



Serious Further Offences

Introduction

This bulletin provides management information on the total number of Serious Further Offences (SFOs) as collected from the SFO Review Process. This is an update to the information that was published in an annex to the proven reoffending publication published on 25 October 2018 and covered the period up to 2016/17.

Since 1 December 2008, an SFO review will be triggered when an offender is charged with an offence listed in Schedule 15a to the Criminal Justice Act 2003, alleged to have been committed within the probation supervision period or within 28 working days of the supervision period terminating.

Mandatory SFO reviews are triggered in the following circumstances:

- Any eligible offender who has been charged with one of the most serious SFOs – murder, manslaughter, other offence causing death, rape, assault by penetration or a sexual offence against a child under 13 years (including attempted offences); and,
- Any eligible offender who has been charged with another offence on the SFO list and is or has been assessed as high/very high risk of serious harm during their current supervision period or has not been subject to a risk assessment during that period.

A review may be carried out on a discretionary basis in the following circumstances:

- Any eligible offender who has been charged with an offence, irrespective of whether that offence is a qualifying offence, and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and the supervising probation provider have identified public-interest reasons for conducting a review.

The SFO procedures require a notification when an offender is charged and first appears in court for a qualifying offence. The National Probation Service (NPS) or Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) who supervised the offender complete an internal management report, known as an SFO review. Not all notifications result in a review, if the charges are dropped/discontinued or if the offender is acquitted prior to its completion. Not all charges for an SFO will result in a conviction. In any year, in about 50% of cases either the charge is dropped, or the offender is acquitted; or the offender is convicted of a less serious offence.

Users should refer to the ['2012 Compendium of Reoffending Statistics and Analysis'](#) for further definitions of the terms used in this annex, and for commentary to help interpret these.

Results

This release includes for the first time the number of SFO notifications triggered and reviews undertaken in each year, providing users with a broader range of SFO related statistics.

Furthermore, table 1 now includes a split by CRC and NPS, while tables 1 and 2 identify in brackets the number of Offender Rehabilitation Act¹ (ORA) related SFOs.

Care must be taken when interpreting the figures in 2016/17 and 2017/18, as a number of cases where offenders have been charged with a qualifying SFO have not concluded their course through the judicial system.

Table 1 provides the numbers of SFO notifications (charges) received under the Probation SFO Review Process between 2014/15 and 2017/18, and the numbers of these notifications that resulted in SFO reviews and convictions for a serious further offence up to 15 September 2019. Some offenders are eventually convicted of offences lesser than the offences with which they were charged and which triggered the SFO notification.

Table 1: SFO notifications received between 2014/15 and 2017/18 and resulting reviews and SFO convictions up to 15 September 2019 by CRC/NPS for England and Wales

Year	Number of Notifications Received			Number of Reviews Received			Total Number of SFO Convictions		
	NPS (ORA)	CRC (ORA)	Total (ORA)	NPS (ORA)	CRC (ORA)	Total (ORA)	NPS (ORA)	CRC (ORA)	Total (ORA)
2014-15	332 (1)	145 (2)	477 (3)	289 (1)	135 (1)	424 (2)	178 (1)	75 (1)	253 (2)
2015-16	319 (35)	240 (27)	559 (62)	271 (29)	219 (24)	490 (53)	170 (15)	113 (17)	283 (32)
2016-17	385 (90)	300 (72)	685 (162)	329 (75)	264 (66)	593 (141)	193 (40)	137 (33)	330 (73)
2017-18	394 (76)	285 (68)	680 ² (144)	321 (59)	247 (57)	569 ² (116)	152 (30)	128 (31)	281 ² (61)

Table notes:

1. The data provided are provisional figures subject to change when any outstanding cases are concluded at court.
2. The data also include cases where the offender committed suicide or died prior to any trial, where a Court has subsequently ruled that they were responsible.
3. 2014-15. Transforming Rehabilitation (TR) occurred in June 2014. The cases that were previously Probation Trust cases prior to TR have been included in NPS data.
4. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with all large-scale recording systems, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

¹ Under the Offender Rehabilitation Act (ORA) 2014 offenders serving short prison sentences are now released on licence and a period of post sentence supervision. Offences which would not have previously been counted as offenders were not subject to probation supervision now come in to scope and are counted as SFOs.

² One case from 2017-18 was released on temporary licence (RoTL) at the time of the SFO, so the prison completed the review and the case was not assigned to NPS or CRC.

Figure 1: SFO Convictions up to 15 September 2019 by year of notification for England and Wales

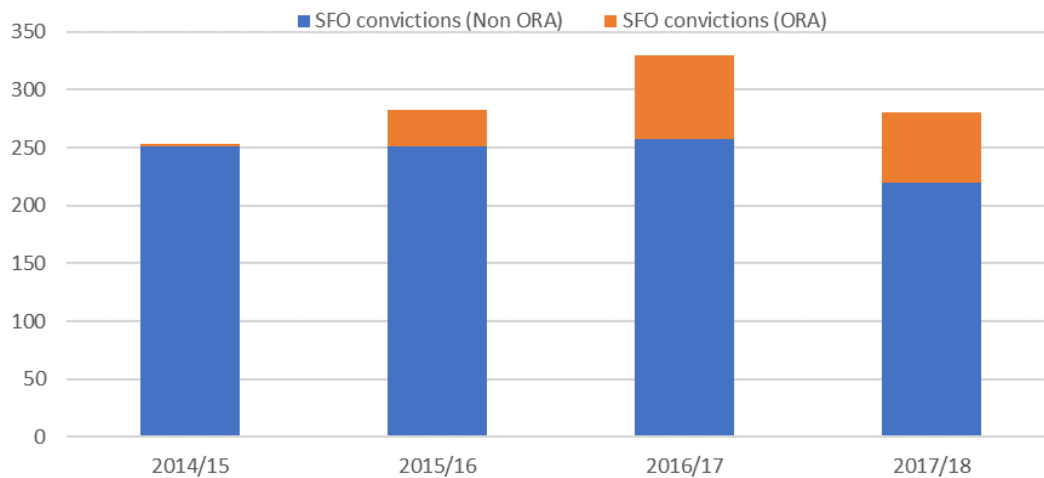


Table 2: SFO convictions up to 15 September by year of notification and type of conviction offence for England and Wales

Type of Offence	2013/14	2014/15 (ORA)	2015/16 (ORA)	2016/17 ³ (ORA)	2017/18 ³ (ORA)
Murder	59	44 (1)	39 (6)	52 (12)	68 (15)
Attempted murder or Conspiracy to commit murder	15	14	21 (6)	15 (5)	17 (4)
Manslaughter	23	12 (1)	15 (1)	33 (11)	26 (4)
Rape /Assault by penetration /Assault by penetration of a child under 13 /Attempted rape /Rape of a child under 13	79	89	99 (12)	112 (23)	78 (17)
Arson with intent to endanger life	10	9	12	8 (5)	13 (3)
Kidnapping /Abduction/False imprisonment	19	21	8 (3)	21 (2)	18 (5)
Causing death by dangerous driving / careless driving where drugs or alcohol were involved / aggravated vehicle taking	8	5	9	6 (1)	11 (3)
Other serious sexual or violent offences ⁴	61	59	80 (4)	83 (14)	50 (10)
All SFO convictions	274	253 (2)	283 (32)	330 (73)	281⁵ (61)
Offences which did not meet the SFO criteria ⁶	72	85	79 (9)	116 (31)	106 (23)
All Convictions	346	338 (2)	362 (41)	446 (104)	387⁵ (84)

³ Provisional figures subject to change as outstanding cases are completed.

⁴ Any other serious violent or sexual offence which carries a maximum custodial penalty of more than 10 years.

⁵ One case from 2017-18 was released on temporary Licence (RoTL) at the time of the SFO, so the prison completed the review and the case was not assigned to NPS or CRC.

⁶ Offenders who had been charged with an offence which met the SFO criteria, but were convicted of a less serious offence.

Table 3. Number of SFO notifications and convictions for offenders supervised on an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) or life sentence at the time of the SFO

Year of Notification	Notifications		Convictions (by 15 September 2019)	
	IPP sentenced offenders	Life sentenced offenders	IPP sentenced offenders	Life sentenced offenders
2013-14	11	10	4	7
2014-15	10	9	7	5
2015-16	16	9	9	6
2016-17	18	8	7	6
2017-18	22	24	5	12

Table notes:

1. The data provided are provisional figures subject to change when any outstanding cases are concluded at court.
2. The data also includes cases where the offender committed suicide or died prior to any trial, where a Court has subsequently ruled that they were responsible.

Further information

Contact

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