

# **Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin**

April to June 2011, England and Wales

Ministry of Justice  
Statistics bulletin

27 October 2011



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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 2011 are provided with comparisons to 2010, as well as reference to longer term trends.

The contents of the report will be of interest to 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 and probation caseload.

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

	30 September 2011	Percentage change 30 September 2010 to 30 September 2011
<b>Prison population</b>	<b>87,501</b>	<b>2% ↑</b>
<b>Remand</b>	<b>13,550</b>	<b>7% ↑</b>
Untried	9,089	8% ↑
Convicted unsentenced	4,461	4% ↑
<b>Under sentence</b>	<b>72,777</b>	<b>1% ↑</b>
Fine Defaulters	140	9% ↑
Less than or equal to 6 months	5,606	1% ↑
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,499	-3% ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	20,629	0% →
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	24,445	2% ↑
Indeterminate sentences	13,727	3% ↑
Recalls	5,731	1% ↑
<b>Non criminal</b>	<b>1,174</b>	<b>20% ↑</b>

	April - June 2011	Percentage change April - June 2010 to 2011
<b>Prison receptions</b>		
<b>First receptions</b>	<b>29,048</b>	<b>-2% ↓</b>
<b>Remand - untried</b>	<b>13,382</b>	<b>-4% ↓</b>
<b>Remand - convicted unsentenced</b>	<b>9,562</b>	<b>0% →</b>
<b>Under sentence</b>	<b>21,467</b>	<b>-3% ↓</b>
Fine Defaulters	238	-24% ↓
Less than or equal to 6 months	10,747	-2% ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,076	-6% ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	6,321	-4% ↓
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	1,913	-1% ↓
Indeterminate sentences	172	-20% ↓

<b>Prison discharges</b>		
<b>Determinate sentences</b>	<b>21,531</b>	<b>-3% ↓</b>
Less than or equal to 6 months	9,188	-7% ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,172	2% ↑
12 months to less than 4 years	7,732	-2% ↓
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	2,439	6% ↑
<b>Indeterminate sentences</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>* ..</b>
Indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP)	62	* ..
Life sentence	59	* ..

**Average percentage of time served<sup>(1)</sup>**

<b>Determinate sentences</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>-2 pp ↓</b>
Less than or equal to 6 months	55%	1 pp ↑
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	48%	-1 pp ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	51%	-5 pp ↓
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	59%	-1 pp ↓

<b>Probation starts</b>		
<b>All court orders</b>	<b>42,567</b>	<b>-6 ↓</b>
<b>All community sentences</b>	<b>30,771</b>	<b>-8 ↓</b>
Community order	30,658	-7 ↓
All pre CJA orders	115	-81 ↓
<b>Other sentences</b>	<b>11,943</b>	<b>0 →</b>
Deferred sentence	147	3 ↑
Suspended sentence order	11,796	0 →
<b>Pre and post release supervision</b>	<b>11,412</b>	<b>0 →</b>

	30 June 2011	Percentage change June 2010 to June 2011
<b>Persons supervised by the Probation Service</b>	<b>234,140</b>	<b>-2 ↓</b>
<b>All court orders</b>	<b>128,342</b>	<b>-6 ↓</b>
<b>All community sentences</b>	<b>88,585</b>	<b>-8 ↓</b>
Community order	87,812	-7 ↓
All pre CJA orders	824	-69 ↓
<b>Other sentences</b>	<b>42,994</b>	<b>-1 ↓</b>
Deferred sentence	77	-25 ↓
Suspended sentence order	42,931	-1 ↓
<b>All pre and post release supervision</b>	<b>107,099</b>	<b>3 ↑</b>
Pre release supervision	69,191	1 ↑
Post release supervision	38,325	8 ↑

April - June 2011	
<b>Licence recalls</b>	
<b>Recalled in latest quarter</b>	<b>4,036</b>
Not returned to custody by 30 September 2011	96
<b>Total not returned to custody by 30 September 2011</b>	<b>950</b>

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

# Prison population

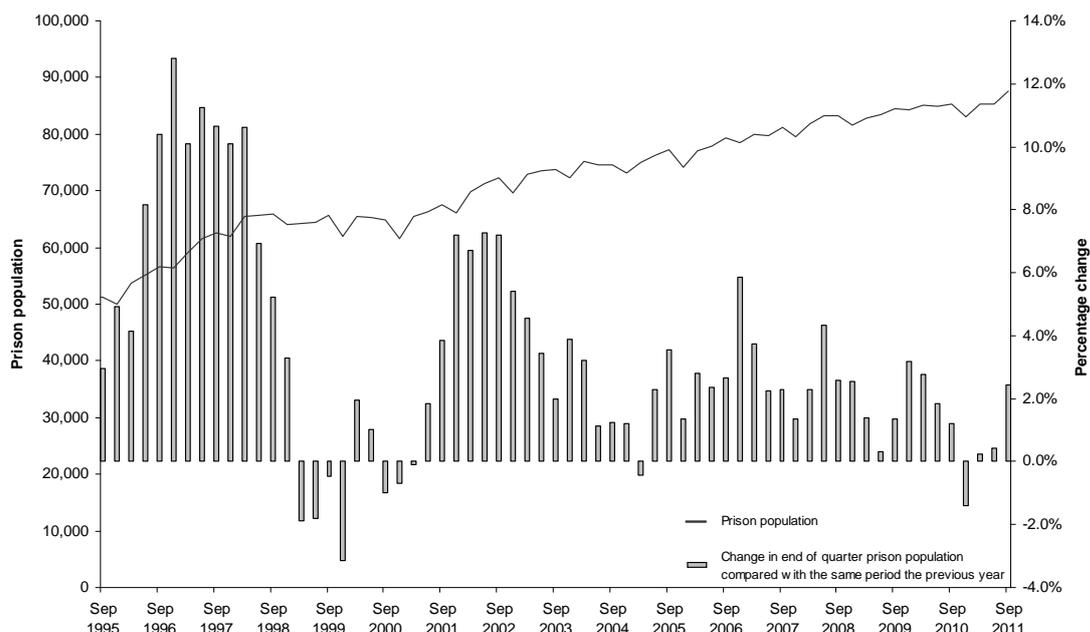
The prison population grew rapidly between 1993 to 2008 – an average of 4 per cent a year. This rapid rise was driven by:

- Increased numbers of people sentenced to immediate custody from 1999 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](#). Additionally the remand population had been falling, partly because of the increased use of fast delivery pre-sentence reports.

**Figure 1.1: Quarterly prison population and annual percentage change, England and Wales, September 1995 to September 2011**



The prison population at 30 September 2011 was 87,501, an increase of 2,072 (2 per cent) compared to 30 September 2010 when the total population was 85,429.

This increase includes the impact of the public disorder in UK cities from 6 to 9 August 2011. As at 30 September 2011, there were 846 individuals in prison for offences relating to the disorder.

At 30 September 2011, there were:

- 83,245 males in prison - a rise of 3 per cent over the year
- 4,256 females in prison - a fall of 1 per cent over the year

The overall increase in the total prison population over the last year (30 September 2010 to 30 September 2011) included increases in all segments of the prison population:

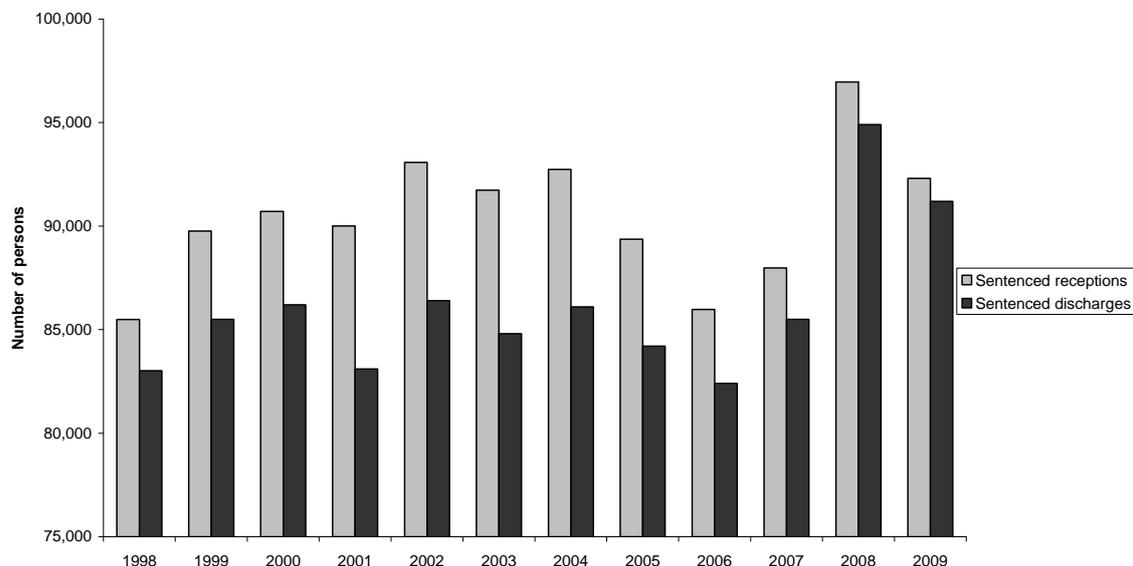
- The remand population rose by 844, or 7 per cent, between September 2010 and September 2011 from 12,706 to 13,550. This comprised an 8 per cent increase in the untried population to 9,089 and a 4 per cent rise in the convicted unsentenced population to 4,461. Much of this increase is due to the public disorder, as many of those charged with offences relating to the disorder were remanded in custody at initial court hearing awaiting either trial or sentencing. Within the total remand population, large increases were seen in the numbers on remand for burglary and theft and handling offences (up 24 and 34 per cent respectively), which can be largely attributed to the public disorder.
- The sentenced population rose by 1,033, or 1 per cent, from 71,744 in September 2010 to 72,777 in September 2011. Within the overall rise of 1 per cent, there were increases in those serving the shortest sentences (of less than or equal to six months) and the longest sentences (4 years or more, including indeterminates). While the numbers serving sentences of greater than six months to less than 4 years fell over the same period – this may reflect the increased use of Home Detention Curfew (see section on prison discharges for more information on HDC releases).
- The number of prisoners serving longer sentences continued to rise, with a 2 per cent increase in the number serving determinate sentences of 4 years or more.
- The number of prisoners serving indeterminate sentences (either a life sentence or an Indeterminate sentence for Public Protection – an IPP) rose 3 per cent to reach 13,727. Although the indeterminate sentenced population has continued to increase, the rate of year-on-year growth has slowed considerably following the changes introduced in the CJA 2008 which restricted the use of IPPs.
- The number of non-criminals in prison rose by 20 per cent to 1,174 in September 2011. Non-criminal prisoners are largely immigration detainees,

The foreign national prisoner population was 11,076 as at 30 September 2011, accounting for 13 per cent of the prison population (the same proportion as in recent quarters). This figure includes IRC's. When looking at the population excluding IRC's, 12% were foreign national prisoners.

An increasing proportion of sentenced prisoners are serving sentences for the most serious offences. As at 30 September 2011, 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 14 per cent in September 2011. Whereas, over the same period, there were falls in the proportions serving sentences for burglary, theft and handling and motoring offences.

Changes in the size of the prison population are affected by changes in the number and type of receptions and of those who are discharged. Figure 1.2 below compares determinate sentenced receptions with determinate sentenced discharges between 1998 and 2009, illustrating the difference between sentenced receptions and discharges, which began to narrow in 2005 when growth in the determinate sentenced population also began to slow.

**Figure 1.2: Annual determinate sentenced receptions and determinate sentenced discharges, England and Wales 1998 to 2009**



<sup>1</sup>Excludes discharges following recall after release on licence, non-crime, persons committed to custody for non-payment of a fine, those becoming time served and deported prisoners. Data prior to 1998 is unavailable

## **Prison receptions**

First receptions are an indication of the number of individuals received into prison in a given year or quarter. In the quarter ending June 2011 there were 29,048 first receptions into prison, 2 per cent lower than in the quarter ending June 2010 (when there were 29,676 first receptions), with decreases for both males and females (down 2 per cent and 8 per cent respectively). This decrease may partly reflect the extra bank holiday in the quarter ending June 2011 compared to quarter ending June 2010.

The number of prisoners received under sentence fell to 21,467 in the quarter ending June 2011, 3 per cent lower than in the quarter ending June 2010. This decrease was seen for both males (down 3 per cent) and females (down 8 per cent).

## **Prison discharges**

In the quarter ending June 2011, a total of 21,531 offenders were discharged from determinate sentences, down 3 per cent from the quarter ending June 2010. Within this total there were decreases for both males (down 3 per cent) and females (down 7 per cent). A further 62 offenders were discharged from an indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP) and 59 from a life sentence.

Within the overall 3 per cent decrease in numbers discharged from determinate sentences, there was a fall in the number discharged from the shortest sentences (less than or equal to 6 months) and a rise in the number discharged from long sentences (4 years or more, excluding indeterminate sentences). The number discharged from sentences of less than or equal to 6 months fell by 7 per cent while the number discharged from determinate sentences of 4 years or more rose by 6 per cent. Over the same period there were smaller changes in other sentence lengths – the number discharged from sentences of greater than 6 months to less than 12 months rose 2 per cent while the number discharged from sentences of 12 months to less than 4 years fell 2 per cent.

Those discharged from determinate sentences in the quarter ending June 2011 had served 55 per cent of their sentence in custody (including time on remand). On average males serve a greater proportion of their sentence in custody – 55 per cent compared to 50 per cent for females in the quarter ending June 2011. 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 electronically monitored curfew

up to 135 days before the halfway point of their sentence when they would otherwise be released).

A total of 3,248 prisoners were released on HDC in the quarter ending June 2011, 8 per cent higher than in the quarter ending June 2010.

Prisoners released on HDC in the quarter ending June 2011 spent an average of 2.8 months on HDC, up 7 per cent from the quarter ending June 2010.

The increased use of HDC, in terms of both the number of releases and the average time on HDC, is at least partly due to the Supreme Court judgement in the case of *Noone* which ruled that HDC eligibility periods had been incorrectly calculated for some prisoners (depending on the exact mix of custodial sentences being served) and led to an instruction to prisons in August 2010 to recalculate HDC eligibility dates for affected prisoners.

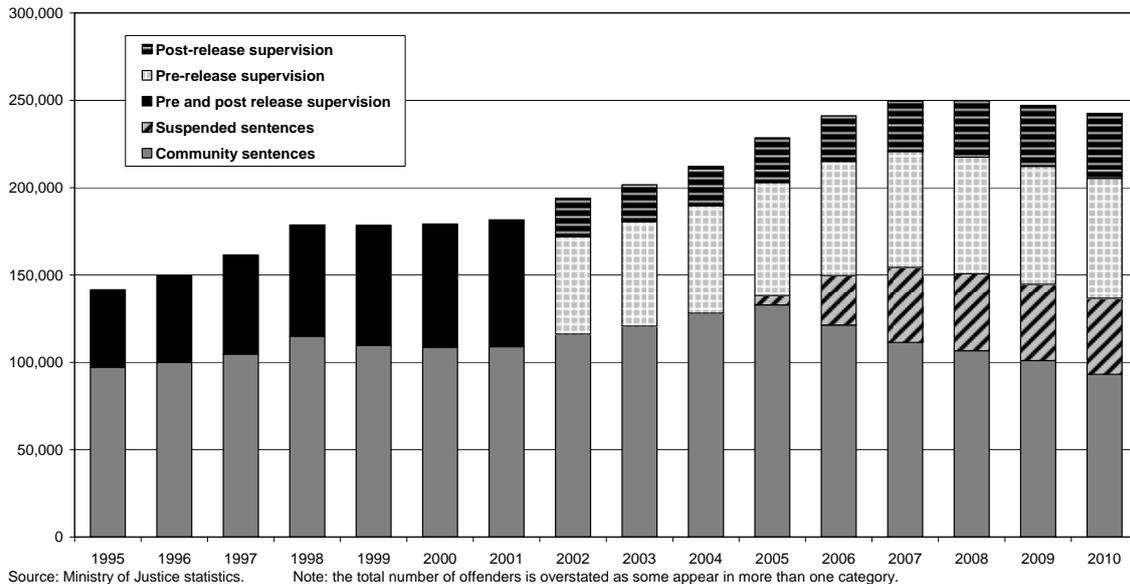
## **Probation**

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. Since then the probation caseload has fallen slightly to 237,507. 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 2010 (the caseload) continued the decrease seen in each of the previous two years; community orders fell by 6 per cent but SSOs remained virtually unchanged.

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



Looking at quarter on quarter changes, the court order caseload continued to decrease between the quarters ending June 2010 and June 2011, with the community order caseload down 7 per cent and the SSO caseload down 1 per cent. The number of offenders starting court orders also continued to decrease over this period, which was driven by the continuing fall in number of starts of pre CJA orders, and starts of community orders, which fell by 7 per cent between the quarter ending June 2010 and quarter ending June 2011. SSO starts showed little change over this period.

The caseload of offenders supervised before or after release from prison increased by 3 per cent between the quarter ending June 2010 and quarter ending June 2011, including an 8 per cent increase in the number supervised post release. Starts of pre or post release supervision showed little change.

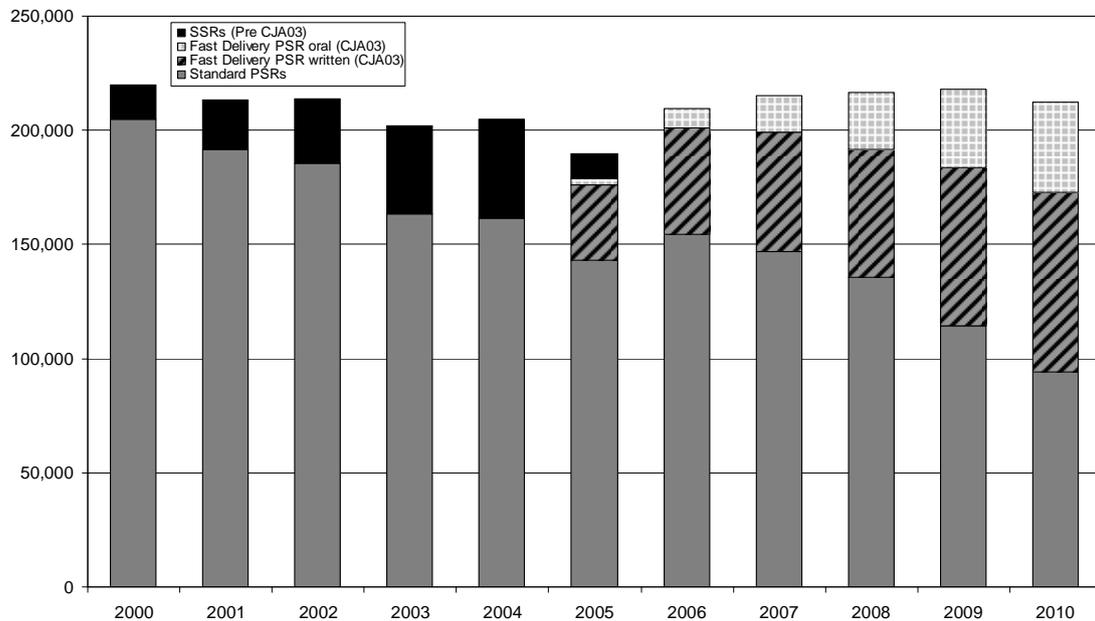
Of the 31,122 community orders terminated in the quarter ending June 2011, 67 per cent had run their full course or were terminated early for good progress, a slight increase from the previous quarter ending June 2010 (66 per cent). Sixty-seven per cent of SSOs had run their full course or were terminated early for good progress in the quarter ending June 2011, no change from the previous equivalent quarter.

### Court reports

In the longer term, the total number of court reports prepared in 2010 (212,484) fell by 2 per cent on the previous year to the lowest level since 2006. Compared to 2009, Standard pre-sentence reports (PSRs) fell by 18 per cent, whilst Fast Delivery PSRs rose by 14 per cent. Fast Delivery reports exceeded the number

of Standard PSRs for the first time in 2010 (comprising 56 per cent of the combined PSR total).

**Figure 1.4: Numbers of different types of court reports prepared by the Probation Service, 2000-2010**



A total of 53,130 court reports were prepared in the quarter ending June 2011, 4 per cent down on the quarter ending June 2010. The decrease was due to a 17 per cent fall in the number of Standard PSRs, while Fast delivery PSRs (both written and oral) continued to rise, by 7 per cent.

## Licence recalls

Of all offenders recalled to custody before 1 July 2011, 950 had not been returned to custody by 30<sup>th</sup> September. Of these, 124 had originally been serving a prison sentence for violence against the person offences and a further 34 for sexual offences.

During the quarter ending June 2011, a total of 4,036 offenders had their licence revoked and were recalled. By 30 September 2011, 3,940 of these recalled offenders had been returned to custody and 96 had not been returned to custody. A further 854 offenders who were recalled prior to 1 April 2011 had not been returned to custody by 30 September 2011.

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 June 2011, 3,149 (78 per cent) were returned within agreed timescales.

## 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

[www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/oms-quarterly.htm](http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/oms-quarterly.htm)

Bulletins from earlier related series are available at

[www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/index.htm](http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/index.htm)

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## **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.

### **Prison data – impact of data collection issues affecting the quarters July-September 2009, October-December 2009 and January-March 2010**

In May 2009, the National Offender Management Service began the roll-out of a new case management system for prisons (Prison-NOMIS). During the phased roll-out, data collection issues emerged that affected the supply of data for statistical purposes from July 2009 to February 2010. Specifically, statistical information on sentence length and offence group is not available on any of our prison datasets for this period. The problems were successfully resolved in March 2010.

As a consequence, there are no breakdowns by sentence length or offence group for the third and fourth quarter of 2009 in any of the prison population, receptions or discharges tables.

In order to ensure the fullest possible set of data for 2010, sentence lengths have been estimated for those prisoners received or discharged before the problems were resolved. A small number of prison establishments are still using the old LIDS case management system; data for prisoners received or discharged from these prisons has been assumed to be unaffected.

For those prisoners received or discharged from prisons operating Prison-NOMIS, efforts were made to populate their record with the correct sentence length using other data extracts. For example, many prisoners discharged in January 2010 were originally received into prison prior to July 2009, so we were able to take their sentence length from unaffected datasets before the problems began. Similarly, the majority of those received in early 2010 were still in prison in March 2010 when the problems were resolved, so we were able to use the sentence length in the corrected prison population data.

Where it was not possible to populate a sentence length using other datasets, prisoners were allocated a sentence length band based on the number of days they spent in custody (taking account of early release schemes where relevant).

Offence groups have not been estimated for the first quarter of 2010, so prison receptions tables do not include this breakdown. Additionally, the number of Home Detention Curfew releases by sentence length band, and the average time served for those discharged from determinate sentences, have not been estimated so figures are not available for January – March 2010.

### **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 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.

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