

Offender Costs

Cost category Costs in consequence to crime

Cost item Offender Costs

Definition When preparing to commit crimes offenders may invest in specialist equipment. Film buffs will be familiar with examples where cars, boats or planes have been specially adapted for such purposes. At a further remove will be the creation (for criminal purposes) of networks of contacts whose discretion can be relied on for purposes of dealing in stolen goods, laundering the proceeds of drug trading or prostitution and so on. These activities all tie up time that has a positive opportunity cost.

Theoretical discussion [link to relevant section in Bibliography]

Preferred estimation methodology the costs to offenders of crime: largest element likely to be the opportunity cost of time at least for offenders with legitimate employment prospects: may also include specialised equipment including planes and boats

Comments from a social costs perspective the costs to offenders should be estimated, although in practice these costs are often omitted because they are incurred by offenders rather than by victims or taxpayers. The largest element likely to be the opportunity cost of time at least for offenders with legitimate employment prospects: may also include specialised

Usage normally excluded

Offences normally included for all offence types particularly where high proportion are imprisoned and offence types where there is speciality investment

Formula $\text{proportion of offenders unemployed} * \text{average earnings (weeks*days*hours*hourly rate)} * \text{average daily population of offenders in prison}$

Data sources Transcripts of court hearings for information on specialist investment. Cost of investment on special equipment made by law enforcement agencies.

Example 1

30.00% proportion of offenders unemployed
£9,488 average earnings (weeks*days*hours*hourly rate)
65000 average daily population of offenders in prison
£185,006,250 Estimated loss of output