



Ministry of
JUSTICE

Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin

January to March 2011, England and
Wales

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Contents

Introduction	2
Overview	3
Prison population	4
Prison receptions	7
Prison discharges	7
Probation	9
Licence recalls	11
References	12
List of tables	13
Appendix A	18
Contact points	19

Introduction

This publication provides key statistics relating to offenders who are in prison or under Probation Service supervision. It covers flows into these services (receptions into prison or probation starts) and flows out (discharges from prison or probation terminations) as well as the caseload of both services at specific points in time. Latest figures for 2011 are provided with comparisons to 2010, as well as reference to longer term trends.

The contents of the report will be of interest to government policy makers, the agencies responsible for offender management at both national and local levels, and others who want to understand more about the prison population and probation caseload.

Table 1: Overview – latest period compared to the previous year

	30 June 2011	Percentage change 30 June 2010 to 30 June 2011
Prison population	85,374	0.4% ↑
Remand	12,464	-4% ↓
Untried	8,299	-2% ↓
Convicted unsentenced	4,165	-8% ↓
Under sentence	71,964	1% ↑
Fine Defaulters	129	0% →
Less than or equal to 6 months	5,441	2% ↑
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,373	-5% ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	20,392	-2% ↓
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	24,339	3% ↑
Indeterminate sentences	13,644	4% ↑
Recalls	5,646	6% ↑
Non criminal	946	-5% ↓

	January - March 2011	Percentage change January - March 2010 to 2011
Prison receptions		
First receptions	30,215	0% →
Remand - untried	13,206	1% ↑
Remand - convicted unsentenced	9,166	3% ↑
Under sentence	23,341	1% ↑
Fine Defaulters	330	..
Less than or equal to 6 months	11,430	..
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,354	..
12 months to less than 4 years	6,902	..
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	2,102	..
Indeterminate sentences	223	..
Prison discharges		
Determinate sentences	20,895	-7% ↓
Less than or equal to 6 months	8,703	-14% ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,135	-12% ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	7,679	0% →
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	2,378	9% ↑
Indeterminate sentences	117	*
Indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP)	52	*
Life sentence	65	*
Average percentage of time served⁽¹⁾		
Determinate sentences	55%
Less than or equal to 6 months	57%
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	49%
12 months to less than 4 years	52%
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	59%
Probation starts		
All court orders	45,355	-3% ↓
All community sentences	32,765	-5% ↓
Community order	32,625	-2% ↓
All pre CJA orders	144	-84% ↓
Other sentences	12,751	1% ↑
Deferred sentence	146	8% ↑
Suspended sentence order	12,605	1% ↑
Pre and post release supervision	12,582	4% ↑

	31 March 2011	Percentage change March 2010 to March 2011
Persons supervised by the Probation Service	236,543	-2% ↓
All court orders	131,346	-6% ↓
All community sentences	91,211	-8% ↓
Community order	90,115	-6% ↓
All pre CJA orders	1,110	-67% ↓
Other sentences	43,503	-1% ↓
Deferred sentence	84	-19% ↓
Suspended sentence order	43,435	-1% ↓
All pre and post release supervision	106,472	3% ↑
Pre release supervision	69,437	1% ↑
Post release supervision	37,418	8% ↑

	January - March 2011
Licence recalls	
Recalled in latest quarter	3,821
Not returned to custody by 30 June 2011	70
Total not returned to custody by 30 June 2011	942

1) Average percentage of time served includes time served on remand.

Prison population

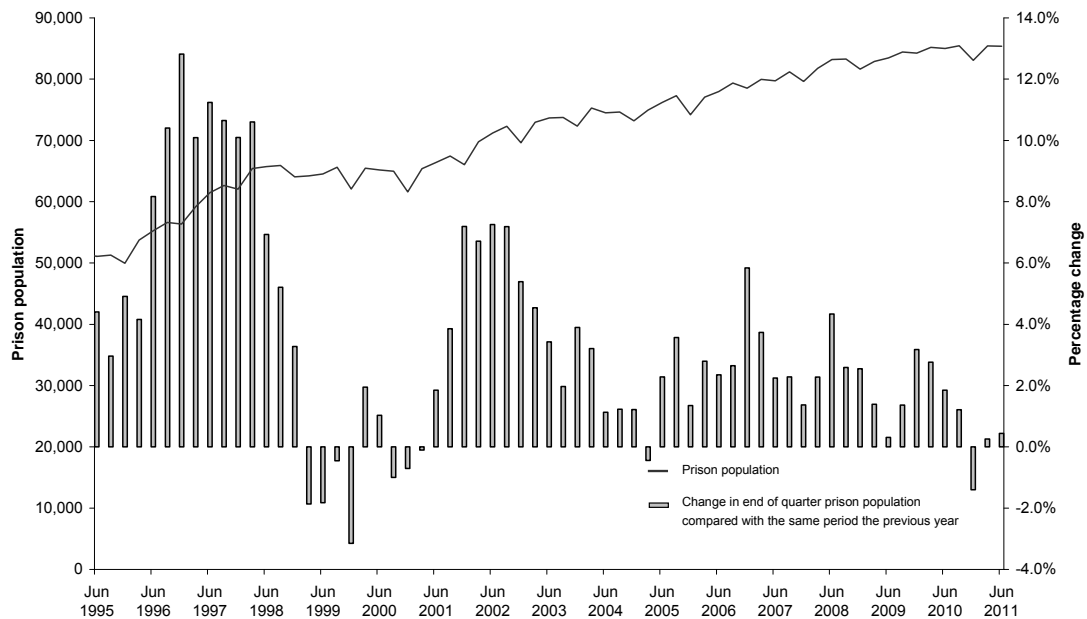
The prison population grew rapidly between 1993 to 2008 – an average of 4 per cent a year. This rapid rise was driven by:

- Increased numbers of people sentenced to immediate custody from 1999 to 2002.
- Increases in the average custodial sentence length and increased use of indeterminate sentences.
- Increase in numbers recalled to prison following breaches of the conditions of licence and these offenders spending longer in prison once recalled.

However, the rise in the prison population has slowed considerably since the summer of 2008 with an average annual increase of 1 per cent (Figure 1.1).

The flatter trend seen since 2008 partly reflects the introduction of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act (CJIA) 2008, which changed sentencing and offender management in ways which helped to reduce growth in the prison population. For more information see [CJIA 2008](#). Over the past year the slower rate of growth has been in part due to a decrease in the remand population because of the increased use of fast delivery pre-sentence reports.

Figure 1.1: Quarterly prison population and annual percentage change, England and Wales, June 1995 to June 2011



The prison population at 30 June 2011 was 85,374, an increase of 372 (0.4 per cent) compared to 30 June 2010 when the total population was 85,002.

At 30 June 2011, there were:

- 81,189 males in prison - a rise of 1 per cent over the year
- 4,185 females in prison - a fall of 2 per cent over the year

The overall increase in the total prison population over the last year (30 June 2010 to 30 June 2011) was made up of a decrease in the remand population and an increase in the sentenced population:

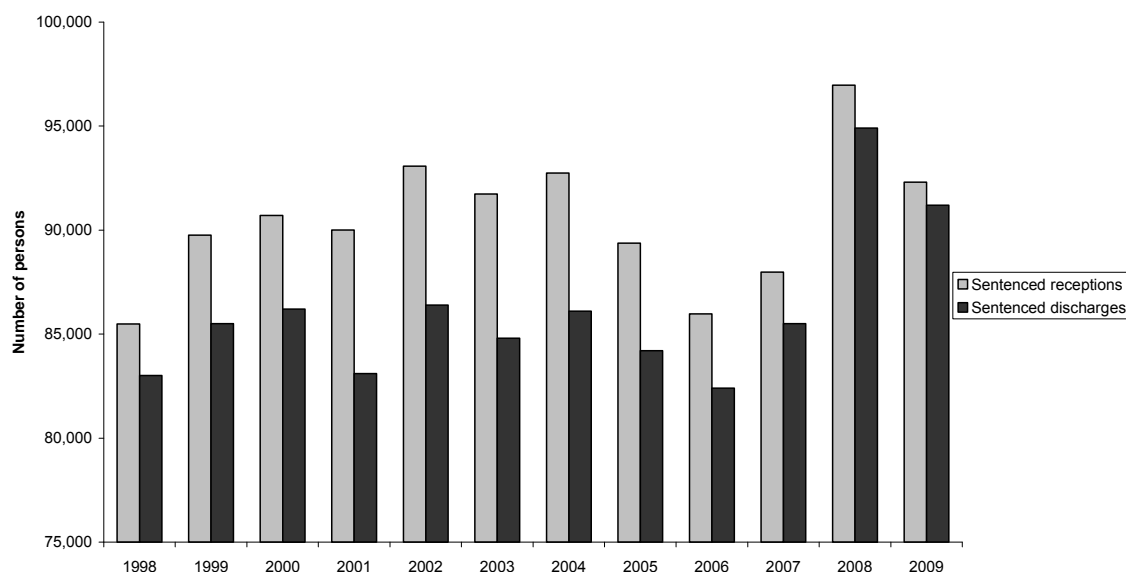
- The remand population fell by 4 per cent between June 2010 and June 2011 from 13,004 to 12,464. This comprised a 2 per cent fall in the untried population to 8,299 and an 8 per cent fall in the convicted unsentenced population to 4,165. The falling remand population partly reflects the rising use of fast delivery pre-sentence reports (PSRs) since they were introduced in 2005.
- The sentenced population rose by 964, or 1 per cent, from 71,000 in June 2010 to 71,964 in June 2011. Within the overall rise of 1 per cent, there were increases in those serving the shortest sentences (of less than or equal to six months) and the longest sentences (4 years or more, including indeterminates). While the numbers serving sentences of greater than six months to less than 4 years fell over the same period – this may reflect the increased use of Home Detention Curfew (see section on prison discharges for more information on HDC releases).
- Overall the number of prisoners serving sentences of less than 12 months fell very slightly (down 31). However, this was made up of a 2 per cent rise in prisoners serving sentences of less than or equal to 6 months, while those serving sentences of greater than 6 months to less than 12 months fell by 5 per cent.
- The number of prisoners serving longer sentences continued to rise, with a 3 per cent increase in the number serving determinate sentences of 4 years or more.
- The number of prisoners serving indeterminate sentences (either a life sentence or an Indeterminate sentence for Public Protection – an IPP) rose 4 per cent to reach 13,644. However, despite continued increases in the indeterminate sentenced population, the rate of year-on-year growth has slowed considerably following the changes introduced in the CJIA 2008 which restricted the use of IPPs.

The foreign national prisoner population was 10,779 as at 30 June 2011, accounting for 13 per cent of the prison population (the same proportion as in recent quarters).

An increasing proportion of sentenced prisoners are serving sentences for the most serious offences. As at 30 June 2011, 28 per cent of the sentenced population had committed violence against the person offences, an increase from 21 per cent in 2000. Similarly, the proportion serving sentences for sexual offences increased from 10 per cent in 2000 to 14 per cent in June 2011. Whereas, over the same period, there were falls in the proportions serving sentences for burglary, theft and handling and motoring offences.

Changes in the size of the prison population are affected by changes in the number and type of receptions and of those who are discharged. Figure 1.2 below compares determinate sentenced receptions with determinate sentenced discharges between 1998 and 2009, illustrating the difference between sentenced receptions and discharges, which began to narrow in 2005 when growth in the determinate sentenced population also began to slow.

Figure 1.2: Annual determinate sentenced receptions and determinate sentenced discharges, England and Wales 1998 to 2009



¹Excludes discharges following recall after release on licence, non-criminals, persons committed to custody for non-payment of a fine, those becoming time served and deported prisoners. Data prior to 1998 is unavailable

Prison receptions

First receptions are an indication of the number of individuals received into prison in a given year or quarter. Over the longer term, first receptions have fallen each year since 2002 with the exception of 2008. There were 125,877 first receptions in 2009 representing a fall of 6 per cent compared to 2008 but a similar level to 2007.

There were falls in both remand and sentenced receptions in 2009 including a 17 per cent fall in convicted unsentenced receptions. The falling number of convicted unsentenced receptions partly reflects the rising use of fast delivery pre-sentence reports (PSRs) since they were introduced in 2005. Fast delivery PSRs are more likely to be completed on the same day than standard delivery PSRs, and therefore are less likely to result in a convicted unsentenced prison reception.

More recently, in the quarter ending March 2011, there were 30,215 first receptions into prison, virtually unchanged from the quarter ending March 2010 (when there were 30,242 first receptions). Within this total, there was a small rise in female first receptions (up 43, or 2 per cent) and a slight fall in male first receptions (down 70, or 0.3 per cent).

The number of prisoners received under sentence rose to 23,341 in the quarter ending March 2011, 1 per cent higher than in the quarter ending March 2010. This increase was seen for both males (up 1 per cent) and females (up 4 per cent).

Prison discharges

In the quarter ending March 2011, a total of 20,895 offenders were discharged from determinate sentences, down 7 per cent from the quarter ending March 2010. A further 52 offenders were discharged from an indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP) and 65 from a life sentence.

Within the overall 7 per cent decrease in numbers discharged from determinate sentences, there was a fall in the number discharged from short sentences (less than 12 months) and a rise in the number discharged from long sentences (4 years or more, excluding indeterminate sentences). The numbers discharged from sentences of less than or equal to 6 months and greater than 6 months to less than 12 months were down 14 per cent and 12 per cent respectively. Discharges for sentences of 12 months to less than 4 years showed no real change, but discharges for sentences of 4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences) rose by 9 per cent.

Those discharged from determinate sentences in the quarter ending March 2011 had served 55 per cent of their sentence in custody (including time on remand). On average males serve a greater proportion of their sentence in custody – 55 per cent compared to 50 per cent for females in the quarter ending March 2011. This gender difference is consistent over time, and partly reflects the higher proportion of females who are released on Home Detention Curfew (HDC – under which certain offenders can be released on electronically monitored curfew up to 135 days before the halfway point of their sentence when they would otherwise be released).

A total of 3,002 prisoners were released on HDC in the quarter ending March 2011, 11 per cent higher than in the quarter ending March 2010. The increase in HDC releases is partly due the withdrawal of End of Custody Licence (ECL) in March 2010, as some prisoners who would previously have been released on ECL will instead now be released on HDC.

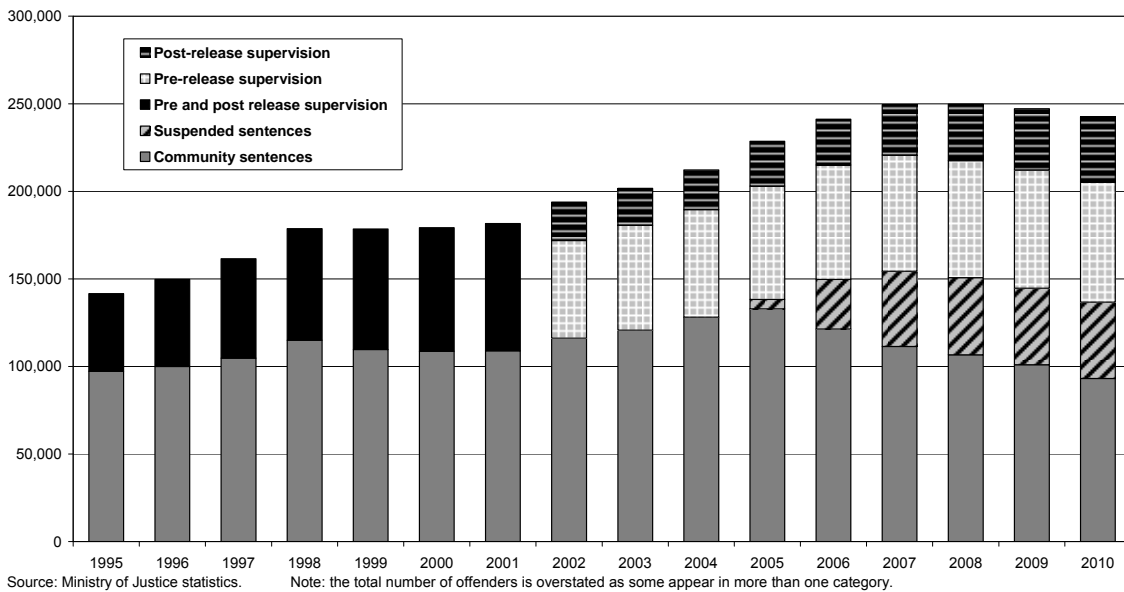
Prisoners released on HDC in the quarter ending March 2011 spent an average of 2.9 months on HDC, a slight increase from 2.8 months in the quarter ending March 2010.

Probation

The annual total probation caseload (court orders and pre and post release supervision) increased by 39 per cent between 2000 and 2008 to 243,434. Since then the probation caseload has fallen slightly to 237,507. The rise between 2000 and 2008 was driven by:

- Introduction of new court orders, in particular the Suspended Sentence Order (SSO) in 2005 (under the Criminal Justice Act 2003).
- Increase in pre and post-release supervision caseload due to:
 - continued growth in the number of offenders serving custodial sentences of 12 months or more who require supervision on release from custody,
 - offenders spending longer periods on licence after release from custody under CJA 2003.

Figure 1.3: Number of offenders under Probation Service supervision (at end December)



Between 2009 and 2010, the number of offenders starting court orders fell for the first time in the last ten years by 3 per cent. This was driven by the falling number of pre CJA 2003 orders and a fall of 3 per cent in community orders (the first fall since they were introduced). The numbers starting SSOs increased by 2 per cent in 2010, and it is possible that SSOs have drawn in some who would previously have received longer community orders, partly explaining the fall in the latter.

The number being supervised at the end of the year (the caseload) continued the decrease seen in each of the previous two years; community orders fell by 6 per cent but SSOs remained virtually unchanged. The reason for the relatively sharper decrease in caseload is due to the reduction in the average sentence length of community orders, which has reduced from 22 months in 2005 to 12.7 months in 2010. This reduction in length means that offenders spend less time on the caseload .

The number of offenders starting pre and post release supervision increased by 1 per cent between 2009 and 2010, compared to a rise of 3 per cent in the pre and post release caseload.

Looking at quarter on quarter changes, the court order caseload continued to decrease between the quarters ending March 2010 and March 2011, with the community order caseload down 6 per cent and the SSO caseload down 1 per cent (the latter falling for the first time). The number of offenders starting court orders also continued to decrease over this period, which was driven by the continuing fall in number of starts of pre CJA orders, and starts of community orders, which fell by 2 per cent between the quarter ending March 2010 and quarter ending March 2011. SSO starts increased slightly, by 1 per cent, over this period.

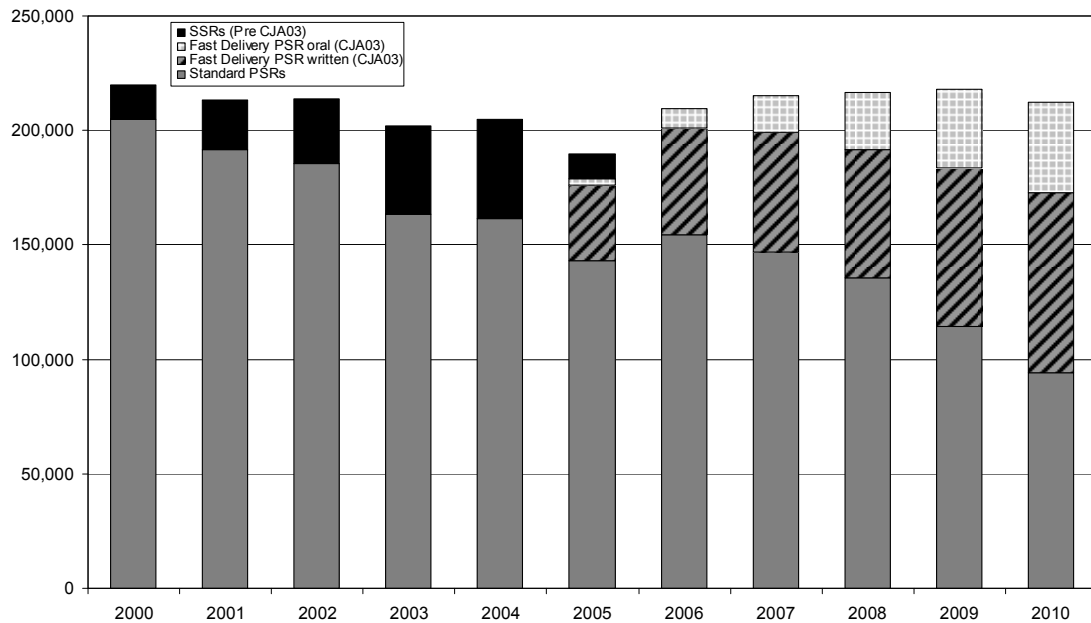
The caseload of offenders supervised before or after release from prison increased by 3 per cent between the quarter ending March 2010 and quarter ending March 2011, including an 8 per cent increase in the number supervised post release. Starts of pre or post release supervision increased by 4 per cent.

Of the 32,252 community orders terminated in the quarter ending March 2011, 65 per cent had run their full course or were terminated early for good progress, a slight increase from the previous quarter ending March (64 per cent). There was an increase for SSOs which had run their full course or were terminated early for good progress from 65 to 67 per cent over the same period.

Court reports

In the longer term, the total number of court reports prepared in 2010 (212,484) fell by 2 per cent on the previous year to the lowest level since 2006. Compared to 2009, Standard pre-sentence reports (PSRs) fell by 18 per cent, whilst Fast Delivery PSRs rose by 14 per cent. Fast Delivery reports exceeded the number of Standard PSRs for the first time in 2010 (comprising 56 per cent of the combined PSR total).

Figure 1.4: Numbers of different types of court reports prepared by the Probation Service, 2000-2010



A total of 57,095 court reports were prepared in the quarter ending March 2011, 1 per cent down on the quarter ending March 2010. The decrease was due to an 11 per cent fall in the number of Standard PSRs, while Fast delivery PSRs (both written and oral) continued to rise, by 7 per cent.

Licence recalls

Of all offenders recalled to custody before 1 April 2011, 942 had not been returned to custody by 30th June. Of these, 118 had originally been serving a prison sentence for violence against the person offences and a further 42 for sexual offences.

During the quarter ending March 2011, a total of 3,821 offenders had their licence revoked and were recalled. By 30 June 2011, 3,751 of these recalled offenders had been returned to custody and 70 had not been returned to custody. A further 872 offenders who were recalled prior to 1 April 2011 had not been returned to custody by 30 June 2011.

The end-to-end measure across all agencies involved in the process is for 75 per cent of recalled offenders to be returned to custody within 74 hours for emergency recalls and 144 hours for standard recalls. In the quarter ending 31 December 2010, 3,044 (79 per cent) were returned within agreed timescales.

References

This publication and associated spreadsheet files of the tables contained in this document and detailed information of definitions, sources and key legislative changes are available for download at

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/oms-quartlery.htm>

Bulletins from earlier related series are available at

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/index.htm>

List of quarterly tables

Prison population

Table 1.1a Total population in custody by type of custody and age group, on a quarterly basis, March 2010 to June 2011, England and Wales

Table 1.1b Male population in custody by type of custody and age group, on a quarterly basis, March 2010 to June 2011, England and Wales

Table 1.1c Female population in custody by type of custody and age group, on a quarterly basis, March 2010 to June 2011, England and Wales

Table 1.2 Population in custody by type of custody, sex and age group, at end of month, March 2010 to June 2011, England and Wales

Table 1.3a Total remand and sentenced population in prison by offence group and sex, on a quarterly basis, March 2010 to June 2011, England and Wales

Table 1.3b Adult remand and sentenced population in prison by offence group and sex, on a quarterly basis, March 2010 to June 2011, England and Wales

Table 1.3c 18 to 20 year olds remand and sentenced population in prison by offence group and sex, on a quarterly basis, March 2010 to June 2011, England and Wales

Table 1.3d 15 to 17 year olds remand and sentenced population in prison by offence group and sex, on a quarterly basis, March 2010 to June 2011, England and Wales

Table 1.4 Population in prison by sex, establishment and nationality status, 30 June 2011, England and Wales

Table 1.5 Population in prison, by nationality and sex, 30 June 2011, England and Wales

Prison receptions

Table 2.1a Total receptions into prison establishments by type of custody, sentence length and age group, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales

Table 2.1b Male receptions into prison establishments by type of custody, sentence length and age group, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011 England and Wales

Table 2.1c Female receptions into prison establishments by type of custody, sentence length and age group, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales

Table 2.2a Remand receptions into prison establishments by offence group and sex, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales

Table 2.2b Immediate custodial sentenced receptions into prison establishments by offence group and sex, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales

Prison discharges

- Table 3.1** Discharges from determinate and indeterminate sentences, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales
- Table 3.2a** Time served in prison by prisoners discharged from determinate and indeterminate sentences, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales (Male and female)
- Table 3.2b** Time served in prison by male prisoners discharged from determinate and indeterminate sentences, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales (Male)
- Table 3.2c** Time served in prison by female prisoners discharged from determinate and indeterminate sentences, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales (Female)
- Table 3.3** Home Detention Curfew releases by sentence length, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales
- Table 3.4** Average time spent on Home Detention Curfew by sentence length, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales

Probation

- Table 4.1** Number of offenders starting court order and pre/post release supervision by the Probation Service by sex, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales
- Table 4.2** Offenders starting court order supervision by the Probation Service by offence group and sex, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales
- Table 4.3** Most frequently used combinations of requirements for starts of community orders and suspended sentence orders, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales
- Table 4.4** Requirements commenced under community orders and suspended sentence orders, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales
- Table 4.5** Offenders starting community order and suspended sentence order supervision by area, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales
- Table 4.6** Offenders starting community order and suspended sentence order supervision by tier, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales
- Table 4.7** Offenders supervised by the Probation Service at end of period, March 2010 to March 2011, England and Wales
- Table 4.8** Offenders supervised by the Probation Service at end of period under court orders by offence group and sex, March 2010 to March 2011, England and Wales
- Table 4.9** Number of offenders supervised by the Probation Service at end of period under court orders by tier, March 2010 to March 2011, England and Wales
- Table 4.10** Offenders supervised by the Probation Service at 31 March 2011, by Trust, England and Wales
- Table 4.11** Percentage of terminations of court orders by reason, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales
- Table 4.12** Court reports written by the Probation Service by type of report and court, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales
- Table 4.13** Concordance between sentences proposed and sentences given, where a PSR was prepared, April 2010 to March 2011, England and Wales

Licence recalls

- Table 5.1a** Summary of licence recalls 1 January 1984 to 31 March 2011 and returns to custody by 30 June 2011, England and Wales
- Table 5.1** Summary of licence recalls to 31 March 2011 and returns to custody by 30 June 2011, England and Wales
- Table 5.2** Summary of number of offenders not returned to custody, England and Wales
- Table 5.3** Number of offenders recalled from determinate and indeterminate sentences, by custody status, England and Wales
- Table 5.4** Recalls from life and indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP) licence 1999-2010, England and Wales
- Table 5.5** Number of offenders recalled and not returned to custody by quarter, by Local Criminal Justice Board, England and Wales
- Table 5.6** Number of offenders recalled by March 31 2011 and not returned to custody by 30 June 2011, by Local Criminal Justice Board, England and Wales
- Table 5.7** Length of time between recall and return to custody for recalled offenders, April to June 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales
- Table 5.8** Length of time since recall for those not returned to custody, April to June 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales
- Table 5.9** Performance against timescales for licence recalls returned to custody by agency, January to March 2010 to January to March 2011, England and Wales
- Table 5.10** Performance against timescales for licence recalls returned to custody by agency, by Local Criminal Justice Board, by 30 June 2011, January to March 2011, England and Wales

Appendix A – Data sources and quality

The data presented in this publication are drawn from administrative IT systems. 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 shown in the tables. Where figures in the tables have been rounded to the nearest whole number, the rounded components do not always add to the totals, which are calculated and rounded independently.

Prison data – impact of data collection issues affecting the quarters July-September 2009, October-December 2009 and January-March 2010

In May 2009, the National Offender Management Service began the roll-out of a new case management system for prisons (Prison-NOMIS). During the phased roll-out, data collection issues emerged that affected the supply of data for statistical purposes from July 2009 to February 2010. Specifically, statistical information on sentence length and offence group is not available on any of our prison datasets for this period. The problems were successfully resolved in March 2010.

As a consequence, there are no breakdowns by sentence length or offence group for the third and fourth quarter of 2009 in any of the prison population, receptions or discharges tables.

In order to ensure the fullest possible set of data for 2010, sentence lengths have been estimated for those prisoners received or discharged before the problems were resolved. A small number of prison establishments are still using the old LIDS case management system; data for prisoners received or discharged from these prisons has been assumed to be unaffected.

For those prisoners received or discharged from prisons operating Prison-NOMIS, efforts were made to populate their record with the correct sentence length using other data extracts. For example, many prisoners discharged in January 2010 were originally received into prison prior to July 2009, so we were able to take their sentence length from unaffected datasets before the problems began. Similarly, the majority of those received in early 2010 were still in prison in March 2010 when the problems were resolved, so we were able to use the sentence length in the corrected prison population data.

Where it was not possible to populate a sentence length using other datasets, prisoners were allocated a sentence length band based on the number of days they spent in custody (taking account of early release schemes where relevant).

Offence groups have not been estimated for the first quarter of 2010, so prison receptions tables do not include this breakdown. Additionally, the number of Home Detention Curfew releases by sentence length band, and the average time served for those discharged from determinate sentences, have not been estimated so figures are not available for January – March 2010.

Licence recalls and returns to custody

Returned to custody – the figures for those returned to custody include people who have died or been deported by the UK Borders Agency as prior to 2007 this information was not collected separately. The information held centrally records whether or not recalled offenders are still wanted for return to custody but for those offenders no longer wanted for return to custody, information is not held on whether the recall was completed by actual return to custody or because the offender died or was deported.

Not returned to custody – this includes those offenders believed to be dead or living outside of the UK but who have not been confirmed as dead or deported.

Symbols used

..	not available
0	nil or less than half the final digit shown
-	not applicable
*	One or both of the comparison figures are less than 50
(p)	Provisional data

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