



Ministry
of Justice

Statistical Notice and Consultation – Part 2

Changes to Offender Management Statistics: quarterly and annual editions

24 July 2014

Introduction

At the start of this year a programme of work began to review each chapter of the Offender Management Statistics Quarterly (OMSQ) publication to ensure it continues to meet users' needs. As part of this, in April 2014, OMSQ was accompanied by the first in a series of statistical notice and consultation documents. This set out the rationale and approach for reviewing OMSQ, and then focussed on changes to the prison population tables. In particular, the April 2014 notice set out a series of proposed changes to the prison population tables for future editions of OMSQ, and committed to reviewing the receptions and releases tables in time for the July 2014 publication of OMSQ.

After finalising the changes to the prison population tables, and reviewing the receptions and releases tables, this statistical notice and consultation document has been published one week ahead of the corresponding edition of OMSQ. This is in order to pre-announce the publication of two sets of statistics in the scheduled publication on 31 July 2014 that were not originally planned to be part of this release. The two sets of additional statistics are:

1. Updated annual prison population tables; and
2. New quarterly statistics about prisoners released on temporary licence.

Further details on these statistics and the reasons for their release are given on the next page.

The publication on 31 July 2014 continues the work to re-organise the published statistical tables, this time focussing on the receptions and releases tables. This notice sets out how these tables will be re-organised so that statistics are provided more consistently throughout the publication, including both the annual and quarterly editions, and any new further breakdowns of published statistics that will be introduced. The intention remains not to make this a total reorganisation of the series, but rather a series of small changes so that information is presented more consistently throughout the publication.

To enable new statistics, further breakdowns, and a more consistent publication to be produced, those tables which do not contribute to providing a more informative set of statistics for our users will be discontinued. Any statistics or tables that have previously been published will only be discontinued as part of this programme of work after consulting with our users and announcing the discontinuation of these statistics in advance.

As stated above, specific changes that have been made in this edition of OMSQ have been documented below. Following this, potential future changes to OMSQ are set out. Users are therefore encouraged to contact Sapna Sanghvi at statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk with their feedback on this statistical series and these proposed future changes.

Comments are requested by **11 September 2014**.

The changes made resulting from these proposals will be documented in a similar notice to this alongside the next edition of OMSQ on 30 October 2014.

Changes made in the edition of OMSQ to be published on 31 July 2014

There will be no reduction in the statistical information published in the July 2014 edition of OMSQ. Two sets of statistics that are not further breakdowns of already published statistics are being pre-announced for publication. Other small changes are set out below that on their own would not necessitate pre-announcement – these focus on the prison receptions and releases tables which have been slightly re-organised after being reviewed. This section provides users with a guide of how to find previously published material that may have moved and highlights the additional information that is now being provided.

Updated annual prison population tables

This notice pre-announces to users that from July 2014, the annual prison population tables will now be published with the July edition of OMSQ. This will considerably improve the timeliness of the release of this data. All the changes proposed in April 2014 to the annual prison population tables will come into effect in this forthcoming release of the tables. Users can find a copy of these proposed changes at the link below:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/305743/omsq-statistical-notice-and-consultation-part1.pdf

The annual prison population tables report on the prison population as at June in each year. This is because the June data point is the most suitable for the long term comparisons for which these tables are intended – unlike other quarters there are no seasonal events such as Christmas and Easter which affect the prison population. Previously publishing the annual prison population tables with the April edition of OMSQ meant the prison population figures were presented as at June in the previous year, and so were nine months out of date at the time of the publication.

Publishing the annual prison population tables with the July edition of OMSQ offers significant benefits to users. Principally, timeliness of the release of the annual statistics will improve as they will now be published alongside the June quarterly update of the prison population figures, thereby eliminating the current nine month lag. As a result of this more timely release, and the work to harmonise the quarterly and annual tables, users will be able to directly compare between the most recent annual and quarterly tables for a complete unbroken time series without the need for an intermediary set of quarterly tables.

The April editions of OMSQ will continue to be accompanied by updated annual tables for all other chapters of OMSQ. This is because the April edition of OMSQ, for all chapters other than prison population, covers the quarter October to December in the previous year. This therefore means that data for the full calendar year is available and suitable for publication. These annual tables will continue to give full calendar year totals, containing longer time series with further breakdowns which are not provided in the quarterly publication. For completeness, the annual prison population tables published in the previous July will be republished in April alongside the annual tables for all other chapters.

Increased coverage on release on temporary licence

This notice also pre-announces to users our intention to publish, from July 2014, quarterly statistics on those prisoners released on temporary licence (ROTL). This will increase the frequency of the publication of these statistics from annual to quarterly, with more detailed breakdowns being produced. This is in response to a clear and sustained public interest in this topic. Publishing this information quarterly helps ensure that these statistics are equally available to all users.

On 10 March 2014, to support the announcement of the outcomes from the ROTL review conducted by the Ministry of Justice, an ad-hoc statistical release was published containing detailed statistics about those prisoners released on temporary licence in 2012. As announced in this ad-hoc statistical release, the annual edition of OMSQ published on 24 April 2014 re-instated the annual statistics on those prisoners released on temporary licence that had previously been suspended due to quality issues following the introduction of p-NOMIS in 2009. The quarterly statistics being pre-announced for publication update those annual statistics for the period January to March 2014, and provide further breakdowns. Those statistics intended for future quarterly publication from July 2014 are:

- Table 3.5: Total number of releases on temporary licence, broken down by gender, and type of licence
- Table 3.6: Total number of individual prisoners issued licences, broken down by gender, and type of sentence
- Table 3.7: Total number of recorded temporary release failures, broken down by gender, and type of sentence

Re-organisation of quarterly prison receptions and releases tables

There are only minor changes that will be made to the organisation of the prison receptions and releases tables in the July edition of OMSQ. Alongside some minor formatting changes, the principal changes are:

- In the receptions tables, the previously separate Tables 2.1a, 2.1b, and 2.1c, have now been collapsed into one table. The information is now found in Table 2.1.
- In the releases tables, the previously separate Tables 3.2a, 3.2b, and 3.2c, have now been collapsed into one table. The information is now found in Table 3.2.
- In the releases tables, Tables 3.5, 3.6, and 3.7, have been added to increase coverage about prisoners released on temporary licence as set out above.

Proposed changes for future editions of OMSQ

After reviewing the quarterly and annual prison receptions and releases tables, further changes beyond re-organising already published information have been identified. As these changes do not only comprise of releasing further breakdowns of already published information, but would result in the loss of some statistical information, this section sets out a series of proposals which users can consider and give their feedback on.

All of these proposed changes are subject to the feedback that users give – should there be sufficient user feedback to demonstrate ongoing demand for these tables in their current form, these changes will not take place.

Annexes A and B list all the tables produced as part of the receptions and releases tables respectively, including both the quarterly and annual tables. These Annexes also summarise the proposed changes which are explained in more detail below.

Prison receptions

There has been no evidence of demand from users to increase the coverage given to prisoner receptions. The proposals below therefore focus on user needs by re-organising existing content to make the quarterly and annual tables more accessible, and to discontinue material which is possibly redundant.

Quarterly statistics

No changes to content of the quarterly prison receptions tables are proposed. These tables should remain the same as published in the July edition of OMSQ.

Annual statistics

Reviewing the annual prison reception tables first identified that all quarterly tables have a corresponding annual table which provides the long run time series. Given this, and there being no evidence of demand from users to increase coverage on prisoner receptions, it is proposed not to introduce any further annual tables.

Four changes have been identified that support the work to make the publication more consistent and in line with user needs. It is proposed that these changes are introduced in the annual publication due in April 2015. The proposed changes are:

1. Collapse the previously separate Tables A2.1a, A2.1b, and A2.1c, into one table. Place all this information into a single expanded table, Table A2.1.

Some parts of the publication contain separate a, b, and c tables covering all prisoners, male prisoners, and female prisoners respectively. In recognition of the fact that users are unlikely to print published tables, to make the publication more consistent as a whole, and to make these annual tables consistent with the corresponding quarterly tables, it is proposed that these tables should be collapsed into one table.

2. Discontinue Table A2.3 on immediate custodial sentenced receptions into prison establishments by offence group, sentence length and sex.

The primary purpose of the annual edition of OMSQ is to provide users with longer time series and further breakdowns of the information included in the quarterly edition. This table is an exception to this as it provides a cross-tabulation on sentences given to received sentenced prisoners in a single year, and for that presented year, is a further breakdown of the information provided in the previous annual tables A2.1a, A2.1b, A2.1c, and A2.2b. Additionally, Table Q5.4 in the Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly¹ publication presents information on the number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody and their average custodial sentence length, by offence group. Making this change supports the ongoing work to make OMSQ more consistent as a whole, with annual tables seen as a depository for long run time series.

3. Remove the percentage breakdowns from Table A2.4 and present the actual counts only.

The ageing prison population continues to attract public interest. It is therefore proposed to continue the coverage of the age of those received under an immediate custodial sentence but to discontinue the separate percentage breakdowns that are also provided. OMSQ focuses on reporting the absolute numbers involved, and allows users to make their own choice about how they want to analyse this data. Making this change makes this table more consistent with the rest of the publication.

4. Discontinue Table A2.6 on receptions into prison establishments under an immediate custodial sentence by age group, sex and offence group.

It is proposed that the further breakdown provided in Table A2.6 is redundant to users. This information is a further breakdown of Table A2.2b which gives immediate custodial sentence receptions by gender and offence group without an age breakdown. Tables A1.2a, A1.2b, A1.2c, and A2.4 all give immediate custodial sentence receptions by age and gender. Making this change would support the work to reduce statistical material where there is no demand from users for it to be produced.

Prison releases

User demand for more information on those prisoners released on temporary licence has been addressed by the changes that this notice pre-announces. There has been no evidence of demand from users to further increase the coverage given to prisoner releases. The proposals below therefore focus on user needs by re-organising existing content to make the quarterly and annual tables more accessible, to improve consistency in the publication, and to discontinue material which is possibly redundant.

Quarterly statistics

Reviewing the quarterly prison releases tables identified three changes that would improve consistency with the rest of the publication, and support work to ensure that each quarterly table receives corresponding annual coverage. It is proposed that all three of these changes come into effect in the October edition of OMSQ.

¹ Users can find Table Q5.4 in the Sentencing Tables of the Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly publication here: www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/311459/5-sentencing-tables.xls

5. Expand Table 3.1 on releases from determinate and indeterminate sentences by gender to also give the age group breakdown of all ages, all adults, 18-20, and 15-17 for all prisoners, male prisoners and female prisoners.

The first table for both the population and receptions chapters provides breakdowns by age group for all, male, and female prisoners. To provide users with more consistent and complete coverage across the publication that will enable greater comparison between the inflow (receptions), stock (population), and outflow (releases) over a certain time period, it is proposed to expand Table 3.1 as set out above.

6. Change Table 3.3 on Home Detention Curfew (HDC) releases by sentence length, by:
 - a. Including quarterly, with the same gender splits, the information published annually in Table A3.5. This will be information on the HDC eligible population, the percentage of these released, and the population on HDC.
 - b. Reducing the further breakdown of “All cases less than twelve months” and only present; “Cases less than or equal to six months” and “Cases greater than 6 months to less than 12 months”. Continue presenting “Cases 12 months to less than four years”.
 - c. Expanding the above information in part a. on the HDC eligible population, and the percentage of those released, to include the sub-total breakdowns set out in part b.

The quarterly Table 3.3 and annual Table A3.5 on HDC releases do not currently provide users with the opportunity to compare timely quarterly statistics to a longer annual time series. The proposed change above seeks to create a better hybrid of these two tables, which results in publishing a more rounded picture of HDC releases in each quarter. To prevent the table becoming too cluttered, and to align the sentence lengths breakdowns used for HDC with those used throughout the rest of the publication, it is proposed to reduce the breakdown on those releases from sentences of less than twelve months from four sub-groups to two sub-groups.

7. Reduce from quarterly production, and produce only annually, Table 3.4 on the average time spent on Home Detention Curfew by sentence length.

Reducing the frequency of publication of Table 3.4 to annual enables the resources to be made available to produce quarterly the expanded Table 3.3 proposed in paragraph 6. This recognises that Table 3.3 provides the most informative coverage to users on HDC and that Table 3.4, whilst part of that coverage, is still sufficient when provided annually.

Annual statistics

Beyond the changes already set out to the quarterly tables, there is no evidence of demand from users to increase the coverage on prisoner releases. It is therefore proposed not to introduce any further annual tables.

Reviewing the annual releases tables found that much of the information provided quarterly corresponds to an annual table which gives a longer time series, but that the order in which this information was presented did not directly correspond to the order of the quarterly tables. The changes below therefore focus on re-arranging these annual statistics so that they better align with their quarterly counterparts and result in a set of tables where each quarterly table will have a corresponding longer

time series in an annual table. It is proposed that these changes are introduced in the annual publication due in April 2015. The proposed changes are:

8. Combine and present in one table, A3.1, the previously separate parts of Tables A3.1a to A3.3c on the number of determinate sentenced prisoners released including the age split of all ages, all adults, 18-20, and 15-17 for all prisoners, male prisoners and female prisoners.
9. Expand Table A3.1 to include information on indeterminate sentenced prisoner releases by including, for each category, the total releases, releases from an indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP), and releases from a life sentence.
10. Combine and present in one table, A3.2, the previously separate parts of Tables A3.1a, A3.2a, and A3.3a on the average sentence length and average time served for determinate sentenced prisoners covering all prisoners, male prisoners, and female prisoners.
11. Discontinue the separate coverage of adult and young offenders average sentence length and average time served for determinate sentenced prisoners in Tables A3.1b, A3.1c, A3.2b, A3.2c, A3.3b, and A3.3c.

Taken together, these four changes will harmonise the annual tables so that they present a long run time series for the corresponding quarterly tables, Tables 3.1 and 3.2. Discontinuing the annual production of statistics on time served for young offenders as set out in paragraph 11 makes available the required resources to publish quarterly the number of young offenders released from custody as set out in paragraph 5.

12. Expand Table A3.5 on Home Detention Curfew releases to include the sentence length breakdowns proposed in paragraph 6 for the HDC eligible population, the number released on HDC, and the percentage of those released.

Making this proposed change ensures that the annual Table A3.5 aligns with the proposed quarterly Table 3.3 as set out in paragraph 6. This means the annual table will contain the same breakdowns by sentence length as proposed to be used in the quarterly tables. This will be in addition to the current information provided.

13. Discontinue Tables A3.7, A3.8, and A3.9 on Home Detention Curfew releases by, respectively, offence group, age group, and ethnic group.

Currently no statistics are published on the offence group, age group, or ethnic group of prisoners released from either determinate or indeterminate sentences. Given that there has been no demand from users to introduce this coverage for determinate and indeterminate releases, it is proposed to discontinue such detailed coverage of releases on HDC. Making this change would support the work to review the OMSQ publication and ensure it is focussed on providing the most informative statistics to users.

14. Expand Tables A3.10, A3.11, and A3.12 on releases on temporary licence to include the gender and sentence type breakdown introduced in the new quarterly tables.

The new quarterly tables on releases on temporary licence cover the same topic areas as the current annual tables but provide further breakdowns, namely, by gender and sentence type. Making this change therefore aligns the annual tables to the quarterly tables so that they provide a corresponding long run time series.

Reviewing statistics on licence recalls and accompanying CSVs

In the next edition of OMSQ, tables and commentary on licence recalls will be fully reviewed. In addition to this, the CSV data files issued as part of the publication will be reviewed. User's views on the existing commentary, tables, and content are welcome. Proposals of changes to the tables and CSV data files will be set out in a document similar to this alongside the next edition of OMSQ on 30 October 2014. Should any immediate changes be made that necessitate pre-announcement in advance of the publication, the document will be released ahead of the publication.

Potential changes in other future editions of OMSQ

As part of the Government's Transforming Rehabilitation programme, Probation Trusts were replaced by Community Rehabilitation Companies and the National Probation Service on 1 June 2014. This will have an impact on all probation related statistics, in particular, on how to best to reflect the new organisational arrangements.

The next edition of OMSQ, due in October 2014, will report on the period April to June 2014. As this will cover the last two months of Probation Trusts and the first month of the new arrangements operating, the current intention is to publish 'transition' tables reporting headline results for affected tables in both the probation and licence recalls chapters. New tables will be introduced for the January 2015 edition of OMSQ which will report on July to September 2014, the first full period of these new arrangements.

As part of the review outlined above for licence recalls, proposals will be set out for new tables to accompany this chapter alongside the next edition of OMSQ on 30 October 2014. Proposals for the probation tables will be set out in due course, but ahead of the OMSQ publication in January 2015.

Annex A – Prison receptions

Following the work to better organise the quarterly and annual receptions tables, the tables previously published in the April 2014 edition of OMSQ have been renumbered. The changes are summarised below.

Quarterly tables

For the quarterly tables, 'Old Table' gives the number and description of the table published in April 2014, and 'New Table' gives the description of the table to be published in July 2014.

Old Table	New Table
Table 2.1a: Total receptions into prison establishments by type of custody, sentence length and age group	Table 2.1 (merges these three tables with no changes to the content)
Table 2.1b: Male receptions into prison establishments by type of custody, sentence length and age group	
Table 2.1c: Female receptions into prison establishments by type of custody, sentence length and age group	
Table 2.2a: Remand receptions into prison establishments by offence group and sex	Table 2.2a (no changes)
Table 2.2b: Immediate custodial sentenced receptions into prison establishments by offence group and sex	Table 2.2b (no changes)

Annual tables

For the annual tables, 'Old Table' gives the number and description of the table published in April 2014, and 'New Table' gives the new number and a brief summary of the proposed change to the table. Those changes which are taken forward will be introduced in April 2015 which is when the annual tables are next due for publication.

Old Table	New Table
Table A2.1a: Receptions into prison establishments by type of custody, sentence length, age group, 2003-2012	Table A2.1 (merges these three tables with no changes to the content)
Table A2.1b: Male receptions into prison establishments by type of custody, sentence length and age group, 2003-2012	
Table A2.1c: Female receptions into prison establishments by type of custody, sentence length and age group, 2003-2012	
Table A2.2a: Remand receptions into prison establishments by custody type, offence group and sex, 2003-2012	Table A2.2a (no changes)
Table A2.2b: Immediate Custodial Sentenced Receptions into prison establishments by offence group and sex, 2003-2012	Table A2.2b (no changes)
Table A2.3: Immediate custodial sentenced receptions into prison	Discontinued

establishments by offence group, sentence length and sex, 2012	
Table A2.4: Receptions into prison establishments under an immediate custodial sentence by age and sex, 2003-2012	Table A2.3 (percentage breakdowns discontinued)
Table A2.5: First receptions into prison establishments by type of first reception and sex, 2003-2012	Table A2.4 (no changes)
Table A2.6: Receptions into prison establishments under an immediate custodial sentence by age group, sex and offence group, 2003-2012	Discontinued

Annex B – Prison releases

Following work to better organise the quarterly and annual releases tables, the tables previously published in the April 2014 edition of OMSQ have been renumbered. The changes are summarised below.

Quarterly tables

For the quarterly tables, the ‘Old Table’ gives the number and description of the table published in April 2014, and ‘New Table’ gives the description of the table to be published in July 2014.

Old Table	New Table
Table 3.1: Releases from determinate and indeterminate sentences	Table 3.1 (no changes)
Table 3.2a: Time served in prison by prisoners released from determinate sentences	Table 3.2 (merges these three tables with no changes to the content)
Table 3.2b: Time served in prison by male prisoners released from determinate sentences	
Table 3.2c: Time served in prison by female prisoners released from determinate sentences	
Table 3.3: Home Detention Curfew releases by sentence length	Table 3.3 (changed as described in paragraph 6)
Table 3.4: Average time spent, in months, on Home Detention Curfew by sentence length	Reduced (only published annually)

Subject to these proposals being accepted, from the October edition of OMSQ onwards, tables will be renumbered and the new quarterly statistics on prisoners released on temporary licence will be found in Tables 3.4, 3.5, and 3.6.

Annual tables

For the annual tables, ‘Old Table’ gives the number and description of the table published in April 2014, and ‘New Table’ gives the new number and a brief summary of the proposed change to the table. Those changes which are taken forward will be introduced in April 2015 which is when the annual tables are next due for publication.

Old Table	New Table
Table A3.1a Sentence length and average time served in prison by prisoners released from determinate sentences on completion of sentence or on licence - All releases	Table A3.1 Table A3.2 (reorganises these tables as set out in paragraphs 8 to 11)
Table A3.1b As for Table A3.1a, for all adults	
Table A3.1c As for Table A3.1a, for all young offenders	

Table A3.2a As for Table A3.1a, for all male releases	
Table A3.2b As for Table A3.1a, for all male adult releases	
Table A3.2c As for Table A3.1a, for all male young offender releases	
Table A3.3a As for Table A3.1a, for all female releases	
Table A3.3b As for Table A3.1a, for all female adult releases	
Table A3.3c As for Table A3.1a, for all female young offender releases	
Table A3.4 Number of first indeterminate releases and average time served	Table A3.3 (no changes)
Table A3.5 Home Detention Curfew release and population figures by sex	Table A3.4 (expanded to match quarterly statistics)
Table A3.6 Home Detention Curfew recalls by reason	Table A3.6 (no changes)
Table A3.7 Home Detention Curfew release by offence group	Discontinued
Table A3.8 Home Detention Curfew release by age group	Discontinued
Table A3.9 Home Detention Curfew release by ethnic group	Discontinued
Table A3.10 Number of releases on temporary licence by type of licence	Table A3.7 Table A3.8 Table A3.9 (respectively, breakdowns expanded to match quarterly statistics)
Table A3.11 Number of individuals released on temporary licence	
Table A3.12 Number of temporary release failures	

Subject to these proposals being accepted, in particular paragraph 7 in the main body of this notice, users will find the previously quarterly statistics in Table 3.4, about the average time spent by prisoners on Home Detention Curfew, now only be published annually and included as Table A3.5 from April 2015 onwards.

Contacts

Press enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:

Tel: 020 3334 3536

Email: newsdesk@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Other enquiries, including feedback, about these statistics and associated changes should be directed to the Justice Statistics Analytical Services division of the Ministry of Justice:

Sapna Sanghvi
Statistician
Ministry of Justice
7th Floor
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ
Email: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

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