



Department
of Health

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) - Monthly Summary Statistics Quarter 2 2015-2016

(July - September 2015)

Key Findings

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) - Monthly Summary Statistics Quarter 2 2015-2016

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Health Charities

Contact details:

DoLSQ6Data@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Responsible Statistician: Rosemary Main

Supported by: Haydn Gill, Statistical Analyst

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Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) - Monthly Summary Statistics Quarter 2 2015-2016

Key Findings

Prepared by Department of Health

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Background Information

Since 2009, care homes and hospitals have had to seek authorisation from their Local Authority if they need to deprive an individual, who lacks capacity, of their liberty as part of their care and/or treatment.

The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) currently collects, and publishes, data from Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSR's or councils) on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) at case level on an annual basis¹.

Supreme Court judgements handed down on 19 March 2014 marked a significant change to established practice and have resulted in a substantial increase in the volume of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) applications received by councils. A voluntary quarterly data collection, covering the period 1st April 2014- 30th September 2015, was introduced to enable stakeholders to monitor the scale of the Supreme Court judgements' impact on councils in a timely manner. It also allows for changes in the number of DoLS applications to be quantified and evidenced.

In order to minimise the burden on councils, only nine data items are collected from each council: the number of DoLS applications, the number of applications granted, and the number not granted, for each of the three months in the quarter. However, councils are encouraged to revise data submitted for earlier quarters should they wish.

This release presents statistics from Quarter 6 of the collection, the final quarter, covering 1st July 2015 to 30th September 2015. The figures for 1st January 2015 to 30th June 2015 have also been revised. The data shows the position on 14th October 2015, when the returns were submitted. Published reports for previous quarters can be found on the HSCIC's website.

¹ 2014-15 statistics were published by HSCIC on 29th September 2015 and can be found at <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB18577>

Key Facts

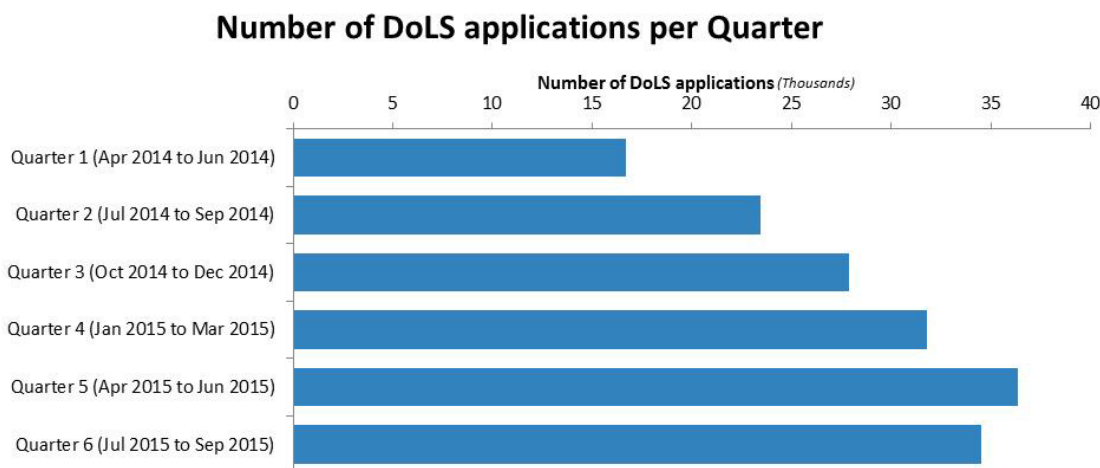
- In Quarter 2 2015/16 there were 40,200 DoLS applications received by the 123 Local Authorities who returned data for the Quarter 6 collection period, a response rate of 81%
- The total number of applications received in Quarter 6 is 9% lower than in Quarter 5 (44,000 applications).
- Of these applications, 10,200 (25%) were granted and 3,600 (9%) were not granted, with the remaining 26,400 (66%) applications not signed off or withdrawn.
- The number of applications in July was 14,800, in August, 12,200, and in September, 13,100.
- During Quarter 2 2015/16 there were 112 applications per 100,000 adult population. The number of applications per 100,000 in July was 41, in August 34, and in September 37.
- For the 101 councils which have submitted data for **all six quarters**, 34,500 applications in Quarter 2 2015/16 were received.
- Of these, 25% (8,700) were granted, 9% (3,000) were not granted, and 66% (22,700) were not signed off or withdrawn.

Councils which have submitted data for all six quarters

101 councils out of 152 have submitted data for all six quarters of the DoLS Quarterly collection.

For these 101 councils, 34,500 applications were received for Quarter 6, a 9% reduction in applications compared to Quarter 5. Figure 1 highlights that the reduction seen this quarter is the first since the Supreme Court's judgements in March 2014.

Figure 1: Number of applications per quarter for the 101 councils that submitted data for all six quarters (1 April 2014 to 30 September 2015)

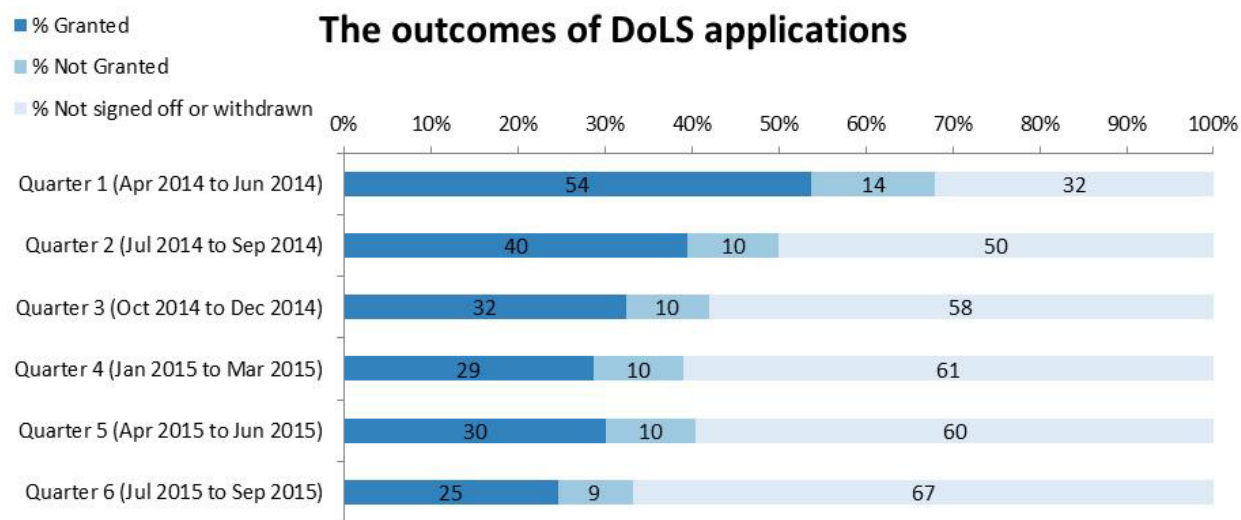


Source: DoLS Quarterly Collection 2014-15 and 2015-16

1. Based on 101 councils who submitted data for all six quarters

Figure 2 shows that 25% of applications received in Quarter 6 have been granted with a further 9% not granted and 67% not signed off or withdrawn. Applications which are not signed off are either undergoing assessments or pending the supervising body (Local Authority) to sign off the DoLS application. Applications are withdrawn if they are no longer applicable, usually after a change in circumstances.

Figure 2: Application outcome for the 101 councils that submitted data for all six quarters (1 April 2014 – 30 September 2015)

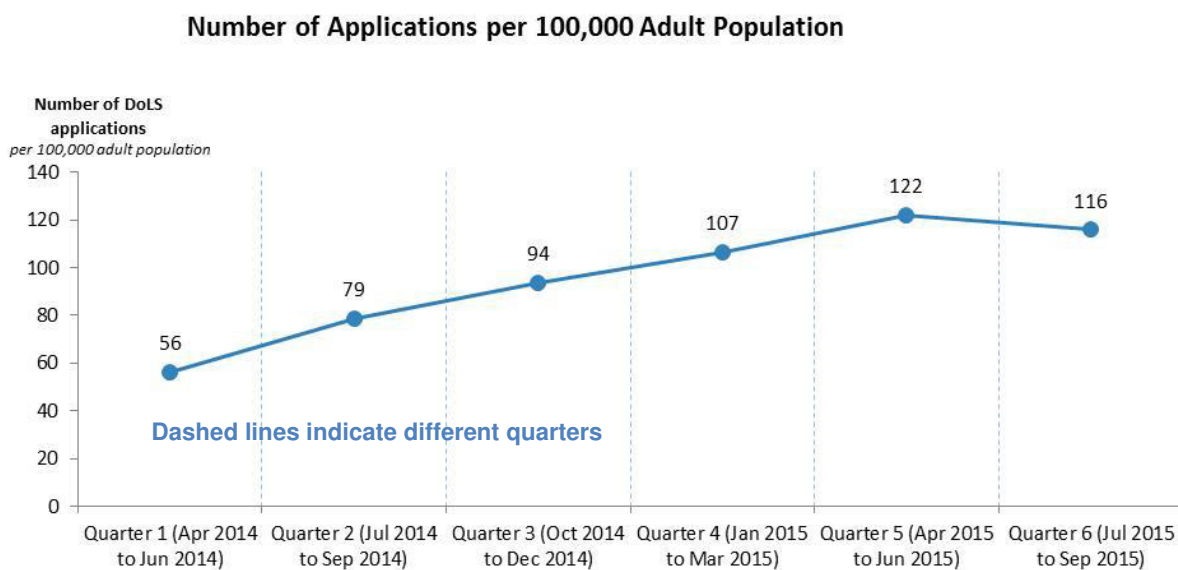


Source: DoLS Quarterly Collection 2014-15 and 2015-16

1. Based on 101 councils who submitted data for all six quarters
2. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Figure 3 shows that for those councils who have completed all 6 quarters data, the rate of DoLS applications per 100,000 adult population has increased for the first 5 quarters, but fell slightly in Quarter 6. Local authority level data is available in the accompanying data file.

Figure 3: Number of applications each quarter per 100,000 population for the 101 councils that submitted data for all six quarters (1 April 2014 – 30 September 2015)



Source: DoLS Quarterly Collection 2015-16
Population Data: ONS Mid-year Population Estimates 2014

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Table 1: Number of applications and outcome by quarter for 101 councils that submitted data for all six quarters (1 April 2014 to 30 September)

Quarter	Apps	Granted	% Granted	Not Granted	% Not Granted	Not Signed Off or Withdrawn	% Not Signed Off or Withdrawn	% Granted (excluding Not signed Off or Withdrawn)	% Not Granted (excluding Not signed Off or Withdrawn)
Quarter 1	16,700	9,600	54	2,500	14	4,600	32	79	21
Quarter 2	23,400	9,600	40	2,600	10	11,200	50	79	21
Quarter 3	27,900	9,300	32	2,800	10	15,800	58	77	23
Quarter 4	31,800	9,400	29	3,700	10	18,700	61	74	26
Quarter 5	36,300	11,300	30	3,900	10	21,100	60	75	25
Quarter 6	34,500	8,700	25	3,100	9	22,700	67	74	26
Total	170,600	57,900	34	18,600	11	94,100	55	76	24

Data source: DoLS Quarterly collection 2014-15 and 2015-16

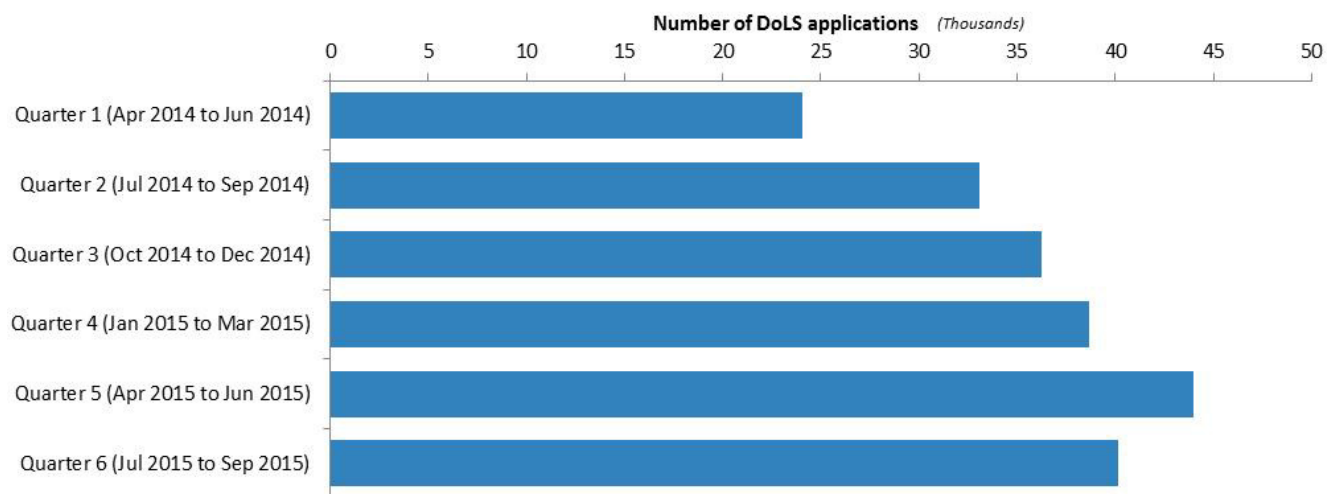
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

All Councils which have submitted data

Figures 4 and 5 show a similar picture to Figures 1 and 2; however these graphs include councils who have submitted data for some quarters but not all. There are similar proportions of applications granted and not granted, 25% and 9% respectively. In Quarter 6, 66% of DoLS applications were not signed off or withdrawn.

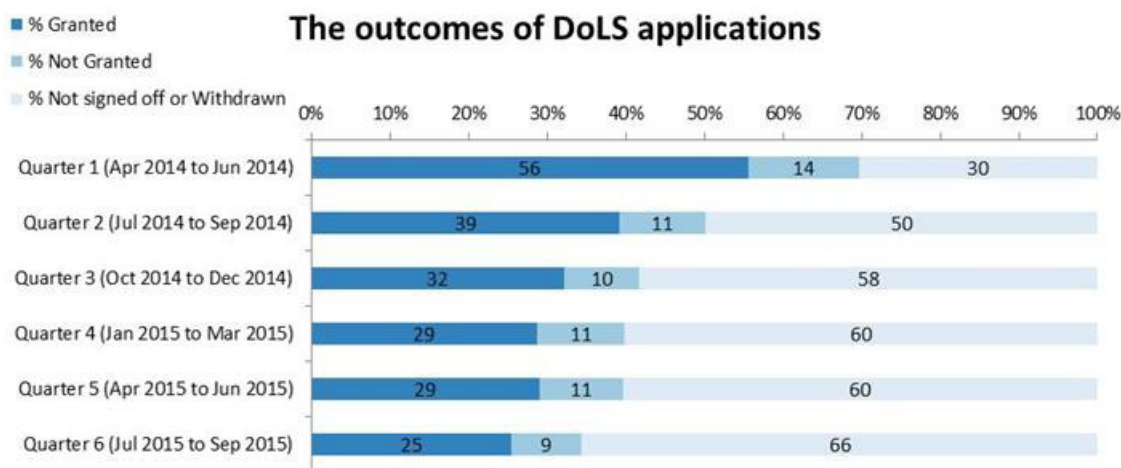
Figure 4: Number of applications per quarter for all councils submitting data for any quarter for April 2014 to September 2015

Number of DoLS applications per Quarter



Source: DoLS Quarterly Collection 2014-15 and 2015-16
 Not all councils submitted data for all quarters. Response rates range from 144 to 122 per Quarter

Figure 5: Application outcome for all councils submitting data for any quarter for April 2014 to September 2015

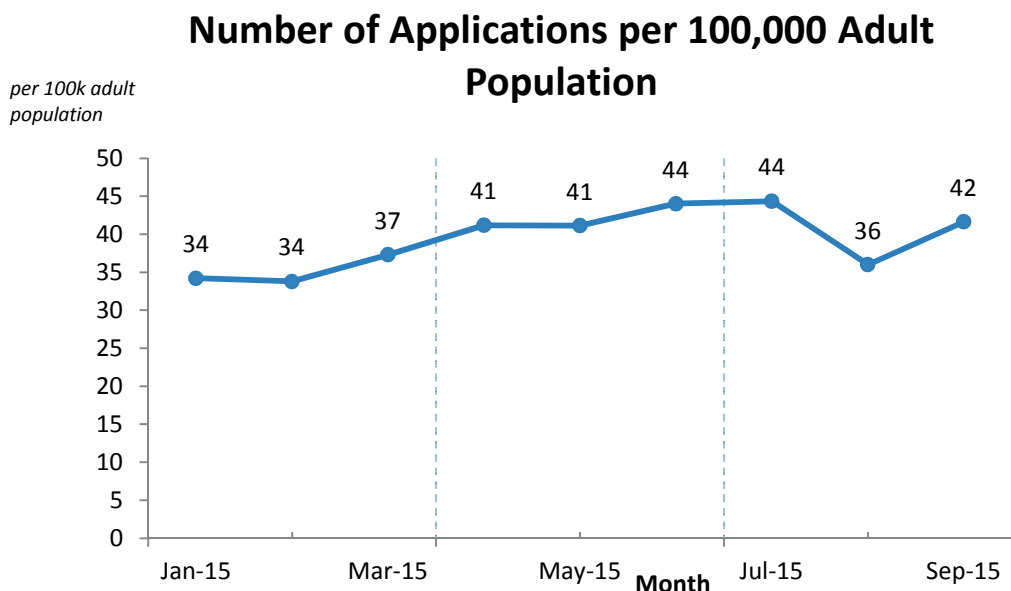


Source: DoLS Quarterly Collection 2014-15 and 2015-16
 1. Not all councils submitted data for all quarters. Response rates range from 144 to 122 per Quarter

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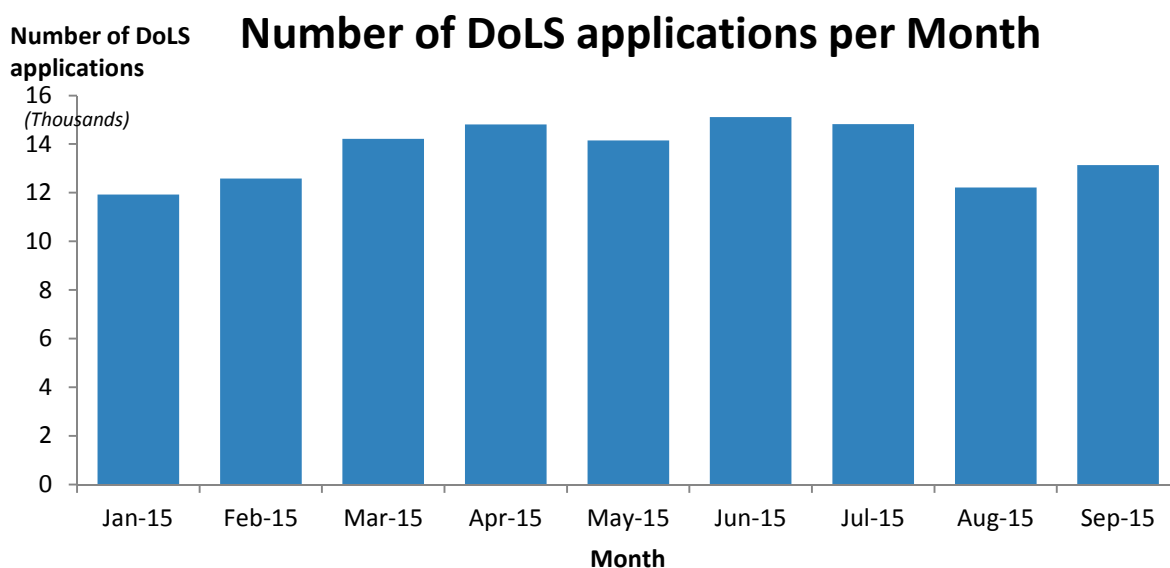
Figure 6 shows that the monthly number of applications per 100,000 fell in August 2015, before rising back to 42 applications per 100,000 population in September 2015. Figure 7 shows a similar reduction in applications in August 2015.

Figure 6: Number of applications each month per 100,000 population for all councils who submitted data in January 2015 – September 2015



Source: DoLS Quarterly Collection 2015-16
 Population Data: ONS Mid-year Population Estimates 2014
 Application rate per population based on populations of councils which submitted in each month

Figure 7: Number of applications each month for all councils who submitted data in January 2015 – September 2015



Source: DoLS Quarterly Collection 2015-16
 Population Data: ONS Mid-year Population Estimates 2014

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Table 2: Number of applications and outcome by quarter for all councils who submitted data for at least 1 month in April 2014 – September 2015

Quarter	Apps	Granted	% <i>Granted</i>	Not Granted	% <i>Not Granted</i>	Not Signed Off or Withdrawn	% <i>Not Signed Off or Withdrawn</i>	% <i>Granted (excluding Not signed Off or Withdrawn)</i>	% <i>Not Granted (excluding Not signed Off or Withdrawn)</i>
Quarter 1	24,000	13,400	56	3,400	14	7,200	30	80	20
Quarter 2	33,100	13,000	39	3,600	11	16,500	50	78	22
Quarter 3	36,300	11,600	32	3,500	10	21,200	58	77	23
Quarter 4	38,700	11,100	29	4,300	11	23,300	60	72	28
Quarter 5	44,000	12,700	29	4,700	11	26,600	60	73	27
Quarter 6	40,200	10,200	25	3,600	9	26,400	66	74	26
Total	216,300	72,000	33	23,100	11	121,200	56	76	24

Data Quality

Relevance

The purpose of this voluntary, quarterly collection is to enable stakeholders to monitor the scale of the Supreme Court judgements' impact on councils in a timely manner, and enable any change in the number of DoLS applications to be quantified and evidenced.

The background information, key facts and data files contain the following types of information about DoLS from participating councils in England:

- Background to the DoLS quarterly return
- The number of DoLS applications and outcomes per quarter in Quarters 1 to 6, by local authority
- The number of DoLS applications per month in January 2015 to September 2015 by local authority
- The rate of DoLS applications and outcomes per 100,000 adult population per quarter for Quarter 1 to 6 and rate of applications per 100,000 adult population per month for January 2015 to September 2015, by local authority
- The number of DoLS applications and outcomes per quarter in Quarters 1 to 6, by local authority for all 101 councils which submitted data for all six quarters
- The percentage of participating councils by region for each quarter
- The percentage of participating councils by Local Authority type for each quarter

Information in this publication will be of interest to organisations monitoring DoLS applications in England, such as the Department of Health, the Care Quality Commission, hospitals and care homes. It may also be useful to mental health charities, individuals being deprived of their liberty and their families who are interested in more information about DoLS and the extent of its use.

Accuracy and reliability

Steps to ensure accuracy

Data are submitted to DH via a secure inbox. Once collected, each data file was validated to ensure the number of applications did not exceed the number of applications granted and not granted for each month. Any anomalies were followed up by contacting the relevant LA.

England Coverage

The DoLS quarterly collection is a voluntary data return, all 152 CASSR's in England are invited to submit returns. Councils are encouraged to revise the data submitted for previous quarters during each submission period, to take account of any changes in the data since the original submissions. 124 councils submitted a return for Quarter 6. However, different Local Authorities have adopted different practices to updating information from previous quarters. As a result, limited analysis has been carried out relating to how the proportion of applications being granted and not granted has changed over the period of the collection.

Timeliness and punctuality

This publication contains data for all quarters in the 2014-15 reporting year, and Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 which cover the periods 1st April to 30th June 2015 and 1st July to 30th September respectively. This statement was published on the 3rd of November.

Table 3 below shows the Report period, Collection period and Publication dates for all quarters of the DoLS quarterly collection:

Table 3

Collection		Report Period	Collection Period	Publication date
HSCIC	Quarter 1	1 st April – 30 th June 2014	1 st – 12 th September 2014	2 nd October 2014
	Quarter 2	1 st July – 30 th September 2014	1 st – 14 th October 2014	5 th November 2014
	Quarter 3	1 st October – 31 st December 2014	5 th -16 th January 2015	3 rd February 2015
	Quarter 4	1 st January – 31 st March 2015	1 st – 17 th April 2015	12 th May 2015
	Quarter 5	1 st April – 30 th June 2015	1 st – 14 th July 2015	4 th August 2015
DH	Quarter 6	1 st July – 30 th September 2015	1 st – 14 th October 2015	3 rd November 2015

Collection of Quarter 6 data opened on 1st October 2015 and remained open for two weeks. Councils could submit Quarter 6 data and submit or amend Quarter 5 and/or Quarter 4 data during this time. The collection closed on 14th October 2015, with no submissions being accepted after this date.

The statement was published on the planned date and is therefore deemed to be punctual.

Accessibility and clarity

Accessibility

The background information and key facts are available from the Gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/deprivation-of-liberty-safeguards-dols-monthly-summary-statistics-201516-quarter-2>

Annex A (data file) is also available as an excel file, along with a .csv file of the data

Coherence and comparability

Coherence

Data has been taken from the Mental Capacity Act 2005, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards – Monthly Summary Statistics Quarter 1 2015-16. These statistics gathered the same data as collected in this report, and was used to add historical comparison data.

The numbers in the Quarter 5 publication were correct as of 14th July, so numbers vary slightly to those reported in the Quarter 6 collection, as some LAs have provided updated figures for previous quarters.

Comparability

Following the collection of Quarter 6 data, comparisons have been made with previous quarters' data. Data in this report is more up to date than previous reports as amendments were made in the October collection period.

Here are the links to previous reports:

Quarter 1 report published on 2nd October 2014 - <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/dols1415q1>

Quarter 2 report published on 5th November 2014 - <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/dols1415q2>

Quarter 3 report published on 3rd February 2015 - <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/dols1415q3>

Quarter 4 report published on 12th May 2015 - <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/dols1415q4>

Quarter 5 report published on 4th August 2015 - <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/dols1516q1>

Information on the number of DoLS applications per 100,000 adult population by month was based on the total population for the submitted councils, as opposed to the total England population, which was used in the Quarter 1 14/15 and Quarter 2 14/15 publications.

Performance, cost and respondent burden

Submission of quarterly DoLS data is voluntary for all 152 councils in England.

Councils are asked to record summary figures about applications for each month within the quarter and any updates to figures for applications in previous quarters, this was then submitted to the Department of Health via a secure inbox.

Confidentiality, transparency and security

All statistics are subject to a standard DH risk assessment prior to issue. The risk assessment considers the sensitivity of the data and whether reporting products might disclose information about specific individuals. Methods of disclosure control are discussed and the most appropriate methods implemented.

DH aims to be transparent in all its activities. Any issues with the quality of the quarterly DoLS data are documented in the Accuracy and reliability section of this document.

The DoLS data is returned to DH through a secure inbox. The data is then downloaded to a secure folder on the DH filesystem. A minimum of analysts can access the secure folder.

DH National Statistics are required to comply with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#), while DH Official statistics follow the Code as best practice.

Our compliance arrangements with the Code and the [Pre-release Access to Official Statistics Order 2008](#) have been updated in partnership with NHS England.