

## Justice Protection Costs

**Cost category** Costs in response to crime

**Cost item** Justice

**Definition** Courts go to substantial lengths to avoid convicting the innocent: this makes the procedures more costly than they would otherwise be. The increase in costs thereby incurred is a cost of protecting justice

**Theoretical discussion** [link to relevant section in Bibliography]

**Preferred estimation methodology** There is no standard methodology

**Comments** The higher standard of proof required in criminal trials (based "beyond reasonable doubt") as compared with non-criminal trials (where normally proof is based on "balance of probabilities" doctrine) is itself an indication of more weight being given to avoiding incorrectly convicting the innocent. The doctrine makes evidence collection more important and thus more costly. Care is needed here however: many of these higher costs will be reflected in higher prosecution and defence costs than would otherwise be incurred. There is a danger of double counting costs if justice costs are included.

**Usage** Would normally require special study to be condemned: unlikely to be discernible easily.

**Offences normally included**

**Formula**

**Data sources**

**Example**