



Ministry
of Justice

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Transparency Data

Intensive Supervision Courts Statistics: July 2023 to March 2026

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1. Background

This ad hoc statistical release provides information on the cohort of offenders sentenced as part of the Intensive Supervision Courts (ISC) pilot. It sets out new data on volumes, characteristics, and compliance of offenders sentenced under the ISCs between July 2023 and March 2026.

The statistics are intended to deepen understanding of the offenders sentenced under the ISCs and show the current standing and progress of the pilot. The statistics are descriptive and are based on analysis of monitoring data collected as part of the pilot. This release does not investigate whether the ISCs are effective, nor does it explore a causal link between any outcomes presented and the ISC pilot. The effectiveness of the ISC pilot will be evidenced during the planned impact evaluation, due for completion in 2028.

ISCs are a type of problem-solving court, in which offenders with complex needs are diverted from short custodial sentences into enhanced community-based sentences that address the root causes of their offending. ISCs involve probation working in partnership with a range of local treatment services, third-sector agencies, such as women's services, and the police to deliver intensive sentence plans, combining punitive and rehabilitative elements, alongside regular review hearings with the same judge. The pilot was established in June 2023, with courts focusing on substance misuse in Liverpool and Teesside, and a court focusing on women in Birmingham. A further substance misuse court was established in Bristol in June 2024. New ISC courts are due to be established over 2026 and 2027.¹

Table 1: The model, location and start date of each Intensive Supervision Court

Court	Court Model	Date gone live
Birmingham Magistrates	Women's	June 2023
Liverpool Crown	Substance Misuse	June 2023
Teesside Crown	Substance Misuse	June 2023
Bristol Crown	Substance Misuse	June 2024

The Substance Misuse ISCs focus on individuals whose offending behaviour is associated with drug and/or alcohol use and who otherwise would have received a custodial sentence of up to two years, suspended sentence or a high-end community sentence. The Women's ISC serves women with multiple and complex needs, including mental health conditions, substance misuse, and/or experiences of trauma, who would otherwise have received a short custodial sentence of up to 12 months, in line with magistrates' courts sentencing powers, a suspended sentence or a high-end community sentence.

¹ [Tough US-style courts to crack down on repeat offenders - GOV.UK](#)

Courts selected as an ISC location are legislated to impose additional requirements and sanctions to those on orders under the ISC. This includes the ability to attach a standalone drug testing requirement outside of a typical Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR), and the use of short custodial sanctions of up to 28 days as per discretion of the judge, which can be used up to three times throughout the course of an order. Herein all sentences ordered under the ISCs are called ‘ISC orders.’

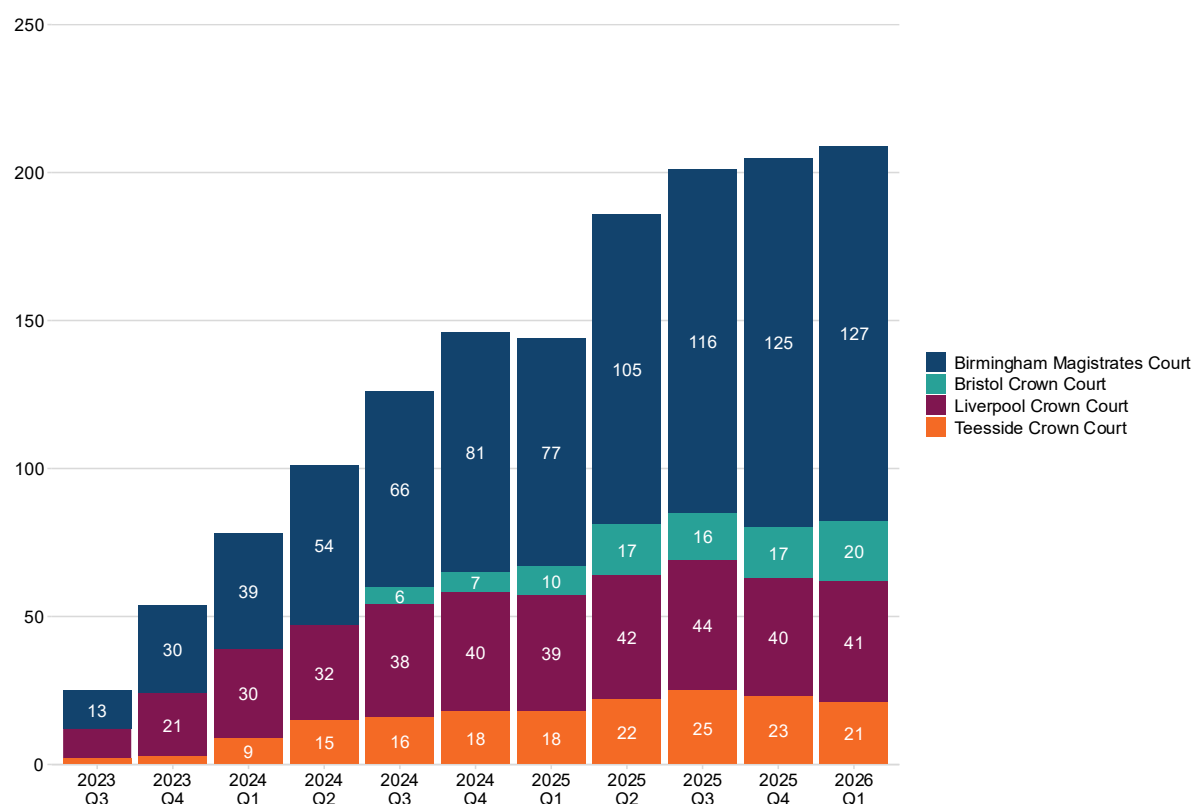
2. Findings

2.1 ISC order volumes and caseload

Between July 2023 and March 2026, there were a total of 369 ISC orders sentenced. The denominator for all statistics in this release is the total number of ISC orders, unless otherwise stated.

As new ISC orders are sentenced and individuals on ISC orders continue to be supervised, the active caseload has grown over time, from 25 individuals at the end of September 2023 to 209 individuals at the end of March 2026.

Figure 1: The active caseload of individuals on ISC orders at the end of each quarter, by court, between July 2023 and March 2026



2.2 Sentencing information

2.2.1 Sentence types

ISC orders can be either a suspended sentence or a community order. Across all ISCs, 57% of individuals were sentenced to a community order while 43% were

sentenced to a suspended sentence order. This varies by court model, with the Women's Magistrates Court ISC sentencing a higher proportion of community orders and the Substance Misuse Crown Court ISCs sentencing a higher proportion of suspended sentence orders.

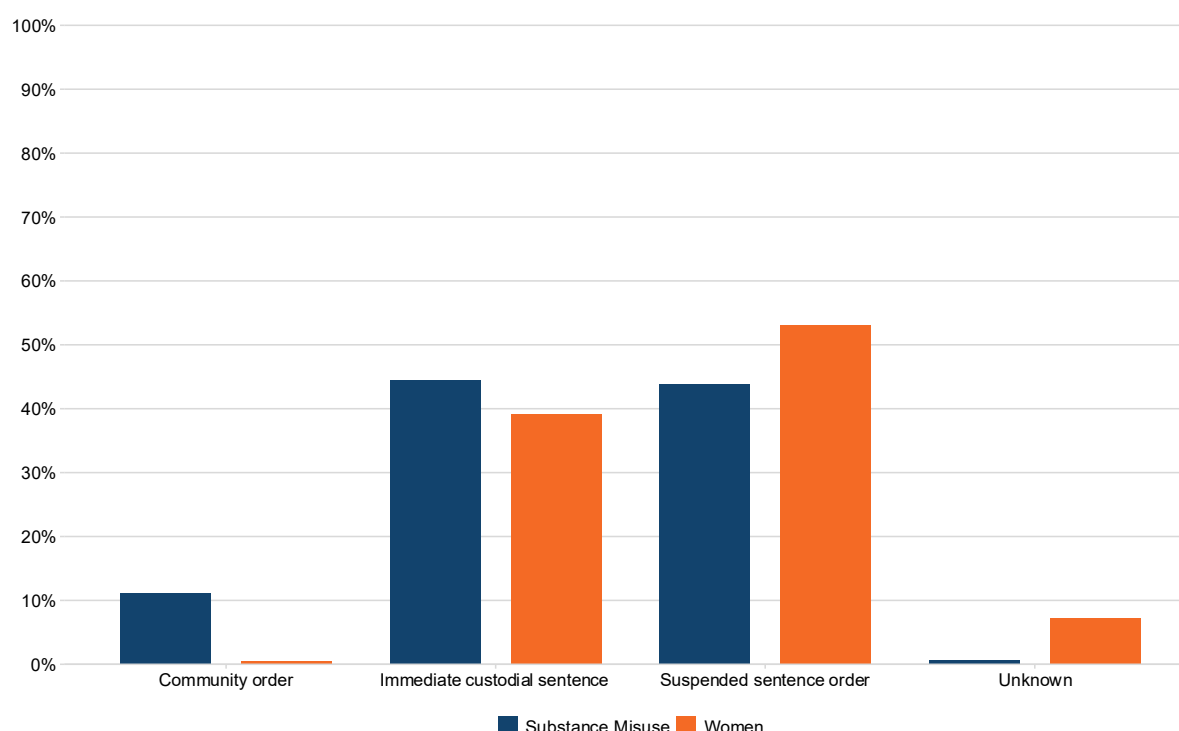
Table 2: Sentence types of ISC orders, by court model

Court Model	Community Order (%)	Suspended Sentence Order (%)
Substance Misuse	18	78
Women	82	22
All ISCs	57	43

2.2.2 Alternative sentences if the ISC pilot had not been available

To understand whether ISCs are diverting individuals from custodial sentences, a questionnaire is issued to judges to collect data on the type of sentence they would have imposed on individuals if ISC orders were not available.

Figure 2: Alternative sentences individuals on ISC orders could have received if the ISC pilot had not been available, by court model



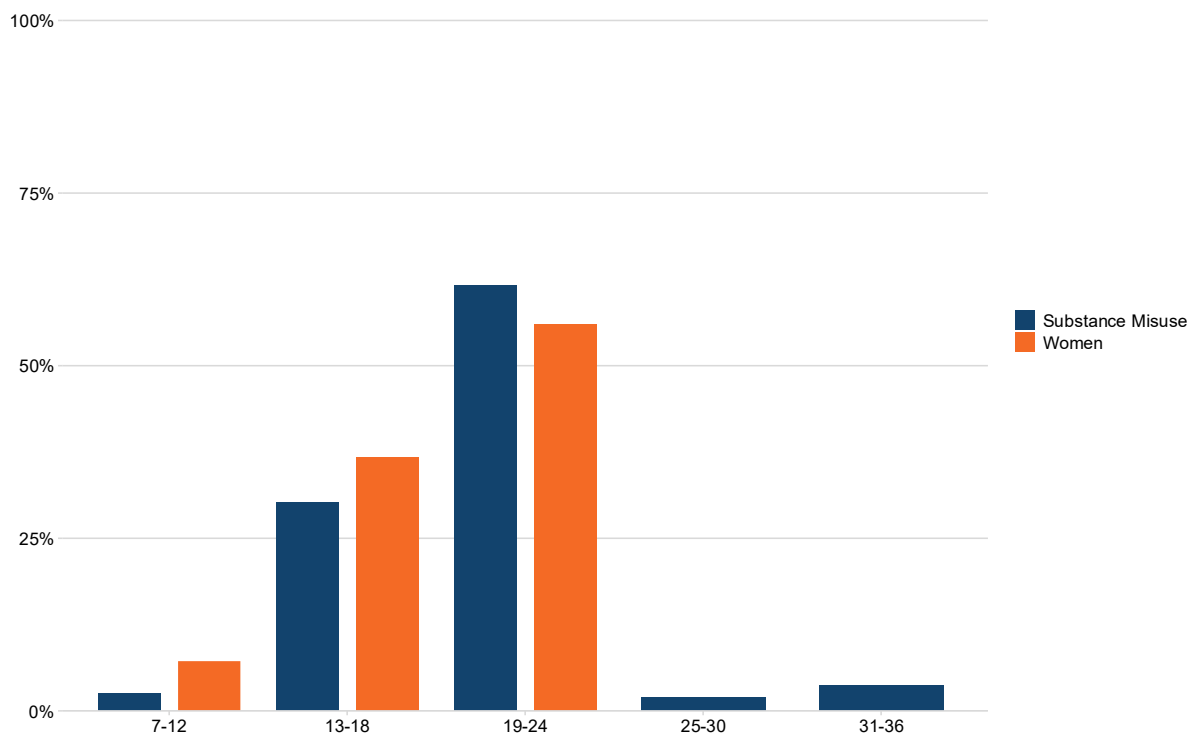
Across all ISCs, 42% of individuals would have received an immediate custodial sentence if an ISC order had not been available, and 49% of individuals would have received a suspended sentence order. The Substance Misuse Crown Court ISCs have diverted equal proportion of individuals from immediate custodial sentences and suspended sentence orders (44%), whilst the Women's Magistrates ISC have

diverted a slightly higher proportion of individuals from a suspended sentence order (53%) than an immediate custodial sentence (39%).

2.2.3 ISC order length

Across all ISCs, most individuals (59%) were sentenced to an ISC order lasting 19 to 24 months. No ISC orders have been sentenced lasting 6 months or less, and no ISC orders have been sentenced in the Women's Magistrates ISC lasting 25 months or more.

Figure 3: Sentence length in months of ISC orders, by court model



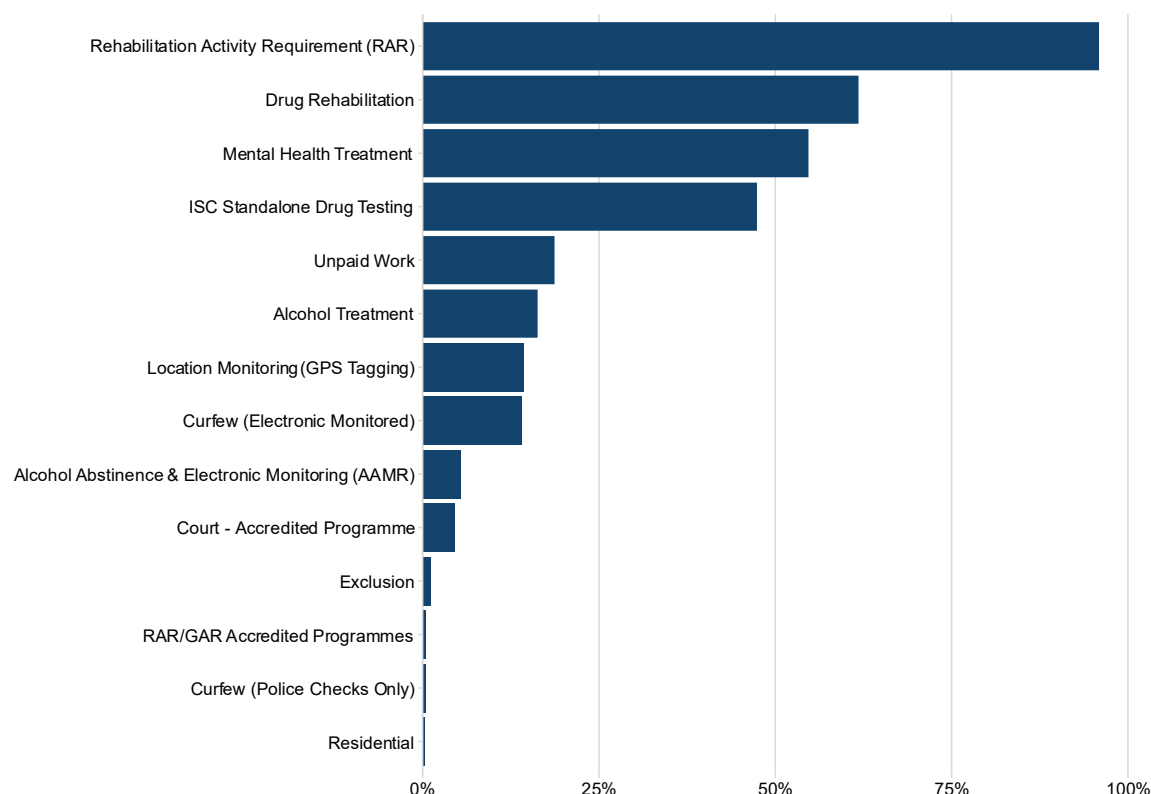
2.2.4 Requirements attached to ISC orders

ISC orders can have a range of additional requirements attached to the order, both in line with other community sentences and under specific powers legislated for courts selected as ISC locations. Individuals may have additional requirements added to their order at a later stage so not all requirements will have been imposed simultaneously. It is common for individuals to have multiple requirements attached to their order so percentages will not total to 100%. In total, 1,239 requirements have been attached to ISC orders.

Across all ISC orders, the most common requirement attached to an order was a Rehabilitation Activity Requirement (RAR) (96%), followed by a Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR) (62%), and a Mental Health Treatment Requirement (MHTR) (55%).

ISCs have a strong focus on Community Sentence Treatment Requirements (CSTRs) to support individuals into accessing treatment. Nearly all (90%) individuals on an ISC order had one or more CSTR attached to their order. The most common combination of CSTRs attached to an order was DRR and MHTR (31% of the ISC cohort), followed by ATR and MHTR (10% of the ISC cohort).

Figure 4: Requirements attached to ISC orders

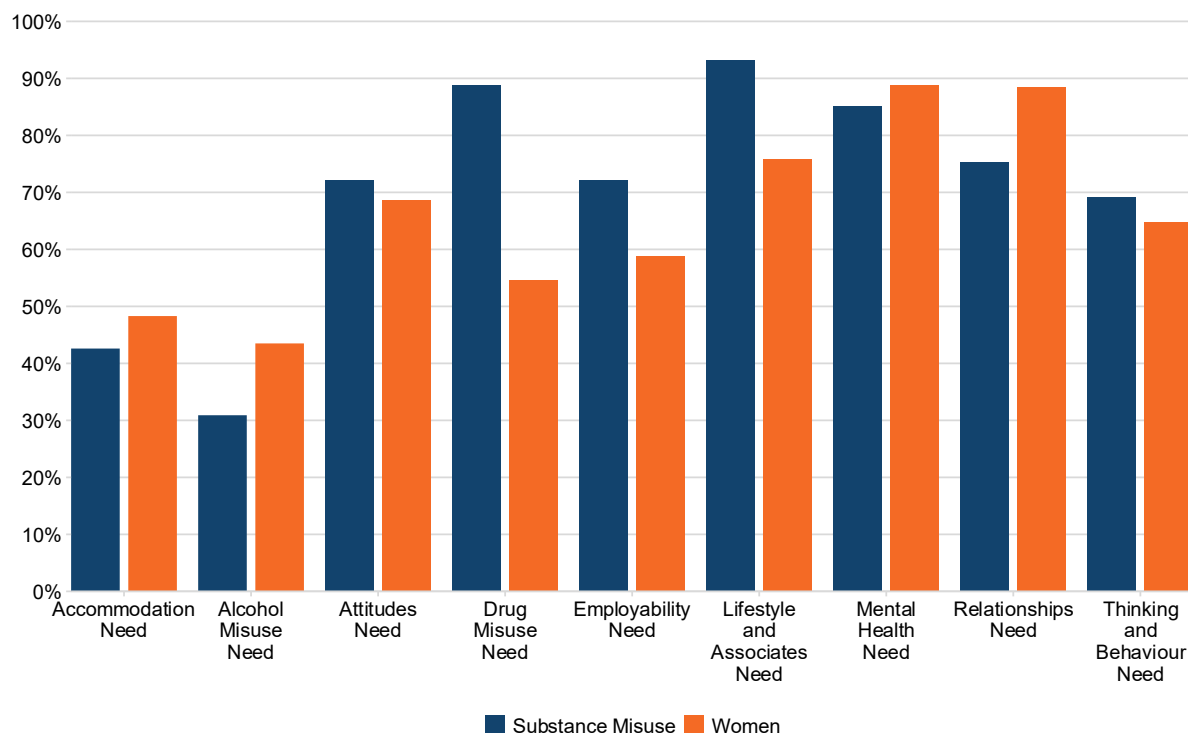


2.3 Needs

Assessments of individuals' needs and risks are conducted at the start of their ISC order under the Offender Assessment System (OASys). Eight criminogenic needs are measured, alongside mental health issues, a responsivity measure. More information, including assessment coverage, can be found in Section 3.2.

It is common for individuals to have multiple identified needs: there were a total of 2,245 needs identified across the ISC cohort. Almost all the ISC cohort had one or more needs identified (99.7%), and 69% had six or more criminogenic needs. Mental health was the most prevalent need across the ISC cohort (87%). Individuals in the Substance Misuse Crown Court ISC have higher rates of lifestyle need (93%) and drug need (89%), whilst individuals in the Women's Magistrates Court ISC have higher rates of mental health need (89%) and relationships need (88%).

Figure 5: Criminogenic needs of individuals on ISC orders, by court model



2.4 Demographics

2.4.1 Sex

Across all ISCs, 61% of individuals are female and 39% are male. This is to be expected as the Women's Magistrates Court ISC has had a higher caseload to date than the three Substance Misuse Crown Court ISCs combined (see Figure 1). Most individuals (90%) sentenced in a Substance Crown Court Misuse ISC are male.

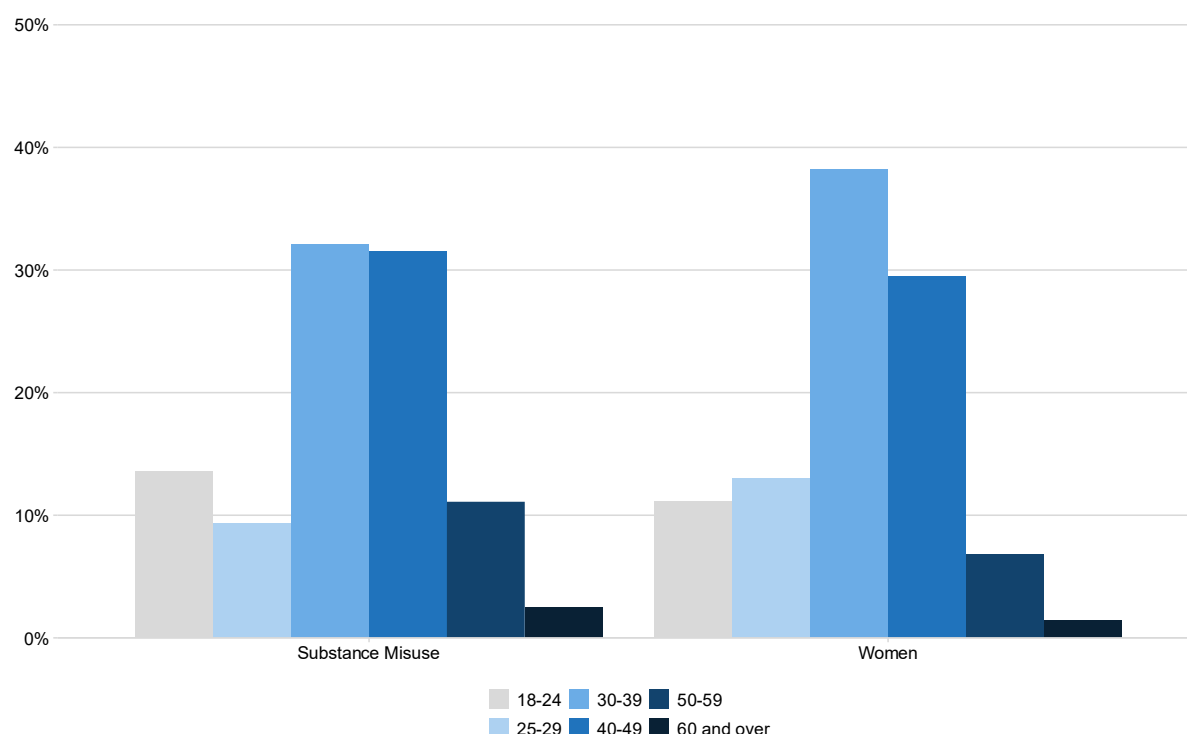
2.4.2 Ethnic Group

Across all ISCs, 77% of individuals on ISC orders are White, 11% are Mixed Ethnicity and 7% are Black or Black British.

2.4.3 Age

Across all ISCs, the most common age group for individuals on an ISC order at the point of sentencing is 30-39 (36%), whilst only 12% are 18-24 and 2% are 60 and over. The Women's Magistrates Court ISC have a higher percentage of individuals aged 30-39 (38%), than the Substance Misuse Crown Court ISC (32%).

Figure 6: Age groups of individuals on ISC orders at order start, by court model



2.5 Compliance with orders

2.5.1 Breaches

If an individual fails to comply with the requirements of their order, they can be dealt with in court for a breach of the order. A breach arises if an individual fails to comply with any requirement of their ISC order without reasonable excuse and this is proven in court. Outcomes of breaches include the order being amended and continued; the individual receiving a sanction, such as a short custodial sanction or fine, and the order continuing; or the order being revoked and the individual resentenced. Individuals breaching the requirements of their order multiple times are only counted as one individual breaching their order.

Table 3: Individuals on ISC orders that have breached the requirements of their ISC order at least once or not breached the requirements, by court model

Court Model	Breached (%)	Not Breached (%)
Substance Misuse	40	60
Women	35	65
All ISCs	37	63

2.6.2 Short custodial sanctions

An enforcement option to mark a breach of an ISC order includes a short custodial sanction. A custodial sanction can be imposed for up to 28 days, as per the discretion of the judge, and be used up to three times during the course of an order.

A total of 20 individuals on an ISC order have ever received a short custodial sanction, with 23 sanctions issued in total, out of 369 individuals that have been on an ISC order. The average length of a short custodial sanction is 23 days.

2.7 Completion of orders

Orders will be completed when an individual either finishes the order in full and has complied with all requirements, or where the order has ended early due to sufficient and measurable progress. Orders will not be completed when the order has been terminated early, for instance if the individual is resentenced for a breach or new offence, if a breach of their order leads to activation of their SSO, or if they have moved out of the area, which may occur due to being the victim of domestic abuse. The completion rate is calculated using all ISC orders that had a sentence start and sentence length that would have resulted in orders finishing by the end of March 2026; this is 82 orders in total.

Table 4: Completion status for ISC orders expected to end by 31 March 2026, by court model

Court Model	Completed (%)	Not Completed (%)
Substance Misuse	55	45
Women	51	49
All ISCs	54	46

3. Methodology

The statistics in this publication are from analysis of Ministry of Justice (MoJ) administrative datasets, National Delius (NDelius) and the Offender Assessment System (OASys), and a bespoke questionnaire of judges that sentence ISC orders, called sentencer feedback forms. This report presents information on individuals on the HMPPS caseload sentenced under the ISC pilot between the start of July 2023 and the end of March 2026. This report presents descriptive statistics only, without making causal claims or inferential statistical testing.

Analysis was conducted in RStudio by a qualified data analyst and quality assurance was conducted in line with MoJ standards, with internal checks that the statistics are accurate to the extent that data quality allows. The analysis received sign-off by the Senior Responsible Analyst.

3.1 Disclosure control

Where necessary, values of one or two have been suppressed to prevent the disclosure of individual information. Further disclosure control may be completed where this alone is insufficient. This could include the secondary suppression of zero values and other cells within a column which could lead to disclosure.

3.2 Data quality

Data used for this analysis was extracted from systems designed for operational administration rather than research. As a result, clerical and input errors may affect data quality. The administrative databases used are subject to inaccuracies common in large-scale data recording systems, such as typographical errors and missing data. Missing data is labelled as “Unknown” in this analysis, and results should be interpreted with caution.

4. Data Sources

4.1 NDelius

ISC order information is captured on NDelius – the case management system used by probation practitioners to manage people on probation. It captures details on the order sentenced, the individual on the order, the progress of their order, and activities undertaken as part of supervising the person on probation.

4.2 OASys

OASys holds assessments conducted on individuals under HMPPS statutory supervision to better understand the needs of and risks posed by them. Assessments show actuarial estimates of an individual offender’s proven reoffending risk for several types of offending, together with the assessor’s rating of the likelihood of them causing serious harm to others, and from that an appropriate sentence plan is prepared considering these issues.

There are two types of OASys assessments: a basic assessment (Layer 1), or a full assessment (Layer 3). A basic Layer 1 does not include criminogenic needs sections and contains a basic sentence plan. A Layer 3 assessment contains all actuarial risk predictor tools, criminogenic needs sections, risk analysis sections, a risk management plan and a sentence plan. In the community, most offenders with community sentences or release on licence are required to have a layer 3 assessment.

A Layer 3 assessment is conducted when an individual is sentenced to an ISC order. Overall Layer 3 coverage for ISC orders as of 31 March 2026 was 97%. In a small number of cases, an assessment is initiated but not able to be completed.

Criminogenic needs are dynamic risk factors that are directly linked to criminal behaviour. Eight criminogenic needs are measured in OASys: accommodation,

employability, relationships, lifestyle and associates, drug misuse, alcohol misuse, thinking and behaviour, and attitudes. Three responsivity measures are also derived from OASys variables (learning disability and challenges, low psychosocial maturity, and mental health issues): these factors may affect how an offender responds to support provided to address their criminogenic needs. All needs and responsivity measures are derived from numbered questions in the OASys Assessment. Each question is scored on a scale from 0 to 2 (some being score 0 or 2, and others 0, 1 or 2) with 0 denoting 'no need', 1 'some need' and 2 'severe need'. Each set of needs questions has a maximum score, and a need is identified when the score equals or exceeds a cut-off. For a detailed breakdown of how needs are derived please refer to [Identified needs of offenders, custody and community, 31 October 2024](#).

This release presents information in relation to the eight criminogenic needs as well as mental health issues, which is a responsivity measure. For simplicity, herein they are all referred to as needs.

4.3 Sentencer feedback forms

Data on sentencing alternatives to the ISCs is collected through a bespoke questionnaire for judges, referred to as sentencer feedback forms. This questionnaire is provided to judges to gather feedback on their sentencing decisions, including what sentence they would have imposed if an ISC had not been available.

5. Accompanying Files

- Data tables

6. 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:

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