









HMPPS Annual Digest 2022/23

Main points

<p>The number of escapes has decreased</p>		<p>When compared with the previous year, the number of escapes in the year ending March 2023 decreased from 12 to 8.</p>
<p>The number of absconds decreased and temporary release failures increased</p>	 	<p>In the year ending March 2023, there were 63 absconds – a 34% decrease when compared with the previous 12-month period. There were 746 temporary release failures in the year ending March 2023, of which 65 were failures to return, and 21 of these were still at large after 30 days. The number of temporary release failures increased by 41% from the previous year.</p>
<p>The percentage of prisoners in crowded conditions increased</p>		<p>In the 12-months to March 2023, the crowding rate at establishments across England and Wales was 23%, up from 21% in the previous 12-month period.</p>
<p>The total number of referrals of Foreign National Offenders increased by 2%</p>		<p>In the 12-months to March 2023, 7,606 referrals were made to the Home Office. This was an increase of 2% when compared with the same period last year, when the number was 7,439.</p>
<p>In the 12 months to March 2023, an average of 1,088 active prisoners were working in custody and subject to the PEA</p>		<p>In the 12 months ending March 2023, an average of 1,088 prisoners worked each month and were subject to the PEA. This represents an increase of 37% on the previous year, when the number was 793 per month.</p>
<p>rMDT is still yet to return to the levels required for reliable national or establishment-level estimates in 2022-23</p>		<p>In the 12 months to March 2023, there were 41,308 random mandatory drug tests (rMDT) carried out nationally across all types of drugs, an increase from 12,396 the previous year, but this remains low compared with over 54,000 tests conducted in 2019-20.</p>
<p>Barricade/prevention of access incidents and incidents at height increased</p>		<p>rMDT is still yet to return to the levels required for reliable national or establishment-level estimates in 2022-23.</p> <p>In the 12-months to March 2023, the number of barricade/prevention of access incidents increased by 8% when compared with the previous year. The number of incidents at height increased 25% in the same period.</p>

Finds of drugs and mobile phones decreased, but alcohol and weapons have increased	 	<p>In the 12 months to March 2023 there were 14,724 incidents of drug finds and 7,837 incidents of mobile phone finds, decreases of 17% and 2% respectively from the previous year. There were 9,481 incidents of alcohol finds and 9,400 incidents of weapon finds, increases of 9% and 17% respectively over the same period.</p>
The proportion of prisoners with an Enhanced (initial) remained similar to previous years		<p>The proportion of prisoners with an Enhanced (initial) status was 50% compared with 50% in the previous year; an annual average of 40,196 prisoners.</p>
The number of MBU applications decreased		<p>In the 12-months to March 2023, 78 applications were made to an MBU; compared with 88 in the previous reporting year.</p>
The number of CAS-2 referrals decreased by 7% in the latest year		<p>There were 3,168 total referrals for the Community Accommodation Service in the 12-months to March 2023; a decrease of 7% on the 3,424 referrals made in the previous year.</p>
13% of HMPPS Staff who declared their ethnicity, were classified as Ethnic minority		<p>This represents an increase of 0.7 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>

This publication covers reporting up to and including the 2022/23 financial year. Data for the current reporting year covers the period between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023; and is referenced as “the 12-months to March 2023”, “the year ending March 2023” or “the latest year”.

Statistician's comment

Data presented in the HMPPS Annual Digest 2021-22¹ suggested some evidence of performance returning to pre-pandemic levels and this trend continues in this 2022-23 edition. By way of context, in the year leading up to March 2023, the total prison population has risen by around 4,600 (which represents a 6% increase) to 84,372. This is the first quarter for which the prison population has exceeded pre-pandemic levels (for comparison, the 31 March 2020 prison population was 82,990).².

We are now two years on from the Covid-19 pandemic and performance in these chapters continue to return to the levels they were before the pandemic. For example, there were 7,606 referrals for Foreign National Offenders to Home Office Immigration Enforcement, in 2020-21 this dropped to 6,206, and pre-pandemic there were 7,989. The percentage of prisoners in crowded cells has had a slight rise in the last couple of years, after a drop during the pandemic, with 23% of prisoners in crowded cells in the latest data. This was around 20% in 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Prisoners on basic incentives continues to rise to pre-pandemic levels. There were 2,571 prisoners on basic incentives in March 2023, there were 4,597 in 2019-20 which dropped to only 559 prisoners in 2020-21.

Volumes of escapes, absconds, and releases in error remain low. Temporary release failures have risen to a new peak, but the proportion of releases completed successfully without failure remains well over 99%.

There has been a 5% increase in find incidents, accompanied by rises in most categories of incident with drugs and mobile phones notable exceptions. Weapon finds fell sharply during COVID and despite increasing have not returned to pre-COVID levels.

Some other measures have also not reached pre-pandemic levels. This includes protesting behaviour, despite a rise in all types compared to the previous year. Similarly, applications to Mother and Baby Units were lower than last year at 78 applications in the 12 months leading to March 2023. There were 95 applications in 2019-20.

This annual digest shows data, for the first time, on the total number of pregnant women in prison during 2022-23 (194 women) as well as monthly totals. January 2023 had the highest number of pregnant women in prison in a month at 58 pregnant women.

¹ HMPPS Annual Digest, April 2021 to March 2022 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

² This was taken from the Statistician's comment published in the Offender Management Statistics Quarterly found here: Offender Management Statistics quarterly: October to December 2022 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Contents

Products published to accompany the HMPPS Annual Digest 2022/23	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. Random Mandatory Drug Testing	20
7. Protesting Behaviour	22
8. Finds in Prison	25
9. Incentives	29
10. Mother and Baby Units (MBUs), Pregnant Prisoners and Births	31
11. Community Accommodation Service (CAS-2) (including BASS)	34
12. Staff in Post	37
13. HMPPS staff: sickness absence	39
Further information	40
Contact	40

Products published to accompany the HMPPS Annual Digest 2022/23

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 **Escapes, Absconds, Failure to Return from ROTL and Releases in Error**. For the first time, data tools have been included which include breakdowns by incident type, offence type and prison. These replace 15 tables: eight by prison and seven by offence.

This report also contains statistics for self-declared **Pregnancy and Births** for the financial year 2022-23. This is the first time we have shown a figure for the total number of pregnant prisoners for the year instead of weekly snapshots.

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.

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 2022/23 on 23 November 2023.

Last year we stated that the content in the HMPPS Annual Digest would be reviewed and as a result the chapter on HMPPS Sickness will no longer appear in this publication. The tables previously published here will be incorporated into the HMPPS Workforce Bulletin and updated quarterly. This publication can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-offender-management-service-workforce-statistics>

Due to operational changes by prisons in response to the COVID-19 only incomplete data is available on prisoners working in prison and as such will not be included in the 2022/23 edition. Work is ongoing to improve data and a new measure that is currently under development. This will be published once completed. Prison level data on Percentage of prisoners in purposeful activity is available in the Annual Prison Performance Ratings 2022/23 Official Statistics.

Related publications

Offender management statistics quarterly³ provides detailed information on offenders held in prison custody and on probation. It includes detailed breakdowns of the prison population, prison receptions and releases. It also covers statistics on adjudications and license recalls.

³ Offender Management Statistics Quarterly is available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly>

The HMPPS Offender Equalities Report⁴ provides protected characteristics breakdowns of placement on the incentives scheme and protected characteristic data on mother and baby units.

The HMPPS Workforce Statistics⁵ publish prisons staff volumes and staff protected characteristics.

Review of the publication

We are continuing to review the purpose and content 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. Please get in touch if you have views on the content and placement of related data across MoJ publications. Contact details are available on the last page of the publication.

⁴ 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>

⁵ 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 decreased

There were 8 escapes in the 12 months to March 2023, none of which remained still at large 30 days after escape. This is a decrease from 12 escapes the previous year, 2 of which remained still at large 30 days after escape⁶.

The number of absconds has decreased

There were 63 absconds in the year to March 2023, a 34% decrease from 95 absconds in the previous 12 months. Of the 63 prisoners who absconded, 44% (28 prisoners) remained at large for over 30 days, an increase from 37% the previous 12 months (35 out of 95 prisoners.)

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

There were 746 temporary release failures in the year to March 2023, of which, 65 were failures to return, and 21 of these were still at large after 30 days.

The number of temporary release failures increased by 41% from 529 the previous year and increased by 9% from the previous peak in the year ending March 2020 (686), pre-pandemic. In the same period ROTL increased by 28% from the previous year (from 301,003 to 386,435) but remained 12% lower than the year ending March 2020.

The number of releases in error has increased

There were 71 prisoners released in error in the latest year, an increase of 31% compared with the year ending March 2022.

Unlawfully-at-large incidents are categorised by the level of security measures the prisoner had to overcome to gain their liberty. A new data tool has been included showing a breakdown of incidents by type of incident, prison and offence of the prisoner. This replaces a number of large and complex tables presenting incident types by prison, offence and year to make this data easier for interested users to manipulate.

The number of escapes decreased from 12 to 8 in the 12 months to March 2023 (Table 1.1, Figure 1.1)⁷

In the 12 months ending March 2023, there were a total of 8 escapes, 7 of which occurred from contractor escorts and 1 occurred from an establishment. This is a decrease from 12 in the year ending March 2022. None of the 8 escapees in the latest year remained at large 30 days after their escape.

⁶ This figure has been revised since the 2021/22 HMPPS Annual Digest. This is due to additional data on the recapture date of the escaped prisoner being available since the publication of last year's annual digest.

⁷ 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

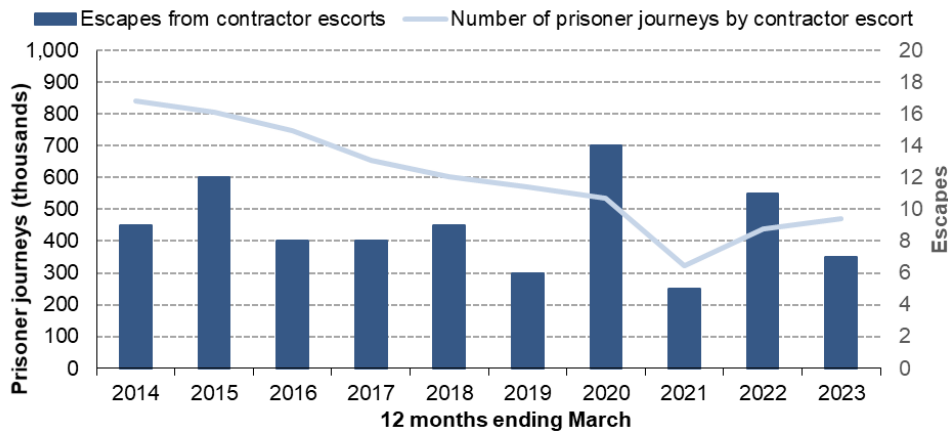
There were no Category A prisoner escapes from prisons or HMPPS escorts. In the last 27 years (since the financial year ending March 1997), there have been two Category A escapes, occurring in the 12 months ending March 2012 and 2013.

There was 1 escape from prison in the latest year, which occurred at HMP Bedford. 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 were no escapes from 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. There were 469,370 contractor escort journeys in the financial year to March 2023, a 7% increase from 437,099 the previous year, but 12% lower than the 535,416 journeys in the 12 months to March 2020. Of the 469,370 journeys in the latest year, 7 resulted in an escape. The rate of escape from contractor escorts has remained consistently low at below 1 escape per 30,000 prisoner journeys each year since 2013.

Figure 1.1: Contractor escort journeys and escapes from contractor escorts, the 12 months ending March 2014 to the 12 months ending March 2023



The number of absconds decreased in the 12 months to March 2023 (Table 1.1, Figure 1.2)⁸

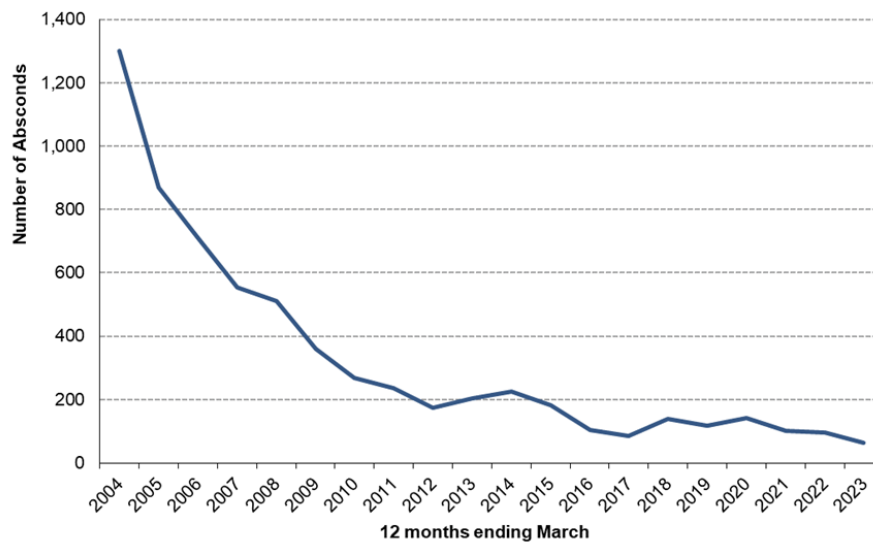
There were 63 absconds in the year ending March 2023, a 34% decrease from 95 absconds in the previous year. The number of absconds has remained relatively stable since 2016, following a steady decrease from 1,301 absconds in the 12 months ending March 2004.

Of those who absconded in the 12 months to March 2023, 28 were still at large after 30 days. The percentage of prisoners who were at large after 30 days increased from 37% in the previous year to 44% in the latest year.

⁸ 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

Most abscond incidents in the 12 months to March 2023 were for prisoners whose main offence was theft offences (29%) or violence against the person (24%).

Figure 1.2: Absconds, the 12 months ending March 2004 to the 12 months ending March 2023



The number of failures to return from release on temporary licence (ROTL) increased in the 12 months to March 2023 (Table 1.1, Figure 1.3)⁹

In the year ending March 2023, there were 386,435 incidents of ROTL, a 28% increase from 301,003 incidents in the previous year, although still 12% lower than 438,117 in the 12 months to March 2020. Of those 386,435 incidents of ROTL, 746 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 41% from 529 temporary release failures in the year ending March 2022 and is 9% higher than the previous peak of 686 in the year ending March 2020, pre-pandemic.

Of the 746 temporary release failures, 65 were failures to return, resulting in prisoners being unlawfully at large, which represented 9% of temporary release failures.

Of the 65 failures to return in the year ending March 2023, 21 prisoners were still at large after 30 days.

⁹ 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

Figure 1.3: Temporary release failures from the 12 months ending March 2005 and failures to return from the 12 months ending March 2012, to the 12 months ending March 2023¹⁰

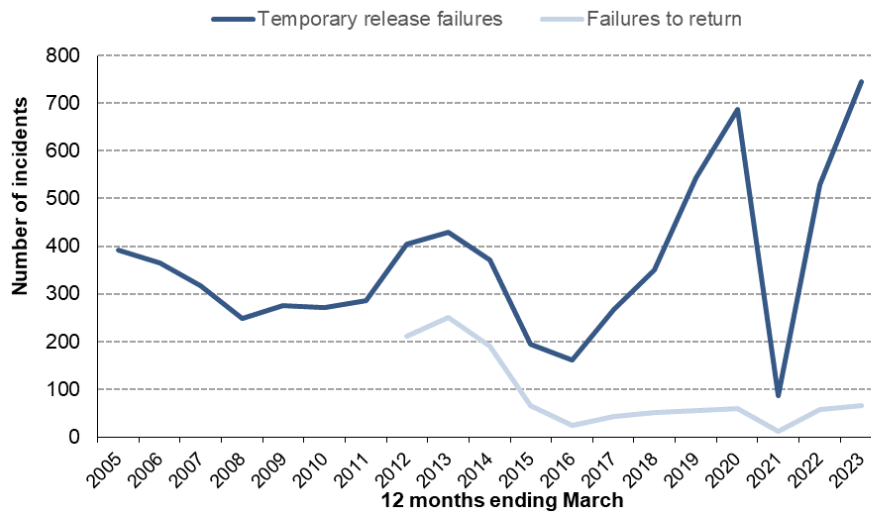


Figure 1.3 shows that while the number of prisoners who fail to return from ROTL generally mirrors the trend for all temporary release failures, the number has been broadly stable since 2016 (excluding 2020-21, when ROTL was mostly suspended due to the pandemic), following a downward trend beforehand. The number of prisoners who fail to return from ROTL accounted for a decreasing proportion of failures, falling from 52% (211 out of 405) in the year to March 2012 to 10% (56 out of 543) in the year to March 2019. Since March 2019, the proportion of failures attributable to prisoners who fail to return from ROTL has remained stable and in the year to March 2023 was 9% (65 out of 746).

Most failure to return incidents in the year ending March 2023 were for prisoners whose main offence was drug offences (32%) or theft offences (22%).

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 and 386,435 in the 2022/23 financial year. The proportion of releases completed successfully without failure remains well over 99%¹¹.

¹⁰ Data on the type of temporary release failure is not available for the full time series presented in figure 1.3. Data on failures to return was first available for the 12 months ending March 2012.

¹¹ Data on the type of temporary release failure is not available for the full time series presented in figure 1.3. Data on failures to return was first available for the 12 months ending March 2012.

The number of releases in error increased in the 12 months to March 2023 (Table 1.1)

In the 12 months to March 2023, 71 prisoners were released in error. This is a 31% increase from 54 the previous year, but slightly 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 2023, 60 releases in error occurred from prison establishments, while 11 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 period¹².

¹² 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 average¹³ prison population increased compared with last year

In the year to March 2023, the average prison population in England and Wales was 81,822, compared with 79,146 in the previous year.

The crowding rate of prisons in England and Wales increased

In the 12-months to March 2023, the crowding rate at establishments across England and Wales was 23%, up from 21% in the previous 12-month period.

Crowding rates were highest in private prisons

Crowding rates have continued to be the highest in private prisons. The private prison crowding rate was 28% for the latest 12-month period, compared to 22% in public prisons.

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 dormitories¹⁴.

The maximum level of crowding for each prison is set by senior operational managers in HMPPS in agreeing the operational capacity¹⁵ of each establishment. No prison will be expected to operate at a level of crowding beyond that agreed by a senior operational manager.

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

In the 12-months to March 2023, the average population in prison was 81,822, an increase compared with the previous year when the population was 79,146. In the year to March 2023, 18,710 prisoners were held in crowded accommodation conditions, which represents a crowding rate of 23%¹⁶.

The crowding rate in public prisons was 22% in the year to March 2023, compared with 19% in the previous year. In privately managed prisons, the crowding rate in the latest year was 28%, an increase from 26% in the previous year.

Of all prisoners held in crowded conditions, 100%¹⁷ (18,642 prisoners) were held in doubled¹⁸ accommodation. The doubled crowding rate, as a proportion of the total prison population, was 23% in the current reporting year. This is an increase from 21% in the previous year.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ For example, if 12 prisoners occupy a dormitory with an uncrowded capacity of 10, then the 12 prisoners are counted as crowded.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ Expressed as a proportion of the total prison population.

¹⁷ 99.6% unrounded.

¹⁸ Doubled accommodation is defined as two prisoners being held in a cell designed for one prisoner.

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 2023 (Source: Table 2.2)



The highest crowding rates are in Male Local prisons¹⁹ (Figure 2.2, Table 2.5)

Rates of crowding vary by prison function²⁰, and in the 12-months to March 2023, levels were highest in Male Local prisons, where 49% (12,380) prisoners²¹ were held in crowded accommodation.

In Male Category C prisons²², the crowding rate was 16% in the latest year. The crowding rate in Female Local prisons was 10% in the year to March 2023.

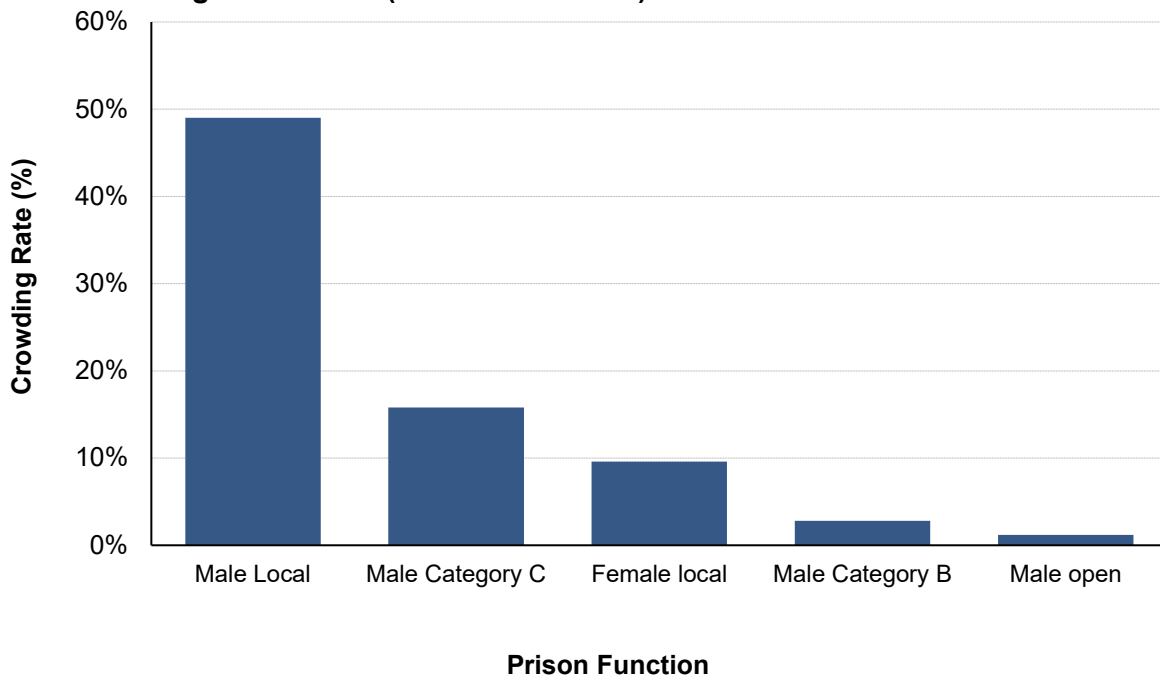
¹⁹ Crowding is not evenly dispersed across the prison estate; it is particularly concentrated in male local prisons, which are those that serve the courts of a specific area and which predominantly hold remand and short sentenced prisoners.

²⁰ Prison function is determined using the 2022/23 financial year list of functions.

²¹ Expressed as a proportion of the total prison population in Male Local prisons, which was 12,380 in the latest financial year. The total prison population across all estates in England and Wales was 81,822.

²² 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.

Figure 2.2: Crowding rate in prisons across England and Wales, by prison function, 12-months ending March 2023 (Source: Table 2.5)



3. Foreign National Offender Referrals

The Foreign National Offender referral rate did not meet Home Office targets

87% (6,620) of the 7,606 total referrals of Foreign National Offenders made to the Home Office were made within 10 working days, below the 90% target.

The total number of referrals of Foreign National Offenders increased

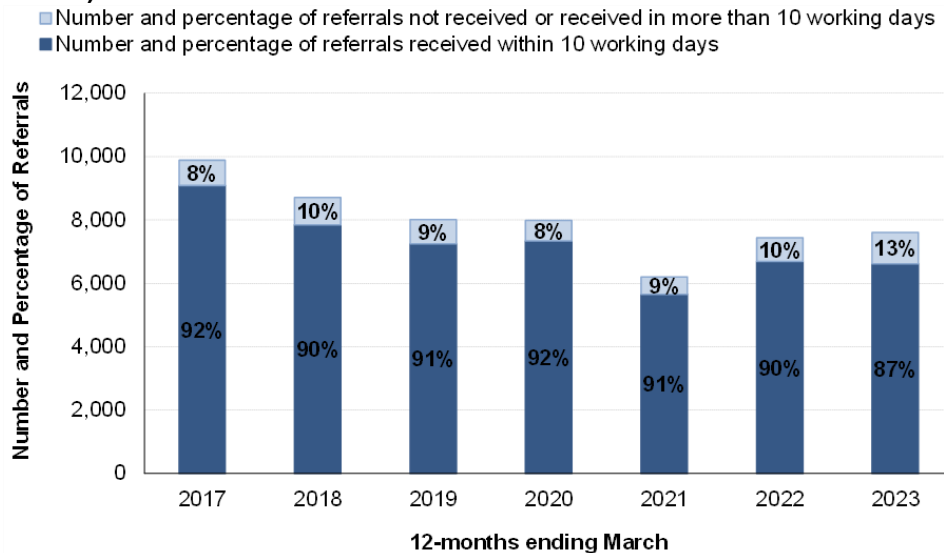
In the 12-months to March 2023, 7,606 referrals were made to the Home Office. This was an increase of 2% when compared with the same period last year, when the number was 7,439.

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 was below the 90% Home Office target (Table 3.1)

From April 2022 to March 2023²³, 7,606 Foreign National Offenders were referred to the Home Office. The number of referrals increased by 2% compared with last year, when the number of referrals was 7,439. This year, 87% (6,620) of referrals were received within 10 working days, which was below the Home Office target referral rate of 90%. This is the first year since 2016 where the target has not been met. The remaining 13% (986 cases) were referred to the Home Office in time through a trial of new digital process not captured under this measure.

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 2023 (Source: Table 3.1)



²³ 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

Due to operational changes by prisons in response to the COVID-19 only incomplete data is available on prisoners working in prison and as such will not be included in the 2022/23 edition. Work is ongoing to improve data and a new measure that is currently under development. This will be published once completed. Prison level data on Percentage of prisoners in purposeful activity is available in the Annual Prison Performance Ratings 2022/23 Official Statistics: Prison Performance Ratings: 2022 to 2023 - Official statistics announcement - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

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

In the 12 months to March 2023, a net²⁴ sum of £19.4 million was raised before the Prisoners' Earnings Act (PEA) levy was applied.

During the 12 months ending March 2023, a total of £19.4 million was earned before the Prisoners' Earnings Act levy was applied. This is a nominal increase of 49% compared with the same period last year, when £13.0 million was raised.

In the 12 months to March 2023, an average of 1,088 active prisoners were working in custody and subject to the PEA

In the 12 months ending March 2023, an average of 1,088 prisoners worked each month and were subject to the PEA. This represents an increase of 37% on the previous year, when the number was 793 per month.

A total of £3.5 million was raised through the Prisoners' Earnings Act levy

An average of £266 per prisoner per month was raised through the levy; totalling £3.5 million raised for the year ending March 2023. Net earnings amounted to £1,217 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. As per the Prison Rules 1999, all 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 past two financial years is due in part to the suspension of some ROTL cases in the year ending March 2021.

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

In the year to March 2023, prisoners' nominal net earnings under the Prisoners' Earnings Act (1996) amounted to £19.4 million, £3.5 million was raised through the levy, compared to 0.4 million in 2012 when the time series began. When adjusting for inflation²⁵, £0.4 million would be equivalent to £0.5 million in 2023. This shows an above inflation increase in the amount raised for Victim Support through the levy.

Nominal net earnings before the levy increased by 49% (£6.4 million) from the previous year. The proportion of prisoner earnings taken through the levy was 18% in 2022/23, an increase from 15% the year before. Average nominal net earnings per prisoner per month after the levy increased and

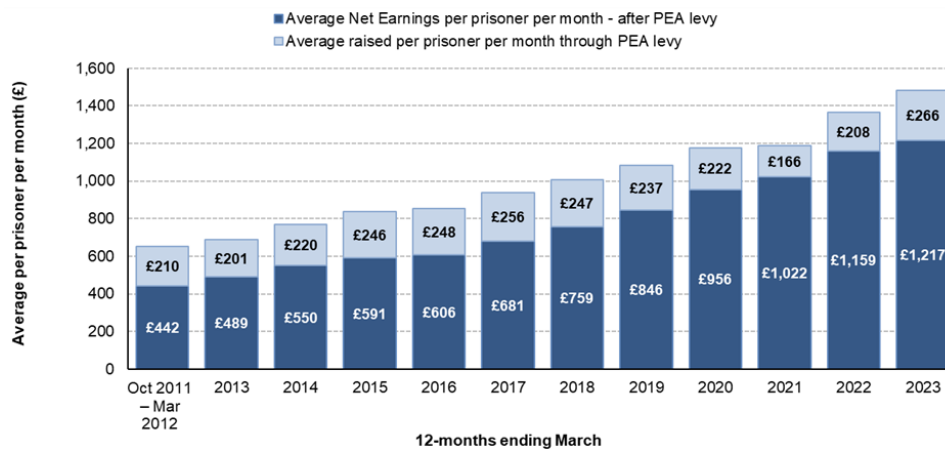
²⁴ Net earnings are those after tax, national insurance, any court ordered payments or child maintenance payments.

²⁵ Consumer price index calculated using Bank of England inflation calculator: <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy/inflation/inflation-calculator>

the average amount raised for the levy per prisoner per month also increased (Figure 2.1, Table 5.2). After the levy deduction through the Prisoner's Earnings Act (1996), prisoners earned an average of £1,217 per month in the 12-months ending March 2023, a 5% nominal increase in earnings (£58) on average per prisoner per month compared with the same period in the previous reporting year (when average earnings totalled £1,159 per prisoner).

Through the levy deduction, £266 per prisoner per month was raised on average for the levy. The nominal amount raised increased by 28% (£58) per month per prisoner in the latest year compared with the year ending March 2022, when an average of £208 was raised per prisoner per month through the Prisoners' Earnings Act levy. In the 12-months to March 2023, the average number of active prisoners per month was 1,088, an increase of 37% from last year when the number was 793.

Figure 5.1: Average nominal 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 2023 (Source: Table 5.2)



6. Random Mandatory Drug Testing

rMDT is still yet to return to the levels required for reliable national or establishment-level estimates in 2022-23.

In the 12 months to March 2023, there were 41,308 random mandatory drug tests (rMDT) carried out nationally across all types of drugs. This was an increase from 12,396 the previous year, but this remains low compared with over 54,000 tests conducted in 2019-20.

All Random mandatory drug testing (rMDT) was paused in March 2020 following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Low levels of testing resumed from September 2020 in line with establishments' position within the National Framework for managing COVID-19 before formal performance expectations around rMDT volumes were re-instated in April 2022. rMDT is still yet to return to the levels required for reliable national or establishment-level estimates in 2022-23.

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 1 or 2 rather than at Stages 3 and 4 of the National Framework for managing COVID-19. This resulted in a significant drop in the number of completed tests throughout 2020-21, continuing into 2021-22. In April 2022 formal performance expectations around rMDT volumes were reinstated, associated with an increase in test volumes but not to pre-pandemic levels.

In the 12 months to March 2023, the latest year, there were 41,308 random mandatory drug tests (rMDT) carried out nationally, an increase from 12,396 conducted in 2021-22. However, in 2022-23 test volumes remained below pre-pandemic years, averaging less than 3,450 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 since 2019-20²⁶.

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 has not been possible to draw conclusions about the level of misuse of drugs including PS for 2018-19 and 2019-20 because of

²⁶ The maximum number of prisons with at least one test in a single month in the 12 months to March 2023 occurred in November 2022 and was 108, however only 87 of these were testing at the required levels. Only 79 prisons performed at least one test in April 2022. This is well below the pre-COVID-19 average of c.120 prisons. Not testing in all prisons leads to estimates that are likely to be biased.

two new compounds of PS in circulation in prisons which could not at the time be identified by the rMDT test.

Because of the pause and subsequent disruption to testing due to the pandemic since 2020-21 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 2017-2018²⁷. In 2017-18, the percentage of positive drug tests (including PS) was 21%.

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.

²⁷ 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-march2020>). This includes full details of data quality which are summarised in the Guide to this year's HMPPS Digest

7. Protesting Behaviour

Barricade/prevention of access incidents increased

In the 12 months to March 2023, there were 1,372 barricade/prevention of access incidents, an increase of 8% from 1,273 in the previous 12-month period.

Hostage incidents increased

In the 12 months to March 2023, there were 52 incidents where prisoners took someone hostage, an increase of 33% from 39 in the previous 12 months.

Concerted indiscipline incidents increased

In the 12 months to March 2023, the number of incidents of concerted indiscipline increased by 38% to 190. The number of these incidents which are counted as active, incidents involving aggression or violence, increased by 78% over the same period from 59 to 105 (55% of all concerted indiscipline incidents).

Incidents at height increased

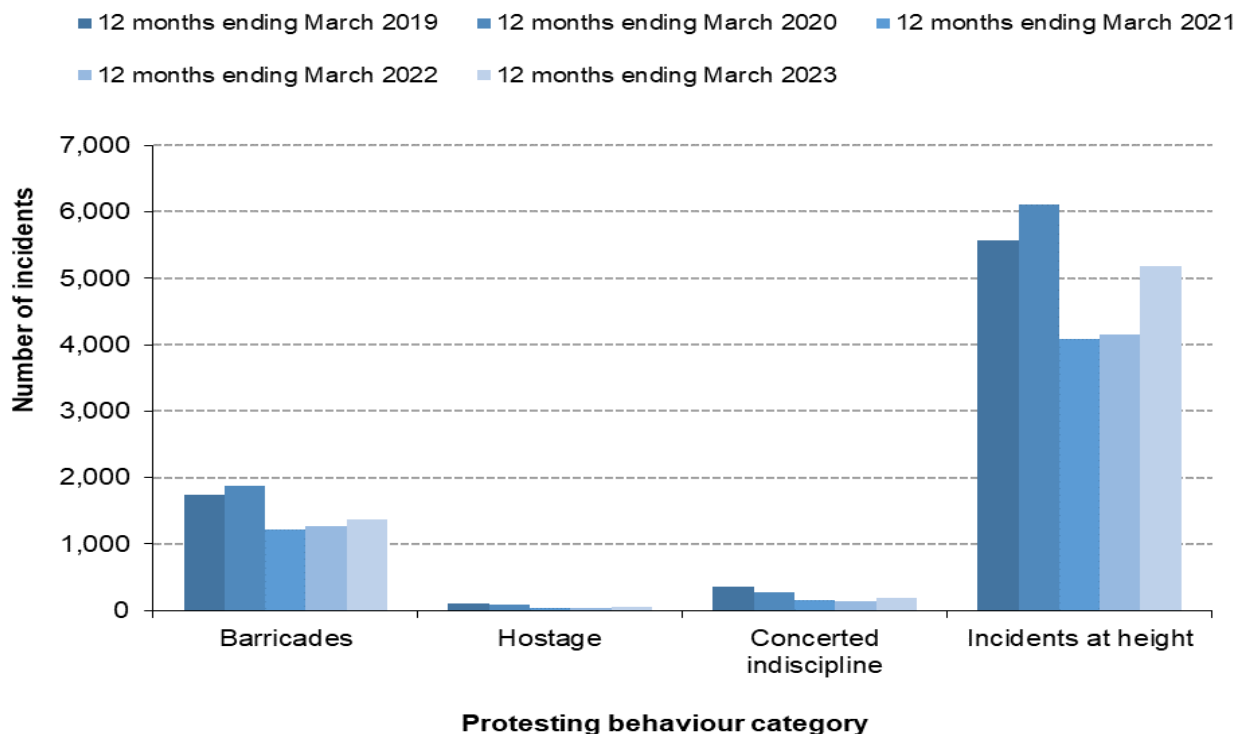
In the 12 months to March 2023, the number of incidents at height in prisons increased by 25% to 5,188 (compared with 4,157 in the previous year).

Incidents at height continue to be the most common form of protesting behaviour (Figure 7.1, Table 7.1)²⁸

In the 12 months to March 2023, the most common type of incidents of protesting behaviour were incidents at height (5,188 incidents), followed by barricades or prevented access (1,372 incidents), concerted indiscipline (190 incidents) and hostages (52 incidents). All types of incidents of protesting behaviour increased in the 12 months to March 2023 in comparison to the 12 months to March 2022. These increases are likely due in part to the continuation of some COVID-related restrictions in the 12 months to March 2022, which were removed in the latest year. Despite these increases, numbers for all incident types remain lower than they were pre-pandemic.

²⁸ Please see the Guide to HMPPS Annual Digest for protesting behaviour definitions

Figure 7.1: Number of incidents in each category of protesting behaviour, 12 months ending March 2019 to 12 months ending March 2023 (Source: Table 7.1)



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

There were 1,372 incidents in the 12 months to March 2023 where prisoners used barricades or prevented access. This represents an increase of 8% from 1,273 in the previous year, but a decrease of 27% 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 rise in the prison population between this and the previous year, increased 4% from 16.1 in the previous 12 months to 16.8 in the 12 months to March 2023. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate was considerably higher at 22.6 in the 12 months to March 2020^{29,30}.

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

The number of incidents where prisoners took someone hostage in prisons increased by 33% to 52 in the 12 months to March 2023 (compared with 39 in the previous year). However, this is a decrease of 40% from 86 incidents in the 12 months to March 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic. Excluding the COVID-19 pandemic period, this continues a downward trend in hostage incidents from a peak of 129 in the 12 months to March 2016.

²⁹ 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>.

³⁰ Please refer to the HMPPS Annual Digest Guidance Document for further information about how rates are compiled.

The rate of hostage incidents in the 12 months to March 2023 increased from 0.5 to 0.6 incidents per 1,000 prisoners in comparison to the previous year but 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 increased (Source: Protesting Behaviour data tool)

The number of incidents of concerted indiscipline increased by 38% to 190 incidents in the 12 months to March 2023. This represents a decrease of 29% from 267 incidents in the 12 months to March 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic, and continues a generally decreasing trend since a peak of 380 incidents in the 12 months to March 2017.

The increase in the latest year was driven by incidents of concerted indiscipline described as active, which increased by 78%, from 59 to 105 incidents in the 12 months to March 2023. The proportion of incidents of concerted indiscipline described as active increased from 43% in the previous year to 55% in the latest year, which is in line with the proportions typically seen pre-COVID-19.

The rate of concerted indiscipline incidents per 1,000 prisoners increased from 1.7 in the 12 months to March 2022 to 2.3 in the 12 months to March 2023, although remained lower than the pre-pandemic rate of 3.2 in the 12 months to March 2020.

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

The number of incidents at height increased by 25% to 5,188 in the 12 months to March 2023 (compared with 4,157 in the previous year). The number of incidents at height was 15% 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 52.7 in the 12 months to March 2022 to 63.4 in the 12 months to March 2023 but remained considerably lower than the pre-pandemic rate of 73.5 in the 12 months to March 2020.

8. Finds in Prison

Total number of find incidents increased

In the 12 months to March 2023, the number of incidents of finds increased to 52,195 from 49,506 in the previous 12-month period, an increase of 5%.

Number of drug finds in prisons decreased

In the 12 months to March 2023, the number of incidents where drugs were found in prisons decreased to 14,724 from 17,700 in the previous 12-month period, a decrease of 17%.

Number of mobile phone finds decreased while SIM card finds increased

In the 12 months to March 2023, there were 7,837 incidents where mobile phones were found in prisons and 4,279 incidents where SIM cards were found. This is a decrease of 2% for mobile finds but an increase of 20% for SIM card finds, compared with the previous 12-month period.

Number of incidents where weapons were found increased

There were 9,400 incidents where weapons were found in the 12 months to March 2023. This is an increase of 17% compared to the previous year.

Number of tobacco finds increased

In the 12 months to March 2023, there were 3,694 incidents where tobacco was found in prisons. This is an increase of 16% compared to the previous year.

Number of alcohol and distilling equipment finds increased

In the 12 months to March 2023, there were 9,481 incidents where alcohol was found in prisons and 583 incidents where distilling equipment was found. These are increases of 9% and 12% respectively, compared with the previous 12-month 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.

The total number of incidents where items were found increased in the 12 months to March 2023 (Table 8.1)³¹

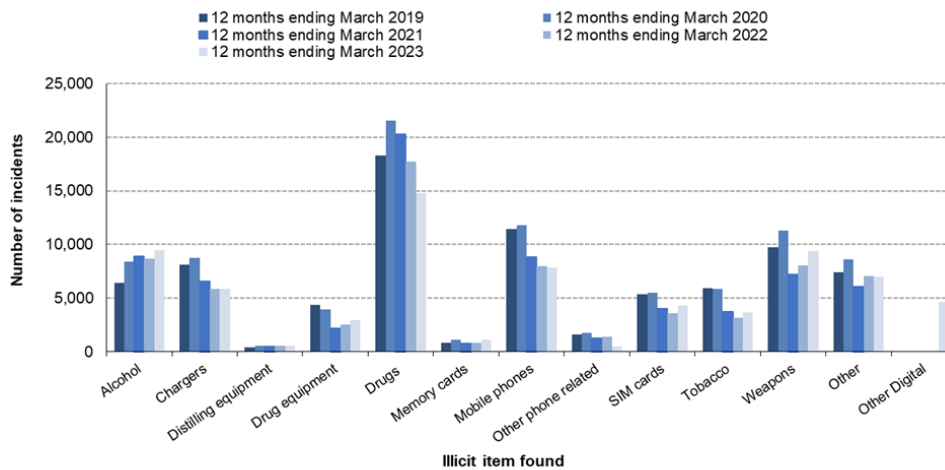
In the 12 months ending March 2023, there were 52,195 find incidents; an increase of 5% from the 49,506 in the 12 months to March 2022. Find incidents had been on an upwards trend pre-pandemic, reaching a peak of 63,764 in the 12 months to March 2020, and had then been on a downwards trend till the 12 months to March 2022.

In the year to March 2023 the most common types of illicit items found in prisons were drugs (14,724 incidents of finds); alcohol (9,481); weapons (9,400); and mobile phones (7,837). There were decreases in the numbers of finds of drugs and mobile phones in the latest year, by 17%, and 2%

³¹ There was a change in the way Finds were recorded in March 2022, please see the Guide to HMPPS Annual Digest for more information.

respectively, while the number of finds of alcohol and weapons increased by 9% and 17% respectively in the latest year.

Figure 8.1: Number of incidents where illicit items were found in prisons, 12 months ending March 2019 to 12 months ending March 2023 (Source: Table 8.1)



The number of finds of drugs decreased in the 12 months to March 2023 (Figure 8.1, Finds data tool)

In the 12 months ending March 2023, there were 14,724 finds of drugs in prisons; a decrease of 17% from the 17,700 in the 12 months to March 2022. Incidents of drug finds had been on an upwards trend pre-pandemic reaching a peak of 21,575 in the 12 months to March 2020 and have since been on a downwards trend.

The number of incidents where drug equipment was found in prisons increased by 18% from 2,503 in the 12 months to March 2022 to 2,942 incidents in the 12 months to March 2023.

The drug type accounting for the largest number of incidents where drugs were found in the 12 months to March 2022 were Class B drugs (Table 8.2a)

There was a large increase in incidents of finds where the drug type was unknown, increasing 44% to 4,691 finds, more incidents than any other drug category in this time period. This is potentially due to a change in the way finds were recorded in March 2022, where a response order effect may have led to a higher proportion of ‘unknown’ responses. This may also be associated with falls in individual drug categories³².

³² There was a change in the way Finds were recorded in March 2022, please see the Guide to HMPPS Annual Digest for more information.

There was a large decrease in finds of Class A drugs, decreasing 70% to 824 finds. Class A drugs were found in 6% of drug find incidents³³, 9 percentage points lower than the previous year. There was a small increase in finds of Class B drugs, increasing by 3% to 4,202 finds, more incidents than any other drug category (beside the Unknown category) in this time period. Class B drugs were found in 29% of drug find incidents, 6 percentage points higher than the previous year.

Psychoactive substances (PS), as defined in the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016³⁴, were found in 2,587 incidents in the 12 months to March 2023. The number of finds of psychoactive substances had fallen by 54% compared with the 12 months to March 2022 and the percentage of drug finds that included psychoactive substances (PS) decreased from 32% in the 12 months to March 2022 to 18% in the 12 months to March 2023.

There was a 12% decrease in 'other' types of drugs found, to 2,611 finds.

The number of incidents where mobile phones were found decreased in the 12 months to March 2023 (Figure 8.1, and Table 8.3)

The number of incidents where mobile phones were found in prisons decreased by 2% from 7,988 in the 12 months to March 2022, to 7,837 incidents in the 12 months to March 2023. Incidents of mobile phone finds had been on an upwards trend pre-pandemic reaching a peak of 11,792 in the 12 months to March 2020 and have since been on a downwards trend.

The quantity of mobile phones found in prisons fell to a slightly greater extent, by 6% over this time period, from 11,809 in the 12 months to March 2022 compared with 11,129 in the 12 months to March 2023.

The number of incidents where SIM cards were found increased in the 12 months to March 2023 (Figure 8.1 and Table 8.4)

The number of incidents where SIM cards were found in prisons increased by 20% from 3,556 in the 12 months to March 2022, to 4,279 incidents in the 12 months to March 2023.

However, the quantity of SIM cards found decreased in this period by 13%, from 7,666 SIM cards found in the 12 months to March 2022 compared with 6,634 in the latest 12-months.

The number of incidents where memory cards were found increased, while the number of incidents where chargers were found stayed stable (Figure 8.1)

The number of incidents where memory cards were found in prisons increased 33%, from 854 in the 12 months ending March 2022 to 1,134 in the 12 months ending March 2023.

³³ Figures on the percentage of incidents by class of drugs are approximations that assume no find incidents include multiple drugs within each class.

³⁴ 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>

The number of incidents where chargers were found in prisons stayed relatively stable, with a small increase from 5,827 in the 12 months ending March 2022 to 5,831 in the 12 months ending March 2023.

There was a large decrease in the number of incidents where other mobile phone related items were found, in part due to the introduction of a new “other digital items” category (Figure 8.1, Guide to HMPPS Annual Digest)

The number of incidents where other mobile phone related items were found in prisons decreased 66%, from 1,363 in the 12 months ending March 2022 to 466 in the 12 months ending March 2023.

In March 2022, there were changes to how finds incidents were reported on the incident reporting system. One of these changes introduced a new “other digital items” find incident, which is a category for items such as USB drives, external storage devices, games consoles, etc. Previously, items such as these would have been reported as “other” or “other mobile related” items. In the 12 months to March 2023 there were 4,617 finds of other digital items.

The number of incidents where alcohol was found has increased (Figure 8.1)

The number of incidents where alcohol was found in prisons increased 9%, from 8,703 in the year ending March 2022 to 9,481 in the year ending March 2023.

The number of incidents where distilling equipment was found increased 12%, from 522 in the year ending March 2022 to 583 in the year ending March 2023.

The number of incidents where tobacco was found increased (Figure 8.1)

In the 12 months ending March 2023 there were 3,694 finds of tobacco in prisons, an increase of 16% from 3,185 incidents the previous year.

The number of incidents where weapons were found increased (Figure 8.1)

The number of incidents where weapons were found in prisons increased 17% from 8,057 in the year ending March 2022 to 9,400 in the year ending March 2023. The trend in weapon finds pre-pandemic had been an increase, peaking at 11,267 in the 12 months to March 2020. Weapon finds had a sharp drop at the start of the pandemic period, going from the peak in the 12 months to March 2020 to 7,178 in the 12 months to March 2021. Since then, weapon finds have been on an increasing trend but have not yet returned to pre-COVID levels.

9. Incentives

The proportion of prisoners with a Basic incentive status increased

In the year to March 2023, the proportion of prisoners with a Basic status was 3% (an annual average of 2,571 prisoners) increasing from the previous year when the proportion was 1%.

The proportion of prisoners with a Standard incentive status decreased

45% (36,248) of prisoners had standard incentive status in 2022/23, a drop from 48% (37,594) for the previous year.

The proportion of prisoners with an Enhanced (initial) incentive status remained the same when compared with the previous year

The proportion of prisoners with an Enhanced (initial) status was 50%, the same level as in the previous year, and an annual average of 40,196 prisoners.

There were 739 prisoners with Enhanced (extended) incentive status

The Enhanced (extended) measure was introduced for the first-time last year, when there was an annual average of 673 prisoners on this incentives level, compared with 739 in March 2023. This represents 1% of the prison population.

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.

Between 1995 and 2019, the IEP scheme operated on four levels: Entry, Basic, Standard and Enhanced. In August 2019, the Entry level of the scheme 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 (IPF) 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 9.1 and 9.2, Figure 9.1)

In the 12-months to March 2023, an annual average of 36,248 (45%) prisoners had a Standard incentive status, compared with the previous year when 37,594 (48%) prisoners had a standard status. The proportion of prisoners with a standard incentive has fluctuated since 2016, when 52% of prisoners had standard incentives. The proportion of prisoners having a Standard incentives status in 2023 is at its lowest level since 2016.

The percentage of prisoners with a Basic incentive status increased (Tables 9.1 and 9.2, Figure 9.1)

In the year ending March 2023, an annual average of 2,571 prisoners had a Basic incentive status, which was an increase of 151% from the year ending March 2022 when an average of 1,024 prisoners had a Basic status. The proportion of prisoners on a Basic incentive status in the year ending March 2023 was 3%, an increase on the previous year when the proportion was 1%. The proportion of prisoners on Basic level incentives has been much lower since 2021 compared with 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. These regime mitigations were then reinstated across the estate in December to address infection risks from the Omicron variant of COVID-19. As of 31st March 2022, all IPF-related regime mitigations were removed once again.

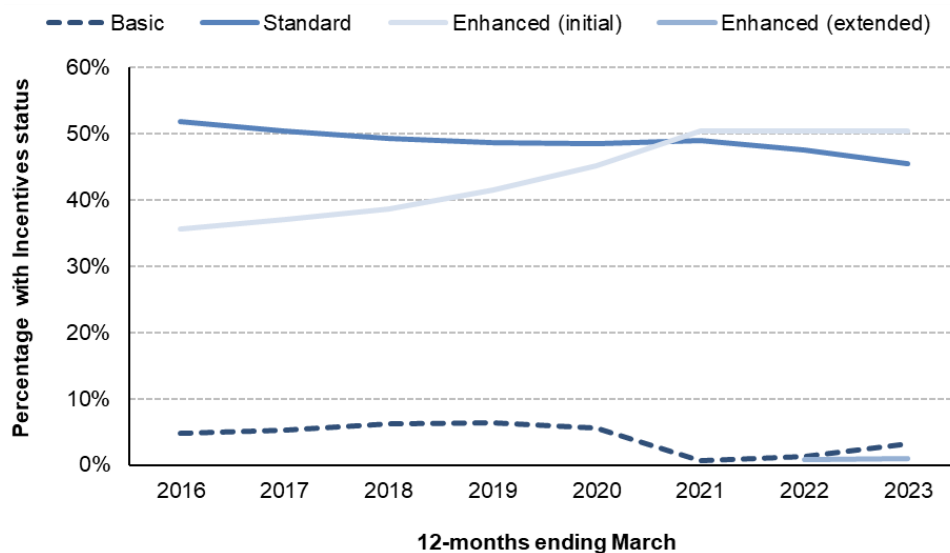
The proportion of prisoners with an Enhanced (initial) incentive status remained the same when compared with the previous year (Tables 9.1 and 9.2, Figure 9.1)

In the 12-months to March 2023, 40,196 prisoners on average had an Enhanced (initial) incentive status. The proportion of prisoners with an Enhanced (initial) incentive status was 50%, which was the same as in the previous two years (each 50%).

The proportion of prisoners with an Enhanced (extended) Incentive status was 1% (Tables 9.1 and 9.2, Figure 9.1)

In the 12-months to March 2023, 739 prisoners on average had an Enhanced (extended) incentive status. The proportion of prisoners with an Enhanced (extended) incentive status was 1%, the same as in the previous year.

Figure 9.1: Percentage of Prisoners on each incentive level, in the 12-months ending March 2016 to March 2023 (Source: Table 9.2)



Male Closed YOI had the largest proportion of prisoners with a Basic incentive status (Table 9.4)

The proportion of prisoners assigned to each type of incentive status varies by type of establishment. In the 12-months to March 2023, Male Closed YOI had the largest proportion of prisoners with a Basic incentive status with 7% of their populations having a Basic status. Female Open and Male Open had the largest proportion of prisoners with an Enhanced (initial) incentive status, with 95% and 93% respectively.

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

The total number of MBU applications decreased when compared with the previous year

During the latest 12-month period, 78 applications³⁵ were made for a place within an MBU compared with 88 in the year to March 2022. 40 applications were approved and 15 refused.³⁶

The number of women and babies received into MBUs increased for a second year running

In the year to March 2023, 51 women and 44 babies were received into MBUs; compared with 39 women and 40 babies in the previous reporting year.

There were 194 pregnant women in prison in the 12-month period of 2022/23

Over the 12-month period of April 2022 to March 2023 there were 194 pregnant women in prison. January 2023 saw the highest number of pregnant women in prison in one month at 58 women.

There were a total of 44 births to women spending time in custody in 2022/23

Nearly all (43) of these births took place at a hospital and one birth 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). These provide an overall total capacity of 64 places for mothers and 70 places for babies to allow for twins and multiple births. Capacity has never been exceeded.

This report contains statistics for self-declared pregnant prisoners and births for the financial year 2022-23. This is the first time we have shown a figure for the total number of pregnant prisoners for the year instead of weekly snapshots.

The data represents 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 used. HMPPS publish these data anonymously as part of aggregate totals³⁷, 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

³⁵ Applications received in one year may be approved or refused in a following year.

³⁶ The remaining 13 applications were not accepted or refused as the prisoners were either released from custody or withdrew their application.

³⁷ Where figures are so low that they risk identifying individuals, we have marked them as less than 3 to avoid identification.

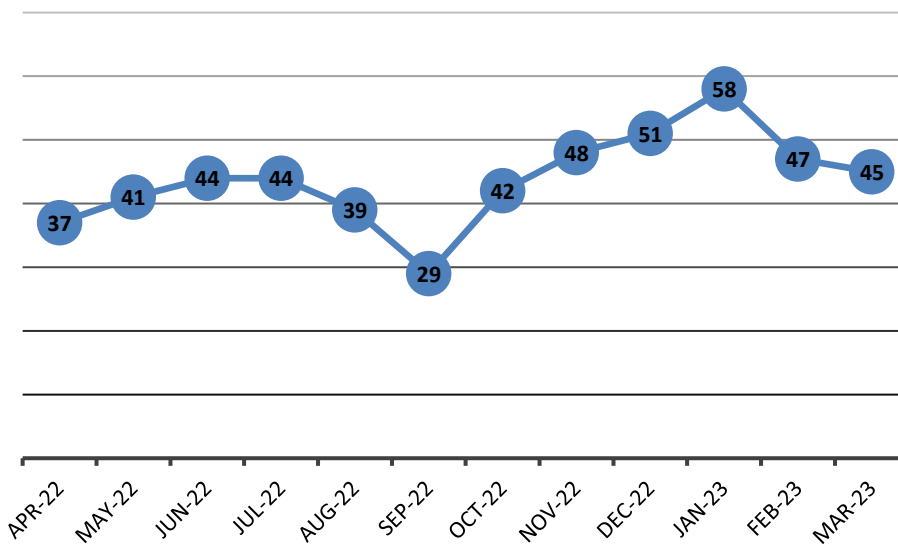
might have disclosed this data to healthcare providers in confidence. Self-declared data cannot be quality assured, and therefore accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

There were 194 pregnant women in prison during the 12-month period from April 2022 to March 2023 (Table 10.2)

There were 44 births in the year April 2022 to March 2023 for women in prison with nearly all (43) taking place at a hospital. The other birth either took place in the prison or in transit to hospital (place of birth not disclosed to protect individual privacy).

The month with the highest number of pregnant women in prison took place in January 2023, at 58 pregnant women (Figure 10.1, Table 10.2).

Figure 10.1: Number of self-declared pregnant women in prison year total and each month, April 2022 to March 2023 (Source: Table 10.2)



Both approvals and refusals for an MBU space have dropped when compared to previous year (Figure 10.2, Table 10.1)

In the 12-months ending March 2023, there were 78 applications^{38,39} for a place within an MBU, compared with 88 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.

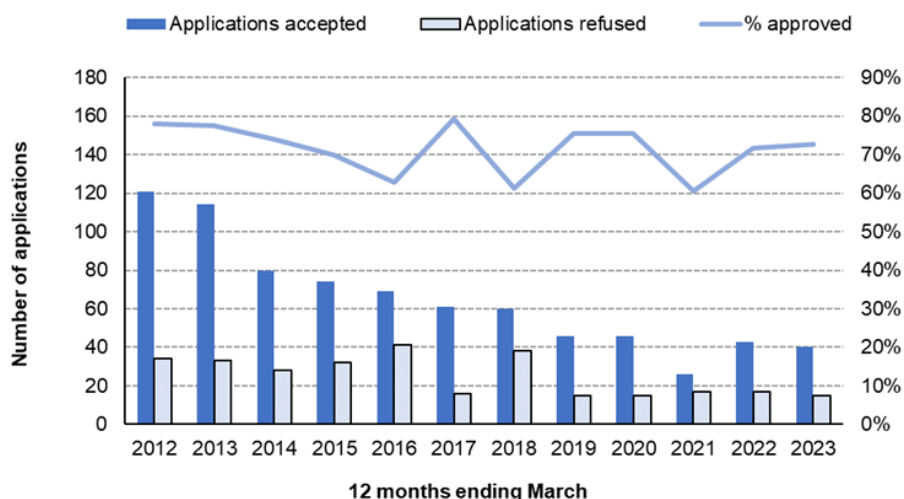
Of the 55 applications which resulted in a recommendation 73% (40 applications) were approved and 27% (15 applications) refused. The percentage of applications that received a recommendation being approved is at a similar level to 2019 and 2020 after dipping to 60% in 2021. Over the last 10 years the highest percentage of applications approved was in 2017 when 79% of applications that received a recommendation were approved.

³⁸ 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.

³⁹ 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.

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 10.2: Number of applications approved and refused⁴⁰ to an MBU, the 12-months ending March 2012 to the 12-months ending March 2023 (Source: Table 10.1)



The number of women and babies received into MBUs increased over the year (Table 10.1)

During the latest financial year, 51 women and 44 babies were received into a MBUs in England and Wales⁴¹. This compares with 39 women and 40 babies in the 12-months ending March 2022.

⁴⁰ The percentage of approved applications is the proportion of those who received a recommendation in the year (of approvals or refusals).

⁴¹ 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.

11. Community Accommodation Service (CAS-2) (including BASS⁴²)

The number of CAS-2 referrals decreased by 7% in the latest year

There were 3,168 total referrals for the Community Accommodation Service in the 12-months to March 2023, a decrease of 7% on the 3,424 referrals made in the previous year.

Home Detention Curfew referrals fell by 3% in the 12-months to March 2023

The number of Home Detention Curfew (HDC) referrals decreased by 3% in the latest year, from 2,224 referrals in the year to March 2022 to 2,156 referrals this year.

Bail referrals decreased by 13% and Additional Licence Conditions dropped by 56%⁴³

The number of Additional Licence Cohorts referrals decreased by 56% from 220 to 96 referrals between the years ending March 2022 and March 2023, and referrals relating to Bail decreased by 13% from 980 to 857 over the same period.

CAS-2 referrals made at Male Local prisons accounted for the highest volume of known prison referrals

41% (1,160) of all referrals made in the year to March 2023 (where the prison name was known), were from Male local prisons. The second highest proportion were from Male Category C prison with 38% (1,072).

The Community Accommodation Service, Tier 2 (CAS-2), previously known as Bail, Accommodation and Support Service (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. The new CAS-2 service continues most of the features of BASS but is significantly enhanced through additional features including: an increase to 2 hours per week support to each resident; provision of CCTV in all female properties and a number of other properties; provision of Wi-Fi in all sites with the issue of a basic smartphone to all residents and the rollout of wheelchair accessible bed spaces.

⁴² BASS and CAS-2 both operated in the 2022-23 financial year. The change over of service (from BASS to CAS-2) took place on the 1st October 2022.

⁴³ The ALC cohort in the BASS contract is included within new eligibility cohorts within CAS2 to provide a service when demand for the core cohorts is reduced. With increasing demand for the service in place or forecasted, the new Homeless at Conditional Release Date (HCRD) eligibility cohort has been suspended from the contract during 2022/2023.

In the 12-months to March 2023, most CAS-2 referrals were made by prisons (89%) (figure 11.1).

Figure 11.1: Referrals by referring organisation type, in the 12-month period up to March 2023

Referring Organisation Type	Percentage of Referrals made ⁴⁴
Prisons	89%
Courts	6%
Probation	5%
Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs)	<1%

The number of CAS-2 referrals declined in the 12-months to March 2023 for the second year running (Table 11.1)

In the year ending March 2023, there were 3,168 referrals to CAS-2; a decrease of 7% on the 3,424 made in the year to March 2022. 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 39% to 2,156 in 2023.

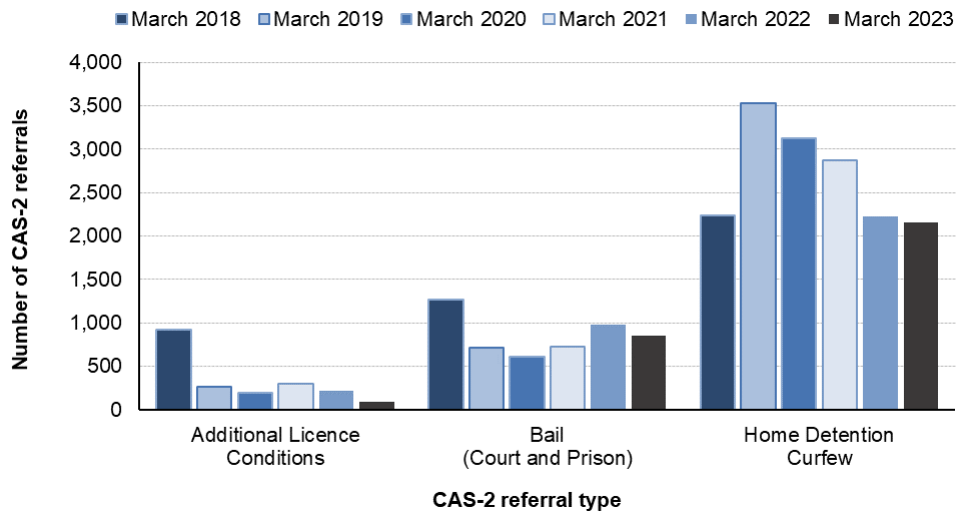
Home Detention Curfew (HDC) accounted for 68% of the BASS referrals made in the year to March 2023 (Figure 11.2, Table 11.1)

HDC referrals accounted for 68% (2,156) of the total number of referrals. This is a decrease in volume of 3% (68 fewer) compared with the previous year.

At the same time, there was a decrease in referrals relating to Additional Licence Cohorts (ALC) by 56% and a decrease to Bail (court and prison) referrals by 13%. To explain the large drop in ALC referrals, the ALC cohort is included as an eligibility cohort within CAS-2 to provide a service when demand for the core cohorts is reduced. With increasing demand for the service in place or forecasted, this eligibility cohort has been suspended from the contract during 2022/2023.

⁴⁴ Percentages may not sum to 100% as they have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

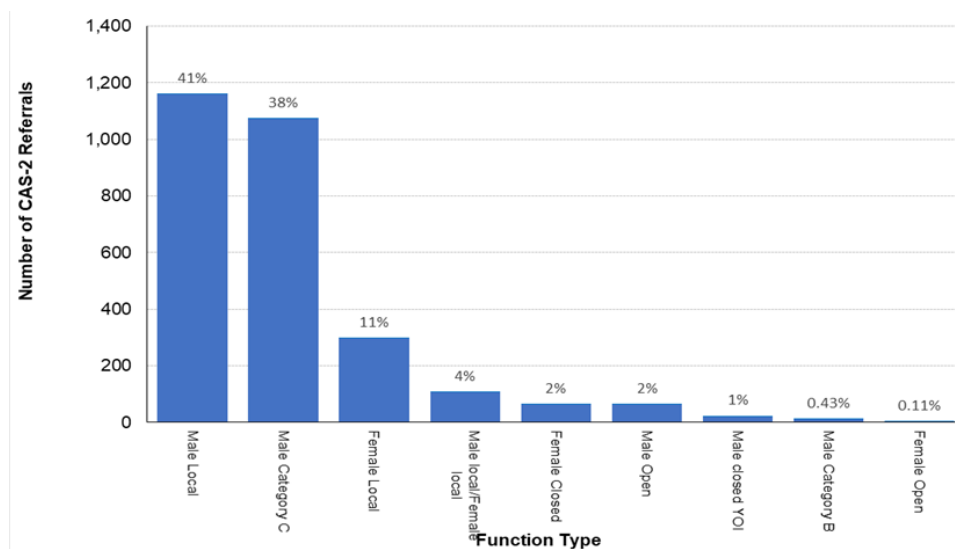
Figure 11.2: Number of CAS-2 referrals by referral type, the 12-months ending March 2018 to the 12-months ending March 2023 (Source: Table 11.1)



Male Local prisons had the highest volume of CAS-2 referrals (from known prisons) in the year to March 2023 (Figure 11.3, Table 11.2)

In the year ending March 2023, 41% (1,160) of CAS-2 referrals by known prisons were from Male Local prisons. CAS-2 referrals made by Male Category C prisons accounted for 38% (1,072) of the total number of known prison referrals made in the same period.

Figure 11.3: Number of referrals made to CAS-2 by selected Prison Category, the 12-months ending March 2023 (Source: Table 11.2)



12. Staff in Post

Ethnic minorities staff

66,031 (headcount) staff in post at HMPPS

As at 31 March 2023, there were 66,031 (headcount) staff in post at HMPPS, 84% of whom had declared their ethnicity.

Overall, 13% of individuals who declared their ethnicity were classified as ethnic minority.

This represents an increase of 1 percentage point compared with the previous year.

Overall declaration rates have increased since 31st March 2022 (Table 14.2), driven by Probation Service. Outside of Probation Service there were decreases in declaration rates.

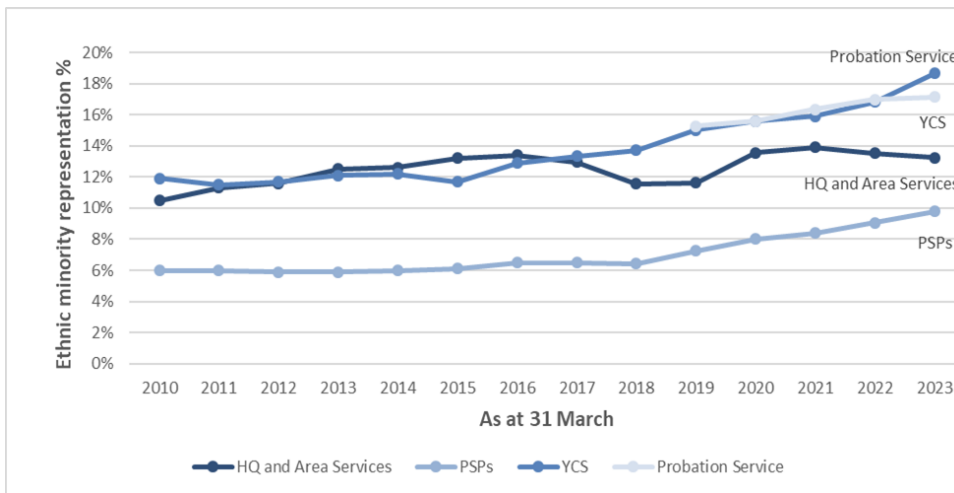
Across HMPPS overall, declaration rates have increased by 1 percentage point (from 83% as at 31 March 2022 to 84% as at 31 March 2023). The overall rate was driven by increases in the declaration rate for Probation Service, where the ethnicity declaration rate amongst Probation Service staff increased to 82% as at 31 March 2023; an increase of 4 percentage points compared to the previous year. The other parts of the HMPPS saw decreases in the declaration rate.

HMPPS HQ and Area Services staff had the highest ethnicity declaration rate (88%), which is the same at 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023. Over the same period, declaration rate observed amongst staff in PSPs was 85% at 31 March 2022 and 85% as at 31 March 2023 at 85%. A decrease in declaration rate was seen amongst staff in the Youth Custody Service (YCS) from 83% as at 31 March 2022 to 82% as at 31 March 2023.

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

	Ethnic minority Representation Rate	Change since 31 March 2022
PSP	10%	Increase of 1 percentage point
YCS	19%	Increase of 2 percentage points
HQ & Area Services	13%	No change
Probation Service	17%	No change
HMPPS Total	13%	Increase of 1 percentage point

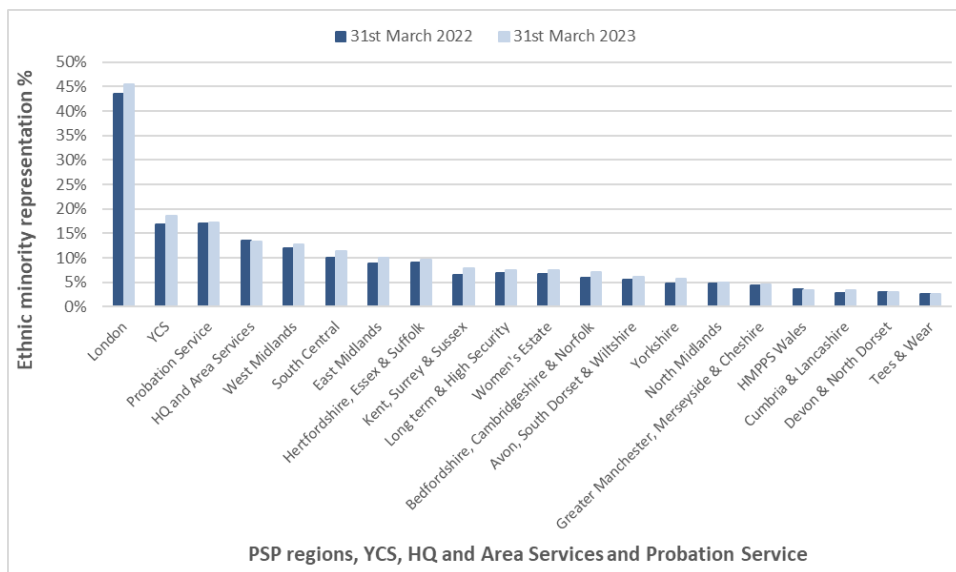
Figure 14.1: Ethnic minority representation rates amongst HMPPS staff, as at 31 March 2010 to 31 March 2023 (Source: HM Prison and Probation Service workforce statistics publication)



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 46% of staff declaring their ethnicity as from ethnic minority backgrounds as at 31 March 2023. In contrast, establishments in Cumbria & Lancashire, Devon & North Dorset, Tees and Wear and Wales had the lowest representation rate of 3%. From 31 March 2022 to 31 March 2023, most PSP regions had seen their representation rates increase, where the largest increase was seen in London from 43% to 46%. On the other hand, the only region with a decrease in representation rates was HMPPS Wales (4% as at 31 March 2022, 3% as at 31 March 2023).

Figure 14.2: Percentage of Ethnic minority staff by PSP regions⁴⁵, the YCS, HQ and Area Services and the Probation Service, as at 31 March 2022 and 2023 (Source: Table 14.2)



13. HMPPS staff: sickness absence

Last year we stated that the content in the HMPPS Annual Digest would be reviewed and as a result the chapter on HMPPS staff: sickness absence chapter will no longer appear in this publication. The tables previously published here will be incorporated into the HMPPS Workforce Bulletin and updated quarterly. This publication can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-offender-management-service-workforce-statistics>

⁴⁵ Information reflects the latest regional management structure implemented. These structures do not necessarily reflect geographical border areas.

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

Contact

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

Tel: 020 3334 3536

E-mail: newsdesk@justice.gov.uk

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to the Service Users Equality Performance Team at the Ministry of Justice:

Kate Kandasamy, Responsible Statistician,
using the following e-mail address: SUEPer_Stats@justice.gov.uk

URL: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/prison-and-probation-trusts-performance-statistics>

© Crown copyright

Produced by the Ministry of Justice

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