

Services to Individuals

Crime and Defence Representation

How long is the case likely to take?

This guide provides you with an approximation only and will vary depending upon the complexity of the particular case.

- a) Following a charge at the Police Station, a very short date for appearance in the Magistrates Court is given, normally within 3-7 working days.
- b) If you enter a guilty plea in the Magistrates Court the case can take up to between 3 and 12 weeks depending on whether a pre-sentence report is ordered.
- c) If you enter a not guilty plea in the Magistrates Court the case will normally be likely to take between 3 and 9 months.
- d) Where your case is committed to the Crown Court, the following time scales will apply:
 - i) To the stage of committal proceedings, at the Magistrates Court, approximately 2 to 4 months (depending upon the seriousness of the case).
 - ii) From the committal proceedings at the Magistrates Court to a trial at the Crown Court approximately 3 to 9 months.
 - iii) On a guilty plea at the Crown Court between 1 and 3 months.



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