



Ministry of
JUSTICE

End of Custody Licence releases and recalls January 2010 England and Wales

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

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End of Custody Licence (ECL) releases and recalls

Key points

Introduction to ECL

On 19 June 2007 the then Lord Chancellor announced the introduction of a presumption in favour of release from custody on licence for prisoners serving between 4 weeks and 4 years for the final 18 days of their sentence subject to meeting strict eligibility criteria and providing a release address. The first releases under this scheme occurred on 29 June 2007. Prisoners who would normally be subject to supervision on release (prisoners serving 12 months or more, or under 22 years of age) are required to meet their probation officer after release and to have regular contact after that in line with their supervision plan. All prisoners released on ECL are liable to recall if they are reported to have misbehaved during the period of the licence.

ECL releases

- During January 2010 there were 1,760 releases on ECL, of which 90% were male prisoners and 10% female prisoners.
- 75% of those released were serving sentences of under 12 months. The remaining 25% were serving longer sentences.

ECL recalls

- There were 58 decisions to recall offenders to custody during January 2010 (as notified to NOMS by end 22 February 2010). The most common reason for recall was for alleged re-offending which accounted for 28 decisions to recall.
- To date, the large majority (91%) of those recalled following release under ECL have been returned to custody (based on decisions notified to NOMS).

ECL caseload

- At the end of January, approximately 950 offenders were under licence as part of the ECL scheme (data rounded to the nearest 50).

Explanatory notes

ECL exclusions

Any prisoners falling into the following categories are excluded from release on ECL:

- Registered sex offenders, whether or not they are currently serving a sentence for a sexual offence.
- Prisoners serving sentences for serious violence as specified in Prison Service Instruction 42/2007 (which consolidates and replaces PSI 27/2007)
http://psi.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/PSI_2007_42_end_of_custody_licence.doc (this includes offences such as murder, manslaughter, wounding with intent to commit Grievous Bodily Harm, possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, child cruelty and serious explosives offences).
With effect from 28 March 2008 prisoners serving a sentence for an offence committed under counter terrorism legislation are excluded from ECL.
- Prisoners who have previously escaped from custody.
- Prisoners who have previously breached temporary release conditions during the current sentence, have offended during a period under temporary release at any time, or prisoners currently serving a sentence for failing to return from temporary release.
- Prisoners who report that they do not have a release address.
- Foreign national prisoners who will be subject to deportation at the end of their sentence.
- Prisoners who are subject to extradition proceedings.
- Sentenced prisoners who have been remanded into custody on further charges or who are awaiting sentence.
- Prisoners who, within the period of their current sentence, had been recalled either from HDC or from normal licence.
- Prisoners under the age of 18.
- Prisoners serving Detention and Training Order (DTO) sentences.
- Prisoners required to undertake a treatment programme as a condition of the normal (end of sentence) supervision licence that could not be arranged during the period of ECL or at a time otherwise agreed by the Offender Manager.

Explanatory notes (contd.)

Data sources and quality

The data presented in this brief are drawn from the prison administrative IT system. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. While the figures shown have been checked as far as practicable, they should be regarded as approximate and not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.

Data on releases are extracted around 3 weeks after the end of the previous month, allowing prison staff time to update the prisoners' records. Amendments to records after this time are not published. A comparison between published data and live data indicates a variance of less than 0.5%.

Unless otherwise stated, numbers in the text have been rounded for ease of reading using the following rules:

Numbers of 100,000 and over are rounded to the nearest 1,000

Numbers from 1,000 – 99,999 are rounded to the nearest 100

Numbers from 10 – 999 are rounded to the nearest 10

Numbers under 10 are unrounded.

Data on ECL recalls and the tables show the unrounded data.

Contact points for further information

Current and previous editions of this publication are available for download at www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm. Future reports will be published on a monthly basis. Spreadsheet files of the tables contained in this document are also available for download from this address.

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General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from www.statistics.gov.uk

Table 1: ECL releases by offence group, sentence length, age, ethnic group and sex - January 2010 and cumulative totals

	Releases in January 2010			2010	2009	2008	2007
	Males	Females	Total	1 January - 31 January 2010	1 January - 31 December 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Total ECL releases	1,587	173	1,760	1,760	29,371	31,318	16,197
By offence group							
Violence against the person ¹	350	28	378	378	6,121	6,216	3,000
Sexual offences	0	0	0	0	1	5	4
Robbery	52	4	56	56	815	792	349
Burglary ²	185	8	193	193	2,727	2,794	1,499
Theft and Handling ³	273	67	340	340	6,071	7,116	3,682
Fraud and Forgery	24	3	27	27	665	656	291
Drug offences	81	9	90	90	1,405	1,322	691
Motoring offences	151	6	157	157	2,960	3,473	2,032
Other offences	427	48	475	475	8,037	8,431	4,362
Offence not recorded	44	0	44	44	569	513	287
By sentence length							
Less than or equal to 6 months ⁴	940	135	1,075	1,075	19,840	22,079	11,448
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	234	18	252	252	3,454	3,592	1,806
12 months to less than 4 years	413	20	433	433	6,074	5,643	2,941
4 years or more	0	0	0	0	3	4	2
By age							
18-20	233	14	247	247	3,817	4,340	2,339
21-24	383	37	420	420	6,359	6,557	3,283
25-29	295	37	332	332	6,471	6,949	3,588
30-39	421	44	465	465	8,119	8,663	4,462
40-49	189	33	222	222	3,633	3,797	1,989
50-59	51	6	57	57	808	841	454
60 and over	15	2	17	17	164	171	82
By ethnic group							
White	1,336	147	1,483	1,483	25,109	26,781	13,850
Mixed	57	10	67	67	726	799	403
Asian or Asian British	79	2	81	81	1,419	1,447	697
Black or Black British	106	13	119	119	1,976	2,135	1,161
Chinese or Other ethnic group	5	0	5	5	79	113	47
Not stated	0	0	0	0	18	34	27
Unrecorded	4	1	5	5	25	6	6
1991 Census ethnic codes	0	0	0	0	19	3	6

1 Excludes serious violent offences such as murder, manslaughter, wounding with intent to commit Grievous Bodily Harm, possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, child cruelty and serious explosives offences. A full list of exclusions can be found in Prison Service Instruction 42/2007 (which consolidates and replaces PSI 27/2007).

2, 3 Two prisoners, serving sentences for burglary and theft respectively, were released in error; they did not meet all of the eligibility criteria. Both were recalled and returned to custody. No reoffending was reported during the ECL period.

4 A prisoner serving a sentence of less than six months was released in error; he did not meet all of the eligibility criteria. He was recalled and returned to custody.

Data Sources and Quality

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Table 2: ECL releases by discharging establishment - January 2010 and cumulative totals

Establishment	Releases in January 2010	2010	2009	2008	2007
		1 January - 31 January 2010	1 January - 31 December 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Males					
Acklington	12	12	96	122	81
Albany	0	0	0	0	0
Altcourse	82	82	1,578	1,403	350
Ashfield	0	0	1	0	0
Ashwell	0	0	60	111	58
Aylesbury	4	4	25	15	14
Bedford	26	26	472	572	372
Belmarsh	4	4	61	31	41
Birmingham	19	19	631	375	232
Blakenhurst	0	0	0	303	329
Blantyre House	0	0	0	0	0
Blundeston	0	0	42	44	27
Brinsford	2	2	22	56	16
Bristol	44	44	428	502	214
Brixton	17	17	298	122	127
Brockhill	0	0	0	45	69
Buckley Hall	4	4	83	77	31
Bullingdon	7	7	361	364	155
Bullwood Hall	5	5	69	78	25
Bure ³	0	0	0	0	0
Camp Hill	0	0	37	87	20
Canterbury	4	4	62	77	34
Cardiff	13	13	406	398	188
Castington	3	3	69	107	61
Channings Wood	17	17	194	173	81
Chelmsford	9	9	206	104	41
Coldingley	1	1	12	9	1
Cookham Wood	0	0	0	0	14
Dartmoor	4	4	67	58	32
Deerbolt	21	21	289	370	145
Doncaster	41	41	813	828	565
Dorchester	7	7	90	25	34
Dovegate	16	16	42	0	0
Dover	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	6	6	303	453	341
Edmunds Hill	20	20	284	394	206
Erlestoke	7	7	63	78	40
Everthorpe	27	27	308	347	253
Exeter	20	20	495	644	334
Featherstone	5	5	26	26	15
Feltham	0	0	27	32	3
Ford	32	32	483	435	253
Forest Bank	64	64	850	1,009	164
Frankland	0	0	0	0	0
Full Sutton	0	0	0	0	0
Garth	0	0	1	2	1
Gartree	0	0	1	0	0
Glen Parva	45	45	640	730	390
Gloucester	6	6	123	164	116
Grendon/Spring Hill	6	6	141	90	22
Guys Marsh	12	12	169	217	154
Haslar	0	0	0	0	0
Haverigg	16	16	200	361	175
Hewell Grange	0	0	0	68	68
Hewell ¹	43	43	722	376	0
High Down	24	24	407	573	234
Highpoint	12	12	157	177	79
Hindley	0	0	2	37	38
Hollesley Bay	10	10	290	390	146
Holme House	10	10	420	540	221
Hull	17	17	374	266	138
Huntercombe	0	0	5	4	0
Isle of Wight ²	15	15	107	0	0
Kennet	11	11	154	135	72
Kingston (Portsmouth)	0	0	0	0	0
Kirkham	5	5	189	409	306
Kirklevington Grange	0	0	1	8	3
Lancaster	5	5	166	135	57
Lancaster Farms	13	13	162	134	33
Latchmere House	0	0	0	0	0
Leeds	40	40	488	290	198
Leicester	15	15	236	221	135
Lewes	13	13	282	348	100
Leyhill	8	8	164	367	190
Lincoln	28	28	395	445	148
Lindholme	15	15	245	360	234
Littlehey	1	1	11	22	5
Liverpool	7	7	774	405	335
Long Lartin	0	0	0	0	0
Lowdham Grange	0	0	0	0	0
Maidstone	0	0	7	11	3
Manchester	38	38	675	829	525
Moorland Closed	12	12	189	250	124
Moorland Open	2	2	120	151	95
Mount (The)	0	0	21	27	1
North Sea Camp	14	14	300	395	227
Northallerton	21	21	384	490	259
Norwich	40	40	387	306	171
Nottingham	9	9	212	307	221
Onley	16	16	322	413	234

Table 2: ECL releases by discharging establishment - January 2010 and cumulative totals

Establishment	2010	2009	2008	2007	
	Releases in January 2010	1 January - 31 January 2010	1 January - 31 December 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Parc	58	58	868	690	436
Parkhurst	0	0	0	2	0
Pentonville	37	37	337	311	208
Peterborough	25	25	331	272	224
Portland	8	8	176	194	106
Preston	44	44	490	462	218
Ranby	38	38	467	392	242
Reading	3	3	41	25	22
Risley	3	3	98	125	79
Rochester	39	39	430	270	127
Rye Hill	0	0	1	0	2
Sheppey Cluster (Elmley)	12	12	221	307	151
Sheppey Cluster (Standford Hill)	19	19	471	544	286
Sheppey Cluster (Swaleside)	0	0	0	0	0
Shepton Mallet	0	0	0	0	0
Shrewsbury	13	13	393	244	145
Stafford	1	1	15	15	2
Stocken	9	9	189	218	93
Stoke Heath	18	18	215	271	179
Sudbury	9	9	119	191	82
Swansea	1	1	62	225	144
Swinfen Hall	0	0	11	14	7
Thom Cross	23	23	261	227	57
Usk/Prescoed	1	1	28	106	58
Verne (The)	0	0	3	3	8
Wakefield	0	0	0	1	0
Wandsworth	13	13	161	359	220
Warren Hill	0	0	0	1	1
Wayland	11	11	109	102	41
Wealstun	4	4	64	200	155
Wellingborough	10	10	124	87	28
Werrington	0	0	0	0	0
Wetherby	0	0	0	0	0
Whetton	0	0	0	1	2
Whitemoor	0	0	1	0	0
Winchester	17	17	325	310	151
Wolds	0	0	16	35	24
Woodhill	32	32	399	388	126
Wormwood Scrubs	53	53	864	752	369
Wymott	14	14	97	109	62
TOTAL	1,587	1,587	26,383	27,780	14,479
Females					
Askham Grange	2	2	7	21	7
Bronzefield	31	31	507	618	265
Downview	2	2	83	105	41
Drake Hall	8	8	124	145	73
East Sutton Park	0	0	23	10	3
Eastwood Park	18	18	381	416	228
Foston Hall	11	11	211	231	125
Holloway	18	18	374	393	164
Low Newton	12	12	248	312	172
Morton Hall	10	10	102	58	18
New Hall	4	4	151	357	224
Peterborough	25	25	268	227	164
Send	0	0	35	37	10
Styal	32	32	474	608	224
TOTAL	173	173	2,988	3,538	1,718
GRAND TOTAL	1,760	1,760	29,371	31,318	16,197

1 On 25 June 2008 3 prisons (HMPs Blakenhurst, Brockhill and Hewell Grange) merged to become HMP Hewell. ECL releases are now shown for HMP Hewell only. Cumulative totals for the 3 prisons which merged are shown for the time period 29 June 2007 to 31 May 2008.

2 On 1 April 2009 3 prisons (HMPs Albany, Camp Hill and Parkhurst) merged to become HMP Isle of Wight. ECL releases are now shown for HMP Isle of Wight only. Cumulative totals for the 3 prisons which merged are shown from 29 June 2007 to 31 March 2009.

3 HMP Bure was opened and accepted its first prisoners on the 30th of November 2009.

Data Sources and Quality

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

**Table 3a: Offenders recalled to prison from ECL and the reasons for recall
- January 2010 and cumulative totals**

Decisions to recall between 1 January 2010 and 31 January 2010 reported to NOMS Public Protection Unit by end of 22 February 2010

	2010 1 January - 31 January 2010	2009 1 January - 31 December 2009	2008 1 January - 31 December 2008	2007 29 June - 31 December 2007
Decisions to recall as notified to NOMS	58	928	1,030	564
By reason for recall ¹				
Alleged re-offending ²	28	449	474	194
Failure to live at an approved address	21	263	274	118
Out of touch with the probation service	13	209	268	226
Poor behaviour ³	4	105	101	75

Table 3b: ECL recalls and returns to custody - cumulative totals to date

Decisions to recall offenders from ECL, from 29 June 2007 to 31 January 2010

Number of offenders notified as recalled at 22 February 2010	2,580	(3% of offenders released on ECL)
Of which,		
Number not yet returned to custody	236	(0.3% of offenders released on ECL)
Number who have returned to custody	2,344	

Table 3c: Alleged Re-offending by Offenders on ECL

The number of alleged offences (by offenders during their period of ECL), as notified to NOMS in December and cumulative totals.

	1 January - 31 January 2010	1 January - 31 December 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Number of Offenders ⁴	32	454	497	215
Alleged further offences	37	584	658	301

Footnotes

1 The total of reasons for recall is not the same as the total number of decisions to recall because offenders can be recalled for more than one reason.

2 Alleged re-offending may lead to recall of the offender even though, at the point of the recall, the offender may not have formally been charged.

3 The offender's behaviour indicates an increased risk of reoffending or harm.

4 The number of offenders notified to NOMS as having allegedly reoffended during their period on ECL

Data Sources and Quality

All of the figures above are as notified to NOMS and may therefore be subject to inaccuracies. There may be recalls, reoffending, further offences, offenders returned to custody, and offenders released not in accordance with the scheme, some of which may not have been notified to us.

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