



Ministry of
JUSTICE

**End of Custody Licence
releases and recalls
1 to 30 April 2008
England and Wales**

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

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End of Custody Licence (ECL) releases and recalls

Key points

Introduction to ECL

On 19 June 2007 the then Lord Chancellor announced the introduction of a presumption in favour of release from custody on licence for prisoners serving between 4 weeks and 4 years for the final 18 days of their sentence subject to meeting strict eligibility criteria and providing a release address. The first releases under this scheme occurred on 29 June 2007. Prisoners who would normally be subject to supervision on release (prisoners serving 12 months or more or under 22 years of age) are required to meet their probation officer after release and to have regular contact after that in line with their supervision plan. All prisoners released on ECL are liable to recall if they are reported to have misbehaved during the period of the licence.

ECL releases

- During April 2008 there were 2,631 releases on ECL. The releases consisted of 2,351 males (89 per cent) and 280 females (11 per cent).
- As previously, the large majority of those released were serving sentences of under 12 months (2,124 or 81 per cent), and a majority were serving sentences of less than or equal to 6 months (1,851 or 70 per cent). The remaining 507 (19 per cent) were serving longer sentences.

ECL recalls

- There were 74 decisions to recall offenders to custody during April (as notified to NOMS by end 16 May 2008). The most common reason for recall was for alleged re-offending, which accounted for 32 decisions to recall.
- To date, the large majority (82%) of those recalled following release under ECL have been returned to custody (based on decisions notified to NOMS)

ECL caseload

- At the end of April, it is estimated that the number of offenders under licence as part of the ECL scheme was approximately 1,400 (data rounded to the nearest 50).

Explanatory notes

ECL exclusions

Any prisoners falling into the following categories are excluded from release on ECL:

- Registered sex offenders, whether or not they are currently serving a sentence for a sexual offence.
- Prisoners serving sentences for serious violence as specified in Prison Service Instruction 42/2007 (which consolidates and replaces PSI 27/2007)
http://psi.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/PSI_2007_42_end_of_custody_licence.doc (this includes offences such as murder, manslaughter, wounding with intent to commit Grievous Bodily Harm, possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, child cruelty and serious explosives offences). With effect from 28 March 2008 prisoners serving a sentence for an offence committed under counter terrorism legislation are excluded from ECL.
- Prisoners who have previously escaped from custody.
- Prisoners who have previously breached temporary release conditions during the current sentence, have offended during a period under temporary release at any time, or prisoners currently serving a sentence for failing to return from temporary release.
- Prisoners who report that they do not have a release address.
- Foreign national prisoners who will be subject to deportation at the end of their sentence.
- Prisoners who are subject to extradition proceedings.
- Sentenced prisoners who have been remanded into custody on further charges or who are awaiting sentence.
- Prisoners who, within the period of their current sentence, had been recalled either from HDC or from normal licence.
- Prisoners under the age of 18.
- Prisoners serving Detention and Training Order (DTO) sentences.
- Prisoners required to undertake a treatment programme as a condition of the normal (end of sentence) supervision licence that could not be arranged during the period of ECL or at a time otherwise agreed by the Offender Manager.

Explanatory notes (contd.)

Data sources and quality

The data presented in this brief are drawn from the prison administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. While the figures shown have been checked as far as practicable, they should be regarded as approximate and not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.

Contact points for further information

Current and previous editions of this publication are available for download at www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm. Future reports will be published on a monthly basis. Spreadsheet files of the tables contained in this document are also available for download from this address.

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General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from www.statistics.gov.uk

Table 1: ECL releases by offence group, sentence length, age, ethnic group, by sex - April 2008 and cumulative total

	Males	Females	Monthly total	Cumulative totals to date
Total ECL releases between 1 and 30 April 2008	2,351	280	2,631	26,347
By offence group				
Violence against the person ¹	465	44	509	4,996
Sexual offences	0	0	0	8
Robbery	65	10	75	598
Burglary	241	17	258	2,392
Theft and Handling	462	111	573	5,964
Fraud and Forgery	47	5	52	498
Drug offences	107	9	116	1,113
Motoring offences	296	9	305	3,235
Other offences	633	72	705	7,087
Offence not recorded	35	3	38	456
By sentence length				
Less than or equal to 6 months	1625	226	1851	18,602
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	245	28	273	2,949
12 months to less than 4 years	481	26	507	4,793
4 years	0	0	0	3
By age				
18-20	346	20	366	3,748
21-24	471	50	521	5,404
25-29	520	66	586	5,808
30-39	646	102	748	7,266
40-49	296	38	334	3,257
50-59	62	3	65	726
60 and over	10	1	11	138
By ethnic group				
White	1995	258	2253	22,495
Mixed	64	7	71	656
Asian or Asian British	102	2	104	1,184
Black or Black British	178	11	189	1,867
Chinese or Other ethnic group	9	2	11	90
Not stated	1	0	1	38
Unrecorded	2	0	2	11
1991 Census ethnic codes	0	0	0	6

¹ Excludes serious violent offences such as murder, manslaughter, wounding with intent to commit Grievous Bodily Harm, possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, child cruelty and serious explosives offences. A full list of exclusions can be found in Prison Service Instruction 42/2007 (which consolidates and replaces PSI 27/2007).

Data Sources and Quality

These figures 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. See Data Sources and Quality section of report for more information.

**Table 2: ECL releases by discharging establishment
- April 2008 and cumulative total**

Establishment	Releases between 1 and 30 April 2008	Cumulative totals to date
Males		
Altcourse	116	755
Acklington	13	119
Ashwell	10	102
Aylesbury	2	23
Belmarsh	2	52
Buckley Hall	17	61
Blundeston	2	37
Bedford	61	582
Brockhill	11	103
Bristol	23	360
Birmingham	30	365
Bullingdon	20	269
Brinsford	4	30
Blakenhurst	70	558
Bullwood Hall	7	48
Brixton	9	180
Chelmsford	16	57
Cardiff	34	311
Castington	15	108
Channings Wood	14	133
Camp Hill	13	38
Coldingley	3	5
Cookham Wood	0	14
Canterbury	5	59
Dartmoor	4	61
Durham	41	472
Doncaster	74	868
Dorchester	3	40
Deerbolt	43	268
Erlestoke	4	66
Standford Hill	38	440
Everthorpe	27	376
Exeter	58	536
Elmley	14	229
Featherstone	0	23
Feltham	1	11
Forest Bank	63	437
Ford	42	417
Garth	0	2
Gloucester	16	178
Guys Marsh	20	235
Grendon (Spring Hill)	3	31
Glen Parva	56	630
Hollesley Bay (Warren Hill)	31	264
Moorland Open	11	154
Hewell Grange	10	122
Holme House	41	396
Hindley	1	53
Hull	11	203
Highdown	40	398
Highpoint	11	125
Haverigg	27	312
Kirkham	39	493
Kennet	15	122
Kirklevington	1	5
Lancaster	16	96
Leicester	22	211
Leeds	22	268
Lancaster Farms	9	55
Lindholme	43	364
Lincoln	21	247
Liverpool	35	509
Littlehey	1	8
Lewes	34	188
Leyhill	68	339
Moorland	19	194
Manchester	62	817
Maidstone	1	7

Table 3a: Offenders recalled to prison from ECL and the reasons for recall - April 2008

Decisions to recall between 1 April and 30 April 2008 reported to NOMS Public Protection Unit by end of 16 May 2008

Decisions to recall as notified to NOMS Post Release section	74
By reason for recall ¹	
Alleged re-offending ²	32
Failure to live at an approved address	22
Out of touch with the probation service	23
Poor behaviour ³	7

Table 3b: ECL recalls and returns to custody - cumulative totals to date

Decisions to recall offenders from ECL, from 29 June 2007 to 30 April 2008

Number of offenders notified as recalled	894 (3.4% of offenders released on ECL)
Of which as of 16 May 2008	
Number not yet been returned to custody	161 0.6%
Number who have been returned to custody	733 2.8%

Table 3c: Alleged Re-offending by Offenders on ECL

The number of alleged offences (by offenders during their period of ECL), as notified to NOMS Public Protection Unit in April and cumulative totals.

	Number of Offenders ⁴	Alleged further offences
Notified to NOMS Public Protection Unit in April	33	40
Total scheme to date	361	492

Footnotes

1 The total of reasons for recall is not the same as the total number of decisions to recall because offenders can be recalled for more than one reason.

2 Alleged re-offending may lead to recall of the offender even though, at the point of the recall, the offender may not have formally been charged.

3 The offender's behaviour indicates an increased risk of reoffending or harm.

4 The number of offenders notified to NOMS as having allegedly reoffended during their period on ECL

Data Sources and Quality

All of the figures above are as notified to NOMS Public Protection Unit in the reference period indicated and may therefore be subject to inaccuracies or late notifications. There may be recalls, reoffending, further offences, offenders returned to custody, and offenders released not in accordance with the scheme, some of which may not have been notified to us.

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