

**Table 3.4**

Key reasons for ineffective magistrates' courts trial hearings in England and Wales, annually 2006 - 2011, quarterly 2008 Q1 - 2012 Q4

Year	Quarter	Total number of trials	Total number of ineffective trials	Prosecution not ready	Prosecution witness absent	Defence not ready	Defence witness absent	Defendant absent/unfit to stand	Prosecution availability <sup>1</sup>	Defence availability <sup>2</sup>	Court administration <sup>3</sup>	Interpreter availability
2012	Q1	<b>43,110</b>	7,237	707	1,043	939	180	1,421	117	203	2,445	182
	Q2	<b>37,801</b>	6,259	753	920	940	177	1,247	86	181	1,792	163
	Q3 (r)	<b>37,811</b>	6,459	852	1,064	972	168	1,262	87	207	1,723	124
	Q4 (p)	<b>37,949</b>	6,549	856	1,021	968	179	1,390	96	195	1,705	139

**Sources;**

Cracked and ineffective trial monitoring forms, HM Courts and Tribunals Service's Performance Database

**Notes:**

1) Prosecution availability covers all trials that are ineffective due to 'Prosecution advocate engaged in another trial', 'Prosecution advocate failed to attend' and 'Prosecution increased time estimate due to insufficient time for trial to start'.

2) Defence availability covers all trials that are ineffective due to 'Defence asked for additional prosecution witness to attend', 'Defence increased time estimate due to insufficient time for trial to start', 'Defence advocate engaged in other trial', 'Defence advocate failed to attend' and 'Defendant dismissed advocate'.

3) Court administrative problems covers all trials that are ineffective due to 'Another case over-ran', 'Judge / magistrate availability', 'overlisting (insufficient cases drop out / floater / backer not reached)' and 'equipment / accommodation failure'.

4) Prior to April 2007 the data was collected via the cracked and ineffective trial monitoring forms. Collection via the online HMCTS Performance Database (OPT) began from April 2007. Data prior to April 2007 are comparable with data from April 2007 since only the method of data collection changed not the methodology.

**Table 3.6**

Key reasons for ineffective Crown Court trial hearings in England and Wales, annually 2006 - 2011, quarterly 2008 Q1 - 2012 Q4

Year	Quarter	Total number of trials	Total number of ineffective trials	Prosecution not ready	Prosecution witness absent	Defence not ready	Defence witness absent	Defendant absent/unfit to stand	Prosecution availability <sup>1</sup>	Defence availability <sup>2</sup>	Court administration <sup>3</sup>	Interpreter availability
2012	Q1	<b>11,007</b>	1,535	199	319	184	37	317	29	58	381	11
	Q2	<b>9,191</b>	1,340	199	251	165	33	238	35	84	329	6
	Q3 (r)	<b>9,290</b>	1,203	204	268	145	28	237	25	45	244	7
	Q4 (p)	<b>8,946</b>	1,260	214	273	149	28	233	30	67	256	10

**Source:**

HM Courts and Tribunals Service CREST system

**Notes:**

1) Prosecution availability covers all trials that are ineffective due to 'Prosecution advocate engaged in another trial', 'Prosecution advocate failed to attend' and 'Prosecution increased time estimate due to insufficient time for trial to start'.

2) Defence availability covers all trials that are ineffective due to 'Defence asked for additional prosecution witness to attend', 'Defence increased time estimate due to insufficient time for trial to start', 'Defence advocate engaged in other trial', 'Defence advocate failed to attend' and 'Defendant dismissed advocate'.

3) Court administrative problems covers all trials that are ineffective due to 'Another case over-ran', 'Judge / magistrate availability', 'overlisting (insufficient cases drop out / floater / backer not reached)' and 'equipment / accommodation failure'.

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Effectiveness of magistrates' courts' trial hearings by region, 2012

Region	Total trials <sup>1</sup>	Effective trials		Cracked trials		Ineffective trials		Vacated trials <sup>2</sup>
		Number	Percentage of total trials	Number	Percentage of total trials	Number	Percentage of total trials	Number
London	<b>35,410</b>	16,379	46%	12,099	34%	6,932	20%	4,024
Midlands	<b>26,570</b>	10,727	40%	10,492	39%	5,351	20%	7,932
North East	<b>22,532</b>	8,889	39%	9,984	44%	3,659	16%	8,124
North West	<b>23,909</b>	10,335	43%	10,334	43%	3,240	14%	5,936
South East	<b>26,236</b>	12,753	49%	9,115	35%	4,368	17%	10,375
South West	<b>13,850</b>	6,621	48%	5,143	37%	2,086	15%	6,150
Wales	<b>8,164</b>	3,811	47%	3,485	43%	868	11%	3,332
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>156,671</b>	69,515	44%	60,652	39%	26,504	17%	45,873

**Notes:**

1) The total number of trials listed during the reporting period indicated, i.e. the total number of trials listed during 2003 was 177,485.

2) Vacated trials are trials which have been removed from the list before the date of the trial. Therefore vacated trials are counted in the month the vacation happened rather than the date when they were due to be listed. For example a trial which was due to be listed in Q2 2012 could be vacated in Q4 2011 and so would be included in the vacated trial numbers for Q4 2011.

Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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Effectiveness of Crown Court trial hearings by region, 2012

Region	Total trials <sup>1</sup>	Effective trials		Cracked trials		Ineffective trials		Vacated trials <sup>2,3</sup>
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
London	<b>10,632</b>	5,886	55%	3,090	29%	1,656	16%	1,951
Midlands	<b>5,425</b>	2,508	46%	2,256	42%	661	12%	2,590
North East	<b>5,450</b>	1,880	34%	2,864	53%	706	13%	2,409
North West	<b>5,334</b>	2,018	38%	2,611	49%	705	13%	3,568
South East	<b>6,654</b>	3,667	55%	1,974	30%	1,013	15%	1,751
South West	<b>3,110</b>	1,760	57%	946	30%	404	13%	2,481
Wales	<b>1,827</b>	1,010	55%	624	34%	193	11%	702
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>38,432</b>	18,729	49%	14,365	37%	5,338	14%	15,452

**Notes:**

1) The total number of trials listed during the reporting period indicated, i.e. the total number of trials listed during 2003 was 177,485.

2) Vacated trials are trials which have been removed from the list before the date of the trial. Therefore vacated trials are counted in the month the vacation happened rather than the date when they were due to be listed. For example a trial which was due to be listed in Q2 2012 could be vacated in Q4 2011 and so would be included in the vacated trial numbers for Q4 2011.

3) Excludes warned list cases.

Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.