



Ministry of
JUSTICE

Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin

July to September 2011, England and
Wales

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

26 January 2012

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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

	31 December 2011	Percentage change 31 December 2010 to 31 December 2011
Prison population	86,172	4% ↑
Remand	12,174	3% ↑
Untried	8,316	5% ↑
Convicted unsentenced	3,858	1% ↑
Under sentence	72,880	4% ↑
Fine Defaulters	111	1% ↑
Less than or equal to 6 months	4,664	4% ↑
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,489	1% ↑
12 months to less than 4 years	21,329	5% ↑
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	24,901	4% ↑
Indeterminate sentences	13,825	3% ↑
Recalls	5,561	0% →
Non criminal	1,118	12% ↑
	July-September 2011	Percentage change July-September 2010 to 2011
Prison receptions		
First receptions	32,212	7% ↑
Remand - untried	15,041	12% ↑
Remand - convicted unsentenced	10,415	4% ↑
Under sentence	23,072	0% →
Fine Defaulters	294	-3% ↓
Less than or equal to 6 months	11,348	2% ↑
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,285	-3% ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	6,904	-1% ↓
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	2,056	-5% ↓
Indeterminate sentences	185	1% ↑
Prison discharges		
Determinate sentences	21,677	-2% ↓
Less than or equal to 6 months	9,525	-2% ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,062	-4% ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	7,530	-5% ↓
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	2,560	8% ↑
Indeterminate sentences	134	100% ↑
Indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP)	81	*
Life sentence	53	..
Average percentage of time served⁽¹⁾		
Determinate sentences	54%	-2 pp ↓
Less than or equal to 6 months	54%	-1 pp ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	47%	-1 pp ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	50%	-3 pp ↓
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	58%	-2 pp ↓
Probation starts		
All court orders	44,756	-5% ↓
All community sentences	32,386	-6% ↓
Community order	32,311	-5% ↓
Other sentences	12,565	-1% ↓
Suspended sentence order	12,404	-1% ↓
Pre release supervision	12,276	2% ↑
	30 September 2011	Percentage change Sept 2010 to Sept 2011
Persons supervised by the Probation Service	232,862	-2% ↓
All court orders	125,692	-7% ↓
All community sentences	86,410	-9% ↓
Community order	85,821	-8% ↓
All pre CJA orders	626	-69% ↓
Other sentences	42,413	-3% ↓
Deferred sentence	77	-32% ↓
Suspended sentence order	42,354	-3% ↓
All pre and post release supervision	108,446	4% ↑
Pre release supervision	69,622	1% ↑
Post release supervision	39,243	9% ↑
July - September 2011		
Licence recalls		
Recalled in latest quarter	4,353	
Not returned to custody by 31 December 2011	109	
Total not returned to custody by 31 December 2011	973	

1) Average percentage of time served includes time served on remand; change in percentages are given as percentage point change (pp).

Prison population

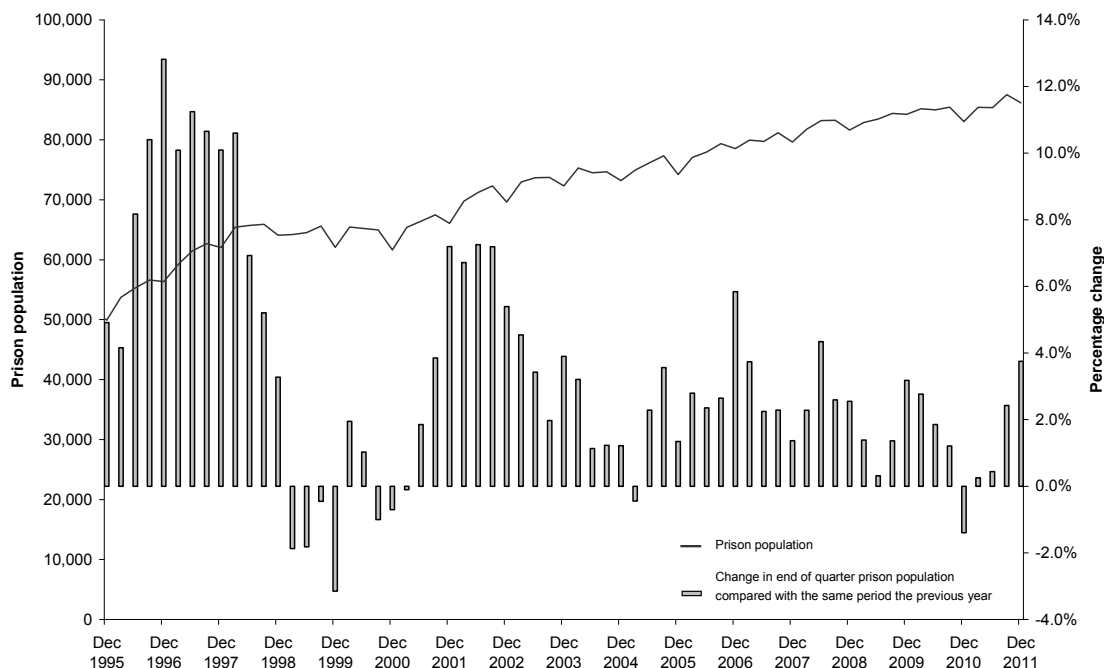
The prison population grew rapidly between 1993 to 2008 – an average of 4 per cent a year. This rapid rise was driven by:

- 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.

The rise in the prison population slowed considerably from the summer of 2008 with an average annual increase of 1 per cent (Figure 1.1), until the public disorder seen in UK cities from 6 to 9 August 2011 which had an immediate impact on the prison population. However, the rise in the population since then is not solely explained by the public disorder and further work is being carried out to try to identify the full range of reasons for the increase, with a focus on a change in case mix before the courts since late 2010 leading to more longer sentences.

The flatter trend prior to the disorder partly reflected 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](#). Additionally the remand population had been falling, partly because of the increased use of fast delivery pre-sentence reports.

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



The prison population at 31 December 2011 was 86,172, an increase of 3,117 (4 per cent) compared to 31 December 2010 when the total population was 83,055.

This increase includes the impact of the public disorder in UK cities from 6 to 9 August 2011 which resulted in immediate growth in the prison population by around 900 prisoners. Since then the number of prisoners held for public disorder related offences has stayed around 900.

At 31 December 2011, there were:

- 82,112 males in prison - a rise of 4 per cent over the year
- 4,060 females in prison - a rise of 1 per cent over the year

The overall increase in the total prison population over the last year (31 December 2010 to 31 December 2011) included increases across all segments of the prison population:

- The remand population rose by 390, or 3 per cent, between December 2010 and December 2011 from 11,784 to 12,174. This comprised a 5 per cent increase in the untried population to 8,316 and a 1 per cent rise in the convicted unsentenced population to 3,858. Much of this increase was due to the public disorder, as many of those charged with offences relating to the disorder were remanded in custody at initial court hearing awaiting either trial or sentencing. Within the total remand population, large increases were seen in the numbers on remand for burglary and theft and handling offences (up 9 and 15 per cent respectively), which can be largely attributed to the public disorder.

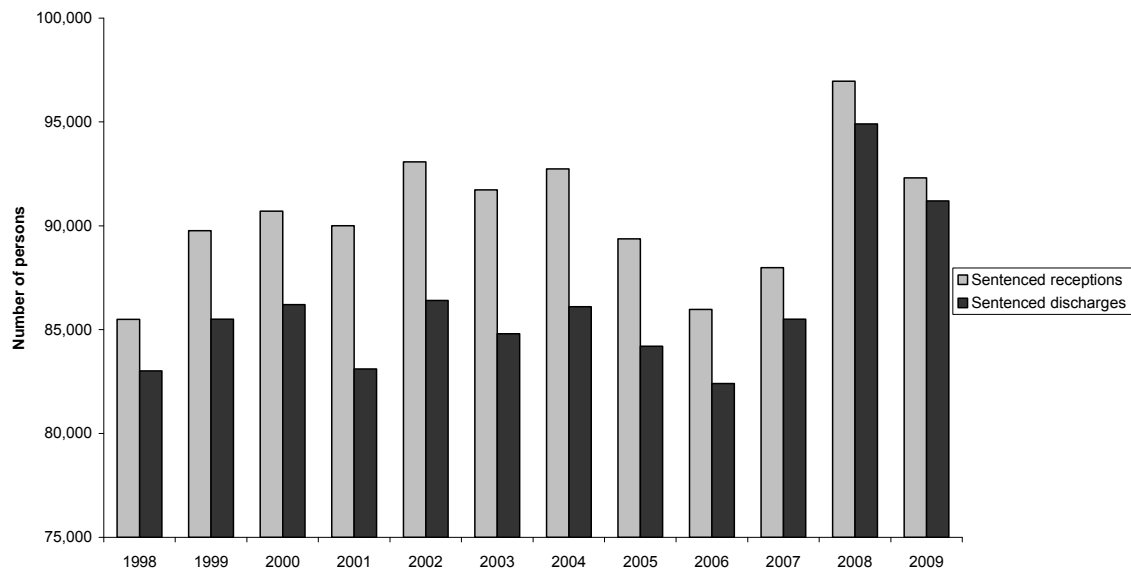
- The sentenced population rose by 2,603, or 4 per cent, from 70,277 in December 2010 to 72,880 in December 2011. There were increases across all the sentence length bands over the last year, with the greatest proportional increase coming from the 12 months to less than 4 years group (up 5 per cent from 20,258 to 21,329).
- The number of prisoners serving indeterminate sentences (either a life sentence or an indeterminate sentence for Public Protection – an IPP) rose 3 per cent to reach 13,825. Although the indeterminate sentenced population has continued to increase, the rate of year-on-year growth has slowed considerably following the changes introduced in the CJA 2008 which restricted the use of IPPs.
- Within the indeterminate sentenced population 45 per cent were serving an IPP (6,162) while 55 per cent were serving life sentences (7,663). Among those serving IPPs, most had a tariff length of 6 years or less (2,939 had a tariff length of 2 to 4 years, 1,289 had a tariff length of less than 2 years and 1,203, 4 to 6 years). A total of 3,489 IPP prisoners had passed their tariff expiry date. For those serving life sentences 4,097 had a tariff length of 10 to 20 years and a further 2,392 had a tariff length of less than 10 years. There were 41 offenders serving a whole life sentence as at 31 December 2011.
- The number of non-criminals in prison rose by 12 per cent to 1,118 in December 2011. Non-criminal prisoners are largely immigration detainees (97 per cent in both December 2011 and December 2010), and the increase partly reflects the opening of Morton Hall as a new Immigration Removal Centre in May 2011.

The foreign national prisoner population was 11,077 as at 31 December 2011, accounting for 13 per cent of the prison population (the same proportion as in recent quarters). This figure includes IRC's. When looking at the population excluding IRC's, 12% were foreign national prisoners.

An increasing proportion of sentenced prisoners are serving sentences for the most serious offences. As at 31 December 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 December 2011. There were also increases in the proportions serving sentences for burglary and theft and handling following the public disorder of 6th to 9th August 2011.

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. In the quarter ending September 2011 there were 32,212 first receptions into prison, 7 per cent higher than in the quarter ending September 2010, with increases for both males and females (up 7 per cent and 2 per cent respectively). This increase is due to an increase in the numbers entering prison on remand, much of which can be directly attributed to the impact of the public disorder of 6th to 9th August 2011. By the end of September 2011, around 1,900 suspects had appeared before the courts for offences related to the public disorder, with around 60% remanded in custody (where remand status was known).

The number of untried receptions – those remanded in custody awaiting trial – increased from 13,448 in the quarter ending September 2010 to 15,041 in the quarter ending September 2011, a rise of 12 per cent. The number of convicted unsentenced receptions – those remanded in custody awaiting sentence – also rose, up 4 per cent in the quarter ending September 2011 compared to the previous year. In both cases, much of the increase can be directly attributed to the public disorder of 6th to 9th August 2011.

There was little change in the number of prisoners received under sentence in the quarter ending September 2011 (23,072), compared to the quarter ending September 2010. The number of female sentenced receptions was down 3 per

cent, while there was a small increase for males (up 0.1 per cent). These figures show little impact of the public disorder because relatively few cases had been sentenced by the end of September 2011.

Prison discharges

In the quarter ending September 2011, a total of 21,677 offenders were discharged from determinate sentences, down 2 per cent from the quarter ending September 2010. Within this total, male discharges fell by 2 per cent and female discharges fell by 3 per cent. A further 81 offenders were discharged from an indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP) and 53 from a life sentence.

The numbers discharged from sentences of less than or equal 6 months, greater than 6 months to less than 12 months and 12 months to less than 4 years were down 2 per cent, 4 per cent and 5 per cent respectively. Discharges for sentences of 4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences) rose by 8 per cent.

Those discharged from determinate sentences in the quarter ending September 2011 had served on average 54 per cent of their sentence in custody (including time on remand). On average males serve a greater proportion of their sentence in custody – 54 per cent compared to 49 per cent for females in the quarter ending September 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 3,228 prisoners were released on HDC in the quarter ending September 2011, 2 per cent higher than in the quarter ending September 2010.

Prisoners released on HDC in the quarter ending September 2011 spent an average of 2.8 months on HDC, up 5 per cent from the quarter ending September 2010.

The increased use of HDC, in terms of both the number of releases and the average time on HDC, is at least partly due to the Supreme Court judgement in the case of *Noone* which ruled that HDC eligibility periods had been incorrectly calculated for some prisoners (depending on the exact mix of custodial sentences being served) and led to an instruction to prisons in August 2010 to recalculate HDC eligibility dates for affected prisoners.

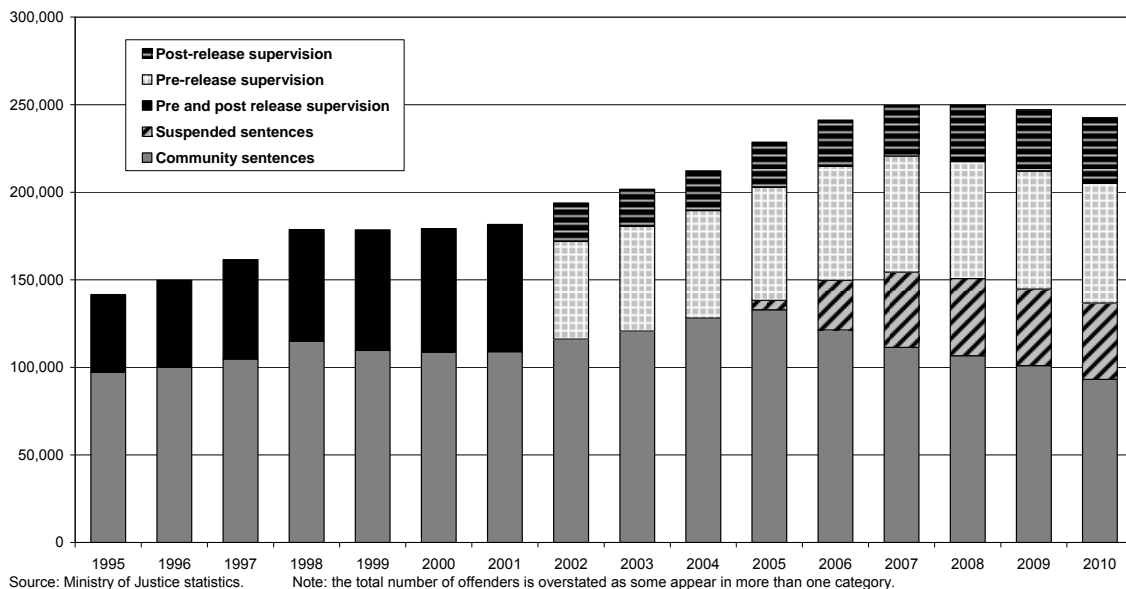
Probation

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 232,862. 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.

The number being supervised at the end of 2010 (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.

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



Looking at quarter on quarter changes, the court order caseload continued to decrease between the quarters ending September 2010 and September 2011, with the community order caseload down 8 per cent and the SSO caseload down 3 per cent. The number of offenders starting court orders also decreased 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 5 per cent between the quarter ending September 2010 and quarter ending September 2011. SSO starts fell by 1 per cent over this period.

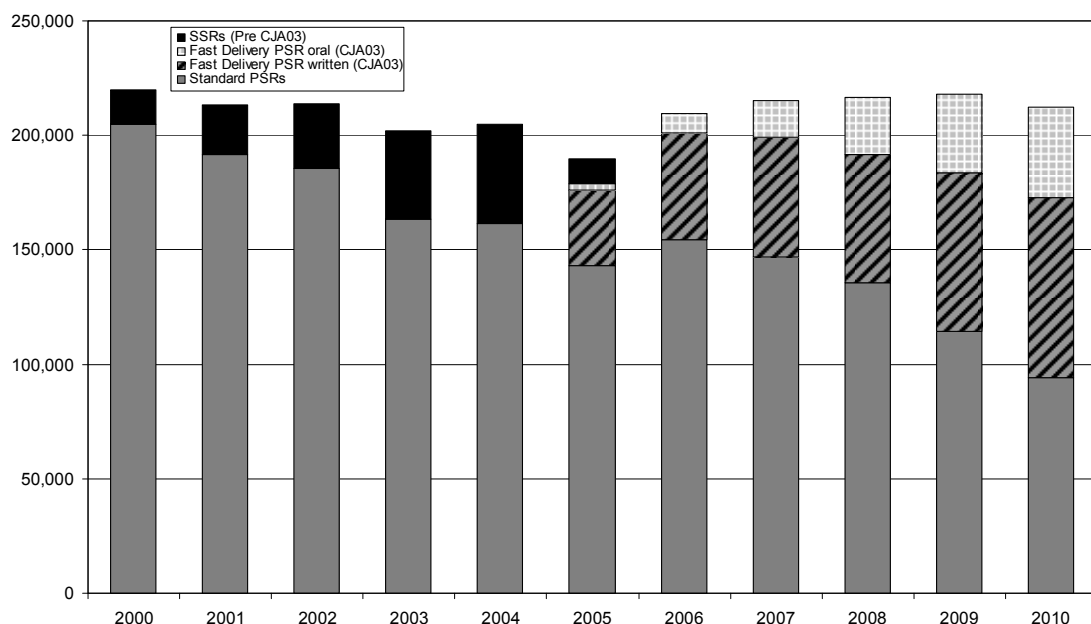
The caseload of offenders supervised before or after release from prison increased by 4 per cent between the quarter ending September 2010 and quarter ending September 2011, including a 9 per cent increase in the number supervised post release. Starts of pre release supervision rose by 2 per cent.

Of the 32,370 community orders terminated in the quarter ending September 2011, 66 per cent had run their full course or were terminated early for good progress, a slight increase from the quarter ending September 2010 (65 per cent). Sixty-seven per cent of SSOs had run their full course or were terminated early for good progress in the quarter ending September 2011, no change from the previous equivalent quarter.

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 56,209 court reports were prepared in the quarter ending September 2011, 3 per cent down on the quarter ending September 2010. The decrease was due to a 19 per cent fall in the number of Standard PSRs, while Fast delivery oral PSRs continued to rise, by 27 per cent.

Licence recalls

Of all offenders recalled to custody before 1 October 2011, 973 had not been returned to custody by 31st December. Of these, 119 had originally been serving a prison sentence for violence against the person offences and a further 34 for sexual offences.

During the quarter ending September 2011, a total of 4,353 offenders had their licence revoked and were recalled. By 31 December 2011, 4,244 of these recalled offenders had been returned to custody and 109 had not been returned to custody. A further 864 offenders who were recalled prior to 1 July 2011 had not been returned to custody by 31 December 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 30 September 2011, 3,329 (76 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

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

Bulletins from earlier related series are available at

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

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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. These 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.

Indeterminate sentences for public protection

Information relating to tariffs for IPP and DPP prisoners and those serving life sentences is held by the Offender Management and Public Protection Group, NOMS, in the Public Protection Database.

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
(r)	Revised data

Revisions policy

Figures for prison receptions and discharges for each of the first three quarters of the calendar year are generally revised in the October to December publication each year. Prison population, probation and licence recall figures are not routinely revised, but are corrected if an error is identified.

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