



**This analysis looked at the reoffending behaviour of 435 men who took part in the Forward Trust Alcohol Dependence Treatment Programme. The overall results show that more people would need to have completed the programme and be available for analysis in order to determine the way in which the programme affects a person’s reoffending behaviour, but this should not be taken to mean that the programme fails to affect it.**

The Forward Trust Alcohol Dependence Treatment Programme (ADTP) is an intensive 6-week programme, which aims to reduce reoffending and improve outcomes for participants. This analysis includes participants from 117 programmes at nine prison sites between March 2007 and October 2015.

This analysis of the Forward Trust ADTP measured proven reoffences in a one-year period for a 'treatment group' of 435 offenders who received support from the programme, compared with a much larger 'comparison group' of similar offenders who did not take part. These measurements were used to estimate the impact that the programme would be expected to have on the reoffending behaviour of **any people who are similar to those in the analysis.**

The 435 people who were eligible to be included in the main analysis were from a group of 800 records submitted to the Justice Data Lab. The effects of the programme on those who were not analysed may be different to the effects on those who were.

### Overall measurements of the treatment and comparison groups

For those in the **treatment** group, the equivalent of:

 **37** out of 100 people committed a proven reoffence within a one-year period (a rate of 37%). This is **2 people more** than in the comparison group, per 100 people\*

 **116** proven reoffences were committed per 100 people during the year (a frequency of 1.2 offences per person). This is **1 less offence** than the comparison group, per 100 people.

 **143** days was the average time before a re-offender committed their first proven reoffence, **1 day sooner** than the comparison group.

For those in the **comparison** group, the equivalent of:

**36** out of 100 people committed a proven reoffence within a one-year period (a rate of 36%).

**117** proven reoffences were committed per 100 people during the year (a frequency of 1.2 offences per person).

**144** days was the average time before a reoffender committed their first proven reoffence.

## Overall estimates of the impact of the intervention

For any **100** typical people who receive the intervention, compared with any **100** similar people who do not receive it:

-  The number of people who commit a proven reoffence during one year after release could be **lower by as many as 3 people, or higher by as many as 6 people.**
-  The number of proven reoffences committed during the year could be **lower by as many as 26 or higher by as many as 25 offences.**
-  On average, the time before a reoffender commits their first proven reoffence could be **less by as much as 18 days, or longer by up to 16 days.**

More people would need to be available for analysis in order to determine the direction of the difference in the number of people who commit a proven reoffence during one year after release. It is estimated that a treatment group of 11,823 people would be needed.

*\* Please note: totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts, due to rounding.*

### **What you can say about the one-year reoffending rate:**

- ✓ "This analysis provides evidence that, for every 100 participants, the Forward Trust ADTP may decrease the number of proven reoffenders during a one-year period by up to 3 people, or may increase it by up to 6 people."

### **What you cannot say about the one-year reoffending rate:**

- ✗ "This analysis shows that the the Forward Trust ADTP increases the one-year proven reoffending rate of its participants."

### **What you can say about the one-year reoffending frequency:**

- ✓ "This analysis provides evidence that, for every 100 participants, the Forward Trust ADTP may decrease the number of proven reoffences during a one-year period by up to 26 reoffences, or increase it by up to 25 reoffences."

### **What you cannot say about the one-year reoffending frequency:**

- ✗ "This analysis shows that the the Forward Trust ADTP decreases the frequency of reoffending."

### **What you can say about the time to first reoffence:**

- ✓ "This analysis provides evidence that, for people who reoffend during a one-year period, the Forward Trust ADTP may decrease the time to first reoffence by as much as 18 days, or increase it by up to 16 days."

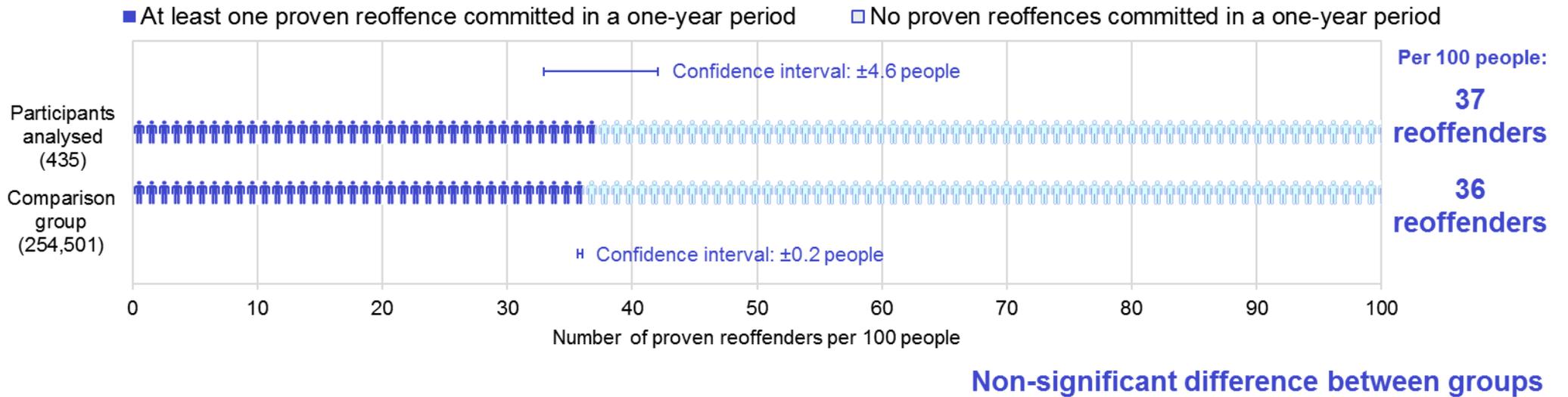
### **What you cannot say about the time to first reoffence:**

- ✗ "This analysis shows that the the Forward Trust ADTP decreases the time to first reoffence."

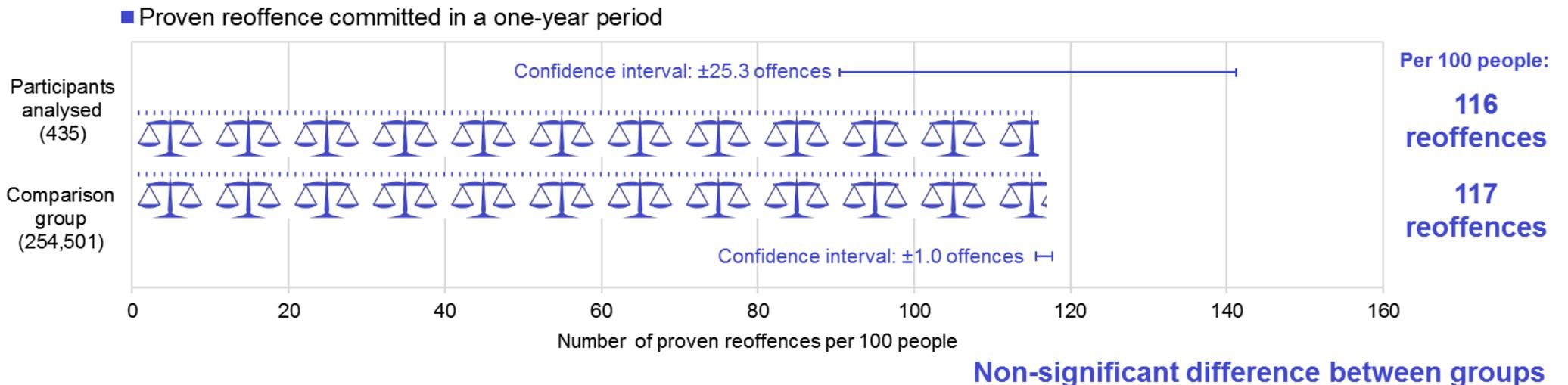
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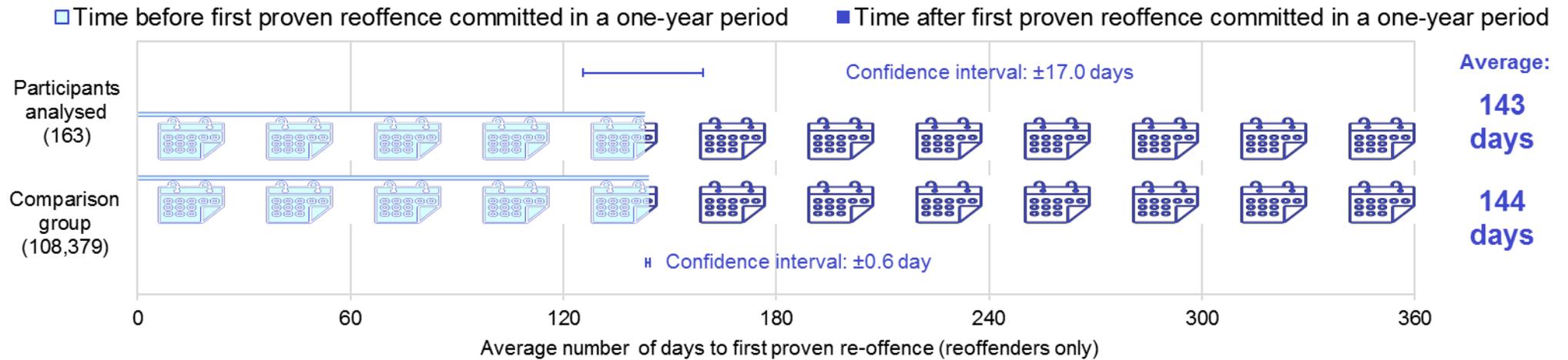
## One-year proven reoffending rate after participation in the Forward Trust ADTP



## One-year proven reoffending frequency after participation in the Forward Trust ADTP



## Average time to first proven reoffence after participation in the Forward Trust ADTP



**Non-significant difference between groups**

## The Forward Trust ADTP: in their own words

“ The Forward Trust Alcohol Dependence Treatment Programme (ADTP) is an intensive six-week, twelve-step programme, which aims to reduce reoffending and improve outcomes for participants. It is intended to be run in prison settings, and ideally on dedicated residential units.

This analysis includes participants from 117 programmes, delivered as part of the commissioned substance misuse services at nine prison sites, between March 2007 and October 2015.

The ADTP targets alcohol-dependent male prisoners with a medium-high risk of reoffending. The programme’s six-week length enables prisoners with shorter sentences to access intensive psychosocial treatment.

Continuous elements of the programme include:

- Speaker Meetings
- AA Meetings
- Group Therapy
- Individual Key Working Sessions
- AA Literature Reading
- Daily Reflection Diaries
- In Cell Packs
- Cycle of Change Daily Check In
- Daily Wind Down Exercise

The programme adds to these continuous elements each week through:

- Motivational Enhancement Therapy
- Seeking Safety sessions
- Living Sober skills training sessions
- Twelve Steps
- Peer Evaluations ”

## **Forward Trust's response to the Justice Data Lab analysis**

“ The Forward Trust is committed to assessing the effectiveness of our services through research and evaluation, and welcomes the opportunity to submit data to the Justice Data Lab (JDL).

We are delighted that our intervention has reported a 1-year re-offending rate of 37%. This result is consistent with previous research into our programmes that are provided to prisoners who are dependent on drugs and/or alcohol.

Whilst we acknowledge the efforts that have gone into identifying an accurate comparison group, there remains some limitations due to the data currently available to the JDL. To enter onto the ADTP, participants must be dependent on alcohol; however, currently the JDL are limited to matching on frequency and level of alcohol use, which we would argue is very different from dependence. Alcohol dependency is a key criminogenic factor and therefore any comparison group must also be shown to be alcohol dependent, to allow for a like-for-like comparison. As such, we have agreed to submit further data to the JDL, which may lead to a demonstration study in an attempt to resolve this issue.

Whilst the results are unable to say whether our ADTP has an impact on reoffending at this time, we are committed to working with the JDL to build comparison groups that are as accurate as possible, for the substance misuse field to identify those interventions that genuinely make an impact. ”

## The results in detail

The treatment group were matched to offenders across England and Wales, controlling for offender demographics, criminal history and the following risks and needs: accommodation, employment history, education, family and relationships, drug and alcohol use, mental health, thinking skills and attitudes towards offending.

The size of treatment and comparison groups for the reoffending rate and frequency analyses are provided below (the additional measures provide information on those who reoffend only):

Treatment Group Size	Reoffenders in treatment group	Comparison Group Size	Reoffenders in comparison group
435	163	254,501	108,379

**Three headline measures** of one-year reoffending were analysed (see results in Tables 1-3) as well as four additional measures (Tables 4-7):

- 1. Rate of reoffending**
- 2. Frequency of reoffending**
- 3. Time to first reoffence**
4. Rate of first reoffence by court outcome
5. Frequency of reoffences by court outcome
6. Rate of custodial sentencing for first reoffence
7. Frequency of custodial sentencing

Tables 1-3 show the headline measures of reoffending. Rates are expressed as percentages and frequencies are expressed per person. The average time to first reoffence is for reoffenders only.

*Table 1: Proportion of people who committed a proven reoffence in a one-year period after participating in the Forward Trust ADTP, compared with a matched comparison group*

Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven reoffending rate				
		Treatment group rate (%)	Comparison group rate (%)	Estimated difference (% points)	Significant difference?	p-value
435	254,501	37	36	-3 to +6	No	0.48

**Please note:** figures may not appear to equal the headline statistics due to rounding.

*Table 2: Number of proven reoffences committed in a one-year period by people who participated in the Forward Trust ADTP, compared with a matched comparison group*

Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven reoffending frequency (offences per person)				
		Treatment group frequency	Comparison group frequency	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
435	254,501	1.16	1.17	-0.26 to +0.25	No	0.95

*Table 3: Average time to first proven reoffence in a one-year period for people who participated in the Forward Trust ADTP and who committed a proven reoffence, compared with similar non-participants (reoffenders only)*

Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	Average time to first proven reoffence within a one-year period, for reoffenders only (days)				
		Treatment group time	Comparison group time	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
163	108,379	143	144	-18 to +16	No	0.88

Tables 4-5 show the court outcomes of reoffending, for reoffenders only. Indictable-only offences are the most serious and must be tried at a Crown Court, summary offences are the least serious and are usually tried at a magistrates' court, and triable-either-way offences ('Either way') can be tried at either type of court.

*Table 4: Proportion of people on the Forward Trust ADTP whose first proven reoffence in a one-year period received each court outcome, compared with similar non-participants (reoffenders with available court outcomes information only; the indictable-only category is excluded as low numbers prevent a reliable estimate of difference)*

Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven reoffending rate by court outcome of first reoffence, for reoffenders only					
		Court outcome	Treatment group rate (%)	Comparison group rate (%)	Estimated difference (% points)	Significant difference?	p-value
163	107,707	Either way	55	58	-11 to +5	No	0.44
		Summary	39	38	-6 to +9	No	0.78

*Table 5: Number of proven reoffences that received each court outcome after being committed in a one-year period by people on the Forward Trust ADTP, compared with similar non-participants (reoffenders with available court outcomes information only; the indictable-only category is excluded as low numbers prevent a reliable estimate of difference)*

Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven reoffending frequency by court outcome, for reoffenders only (offences per person)					
		Court outcome	Treatment group frequency	Comparison group frequency	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
163	107,707	Either way	1.69	1.89	-0.59 to +0.19	No	0.31
		Summary	1.29	1.25	-0.25 to +0.33	No	0.79

Tables 6-7 show measures of custodial sentencing, for reoffenders only. Rates are expressed as percentages and frequencies are expressed per person.

*Table 6: Proportion of people on the Forward Trust ADTP who received a custodial sentence in a one-year period for their first proven reoffence, compared with similar non-participants (reoffenders with available custodial sentencing information only)*

Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year rate of custodial sentencing for first proven reoffence, for reoffenders only				
		Treatment group rate (%)	Comparison group rate (%)	Estimated difference (% points)	Significant difference?	p-value
163	107,707	50	47	-5 to +11	No	0.43

*Table 7: Number of custodial sentences received in a one-year period by people on the Forward Trust ADTP, compared with similar non-participants (reoffenders only)*

Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year frequency of custodial sentencing, for reoffenders only (sentences per person)				
		Treatment group frequency	Comparison group frequency	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
163	107,707	1.66	1.62	-0.35 to +0.43	No	0.82

## Profile of the treatment group

The Forward Trust Alcohol Dependency Treatment Programme is delivered in prison. All those included in the analysis had received a custodial sentence, and were assessed by Forward Trust to have known alcohol dependency issues. Offenders were referred to the service by offender managers, via the prison healthcare team, as part of their substance misuse care plan, or requested a place themselves. The programme is aimed at male offenders with a medium-high risk of reoffending, with a history of alcohol dependence.

Information on those who were included in the treatment group for the analysis is below, compared with the characteristics of those who could not be included in the analysis.

### Participants included in analysis (435 offenders)

- 100% male
- 86% white, 10% black, 3% asian, 1% other, <1% unknown
- 95% UK nationals, 3% non-UK, 2% unknown
  
- Aged 18 to 56 at the time of index offence (mean age 32 years)
  
- Sentence type:
  - < 6 months 2%
  - 6 – 12 months 3%
  - 1 – 4 years 58%
  - 4 – 10 years 23%
  - > 10 years <1%
  - Life/indeterminate 13%

### Participants not included in analysis (330 offenders with available data)

- 100% male
- 79% white, 15% black, 5% asian, 1% other, 2% unknown
- 89% UK nationals, 8% non-UK nationals, 4% unknown

Information related to index offences is not available for this group, as they could not be linked to a suitable sentence.

For the **35 people** without any records in the reoffending database, no personal information is available.

**Please note:** totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts, due to rounding.

Information on individual risks and needs was available for 377 people in the treatment group (87%), recorded near to the time of their original conviction. Among these people, it is estimated that:

- 94% had some or significant problems with problem solving skills
- 84% had previously misused drugs
- 84% had some or significant problems with alcohol misuse
- 34% had no fixed abode
- 21% had some or significant issues with pro-criminal attitudes.

## Matching the treatment and comparison groups

The analysis matched a comparison group to the treatment group. A summary of the matching quality is as follows:

- Most variables were **well matched**.
- The groups were **reasonably well matched** on several OASys variables where offenders were recorded as having no risks/needs or had no record for that variable. These variables were not shown to be predictive of reoffending or treatment allocation, so this does not affect the validity of the results.

Further details of group characteristics and matching quality, including risks and needs recorded by the Offender Assessment System (OASys), can be found in the Excel annex accompanying this report.

This report is also supplemented by a general annex, which answers frequently asked questions about Justice Data Lab analyses and explains the caveats associated with them.

## Numbers of people in the treatment and comparison groups

800 records were submitted for analysis by Forward Trust



800

7 people (1%) were excluded because they could not be identified on the Police National Computer (PNC)



793

301 people (38%) were excluded because they did not have a record in the reoffending database that corresponded to their time period of participation on the Forward Trust ADTP. This may be because some people received the intervention while they were on remand, and did not go on to receive a custodial sentence.

It is estimated that 39 of these people had not been released from prison for a full year when the latest reoffending information was recorded. This could be due to many of the participants receiving long or indeterminate custodial sentences, finishing the programme a long time before their release date.



492

41 people (5%) were excluded because they had committed at least one proven sexual offence before starting the programme, so their reoffending patterns are expected to be different to others.



451

16 people (2%) were excluded because their index offence was a Summary offence, not characteristic of the vast majority of the treatment group.



435

The treatment group contained 54% of the participants submitted.  
(**Comparison group:** 254,501 records)

## Contact points

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

Tel: 020 3334 3555

Other enquiries about the analysis should be directed to:

### **Justice Data Lab Team**

Justice Statistical Analytical Services

Ministry of Justice

7<sup>th</sup> Floor

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

Tel: 07967 592428

E-mail: [justice.datalab@justice.gov.uk](mailto:justice.datalab@justice.gov.uk)

General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to:

[statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk)

General information about the official statistics system of the United Kingdom is available from

[www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system)

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