



National Offender
Management Service

The Early Removal Scheme and Release of Foreign National Prisoners

This instruction applies to		Reference
Prisons		PSI 04/2013
Issue Date	Effective Date	Expiry Date
Revised 27 February 2024	11 February 2013	n/a
Issued on the authority of	HMPPS Agency Board	
For action by	<p>All staff responsible for the development and publication of policy and instructions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> HMPPS HQ</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Sector Prisons</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracted Prisons*</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Governors</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Heads of Groups</p> <p><i>* If this box is marked, then in this document the term Governor also applies to Directors of Contracted Prisons</i></p>	
Instruction type	service specification support/service improvement/legal compliance	
For information	All staff responsible for the management of Foreign National Prisoners, Governors/Directors of Contracted Prisons.	
Provide a summary of the policy aim and the reason for its development/ revision	<p>The PSI provides guidance in relation to the Early Removal Scheme for determinate sentenced foreign national prisoners. The guidance has been updated to reflect changes following implementation of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012.</p> <p>Update 27 February 2024 This revision is made to incorporate the changes to the ERS that will be made by The Criminal Justice Act 2003 (Removal of Prisoners for Deportation) Order 2023 SI (2023/1368) which will come into force on the 16 January 2024. The SI increases the maximum ERS window from 12 months to 545 days (18 months). The minimum to serve of one half of the requisite custodial period remains unchanged.</p> <p>Update 25 April 2022 – This revision is made to incorporate the changes to the ERS that will be made by the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 (NABA 2022) which will be implemented on 28 June 2022. The NABA 2022 increases the ERS window from 9 months to 12 months and introduces a new ‘stop the clock’ provision for those who are removed under the ERS on or after 28 June 2022 and allows ERS for those recalled to custody from licence.</p>	

	<p>Update 21 May 2021 – This revision is made to incorporate the information sent out in a letter on 17 February 2020 following the commencement of the Terrorist Offenders (Restriction of Early Release) Act (TORERA) 2020. The TORERA 2020 inserted Section 247A into the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) 2003 and made those prisoners subject to the release provisions of Section 247A ineligible for early removal under the ERS. The Act was retrospective. This update also includes examples of how the ERSED is calculated for prisoners serving sentences subject to the Release of Prisoners (Alteration of Relevant Proportion of Sentence) Order 2020 which was implemented on 1 April 2020.</p> <p>Update 15 October 2015 - This revision makes it a requirement to populate the Early Removal Scheme Eligibility Date (ERSED) field on NOMIS by 9 November 2015 – Paragraphs 1.17, 1.18, 1.22, 3.5, 3.20 and 3.29 refer. Amendments also reflect the current electronic referral process to refer sentenced FNPs within 10 working days to Criminal Casework only.</p> <p>Update 20 December 2013 – This version has amended phone numbers in Annex F.</p>
Contact	Release Policy Team, Prison Demand and Release Policy ReleasePolicyTeam@justice.gov.uk
Associated documents	<p><i>This guidance must be read in conjunction with PSI 52/2011 - Immigration, Repatriation and Removal Services</i></p> <p>Generic Parole Process Policy Framework PSI 72/2011 - Discharge Sentence Calculation Policy Framework Prisoner Complaints Policy Framework Licence Conditions Policy Framework Home Detention Curfew Policy Framework Generic Parole Process Policy Framework</p>
<p>Replaces the following documents which are hereby cancelled: Chapter 9 PSO 6000; PSI 19/2008; PSI 45/2008; PSI 14/2009; PSI 59/2011. Updates paragraphs 2.26 & 4.18 and contact details in PSI 38/2012 which is also cancelled.</p>	
<p>Audit/monitoring: Mandatory elements of instructions must be subject to management checks (and may be subject to self or peer audit by operational line management) as judged to be appropriate by the managers with responsibility for delivery. In addition, HMPPS will have a corporate audit programme that will audit against mandatory requirements to an extent and at a frequency determined from time to time through the appropriate governance.</p>	
<p>Introduces amendments to the following documents: None</p>	
<p>Notes: <i>All Mandatory Actions throughout this instruction are in italics and must be strictly adhered to.</i></p>	

CONTENTS

Hold down 'Ctrl' and click on section titles below to follow link

Section	Subject	For reference by:
1	Executive Summary	All staff responsible for the management of foreign national prisoners
2	Eligibility and Reasons for Refusal	
3	Calculating the ERS Period	
4	ERS Process and Paperwork	
5	Parole Process	
6	Removal	
7	ERS Breach Process and Notification	
Annex A	ERS Process Chart	
Annex B	ERS Authorisation Form	
Annex C	Authorisation Form for Removal during the Parole Period	
Annex D	ERS Refusal Form	
Annex E	Contact Details	
Annex F	Glossary of Terms	
Annex G	Glossary of HOIE Paperwork	
Annex H	Relevant Legislation	
Annex I	The Facilitated Returns Scheme (FRS)	
Annex J	Common ERS Questions and Answers	

1. Executive Summary

Background

- 1.1 The Criminal Justice Act 2003 introduced the Early Removal Scheme (ERS) for foreign national prisoners. The scheme allows fixed-term foreign national prisoners (FNPs), who are confirmed by the Home Office Immigration Enforcement (HOIE) to be liable to removal from the UK, to be removed from prison and the country before the earliest point in the sentence when release could otherwise take place. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 (Removal of Prisoners for Deportation) Order 2023 SI (2023/1368) further amended sections 260 and 261 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 to increase the ERS window from 12 months before the earliest release point to 545 days before the earliest release point.
- 1.2 *All determinate sentenced FNPs who are liable to removal must be considered under the scheme, subject to eligibility checks outlined in section 2.* The provisions apply to determinate sentence prisoners only; those prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection or a life sentence cannot be removed under the scheme and will instead be considered for removal on or after tariff expiry under the Tariff Expired Removal Scheme (TERS) in line with the [Generic Parole Process Policy Framework](#). By definition, prisoners can only be removed early under the Early Removal Scheme if HOIE is able to affect their removal during the ERS period. The ERS period is any period of custody between the ERS eligibility date (ERSED) and the end of the sentence. This includes time spent in custody before initial release from the sentence and time spent in custody serving the sentence as a result of being recalled from licence.
- 1.3 This guidance replaces that contained in Chapter 9 of PSO 6000 and PSIs 19/2008, 45/2008, 14/2009 and 59/2011. The ERS process and paperwork has been revised and updated to reflect changes to the legislation since the original guidance was issued in 2005. The new process has been integrated with PSI 52/2011 - Immigration, Repatriation and Removal Services, and the electronic Criminal Casework Referral Form includes all the relevant information to enable HOIE to start working towards the ERS eligibility date as early as possible.

Summary of changes made since the initial introduction of the Scheme

Increases in the maximum ERS period

- 1.4 Initially, the maximum period before the half-way point of sentence that prisoners could be removed under ERS was 135 days. In April 2008 this was initially increased to a maximum of 270 days (9 months) by Statutory Instrument and was further increased by the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 (NABA2022) in June 2022 to 12 months. A further Statutory Instrument now increases the maximum window to 545 days (18 months). The requirement for prisoners to serve a minimum of a quarter of their sentence before they may be removed remains unchanged, which means the maximum 545 can apply to sentences of 6 years or longer. The ERS period for sentences shorter than 6 years is proportionately less and is explained below in the section on calculating the ERSED (see section 3).

The NABA 2022 has also made clear that removal under the ERS applies to those who have been released on licence into the community in the UK but who are back in custody as a result of the revocation of the licence. If the HOIE can facilitate removal and there are no

barriers to the removal, ERS can be authorised to take place from the sentence during the custodial period being served as a result of the recall.

Exclusions

- 1.5 When ERS was first introduced there were a number of categories of prisoner who were statutorily ineligible for the scheme, including, for example, those subject to the notification requirement of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and those serving an extended sentence. *These exclusions were removed on 3 November 2008 following commencement of provisions in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 (CJ&IA 2008) and so all determinate sentence foreign national prisoners who are liable to removal from the UK must be considered for ERS.*
- 1.6 In addition, prior to 3 November 2008, prisoners who had less than 14 days between their ERS eligibility date (ERSED) and the half-way point of sentence could not be removed under ERS. The CJ&IA 2008 also removed this exclusion.
- 1.7 FNPs where at least one of the sentences in the sentence envelope has been imposed for a terrorism offence appearing on Part 1 or 2 of Schedule 19ZA to the Criminal Justice Act 2003, or where the court has found the offence to have a terrorist connection under section 69 of the Sentencing Act 2020 (or previously section 30 of the Counter Terrorism Act 2008) are excluded from the ERS.

Process and forms

- 1.8 The ERS process has been integrated with the Immigration, Repatriation and Removal Services PSI 52/2011 ([Annex A](#) contains the ERS process chart that should be followed) and all FNPs will be referred to Home Office Criminal Casework (CC) within 10 working days of sentence (though referrals will be made immediately where release is due within one calendar month) using the electronic CC Referral Form. (The electronic referral form has been circulated to all establishments and any queries about the form or the referral process should be emailed to the HMPPS FNO policy team at ERDForeignnationals@justice.gov.uk. The referral form has a mandatory ERS field in order to alert HOIE to the earliest point at which the prisoner can be removed. This will enable HOIE to determine whether or not the prisoner is liable to removal under ERS and begin the process as soon as possible.
- 1.9 The Governor retains responsibility for authorising early removal, but no longer needs to consider reasons to refuse ERS nor make the decision on whether or not a prisoner can be removed under ERS before the electronic CC Referral Form is submitted. Checks for barriers to removal and the decision to authorise early removal are to be completed once HOIE have confirmed that they intend to remove the prisoner from the UK. Once HOIE have confirmed their intention to remove, the Governor will then check for any barriers and (if there are none) authorise removal under ERS. HOIE are unable to set removal directions until they receive confirmation from the Governor that the prisoner can be removed using the ERS Authorisation Form ([Annex B](#)). See Section 2 Eligibility and Reasons for Refusal, for guidance regarding reasons to refuse ERS.
- 1.10 For prisoners subject to the parole process there is no longer a requirement for the Parole Board to complete an enhanced risk assessment (ERA) before ERS may be granted. An ERA was carried out to determine suitability for removal under ERS and early release on

parole for those FNPs serving a determinate sentence of 4 years or more for a serious sexual or violent offence (as specified in Schedule 15 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003) and subject to the provisions contained in Schedule 20B to the CJA 2003 (previously the Criminal Justice Act 1991 release provisions). The ERA process has now been removed. Authorisation for early removal under ERS for long term Schedule 20B prisoners can now be granted by the Governor, in line with guidance in this instruction.

- 1.11 In addition to long-term Schedule 20B prisoners no longer requiring an ERA before they may be removed during the ERS period, following the commencement of provisions in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act 2012 on 3 December 2012, their release for removal by HOIE between PED and NPD can be authorised by the Governor, on behalf of the Secretary of State, in line with guidance contained within this PSI. From 3 December 2012, therefore, it is no longer necessary for there to be a Parole Board release decision before such prisoners may be released for removal. *The parole process must continue as normal, however, in case HOIE are unable to effect the removal for whatever reason and the prisoner is entitled to be considered by the Board for release in the UK in the normal way.* The LASPO Act 2012 also introduced a new type of Extended Determinate Sentence (EDS) which replaced the IPP sentence and is available for courts to impose in respect of offenders convicted on or after 3 December 2012. The earliest date of release from an EDS is the two-thirds point in the custodial term and ERS will apply to such sentences – with the earliest date of removal being 545 days before the two-thirds point, in the majority of cases this will be a PED with a CRD at the end of the custodial term. During that period, as with long-term Schedule 20B prisoners, EDS prisoners may also be removed from prison for the purposes of removal from the UK without the need for a Parole Board release decision. This PSI contains instructions on how ERS applies in EDS cases and how the ERS eligibility date is to be calculated.
- 1.12 The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 changed the release provisions for Special Custodial Sentences for Certain Offenders of Particular Concern (SOPCs). Eligibility for consideration for release on parole for all SOPCs imposed on or after 28 June 2022 will be at the $\frac{2}{3}$ point of the custodial term rather than the $\frac{1}{2}$ way point. This means that the ERSED for SOPCs imposed on or after 28 June 2022 will be up to 545 days before the $\frac{2}{3}$ point of the custodial term providing $\frac{1}{3}$ of the term has been served.

Desired outcomes

- 1.13 *Early identification of those FNPs who must be considered for ERS and their early referral to Criminal Casework.*
- 1.14 Transparent process for prisoners and staff in HMPS and HOIE, with effective ongoing communication between prisons and HOIE regarding ERS cases.
- 1.15 Increased number of removals within the ERS period.

Application

- 1.16 *All staff working with foreign national prisoners must be aware of and understand this scheme and its requirements and benefits.*

Mandatory actions

- 1.17 *Governors must ensure that all staff responsible for the management of foreign national prisoners, including Custody / Offender Management Unit staff, are familiar with this instruction and the mandatory actions contained within.*
- 1.18 *Governors must ensure that the ERS process (detailed in the attached operational instructions) is followed for all determinate sentenced foreign national prisoners liable to removal.*
- 1.19 *Staff must correctly calculate the ERS eligibility date (ERSED) and ensure HOIE are informed of any subsequent changes to key dates or circumstances (e.g. where a further term of imprisonment has been imposed) by using the electronic CC referral form. This includes cases where a prisoner is initially recorded as a British national and further information is subsequently found to evidence that they are in fact a foreign national. At the point the further information is found, the ERSED must be calculated, the ERSED field populated and a referral to CC using the electronic CC Referral Form.*
- 1.20 *Staff must record the ERSED in the ERSED field on the key dates screen of NOMIS.*
- 1.21 *Governors must ensure that determinate sentenced prisoners subject to the parole process are considered for ERS in accordance with this instruction but should HOIE confirm that the prisoner is not liable to removal, or should removal fail, establishments must ensure that the prisoner is reviewed for parole in line with the parole process timetable.*
- 1.22 *Prisoners must not be removed under ERS before they have served the required period (i.e. not before the ERSED).*
- 1.23 *Governors can consider the removal from prison, for the purposes of removal from the UK, of determinate sentenced parole eligible prisoners on or after PED and before NPD (and during any period of custody following recall from licence in respect of the sentence) without a Parole Board recommendation (this applies in the case of long-term Schedule 20B prisoners, SOPCs, high-risk offenders referred to the Parole Board under section 244ZB and EDS prisoners whose release would otherwise be at the discretion of the Parole Board). Such prisoners must be considered in line with eligibility guidance contained within this instruction and, should removal be approved, must be issued with the Authorisation Form for Removal during the Parole Period ([Annex C](#)).*

Resource Impact

- 1.24 There will be an initial additional resource requirement for prisons to identify current FNPs whose ERSEDs will be brought forward because of the increase to the ERS window from 12 months to 545 days and to provide the Home Office with the updated ERSED information. Once that initial exercise has been completed, there are no further additional resource implications.

(Signed)

Claire Fielder Director, Youth Justice and Offender Policy

2. Operational instructions

Eligibility and reasons for refusal

- 2.1 All determinate sentenced foreign national prisoners (FNPs) liable to removal from the UK, must be considered under the scheme except; those FNPs serving sentences where at least one of the sentences in the sentence envelope has been imposed for a terrorism offence appearing on Part 1 or 2 of Schedule 19ZA to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 or is a sentence which does not appear on Part 1 or 2 of Schedule 19ZA and is a sentence for more than 2 years where the court has found the offence to have a terrorist connection under section 69 of the Sentencing Act 2020 (or previously section 30 of the Counter Terrorism Act 2008). These are ineligible for removal under the ERS. Where such sentences form part of the sentence envelope, the FNP must be excluded from ERS on the overall sentence envelope.
- 2.2 Eligible prisoners serving Standard Determinate Sentences (SDS), Detention in YOI (DYOI), S91/S250 sentences and Special Custodial Sentences for Certain Offenders of Particular Concern (SOPC) imposed before 28 June 2022 – where the PED is at the ½ way point of the custodial term, may be removed under the scheme at any point between the ERSED and the date at the half-way point of sentence or end of the custodial term and at any time during a period served as a result of recall from licence.
- 2.3 Eligible prisoners serving an Extended Determinate Sentence (EDS), SOPC (where the PED is at the ⅔ point of the custodial term and the offence is not a terrorism or terrorism-connected offence), can be removed at any point between the ERSED and the end of the custodial term and at any time during a period served as a result of recall from licence.
- 2.4 Eligible prisoners serving an SDS+ (sentences of 4 years or more for specified offences) can be removed at any point on or after the ERSED and the two-thirds point of the sentence. (See section 3 for guidance on how to calculate the ERSED). Removal can also take place at any time during a period served as a result of recall from licence. [Sentence Calculation Policy Framework](#) provides further information on sentences that meet the SDS+ criteria.
- 2.5 Following commencement of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill 2022, eligible prisoners who have their case referred to the Parole Board under the power in Section 244ZB (Referral of high-risk offenders to Parole Board in place of automatic release) can be removed at any point on or after the ERSED which will be up to 545 days before the ½ way point of the sentence (PED).
- 2.6 Those prisoners previously known as DCR prisoners (serving sentences of 4 years or more imposed before 3 December 2012 for offences committed before 4 April 2005) can be removed under ERS between the ERSED (up to a maximum of 545 days before the PED at the half-way point) and the NPD without a positive parole recommendation from the Parole Board. *Such authorisation must be in line with the process and criteria for other removals under ERS.*
- 2.7 *Prisoners serving a life sentence or an indeterminate sentence for public protection are not eligible for ERS but must be considered for the Tariff Expired Removal Scheme (TERS) in line with the Generic Parole Process Policy Framework.*

Default terms / Confiscation Orders and Further Custodial Requirements

- 2.8 There is a distinction between those in custody who are serving a '**sentence of imprisonment**' and those who are serving a '**term of imprisonment**' (which includes a fine/confiscation order or civil term). The ERS provisions apply only to prisoners serving a '**sentence of imprisonment**'. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 (CJA 2003) provides that a term in default/civil term is not a '**sentence of imprisonment**' and as such, there is no provision in statute to remove prisoners early under ERS if they are serving such terms.
- 2.9 Prisoners who have had a confiscation order imposed or are subject to outstanding proceedings in respect of a confiscation order should not be removed early under ERS. A prisoner should not be removed where the result would be to avoid criminal court proceedings or liability to pay a confiscation order or serve a default term.
- 2.10 If the default term for non-payment is enforced by the courts, then once the prisoner starts serving the term there is no power to allow early removal because that term is not a sentence of imprisonment and therefore the ERS provisions do not apply.
- 2.11 There may be circumstances, where the default term has been enforced by the court consecutive to the substantive sentence, but the offender is still serving the sentence, in which an exception to this rule may be considered. For example, if the prisoner is serving a long sentence and the amount of money owed is relatively small (and therefore carries a very short default term), it may not make sense to prevent the prisoner being removed 545 days early for the sake of serving a very short default term of say only a matter of days. In such circumstances, advice should be sought from the ERS advice line (contact details can be found at [Annex E](#)) and a view obtained from the agency responsible for enforcing the confiscation order.
- 2.12 Governors must refuse ERS where there are outstanding criminal charges/investigations or proceedings for further criminal matters as prisoners should not be removed from the country early where the result would be the avoidance of liability for other criminal offences.

Other Reasons to Refuse ERS

- 2.13 *Where HOIE confirm that a FNP can be removed, and the prisoner is not subject to further custodial requirements, outstanding criminal matters, or confiscation order proceedings, Governors must normally approve removal under the ERS. However, there may be some exceptional cases in which ERS should be refused, particularly where there are serious concerns about public safety. These are:*
- clear evidence that the prisoner is planning further crime, including plans to evade immigration control and return to the UK unlawfully;
 - evidence of violence or threats of violence, in prison, on a number of occasions;
 - dealing in class A drugs in custody;
 - serving a sentence for a terrorism or terrorism-connected offence.
 - other matters of similar gravity relating to public safety.
 - where early removal under the ERS would undermine public confidence in the criminal justice system.
- 2.14 *Prisoners refused removal under ERS must be notified using the ERS Refusal Form ([Annex D](#)). The relevant section must be completed, with the other sections deleted as appropriate.*

The form must be copied to HOIE to inform them that the prisoner cannot be removed early and that removal directions cannot be set for a date before the prisoner's normal date of release (the ERS process is outlined in full in section 4).

- 2.15 *If the refusal is for one of the reasons listed above, the decision and the reasons must be clearly set out on the ERS Refusal Form ([Annex D](#)). The HMPPS Extremism Unit can offer advice on the reasons for refusal when relating to an individual on the HMPPS extremist prisoner list.*

Prisoners Convicted of Terrorist and Terrorist-Connected Offences NOT on Schedule 19ZA

- 2.16 Where a prisoner is serving a sentence for a terrorism offence or terrorism-connected offence, that does not appear on Schedule 19ZA to the CJA 2003, Governors must consider whether ERS should be refused due to the very serious nature of such offences and the significant threat that such prisoners might present both in the UK and abroad.
- 2.17 Where the prisoner is serving multiple sentences and at least one sentence within the sentence envelope has been imposed for a terrorism or terrorism-connected offence that does not appear on Schedule 19ZA and a decision is made to refuse early removal under the ERS, the decision will apply to all of the sentences within the sentence envelope.
- 2.18 If, having considered all the particular circumstances of the case, Governors are minded to allow early removal under the scheme for a prisoner convicted of a terrorism or terrorism-connected offence that does not appear on Schedule 19ZA, the case must be referred to the Joint Extremist Unit (JEXU) before a final decision is made. In such cases, Governors must provide JEXU with reasons why approval for early removal should be considered and on what basis the prisoner should be removed. *Contact email for JEXU: noat.assurance@justice.gov.uk.*
- 2.19 The 'HMPPS extremist prisoner list' contains the names of prisoners who have been remanded or convicted for terrorism or terrorism-connected offences. A redacted version is circulated to establishments on a monthly basis by JEXU and this should be used by Governors, if ERS is being considered, to assist in identifying prisoners convicted of terrorism or terrorism-connected offences. If establishments are unsure if a prisoner is on the HMPPS extremist prisoner list, they should consult their Security Department or Counter-Terrorism Coordinator.

Consideration of cases that might undermine the Scheme or public confidence in the Criminal Justice system.

- 2.20 *Where the Governor considers that the early removal (prior to PED/CRD), or removal on or after PED and before NPD, or from custody following revocation of the licence of an FNP who is otherwise eligible for ERS may undermine public confidence in the scheme or the criminal justice system, the Governor must refer the case to the ERS advice line (see [Annex E](#) for contact details) to determine whether it should be referred to the Chief Executive of HMPPS for consideration. The Chief Executive will make the final decision on whether or not, taking all matters into consideration and the individual circumstances of the case, early removal is appropriate.*

- 2.21 It is expected that such cases will be exceptional and the number of cases referred to the Chief Executive will be small; they will include FNPs who have been involved in a notorious crime or a crime of particular concern to the public, where release could bring the scheme into disrepute. It is likely that this will apply to cases of national profile. Where a case has been contentious at a local level and there is doubt about the suitability of the prisoner for removal under ERS, Governors should consult the ERS advice line.
- 2.22 *Cases sent to the ERS advice line for referral to the Chief Executive must include a copy of the CC Referral Form and a covering note outlining any relevant information that may indicate that release could undermine public confidence.*

Young Adults

- 2.23 *Those foreign national young adults (typically 18-20 years old) sentenced to detention in a young offender institution (DYOI) or sentenced to an Extended Determinate Sentence (EDS) or Special Custodial Sentence (SOPC), **EXCEPT** where the sentence has been imposed for a terrorism or terrorism-connected offence, must be considered for early removal under the ERS.*

Young People

- 2.24 *Those foreign national young people (typically 15-17 years old) sentenced under Section 250 of the Sentencing Act 2020 (S250) or Section 91 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 (S91) or to an Extended Determinate Sentence (EDS) must be considered for early removal under ERS, **EXCEPT** where the sentence has been imposed for a terrorism or terrorism-connected offence. However, a Detention and Training Order (DTO) is a term of imprisonment rather than a sentence of imprisonment and therefore the ERS provisions do not apply. FNPs serving DTOs cannot be removed under ERS.*
- 2.25 The Youth Custody Service Team (YCS) will calculate the ERSED and notify HOIE of young people eligible for ERS who are serving their sentences in Secure Children's Homes or Secure Training Centres.

FNPs who have previously been removed from the UK

- 2.26 FNPs who have been deported from the UK previously, whether early under ERS or not, are not excluded from the ERS again on a subsequent sentence. They can be considered in the normal way, subject to the eligibility criteria outlined above.
- 2.27 Those who have previously benefitted from financial assistance under the Facilitated Returns Scheme (FRS), see [Annex I](#), can still be removed early under ERS, but are unlikely to be awarded any further financial assistance.

FNPs UAL

- 2.28 FNPs who have been unlawfully at large are eligible for consideration for ERS.

Offenders subject to Extradition Proceedings

- 2.29 It is not normally possible for an offender to be deported whilst there is an outstanding order for extradition. The ERS provisions cannot, therefore, apply while the order is extant as HOIE cannot proceed with removal action until the extradition proceedings have been concluded (which is not generally until after the prisoner's normal release date). However, there are

cases in which it may be possible for a prisoner who is subject to an extradition request to be removed early under ERS if their extradition and removal is to the same country. Such cases should be notified to the ERS advice line who will liaise with the Extradition Section in the Home Office and with HOIE to determine whether removal under ERS can go ahead.

FNPs serving sentences passed by a court martial

- 2.30 FNPs serving sentences of imprisonment imposed by courts martial and subject to the same release framework under Chapter 6 of the CJA 2003 as offenders who have been sentenced by non-military courts should be assessed for ERS on the same basis as other offenders.

Governor's Authorisation

- 2.31 The Governing Governor and, for contracted out prisons, the Director are authorised to take the ERS decision on behalf of the Secretary of State and has the authority to delegate this task to another competent manager within their establishment.

3. CALCULATING THE ERS PERIOD

Calculation of the ERS Eligibility Date (ERSED)

Sentences with release at the half-way point - SDS, DYOI S91/250, SOPCs imposed prior to 28/06/22 (For how to calculate the ERSED for sentences with release or parole at the two-thirds point - EDSs, SDSs+ and SOPCs imposed on or after 28/06/2022 see paragraph 3.18 onwards).

- 3.1 The ERS window is the period between the ERSED and the half-way point of the SDS, DYOI or S91/S250 (CRD/ARD) and between the ERSED and the half-way point of the custodial term for SOPCs imposed before 28 June 2022 (PED).
- 3.2 The maximum ERS period is 545 days before the half-way point of sentence or custodial term. *The legislation requires that prisoners must serve a minimum requisite period of a quarter of their sentence before being eligible for early removal.* This means that the shorter the sentence the shorter the ERS period will become.
- 3.3 This is illustrated in the table below for SDS, DYOI, S91/S250 and SOPC imposed before 28/06/22:

Length of sentence or custodial term	Requisite period to be served before ERSED	ERSED Calculation:
Sentences and custodial terms of less than 2180 days.	¼ of the sentence or for SOPCs ¼ of the custodial term	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Days in sentence or custodial term divided by 4 (rounded up). 2. Number of days obtained in step 1 minus any remand/tagged bail. 3. Number of days obtained in step 2 applied from the actual date of sentence = ERSED 4. ERSED will be deferred by any ADAs or UAL accordingly.
Sentences and custodial terms of 2180 days or more.	545 days before ½ way point of the sentence or custodial term (CRD/ARD or PED)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effective CRD minus 544 days = ERSED or Effective PED minus 544 days for parole sentences = ERSED

- 3.4 Example, prisoner is sentenced on the 15/02/2023 to 1 year (365 days). The requisite period to be served before the prisoner can be removed under the ERS is quarter (92 days rounded up). Add 92 days to the day of sentence (not the day before). The ERSED is 18/05/2023.
- 3.5 Example, prisoner is sentenced on 29/04/2023 to 5 years (1827 days). The requisite period to be served before the prisoner can be removed under the ERS is a quarter (457 days, rounded up). Add 457 days to the date of sentence (not the day before). The ERSED is 29/07/2024.
- 3.6 Example, prisoner is sentenced on 27/06/2022 to a SOPC of 6 years 6 months, comprising a custodial term of 5 years 6 months (2009 days). The requisite period to be served before the prisoner can be removed under the ERS is a quarter of the custodial term (503 days, rounded up). Add 503 days to the day of sentence (not the day before). The ERSED is 12/11/2023.

- 3.7 Example, a prisoner is sentenced on 17/01/2024 to 36 weeks (252 days) with 25 tagged bail days. The requisite period to be served before the prisoner can be removed under the ERS is a quarter (63 days). 63 days minus 25 tagged bail days gives 38 days. Add 38 days to the date of sentence (not the day before). The ERSED is 24/02/2024.
- 3.8 When calculating ERS eligibility dates for those entitled to the full 545 days (i.e. those serving 2180 days or more), you simply **minus 544 days** from the effective CRD or PED. You do not need to worry about remand time/UAL or ADAs here because they have already been taken into account when calculating the effective CRD/PED).
- 3.9 Example, a prisoner is sentenced on 29/04/2023 to 10 years (3653 days). The CRD would be 28/04/2028 and the ERSED would be 01/11/2026.
- 3.10 Example, a prisoner is sentenced on the 13/05/2022 to a SOPC of 9 years, comprising a custodial term of 8 years (2922 days) and 1 year licence period, with 95 remand days. The PED would be 06/02/2026. giving an ERSED of 11/08/2024.
- 3.11.1 *The ERSED must be recorded in the ERSED field on the key date screen in NOMIS, the calculation sheet and on the electronic CC Referral Form*
- 3.12 *CC must be notified of the ERSED using the electronic CC Referral Form (which includes a mandatory ERSED field) within 10 working days of sentence (or immediately where release is due within one calendar month). Prisons must notify CC of any changes to key dates, including ERSED, using Section 1C of the electronic Referral Form.*

Multiple Sentences and the ERSED

Concurrent sentences subject to the former CJA1991 release provisions (now Schedule 20B CJA 2003)

- 3.12 Concurrent sentences where release is governed by Schedule 20B of the CJA 2003 as inserted by Schedule 17 of the LASPO Act (formerly governed by the CJA 1991 release provisions) will form a single term with each other and the ERSED will be calculated according to the length of the single term.

Concurrent sentences subject to the CJA 2003 release provisions (excluding those subject to Schedule 20B) OR concurrent mixed release provisions (including those subject to Schedule 20B)

- 3.13 Where there are mixed provisions (i.e. former 'mixed Act' sentences now governed by a mixture of Schedule 20B and 2003 Act release arrangements) the former sentences subject to CJA1991 release provisions will be single termed with each other. Sentences subject to the CJA 2003 release provisions will run parallel to each other and parallel to a former CJA1991 single term. Each sentence/single term will be calculated separately and each will have its own ERSED. The latest ERSED produced will be the effective ERSED.

Consecutive sentences subject to the former CJA1991 release provisions (Schedule 20B of the CJA 2003)

- 3.14 Sentences subject to the former CJA1991 release provisions that are consecutive to one another will form a single term and the ERSED will be calculated according to the length of the single term.

Consecutive sentences subject to the CJA2003 release provisions (excluding those subject to Schedule 20B)

- 3.15 CJA2003 sentences that are consecutive to one another will form an aggregate and the ERSED will be calculated according to the length of the aggregate.

Consecutive mixtures of provisions

- 3.16 Sentences/single terms subject to former CJA1991 release provisions (Schedule 20B) and sentences subject to the CJA 2003 release provisions (excluding those subject to Schedule 20B) are consecutive to one another will form an aggregate and the ERSED will be calculated according to the length of the aggregate.
- 3.17 Where one of the sentences is an extended sentence, it is the length of the custodial term of the extended sentence on which the ERSED is based.

Calculating the ERSED for prisoners serving an EDS, SOPC imposed on or after 28 June 2022 and SDS+

- 3.18 The ERS window for prisoners serving a SOPC imposed on or after 28 June 2022 or an EDS is the period between the ERSED and the two thirds point of the custodial term (PED/CRD) and for prisoners serving a SDS+ the ERS window is the period between the ERSED and the two-thirds point of the sentence (CRD).
- 3.19 For prisoners serving a SOPC imposed on or after 28 June 2022, or an EDS, the maximum ERS period is 545 days before the two thirds point of the custodial term (CRD/PED). For SDS+ it is 545 days before the two-thirds point of the sentence. *The legislation requires that prisoners must serve a minimum requisite period of one third of their custodial term/sentence before being eligible for early removal.* This means that the shorter the custodial period of a SOPC or EDS, the shorter the ERS period will become.
- 3.20 This is illustrated in the table below:

Length of sentence or custodial term	Requisite period to be served before ERSED	ERSED Calculation:
Sentences and custodial terms of less than 1635 days.	$\frac{1}{3}$ of the sentence or for SOPCs/EDSs $\frac{1}{3}$ of the custodial term	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Days in sentence or custodial term divided by 3 (rounded up) 2. Number of days obtained in step 1 minus any remand/tagged bail. 3. Number of days obtained in step 2 applied from the actual date of sentence = ERSED 4. ERSED will be deferred by any ADAs or UAL
Sentences and custodial terms of 1635 days or more.	545 days before $\frac{2}{3}$ point of sentence or custodial term (CRD or PED)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effective CRD minus 544 days = ERSED or Effective PED minus 544 days for parole sentences = ERSED

- 3.21 *The ERSED **must** be recorded in the ERSED field on NOMIS, the calculation sheet and on the electronic CC Referral Form and must be calculated as follows:*
- 3.22 Example, a prisoner sentenced on 29/08/2023 to a SDS+ of 4 years (1461 days). The requisite period to be served before the prisoner can be removed under the ERS is one third of the sentence (487 days). Add 487 days to the date of sentence (not the day before). The ERSED would be 28/12/2024.
- 3.23 Prisoners serving a SOPC imposed on or after 28 June 2022 or an EDS are eligible for consideration for ERS after serving one third of the custodial term of the sentence up to a maximum of 545 days before the two-thirds point.
- 3.24 Example, a prisoner is sentenced on 19/07/2023 to an SOPC of 3 years with a custodial period of 2 years (731 days). The ERS date would be one third of the 2 year period, meaning the prisoner serves 244 days (731 divided by 3, round up) from the date of sentence. The ERSED is 19/03/2024.
- 3.25 Example, a prisoner is sentenced on 10/01/2023 to an EDS of 11 years with a custodial period of 6 years (2192 days). The CRD would be 09/01/2029, with a PED of 10/01/2027. The PED minus 544 days gives an ERSED of 15/07/2025.
- 3.26 Example, a prisoner is sentenced on 20/12/2022 to an EDS of 15 years with a custodial period of 10 years (3653 days) with 20 days remand to count. The CRD would be 29/11/32 with a PED of 31/07/29. The PED minus 544 days gives an ERSED of 03/02/2028.
- 3.27 Example, a prisoner sentenced on the 25/02/2021 to a SDS+ of 9 years (3287 days), with 108 remand days. The CRD would be 09/11/26. The CRD minus 544 days gives an ERSED of 14/05/2025.

Concurrent sentences imposed on or after 3/12/12

- 3.29 Concurrent determinate sentences (including sentences under 12 months) will run in parallel to each other. Each sentence will be calculated separately, and each will have its own ERSED. The latest ERSED produced will be the effective ERSED.

Consecutive sentences imposed on or after 3/12/12

- 3.30 Consecutive determinate sentences will be aggregated and the ERSED will be calculated according to the length of the aggregate sentence.
- 3.31 *CC must be notified of the ERSED using the electronic CC Referral Form within 10 working days of sentence (or immediately where release is due within one calendar month). Prisons must notify CC of any changes to key dates, including ERSED, using Section 1C of the electronic CC Referral Form.*

NOMIS

- 3.32 *Staff must ensure that the ERSED field on NOMIS contains the correct ERSED for all determinate sentenced foreign national offenders (including those prisoners initially recorded as British nationals where information is subsequently received confirming foreign national status).*

4. PROCESS AND PAPERWORK

Cases that fall below the deportation threshold

- 4.1 The normal threshold for deportation consideration by CC for EEA nationals is 24 months or 12 months for those sentenced for drug/serious violence offences. For non-EEA nationals the normal threshold is a sentence of 12 months or more. However, there are three exceptions; where the court has recommended deportation, where a non-EEA national has received a sentence of any length for drug offences and where a non-EEA national has had two or more previous sentences in the last 5 years which can be aggregated to total 12 months or more (see [Annex G](#) of PSI 52/2011 for a list of EEA countries).
- 4.2 In most other cases where a FNP has received a sentence of less than 12 months CC will refer the case to Home Office Removals Casework (RC) as these cases do not meet the normal threshold for deportation. However, where a foreign national offender has received a custodial sentence of less than 12 months, or there is substantial police evidence of criminality even without convictions, and they are believed to pose serious harm to the community and/or deemed to be a persistent offender, deportation may be considered appropriate and if so, that will be dealt with in a special team in CC. Where deportation isn't appropriate offenders may still be liable to removal action if they are found to be in breach of immigration legislation. These cases are dealt with by RC and not CC. However, the ERS process for foreign national offenders otherwise remains the same.
- 4.3 As with cases considered by CC, if RC do not make a removal decision, the prisoner may be considered for Home Detention Curfew (see paragraph 6.9) or parole (see section 5).

The ERS Process

- 4.4 *All foreign national prisoners who receive a custodial sentence must be referred to CC within 10 working days of sentencing (or immediately where release is due within one calendar month) using the electronic CC Referral Form which includes a mandatory ERSED field*
- 4.5 *Where a prisoner has been transferred and it is apparent that the referral to CC has not already been made, the receiving establishment must make the referral as soon as possible following reception, using Section 1B of the electronic CC Referral Form.*
- 4.6 When CC receive the electronic CC Referral Form they record the ERSED on the case information database ('CID') and on the prisoner's paper file. The case is then allocated to a case owner.
- 4.7 On receipt of the case file from Workflow, the case owner returns the CC Referral Form to the prison, confirming their contact details. Until the case owner details are received from CC, Workflow should be the contact point for any changes/queries regarding the prisoner's removal.
- 4.8 *Prisons must notify CC of any changes to key dates, including ERSED, using Section 1C of the electronic CC Referral Form so that HOIE can ensure the ERSED is correct on CID.*
- 4.9 *CC or RC must indicate whether the prisoner can or cannot be removed by completing section 2 of the electronic CC Referral Form and returning it to the prison. The prison must e-mail the case owner to confirm receipt.*

4.10 *If CC or RC confirm that the prisoner **can** be removed within the ERS period (or on or after PED and before NPD), the prison must then consider whether or not the case is suitable for ERS:*

⇒ *If there are no reasons to refuse (further charges, outstanding confiscation order, other reasons to refuse) the Governor must authorise release and the ERS Authorisation Form ([Annex B](#)) or the Authorisation Form for Removal during the Parole Period ([Annex C](#)) must be completed and issued to the prisoner (as appropriate).*

- *Annex B / Annex C must go with the prisoner when s/he is removed.*
- *A copy of Annex B / Annex C must be sent to CC/RC to enable them to set removal directions within the ERS period. CC/RC are unable to set removal directions unless they receive Annex B.*
- *If ERS is approved and Annex B / Annex C completed a long time in advance of the ERSED or removal date, then a “final check” for any barriers to removal must be carried out before the prisoner is removed.*

⇒ *If there are barriers to removal and the prisoner cannot be removed under ERS (or between PED and NPD) the prison must complete the ERS Refusal Form ([Annex D](#)) and issue to the prisoner, explaining the reason for refusal as appropriate. A copy of Annex D must be sent to CC to inform them of the reasons why the prisoner cannot be removed early.*

4.11 *If CC or RC confirms that the prisoner **cannot** be removed early, the prison completes the ERS Refusal Form and issue to the prisoner, highlighting the reason for refusal as appropriate. The prison must ensure that the Offender Manager is informed of the decision. Checks must be carried out to determine whether the prisoner should be considered for HDC or parole (see paragraph 6.9 and section 5).*

4.12 *If CC or RC indicate the prisoner **is not** liable for removal, the prisoner must be treated as a domestic prisoner and must be considered for HDC or parole where appropriate (see paragraph 6.9 and section 5).*

4.13 *When removal directions are received establishments must follow guidance contained in the PSI 72/2011 - Discharge and the [Sentence Calculation Policy Framework](#). This is particularly important where the ERS Authorisation Form has been completed a long time in advance of removal directions being set, as there is an increased possibility that the prisoner’s circumstances will have changed. If changes have occurred that prevent the prisoner being removed under ERS (i.e. new further charges or a confiscation order etc) then CC or RC must be informed as soon as possible.*

Completing the electronic CC Referral Form

4.14 *All foreign national prisoners who receive a custodial sentence must be referred to CC within 10 working days of sentencing (or immediately where release is due within one calendar month) using the electronic CC Referral Form. The form includes a mandatory ERSED field.*

- 4.15 *Prisons must notify CC of any changes to key dates, including the ERSED, by using Section 1C of the electronic CC Referral Form. It is also important that prison staff keep CC/RC informed of any other changes to the prisoner's case (e.g. if s/he pays an outstanding confiscation order etc).*
- 4.16 *CC/RC will complete section 2 of the electronic CC Referral Form and return the form to the prison to confirm whether the prisoner can or cannot be removed early. This section will only be completed and returned by CC/RC in ERS cases.*

Completing the ERS Authorisation Form

- 4.17 *Where HOIE have confirmed that the prisoner is liable to removal and can be removed from the UK within the ERS period, the prison must check the case and ensure that there are no reasons to refuse, i.e. an outstanding confiscation order, further charges or other reasons for refusal. Once the Governor is satisfied that the prisoner can be removed under ERS, the ERS Authorisation Form (Annex B) must be completed.*
- 4.18 *All details should be completed and the form must be signed by the Governor or Director (or nominated representative). The form must be issued to the prisoner to inform him/her that they will be removed early. A copy must also be sent to CC Workflow as confirmation that the Governor/Director has authorised ERS. This will then allow CC/RC to set removal directions.*
- 4.19 *A copy of the ERS Authorisation Form must accompany the prisoner on his/her removal from prison as it acts as a licence and provides clear guidance on the action that will be taken should the prisoner return to the UK prior to SED. See section 6 for more information regarding licences for FNPs.*

Completing the ERS Refusal Form

- 4.20 *The ERS Refusal Form is a multi-purpose form which covers all reasons for refusal and must be issued in all cases where ERS has not been authorised (see section 2).*
- 4.21 *In each case, the relevant reason for refusal must be highlighted and the non-applicable sections deleted. A copy of the completed form must be issued to the prisoner. It is important that a copy is also sent to HOIE to make them aware when they are setting removal directions that the prisoner cannot be removed under ERS.*
- 4.22 *There is no formal right of appeal where ERS has been refused because of further charges, an outstanding confiscation order or because HOIE cannot effect removal within the ERS period. However, if a prisoner wishes to challenge a decision to refuse ERS for 'other reasons' (outlined in paragraph 2.8), they must do so through the Requests and Complaints procedure [Prisoner Complaints Policy Framework](#). Where possible, the appeal should be dealt with by a Governor of a higher grade than the Governor involved in the original decision and the FNP must be given reasons, in writing, where the outcome is to uphold the original decision.*

5. PAROLE PROCESS

5.1 Section 5 of this PSI, applies only to those determinate sentenced prisoners who are subject to the parole process. These are:

- prisoners subject to Schedule 20B provisions (former CJA 1991 release provisions) serving a sentence of 4 years or more for a 'Schedule 15' sexual or violent offence or where the PED falls before 09/06/08 (i.e. those prisoners subject to the former 1991 Act release provisions whose sentences were not 'converted' following the commencement of Section 26 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008); and
- prisoners serving an extended sentence imposed before 14 July 2008 in accordance with Sections 227 and 228 of the CJA 2003; and
- prisoners serving a parole-eligible Extended Determinate Sentence (who can be considered for removal under ERS up to 545 days prior to the two-thirds point of the custodial term (their PED) – or released for the purpose of removal at any point up to the automatic release date (CRD) at the end of the custodial term.
- prisoners serving SOPCs
- high-risk offenders serving an SDS where a referral to the Parole Board has been made under Section 244ZB

5.2 Prior to commencement of the LASPO Act 2012 on 3 December 2012 these prisoners could only be released on or after PED and before NPD/CRD at the discretion of the Parole Board. The LASPO Act provides a power for the Governor to authorise the removal of such prisoners at any time after the PED, whether or not the Parole Board has directed the prisoner's release.

Completing the Authorisation Form for Removal during the Parole Period

5.3 The Authorisation Form for Removal during the Parole Period ([Annex C](#)) should be used in those cases where the Governor approves the removal of parole eligible prisoners who have passed PED but who have not yet reached NPD/CRD (i.e. those whose release prior to implementation of LASPO could only occur during this period at the discretion of the Parole Board).

5.4 The form should be completed and issued as outlined in paragraphs 4.18 and 4.19 above.

5.5 *If parole eligible prisoners cannot be removed, or the Governor refuses release for removal, they must undergo the normal parole process, in line with Generic Parole Process (GPP) Policy Framework*

5.6 Foreign national prisoners cannot opt out of the parole process. *Governors must ensure that parole eligible prisoners who are not removed are referred to the Parole Board for consideration for release on parole in the same way as other parole eligible determinate sentence prisoners (in line with Generic Parole Process (GPP) Policy Framework The parole dossier must contain any relevant HOIE paperwork relating to the prisoner's immigration status and progress towards their removal or deportation. In cases where the prisoner has no home address or previous place of residence in the UK - and therefore does not have an Offender Manager from the 'home' area – the report that is normally provided by the Offender Manager is not required. If the prisoner's immigration status changes during the course of the parole process, the prison must notify the Parole Board.*

- 5.7 *Establishments need to liaise closely with CC/RC in order to judge the likelihood of removal before the point in the sentence that the parole process must start (26 weeks prior to PED). If, by the time this point is reached, CC/RC are unable to confirm when removal will be possible, then the prison must begin the parole process as normal. The prisoner may still be removed at the discretion of the Governor before NPD/CRD, but the normal parole timetable should still be followed in order to avoid the possibility of the prisoner reaching the NPD without having been removed and without having had the parole reviews to which he is statutorily entitled. If a dossier is submitted to the Parole Board and CC/RC subsequently remove the prisoner, establishments must contact the PPCS to cancel the review as soon as possible after removal.*

6. REMOVAL

Licences

- 6.1 *Prisoners who are removed prior to the half-way point of sentence or custodial term for SOPCs (or two thirds point for EDS or SDS+ cases) do not need to be issued with a licence, but must be issued with the ERS Authorisation Form ([Annex B](#)). Prisoners being removed outside the ERS period at the Governor's discretion on or after PED and before NPD/CRD must be issued with the Authorisation Form for Removal during the Parole Period ([Annex C](#)). Prisoners being removed following a positive recommendation from the Parole Board (where the Governor has refused removal either under ERS or between PED and NPD/CRD) or on or after the normal automatic release date (NPD/CRD) must be issued with the appropriate release licence (see Licence Conditions Policy Framework).*
- 6.2 Where the prisoner is being removed on or shortly after ERSED there should be no prospect of him or her reaching the point in the sentence when release on licence in the UK may be a possibility, so it is not necessary to prepare a normal release licence. However, there may be cases where the prisoner cannot be removed until much nearer the half-way point of sentence, in which case establishments should consider preparing a release licence in case the prisoner reaches the normal release date. *Prisoners may continue to be held beyond their normal date of release under immigration powers of detention, pending their removal, but, in such cases, a release licence should be prepared and kept on file in case the prisoner is granted immigration bail and must, therefore, be released into the UK. If the prisoner is transferred to an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) to be held under immigration powers beyond their release date, a licence must be prepared to go with them in case they are not removed and subsequently released in the UK. The prison must ensure that the Offender Manager is kept informed.*
- 6.3 *Where a prisoner's ERSED falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Public Holiday, they must not be removed under ERS until the following working day. The ERS date **cannot** be brought forward.*
- 6.4 Prisoners being removed under ERS do not receive a discharge grant. If the prisoner has been accepted on to the Facilitated Returns Scheme the discharge grant is incorporated in to the total financial incentive received.

When prisoners can be handed over to HOIE

- 6.5 Where possible, HOIE will take the prisoner directly to the port of departure from the prison, but in some circumstances this is not possible, for example where the prisoner is booked onto a morning flight and may need to be held overnight in an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC).
- 6.6 The Governor has the lawful authority to hand a prisoner over to HOIE for the purpose of removal from the UK **provided this is within the ERS window**. A prisoner who has been approved for ERS can be transferred into a detention centre provided that the offender is held under HOIE's powers at the point of transfer and that the point of transfer is within the ERS period and is within a reasonable timescale of when the removal is to take place.

- 6.7 Where a removal fails and HOIE considers that the individual is still liable for removal and there is a realistic prospect of re-arranging removal quickly, the prisoner may continue to be held in an IRC under HOIE's powers. *If, however, removal cannot be achieved within a reasonable timescale, or there is no longer considered to be a realistic prospect of removal, the prisoner must be returned to the custody of a prison establishment as soon as possible. This should take place as soon as is operationally practicable and normally within **48 hours**.*
- 6.8 *In all cases, establishments must contact the CC/RC case owner 48 hours after the prisoner was due to be removed from the country, to confirm either that removal has taken place successfully or that the prisoner has been returned to a prison establishment. Prisons must ensure that the Offender Manager is kept informed.*

Home Detention Curfew

- 6.9 If HOIE confirm that an offender is not considered liable to removal from the UK then the current release arrangements for domestic prisoners will apply. Prisoners who are due to be released into the community in the UK may, if eligible, be considered for release under the Home Detention Curfew (HDC) scheme. This allows for certain prisoners to be released up to 135 days early subject to an electronically monitored curfew to their home address. If a prisoner is eligible for HDC, release is at the discretion of the Governor and subject to a careful risk assessment. See Home Detention Curfew Policy Framework for further guidance on HDC generally and PSI 52/2011 for specific guidance on HDC for FNPs.

7. ERS BREACH PROCESS AND NOTIFICATION

- 7.1 Following implementation of the NABA 2022 amending the ERS provisions in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 there will be two sets of provisions governing the return of FNPs who were removed under the ERS. The first applies to those FNPs removed from the UK under the ERS before 28 June 2022 when the NABA changes came into force and the second applies to those removed from the UK under the ERS on or after that date

Those removed from prison under the ERS on or after 28/06/2022

The position for those offenders removed from the UK under ERS on or after 28 June 2022 and who return at ANY point in the future are subject to a 'stop the clock' provision. The effect of the provision is to pause the sentence at the point that a person is removed from prison under the ERS. This means that if they ever return to the UK at any point in the future, they are required to be returned to custody and resume serving the sentence from the point at which it was paused. This is achieved by deferring ALL the release dates by the number of days between date of removal from prison and return to police/prison custody in the UK. The time is applied to the release dates in the same way that UAL is applied.

Those removed from prison under the ERS before 28/06/2022

For those offenders removed from prison custody under the ERS before 28 June 2022, the sentence is not paused, but continues to run once they have been removed from prison under the ERS. This means that if they do not return to the UK until after the SLED/SED of the sentence there is no further action to take in respect of the sentence from which they had been removed. They will only be required to serve a period in custody in relation to the sentence from which they had been removed if they return to the UK before the SLED/SED. The period they are required to serve is the shorter of:

- The outstanding custodial period (number of days between date of ERS removal from prison custody and CRD/ARD/PED); or
- To the SLED/SED if that comes first

- 7.2 *Any time spent in prison or police custody in the UK must count as time served in both of the above provisions.*
- 7.3 A prisoner may be re-removed by the Home Office, whilst serving the outstanding custodial periods, under the original ERS authorisation, providing that there are no reasons to refuse early removal i.e. further criminal matters (except where the sentence is re-calculated under the provisions of Section 247A – see Paragraphs 7.9 to 7.11 below).
- 7.4 If HOIE no longer have any interest in removing the prisoner, they are treated like any other domestic prisoner and released at the appropriate point on any relevant/outstanding licence period.

Calculation of outstanding custodial period to be served

Offenders who were removed on or after 28/06/2022

All the release dates of the sentence will be deferred by the number of days between the date of removal from prison and the date the offender is returned to custody (police/prison) in the UK.

For example:

A prisoner is removed from prison under ERS on 23/11/2023 and is handed over to the police in the UK on 05/03/2025 before being taken to prison custody on 07/03/2025.

- As soon as the prisoner is in police custody in the UK, they are deemed to have resumed serving the sentence from which removal under ERS took place.
- All the release dates of the sentence will be deferred by 467 days (24/11/2023 – 04/03/2025 inclusive). That, being the number of days during which the sentence was effectively paused following the prisoner's removal.
- This ensures the prisoner completes the balance of the sentence that was outstanding at the point that the removal took place.

If removal under the ERS took place before initial release from a non-parole sentence and the HOIE do not re-remove the prisoner, release will take place at the revised CRD on a licence expiring at the SLED, and supervision until the TUSED if applicable.

If removal under the ERS took place from a sentence that was subject to the parole process, the following will apply if the prisoner returns to custody in the UK **and is not re-removed by the HOIE:**

- If removal under the ERS occurred up to 28 days before the date on which the prisoner's case was to be referred to the Parole Board, OR the case had been referred to the Parole Board but no decision had been made, if the prisoner ever returns to custody in the UK, a referral to the board must be made within 28 days of reception to custody.
- If removal under the ERS occurred between the date the Parole Board authorised parole but before the prisoner was physically released on licence, they will be treated as a section 254 standard recall in respect of the sentence if they ever return to custody in the UK and liable to be detained until the SLED unless the Parole Board authorised re-release at an earlier point .
- If removal under the ERS occurred whilst the person was serving the sentence after being recalled from licence, they will be treated as a fresh Section 254 standard recall in respect of the sentence should they ever return to custody in the UK and liable to serve to the SLED unless the Parole Board authorise re-release at an earlier point.

Offenders who were removed under the ERS before 28/06/2022

If removal from prison under the ERS took place before 28 June 2022, the sentence continues to run following removal. If the prisoner was to return before the SLED of the sentence, they will be required to serve the outstanding custodial period (i.e. the number of days by which they were removed early) or the SLED if that comes first:

7.5 Example 1: a prisoner was sentenced to 3 years on 22/04/08 and was removed from the UK early under ERS from this sentence on 13/03/09, approximately 7 months prior to his CRD of 21/10/09. The SED of this sentence was 21/04/11. He was arrested on his return to the UK on 25/09/09.

As he returned before the SED of his sentence, he must serve a custodial period equal to the number of days between the date he was removed under ERS (13/03/09) and his CRD

(21/10/09). This equals 222 days. 222 days served from the date of his arrest following return to the UK (25/09/09) would give a new release date of 04/05/10. The SED remains the same, 21/04/11.

- 7.6 Example 2: a prisoner was sentenced to 9 years on 27/01/06 and was removed from the UK early under ERS on 30/11/09, approximately 8 months prior to his CRD of 28/07/10. The SED of this sentence was 26/01/15.

He was arrested in Northern Ireland on 16/02/10 and was given a custodial sentence for entering the UK in breach of his deportation order. The release date of that sentence was 01/03/10.

The outstanding period of custody from the sentence from which he was removed under ERS is equal to the number of days between the date on which he was removed under ERS (30/11/09) and his CRD (28/07/10). This equals 240 days. *Hence, he must serve a custodial period of 240 days from the date he returned to custody (16/02/10) effecting a new release date of 13/10/10. The SED remains 26/01/15.*

The new sentence he received for breach of a deportation order and the outstanding custodial period that he must serve under section 261(2) CJA 2003 must run in parallel and release cannot take place until the release arrangements of both terms have been satisfied. Therefore, he cannot be released until 13/10/10.

- 7.7 Example 3: a prisoner was sentenced to 3 years on 16/07/08 and was removed from the UK early under ERS from this sentence on 08/05/09, approximately 8 months prior to his CRD of 14/01/10. The SED of this sentence was 15/07/11. He was arrested on his return to the UK on 07/01/11.

As he returned prior to the SED of his sentence he is required to serve the custodial period outstanding at the time of removal which is 251 days (08/05/09 to 14/01/10). 251 days from date of arrest would give a release date of 14/09/11. This date falls after the SED of 15/07/11 and, as he cannot be held in pursuance of his sentence past the SED, his new release date would become 15/07/11.

- 7.8 Example 4: on 10/01/13 a prisoner was sentenced to 11 year EDS, with a custodial period of 6 years. His ERSED was 15/04/16 and his CRD 09/01/17. He was removed early under ERS on 16/05/16 but returned to the UK and was arrested on 26/02/17.

As he returned prior to his SED (08/01/24), he is liable to serve an outstanding custodial period equal to 238 days from his date of arrest (26/02/17). His new release date becomes 21/10/17. The SED remains the same.

Re-release dates for those removed before 26 February 2020 from a sentence for Schedule 19ZA offences

- 7.9 Prisoners who were removed under the ERS before the 26 February 2020, from a sentence that was imposed for a Schedule 19ZA offence and who return on or after that date, but before the SLED, must have their release dates re-calculated under the Section 247A provisions (TORERA 2020 provisions).

- 7.10 The period that must be served on return to the UK is the period that is equal in length to the number of days between the date the removal took place and the re-calculated CRD (in some cases this will be later than the original CRD) or, until the SLED if this comes first.
- 7.11 If the prisoner returned to the UK before the PED produced by the re-calculation s/he will become subject to the parole process in line with that new PED. Prisoners removed under the ERS who have returned to the UK before the SLED and had their dates re-calculated under the Section 247A provisions are **excluded from** re-removal under the ERS whilst serving the outstanding custodial period of the sentence.

Who to inform

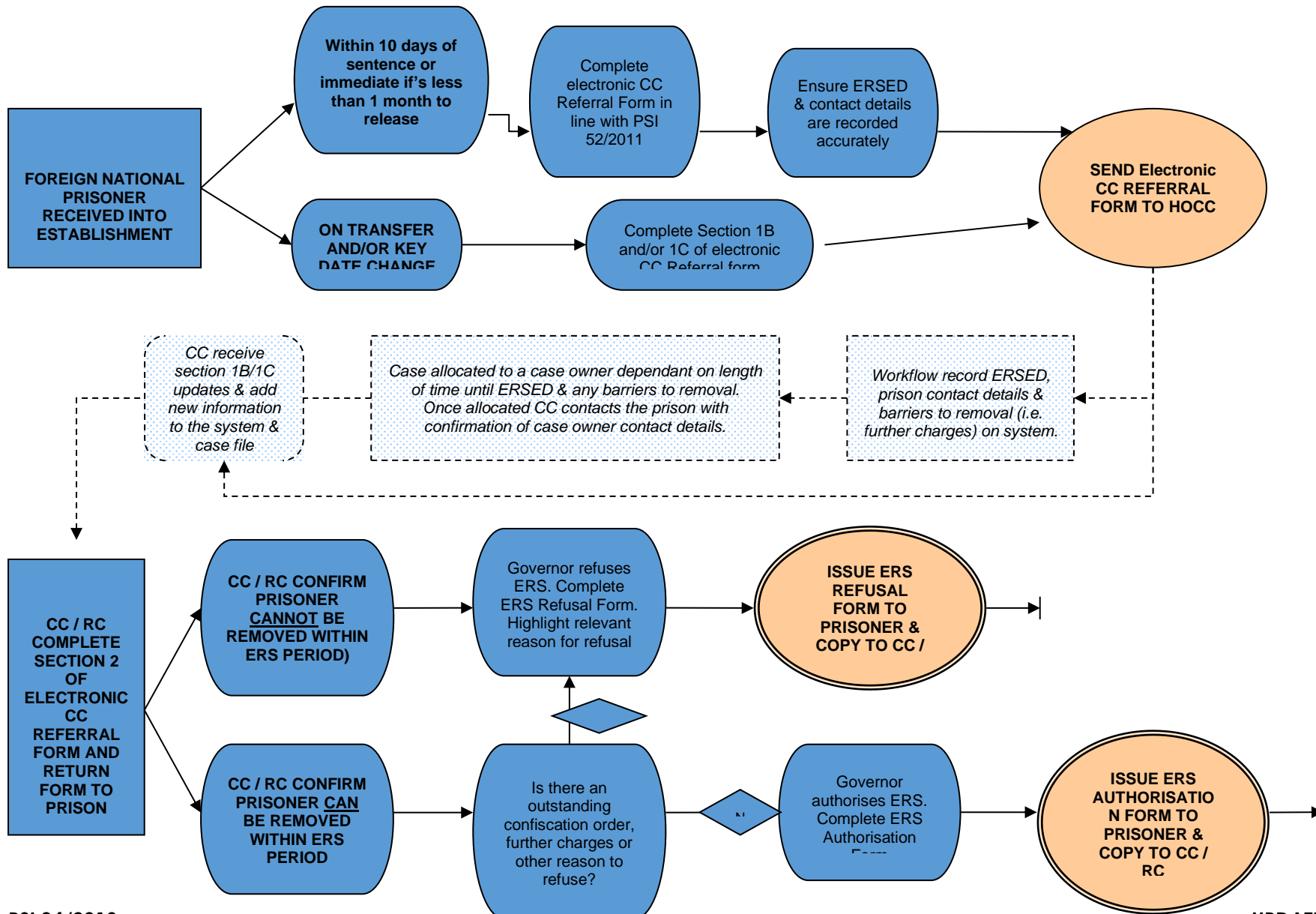
- 7.12 *The team dealing with licence variations (currently HMPPS Public Protection Casework Section (PPCS) Recall Team) must be contacted if a person who has been removed early under ERS returns to the UK. (For those cases where the removal under ERS took place before 28 June 2022 PPCS should only be contacted if the person returns before the SLED/SED of the sentence). Contact details for PPCS can be found in [Annex E](#).*
- 7.13 *If the prisoner is liable to serve an outstanding period, PPCS will issue a notification providing confirmation that the offender is to be detained. The notification will not include details of the period to be served; this must be calculated by the receiving establishment. The notification will advise which prison released the offender and the receiving establishment must obtain the offender's original sentencing warrant and prison records. Prisons must ensure that the Offender Manager is informed of the return to custody.*

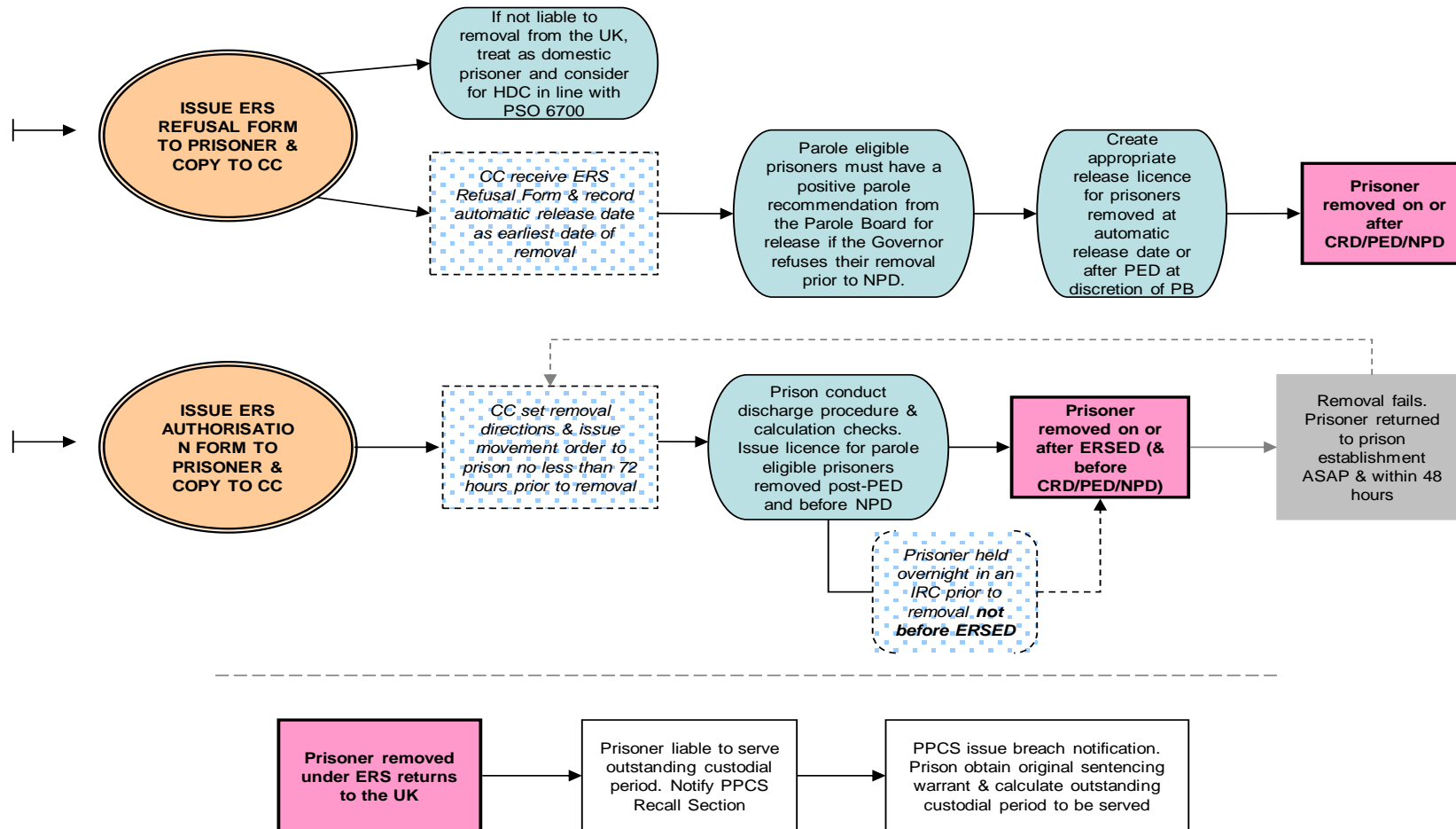
Prisoners in Northern Ireland and other UK jurisdictions

- 7.14 *Arrangements must be made to transfer offenders held in custody in Northern Ireland and other UK jurisdictions to an establishment in England and Wales as soon as possible once they have been identified as having been previously released on ERS and are liable to serve an outstanding period of custody.*

ERS PROCESS CHART

ANNEX A





EARLY REMOVAL SCHEME AUTHORISATION FORM

Establishment Name:	Contact Name:
Prisoner Surname:	Other Names:
NOMIS No (and/or Prison Number):	HO Ref No:
ERS Eligibility Date (ERSED):	
CRD/ARD/PED (<i>delete as appropriate</i>):	Sentence End Date (SED):
Country to be removed to:	

The Governor has approved your removal under the early removal scheme, pursuant to Chapter 6 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

You will be removed to the country stated above. The earliest you can be removed from the UK is **DD/MM/YYYY**. Should it not be possible for you to be removed on or after this date you will remain in custody either until you can be removed or until you reach your automatic release date / conditional release date / non-parole release date, unless you are otherwise granted parole (**delete as appropriate**).

Upon your removal from the UK, your sentence will be paused. Should you ever return to the UK, pursuant to section 260 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 you will be liable to arrest and return to custody to resume serving your sentence.

Signed (Prisoner):..... Name:.....

Date:.....

Signed (Governor):..... Name:.....

Date:.....

AUTHORISATION FORM FOR REMOVAL DURING THE PAROLE PERIOD

Establishment Name:	Contact Name:
Prisoner Surname:	Other Names:
NOMIS No (and/or Prison Number):	HO Ref No:
NPD/CRD	Sentence End Date (SED):
Country to be removed to:	

The Governor has approved your removal under Paragraphs 36 and 37 of Schedule 20B of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

You will be removed to the country stated above as soon as the Home Office Immigration Enforcement can effect your removal. You will remain in custody either until you can be removed or until you reach your non-parole release date.

Upon your removal from the UK, your sentence will be paused. Should you ever return to the UK in the future, pursuant to section 260 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 you will be liable to arrest and return to custody to resume serving your sentence.

Signed (Prisoner):..... Name:.....

Date:.....

Signed (Governor):..... Name:.....

Date:.....

EARLY REMOVAL SCHEME REFUSAL FORM

Establishment Name:	Contact Name:
Prisoner Surname:	Other Names:
NOMIS No (and/or Prison Number):	HO Ref No:
ERS Eligibility Date (ERSED):	
CRD/ARD/PED (delete as appropriate):	Sentence End Date (SED):

The Governor has not authorised your removal from the UK under the Early Removal Scheme.

The grounds for his/her decision are that (**delete as appropriate**):

- ⇒ You have been charged with a further offence and are awaiting trial. There is no right of appeal against this decision.
- ⇒ You are liable to serve a consecutive term following your current sentence. There is no right of appeal against this decision.
- ⇒ The Home Office Immigration Enforcement has confirmed that it cannot effect your removal at this stage. Should this situation change and it is possible to remove you before the halfway point of your sentence, this decision will be reviewed. There is no right of appeal against this decision.
- ⇒ Your early removal under ERS should be refused because (insert grounds for refusal – see section 2.8):.....
.....

If you wish to appeal against this decision, you should submit a request/complaint to the Governor, setting out your grounds of appeal.

You are eligible to be released on your CRD / ARD / NPD which is

Or (delete as appropriate)

The Governor has not authorised your removal before NPD, therefore you are eligible to be considered for parole and cannot be released until DD/MM/YY (NPD) unless the Parole Board directs your release earlier.

You may be removed by HOIE on your release or may be liable to be further detained under the powers of the Immigration Act 1971 pending removal.

Signed (Governor):..... Name:.....

Date:.....

CONTACTS

Release Policy Team, Bail, Sentencing and Release Policy Unit, Ministry of Justice
7th Floor, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ

NAME	TELEPHONE	FAX	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Victoria Amat ERS Senior Policy Adviser	0777 501 0493		ReleasePolicyTeam@justice.gov.uk

CC Workflow	0208 760 8655		CCDintaketeam@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
FRS Team	0208 760 2401		
JEXU			noat.assurance@justice.gov.uk
HMPPS Chief Executive			ceohmpps@justice.gov.uk
PPCS Dean Shergold	07773 076770		recall1@justice.gov.uk recall2@justice.gov.uk
PPCS Kathryn Munden	07967 324 973		
PPCS Sophie Lacey	07967 328440		
PPCS Kiran Bansal	07773 050053		
PPCS Out of Hours	0300 303 2081		

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ADA	Added Days Awarded
ARD	Automatic Release Date
CC	Criminal Casework (Home Office Immigration Enforcement)
CJA 1991	Criminal Justice Act 1991 (now Schedule 20B of the CJA 2003)
CJA 2003	Criminal Justice Act 2003
CJ&IA 2008	Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008
CRD	Conditional Release Date
DCR	Discretionary Conditional Release
DOS	Date of Sentence
DTO	Detention and Training Order
DYOI	Detention in Young Offenders Institution
EDS	Extended Determinate Sentence
ERA	Enhanced Risk Assessment
ERS	Early Removal Scheme
ERSED	Early Removal Scheme Eligibility Date
FNP	Foreign National Prisoner
FRS	Facilitated Returns Scheme
HDC	Home Detention Curfew
IRC	Immigration Removal Centre
LASPOA 2012	Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012
NABA 2022	Nationality and Borders Act 2022
HMPPS	Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service
NPD	Non-Parole Date
PCSCA 2022	Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022
PED	Parole Eligibility Date
PPCS	Public Protection Casework Section
PSI	Prison Service Instruction
PSO	Prison Service Order
RC	Removals Casework (Home Office Immigration Enforcement)
SDS	Standard Determinate Sentence
SDS+	Sentences of 7 years or more imposed for Schedule 15 offences where the maximum penalty is life and sentences of 4-7 years for certain specified offences
SED	Sentence Expiry Date
SLED	Sentence and Licence Expiry Date
SPU	Sentencing Policy Unit
TORERA 2020	Terrorist Offenders (restriction of Early Release) Act 2020
UAL	Unlawfully at Large
HOIE	Home Office Immigration Enforcement
YCS	Youth Custody Service Team

GLOSSARY OF HOIE PAPERWORK**General**

ICD.2967 Confirmation of conveyance (though often now attached to the relevant notice)

Deportation (1971 Act and 2007 Act)

ICD.4932 –
 ICD.4939 Various deportation decision notices
 ICD.3237 Appeal pro-forma (PF1)
 ICD.3066 Deportation disclaimer
 ICD.3811;)
 ICD.3510 –) Various DO submissions
 ICD.3512)
 ICD.0348 Deportation order (Court-recommended)
 ICD.3813 Deportation order (Automatic)

Removal

RED.0001 Removal decision notices (non-EEA)
 IS.151A(EEA) Removal decision notice (EEA)
 ICD.2599 Immigration factual summary, included in removals pack

Detention

IS.94 Bilateral agreement
 ICD.1913 Reasons for detention Letter
 ICD.3079 Minute of decision to detain
 IS.91 Authority for prison to detain beyond custodial sentence
 IS.91RA Risk assessment (for DEPMU)

Detention Review

ICD.3078 Detention review
 IS.151F(CCD) Monthly progress report to detainees (every 28 days)

Immigration Bail

ICD.3221 Bail summary – for Immigration and Asylum Chamber (IAC) bail applications
 IS.98A Application for bail – in CIO/SoS applications
 IS.99A Recognizance of surety

Documents required if bail granted

IS.106 Release order. Faxed to prison/IRC to authorise release of detainee.
 ICD.0343 Restriction order with conditions imposed. Faxed to prison/IRC for service on detainee and to reporting centre/police station
 ICD.0847 Release notification letter. Faxed to prison
 ICD.0377 Reporting notification. Faxed to reporting centre/police station.
 ISE.301 Notification to police to open book

LEGISLATION GOVERNING THE EARLY REMOVAL SCHEME

Persons liable to removal from the United Kingdom

Section 259 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003: Persons liable to removal from the United Kingdom

For the purposes of this Chapter a person is liable to removal from the United Kingdom if —

- (a) he is liable to deportation under section 3(5) of the Immigration Act 1971 (c 77) and has been notified of a decision to make a deportation order against him,
- (b) he is liable to deportation under section 3(6) of that Act,
- (c) he has been notified of a decision to refuse him leave to enter the United Kingdom,
- (d) he is an illegal entrant within the meaning of section 33(1) of that Act, or
- (e) he is liable to removal under section 10 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (c 33).

260 Early removal of prisoners liable to removal from United Kingdom 260

- (1) Where a fixed-term prisoner is liable to removal from the United Kingdom, the Secretary of State may remove the prisoner from prison under this section at any time after the prisoner has served the minimum pre-removal custodial period (whether or not the Board has directed the prisoner's release under this Chapter).
- (2) The minimum pre-removal custodial period is the longer of—
 - (a) one half of the requisite custodial period, and
 - (b) the requisite custodial period less 545 days.”
- (2C) Subsection (1) does not apply in relation to a prisoner to whom section 247A applies.
- (3) . . .
- (3A) In subsection (3)(e) the reference to a direction under section 240 includes a direction under section 246 of the Armed Forces Act 2006.
- (4) A prisoner removed from prison under this section—
 - (a) is so removed only for the purpose of enabling the Secretary of State to remove him from the United Kingdom under powers conferred by—
 - (i) Schedule 2 or 3 to the Immigration Act 1971, or
 - (ii) section 10 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (c 33), and
 - (a) so long as remaining in the United Kingdom, and in the event of a return to the United Kingdom after removal, is liable to be detained in pursuance of his sentence.
- (4A) Where a person has been removed from prison under this section, a day on which the person has not spent any part of the day in prison or otherwise detained in pursuance of their sentence is not, unless the Secretary of State otherwise directs, to be included—
 - (a) when determining for the purposes of any provision of this Chapter how much of their sentence they have (or would have) served, or
 - (b) when determining for the purposes of section 244ZC(2), 244A(2)(b) or 246A(4)(b) the date of an anniversary of a disposal of a reference of the person's case to the Board (so that the anniversary is treated as falling x days after the actual anniversary, where x is the number

of days on which the person has not spent any part of the day in prison or otherwise detained in pursuance of their sentence).

(4B) Where—

- (a) before a prisoner's removal from prison under this section their case had been referred to the Board under section 244ZB(3), 244ZC(2), 244A(2) or 246A(4), and
- (b) the person is removed from the United Kingdom before the Board has disposed of the reference, the reference lapses upon the person's removal from the United Kingdom (and paragraph 8 of Schedule 19B applies in the event of their return)

(5)

(6) The Secretary of State may by order—

- (a) amend the fraction for the time being specified in subsection (2)(a);
- (b) amend the time period for the time being specified in subsection (2)(b).

(7) ...

(8) Paragraphs 36 and 37 of Schedule 20B (transitional cases) make further provision about early removal of certain prisoners.

(9) Subsection (2C) does not affect the continued liability to detention under subsection (4)(b) of a prisoner removed from prison under this section before subsection (2C) came into force and in such a case—

- (a) the "requisite custodial period" in subsection (4)(b) has the meaning given by section 247A(8), and
- (b) subsection (5) is to be read as including reference to section 247A.

261 Removal under section 260 and subsequent return to UK: effect on sentence

Where a person—

- (a) has been removed from prison under section 260 on or after the day on which section [46](#) of the Nationality and Borders Act 2021 came into force,
- (b) has been removed from the United Kingdom following that removal from prison, and
- (c) returns to the United Kingdom,

this Chapter applies to the person with the modifications set out in Schedule 19B.

[261 Re-entry into United Kingdom of offender removed from prison early As saved for removals before the commencement of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022

- (1) This section applies in relation to a person who, after being removed from prison under section 260, has been removed from the United Kingdom before he has served the requisite custodial period.
- (2) If a person to whom this section applies enters the United Kingdom at any time before his sentence expiry date, he is liable to be detained in pursuance of his sentence from the time of his entry into the United Kingdom until whichever is the earlier of the following—
 - (a) the end of a period ("the further custodial period") beginning with that time and equal in length to the outstanding custodial period, and

- (b) his sentence expiry date.
- (3) A person who is liable to be detained by virtue of subsection (2) is, if at large, to be taken for the purposes of section 49 of the Prison Act 1952 (c 52) (persons unlawfully at large) to be unlawfully at large.
- (4) Subsection (2) does not prevent the further removal from the United Kingdom of a person falling within that subsection.
- (5) Where, in the case of a person returned to prison by virtue of subsection (2), the further custodial period ends before the sentence expiry date,—
- (a) . . .
- (b) . . . section 243A , 244, 244ZA, 244ZC, 244A, 246A , 247 or 247A (as the case may be) has effect in relation to him as if the reference to the requisite custodial period were a reference to the further custodial period.
- (6) In this section—
- “further custodial period” has the meaning given by subsection (2)(a);
- “outstanding custodial period”, in relation to a person to whom this section applies, means the period beginning with the date of his removal from the United Kingdom and ending with the date on which he would, but for his removal, have served the requisite custodial period;
- . . .
- “requisite custodial period”, in relation to a person to whom section 247A applies, has the meaning given by section 247A(8) (see section 268(1A) for its meaning in other cases);
- “sentence expiry date”, in relation to a person to whom this section applies, means the date on which, but for his release from prison and removal from the United Kingdom, he would have served the whole of the sentence.]

SCHEDULE 19B

PRISONERS RETURNING TO THE UK: MODIFICATIONS OF CHAPTER 6 OF PART 12

Modification of dates for referral to the Board

- 1 Paragraph 2 applies where section 244ZC(2), 244A(2) or 246A(4) (when read with section 260(4A)) would require the Secretary of State to refer a person’s case to the Board on a day falling before the end of the period of 28 days beginning with the day on which the person is returned to custody.
- 2 The applicable provision is to be read as requiring the Secretary of State to refer the person’s case to the Board at any time up to the end of the period of 28 days beginning with the day on which the person is returned to custody.
- 3 For the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2, a person returns to custody when the person, having returned to the United Kingdom, is detained (whether or not in prison) in pursuance of their sentence.

Person removed after Board had directed release but before being released

- 4 Paragraphs 5 and 6 apply where, before a person’s removal from the United Kingdom—
 - (a) the Board had directed their release under section 244ZC, 244A or 246A, but
 - (b) they had not been released on licence.
- 5 The direction of the Board is to be treated as having no effect.
- 6 The person is to be treated as if—
 - (a) they had been recalled under section 254 on the day on which they returned to the United Kingdom, and
 - (b) they were not suitable for automatic release (see section 255A).

Person removed after referral to the Board but before disposal of the reference

- 7 Paragraph 8 applies where—
- (a) before a person's removal from prison their case had been referred to the Board under section 244ZB(3), 244ZC(2), 244A(2) or 246A(4), and
 - (b) the reference lapsed under section 260(4B) because the person was removed from the United Kingdom before the Board had disposed of the reference.
- 8 Section 244ZC(2), 244A(2) or 246A(4) (as applicable) is to be read as requiring the Secretary of State to refer the person's case to the Board before the end of the period of 28 days beginning with the day on which the person is returned to custody.
- 9 For the purposes of paragraph 8, a person returns to custody when the person, having returned to the United Kingdom, is detained (whether or not in prison) in pursuance of their sentence.

Person removed after having been recalled to prison

- 10 Paragraphs 11 and 12 apply where, at the time of a person's removal from prison under section 260, the person was in prison following recall under section 254.
- 11 Any direction of the Board made in relation to the person under section 255C or 256A before their return to the United Kingdom is to be treated as having no effect.
- 12 The person is to be treated as if—
- (a) they had been recalled under section 254 on the day on which they returned to the United Kingdom, and
 - (b) they were not suitable for automatic release (see section 255A).

Schedule 20B of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (as inserted by Schedule 17 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012): Early removal of prisoners liable to removal from UK

- 36 (1) This paragraph applies to any person who—
- (a) has served one-half of a sentence of imprisonment, and
 - (b) has not been released on licence under this Chapter.
- (2) The reference in sub-paragraph (1)(a) to one-half of a sentence is—
- (a) in the case of a section 85 extended sentence, a reference to one-half of the custodial term;
 - (b) in the case of an extended sentence imposed under section 227 or 228, a reference to one-half of the appropriate custodial term.
- 37(1) If a person to whom paragraph 36 applies—
- (a) is liable to removal from the United Kingdom, and
 - (b) has not been removed from prison under section 260 during the period mentioned in subsection (1) of that section, the Secretary of State may remove the person from prison under that section at any time after the end of that period.
- (2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies whether or not the Board has directed the person's release under paragraph 6, 15, 25 or 28."

FACILITATED RETURNS SCHEME

It is important to be clear that ERS and the Facilitated Returns Scheme (FRS) are different schemes, although they can and do work in conjunction with one another.

FRS is a voluntary return scheme designed to encourage FNPs to comply with deportation action and return to their home country by offering them financial assistance and support to help them reintegrate. It is operated by HOIE and is a voluntary scheme that only non-EEA nationals can apply for. If accepted, they are given financial support to help them resettle in their home country on the proviso that they co-operate with deportation and waive their right to appeal against it.

ERS, on the other hand, is a Ministry of Justice / HMPPS scheme which allows the Secretary of State to remove prisoners early (i.e. before they reach their normal release date) and is not voluntary. Foreign national prisoners who are liable to removal (or deportation) can be removed early under ERS even if they do not apply or are ineligible for FRS. This means, for example, that EEA national prisoners who are liable to removal can and should be removed early under ERS, even though they are not eligible for FRS.

The schemes are separate but can be implemented along-side each other to ensure that prisoners who apply for FRS and agree to co-operate with the deportation process can be deported as early as possible within the ERS period. The financial incentives are greater under FRS for prisoners who apply for it while they are still serving the custodial part of their sentence – and could, therefore, be removed early under ERS – whereas prisoners who apply for FRS having completed their custodial term ('time-served prisoners') will receive less money. So FRS does provide a greater financial incentive to co-operate with removal during the ERS period.

Removal under ERS is often easier if the prisoner co-operates with the removal process, for example by providing or helping to obtain the necessary travel documentation (such as passport). Whilst FRS can provide a financial incentive to co-operate, the prospect of getting out of prison earlier under ERS can often provide a strong incentive too. It is important, if prisoners are enquiring about ERS and/or FRS, to be clear about what each scheme does and the potential benefits of serving less time in custody if removal under ERS can take place at the earliest possible point.

COMMON ERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Is the ERS Scheme for both EEA and non-EEA prisoners alike (any Foreign National Prisoner who is liable for deportation)?

A. Yes, any determinate sentenced FNP who is considered liable to removal from the UK is eligible for ERS. Confusion often arises as only non-EEA nationals can apply for FRS.

Q. We have an offender who under a previous sentence was removed early under ERS and he has subsequently returned to the UK in breach of his Deportation Order. Can we let him have ERS on his current sentence?

A. Yes, prisoners who have been deported previously can be re-removed from the earlier sentence that they resume serving on return and still be considered for ERS on the new sentence in the normal way, subject to all the regular requirements (that they are considered liable to removal, no outstanding criminal charges/confiscation orders etc.) The later ERSED from the new sentence would be the key ERSED date.

(If a prisoner who has been removed early under ERS returns to the UK they may be liable to be held in pursuance of their earlier sentence, see section 7)

Q. Please could you supply me with a list of countries that are not included in the ERS?

A. So long as a prisoner is considered by HOIE as being liable to removal from the UK then they can be considered for ERS. There are no restrictions based on the country of origin; both EEA and non-EEA nationals can be removed early under ERS.

In respect of Irish nationals see page 38.

The Facilitated Returns Scheme (FRS) is an incentive based scheme designed to promote and assist the early removal of prisoners under ERS ([see Annex I](#)). The schemes are often confused and are sometimes thought of as being one in the same as they sound similar and work alongside each other (prisoners can be awarded FRS and go early under ERS). However, only non-EEA nationals can be considered for FRS. Any prisoner (so long as HOIE confirm they are liable to removal) can be considered for ERS.

If you need a list of EEA countries you can find one at the back of the Immigration, Repatriation and Removal Services PSI 52/2011.

Q. We currently have a prisoner who is serving as a licence recall, is he deemed ineligible for ERS?

A. No. If the HOIE can facilitate the deportation, the prisoner can be removed under ERS even when they have been recalled from licence, providing there are no other matters which would stop removal i.e. ongoing criminal matters

Q. A prisoner who was removed under ERS has returned to custody. How long will they need to serve?

- A.** If removal from prison under the ERS took place before 28 June 2022, the FNP must serve the number of days they were removed early by, or to the SLED of the sentence if that comes first.

If removal from prison under the ERS took place on or after 28 June 2022, the sentence was paused at the point of removal and the FNP must resume serving the sentence on return to custody. This means that ALL release dates are deferred by the number of days between date of removal from prison under ERS and return to custody.

Q. Can prisoners be removed under ERS in the two weeks prior to CRD/ARD?

- A.** FNPs liable to removal are no longer prohibited from being removed under ERS in the 14 day period before their half-way point of sentence.

This used to be one of the statutory exclusions which prevented certain categories of prisoner (e.g. those serving an extended sentence or subject to sex offender registration) from being removed early. One of those specified exclusions was the removal of prisoners within 14 days of their release date. However, the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 contained provisions which removed all these statutory exclusions and this came into effect on 3 November 2008.

So yes, as a consequence of this change, from 3 November 2008, it is now possible for early removal to take place at any point from the ERSED (which can be up to 545 days before the half-way point) up until the date of the half-way point itself (including the 14 day period leading up to it).

Something else to bear in mind is that, if there is any possibility that early removal may not take place before the half-way point and the prisoner is then required to be released on licence at that point, it is important for the prison to be prepared to issue the necessary licence. Even if the prisoner may continue to be detained under Immigration powers, once they reach the point in their sentence when release on licence is required, then a licence should be prepared for issue in case the prisoner is subsequently released from Immigration detention.

Q. Do I have to issue a licence to someone removed under ERS?

- A.** *Prisoners who are removed under ERS do not need to be issued with a licence, but must be issued with the ERS Authorisation Form. Prisoners being released at the discretion of the Governor within the parole period (i.e. on or after PED and before NPD/CRD) must be issued with the Authorisation Form for Removal within the Parole Period ([Annex C](#)). Prisoners being removed outside the ERS period (i.e. on or after the automatic release date at CRD/ARD/NPD or, on parole) must be issued with the appropriate release licence.*

Where the prisoner is being removed on or shortly after ERSED there should be no prospect of him or her reaching the point in the sentence when release on licence in the UK may be a possibility, so it is not necessary to prepare a normal release licence. However, there may be cases where the prisoner cannot be removed until much nearer the half-way point of sentence, in which case establishments should consider preparing a release licence in case the prisoner reaches the normal release date. *Prisoners may continue to be held beyond their normal date of release under immigration powers of detention, pending their removal,*

but, in such cases, a release licence should be prepared and kept on file in case the prisoner is granted immigration bail and must, therefore, be released into the UK. If the prisoner is transferred to an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) to be held under immigration powers beyond their release date, a licence must be prepared to go with them in case they are not removed and subsequently released in the UK.

Q. Can Irish National prisoners be removed under ERS?

A. In February 2007 the then Home Secretary announced that Irish Nationals would only be considered for deportation in exceptional circumstances. The ERS confers a power on the Secretary of State to remove prisoners before they reach their normal release date for the purpose of allowing them to be deported or removed from the UK sooner than would otherwise have been possible. The legislation specifies that this power applies only where a prisoner is “liable to removal from the United Kingdom”.

Section 259 of the 2003 Act states that:

For the purposes of this Chapter a person is liable to removal from the United Kingdom if:

- a) he is liable to deportation under section 3(5) of the Immigration Act 1971 and
- b) has been notified of a decision to make a deportation order against him,
- c) he is liable to deportation under section 3(6) of that Act,
- d) he has been notified of a decision to refuse him leave to enter the United Kingdom,
- e) he is an illegal entrant within the meaning of section 33(1) of that Act, or
- f) he is liable to removal under section 10 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

In effect, this means that only those prisoners who HOIE have confirmed will be removed or deported from the UK under the above definition will fall to be considered for ERS. In other words, it is not about refusing ERS in circumstances where a prisoner is otherwise eligible but because there is simply no power in law for the Prison Service to allow the early removal of a prisoner who HOIE have confirmed is not going to be deported or removed from the UK.

As ERS depends on removal under immigration powers, it will only be in exceptional circumstances that an Irish citizen could be considered under the scheme. They are, of course, eligible to apply for early release under the Home Detention Curfew (HDC) scheme, subject to the legislation and policy on this that applies to all other prisoners, such as being able to provide a suitable address in England, Wales or Scotland to be curfewed to for the purposes of HDC.