



Ministry
of Justice

Statistical Notice

Changes and additions to Proven Re-offending bulletins

31 July 2014

Introduction

Following changes made to the proven re-offending bulletin in January 2014 we intend to make further changes to this bulletin from October 2014 onwards.

One of the reasons for making changes to the bulletin in January 2014 was the impending changes to the way data are collected. We highlighted how, in the case of Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPOs) and drug misusing offenders (DMOs), as identified by the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP), this could result in inconsistent quarterly reporting, particularly over the period when new data systems were being introduced.

Since that announcement, the performance framework used by offender managers at a local level has changed rapidly. DIP ceased to be a nationally funded programme from April 2013, after which it was for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to decide which local interventions (including drug testing) they would fund to address Class A drug related offending.

The PPO scheme is no longer a national programme with only a voluntary requirement on police force areas to identify and record these offenders. The Home Office have also introduced a new IT system – IDIOM – which identifies and tracks offenders being managed under the broader Integrated Offender Management (IOM) arrangements operating across the country. Local IOM arrangements identify those offenders at high risk of re-offending or of most concern locally and then targets and manages them through a multi agency approach combining tough enforcement with rehabilitation.

These changes in the management of offenders necessitate the need to make two key changes to the proven re-offending bulletin in order to ensure the consistency and integrity of the re-offending data series:

1. As of October 2013, data from the DIP programme have not been available in their previous form. Drug testing data which were previously supplied by the Home Office are still collected by police forces, but are no longer held centrally. The Home Office and Public Health England have agreed alternative arrangements to collect this data and are in the process of resuming collection.

Therefore, between October 2013 and October 2014 it will not be possible for the Ministry of Justice to identify the adult offenders in the re-offending cohort who test positive for drugs alone, without receiving a conviction or caution.

Impact

The effect of removing adult positive drug testers from the data is to reduce the overall cohort size by around 1%. We intend to back date the re-offending results to reflect this change in the publication on October 30th 2014, which

will also present the latest 2012 calendar year results based on the existing cohort.

The tables requiring us to back date the series are listed below.

Tables	Description
Table 1	Summary proven re-offending data, by adults and juveniles
Table 2 (adults only)	Proven re-offending data, by gender
Table 3 (adults only, i.e. 18+)	Proven re-offending data, by age
Table 4a and 4c	Proven re-offending data, by ethnicity
Table 6a and 6c	Proven re-offending data, by number of previous offences
Table 7a	Adult proven re-offending data, by number of previous custodial sentences
Table 8 (adults only)	Serious proven re-offending data
Table 9 (adults only)	Proven re-offences committed in the one-year follow-up period, by month of offence
Table 10 (adults only)	Proven re-offences committed in the one-year follow-up period, by re-offence group
Table 11 (adults only)	Proven re-offences committed in the one-year follow-up period, by index offence group and re-offence group
Table 13a and 13c	Proven re-offending data, by upper-tier local authority
Table 14a and 14c	Proven re-offending data, by lower-tier local authority

The second change is to;

2. Produce re-offending rates for PPOs for the last time in October's bulletin.
This is because new data systems and changes in the reporting requirements on police forces in 2013 have made this data series less consistent.

Instead, we will work with the Home Office to investigate how to either substitute this PPO flag with an equivalent one or to report under the broader umbrella of the IOM arrangements which are in operation across England and Wales and tackling the most prolific and chaotic offenders. It may then be possible to drill down further to other priority type offenders from this data.

Re-offending of restricted patients and Serious Further Offences

The October proven re-offending bulletin will also include two additional annexes, one presents the one year re-offending rates of restricted patients and the other presents the number of Serious Further Offence (SFO) notifications under the Probation SFO Review Process which resulted in a conviction for a serious further offence. These statistics were previously reported in the Compendium of Re-offending Statistics and Analysis, but as there will be no update in 2014 we have decided to include them in the annual proven re-offending bulletin in October. The methodology used to measure the re-offending of restricted patients will be consistent with that used in the rest of the proven re-offending bulletin, using a one year follow up period and six month waiting period for cases to work their way through the courts to measure re-offending.

Contacts

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

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