

Offender Management Statistics Quarterly

Published 30 October 2025

Changes to religion codes

As part of wider ongoing data improvement work, following consultation with operational colleagues the prisoner religion / belief codes and associated religion groups have been streamlined to aid more accurate data entry and initial processing.

These changes began in mid-June 2025 and concluded by the end of June 2025. As a result, a number of prisoners have moved between religion / belief groups impacting the 30 June 2025 breakdown (Table 1_Q_8) and the adjudication data covering Apr-June 2025. In addition, new religion / belief groupings have been defined. Data covering dates before end of June 2025 will show the older groupings, whereas data covering dates after end of June 2025 will show the new groupings. Therefore, the two groupings will co-exist alongside each other for the next 4 quarters in the quarterly publications, after which only the new groupings (from September 2025) will remain.

It is important to note that the implementation of these changes means that the breakdown of the prison population by religion (Table 1_Q_8) for before and after 30 June 2025 are no longer consistent and, therefore, not comparable. Data for 30 June 2025 have also been revised to reflect the implementation of these changes.

Summary of changes

Religion / belief group	Changes
Anglican	Renamed and changed content
Free church	Removed group
Roman catholic	Renamed but unchanged in content
Other Christian	Renamed and changed content
Muslim	Content changed but name unchanged
Hindu	Unchanged in content and name
Sikh	Unchanged in content and name
Buddhist	Unchanged in content and name
Jewish	Unchanged in content and name
Other religious group	Renamed and changed content
Non recognised	Removed group
No religion	Renamed and changed content
Not recorded	Unchanged in content and name

Detailed changes to religion/ belief groups:

Religion/belief	Reassigned from	Reassigned to
Free Church	Free Church	Christian – other
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Other Christian	Other faith or belief
Seventh Day Adventist	Other Christian	Other faith or belief
Christadelphian	Other Christian	Other faith or belief
Church of Christ Scientist	Other Christian	Other faith or belief
Jehovah's Witness	Other Christian	Other faith or belief
Lutheran	Other Christian	Christian - Anglican (incl. CofE & CinW)
Church of Norway	Other Christian	Christian - Anglican (incl. CofE & CinW)
Quaker	Other Christian	Other faith or belief
Spiritualist	Other Christian	Other faith or belief
Unitarian	Other Christian	Other faith or belief
Black Muslim	Non-recognised	Muslim
Scientologist	Non-recognised	Other faith or belief
Agnostic	No religion	Agnostic, Atheist, Humanist
Atheist	No religion	Agnostic, Atheist, Humanist
Humanist	No religion	Agnostic, Atheist, Humanist
Unification	Non-recognised	Other faith or belief

N.B: If you require the religion grouping changes in text form rather than in table form, for example, for ease of use with screen-reader equipment, etc., please contact OMSQ-SiC-publications@justice.gov.uk