

**End of Custody Licence  
releases and recalls  
1 to 31 July 2008  
England and Wales**

Ministry of Justice  
Statistics bulletin

Published 29 August 2008

# 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 July 2008 there were 2,626 releases on ECL. The releases consisted of 2,287 males (87 per cent) and 339 females (13 per cent).
- As previously, the large majority of those released were serving sentences of under 12 months (2,159 or 82 per cent), and a majority were serving sentences of less than or equal to 6 months (1,854 or 71 per cent). The remaining 467 (18 per cent) were serving longer sentences.

### ECL recalls

- There were 93 decisions to recall offenders to custody during July (as notified to NOMS by end 15 August 2008). The most common reason for recall was for alleged re-offending, which accounted for 45 decisions to recall.
- To date, the large majority (90%) of those recalled following release under ECL have been returned to custody (based on decisions notified to NOMS)

### ECL caseload

- At the end of July, it is estimated that the number of offenders under licence as part of the ECL scheme was approximately 1,350 (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](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 <http://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.

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

Tel: 020 7210 8822

Email: [press.office@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:press.office@justice.gsi.gov.uk)

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

Ministry of Justice  
Offender Management and Sentencing – Analytical Services  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor FRY building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF  
Tel: 020 7035 3459

General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to: [statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk)

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

© Crown copyright  
Produced by the Ministry of Justice

Alternative formats are available on request from  
[statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk)

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

	Males	Females	Monthly total	Cumulative totals to date
<b>Total ECL releases between 1 and 31 July 2008</b>	<b>2,287</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>2,626</b>	<b>34,175</b>
<b>By offence group</b>				
Violence against the person <sup>1</sup>	482	50	532	6,507
Sexual offences	0	0	0	8
Robbery	52	8	60	799
Burglary	216	13	229	3,106
Theft and Handling	471	148	619	7,798
Fraud and Forgery	55	13	68	673
Drug offences	106	14	120	1,455
Motoring offences	262	12	274	4,060
Other offences	600	76	676	9,178
Offence not recorded	43	5	48	591
<b>By sentence length</b>				
Less than or equal to 6 months	1,584	270	1,854	24,066
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	269	36	305	3,898
12 months to less than 4 years	434	33	467	6,207
4 years	0	0	0	4
<b>By age</b>				
18-20	318	32	350	4,836
21-24	478	61	539	7,035
25-29	462	82	544	7,523
30-39	646	106	752	9,460
40-49	283	51	334	4,207
50-59	86	6	92	939
60 and over	14	1	15	175
<b>By ethnic group</b>				
White	1,946	298	2,244	29,210
Mixed	51	10	61	854
Asian or Asian British	114	1	115	1,535
Black or Black British	164	26	190	2,399
Chinese or Other ethnic group	9	4	13	113
Not stated	3	0	3	45
Unrecorded	0	0	0	12
1991 Census ethnic codes	0	0	0	7

<sup>1</sup> 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  
- July 2008 and cumulative total**

<b>Establishment</b>	<b>Releases between 1 and 31 July 2008</b>	<b>Cumulative totals to date</b>
<b>Males</b>		
Acklington	11	153
Altcourse	104	1,079
Ashwell	11	133
Aylesbury	0	25
Bedford	45	718
Belmarsh	7	63
Birmingham	41	463
Blakenhurst <sup>1</sup>	0	632
Blundeston	4	53
Brinsford	2	44
Bristol	39	489
Brixton	17	211
Brockhill <sup>1</sup>	0	114
Buckley Hall	4	77
Bullingdon	32	355
Bullwood Hall	6	59
Camp Hill	5	63
Canterbury	3	78
Cardiff	35	402
Castington	9	130
Channings Wood	16	175
Chelmsford	1	78
Coldingley	0	7
Cookham Wood	0	14
Dartmoor	5	69
Deerbolt	34	360
Doncaster	66	1,051
Dorchester	4	56
Durham	36	590
Edmunds Hill	26	465
Elmley	28	284
Erlestoke	2	87
Everthorpe	19	452
Exeter	59	718
Featherstone	2	30
Feltham	2	18
Ford	34	526
Forest Bank	107	699
Garth	0	2
Glen Parva	53	801
Gloucester	9	219
Grendon (Spring Hill)	18	62
Guys Marsh	9	291
Haverigg	32	410
Hewell <sup>1</sup>	73	133
Hewell Grange <sup>1</sup>	0	136
Highdown	57	560
Highpoint	15	176
Hindley	2	65
Hollesley Bay (Warren Hill)	27	360
Holme House	44	525
Hull	6	233
Huntercombe	1	4
Kennet	6	152
Kirkham	26	589
Kirklevington	0	8
Lancaster	11	135
Lancaster Farms	24	98
Leeds	26	364
Leicester	20	263
Lewes	29	286
Leyhill	30	432
Lincoln	39	359
Lindholme	33	455
Littlehey	4	16
Liverpool	29	613
Maidstone	1	11
Manchester	75	1,001
Moorland	24	259

Establishment	Releases	Cumulative totals
	between 1 and 31 July 2008	
Moorland Open	8	194
Mount	6	17
North Sea Camp	37	475
Northallerton	30	549
Norwich	21	345
Nottingham	30	413
Onley	30	517
Parc	52	820
Parkhurst	0	1
Pentonville	24	380
Peterborough	38	395
Portland	17	199
Preston	33	529
Ranby	36	461
Reading	1	39
Risley	6	152
Rochester	20	278
Rye Hill	0	2
Shrewsbury	22	263
Stafford	0	12
Standford Hill	40	580
Stocken	16	215
Stoke Heath	25	329
Sudbury	18	208
Swansea	2	299
Swinfen Hall	0	16
Thorn Cross	23	161
Usk (Prescoed)	8	119
Verne	0	11
Wakefield	0	1
Wandsworth	35	423
Warren Hill	0	2
Wayland	5	87
Wealstun	11	242
Wellingborough	9	72
Whetton	0	3
Winchester	21	308
Wolds	3	51
Woodhill	31	338
Wormwood Scrubs	78	773
Wymott	12	124
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,287</b>	<b>30,441</b>

#### Females

Askham Grange	1	16
Bronzeield	63	580
Downview	11	103
Drake Hall	8	145
East Sutton Park	0	6
Eastwood Park	43	485
Foston Hall	18	260
Holloway	35	379
Low Newton	39	343
Morton Hall	4	46
New Hall	44	430
Peterborough	23	315
Send	2	30
Styal	48	596
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>3,734</b>

#### GRAND TOTAL

**2,626**                      **34,175**

1 On 25 June 2008 3 prisons (HMPs Blakenhurst, Brockhill and Hewell Grange) merged to become HMP Hewell. For this and future publications, ECL releases will be shown for HMP Hewell only. Cumulative totals for the 3 prisons which merged are shown for the time period 29 June 2007 to 31 May 2008.

#### 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 3a: Offenders recalled to prison from ECL and the reasons for recall  
- July 2008**

Decisions to recall between 1 July 2008 31 July 2008 reported to NOMS Public Protection Unit by end of 15 August 2008

<b>Decisions to recall as notified to NOMS</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>By reason for recall <sup>1</sup></b>	
Alleged re-offending <sup>2</sup>	45
Failure to live at an approved address	8
Out of touch with the probation service	21
Poor behaviour <sup>3</sup>	26

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

**Decisions to recall offenders from ECL, from 29 June 2007 to 31 July 2008**

<b>Number of offenders notified as recalled</b>	<b>1,153 (3% of offenders released on ECL)</b>
Of which as of 15 August 2008	
Number not yet been returned to custody	110
Number who have been returned to custody	1,043

**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 July and cumulative totals.

	<b>Number of Offenders <sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Alleged further offences</b>
01 July- 31 July	45	50
Total scheme to date	487	665

**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 and may therefore be subject to inaccuracies. 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.