

Main Points

The tables show annual counts of the number of fixed-term recalls and standard recalls from 2017 up to and including September 2023. This is the latest period for which publication data is available. Figures are provided for all offenders serving a determinate sentence, for all sentence lengths as well as those with a sentence length of less than 12 months (Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014; ORA). The number of recall counts in the tables are not the same as the number of unique individuals who received recalls, since individuals can be recalled more than once.

Fixed term recalls have become less common as a proportion of all recalls between 2017 and January - September 2023 dropping by 27 percentage points for those with sentences of less than 12 months, and by 20 percentage points for all sentence lengths.

Conversely, standard term recalls, have increased in both volume and proportion over time. For offenders serving a sentence of less than 12 months (Table 1), 38% of recalls were standard in 2017, increasing to 65% in January – September 2023. For all sentences (Table 2), 55% of recalls were standard in 2017, increasing to 75% in January – September 2023.

Over the same time period, the recall population in custody has grown from 6,186 in September 2017 to 12,031 on 30 September 2023.¹

Table 1. Number of recalls (determinate sentence of less than 12 months)

	Year						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Counts of Fixed Term Recalls (ORA cases)	5,493	5,970	5,575	4,054	2,833	3,008	2,921
Percentage of total that are fixed term recalls	62%	66%	62%	50%	40%	36%	35%
Counts of Standard Recalls (ORA cases)	3,336	3,008	3,450	4,001	4,173	5,349	5,384
Percentage of total that are standard recalls	38%	34%	38%	50%	60%	64%	65%
Total number of recalls	8,829	8,978	9,025	8,055	7,006	8,357	8,305

*2023 data are for a partial year (Jan-Sept) only

¹ [Offender Management statistics quarterly: July to September 2017 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/offender-management-statistics-quarterly-july-to-september-2017); [Offender management statistics quarterly: July to September 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/offender-management-statistics-quarterly-july-to-september-2023)

Table 2. Number of recalls (all determinate sentences)

SUMMARY (all sentence lengths)	Year						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Counts of Fixed Term Recalls	9,612	10,635	10,216	7,474	5,306	5,257	4,889
Percentage of total that are fixed term recalls	45%	46%	40%	32%	25%	23%	25%
Counts of Standard Recalls (Determinates only)	11,580	12,709	15,229	16,035	15,827	17,337	14,968
Percentage of total that are standard recalls	55%	54%	60%	68%	75%	77%	75%
Total number of recalls	21,192	23,344	25,445	23,509	21,133	22,594	19,857

*2023 data are for a partial year (Jan-Sept) only

On the 22nd of February a secondary instrument (SI) was introduced to Parliament with the intention of addressing the application of fixed term and standard recall. MoJ estimated the approximate number of recalls affected by the SI, using data underpinning the Offender Management Statistics Quarterly (OMSQ), see below:

The number of standard recalls in the 12 months ending Oct 2023 (inclusive) that would be eligible for (and impacted by) the fixed term recall SI	c. 4,000
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In line with the policy, this number excludes: those who were charged with a serious further offence and / or quickly moved to the remand population; those managed at level 2 or 3 under the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements; as well as those whose standard recall period would have been less than or equal to 14 days, amongst other exclusions not detailed here.

Background

When an offender receives a standard recall, they are expected to serve the rest of their sentence in custody unless they are re-released earlier by the Parole Board or through the Risk Assessed Recall Review (RARR).

When an offender receives a fixed-term recall, they are expected to be in custody up to 28 days (for offenders serving a determinate sentence of more than 12 months) or up to 14 days (for offenders serving a sentence of less than 12 months).

Further information on recalls, as well as recall statistics more generally, can be found as part of the quarterly publication documentation here:

[Guide to Offender Management Statistics \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Notes

Data sources and quality

Some offenders included in the volume of total standard recalls are emergency recalls and could later be assessed as a fixed term recall.

The figures in this table have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Contact

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