0.0%
Theft	508	25.4%
Burglary	-	0.0%
Criminal Damage	42	2.1%
Drugs	-	0.0%
Possession of Weapons	-	0.0%
Public Order	666	33.3%
Motoring	-	0.0%
Fraud	-	0.0%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	786	39.3%
Total	2,002	100.0%

Table 9a: Diversionary disposals by gender of offender, 2013 – 2017.

Gender	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	% total
Male	5,901	4,908	4,477	3,972	3,525	74.8%
Female	1,851	1,584	1,459	1,361	1,188	25.2%
Not known/other	-	3	4	2	2	0.0%
Total	7,752	6,495	5,940	5,335	4,715	100.0%

Table 9b: Diversionary disposals by age band of offender, 2013 – 2017.

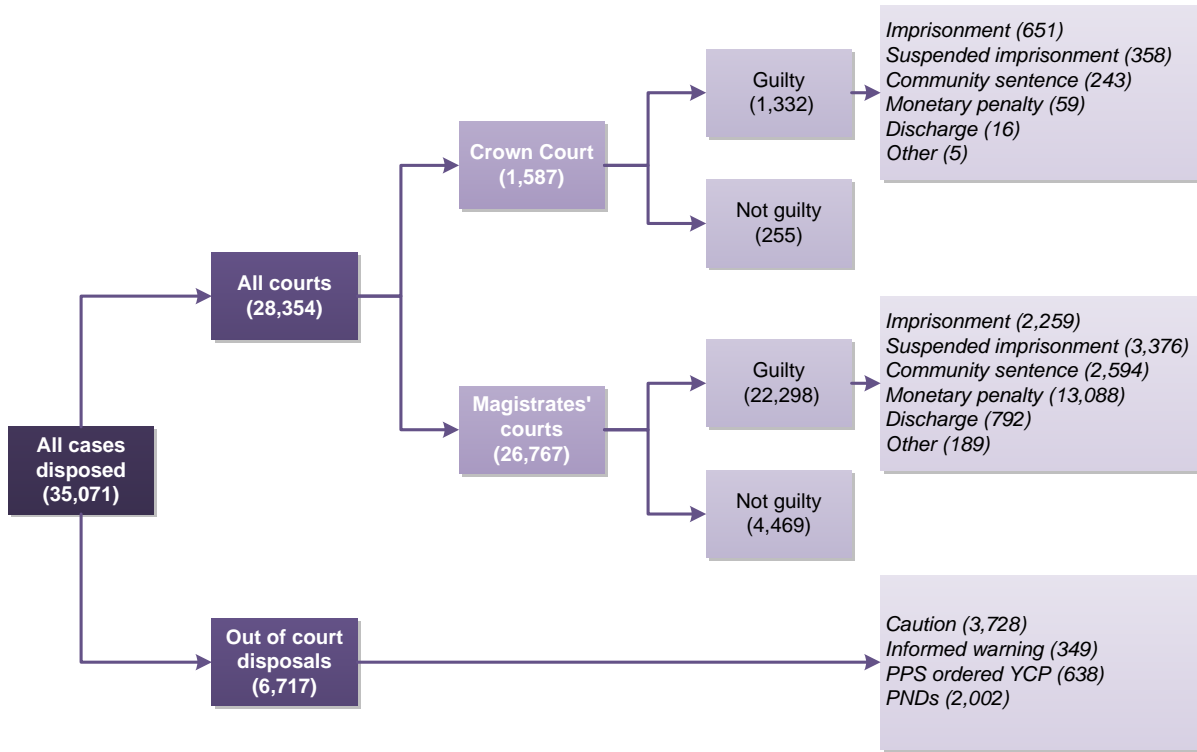
Offender age	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	% total
10 - 17	1,937	1,614	1,503	1,196	1,114	23.6%
18 - 24	2,554	1,988	1,891	1,588	1,286	27.3%
25 - 29	829	727	629	603	483	10.2%
30 - 39	926	837	791	760	747	15.8%
40 - 49	765	704	541	567	478	10.1%
50 - 59	420	369	320	356	318	6.7%
60 & over	298	241	251	252	275	5.8%
Not known	23	15	14	13	14	0.3%
Total	7,752	6,495	5,940	5,335	4,715	100.0%

Table 9c: Diversionary disposals issued by type and offence classification, 2017.

Offence classification	Disposal type				% total diversions
	Caution	PPS Ordered YCP	Informed warning	Total	
Violence Against the Person	747	199	61	1,007	21.4%
Sexual	15	8	3	26	0.6%
Robbery	-	1	-	1	0.0%
Theft	316	65	36	417	8.8%
Burglary	10	18	1	29	0.6%
Criminal Damage	250	101	40	391	8.3%
Drugs	952	53	49	1,054	22.4%
Possession of Weapons	102	14	15	131	2.8%
Public Order	285	67	46	398	8.4%
Motoring	695	55	49	799	16.9%
Fraud	45	7	1	53	1.1%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	311	50	48	409	8.7%
Total	3,728	638	349	4,715	100.0%

APPENDIX 2 – Disposals Chart

Outcomes of cases dealt with at court and by out of court disposal, 2017



Analytical Services Group,
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