

CROWN COURT ANNUAL REPORT 2002/2003

The information contained in this report is produced annually by the Court Service from information provided by all Crown and County Court centres.

The following table shows the performance of all Crown Court centres in England and Wales against eight key performance measures. As in the last two reports, Court Centres are listed alphabetically in the table. A combined London Group figure is also included, as are average figures for England and Wales.

The eight measures and definitions of what they record are set out below:

KPI 5 (Timeliness)

Calculated using the number of committed trials commencing within 16 weeks plus the number of cases sent for trial commencing within 26 weeks plus the number of sentences dealt with in 10 weeks plus the number of appeals dealt with in 14 weeks all divided by the total number of trials, sentences and appeals disposed of. The Court Service target is 78%. This year's performance figure across England and Wales is 79.5% compared to 76% in 2000/2001 and 77.6% in 2001/2002.

Average Waiting Time (weeks)

Calculated using the waiting time in weeks for each hearing and dividing by the number of committals for trial disposed of. The Court Service target is 8 weeks for defendants in custody and 12 weeks for defendants on bail. The current average waiting time is 14.85 weeks compared with 14.68 last year and 13.94 the year before.

Percentage of Committals outstanding over 16 weeks

Determined as the number of committals still outstanding after 16 weeks divided by the number of trials outstanding. The figure for this year is 37%, which is an improvement on 37.6% in 2000/2001 and 38% in 2001/2002.

Disposal Rate

Calculated by dividing the total number of cases disposed of (i.e. effectively dealt with) divided by the total number of days sat by a court. For example, a court sitting for 20 days and disposing of 20 cases would have a disposal rate of one. 20002/2003 has seen an increase in the disposal rate from 0.77 in 2000/2001 and 0.79 last year to 0.82.

Courtroom Usage (hours)

This records the average number of hours sat in open court divided by the number of days sat. It excludes time spent by Judges carrying out work in chambers. The Court Service target is 4.37 hours sat in open court per day. This target was met exactly this year compared to 4.36 hours in 2001/2002.

Cracked Trial Rate

A cracked trial is any case that is dealt with on the day a trial was scheduled to take place without the trial needing to go ahead. This includes cases where the defendant changes their plea to guilty, or pleads to a lesser charge on the day of the trial. It does

not include cases where the defendant pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing before the court. It is calculated by dividing the number of cracked trials by the number of cases disposed of. The current cracked trial rate is 24.5% for England and Wales compared with 24.2% in 2000/2001 and 23.4% in 2001/2002.

Ineffective Trial Rate

An ineffective trial is a case that is unable to proceed to trial on the day the trial was due to commence. Reasons for ineffective trials may include witnesses or defendant not attending, and lack of available court time. The ineffective trial rate is the number of ineffective trials divided by the number of cases listed for trial. As this records the number of listed cases that do not commence, it includes cases that subsequently have an effective hearing at a later date. The ineffective trial rate for 2002/2003 is 23.1%, a reduction in the percentage of ineffective trials by 0.8% from last year and by 1.4% from 2000/2001.

Days Jurors sit as a % of Attendance and Non-Attendance

The number of Juror sitting days divided by the sum of the Total Juror Attendance days and the Total Non-Attendance days determines this figure. The Court Service target is 67%. This year's figure stands at 63.8% compared with 63.2% in 2000/2001 and 63.8% in 2001/2002.

This report is not a "league table" and should not be used as such. The performance of individual courts is influenced by many factors including geographical location, type of cases dealt with and organisation of work between court centres across groups.

Courts near to major ports and airports e.g. Canterbury, Isleworth and Croydon have high percentages of Customs and Excise cases, and courts in major city centres have a higher proportion of serious crime. Courts with large numbers of long and complex cases, e.g. Central Criminal Court, will be able to deal with fewer cases per courtroom than courts mainly dealing with straightforward, shorter criminal matters.

Complex cases generally require more preparation time before they are ready for trial resulting in the average waiting times being likely to be longer at these courts.

As in previous years, workload in the London group of courts continues to be distributed between Crown Court centres in accordance with the directions of the Senior Presiding Judge to ensure the most effective listing practice across the group is followed. Consequentially, this affects the disposal rate of some court centres, notably the Central Criminal Court, which is heavily weighted towards the most high profile and complex criminal cases. For this reason the performance of London courts should not be looked at in isolation from each other.

Resident Judges and Court Managers at all Court centres are asked by the Senior Presiding Judge and the Chief Executive of the Court Service to comment on the figures for their courts and to show what is to be done to improve performance against targets in future years. The responses received and the joint approaches to tackling areas of poor performance demonstrate the courts and the judiciary working together to good effect.

Code	Names	KPI 5	Average	% committals		Courtroom Usage	Cracked Trial	Ineffective Trial	Days jurors sits as a % of attendance and non attendance
			Waiting Time (weeks)	outstanding over 16 weeks	Disposal Rate				
100	England and Wales	79.5%	14.85	37.0%	0.82	4.37	24.5%	23.1%	63.8%
1	London Group	77.6%	15.25	36.5%	0.56	4.59	22.5%	24.4%	73.8%
401	Aylesbury	76.4%	15.03	48.0%	0.96	4.31	17.2%	19.1%	44.9%
461	Basildon	74.7%	16.83	39.2%	0.54	4.07	17.7%	26.9%	53.2%
404	Birmingham	75.4%	15.74	43.2%	1.24	4.66	27.7%	24.6%	69.5%
428	Blackfriars	79.0%	14.34	32.7%	0.52	4.88	20.9%	20.2%	66.1%
470	Bolton	72.1%	18.80	39.2%	1.04	4.55	37.3%	26.3%	59.6%
406	Bournemouth	85.9%	11.97	25.7%	0.60	4.40	13.9%	11.4%	53.6%
402	Bradford	80.0%	14.50	45.8%	0.89	4.43	28.1%	25.3%	70.0%
408	Bristol	80.1%	15.10	45.6%	0.84	4.00	19.8%	26.9%	66.0%
409	Burnley	67.0%	19.54	40.5%	0.91	4.63	35.5%	23.5%	49.9%
413	C.C.C.	54.1%	26.43	57.6%	0.23	4.45	14.8%	20.1%	76.6%
410	Cambridge	77.4%	15.15	34.7%	0.93	3.95	17.8%	23.6%	56.5%
479	Canterbury	77.0%	14.85	37.1%	0.60	4.31	19.2%	25.8%	50.7%
411	Cardiff	92.1%	10.38	22.0%	1.02	4.47	17.7%	13.2%	65.5%
412	Carlisle	65.1%	20.64	51.9%	0.74	4.51	25.6%	22.3%	62.3%
414	Chelmsford	78.1%	16.08	42.3%	0.54	4.34	17.9%	29.8%	64.4%
415	Chester	89.9%	10.08	21.7%	0.85	3.94	18.3%	18.5%	43.9%
416	Chichester	57.5%	22.13	42.5%	0.82	4.05	17.1%	14.6%	61.2%
417	Coventry	83.1%	12.82	17.8%	1.25	3.60	33.7%	25.8%	43.0%
418	Croydon	80.5%	11.67	37.2%	0.69	4.87	19.7%	20.7%	67.7%
419	Derby	86.0%	13.53	34.2%	1.69	3.93	27.8%	20.2%	55.7%
420	Doncaster	88.5%	10.74	32.7%	1.34	3.82	30.3%	16.4%	45.3%
407	Dorchester	71.4%	15.99	34.1%	0.72	4.39	14.7%	6.8%	45.4%
422	Durham	89.5%	10.87	41.9%	1.57	3.57	35.5%	18.9%	53.4%
423	Exeter	83.4%	13.07	35.6%	0.82	3.96	9.7%	12.4%	53.3%
424	Gloucester	89.8%	12.09	35.6%	0.98	3.80	19.3%	16.8%	58.9%
425	Grimsby	74.5%	14.63	41.5%	1.29	4.30	25.0%	22.8%	44.7%
474	Guildford	64.6%	17.83	43.3%	0.68	4.39	19.5%	20.6%	64.4%
468	Harrow	81.5%	14.18	21.1%	0.66	4.35	25.0%	23.1%	72.4%
403	Hull	89.9%	11.43	18.6%	1.14	4.43	33.4%	10.8%	51.0%
440	I.L.S.H.	81.8%	13.81	26.3%	0.70	4.51	23.4%	26.5%	71.3%
426	Ipswich	80.0%	14.08	29.5%	0.73	4.46	17.0%	18.1%	55.7%
475	Isleworth	86.6%	12.80	34.4%	0.83	4.76	21.4%	19.9%	72.4%
427	Kingston-upon-Thames	75.0%	15.99	40.8%	0.54	4.45	22.4%	26.7%	73.7%
429	Leeds	82.1%	13.61	42.8%	0.80	4.25	21.5%	21.1%	72.2%
430	Leicester	73.7%	16.69	39.5%	1.22	3.91	29.8%	26.4%	55.5%
431	Lewes	69.3%	17.39	36.1%	0.71	4.27	21.9%	24.8%	61.7%
432	Lincoln	86.5%	12.90	33.9%	1.08	3.88	24.4%	19.5%	45.3%
433	Liverpool	84.1%	14.69	29.8%	0.84	4.47	30.8%	22.9%	72.8%
476	Luton	80.9%	13.50	34.2%	0.68	4.39	21.9%	21.4%	65.1%
434	Maidstone	72.2%	18.83	43.3%	0.68	4.35	20.5%	29.1%	58.7%
435	Manchester (Crown Square)	69.7%	19.15	45.7%	0.88	5.01	32.6%	21.0%	72.3%
436	Manchester (Minshull Street)	71.7%	17.78	43.1%	1.11	4.67	35.8%	27.4%	74.3%
437	Merthyr Tydfil	97.5%	7.90	16.3%	1.09	4.19	22.4%	10.6%	47.6%
464	Middlesex Guildhal	76.7%	15.19	53.1%	0.67	4.40	22.1%	29.0%	68.8%
439	Newcastle	88.7%	13.51	24.5%	1.09	3.48	27.5%	15.2%	58.6%
478	Newport (IOW)	73.9%	16.62	25.0%	0.92	4.07	17.6%	28.2%	53.9%
442	Northampton	76.0%	17.02	47.8%	0.95	4.38	15.1%	19.9%	57.5%
443	Norwich	84.7%	13.91	27.0%	0.90	4.31	17.7%	20.4%	62.6%
444	Nottingham	91.7%	10.39	25.5%	1.31	3.86	19.1%	21.0%	64.5%
445	Oxford	87.7%	12.49	26.1%	0.73	4.48	21.9%	14.2%	47.3%
473	Peterborough	75.7%	16.38	31.2%	1.05	4.63	21.1%	26.3%	46.3%
446	Plymouth	78.9%	13.21	41.9%	0.82	3.82	15.2%	26.9%	51.7%
447	Portsmouth	84.2%	12.98	22.4%	0.67	3.73	16.1%	17.6%	61.5%
448	Preston	67.0%	20.42	37.8%	0.93	4.43	32.3%	27.6%	60.7%
449	Reading	74.5%	15.13	45.1%	0.62	4.44	18.7%	30.4%	68.0%
480	Salisbury	62.9%	19.61	41.2%	0.53	5.05	20.2%	13.5%	55.4%
451	Sheffield	86.3%	11.28	27.2%	1.05	4.26	26.7%	21.4%	66.4%
452	Shrewsbury	76.7%	17.21	38.4%	1.06	4.25	25.1%	24.6%	57.8%
453	Snaresbrook	78.5%	15.98	30.8%	0.60	4.83	24.6%	27.9%	85.6%
454	Southampton	77.8%	15.31	40.4%	0.90	4.23	22.5%	21.1%	56.0%
471	Southwark	71.2%	16.47	35.7%	0.49	4.60	26.1%	25.4%	81.3%
450	St. Albans	86.1%	12.97	23.3%	0.67	4.54	23.0%	23.2%	71.1%
455	Stafford	74.5%	15.86	46.2%	1.04	4.39	29.9%	23.5%	62.3%
456	Stoke-on-Trent	78.2%	18.45	37.5%	1.39	4.62	20.4%	28.1%	55.6%
457	Swansea	86.2%	11.61	28.8%	0.75	4.88	18.9%	9.8%	71.3%
458	Swindon	84.5%	14.66	40.7%	0.66	3.90	16.9%	14.6%	45.9%
459	Taunton	78.3%	15.15	44.3%	0.96	3.32	13.1%	22.6%	51.9%
460	Teesside	81.1%	12.90	34.3%	1.11	4.13	27.7%	29.7%	60.7%
477	Truro	66.5%	19.23	46.2%	0.79	4.46	15.9%	13.7%	55.6%
462	Warrington	89.0%	11.09	20.0%	1.04	4.22	17.5%	16.6%	46.8%
463	Warwick	86.6%	11.15	31.6%	1.51	3.38	17.4%	20.5%	46.9%
465	Winchester	75.0%	19.21	48.2%	0.42	3.87	19.2%	18.8%	60.7%
421	Wolverhampton	76.8%	15.79	39.9%	1.15	4.35	27.2%	27.3%	58.3%
469	Wood Green	71.9%	15.67	44.3%	0.56	4.34	23.8%	25.4%	66.7%
472	Woolwich	78.1%	15.47	30.5%	0.59	4.53	20.5%	23.2%	70.9%
466	Worcester	76.4%	14.16	46.2%	1.18	4.26	26.6%	21.9%	50.8%
467	York	76.7%	13.72	41.3%	1.43	4.46	25.4%	18.5%	54.0%