



Ministry of
JUSTICE

**End of Custody Licence
releases and recalls
May 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 May 2009 there were 2,400 releases on ECL, of which 90% were male prisoners and 10% female prisoners.
- As previously, some 80% of those released were serving sentences of under 12 months (68% had sentences of less than or equal to 6 months, and 12% had sentences of more than 6 months to less than 12 months). The remaining 20% were serving longer sentences.

ECL recalls

- There were 80 decisions to recall offenders to custody during May (as notified to NOMS by end 19 June 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 May, 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.

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.

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 e-mailed 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 - May 2009 and cumulative totals

	Releases in May 2009			Year to date	2008	2007
	Males	Females	Total	1 January - 31 May 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Total ECL releases	2,180	232	2,412	12,266	31,318	16,197
By offence group						
Violence against the person ¹	492	28	520	2,480	6,216	3,000
Sexual offences	0	0	0	0	5	4
Robbery	59	5	64	311	792	349
Burglary	207	9	216	1,172	2,794	1,499
Theft and Handling	391	107	498	2,652	7,116	3,682
Fraud and Forgery	58	6	64	257	656	291
Drug offences	103	8	111	570	1,322	691
Motoring offences	239	8	247	1,234	3,473	2,032
Other offences	581	57	638	3,363	8,431	4,362
Offence not recorded	50	4	54	227	513	287
By sentence length						
Less than or equal to 6 months	1,439	193	1,632	8,361	22,079	11,448
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	272	24	296	1,420	3,592	1,806
12 months to less than 4 years	469	15	484	2,483	5,643	2,941
4 years or more	0	0	0	2	4	2
By age						
18-20	307	13	320	1,578	4,340	2,339
21-24	488	44	532	2,649	6,557	3,283
25-29	481	63	544	2,706	6,949	3,588
30-39	603	66	669	3,419	8,663	4,462
40-49	239	36	275	1,528	3,797	1,989
50-59	58	7	65	328	841	454
60 and over	4	3	7	58	171	82
By ethnic group						
White	1,838	207	2,045	10,499	26,781	13,850
Mixed	55	9	64	310	799	403
Asian or Asian British	124	1	125	583	1,447	697
Black or Black British	154	14	168	818	2,135	1,161
Chinese or Other ethnic group	3	1	4	33	113	47
Not stated	2	0	2	9	34	27
Unrecorded	0	0	0	0	6	6
1991 Census ethnic codes	4	0	4	14	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,

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 - May 2009 and cumulative totals

Establishment	Releases in May 2009	Year to date	2008	2007
		1 January - 31 May 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Males				
Acklington	11	47	122	81
Altcourse	131	722	1,403	350
Ashfield	0	1	0	0
Ashwell	4	43	111	58
Aylesbury	1	11	15	14
Bedford	49	194	572	372
Belmarsh	1	18	31	41
Birmingham	63	256	375	232
Blakenhurst ¹	0	0	303	329
Blundeston	5	19	44	27
Brinsford	7	15	56	16
Bristol	32	179	502	214
Brixton	29	122	122	127
Brockhill ¹	0	0	45	69
Buckley Hall	3	25	77	31
Bullingdon	36	141	364	155
Bullwood Hall	6	29	78	25
Camp Hill	15	64	87	20
Canterbury	4	23	77	34
Cardiff	33	175	398	188
Castington	6	35	107	61
Channings Wood	15	72	173	81
Chelmsford	22	77	104	41
Coldingley	2	9	9	1
Cookham Wood	0	0	0	14
Dartmoor	0	8	58	32
Deerbolt	21	108	370	145
Doncaster	62	344	828	565
Dorchester	9	33	25	34
Dovegate	1	1	0	0
Durham	39	149	453	341
Edmunds Hill	25	122	394	206
Elmley	20	91	307	151
Erlestoke	5	31	78	40
Everthorpe	22	110	347	253
Exeter	35	235	644	334
Featherstone	2	16	26	15
Feltham	3	12	32	3
Ford	46	195	435	253
Forest Bank	70	346	1,009	164
Garth	0	0	2	1
Glen Parva	60	246	730	390
Gloucester	9	54	164	116
Grendon (Spring Hill)	11	65	90	22
Guys Marsh	13	66	217	154
Haverigg	15	91	361	175
Hewell ¹	49	290	376	0
Hewell Grange ¹	0	0	68	68
Highdown	40	188	573	234
Highpoint	7	66	177	79
Hindley	0	2	37	38
Hollesley Bay (Warren Hill)	21	121	390	146
Holme House	41	192	540	221
Hull	42	178	266	138
Huntercombe	0	2	4	0
Kennet	12	64	135	72
Kirkham	21	109	409	306
Kirklevington	0	0	8	3
Lancaster	12	59	135	57
Lancaster Farms	15	54	134	33
Leeds	47	199	290	198
Leicester	24	107	221	135
Lewes	31	111	348	100
Leyhill	11	37	367	190
Lincoln	25	165	445	148
Lindholme	17	104	360	234
Littlehey	1	2	22	5
Liverpool	56	356	405	335
Maidstone	0	5	11	3
Manchester	52	272	829	525
Moorland	19	82	250	124
Moorland Open	12	57	151	95
Mount	1	8	27	1
North Sea Camp	14	119	395	227
Northallerton	17	140	490	259
Norwich	28	118	306	171
Nottingham	16	76	307	221

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

Establishment	Releases in May 2009	Year to date	2008	2007
		1 January - 31 May 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Onley	24	130	413	234
Parc	80	321	690	436
Parkhurst	0	0	2	0
Pentonville	34	112	311	208
Peterborough	35	153	272	224
Portland	20	90	194	106
Preston	27	184	462	218
Ranby	34	183	392	242
Reading	4	17	25	22
Risley	9	55	125	79
Rochester	28	177	270	127
Rye Hill	1	1	0	2
Shrewsbury	33	136	244	145
Stafford	0	4	15	2
Standford Hill	36	226	544	286
Stocken	19	78	218	93
Stoke Heath	17	84	271	179
Sudbury	14	63	191	82
Swansea	0	36	225	144
Swinfen Hall	0	5	14	7
Thorn Cross	14	112	227	57
Usk (Prescoed)	5	15	106	58
Verne	0	1	3	8
Wakefield	0	0	1	0
Wandsworth	15	85	359	220
Warren Hill	0	0	1	1
Wayland	11	53	102	41
Wealstun	6	18	200	155
Wellingborough	13	55	87	28
Whatton	0	0	1	2
Whitemoor	0	1	0	0
Winchester	31	157	310	151
Wolds	0	9	35	24
Woodhill	17	163	388	126
Wormwood Scrubs	72	357	752	369
Wymott	7	34	109	62
TOTAL	2,180	10,998	27,780	14,479
Females				
Askham Grange	0	3	21	7
Bronzefield	46	220	618	265
Downview	7	37	105	41
Drake Hall	17	63	145	73
East Sutton Park	2	10	10	3
Eastwood Park	27	137	416	228
Foston Hall	24	107	231	125
Holloway	23	154	393	164
Low Newton	14	91	312	172
Morton Hall	5	30	58	18
New Hall	15	80	357	224
Peterborough	17	104	227	164
Send	4	14	37	10
Styal	31	218	608	224
TOTAL	232	1,268	3,538	1,718
GRAND TOTAL	2,412	12,266	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
- May 2009 and cumulative totals**

Decisions to recall between 1 May 2009 and 31 May 2009 reported to NOMS Public Protection Unit by end of 19 June 2009

	May 2009	Year to date	2008	2007
		1 January - 31 May 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Decisions to recall as notified to NOMS	80	428	1,030	564
By reason for recall ¹				
Alleged re-offending ²	40	206	474	194
Failure to live at an approved address	22	125	274	118
Out of touch with the probation service	17	97	268	226
Poor behaviour ³	5	40	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 May 2009

Number of offenders notified as recalled at 19 June 2009	2,022	(3% of offenders released on ECL)
Of which,		
Number not yet returned to custody	180	(0.3% of offenders released on ECL)
Number who have returned to custody	1,842	(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 May and cumulative totals.

	May 2009	1 January - 31 May 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Number of offenders ⁴	40	210	497	215
Alleged further offences	45	278	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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