



Offender Management Statistics Bulletin, England and Wales

Quarterly January to March 2018

Prison population: 30 June 2018

Main points

The prison population has been relatively stable for the past five years. This differs to the increasing prison population trend that was observed between the 1950's and early 2000's (see Figure 1). Our most recent extracts indicate that there were:

82,773 prisoners in England and Wales as at 30 June 2018

- ⬇ The total prison population has decreased by 4%, compared with the same point in the previous year.

19,927 first receptions into prison in the latest quarter

- ⬇ Compared with the same quarter last year, this is a 7% decrease in first receptions.

46,952 adjudication outcomes between January and March 2018

- ⬇ This is a decrease of 2% on the same quarter in the previous year. A total of 4,944 additional days were added to prisoner's sentences.

262,758 offenders on probation as at 31 March 2018

- ⬇ The number of offenders on probation at the end of March 2018 was 2% lower than the same point in the previous year.

5,616 offenders recalled to prison in the latest quarter

- ⬆ This is a 5% increase on the same quarter in 2017.

17,904 releases of which 17,669 were from determinate sentences in the latest quarter

- ⬆ This is an increase of 2% compared with the number of releases in the same quarter in 2017.

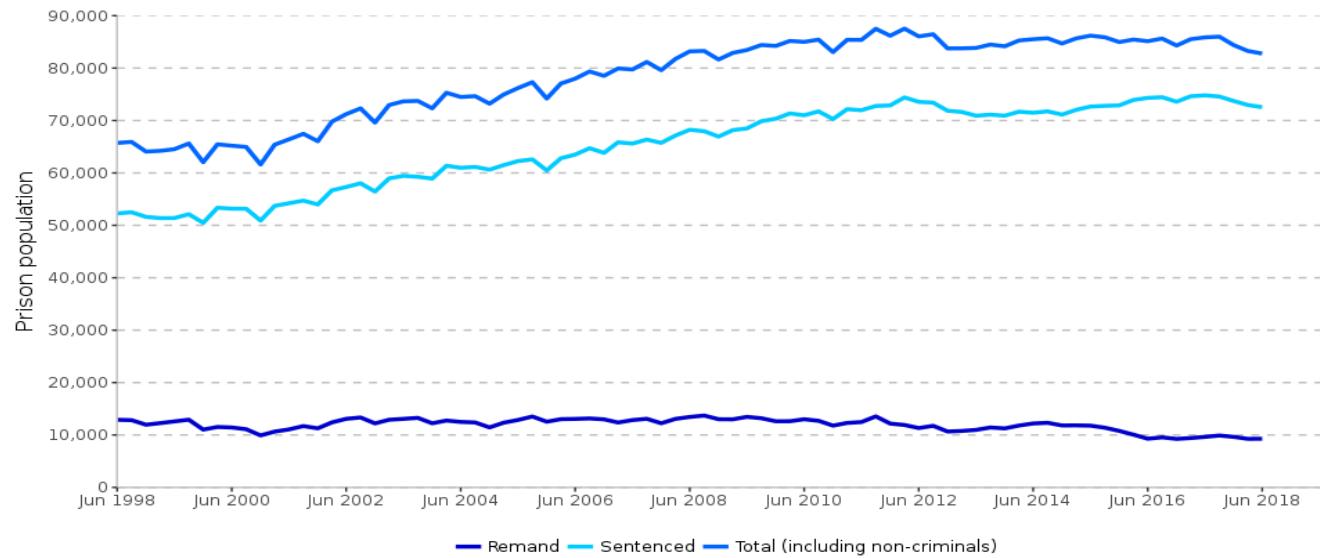
This publication provides offender management quarterly statistics for the latest date available and provides comparisons to the previous year. This publication also contains longer term trends in the prison population. For full and detailed commentary which looks into longer term trends for prison receptions and probation starts, as well as releases from prison and probation terminations, please refer to the annual publication, published in April. For technical detail please refer to the accompanying guide, '[Guide to offender management statistics](#)'

1. Population

The prison population was 82,773 on 30 June 2018.

The sentenced prison population stood at 72,619 (88% of the prison population); the remand prison population stood at 9,285 (11%) and the non-criminal prison population stood at 869 (1%).

Figure 1: Prison population, June 1998 to 2018 (Source: Table 1.1)



Remand

The remand population as at 30 June 2018 was 4% (353) lower compared to the same point 12 months earlier. The number of males remanded in custody decreased by 3% (to 8,752) whilst the number of females decreased by 7% (to 533). More than half (55%) of those remanded in custody were being held for either:

Violence against the person (23% of the remand population), drug offences (18%) or theft offences (15%).

Sentenced

In line with the long term trend, the sentenced population decreased by 3% in the year leading up to 30 June 2018. Figure 1 shows that the total prison population increased in line with the growth of the sentenced prison population since June 1998, however in more recent years the sentenced and total prison population has remained at a relatively constant level. Overall, there have been decreases in the number of prisoners serving determinate sentences of less than 4 years and increases in those serving determinate sentences of 4 years or longer. The number of prisoners serving determinate sentences of 14 years or more has increased by 8% (to 3,976) in the 12 months to 30 June 2018.

Sex offenders

The rise in the long determinate sentenced population is in line with the increasing number of sentenced sex offenders. As at 30 June 2018 there were 13,580 prisoners serving sentences for sexual offences, which represented 19% of the sentenced prison population.

The number of prisoners serving immediate custodial sentences for sexual offences is now at its highest level since at least 2002. This is consistent with the latest ONS '[Crime in England and Wales](#)' bulletin which reports on the number of sexual offences recorded by the police in the year ending June 2018.

'Violence Against the Person (VATP)' and 'Possession of Weapons' offences

One in every four (26% of) sentenced prisoners is in prison for a VATP offence, making this the largest offence group for sentenced prisoners. This proportion has remained stable for the past 12 months. The number of those sentenced for a 'Possession of Weapons' offence increased by 8% (to 2,579) compared with the same time in the previous year. This substantial increase may be attributed to a range of factors, including more targeted police operations against knife crime. However this offence group only accounted for 4% of the sentenced prison population.

Extended Determinate Sentences (EDS)

EDSs were made available for courts to impose from 13 April 2015. On 30 June 2018, 4,718 prisoners were serving such sentences; a 5% increase compared to the previous quarter and a 23% increase compared to the same time last year.

Indeterminate sentences

As at 30 June 2018, there were 9,862 (9,514 male; 348 female) indeterminate sentenced prisoners (those serving Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentences and life sentences) in the prison population. This represents an annual decrease of 7%.

There were 2,745 IPP prisoners as at 30 June 2018 which represents a decrease of 18% in the last 12 months. This figure has decreased by 55% since the June 2012 peak of 6,080, however the number of IPP prisoners who have been recalled to custody continues to increase; in the past year the recalled IPP population has grown by 22% (to 928).

The proportion of the IPP population who are post-tariff continues to increase; 89% of IPP prisoners were post-tariff as of 30 June 2018 compared to 85% at the same time the previous year.

The number of life sentenced prisoners (7,117) has decreased by 2% compared to 30 June 2017. There were 63 whole-life prisoners at the end of June 2018, with 3 additional life prisoners being treated in secure hospitals.

Recall to custody

The prison population who have been recalled to custody (6,293 prisoners) decreased by 2% over the year leading up to 30 June 2018.

Foreign National Offenders (FNOs)

There were 9,066 (1,556 remand, 6,703 sentenced and 807 non-criminal) foreign nationals held in custody and HMPPS-operated Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) as at 30 June 2018; representing 11% of the total prison population. The number of FNOs in the prison (and HMPPS IRC) population has decreased by 7% compared to 30 June 2017. The most common nationalities after British Nationals in prisons are Polish (9% of the FNO prison population), Albanian (8%), Irish (8%), Romanian (7%) and Jamaican (5%).

2. Prison receptions and admissions

19,927 offenders were received into custody as first receptions from January to March 2018.

10,427 remand first receptions, 9,449 sentenced first receptions and 51 civil non-criminal first receptions.

Offender first receptions

The total number of first receptions during Q1 2018 was 7% lower than the same quarter in 2017.

There were 2,882 first receptions of foreign nationals during Q1 2018 (also a 7% decrease compared to January to March 2017). The five foreign nationalities with the highest numbers of first receptions in the latest quarter were: Romanian (406), Polish (373), Irish (200), Albanian (184) and Lithuanian (166). When taken together, these five nationalities accounted for 46% of the 2,882 foreign national first receptions between January and March 2018.

Prison admissions

There was a 3% decrease in the number of untried admissions (to 7,976), a 1% decrease in the number of convicted unsentenced admissions (to 5,097) and a 9% decrease in the number of sentenced admissions (to 15,419) compared with the same quarter in 2017.

By comparing the latest quarter to the same quarter in the previous year, adult (aged 21+) remand admissions have decreased by 2% and young adult (18-20 year olds) remand admissions have decreased by 10%. There were 9% falls in sentenced admissions for both adults, and for young people, compared with January to March 2017.

Almost half of all sentenced admissions during the quarter were for sentences of six months or less (7,002, 45% of sentenced admissions).

Compared to the same period in 2017, the largest falls in Immediate custodial sentenced admissions were for 'Fraud offences' and 'Theft offences', which decreased by 20% and 17% respectively. There was a 3% increase in the number of Immediate custodial sentenced admissions for 'Violence against the person' offences.

3. Adjudications

There were 46,952 adjudication outcomes in the latest quarter

64% of these adjudications were proven.

More than one in three (31%) of proven adjudications were for offences of disobedience or disrespect; the total number of proven adjudications decreased by 2% over the same time period, predominantly due to a large decrease on proven adjudications for disobedience or disrespect (12% compared with Q12017). In contrast, this was offset by a small rise in other offence types mainly “unauthorised transactions” and “violence”.

There were 4,944 additional days added as punishments for offences committed by prisoners in the quarter ending March 2018. The average number of punishments per offence was 1.69. This is broadly consistent with figures seen in the previous quarter

4. Releases

17,904 offenders were released from custody in the latest quarter.

17,669 releases from determinate sentences and 235 from indeterminate sentences.

Prison releases from custodial sentences

The total number of releases during the quarter ending March 2018 was a 2% increase compared with the same quarter in 2017.

Substantial increases in the number of releases for offenders serving sentences of '12 months to less than 4 years' - 8% compared to Q1 2017 and '5 years to less than 10 years' - 5% compared to Q1 2017 accounted the most for this small rise.

In contrast, this was offset by a drop in the number of prisoners released from sentences of '4 years to less than 5 years' – a 3% decrease compared to Q1 2017 and in those serving sentences of 'less than 6 months' – a 3% decrease compared to Q1 2017.

There were 235 releases from indeterminate sentences between January and March 2018, a 11% decrease from the same period in 2017. The majority (138) were offenders released from IPP sentences.

Releases on Home Detention Curfew (HDC)

3,723 offenders were released on HDC during the latest quarter. The number of HDC releases increased by 61% compared with the same quarter in 2017.

Releases on Temporary Licence (ROTL)

There were 88,252 incidences of ROTL during the quarter ending March 2018, which is a 5% increase on the same quarter of 2017

Compared with the quarter ending March 2017, the number of ROTL incidences increased by 11% for females (to 7,702) and increased by 5% for males (to 80,550).

The number of individuals given at least one incidence of ROTL between January and March 2018 was 4,098, which was an increase of 2% since the same quarter of the previous year.

There were 81 recorded Temporary Release Failures (TRFs) between January and March 2018. This is a decrease of 16 compared with the previous quarter and an increase of 31 compared with the same period the previous year. TRFs as a proportion of temporary release incidences remain at a low level, with approximately only 1 in every 1,100 incidences of temporary release resulting in a failure between January and March 2018.

Prisoner transfers

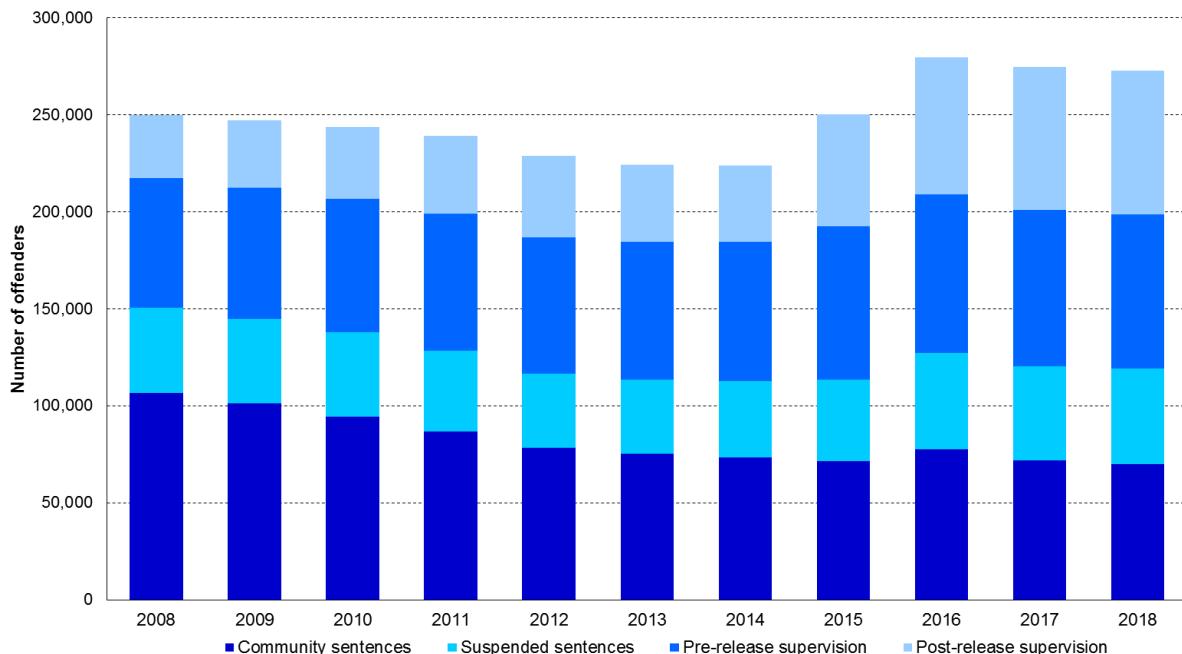
There were a total of 21,327 recorded incidences of prisoner transfer during the latest quarter. The majority of these (71%) were routine inter-prison transfers; 177 (under 1%) incidences of transfer were a result of overcrowding drafts. 17,651 prisoners had at least one incidence of a transfer in the quarter ending March 2018.

5. Probation

The total number of offenders on probation was 262,758 at the end of March 2018.

This was a 2% decrease in the total number of offenders on probation (court orders and pre and post release supervision) compared with 31 March 2017.

Figure 2: Number of offenders under Probation Service supervision, 31 December 2008-2017 and 31 March 2018 (Source for latest period: Table 4.7)



The overall court order caseload fell by 6% between the quarters ending March 2017 and 2018, with the Community Order (CO) caseload decreasing by 9% and the Suspended Sentence Order (SSO) caseload decreasing by 2%. The number of offenders starting COs decreased by 11% over this period, while the number of offenders starting SSOs with requirements decreased by 10%. The overall caseload of offenders supervised before or after release from prison increased by 1% between the end of March 2017 and 2018, with those supervised on post release alone rising by 4%.

Regarding the number of requirements started under court orders, the most significant falls can be seen in the curfew and drug treatment requirements across both COs and SSOs. There have been continued rises in the number of accredited program requirements despite the general fall in requirement numbers commensurate with the fall in numbers of orders.

Of the court orders terminated in the quarter ending March 2018, 70% of community orders were terminated successfully (i.e. ran their full course or were terminated early for good progress); for the supervision periods of suspended sentence orders, 72% of all those terminated were terminated successfully over this period.

The number of Pre-Sentence court reports prepared by the Probation Service decreased by 15% between the quarter ending March 2018 and the same quarter in the previous year, to reach 30,503. Ninety per cent of immediate custodial sentences proposed in Pre-Sentence Reports resulted in that sentence being given in the latest 12 month period.

6. Licence Recalls

The number of licence recalls between January and March 2018 was 5,616.

The number of recalls increased by 5% compared with the same period in 2017.

Offenders that have been sentenced for more than a day in prison will receive at least 12 months supervision on release as a result of the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014. This came into effect for those sentenced from 1st February 2015. Offenders that have been recalled for breaching conditions of their licence following a sentence of under 12 months are called ORA recalls.

Between January and March 2018, there were 2,172 recalls of offenders released from a sentence of under 12 months, a 4% increase compared with the same period in 2017, however there has been a 6% decrease compared with the previous quarter, October and December 2017.

Since the introduction of ORA, the number of non-ORA recalls has been falling. There were 3,444 non-ORA recalls between January and March 2018, a 6% increase compared with the same period in 2017, and a 3% increase when compared to the previous quarter.

The most common reason for offenders being recalled between January and March 2018 was for non-compliance, with 69% of recalls having non-compliance recorded as one of the reasons for recall. Further charge was recorded as a reason in 43% of licence recalls.

Between January and March 2018 there were 110 prisoners serving an IPP sentence and 57 offenders serving a life sentence who were re-released having previously been returned to custody for a breach of licence conditions.

Offenders not returned to custody

Of all those released on licence and recalled to custody due to breaching the conditions of their licence between April 1999 and March 2018, there were 1,660 who had not been returned to custody by the end of March 2018.

A further 18 offenders had not been returned to custody as of 31 March 2018 after recall between 1984 and April 1999, meaning the total number of offenders not returned to custody at the end of March 2018 was 1,678. These figures include some offenders believed to be dead or living abroad but who have not been confirmed as dead or deported.

Of the 1,678 not returned to custody by 31 March 2018, 255 had originally been serving a prison sentence for violence against the person offences and a further 50 for sexual offences.

Further information

This publication presents quarterly data trends. For annual figures, and longer-term trends, please refer to our annual bulletin published in July each year. Retrospectively, we have published table on ethnicity and ROTL that is part of our annual releases tables in the 2017Q4 publication. [Available here.](#)

Since August 2016 Community Rehabilitation Companies have not been obliged to use the same Tiering framework as the National Probation Service. As such, there have been increasing proportions of missing or 'not stated' data appearing in Probation Tables 4.6 and 4.9, which show probation supervision by tier (around 40 per cent missing for Community orders and 30 per cent for SSOs). For this reason, it has been decided to drop these tables going forward, so this edition of OMSQ will be the last in which they appear. Any queries about this decision should be directed to the email address: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Accompanying files

As well as this bulletin, the following products are published as part of this release:

- A '[Guide to Offender Management Statistics](#)', which provides comprehensive information about data sources and quality, as well as key legislative changes.
- A document outlining the '[Users of Offender Management Statistics](#)'
- A set of data tables, covering each section of this bulletin, including a prison population data tool.



National Statistics status

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is the Ministry of Justice's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected for National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

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URL: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly>

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