Further Written Evidence from the Ministry Of Justice

Why did the Criminal Justice Statistics (quarterly): April to June 2015 not include the number of initial pleas entered at first instance in the magistrate’s court?

1. These statistics were contained within the published quarterly report, but there was a change to the structure of the tables in the most recent release; this change was flagged within the bulletin accompanying the release.

2. In our latest publication, we separated out the timeliness tables from the magistrates’ court tables and Crown Court tables. In the new release, Table T1 now provides magistrates’ court statistics covering case timeliness, average number of hearings and proportion of cases completed at first listing, all split by initial plea, and proportion of cases by initial plea. This information was previously found in Table 3.7.

3. The table and figures on the proportion of magistrates’ cases by initial plea can be accessed via the link below: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-court-statistics-quarterly-april-to-june-2015

How much has been imposed and paid under the Criminal Courts Charge (CCC)?

4. The CCC took effect in mid-April and initial data from its first three months of operation was included in the publication on 24 September 2015. It was not possible however to provide separate figures on the charge which met with National Statistics data quality requirements in time for this publication. Therefore the CCC was shown within the aggregated figure for the “Other” category.

5. We are undertaking further work and quality assurance on the data so we can begin publishing detailed statistics on the first six months of the criminal courts charge in the next quarterly bulletin, which will be published on 17 December 2015.

Could you confirm if there are any contractual arrangements with external bodies for the collection and enforcement of the CCC? If the criminal court charge were abolished, would the Ministry of Justice face any financial penalties, contractual or otherwise?

6. There are no specific contractual arrangements in place that relate solely to the collection and enforcement of the CCC. The charge is a court-ordered financial imposition and is collected and enforced using standard processes and arrangements. If the CCC was abolished, the Ministry would not face any financial penalties, contractual or otherwise.

What has the cost of enforcing the CCC been to date?

7. The cost of enforcing the CCC cannot be separated from the total cost of enforcing all types of court ordered financial impositions. However it can be confirmed that no additional resources have been required specifically as a result of the CCC.

4 November 2015