

# Fast Track Legal Proceedings

An evaluation of the pilot scheme in  
northern Stockholm

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This is a summary of the Brå report Snabbare lagföring – utvärdering av en försöksverksamhet i norra Stockholm, report no 2020:3. This summary can be downloaded from the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention's website, [www.bra.se/publikationer](http://www.bra.se/publikationer).

The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, Box 1386, 111 93, Stockholm, Sweden  
Tel: +46 (0)8 527 58 400, E-mail: [info@bra.se](mailto:info@bra.se), [www.bra.se](http://www.bra.se)

Authors: Mona Backhans, Lina Fjelkegård and Sara Jonsson

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URN:NBN:SE:BRA-934

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English summary of Brå report 2020:3



## Preface

Northern Stockholm is hosting an ongoing pilot scheme for fast-tracked criminal cases, commissioned by the government. The aim is to maintain legal security and quality while shortening the time taken to process less serious volume crimes. The scheme is a collaboration between the Police Authority, the Prosecution Authority, the National Board of Forensic Medicine, the National Courts Administration, the Prison and Probation Service and the district courts in Attunda, Norrtälje and Solna.

Ever since the launch of the pilot scheme in January 2018, Brå has followed and evaluated the initiative. This evaluation is to provide a basis for the government's deliberations on the structure of the fast-tracked criminal cases initiative moving forwards. Following the interim report of April 2019, this is Brå's final report.

The report has been prepared by Mona Backhans, Lina Fjelkegård (project manager) and Sara Jonsson, all researchers at Brå. Earlier work on the evaluation also involved Anna-Lena Beutgen and Petra Bergnor. The study has been peer-reviewed by Stefan Holgersson, professor of police science at the Norwegian Police University College in Oslo and senior lecturer in informatics at Linköping University, and Jerzy Sarnecki, professor emeritus of general criminology at Stockholm University, senior professor at the University of Gävle and Mid Sweden University in Sundsvall, and researcher at the Institute for Futures Studies.

Brå would like to extend its warmest thanks to everyone who was interviewed, participated in observations, responded to questionnaires or otherwise contributed their time, experience and knowledge to this evaluation.

## Summary

A pilot scheme for fast-tracked criminal cases, also known as Fast Track Legal Proceedings, was conducted in the Stockholm North police district in 2018 and 2019. The pilot was commissioned by the government and is a collaboration between the Police Authority, the Prosecution Authority, the National Board of Forensic Medicine, the National Courts Administration, the Prison and Probation Service and the district courts in Attunda, Norrtälje and Solna. The aim of the pilot scheme is to shorten the time taken to process the simplest volume crimes while maintaining legal security and quality. The objective during the initial stage has been to investigate and process crimes within ten weeks, and in the second stage within two to six weeks. Since the beginning of 2019, young offenders under 18 years of age have also been included in the pilot scheme. The objective when it comes to young offenders is to complete the legal proceedings within ten weeks from the date of the crime.

Brå has been commissioned by the government to follow and evaluate Fast Track Legal Proceedings. This evaluation is to provide a basis for the government's deliberations on how to structure this initiative moving forwards. In April 2019, Brå published an interim report as part of its evaluation.

This report is Brå's final report. As of January 2020, Fast Track Legal Proceedings has been expanded to encompass all of Police Region Stockholm. Further expansion is being planned and prepared. In January 2020, the government commissioned a special inquiry to examine how Fast Track Legal Proceedings could be made permanent (Dir. 2020:6). However, Brå's evaluation only concerns the original pilot scheme in the Stockholm North police district.

## What is Fast Track Legal Proceedings?

In the case of adult offenders, for a crime to be considered for Fast Track Legal Proceedings:

- the preliminary investigation must be conducted by the police;
- the crime must carry a maximum penalty of three years in prison;
- the perpetrator must have been found at or near the crime scene; and
- the crime must be easy to investigate.

Fast Track Legal Proceedings entails both new working methods and new procedures, as well as changes to laws and ordinances. The pilot scheme also entails the generally expedited administration of the cases which are encompassed and, to a certain extent, their prioritisation. Within the pilot scheme, we have seen the creation of better conditions for early investigative measures in conjunction with the initial police intervention, resulting in more effective police investigations. This is achieved through phone contact between the intervening officers and the lead investigator on duty, with the lead investigator guiding the intervening officers and quality-assuring their investigative measures. Feedback to the intervening officers, for example in the form of court rulings, should also help to develop their investigation skills, thereby further improving the foundation for early investigative measures. Yet another change in police operations is that more investigations are completed during each shift, often by the lead investigator who was in contact with the intervening police patrol. This is instead of the case being handed over to a new lead investigator at an investigation unit at the concerned local police district.

Common to the police, prosecutor and district courts, is the introduction of special procedures which mean that investigations and cases are not coordinated to the same extent as normal. This is to shorten the time taken to process cases by keeping the investigations within the pilot scheme independent of the investigation and administration of other open cases. In other areas, the more substantial changes to the operations of the local public prosecution offices and district courts are two special tools enabled by special ordinances: the expanded application of power of attorney for accepting a summary fine (SFS 2017:1028) and the special type of service of process known as advance service of process (SFS 2018:160).

Within Fast Track Legal Proceedings, a power of attorney for accepting a summary fine means that when questioning a suspect who has admitted their crime, the police ask whether they would like to sign a power of attorney for accepting a summary fine. If the prosecutor then decides to issue a summary fine, it can be accepted by a police representative without the need to send it to the suspect for acceptance. This reduces both the lead time at the prosecutor's office and the risk of the summary fine not being accepted and requiring that the prosecutor make a new decision and initiate court proceedings.

Advance service of process means that in conjunction with the police intervention, a suspect is notified of preliminary dates and times for the main hearing and for when the court documents will be available at the district court. The suspect is then considered to have been served process on this date, regardless of whether the court documents are collected and regardless of whether the district court is made aware of whether the suspect has partaken of the court documents in some other way. The date when the court documents will be available at the district court and the date of the main hearing are determined by the police, based on an assessment of how long the investigation will take.

For the matter to be handled within youth proceedings, the crimes must be simple to investigate, the suspects must be at least 15 years of age but younger than 18 years of age, there must not be more than two suspects and they must reside in a municipality within the pilot scheme's catchment area. As with adult proceedings, an important part of youth proceedings comprises early investigative measures with support over the phone from the lead investigator on duty. Early investigative measures include, for example, questioning suspects immediately at the scene or, in cases where questioning cannot take place immediately, calling the suspected young offenders in for questioning within about a week in conjunction with the intervention. Youth proceedings also encompass collaboration between the police and social services, including, for example, an agreed afternoon each week when questioning within the pilot scheme takes place. This is to make it easier for social services to attend at short notice when the police want to question young offenders. As for prosecutors and the courts, the process within the pilot scheme is the same as the normal procedure for youth cases. The special tools power of attorney for accepting a summary fine and advance service of process are not used within youth proceedings.

## Method and material

Brå has used several different methods and data sources in its evaluation of Fast Track Legal Proceedings. Interviews have been conducted with defence attorneys and representatives from the Police Authority, the local public prosecution offices and district courts, the National Board of Forensic Medicine, the probation service and social services. Brå has also participated in shifts within police intervention and duty operations, as well as distributed questionnaires to patrolling officers on two separate occasions.

In order to study processing times, penalties and legal proceedings within the Fast Track Legal Proceedings pilot scheme for adults, Brå has used registry data on the suspected crimes processed within the pilot scheme. By combining data from the Police Authority, the Prosecution Authority and the National Courts Administration, Brå has been able to follow the suspected crimes throughout the entire legal chain. This data covers the period 29 January 2018 to 30 September 2019.

In order to study the effects of the pilot scheme, Brå has also used comparative material, comprised of the simplest volume crimes where there is a reasonable suspicion, processed in the Stockholm North and Stockholm South police districts. In the analyses of the effects, all of the suspected simplest volume crimes in the pilot area of Stockholm North (regardless of whether they have been processed within Fast Track Legal Proceedings) have been compared with the equivalent suspected crimes in Stockholm South during the period January 2017 to March 2019.

In addition to the data on suspected crimes, Brå has retrieved statistical data in tables which describe the operations of the authorities participating in the pilot scheme. The evaluation of the pilot scheme for young offenders is based on both the interview material and the compilation and analysis of all preliminary investigations within youth proceedings. In order to be able to follow the suspected crimes throughout the entire legal chain, data from the police has been combined with data from the Prosecution Authority and the National Courts Administration.

## Suspected crimes processed within Fast Track Legal Proceedings

Since the pilot scheme was launched, almost 6,000 suspected crimes have been processed within Fast Track Legal Proceedings for adult offenders. Of all potential suspected crimes, the percentage of suspected crimes within fast-tracked proceedings varies between 40 and 60 percent and is generally somewhat higher in 2019 than 2018. In cases where suspected crimes could have been processed within Fast Track Legal Proceedings but were not, this could be due to, for example, a lack of awareness, unwillingness, a lack of time, or high workloads among lead investigators on duty and intervening police officers.

The most common types of crime within Fast Track Legal Proceedings are drug crime, shoplifting and driving offences. Just under 20 percent of all suspected crimes within Fast Track Legal Proceedings are dismissed by the police, while about three-quarters result in legal proceedings. The most common penalty is a fine, following the ruling of a district court. The percentage of fines issued by courts increased between 2018 and 2019, whereas all other penalties fell in relative terms.

Use of the special tools power of attorney for a summary fine and advance service of process is commonplace and increased throughout the period. In 2019, power of attorney was used in more than 90 percent of all decisions on summary fines, and advance service of process was used in 80 percent of all suspected crimes heard in a district court. When it comes to processing times, we can conclude that objective fulfilment is relatively favourable. For 2019, the percentage of suspected cases closed within ten weeks is almost 90 percent, while the percentage closed within six weeks is over 60 percent. When the special tools are used, the processing times are significantly shorter than when they are not.

## Effects of the introduction of the pilot scheme

Comparisons between the pilot area of Stockholm North and the control area of Stockholm South show that the introduction of Fast Track Legal Proceedings has resulted in shorted processing times for the simplest volume crimes. The total processing time from registered suspicion to closed case has been reduced by more than half. The most accurate and, in relative terms, largest effect is seen in processing times within the Prosecution Authority, where processing times have been reduced by almost 80 percent following the introduction of Fast Track Legal Proceedings. Within other authorities, processing times have been reduced by 40–60 percent following the introduction.

How large an effect the pilot scheme has had is uncertain for some outcomes, primarily for the total processing time and the processing time within the police

authority. This is because trends in processing time in the period before the introduction were not comparable in the pilot and control areas, which is necessary for the analysis method to produce accurate results.

Following the introduction, both the percentage of suspected crimes reported to prosecutors and the percentage of prosecutions have increased. The effect on the percentage of legal proceedings is largely due to the control area of Stockholm South exhibiting a negative trend during the period, with fewer cases, a development which was not seen in the pilot areas. Another effect of the pilot scheme is a larger percentage of fines being issued by courts while the percentage of summary fines fell.

## Effect on other operations

In addition to examining whether the pilot scheme has had any effect on processing times, legal proceedings and penalties, it is also important to see whether the change may have affected other operations within the participating authorities.

In order to investigate whether Fast Track Legal Proceedings has affected operations within the investigation units of the local police districts, Brå has studied the trends in open cases for two types of crime which are not encompassed by the pilot scheme (violent crime and theft excluding shoplifting). The analyses show that the number of open cases has decreased, providing some support for the hypothesis that the introduction of Fast Track Legal Proceedings has improved the situation of the investigation units of the local police districts when it comes to working with and closing cases even outside the pilot scheme.

We have also noted a risk that the pilot scheme may have a negative effect on police operations. This is primarily associated with how intervening police officers use their time. Questionnaires completed by intervening officers indicate that their efforts within Fast Track Legal Proceedings cases can be time-consuming. However, in conversations with police officers, the time spent on such cases has not been described as a serious problem, and they do not feel that their ability to respond to emergencies has been impacted negatively. If the number of Fast Track Legal Proceedings cases increases, or if operations are conducted in areas with different conditions to those of the areas encompassed by the evaluation, it is possible that police operations other than the most pressing, such as crime prevention, may be affected.

As regards the other operations of the concerned local public prosecution offices, personnel have described the prioritisation of Fast Track Legal Proceedings affecting the processing of other cases to some extent. An analysis of the processing time at the volume crime unit of the local public prosecution office in Västerort shows some increase in the processing times for suspected crimes outside Fast Track Legal Proceedings. The processing times have not, however, shown any further increase in conjunction with the expansion of Fast Track Legal Proceedings. Accordingly, it is uncertain whether the increased processing times were connected to the pilot scheme.

As for the district courts, interviewees describe Fast Track Legal Proceedings as entailing a prioritisation of cases within the pilot scheme, which can result in other operations being displaced. Working methods and procedures within the pilot scheme can also be assumed to affect the incoming flow of cases to the district courts. In order to investigate any displacement effects and workloads within the district courts, Brå has examined the development of other operations at the district courts in Attunda, Norrtälje and Solna. The analyses show that the

number of criminal cases (in total, that is, including Fast Track Legal Proceedings) increased by about 20 percent after the introduction of the pilot scheme. Notwithstanding the above, the analyses cannot show whether Fast Track Legal Proceedings affected processing times for cases outside the pilot scheme.

## Youth proceedings

The pilot scheme for young offenders, youth proceedings, is part of the expansion of the pilot scheme for fast-tracked criminal cases and was launched in January 2019 in three local police districts: Rinkeby, Solna and Täby.

The incoming flow of investigations in youth proceedings has thus far been low and has only entailed relatively small changes for those involved. There are different explanations as to why so few cases have been handled within youth proceedings, such as the cases failing to fulfil the established requirements to be included in the pilot scheme, or the failure of the local police district to prioritise work with cases involving young offenders. Another explanation could be that the intervening police officers and the lead investigators on duty fail to include eligible cases in the pilot scheme, perhaps as a result of insufficient training.

Unlike adult proceedings, for youth proceedings we have not had the opportunity to perform adequate comparisons with young offenders processed in the normal manner. We can, however, see that cases within youth proceedings are processed relatively quickly. The majority of cases processed within youth proceedings have been completed within ten weeks (70 days). They have an average throughput time of 27 days from crime to case closed by a prosecutor and 58 days to case closed by a court. Cases requiring analyses by the National Forensic Centre or the National Board of Forensic Medicine, or a statement from social services have the longest processing times.

## Risks and problems

In addition to the successes and positive aspects of the pilot scheme, Brå has also identified a number of problems and risks.

### Staffing and expertise

There are, among other things, a number of challenges in terms of police staffing and expertise among intervening officers and duty officers: intervening officers exhibit shortcomings in the centralised information they are to relay to suspects, support from lead investigators on duty varies throughout the day and police use unencrypted email to communicate with suspects. In addition to a solution for encrypted email communication, there is also a need for better IT support.

### Deviations from case coordination

Another problem within the pilot scheme comprises deviations from normal procedures for case coordination. Not coordinating cases within Fast Track Legal Proceedings is a prerequisite for the shorter processing times of the pilot scheme. At the same time, divergent procedures risk similar cases being handled differently. When cases are processed and ruled on individually rather than being coordinated as per normal procedures, any reduced sentencing is affected, which can result in disparate sentencing. Limiting coordination also entails a deviation from the founding rule of penal law that the accused has the right to be sentenced to an overall penalty taking into account all their crimes.

## District court planning

One difficulty in district court operations is the planning of reserved times for main hearings and the preliminary bookings made by the police for such times. Many of the preliminary bookings do not result in any main hearings, most often because the case is ruled solely on the court documents. In order to avoid the district courts standing idle, the reserved times are overbooked. It has, however, been difficult to adjust the number of excess bookings to optimise resource use at the district courts.

## Short on time for pre-sentence reports

In interviews with people working in the probation service, we find that the time they are given to complete a pre-sentence report is generally shorter within the pilot scheme than for other similar cases. These shorter times may result in fewer pre-sentence reports being completed. Another risk of having less time to compile a report is the lack of opportunities to develop proposals for a court-imposed care order, as this requires a meeting between the client, a treatment centre and a doctor.

## Social services and questioning suspected youths

One difficulty pertaining to youth proceedings is that social services may have fewer opportunities to attend the questioning of young offenders. This is because questioning more often takes place at short notice and at unsociable hours. Here, much responsibility can be placed on the police, with their initial assessment as to whether questioning needs to take place immediately without the presence of social services being decisive.

## Expanding a pilot scheme

One challenge for all areas of the pilot scheme is transitioning from a relatively limited pilot scheme to a permanent national rollout, that is, getting Fast Track Legal Proceedings to work in areas with different conditions. In particular, Brå would like to highlight the importance of especially committed key personnel in achieving effective collaboration between the authorities, in anchoring the changes and in encouraging commitment among colleagues in the different authorities.

## Brå's assessment

Fast Track Legal Proceedings clearly entails both advantages and disadvantages. After weighing them up, Brå's overall conclusion is that there are good reasons to continue and expand the initiative.

However, we must keep in mind that conditions vary throughout the country, and so the same results cannot be expected everywhere. In the continuing work with Fast Track Legal Proceedings, the problems identified in the evaluation need to be addressed. To this end, Brå has the following recommendations:

- Strengthen the support provided by lead investigators on duty as regards the quality of the information patrol officers provide to suspects. This is especially important as regards the information about power of attorney for accepting a summary fine and advance service of process.
- Investigate the opportunities to continue deviating from the normal case coordination procedure. The point of departure ought to be that deviations are of importance to the positive results of the pilot scheme but are problematic in terms of legal certainty.
- Investigate the opportunities to expand the use of summary fines. In particular, one ought to review the provision that a summary fine must encompass all crimes of which a person is suspected. In situations where coordination with open cases

will not take place anyway, as with Fast Track Legal Proceedings, it is difficult to see the role of this limitation.

- Investigate the opportunity to, in those cases where advance service of process is used, limit the responsibility of the police to only informing the suspect of the date of the service of process. Such an approach would enable the district courts to better plan the reserved times for hearings and make more effective use of their resources. The time of the main hearing should be notified to the defendant in conjunction with the service of process.
- Establish procedures for when social services need to attend the questioning of young offenders. This is to ensure that the police correctly assess whether questioning can take place without social services being present, as well as to enable social services to better prioritise and attend questioning only when necessary.
- Conduct additional evaluations of Fast Track Legal Proceedings once the scheme has been in operation longer and in areas with different conditions. In addition to the effects on processing times, these evaluations ought to focus on penalties, legal certainty and displacement effects. It is especially important to evaluate youth proceedings, as the limited dataset of this evaluation has made it difficult to reach any definite conclusions.

## Closing discussion and assessment

Brå was commissioned to evaluate the pilot scheme for fast-tracked criminal cases in order to provide the government with a basis for its deliberations on how to structure the continuing initiative. The pilot scheme has proved successful in several ways, although there is a need to address the problems and risks. This closing discussion will summarise the advantages and disadvantages of the pilot scheme, and we will present our assessment of how the pilot scheme ought to be managed moving forwards.

## Advantages of Fast Track Legal Proceedings

The objective of the Fast Track Legal Proceedings pilot scheme was to in the initial stage close cases within ten weeks and in the second stage, once the new form of service of process was introduced, within six weeks. In terms of the suspected crimes processed within Fast Track Legal Proceedings, the objective has been relatively well fulfilled.

For 2019, the percentage of suspected crimes processed within six weeks is over 60 percent. Comparisons between processing times for the simplest volume crimes within the pilot area of Stockholm North and the control area of Stockholm South show that the introduction of Fast Track Legal Proceedings has had a pronounced effect, reducing the total processing time from registering a suspected crime to closing the case by more than half. The percentage of legal proceedings has also increased somewhat since the introduction, which could be an additional effect of Fast Track Legal Proceedings.

The rapid processing of the cases handled within the pilot scheme is due in part to the working methods and procedures employed, including early investigative measures and reduced case coordination, and in part to the special tools enabled by amended legislation: power of attorney for a summary fine and advance service of process, with reserved times for main hearings.

In comparison with an earlier, similar trial, Fast Track Legal Proceedings has been implemented to a greater extent (Brå, 2006; Prosecution Authority et al.,

2008). This is central to its overall impact and can be explained by its effective implementation and the favourable collaboration between authorities. The decision to circumvent the case coordination requirement has also played an important role and has enabled more cases to be encompassed by the present pilot scheme than earlier pilot projects. In addition to the shorter processing times for simpler volume crimes, Fast Track Legal Proceedings has also had other positive effects. For example, Brå's analyses show that the working method by which more cases are concluded by the lead investigator on duty has made time for the investigation units of the local police districts to concentrate on other cases. Interviews and observations have also found that the feedback within and between the authorities has helped to increase understanding of the entire legal chain and the importance of each individual link. In turn, this has helped to increase the sense of involvement, commitment and motivation.

The pilot scheme for fast-tracked criminal cases for young offenders, youth proceedings, has thus far only been implemented to a limited extent. For this reason, it is not possible to draw any definite conclusions about the effects of the working methods and procedures within youth proceedings. In those cases which have been processed within youth proceedings, we can, however, note that they have been processed relatively quickly. The average throughput time is 27 days from crime to case closed by a prosecutor, and 58 days to case closed by a court.

## Disadvantages of Fast Track Legal Proceedings

While we can clearly see the positive effects of Fast Track Legal Proceedings, our evaluation has also revealed several risks and problems.

### Legal certainty

The mandate for the authorities implementing Fast Track Legal Proceedings includes upholding legal security and quality within the pilot scheme. However, as presented earlier in the report, a number of problems related to legal security have been identified. The new tools power of attorney for a summary fine and advance service of process entail a heavy responsibility to provide information, a responsibility which falls to the police officers, most often patrol officers, who question the suspect.

Brå's assessment is that this has not always worked satisfactorily, and that on occasion the information received by suspects is lacking. This can result in, among other things, suspects signing a power of attorney for a summary fine without having understood the alternatives, or without realizing their personal responsibility to partake of the court documents before a ruling is made.

One potential issue concerning legal security relates to communication with suspects which involves the use of email. Within the pilot scheme, the police currently use unencrypted email to send sensitive information. This includes, for example, analysis results and translated forms, both indicating that the recipient is suspected of a crime.

Another problem concerning legal security comprises the deviations from normal procedures for case coordination made within Fast Track Legal Proceedings. As a result, multiple cases are processed and ruled on individually. This entails a deviation from the provisions of the code of judicial procedure, which stipulate that the accused has the right to be sentenced to a cumulative penalty taking into account all their crimes. It can also mean a lesser reduction in sentencing and as such disparate sentencing.

Yet another consequence of Fast Track Legal Proceedings and the rapid processes involved is that the probation service has less time to compile pre-sentence reports. This has resulted in more statements from the authorities, which in turn has meant poorer documentation for sentencing. The shorter amount of time also has a negative impact on the opportunities for the probation service to examine the possibility of a court-imposed care order. In the worst-case scenario, this can result in a prison sentence rather than a court-imposed care order for someone in need of treatment.

## Inefficiency

The introduction of Fast Track Legal Proceedings results not only in optimisation. There are also aspects of the pilot scheme which result in inefficient resource use within the legal system. The reserved times for main hearings have not always been used effectively and it has been difficult for the district courts to plan. The difficulty stems from the police booking preliminary times for main hearings for all cases expected to go to court.

However, in practice, a large share of these cases are not determined on the basis of a hearing but rather court documents. Despite thorough follow-ups and ongoing adjustments to procedures, it has seldom been possible to make optimal use of the reserved times. The greater opportunity within Fast Track Legal Proceedings to use power of attorney for a summary fine has enabled a fast and efficient summary fine process. It has not, however, resulted in more summary fines being issued, which in terms of efficiency would have been a desirable development. Instead, the percentage of legal proceedings has increased, and thereby the burden on the district courts. The increase in the percentage of legal proceedings can be assumed to be due to, among other things, the tendency for prosecutors to only issue summary fines within Fast Track Legal Proceedings when a power of attorney has been signed. According to Section 1 of the ordinance on the issuing of summary fines (1970:60), where appropriate and possible, the prosecutor ought to issue the suspect with a summary fine rather than pursue prosecution.

Brå's analyses of the processing times of other cases at the district courts have not shown any displacement effects thus far. However, our assessment is that in the longer term the increasing burden on, primarily, the district courts may have a negative impact and as such its continued development needs to be followed.

## Youth proceedings

Prior to the introduction of youth proceedings, there was concern that social services would have fewer opportunities to participate in the questioning of young offenders. Since the implementation of youth proceedings has been limited, it is not, however, possible to draw any conclusions as to whether this concern was warranted. Social services have attended questioning in 33 percent of all cases encompassed by youth proceedings. Whether this level corresponds to that which generally applies to similar crimes, or whether it has been affected by the pilot scheme, remain unknowns. We cannot, however, rule out the presence of social services being affected by more questioning taking place at short notice and at unsociable hours.

## Continued work with Fast Track Legal Proceedings

While there are challenges and risks associated with Fast Track Legal Proceedings, Brå's overall conclusion is that there are good reasons to both continue and expand the scheme. This is, however, provided that the majority of the positive effects stemming from the pilot scheme can be maintained even following an expansion. This is also provided that work to address the problems and risks identified by Brå is undertaken.

### Expanding Fast Track Legal Proceedings to other parts of Sweden

The introduction of Fast Track Legal Proceedings has worked well in the pilot area, the Stockholm North police district, with a pronounced effect on processing times. Conditions do, however, vary throughout the country and the same results cannot be expected everywhere.

One condition which varies between different police districts is the baseline processing time. The fact that the reduction in processing times in Stockholm North has been so substantial is likely largely due to the lengthy processing times seen before its introduction. In districts with shorter baseline processing times, we cannot expect equally large reductions.

Another condition which varies comprises the available resources and number of police patrols working in parallel. This can be assumed to affect the extent to which Fast Track Legal Proceedings can be applied. In districts with fewer resources than Stockholm North, and fewer patrol officers on duty at the same time, it can be more difficult for officers to prioritise early investigative measures. There is not always a second patrol car available to attend an urgent call when the first patrol is busy with a case within Fast Track Legal Proceedings.

One important prerequisite for the success of the pilot scheme has been the motivation of being involved in an innovative scheme which also attracts attention. The pilot scheme in Stockholm North has been marked by great commitment and motivation, which Brå assesses as being important to the positive results. In the expansion of Fast Track Legal Proceedings, it will be critical to as far as possible create the same commitment, motivation and sense of involvement. This can be achieved through cooperation between the authorities on both the local and operative levels and by identifying key individuals with legitimacy within the operations of each authority.

In addition to the geographic expansion, there are also opportunities to broaden the range of crimes encompassed by Fast Track Legal Proceedings for adult offenders. For example, unlawful encroachment and threatening a public servant could be included. To some extent, such an expansion has already taken place, albeit on a small scale. Brå sees no reason not to include more types of crime in the pilot scheme, as long as they are simple crimes resulting in straight-forward investigations.



**Brottsförebyggande rådet/National Council for Crime Prevention**

BOX 1386/TEGNÉRGATAN 23, SE-111 93 STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

TELEFON +46 (0)8 527 58 400 • E-POST [info@bra.se](mailto:info@bra.se) • [www.bra.se](http://www.bra.se)