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| Parole Board release dataAd Hoc Management Information |

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# Background and Coverage

This publication covers Parole Board release outcomes relating to a specified top-tier of cases involving the most serious index offences. The top-tier index offences are: murder, rape, terrorism and causing or allowing the death of a child.

# Main Body

The Parole Board is responsible for making decisions on the release of certain prisoners by assessing whether the statutory release test has been met – that is, whether it is necessary for the protection of the public for the prisoner to continue to be detained. Parole-eligible prisoners include all those serving a life or other indeterminate sentence, an extended sentence and some other determinate sentence cases.

Those who have committed the most serious offences and may be regarded to be the most high-risk offenders – and therefore considered to be the ‘top-tier’ of parole cases – are prisoners serving sentences for murder, rape, terrorism or causing or allowing the death of a child.

# Parole Board Release Decisions

**Table 1** shows release decisions from completed Parole Reviews by specified top-tier offences (offences of murder, rape, terrorism and causing or allowing the death of a child). The reviews include both initial release decisions and decisions following recall for each offence category.

**Table 1: Parole Board release outcomes by offence type**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Index Offence** |  | **2016/17** | **2017/18** | **2018/19** | **2019/20** | **2020/21** |
| Murder | Releases | 366 | 384 | 344 | 309 | 375 |
| Completed Reviews | 967 | 959 | 925 | 804 | 930 |
| Rape | Releases | 273 | 317 | 259 | 280 | 312 |
| Completed Reviews | 1,041 | 1,068 | 916 | 958 | 1,013 |
| Terrorism Related | Releases | 1 | 9 | 3 | 9 | 12 |
| Completed Reviews | 6 | 16 | 9 | 14 | 31 |
| Causing or allowing the death of a child | Releases | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Completed Reviews | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| All Other Offences | Releases | 2,230 | 2,197 | 1,867 | 2,281 | 3,270 |
| Completed Reviews | 10,984 | 10,037 | 9,531 | 11,432 | 13,669 |
| **Total Releases** | **2,870** | **2,907** | **2,474** | **2,879** | **3,969** |
| **Total Completed Reviews** | **12,998** | **12,080** | **11,382** | **13,209** | **15,644** |

Notes:

1. A parole review is completed if it results in a release, open conditions or negative/ knockback decision

2. Data Sources and Quality. The data have come from administrative IT systems which, as with some large-scale recording systems, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be amended as part of data cleansing or updates.

**Data collection and data quality notes:**

1. Database limitations mean that details of offenders’ Parole Board reviews and index offences are not recorded together. This means separate data extracts have had to be matched together, entailing possible loss of accuracy through matching.

2. The source database used is primarily a case management system, so entries are overwritten when required by caseworkers. The effect is that extracts taken for this report may differ slightly from extracts previously taken in other reports, and the accuracy of derivations depends on accuracy of recordings at the time of extracting data from the database.

# Contact

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

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