

Minimum sentences for the new offences of threatening with an article with a blade or point or offensive weapon in public or on school premises – Equality Impact Assessment

Introduction

This Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) relates to the amendments to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Bill to widen the minimum sentences for the new offences of threatening with an article with a blade or point or offensive weapon in public or on school premises, to 16 and 17 year olds, and these are to be tabled at Commons Report Stage. The amendments apply a minimum sentence for a 16 or 17 year old of a 4 month Detention and Training Order whilst that for adults is 6 months imprisonment.

An EIA on the amendment at Commons Committee Stage which removed the defences of lawful authority and good reason/reasonable excuse from the new offences has already been undertaken and published. This document can be viewed on the [Justice Website](#).

Equality duties

Under the Equality Act 2010 section 149, when exercising its functions, Ministers and the Department are under a legal duty to have ‘due regard’ to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other prohibited conduct under the Equality Act 2010;
- Advance equality of opportunity between different groups (those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not); and
- Foster good relations between different groups.

Paying ‘due regard’ needs to be considered against the nine “protected characteristics” under the Equality Act – namely race, sex, disability, sexual orientation, religion and belief, age, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity.

MoJ has a legal duty to investigate how policy proposals are likely to impact on the protected characteristics and where a potential disadvantageous effect is identified how that is either mitigated or justified by reference to the objectives of the policy . MoJ records its fulfilment of its duties by completing an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).

Summary

We have considered the impact of the proposals against the statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010. These are outlined below.

Direct discrimination

The new offences would apply to all members of the public who carry a bladed or pointed article or offensive weapon in a public place or school and go on to threaten and cause an immediate risk of serious physical harm to another.

In relation to the minimum sentence requirement, there is different treatment between offenders of different ages. Such treatment will not amount to discrimination for the purposes of the 2010 Act where it can be justified as a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. We consider that this is the case here.

In 2010, the peak age for people being convicted for possession of a knife or other offensive weapon was 17 years (1,277 offences) followed by those aged 18, with young people aged 16 years being the fifth most likely to be convicted after those aged 19 and 20 years (see Figure 1, Annex A). Therefore the government believes it is right to apply a minimum sentence to persons aged 16 and 17, but not to younger children, who have a lower level of proven involvement and for whom there is greater emphasis on addressing their offending behaviour within the community without necessarily displacing them from their family environment. The clause refers to courts' duties to have regard to the welfare of the offender when considering whether there are particular circumstances relating to the offence or the offender which would make the imposition of the minimum sentence unjust in all the circumstances. This is to emphasise to the court the generally applicable duty to have regard to welfare of a child when sentencing an under-18.

The different treatment of 16 and 17 year olds is therefore justified, and as such does not amount to direct discrimination within the meaning of the 2010 Act.

Indirect discrimination

Although the proposals will apply equally to those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, we have in this analysis identified how those who share a certain characteristic may be more likely to be cautioned or convicted for the offences, and therefore more likely to be subject to the minimum sentence. We have identified in particular potential differential effects in respect of age, race, religion and sex. However, we consider that any impact would be justified given the aims and objectives of the policy.

Discrimination arising from disability and duty to make reasonable adjustments

In so far as the proposals extend to the disabled, we believe that the policy is proportionate, having regard to its aim. It would not be reasonable to make any adjustment for disabled persons which did not extend the minimum sentence to them, given its aim.

Harassment and victimisation

We do not consider there to be a risk of harassment or victimisation as a result of these proposals.

Advancing equality of opportunity

We have had regard to this aspect of the equality duty but do not consider that the proposals will either positively advance equality or impact negatively on the advancement of equality of opportunity.

Fostering good relations

We have considered this objective but do not think it is of particular relevance to the proposals.

Aims and outcomes for the policy

Under the current law there are three basic possession offences. Under section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 it is an offence for a person to carry an offensive weapon in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse. Under section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 ('the 1988 Act') it is an offence to have an article with a blade or point in a public place. Under section 139A of the 1988 Act it is an offence to have an article with a blade or point or an offensive weapon on school premises.

The clause in the LASPO Bill, on introduction, creates new offences for those who carry a bladed or pointed article or offensive weapon in a public place or school and go on to threaten and cause an immediate risk of serious physical harm to another. The offences carry maximum penalties on summary conviction of 6 months' imprisonment or a maximum fine of £5,000, or both, and on conviction on indictment, of 4 years' imprisonment or an unlimited fine, or both. A minimum sentence requirement of six months' imprisonment applies for adults.

The proposed amendments at Commons Report Stage apply a minimum sentence to persons aged 16 and 17 years old of a 4 month Detention and Training Order (DTO). The Detention and Training Order is the main custodial sentence for under-18s and is served half in custody, half under supervision in the community. It is available for fixed periods of 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 18 and 24 months only.

The government considers that the introduction of a minimum sentence to persons aged 16 and 17 years old sends a clear message to those who possess a bladed/pointed article (including knives) or offensive weapon and go on to threaten and endanger another with it, and thus it may discourage knife crime. We believe that the seriousness of the offences that the minimum sentence targets justifies any differential impact on persons who share protected characteristics. We believe the introduction of minimum sentences may also add confidence to the public that such crimes will be dealt with firmly and may be beneficial to victims.

Methodology and evidence sources

Data on those cautioned or sentenced for knife possession are drawn from an extract of data held by the Ministry of Justice taken from the Police National Computer (PNC). Data are held centrally for ethnicity, gender and age.

Data on the prison population sentenced to possession of an offensive weapon by religion are based on further analysis of Offender Management Caseload Statistics.

Data on the demographic characteristics of admissions to NHS hospitals in England involving wounds suffered as the result of assault with a sharp object are from the NHS Information Centre, Hospital Episode Statistics for England. Data is available by age and gender.

Data on the risk of becoming a victim of violent crime by demographic characteristics is from the British Crime Survey (BCS). The BCS includes data on race, disability, gender, age and marital status for victims of crime. There is limited information on religion and sexual orientation. However the BCS does not include data on gender reassignment, civil partnership or pregnancy and maternity. Therefore we do not have data relating to these characteristics for victims of crime.

Analysis

The potential impacts of the new offences for those who carry a bladed or pointed article or offensive weapon in a public place or school and go on to threaten and cause an immediate risk of serious physical harm to another, are provided below.

Impact on victims

There is the potential for positive impacts on victims.

Information is not held on the characteristics of those who are victims of knife crime. We have considered two sources of wider information to further understand the potential equality impacts of these proposals.

- Demographic characteristics of admissions to NHS hospitals in England involving wounds suffered as the result of assault with a sharp object. The Hospital Episode Statistics show that there overall were 4,770 admissions for assault by a sharp object in England that ended in 2009/10.
- The risk of becoming a victim of violent crime by demographic characteristics. Whilst information on offences involving a knife can be obtained from the British Crime Survey (BCS), the small number of incidents involving a knife reported (the 2010/11 BCS estimates that knives were used in six per cent of violent incidents) means that information cannot be broken down by the demographic characteristic of the victim. The overall risk of being a victim of violent crime in the 2010/11 BCS was 3.1 per cent, with the proportion of adults who were a victim of violent crime in this period varying by personal characteristics. Many demographic characteristics will be closely associated (for example marital status and age) so caution is needed in the interpretation of the effects of these different characteristics when viewed in isolation.

Potential Age Impacts

Table 2 (Annex A) shows that admissions to NHS hospitals as the result of assault with a sharp object, are more likely to be for those aged 15-59 compared to the general population.

Table 3 (Annex A) shows younger people were at greatest risk of being a victim of violent crime. Adults aged 16 to 24 had a higher risk than older age groups of being a victim of violent crime. Risks for adults aged 65 and over were less than one per cent.

Our current assessment, based on this evidence, is that there is the potential for the introduction of a minimum sentence for 16 and 17 year olds to have a differential impact in relation to the age of the victim.

Potential Disability Impacts

Table 3 (Annex A) shows that there is little difference in the risk of being a victim of violent crime by whether the victim is disabled or not.

Potential Gender Reassignment Impacts

Due to limitations in the available evidence we are unable to rule out the potential for any differential impact.

Potential Marriage and Civil Partnership Impacts

Table 3 (Annex A) shows that single people had the highest risk by marital status (7.2 per cent). This is likely to reflect the younger age profile of this group.

Potential Pregnancy and Maternity Impacts

Due to limitations in the available evidence we are unable to rule out the potential for any differential impact.

Potential Race Impacts

Table 3 (Annex A) shows that there are differences in the risk of being a victim of violent crime by ethnic group, with 7.1 per cent of the Mixed ethnic group being victims of violence, compared to 3.0 per cent of the White ethnic group, 3.2 per cent of the Black ethnic group, and 3.9 per cent of the Asian ethnic group.

Our current assessment, based on this evidence, is that there is the potential for the introduction of a minimum sentence for 16 and 17 year olds to have a differential impact in relation to race.

Potential Religion or Belief Impacts

Due to limitations in the available evidence we are unable to rule out the potential for any differential impact.

Potential Sex Impacts

Table 2 (Annex A) shows that admissions to NHS hospitals as the result of assault with a sharp object, are more likely to be for men compared to the general population.

Table 3 (Annex A) shows that overall, men were nearly twice as likely as women (4.1 per cent compared with 2.2 per cent) to have experienced one or more violent crimes.

Our current assessment, based on this evidence, is that there is the potential for a differential impact in relation to gender in the introduction of a minimum sentence for 16 and 17 year olds.

Potential Sexual Orientation Impacts

Due to limitations in the available evidence we are unable to rule out the potential for any differential impact.

Impact on offenders

The amendments at Commons Report Stage propose to apply minimum sentences for the new offences of threatening with an article with blade or point or offensive weapon in public or on school premises, to 16 and 17 year olds. We believe this may

impact on **race** (people from the Black ethnic group account for a higher proportion of 16 and 17 year olds cautioned or convicted of offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon compared to the general population aged 16 or 17 year olds - 22 per cent compared to 3 per cent¹); **sex** (16 and 17 year olds cautioned or convicted of offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon, are more likely to be male compared to the general population – 93 per cent compared to 51 per cent); **age** and **religion**.

Potential Age Impacts

Table 4 (Annex A) shows that those cautioned or convicted of offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon, are more likely to be aged 16 to 39 compared to the general population.

Table 5 (Annex A) presents data on the age of the offender for those offences involving possession of a knife or offensive weapon which result in a caution of conviction. An unknown proportion of these offences will fall into the new offences category. There are already some age differences in the proportion of offenders sentenced to custody and the length of sentence given for these offences. These may, however, reflect differences in the aggravating factors taken into account by sentencers.

Our current assessment, based on this evidence, is that there is the potential for the the proposals to apply minimum sentences for the new offences of threatening with an article with blade or point or offensive weapon in public or on school premises to 16 and 17 year olds to have a differential impact in relation to age.

Potential Disability Impacts

Due to limitations in the available evidence we are unable to rule out the potential for any differential impact.

Potential Gender Reassignment Impacts

Due to limitations in the available evidence we are unable to rule out the potential for any differential impact.

Potential Marriage and Civil Partnership Impacts

Due to limitations in the available evidence we are unable to rule out the potential for any differential impact.

Potential Pregnancy and Maternity Impacts

Due to limitations in the available evidence we are unable to rule out the potential for any differential impact.

¹ It should be noted that the ethnicity figures for those cautioned or convicted are based on the police officer's judgement of the offender's ethnicity and do not include the Mixed category. Three per cent of the general population of 16-17 year olds belong to the Mixed ethnic category.

Potential Race Impacts

Table 6 (Annex A) shows that those cautioned or convicted of offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon, are more likely to be from the Black ethnic group compared to the general population. The Black ethnic group accounts for a higher proportion of 16 and 17 year olds cautioned or convicted of offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon compared to the general population aged 16 or 17 years old (22 per cent compared to 3 per cent). In comparison, 11 per cent of persons aged 18 and over cautioned or convicted of offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon are from the Black ethnic group compared to 3 per cent of the general population².

In Table 7 (Annex A) we present the data on the ethnicity of the offender for those offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon which result in a caution or conviction. As before, an unknown proportion of these offences will fall into the new offence category. There are already differences, with respect to the ethnic background of offenders, in the proportions sentenced to custody and the length of sentence they are given. This may reflect differences in aggravating factors taken into account by sentencers.

Our current assessment, based on this evidence, is that there is the potential for the proposals to apply minimum sentences for the new offences of threatening with an article with blade or point or offensive weapon in public or on school premises to 16 and 17 year olds to have a differential impact in relation to race.

Potential Religion or Belief Impacts

Table 8 (Annex A) presents data on the prison population sentenced for possession of an offensive weapon by religion. Muslims and people of no religion are overrepresented in custody compared with the general population.

Our current assessment, based on this evidence, is that there is the potential for the proposals to apply minimum sentences for the new offences of threatening with an article with blade or point or offensive weapon in public or on school premises to 16 and 17 year olds to have a differential impact in relation to religion.

Potential Sex Impacts

Table 9 (Annex A) shows that those cautioned or convicted of offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon, are more likely to be male compared to the general population. With reference to 16 and 17 year olds cautioned or convicted of offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon, 93 per cent are male compared to 51 per cent of the general population.

Table 10 (Annex A) presents data on the gender of the offender for those offences involving possession of a knife or offensive weapon which result in a caution or conviction. As before, an unknown proportion of these offences will fall into the new offence category. There are already gender differences in the proportions sentenced to custody and the length of sentence given for these offences. These may however reflect differences in the aggravating factors taken into account by sentencers.

² It should be noted that the ethnicity figures for those cautioned or convicted are based on the police officer's judgement of the offender's ethnicity and do not include the Mixed category. Three per cent of the general population of 16-17 year olds belong to the Mixed ethnic category.

Our current assessment, based on this evidence, is that there is the potential for the proposals to apply minimum sentences for the new offences of threatening with an article with blade or point or offensive weapon in public or on school premises to 16 and 17 year olds to have a differential impact in relation to sex.

Potential Sexual Orientation Impacts

Due to limitations in the available evidence we are unable to rule out the potential for any differential impact.

Mitigation and Justification

The government believes the introduction of these new sentences is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. The government considers that the introduction of a minimum sentence to persons aged 16 and 17 years old sends a clear message to those who possess a bladed/pointed article (including knives) or offensive weapon and go on to threaten and endanger another with it, and thus it may discourage knife crime. We believe that the seriousness of the offences that the minimum sentence targets justifies any differential impact on persons who share protected characteristics. We believe the introduction of minimum sentences may also add confidence to the public that such crimes will be dealt with firmly and may be beneficial to victims.

The potential adverse impacts may be reduced because the clause refers to courts' duties to have regard to particular circumstances relating to the offence or the offender which would make the imposition of the minimum sentence unjust in all the circumstances. In the context of persons under 18, express reference is made to the welfare of the offender. This is to emphasise to the court the generally applicable duty to have regard to welfare of a child when sentencing an under-18.

Monitoring

We will be monitoring the implementation of these reforms for positive, negative and mixed equality impacts. We anticipate that the earliest these changes will be implemented is towards the end of 2012. Subject to passage of the Bill through Parliament and commencement, we would anticipate therefore to have a first full year's data on which to base a review commencing in Spring 2014.

Figure 1

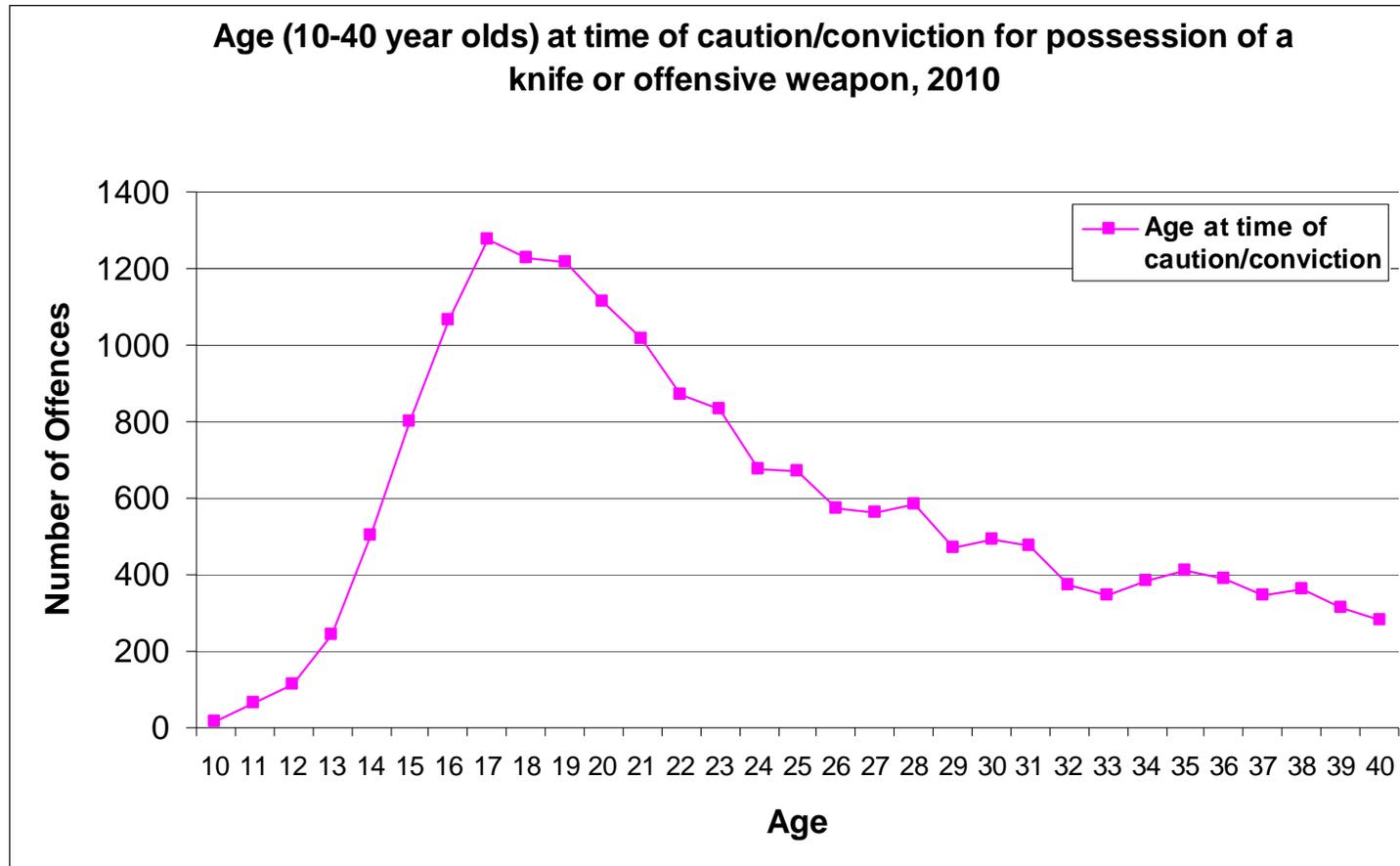


Table 2: Admissions to NHS hospitals as the result of assault with a sharp object episodes of admitted patient care that ended during 2009-10, England

	Hospital admissions	General population, E&W (all ages)
<u>Sex</u>		
Female	11%	51%
Male	89%	49%
Total	100%	100%
<u>Age group</u>		
Age 0-14	2%	17%
Age 15-59	96%	60%
Age 60-74	1%	15%
Age 75+	1%	8%
Total	100%	100%

Source:

NHS Information Centre Hospital Episode Statistics.

General population figures are 2010 mid-year population estimates (age and gender), Office for National Statistics.

Table 3 Proportion of adults who were victims of violence by offence type and personal characteristics

Percentages	England and Wales, 2010/11 BCS					Unweighted base
	All violence ¹	Wounding	Assault with minor injury	Assault without injury	Robbery	
	% victims once or more					
ALL ADULTS	3.1	0.8	0.9	1.2	0.5	46,754
16-24	8.8	2.6	2.4	3.0	1.5	3,885
25-34	4.4	1.2	1.3	1.6	0.6	6,464
35-44	2.8	0.7	0.8	1.2	0.2	7,976
45-54	2.2	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.3	7,805
55-64	1.3	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.2	8,139
65-74	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	6,577
75+	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	5,908
Men	4.1	1.1	1.1	1.7	0.6	21,076
16-24	11.9	3.4	3.0	4.5	2.1	1,805
25-34	5.5	1.6	1.4	2.2	0.7	2,835
35-44	3.7	0.9	1.1	1.6	0.3	3,599
45-54	2.4	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.3	3,629
55-64	1.6	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.2	3,782
65-74	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	3,041
75+	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	2,385
Women	2.2	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.3	25,678
16-24	5.5	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.0	2,080
25-34	3.4	0.8	1.2	1.1	0.5	3,629
35-44	2.0	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.1	4,377
45-54	1.9	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.4	4,176
55-64	1.0	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2	4,357
65-74	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	3,536
75+	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	3,523
Ethnic group						
White	3.0	0.8	0.9	1.2	0.4	42,991
Non-White	3.9	1.0	0.5	1.7	0.9	3,687
Mixed	7.1	1.0	1.2	3.3	2.2	350
Asian or Asian British	3.9	1.2	0.5	1.7	0.7	1,676
Black or Black British	3.2	1.0	0.5	0.8	0.8	1,006
Chinese or other	3.3	0.4	0.0	2.1	0.8	655
Marital status						
Married	1.5	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.2	21,755
Cohabiting	3.7	0.8	1.1	1.6	0.5	4,176
Single	6.8	2.1	1.9	2.4	1.1	9,828
Separated	4.0	1.2	1.3	1.2	0.2	1,560
Divorced	3.3	1.1	0.7	1.2	0.4	4,244
Widowed	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	5,173
Long-standing illness or disability						
Long-standing illness or disability	3.0	0.9	0.7	1.2	0.5	13,793
Limits activities	2.7	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.4	9,879
Does not limit activities	3.5	1.0	0.6	1.6	0.5	3,909
No long-standing illness or disability	3.2	0.8	0.9	1.2	0.4	32,883

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5.1 of User Guide for more information.

Source:
Crime in England and Wales 2010/11

**Table 4: Offences by persons aged 16 and over involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon resulting in a caution or conviction, by age group, 2010
England and Wales**

Age group	Cautioned or convicted	General population - E&W (aged 16+)
16-17	12%	3%
18-20	18%	5%
21-24	17%	7%
25-29	15%	8%
30-39	20%	16%
40-49	13%	18%
50-59	4%	15%
60+	2%	28%
All	100%	100%

Further breakdown of statistics published in Knife Possession sentencing quarterly brief, April to June 2011

Figures are for England and Wales, and include all 43 police force areas and the British Transport Police

Figures are counts of number of offences

Offences relate to possession offences rather than offences where a knife was used

General population figures are from the mid-2010 population estimates, Office for National Statistics

**Table 5: Offences by persons aged 16 and over involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon resulting in a caution or conviction by age group, 2010
England and Wales**

	16-17	18-20	21-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Total
Caution	21%	23%	19%	18%	16%	18%	30%	45%	20%
Absolute/conditional discharge	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%	6%	5%	14%	4%
Fine	0%	4%	5%	5%	6%	6%	5%	5%	4%
Community Sentence	60%	28%	28%	25%	25%	26%	21%	10%	30%
Suspended Sentence	0%	14%	15%	16%	16%	18%	15%	13%	14%
Immediate Custody - less than or equal to 6 months	8%	16%	17%	19%	20%	15%	14%	7%	16%
Immediate Custody - greater than 6 months	4%	9%	8%	10%	8%	6%	6%	2%	8%
Other	5%	3%	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%	5%	4%
Total	100%								

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**Table 6: Offences by persons aged 16 and over involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon resulting in a caution or conviction, by ethnic group, 2010
England and Wales**

Ethnic	Cautioned or convicted			General population E&W		
	Aged 16-17	Aged 18+	Aged 16+	Aged 16-17	Aged 18+	Aged 16+
White	70%	82%	81%	86%	89%	89%
Mixed	n/a	n/a	n/a	3%	1%	1%
Black	22%	11%	12%	3%	3%	3%
Asian	7%	5%	5%	6%	6%	6%
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Unknown	1%	1%	1%	n/a	n/a	n/a
All	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

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Figures are for England and Wales, and include all 43 police force areas and the British Transport Police

Figures are counts of number of offences

Offences relate to possession offences rather than offences where a knife was used

Ethnicity is based on the police officer's judgement of the offender's ethnicity

General population figures are from the mid-2009 population estimates, Office for National Statistics

As experimental estimates, work on the quality of these statistics is ongoing; these figures are indicative only.

**Table 7: Offences by persons aged 16 and over involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon resulting in a caution or conviction by ethnic group, 2010
England and Wales**

	White	Black	Asian	Other	Unknown	Total
Caution	21%	11%	25%	25%	40%	20%
Absolute/conditional discharge	4%	4%	4%	7%	3%	4%
Fine	5%	3%	3%	5%	3%	4%
Community Sentence	29%	35%	28%	20%	29%	30%
Suspended Sentence	14%	15%	12%	18%	10%	14%
Immediate Custody - less than or equal to 6 months	16%	18%	14%	15%	9%	16%
Immediate Custody - greater than 6 months	7%	9%	10%	5%	2%	8%
Other	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Further breakdown of statistics published in Knife Possession sentencing quarterly brief, April to June 2011

Figures are for England and Wales, and include all 43 police force areas and the British Transport Police

Figures are counts of number of offences

Offences relate to possession offences rather than offences where a knife was used

Ethnicity is based on the police officer's judgement of the offender's ethnicity

Table 8: Prison population sentenced with possession of an offensive weapon by religion, 30 June 2011, England and Wales

Religion	Sentenced prison population	General population	
		England	Wales
Christian	45.2%	68.5%	66.1%
Buddhist	2.2%	0.4%	0.3%
Hindu	0.4%	1.5%	0.5%
Jewish	0.4%	0.5%	0.1%
Muslim	11.5%	4.9%	1.2%
Sikh	0.7%	0.8%	0.1%
Other religious groups	0.4%	1.1%	1.2%
Non-recognised	1.6%	n/a	n/a
Missing	1.4%	n/a	n/a
No religion	36.3%	22.4%	30.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: Excludes recalls

Source: Further analysis of Offender Management Statistics

General population figures are for all ages and are from the Integrated Household Survey, Office for National Statistics.

Respondents were asked the question 'What is your religion, even if you are not currently practising?'

Table 9: Offences by persons aged 16 and over involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon resulting in a caution or conviction, by gender, 2010 England and Wales

	Cautioned or convicted			General population E&W		
	Aged 16-17	Aged 18+	Aged 16+	Aged 16-17	Aged 18+	Aged 16+
Male	93%	92%	92%	51%	49%	49%
Female	7%	8%	8%	49%	51%	51%
All	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

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Figures are for England and Wales, and include all 43 police force areas and the British Transport Police

Figures are counts of number of offences

Offences relate to possession offences rather than offences where a knife was used

General population figures are from the mid-2010 population estimates, Office for National Statistics

Table 10: Offences by persons aged 16 and over involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon resulting in a caution or conviction, by gender, 2010
England and Wales

	Male	Female	Total
Caution	19%	30%	20%
Absolute/conditional discharge	4%	8%	4%
Fine	5%	2%	4%
Community Sentence	30%	30%	30%
Suspended Sentence	14%	11%	14%
Immediate Custody - less than or equal to 6 months	16%	11%	16%
Immediate Custody - greater than 6 months	8%	3%	8%
Other	4%	5%	4%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Further breakdown of statistics published in Knife Possession sentencing quarterly brief, April to June 2011

Figures are for England and Wales, and include all 43 police force areas and the British Transport Police

Figures are counts of number of offences

Offences relate to possession offences rather than offences where a knife was used