



Offender Management Statistics Bulletin, England and Wales

Quarterly – October to December 2013
Annual – January to December 2013

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

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Introduction

This publication provides key statistics relating to offenders who are in prison or under Probation Service supervision in England and Wales. It covers flows into these services (receptions into prison or probation starts) and flows out (releases from prison or probation terminations) as well as the caseload of both services at specific points in time.

Latest figures for the quarter October to December 2013 are provided and compared to the same period in 2012 for each topic with reference to longer term trends (2013 annual tables are provided alongside the quarterly publication). This is with the exception of the prison population where more recent data are available (31 March 2014).

This bulletin is published alongside two 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 June 2012.
- **Safety in Custody Statistics Quarterly update to December 2013 and 2013 annual tables:** provides statistics on death, self harm and assault incidents whilst in prison custody.

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

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated the statistics in this publication as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics, it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

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

	31 March 2014	Percentage change 31 March 2013 to 31 March 2014
Prison population	85,265	2% ↑
Remand	11,800	10% ↑
Untried	8,262	12% ↑
Convicted unsentenced	3,538	5% ↑
Sentenced	71,683	0% →
Fine Defaulters	127	-13% ↓
Less than or equal to 6 months	4,567	-1% ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,296	-4% ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	19,823	-1% ↓
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	27,054	4% ↑
Indeterminate sentences	12,625	-6% ↓
Recalls	5,191	1% ↑
Non criminal	1,782	31% ↑

	October - December 2013	Percentage change October - December 2012 to 2013
Prison receptions		
First receptions	25,895	-1% ↓
Remand - untried	12,197	3% ↑
Remand - convicted unsentenced	8,462	-5% ↓
Sentenced	20,229	-4% ↓
Fine Defaulters	179	-13% ↓
Less than or equal to 6 months	9,041	-6% ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,160	-3% ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	6,401	-4% ↓
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	2,353	5% ↑
Indeterminate sentences	95	-44% ↓
Prison releases		
Determinate sentences	19,179	-10% ↓
Less than or equal to 6 months	8,379	-10% ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,027	-7% ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	6,441	-11% ↓
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	2,332	-8% ↓
Indeterminate sentences	175	-9% ↓
Indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP)	97	-17% ↓
Life sentence	78	3% ↑
Average percentage of time served⁽¹⁾		
Determinate sentences	51%	-1 pp ↓
Less than or equal to 6 months	53%	-2 pp ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	46%	-1 pp ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	47%	0 pp →
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	54%	-1 pp ↓
Probation starts		
All court orders	38,639	0% →
All community sentences	26,062	-6% ↓
Community order	25,623	-6% ↓
Other sentences	12,752	14% ↑
Suspended sentence order with requirements	11,012	1% ↑
Pre release supervision	10,258	-9% ↓

	31 December 2013	Percentage change 31 December 2012 to 31 December 2013
Persons supervised by the Probation Service		
All court orders	110,950	-3% ↓
All community sentences	75,179	-4% ↓
Community order	73,567	-3% ↓
All pre CJA orders	92	-61% ↓
Youth rehabilitation order	1,602	-15% ↓
Other sentences	38,343	0% →
Deferred sentence	144	103% ↑
Suspended sentence order	38,227	-1% ↓
All pre and post release supervision	110,205	-1% ↓
Pre release supervision	71,183	2% ↑
Post release supervision	39,565	-6% ↓

	October - December 2013
Licence recalls	
Recalled in latest quarter	4,472
Not returned to custody by 31 March 2014	102
Total not returned to custody by 31 March 2014	1,050

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, at an average of 4% a year. This rapid rise was driven by:

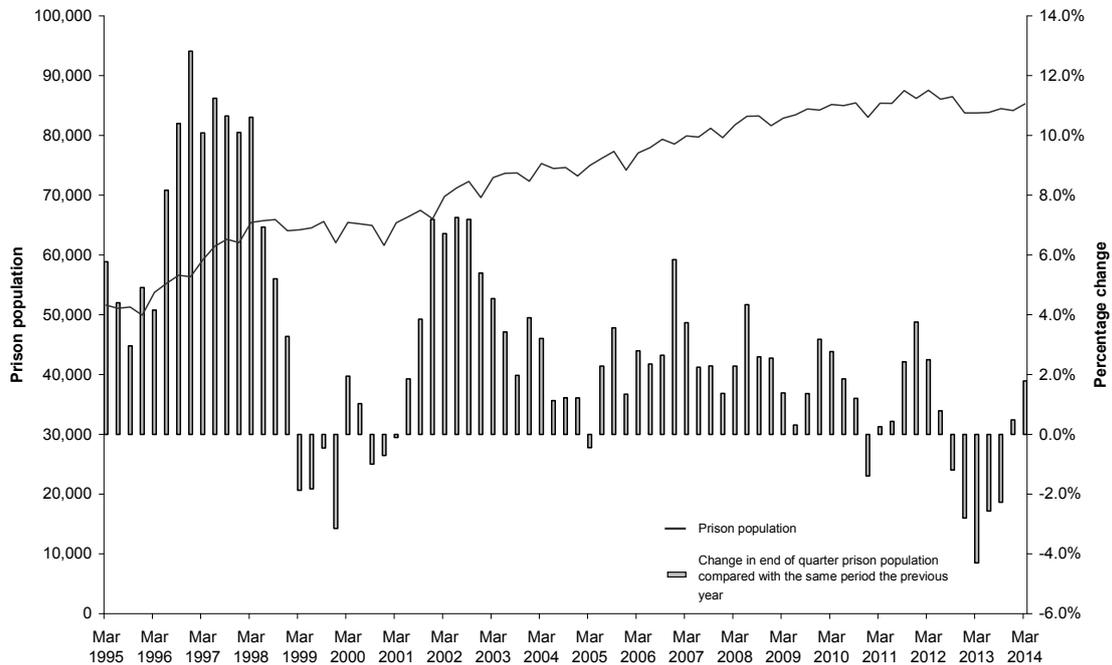
- Increases in the number of people sentenced to immediate custody from 1993 to 2002;
- Increases in the average custodial sentence length and increased use of indeterminate sentences; and
- Increases in the number of offenders recalled to prison following breaches of their licence conditions, along with increases in the average length of time these offenders spent in prison once recalled.

The rise in the prison population slowed considerably from the summer of 2008, in part due to the introduction of the [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008](#), which changed sentencing and offender management in ways which helped to reduce growth in the prison population.

This flatter trend continued until the public disorder seen in UK cities from 6 to 9 August 2011 which had an immediate but temporary impact on the prison population. During 2012 and into 2013, the prison population began to fall due to a falling remand population and a continued decline in the number of under 18s in custody. The falling remand population during 2012 reflected falling volumes going through the courts plus the introduction of the [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act \(LASPO\) 2012](#) in December 2012. This Act restricted the use of remand for offenders who would be unlikely to receive a custodial sentence.

The '[Story of the Prison Population 1993 to 2012](#)' is an in-depth look at what happened to the prison population between 1993 and 2012 and the major factors contributing to the changes.

Figure 1.1: Quarterly prison population and annual percentage change, England and Wales, December 1995 to December 2013



Over the last year the prison population increased by 2% from 83,769 in March 2013 to 85,265 in March 2014. At the end of March 2014 there were 81,377 males in prison, a rise of 2% over the last year, and 3,888 females in prison, the same when compared to last year.

The increase seen in the prison population over the last year can be wholly explained by a rise in the adult remand population. The sentenced population was stable over this period.

The adult remand population had continued to fall until February 2013 when the full impact of the measures in the LASPO Act 2012 had been realised. From then, it remained relatively stable until the end of August 2013 when it began to rise. It continued to rise until mid–November 2013, with this rise thought to be the result of an increase in court receipts, and it has remained at this higher level throughout the first quarter of 2014. By the end of March 2014, the adult remand population had increased by 12% compared to the same period last year, with increases in both the untried population (up 14%) and the convicted unsentenced population (up 7%).

In contrast, by the end of March 2014, the youth remand population fell compared to the same period last year – down 4% and 8% for young adults (18-20 year olds) and 15-17 year olds respectively.

The sentenced population remained stable over the last year with a continued fall (down 12%) in the number of young offenders (aged under 21) in custody. The

sentenced adult (age 21+) population increased by 1% and therefore offset the decrease in the young offender population. The increase in the adult population was mainly driven by a continuing increase in the numbers serving long determinate sentences of 4 years or more (up 5%).

Around 80% of the increase in the numbers serving long determinate sentences was due to the LASPO Act, introduced in December 2012. This Act abolished the Indeterminate Sentence for Public Protection (IPP) and introduced the new Extended Determinate Sentence (EDS), which is available for offenders who would previously have received an IPP or an extended sentence. As at the end of March 2014, 844 offenders were serving an EDS.

The number of prisoners serving indeterminate sentences (either a life sentence or an IPP) continued to fall with the IPP and life sentence populations down 10% and 2% respectively. Within the indeterminate sentenced population, as in previous quarters, 41% were serving an IPP and 59% were serving life sentences. Almost 70% of IPP prisoners and around a third of life sentenced prisoners had passed their tariff expiry date. At the end of March 2014 there were 48 offenders serving a whole life sentence and, in addition to this, 7 prisoners serving whole life sentences were being treated in secure hospitals.

Over the longer term, an increasing proportion of sentenced prisoners are serving sentences for more serious offences – the proportion serving sentences for sexual offences increased from 10% in 2000 to 16% at the end of March 2014. Similarly, 27% of the sentenced population had committed violence against the person offences, up from 21% in 2000.

In contrast, the number serving sentences for motoring offences has fallen steadily over time, now comprising 1% of the sentenced population compared with 4% in 2000, and the proportion serving sentences for burglary has fallen from 17% in 2000 to 10% at the end of March 2014.

Looking across the most recent year, there was a 6% increase in the number of offenders serving a sentence for sexual offences. However, there was a fall in the number of offenders serving sentences for violence against the person offences (down 1%).

The number of non-criminals in prison rose over the year by 31% to 1,782 as at 31 March 2014. A quarter of the increase is due to the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) agreement with the Home Office to hold more immigration detainees in the prison estate. The rest of this increase is the result of data quality work from April 2013 to improve the recording of offenders who are held post-sentence pending deportation (who should be recorded as non-criminals, but historically at any given time, around 300 have wrongly remained recorded as sentenced prisoners).

The foreign national population was 10,649 on 31 March 2014, making up 12% of the overall prison population which is a slight fall on previous quarters (down 1 percentage point). This figure includes the population at Immigration Removal

Centres (IRCs). When looking at the prison population excluding IRCs, 12% were foreign national prisoners (the same proportion as in recent quarters).

In response to continued public interest, we are now publishing statistics on the religion of prisoners on a quarterly basis rather than annually as done previously. As at 31 March 2014, 70% of prisoners had declared that they have a religion. The proportion of prisoners who have declared that they have a religion over the last ten years has not changed, but the composition of religions has changed. Christianity continues to be the most common religion in prisons, as it has been over the last ten years, but the proportion of all prisoners who have identified their religion to be Christianity has fallen from 56% in 2004 to 50%. Islam is the second most common religion prisoners identify with and has grown from 9% of all prisoners in 2004 to 14% in March 2014.

Prison receptions

Consistent with trends seen in the prison population, prison receptions increased year on year until 2008 and have since fallen each year. In 2013, there were 107,318 first receptions (down 5% compared with 2012). Remand and sentenced receptions also fell by 5% over the same period.

Looking at the most recent quarter, there were 25,895 first receptions into prison, a fall of 1% compared to the same period in the previous year - male first receptions fell by 2% whilst female first receptions remained stable.

Between the quarters ending December 2012 and December 2013, the number of untried receptions (those remanded in custody awaiting trial) increased by 3% consistent with trends seen in the remand population. This increase was entirely driven by the adult population (up 5%) – in contrast, young adults (18-20 year olds) fell by 5% and 15-17 year olds fell 36% again mirroring the trends seen within the prison population. Convicted unsentenced receptions (those remanded in custody awaiting sentence) fell by 5% between the quarters ending December 2012 and December 2013.

There was a 4% fall in the number of prisoners received under sentence in the quarter ending December 2013 compared to the quarter ending December 2012. This fall was driven by falling numbers of short sentences (less than 12 months - down 5% overall), while longer determinate sentences of 4 years or more continued to rise (up 5%).

The rise in numbers received into prison to serve a long determinate sentence partly reflects the impact of sentencing changes introduced in December 2012 which introduced the new Extended Determinate Sentence. These changes also resulted in a large fall in the number of offenders entering prison to serve an indeterminate sentence.

Prison releases

Statistics on people being released from prison have been previously called discharges. Whilst the term 'discharge' is used operationally for the process of a prisoner being released from prison, it is not immediately clear to users what this represents. Therefore, in this edition of OMSQ, and in future editions, what has previously been called 'discharges' will now be called 'releases'. No changes to the method, recording practices, or data sources used for prisoner discharges/releases have been made.

In 2013, a total of 78,748 offenders were released from determinate sentences, a fall of 8% from 2012. Over the longer term, the number of releases from determinate sentences remained relatively stable between 2002 and 2007 before rising in 2008 (due to a large rise in the numbers leaving prison having served short custodial sentences of less than 12 months – consistent with the growth in the short sentenced prison population at that time), and subsequently falling year on year. 2013 saw the fewest number of offenders released from prison in any year since 1996 and is the result of a fall in the number of prison receptions for shorter determinate sentences (less than 4 years) throughout 2012 and 2013.

In addition, 760 offenders were released from indeterminate sentences in 2013, which is similar to the number released in 2012 and up from 144 in 2002. The longer term increases are mainly due to a rise in the number of offenders released from Indeterminate sentences for Public Protection (IPP).

Looking at the most recent quarter, a total of 19,179 offenders were released from determinate sentences in the quarter ending December 2013, a fall of 10% from the quarter ending December 2012 with falls for both males (down 10%) and females (down 6%). This decrease was driven by falling numbers released from all determinate sentence lengths.

As well as those released from determinate sentences, 97 offenders were released from an IPP and a further 78 from a life sentence (down slightly from 117 and 76 respectively from the previous year). In addition, 17 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 deported from the country on or after the date of their tariff expiry without reference to the Parole Board. The scheme began in May 2012, and by the end of December 2013 there had been 222 removals in total.

Those released from determinate sentences in the quarter ending December 2013 had, on average, served 51% of their sentence in custody (including time on remand). On average, males served a greater proportion of their sentence in custody – 51% compared to 47% for females in the quarter ending December 2013. 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.

The number of offenders released on HDC continues to fall, and did so by 18% to 2,631 between the quarters ending December 2012 and December 2013. To be considered for release under HDC an offender must be serving a sentence of less than 4 years and the number of offenders serving such sentences has been falling (see population section above). The decrease in the eligible population will have a direct impact on the number that can be considered for HDC release and the number that are subsequently released. Offenders released on HDC in the quarter ending December 2013 spent an average of 2.8 months on HDC, down slightly from 2.9 months in the quarter ending December 2012.

In 2009 and 2010, the publication of release on temporary licence (ROTL) statistics was suspended due to data quality issues. Data improvements have allowed us to resume publication of ROTL statistics on an annual basis. In 2013, there were 529,000 releases on temporary licence, an increase of 9% compared to 2012. Resettlement day release licences accounted for 94% of all temporary releases. A total of 11,200 individual prisoners were granted at least one instance of ROTL in 2013. This is a slight fall on the number of individuals granted at least one instance of ROTL in 2012 (11,400).

The ad-hoc statistical notice, [Releases on Temporary Licence, 2012](#), presents analysis on ROTL from prison establishments in England and Wales between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2012. It has been produced as supporting evidence for both Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons' review of Release on Temporary Licence Failures and a Ministry of Justice review of ROTL policy.

Probation

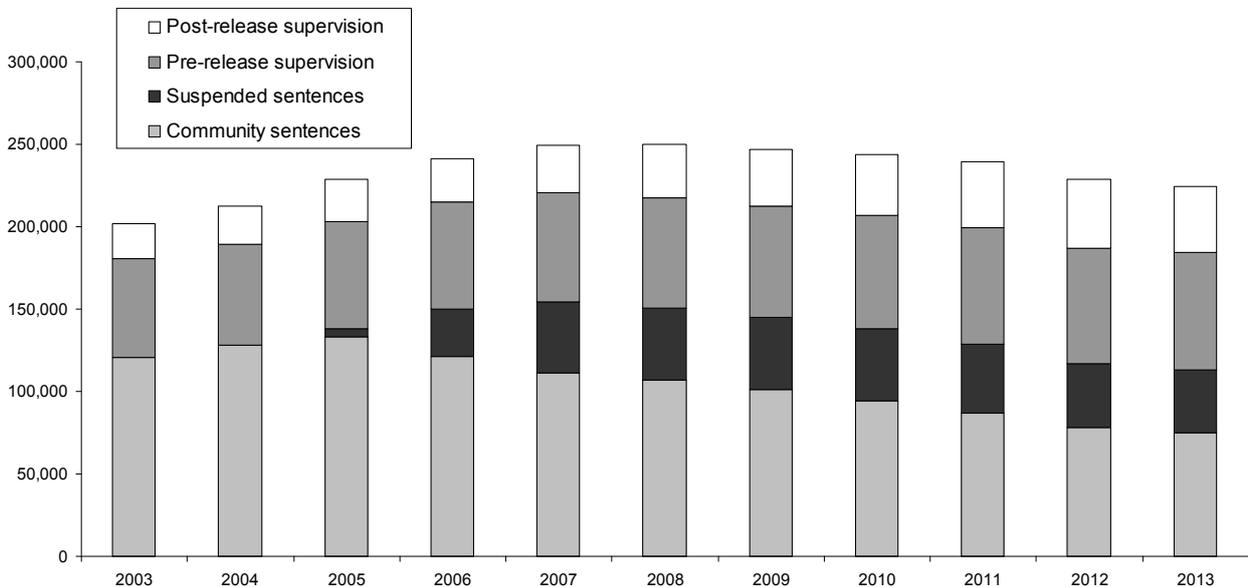
The total annual probation caseload (court orders and pre and post release supervision) increased by 39% between 2000 and 2008 to 243,434. Since then the probation caseload has fallen year on year, reaching 219,588 at the end of 2013, down 2% from the previous year. The rise between 2000 and 2008 was driven by

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

The total court order caseload increased by 29% between 2002 and 2007 but has since fallen by 26% to reach 110,950 at the end of 2013. These caseload trends largely reflect similar trends in those starting Probation Service

supervision where the number of court order starts increased by 30 per cent between 2002 and 2009, but has since fallen by 13 per cent to reach 144,332 in 2013.

Figure 1.2: Number of offenders under Probation Service supervision (at end December), 2003-2013



Note: the total number of offenders is overstated as some appear in more than one category.

Looking at the latest quarter, the court order caseload continued to decrease with the community order caseload down 3% and the SSO caseload down 1% between the quarters ending December 2012 and 2013. The number of offenders *starting* community orders also decreased over this period, falling by 6% whilst starts of SSOs with requirements attached increased over this period (up 1%).

In addition, in the quarter ending December 2013 there were over 1,600 starts of SSOs without requirements attached. This brings the total number of stand-alone SSOs starts to 4,600 since they were introduced under the LASPO Act 2012 (see data sources and quality section).

The caseload of offenders supervised before or after release from prison showed a slight decrease of 1% between the quarters ending December 2012 and 2013, with those supervised under post release falling by 6%, consistent with the falling trend in prison releases. The number of pre-release supervision starts fell by 9%, in line with prison receptions where the number of offenders starting prison sentences continues to fall.

The number of requirements started under court orders continued to fall in line with the decrease in the number of order starts. However, there have been particularly sharp falls in unpaid work while accredited programmes and drug treatment requirements have shown increases.

Of the court orders terminated in the quarter ending December 2013, almost two-thirds (66%) were terminated successfully (either ran full course or terminated early for good progress). This was true for both Community Orders and SSOs.

The number of court reports prepared by the Probation Service continued to fall – a total of 37,345 court reports were prepared in the quarter ending December 2013, 17% down on the quarter ending December 2012, reflecting the continuing downward trend in the number of cases being dealt with by the courts. The decrease was driven by a large fall in the number of Standard PSRs (Pre-Sentence Reports) and fast delivery oral reports, both of which were down by almost a quarter. Fast delivery written reports also fell (down 8%).

In general, courts follow the sentences proposed in PSRs, particularly where an immediate custodial sentence has been recommended. 87% of such proposed sentences in PSRs resulted in immediate custody.

Licence recalls

Offenders serving a sentence of twelve months and over are, in most cases, released from prison 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 December 2013, a total of 649,000 offenders were released from prison on licence supervision. Between April 1999 and December 2013, 168,817 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, just 1,050 had not been returned to custody by the end of March 2014. This number is a cumulative total since 1984, and therefore it will tend to increase over time. However the *proportion* of prisoners not returned to custody over this period is 0.6% and this is a relatively constant figure when compared to previous years. This total may include some offenders believed to be dead or living abroad but who have not been confirmed as dead or deported.

Of the 1,050 not returned to custody by 31 March 2014, 132 had originally been serving a prison sentence for violence against the person offences, and a further 37 had been serving a prison sentence for sexual offences.

During the quarter ending 31 December 2013, a total of 4,472 offenders were recalled to custody and 102 had not been returned by 31 March 2014. This number is likely to decrease over time as police have more opportunity to locate and arrest these offenders.

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 31 December 2013, 3,509 (78 per cent) were returned within agreed timescales.

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 and revisions

Population data

Routine data quality checks identified an issue with how offenders who are held post-sentence awaiting deportation are recorded within the population data. At any given time, around 300 offenders who should be recorded as non-criminals, wrongly remained recorded as sentenced prisoners. This issue has been resolved with effect from April 2013 and revised figures have been provided in all tables reporting the prison population by type of custody and offence.

While it was not possible to also carry out the data quality work on data prior to April 2013, it is likely that the impact would have been similar (around 300 non-criminal prisoners incorrectly recorded as sentenced prisoners at both points in time).

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 for 2010 is unavailable due to problems in the supply of data for statistical purposes.

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. 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.

Probation data

From February 2013, there has been a phased introduction and rollout of a national case management information system across all Probation Trusts (n-Delius). As of 31 January 2014, all trusts have migrated to the new system.

As a result of that migration, there has been an increase in the number of offenders within the migrated trusts with tier of supervision recorded as 'Tier not stated'. Investigations are being undertaken to identify the source of this issue.

The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 introduced Suspended Sentence Orders (SSOs) without requirements attached. Offenders sentenced to such SSOs are not supervised by the Probation Service as there are no requirements for the offender to meet, other than to not commit a further offence – they do not therefore appear on a Probation Trust's caseload. There have been increasing numbers of such orders given since they were introduced in December 2012, and their inclusion in the number of overall SSO starts resulted in a reversal of the general downward trend – this was seen for the first time in the quarter ending June 2013.

As the Probation Service is not required to supervise offenders with stand-alone SSOs, we have taken steps to separate these orders out and they are reported separately in Table 4.1. All other tables containing starts of SSOs exclude stand-alone SSOs (Tables 4.2 to 4.6).

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 15th of the following month, e.g. data for July collected on 15th 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.

In addition, during routine data quality work carried out as part of production of last quarter's bulletin, it emerged that there were a large number of PSRs without completion rates in large metropolitan areas, London in particular. Migration to nDelius has introduced delays to logging of PSRs and their completion rates, the impact of which was a substantial fall in the number of PSRs prepared in the second half of 2013. Our assessment at the time was that data were not considered suitable for publication.

Significant data cleaning work has since been carried out and the data are now considered to be robust and of sufficient quality to resume publication.

HDC eligibility

In order to bring the coverage of HDC eligibility in line with all other prison population data, figures from 2011 onwards have been taken from a different source resulting in a break in series from 2011. To aid comparison, 2011 figures within Table A3.5 have been presented using both data sources. The impact of the change in data source is a 2 per cent increase in the number eligible for HDC which results in a slight fall in the release rate (down 1 percentage point).

The increase in the number of offenders identified as being eligible for HDC in the new data source is due to improved recording of release dates which enables more prisoners to be captured in the 'eligible' category. Using the previous data source, if the release date for an offender was missing, they would have been excluded from the eligible category as it would not have been possible to determine at which point they were eligible to be released under HDC.

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 releases 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.

Appendix B – Users of Offender Management Statistics

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.

User	Summary of main statistical needs
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

Contact points

Press enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:

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Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

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General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from 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:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice

www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications.htm

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.gov.uk/government/publications/offender-management-statistics-quarterly--2

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