



















HMPPS Annual Digest 2019/20

Main points

The number of escapes has risen		When compared with the previous year: the number of escapes in the year ending March 2020 went up by 7, to 16.
The number of absconds and temporary release failures increased		In the year ending March 2020, there were 143 absconds – a 19% increase when compared with the previous 12-month period. There was a 25% increase in temporary release failures, 60 of which were failures to return, and 14 of these were still at large after 30 days.
Percentage of prisoners in crowded conditions remained unchanged		In the year ending March 2020, 22.5% of prisoners were held in crowded conditions, the same compared with the previous year. During the last ten years, crowding levels have fluctuated between 21.2% last year to 24.5% in 2015.
91.9% of Foreign National Offenders referred in 10 working days		91.9% or 7,340 of the 7,989 total referrals of Foreign National Offenders made to the Home Office in the year ending March 2020, were made within the required 10 working days.
Slight increase in the average number of prisoners working in custody		In the year ending March 2020, on average, around 12,500 prisoners and detainees were working in custody at any one time across public sector prisons, privately managed prisons and Immigration Removal Centres. They delivered around 17.4 million hours of work during the course of a year.
The amount raised through the PEA levy has increased		£2.2 million was raised from the imposition of the levy on prisoners' earnings to be paid to Victim Support. On average, 811 prisoners per month were working out of the prison on licence and subject to the Prisoners' Earnings Act levy and had average net earnings of £956 per month.
The percentage of positive results from rMDTs for drugs other than psychoactive substances remains at a similar level to the previous two years		Excluding new psychoactive substances, in the 12 months ending in March 2020, 10.5% of random Mandatory Drug Tests (rMDTs) were positive, with no change on the year ending March 2018 or the year ending March 2019, and similar to the level in the year ending March 2006.

Barricade/prevention of access incidents and incidents at height continue to rise		In the 12 months to March 2020, the number of barricade/prevention of access incidents went up by 8% when compared with the previous year. The number of incidents at height rose by 10% in the same time period.
Finds of drugs, mobile phones, SIM cards and weapons have increased		There were increases of 18% and 16% in finds incidents of drugs and weapons, and 3% each in finds incidents of SIM cards and mobile phones, between the year ending March 2019 and the year ending March 2020.
The proportion of prisoners with an enhanced Incentives status increased, while the average number of those with a standard Incentives status remained stable	 	In the 12 months to March 2020, the proportion of prisoners with an enhanced Incentives status increased by 9% compared with the previous year. The average number of prisoners with a standard IEP status remained stable; as did the total average prison population.
The number of women and babies received into Mother and Baby Units dropped		In the year ending March 2020, 49 women were received and 39 babies were received into MBUs; compared with 60 women and 57 babies in the previous reporting year.
The number of subjects actively monitored with an EM device decreased by 3%		At 31 March 2020, the total number of subjects actively monitored with an Electronic Monitoring (EM) device and open EM order was 10,400. There has been a general downward trend in the number of subjects actively monitored.
The number of BASS referrals decreased by 13% in the last year		There were 3,925 referrals for Bail Accommodation and Support Services in the year ending March 2020, a decrease of 13% on the 4,522 made in the previous year.
10.4% of HMPPS Staff who declared their race, were classified as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic		This is broadly consistent with the latest published MOJ representative rate and represents an increase of 0.8 percentage points compared with the previous year. Public Sector Prison (PSP) staff as a whole had the lowest BAME representation in HMPPS likely driven by the underlying regional population composition.
HMPPS staff lost an average of 10.0 working days to sickness absence		In 2019/20, YCS staff had the highest sickness absence rate at 14.6 Average Working Days Lost (AWDL), followed by NPS (11.2 AWDL), PSPs (10.0 AWDL). Absence rates are substantially lower in HMPPS HQ and area services overall compared with the operational parts of NOMS (5.2 AWDL).

This publication covers reporting up to and including the 2019/20 financial year. Data for the current reporting year covers the period between the 1st of April 2019 and the 31st of March 2020; and is referenced as the 12 months or year ending March 2020.

The technical guide for the HMPPS Annual Digest 2019/20 can be found here:
www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hmppps-annual-digest-april-2019-to-march-2020

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Products published to accompany the HMPPS Annual Digest 2019/20

The following products are published as part of this release:

- A statistical bulletin, containing commentary on key trends over time in prison performance measures and probation.
- A technical guide, providing further information on how the data are collected and processed; alongside relevant legislative or operational information relating to the topic area.
- A set of tables for each chapter, giving national and local level trends over time; and covering key topic areas in this bulletin.

Introduction

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) is an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice; with the goal of helping prison and probation services work together to manage offenders through their sentences. HMPPS replaced the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) on 1 April 2017.

The HMPPS Digest is published on an annual basis to support the Annual Report and Accounts, along with the Prison Annual Performance Ratings report¹ and in October of each year, details of Costs per place and costs per prisoner.

This HMPPS Annual Digest includes a number of new items on:

- **Escapes, Absconds, Failure to Return from ROTL and Releases in Error:** A new table has been added (Table 1.1), including a summary of all headline figures from this chapter, showing total escapes, absconds, temporary release failures and releases in error.
- **Finds:** Further data breakdowns for what was previously classified as "Other" has been expanded to include volumes for chargers, memory cards, and other mobile phone related items, all of which are also available with a prison level breakdown.
- **Finds:** Table 9.2b has been expanded to include a breakdown by drug type as well as by drug class.

Data presented in this report have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the data, the level of detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Topics that are not included in this report

Information on protected characteristics are not reported here, but will be published in the Offender Equalities Annual Report 2019/20 on 26 November 2020.

Information on Accredited Programmes in prisons has not been published in this report. The intention is to publish a special release of this data and accompanying commentary in Autumn 2020. Data for accredited programmes in prisons up to the 12 months ending March 2019 is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hm-prison-and-probation-service-offender-equalities-annual-report-2018-to-2019>

Probation measures have not been included in the Digest since 2014/15. As part of Transforming Rehabilitation, probation trusts have been replaced by the National Probation Service (NPS), which manages the most high-risk offenders across seven divisions; and 21 new Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs), who manage medium and low-risk offenders. Since the introduction of the Offender Rehabilitation Act (ORA), the National Probation Service (NPS) and Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) have been monitored against new performance frameworks.

¹ The Prison Performance Ratings report is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/prison-performance-ratings-2019-to-2020>

These new performance frameworks were introduced in February 2015 (for CRCs) and April 2015 (for NPS) to enable effective performance monitoring. The performance frameworks measure delivery throughout the offender journey, including:

- Court Work and Allocation (NPS only).
- Starting the Sentence.
- Completion and Compliance with the sentence of the court.
- Delivery of Programmes and Requirements.
- Through the Gate.
- Enforcement and Risk Escalation.
- Assurance Metrics and Other Custodial Services.

The different mix of offenders managed by NPS and CRCs means that performance, expected performance and comparisons cannot generally be made between the two organisations, even where the delivery of services seems identical. Each caseload of offenders bring their own unique challenges, therefore direct comparisons should not be made. Equally comparison cannot generally be made with performance under the previous arrangements.

Management Information (MI) against these performance frameworks is now published on a regular basis by HMPs in the "Community Performance Quarterly MI release". The publication covers all performance metrics from both frameworks, at a national level and broken down to lower levels of geography where appropriate. New measures for through the gate are currently under development and are intended for inclusion in a future release.

Previous and current publications, can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-performance-quarterly-management-information-release

Information on starts and completions of Accredited Programmes in the community is incomplete for the 12 months up to March 2020. As a result, the information is not included in this Official Statistics Report. The latest available data is in the NOMS Annual Digest 2016 to 2017 in Chapter 6 at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/annual-national-offender-management-service-digest-2016-to-2017>.

Related publications

Offender management statistics quarterly² provides detailed information on offenders held in prison custody and on probation. They include detailed breakdowns of the prison population, prison receptions and releases. They also cover statistics on adjudications and license recalls.

² Offender Management Statistics Quarterly is available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly>

Revisions

Figures for prisoners returning to custody and Random Mandatory Drug Tests for previous years have been updated following cleansing of the data. Details of the changes are given below.

Absconds, Escapes, Temporary Release Failures, Releases in Error (Chapter 1)

The figures for prisoners returning to custody have been amended. Previously the figures showed the number of prisoners who have returned to custody by 30th April each year, the figures now show the number of prisoners who have returned to custody within 30 days. Some of the tables on return to custody have been removed, but table 1.18 has been expanded to include a longer time series rather than just the latest year.

Random Mandatory Drug Testing (Chapter 7)

This release of the Annual Digest explains that the percentage of positive drug tests for psychoactive substances (PS) is underestimated in the 12 months ending March 2020. The reasons are set out in the chapter. It is therefore not possible to draw conclusions about the level of misuse of PS in this period. Data for the year ending March 2019 published in the 2018/19 Annual Digest is also likely to have been affected by underestimation of PS but to a lesser extent than the data for the year ending March 2020. Although the data for PS should be treated with caution for these years, it is included in the tables to this chapter.

A new table has been added (Table 7.1) to summarise the percentage of positive tests over time using a new methodology that was first used in the 2018/19 HMPPS Annual Digest. The new methodology is used for data from 2012/13 onwards. The table includes findings for traditional drugs (i.e. excluding psychoactive substances), psychoactive substances, and both combined. In other tables, footnotes make clear which figures are adjusted using the new methodology. The methodology is explained in the technical guide.

1. Escapes, Absconds, Failure to Return from ROTL and Releases in Error

The number of escapes has increased

There were 16 escapes in the 12 months to March 2020, 8 of which remained still at large 30 days after escape. This is an increase from 9 escapes the previous year, all of which were recaptured within 30 days of escape.

The number of absconds has increased

There were 143 absconds in the year to March 2020, a 19% increase from 120 absconds in the previous 12 months. Of the 143 prisoners who absconded, 42% (60 prisoners) remained at large for over 30 days, an increase from 33% the previous 12 months (39 out of 120 prisoners).

The number of Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) failures has increased

There were 677 temporary release failures in the year to March 2020, of which 60 were failures to return, and 14 of these were still at large after 30 days.

The number of temporary release failures increased by 25% from the year ending March 2019.

The number of releases in error has decreased

There were 50 prisoners released in error in the latest year, a decrease of 22% compared with the year ending March 2019.

Public protection is core to the successful and effective delivery of offender management. In managing offenders in custody and in the community, HMPPS has the protection of the public, including victims, children and vulnerable adults, as an overriding aim in all its activity. HMPPS takes public protection and escapes from prison extremely seriously. An immediate investigation, independent of the prison, is completed following any escape to determine what went wrong and to learn lessons for the future. The majority of those who escape are quickly re-captured by the police, then charged and prosecuted. On return to prison, they are normally re-categorised and may be moved to a higher security establishment.

Unlawfully-at-large incidents are categorised by the level of security measures the prisoner had to overcome to gain their liberty:

- **Escape:** A prisoner **escapes from prison** if they unlawfully gain their liberty by breaching the secure perimeter of a closed prison. An incident is deemed to be an escape and included in the annual total if the prisoner is at liberty for at least 15 minutes before recapture or an offence is committed during an escape lasting less than 15 minutes. A 'Category A escape' means the escape of a Category A prisoner. Category A prisoners are those whose escape would be highly dangerous to the public, the police or the security of the State. A prisoner **escapes from an escort** if they are able to pass beyond the control of escorting staff and leave the escort, the vehicle or the premises (such as a court or hospital).
- **Abscond:** An abscond is an escape that does not involve overcoming a physical security barrier or restraint, such as that provided by a wall or fence, locks, bolts or bars, a secure vehicle, handcuffs or the direct supervision of staff. It is only possible to abscond from open prison conditions.

- A **temporary release failure** occurs when a prisoner fails to adhere to any condition written into the licence that permits their temporary release. Such conditions include the date and time by which the prisoner is required to return to the prison, how they may behave and what they may do, where they may go and who they may contact during the period of release.
- **Failures to return** after release on temporary licence are the subset of temporary release failures, where an offender has not returned to the establishment by midnight on the designated return date. In this case, the police will be notified that the offender is unlawfully at large, and appropriate contingency plans are activated. If the offender returns after the designated return time but on the right date, this is recorded as a late return instead of a failure to return.

A prisoner is **released in error** if they are wrongly discharged from an establishment or court when they should have remained in custody and the prisoner has not deliberately played a part in the error. Examples include misplaced warrants for imprisonment or remand, recall notices not acted upon or sentence miscalculation.

If it is believed that the situation was manipulated by the prisoner, for example by taking the identity of another person, then this will be classified as an escape, and not a release in error.

The number of escapes increased by 7 to a total of 16 in the 12 months to March 2020 (Figure 1.1, Tables 1.2 to 1.5)

In the 12 months ending March 2020, there was 1 escape from prison, 1 from HMPPS prisoner escorts and 14 from contractor escorts; making a total of 16 escapes. This is an increase of 7 when compared with the year ending March 2019. 8 of the 16 escapees in the latest year remained still at large within 30 days of their escape.

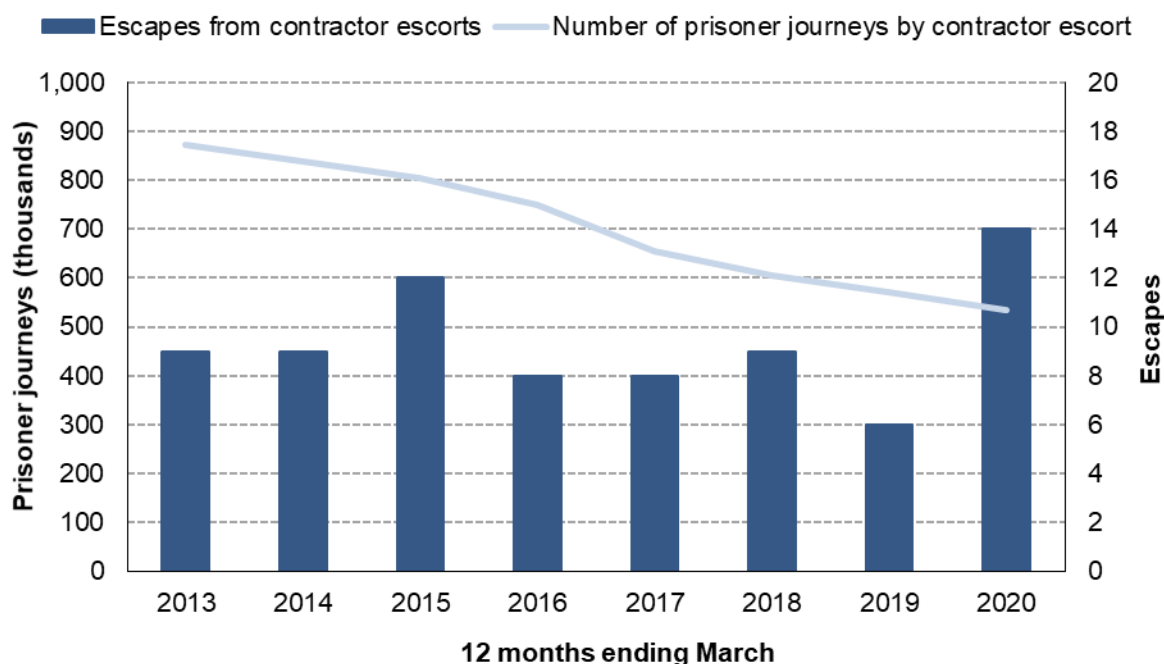
There were no Category A prisoner escapes from prisons or HMPPS escorts. In the last 24 years since the financial year ending March 1997, there have been two Category A escapes, occurring in the 12 months ending March 2012 and 2013.

The 1 escape from prison was from a Male Category C prison. The number of escapes from prison has remained very low, not exceeding 4 in any financial year since the 12 months ending March 2005.

The 1 escape from a HMPPS escort was from a Male Local prison. The number of escapes from HMPPS escorts has remained very low, not exceeding 4 in any financial year since the year ending March 2007.

Figure 1.1 shows the number of contractor escort journeys and escapes from contractor escorts. The number of prisoner journeys by contractor escort has been steadily decreasing, due to increasing use of video link technology for court appearances. There were 535,416 contractor escort journeys in financial year to March 2020, 14 of which resulted in an escape.

Figure 1.1: Contractor escort journeys and escapes from contractor escorts, the 12 months ending March 2013 to the 12 months ending March 2020 (Source: Table 1.9)



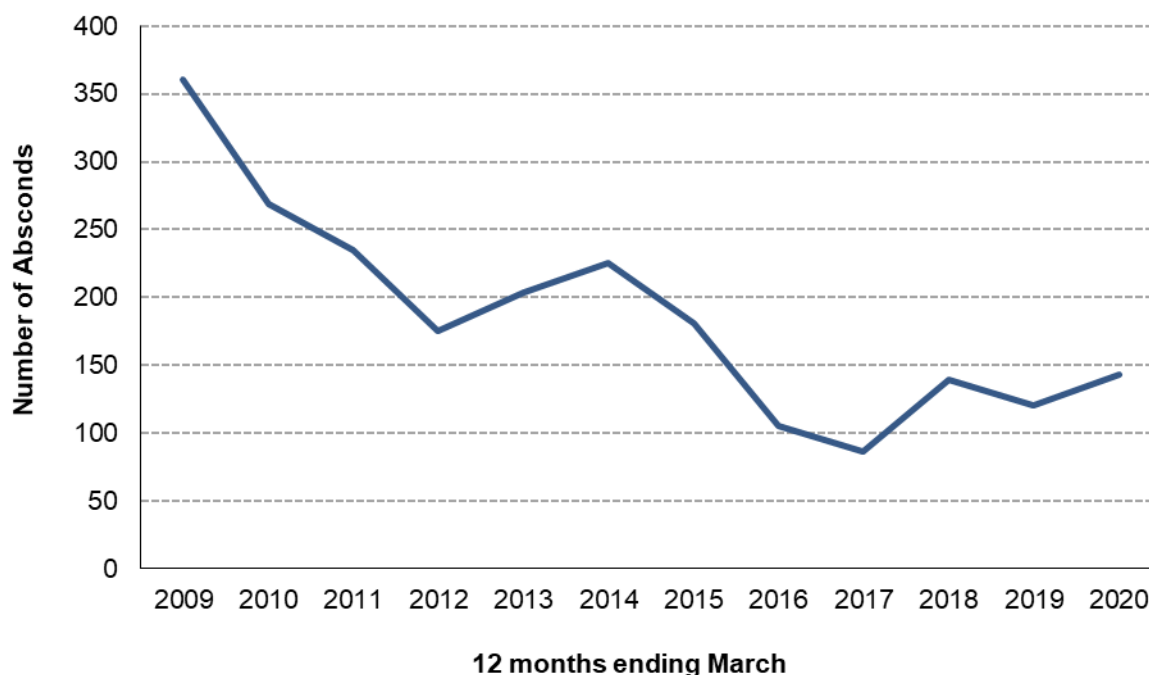
The number of absconds increased in the 12 months to March 2020, when compared with the previous year (Tables 1.11 to 1.12)

There were 143 absconds in the year ending March 2020, an increase of 19% from 120 absconds in the previous year. The number of absconds has remained relatively stable over the last 5 years, following a steady decrease from 361 absconds in the 12 months ending March 2009.

Of those who absconded in the 12 months to March 2020, 60 were still at large within 30 days of absconding. The percentage of prisoners who were still at large after 30 days increased from 33% in the previous year to 42% in the latest year.

Most abscond incidents in the 12 months to March 2020 were for prisoners whose main offence was robbery (29%) or theft offences (25%).

Figure 1.2: Absconds, the 12 months ending March 2009 to the 12 months ending March 2020 (Source: Table 1.11)



Failures to return from release on temporary licence (ROTL) increased by 4 incidents from the previous 12-month period (Figure 1.3, Tables 1.13 to 1.15)

In the year ending March 2020, there were 677 temporary release failures, where prisoners who have been released on temporary licence fail to fulfil all of the conditions of their release. This was a 25% increase from 543 temporary release failures in the year ending March 2019. This can be partly explained by the increasing number of releases and by the increased recording of 'minor failures' such as prisoners returning to the prison after the agreed time.

Of the 677 temporary release failures, 60 were failures to return, resulting in prisoners being unlawfully at large, and representing 9% of temporary release failures. This was an increase of 4 incidents, from 56 failures to return in the year ending March 2019.

Of the 60 failures to return, 14 prisoners were still at large after 30 days. This is a decrease from 19 prisoners who were still at large after 30 days in the year ending March 2019.

Data on the number of incidences of temporary release and individuals released, and the number of failures are reported within the Offender Management Statistics Quarterly bulletin³.

³ www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly

Figure 1.3: Temporary release failures and failures to return, the 12 months ending March 2005 to the 12 months ending March 2020 (Source: Tables 1.13 and 1.14)

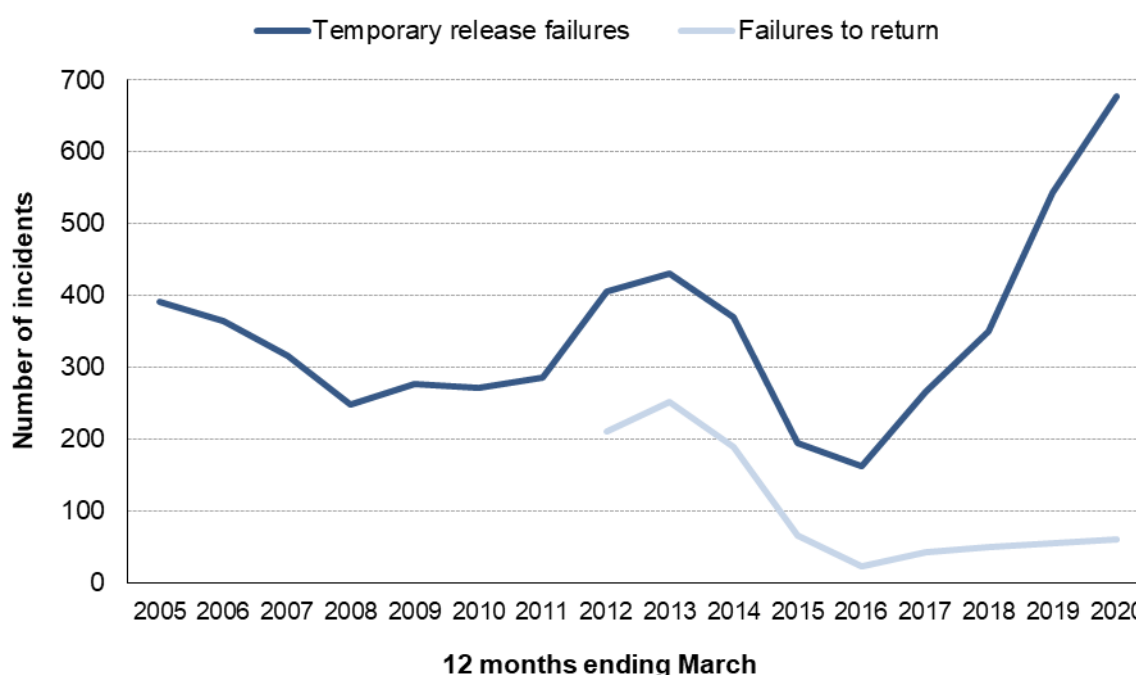


Figure 1.3 shows that while the number of prisoners who fail to return from ROTL generally mirrors the trend for all temporary release failures, they account for a decreasing proportion of all failures, falling from 52% in financial year 2011/12 to 9% in the 2019/20 financial year.

Between 2013 and 2015 a series of changes were made to tighten ROTL policy, with the result that incidences of release fell dramatically. They have since been increasing, particularly after the issue of a new ROTL policy framework in 2019 which aimed to allow prison governors to consider ROTL earlier and more frequently. A large-scale MOJ study published in 2018 showed that increased use of ROTL in suitable cases was associated with a small but statistically significant reduction in reoffending.

Most failure to return incidents⁴ in the year ending March 2020 were for prisoners whose main offence was violence against the person (28%), theft offences (27%) or robbery (22%).

The number of incidences of release on temporary licence has been increasing steadily in recent years; from 333,286 in the calendar year 2015 to 436,531 in the calendar year 2019. The proportion of releases completed successfully without failure remains well over 99%.

The number of releases in error fell in the 12 months to March 2020 (Tables 1.16 and 1.17)

In the 12 months to March 2020, 50 prisoners were released in error. This is a 22% decrease from 64 the previous year, and a 31% decrease from a peak of 72 in the year ending March 2017.

In the year to March 2020, 41 releases in error occurred from prison establishments, while 9 were released in error at the courts. Releases in error from establishments could also be a result of errors by the court.

⁴ More detail is provided in Tables 1.13 to 1.15.

Due to the relatively low numbers, year-on-year changes should be interpreted with caution. The number of releases in error should be compared with the total number of releases in the same time period⁵.

⁵ www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly

2. Prison Crowding

The average prison population remained stable

In the year to March 2020, the average prison population in England and Wales was 83,130, compared with 83,013 in the previous year.

The crowding rate was unchanged at 22.5%

In the 12 months to March 2020, the crowding rate at establishments across England and Wales was 22.5%; at the same level as the previous year.

Crowding rates were highest in Male Local prisons

Crowding rates have continued to be the highest in Male Local prisons. The rate was 47.4% for the latest 12-month period.

Crowding is measured as the number of prisoners who, at unlock on the last day of the month, are held in a cell, cubicle or room where the number of occupants exceeds the uncrowded capacity of the cell, cubicle or room. This includes the number of prisoners held two to a single cell, three prisoners in a cell designed for two and any prisoners held crowded in larger cells or dormitories⁶.

The level of crowding for each prison is set by senior operational managers in HMPPS in agreeing the operational capacity⁷ of each establishment. In the 12 months to March 2020, Useable Operational Capacity of the estate is the sum of all establishments' operational capacity less 2,000 places. (the "operating margin") and allows for the fact that prisoners are managed separately by sex, risk category and conviction status and that the population will not exactly match the distribution of places available across the country. No prison will be expected to operate at a level of crowding beyond that agreed by a senior operational manager.

The crowding rate for public prisons is lower than the "all prisons" crowding rate (Figure 2.1, Tables 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4)

In the 12 months to March 2020, the average population in prison was 83,130; remaining stable when compared with the previous year. In the year to March 2020, 18,672 prisoners were held in crowded accommodation conditions, which represents a crowding rate of 22.5%⁸. This compares with 18,681 in the previous year; with the crowding rate remaining unchanged (22.5%). Although there are yearly fluctuations, crowding levels had remained at around 24% across the time series since 2004.

The crowding rate in public prisons was 21.5% in the year to March 2020, compared with 21.0% in the previous year which had the lowest rate since 2002 (when the rate was 18.7%). In privately managed prisons, the crowding rate in the latest year was 27.0%, a fall from 28.8% in the previous year.

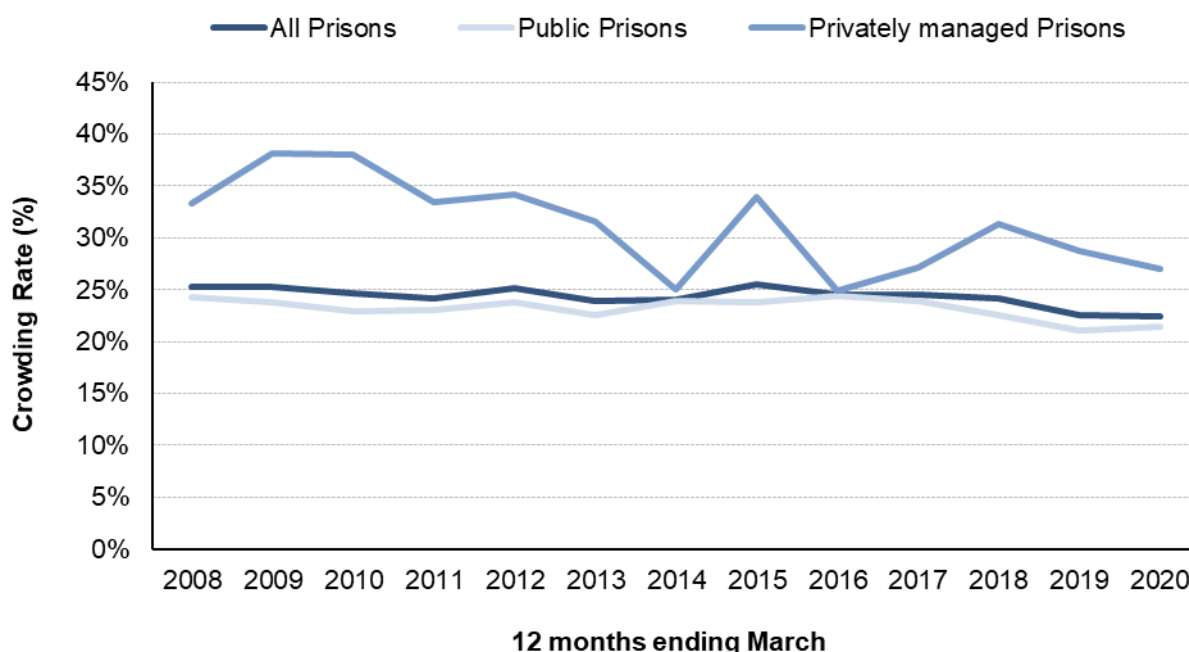
⁶ For example, if 12 prisoners occupy a dormitory with an uncrowded capacity of 10, then the 12 prisoners are counted as crowded.

⁷ The operational capacity of a prison is the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold, taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime.

⁸ Expressed as a proportion of the total prison population.

Of all prisoners held in crowded conditions, the vast majority were held in doubled⁹ accommodation; with the crowding rate as a proportion of the total prison population for this category recorded as 21.8% in the current reporting year. This is an increase from the 21.2% figure of the previous year.

Figure 2.1: Percentage of prisoners held in crowded conditions across Public and Privately-managed Prisons in England and Wales, 12 months ending March 2008 to 12 months ending March 2020 (Source: Table 2.2)



The highest crowding rates are in Male Local prisons¹⁰ (Figure 2.2, Table 2.5)

Rates of crowding vary by prison function¹¹, and in the 12 months to March 2020, levels were highest in Male Local prisons; where 47.4% (12,742) prisoners¹² were held in crowded accommodation.

In Male Category C prisons¹³, the crowding rate was 14.7% in the latest year. The crowding rate in Female Local prisons was 9.9% in the year to March 2020.

⁹ Doubled accommodation is defined as two prisoners being held in a cell designed for one prisoner.

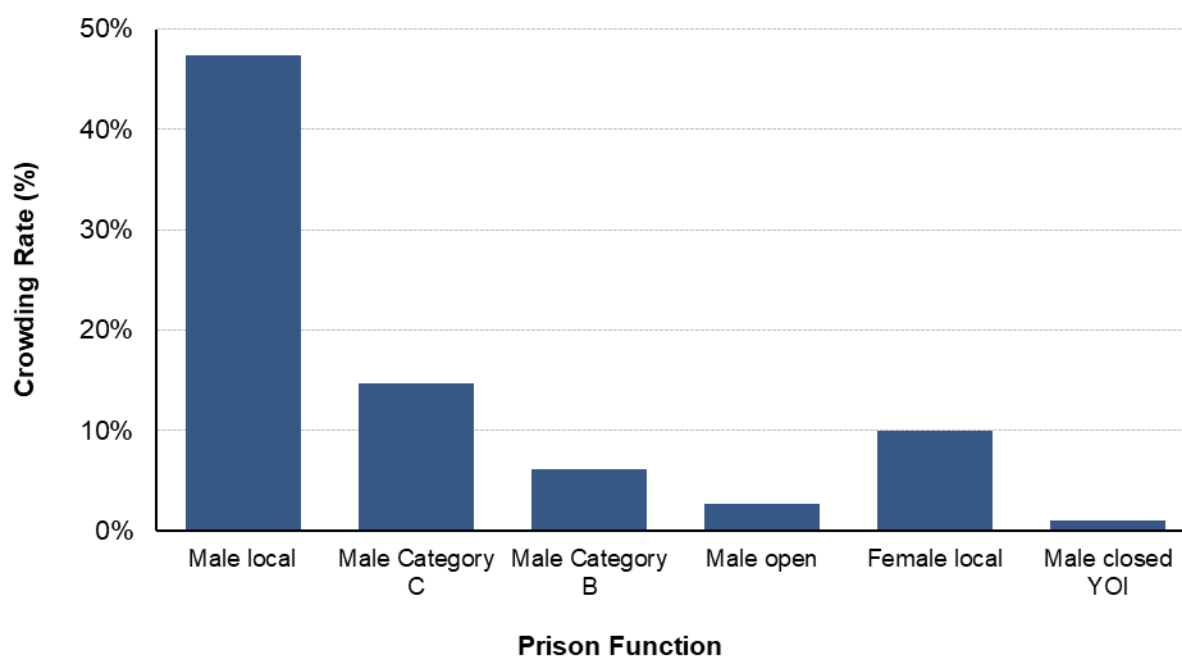
¹⁰ Crowding is not evenly dispersed across the prison estate; it is particularly concentrated in male local prisons, which are those that serve the courts of a specific area and which predominantly hold remand and short sentenced prisoners.

¹¹ Prison function is determined using the 2019/20 financial year list of functions.

¹² Expressed as a proportion of the total prison population in Male Local prisons, which was 26,880 in the latest financial year. The total prison population across all estates in England and Wales was 83,130.

¹³ Crowding is less in Category B and C prisons as many of these are training prisons where activities are targeted at reducing re-offending by providing constructive regimes which address offending behaviour and improve opportunities on release.

Figure 2.2: Crowding rate in prisons by prison function, England and Wales, 12 months ending March 2020 (Source: Table 2.5)



3. Foreign National Offender Referrals

91.9% of Foreign National Offenders were referred within 10 working days

91.9% (7,340) of the 7,989 total referrals of Foreign National Offenders made to the Home Office were made within 10 working days; meeting the 90% target.

Prisons are required to refer Foreign National Offenders (FNOs) to Home Office Criminal Casework within 10 working days of receiving a custodial sentence. If release is due within one calendar month, the referral must be made immediately. This is to ensure FNOs receive due consideration for deportation/removal by the Home Office before their release.

The referral rate within ten working days met the 90% Home Office target (Table 3.1)

From April 2019 to March 2020¹⁴, 7,989 Foreign National Offenders were referred to the Home Office. The number of referrals decreased by less than 1% compared with last year, when the number of referrals was 8,009. This year, 91.9% (7,340) of referrals were received within 10 working days; meeting the Home Office target referral rate of 90%.

¹⁴ Changes to the metric were introduced last year; to include prisoners without a specific nationality (e.g. blank or Stateless) and prisoners registered as Irish.

4. Prisoners Working in Custody

An average of 12,500 prisoners were working in custody

In the 12 months to March 2020, an average of 12,500 prisoners and detainees were working in custody across public sector prisons, privately managed prisons and Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs). This is an increase of 3% compared with the 12 months to March 2019.

Prisoners in custody worked for 17.4 million hours in total during the 12 months to March 2020

The number of hours worked by prisoners and detainees across public and private sector prisons and IRCs was 17.4 million in the year to March 2020. This is an increase 2% when compared with the previous year.

The Government remains committed to the ambition to increase work in prisons and to have more prisoners working and working longer hours in an 'employment-like' atmosphere. The aim of this is:

- to ensure that prisoners are occupied in purposeful activity whilst in establishments;
- to give offenders the opportunity to learn new skills and experience and support finding employment on release.

HMPPS is committed to working with businesses and other government departments to significantly increase work activity undertaken by prisoners in custody. The New Futures Network is the HMPPS vehicle with responsibility for finding employers to provide work for prisoners. New Futures Network brokers partnerships between employers and Public and Private Sector Prisons, who then have the responsibility to deliver the work.

The average number of prisoners working and hours worked in Public sector prisons¹⁵ and IRCs has increased (Figure 4.1, Table 4.1)

The average number of prisoners working¹⁶ in public sector prisons and IRCs in March 2020 was 10,500 and the number of prisoner hours worked was 14.3 million. This compares with an average of 9,900 prisoners working 13.9 million hours in the previous year; representing a 6% and 3% increase respectively. The increase can in part be attributed to HMP Birmingham switching from a privately managed prison to a public prison on July 1st 2019. When looking at the past 5 years, the average number of prisoners working and number of prisoner hours has increased by 21% and 15% respectively.

Prisoner working hours and the average number of prisoners working in privately managed prisons decreased (Figure 4.1, Table 4.2)

The average number of prisoners working¹⁷ in privately managed prisons in the year to March 2020 was 2,000; representing a decrease of 9% over the previous year, and an 11% increase since the

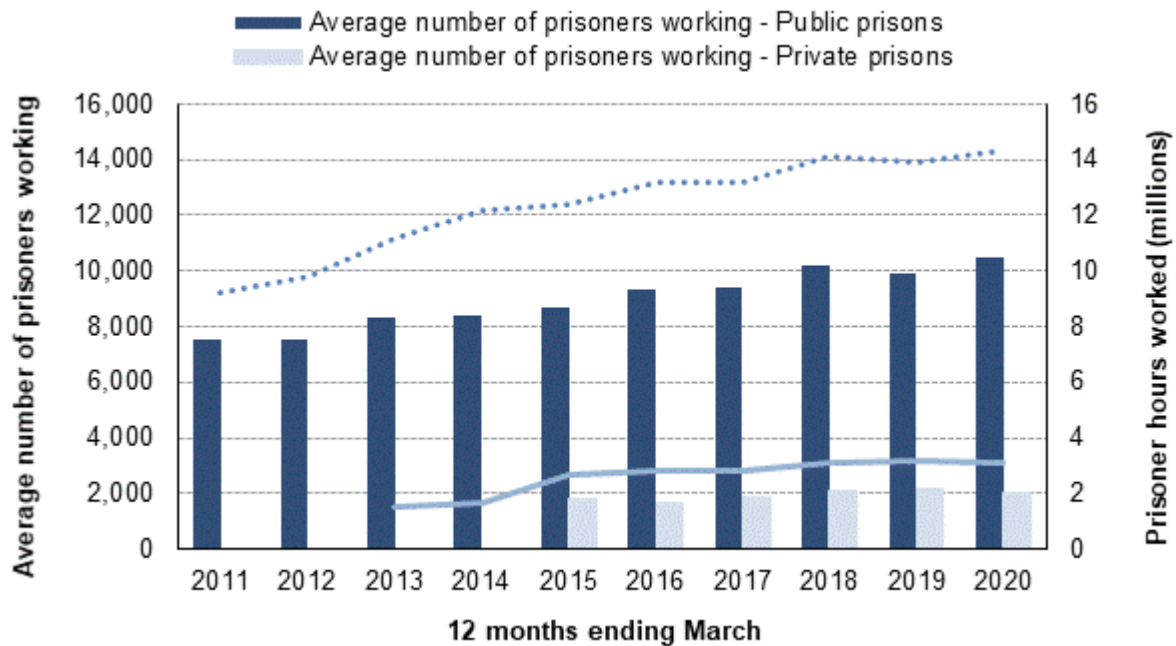
¹⁵ HMP Birmingham changed from a private prison to a public prison in July 2019. For the purposes of this report, all data for Birmingham have been classified and reported as public.

¹⁶ These numbers refer to specific types of work as defined in the Guide, and does not include tasks such as cooking, serving meals, maintenance and cleaning.

¹⁷ As for public sector prisons and IRCs, these numbers refer to the types of work as defined in the Guide.

year to March 2015. The decrease is in part due to HMP Birmingham changing from a privately managed prison to a public prison, and within the full financial year's reporting counting as a public sector prison. Prisoners and detainees worked 3.1 million hours in the 12 months to March 2020, compared with 3.2 million hours in the preceding year; a decrease of 3%. The number of prisoner working hours has risen by 15% since the 12 months to March 2015.

Figure 4.1: Average number of prisoners working and hours worked in public sector and privately managed prisons, the 12 months ending March 2011 to the 12 months ending March 2020 (Source: Tables 4.1 and 4.2)



5. Prisoners Earnings subject to the Prisoners' Earnings Act 1996

In the 12 months to March 2020, a net¹⁸ sum of £11.5 million was raised before the Prisoners' Earnings Act (PEA) levy was applied.

During the 12 months ending March 2020, a total of £11.5 million was raised before the Prisoners' Earnings Act levy was applied. This is an increase of 55% compared with the same period last year, when £7.4 million was raised.

In the 12 months to March 2020, an average of 811 active prisoners were working in custody and subject to the PEA

In the 12 months ending March 2020, an average of 811 prisoners worked each month and were subject to the PEA. This represents an increase of 42% on the previous year, when the number was 572 per month.

A total of £2.2 million was raised through the Prisoners' Earnings Act levy

An average of £222 per prisoner per month was raised through the levy; totalling £2.2 million raised for the year ending March 2020. Net earnings amounted to £956 per prisoner per month after the levy was applied.

The Prisoner Earnings Act (PEA) commenced on 26 September 2011. It enables prison governors to impose a levy of up to and including 40% on net wages over £20 per week for prisoners who have been assessed as being of low risk of absconding or re-offending and allowed to work outside of the prison on temporary licence, to prepare for their eventual release. Monies raised from the levy are used for making of payments to victim support or crime prevention, contributions towards prisoners' upkeep via the Consolidated Fund, dependants of the prisoner in proportions determined by the Governor or an investment account with a view to capital and interest being held in benefit for the prisoner.

Total net earnings and monies raised through the levy continues to rise (Table 5.1)

In the year to March 2020, prisoners' net earnings under the Prisoners' Earnings Act (1996) amounted to £11.5 million, with £2.2 million was raised through the levy. Net earnings before the levy increased by 55% (£4.1 million) from the previous year. An extra £0.6 million (38%) was raised compared with £1.6 million raised during the year ending March 2019. Both net earnings and the amount raised through the levy has increased year on year, with the largest increase seen this year. This is however, in line with the rise in the number of prisoners earning and subject to the levy.

Prisoners earned an average of £1,178 per month before the levy in the 12 months ending March 2019, up from £1,083 earned in the previous year.

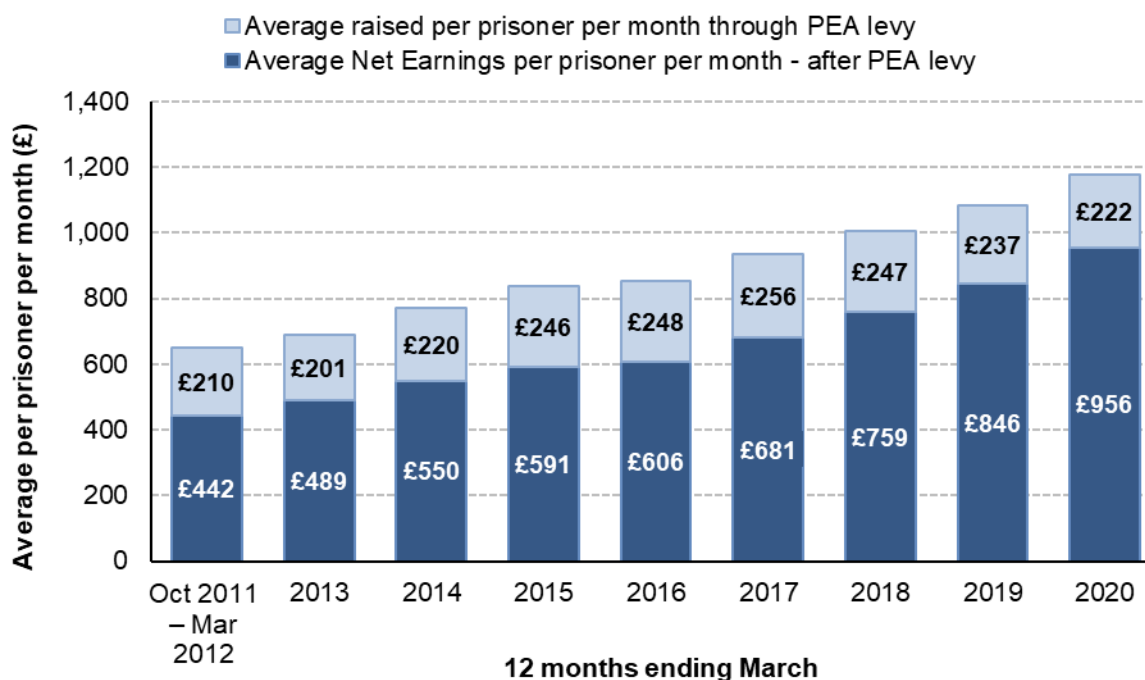
¹⁸ Net earnings are those after tax, national insurance, any court ordered payments or child maintenance payments.

Average net earnings per prisoner per month after the levy increased, but the average amount raised for the levy per prisoner per month fell (Figure 2.1, Table 5.2)

After the levy deduction through the Prisoner's Earnings Act (1996), prisoners earned an average of £956 per month in the 12 months ending March 2020; an increase in earnings of £110 on average per prisoner, per month compared with the same period in the previous reporting year (when average earnings totalled £846 per prisoner).

Through the levy deduction, £222 per prisoner per month was raised on average for the levy. The amount raised decreased by £15 per month for each prisoner in the latest year compared with the year ending March 2019, when an average of £237 was raised per prisoner per month through the Prisoners' Earnings Act levy. In the 12 months to March 2020, the average number of active prisoners per month was 811, an increase of 42% from last year when the number was 572.

Figure 5.1: Average net prisoner earnings after Prisoners' Earnings Act levy deduction, and average raised through the levy per prisoner per month, the 6 months ending March 2012 to the 12 months ending March 2020 (Source: Table 5.2)



6. Accredited Programmes

The number of starts for Accredited Programmes in custody fell

In the 12 months to March 2020, there was a 2% decrease in the number of starts compared with the previous 12 month period, and a 71% fall in volumes compared with the year ending March 2010.

The number of completions¹⁹ for Accredited Programmes in custody remained stable during the same period

In the 12 months to March 2020, the volume of completed Accredited Programmes remained stable compared with the same period in 2019. Since the year ending March 2010, completions have decreased by 68%.

There were 30 starts and 14 completions for the new Healthy Identity Intervention (HII)²⁰ programme

There were nine starts and four completions for the new Identity Matters programme

Accreditation is a system for ensuring that treatment programmes offered to offenders, which aim to reduce reoffending, have a proper theoretical basis, and are designed in accordance with the 'What Works' literature.

HMPPS commissions a range of accredited programmes²¹; varying in length, complexity and mode of delivery. Programmes have been developed to target the particular risks and needs for different types of offending behaviour. To achieve accreditation, programmes must be assessed to make sure they are targeting the right people, focusing on the right things, and being delivered in a way that is most likely to reduce reoffending. All HMPPS-commissioned accredited programmes are subject to quality assurance processes to ensure programme integrity is maintained and developed.

Changes to the delivery of Accredited Programmes^{22,23} in custody has resulted in a fall in volumes for starts and a levelling out of completions (Figures 6.1 and 6.2, Tables 6.1 to 6.3)

In the year to March 2020 compared with the same period in 2019, the number of starts decreased by 2% and the volume of completions remained stable. Since 2010, volumes of starts and completions have fallen due to changes in Accredited programme delivery in custody.

¹⁹ Total volumes over the financial year for starts and completions will not necessarily match. This is because an offender who completed in the current financial year might have started the programme in previous years.

²⁰ The Healthy Identity Intervention (HII) programme was introduced on 1st June, 2019; and is designed for those who have committed extremist offences.

²¹ A complete list of accredited programmes for offenders in custody can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/883024/descriptions-accredited-programmes.pdf

²² In this publication, programmes are grouped into one of six categories: Domestic Violence, Extremism, General Offending, Sexual Offending, Substance Misuse or Violence. For monitoring purposes, Offender Behaviour Programmes (OBPs) in **custody** include domestic violence, violence and general offending completions but exclude sexual offender treatment and substance misuse programmes, which are reported separately.

Accredited programme delivery in custody has changed significantly since 2010. New programmes have been introduced: Building Better Relationships (BBR), Healthy Sex Programme (HSP), Resolve, Horizon; with Kaizen introduced in 2017. Kaizen and Horizon have replaced all of the delivery of Core and Extended Sex Offender Treatment Programmes in custody. This transition to newer programmes accounted for some of the decrease in sex offender treatment programmes.

The decrease in Accredited Programme starts and completions has been primarily driven by the change of programme ownership – and responsibility for running substance misuse accredited programmes - from HMPPS to NHS. As of 1 April 2011, local NHS partnerships assumed these responsibilities and have opted to deliver an increasing proportion of substance misuse programmes which are not CSAAP accredited. The large decreases seen reflect the fact that more offenders are completing programmes run by the NHS, rather than HMPPS.

There has also been a reinvestment from shorter, moderate intensity programmes in favour of longer, higher intensity programmes. The number of commissioned completions have therefore decreased despite maintaining investment.

Starts^{24,25} for Accredited Programmes²⁶ delivered in custody continue to fall (Figure 6.1, Table 6.1)

Starts in HMPPS-commissioned accredited programmes delivered in custody fell by 71% between the years ending March 2010 and March 2020; from 19,528 to 5,726. The main driver for this decrease in volumes was due to a 98% drop in starts of substance misuse programme. Excluding these, the fall during the ten year period was 41%.

The number of starts of Offender Behaviour Programmes has fallen by 46% in the 10 year period, whilst starts on Sexual Offending Treatment programmes decreased by 2%.

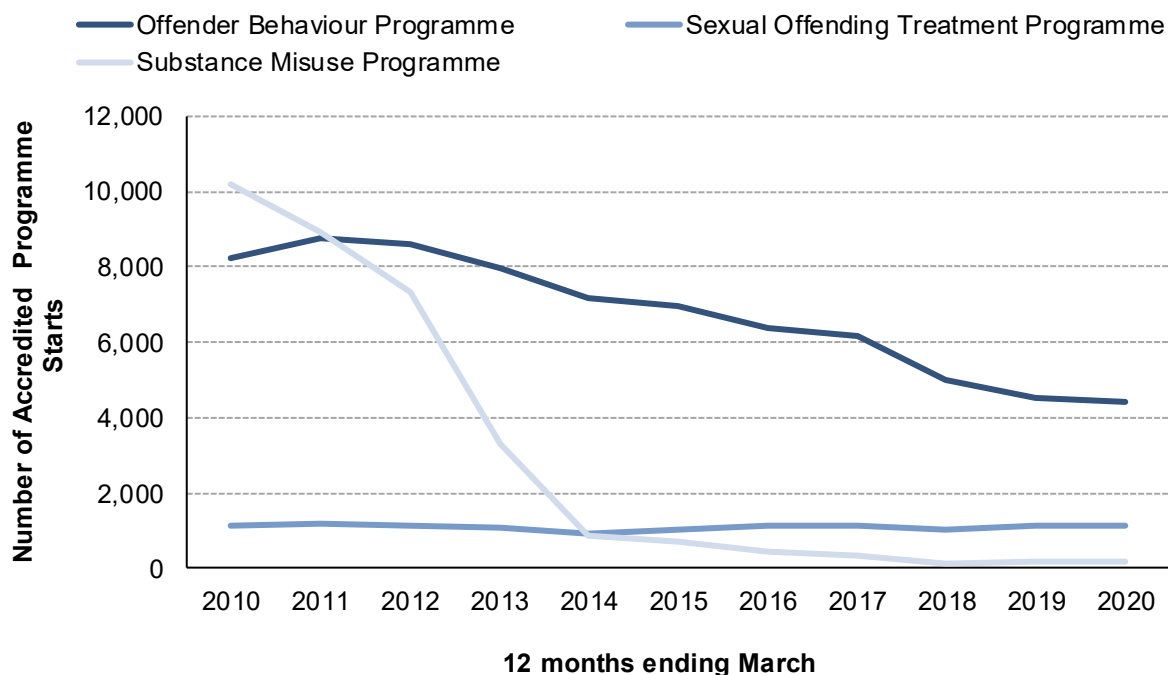
In the latest 12 month period compared with the same period in 2019, the number of starts fell by 2% overall.

²⁴ Under exceptional circumstances, offenders in custody can start more than one accredited programme in any financial year. The figures presented in this chapter refer to the number of starts and might not equal the number of offenders who started any given programme during the same financial year.

²⁵ From 23rd March 2020, changes to usual operations of accredited programme delivery were implemented in response to the impact of COVID-19 in prisons. In most cases, no new programme starts occurred from this date; the exception being for a very small number of the Democratic Therapeutic Communities (DTC) programme starts until the end of the reporting year on 31st March 2020, and these were scaled down in accordance to local infection control requirements.

²⁶ Programmes relating to domestic violence and sexual offending are available for male prisoners only. Certain programmes relating to general offending (KAINOS and New Me Strengths) and violence (Kaizen Violence, Identity Matters and Becoming New Me) are available for male prisoners only.

Figure 6.1: Number of starts for accredited programmes in custody, 12 months ending March 2010 to 12 months ending March 2020 (Source: Table 6.1)



Accredited Programmes completed in custody remained stable in the last year (Figure 6.2, Tables 6.2 and 6.3)

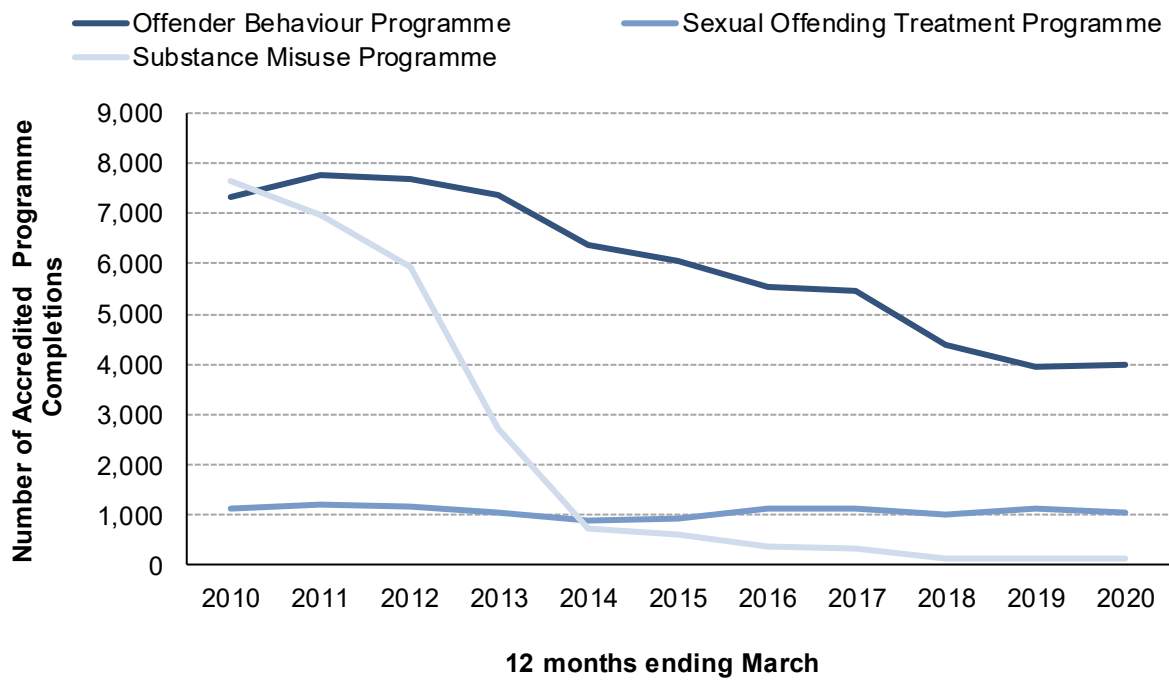
In terms of completions, there were 5,216 in the year to March 2020, down from 16,099 during the same period in 2010; representing a 68% fall in that period. Excluding Substance Misuse from completions in custody, the fall in the number of completions between the 12 months ending March 2010 to the year ending March 2020 was 40% (8,469 to 5,068).

Completions of substance misuse programmes decreased by 98%, while completions for offender behaviour programmes and sexual offending treatment programmes fell by 46% and 5% respectively.

In the 12 months to March 2020, the number of completions of accredited programmes in custody was at the same level as in March 2019; from 5,217 in March 2019 to 5,216 in the latest period.

Offender behaviour programmes accounted for 77% of all accredited programme completions; while sexual offending treatment programmes and substance misuse programmes made up 20% and 3% respectively of all completions in the year to March 2020.

Figure 6.2: Number of completions for accredited programmes in custody, 12 months ending March 2010 to 12 months ending March 2020 (Source: Table 6.2)



7. Random Mandatory Drug Testing

The percentage of positive results from random Mandatory Drug Tests (rMDT) for drugs other than psychoactive substances remains at a similar level to the previous two years following a three-year steady rise.

Excluding psychoactive substances, in the 12 months ending March 2020, 10.5% of rMDTs were positive, with no change on the year ending March 2018 or the year ending March 2019, and similar to the level in the year ending March 2006²⁷.

The inclusion of psychoactive substances (PS)²⁸ in rMDT in prisons led to a large increase in positive test results in the financial year 2017/18.

The percentage of positive drug tests rose from 9.3% in the 12 months ending March 2017 (before the inclusion of PS in the national rates) to 21.3% in the 12 months ending March 2018 when specified PS were included²⁹.

Positive test results for PS fell in the 12 months ending March 2020. This is because of two new compounds of PS in circulation in prisons which could not at the time be identified by the rMDT test. It is not possible to draw conclusions about the level of misuse of PS in this period.

The percentage of positive results for PS fell considerably in the 12 months ending March 2020: 4.3% of rMDTs were positive for PS, down from 12.9% in the year ending March 2018 and 9.0% in the year ending March 2019.

In the previous two years, PS were the most prevalent drug types in prisons, having overtaken cannabis, opiates and buprenorphine by a large margin. It is not possible to draw conclusions about PS misuse in relation to other drugs from data for the year ending March 2020.

PS were present in 60% of all positive samples in the year ending March 2018 and 51% in the year ending March 2019. In the year ending March 2020, PS were present in a much smaller proportion (30%) of positive tests.

Excluding PS, cannabis remained the most prevalent drug type in the year ending March 2020 and was present in 56% of positive rMDTs. This is up by 2.3 percentage points since the previous 12 months.

HMPPS has a comprehensive range of measures to reduce the supply of drugs into prisons including the random Mandatory Drug Testing (rMDT) programme, which seeks to measure the level of drug misuse in prisons, deter drug misuse amongst prisoners, and identify prisoners who

²⁷ From 2013 the data is adjusted to reflect that the proportion of the population tested is higher in some prisons than others, so it is not exactly comparable with data prior to 2013. See the technical guide to this edition of the Annual Digest.

²⁸ In the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 “psychoactive substance” means any substance which is capable of producing a psychoactive effect in a person who consumes it, and is not an exempted substance. Exempted substances are: controlled drugs, medicinal products, alcohol or alcoholic products, nicotine, tobacco products, caffeine or caffeine products or any substance which is ordinarily consumed as food, and does not contain a prohibited ingredient. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/2/contents>

²⁹ Substances tested for in prisons must be specified in the Prison and YOI Rules for the purposes of section 16A of the Prison Act 1952.

may need referring to substance misuse services. RMDT is undertaken by testing a random sample of 5% of prisoners in prisons with 400 or more prisoners and 10% of prisoners in prisons with fewer than 400 prisoners every month.

The list of drugs tested for in the 12 months ending in March 2020 is given in the Glossary under the 'Random Mandatory Drug Testing' header in the technical guide to this edition of the Annual Digest. RMDT for specified psychoactive substances (PS) was introduced in prisons during September 2016 with further new tests added in subsequent months to test for other PS chemical compounds. Substances tested for included common synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists (SCRAs). Results for these tests were included from 2017/18 onwards, the first full and reliable performance year's data available.

The list of drugs tested for under rMDT is kept under review, with intelligence from prisons and detailed studies carried out periodically to identify if new substances have become prevalent in prisons. The most recent additions to the list were identified following a study in December 2018, leading to two new psychoactive substances being added to rMDT tests in November 2019. There is a time lag between a substance becoming prevalent in prisons, to its detection and proposed addition to the list for rMDT testing, and being able to detect it in samples³⁰. This time lag has been considerable in 2019/20, leading to particularly low estimates of PS misuse.

New PS compounds that are covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) 1971 can be tested for under existing legislation. In practice, this is as soon as the laboratory has obtained reference samples⁴. If new compounds are not covered by the MDA 1971, these need to be added to the list of specified drugs that can be tested for as set out in Prison and YOI Rules. This requires secondary legislation (a statutory instrument) to add new PS compounds to the list.

Refusing to provide a sample for drug testing is a disciplinary offence that may lead to additional time being added to the individual's time in custody. It is relatively rare. There were only 1,109 refusals (2.0%) out of 55,551 random mandatory drug tests attempted in the latest period. The Annual Digest shows all possible outcomes of rMDT including refusals, administrative flaws (e.g. mis-recording by the prison) and sample spoilage (e.g. broken or otherwise compromised sample). These three categories account for a small proportion of tests attempted (2.7%), with 97.3% of all rMDT attempts successfully tested. The detailed breakdown of outcomes, by prison function, is included in Table 7.6 in the Excel file accompanying this publication.

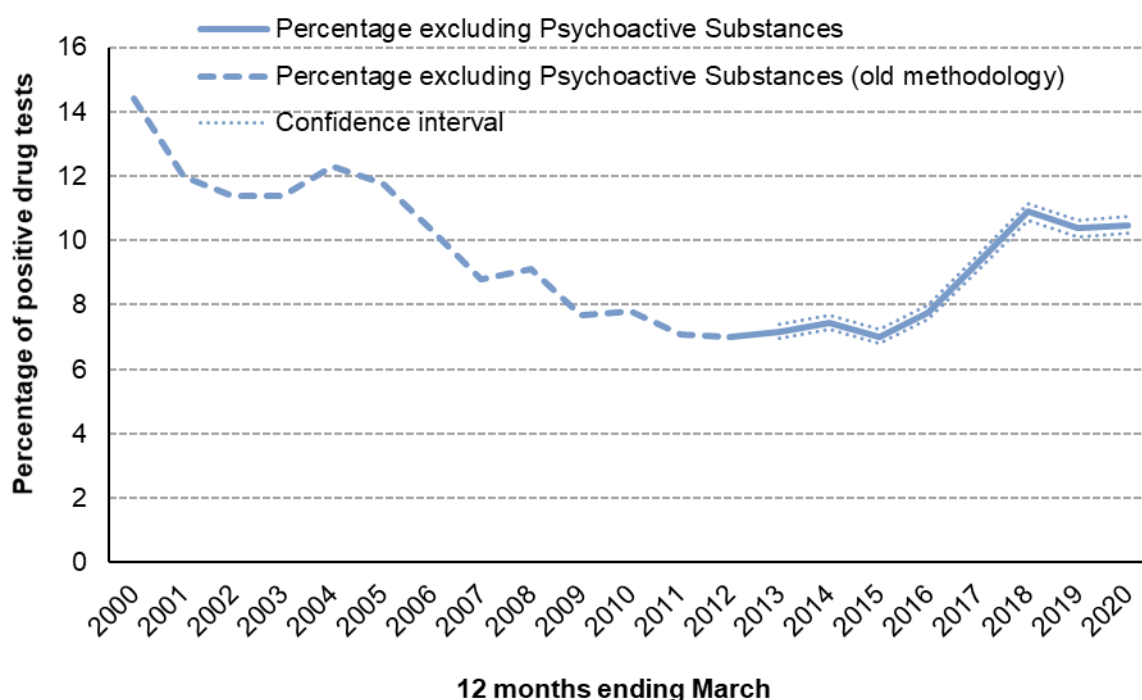
The percentage of positive results from random drug tests excluding PS has stayed the same in the most recent year (Figure 7.1, Table 7.1)

Excluding psychoactive substances, in the 12 months ending March 2020, 10.5% of RMDTs were positive. This is the same as in the previous two years, taking into account the small range of

³⁰ When a new PS is identified and before it is added to the list of drugs tested in rMDT, the laboratory must obtain a reference standard to identify the drug beyond reasonable doubt. This is a complex process requiring the drug to be synthesised from first principles.

uncertainty because the findings are based on samples³¹. The level of 10.9% in the year ending March 2018 was the highest since the year ending March 2006 when 10.3% of tests were positive¹.

Figure 7.1. Percentage of positive results from random Mandatory Drug Tests excluding psychoactive substances, the 12 months ending March 2000 to the 12 months ending March 2020 (Source: Table 7.1)



From the financial year 2012/13 onwards, the rates of positive tests are calculated using a new methodology to give more accurate (representative) findings. This is done because prisoners in smaller prisons are over-sampled for rMDT compared to those in larger prisons. This is explained further in the technical guide to this Annual Digest. National rates adjusted (or weighted) in this way were first reported in the 2018/19 HMPPS Annual Digest. The notes to each table for Chapter 7 indicate whether the data has been adjusted or not.

Table 7.1 summarises the percentage of positive tests using the estimates for each year (along with their confidence intervals) using adjusted estimates from the new methodology from 2012/13 onwards. This table includes findings for traditional drugs (i.e. excluding psychoactive substances), for psychoactive substances, and for both of these combined.

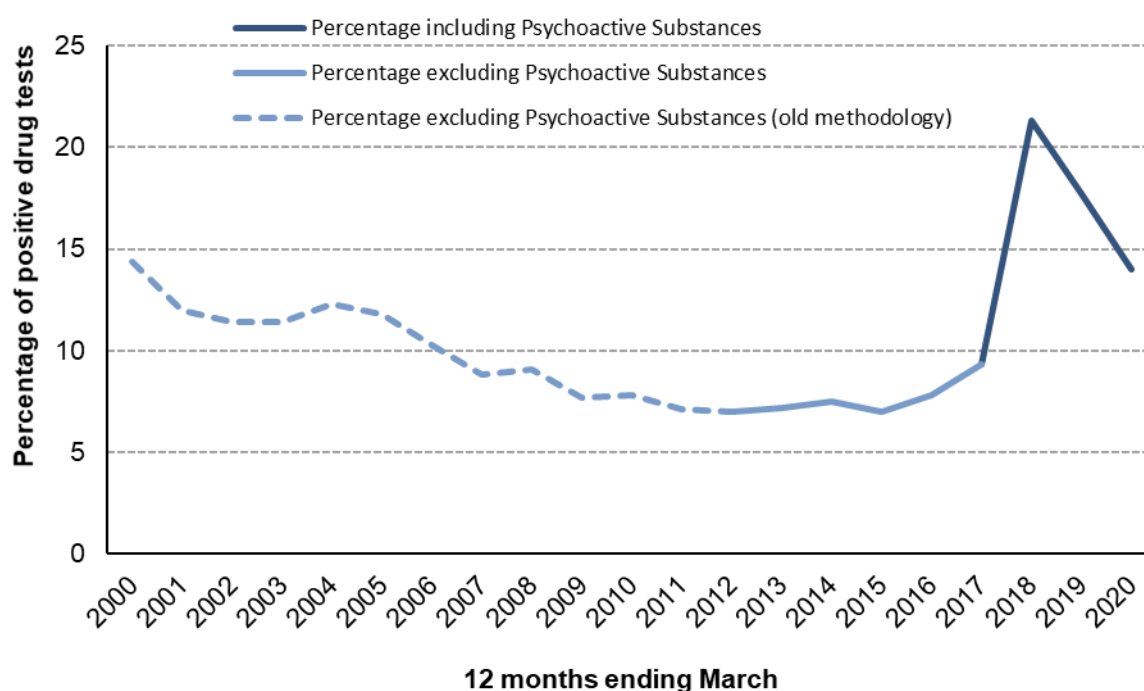
Table 7.2 shows the number of positive tests for traditional drugs for each prison as a proportion of tests successfully administered. The number of prisoners sampled is relatively small and so year-on-year fluctuations should be interpreted with caution. The 95% confidence interval is also presented to demonstrate the precision of the sample estimates for prisons.

³¹ The percentage of all prisoners using drugs is inferred from the test results of prisoners sampled at random within prisons. This means the findings are estimates rather than an exact measure of positive test results in the whole prison population. A 95% confidence interval is calculated to indicate how much lower or higher the percentage of positive tests might reasonably be. This is done for data from 2012/13 onwards. These confidence intervals are taken into account when commenting on differences between years.

The inclusion of specified psychoactive substances in rMDT in prisons during September 2016, with additional chemical compounds being added in subsequent months, led to a large increase in positive test results in the financial year 2017/18.

The percentage of positive drug tests rose from 9.3% in the 12 months to March 2017 (before the inclusion of PS in the national rates) to 21.3% in the 12 months to March 2018 when PS was included. Since 2017/18, the percentage of positive tests including PS has fallen over consecutive years, to 17.7% in the 12 months to March 2019 and 14.0% in the 12 months to March 2020. This fall reflects an underestimation of the misuse of PS which is described below.

Figure 7.2. Percentage of positive results from random Mandatory Drug Tests including psychoactive substances, the 12 months ending March 2000 to the 12 months ending March 2020³² (Source: Table 7.1)



Compounds of psychoactive substances that are prevalent in prisons change over time and there can be a time lag before they can be identified through studies and tested for through rMDT. In the year ending March 2020, it was not possible to test for the two newest PS compounds that were prevalent in prisons.

In November 2019, two new psychoactive substances were added to the list of drugs tested for under rMDT and are included in the data from December 2019. By this time, these new strands of PS had been prevalent for some time. The impact of adding new compounds and the time lag involved is demonstrated in the monthly data, and leads to the conclusion that the data for PS is not reliable for the financial year 2019/20.

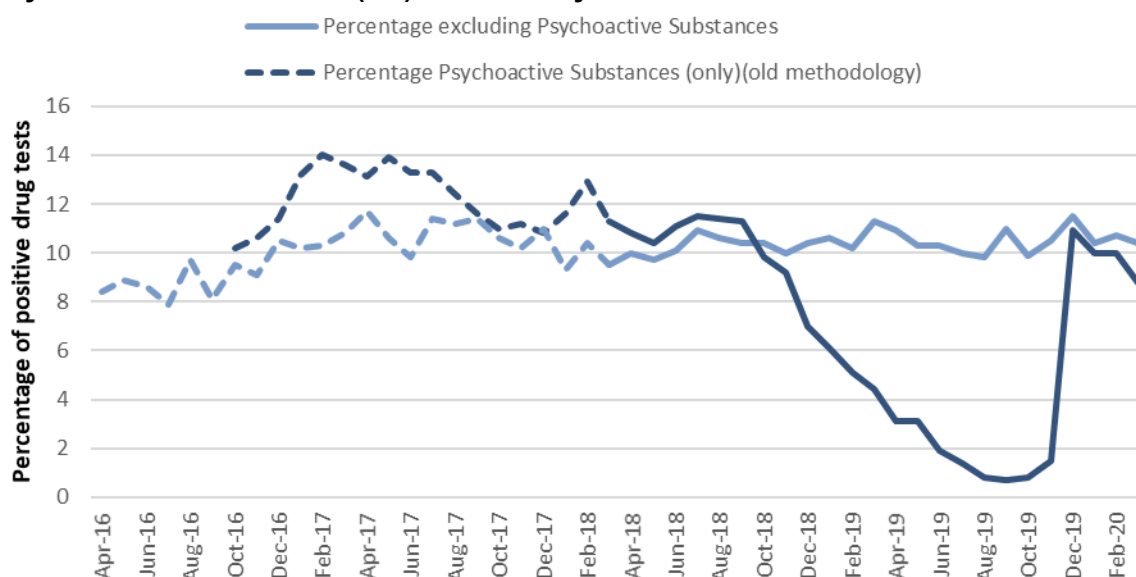
³² Prior to 2012/13, the rates of positive tests are based on the old methodology, without adjusting for the lower proportion of prisoners sampled in large prisons.

Figure 7.3 contrasts the trend in monthly positive test rates for traditional drugs (excluding PS) and PS drugs³³. While the former has remained relatively steady and is reliable, the monthly trend in positive tests for PS drugs indicates a growing lag in testing ability for the two new PS up until December 2019. This has resulted in a substantial dip beginning in October 2018 to implausibly low levels through much of 2019. The increase in December 2019 constitutes a large correction after underestimating PS misuse.

Data for the year to March 2019 is also likely to be affected by underestimation of PS, but to a lesser extent than the data for the year to March 2020. Although the data for PS should be treated with caution for these years, it is included in the tables to this chapter.

There have been reductions in March 2020 in positive tests for both PS and traditional drugs. It is too early to say whether this reflects normal volatility in the estimates or whether it indicates another change in the pattern of PS misuse. It is also possible that the fall reflects the start of the COVID-19 outbreak on 16 March.

Figure 7.3 Percentage of positive results from random Mandatory Drug Tests excluding psychoactive substances (PS) and PS only³⁴



Data before April 2018 is based on the old methodology

Excluding PS, the most prevalent drug types remain cannabis, which is found in more than half of positive samples, opiates and buprenorphine.

In the 12 months ending in March 2020, excluding PS, the most prevalent drug types remain cannabis (56% of positive samples), opiates (20%) and buprenorphine (14%)³⁵. Note that since

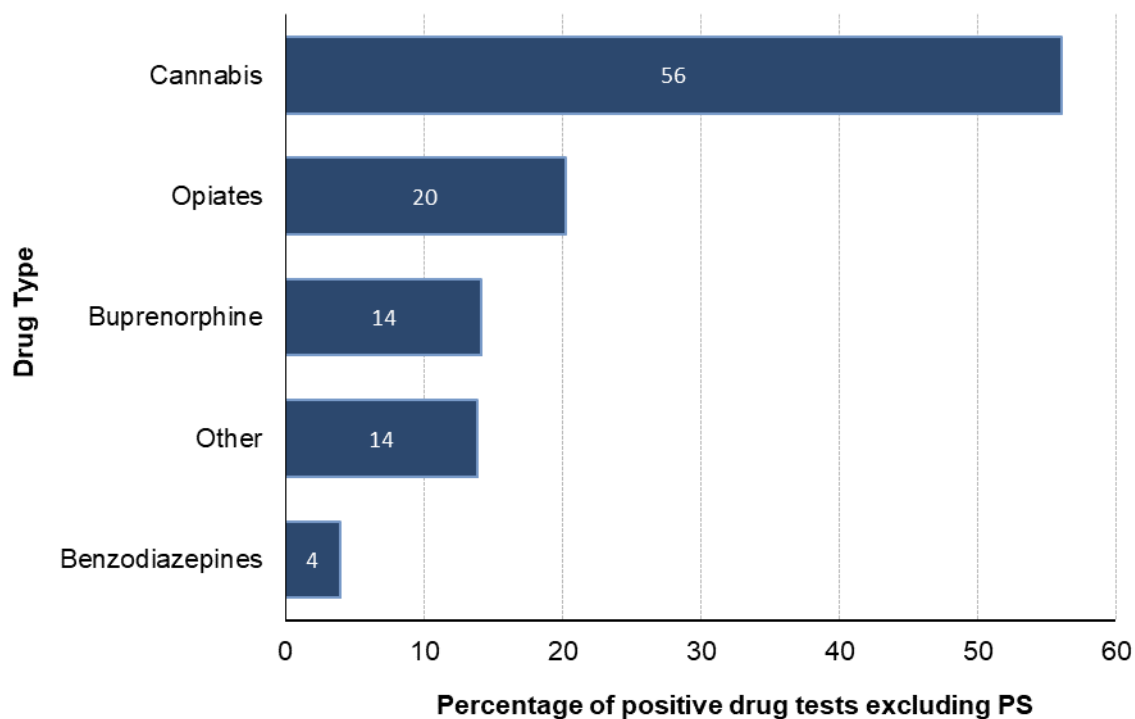
³³ Monthly data for psychoactive substances is shown from October 2016 in Figure 7.3 and Table 7.5 although it is not recorded in annual figures until a full year of data was available for the 12 months to March 2018.

³⁴ Monthly rates of positive tests are based on the old methodology prior to April 2018, without adjusting for the lower proportion of prisoners sampled in large prisons. For traditional drugs, this makes a difference of up to 0.4 percentage points on annual estimates.

³⁵ Testing for buprenorphine was introduced in 2008/09 and first reported in the 2009/10 performance year.

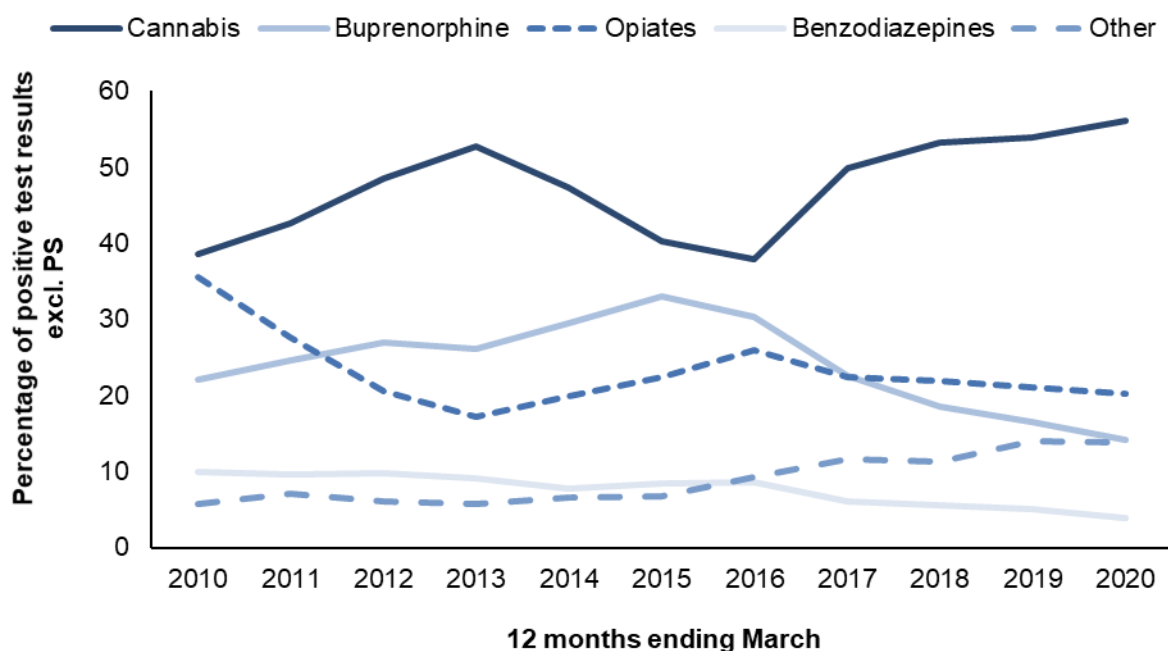
each sample may test positive for more than one drug, these percentages add to more than 100%. For the same reason, the rows in Table 7.3 sum to more than the total number of positive tests.

Figure 7.4: Positive drug tests by drug type excluding psychoactive substances (PS), the 12 months ending March 2020 (Source: Table 7.3)



Although far below its historical high at 80% of all positive samples in the 12 months ending March 1999, cannabis use continues to rise in recent years. In the 12 months ending March 2020, 56% of all positive samples (excluding PS) indicated the presence of cannabis compared with 38% in the 12 months ending March 2016.

Figure 7.5: Positive drug tests by drug type, excluding psychoactive substances (PS), the 12 months ending March 2009 to the 12 months ending March 2019 (Source: Table 7.3)



There was a large increase in the number of positive tests for cannabis in the 12 months ending March 2017 (a 59% increase to 2,549 positive tests). This increased use of cannabis corresponded with the inclusion of PS in rMDT and the introduction of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 in May 2016 which aimed to restrict the production, sale and supply of PS.

Although PS has been underestimated from rMDT in the year to March 2020, testing in the previous two years found that that psychoactive substances had overtaken cannabis, opiates and buprenorphine by a large margin (Table 7.3)

PS were present in 60% of all positive samples in the 12 months ending March 2018 and 51% of them in the 12 months ending March 2019, overtaking cannabis, opiates and buprenorphine and making PS the most prevalent drug type in prisons. However, because PS misuse has been underestimated in the year ending March 2020, it was found in only 30% of positive samples, far lower than in the previous two financial years.

Table 7.4 provides a further breakdown of positive tests by drug type for each prison in the 12 months ending March 2020. It includes PS though the data should be treated with caution for the reasons given above.

8. Protesting Behaviour

Barricade/prevention of access incidents continue to increase

In the 12 months to March 2020, the number of barricade/prevention of access incidents rose to 1,882, an increase of 8% compared with the previous 12 month period.

Hostage incidents have decreased and are at the lowest level in the past 7 years

In the 12 months to March 2020, the number of incidents where prisoners took someone hostage fell by 12 incidents to 86.

Incidents of concerted indiscipline decrease

In the 12 months to March 2020, the number of incidents of concerted indiscipline decreased by 24% to 267. The number of these incidents which are counted as active, incidents involving aggression or violence, decreased by 24% over the same period to 162 (61% of all concerted indiscipline incidents).

Incidents at height continue to rise

In the 12 months to March 2020, the number of incidents at height in prisons increased by 10% to 6,114.

Prisons use contingency planning to deal with incidents of disorder. The objective of the contingency planning is to ensure incidents are resolved with the minimum risk of harm to staff, prisoners and the public, and that there is a return to normal operations and regime as swiftly as possible.

Incidents of protesting behaviour in prisons are split into four categories:

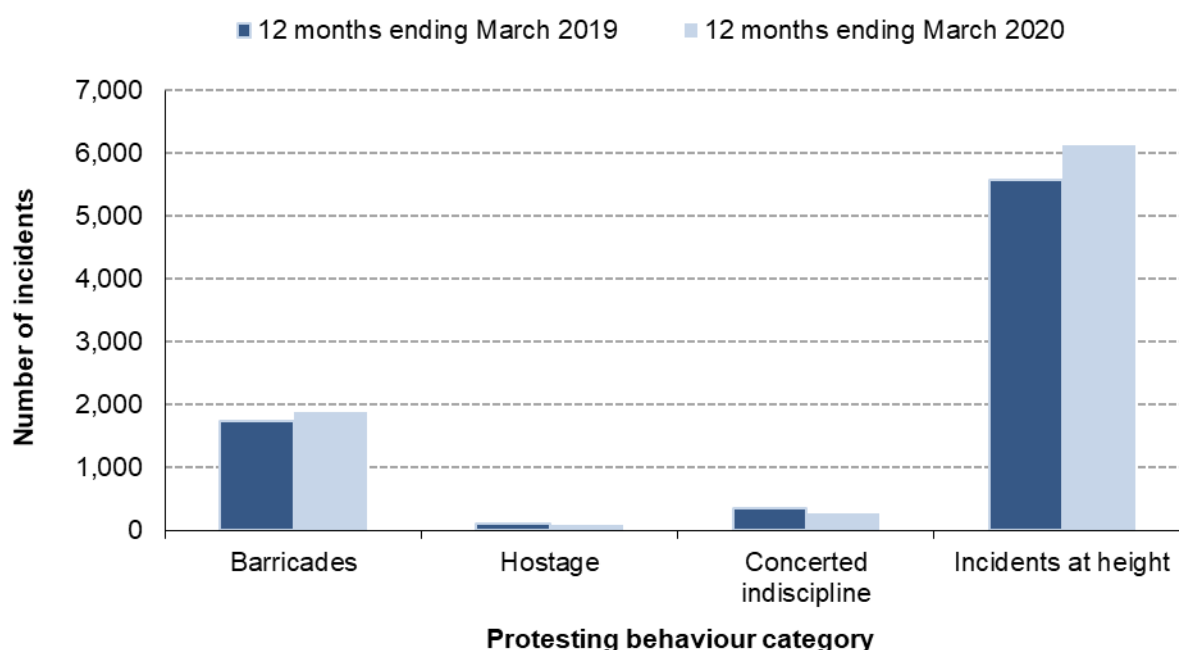
- **Barricades/prevention of access:** Where one or more offenders deny access to all or part of a prison to those lawfully empowered to have such access, by use of a physical barrier.
- **Hostage incidents:** Where one or more persons are, unlawfully, held against their will by one or more individuals (either static or on the move), including hostage incidents where collusion was suspected or confirmed.
- **Concerted indiscipline:** An incident in which two or more prisoners act together in defiance of a lawful instruction or against the requirements of the regime of the establishment. The act of indiscipline can be active or passive (i.e. involving aggression and violence or not) and the protagonists do not necessarily need to be acting in a common cause.
- **Incidents at height:** An incident at height is defined as any incident taking place at height above or below ground level. This category can come in many forms including prisoners on the netting, climbing over bars or on the roof.

Generally, an increase in protest activity (Concerted indiscipline, Incident at height, hostage, complaints about the regime and petitions etc.) will provide an early and strong indication that there has been a shift in prison thinking; similar to the events of 2016. HMPPS continuously monitors regime delivery, incident activity, intelligence assessments and complaints to gauge stability tolerances across the Prison estate. Should the position change we will be able to identify this quickly and use the intelligence to inform incident management strategy moving forward. We continue to perform regular reviews of our tactical resources to ensure we have sufficient staff available to deploy for incident resolution and have strengthened previous arrangements with the military and police.

Incidents at height continue to be the most common form of protesting behaviour (Figure 8.1, Table 8.1)

In the 12 months to March 2020, there were 6,114 incidents at height compared with 5,568 in the previous year. This is more than three times the number of incidents in any of the other three categories. By comparison, in the 12 months to March 2020, there were 1,882 incidents where prisoners used barricades or prevented access, 86 hostage incidents and 267 incidents of concerted indiscipline.

Figure 8.1: Number of incidents in each category of protesting behaviour, 12 months ending March 2019 to 12 months ending March 2020 (Source: Table 8.1)



The number of incidents of prisoners using barricades or preventing access continue to rise (Table 8.2)

There were 1,882 incidents in the 12 months to March 2020, where prisoners used barricades or prevented access. This represents an increase of 8% compared with the previous year and is the highest number in the time series. This is more than twice the number of incidents of this type recorded in the 12 months to March 2015.

The number of hostage incidents has declined (Table 8.3)

The number of incidents where prisoners took someone hostage in prisons decreased by 12% in the 12 months to March 2020, from 98 incidents in the previous year to 86 incidents in the latest year.

The number of incidents of concerted indiscipline decreased by 24% (Table 8.4)

The number of incidents of concerted indiscipline decreased by 24%, from 351 incidents in the 12 months to March 2019, to 267 incidents in the 12 months to March 2020. This figure is more than twice as many incidents of concerted indiscipline recorded in the 12 months to March 2013.

The number of incidents of concerted indiscipline described as active decreased by 24%, from 214 in the 12 months to March 2019, to 162 incidents in the 12 months to March 2020. (Table 8.5)

The number of incidents at height continued to rise to the highest level in the time series (Table 8.6)

The number of incidents at height rose in the 12 months to March 2020 by 10% to 6,114 incidents compared with 5,568 in the previous 12 month period. This is more than 8 times the number of incidents of this type recorded in the 12 months to March 2013.

9. Finds in Prison

Number of drug finds in prisons continues to rise

In the 12 months to March 2020, the number of incidents where drugs were found in prisons increased to 21,575 from 18,325 in the previous 12-month period, a rise of 18%.

Number of mobile phone and SIM card finds increases

In the 12 months to March 2020, there were 11,792 incidents where mobile phones were found in prisons and 5,510 incidents where SIM cards were found. These are both 3% increases compared with the previous 12-month period.

Number of incidents where weapons were found went up

There were 11,267 incidents where weapons were found in the 12 months to March 2020. This is a rise of 16% on the previous year.

Number of tobacco finds remained unchanged

In the 12 months to March 2020, there were 5,872 incidents where tobacco was found in prisons. This is similar to 5,897 incidents in the previous year.

This chapter covers incidents where illicit items have been found in prisons. A further breakdown of those items previously classified as “other” is given for the first time, to include details of chargers, memory cards and other mobile phone related items.

It is the priority of HMPPS to ensure prisons are places of safety and reform, including by removing the supply of illicit drugs. Since the publication of the White Paper Prison Safety and Reform in 2016, HMPPS has taken additional steps to disrupt the supply of illicit items, such as drugs, into prisons. For example, in 2018 we announced the rollout of specialist search teams to conduct body, property, cell and area searches across the estate. In April 2019 HMPPS published its National Prison Drug Strategy. One of its key pillars covers how prison staff can restrict the supply of drugs into their prisons.

In August 2019 a £100m investment in prison security was announced. This investment will enhance our ability to detect attempts to bring drugs and mobile phones into prisons by prisoners, visitors and staff, while mobile phone detection and blocking technology stops illicit phones from working in prisons and enables them to be retrieved. HMPPS is also expanding its Counter Corruption Unit and strengthening intelligence-led operations and investigations with law enforcement partners to disrupt organised crime, including the conveyance of drugs and mobile phones, into prisons.

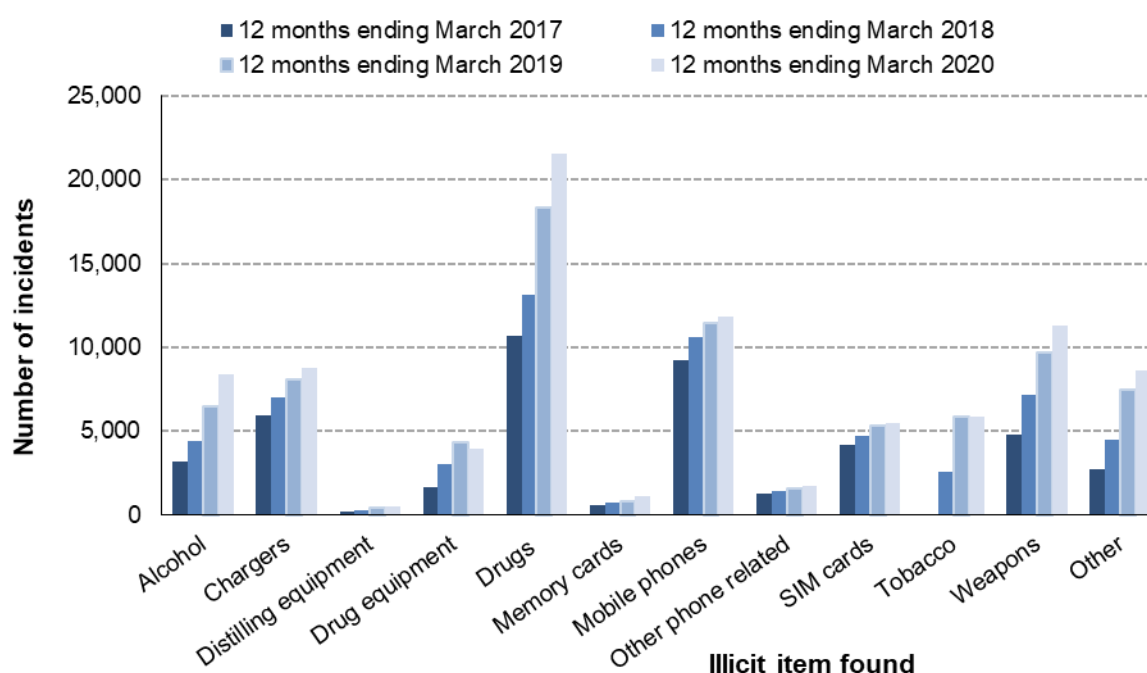
It is important to consider with incidents of finds in prisons, that an increase in numbers may be as a result of more items being found although not necessarily attributable to any one particular security counter-measure, rather than more items being present in prisons.

In the year to March 2020, the most common types of illicit items found in prisons were drugs (21,575 incidents of finds); mobile phones (11,792); weapons (11,267); chargers (8,771) and alcohol (8,376).

The number of finds of drugs continues to rise in public and contracted out prisons (Figure 9.1, Table 9.2a)

In the 12 months ending March 2020, there were 21,575 finds of drugs in prisons; an increase of 18% from the 18,325 in the 12 months to March 2019.

Figure 9.1: Number of incidents where illicit items were found in prisons, 12 months ending March 2017 to 12 months ending March 2020 (Source: Table 9.1)



The drug type accounting for the largest number of incidents where drugs were found in the 12 months to March 2020 were psychoactive substances (Table 9.2b)

Psychoactive substances (PS), as defined in the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016³⁶, were found in 8,192 incidents in the 12 months to March 2020, more incidents than any other drug category in this time period. Psychoactive substances (PS) also represented the largest increase from the previous 12 months, increasing from 6,658 incidents in the 12 months ending March 2019.

Drug finds increased across most drugs types from the 12 months ending March 2019, when compared with the 12 months ending March 2020. After Psychoactive substances (PS), the largest increase was in Class A drugs which increased from 1,748 finds in the 12 months ending March 2019 to 2,840 finds in the 12 months ended March 2020.

There was a small decrease in finds of Class C drugs in the 12 months ending March 2020, from 1,064 in the 12 months ending March 2019, to 1,021 in the latest time period.

³⁶ In this Act “psychoactive substance” means any substance which is capable of producing a psychoactive effect in a person who consumes it, and is not an exempted substance. Exempted substances are: controlled drugs, medicinal products, alcohol or alcoholic products, nicotine, tobacco products, caffeine or caffeine products or any substance which is ordinarily consumed as food, and does not contain a prohibited ingredient. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/2/contents>

The number of incidents where mobile phones were found continues to rise (Figure 9.1, Table 9.4a and 9.4b)

The number of incidents where mobile phones were found in prisons increased by 3% from 11,421 in the 12 months to March 2019, to 11,792 incidents in the 12 months to March 2020.

The quantity of mobile phones found in prisons shows a similar trend with an increase of 1% over this time period, from 15,671 in the 12 months to March 2019 compared with 15,789 in the 12 months to March 2020.

The number of incidents and quantity of SIM cards found continues to rise (Figure 9.1, Tables 9.5a and 9.5b)

The number of incidents where SIM cards were found in prisons increased by 3% from 5,366 in the 12 months to March 2019, to 5,510 incidents in the 12 months to March 2020.

The quantity of SIM cards found has decreased in this period by 5%, with 8,891 SIM cards found in the 12 months to March 2020, compared with 9,367 in the previous 12-months.

The number of incidents where chargers, memory cards or other mobile phone related items were found increased (Figure 9.1, Tables 9.6, 9.7 and 9.8)

The number of incidents where chargers were found in prisons rose by 8%, from 8,110 in the 12 months ending March 2019 to 8,771 in the 12 months ending March 2020.

The number of incidents where memory cards were found in prisons rose by 37%, from 813 in the 12 months ending March 2019 to 1,111 in the 12 months ending March 2020.

The number of incidents where other mobile phone related items were found in prisons rose by 10%, from 1,582 in the 12 months ending March 2019 to 1,744 in the 12 months ending March 2020.

The number of incidents where alcohol or distilling equipment was found has risen (Figure 9.1, Table 9.9 and 9.10)

The number of incidents where alcohol was found in prisons rose by 30%, from 6,447 in the year ending March 2019 to 8,376 in the year ending March 2020.

The number of incidents where distilling equipment was found increased by 24%, from 440 in the year ending March 2019 to 547 in the year ending March 2020.

Incidents of finds of tobacco have remained stable (Figure 9.1, Table 9.11)

In the 12 months ending March 2020 there were 5,872 finds of tobacco in prisons, almost unchanged from 5,897 incidents the previous year.

The number of incidents where weapons were found went up (Figure 9.1, Table 9.12)

The number of incidents where weapons were found in prisons rose by 16% from 9,722 in the year ending March 2019 to 11,267 in the year ending March 2020.

10. Incentives

The number of prisoners with a Standard incentive status remained stable

Compared with the previous 12 months, there were 15 fewer prisoners with a Standard status (40,279) in the latest financial year.

The number of prisoners with a Basic incentive status fell

In the year to March 2020, the number of prisoners with a Basic status fell by 14% compared with same period in the previous year.

The number of prisoners with an Enhanced incentive status increased

The number of prisoners with an Enhanced status increased by 9% in March 2020, compared with the year ending March 2019.

An incentives scheme (formerly known as Incentives and Earned Privileges - IEP) was introduced in 1995 with the expectation that prisoners would earn additional privileges through demonstrating responsible behaviour and participation in work or other constructive activity. They allow prisoners to earn privileges through good behaviour and engagement in the regime and rehabilitation. Privileges can also be lost through poor behaviour. The IEP scheme operated on four levels: Basic, Entry, Standard and Enhanced, until August 2019 when Entry level was abolished. It was replaced by the Incentives Policy Framework in January 2020. The new policy has a greater focus on incentivising positive behaviour, providing consistency in key areas, whilst giving governors greater flexibility to tailor incentives to the local needs and challenges in their prison.

Prisoners typically start on Standard level, and positive behaviour can be rewarded with progression to Enhanced, while poor behaviour can result in prisoners being placed on Basic – with the associated increase or reduction in privileges. Basic level provides access to the safe, legal and decent requirement of a normally running regime.

The percentage of prisoners with a Basic incentive status fell (Tables 10.1 and 10.2, Figure 10.1)

In the latest year ending March 2020, 4,597 prisoners had a Basic incentive status, which was a decrease of 14% from that in the 2018/19 financial year (5,319 prisoners).

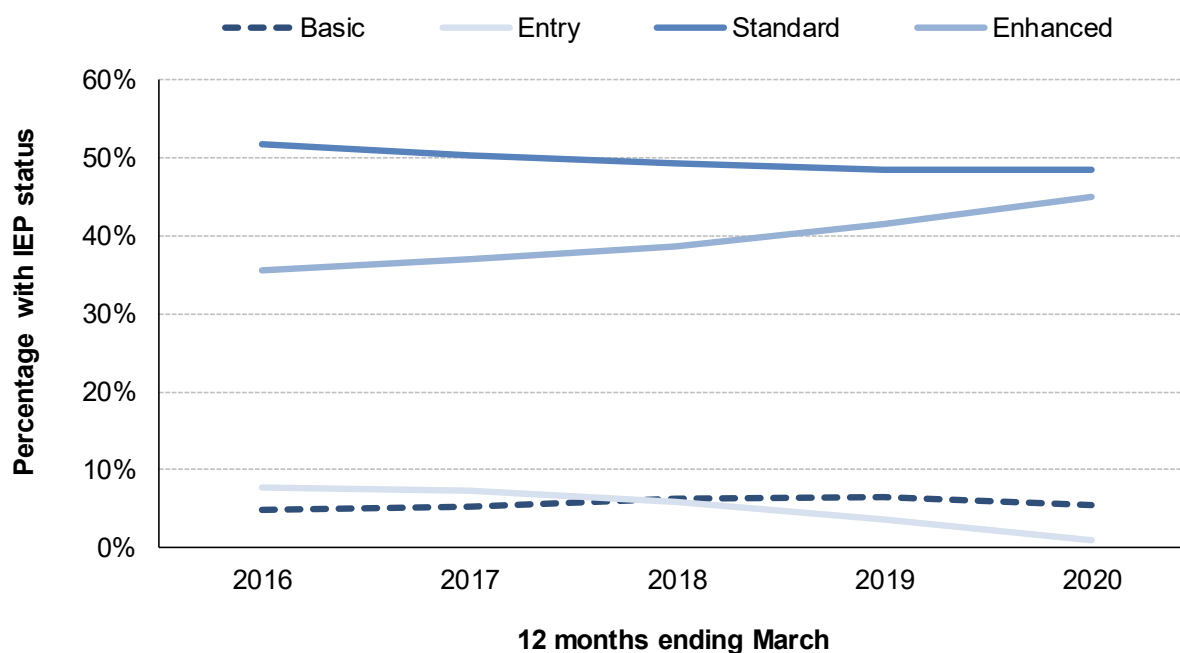
The proportion of prisoners with a Basic incentive status has decreased this year (5.5%), following year-on-year increases in those with a Basic incentive status since the 12 months ending March 2016 (4.8%), and reaching a peak of 6.4% in the last financial year.

The percentage of prisoners with an Enhanced incentive status increased (Tables 10.1 and 10.2, Figure 10.1)

In the 12 months to March 2020, 37,452 prisoners had an Enhanced incentive status, which represents a 9% increase on the number in the previous year (34,395 prisoners).

In the latest year, the proportion of prisoners with Enhanced incentive status rose from 41% to 45%. This proportion has been slowly increasing since the year ending March 2016.

Figure 10.1: Percentage of Prisoners on each incentive level, in the 12 months ending March 2016 to March 2020 (Source: Table 10.2)



The percentage of prisoners with a Standard incentive status remained stable (Tables 10.1 and 10.2, Figure 10.1)

In the 12 months to March 2020, an average of 40,279 (49%) prisoners had a Standard incentive status; at similar levels compared with the number in the previous year (40,294 prisoners).

The percentage of prisoners with an Entry level incentive status decreased (Tables 10.1 and 10.2, Figure 10.1)

As part of the implementation of the new Incentives Policy Framework, Entry level incentive status was abolished on 16 August 2019.

In the latest financial year, there was a fall of 74% in the volume of prisoners who had an Entry level incentive status. 762 prisoners compared with 2,982 over the same period in the year preceding were counted as having Entry incentive status.

Male YOI and Male closed YOI prisons had the largest proportion of prisoners with a Basic incentive status (Table 10.4)

The proportion of prisoners assigned to each type of incentive status varies considerably by type of establishment. In the 12 months to March 2020, Male YOI (Young People) and Male closed YOI had the largest proportion of prisoners with a Basic incentive status; with 14% and 11% of their populations having a Basic status. This is consistent with the generally more challenging behaviour seen from younger people in custody. Immigration and Removal Centres (IRCs), Female open prisons and Male open prisons had the largest proportion of prisoners with an Enhanced incentive status, 100%, 94% and 91% respectively.

11. Mother and Baby Units (MBUs)

The total number of MBU applications remained constant when compared with 2018/19

During the latest 12-month period, 95 applications³⁷ were made for a place within a MBU compared with 97 in the year to March 2019. 46 applications were approved and 15 refused, the same as last year.

The number of women and babies received into MBUs decreased

In the year to March 2020, 49 women and 39 babies were received into MBUs; compared with 60 women and 57 babies in the previous reporting year.

A Mother and Baby Unit (MBU) is a designated accommodation unit within a women's prison which enables mothers, where appropriate, to have their children with them. Women who are pregnant or who have children under the age of 18 months can apply for a place in an MBU. Details of the process are given in the Guide.

There are currently six MBUs in operation³⁸ across the women's estate in England and Wales, which provide an overall total capacity of 64 places for mothers. However, there are 70 places for babies to allow for twins and multiple births. Capacity has never been exceeded.

Total applications, approved applications and refused applications remained constant when compared with the previous year (Figure 11.1, Table 11.1)

In the 12 months ending March 2020, there were 95 applications^{39,40} for a place within a MBU, compared with 97 applications in the previous year. Multiple applications can be submitted by women, for example if they serve 2 separate sentences and have eligible children on both occasions.

Of the 61 applications which resulted in a recommendation 75% (46 applications) were approved and 25% (15 applications) refused. Not all applications to MBUs will receive a recommendation as they do not proceed for other reasons, for example because a woman is on remand and does not receive a custodial sentence, or because Children's Services cannot support an application due to a care order being put in place by the Family Courts.

75% of applications were also approved in the 12 months to March 2019. The percentage of applications that were approved has remained at around 75% overall, although there is year on year variation. The highest percentage was in 2011 when 84% of applications were approved, and the lowest 2018 when only 61% of applications were approved.

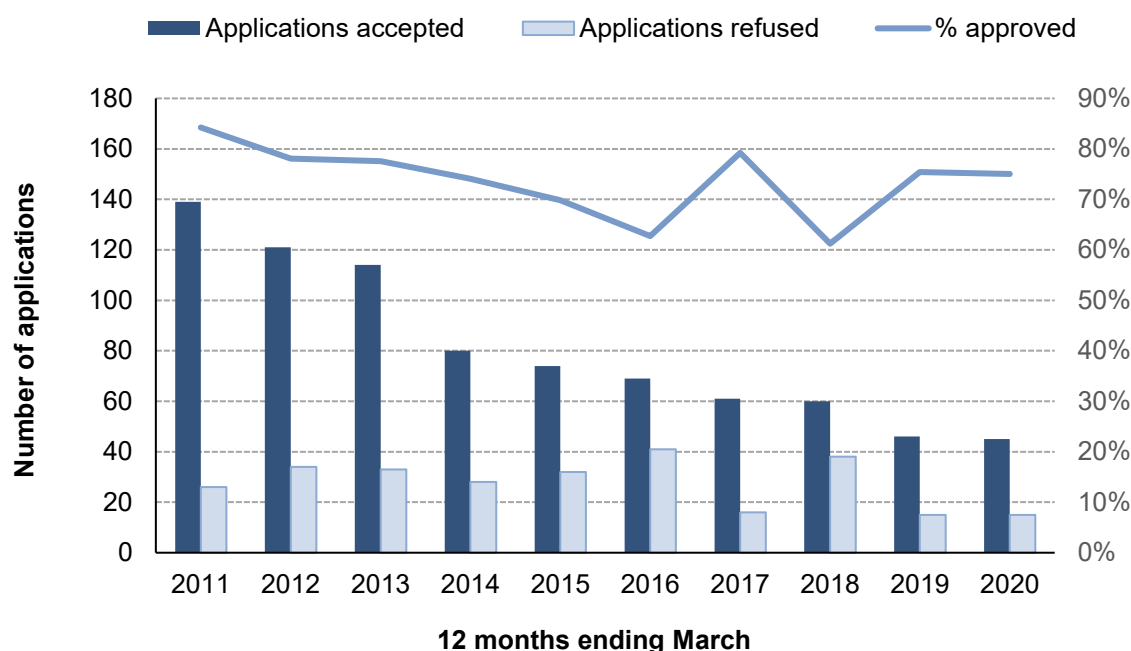
³⁷ Applications received in one year may be approved or refused in a following year.

³⁸ The MBU at HMP/YOI Askham Grange has been closed since the end of March 2020 due to Covid-19. It will reopen once PHE requirements can be implemented.

³⁹ Multiple applications can be submitted by women over the duration of the financial year period; therefore, application volumes will usually be higher than counts for individual mothers.

⁴⁰ An application approval does not always mean a woman and her baby/babies will be received into an MBU, as alternative arrangements could be made for care after the application is submitted.

Figure 11.1: Number of applications approved and refused⁴¹ to an MBU, the 12 months ending March 2011 to the 12 months ending March 2020 (Source: Table 11.1)



The number of women and babies received into MBUs decreased over the year (Table 11.1)

During the latest financial year, 49 women and 39 babies were received into a MBUs in England and Wales⁴². This compares with 60 women and 57 babies in the 12 months ending March 2018. There has been a general trend of falling volumes since March 2011.

At the 31st of March 2020, 32 women and 30 babies were accommodated in MBUs across the estate; compared with 30 women and 29 babies in the previous financial year.

On the 31st March the Government announced that women in Mother and Baby Units (MBUs) would be the first tranche of prisoners considered for early release from prison, to protect them and their children from coronavirus. More details on the number of women being released are available from here: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hm-prison-and-probation-service-covid-19-statistics

⁴¹ The percentage of approved applications the proportion of those who received a recommendation in the year (of approvals or refusals).

⁴² The number of women received into an MBU does not necessarily equal the number of approvals within a financial year period. This is because an application for a woman can be approved in the previous financial year, but she does not enter the MBU until the current financial year.

12. Electronic Monitoring

Overall, the number of subjects actively monitored⁴³ with an EM device has decreased by 3% in the last year

At 31 March 2020, the total number of subjects actively monitored with an Electronic Monitoring (EM) device and open EM order was 10,400. There has been a general downward trend in the number of subjects actively monitored since 31 March 2015.

The number of subjects actively monitored with EM bail orders has increased by 27%

The number of subjects actively monitored with an Electronic Monitoring (EM) device and open EM bail order was 3,261 on 31 March 2020. This represents an increase of 27% when compared with the previous year, when the number was 2,570.

The total number of new starts and completions has decreased this year

In the year ending 31 March 2020, there were 54,058 new notifications of an EM order and 53,987 cases of an EM order being completed. This is a decrease of 8% and 9% respectively compared with the previous year.

There were 618 subjects⁴⁴ actively monitored with a location monitoring device at 31 March 2020

At 31 March 2020, there were 618 subjects actively being monitored using GPS technology, which was introduced in November 2018.

Electronic monitoring was introduced in 1999 to support the police, courts, prisons and wider justice system in England and Wales.

It is a way of remotely monitoring and recording information on an individual's whereabouts or movements, using an electronic tag which is normally fitted to a subject's ankle. Information about the compliance of an individual's order is monitored.

Electronic monitoring may be used:

- as a condition of court bail;
- as a requirement of a court sentence, primarily community orders and suspended sentences;
- as a licence condition following release from custody, primarily Home Detention Curfew;
- as a condition of immigration bail, managed by the Home Office; and
- to intensively monitor a small number of subjects including: some of the highest risk offenders managed under Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA); those granted bail by the Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC); and those made subject to Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures (TPIMs).

⁴³ Monitored subjects are unique individuals with a live EM order and with a tag fitted and Home Monitoring Unit (HMU) installed.

⁴⁴ These figures do not include those monitored as special cases

The national roll out of satellite enabled (GPS) location monitoring tags from November 2018 has made GPS tags widely available to sentencers and decision makers as an option for court and post-custody cohorts. This is in addition to the use of GPS tags to monitor a small number of specialist cases. The tags use satellite technology to record an individual's movements 24 hours a day. There was a regional phased roll-out to ensure each region was sufficiently supported. This was completed in September 2019 for adults and March 2020 for under 18s.

Location monitoring tags are available alongside the electronic monitoring of curfew requirements, which remains an important tool for the management and supervision of offenders and defendants. Location tags provide additional functionality, allowing the monitoring of:

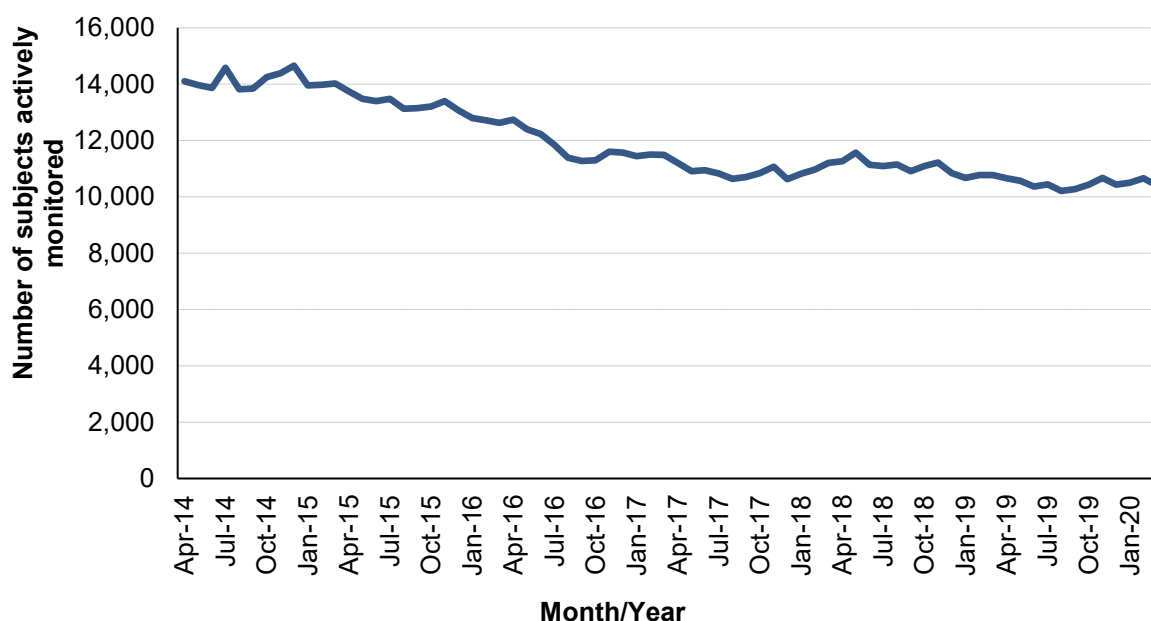
- Compliance with exclusion zones.
- Attendance at a required activity or appointment.
- An offender's whereabouts, known as trail monitoring. This can provide offender managers with data about an individual's whereabouts to support rehabilitative conversations. (This is not available for court bail or a Youth Rehabilitation Order.)
- Multiple conditions or requirements if necessary, such as a combination of exclusion zones, curfew, monitored attendance and trail monitoring.

Electronic monitoring services have always been provided by private sector companies. Since the financial year 2014/15, Electronic Monitoring Services (EMS), part of the Capita group, has supplied the electronic monitoring field and monitoring service under contract to the Ministry of Justice.

At 31 March 2020, the total number of subjects actively monitored with an Electronic Monitoring (EM) device and open EM order was 10,400, a fall of 3% compared with the same point in the previous year. Figure 12.1 shows that there has been a general downward trend in the number of subjects actively monitored.

The falling EM caseload coincides with decreases in the court sentence caseload, this fall accelerated during March 2020. As court orders (bail and court sentence) with an EM requirement make up 69% of the Electronic Monitoring caseload, then falls in court cases would likely cause decreases in the overall EM caseload. However there had been a rise in the number of bail caseload in the past year and especially during the month of March 2020 and is now at its highest number since 2016.

Figure 12.1: Overall Number of Subjects with an Active Electronic Monitoring Order, as at 30 April 2014 to 31 March 2020 (Source: Table 12.4)



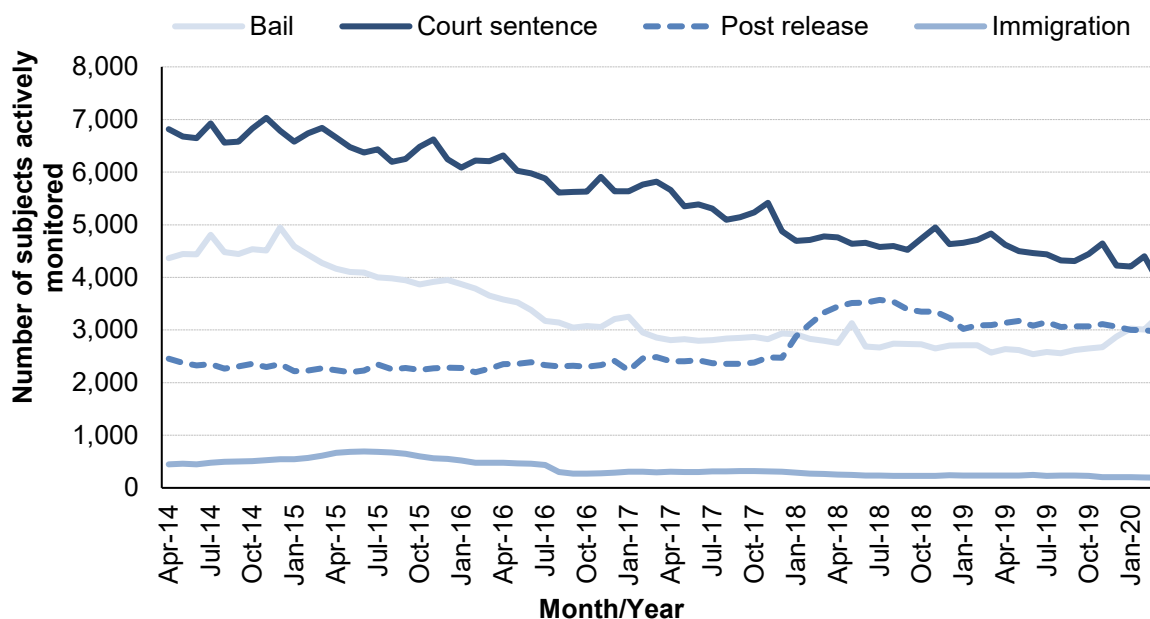
Court Sentences account for 38% of order types for those receiving Electronic Monitoring (Table 12.1)

The EM caseload differs considerably by type of order⁴⁵ in both absolute number and trend over time:

- Court sentences make up the largest proportion of EM orders for individuals on the caseload, (38% of the caseload). At 31 March 2020, 3,924 subjects had court sentences as their first order, down by 19% on the previous year.
- Court bail order type was the second largest group with 3,261 subjects (31% of caseload), up by 27% on the same point in the previous year.
- Post release was the third largest group with 2,968 subjects (29% of caseload), falling by 4% when compared with the previous year. Post release orders had previously been increasing year on year, with an increase of 47% between the years 2015 and 2018.
- Immigration order type decreased, with 194 subjects (2% of the caseload), down by 17% on the previous year.
- Specials caseload made up a small (53) part of the caseload and numbers have gradually increased since 2015.

⁴⁵ Occasionally a subject may have multiple active orders, possibly of different types. In the figures above, subjects are counted under the order type which started first.

Figure 12.2: Monitored Electronic Monitoring Subjects, by Order Type (excluding Specials), as at 30 April 2014 to 31 March 2020 (Source: Table 12.4)



Notifications of new orders have decreased (Table 12.2)

In the 12 months to the end of March 2020, there were 54,058 EM notifications of new orders⁴⁶, a fall of 8% when compared with the same period in the previous year. The falling trend over the last 5 years for new notifications closely mirrors that of EM subject caseload.

There have been falls in notifications of new orders for most order types, but the number of special orders have increased although numbers are small. Court sentence remains the most common order type (47% of all new orders), between the year ending March 2019 and year ending March 2020, the number of court sentence orders fell by 10% to reach 25,540. Post release accounted for 27%, bail orders 25%, with immigration and specials being less than 1% of new orders.

The total number of completions was 53,987, 9% lower than in the previous year (Table 12.3)

In the year ending March 2020, there were 53,987 cases of an EM order being completed. This is a decrease of 9% compared with the previous year.

When examined by order type, for the year ending March 2020, the distribution of completions by order type is different to the caseload. This is due to a reduction in court sentence and increase in bail for new orders in March 2020 which isn't reflected in completed orders yet. Court sentences represent 49% of completions, post release is 28%, Bail is 23% and immigration is less than 1% of completions in the year ending March 2020. There are also a small number of specials.

Not all completed orders are successful, for example, some completions result in a recall to prison or an order not being continued.

⁴⁶ A subject can have more than one notification of an order over the year.

At 31 March 2020, the total number of subjects (excluding specials) actively monitored with a Location Monitoring (GPS) device and open EM order was 618, compared with 43 at the same point in the previous year. These figures are shown in table 12.7 but also included in the previous tables (12.1 – 12.6).

13. Bail Accommodation and Support Services

The number of BASS referrals decreased by 13% in the latest year

There were 3,925 total referrals for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service in the 12 months to March 2020; a decrease of 13% on the 4,522 referrals made in the previous year.

Home Detention Curfew referrals decreased by 12% in the 12 months to March 2020

The number of Home Detention Curfew (HDC) referrals decreased by 12% in the latest year and referrals relating to Additional Licence Conditions and Bail fell by 26%.

BASS referrals made at Male Category C prisons accounted for the highest volume of known prison referrals

41% (1,408) of all referrals made in the year to March 2020 (where the prison name was known), were from Male Category C prisons.

Bail Accommodation and Support Services (BASS) is a contracted service which provides short-term accommodation for those who have no suitable accommodation and may otherwise be held in custody. The service is available for those on Bail, Home Detention Curfew, released from a custodial sentence of less than four years and of no fixed abode, on licence and at risk of recall due to loss of accommodation or on an Intensive Community Order with a residential requirement.

In the 12 months to March 2020, most BASS referrals were made by prisons (88%).

Figure 13.1: Percentage of BASS referrals made, by referring organisation type, England and Wales, 12 months to March 2020

Referring Organisation Type	Percentage of Referrals made
Prisons	87.6%
Courts	9.0%
Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs)	1.7%
Young Offender Institutes (YOIs)	1.7%

BASS were first commissioned in June 2007⁴⁷, and the contract is currently being provided by NACRO, having succeeded Stonham Home Group on 18th June 2018 as the BASS provider.

⁴⁷ The BASS contract was previously supplied by Stonham, part of Home Group, from June 2010 until 17 June 2018. NACRO have supplied the BASS contract since 18 June 2018. This means information for the year to March 2019 has come from two suppliers. As the contracts overlapped, there may be a small number of duplicate referrals.

The number of BASS referrals declined in the 12 months to March 2020 (Table 13.1)

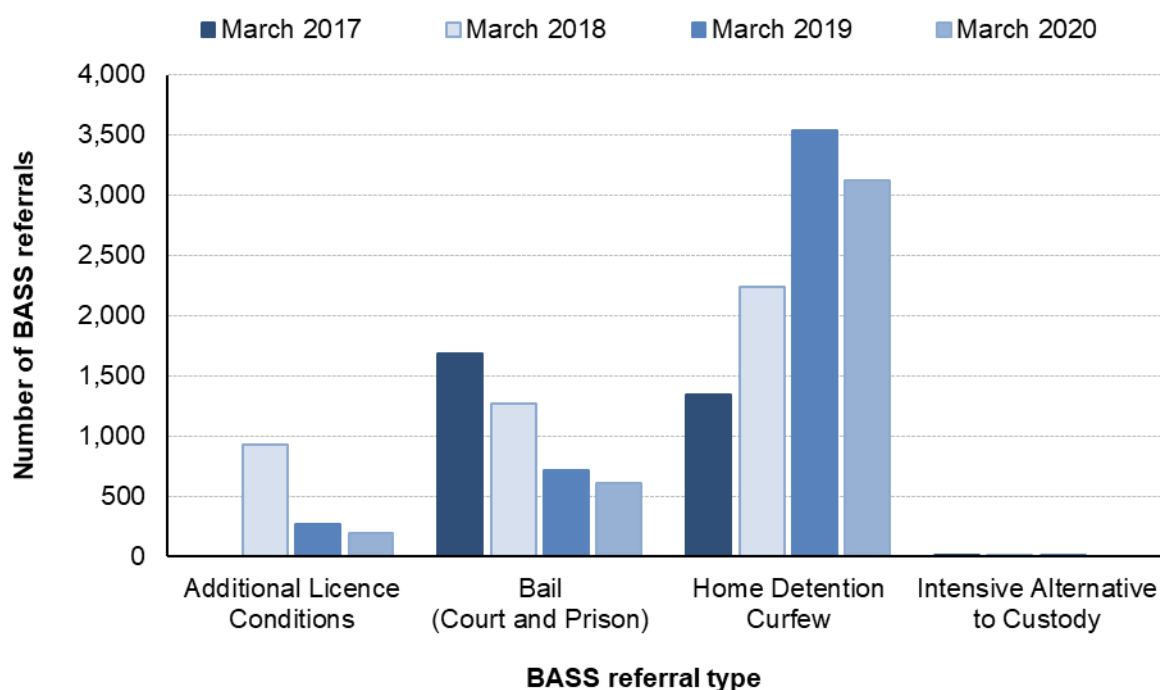
In the year ending March 2020, there were 3,925 referrals to BASS; a decrease of 13% on the 4,522 made in the year to March 2019. In the previous year to March 2019, there was a large increase in referrals after the implementation of a new HDC policy instruction in January 2018, which increased demand for this service. In the current year though, HDC volumes fell by 12%.

80% of the BASS referrals made in the year to March 2020, were for Home Detention Curfew (HDC) (Figure 13.2, Table 13.1)

HDC referrals accounted for 80% (3,123) of the total number of referrals. This is a decrease in volume of 12% (410) compared with the previous year.

At the same time, there were falls in referrals relating to Additional Licence Conditions and bail (court and prison) referrals. The reduction in referrals in Additional Licence Conditions, is directly attributed to the significant increase in referrals from the core HDC eligibility group which takes priority over the Additional Licence Conditions group. Between the years ending March 2019 and March 2020, these types of referrals fell by 26% and 15% respectively.

Figure 13.2: Number of BASS referrals by referral type⁴⁸, the 12 months ending March 2017 to the 12 months ending March 2020 (Source: Table 13.1)



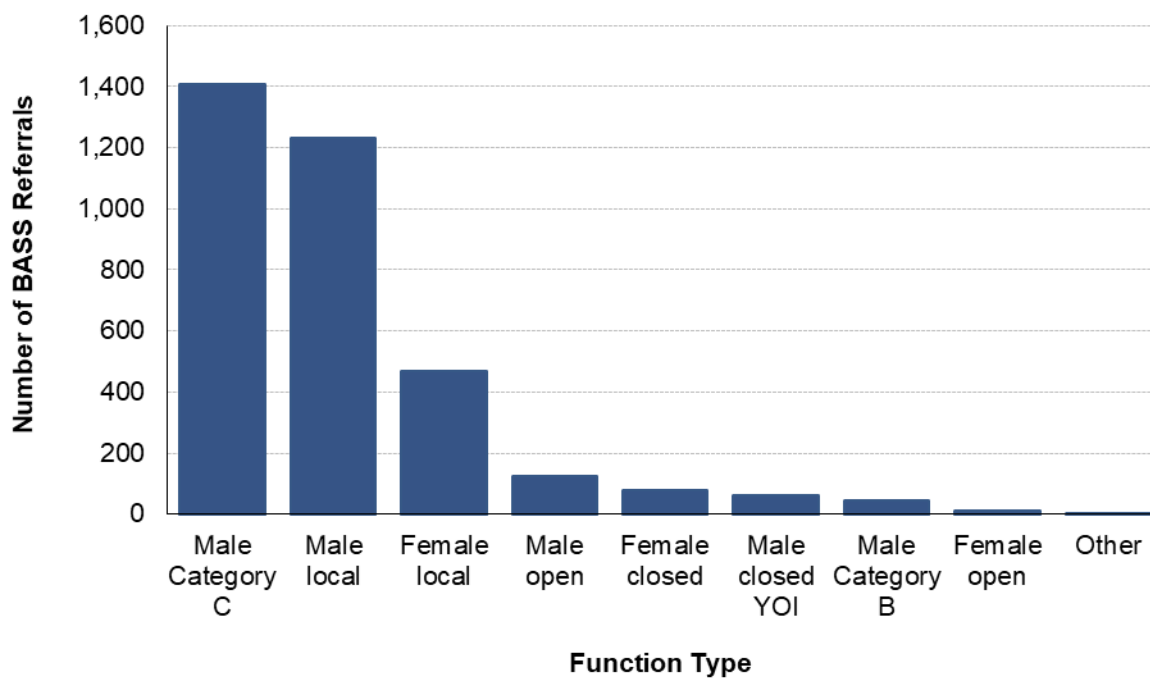
Male Category C prisons had the highest volume of BASS referrals (from known prisons) in the year to March 2020 (Figure 13.3, Table 13.2)

41% (1,408) of BASS referrals by known prisons were from Male Category C prisons, in the year to March 2020.

BASS referrals made by Male Local prisons accounted for 36% of the total number of known prison referrals made in the year to March 2020.

⁴⁸ Referrals that are Intensive Alternative to Custody are from Wales and Manchester only.

Figure 13.3: Number of referrals made to BASS by selected Prison Category⁴⁹, the 12 months ending March 2020 (Source: Table 13.2)



⁴⁹ Other Prison Function includes Male YOI – Young People, Male open YOI, IRC, Male Dispersal and STC.

14. Staff in Post

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff

52,928 (headcount) staff in post at HMPPS

As at 31 March 2020, there were 52,928 (headcount) staff in post at HMPPS, 84.1% of whom had declared their ethnicity.

Overall, 10.4% of individuals who declared their ethnicity were classified as BAME

This represents an increase of 0.8 percentage points compared with the previous year. Public Sector Prison (PSP) staff as a whole had the lowest BAME representation in HMPPS likely driven by the underlying regional population composition.

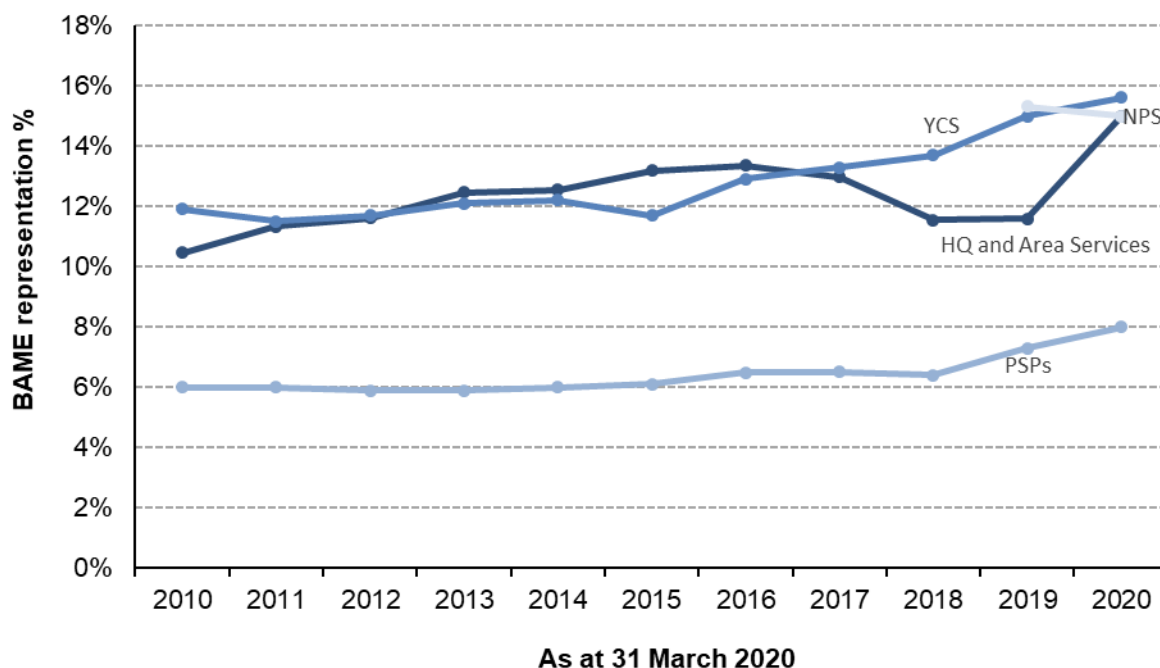
Declaration rates have increased since 31 March 2019 (Table 14.2)

Across HMPPS overall, declaration rates have increased by 9.1 percentage points (from 75.0% as at 31 March 2019 to 84.1% as at 31 March 2020). National Probation Service (NPS) staff had the highest ethnicity declaration rate (87.2%), representing a 7.1 percentage point increase since the previous year. Over the same period, a 9.8 percentage point declaration rate increase was observed amongst staff in PSPs (from 72.9% as at 31 March 2019 to 82.7% as at 31 March 2020). The declaration rate also increased by 14.8 percentage points amongst staff at the Youth Custody Service (YCS) to stand at 84.0% as at 31 March 2020. Moreover, the ethnicity declaration rate amongst HQ and Area Services staff increased to 87.2% as at 31 March 2020, an increase of 5.2 percentage points compared to the previous year.

Public Sector Prisons have the lowest BAME representation (Figure 14.1, Table 14.2)

Figure 14.1 shows that PSPs had the lowest BAME representation rate with 8.0% of staff declaring their ethnicity as BAME (an increase of 0.8 percentage points since 31 March 2019). This is likely driven by the underlying population composition of the parts of the country where prisons are located, however, HMPPS is committed to increasing the diversity of its workforce as part of the HMPPS Business Strategy and work to the spirit of the Lammy recommendation 28 to improve BAME staff representation within the prison service. It is also worth noting PSP BAME representation has been increasing for the past 2 years. In other areas of HMPPS, 15.6% of staff in YCS (an increase of 0.6 percentage points since 31 March 2019) and 15.0% of staff in HQ & Area services (an increase of 3.4 percentage points from 31 March 2019) declared their ethnicity as BAME. Amongst NPS staff, 15.0% of staff declared their ethnicity as BAME; a decrease of 0.3 percentage points compared to 31 March 2019.

Figure 14.1: BAME representation rates amongst HMPPS staff^{50,51}, as at 31 March 2010 to 31 March 2020 (Source: Table 14.2)



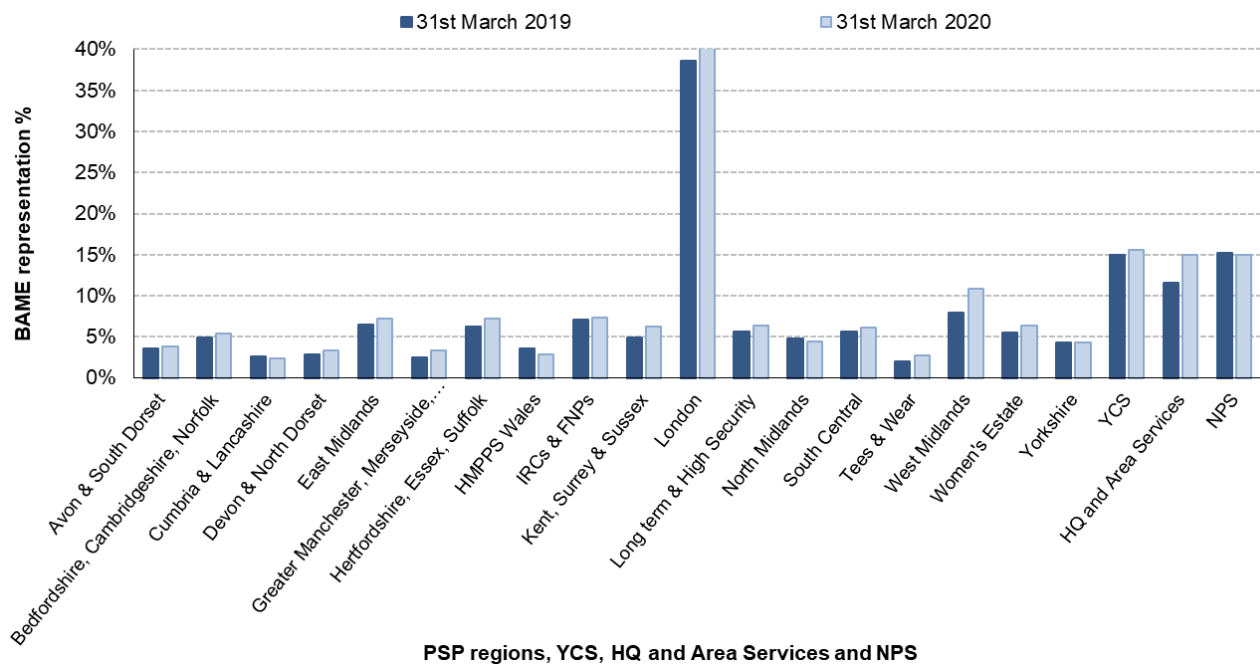
The region with the highest BAME representation was London (Figure 14.2, Table 14.2)

Figure 14.2 shows the proportion of BAME declared staff in PSP regions, the YCS, HQ & Area Services and the NPS. Prison establishments within London had the highest BAME representation rates with 40.8% of staff declaring their ethnicity as BAME as at 31 March 2020. In contrast, establishments in Cumbria & Lancashire had the lowest BAME representation rate of 2.4%. From 31 March 2019 to 31 March 2020, most PSP regions had seen their BAME representation rates increase, where the largest increase was seen in West Midlands from 8.0% to 10.8%. On the other hand, the region with the largest decrease in BAME representation rate was seen in Wales where the rate dropped from 3.6% as at 31 March 2019 to 2.9% as at 31 March 2020.

⁵⁰ The NPS was created on 1st June 2014, however BAME representation rates prior to 2019 for the NPS are not shown due to declaration rates being too low for these years.

⁵¹ Although the YCS was not formed until April 2017, historical and latest figures for the Youth Custody Estate have been separated out from the wider PSP category to allow comparisons to be made and to establish the trends over time.

Figure 14.2: Percentage of BAME staff by PSP regions⁵², the YCS, HQ and Area Services and the NPS, as at 31 March 2019 and 2020 (Source: Table 14.2)



⁵² Information reflects the regional management structure implemented in April 2018. These structures do not necessarily reflect geographical border areas.

15. HMPPS staff: sickness absence⁵³

In the year ending 31 March 2020, HMPPS staff lost an average of 10.0 working days to sickness absence.

Compared to the year ending 31 March 2019, this was an increase of 0.6 working days lost.

YCS staff had the highest sickness absence rate at 14.6 Average Working Days Lost (AWDL)

This was followed by the NPS (11.2 AWDL) and PSPs (10.0 AWDL). Absence rates are lower in HMPPS HQ and Area Services overall compared to the operational parts of HMPPS (5.2 AWDL).

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

There are no specific figures relating to effect of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on HMPPS staff in this publication. Information on all COVID-19 related sickness absence up to the end of March 2020 was not recorded centrally in the same way as the non-COVID-19 sickness data used in this publication, hence a number of data issues need to be overcome before this information can be reported consistently with non-COVID-19 sickness absence. Once these issues have been satisfactorily addressed, the intention is to present COVID-19 sickness figures in future publications.

The indicator of staff sickness looks at the Average Working Days Lost (AWDL) through sickness absence in HQ and Area Services, PSPs, the YCS and the NPS. Data are not presented for privately managed prisons and the Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) as HMPPS has no responsibility for sickness in private companies.

All HMPPS business areas experienced increases in AWDL compared to the previous year (Figure 15.1, Table 15.1).

In the year ending 31 March 2020, HMPPS staff lost an average of 10.0 working days to sickness absence. Rounded to the nearest one decimal point, this was an increase of 0.6 days compared to the previous year when it stood at 9.3 AWDL.

YCS staff had the highest sickness absence rate at 14.6 AWDL, followed by NPS (11.2 AWDL), PSPs (10.0 AWDL) and HMPPS HQ & Area services (5.2 AWDL) (Figure 15.1). Compared to the year ending 31 March 2019, these represent increases of 2.1 days, 0.7 days, 0.7 days and 0.2 days for the YCS, NPS, PSP and HMPPS HQ & Area staff respectively.

⁵³ Between January and March 2017, during migration of data to the Single Operating Platform, an under-recording of sickness absence records occurred. Therefore, there is likely to be an undercount of working days lost for the 12 months to 31 March 2017 and subsequent under-estimating of average working days lost.

Figure 15.1: Average Working Days Lost (AWDL) due to sickness absence by HMPPS business area⁵⁴, the 12 months ending March 2014 to the 12 months ending March 2020 (Source: Table 15.1)

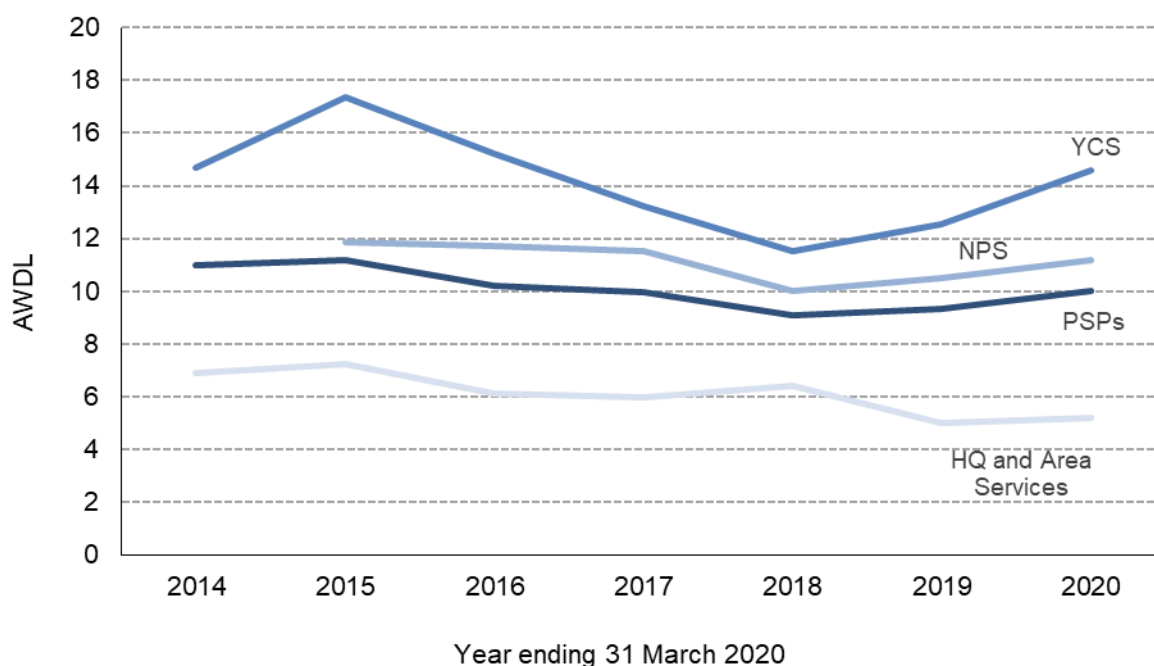


Table 15.2 sets out the distribution of AWDL through sickness absence across the PSP regions, the YCS, HQ and Area Services as well as NPS divisions over the last two years.

Majority of PSP regions saw an increase in AWDL in the past year. Only 22% of PSP regions and just one of the NPS divisions saw decreases to their AWDL in that time (Table 15.2).

In terms of PSP regions, Yorkshire had the lowest AWDL amongst staff at 7.3 days whilst Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire had the highest at 13.3 days for the year ending 31 March 2020. Compared to the previous year, the greatest decrease in AWDL amongst PSP regions was in HMPPS Wales (a decrease of 0.9 days) whilst London saw the largest increase (an increase of 2.8 days).

Within NPS, the London Probation Service had the highest rate of sickness absence with an average of 13.3 working days lost in the year ending 31 March 2020. This division also had the largest increase in rates when compared to the year ending 31 March 2019 (an increase of 2.3 days). South East & Eastern Probation Service had the lowest rate of sickness absences with an average of 8.4 working days lost and was the only NPS division that saw a decrease in AWDL when compared to the previous year.

⁵⁴ The YCS was not formed until April 2017. Therefore, historical and latest figures for the Youth Custody Estate have been separated out from the wider PSP category to allow comparisons to be made and to establish the trends over time.

Further information

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from:

statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system

Ministry of Justice publishes data relating to offender management in England and Wales.

Equivalent statistics for Scotland and Northern Ireland can be found at:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice

www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications.htm

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