



Published 29 July 2021

# Offender Management Statistics Bulletin, England and Wales

Quarterly: January to March 2021 Prison population: 30 June 2021

# **Main points**

78,324 prisoners in England and Wales as at 30 June 2021	The total prison population is 1% lower than the same point in the previous year.
14,131 first receptions into prison between January and March 2021	The number of first receptions represents a fall of 17% compared to the same period in 2020.
11,419 releases from sentences between January and March 2021	This is 22% lower than the same period in 2020. As the prison population shifts towards those serving longer sentences, we expect fewer releases in each period.
37,226 adjudication outcomes between January and March 2021	This is a fall of 26% compared to the same period in 2020.  Additional days were awarded as punishment on 747 occasions – this is 83% lower than the same period in 2020.
5,217 licence recalls between January and March 2021	This is an 21% decrease on the same quarter in 2020.
224,174 offenders on probation at the end of March 2021	This number has decreased by 7% compared to the number supervised as at 31 March 2020.

This publication provides offender management quarterly statistics for the latest date available and provides comparisons to the previous year.

For technical detail please refer to the accompanying guide, 'Guide to offender management statistics'.

#### Statistician's comment

This quarter we have continued to see the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the prison population; in this release we are comparing the prison population as at 30 June 2021 with the same point in 2020.

Large-scale COVID-19 restrictions within the UK came into effect in mid-March 2020, quickly followed by changes to operational prison regime in late-March / early-April 2020. Therefore, this publication (which compares the prison population as at '30 June 2020' to '30 June 2021') provides the first directly comparable 'COVID-19' picture in terms of prison population.

Between 30 June 2020 and 30 June 2021, the total prison population has fallen by around 1,200 (which represents a 1.5% annual decrease), however this overall figure masks the trends seen for certain population groups.

The remand population (those held in prison awaiting trial, and those held in prison between trial and sentencing) has increased by 12% over the past year (to 12,727). This is the highest 'annual; as at 30 June' remand population figure for 11 years (since 2010). Conversely, the sentenced prison population as at 30 June 2021 has fallen by 4% over the past year (to 64,637), which is the lowest 'annual; as at 30 June' figure since 2006.

This is in line with the effects of COVID-19 on the Criminal Justice System – in particular, delays in court hearings (evidenced by court caseload and timeliness figures reported in the latest <u>Criminal Court Statistics Quarterly</u> release). The effect of this on the prison population is that the normal system flow of individuals from the remand to the sentenced population (after sentencing at court) has been disrupted; resulting in more people held on remand, and fewer sentenced prisoners.

The prisoner flows data in this publication cover the period January to March 2021, which means that we are comparing a 'COVID-19 period' with the equivalent 'non COVID-19 period' between January and March 2020. The next publication, which will cover 'April to June 2021' (with a comparison to 'April to June 2020'), will provide a more comparable COVID-19 picture for prisoner flows data – this is scheduled for publication in October 2021.

Over the past ten years, there has been a steady falling trend in the number of prisoner first receptions each year. However, over the past year (as a result of COVID-19 disruption to court processes) there has been a sharp 17% decrease; from 17,092 between January and March 2020, to 14,131 in the latest quarter.

However, on a quarterly basis, the number of prisoner first receptions over the past three quarters (July to September 2020, October to December 2020, and January to March 2021) show a rebound effect compared to the April to June 2020 quarter. This shows the impact of courts reopening (and associated increase in court activity) following the COVID-19 lockdown in Spring 2020.

There has also been a large fall in the number of prisoner releases in the latest quarter, particularly for those released from very short sentences. This tallies with the prioritisation of 'more serious' cases at courts (in response to COVID-19 court impacts) – which results in fewer people entering prison on short sentences, and [a few months later] we see the corresponding impact on the number of 'short sentence' releases.

# 1. Population

#### The prison population stood at 78,324 on 30 June 2021.

The sentenced prison population stood at 64,637 (83% of the prison population); the remand prison population stood at 12,727 (16%) and the non-criminal prison population stood at 960 (1%).

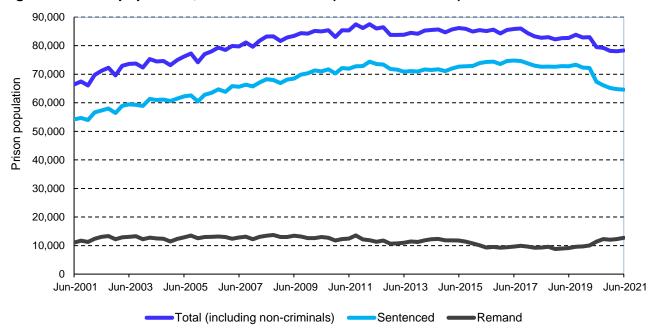


Figure 1: Prison population, June 2001 to 2021 (Source: Table 1.1)

The total prison population as at 30 June 2021 represented the lowest annual ('as at 30 June') population in 15 years, since 30 June 2006.

#### Remand prison population

Following a decreasing trend since 2014, the remand population has dramatically increased since June 2019. As at 30 June 2021, the remand population was 12,727. This is the highest annual ('as at 30 June') figure since June 2010.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected normal court operations. Information recently released by the Ministry of Justice<sup>1</sup> suggests that the number of outstanding cases ("caseload") at Magistrates Courts increased by around 21% between Q1 (January to March) 2020 and Q1 2021; from around 328,000 to 396,000.

Between June 2020 and June 2021, the total remand population increased by 12%. The number of males and females in custody on remand rose by 12% (to 12,084) and 7% (to 643) respectively.

<sup>1</sup> https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-court-statistics-quarterly-january-to-march-2021

Most of those in custody on remand were being held for either:

- Violence against the person (28% of the untried population and 18% of the convicted unsentenced population)
- Drug offences (28% of the untried population and 32% of the convicted unsentenced population)

## Sentenced prison population

The sentenced population was 64,637, which is 4% lower than the same point 12 months earlier.

Broadly speaking, the longer-term trend shows marked decreases in prisoners serving short sentences of less than 4 years and increases in prisoner numbers serving longer determinate sentences of 4 years plus.

However, over the latest 12 month period there have been decreases in the sentenced prisoner population across all sentence lengths except for the shortest sentences (a 14% annual increase in the sentenced population serving 6 months or less, a 10% annual increase in the sentenced population serving between 6 and 12 months, and a 6% annual increase in those serving 'Extended Determinate Sentences').

#### Sexual offenders

While this is one of the largest offence groups of immediate custodial sentenced prisoners, their number has continued to fall since mid-2018 after a record high since at least 2002. There was a 4% decrease (to 11,779) in the immediate custodial sentenced sexual offender population in the 12 months to 30 June 2021.

#### 'Violence Against the Person (VATP)' and 'Possession of Weapons' offences

Three in every ten (30%) immediate custodial sentenced prisoners is in prison for a VATP offence. This proportion has increased every year since 2017 when one in four (25%) immediate custodial sentenced prisoners were in prison for a VATP offence.

The number of prisoners serving immediate custodial sentences for a 'Possession of Weapons' offence decreased by 7% between June 2020 and June 2021.

#### **Extended Determinate Sentences (EDS)**

EDSs were made available for courts to impose from 13 April 2015. On 30 June 2021, 6,164 prisoners were serving such sentences; a 6% increase compared to the same time last year. This number has been increasing steadily since 2015.

#### Indeterminate sentences

As at 30 June 2021, there were 8,685 (8,357 male; 328 female) indeterminate sentenced prisoners (those serving Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentences and life sentences) in the prison population. This represents an annual decrease of 3%.

There were 1,722 IPP prisoners as at 30 June 2021 which represents a decrease of 13% in the last 12 months. This figure has decreased since the June 2012 peak of 6,080, and while the number of IPP prisoners who have been recalled to custody increased until 30 June 2020, it has since decreased by 2% to 1,332.

The proportion of the IPP population who are post-tariff continues to increase; 96% of IPP prisoners were post-tariff as of 30 June 2021 compared to 94% at the same time in 2020.

The number of life sentenced prisoners (6,963) has remained stable compared to 30 June 2020. There were 60 whole-life prisoners at the end of June 2021.

# Recall to custody

The prison population who have been recalled to custody (9,092 prisoners) decreased by 1% over the year leading up to 30 June 2021.

### Foreign National Offenders (FNOs)

There were 9,815 (2,730 remand, 6,188 sentenced and 897 non-criminal) foreign nationals held in custody and the HMPPS-operated Immigration Removal Centre (IRC, at Morton Hall) as at 30 June 2021; representing 13% of the total prison population.

In contrast to the annual fall in the total prison population, the number of FNOs in the prison (and HMPPS IRC) population has increased by 5% compared to 30 June 2020. This can be attributed to the effect of COVID-19 on the normal operations of FNO early removal schemes.

The most common nationalities after British Nationals in prisons are Albanian (16% of the FNO prison population), Polish (9%), Romanian (7%), Irish (6%) Jamaican (4%) and Lithuanian (4%).

# 2. Prison receptions and admissions

## 14,131 offenders were received into custody as first receptions in the latest quarter.

8,633 remand first receptions, 5,436 sentenced first receptions and 62 civil non-criminal first receptions.

## Offender first receptions

The total number of first receptions between January and March 2021 was 17% lower than the same quarter in 2020, which can be attributed in part to the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the phased reintroduction of jury trials continued and court activity gradually increased from July 2020, case disposals or outcomes are still lower than they were prior to the closure of courts in March 2020<sup>2</sup>.

There were 2,482 first receptions of foreign nationals during Q1 2021, which is 5% lower compared to the same quarter in 2020. However, the representation of foreign nationals amongst first receptions has increased since 2020 - around 18% of first receptions were foreign nationals in this quarter compared to 15% in Q1 2020. The five foreign nationalities with the highest numbers of first receptions in the latest quarter were: Albanian (558), Romanian (305), Polish (235), Lithuanian (124) and Irish (122). When taken together, these five nationalities accounted for around half (54%) of the 2,482 first receptions of foreign nationals in Q1 2021.

#### Prison admissions

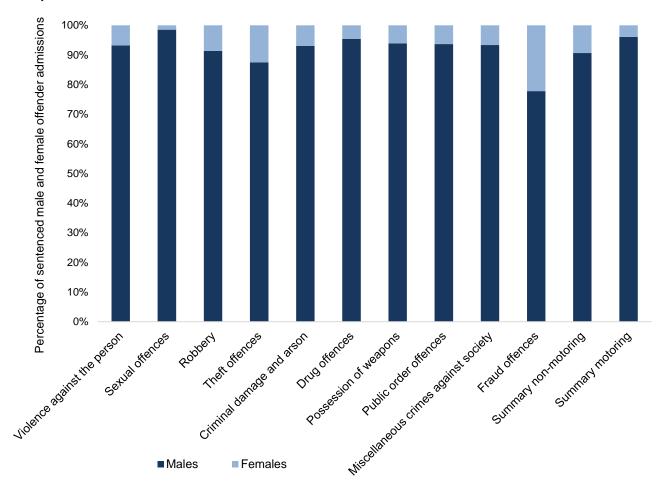
As compared to the same quarter in 2020, the number of untried, convicted unsentenced, sentenced and recall admissions all decreased – untried by 11%, convicted unsentenced admissions by 9%, sentenced admissions by 19% and recall admissions by 17%. This can be attributed to the lower number of court outcomes arising from the COVID-19 response discussed above.

When considering immediate custodial sentenced admissions by offence group, violence against the person, drug offences and theft offences had the largest number of sentenced admissions overall. The largest overall decreases, as compared to Q1 2020, occurred in the fraud offences (down by 45%) and theft offences (down by 40%) groups. This can be attributed to the impact of COVID-19 on court processes and the consequent prioritisation of more serious offences<sup>3</sup> leading to a decrease in the number of prisoner receptions for less serious offences. As compared to females, males made up a larger proportion of sentenced receptions across each offence, but there are certain offences where this difference was more pronounced- sexual offences, summary motoring offences and drug offences (see figure 2 below). The largest representation of females was in the fraud offence group (females accounted for 22% of all immediate custodial sentenced admissions for fraud offences).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-court-statistics-quarterly-october-to-december-2020/criminal-court-statistics-quarterly-october-to-december-2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/legal\_guidance/Interim-CPS-Charging-Protocol-Covid-19-crisis-response.pdf

Figure 2: Representation (percentage) of male and female immediate custodial sentenced prisoner admissions in each offence group between January and March 2021 (Source: Table 2.5b)



When compared with the same quarter last year, the sentence length band with the largest decrease in the number of admissions was 6 months or less, with a 35% reduction. While this sentence length band still constitutes the largest proportion (37% or 3,807) of all sentenced admissions, the decreased number of receptions in this band can be attributed to the prioritisation of prosecutions for more serious offences that carry longer sentences, as mentioned above.

#### **Former Members of the Armed Forces**

When individuals are first received into custody, they complete a Basic Custody Screening (BCS) process. This serves to identify their needs in areas including employment, childcare and healthcare. As part of this process, they are asked whether they had served in the armed services. Between January and March 2021, 148 matched individuals first received into custody answered that they had served in the armed services - this represented 2% of those who provided a response to the question at the point of their first reception during the latest quarter.

# 3. Releases

## 11,419 offenders were released from custody in the latest quarter.

11.280 releases from determinate sentences and 139 from indeterminate sentences.

#### Prison releases from custodial sentences

The number of prisoner releases between January and March 2021 was 22% lower than the same quarter in 2020.

The largest fall was in the number of releases from sentences of less than or equal to 6 months, which was 36% lower than during the same period in 2020. Between January and March 2021 all sentences had reductions in the number of prisoners released, as compared to the same period the previous year, except for sentences of 14 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences), which had an increase of releases of 20%.

This reflects the general trend in the prison population away from short sentenced offenders, to those serving longer determinate sentences. Additionally, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic the prosecution of more serious offences has been prioritised, meaning that fewer prisoners have been received into prison and thus been released from the shorter sentences handed out for less serious offences.<sup>4</sup>

There was a decrease of 27% in the number of indeterminate sentenced prisoners released between January and March 2021 compared to the previous year; with a 31% fall in number of IPP releases and a 24% decrease in the number of prison releases from Life sentences.

#### Releases on Home Detention Curfew (HDC)

The number of offenders released on HDC in the latest quarter dropped by 19%, down to 2,403. The number eligible for HDC over the same period also fell, to 9,178, a decrease of 21% since the same quarter in 2020. This is roughly in line with the decrease in the population serving sentences of under 4 years i.e. those potentially eligible for HDC.

# Releases on Temporary Licence (ROTL)

There has been substantial disruption to ROTL due to COVID-19 restrictions. At the end of March 2020, it was announced that all ROTL had been suspended – except in cases of prisoners working as 'key workers' or temporary release on compassionate grounds.<sup>5</sup>

As a result of these operational changes, there were only 29,329 incidences of ROTL during the quarter ending March 2021, which represents a 70% decrease compared to the same quarter in 2020. Just over 90% of the ROTL incidences in the latest quarter were for 'Work Related' reasons. Three

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/legal\_guidance/Interim-CPS-Charging-Protocol-Covid-19-crisis-response.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-ga-for-friends-and-family-of-prisoners#release

prisoners were released under the COVID-19 temporary release codes in 2021 Q1, all for compassionate reasons.

Due to the COVID-19 changes to ROTL, the number of individuals receiving at least one incidence of ROTL between January and March 2021 was 78% lower than the same quarter in 2020. 1,067 individuals were released on temporary licence in the latest quarter. This figure has halved since the previous quarter, ending the upward trend seen across quarters 3 and 4 of 2020.

There were 14 Temporary Release Failures between January and March 2021. This is a fall of 22 compared with the previous quarter and 190 compared with the same period the previous year. TRFs as a proportion of temporary release incidences remain at a low level, with only 1 in every 2,000 incidences of temporary release resulting in a failure between January and March 2021.

#### **Prisoner transfers**

Between January and March 2021 there were 15,108 incidences of prisoner transfer, with 13,488 prisoners having at least one incidence of transfer. Both figures represent decreases since the same period of 2020, with falls of 28% and 23%, respectively.

These changes were to be expected given the changes made at the end of March 2020, when the Government announced that "as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, all non-essential transfers of prisoners have ceased. This is to contain the outbreak, and for the health and safety of prisoners and prison and escort vehicle staff."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-qa-for-friends-and-family-of-prisoners#transfers

# 4. Licence Recalls

The number of licence recalls between January and March 2021 was 5,271, of which 417 were recalls from Home Detention Curfew (HDC).

The total number of recalls decreased by 21% compared to the same quarter in 2020.

The total number of quarterly recalls trended upwards between October-December 2016 and July-September 2019. There was a marked increase in the number of quarterly recalls from early 2018 to July-September 2019, mostly due to increases in the number of HDC recalls and recalls of offenders from determinate sentences of 12 months or more. However, the number of quarterly recalls has trended downwards in the last six quarters, the first two quarters before COVID-19 restrictions were introduced. The latest number represents a decrease of 21% from the same quarter a year ago.

The guidance for courts and prisons implemented in 2020 has remained in place so as to assist courts, custodial and detention staff in addressing covid-19 hence reducing the rate of transmission within prisons. This has had a continuing effect on the number of court proceedings and new entrants into custody<sup>7</sup>.

Following relative stability up to January-March 2020, the number of quarterly recalls of offenders released from a sentence of under 12 months has been going down. For the first time since July-September 2016, the number fell below 2,000 in April-June 2020 (partly due to the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions), and it has continued to stay below 2,000. The latest figure (1,695) is a decrease of 7% from the previous quarter and a decrease of 27% from a year ago.

Quarterly recalls of offenders with a sentence of 12 months or more (including those with indeterminate sentences), like the overall recalls, have trended downward in the last six quarters following general increases from late 2016. Between January and March 2021, there were 3,576 recalls of such offenders, a decrease of 18% in comparison to the same quarter in the previous year.

Ethnicity proportions in quarterly recalls have remained relatively stable, with about 8 in 10 recalls being white, 9% being black and 5% being Asian.

There usually is more than one reason for recalling an offender on licence. Of recalls in January-March 2021, about 42% involved a charge of further offending, 75% involved non-compliance, 25% involved failure to keep in touch, and 25% involved failure to reside.

https://www.judiciary.uk/announcements/review-of-court-arrangements-due-to-covid-19-message-from-the-lord-chief-justice/

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-courts-and-tribunals-planning-and-preparation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-and-prisons

Between January and March 2021, 106 IPP prisoners and 60 prisoners serving a life sentence were re-released, having previously been returned to custody for a breach of licence conditions. These together represent an increase of 23% from the same quarter a year ago.

# Offenders not returned to custody

Of all those released on licence and recalled to custody due to breaching the conditions of their licence between April 1999 and March 2021, there were 1,970 who had not been returned to custody by the end of June 2021.

A further 17 offenders had not been returned to custody as of June 2021 after recall between 1984 and April 1999, meaning the total number of offenders not returned to custody at the end of June 2021 was 1,987. These figures include some offenders believed to be dead or living abroad but who have not been confirmed as dead or deported.

Of the 1,987 not returned to custody by 30 June 2021, 307 had originally been serving a prison sentence for violence against the person offences and a further 61 for sexual offences.

# 5. Probation

The total number of offenders on probation (i.e. court orders and pre/post-supervision) at the end of March 2021 was 224,174.

This represents a 7% decrease compared to the end of March 2020.

In March 2020, operational restrictions were introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures, which included temporary court closures, meant larger decreases in probation starts during the quarterly period April to June 2020 were observed, subsequently leading to decreases in the number of offenders on the caseload. Whilst figures for the two subsequent quarters<sup>8</sup> showed signs of recovery following the easing of restrictions, the consequences of the pandemic had a considerable impact on probation figures for 2020 overall. The effects can still be seen in the latest figures, although, figures are showing clear signs of returning to pre-pandemic levels.

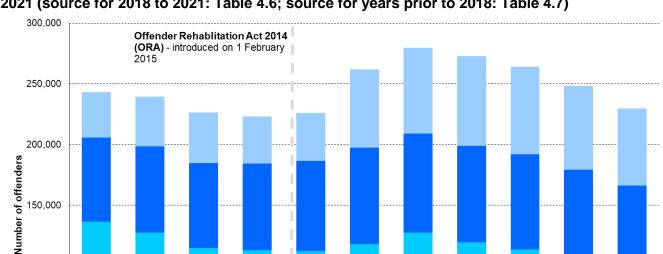
As at 31 March 2021, there were 224,174 offenders supervised by the Probation Service (Figure 3), representing a 7% decrease compared to the 31 March 2020 and less than 1% increase compared to the 31 December 2020.

Between the end of March 2020 and the end of March 2021, court order caseload decreased by 6% from 101,300 to 95,127, with the number of offenders on a community order (CO) and those on a suspended sentence order (SSO) with requirements both decreasing by 6%.

The total caseload of offenders supervised before or after release from prison at the end of March 2021 was 132,651, representing a decrease of 8% compared to the end of March 2020.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The latest Criminal Court Statistics Quarterly bulletin (available at www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-court-statistics-quarterly-january-to-march-2021) shows that, following the sharp declines seen in April to June 2020, disposals in both the Magistrates' Court and Crown Court rose sharply in the period July to September 2020, gradually rising in the period October to December 2020, and then, in the period January to March 2021, slightly decreasing in the Magistrates' Court, but continuing to rise in the Crown Court.



100,000

50,000

Mar 2011

Mar 2012 Mar 2013

■ Community sentences

Figure 3: Number of offenders under Probation Service supervision, 31 March 2011 to 31 March 2021 (source for 2018 to 2021: Table 4.6; source for years prior to 2018: Table 4.7)

Between January to March 2021, the number of offenders starting court orders decreased by 4% following the previous quarter. This figure also saw a 4% decrease compared to the same quarter a year ago. The number of offenders starting COs decreased by 5% to 16,301 compared to the previous quarter and decreased by 9% compared to the same quarter a year ago. Meanwhile, the number of offenders starting SSOs with requirements decreased by 2% to 8,282 compared to the previous quarter and increased by 9% compared to the same quarter in the previous year. Additionally, those starting pre-release supervision decreased by 3% to 15,744 compared to the previous quarter and decreased by 19% compared to the same quarter a year ago.

Mar 2015

Suspended sentences

Mar 2014

Mar 2016

Mar 2017

■ Pre-release supervision

Mar 2018

Mar 2019 Mar 2020

Post-release supervision

Between January and March 2021, 25,231 requirements started under COs and 14,053 requirements started under SSOs, representing a decrease of 8% and an increase of 8% respectively compared to the same period in the previous year. Over the same period, rehabilitation requirements started under COs and SSOs decreased by 1% to 10,649 and increased by 20% to 6,461 respectively, and remains the most common requirement included within a CO or SSO. Under COs, drug treatment, unpaid work, and accredited programme requirements decreased by 31% to 731, 21% to 6,965, and 16% to 1,756 respectively. However, mental health requirements increased by 27% to 163. Under SSOs, drug treatment and unpaid work requirements decreased by 20% to 478 and 11% to 3,341 respectively, while alcohol treatment increased by 4% to 414.

In terms of the most frequently used combinations of requirements, rehabilitation requirements combined separately with drug treatment, alcohol treatment, and unpaid work requirements decreased by 30%, 18% and 9% respectively under COs in January to March 2021 compared to the same period a year ago. Under SSOs, rehabilitation requirements combined with drug treatment decreased by

18%, while rehabilitation requirements combined separately with alcohol treatment and unpaid work requirements increased 19% and 10% respectively.

Between January and March 2021, 71% of 11,470 COs and 80% of 6,964 SSOs (for the supervision period) were terminated successfully, i.e. ran their full course or were terminated early for good progress.

In the quarter January to March 2021, the total number of pre-sentence reports (PSRs) prepared by the Probation Service decreased by 2% to 21,378 compared to the previous quarter and decreased by 6% compared to the same quarter in 2020.

Furthermore, 86% of immediate custodial sentences proposed in PSRs resulted in that sentence being given in the year ending March 2021, representing the highest concordance between sentence proposed and sentence given.

# 6. Adjudications

### There were 37,226 adjudication outcomes between January and March 2021.

This is a decrease of 26% on the same quarter in the previous year. Additional days were awarded as punishment on 747 occasions in this quarter.

67% of all adjudications were proven.

A third (35%) of proven adjudications were for offences of disobedience and disrespect, followed by unauthorised transactions (26%). The number of proven adjudications for disobedience/disrespect and unauthorised transactions fell by 8% (to 8,712) and 39% (to 6,345) respectively on the same quarter of the previous year.

The number of proven offences for violence has decreased by 25% in comparison to Q1 2020 (to 3,633) following growth in 2018, which then led to high volumes of offences. Since mid-2019, this increasing trend has now been reversed with quarterly averages not exceeding 5,000 offences.

There was a 21% decrease in the number of proven adjudications (to 24,865) from the same quarter in 2020. This in turn resulted in an 18% fall in the number of punishments (to 42,470).

Additional days were awarded as punishment on 747 occasions between January and March 2021; this is 83% lower than the same period in 2020. A total of 11,959 days was awarded in the latest quarter – this represents a decrease of 84% from the same quarter in 2020 (76,063 days between January and March 2020).

The continuous fall in adjudications followed government measures aimed at preventing the spread of Covid-19. Since the start of the lockdown in March 2020, most of those measures have remained in place, with temporary regime changes to account for differences in prisons across the country, local restriction tiers and in accordance with public health advice.

A number of policy interventions were made to suspend discipline hearings requiring an Independent Adjudicator (IA) between 23 March and 22 June 2020. Referrals to IAs, which have been subject to new guidelines have now resumed but are held virtually. This impacted on the number of referrals, which is still around 1,000, far below the averages recorded before the lockdown. In line with the new regime, the mandatory drug testing programme (MDT) was suspended between April and June 2020 and this too resulted in fewer adjudication referrals.

In addition, other changes to the prison regime have been implemented to support operational delivery. Those include new rules for governors: such as limiting movement of prisoners; implementing social distancing; compartmentalising prisons to isolate symptomatic prisoners; quarantine new entrants and so forth. These measures remain in place and taken together have reduced interactions between prisoners and staff, hence reducing adjudications and related punishments<sup>9</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-national-framework-for-prison-regimes-and-services

More information about the trends in Adjudications between 2011 and 2018 can be found in 'The Adjudications Story' publication.

## Further information

This publication presents quarterly and annual data trends.

Our statisticians regularly review the content of publications. Development of new and improved statistical outputs is usually dependent on reallocating existing resources. As part of our continual review and prioritisation, we welcome user feedback on existing outputs including content, breadth, frequency, and methodology. Please send any comments you have on this publication including suggestions for further developments or reductions in content.

# **Accompanying files**

As well as this bulletin, the following products are published as part of this release:

- A 'Guide to Offender Management Statistics', which provides comprehensive information about data sources and quality, as well as key legislative changes.
- A document outlining the 'Users of Offender Management Statistics'
- A set of data tables, covering each section of this bulletin, including a prison population data tool.

# **National Statistics status**

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality, and public value. All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.



It is the Ministry of Justice's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected for National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained and reinstated when standards are restored.

#### Contact

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

Tel: 020 3334 3536

Email: newsdesk@justice.gov.uk

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to the enquiries team within the Data and Analytical Services Directorate (DASD) of the Ministry of Justice:

Daniel Hawksworth, Head of Prison Statistics

Ministry of Justice, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ

Email: statistics.enquiries@justice.gov.uk

Next update: 28 October 2021

**URL:** https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly

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Alternative formats are available on request from statistics.enquiries@justice.gov.uk