



## Offender Management Statistics Bulletin, England and Wales

Quarterly: January to March 2019

Prison population: 30 June 2019

### Main points

**82,710 prisoners in England and Wales as at 30 June 2019**



The total prison population is at a comparable level (less than 1% decrease) to the same point in the previous year.

**17,690 first receptions into prison in the last quarter**



The number of first receptions represents a fall of 11% compared with the same quarter last year.

**15,432 releases from sentences in the latest quarter**



This is 14% lower than in the same quarter in 2018. As the prison population shifts towards those serving longer sentences, we would expect fewer releases in a given period.

**54,197 adjudication outcomes in the latest quarter**



This is an increase of 16% on the same quarter of last year. Additional days were awarded as punishment on 5,392 occasions in this quarter – this is 9% higher than the same period in 2018.

**6,168 licence recalls between in the latest quarter**



This is a 10% increase on the same quarter in 2018, driven in part by an increase in HDC recalls following the policy change in early 2018.

**255,264 offenders on probation in the latest quarter**



This number of offenders on probation has fallen by 3% compared to the same point in 2018.

This publication provides offender management quarterly statistics for the latest date available and provides comparisons to the previous year.

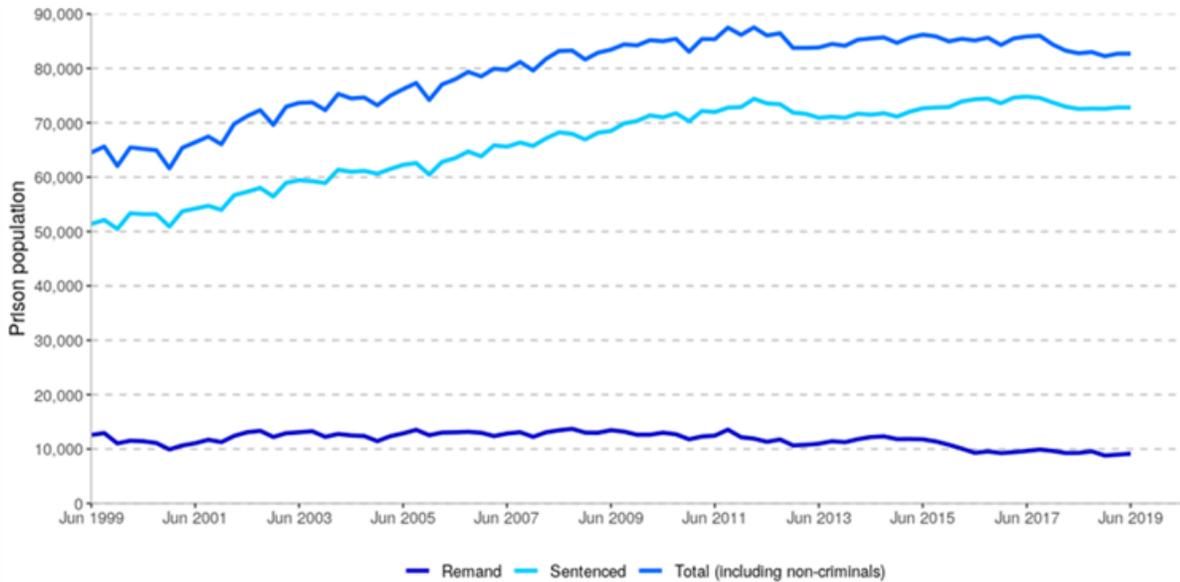
For technical detail please refer to the accompanying guide, '[Guide to offender management statistics](#)'.

# 1. Population

The prison population stood at 82,710 on 30 June 2019.

The sentenced prison population stood at 72,798 (88% of the prison population); the remand prison population stood at 9,145 (11%) and the non-criminal prison population stood at 767 (1%).

Figure 1: Prison population, June 1999 to 2019 (Source: Table 1.1)



## Remand prison population

The remand population has decreased by 2% (140) compared with the same point 12 months earlier. The number of males in custody on remand decreased by 2% (to 8,593) whilst the number of females increased by 4% (to 552).

More than half (56%) of those in custody on remand were being held for either:

Violence against the person (23% of the remand population), Drug offences (19%) or Theft Offences (13%).

## Sentenced prison population

The sentenced population has remained stable in the year leading up to 30 June 2019. Figure 1 shows that the total prison population has increased in line with the growth of the sentenced prison population since June 1999, however in more recent years the sentenced and total prison population has remained as a relatively constant level. Broadly speaking, there have been decreases in the number of prisoners serving determinate sentences of less than 10 years and increases in those serving determinate sentences of 10 years or longer. The number of prisoners serving determinate sentences of 14 years or more has increased by 5% (to 4,194) in the 12 months to 30 June 2019.

## **Sex offenders**

The rise in the long determinate sentenced population is in line with the increasing number of sentenced sexual offenders. However, there is evidence that this trend is levelling off, there was a 3% decrease in the sentenced sexual offender population in the 12 months to 30 June 2019. As at 30 June 2019 there were 13,196 prisoners serving sentences for sexual offences, which represented 18% of the sentenced prison population.

The number of prisoners serving immediate custodial sentences for sexual offences reached its highest level since at least 2002 in June 2018, but has since been declining. 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 March 2019.

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

One in every four (27%) sentenced prisoners is in prison for a VATP offence. This proportion has remained stable for the past 12 months. The number of those serving sentences for a 'Possession of Weapons' offence increased by 17% (to 3,021) compared to the same time last year. This substantial increase can be attributed to a range of factors, including more targeted police operations against knife crime. However, this offence group only accounts 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 2019, 5,405 prisoners were serving such sentences; a 15% increase compared to the same time last year.

## **Indeterminate sentences**

As at 30 June 2019, there were 9,342 (8,994 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 5%.

There were 2,315 IPP prisoners as at 30 June 2019 which represents a decrease of 16% in the last 12 months. This figure has decreased 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 20% (to 1,114).

The proportion of the IPP population who are post-tariff continues to increase; 92% of IPP prisoners were post-tariff as of 30 June 2019 compared to 89% at the same time the previous year.

The number of life sentenced prisoners (7,027) has decreased by 1% compared to 30 June 2018. There were 63 whole-life prisoners at the end of June 2019, with 3 additional life prisoners being treated in secure hospitals.

## **Recall to custody**

The prison population who have been recalled to custody (7,435 prisoners) increased by 18% over the year leading up to 30 June 2019. This is linked to the increase in the numbers released on Home Detention Curfew (since the policy change in early 2018), with more of whom are being recalled to custody. Additionally, there have been increases in the numbers recalled from IPP sentences.

## **Foreign National Offenders (FNOs)**

There were 9,089 (1,599 remand, 6,782 sentenced and 708 non-criminal) foreign nationals held in custody and the HMPPS-operated Immigration Removal Centre (IRC, at Morton Hall) as at 30 June 2019; representing 11% of the total prison population.

The number of FNOs in the prison (and HMPPS IRC) population has increased by less than 1% compared to 30 June 2018. The most common nationalities after British Nationals in prisons are Albanian (10% of the FNO prison population), Polish (8%), Romanian (8%), Irish (8%) and Jamaican (5%).

## **2. Prison receptions and admissions**

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### **17,690 individuals were received into custody as first receptions in the latest quarter**

The number of first receptions decreased by 11% compared with the same quarter in 2018.

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#### **Admissions to custody**

There was a 11% decrease in the number of untried admissions (to 7,080), a 3% decrease in the number of convicted unsentenced admissions (to 4,941) and an 11% decrease in the number of sentenced admissions (to 13,705) compared with the same quarter in 2018.

By comparing the latest quarter to the same quarter in the previous year, adult (aged 21+) remand admissions have decreased by 8% and young adult (18-20 year olds) remand admissions have decreased by 2%. Adult sentenced admissions have decreased by 11% and young adult sentenced admissions have decreased by 14% compared with the same quarter last year.

Almost half of all sentenced admissions during the quarter were for sentences of six months or less (6,049, 44% of sentenced admissions). This sentence length band has seen a 14% decrease in the number of admissions when compared with the same quarter last year.

By comparing this quarter with the corresponding quarter in 2018, immediate custodial sentenced admissions for 'drug offences', 'sexual offences' and 'theft offences' decreased by 9%, 29% and 13% respectively, however the number of sentenced admissions for 'possession of weapons' has increased by 27% compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

#### **Former Members of the Armed Forces**

When individuals are first received into custody, they complete a Basic Custody Screening (BCS) process. This serves to identify their needs in areas including employment, childcare and healthcare. As part of this process, they are asked whether they had served in the armed services.

Between January and March 2019, 323 matched individuals first received into custody answered that they had served in the armed services - this represented 3% of those who provided a response to the question at the point of their first reception during the latest quarter.

### 3. Releases

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**15,432 offenders were released from custody in the latest quarter.**

5,217 releases from determinate sentences and 215 from indeterminate sentences.

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#### **Prison releases from custodial sentences – “fewer prisoners are being released from custody”**

There were 14% fewer releases during the quarter ending March 2019 compared to the same quarter in 2018.

There were large decreases in releases from short sentences (less than 4 years) but a slight increase (2%) in releases from longer determinate sentences (4 years or more) compared to the same quarter in 2018. This reflects the general trend in the prison population away from short sentenced offenders, to those serving longer determinate sentences.

There were 215 releases from indeterminate sentences (94 IPP, 121 Life) between January and March 2019, a 9% decrease from the same period in 2018. The number of IPP releases fell by 32% and Life sentence releases increased by 25% - these large changes are likely due to changes in Parole Board case allocation.

While the number of IPP releases has tended to be around 130 per quarter, in the period January to March 2019 the number fell to 94. As the numbers of serving IPP prisoners in the prison population declines, we would expect fewer IPP releases in future quarters.

#### **Releases on Home Detention Curfew (HDC)**

3,177 offenders were released on HDC during the latest quarter – this represents a fall of 16% compared to the same quarter in 2018. This fall in the number released on HDC reflects the reduction in the size of the pool of offenders eligible for HDC (14% lower than the same period in 2018).

#### **Releases on Temporary Licence (ROTL)**

There were 97,352 incidences of ROTL during the quarter ending March 2019, which is a 10% increase on the same quarter last year.

4,284 individuals were given at least one incidence of ROTL between January and March 2019 - an increase of 5% compared to the same quarter in 2018.

There were 160 recorded Temporary Release Failures (TRFs) between January and March 2019. This is an increase of 18 compared with the previous quarter and an increase of 79 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 608 incidences of temporary release resulting in a failure between January and March 2019.

#### **Prisoner transfers**

There was a total of 21,253 recorded incidences of prisoner transfer during the latest quarter (less than 1% decrease from same period in 2018). The majority of these (72%) were routine inter-prison transfers. 17,553 prisoners had at least one incidence of a transfer in quarter ending the March 2019.

## 4. Adjudications

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**There were 54,197 adjudication outcomes between January and March 2019.**

This is an increase of 15% on the same quarter in the previous year. Additional days were awarded as punishment on 5,392 occasions in this quarter.

A total of 93,015 additional days were awarded in the latest quarter – this represents a rise of 9% from the same quarter in 2018.

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Around one in three (32%) of proven adjudications were for offences of unauthorised transactions, closely followed by offences of disobedience and disrespect (31%). Additionally, the number of proven offences for unauthorised transactions and disobedience and disrespect rose by 17% (to 11,161) and 14% (to 10,666) respectively on the same quarter of the previous year.

There was a 14% increase in the number of punishments (to 57,585). There was also a 16% rise in all proven adjudications (to 34,827) from the same quarter in 2018.

Additional days were awarded as punishment on 5,392 occasions between January and March 2019; this is 9% higher than the same period in 2018. A total of 93,015 days were awarded in the latest quarter – this represents a rise of 9% from the same quarter in 2018 (85,458; January to March 2018).

The average number of punishments per offence was 1.65. This is broadly consistent with figures seen in previous quarters.

## 5. Licence Recalls

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**The number of licence recalls between January and March 2019 was 6,168, of which 558 were recalls from Home Detention Curfew (HDC).**

The total number of recalls increased by 10% compared to the same quarter in 2018.

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The total number of quarterly recalls has generally been increasing since October-December 2016, although it fell by 245 in January-March 2019 from the previous quarter. The average number of quarterly recalls for 2018 is higher than those for the previous two years, in part due to increased HDC recalls but also due to increased recall of offenders from determinate sentences of 12 months or more.

Between January and March 2019, the number of recalls of offenders released from a sentence of under 12 months (2,178), ORA recalls, represented a decrease of 161 from the previous quarter and an increase of 6 from the same period in 2018.

After a fall in the number of non-ORA recalls from early 2016 to mid-2017, the number of these recalls (which include recalls of those with indeterminate sentences) continued to increase each quarter until January-March 2019 when it decreased again for the first time. These recalls are usually not fixed-term recalls, so offenders tend to stay in custody longer following a recall. Consequently, increases in non-ORA recalls tend to lead to more sustained increases in the recall prison population.

There usually is more than one reason for recalling an offender on licence. In recent quarters, about 4 in 10 recalls involved the offender recalled for facing further charges. Non-compliance was given as one of the reasons for recalling in about 7 out of 10 recalls in January-March 2019, consistent with recent quarters.

Between January and March 2019, there were 88 prisoners serving an IPP sentence and 49 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 2019, there were 1,804 who had not been returned to custody by the end of June 2019.

A further 17 offenders had not been returned to custody as of June 2019 after recall between 1984 and April 1999, meaning the total number of offenders not returned to custody at the end of June 2019 was 1,821. These figures include some offenders believed to be dead or living abroad but who have not been confirmed as dead or deported.

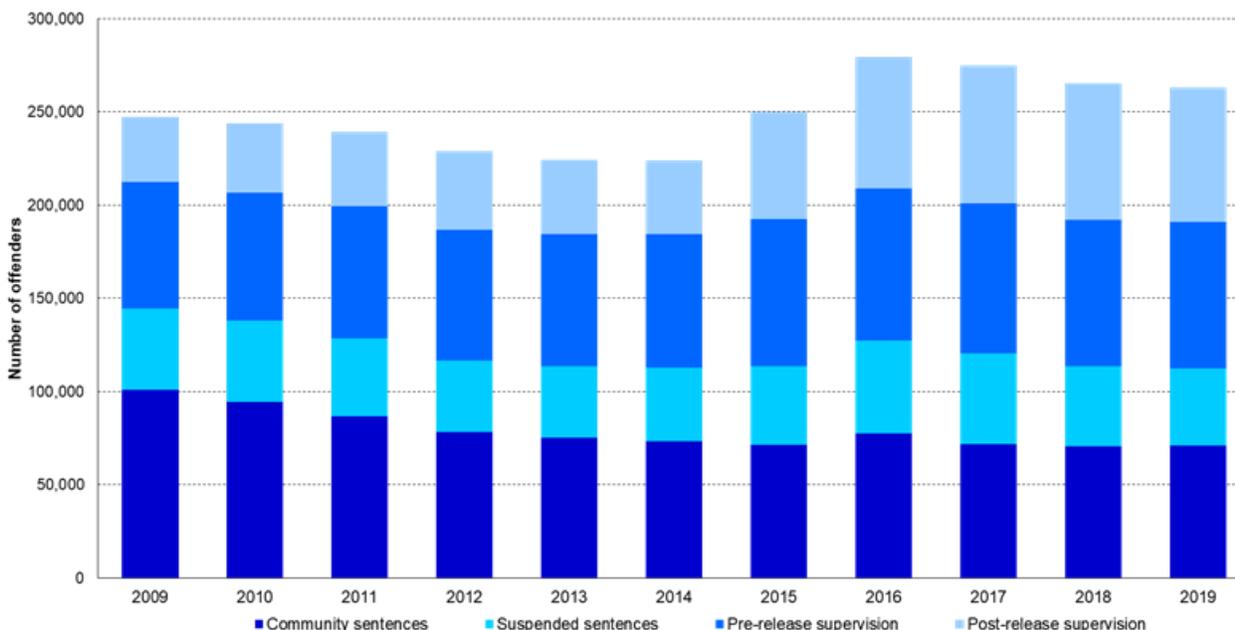
Of the 1,821 not returned to custody by 30 June 2019, 296 had originally been serving a prison sentence for violence against the person offences and a further 58 for sexual offences.

## 6. Probation

The total number of offenders on probation was 255,264 at the end of March 2019.

There was a 3% decrease in the total number of offenders on probation (court orders and pre and post release supervision) compared with 31 March 2018.

**Figure 2: Number of offenders under Probation Service supervision, 31 December 2008-2018 and 31 March 2019 (Source for latest period: Table 4.6. Source for years prior to 2018 is Table A4.13 of the annual probation tables)**



The overall court order caseload fell by 5% between the quarters ending March 2018 and 2019, with the Community Order (CO) caseload increasing by 3% and the Suspended Sentence Order (SSO) caseload decreasing by 16%. The number of offenders starting COs increased by 7% over this period, while the number of offenders starting SSOs with requirements decreased by 21%. The falls in SSOs are likely caused by a recent instruction to probation officers not to recommend SSOs in Pre-Sentence reports (PSRs), leading to more offenders being given COs in their place. The overall caseload of offenders supervised before or after release from prison fell by 1% between the end of March 2018 and 2019, while those supervised under post release alone fell by 3%.

Regarding the number of requirements started under court orders (Table 4.4), the latest quarter has seen continued rises in the number of rehabilitation requirements and the number of 'treatment' requirements (drug, alcohol and mental health) under COs. In terms of combinations of requirements (Table 4.3), rehabilitation combined separately with unpaid work, drug treatment, alcohol treatment and curfews have seen significant rises under COs (rising by 21%, 23%, 17% and 19% respectively).

Of the court orders terminated in the quarter ending March 2019, 68% 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, 75% of all those terminated were terminated successfully over this period.

The number of PSRs prepared by the Probation Service decreased by 9% between January to March 2018 and January to March 2019. Eighty-nine per cent of immediate custodial sentences proposed in PSRs resulted in that sentence being given in the latest 12-month period.

## Further information

This publication presents quarterly trends. For annual figures, and longer-term trends, please refer to our annual bulletin published in April each year.

Our statisticians regularly review the content of publications. Development of new and improved statistical outputs is usually dependent on reallocating existing resources. As part of our continual review and prioritisation, we welcome user feedback on existing outputs including content, breadth, frequency and methodology. Please send any comments you have on this publication including suggestions for further developments or reductions in content.

## 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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**Next update:** 31 October 2019

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

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