









HMPPS Annual Digest 2021/22

Main points

<p>The number of escapes has increased</p>		<p>When compared with the previous year, the number of escapes in the year ending March 2022 increased from 5 to 12.</p>
<p>The number of absconds decreased and temporary release failures increased</p>		<p>In the year ending March 2022, there were 95 absconds – a 6% decrease when compared with the previous 12-month period. There were 529 temporary release failures in the year ending March 2022, of which 57 were failures to return, and 11 of these were still at large after 30 days. The number of temporary release failures increased by more than 5 times from 87 the previous year.</p>
<p>The percentage of prisoners in crowded conditions increased slightly</p>		<p>In the 12-months to March 2022, the crowding rate at establishments across England and Wales was 20.6%, up from 20.2% in the previous 12-month period.</p>
<p>The total number of referrals of Foreign National Offenders increased by 19.9%</p>		<p>In the 12-months to March 2022, 7,439 referrals were made to the Home Office, this is an increase of 19.9% when compared with the same period last year, when the number was 6,206.</p>
<p>The average number of active prisoners working in custody and subject to the PEA increased.</p>		<p>In the 12-months to March 2022, an average of 793 prisoners worked each month and were subject to the Prisoner Earnings Act. This represents an increase of 78% on the previous year, when the number was 445 per month. These figures have returned to a level like 2020, before the suspension of Release on temporary licence.</p>
<p>Because of the ongoing management of COVID-19 in establishments during 2021-22, the number of establishments conducting rMDT tests and the volume of testing overall were not sufficient for reliable estimates of drug misuse</p>		<p>In the 12-months to March 2022, there were 12,396 random mandatory drug tests (rMDT) carried out nationally. This is an increase from 4,738 in the 12-months to March 2021, during which time rMDT had been paused. But testing levels remain low compared with over 54,000 tests conducted in 2019-20.</p> <p>It has not been possible to estimate levels of drug misuse from the tests conducted in 2021-22 due to incomplete coverage of prisons across the estate and low numbers of tests throughout the year.</p>
<p>Barricade/prevention of access incidents and incidents at height increased</p>		<p>In the 12-months to March 2022, the number of barricade/prevention of access incidents increased by 5% when compared with the previous year. The number of incidents at height increased 2% in the same period.</p>

<p>Finds of drugs, mobile phones alcohol and SIM cards have decreased</p> 	<p>There were decreases of 13%, 9%, 2% and 11% in finds incidents of drugs, mobile phones, alcohol and SIM cards between the year ending March 2021 and the year ending March 2022, although finds of weapons increased 12% in the latest year.</p>
<p>The proportion of prisoners with an Enhanced (initial) incentive status stayed the same</p> 	<p>The proportion of prisoners with an Enhanced (initial) status stayed the same at 50.3%. An annual average of 39,799 prisoners.</p>
<p>The number of women and babies received into MBUs increased</p> 	<p>In the 12-months to March 2022, 39 women and 40 babies were received into MBUs; compared with 27 women and 19 babies in the previous reporting year. MBUs still received fewer mothers and a similar number of babies when compared to pre-pandemic figures in the 12-months to March 2020 (49 women and 39 babies).</p>
<p>The number of BASS referrals decreased by 12% in the latest year</p> 	<p>There were 3,424 total referrals for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service in the 12-months to March 2022; a decrease of 12% on the 3,891 referrals made in the previous year.</p>
<p>12.0% of HMPPS Staff who declared their ethnicity, were classified as Ethnic minority</p> 	<p>This represents an increase of 1.1 percentage points compared with the previous year. Public Sector Prison (PSP) staff as a whole had the lowest Ethnic Minority representation in HMPPS which was likely driven by the underlying regional population composition.</p>
<p>HMPPS staff lost an average of 13.8 working days to sickness absence (including COVID-19 sickness)</p> 	<p>In 2021/22, YCS staff had the highest sickness absence rate at 18.3 Average Working Days Lost (AWDL), followed by PSPs (15.1 AWDL) and Probation Service (12.7 AWDL). Absence rates are substantially lower in HMPPS HQ and Area Services overall compared with the operational parts of HMPPS (7.4 AWDL).</p>
<p>Confirmed COVID-19 cases in HMPPS staff</p>	<p>The total number of HMPPS staff members who have taken sick leave due to COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic was 20,042. Of which, 17,062 were directly employed staff from Prisons and Youth Custody Service.</p>

This publication covers reporting up to and including the 2021/22 financial year. Data for the current reporting year covers the period between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022; and is referenced as “the 12-months to March 2022”, “the year ending March 2022” or “the latest year”.

The technical guide for the HMPPS Annual Digest 2021/22 can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hmppps-annual-digest-april-2021-to-march-2022>

Statistician's comment

In March 2020 changes to the prison regime were introduced to limit the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the lives of those who live and work in our prisons. These regime changes were in place throughout 2021/22 except for the two months of October and November 2021. As of March 2022, all regime changes have been removed.

Although changes were in place for much of 2021/22 the overarching story for this year's HMPPS Annual Digest is of performance returning to pre-pandemic levels in line with 2019/20. For example, the number of mothers and babies received into MBU's has been steadily decreasing in recent years. In 2021/22, there was an increase for the first time since 2017/18. Though the 2021/22 figures (39 women and 40 babies) were an increase on 2020/21 (27 women and 19 babies), they were lower than or like 2019/20 (49 women and 39 babies), continuing the pre-pandemic trends.

There were a few exceptions where performance did not return to pre-pandemic levels, an example of this was prisoner incentives. For 2019/20, 5.5% of prisoners had Basic incentives, this reduced in 2020/21 to 0.7% of prisoners due to changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021/22 the number of prisoners on Basic incentives has increased but remains at a much smaller proportion of the prison population at 1.3%.

Contents

Products published to accompany the HMPPS Annual Digest 2021/22	5
Introduction	6
1. Escapes, Absconds, Failure to Return from ROTL and Releases in Error	8
2. Prison Crowding	13
3. Foreign National Offender Referrals	16
4. Prisoners Working in Custody	17
5. Prisoners Earnings subject to the Prisoners' Earnings Act 1996	18
6. Accredited Programmes	20
7. Random Mandatory Drug Testing	21
8. Protesting Behaviour	23
9. Finds in Prison	26
10. Incentives	30
11. Mother and Baby Units (MBUs), Pregnant Prisoners and Births	33
13. Bail Accommodation and Support Services	38
14. Staff in Post	41
15. HMPPS staff: sickness absence	44
Further information	47
Contact	47

Products published to accompany the HMPPS Annual Digest 2021/22

The following products are published as part of this release:

- A statistical bulletin, containing commentary on key trends over time in prison performance measures and probation.
- A technical guide, providing further information on how the data are collected and processed; alongside relevant legislative or operational information relating to the topic area.
- A set of tables for each chapter, giving national and local level trends over time; and covering key topic areas in this bulletin.

Introduction

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) is an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice; with the goal of helping prison and probation services work together to manage offenders through their sentences. HMPPS replaced the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) on 1 April 2017.

This HMPPS Annual Digest includes new items on:

- **Protesting Behaviour:** A new data tool has been included to show breakdowns by type of disorder and prison. This replaces 5 of the prison level tables from the previous release.
- **Finds:** Two new data tools have been included, one showing a breakdown of incidents by type of find and prison, and one showing a breakdown of drug finds by type of drug and prison. These replace a number of large and complex tables presenting different types of find by prison and month to make this data easier for interested users to manipulate.
- **Incentives:** For the first-time, data on enhanced (extended) are published.

Data presented in this report have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the data, the level of detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

A note on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on statistics included in this bulletin

COVID-19 regime mitigations were in place in prisons from March 2020 to limit and control the spread of the virus. Regime mitigations were removed for most establishments in October 2021 but were re-instated in December 2021 due to the Omicron variant outbreak. From the 31st March 2022 all regime mitigations were switched of once again. These statistics therefore reflect the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 lockdown which led prisons having to put restricted regimes in place in order to safely manage the risks of infection during the pandemic. It is therefore possible that these circumstances will have had an impact on the recent statistics, and this limits meaningful comparisons between this and the previous year's data.

Topics that are not included in this report

Information on protected characteristics of offenders is not reported here but will be published in the Offender Equalities Annual Report 2020/21 on 24 November 2022.

Information on Accredited Programmes will no longer be published in the HMPPS Annual Digest and has been moved into the Prison Education and Accredited Programme Statistics publication which will be published on 29 September 2022 here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/prison-education-statistics-2019-2020>

Information on Electronic monitoring has been moved out of the HMPPS Annual Digest to a separate publication that was published on 26 May 2022:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/electronic-monitoring-publication>

Information relating to prisoners working in custody will not be published with this edition of the HMPPS Annual Digest 2020/22. A new metric is being developed to improve data quality issues.

The latest available information on prisoners working in custody up to the 12-months ending March 2020 is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hmpps-annual-digest-april-2019-to-march-2020>

Related publications

Offender management statistics quarterly¹ provides detailed information on offenders held in prison custody and on probation. They include detailed breakdowns of the prison population, prison receptions and releases. They also cover statistics on adjudications and license recalls.

The HMPPS Offender Equalities Report² provides protected characteristics breakdowns of placement on the incentives scheme and protected characteristic data on mother and baby units.

The HMPPS Workforce Statistics³ publish prisons staff volumes and staff protected characteristics.

Review of the publication

We are reviewing the purpose of the HMPPS Annual Digest. Many themes covered in this statistical release appear in the related publications or could be included with material on similar topics published elsewhere. Over the next 6 months, we will be considering whether to publish the content of the HMPPS Annual Digest elsewhere. Please get in touch if you have views on this. Contact details are available on the last page of the publication.

¹ Offender Management Statistics Quarterly is available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly>

² The latest HMPPS Offender Equalities Report is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hm-prison-and-probation-service-offender-equalities-annual-report-2020-to-2021>

³ HMPPS Workforce Statistics are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-offender-management-service-workforce-statistics>

1. Escapes, Absconds, Failure to Return from ROTL and Releases in Error

The number of escapes has increased

There were 12 escapes in the 12-months to March 2022, 5 of which remained still at large 30 days after escape. This is an increase from 5 escapes the previous year, 1 of which remained at large 30 days after escape.

The number of absconds has decreased

There were 95 absconds in the year to March 2022, a 6% decrease from 101 absconds in the previous 12-months. Of the 95 prisoners who absconded, 37% (35 prisoners) remained at large for over 30 days, a slight increase from 36% the previous 12-months (36 out of 101 prisoners).

The number of Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) failures has increased

There were 529 temporary release failures in the year to March 2022, of which 57 were failures to return, and 11 of these were still at large after 30 days.

The number of temporary release failures increased by more than 5 times from 87 the previous year but remained almost a quarter lower than the 686 temporary release failures in the year ending March 2020, pre-pandemic. In the same period ROTL more than doubled from the previous year, increasing to 301,003, but remained almost a third lower than the year ending March 2020.

The number of releases in error has increased

There were 54 prisoners released in error in the latest year, an increase of 17% compared with the year ending March 2021.

Unlawfully-at-large incidents are categorised by the level of security measures the prisoner had to overcome to gain their liberty.

The number of escapes increased from 5 to 12 in the 12-months to March 2022 (Table 1.1, Figure 1.1)⁴

In the 12-months ending March 2022, there were a total of 12 escapes, 11 of which occurred from contractor escorts and 1 occurred from a HMPPS escort. This is an increase from 5 the year ending March 2021. 5 of the 12 escapees in the latest year remained at large 30 days after their escape.

There were no Category A prisoner escapes from prisons or HMPPS escorts. In the last 26 years (since the financial year ending March 1997), there have been two Category A escapes, occurring in the 12-months ending March 2012 and 2013.

⁴ A prisoner escapes from prison if they unlawfully gain their liberty by breaching the secure perimeter of a closed prison. A prisoner escapes from an escort if they are able to pass beyond the control of escorting staff and leave the escort, the vehicle or the premises (such as a court or hospital), please see the Guide to HMPPS Annual Digest for more information

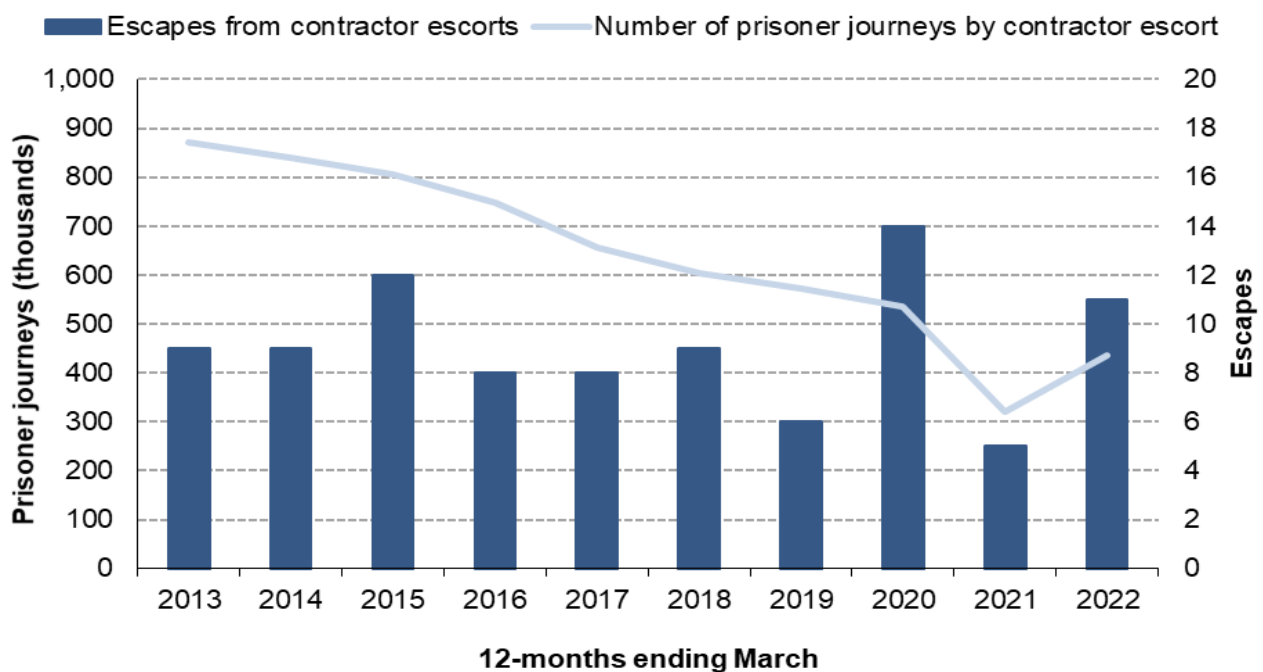
There were no escapes from prison in the latest year. The number of escapes from prison has remained very low, not exceeding 4 in any financial year since the 12-months ending March 2005.

There was 1 escape from a HMPPS escort in the latest year. The number of escapes from HMPPS escorts has remained very low, not exceeding 4 in any financial year since the year ending March 2007.

Due to the relatively low numbers, year-on-year changes should be interpreted with caution.

Figure 1.1 shows the number of contractor escort journeys and escapes from contractor escorts. The number of prisoner journeys by contractor escort increased in the latest year relative to the 12-months to March 2021, when COVID-related changes to the justice system reduced journeys considerably, but remained on a longer-term downward trend due to increasing use of video link technology for court appearances. There were 437,099 contractor escort journeys in the financial year to March 2022, a 36% increase from 321,372 the previous year, but 18% lower than the 535,416 journeys in the 12-months to March 2020. Of the 437,099 journeys in the latest year, 11 resulted in an escape.

Figure 1.1: Contractor escort journeys and escapes from contractor escorts, the 12-months ending March 2013 to the 12-months ending March 2022



The number of absconds decreased in the 12-months to March 2022 (Table 1.1, Figure 1.2)⁵

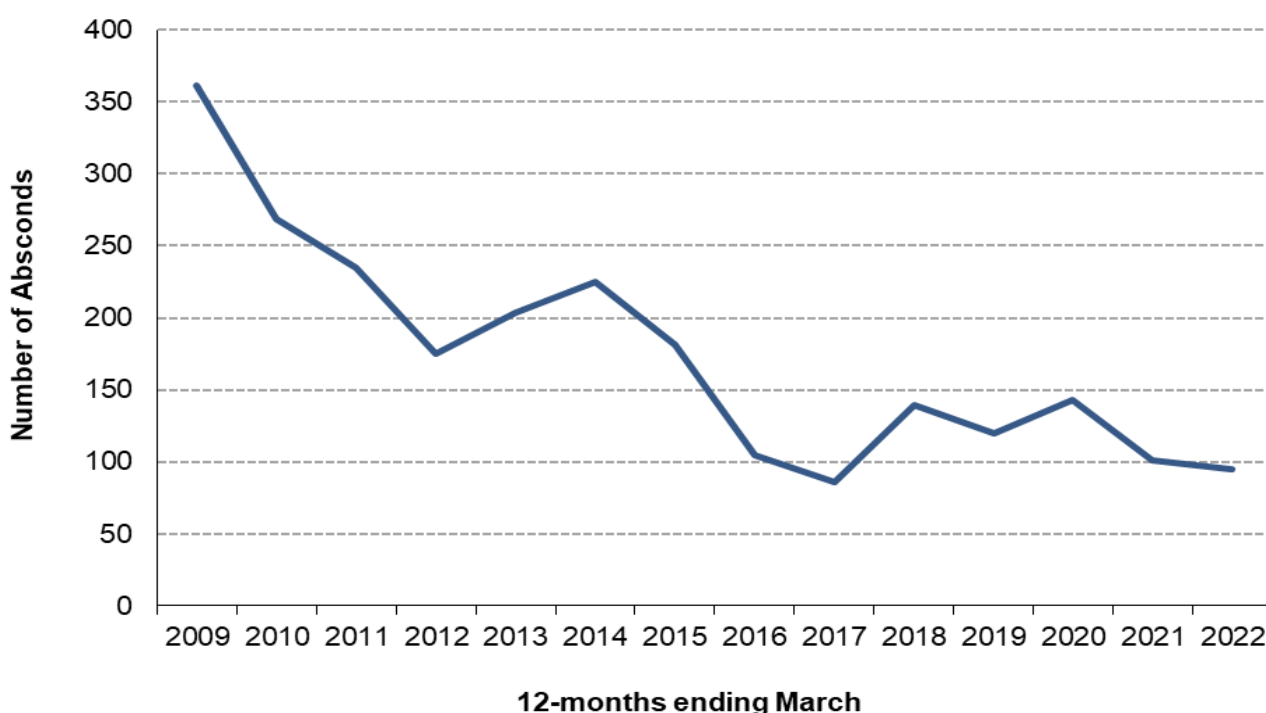
⁵ An abscond is an escape that does not involve overcoming a physical security barrier or restraint. It is only possible to abscond from open prison conditions.

There were 95 absconds in the year ending March 2022, a 6% decrease from 101 absconds in the previous year. The number of absconds has remained relatively stable since 2016, following a steady decrease from 1,301 absconds in the 12-months ending March 2004.

Of those who absconded in the 12-months to March 2022, 35 were still at large after 30 days. The percentage of prisoners who were still at large after 30 days increased slightly, from 36% in the previous year to 37% in the latest year.

Most abscond incidents in the 12-months to March 2022 were for prisoners whose main offence was robbery (31%) or theft offences (20%).

Figure 1.2: Absconds, the 12-months ending March 2009 to the 12-months ending March 2022



The number of failures to return from release on temporary licence (ROTL) increased in the 12-months to March 2022 (Table 1.1, Figure 1.3)⁶

In the year ending March 2022, there were 301,003 incidents of ROTL, an increase from 114,856 incidents in the previous year, although still 31% lower than 438,117 in the 12-months to March 2020. Of those 301,003 incidents of ROTL, 529 resulted in temporary release failures, where prisoners who have been released on temporary licence fail to fulfil all of the conditions of their release. This increased by more than 5 times from 87 temporary release failures in the year ending March 2021, but remained 23% lower than the 686 in the year ending March 2020, pre-pandemic.

⁶ A temporary release failure occurs when a prisoner fails to adhere to any condition written into the licence that permits their temporary release. Failures to return after release on temporary licence are the subset of temporary release failures, where an offender has not returned to the establishment by midnight on the designated return date.

In March 2020, most ROTL was suspended, except for key workers and compassionate releases, as part of a range of measures to help to limit the transmission of Covid-19 across prisons.

Of the 529 temporary release failures, 57 were failures to return, resulting in prisoners being unlawfully at large, which represented 11% of temporary release failures.

Of the 57 failures to return in the year ending March 2022, 11 prisoners were still at large after 30 days.

Figure 1.3: Temporary release failures and failures to return, the 12-months ending March 2006 to the 12-months ending March 2022

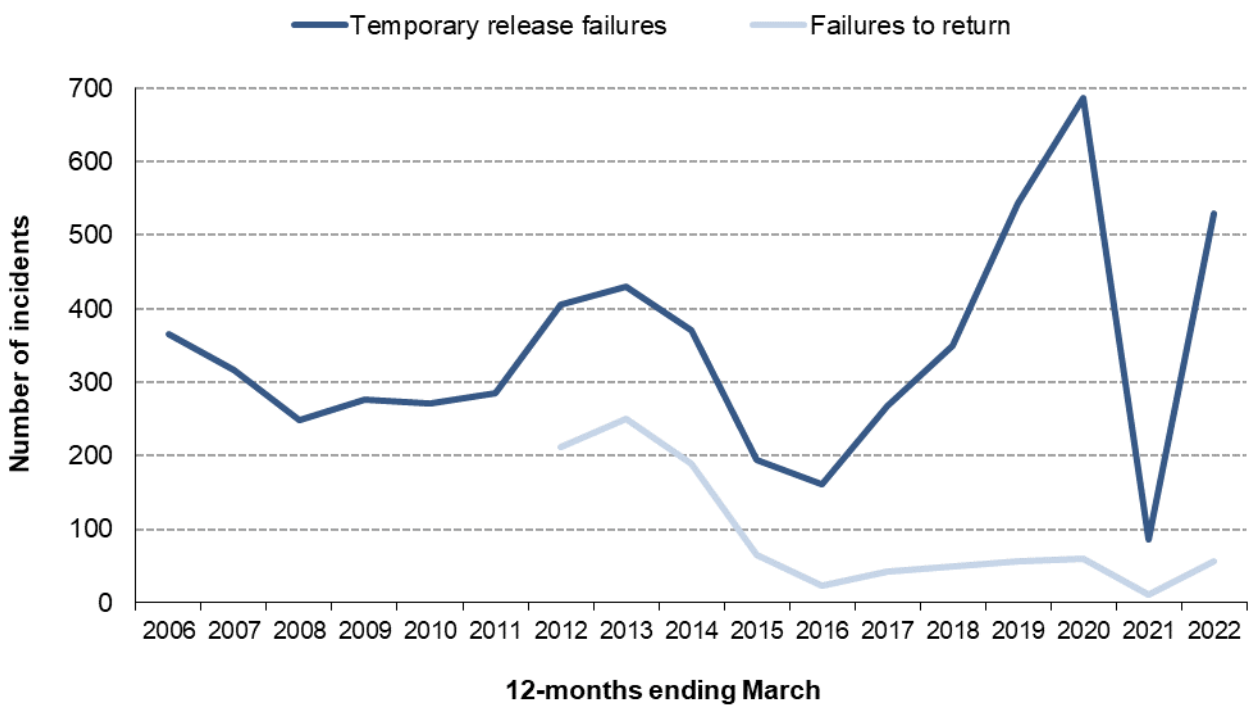


Figure 1.3 shows that while the number of prisoners who fail to return from ROTL generally mirrors the trend for all temporary release failures, the number has been broadly stable since 2016, following a downward trend beforehand. The number of prisoners who fail to return from ROTL accounts for a decreasing proportion of failures, falling from 52% (211 out of 405) in the year to March 2012 to 11% (57 out of 529) in the year to March 2022.

Most failure to return incidents in the year ending March 2022 were for prisoners whose main offence was violence against the person (33%) or robbery (21%).

Between 2013 and 2015 a series of changes were made to tighten ROTL policy, with the result that incidences of release fell dramatically. In 2019, the MOJ issued a new ROTL policy framework, which aimed to allow prison governors to consider ROTL earlier and more frequently because of its resettlement benefits. A large-scale MOJ study published in 2018 showed that increased use of ROTL in suitable cases was associated with a small but statistically significant reduction in reoffending.

These policy changes are reflected in both incidences of release and failure. There was a decrease in the number of incidences of release on temporary licence from 530,886 in the 2013/14 financial year to 320,582 in the 2015/16 financial year, before gradually increasing to 438,117 in the 2019/20

financial year. There was a large drop to 114,856 in the 2020/21 financial year due to COVID-19 restrictions, before increasing to 301,003 in the 2021/22 financial year. The proportion of releases completed successfully without failure remains well over 99%⁷.

The number of releases in error increased in the 12-months to March 2022 (Table 1.1)

In the 12-months to March 2022, 54 prisoners were released in error. This is a 17% increase from 46 the previous year, but lower than the peak of 72 in the year ending March 2017. The number of prisoners released in error has been broadly stable at around 50 per year since 2007.

In the year to March 2022, 35 releases in error occurred from prison establishments, while 19 were released in error at the courts. Releases in error from establishments could also be a result of errors by the court.

Due to the relatively low numbers, year-on-year changes should be interpreted with caution. The number of releases in error should be considered in the context of the number of releases in the same time period⁸.

⁷ Data on the number of incidences of temporary release and individuals released, and the number of failures are reported within the Offender Management Statistics Quarterly bulletin:
www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly

⁸ The Offender Management Statistics Quarterly bulletin gives an indication of the number of prisoners released in any given period via the following link: www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly

2. Prison Crowding

The average⁹ prison population remained at similar levels compared with last year

In the year to March 2022, the average prison population in England and Wales was 79,146, compared with 79,043 in the previous year.

The crowding rate of prisons in England and Wales slightly increased

In the 12-months to March 2022, the crowding rate at establishments across England and Wales was 20.6%, up from 20.2% in the previous 12-month period.

Crowding rates were highest in Male Local prisons

Crowding rates have continued to be the highest in Male Local prisons. The rate was 45.2% for the latest 12-month period.

Crowding is measured as the number of prisoners who, at unlock on the last day of the month, are held in a cell, room or dormitory where the number of occupants exceeds the uncrowded capacity of the cell, room, or dormitory. This includes the number of prisoners held two to a single cell, three prisoners in a cell designed for two and any prisoners held crowded in larger cells or dormitories¹⁰.

The maximum level of crowding for each prison is set by senior operational managers in HMPPS in agreeing the operational capacity¹¹ of each establishment. No prison will be expected to operate at a level of crowding beyond that agreed by a senior operational manager.

Crowding levels were affected throughout the 12-months to March 2022 by COVID-19, which resulted in a decrease in the total prison population and as a result, the total number of prisoners held in crowded conditions reduced. In the 12-months to March 2022, the average prison population has not substantially changed and has remained at similar levels with last year. As a result, the crowding rate of prisons in England and Wales has also not substantially changed.

The crowding rate for public prisons is lower than the “all prisons” crowding rate (Figure 2.1, Tables 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4)

In the 12-months to March 2022, the average population in prison was 79,146, remaining at similar levels compared with the previous year when the population was 79,043. In the year to March 2022, 16,342 prisoners were held in crowded accommodation conditions, which represents a crowding rate of 20.6%¹². This compares with 15,941 (20.2% crowding rate) in the previous year which was the lowest rate since 2002 (when the rate was at 19.2%).

The crowding rate in public prisons was 19.4% in the year to March 2022, compared with 18.8% in the previous year. In privately managed prisons, the crowding rate in the latest year was 26.2%, a slight fall from 26.3% in the previous year. The difference in crowding between public and privately managed prisons might be related to other factors.

⁹ The average prison population is based on the number of months each prison is open the reference financial year. The annual national total is the average of each monthly total.

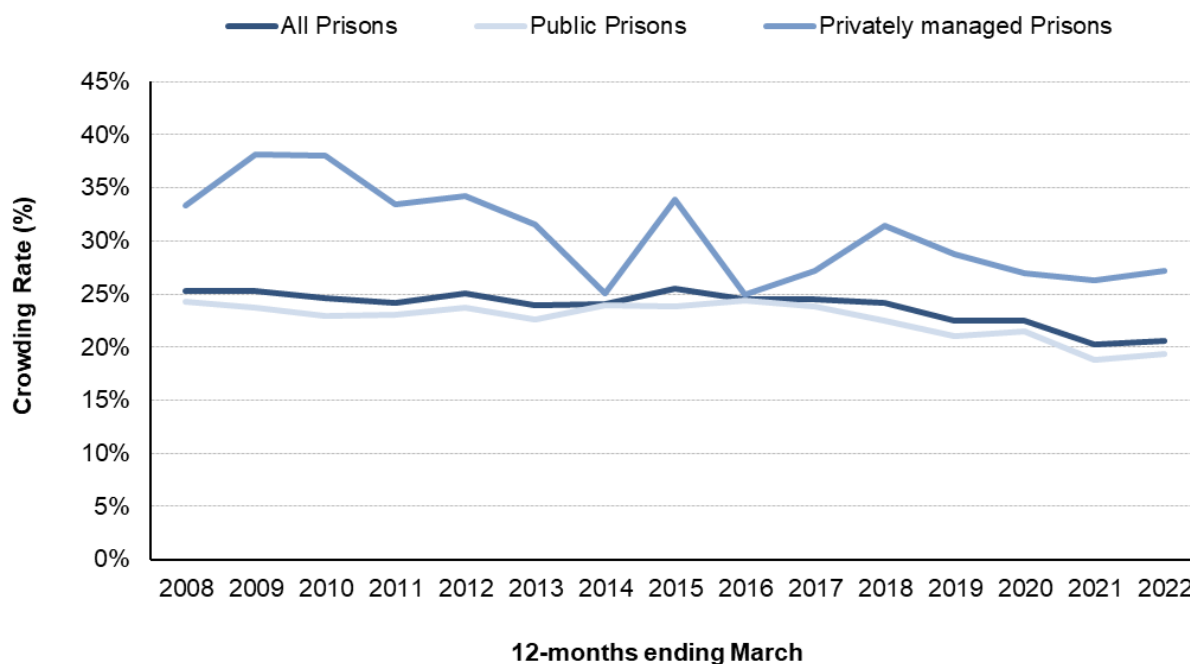
¹⁰ For example, if 12 prisoners occupy a dormitory with an uncrowded capacity of 10, then the 12 prisoners are counted as crowded.

¹¹ The operational capacity of a prison is the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold, considering control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime.

¹² Expressed as a proportion of the total prison population.

Of all prisoners held in crowded conditions, 99% (16,217 prisoners) were held in doubled¹³ accommodation. This is an increase from 98% the year before. The doubled crowding rate, as a proportion of the total prison population, was 20.5% in the current reporting year. This is an increase from 19.7% in the previous year.

Figure 2.1: Percentage of prisoners held in crowded conditions across Public and Privately managed Prisons in England and Wales, 12-months ending March 2008 to 12-months ending March 2022 (Source: Table 2.2)



The highest crowding rates are in Male Local prisons¹⁴ (Figure 2.2, Table 2.5)

Rates of crowding vary by prison function¹⁵, and in the 12-months to March 2022, levels were highest in Male Local prisons, where 45.2% (11,691) prisoners were held in crowded accommodation.

In Male Category C prisons¹⁶, the crowding rate was 12.7% in the latest year. The crowding rate in Female Local prisons was 9.3% in the year to March 2022.

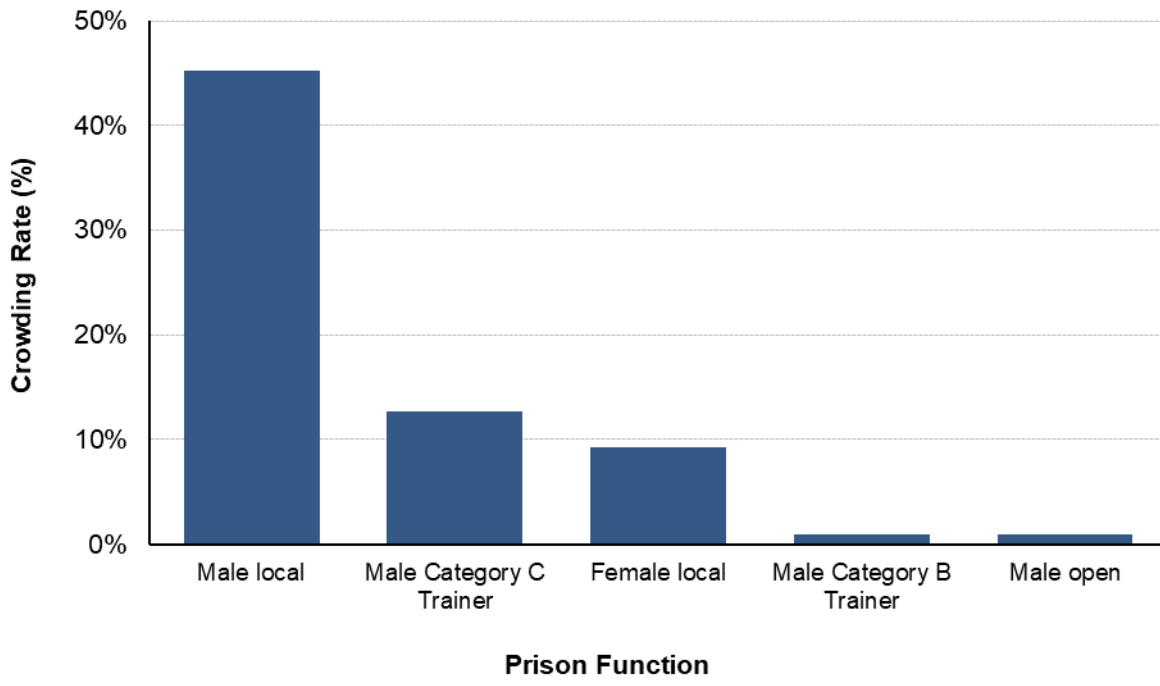
Figure 2.2: Crowding rate in prisons across England and Wales, by prison function, 12-months ending March 2022 (Source: Table 2.5)

¹³ Doubled accommodation is defined as two prisoners being held in a cell designed for one prisoner.

¹⁴ Crowding is not evenly dispersed across the prison estate; it is particularly concentrated in male local prisons, which are those that serve the courts of a specific area and which predominantly hold remand and short sentenced prisoners.

¹⁵ Prison function is determined using the 2021/22 financial year list of functions.

¹⁶ Crowding is less in Category B and C prisons as many of these are training prisons where activities are targeted at reducing re-offending by providing constructive regimes which address offending behaviour and improve opportunities on release.



3. Foreign National Offender Referrals

The Foreign National Offender referral rate met Home Office targets

90.0% (6,692) of the 7,439 total referrals of Foreign National Offenders made to the Home Office were made within 10 working days, meeting the 90% target.

The total number of referrals of Foreign National Offenders increased

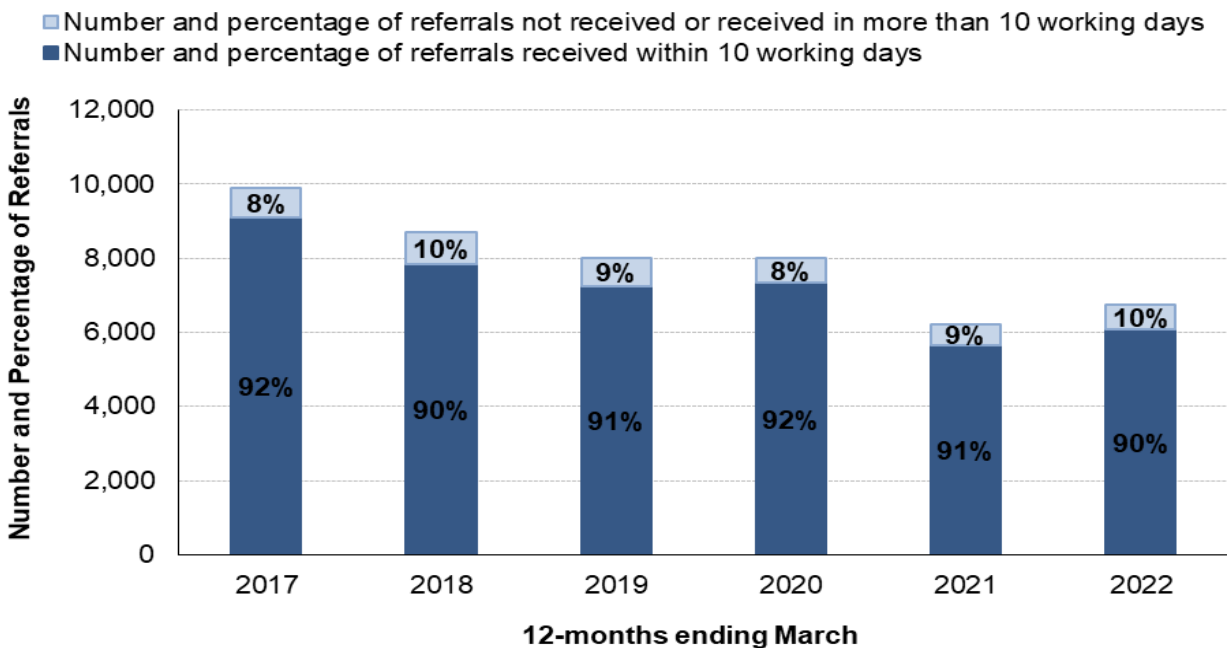
In the 12-months to March 2022, 7,439 referrals were made to the Home Office, this is an increase of 19.9% when compared with the same period last year, when the number was 6,206.

Prisons are required to refer Foreign National Offenders (FNOs) to Home Office Immigration Enforcement within 10 working days of receiving a custodial sentence. If release is due within one calendar month, the referral must be made immediately. This is to ensure FNOs receive due consideration for deportation/removal by the Home Office before their release.

The referral rate within ten working days met the 90% Home Office target (Table 3.1)

From April 2021 to March 2022¹⁷, 7,439 Foreign National Offenders were referred to the Home Office. The number of referrals increased by 19.9% compared with last year, when the number of referrals was 6,206. This year, 90.0% (6,692) of referrals were received within 10 working days: meeting the Home Office target referral rate of 90%. This target has been achieved every year since 2017.

Figure 3.1: Number of and proportion of referrals received within 10 working days and in more than 10 working days, 12-months ending March 2017 to 12-months ending March 2022 (Source: Table 3.1)



¹⁷ Changes to the metric were introduced in 2019; to include prisoners without a specific nationality (e.g. blank or Stateless) and prisoners registered as Irish.

4. Prisoners Working in Custody

Information relating to prisoners working in custody will not be published within the HMPPS Annual Digest 2021/22.

Due to operational changes by prisons in response to the COVID-19 pandemic the quality of data available for prisoners working in custody was too poor and incomplete to publish in the 2020/21 edition. It has since been decided to create a new measure that is currently under development. This will be published once completed.

The latest available information on prisoners working in custody up to the 12-months ending March 2020 is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hmpps-annual-digest-april-2019-to-march-2020>

5. Prisoners Earnings subject to the Prisoners' Earnings Act 1996

Net¹⁸ prisoner earnings have increased in the past year, returning to levels comparable to 2020.

During the 12-months ending March 2022, a total of £13 million was earned before the Prisoners' Earnings Act levy was applied. This is an increase of 106% compared with the same period last year, when £6.3 million was raised. These figures have returned to a level similar to 2020, before the suspension of ROTL.

The number of prisoners working each month have increased and returned to 2020 levels.

In the 12-months ending March 2022, an average of 793 prisoners worked each month and were subject to the PEA. This represents an increase of 78% on the previous year, when the number was 445 per month. These figures have returned to a level similar to 2020, before the suspension of ROTL.

A total of £2 million was raised through the Prisoners' Earnings Act levy

An average of £208 per prisoner per month was raised through the levy totalling £2 million raised for the year ending March 2022. Net earnings amounted to £1,159 per prisoner per month after the levy was applied.

The Prisoner Earnings Act (PEA) commenced on 26 September 2011. It enables prison governors to impose a levy of up to and including 40% on net wages over £20 per week for prisoners who have been assessed as being of low risk of absconding or re-offending and allowed to work outside of the prison on temporary licence, to prepare for their eventual release. Monies raised from the levy are sent to Victim Support, an independent charity in England and Wales that provides specialist practical and emotional support to victims and witnesses of crime.

For the year ending March 2021, most release on temporary Licence (ROTL) was suspended, except for key workers and compassionate releases as part of a range of measures to help to limit the transmission of COVID-19 across prisons. The increase seen in the current financial year is due in part to the suspension of some ROTL cases in the previous year.

Total net earnings and monies raised through the levy increased (Table 5.1)

In the year to March 2022, prisoners' net earnings under the Prisoners' Earnings Act (1996) amounted to £13 million, with £2 million raised through the levy. Net earnings before the levy increased by 106% (£6.7 million) from the previous year, when some ROTL cases were suspended. These figures have returned to a level similar to 2020, before the suspension of ROTL.

The proportion of prisoner earnings taken through the levy was 15.2% in 2021/22 an increase from 14.0% the year before. East Midlands (5.5%) and Kent, Surrey & Sussex (9.4%) were the prison groups that applied the lowest average levy to prisoner earnings. Tees and Wear (35.3%), Avon & South Dorset (27.8%), Bedford, Cambridge & Norfolk (27.5%) and Women's Estate (27%) applied the highest. All Prisons imposed a levy on prisoner earnings lower than the 40% limit.

¹⁸ Net earnings are those after tax, national insurance, any court ordered payments or child maintenance payments.

Prisoners earned an average of £1,368 per month before the levy in the 12-months ending March 2022, up from £1,188 earned in the previous year.

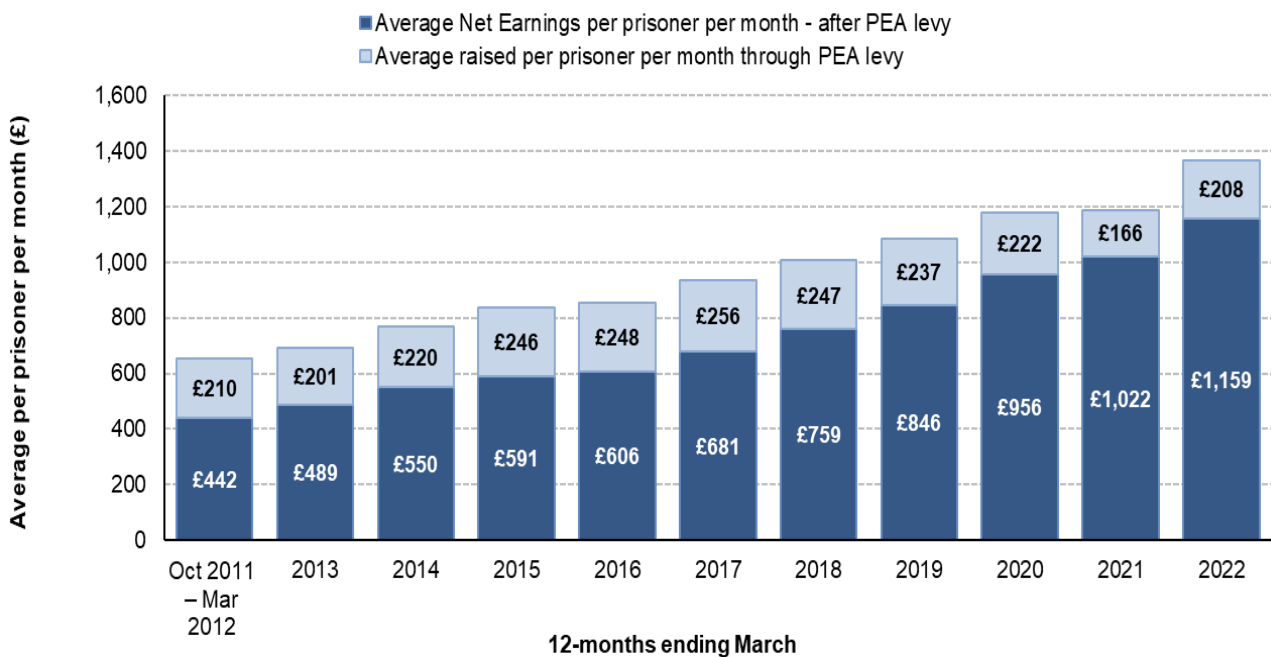
Average net earnings per prisoner per month after the levy increased and the average amount raised for the levy per prisoner per month also increased (Figure 2.1, Table 5.2)

Considering the net earnings and levy deductions raised per prisoner, per month eliminates some of the impact COVID-19 had on the 2021 figures due to the cancellation of ROTL. This makes comparisons more meaningful.

After the levy deduction through the Prisoner’s Earnings Act (1996), prisoners earned an average of £1,159 per month in the 12-months ending March 2022, a 13.4% increase in earnings (£137) on average per prisoner per month compared with the same period in the previous reporting year (when average earnings totalled £1,022 per prisoner).

Through the levy deduction, £208 per prisoner per month was raised on average for the levy. The amount raised increased by 25.3% (£42) per month per prisoner in the latest year compared with the year ending March 2021, when an average of £166 was raised per prisoner per month through the Prisoners’ Earnings Act levy. In the 12-months to March 2022, the average number of active prisoners per month was 793, an increase of 78% from last year when the number was 445.

Figure 5.1: Average net prisoner earnings after Prisoners’ Earnings Act levy deduction, and average raised through the levy per prisoner per month, the 6 months ending March 2012 to the 12-months ending March 2022 (Source: Table 5.2)



6. Accredited Programmes

Data on Accredited Programmes is not being included in this version of the HMPPS Annual Digest 2021/22, as this information will be published in the Prison Education and Accredited Programme Statistics publication, which will be published on the 29th of September 2022:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/prison-education-statistics-2019-2020>.

7. Random Mandatory Drug Testing

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and pause in rMDT testing from April to September 2020, testing resumed in prisons in September 2020 depending on each establishment's progress through the levels of the National Framework for managing COVID-19. However, random mandatory drug testing (rMDT) had yet to return to the levels required for reliable national or establishment-level estimates during 2021/22.

In the 12-months to March 2022, there were 12,396 random mandatory drug tests (rMDT) carried out nationally across all types of drugs, an increase from 4,738 the previous year, but this remains low compared with over 54,000 tests conducted in 2019-20.

In normal circumstances, as part of HMPPS's comprehensive drug testing regime, a random sample of prisoners (5%, or 10% in prisons with under 400 prisoners) are subject to rMDT each month. This translated to over 54,000 tests completed in the year to March 2020, across all prisons. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, testing was suspended across prisons from April 2020 and only partially resumed from September 2020. Establishments were required to resume testing when they were operating at Stages 2 or 1 rather than at Stages 3 and 4 of the National Framework for managing Covid. This resulted in a significant drop in the number of completed tests throughout 2020-21, continuing into 2021-22.

In the 12-months to March 2022, the latest year, there were 12,396 random mandatory drug tests (rMDT) carried out nationally, an increase from 4,738 conducted in 2020-21. However, in 2021-22 test volumes remained below pre-pandemic years, averaging approximately 1,030 per month compared to 4,500 per month in 2019-20. In addition to the low testing volumes, the number of establishments participating in testing in any one month was insufficient to make inferences about drug misuse across the estate for 2020-21 and 2021-22¹⁹.

Since these issues affect both national estimates and prison level estimates, there are no tables accompanying this chapter of the HMPPS Digest.

A more detailed explanation of how rMDT operates is given in the Guide to the HMPPS Digest. This includes further details on why the numbers of participating prisons and testing volumes were considered too low to produce reliable and representative estimates.

The extent to which the testing panel covers the drugs that are prevalent in prisons, in particular the latest compounds of Psychoactive Substances (PS) in use, is another determinant of the reliability of rMDT estimates. Time lags in updating the testing panel with new substances lead to underestimation of drug use because they cannot be detected. It is not been possible to draw conclusions about the level of misuse of drugs including PS for 2018-19 and 2019-20 because of two new compounds of PS in circulation in prisons which could not at the time be identified by the rMDT test.

¹⁹ Although the majority of prisons were testing in the three months from October to December 2021, testing fell sharply with the outbreak of the Omicron variant in December, and the coverage of prisons was not representative.

Because of the pause and subsequent disruption to testing due to the pandemic in 2020-21 and 2021-22 and underestimation of drug use in 2018-19 and 2019-20 due to time lags in updating the testing panel for new PS, readers are referred to the findings in the HMPPS Digest for the period 2017-2018²⁰. In 2017-18, the percentage of positive drug tests (including PS) was 21.3%.

Steps have been taken to reduce considerably the time lags in updating the rMDT testing panel for new drugs. The improvements to this process are set out in the Annex alongside the latest changes.

²⁰ The latest data including for 2017/18 and past trends are given in HMPPS Annual Digest: April 2019 to March 2020 edition (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hmpps-annual-digest-april-2019-to-march-2020>). This includes full details of data quality which are summarised in the Guide to this year's HMPPS Digest

8. Protesting Behaviour

Barricade/prevention of access incidents increased

In the 12-months to March 2022 there were 1,273 barricade/prevention of access incidents, an increase of 5% from 1,217 in the previous 12-month period.

Hostage incidents were unchanged

In the 12-months to March 2022, there were 39 incidents where prisoners took someone hostage increased, almost unchanged from 38 in the previous 12-months.

Concerted indiscipline incidents decreased

In the 12-months to March 2022, the number of incidents of concerted indiscipline decreased by 13% to 138. The number of these incidents which are counted as active, incidents involving aggression or violence, decreased by 6% over the same period to 59 (43% of all concerted indiscipline incidents).

Incidents at height increased

In the 12-months to March 2022, the number of incidents at height in prisons increased by 2% to 4,157.

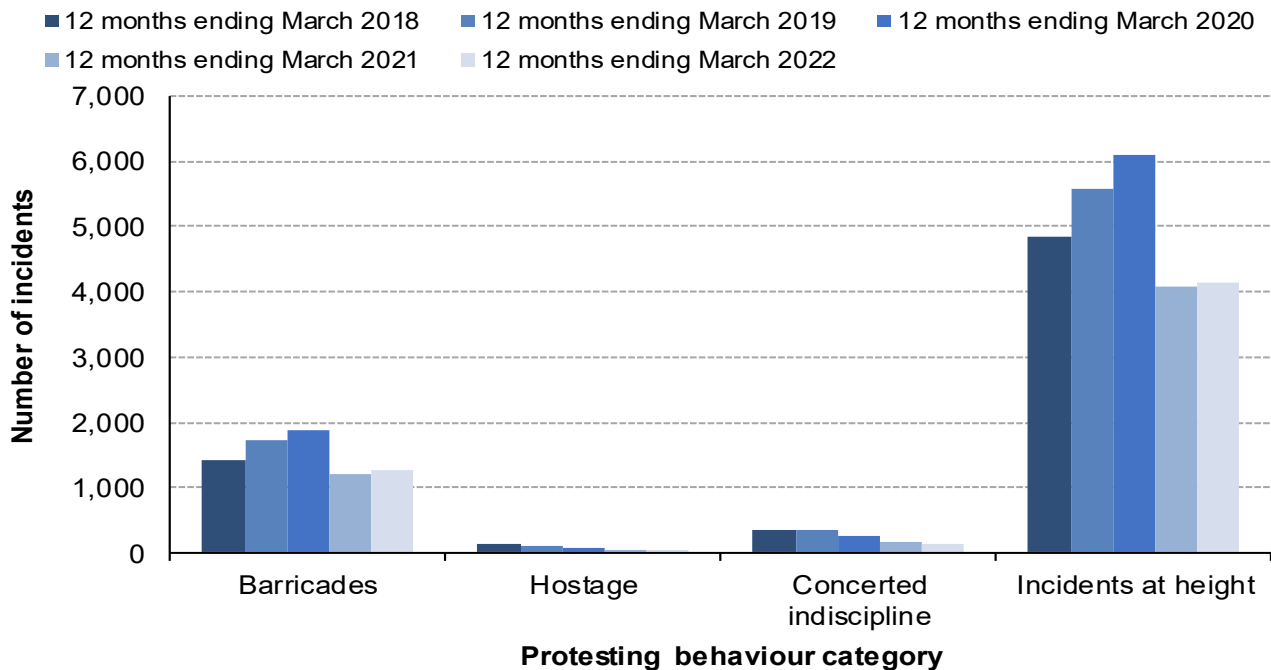
A new data tool has been included showing a breakdown of incidents by type of incident and prison. This replaces a number of large and complex tables presenting different types of protesting behaviour by prison and year to make this data easier for interested users to manipulate.

Incidents at height continue to be the most common form of protesting behaviour (Figure 8.1, Table 8.1)²¹

In the 12-months to March 2022, the most common type of incidents of protesting behaviour were incidents at height (4,157 incidents), followed by barricades or prevented access (1,273 incidents), concerted indiscipline (138 incidents) and hostages (39 incidents). All types of incidents of protesting behaviour increased in the 12-months to March 2022 compared to the 12-months to March 2021, except for concerted indiscipline. Despite these increases in the latest year, numbers for all incident types remained far lower than they were before the COVID-19 pandemic.

²¹ Please see the Guide to HMPPS Annual Digest for protesting behaviour definitions.

Figure 8.1: Number of incidents in each category of protesting behaviour, 12-months ending March 2018 to 12-months ending March 2022 (Source: Table 8.1)



The number of incidents of prisoners using barricades or preventing access increased (Source: Protesting Behaviour data tool)

There were 1,273 incidents in the 12-months to March 2022, where prisoners used barricades or prevented access. This represents an increase of 5% from 1,217 in the previous year, but a decrease of 32% from a peak of 1,882 in the 12-months to March 2020, pre-COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the same period, the rate of barricade incidents per 1,000 prisoners, which takes account of the reduction in the prison population between this and the previous year, increased 5% from 15.4 in the previous 12-months to 16.1 in the 12-months to March 2022. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate was considerably higher at 22.6 in the 12-months to March 2020²².

The number of hostage incidents remained unchanged (Source: Protesting Behaviour data tool)

The number of incidents where prisoners took someone hostage in prisons remained almost unchanged, at 39 in the 12-months to March 2022 (compared with 38 in the previous year). This is a decrease of 55% from 86 incidents in the 12-months to March 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic. The fall during the COVID-19 pandemic continues a downward trend from a peak of 129 in the 12-months to March 2016.

²² Rates are based on the latest prison population data published in Offender Management Statistics Bulletin within the following link <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly>. Please refer to the guidance document for further information about compiling rates.

The rate of hostage incidents in the 12-months to March 2022 was unchanged compared with the previous year, at 0.5 incidents per 1,000 prisoners, and remained lower than the rate of 1.0 per 1,000 prisoners in the 12-months to March 2020.

The number of incidents of concerted indiscipline decreased (Source: Protesting Behaviour data tool)

The number of incidents of concerted indiscipline decreased by 13% to 138 incidents in the 12-months to March 2022. This represents a decrease of 48% from 267 incidents in the 12-months to March 2020 before the COVID-19 pre-pandemic and continues a generally decreasing trend since a peak of 380 incidents in the 12-months to March 2017.

The number of incidents of concerted indiscipline described as active decreased by 6%, to 59 incidents in the 12-months to March 2022. The proportion of incidents of concerted indiscipline described as active increased from 40% to 43% in the latest year.

The rate of concerted indiscipline incidents per 1,000 prisoners decreased from 2.0 in the 12-months to March 2021 to 1.7 in the 12-months to March 2022, lower than the pre-pandemic rate of 3.2 in the 12-months to March 2020.

The number of incidents at height decreased (Source: Protesting Behaviour data tool)

The number of incidents at height increased by 2% to 4,157 in the 12-months to March 2022. The number of incidents at height was 32% lower in the latest year compared with the peak of 6,114 in the 12-months to March 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic.

The rate of incidents at height per 1,000 prisoners increased from 51.6 in the 12-months to March 2021 to 52.7 in the 12-months to March 2022 but remained considerably lower than the pre-pandemic rate of 73.5 in the 12-months to March 2020.

9. Finds in Prison

Number of drug finds in prisons decreased

In the 12-months to March 2022, the number of incidents where drugs were found in prisons decreased to 17,700 from 20,295 in the previous 12-month period, a decrease of 13%.

Number of mobile phone and SIM card finds decreased

In the 12-months to March 2022, there were 7,988 incidents where mobile phones were found in prisons and 3,556 incidents where SIM cards were found. These are decreases of 9% and 11% respectively, compared with the previous 12-month period.

Number of incidents where weapons were found increased

There were 8,057 incidents where weapons were found in the 12-months to March 2022. This is an increase of 12% compared to the previous year.

Number of tobacco finds decreased

In the 12-months to March 2022, there were 3,185 incidents where tobacco was found in prisons. This is a decrease of 15% compared to the previous year.

Number of alcohol finds decreased but distilling equipment increased

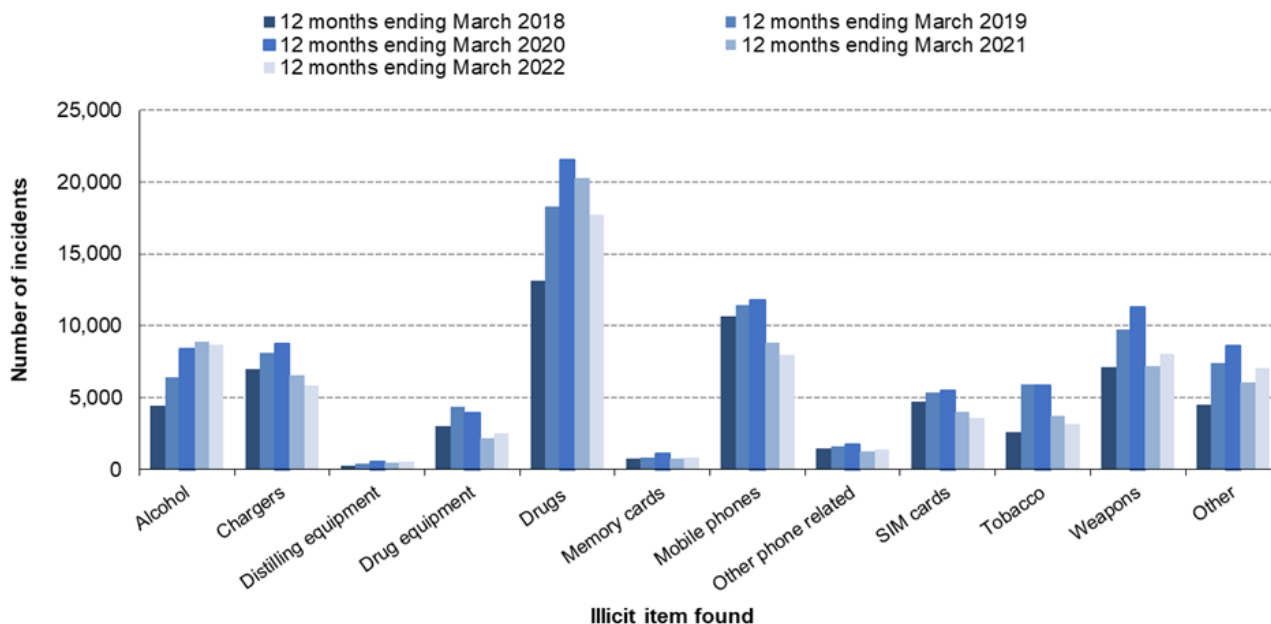
In the 12-months to March 2022, there were 8,703 incidents where alcohol was found in prisons and 522 incidents where distilling equipment was found. Alcohol finds decreased 2% compared with the previous 12-month period, while distilling equipment finds increased 12% over the same time period.

This chapter covers incidents where illicit items have been found in prisons. It is important to consider with incidents of finds in prisons, that an increase in numbers may be as a result of more items being found, although not necessarily attributable to any one particular security counter-measure, rather than more items being present in prisons.

Two new data tools have been included, one showing a breakdown of incidents by type of find and prison, and one showing a breakdown of drug finds by type of drug and prison. These replace several large and complex tables presenting different types of find by prison and month to make this data easier for interested users to manipulate.

In the year to March 2022 the most common types of illicit items found in prisons were drugs (17,700 incidents of finds); alcohol (8,703); weapons (8,057); and mobile phones (7,988). There were decreases in the numbers of finds of drugs, alcohol and mobile phones in the latest year, by 13%, 2% and 9% respectively, while the number of finds of weapons increased by 12% in the latest year.

Figure 9.1: Number of incidents where illicit items were found in prisons, 12-months ending March 2018 to 12-months ending March 2022 (Source: Table 9.1)



The number of finds of drugs decreased in the 12-months to March 2022 (Figure 9.1, Finds incidents data tool)²³

In the 12-months ending March 2022, there were 17,700 finds of drugs in prisons, a decrease of 13% from the 20,295 in the 12-months to March 2021. Incidents of drug finds had been on an upward trend pre-pandemic, from 10,666 in the 12-months to March 2017 to 21,575 in the 12-months to March 2020.

The number of incidents where drug equipment was found in prisons increased by 15% from 2,177 in the 12-months to March 2021 to 2,503 incidents in the 12-months to March 2022.

The drug type accounting for the largest number of incidents where drugs were found in the 12-months to March 2022 were psychoactive substances (Table 9.2a)

Psychoactive substances (PS), as defined in the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016²⁴ were found in 5,681 incidents in the 12-months to March 2022, more incidents than any other drug category in this time period. However, the number of finds of psychoactive substances had fallen by 38% compared with the 12-months to March 2021 and the percentage of drug finds that included psychoactive substances (PS) decreased from 45% in the 12-months to March 2021 to 32% in the 12-months to March 2022.

²³ There was a change in the way Finds were recorded in March 2022, please see the Guide to HMPPS Annual Digest for more information.

²⁴ In this Act “psychoactive substance” means any substance which is capable of producing a psychoactive effect in a person who consumes it, and is not an exempted substance. Exempted substances are: controlled drugs, medicinal products, alcohol or alcoholic products, nicotine, tobacco products, caffeine or caffeine products or any substance which is ordinarily consumed as food, and does not contain a prohibited ingredient. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/2/contents>.

There was a slight shift towards finds being of more dangerous drugs in the 12-months to March 2022. There was a small decrease in the number of finds of Class A drugs in the 12-months ending March 2022, by 4% to 2,713 finds, but this represented class A drugs being found in 15% of incidents, 1 percentage point higher than the previous year. There was a small increase in finds of Class B drugs, increasing 1% to 4,063 finds, which represented class B drugs being found in 23% of incidents, 3 percentage points higher than the previous year. There was a 17% increase in other types of drugs found, to 2,960 finds, and a 25% increase in the number of drug finds where the type of drug found was unknown, to 3,248 finds, although this was 26% lower than the number of unknown finds in the 12-months to March 2020.

The number of incidents where mobile phones were found decreased in the 12-months to March 2022 (Figure 9.1, Finds incidents data tool and Table 9.3)

The number of incidents where mobile phones were found in prisons decreased by 9% from 8,793 in the 12-months to March 2021, to 7,988 incidents in the 12-months to March 2022.

The quantity of mobile phones found in prisons fell to a slightly lesser extent, by 7% over this time period, from 12,673 in the 12-months to March 2021 compared with 11,809 in the 12-months to March 2022.

The number of incidents where SIM cards were found decreased in the 12-months to March 2021 (Figure 9.1, Finds incidents data tool and Table 9.4)

The number of incidents where SIM cards were found in prisons decreased by 11% from 3,991 in the 12-months to March 2021, to 3,556 incidents in the 12-months to March 2022.

However, the quantity of SIM cards found has only decreased in this period by 1%, from with 7,715 SIM cards found in the 12-months to March 2021 compared with 7,666 in the latest 12-months.

The number of incidents where chargers were found decreased, while memory cards and other mobile phone related items were found increased (Figure 9.1, Finds incidents data tool)

The number of incidents where chargers were found in prisons decreased 11%, from 6,564 in the 12-months ending March 2021 to 5,827 in the 12-months ending March 2022.

The number of incidents where memory cards were found in prisons increased 15%, from 741 in the 12-months ending March 2021 to 854 in the 12-months ending March 2022.

The number of incidents where other mobile phone related items were found in prisons increased 9%, from 1,245 in the 12-months ending March 2021 to 1,363 in the 12-months ending March 2022.

The number of incidents where alcohol was found has decreased (Figure 9.1, Finds incidents data tool)

The number of incidents where alcohol was found in prisons decreased 2%, from 8,919 in the year ending March 2021 to 8,703 in the year ending March 2022.

The number of incidents where distilling equipment was found increased 12%, from 465 in the year ending March 2021 to 522 in the year ending March 2022.

The number of incidents where tobacco was found decreased (Figure 9.1, Finds incidents data tool)

In the 12-months ending March 2022 there were 3,185 finds of tobacco in prisons, a decrease of 15% from 3,752 incidents the previous year.

The number of incidents where weapons were found increased (Figure 9.1, Finds incidents data tool)

The number of incidents where weapons were found in prisons increased 12% from 7,178 in the year ending March 2021 to 8,057 in the year ending March 2022.

10. Incentives

The proportion of prisoners with a Standard incentive status decreased

Compared with the previous 12-months, the proportion of prisoners with a standard incentive status decreased from 49.0% to 47.5% (an annual average of 37,594 prisoners).

The proportion of prisoners with a Basic incentive status increased

In the year to March 2022, the proportion of prisoners with a Basic status was 1.3% (an annual average of 1,024 prisoners) increasing from the previous year when the proportion was 0.7%.

The proportion of prisoners with an Enhanced (initial) incentive status stayed the same

The proportion of prisoners with an Enhanced (initial) status stayed the same at 50.3%. An annual average of 39,799 prisoners.

There were 673 prisoners with Enhanced (extended) incentive status

This is the first time this level of incentive has been included in the statistics; it is a level above Enhanced (initial)

An incentives scheme (formerly known as Incentives and Earned Privileges - IEP) was introduced in 1995 with the expectation that prisoners would earn additional privileges through demonstrating responsible behaviour and participation in work or other constructive activity. They allow prisoners to earn privileges through good behaviour and engagement in the regime and rehabilitation. Privileges can also be lost through poor behaviour. The IEP scheme operated on four levels: Basic, Entry, Standard and Enhanced, until August 2019 when Entry level was abolished. A small number of establishments continued to report against the Entry regime after this date and this is reflected in the data for 2019 and 2020. It was replaced by the Incentives Policy Framework in January 2020. The new policy has a greater focus on incentivising positive behaviour, providing consistency in key areas, whilst giving governors greater flexibility to tailor incentives to the local needs and challenges in their prison and to create levels above Enhanced.

Prisoners typically start on Standard level, and positive behaviour can be rewarded with progression to Enhanced, while poor behaviour can result in prisoners being placed on Basic – with the associated increase or reduction in privileges. Basic level provides access to the safe, legal, and decent requirement of a normally running regime.

The proportion of prisoners with a Standard incentive status decreased (Tables 10.1 and 10.2, Figure 10.1)

In the 12-months to March 2022, an annual average of 37,594 (47.5%) prisoners had a Standard incentive status, compared with the previous year when 38,646 (49.0%) prisoners had a standard status. The proportion of prisoners with a standard incentive has remained broadly similar since the year ending March 2018.

The percentage of prisoners with a Basic incentive status stayed the same (Tables 10.1 and 10.2, Figure 10.1)

In the year ending March 2022, an annual average of 1,024 prisoners had a Basic incentive status, which was an increase of 83% from the year ending March 2021 when an average of 559 prisoners had a Basic status. The proportion of prisoners on a Basic incentive status in the year ending March 2022 was 1.3%, an increase on the previous year when the proportion was 0.7%. The proportion of prisoners on Basic level incentives has been much lower in 2021 and 2022 compared to the historic time series, this is because of operational changes in prisons due to the COVID-19 outbreak. In October 2021 regime mitigations (including suspension of use of Basic) were withdrawn, other than for the sites that still needed them. They were then switched back on across the estate in December as a result of the impact of Omicron. As of 31st March 2022, all IPF-related regime mitigations were switched off once again, with the exit from the National Framework now in force.

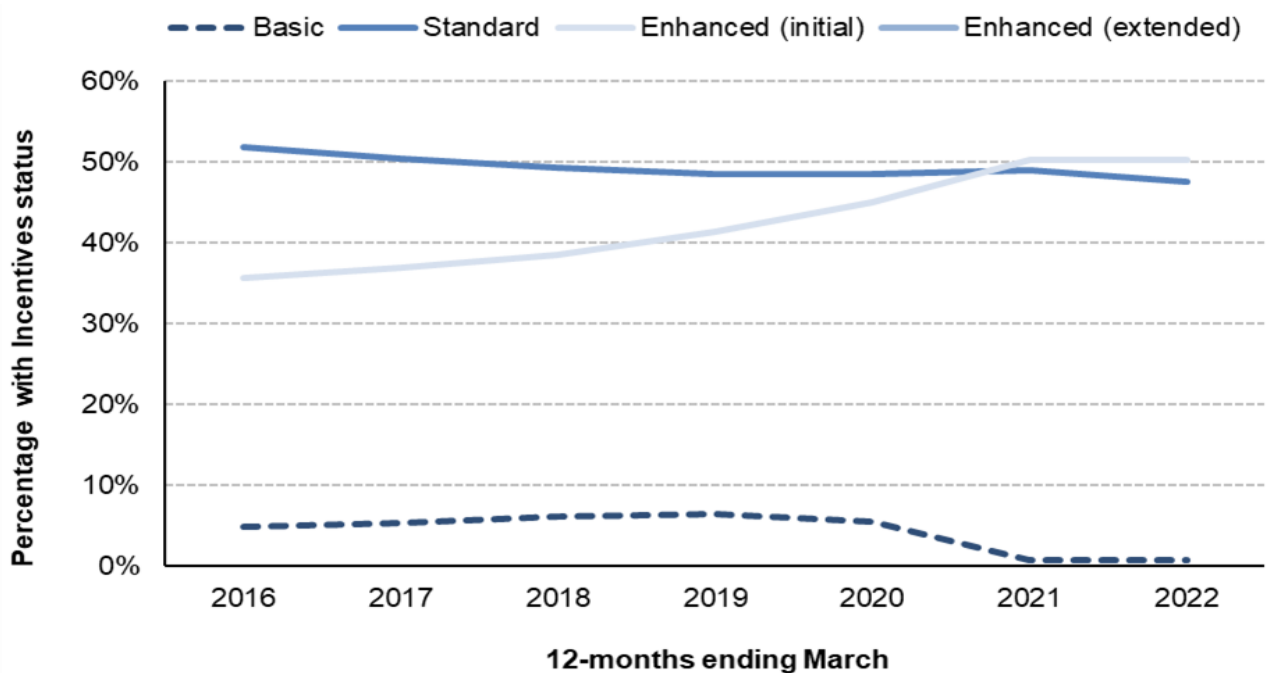
The proportion of prisoners with an Enhanced (initial) incentive status stayed the same (Tables 10.1 and 10.2, Figure 10.1)

In the 12-months to March 2022, 39,799 prisoners on average had an Enhanced (initial) incentive status. The proportion of prisoners with an Enhanced (initial) incentive status stayed the same at 50.3%.

The proportion of prisoners with the new Enhanced (extended) Incentive status was 0.9% (Tables 10.1 and 10.2, Figure 10.1)

In the 12-months to March 2022, 673 prisoners on average had an Enhanced (initial) incentive status. The proportion of prisoners with an Enhanced (initial) incentive status was 0.9%. This is the first year this enhancement level has been included in these statistics.

Figure 10.1: Percentage of Prisoners on each incentive level, in the 12-months ending March 2016 to March 2022 (Source: Table 10.2)



Entry level incentive status was abolished (Tables 10.1 and 10.2, Figure 10.1)

As part of the implementation of the new Incentives Policy Framework, Entry level incentive status was abolished on 16 August 2019. A small number of establishments continued to report against the Entry regime in the year ending March 2021.

Male YOI – Young People had the largest proportion of prisoners with a Basic incentive status (Table 10.4)

The proportion of prisoners assigned to each type of incentive status varies by type of establishment. In the 12-months to March 2022, Male YOI – Young People had the largest proportion of prisoners with a Basic incentive status with 5.2% of their populations having a Basic status. Female Open and Male open had the largest proportion of prisoners with an Enhanced incentive status, with 93.3% and 92.3% respectively.

11. Mother and Baby Units (MBUs), Pregnant Prisoners and Births

The total number of MBU applications increased when compared with 2020/2021

During the latest 12-month period, 88 applications²⁵ were made for a place within an MBU compared with 62 in the year to March 2021. 43 applications were approved and 17 refused.

The number of women and babies received into MBUs increased

In the year to March 2022, 39 women and 40 babies were received into MBUs; compared with 27 women and 19 babies in the previous reporting year. There were still fewer mothers and a similar number of babies received into MBUs when compared to pre-pandemic figures in March 2020 (49 women and 39 babies)

On average there were 29 pregnant women in prison for 2021/22

The lowest number of pregnant women in prisons was 17 in August 2021 and the highest number was 39 in November 2021.

There was a total of 50 births to women spending time in custody in 2021/22

94% (47) of these births took place at a hospital and 3 took place either in transit to hospital or within a prison.

A Mother and Baby Unit (MBU) is a designated accommodation unit within a women's prison which enables mothers, where appropriate, to have their children with them. Women who are pregnant or who have children under the age of 18 months can apply for a place in an MBU. Details of the process are given in the Guide.

There are currently six MBUs in operation across the women's estate in England (there are no women's prisons in Wales) which provide an overall total capacity of 64 places for mothers. There are 70 places for babies to allow for twins and multiple births. Capacity has never been exceeded.

During the COVID-19 pandemic the prison population decreased. In addition, on the 31st March 2020 the Government announced that pregnant women and women in Mother and Baby Units (MBUs) would be the first tranche of prisoners considered for temporary release from prison, to protect them and their children from coronavirus. More details on the number of women being released are available from here: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hm-prison-and-probation-service-COVID-19-statistics.

This report contains statistics for self-declared pregnant prisoners and births for the second time, however it is the first time we have data for a full year 1 April 2021 31 March 2022. These data are in development due to the dynamic nature of policy development in this area and, in future publications, it will be possible to provide a figure for the total number of pregnant prisoners for the year instead of the weekly totals included in this publication.

The snapshots represent women who have self-declared as pregnant and consent to sharing this information, having been made aware why their personal data is being monitored and how it will be

²⁵ Applications received in one year may be approved or refused in a following year.

used. HMPPS publish these data anonymously as part of aggregate totals²⁶, preventing identification of individuals and infringement of the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. It does not represent women who have reserved their right not to disclose this personal data to HMPPS, or who might have disclosed this data to healthcare providers in confidence. Self-declared data cannot be quality assured, and therefore accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

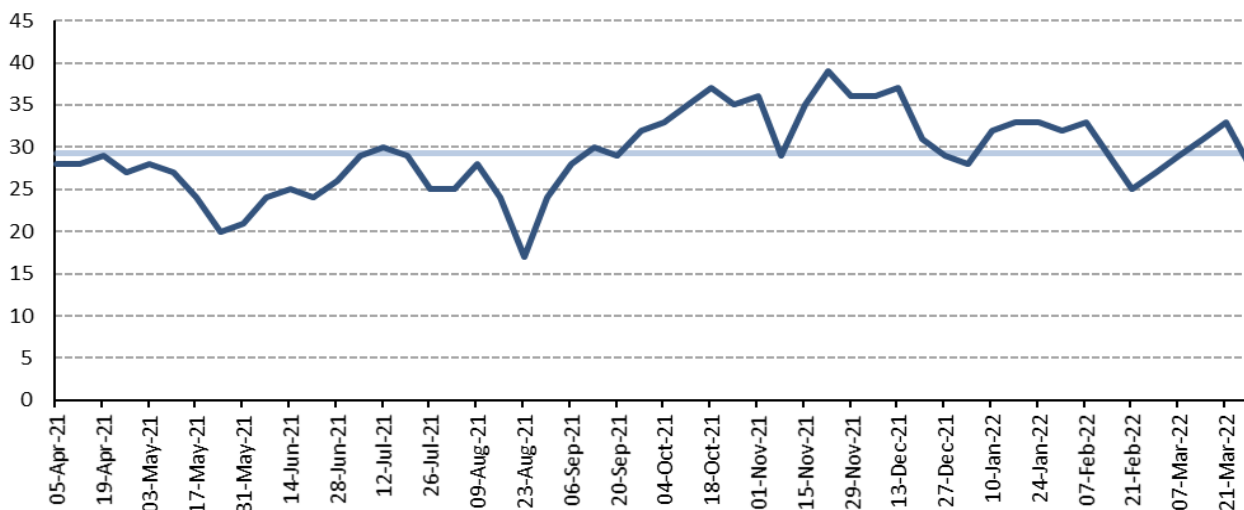
The weekly average number of pregnant women in prison was 29 between April 2021 and March 2022 (Tables 11.1 and 11.1)

The weekly average number of pregnant women increased by 12.7% from 26, compared to the data collection the previous year. It is important to note that the collection last year only cover the 9 months from July 2020 to March 2021, which could impact the figures.

The number of pregnant women in prisons varied through the 12-months up to March 2022. The number of pregnant women tended to be below average from April to August and above average from October to January. The lowest number of pregnant women in prisons was 17 in August 2021 and the highest number was 39 in November 2021.

There were 50 births in the year April 2021 to March 2022 for women in prison with 94% of these (47) taking place at a hospital. The other three either took place in the prison or in transit to hospital.

Figure 11.1: Number of pregnant women in prison each week, April 2021 to the end of March 2022 (Source: Table 11.2)



²⁶ Where figures are so low that they risk identifying individuals, we have marked them as less than 3 to avoid identification.

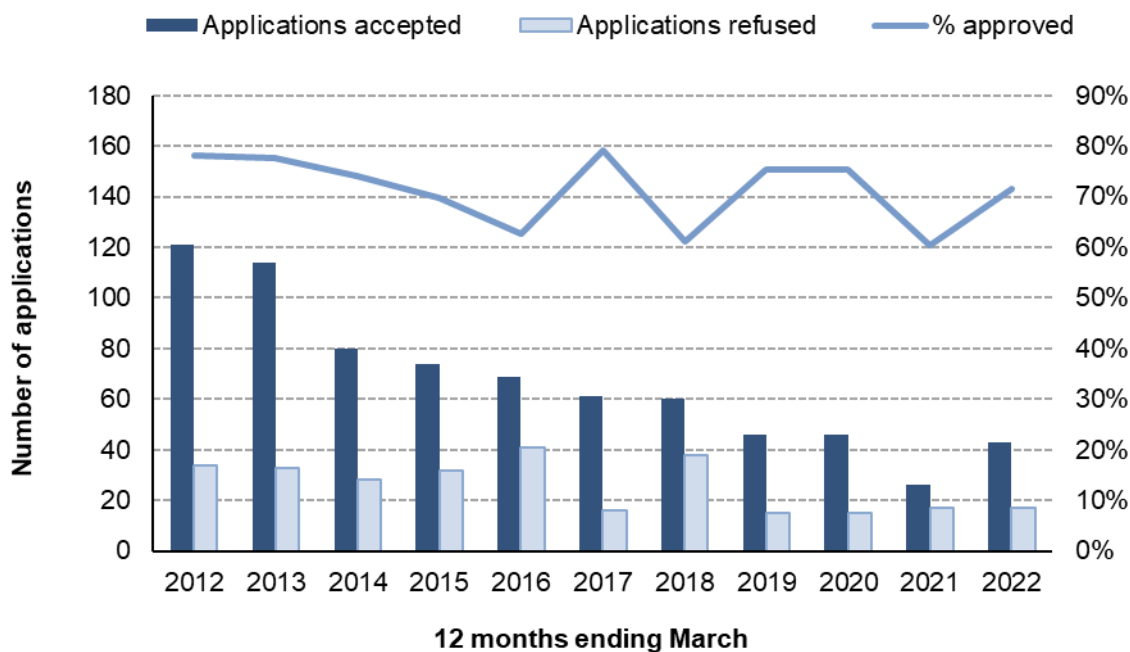
Approved applications for an MBU space have increased while refused applications are the same as the previous year (Figure 11.2, Table 11.1)

In the 12-months ending March 2022, there were 88 applications^{27,28} for a place within an MBU, compared with 62 applications in the previous year. Multiple applications can be submitted by women, for example if they serve two separate sentences and have eligible children on both occasions.

Of the 60 applications which resulted in a recommendation 72% (43 applications) were approved and 28% (17 applications) refused. The percentage of applications that received a recommendation being approved is at a similar level to 2019 and 2020 again after dipping to 60% in 2021. Over the last 10 years the highest percentage of applications approved was in 2017 when 79% of applications that received a recommendation were approved.

Not all applications to MBUs will receive a recommendation as they do not proceed for other reasons, for example because a woman is on remand and does not receive a custodial sentence, or because Children’s Services cannot support an application due to a care order being put in place by the Family Courts.

Figure 11.2: Number of applications approved and refused²⁹ to an MBU, the 12-months ending March 2012 to the 12-months ending March 2022 (Source: Table 11.1)



²⁷ Multiple applications can be submitted by women over the duration of the financial year period; therefore, application volumes will usually be higher than counts for individual mothers.

²⁸ An application approval does not always mean a woman and her baby/babies will be received into an MBU, as alternative arrangements could be made for care after the application is submitted.

²⁹ The percentage of approved applications is the proportion of those who received a recommendation in the year (of approvals or refusals).

The number of women and babies received into MBUs increased over the year (Table 11.1)

During the latest financial year, 39 women and 40 babies were received into a MBUs in England and Wales³⁰. This compares with 27 women and 19 babies in the 12-months ending March 2021. This is the first increase since 2018 and there has been a general trend of falling volumes since March 2011.

On the 31st of March 2022, there were 26 women and 23 babies being accommodated in MBUs across the estate; compared with 21 women and 15 babies in the previous financial year.

³⁰ The number of women received into an MBU does not necessarily equal the number of approvals within a financial year period. This is because an application for a woman can be approved in the previous financial year, but she does not enter the MBU until the current financial year.

12. Electronic Monitoring

Data on Electronic Monitoring is not being included in this version of the HMPPS Annual Digest 2021/22, as the information is now available elsewhere. For the latest data on Electronic Monitoring please see the Electronic Monitoring Publication, update to March 2022 available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/electronic-monitoring-publication-update-to-march-2022>

13. Bail Accommodation and Support Services

The number of BASS referrals decreased by 12% in the latest year

There were 3,424 total referrals for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service in the 12-months to March 2022; a decrease of 12% on the 3,891 referrals made in the previous year.

Home Detention Curfew referrals fell by 22% in the 12-months to March 2022

The number of Home Detention Curfew (HDC) referrals decreased by 22% in the latest year, from 2,868 referrals in the year to March 2021 to 2,224 referrals this year.

Additional Licence Cohorts referrals reduced by 25% and Bail referrals increased by 35%

The number of Additional Licence Cohorts referrals decreased by 25% from 294 to 220 referrals between the years ending March 2021 and March 2022, and referrals relating to Bail increased by 35% from 728 to 980 over the same period.

BASS referrals made at Male Local prisons accounted for the highest volume of known prison referrals

46% (1,377) of all referrals made in the year to March 2022 (where the prison name was known), were from Male Category C prisons.

Bail Accommodation and Support Services (BASS) is a contracted service which provides short-term accommodation for those who have no suitable accommodation and may otherwise be held in custody. The service is available for those on Bail, Home Detention Curfew, released from a custodial sentence of less than four years and of no fixed abode, on licence and at risk of recall due to loss of accommodation or on an Intensive Community Order with a residential requirement.

Establishments were affected by the COVID-19 Test and Trace in the autumn of 2021, which impacted on the staffing levels at prisons. With fewer staff available, prisons had to focus on critical activities which may have impacted BASS figure.

In the 12-months to March 2022, most BASS referrals were made by prisons (88%).

Figure 13.1: Percentage of BASS referrals made, by referring organisation type, England and Wales, 12-months to March 2022

Referring Organisation Type	Percentage of Referrals made
Prisons	88.1%
Courts	7.5%
Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) ³¹	0.8%
Young Offender Institutes (YOIs)	3.6%

³¹ CRCs were absorbed into the NPS in June 2021, so only the period of March 2021 to June 2021 is covered.

BASS were first commissioned in June 2007³², and the contract is currently being provided by NACRO.

The number of BASS referrals declined in the 12-months to March 2022 compared to the year before (Table 13.1)

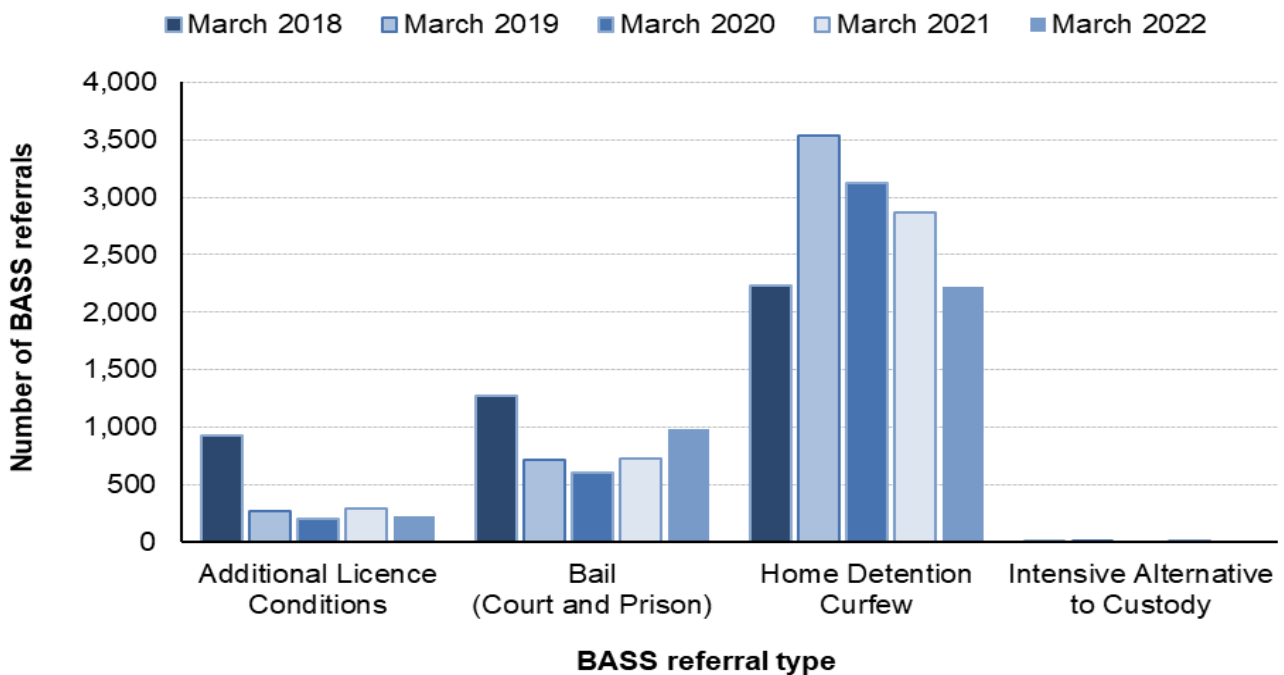
In the year ending March 2022, there were 3,424 referrals to BASS; a decrease of 12% on the 3,891 made in the year to March 2021. In the year to March 2019, there was a large increase in referrals after the implementation of a new HDC policy instruction in January 2018, which increased demand for this service. However, in the financial years since 2019, HDC volumes fell; by 37% to 2,224 in 2022.

65% of the BASS referrals made in the year to March 2022, were for Home Detention Curfew (HDC) (Figure 13.2, Table 13.1)

HDC referrals accounted for 65% (2,224) of the total number of referrals. This is a decrease in volume of 22% (644 fewer) compared with the previous year.

At the same time, there was a decrease in referrals relating to Additional Licence Cohorts by 25% and an increase to Bail (court and prison) referrals by 35%.

Figure 13.2: Number of BASS referrals by referral type, the 12-months ending March 2018 to the 12-months ending March 2022 (Source: Table 13.1)



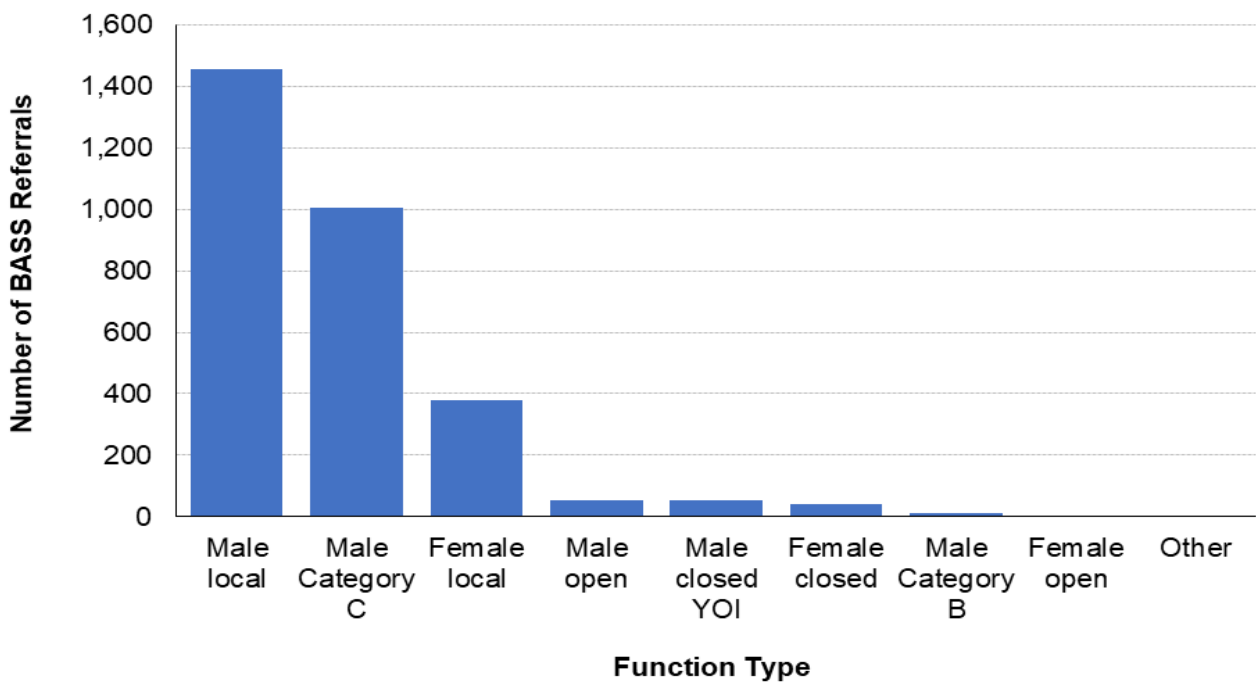
³² The BASS contract was previously supplied by Stonham, part of Home Group, from June 2010 until 17 June 2018. NACRO have supplied the BASS contract since 18 June 2018. This means information for the year to March 2019 has come from two suppliers. As the contracts overlapped, there may be a small number of duplicate referrals.

Male Local prisons had the highest volume of BASS referrals (from known prisons) in the year to March 2022 (Figure 13.3, Table 13.2)

46% (1,377) of BASS referrals by known prisons were from Male Local prisons, in the year to March 2022.

BASS referrals made by Male Category C prisons accounted for 33% of the total number of known prison referrals made in the year to March 2022.

Figure 13.3: Number of referrals made to BASS by selected Prison Category³³, the 12-months ending March 2022 (Source: Table 13.2)



³³ Other Prison Function includes Male YOI – Young People, Male open YOI, IRC, Male Dispersal and STC.

14. Staff in Post

Ethnic minority staff

62,015 (headcount) staff in post at HMPPS

As at 31 March 2022, there were 62,015 (headcount) staff in post at HMPPS, 83.4% of whom had declared their ethnicity.

Overall, 12.0% of individuals who declared their ethnicity declared that they were from an ethnic minority background.

This represents an increase of 1.1 percentage points compared with the previous year.

Declaration rates have decreased since 31st March 2021 (Table 14.2)

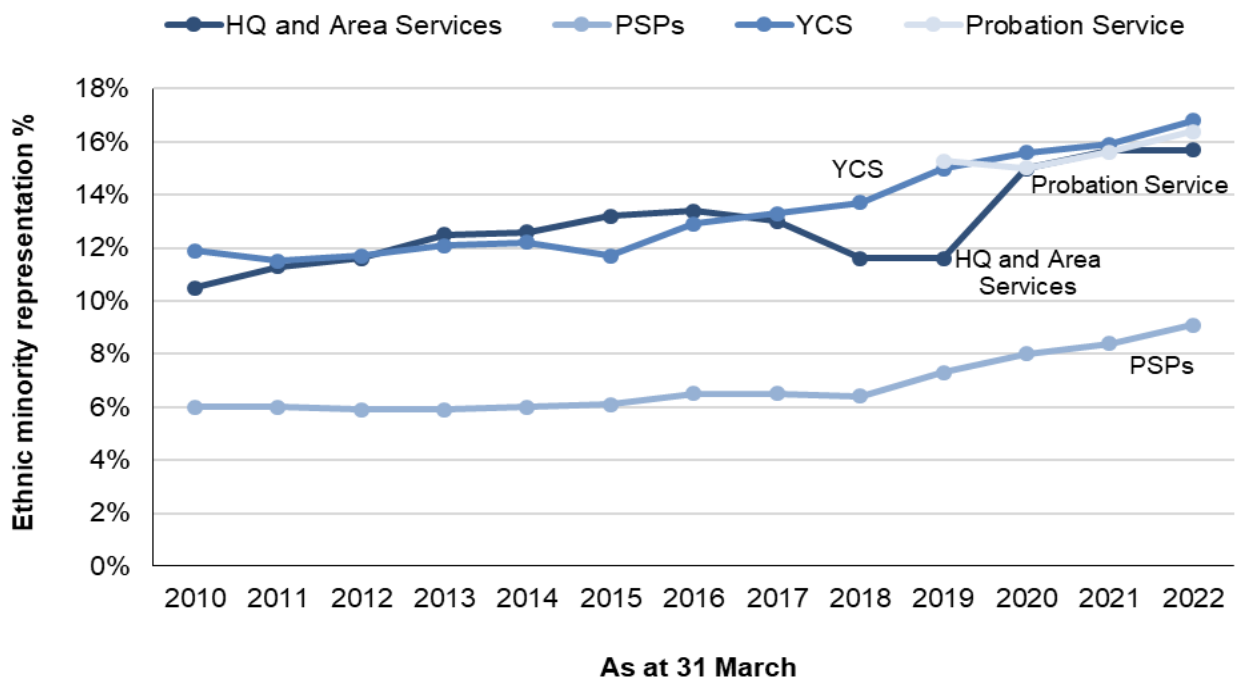
Across HMPPS overall, declaration rates have decreased by 2.4 percentage points (from 85.8% as at 31 March 2021 to 83.4% as at 31 March 2022). HMPPS HQ and Area Services staff had the highest ethnicity declaration rate (87.5%), representing a 0.4 percentage point increase since the previous year. Over the same period, a 0.5 percentage point declaration rate increase was observed amongst staff in Public Sector Prisons (PSPs), from 84.9% as at 31 March 2021 to 85.4% as at 31 March 2022.

The ethnicity declaration rate amongst Probation Service staff decreased to 78.1% as at 31 March 2022; a decrease of 10.2 percentage points compared to the previous year. This was as a result of the 7,000 staff from private sector Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) that came together with probation staff already in the public sector in the new Probation Service and a proportion of these have not yet completed the ethnicity declaration section on the HR database system. A decrease in declaration rate was also seen amongst staff in the Youth Custody Service (YCS) from 83.4% as at 31 March 2021 to 83.0% as at 31 March 2022.

Public Sector Prisons have the lowest ethnic minority representation (Figure 14.1, Table 14.2)

	Ethnic minority Representation Rate	Change since 31 March 2021
Public Sector Prisons	9.1%	Increase of 0.7 percentage points
Youth Custody Service	16.8%	Increase of 0.9 percentage points
HQ & Area Services	15.7%	No change
Probation Service	16.4%	Increase of 0.7 percentage points

Figure 14.1: Ethnic Minority representation rates amongst HMPPS staff^{34,35}, as at 31 March 2010 to 31 March 2022 (Source: Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service workforce statistics publication)



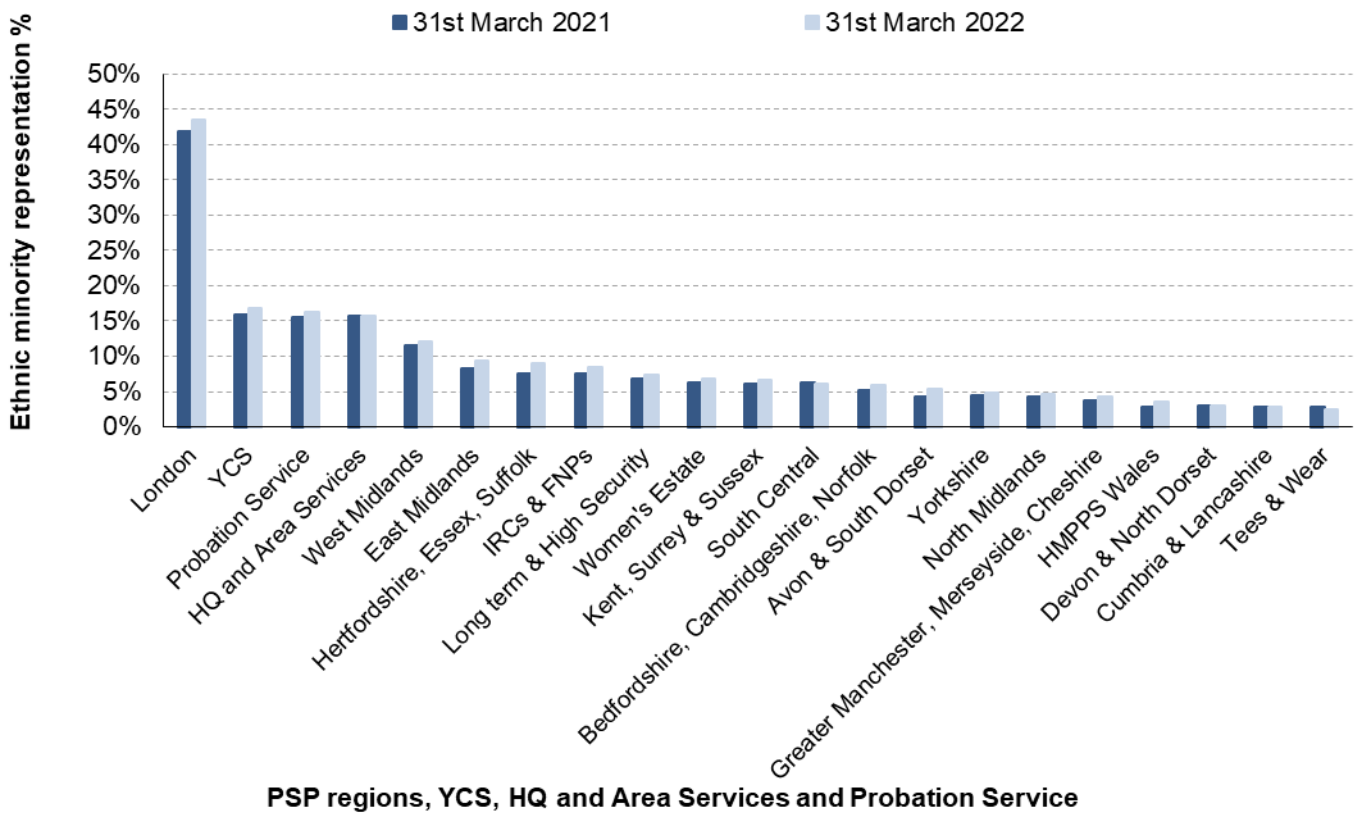
The region with the highest ethnic minority representation was London (Figure 14.2, Table 14.2)

Figure 14.2 shows the proportion of ethnic minority declared staff in PSP regions, the YCS, HQ & Area Services and the Probation Service. Prison establishments within London had the highest representation rates with 43.5% of staff declaring their ethnicity as from ethnic minority backgrounds as at 31 March 2022. In contrast, establishments in Tees and Wear had the lowest representation rate of 2.5%. From 31 March 2021 to 31 March 2022, the proportion of ethnic minority staff has increased in most PSP regions. The largest increase was seen in London from 41.8% to 43.5%. The only regions with a decrease in representation rates were South Central (from 7.4% to 7.3%), and Tees & Wear (from 2.8% to 2.5%).

³⁴ The Probation Service (formerly known as NPS) was created on 1st June 2014, however representation rates prior to 2019 for the Probation Service are not shown due to declaration rates being too low for these years.

³⁵ Although the YCS was not formed until April 2017, historical and latest figures for the Youth Custody Estate have been separated out from the wider PSP category to allow comparisons to be made and to establish the trends over time.

Figure 14.2: Percentage of Ethnic Minority staff by PSP regions³⁶, the YCS, HQ and Area Services and the Probation Service, as at 31 March 2021 and 2022 (Source: Table 14.2)



³⁶ Information reflects the regional management structure implemented in April 2018. These structures do not necessarily reflect geographical border areas.

15. HMPPS staff: sickness absence

In the year ending 31 March 2022, HMPPS staff lost an average of 13.8 working days to sickness absence.

Compared with the year ending 31 March 2021, this was an increase of 2.4 working days lost.

Youth Custody Service (YCS) staff had the highest sickness absence rate at 18.3 Average Working Days Lost (AWDL)

This was followed by the Public Sector Prisons (15.1 AWDL) and Probation Service (12.7 AWDL). Absence rates are lower in HMPPS HQ and Area Services overall compared with the operational parts of HMPPS (7.4 AWDL).

The indicator of staff sickness looks at the Average Working Days Lost (AWDL) through sickness absence in HQ and Area Services, PSPs, the YCS and the Probation Service. Data are not presented for privately managed prisons and the Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) as HMPPS has no responsibility for sickness in private companies. In late June 2021, more than 7,000 staff from private sector CRCs came together with probation staff already in the public sector in the new Probation Service.

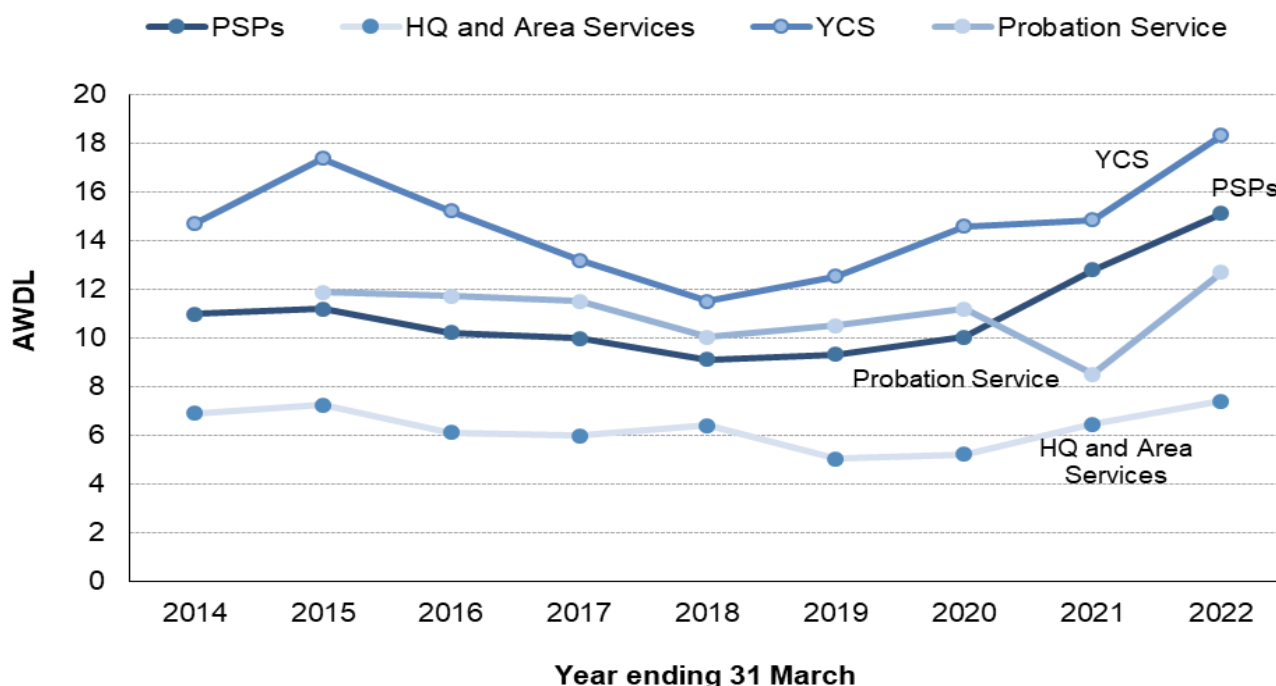
It should be noted that in last year's publication we stated that working days lost to COVID-19 related sickness were not included. Since then, we have now included this data and subsequently revised all our figures since COVID-19 started being reported (30 April 2020). In addition, figures relating to staff absences due to COVID-19 are published in an experimental statistics annex to our quarterly HMPPS Workforce publication.

All HMPPS business areas experienced increases in AWDL compared with the previous year (Figure 15.1, Table 15.1).

Including COVID sickness, in the year ending 31 March 2022, HMPPS staff lost an average of 13.8 working days to sickness absence. This was an increase of 2.4 days compared with the previous year when it stood at 11.4 AWDL.

YCS staff had the highest sickness absence rate at 18.3 AWDL, followed by PSPs (15.1 AWDL), Probation Service (12.7 AWDL), and HMPPS HQ & Area services (7.4 AWDL) (Figure 15.1). Compared with the year ending 31 March 2021, these represent increases of 3.5 days, 2.3 days, 4.2 days and 1.0 days for the YCS, PSP, Probation Service and HMPPS HQ & Area staff respectively.

Figure 15.1: Average Working Days Lost (AWDL) due to sickness absence by HMPPS business area^{37 38}, the 12-months ending March 2014 to the 12-months ending March 2022 (Source: Table 15.1)



All PSP regions and all Probation Service divisions, aside from one, saw increases to their AWDL over the last year (Table 15.2).

Table 15.2 sets out the distribution of AWDL through sickness absence across the PSP regions, the YCS, HQ and Area Services as well as Probation Service divisions over the last two years.

Of the PSP regions, North Midlands had the lowest AWDL amongst staff whilst London had the highest, standing at 11.9 days and 19.3 days respectively for the year ending 31 March 2022. Compared to the previous year, the only decrease in AWDL amongst PSP regions was in Kent, Surrey & Sussex (a decrease of 1.3 days) whilst all other regions saw an increase. The Region with the highest increase was Greater Manchester, Merseyside & Cheshire, which saw an increase of 5.0 working days.

Within the Probation Service, the London Probation Service had the highest rate of sickness absence with an average of 16.8 working days lost in the year ending 31 March 2022. All regions had an increase in AWDL compared to 31 March 2021. The division which had the smallest increase in rates when compared to the year ending 31 March 2021 was North East Probation Service (an increase of 1.2 days), compared to Yorkshire and the Humber Probation Service, which had the highest increase (an increase of 6.8 days). East of England Probation Service and Greater Manchester Probation Service had the lowest rate of sickness absences with an average of 10.6

³⁷ Between January and March 2017, during migration of data to the Single Operating Platform, an under-recording of sickness absence records occurred. Therefore, there is likely to be an undercount of working days lost for the 12-months to 31 March 2017 and subsequent under-estimating of average working days lost.

³⁸ The YCS was not formed until April 2017. Therefore, historical and latest figures for the Youth Custody Estate have been separated out from the wider PSP category to allow comparisons to be made and to establish the trends over time.

working days lost. Within the Probation Service, London Probation Service had the highest rate of sickness absence (average of 16.8 working days lost), followed by Yorkshire and the Humber Probation Service with an average of 15.1 working days lost.

Staff absences due to COVID-19 (Tables 15.3 and 15.4)

Figures in tables 15.3 and 15.4 refer specifically to the total number of staff recorded as not working due to sickness absence for suspected COVID-19 on the last working day of the month. This does not necessarily reflect the number of symptomatic staff members; if a symptomatic staff member was able to work from home they would not be captured in these figures. Staff sickness is reported by the manager and the reliability of this data depends on this information being reported accurately. These figures include all members of staff who are not marked as working from home and where the absence category selected is '1. Sickness Absence - Respiratory System Epidemic/Pandemic'.

Staff members are recorded as 'directly employed' if they are included in the HQ, Probation Service or Approved Premises data collection. Staff members recorded in the data collection from both public and private prisons are recorded as directly employed if they have been flagged as directly employed within the dataset.

Between 31 March 2021 and 30 November 2021, the number of staff absent at a given time due to COVID-19 sickness have ranged between 244 and 587 before a large increase was recorded on 31 December 2021, where 2,728 staff were absent. This is the highest number of staff absent recorded between April 2020 and April 2022 and more than double the staff absent due to COVID-19 on 31 December 2020, where 1,232 staff were absent. Staff absent due to COVID-19 sickness have decreased in the 4 months since this peak.

On 28 April 2022, the most recent published date, there were 811 staff absent due to Covid-19 sickness, of which, 748 (92.2%) were for directly employed staff. Staff absences amongst directly employed staff were made up of 562 (75.1%) staff from Prisons and Youth Custody Service (including both public and private establishments), 159 (21.3%) in the Probation Service, 20 (2.7%) in HMPPS HQ and Area Services and 7 (0.9%) in Approved Premises.

Further information

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from: statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system

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

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Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to the Data and Evidence as a Service Division of the Ministry of Justice:

Sam Rushbrook, Responsible Statistician and Service Users Equalities Performance Lead, using the following e-mail address: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

URL: www.gov.uk/government/collections/prisons-and-probation-statistics

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