



Ministry of
JUSTICE

Statistical notice

Licence recall statistics

6 July 2009

Statistical notice – licence recall statistics

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice today released a Written Ministerial Statement in response to Freedom of Information requests and Parliamentary Questions on licence recalls and returns to custody. The Written Ministerial Statement announces our intention to work with the National Statistician to put a full range of statistics on the issue into the public domain on a regular basis, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

This note sets out the further work we will be undertaking to do this, the timetable for consultation and how users can get involved.

In putting forward our proposals, we will be considering:

The range of information to be published and the methods to collect the information

There were two main sources of information used in the Written Ministerial Statement and answering the Parliamentary Questions and Freedom of Information Act requests:

1. All offenders who had their licence revoked and were recalled between 1 January 1999 and 31 March 2009 (with final data for those recalled up to end of June 2008 and provisional data from July 2008 until 31 March 2009) and whether they or not they had been returned to custody by 26 June 2009, plus those who had been recalled to custody between 1984 and 1999 who had not been returned to custody.
2. Performance against the key targets for Emergency and Standard recalls on a quarterly basis until end of March 2009.

As part of the review we will be looking at the most coherent range of data we can put into the public domain on a quarterly basis and annual basis. We will be looking at the right balance between comprehensive final information after undertaking detailed reconciliations operationally and more up-to-date provisional data alongside the regular performance target information.

Ministry of Justice Statisticians will consult on proposals on this by the end of August 2009.

Aligning publications on related subjects

Best practice in release of Official and National Statistics indicates that presenting statistics on related subjects on the same day and with a coherent overview is most helpful to customers.

Ministry of Justice currently publish the following statistical bulletins on prisoners and offenders under probation supervision:

- End of custody licence releases and recalls (monthly)
- Population in custody (monthly)
- Probation statistics quarterly brief (quarterly)
- Local adult reoffending (quarterly)
- Offender management caseload statistics (annual, National Statistics)
- Reoffending of adults (annual, National Statistics)
- Reoffending of juveniles (annual, National Statistics).

Full details of the content of these publications are at www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics.htm

It is our intention to move towards a more aligned presentation of this range of information in line with Best Practice.

The key questions we will be considering are:

The range of different publication frequencies across these statistics and how we can best balance the needs for:

- timely release of statistics
- a coherent overview for users of all statistics related to an area.

Timetable for further work

We aim to consult with a fuller set of proposals on these issues by the end of August 2009. However, comments on the issues raised above to feed into this document are welcome at statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

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