

Describe how the criminal trial process works for both a summary and an indictable offence

The criminal trial process is designed to deal with cases and after considering the numbers, types the pre-trial procedures and the location of the final trial will be split into 3 categories:

- Summary offences
- Indictable offences
- Trial-able either way as either one

A summary offence is more likely to a minor offence then serious and as such the final place of trial tends to be the magistrates court. The pre-trial process is short, the numbers of people involved tends to be small but the types of people involved tend to be the common public. Examples of the sort of crimes consider summary include, theft and common assault.

An indictable offence is most likely a serious crime and a high offence and the final trial takes place at a crown court as a result. The pre-trial process is long the numbers of people involved will likely be high and the types of people involved to tend to be more high profile than with summary offences. Examples of the sort of crimes considered indictable include rape and murder.

An offence that is trial-able either way has been reviewed and no final verdict on the severity of the crime has been decided. As such the final trial can take place in either a magistrate's court or crown court. The offender may even be allowed to choose which court they are trailed in. The final decision once made is not necessarily final either. A magistrate's court may decide the severity of the crime is such that it needs to be in a crown court. Equally a crown court may decide that the crime is to minor for crown court and should be trailed in a magistrate's court. The number of people involved can be low or high it depends upon the case, the pre trial process is often long because it's hard to decide upon the court required for the final trial. The type of people involved is also either way, its dependent upon the case again. The Examples of the crimes that may be considered trail-able either way include theft and assault with weapons.