



## Transparency Data

# Standard Determinate Sentences 40% (SDS40) 'Tranche 1' and 'Tranche 2' release data, England and Wales

## SDS40 Releases on 10 September 2024 (Day 1 for 'Tranche 1') and 22 October 2024 (Day 1 for 'Tranche 2')

### Policy Background

This document contains information relating to the operation of SDS40 (Standard Determinate Sentences 40%), which was announced by the Lord Chancellor on 12 July 2024:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/lord-chancellor-sets-out-immediate-action-to-defuse-ticking-prison-time-bomb>.

SDS40 allows certain prisoners serving a 'standard determinate sentence' (with a 50% conditional release point) to be released at the 40% point of their sentence, subject to eligibility criteria.

SDS40 has been in operation since 10 September 2024 (with the first 'Tranche 1' releases happening on this date):

- 'Tranche 1' releases were comprised of eligible prisoners serving sentences of 'less than 5 years'.
- 'Tranche 2' releases were comprised of eligible prisoners serving sentences of '5 years or more'. The first 'Tranche 2' releases took place on 22 October 2024.

There were bulk releases on the first day of each tranche, but releases for both tranches continued after this date. Work is underway to enable the regular quarterly publication of SDS40 release data in parallel with related statistics on releases.

### SDS40 'Tranche 1' releases on 10 September 2024

- There were **1,889** SDS40 'Tranche 1' prisoner releases on 10 September 2024.

### SDS40 'Tranche 2' releases on 22 October 2024

- There were **1,223** SDS40 'Tranche 2' prisoner releases on 22 October 2024.

These numbers are an administrative assessment of all prisoners released on these dates who were released early following sentence recalculations resulting from the SDS40 implementation, and includes:

- Those who were released at their Conditional Release Date (CRD), which was brought forward as a result of SDS40.
- Those who were released due to their eligibility date for other forms of release being brought forward as a result of SDS40 (e.g. for Home Detention Curfew [HDC]<sup>1</sup> or Early Removal Scheme [ERS]<sup>2</sup>)

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<sup>1</sup> This is an established release scheme, under which eligible prisoners (serving determinate sentences) can be released a maximum of 180 days prior to their CRD.

<sup>2</sup> This is a release scheme under which eligible Foreign National Offenders can be released (by means of deportation from the UK) up to 18 months prior to their CRD.

## Further information

This publication of transparency data presents the number of SDS40 releases on 10 September 2024 (i.e. the first day of SDS40 'Tranche 1') and 22 October 2024 (i.e. the first day of SDS40 'Tranche 2').

This data has been extracted from a mixture of live operational reporting systems, with some additional manual reconciliation. As with any data extracted from administrative systems, it is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to revision if the underlying data changes. Being based on different sources, coverage and methodology, this data will not align with regularly published releases data from Offender Management Statistics.

Our statisticians regularly review the content of publications, and we are actively considering the most appropriate means of routinely publishing updated data. Development of new and improved statistical outputs is usually dependent on reallocating existing resources. As part of our continual review and prioritisation, we welcome user feedback on existing outputs including content, breadth, frequency, and methodology. Please send any comments you have on this publication including suggestions for further developments or reductions in content.

## Accompanying files

- None

## Contact

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

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