

**End of Custody Licence
releases and recalls
April 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 April 2009 there were 2,503 releases on ECL. The releases consisted of 2,240 male prisoners (89 per cent) and 263 female prisoners (11 per cent).
- As previously, the large majority of those released were serving sentences of under 12 months (1,990 or 80 per cent), and a majority were serving sentences of less than or equal to 6 months (1,727 or 69 per cent). The remaining 513 (20 per cent) were serving longer sentences.

ECL recalls

- There were 92 decisions to recall offenders to custody during April (as notified to NOMS by end 15 May 2009). The most common reason for recall was for alleged re-offending which accounted for 41 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 April, approximately 1,350 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 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.

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

Tel: 020 3334 3536

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

Ministry of Justice
Offender Management and Sentencing – Analytical Services
2nd 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 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 - April 2009 and cumulative totals

	Releases in April 2009			Year to date	2008	2007
	Males	Females	Total	1 January - 30 April 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Total ECL releases	2,240	263	2,503	9,854	31,318	16,197
By offence group						
Violence against the person ¹	485	35	520	1,960	6,216	3,000
Sexual offences	0	0	0	0	5	4
Robbery	57	8	65	247	792	349
Burglary	208	11	219	956	2,794	1,499
Theft and Handling	431	107	538	2,154	7,116	3,682
Fraud and Forgery	37	11	48	193	656	291
Drug offences	108	9	117	459	1,322	691
Motoring offences	249	9	258	987	3,473	2,032
Other offences	628	68	696	2,725	8,431	4,362
Offence not recorded	37	5	42	173	513	287
By sentence length						
Less than or equal to 6 months	1,523	204	1,727	6,729	22,079	11,448
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	234	29	263	1,124	3,592	1,806
12 months to less than 4 years	481	30	511	1,999	5,643	2,941
4 years or more ²	2	0	2	2	4	2
By age						
18-20	275	31	306	1,258	4,340	2,339
21-24	547	44	591	2,117	6,557	3,283
25-29	461	60	521	2,162	6,949	3,588
30-39	606	87	693	2,750	8,663	4,462
40-49	268	35	303	1,253	3,797	1,989
50-59	73	5	78	263	841	454
60 and over	10	1	11	51	171	82
By ethnic group						
White	1,893	230	2,123	8,454	26,781	13,850
Mixed	50	10	60	246	799	403
Asian or Asian British	123	2	125	458	1,447	697
Black or Black British	165	17	182	650	2,135	1,161
Chinese or Other ethnic group	5	4	9	29	113	47
Not stated	0	0	0	7	34	27
Unrecorded	0	0	0	0	6	6
1991 Census ethnic codes	4	0	4	10	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).

2 In April, two prisoners serving sentences of 4 years or more were released in error. No further re-offending was reported.

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 - April 2009 and cumulative totals

Establishment	Releases between 1 and 30 April 2009	Year to date	2008	2007
		1 January 2009 - 30 April 2009	1 January 2008 - 31 December 2008	29 June 2007 - 31 December 2007
Males				
Acklington	11	36	122	81
Altcourse	171	591	1,403	350
Ashfield	0	1	0	0
Ashwell	5	39	111	58
Aylesbury	3	10	15	14
Bedford	36	145	572	372
Belmarsh	11	17	31	41
Birmingham	55	193	375	232
Blakenhurst ¹	0	0	303	329
Blundeston	1	14	44	27
Brinsford	1	8	56	16
Bristol	30	147	502	214
Brixton	31	93	122	127
Brockhill ¹	0	0	45	69
Buckley Hall	1	22	77	31
Bullingdon	19	105	364	155
Bullwood Hall	1	23	78	25
Camp Hill	12	49	87	20
Canterbury	5	19	77	34
Cardiff	43	142	398	188
Castington	3	29	107	61
Channings Wood	11	57	173	81
Chelmsford	16	55	104	41
Coldingley	5	7	9	1
Cookham Wood	0	0	0	14
Dartmoor	1	8	58	32
Deerbolt	12	87	370	145
Doncaster	80	282	828	565
Dorchester	9	24	25	34
Durham	40	110	453	341
Edmunds Hill	29	97	394	206
Elmley	21	71	307	151
Erlestone	8	26	78	40
Everthorpe	30	88	347	253
Exeter	40	200	644	334
Featherstone	2	14	26	15
Feltham	3	9	32	3
Ford	31	149	435	253
Forest Bank	58	276	1,009	164
Garth	0	0	2	1
Glen Parva	47	186	730	390
Gloucester	8	45	164	116
Grendon (Spring Hill)	10	54	90	22
Guys Marsh	12	53	217	154
Haverigg	17	76	361	175
Hewell ¹	45	241	376	0
Hewell Grange ¹	0	0	68	68
Highdown	43	148	573	234
Highpoint	18	59	177	79
Hindley	0	2	37	38
Hollesley Bay (Warren Hill)	26	100	390	146
Holme House	41	151	540	221
Hull	33	136	266	138
Huntercombe	0	2	4	0
Kennet	9	52	135	72
Kirkham	23	88	409	306
Kirklevington	0	0	8	3
Lancaster	12	47	135	57
Lancaster Farms	16	39	134	33
Leeds	43	152	290	198
Leicester	21	83	221	135
Lewes	18	80	348	100
Leyhill	0	26	367	190
Lincoln	41	140	445	148
Lindholme	23	87	360	234
Littlehey	0	1	22	5
Liverpool	69	300	405	335
Maidstone	2	5	11	3
Manchester	60	220	829	525
Moorland	14	63	250	124
Moorland Open	10	45	151	95
Mount	1	7	27	1
North Sea Camp	28	105	395	227
Northallerton	30	123	490	259
Norwich	24	90	306	171
Nottingham	17	60	307	221
Onley	26	106	413	234

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

Establishment	Releases between 1 and 30 April 2009	Year to date	2008	2007
		1 January 2009 - 30 April 2009	1 January 2008 - 31 December 2008	29 June 2007 - 31 December 2007
Parc	58	241	690	436
Parkhurst	0	0	2	0
Pentonville	28	78	311	208
Peterborough	30	118	272	224
Portland	21	70	194	106
Preston	42	157	462	218
Ranby	46	149	392	242
Reading	0	13	25	22
Risley	13	46	125	79
Rochester	50	149	270	127
Rye Hill	0	0	0	2
Shrewsbury	36	103	244	145
Stafford	3	4	15	2
Standford Hill	46	190	544	286
Stocken	16	59	218	93
Stoke Heath	14	67	271	179
Sudbury	11	49	191	82
Swansea	2	36	225	144
Swinfen Hall	1	5	14	7
Thorn Cross	23	98	227	57
Usk (Prescoed)	0	10	106	58
Verne	0	1	3	8
Wakefield	0	0	1	0
Wandsworth	18	70	359	220
Warren Hill	0	0	1	1
Wayland	9	42	102	41
Wealstun	3	12	200	155
Wellingborough	10	42	87	28
Whatton	0	0	1	2
Whitemoor	1	1	0	0
Winchester	27	126	310	151
Wolds	1	9	35	24
Woodhill	34	146	388	126
Wormwood Scrubs	64	285	752	369
Wymott	11	27	109	62
TOTAL	2,240	8,818	27,780	14,479
Females				
Askham Grange	0	3	21	7
Bronzefield	50	174	618	265
Downview	8	30	105	41
Drake Hall	12	46	145	73
East Sutton Park	0	8	10	3
Eastwood Park	29	110	416	228
Foston Hall	18	83	231	125
Holloway	25	131	393	164
Low Newton	22	77	312	172
Morton Hall	15	25	58	18
New Hall	13	65	357	224
Peterborough	20	87	227	164
Send	2	10	37	10
Styal	49	187	608	224
TOTAL	263	1,036	3,538	1,718
GRAND TOTAL	2,503	9,854	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.

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
- April 2009 and cumulative totals**

Decisions to recall between 1 April 2009 and 30 April 2009 reported to NOMS Public Protection Unit by end of 15 May 2009.

	Year to date	2008	2007
	1 April - 30 April 2009	1 January - 30 April 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008
			29 June - 31 December 2007
Decisions to recall as notified to NOMS	92	348	1,030
By reason for recall ¹			
Alleged re-offending ²	41	166	474
Failure to live at an approved address	29	103	274
Out of touch with the probation service	20	80	268
Poor behaviour ³	11	35	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 30 April 2009

Number of offenders notified as recalled at 15 May 2009	1,942	(3% of offenders released on ECL)
Of which,		
Number not yet returned to custody	184	(0.3% of offenders released on ECL)
Number who have returned to custody	1,758	(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 April and cumulative totals.

	1 April - 30 April 2009	1 January - 30 April 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Number of offenders ⁴	42	170	497	215
Alleged further offences	62	233	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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