



Ministry
of Justice

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Transparency Data

Standard Determinate Sentences 40% (SDS40) Detailed Data, England and Wales

Monthly SDS40 Releases from 10 September 2024 to 31 March 2025

Release Type, Demographic and Sentence characteristics data

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: [Lord Chancellor sets out immediate action to defuse ticking prison 'time-bomb' - GOV.UK](#)

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.

On 7 November 2024, transparency data was published detailing Day 1 release volumes for Tranches 1 and 2: [Transparency data - SDS40 tranches 1 and 2 day one.pdf](#)

There were bulk releases on the first day of each tranche, but releases for both tranches continued after this date. A publication containing information on the total number of SDS40 releases across both tranches from 10 September 2024 to 31 December 2024 was published on 24 April 2025:

[SDS40 Transparency Data Publication.ods](#). This document provides an update on SDS40 releases from 10 September to 31 March 2025.

It disaggregates this data by release type, as well as demographic and sentence characteristics. 'SDS40 releases' refers here to those releases where the prisoner's Conditional Release Date was brought earlier because of SDS40 and where the release type had the potential to have been impacted by SDS40.

Number of SDS40 releases

The number of SDS40 releases between 10 September 2024 and 31 March 2025 was **26,456**.

Releases by month and type

The highest number of SDS40 releases occurred in October 2024. This aligns with bulk releases on and around Day 1 of Tranche 2 (22 October 2024), together with ongoing SDS40 releases from shorter sentences. Since this monthly peak in October, monthly release volumes have been fairly stable, with release volumes ranging from approximately 3,200 to 3,650.

Conditional releases remained the largest number of releases across all months (68%, 17,905).

Prisoner Demographics

All figures provided below are for SDS40 releases between January 2025 and March 2025

Sex

91% of releases during this time period were from male prison establishments (9,343). 891 releases were from female establishments.

Age

The age group with the highest number of SDS40 releases was '30 – 39' years, accounting for 38% of releases (3,877).

Nationality

The majority of releases (89%) were British Nationals (9,151).

Ethnicity

Approximately three quarters (77%) of prisoners released were White (7,929). 8% were Black or Black British, and 7% were Asian or Asian British.

Sentence Length

Nearly half (48%) of those released had a Judicially Imposed Sentence Length (JISL) of less than 12 months (4,875). 12% of those released had a JISL of 4 years or more¹.

Releasing prison

HMP Humber released the largest number of prisoners under SDS40 (331). This was closely followed by HMP Berwyn (327) and HMP Fosse Way (285). These findings align with the higher release volumes seen in these prisons more generally.

Further Information

This publication of transparency data presents the number of SDS40 releases between 10 September 2024 and 31 March 2025, broken down by prisoner demographics and sentence characteristics. The demographic profile of releases from January 2025 to March 2025 is very similar to that of the previous period (September 2024 to December 2024), aside from sentence length, whereby tranche introduction had a greater impact on earlier releases.

‘SDS40 releases’ refers to those releases where the prisoner's Conditional Release Date was brought earlier because of SDS40 and where the release type had the potential to have been impacted by SDS40. This could include some individuals included who were released under existing processes (e.g. Home Detention Curfew) where they were actually released on a date that would have been possible under SDS50.

‘Releases’ have only been reported where they meet the criteria for inclusion in the Accredited Official Statistics on releases in Offender Management Statistics Quarterly (OMSQ), which excludes most post-recall releases. Release codes that would not be impacted by SDS40 (e.g. deaths) have been excluded, though please note that release codes can sometimes be incorrectly assigned.

Known Releases in Error have also been removed from these figures, because these are not legitimate SDS40 releases. Future figures are subject to change if new information comes to light about releases.

¹ The small number of individuals released in September with sentence lengths of 5+ years are an artefact of JISL aggregating all active sentences on a prisoner booking. Included in these cases are sentences served previously by recalled prisoners released from a later (shorter) sentence eligible for SDS40 Tranche 1.

These figures only cover prisoners where the calculation before release was calculated using the Calculate Release Dates Service (CRDS) in Prison Digital Services. The CRDS tool was updated to reflect the new SDS40 rules and rapidly deployed across all prisons in England and Wales to support accurate and efficient recalculations. Some release dates may not have been calculated in CRDS and instead may have been inputted directly into Prison-NOMIS (e.g. for unusual calculations not supported by CRDS). Prisoners for whom a calculation was only inputted in Prison-NOMIS will not be shown, and if a CRDS calculation was overridden in Prison-NOMIS only that latest CRDS release date will be reflected. This is expected to have a greater impact on the earlier weeks of data, when SDS40 policy was newly introduced to prisons.

The month commencing 1 Sep 2024 only includes releases from 10 Sep 2024 (in line with Tranche 1 Day 1).

This data has been extracted from a mixture of live operational reporting systems. 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. The processing of this data aligns predominantly with that of the Offender Management Quarterly Statistics (OMSQ). It does not align with the source, coverage or methodology used to report on the previously published transparency data for SDS40 Day 1 Tranche release volumes. Therefore, it is important to note that this data will not align with the SDS40 Day 1 Tranche transparency data published in November 2024.

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

- Data tables

Contact

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/about/media-enquiries>

Non-Press enquiries relating to this publication should be sent to: OMSQ-SiC-publications@justice.gov.uk URL:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/standard-determinate-sentence-40-sds40-september-2024-to-march-2025>

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