



Ministry
of Justice

**Annual consultation on the Ministry of
Justice and its Arms Length Bodies'
statistical work-plan 2013/14**

Overview by the Ministry of Justice's Chief Statistician

It is with pleasure I bring forward the Ministry of Justice's consultation on forthcoming work for 2013/14. This is the fourth year in which we have consulted on the Ministry of Justice's work-plan and the previous consultations have led to wide-ranging improvements to the methodology, presentation and dissemination of statistics in Ministry of Justice and its Arms Length Bodies.

Following consultation with our users, we have, over the past year:

- Worked hard to improve the commentary surrounding our statistics. We have aimed to focus more on interpretative commentary; to better explain *why* trends are behaving as they are and to give the wider context.
- Launched the Justice Data Lab; a new service helping organisations working with offenders assess the impact of their work on re-offending.
- Significantly developed data linking across the Criminal Justice System and with Other Government Departments to improve our knowledge of the offender population.
- Expanded the POLICE.UK website to include justice outcomes as well as crimes.
- Produced several new publications exploring the following topics in detail:
 - Sexual offences
 - Language services in courts and tribunals
 - The relationship between employment and re-offending
- Undertaken a UK Statistics Authority assessment on the Offender Management, Safety in Custody and MAPPA reports. All these have now taken on board the recommendations from the assessment and are all designated as National Statistics.
- Begun the UK Statistics Authority assessment process for our Youth Justice Statistics publication to gain National Statistics status.

We were pleased to receive a Civil Service award and a Royal Statistical Society Award for MoJ's statistical work during the riots. In addition, analysts at the Sentencing Council won the Guardian Award for Evidence-Based Policy Making for their work on drug offences guideline.

The statisticians in Ministry of Justice are also responsible for supporting the Ministry of Justice in developing policy and answering PQs and FOIs. In 2012, MoJ statisticians answered 545 PQs and 376 FOIs.

So far the changes made by the Ministry of Justice have been well received by users with considerable positive feedback. Much of the focus for the coming year will be around reviewing the content and frequency of our publications and improving their commentary. This section summarises the key proposals:

New statistical releases in 2013/14:

- Building on the success of the Sexual Offences publication, we hope to start developing another five cross-cutting publications, working with the Home Office and the Office for National Statistics.
- To build on the initial statistics from our data share with other government departments (OGDs), published in November 2011, we are aiming to develop an **offending, employment and benefit statistics** publication. This will provide emerging experimental statistics from our new annual data share with DWP and HMRC, including an overview of the data share, headline statistics, and will focus on offenders' employment and income.
- **Annual Accredited Programmes Bulletin:** A new publication providing statistics of accredited programmes undertaken across prison and probation during each financial year. Key figures included in the publication will be the number of starts and completions by programme.
- **Quarterly NOMS Workforce Statistics Bulletin:** A new quarterly statistical publication presenting the NOMS workforce staff-in-post, joiners and leavers time series statistics, by function of establishment, grade and diversity. It uses administrative data from the NOMS Oracle Human Resources Management System.
- **Annual Restricted Patients Bulletin:** A new annual publication summarising information about patients subject to a restriction order admitted to, detained or discharged from psychiatric hospitals within each calendar year.
- **Monthly Justice Data Lab Bulletin:** A new monthly publication providing statistics on the number of requests received by the Justice Data Lab along with the outputs of each request. These statistics will be published on a monthly basis until the end of the Justice Data Lab Pilot.
- **Use of Language Services Bulletin:** This will replace the publication *Statistics on the use of language services in courts and tribunals* which is currently published on an ad-hoc basis. The new regular publication will include details of the volumes of requests, completions, cancellations, complaints, off-contract bookings, and rates of completion.

Changes to existing statistical releases

We are beginning to review the quality of all MoJ publications, including their frequency and content. Through this process, we aim to improve our commentary, the usability of our publications, and where possible, release more detailed information.

In particular:

- We will continue to enhance our Knife Possession Sentencing statistics by including new figures showing sentencing outcomes for the new aggravated knife possession offences introduced through the LASPO act and providing further information on age breakdowns and criminal histories. We will also continue to review our method for knife possession conviction estimates and start publishing details of estimates versus final numbers.
- On civil and administrative justice statistics, we will work towards publications in which statistics cover: caseload, case progression (from case initialisation through to case completion) and characteristics of users. Additionally, we will make all published data available in machine readable files that enable users to carry out their own analyses.
- We have discontinued publication of the Judicial and Court Statistics bulletin. The Court Statistics Quarterly now incorporates all of its content.
- We have discontinued publication of the EAT Statistics bulletin. The Tribunal Statistics Quarterly now incorporates all of its content.
- We have started to publish interim reconviction figures from the Payment by Results pilots. Following an ad-hoc release of these statistics in June, they are now released on a quarterly basis in the Annex of Re-offending Statistics Quarterly.
- We are also looking to improve our understanding of several key topics through one-off explorations of the data. We are looking to:
 - o Explore issues around prolific offending and include commentary on this as part of the Criminal Justice System Statistics Quarterly bulletin.
 - o Explore data on remands and breaches of previous sentences and include this as part of the Criminal Justice System Statistics Quarterly bulletin.

Criminal Justice Statistics

We will be working to improving our understanding of, and the evidence base for, the use of out of court disposals in light of the recent Cautions Review.

We will also be monitoring changes to legislation and their effect on sentencing; in particular the introduction of new offences. We published information on the impact of LASPO in Court and Sentencing Statistics for 2012.

Transparency

For civil and family statistics, we aim to place all tables and data outputs on publishable, machine readable CSV files. Data dissemination will be based around these CSV files and will be accompanied with guides and full metadata description to aid customers in using them.

We will also explore the feasibility of using data visualization techniques to help users exploit the data more fully.

We intend to add information on the timeliness of cases completed in the criminal courts to the POLICE.UK website.

The Justice Data Lab pilot will continue to give external organisations access to re-offending data and MoJ will be undertaking a review of the pilot later in the year.

Data sharing

We have now obtained legal and ethical approval for an annual data share with DWP and HMRC and are planning to publish updated and new statistics from the share later this year, covering the links between offending, benefits and employment. We have also now gained approval to share our data with BIS to improve understanding of offenders' learning, training and skills, and hope to begin the initial analyses from this later this year. We are also currently looking into the feasibility of sharing data with several additional government departments to ensure we continue to improve our evidence base.

Arm's Length Bodies

The Sentencing Council will be evaluating their resource assessments produced for new guidelines, which look at the implications of new guidelines on prison and probation services.

Prison, Probation and Re-offending Statistics

As part of our commitment to improve the information made available to the public, we are continuing to look at the potential to make available lower level underlying data to our key publications.

For 2013/14, NOMS are focussing on the potential release of low level data on incidents covering deaths, self-harm, assaults and other incidents. For example: each death in custody with key variables, each assaults incident with details of any prisoners involved (assailants, victims and fighters) and each self-harm incident and details of any prisons involved.

NOMS are also reviewing the data and extending the range of information we make available on security incidents.

For 2013-14 we are planning to make changes to our reporting on equalities to better meet the requirements of the Public Sector Equality

Duty under the Equality Act 2010 and to avoid duplication of information on offender equalities which is already published within existing publications. Changes include publishing the NOMS staff equalities data within the existing MoJ equalities report; and focussing on the narrative for offender equalities with signposting to the range of existing equalities monitoring data on offenders in both prison and probation.

Consultation

This year's consultation aims to ask users a range of questions to establish

- a) what statistics users currently use and their views on these statistics (Annex A)
- b) where a publication is currently published on an ad-hoc basis or – as in the case of the re-offending compendium - where its content varies from year to year, should we consider turning it into something more regular? (Annex A)
- c) whether the range of proposals put forward meets your needs

Are there

- a. Proposals which users do not feel should be taken forward?
- b. Developments that users feel are essential which are not included in the proposed work plan?

The consultation questionnaire is at Annex A and should be returned by e-mail to –

Mike Elkins at statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk
Or by post to

Mike Elkins
Chief Statistician
7th Floor
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

Background

Ministry of Justice and its Arms Length Bodies have around 70 statisticians and support staff who cover a range of functions including:

- collection and publication of statistical data
- publishing statistics to time and quality and in compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics
- answering PQs and FOIs
- supporting the development of policy through
 - ad hoc requests
 - assessment of the impact of policies (social and financial impacts)
 - design and undertaking of data matching for analysis and evaluation
 - developing and improving the use of statistical techniques
 - advice on statistical techniques for evaluation
- supporting operations through
 - the development and provision of management information
- supporting the public and external stakeholder community through
 - developing easy to understand publications
 - releasing under-pinning data in line with Open Data principles

Within Ministry of Justice, the following bodies are covered by the Statistics and Registration Act:

Crown bodies that produce Official Statistics

Advisory Committee on Statute Law
HM Courts and Tribunals Service
HM Prison Service
Law Commission
Legal Aid Agency (replaces Legal Services Commission)
National Offender Management Service
Sentencing Council for England & Wales
Office of the Judge Advocate General
Office of the Judicial Committee
Office of the Public Guardian
Privy Council Office
The National Archives

Non-Crown bodies listed

Judicial Appointments Commission
Parole Board
Youth Justice Board for England and Wales

Assessment

The following publications have been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority as being compliant with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and designated as National Statistics.

- Prison Population Projections
- Criminal Justice Statistics
- Race and the Criminal Justice System
- Women and the Criminal Justice System
- Proven Re-offending Statistics Quarterly
- Compendium of Re-offending Statistics and Analysis
- Court Statistics Quarterly
- Judicial and Court Statistics
- Mortgage and Landlord Possession Statistics
- Freedom of Information Statistics
- Offender Management Statistics
- Safety in Custody Quarterly
- MAPPA Annual Report

Developments during 2012/13

Criminal Justice Statistics

During 2012/13 we:

- Established a regular annual cycle of updates for sentencing data and quarterly for court level data.
- Published a cross-cutting bulletin on sexual offences with the Home Office and Office for National Statistics. This was very well received (including a mention in Jil Matheson's blog) and was picked up by the press as well.
- Published an Interpreters bulletin presenting data for face-to-face language services provided to HM Courts & Tribunals Service and the National Offender Management Service.

Prison, Probation and Re-offending Statistics

Over the past year, we made several updates to our publications. In particular:

- We updated the Story of the Prison Population publication, which was very well-received.
- Following a UK Statistics Authority assessment, the Offender Management Statistics Quarterly bulletin has been badged as National Statistics by the UKSA.
- Following a UK Statistics Authority assessment, the Safety in Custody bulletin and MAPPA Annual Report have both been designated as National Statistics. This was reflected in the April 2013 release for Safety in Custody and will be for the October 2013 publication of MAPPA.
- We published the first quarterly Safety in Custody statistical bulletin on deaths, self-harm and assaults in prison custody. This new quarterly publication replaced the previous annual bulletin and was in response to a requirement from users of the data for timelier reporting and the flexibility to look at both financial and calendar year views.
- We made a significant update to the commentary and presentation for the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Annual Report, published in October 2012. There was also an update to the Safety in Custody statistical bulletin including the addition of a new Technical Guide.

Data Sharing with OGDs

Over the past year, we have used our 2011 data share with DWP and HMRC in several major pieces of analysis to inform policy decisions, including a recent publication looking at the impact employment has on re-offending. Based on the success of this one-off data share with DWP and HMRC, we have now put in place an annual data share with DWP and HMRC to obtain regular data on offenders' employment and benefit receipt. We have also gained the necessary legal and ethical approval to share data with BIS on training undertaken while in prison and to improve understanding of offenders' learning, training and skills.

The Justice Data Lab

In April 2013, we launched the Justice Data Lab; a new service giving charities and voluntary organisations more information about what works to reduce re-offending. This allows them to better understand the impact of their work and design more effective interventions.

We have now received a number of requests to match data from organisations and will be publishing the outputs of these from October 2013.

Knife Possession Sentencing

In our Knife Possession Sentencing publication, in the last year we have introduced new estimates of final sentencing breakdowns for latest quarter's data (introduced from March 2013). A weakness in the statistics prior to this was that the provisional sentencing data always underestimated the number of cases that would result in immediate custody. The new approach gives a more accurate estimate of the final picture and going forwards, we will publish figures showing the final numbers versus our estimates.

We have also improved the commentary in the publication to focus on long term trends. The publication also includes new analyses of criminal histories of offenders convicted for knife possession; including the number who have been convicted for knife possession for the first time.

Arm's Length Bodies

During 2012/13, the Sentencing Council looked at the impact of revising the sentencing guidelines for Assault. This was discussed in the May 2012 in the Crown Court Sentencing publication, which fed into the Annual Report in July 2013.

The Sentencing Council, in their publication of Crown Court Sentencing Survey 2012 results, asked users for their views on the current format of the publication. No changes were requested in response to this.

The Sentencing Council continued developmental work to look into the options for collecting information on the sentencing factors 'taking into account' by judges when sentencing in the magistrates' and youth courts. They explored sampling options, form designs and interviewed magistrates on their views of starting a new survey.

The Sentencing Council were pleased to receive the Guardian Award for Evidence-Based Policy Making for the research and analysis that went into the development of the drug offences guideline.

Publication List for Annex A

Civil and Administrative Justice	Do you use this publication?	Any comments on the quality, methods of data?	Any gaps in coverage of the publication?	Any comments on the presentation in the bulletin?
Court Statistics Quarterly				
Tribunals Statistics Quarterly				
Gender Recognition Certificate Statistics Quarterly				
Mortgage and Landlord Possession Statistics Quarterly				
Statistics of completed selection exercises and recommendations for judicial appointment showing diversity				
Legal Aid Agency Statistics				
Coroners Statistics				
Criminal Justice System				
Criminal Justice System Statistics				
Race and the Criminal Justice System				
Women and the Criminal Justice System				
New Criminal Offences England and Wales				
Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) Statistics (published by the Home Office)				

Civil and Administrative Justice	Do you use this publication?	Any comments on the quality, methods of data?	Any gaps in coverage of the publication?	Any comments on the presentation in the bulletin?
Statistics on the use of language services in courts and tribunals				
An Overview of Sexual Offending in England and Wales				
Knife Crime Possession Sentencing Statistics				
Prison and Probation				
Prison population (weekly and monthly)				
Offender Management Statistics Quarterly				
Prison Population projections				
Safety in Custody Quarterly				
MAPPA Annual Report				
Probation Workforce Quarterly Report				
Prison and Probation Performance MI				
Probation Service Health and Safety Accidents / Incidents Reports				
NOMS Prison and Probation Trust Input Indicators				

Civil and Administrative Justice	Do you use this publication?	Any comments on the quality, methods of data?	Any gaps in coverage of the publication?	Any comments on the presentation in the bulletin?
Re-offending				
Proven Re-offending Quarterly				
Compendium of Re-offending Statistics and Analysis				
Local Adult Re-offending				
Other				
Privacy Injunction Statistics				
FOI statistics				
Crown Court Sentencing Survey (published by the Sentencing Council)				
Analysis of the impact of employment on re-offending following release from custody, using Propensity Score Matching				