

JTrack, PNC, NI30 and the Single Indicator on Re-offending

This short note outlines the latest developments and plans for continuing monitoring of locally identified and managed Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPOs).

National Indicator 30 (NI 30)

In line with the announcement from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in October 2010, the national indicator set (NIS) and local area agreements (LAA) have been abolished. Eighty five local authorities had prioritised the PPO measure NI30 as part of their LAA, whilst other areas used the measure to monitor outcomes for their PPO cohort.

The Home Office is continuing to produce offending results for the cohort of PPOs identified in 2010, for their subsequent offending during the financial year 2010/11. The final results for this measure will be released via iQuanta in August 2011.

Areas are no longer required to submit annual cohorts to the Home Office for performance monitoring purposes. However, all areas may continue to use JTrack to monitor their PPO caseloads. In addition, work is in hand to provide re-offending data direct to JTrack (see below).

New measures of adult and juvenile re-offending

As part of the developments to the National Statistics series on re-offending, the Home Office and Ministry of Justice have been working together to develop a more aligned and consistent basis for measuring re-offending. Under the previous arrangements, there were numerous different ways to measure re-offending amongst different cohorts of offenders at the national and local level. This created difficulties in presenting a coherent picture of re-offending at the local or national level.

A new national measure of adult re-offending has been designed. This measure includes a broader cohort of offenders than any of the previous measures. It is intended to provide an overview of re-offending of all those individuals that are causing harm in a local area. Regular publications and management information disseminated on a timely basis will provide re-offending results for the cohort overall, and for the key sub-cohorts. This will enable a more rounded picture of re-offending to be developed in each area.

The measure would include all offenders who:

- received a caution/reprimand or final warning;
- received a court conviction other than immediate custody;
- were discharged from custody, or
- tested positive on a Class A drugs test on arrest

at any time in a rolling twelve month period (which is updated quarterly), and will select offenders based on their first such appearance, counting any further appearances as re-offending.

The cohort will be further broken down in 3 key ways.

Firstly, a quarterly extract will be taken from JTrack of all those that are being managed on PPO caseloads at a local level. These will be matched to the overall cohort, to enable a sub cohort to be formed providing re-offending figures for those PPOs who had been convicted, cautioned, released from prison or had a positive drug test in the relevant time period.

Secondly, the overall cohort will be matched to other information sources (such as using OASys scores) to identify the sub cohort that are also identified as Class A drug misusers.

Thirdly, the release from prison cohort will be further split to provide re-offending results for those released from under 12 month sentences, and those released from longer prison sentences.

The headline indicator will be the proportion of offenders who re-offend in a 12 month period. To provide context for these results, a predicted¹ proportion of re-offending will be provided for the cohort.

To provide further context on the re-offending results for a particular cohort, this indicator will be supported by a frequency of re-offending indicator. This will highlight the average number of re-offences committed by a re-offender. In addition, information will be provided on severity of their re-offending (violent / sexual and serious acquisitive re-offences).

The provision of sub cohorts and the supplementary indicators will ensure that a coherent analysis of the re-offending results in a local area can be developed. In time these re-offending results, can help identify and refine, effectiveness and gaps in the management of offenders at a local level.

In October 2011, a re-offending publication will provide re-offending results for those offenders identified during 2009, and their offending over the subsequent 12 month period, with a 6 month lag for convictions to be added to PNC. At the same time, historical re-offending results using the same measure will be provided at a national and local level. These will be going back to 2000 for the overall cohort and back to 2005 for the sub cohort of PPOs.

It is recognised that a significant number of PPOs are under the age of 18. The same matching process between the identified juvenile cohort and the JTrack extract will be undertaken to ensure re-offending results will be

¹ The prediction model will take into account numerous socio-demographic and criminal history characteristics for each individual to make a prediction for the cohort.

provided in the juvenile measure for those who are also being managed as PPOs.

Timely re-offending data will be made available in regular quarterly publications, and also through dissemination as management information through sites such as iQuanta.

JTrack

JTrack continues to be the national web - based monitoring tool to track locally identified PPOs. The recording of PPO cohorts on JTrack remains within the Annual Data Requirement (ADR) for the police.

The Home Office has been working with the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) to make the developments in JTRACK that many of practitioners have suggested would be helpful in managing their cohorts.

The key development is to establish a link between the individuals identified on JTrack, and the convictions, arrests and charges information stored on the Police National Computer (PNC) on a regular basis so that practitioners will be able to track the reconvictions, arrest and charges for their locally identified PPOs. We aim to have PNC downloads by November 2011

We are further developing and improving JTrack, which will include enabling JTrack users to customize their reporting for their local cohorts. This will enable monitoring against all those being managed as PPOs regardless of whether they are in the re-offending cohorts.

Against this background, and in anticipation of these developments, areas may well see the benefits of continuing to use JTrack for monitoring their active PPO cohort under local Integrated Offender Management arrangements. The developments set out above are intended to improve the quantity and quality, as well as the timeliness, of information and data that will be available to all local areas making use of this nationally provided system.

If you have any further queries or concerns related to this note then please contact:

Subash Sharma on 0207 035 0101 or by email

Subash.Sharma@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or

Dalbir Uppal by email:

dalbir.uppal2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk