

# **Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin**

July to September 2012, England and  
Wales

Ministry of Justice  
Statistics bulletin

31 January 2013



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## Introduction

This publication provides key statistics relating to offenders who are in prison or under Probation Service supervision. It covers flows into these services (receptions into prison or probation starts) and flows out (discharges from prison or probation terminations) as well as the caseload of both services at specific points in time. Latest figures for the quarter July to September 2012 are provided compared to the same period in 2011 for each topic as well as reference to longer term trends, with the exception of the prison population where more recent data is available (31 December 2012).

The contents of the report will be of interest to the public, government policy makers, the agencies responsible for offender management at both national and local levels, and others who want to understand more about the prison population, probation caseload, licence recalls and returns to custody.

The statistics included in this publication are used extensively and meet a broad spectrum of user needs as shown below.

<b>User</b>	<b>Summary of main statistical needs</b>
MOJ Ministers	Use the statistics to monitor the prison population and capacity of the prison estate; monitor effectiveness of probation service and whether resources are deployed efficiently; assess policy impacts (e.g. changes to sentencing guidance)
MPs and House of Lords	Statistics are used to answer parliamentary questions – approximately 100 are answered each year using prison and probation data
Policy teams	Statistics are used to inform policy development, to monitor impact of changes over time and to model future changes and their impact on the system
Agencies responsible for offender management	Current and historical robust administrative data are used to support performance management information at national and local levels within each agency to complement their understanding of the current picture and trends over time
Academia, students and businesses	Used as a source of statistics for research purposes and to support lectures, presentations and conferences, e.g. data on female foreign national prisoners are included in 'The Criminalisation of Migrant Women' report published by the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge in July 2012
Journalists	Used as a compendium of robust data on offender management so that an accurate and coherent story can be told on the prison population and probation service

Voluntary sector	Data are used to inform policy work, responses to consultations and briefing papers by analysing trends and changes to the prison population, e.g. the Prison Reform Trust use published offender management data to compile the 'Bromley Briefing Prison Factfiles'
General public	Data are used to respond to ad-hoc requests and requests made under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act: offender management data is used to answer around 100 FOIs each year

This bulletin is published alongside four inter-related bulletins:

- **Proven Re-offending Statistics Quarterly:** provides proven re-offending figures for offenders who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, received a caution, reprimand, warning or tested positive for opiates or cocaine in the 12 months ending March 2011.
- **Safety in Custody Statistics Quarterly update to September 2012:** provides statistics on death, self harm and assault incidents whilst in prison custody.
- **Youth Justice Statistics 2011/12 (1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012).** This cross-cutting publication brings together statistics from across the Youth Justice System, many of which have already been published separately. The report will look at the number of young people in the system, their offences and outcomes, and their re-offending behaviour. The report also contains data on behaviour management, which includes restraints, assaults, self harm and use of single separation, in the youth secure estate.
- **Story of the Prison Population 1993 – 2012 England and Wales.** This publication will provide a summary of what has happened to the prison population since 1993 and the major factors contributing to the changes. It is an update to the previous version which covered the period 1995-2009.

Taken together, these publications present users with a more coherent overview of offender management including youth justice, re-offending among both adults and young people and the safety of offenders whilst in prison custody.

**Table 1: Overview – latest period compared to the previous year**

**Overview – latest period compared to the previous year**

	31 December 2012	Percentage change 31 December 2011 to 31 December 2012
<b>Prison population</b>	<b>83,757</b>	<b>-3% ↓</b>
<b>Remand</b>	<b>10,661</b>	<b>-12% ↓</b>
Untried	7,328	-12% ↓
Convicted unsentenced	3,333	-14% ↓
<b>Under sentence</b>	<b>71,855</b>	<b>-1% ↓</b>
Fine Defaulters	112	1% ↑
Less than or equal to 6 months	4,236	-9% ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,352	-6% ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	20,350	-5% ↓
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	25,890	4% ↑
Indeterminate sentences	13,577	-2% ↓
Recalls	5,338	-4% ↓
<b>Non criminal</b>	<b>1,241</b>	<b>11% ↑</b>

	July-September 2012	Percentage change July-September 2011 to 2012
<b>Prison receptions</b>		
<b>First receptions</b>	<b>28,776</b>	<b>-11% ↓</b>
<b>Remand - untried</b>	<b>13,040</b>	<b>-13% ↓</b>
<b>Remand - convicted unsentenced</b>	<b>9,405</b>	<b>-10% ↓</b>
<b>Under sentence</b>	<b>21,765</b>	<b>-6% ↓</b>
Fine Defaulters	300	2% ↑
Less than or equal to 6 months	10,362	-9% ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,266	-1% ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	6,463	-6% ↓
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	2,184	6% ↑
Indeterminate sentences	190	3% ↑
<b>Prison discharges</b>		
<b>Determinate sentences</b>	<b>20,989</b>	<b>-3% ↓</b>
Less than or equal to 6 months	9,107	-4% ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,126	3% ↑
12 months to less than 4 years	7,411	-2% ↓
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	2,345	-8% ↓
<b>Indeterminate sentences</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>28% ↑</b>
Indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP)	109	35% ↑
Life sentence	62	17% ↑
<b>Average percentage of time served<sup>(1)</sup></b>		
<b>Determinate sentences</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>-1 pp ↓</b>
Less than or equal to 6 months	54%	0 pp ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	48%	1 pp ↑
12 months to less than 4 years	49%	-1 pp ↓
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	56%	-2 pp ↓
<b>Probation starts</b>		
<b>All court orders</b>	<b>40,837</b>	<b>-11% ↓</b>
<b>All community sentences</b>	<b>29,361</b>	<b>-12% ↓</b>
Community order	28,696	-11% ↓
<b>Other sentences</b>	<b>11,620</b>	<b>-8% ↓</b>
Suspended sentence order	11,505	-7% ↓
<b>Pre release supervision</b>	<b>11,391</b>	<b>-7% ↓</b>

	September-2012	Percentage change 30 September 2011 to 30 September 2012
<b>Persons supervised by the Probation Service</b>		
<b>All court orders</b>	<b>116,893</b>	<b>-9% ↓</b>
<b>All community sentences</b>	<b>80,170</b>	<b>-9% ↓</b>
Community order	78,054	-9% ↓
All pre CJA orders	267	-57% ↓
<b>Other sentences</b>	<b>39,442</b>	<b>-7% ↓</b>
Deferred sentence	63	-18% ↓
Suspended sentence order	39,390	-7% ↓
<b>All pre and post release supervision</b>	<b>111,753</b>	<b>3% ↑</b>
Pre release supervision	70,522	1% ↑
Post release supervision	41,598	6% ↑

	July-September 2012
<b>Licence recalls</b>	
<b>Recalled in latest quarter</b>	<b>4,222</b>
Not returned to custody by 31 December 2012	91
<b>Total not returned to custody by 31 December 2012</b>	<b>994</b>

1) Average percentage of time served includes time served on remand; change in percentages are given as percentage point change (pp).

## Prison population

The prison population grew rapidly between 1993 to 2008 – an average of 4 per cent a year. This rapid rise was driven by:

- Increased numbers of people sentenced to immediate custody from 1993 to 2002.
- Increases in the average custodial sentence length and increased use of indeterminate sentences.
- Increase in numbers recalled to prison following breaches of the conditions of licence and these offenders spending longer in prison once recalled.

The rise in the prison population slowed considerably from the summer of 2008 with an average annual increase of 1 per cent (Figure 1.1), until the public disorder seen in UK cities from 6 to 9 August 2011 which had an immediate impact on the prison population.

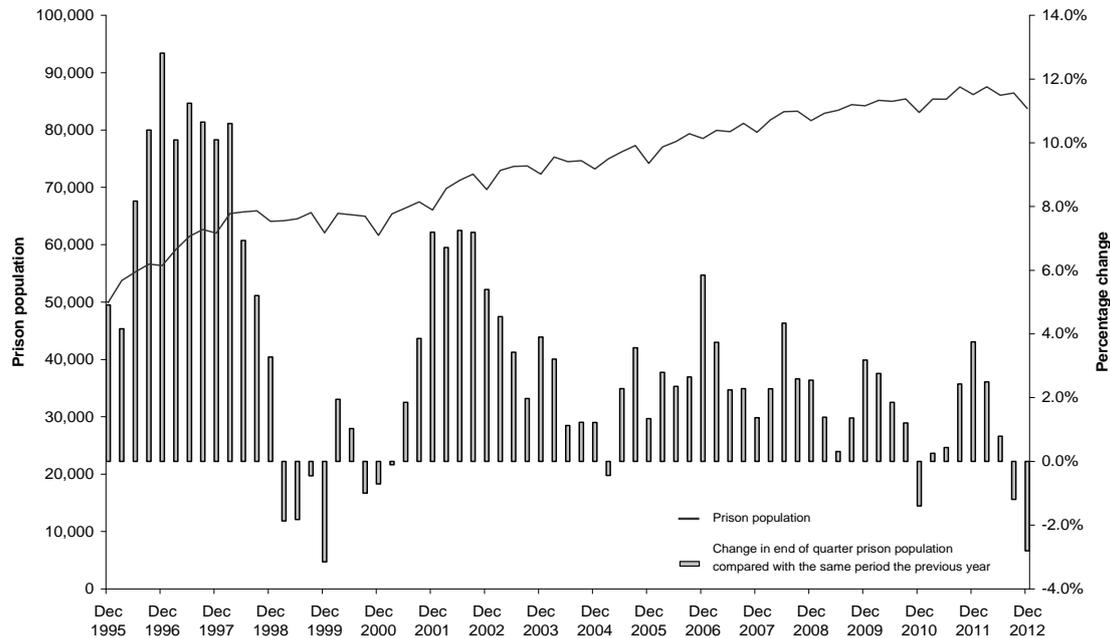
The flatter trend prior to the disorder partly reflected the introduction of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act (CJIA) 2008, which changed sentencing and offender management in ways which helped to reduce growth in the prison population. For more information, see [CJIA 2008](#).

Other factors, over and above the direct impact of the 2011 public disorder, contributed to an increased prison population for a temporary period which now appears to be over. The falling remand population, and continued decline in the number of under 18s in custody during 2012, mean that the prison population is now tracking the low projection<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Prison population projections 2012-2018 available at:  
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/prisons-and-probation/prison-population-projections-ns>

**Figure 1.1: Quarterly prison population and annual percentage change, England and Wales, December 1995 to December 2012**



The prison population at 31 December 2012 was 83,757, a decrease of 2,415 (3 per cent) compared to 31 December 2011 when the total population was 86,172.

At 31 December 2012, there were:

- 79,837 males in prison - a fall of 3 per cent over the year
- 3,920 females in prison - a fall of 3 per cent over the year

The overall decrease in the total prison population over the last year (31 December 2011 to 31 December 2012) comprised decreases in the remand and the sentenced young offender (under 21s) segments of the prison population:

- The remand population fell by 1,513, or 12 per cent, between December 2011 and December 2012 (from 12,174 to 10,661). This comprised a 12 per cent decrease in the untried population to 7,328 and a 14 per cent fall in the convicted unsentenced population to 3,333. Around 100-200 of this fall can be explained by a fall in the number on remand for offences related to the public disorder of 6-9 August 2011, as offenders have been processed through the courts and sentenced. More generally the falling remand population is in line with the falling number of people entering prison on remand (see receptions section), and includes some impact of LASPO measures restricting the use of remand which were introduced in December 2012.

- The sentenced population fell by 1,025, or 1 per cent, from 72,880 in December 2011 to 71,855 in December 2012. This fall was solely due to falling numbers of 15-17s and 18-20s (down 29 and 14 per cent respectively), while the adult (aged 21+) sentenced population saw no change.
- Within the adult sentenced population, the numbers serving longer determinate sentences of 4 years or more continued to rise (up 5 per cent from 23,361 to 24,462), while those serving shorter sentences fell.
- The number of prisoners serving indeterminate sentences (either a life sentence or an Indeterminate Sentence for Public Protection – an IPP) fell by two per cent to 13,577. The rate of year-on-year growth in indeterminate sentences had slowed considerably following the changes introduced in the CJIA 2008 which restricted the use of IPPs, and the IPP population is now starting to fall, reflecting the fact that an increasing number of IPP prisoners have been released over time (see discharges section)
- Within the indeterminate sentenced population, 44 per cent were serving an IPP (5,920) while 56 per cent were serving life sentences (7,657). Among those serving IPPs, most had a tariff length of 6 years or less (1,139 had a tariff length of less than 2 years, 2,706 had a tariff length of 2 to 4 years, 1,255 a tariff of 4 to 6 years). A total of 3,538 (60 per cent) IPP prisoners had passed their tariff expiry date. For those serving life sentences, 2,264 had a tariff length of less than 10 years and a further 4,106 had a tariff length of 10 to 20 years and 1,039 had a tariff length of greater than 20 years. There were 43 offenders serving a whole life sentence as at 31 December 2012.
- The number of non-criminals in prison rose by 123, or 11 per cent, to 1,241 at 31 December 2012.

The foreign national prisoner population was 10,592 as at 31 December 2012, accounting for 13 per cent of the prison population (the same proportion as in recent quarters). This figure includes Immigration Removal Centres (IRC's). When looking at the population excluding IRC's, 12 per cent were foreign national prisoners.

An increasing proportion of sentenced prisoners are serving sentences for the most serious offences. As at 31 December 2012, 28 per cent of the sentenced population had committed violence against the person offences, an increase from 21 per cent in 2000. Similarly, the proportion serving sentences for sexual offences increased from 10 per cent in 2000 to 15 per cent in December 2012. In contrast, the number serving sentences for motoring offences has fallen steadily over time comprising 1 per cent of the sentenced population compared with 4 per cent in 2000 and the proportion serving sentences for burglary has fallen from 17 per cent in 2000 to 10 per cent as at 31 December 2012.

## **Prison receptions**

In the quarter ending September 2012, there were 28,776 first receptions into prison, a fall of 11 per cent compared to the same period in the previous year. Within this group, male first receptions were down 11 per cent and female first receptions were down 4 per cent. These decreases are driven by the falling number of remand first receptions.

The number of untried receptions – those remanded in custody awaiting trial – fell from 15,041 in the quarter ending September 2011 to 13,040 in the quarter ending September 2012, a fall of 13 per cent. The decrease was seen for both males and females – down 14 per cent and 9 per cent respectively.

The number of convicted unsentenced receptions – those remanded in custody awaiting sentence – also fell by 10 per cent overall in the quarter ending September 2012 compared to the same period in the previous year. Again, the trend was seen for both males (down 9 per cent from 9,649 to 8,805) and females (down 22 per cent, from 766 to 600).

There was a 6 per cent fall in the number of prisoners received under sentence in the quarter ending September 2012 (21,765) compared to the quarter ending September 2011 (23,072). This comprised a 6 per cent fall in male sentenced receptions and a 1 per cent fall in female sentenced receptions.

Mirroring the trend seen in the prison population, receptions of longer determinate sentences of 4 years or more rose (up 6 per cent from 2,056 to 2,184), while receptions of shorter sentences fell.

## **Prison discharges**

In the quarter ending September 2012, a total of 20,989 offenders were discharged from determinate sentences, a fall of 3 per cent from the quarter ending September 2011. This decrease was driven by a 3 per cent fall in male discharges, while female discharges remained unchanged.

This decrease was seen across all determinate sentence length bands except the greater than 6 months to less than 12 months group which rose by 3 per cent. The largest decrease was among the 4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences) group (down 8 per cent), with those discharged from less than or equal to 6 months down 4 per cent and those discharged from 12 months to less than 4 years down 2 per cent.

As well as those discharged from determinate sentences, a further 108 offenders were discharged from an Indeterminate sentence for Public Protection (IPP) and 62 from a life sentence, up from 81 and 53 the previous year. Additionally, in the quarter ending September 2012, 51 indeterminate sentenced prisoners were removed under the Tariff Expired Removal Scheme (TERS) - this scheme allows indeterminate sentenced foreign national prisoners, who are liable to removal from the UK, to be removed from prison and the country upon or any date after the expiry of their tariff without reference to the Parole Board.

Those discharged from determinate sentences in the quarter ending September 2012 had, on average, served 52 per cent of their sentence in custody (including time on remand). On average, males served a greater proportion of their sentence in custody – 53 per cent compared to 49 per cent for females in the quarter ending September 2012. This gender difference is consistent over time, and partly reflects the higher proportion of females who are released on Home Detention Curfew (HDC – under which certain offenders can be released on an electronically monitored curfew up to 135 days before the halfway point of their sentence when they would otherwise be released).

A total of 3,159 prisoners were released on HDC in the quarter ending September 2012, a 2 per cent decrease from the quarter ending September 2011. Prisoners released on HDC in the quarter ending September 2012 spent an average of 3 months on HDC, a slight rise from 2.8 months in the quarter ending September 2011.

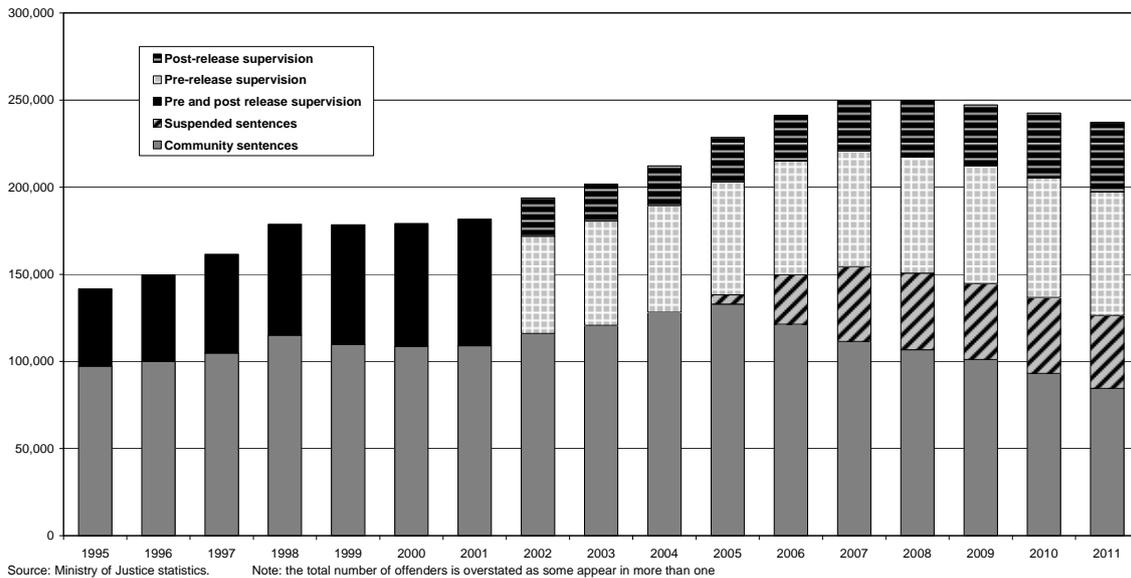
## **Probation**

The annual total probation caseload (court orders and pre and post release supervision) increased by 39 per cent between 2000 and 2008 to 243,434, before falling slightly to 234,528 in 2011. The rise between 2000 and 2008 was driven by:

- Introduction of new court orders, in particular the Suspended Sentence Order (SSO) in 2005 (under the Criminal Justice Act 2003).
- Increase in pre and post-release supervision caseload due to:
  - continued growth in the number of offenders serving custodial sentences of 12 months or more who require supervision on release from custody,
  - offenders spending longer periods on licence after release from custody under CJA 2003.

The number being supervised at the end of 2011 (the caseload) continued the decrease seen in each of the previous three years; community orders fell by 8 per cent and SSOs by 4 per cent compared to 2010. As at the end of September 2012, the total caseload fell again slightly to 227,339 a fall of 3 per cent on September 2011.

**Figure 1.3: Number of offenders under Probation Service supervision (at end December), 1995-2011**



Looking at the latest quarter, the court order caseload continued to decrease reaching 116,893 at 30 September 2012, with the community order caseload down 9 per cent and the SSO caseload down 7 per cent from 30 September 2011. The number of offenders starting court orders also decreased over this period, which was driven largely by the fall in starts of community orders, which fell by 11 per cent between the quarter ending September 2011 and the quarter ending September 2012. SSO starts fell by 7 per cent over this period.

The caseload of offenders supervised before or after release from prison increased by 3 per cent between the quarter ending September 2011 and quarter ending September 2012, including a 6 per cent increase in the number supervised post release.

The number of requirements started under court orders fell between the quarter ending September 2011 and the quarter ending September 2012, in line with the fall in the number of court order starts – those requirements started under community orders and SSOs fell by 12 per cent (from 54,617 to 47,928) and 8 per cent (from 23,149 to 21,379) respectively. Much of this decrease was driven by falls in the number of accredited programme and curfew requirements given under both community orders and SSOs. In contrast, specified activity and alcohol treatment requirements remained popular – in fact, the number given as part of a Suspended Sentence Order, as well as drug treatment requirements, increased over the same period. The types of Specified Activities which the court may direct the offender to undertake include those in the areas of education, training and victim reparation.

Of the 29,784 community orders terminated in the quarter ending September 2012, 66 per cent had run their full course or were terminated early for good progress, the same as in the quarter ending September 2011. Sixty-nine per cent of SSOs had run their full course or were terminated early for good progress in the quarter ending September 2012, a slight increase from the previous equivalent quarter (68 per cent).

### Court reports

In the quarter ending September 2012, a total of 47,874 pre-sentence court reports (PSRs) were prepared - 9 per cent down on the quarter ending September 2011. The decrease was mainly due to a 25 per cent fall in the number of Standard PSRs, whilst the use of Fast delivery oral PSRs continues to rise (up 4 per cent over the period). In contrast, the number of fast delivery written reports fell by 2 per cent.

In general, courts follow the sentences proposed in PSRs, particularly where an immediate custodial sentence has been recommended - 90 per cent of such proposed sentences in PSRs resulted in immediate custody.

From April 2012, there was a change to the PSR data collection process which affects the latest two quarters of data presented in this bulletin (April-June 2012 and July-September 2012). Under the new process, the data are collected 2 months later than previously, allowing Probation Trusts additional time to ensure that all reports have been recorded on their case management systems. Figures collected under the new process for April-June 2012 are therefore higher than those previously collected and reported.

Appendix A of this bulletin explains the change to the data collection process in more detail, and quantifies the impact of the change on the figures, including an estimate of the potential under-reporting for those quarters prior to April 2012. Additional data quality work highlighted significant quality and coverage issues with previously published data on court reports for court reviews, breaches and deferred sentences. These have now been excluded from all summary tables – see Appendix A for more details.

## **Licence recalls**

Offenders serving a sentence of twelve months and over are released from prison, in most cases automatically at the half way point of their sentence, under licensed supervision to the Probation Service. They are all subject to a set of standard licence conditions, requiring them to report regularly to the Probation Service, live at an address approved by the Probation Service and to be of good behaviour.

A key element of public protection is that offenders released on licence should be effectively supervised in the community and swiftly recalled to custody if their

behaviour gives cause for concern. It is explained to offenders at the outset that they may be recalled to custody if they breach any of the conditions of their licence.

There are various reasons why offenders are recalled to custody for breaching their licence conditions besides committing a further offence. For example, an offender may be recalled if there is any deterioration in behaviour which leads the Probation Service to conclude that there is an increased risk of the offender committing further offences.

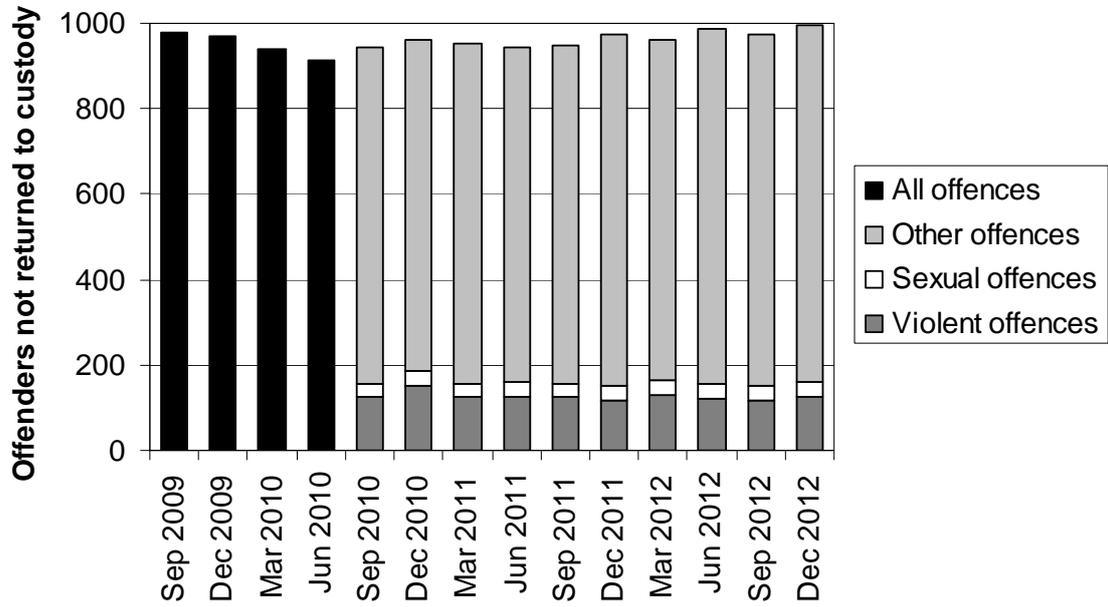
Over the period 1999 to September 2012, a total of 600,000 offenders were released from prison on licence supervision. Between April 1999 and September 2012, 147,000 of those released on licence were recalled to custody for breaching the conditions of their licence, e.g. failing to report to their probation officer. Of all those recalled to custody, only 994 had not been returned to custody by the end of December 2012. This total may include some offenders believed to be dead or living outside of the UK but who have not been confirmed as dead or deported.

Of the 994 not returned to custody by 31 December 2012, 127 had originally been serving a prison sentence for violence against the person offences and a further 34 for sexual offences.

During the quarter ending September 2012, a total of 4,222 offenders had their licence revoked and were recalled. By 31 December 2012, 4,131 of these recalled offenders had been returned to custody and 91 had not been returned to custody.

The end-to-end measure across all agencies involved in the process is for 75 per cent of recalled offenders to be returned to custody within 74 hours for emergency recalls and 144 hours for standard recalls. In the quarter ending 30 September 2012, 3,927 (80 per cent) were returned within agreed timescales.

**Figure 1.5: Number of offenders not returned to custody by quarter, by major offence group**



Source: Ministry of Justice (1) Offence categories changed from Sep 2010 so not shown for earlier  
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## References

This publication and associated spreadsheet files of the tables contained in this document and detailed information of definitions, sources and key legislative changes are available for download at

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/prisons-and-probation/oms-quarterly>

Bulletins from earlier related series are available at

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/index.htm>

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**Table 5.10** Performance against timescales for licence recalls returned to custody by 31 December 2012 by agency, by Local Criminal Justice Board, July-Sept 2012, England and Wales

## **Appendix A – Data sources and quality**

The data presented in this publication are drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. While the figures shown have been checked as far as practicable, they should be regarded as approximate and not necessarily accurate to the last whole number shown in the tables. Where figures in the tables have been rounded to the nearest whole number, the rounded components do not always add to the totals, which are calculated and rounded independently.

### **Impact of data quality issues: receptions data**

Following the introduction and phased roll-out of a new case management system for prisons (prison-NOMIS) from May 2009, data collection issues emerged that affected the supply of data for statistical purposes. The vast majority of issues were resolved in March 2010; however, prison receptions data remains provisional subject to the outcome of data quality work.

Analysis of the receptions data in early 2010 identified a problem with the way reception dates were being handled in the data extract used centrally (operations within prisons were unaffected). In terms of producing the statistics, this potentially affected the period for which a given reception was counted, for example Q3 2010 versus Q4 2010.

Although the data remains provisional pending a full solution – we are working to develop a new data extract to provide these statistics in future – further analysis has shown that the issues predominantly affected 2010, with data from 2011 onwards impacted less.

While the data may not be accurate to the last digit, it is considered robust enough for analysis of broad trends; both over time, and between different types of reception.

### **Pre-sentence court reports (PSR) data**

Evidence provided by Probation Trusts suggested that published statistics on the number of PSRs prepared by each trust were lower than those statistics produced by their internal case management systems.

The PSR data collection process in place until 31 March 2012 entailed each trust providing monthly data on the number of reports prepared that month, with the data extracted on or just after the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month, e.g. data for July collected on 15<sup>th</sup> August. On investigation it emerged that many trusts, particularly those in large metropolitan areas, enter some PSRs onto case

management systems after this date due to data collection practicalities. To address this issue, trusts were asked to submit each monthly return two months later than previously to allow time for additional reports to be recorded, and the impact on the statistics was assessed.

This new extended data collection process has been introduced for data from April 2012, and we estimate that the statistics now capture between 1 and 3 per cent more PSRs per quarter as reported within Tables 4.12 and 4.13.

Subsequent data quality work has shown that the introduction of a longer time lag between the date a PSR is prepared and when data is extracted from case management systems, i.e. more than two months, would capture more court report data (over and above the additional 1 to 3 per cent now included in the two most recent quarters). However, these further increases were mostly seen in the number of court reports prepared for breaches, court reviews and deferred sentences (see below). For standard and fast delivery pre-sentence reports, a two month time lag captures the vast majority of data and there are diminishing returns in extending the data collection period any further.

During the data quality work described above, it emerged that previously published data for court reviews, PSR breach reports and deferred sentences was incomplete in terms of coverage across all trusts and that there were inconsistencies between trusts in the coverage and content of the data extracted from their case management systems. This data has therefore been removed from Table 4.12 for all quarters – the estimated impact on the total number of reports written is a reduction of around 4,500 reports per quarter.

It is hoped that with the introduction and phased rollout of a national management information system for all Probation trusts (nDelius), more accurate and complete data can be produced on PSR breach reports in future. This will be kept under review.

### **Indeterminate sentences for public protection**

Information relating to tariffs for IPP and DPP prisoners and those serving life sentences is held by the Offender Management and Public Protection Group, NOMS, in the Public Protection Unit Database (PPUD).

### **Licence recalls and returns to custody**

**Returned to custody** – the figures for those returned to custody include people who have died or been deported by the UK Borders Agency as prior to 2007 this information was not collected separately. The information held centrally records whether or not recalled offenders are still wanted for return to custody but for those offenders no longer wanted for return to custody, information is not held on whether the recall was completed by actual return to custody or because the offender died or was deported.

**Not returned to custody** – this includes those offenders believed to be dead or living outside of the UK but who have not been confirmed as dead or deported.

### **Symbols used**

..	not available
0	Nil or less than half the final digit shown
-	not applicable
*	One or both of the comparison figures are less than 50
(p)	Provisional data
(r)	Revised data

### **Revisions policy**

Figures for prison receptions and discharges for each of the first three quarters of the calendar year are generally revised alongside figures for quarter 4 in the October to December publication each year. Prison population, probation and licence recall figures are not routinely revised, but are corrected if an error is identified.

Any revisions will be accompanied by an explanation for the revision and its impact, along with – where appropriate - an assessment of whether the impact is in line with previous revisions (for example when updating from provisional to final prison discharges data).

## Contact points

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General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Ministry of Justice publishes data relating to offender management in England and Wales. Equivalent statistics for Scotland and Northern Ireland can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice>

<http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications.htm>

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