

Annex B: Serious Further Offences

Background

This note provides management information on the total number of Serious Further Offences (SFOs) as collected from the SFO Review Process.

This is an update to the information that was published in the annual proven reoffending publication, which was published on 30 October 2014 and covered the period 2011/12.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/368403/proven-reoffending-jan12-dec12.pdf

Since 1 December 2008, an offence listed in Schedule 15a to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 might attract a review if committed within the probation supervision period or within 28 working days of the supervision period terminating.

Mandatory SFO reviews are triggered in the following circumstances:

- any eligible offender who has been charged with one of the most serious SFOs – murder, manslaughter, other offence causing death, rape or sexual offence against a child under 13 years (including attempted offences); and,
- any eligible offender who has been charged with another offence on the SFO list and is or has been assessed as high/very high risk of serious harm during their current supervision period or has not been subject to a risk assessment during that period.

A review may be carried out on a discretionary basis in the following circumstances:

- any eligible offender who has been charged with an offence, irrespective of whether that offence is a qualifying offence, and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the supervising probation provider have identified public interest reasons for conducting a review.

In 2008, the SFO Review Process was changed. The changes outlined in Probation Circular 22/2008 reflect the general finding that the procedures were working well but that, given that the majority of cases were found to have been managed to a sufficient standard, the Review Process needed to be better focused on learning lessons in the cases of the most serious re-offending and the most serious offenders.

Users should refer to the '2012 Compendium of Re-offending Statistics and Analysis' for further definitions of the terms used in this notice, and for commentary to help interpret these.

Care must be taken when interpreting the figures in 2013/14 as a number of cases are pending. Additionally, changes in the number of SFOs are likely to occur as this is an operational measure.

The table in this statistical notice provides the numbers of SFO notifications under the Probation SFO Review Process which resulted in a conviction for a serious further offence between 2009/10 and 2013/14.

The table reflects the number of offenders who received an SFO notification up to 2013/14 and who were subsequently convicted of an SFO, up to 12 October 2015. Some offenders are eventually convicted of offences lesser than the offences with which they were charged and which triggered the SFO notification.

Table: SFO notifications received under the NPS / NOMS SFO Review Process which resulted in a conviction for England and Wales

Type of Offence	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14³
Murder	56	49	60	45	52
Attempted Murder	15	11	11	12	13
Manslaughter	30	17	15	16	22
Rape / assault by penetration	67	94	69	86	69
Arson with Intent to endanger life	8	7	7	6	10
Kidnapping /Abduction Attempted Kidnapping Abduction ¹	14	2	12	14	14
Other Serious Sexual or violent offences ²	0	0	0	0	0
	83	59	54	59	53
All SFO convictions	273	239	228	238	233
Offences which did not meet the SFO criteria	50	57	49	59	62
All Convictions	323	305	277	297	295

Data source: NPD – National Probation Directorate

1. Any other serious violent or sexual offence which carries a maximum custodial penalty of more than 10 years.
2. Offenders who had been charged with an offence which met with the SFO criteria, but were convicted of a less serious offence.
3. Provisional figures subject to change as outstanding cases are completed.
4. Users should note that SFO figures have been revised upwards following further action to pursue outstanding cases with probation providers. This work has now become part of regular reporting and therefore we expect to see smaller differences going forward.