

**End of Custody Licence
releases and recalls
October 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 October 2009 there were 2,400 releases on ECL, of which 92% were male prisoners and 8% female prisoners.
- 78% of those released were serving sentences of under 12 months. The remaining 22% were serving longer sentences.

ECL recalls

- There were 79 decisions to recall offenders to custody during October (as notified to NOMS by end 20 November 2009). The most common reason for recall was for alleged re-offending which accounted for 40 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 October, approximately 1,200 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 - October 2009 and cumulative totals

	Releases in October 2009			Year to date	2008	2007
	Males	Females	Total	1 January - 31 October 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Total ECL releases	2,209	204	2,413	24,775	31,318	16,197
By offence group						
Violence against the person ¹	492	30	522	5,151	6,216	3,000
Sexual offences	0	0	0	0	5	4
Robbery	66	3	69	682	792	349
Burglary	219	3	222	2,294	2,794	1,499
Theft and Handling	378	96	474	5,137	7,116	3,682
Fraud and Forgery	46	7	53	564	656	291
Drug offences	134	7	141	1,191	1,322	691
Motoring offences	234	10	244	2,479	3,473	2,032
Other offences	593	44	637	6,811	8,431	4,362
Offence not recorded	47	4	51	466	513	287
By sentence length						
Less than or equal to 6 months	1,444	172	1,616	16,803	22,079	11,448
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	249	14	263	2,897	3,592	1,806
12 months to less than 4 years	516	18	534	5,073	5,643	2,941
4 years or more	0	0	0	2	4	2
By age						
18-20	311	16	327	3,250	4,340	2,339
21-24	481	38	519	5,354	6,557	3,283
25-29	492	45	537	5,461	6,949	3,588
30-39	587	63	650	6,821	8,663	4,462
40-49	268	34	302	3,089	3,797	1,989
50-59	55	7	62	665	841	454
60 and over	15	1	16	135	171	82
By ethnic group						
White	1,866	183	2,049	21,209	26,781	13,850
Mixed	41	2	43	596	799	403
Asian or Asian British	129	5	134	1,190	1,447	697
Black or Black British	162	13	175	1,672	2,135	1,161
Chinese or Other ethnic group	7	1	8	67	113	47
Not stated	0	0	0	14	34	27
Unrecorded	4	0	4	9	6	6
1991 Census ethnic codes	0	0	0	18	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 - October 2009 and cumulative totals

Establishment	Releases in October 2009	Year to date		2008	2007
		1 January - 31 October 2009	1 January - 31 October 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Males					
Acklington	1	73	122	81	
Albany	0	0	0	0	
Altcourse	109	1,362	1,403	350	
Ashfield	0	1	0	0	
Ashwell	3	55	111	58	
Aylesbury	2	23	15	14	
Bedford	33	392	572	372	
Belmarsh	7	48	31	41	
Birmingham	48	546	375	232	
Blakenhurst	0	0	303	329	
Blantyre House	0	0	0	0	
Blundeston	1	35	44	27	
Brinsford	1	19	56	16	
Bristol	41	356	502	214	
Brixton	18	261	122	127	
Brockhill	0	0	45	69	
Buckley Hall	8	65	77	31	
Bullingdon	25	286	364	155	
Bullwood Hall	5	58	78	25	
Camp Hill	0	37	87	20	
Canterbury	7	50	77	34	
Cardiff	33	349	398	188	
Castington	1	65	107	61	
Channings Wood	14	166	173	81	
Chelmsford	21	164	104	41	
Coldingley	0	12	9	1	
Cookham Wood	0	0	0	14	
Dartmoor	16	54	58	32	
Deerbolt	21	234	370	145	
Doncaster	69	687	828	565	
Dorchester	9	67	25	34	
Dovegate	10	14	0	0	
Dover	0	0	0	0	
Durham	0	261	453	341	
Edmunds Hill	24	248	394	206	
Elmley	14	189	307	151	
Erlestoke	6	53	78	40	
Everthorpe	28	250	347	253	
Exeter	47	423	644	334	
Featherstone					

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

Establishment	Releases in October 2009	Year to date	2008	2007
		1 January - 31 October 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Parc	63	703	690	436
Parkhurst	0	0	2	0
Pentonville	34	272	311	208
Peterborough	21	278	272	224
Portland	16	159	194	106
Preston	56	417	462	218
Ranby	46	398	392	242
Reading	4	37	25	22
Risley	5	91	125	79
Rochester	37	361	270	127
Rye Hill	0	1	0	2
Shepton Mallet	0	0	0	0
Shrewsbury	35	313	244	145
Stafford	2	15	15	2
Standford Hill	26	404	544	286
Stocken	18	163	218	93
Stoke Heath	30	179	271	179
Sudbury	6	108	191	82
Swaleside	0	0	0	0
Swansea	1	56	225	144
Swinfen Hall	1	8	14	7
Thorn Cross	29	231	227	57
Usk/Prescoed	4	26	106	58
The Mount	2	20	27	1
The Verne	0	3	3	8
The Wolds	1	15	35	24
Wakefield	0	0	1	0
Wandsworth	5	132	359	220
Warren Hill	0	0	1	1
Wayland	9	94	102	41
Wealstun	5	45	200	155
Wellingborough	10	109	87	28
Werrington	0	0	0	0
Wetherby	0	0	0	0
Whatton	0	0	1	2
Whitemoor	0	1	0	0
Winchester	26	281	310	151
Woodhill	31	331	388	126
Wormwood Scrubs	90	717	752	369
Wymott	10	79	109	62
TOTAL	2,209	22,270	27,780	14,479
Females				
Askham Grange	2	5	21	7
Bronzehead	34	431	618	265
Downview	4	66	105	41
Drake Hall	7	104	145	73
East Sutton Park	1	17	10	3
Eastwood Park	30	309	416	228
Foston Hall	13	185	231	125
Holloway	31	313	393	164
Low Newton	21	207	312	172
Morton Hall	10	78	58	18
New Hall	15	139	357	224
Peterborough	23	220	227	164
Send	2	30	37	10
Styal	11	401	608	224
TOTAL	204	2,505	3,538	1,718
GRAND TOTAL	2,413	24,775	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

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
- October 2009 and cumulative totals**

Decisions to recall between 1 October 2009 and 31 October 2009 reported to NOMS Public Protection Unit by end of 20 November 2009

	Year to date		2008	2007
	1 October - 31 October 2009	1 January - 31 October 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Decisions to recall as notified to NOMS	79	802	1,030	564
By reason for recall ¹				
Alleged re-offending ²	40	380	474	194
Failure to live at an approved address	18	232	274	118
Out of touch with the probation service	23	189	268	226
Poor behaviour ³	9	86	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 October 2009

Number of offenders notified as recalled at 20 November 2009	2,396	(3% of offenders released on ECL)
Of which,		
Number not yet returned to custody	216	(0.3% of offenders released on ECL)
Number who have returned to custody	2,180	(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 October and cumulative totals.

	1 October - 31 October 2009	1 January - 31 October 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Number of offenders ⁴	40	386	497	215
Alleged further offences	54	499	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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