



Ministry of  
**JUSTICE**

# Statistical notice and consultation response

## Criminal Justice Statistics: August 2020

The COVID19 pandemic has caused MoJ to have to change its data gathering, access and release practices, focusing efforts on priority analysis and statistics. Our [statement](#) (explains this further and in particular, we are limiting access to the Police National Computer, to minimise non-essential travel by our analysts. In line with [guidance](#) from the Office for Statistics Regulation, the decision has been made to delay the offending histories chapter of this publication.

Published 20 August 2020

## Consultation response

### Offending Histories data

1. The offending histories chapter is published quarterly in the Criminal Justice Statistics, presenting key statistics on offending histories.
2. In February users were consulted on our proposal to **publish the offending histories chapter on an annual basis, rather than the current quarterly updates (Annex A)**.
3. We would like to thank all those who took the time to submit a response to the publication. We received seven responses to the consultation, all of which were related to youth justice.
4. Three of the respondents were positive about the changes being proposed. They thought that annual figures would be sufficient for their needs, particularly for smaller geographical areas where small numbers often mean that quarterly data is not useful. Respondents also mentioned that criminal histories data was very similar to the data held locally and so was not needed.
5. The other four respondents were concerned about the proposed changes and the impact it would have on their workloads. In particular they cited the importance of the First Time Entrants (FTE) data. FTE data is used as a national indicator to estimate whether court activity is likely to increase and the ensuing impact on community and custodial sentences. FTE data is analysed alongside a range of other data to assess the performance of Youth Justice Services and this informs decisions on whether services require support from the Youth Justice Board.
6. Following the official consultation further discussions were held with some of these respondents to seek a solution that would provide best value to all users.
7. As a result of these discussions, it has been decided that the full criminal histories chapter will be published annually in May each year. Additionally, the FTE tool will be published quarterly to support the continued use of this data as a performance measure.

8. The COVID19 pandemic has caused MoJ to have to change its data gathering, access and release practices, focusing efforts on priority analysis and statistics. Our [statement](#) (explains this further and in particular, we are limiting access to the Police National Computer, to minimise non-essential travel by our analysts. In line with [guidance](#) from the Office for Statistics Regulation, the decision has been made to delay the offending histories content of this publication, which would have now have consisted of FTE entrant data to June 2020
  
9. Data will now be published as follows:
  - Criminal Histories to December 2019 will be published on 12 November 2020
  - FTE data to March 2020 will be published on 12 November 2020
  - FTE data to June 2020 will be published on 12 November 2020
  - FTE data to September 2020 will be published on 18 February 2021
  - Criminal Histories to December 2020 including FTE data to December 2020 will be published on 20 May 2021

## Contact details and further information

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

Tel: 020 3334 3536

Email: [newsdesk@justice.gov.uk](mailto:newsdesk@justice.gov.uk)

Other queries or comments should be directed to the PNC and criminal histories statistics team:

Chandni Lakhani

Head of PNC and criminal histories team

Ministry of Justice

Email: [CJS\\_Statistics@justice.gov.uk](mailto:CJS_Statistics@justice.gov.uk)

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# **Annex A**

## **Statistical notice and consultation**

### **Criminal Justice Statistics: February 2020**

Future publication date: 21 May 2020

## Consultation on offending histories

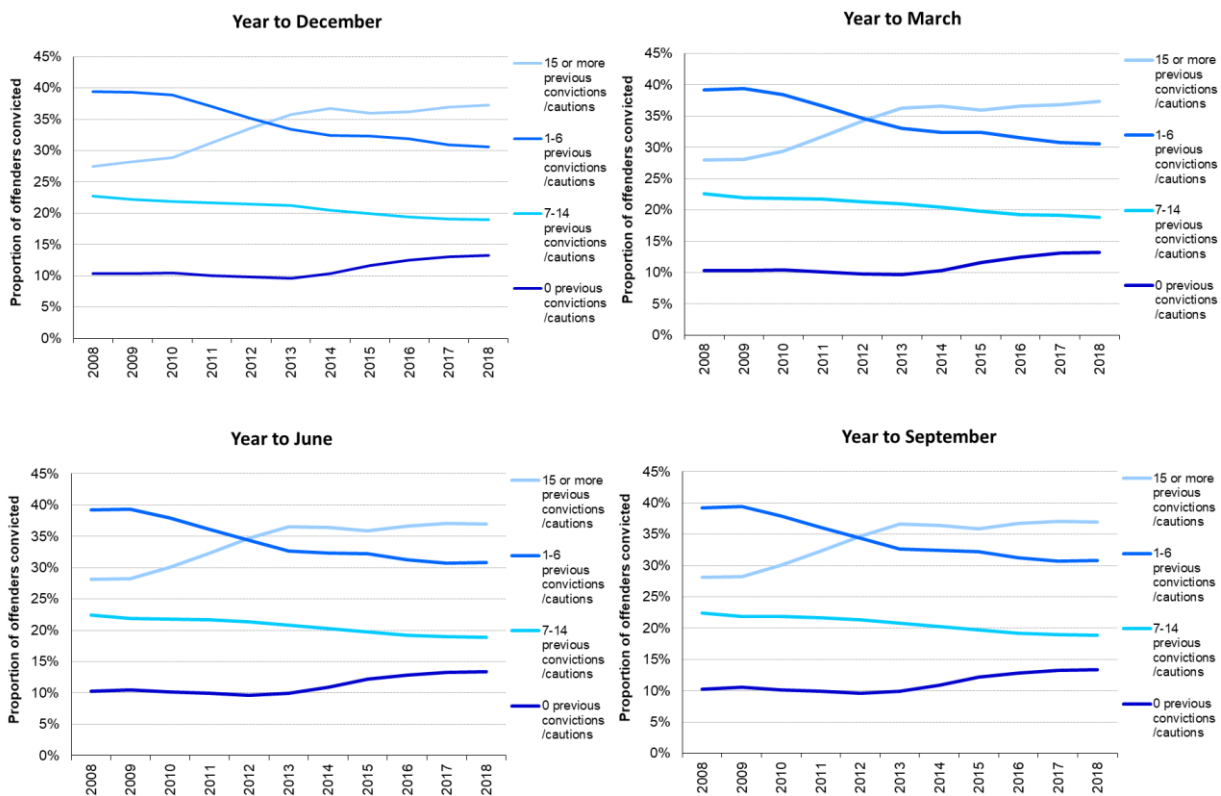
### Offending Histories data

1. The offending histories chapter is published quarterly in the Criminal Justice Statistics, presenting key statistics on offending histories.
2. This note is to consult users on our proposal to **publish the offending histories chapter on an annual basis, rather than the current quarterly updates.**
3. It is proposed that the tables, associated commentary and data tools will be published on 21 May 2020 and annually, in May, from then on. The May publication reports on the previous calendar year.
4. The documents affected by the proposed changes would be:
  - The offending histories chapter in Criminal Justice Statistics
  - The associated overview tables (Q6\_1 to Q6\_6c)
  - The offending histories data tool: previous offence statistics
  - The offending histories data tool
  - The first-time entrants data tool

No other elements of Criminal Justice Statistics than those relating to offending histories would be impacted.

5. This change is proposed as the trends in this series do not change very much on a quarterly basis and there is a lack of user demand for this information on a quarterly basis.

The figures below show that the trends are very similar whichever quarter is used.



6. If you have any comments about this change or other views on the content of the offending histories chapter please email [CJS\\_Statistics@justice.gov.uk](mailto:CJS_Statistics@justice.gov.uk). Please put 'Consultation Response' in the title of any emails. Two questions you may wish to consider are:

- Do you agree with the proposed change in frequency for this element of Criminal Justice Statistics?
- Do you agree that offending histories, if published annually, should form part of the May publication?

7. This consultation will run from 20 February 2020 until 20 March 2020

# Annex B

## Statistical notice and consultation response

### Criminal Justice Statistics: May 2020

The COVID19 pandemic has caused MoJ to have to change its data gathering, access and release practices, focusing efforts on priority analysis and statistics. Our [statement](#) (explains this further and in particular, we are pausing access to the Police National Computer, to minimise non-essential travel by our analysts. In line with [guidance](#) from the Office for Statistics Regulation, the decision has been made to delay the offending histories chapter of this publication. We will keep users updated of any further changes via our published release calendar.

Published 21 May 2020



## Consultation response

### Offending Histories data

10. The offending histories chapter is published quarterly in the Criminal Justice Statistics, presenting key statistics on offending histories.
11. In February users were consulted on our proposal to **publish the offending histories chapter on an annual basis, rather than the current quarterly updates (Annex A)**.
12. We would like to thank all those who took the time to submit a response to the publication. There were several responses and the team are working with those who responded to ensure that the needs of our users are met.
13. No decision will be taken about these statistics until conversations with users are concluded. At which point a more detailed plan will be published.
14. The COVID19 pandemic has caused MoJ to have to change its data gathering, access and release practices, focusing efforts on priority analysis and statistics. Our [statement](#) (explains this further and in particular, we are pausing access to the Police National Computer, to minimise non-essential travel by our analysts. In line with [guidance](#) from the Office for Statistics Regulation, the decision has been made to delay the offending histories chapter of this publication. We will keep users updated of any further changes via our published release calendar.

## Contact details and further information

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Tel: 020 3334 3536

Email: [newsdesk@justice.gov.uk](mailto:newsdesk@justice.gov.uk)

Other queries or comments on the issues set out in this note should be directed to the PNC and criminal histories statistics team:

Chandni Lakhani  
Head of PNC and criminal histories team  
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