



Ministry of
JUSTICE

**End of Custody Licence
releases and recalls
December 2009
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 December 2009 there were 2,187 releases on ECL, of which 89% were male prisoners and 11% female prisoners.
- 78% of those released were serving sentences of under 12 months. The remaining 22% were serving longer sentences.

ECL recalls

- There were 57 decisions to recall offenders to custody during December (as notified to NOMS by end 25 January 2010). The most common reason for recall was for alleged re-offending which accounted for 24 decisions to recall.
- To date, the large majority (91%) of those recalled following release under ECL have been returned to custody (based on decisions notified to NOMS).

ECL caseload

- At the end of December, approximately 1,100 offenders were under licence as part of the ECL scheme (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 system. 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.

Data on releases are extracted around 3 weeks after the end of the previous month, allowing prison staff time to update the prisoners' records. Amendments to records after this time are not published. A comparison between published data and live data indicates a variance of less than 0.5%.

Unless otherwise stated, numbers in the text have been rounded for ease of reading using the following rules:

Numbers of 100,000 and over are rounded to the nearest 1,000

Numbers from 1,000 – 99,999 are rounded to the nearest 100

Numbers from 10 – 999 are rounded to the nearest 10

Numbers under 10 are unrounded.

Data on ECL recalls and the tables show the unrounded data.

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 enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be emailed to: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

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 and sex - December 2009 and cumulative totals

	Releases in December 2009			2009	2008	2007
	Males	Females	Total	1 January - 31 December 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Total ECL releases	1,951	236	2,187	29,371	31,318	16,197
By offence group						
Violence against the person ¹	424	32	456	6,121	6,216	3,000
Sexual offences	0	0	0	1	5	4
Robbery	57	1	58	815	792	349
Burglary	216	9	225	2,727	2,794	1,499
Theft and Handling	374	93	467	6,071	7,116	3,682
Fraud and Forgery	37	9	46	665	656	291
Drug offences	85	11	96	1,405	1,322	691
Motoring offences	211	8	219	2,960	3,473	2,032
Other offences	496	70	566	8,037	8,431	4,362
Offence not recorded	51	3	54	569	513	287
By sentence length						
Less than or equal to 6 months	1,215	195	1,410	19,840	22,079	11,448
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	263	22	285	3,454	3,592	1,806
12 months to less than 4 years	473	19	492	6,074	5,643	2,941
4 years or more	0	0	0	3	4	2
By age						
18-20	252	14	266	3,817	4,340	2,339
21-24	427	47	474	6,359	6,557	3,283
25-29	425	43	468	6,471	6,949	3,588
30-39	547	84	631	8,119	8,663	4,462
40-49	235	30	265	3,633	3,797	1,989
50-59	49	17	66	808	841	454
60 and over	16	1	17	164	171	82
By ethnic group						
White	1,646	207	1,853	25,109	26,781	13,850
Mixed	57	6	63	726	799	403
Asian or Asian British	104	2	106	1,419	1,447	697
Black or Black British	132	16	148	1,976	2,135	1,161
Chinese or Other ethnic group	2	2	4	79	113	47
Not stated	3	0	3	18	34	27
Unrecorded	6	3	9	25	6	6
1991 Census ethnic codes	1	0	1	19	3	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.

Table 2: ECL releases by discharging establishment - December 2009 and cumulative totals

Establishment	Releases in December 2009	2009	2008	2007
		1 January - 31 December 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Males				
Acklington	15	96	122	81
Albany	0	0	0	0
Altcourse	102	1,578	1,403	350
Ashfield	0	1	0	0
Ashwell	1	60	111	58
Aylesbury	1	25	15	14
Bedford	39	472	572	372
Belmarsh	2	61	31	41
Birmingham	20	631	375	232
Blakenhurst	0	0	303	329
Blantyre House	0	0	0	0
Blundeston	4	42	44	27
Brinsford	2	22	56	16
Bristol	29	428	502	214
Brixton	22	298	122	127
Brockhill	0	0	45	69
Buckley Hall	11	83	77	31
Bullingdon	43	361	364	155
Bullwood Hall	7	69	78	25
Bure ³	0	0	0	0
Camp Hill	0	37	87	20
Canterbury	9	62	77	34
Cardiff	23	406	398	188
Castington	3	69	107	61
Channings Wood	12	194	173	81
Chelmsford	20	206	104	41
Coldingley	0	12	9	1
Cookham Wood	0	0	0	14
Dartmoor	4	67	58	32
Deerbolt	30	289	370	145
Doncaster	60	813	828	565
Dorchester	11	90	25	34
Dovegate	17	42	0	0
Dover	0	0	0	0
Durham	18	303	453	341
Edmunds Hill	15	284	394	206
Erlestoke	3	63	78	40
Everthorpe	32	308	347	253
Exeter	35	495	644	334
Featherstone	0	26	26	15
Feltham	1	27	32	3
Ford	46	483	435	253
Forest Bank	67	850	1,009	164
Frankland	0	0	0	0
Full Sutton	0	0	0	0
Garth	0	1	2	1
Gartree	0	1	0	0
Glen Parva	43	640	730	390
Gloucester	12	123	164	116
Grendon/Spring Hill	15	141	90	22
Guys Marsh	15	169	217	154
Haslar	0	0	0	0
Haverigg	12	200	361	175
Hewell Grange	0	0	68	68
Hewell ¹	53	722	376	0
High Down	30	407	573	234
Highpoint	6	157	177	79
Hindley	0	2	37	38
Hollesley Bay	18	290	390	146
Holme House	21	420	540	221
Hull	7	374	266	138
Huntercombe	1	5	4	0
Isle of Wight ²	8	107	0	0
Kennet	12	154	135	72
Kingston (Portsmouth)	0	0	0	0
Kirkham	7	189	409	306
Kirklevington Grange	0	1	8	3
Lancaster	8	166	135	57
Lancaster Farms	12	162	134	33
Latchmere House	0	0	0	0
Leeds	47	488	290	198
Leicester	20	236	221	135
Lewes	23	282	348	100
Leyhill	16	164	367	190
Lincoln	36	395	445	148
Lindholme	26	245	360	234
Littlehey	1	11	22	5
Liverpool	16	774	405	335
Long Lartin	0	0	0	0
Lowdham Grange	0	0	0	0
Maidstone	0	7	11	3
Manchester	45	675	829	525
Moorland Closed	13	189	250	124
Moorland Open	7	120	151	95
Mount (The)	0	21	27	1
North Sea Camp	20	300	395	227
Northallerton	30	384	490	259
Norwich	56	387	306	171
Nottingham	16	212	307	221

Table 2: ECL releases by discharging establishment - December 2009 and cumulative totals

Establishment	Releases in December 2009	2009	2008	2007
		1 January - 31 December 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Onley	19	322	413	234
Parc	79	868	690	436
Parkhurst	0	0	2	0
Pentonville	34	337	311	208
Peterborough	28	331	272	224
Portland	8	176	194	106
Preston	43	490	462	218
Ranby	31	467	392	242
Reading	4	41	25	22
Risley	1	98	125	79
Rochester	34	430	270	127
Rye Hill	0	1	0	2
Sheppey Cluster (Elmley)	16	221	307	151
Sheppey Cluster (Standford Hill)	29	471	544	286
Sheppey Cluster (Swaleside)	0	0	0	0
Shepton Mallet	0	0	0	0
Shrewsbury	34	393	244	145
Stafford	0	15	15	2
Stocken	17	189	218	93
Stoke Heath	13	215	271	179
Sudbury	5	119	191	82
Swansea	3	62	225	144
Swinfen Hall	2	11	14	7
Thorn Cross	17	261	227	57
Usk/Prescoed	1	28	106	58
Verne (The)	0	3	3	8
Wakefield	0	0	1	0
Wandsworth	18	161	359	220
Warren Hill	0	0	1	1
Wayland	9	109	102	41
Wealstun	8	64	200	155
Wellingborough	9	124	87	28
Werrington	0	0	0	0
Wetherby	0	0	0	0
Whatton	0	0	1	2
Whitemoor	0	1	0	0
Winchester	24	325	310	151
Wolds	1	16	35	24
Woodhill	44	399	388	126
Wormwood Scrubs	57	864	752	369
Wymott	7	97	109	62
TOTAL	1,951	26,383	27,780	14,479
Females				
Askham Grange	1	7	21	7
Bronzeield	43	507	618	265
Downview	9	83	105	41
Drake Hall	9	124	145	73
East Sutton Park	2	23	10	3
Eastwood Park	27	381	416	228
Foston Hall	13	211	231	125
Holloway	29	374	393	164
Low Newton	20	248	312	172
Morton Hall	11	102	58	18
New Hall	5	151	357	224
Peterborough	30	268	227	164
Send	0	35	37	10
Styal	37	474	608	224
TOTAL	236	2,988	3,538	1,718
GRAND TOTAL	2,187	29,371	31,318	16,197

1 On 25 June 2008 3 prisons (HMPs Blakenhurst, Brockhill and Hewell Grange) merged to become HMP Hewell. ECL releases are now 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.

2 On 1 April 2009 3 prisons (HMPs Albany, Camp Hill and Parkhurst) merged to become HMP Isle of Wight. ECL releases are now shown for HMP Isle of Wight only. Cumulative totals for the 3 prisons which merged are shown from 29 June 2007 to 31 March 2009.

3 HMP Bure was opened and accepted its first prisoners on the 30th of November 2009.

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.

**Table 3a: Offenders recalled to prison from ECL and the reasons for recall
- December 2009 and cumulative totals**

Decisions to recall between 1 December 2009 and 31 December 2009 reported to NOMS Public Protection Unit by end of 25 January 2010

	2009	2008	2007	
	1 December - 31 December 2009	1 January - 31 December 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Decisions to recall as notified to NOMS	57	928	1,030	564
By reason for recall ¹				
Alleged re-offending ²	24	449	474	194
Failure to live at an approved address	17	263	274	118
Out of touch with the probation service	10	209	268	226
Poor behaviour ³	11	105	101	75

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

Decisions to recall offenders from ECL, from 29 June 2007 to 31 December 2009

Number of offenders notified as recalled at 25 January 2010	2,522	(3% of offenders released on ECL)
Of which,		
Number not yet returned to custody	222	(0.3% of offenders released on ECL)
Number who have returned to custody	2,300	(3% of offenders released on ECL)

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 in December and cumulative totals.

	1 December - 31 December 2009	1 January - 31 December 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Number of offenders ⁴	25	454	497	215
Alleged further offences	31	584	658	301

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.

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