



Ministry of
JUSTICE

**End of Custody Licence
releases and recalls
July 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 July 2009 there were 2,600 releases on ECL, of which 90% were male prisoners and 10% female prisoners.
- 80% of those released were serving sentences of under 12 months (69% had sentences of less than or equal to 6 months). The remaining 20% were serving longer sentences.

ECL recalls

- There were 67 decisions to recall offenders to custody during July (as notified to NOMS by end 21 August 2009). The most common reason for recall was for alleged re-offending which accounted for 26 decisions to recall.
- To date, the large majority (92%) 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, approximately 1,250 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.

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
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London
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Tel: 020 3334 5070

England and Wales

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 - July 2009 and cumulative totals

	Releases in July 2009			Year to date	2008	2007
	Males	Females	Total	1 January - 31 July 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Total ECL releases	2,346	250	2,596	17,615	31,318	16,197
By offence group						
Violence against the person ¹	550	31	581	3,642	6,216	3,000
Sexual offences	0	0	0	0	5	4
Robbery	74	6	80	486	792	349
Burglary	212	8	220	1,624	2,794	1,499
Theft and Handling	398	106	504	3,693	7,116	3,682
Fraud and Forgery	60	20	80	401	656	291
Drug offences	120	9	129	838	1,322	691
Motoring offences	243	4	247	1,787	3,473	2,032
Other offences	648	63	711	4,831	8,431	4,362
Offence not recorded	41	3	44	313	513	287
By sentence length						
Less than or equal to 6 months	1,599	202	1,801	11,974	22,079	11,448
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	265	20	285	2,048	3,592	1,806
12 months to less than 4 years	482	28	510	3,591	5,643	2,941
4 years or more	0	0	0	2	4	2
By age						
18-20	315	27	342	2,276	4,340	2,339
21-24	534	36	570	3,822	6,557	3,283
25-29	518	71	589	3,907	6,949	3,588
30-39	622	76	698	4,863	8,663	4,462
40-49	283	31	314	2,183	3,797	1,989
50-59	59	9	68	474	841	454
60 and over	15	0	15	90	171	82
By ethnic group						
White	1,986	219	2,205	15,074	26,781	13,850
Mixed	52	9	61	438	799	403
Asian or Asian British	121	1	122	827	1,447	697
Black or Black British	178	19	197	1,201	2,135	1,161
Chinese or Other ethnic group	7	2	9	46	113	47
Not stated	1	0	1	11	34	27
Unrecorded	0	0	0	0	6	6
1991 Census ethnic codes	1	0	1	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 - July 2009 and cumulative totals

Establishment	Year to date		2008	2007
	Releases in July 2009	1 January - 31 July 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Males				
Acklington	7	62	122	81
Albany	0	0	0	0
Altcourse	150	1,020	1,403	350
Ashfield	0	1	0	0
Ashwell	1	44	111	58
Aylesbury	1	14	15	14
Bedford	35	277	572	372
Belmarsh	5	33	31	41
Birmingham	75	399	375	232
Blakenhurst	0	0	303	329
Blantyre House	0	0	0	0
Blundeston	7	30	44	27
Brinsford	0	18	56	16
Bristol	30	237	502	214
Brixton	27	176	122	127
Brockhill	0	0	45	69
Buckley Hall	7	41	77	31
Bullingdon	39	213	364	155
Bullwood Hall	4	37	78	25
Camp Hill	0	37	87	20
Canterbury	10	34	77	34
Cardiff	31	240	398	188
Castington	5	48	107	61
Channings Wood	19	116	173	81
Chelmsford	11	101	104	41
Coldingley	0	12	9	1
Cookham Wood	0	0	0	14
Dartmoor	6	21	58	32
Deerbolt	21	155	370	145
Doncaster	66	484	828	565
Dorchester	10	46	25	34
Dovegate	0	2	0	0
Dover	0	0	0	0
Durham	37	221	453	341
Edmunds Hill	29	186	394	206
Elmley	18	133	307	151
Erlestoke	2	38	78	40
Everthorpe	36	177	347	253
Exeter	35	308	644	334
Featherstone	1	18	26	15
Feltham	3	20	32	3
Ford	38	275	435	253
Forest Bank	66	488	1,009	164
Frankland	0	0	0	0
Full Sutton	0	0	0	0
Garth	1	1	2	1
Gartree	0	0	0	0
Glen Parva	69	370	730	390
Gloucester	7	78	164	116
Grendon/Spring Hill	10	84	90	22
Guys Marsh	14	91	217	154
Haslar	0	0	0	0
Haverigg	15	120	361	175
Hewell ¹	72	433	376	0
Hewell Grange	0	0	68	68
High down	35	263	573	234
Highpoint	17	103	177	79
Hindley	0	2	37	38
Hollesley Bay	25	170	390	146
Holme House	41	270	540	221
Hull	31	244	266	138
Huntercombe	0	2	4	0
Isle of Wight ²	10	54	0	0
Kennet	15	92	135	72
Kingston (Portsmouth)	0	0	0	0
Kirkham	16	146	409	306
Kirklevington Grange	0	0	8	3
Lancaster Castle	8	91	135	57
Lancaster Farms	10	86	134	33
Latchmere House	0	0	0	0
Leeds	39	286	290	198
Leicester	23	153	221	135
Lewes	32	166	348	100
Leyhill	22	78	367	190
Lincoln	39	232	445	148
Lindholme	20	151	360	234
Littlehey	0	3	22	5
Liverpool	74	517	405	335
Long Lartin	0	0	0	0
Lowdham Grange	0	0	0	0
Maidstone	1	6	11	3
Manchester	53	390	829	525
Moorland Closed	12	114	250	124
Moorland Open	11	78	151	95
North Sea Camp	27	181	395	227
Northallerton	40	222	490	259
Norwich	27	173	306	171
Nottingham	21	114	307	221
Onley	20	186	413	234

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

Establishment	Releases in July 2009	Year to date		2008	
		1 January - 31 July 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Parc	86	492	690	436	
Parkhurst	0	0	2	0	
Pentonville	28	155	311	208	
Peterborough	24	211	272	224	
Portland	12	119	194	106	
Preston	41	271	462	218	
Ranby	44	278	392	242	
Reading	6	25	25	22	
Risley	11	74	125	79	
Rochester	37	240	270	127	
Rye Hill	0	1	0	2	
Shepton Mallet	0	0	0	0	
Shrewsbury	41	210	244	145	
Stafford	4	10	15	2	
Standford Hill	35	296	544	286	
Stocken	19	117	218	93	
Stoke Heath	18	121	271	179	
Sudbury	9	89	191	82	
Swaleside	0	0	0	0	
Swansea	10	52	225	144	
Swinfen Hall	0	6	14	7	
Thorn Cross	25	166	227	57	
Usk/Prescoed	1	16	106	58	
The Mount	3	12	27	1	
The Verne	1	3	3	8	
The Wolds	0	11	35	24	
Wakefield	0	0	1	0	
Wandsworth	16	122	359	220	
Warren Hill	0	0	1	1	
Wayland	4	70	102	41	
Wealstun	8	35	200	155	
Wellingborough	13	81	87	28	
Werrington	0	0	0	0	
Wetherby	0	0	0	0	
Whatton	0	0	1	2	
Whitemoor	0	1	0	0	
Winchester	29	214	310	151	
Woodhill	43	255	388	126	
Wormwood Scrubs	82	504	752	369	
Wymott	7	52	109	62	
TOTAL	2,346	15,821	27,780	14,479	
Females					
Askham Grange	0	3	21	7	
Bronze field	40	308	618	265	
Downview	5	46	105	41	
Drake Hall	9	78	145	73	
East Sutton Park	2	14	10	3	
Eastwood Park	30	206	416	228	
Foston Hall	16	138	231	125	
Holloway	33	220	393	164	
Low Newton	26	143	312	172	
Morton Hall	8	52	58	18	
New Hall	12	109	357	224	
Peterborough	24	150	227	164	
Send	3	20	37	10	
Styal	42	307	608	224	
TOTAL	250	1,794	3,538	1,718	
GRAND TOTAL	2,596	17,615	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
- July 2009 and cumulative totals**

Decisions to recall between 1 July 2009 and 31 July 2009 reported to NOMS Public Protection Unit by end of 21 August 2009

	Year to date	2008	2007
	1 July - 31 July 2009	1 January - 31 July 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008
			29 June - 31 December 2007
Decisions to recall as notified to NOMS	67	583	1,030
By reason for recall ¹			
Alleged re-offending ²	26	272	474
Failure to live at an approved address	18	167	274
Out of touch with the probation service	17	135	268
Poor behaviour ³	9	59	101

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 2009

Number of offenders notified as recalled at 21 August 2009	2,177	(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	1,993	(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 June and cumulative totals.

	1 July - 31 July 2009	1 January - 31 July 2009	1 January - 31 December 2008	29 June - 31 December 2007
Number of offenders ⁴	26	277	497	215
Alleged further offences	34	359	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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