



Ministry of
JUSTICE

Provisional figures relating to offenders serving indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection (IPPs)

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Background

This note provides provisional management information used to support the development of the 'Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders' Bill. The data has been shared to support understanding of the basis of the Bill relating to indeterminate sentences of Imprisonment for Public Protection.

The sentence of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) was created by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and implemented for offences committed after 4 April 2005. The sentence of Detention for Public Protection applies for offenders under 18 years of age. The aim was to create a sentence that would allow for the indefinite detention of offenders deemed to be dangerous but whose offence was not serious enough to merit a life sentence. An IPP sentence is very similar to a life sentence. The court must set a tariff, or minimum term, which the offender must serve in prison; this reflects the seriousness of the crime. After the tariff has expired, the offender may apply regularly to the Parole Board for release. If released, the offender will be on licence for at least 10 years. The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act (CJIA) 2008 revised the rules for IPPs, introducing a minimum tariff of 2 years. This was designed to help reduce the growth in the prison population.

IPPs and life sentences are jointly classified as 'indeterminate sentences'. Figures regularly published in the Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin focus on indeterminate sentences overall, rather than breaking down the figures into life and IPP sentences. However, release and recall data are provided for separately for IPPs in the Offender Management annual set of tables:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/oms-quarterly.htm

Information relating to IPP and DPP prisoners and those serving life sentences is held by the Public Protection and Mental Health Group, NOMS in the Public Protection Database and is used in the case management of these prisoners. The data presented below comes from this management information source and should be treated as provisional. Figures for life sentence prisoners are shown for comparison. The data relates to 31st March 2011.

How many IPP prisoners are there?

At end of March 2011, there were a total of 6,550 IPP prisoners - 6,400 male and 150 female.

Table 1. Indeterminate Sentenced population by gender (March 2011)

	Male	Female	Total
Life	7,800	300	8,100
IPP	6,400	150	6,550

See notes

Tariff lengths

Among prisoners serving IPPs around three quarters had tariff lengths of four years or less.

Table 2. IPP Population by Tariff (March 2011)

Less than 2 years	1,550
2 years and equal to 4 years	3,200
Over 4 years and equal to 6 years	1,200
Over 6 years and equal to 10 years	500
More than 10 years	50
Tariff unavailable	50

Table 3. Lifer Population by Tariff (March 2011)

Up to 10 years	2,650
Over 10 and up to 20 years	4,350
20 years or more	850
Whole life	41
Tariff unavailable	250

Actual number given for whole lifers

How many are past their tariff date?

At end of March 2011, 3,500 IPP prisoners had passed their tariff date, while 3,000 had not yet reached the end of their tariff/minimum term.

Table 4. Indeterminate Sentenced population Pre and Post Tariff (March 2011)

	Pre tariff	Post tariff	Tariff unavailable	Total
Life	4,650	3,200	300	8,100
IPP	3,000	3,500	50	6,550

The average tariff length for IPPs imposed before the implementation of CJIA 2008 was three years and after the implementation of CJIA 2008 was four years.

Offences committed

Out of the total IPP population of 6,550, there were 1,760 prisoners who were serving sentences for sexual offences, 2,430 for violence against the person offences and 2,350 for other violence offences.

Table 5. Indeterminate Sentenced population by Offence Type (March 2011)

	Sexual offences	Violence against the person	Other Violence(incl Robbery)	Total
Life	910	6,730	480	8,100
IPP	1,760	2,430	2,350	6,550

Notes

Prisoners in custody includes those in prisons, secure hospitals, LASCHs, STCs but excludes IPPs who have been recalled

The total number of indeterminate sentenced prisoners in this bulletin does not match the indeterminate population figure given in the Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin. This is due to the use of two different data sources which we are currently reconciling. Reconciled figures will be published in due course.

As this is provisional data, there are some data quality issues to resolve, eg there are some cases where the offence was not recorded on the database. These have been included as 'Other Violence'.

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 50 except for the more detailed offence categories which are rounded to the nearest 10. Figures have been rounded separately and will therefore not always sum to the totals.

Contact details and further information

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