

Victims Right to Review Outcomes
April 2019 to March 2020

	Principal Offence Category	Total VRR Requests Received	Original Decisions Overturned at Stage One	Original Decisions Overturned at Stage Two	Total Original Decisions Overturned
A	Homicide	43	3	5	8
B	Offences against the person	775	86	24	110
C	Sexual offences	434	31	31	62
D	Burglary	54	8	1	9
E	Robbery	12	2	1	3
F	Theft and handling	82	15	4	19
G	Fraud and forgery	73	12	1	13
H	Criminal damage	75	9	3	12
I	Drug offences	3	0	0	0
J	Public order offences	71	5	2	7
L	Motoring offences	61	9	2	11
K	All other offences (excluding motoring)	85	10	0	10
	No Principal Offence Category	228	20	4	24
	Total	1,996	210	78	288

Source: CPS VRR Tracker. February 2021

Notes

In 2019-20 the CPS made a pre-charge legal decision on 200,945 suspects and prosecuted 451,046 defendants, not all prosecuted defendants are subject to a CPS pre-charge decision; the Police charge approximately 65% of cases and the CPS 35%.

The VRR scheme is a two stage process where requests can be reviewed by either local offices or a specialist Unit within HQ. In the first instance, that decision is reviewed by a manager in the local area. If he or she overturns the original decision, and if the victim so requests, the case may be further reviewed by the CPS Appeals and Review Unit (ARU). The ARU is a national CPS unit staffed with experienced specialist lawyers who conduct a fresh independent review of the evidence in every case referred to them. If an ARU lawyer decides that the original decision was wrong, and a prosecution is required to maintain confidence in the Criminal Justice System, that original decision will be overturned and proceedings reinstated. The figures provided in the table represent all overturned decisions where the original decision was found to be wrong regardless of which stage the final decision was made.

The CPS operates both Feedback and Complaints schemes to deal with concerns about legal decisions which do not fall within the scope of the VRR scheme. The CPS does not collect data which constitutes official statistics as defined in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. This data has been drawn from the CPS's administrative IT systems, which (as with any large scale recording system) is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the CPS.