

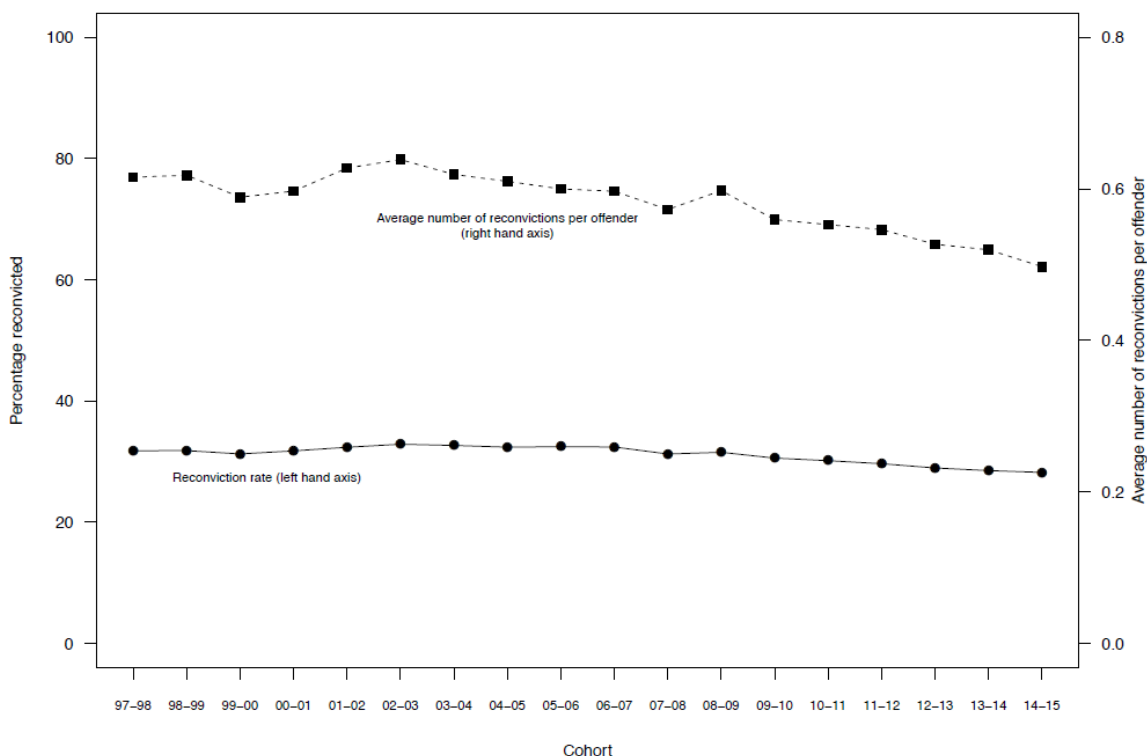
CRIME AND JUSTICE

Reconviction Rates in Scotland: 2014-15 Offender Cohort

This bulletin forms part of the Scottish Government series of statistical bulletins on the criminal justice system. Statistics are presented on the number of individuals who were released from a custodial sentence or given a non-custodial sentence in 2014-15 and then subsequently reoffended in 2015-16, along with selected trends.

Both the reconviction rate, a measure of the proportion of offenders who are reconvicted, and the average number of reconvictions per offender have decreased since 2013-14, continuing a gradual decline over the past 18 years. Since 2013-14, the reconviction rate has fallen by 0.3 percentage points, from 28.5% to 28.2% and the average number of reconvictions per offender has fallen by nearly 4%, from 0.52 to 0.50 ([Chart 1](#) and [Table 1](#)).

Chart 1: Reconviction rate and the average number of reconvictions per offender: 1997-98 to 2014-15 cohorts



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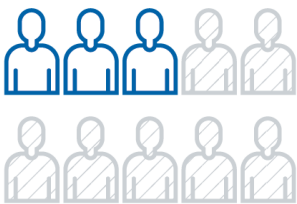
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RECONVICTION RATES IN SCOTLAND: 2014-2015 OFFENDER COHORT

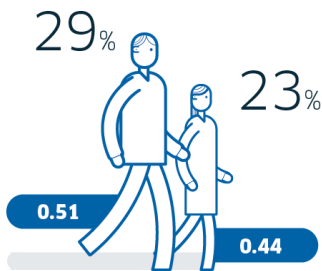


▶ In 2014-15, 3 in 10 (28%) offenders were reconvicted within a year



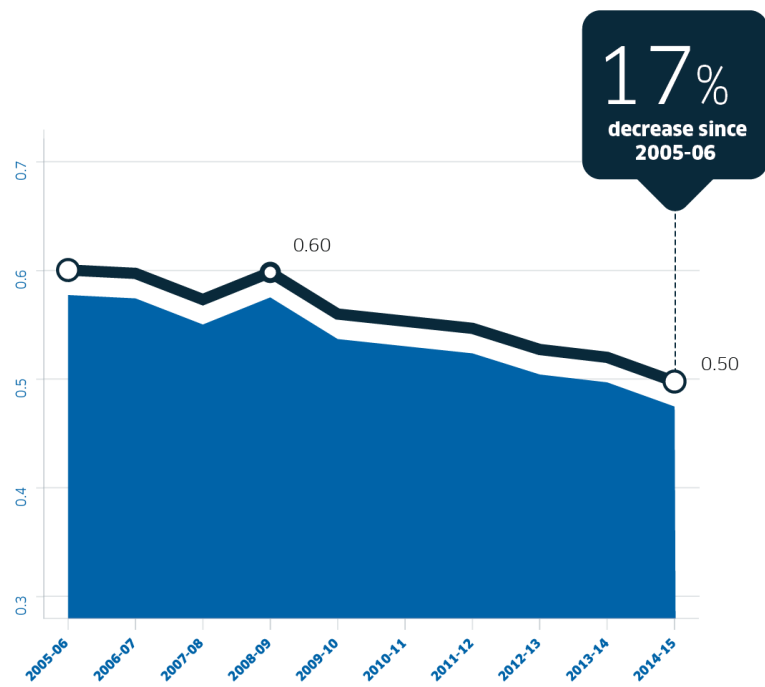
▶ Men are more likely to be reconvicted than women:

RECONVICTION RATE



● Average number of reconvictions per offender

▶ RECONVICTIONS ARE THE LOWEST FOR 18 YEARS (19% DECREASE SINCE 1997-98)

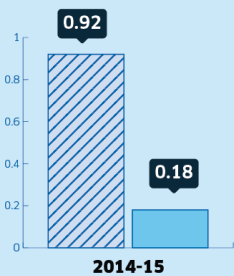


○ Average number of reconvictions per offender

▼ Average number of reconvictions per offender

▨ Offenders who commit a crime of dishonesty have the highest average number

■ Offenders who commit a sexual crime have the lowest



▼ Short custodial sentences have higher reconviction rates. Of those released from a custodial sentence of 6 months or less:

57% are reconvicted within a year

39% are back in prison within a year

RECONVICTION RATES IN SCOTLAND: 2014-15 OFFENDER COHORT

Justice Analytical Services

Key points

Headline figures for the 2014-15 cohort

[\(Table 1\)](#)

- Both the reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender are at their lowest values for 18 years. Between 2005-06 and 2014-15, the reconviction rate decreased by 4.3 percentage points from 32.5% to 28.2%. In the same period, the average number of reconvictions per offender decreased by 16.7% from 0.60 to 0.50.

Age and gender

[\(Table 2 to Table 5\)](#)

- Male offenders have more reconvictions on average than female offenders. In 2014-15, the average number of reconvictions per offender for male offenders was 0.51 which is 15.9% higher than the value of 0.44 for female offenders ([Table 2](#)).
- Over the longer term there has been a fall in the average number of reconvictions per offender for younger offenders. In 1997-98, the average number of reconvictions per offender in the under 21 age group was 0.93 and it has decreased by 31.2% to 0.64 in 2014-15. Over the same period, the average number of reconvictions per offender for the 21 to 25 age group decreased by 26.5% from 0.68 to 0.50 ([Table 3](#)).
- In contrast to this longer term decrease, the average number of reconvictions per offender for individuals aged under 21 has increased over the preceding 2 years, by 10% from 0.58 in 2012-13 to 0.64 in 2014-15. Both men and women under 21 saw an increase in the average number of reconvictions per offender, for men under 21 the average number of reconvictions increased by 7.6% from 0.61 to 0.66, while for women this increased by 11.6% from 0.43 to 0.48 reconvictions per offender since 2012-13 ([Table 5](#)).
- The average number of reconvictions per offender for the older age groups have generally increased over the last decade. Between 2005-06 and 2014-15, the average number of reconvictions per offender increased by 14.3% for the 31 to 40 age group, from 0.49 to 0.56, and by 12.9% for the over 40 age group, from 0.31 to 0.35 ([Table 3](#)).

Index crime

[\(Table 6\)](#)

- As in previous years, offenders who commit a crime of dishonesty have the highest average number of reconvictions per offender (0.92 in 2014-15), whereas offenders who commit a sexual crime have the lowest (0.18 in 2014-15), compared to offenders that committed other crimes.
- Since 2013-14, the largest decrease in the average number of reconvictions per offender is for those who committed 'other crimes and offences', which includes crimes against public justice and handling offensive weapons. Reconvictions for this group decreased by 9.4% from 0.53 to 0.48. Over the

same time period, the average number of reconvictions per offender increased for those convicted of sexual crime, by 12.5% (from 0.16 to 0.18), and for offenders who committed a drug offence by 9.1% (from 0.33 to 0.36), the first increase since 2008-09.

Index disposal¹ and sentence length

([Table 8](#) and [Table 9](#))

- Offenders with an index disposal of a Community Payback Order (CPO) in 2014-15 had an average number of reconvictions per offender of 0.58 ([Table 8](#)). This is a 3.6% increase on the previous cohort, when it was 0.56. But this average was 6.5% lower than the figure of 0.62 for those offenders with index disposals of Community Service Orders and Probation Orders in 2009-10, immediately prior to the introduction of CPOs.
- Offenders given a Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO) have the highest average number of reconvictions per offender compared to other disposals, with a value of 1.71 for the 2014-15 cohort. This is a 1.2% decrease on the previous year when it was 1.73, and the average number of reconvictions for DTTOs has decreased by 9% in the last ten years from the 2005-06 value of 1.88 ([Table 8](#)).
- The average number of reconvictions per offender for those given a Restriction of Liberty Order (RLO) has decreased by 1.7% since 2013-14, from 0.60 to 0.59 ([Table 8](#)), and by 51.6% since 2005-06, from 1.22.
- Offenders released from a custodial sentence had an average number of reconvictions per offender of 0.85, the same as the previous 2013-14 cohort ([Table 8](#)). As in previous years, those released from shorter sentences of 3 months or less have, on average, a higher number of reconvictions (1.25) than those released from longer custodial sentences, such as between 3 and 6 months (1.16) and over 4 years (0.13) ([Table 9](#)). However, this difference may be explained by the type of offenders who are more likely to receive short custodial sentences; these individuals typically commit relatively low level crimes such as shoplifting but more often, in higher volumes and are more likely to be reconvicted.

¹ Caution is needed when comparing reconvictions between different disposals. A disposal may affect the reconviction rates, but different disposals are given for different types of offending behaviour, which are themselves also likely to affect reconviction rates.

Introduction

The statistics presented in this bulletin are derived from the data used in the [Criminal Proceedings in Scotland](#) statistical bulletin. The Criminal Proceedings data is in turn derived from information held on the Criminal History System (CHS) which is maintained by Police Scotland.

Changes made to this year's report

The changes made to this year's report are as follows:

- A methodological change was implemented for this year's publication to the measure of the Early and Effective Interventions (EEIs), in line with the Criminal Proceedings bulletin. These statistics are described in [Section 2](#).
- Further age categories were added to table 15 to bring it in line with the other tables.
- Two extra charts, chart 3 and 4, were added to add visual details to the gender section.
- Criminal Justice Authorities were removed from table 11, leaving simply local authority groups. This is in line with the abolishment of Criminal Justice Authorities.
- Annex D was shortened, in recognition of the fact that the transition from legacy community order to Community Payback Orders has now completed.

Background

This document is divided into four sections. Sections one, two, and three present information on offenders whose [‘index conviction’](#) occurred in 2014-15. Section one presents reconviction statistics for offenders whose ‘index conviction’ took place in court, section two covers those offenders whose index conviction was dealt with outside of court and section three presents summary information, by local authority. Section four looks at the number of previous convictions for offenders convicted in 2015-16.

The Scottish justice system

Recidivism is where someone has committed an offence and received some form of criminal justice sanction and goes on to commit another offence. Measuring recidivism is important, as it is one indicator of the effectiveness of the criminal justice system on the punishment and rehabilitation of offenders. Reconviction rates are a proxy measure for recidivism, as not all offences committed or recorded by the police will necessarily result in a conviction (see [Annex A1](#)).

Scotland’s criminal justice system uses a variety of interventions at each stage of the offender’s journey. This system is summarised in the Audit Scotland report ([An Overview of Scotland’s criminal justice system](#)) and is shown in [Chart 2](#). Not all offences reported to the police result in a conviction, and reoffending is not the same as reconviction as the intervention of the criminal justice system takes place between these two events. Reconviction can be affected by many different factors that are not necessarily related to the incidence of crime.

For the majority of the analyses in this bulletin, we measure reconvictions for a cohort of offenders within a follow-up period of one year after conviction. A cohort is defined as all the offenders that are either estimated to have been released from a custodial sentence ([see Annex A6](#)), or given a non-custodial sentence, in a specified financial year. For example, the 2014-15 cohort is the group of offenders who were released from a custodial sentence, or were given a non-custodial sentence, between the 1st April 2014 and the 31st March 2015 (See [Annex Table A1](#) and [Annex A5](#)). In this bulletin, for brevity, the cohort may be referred to by its year alone.

The “index conviction” is the reference conviction which is determined by either:

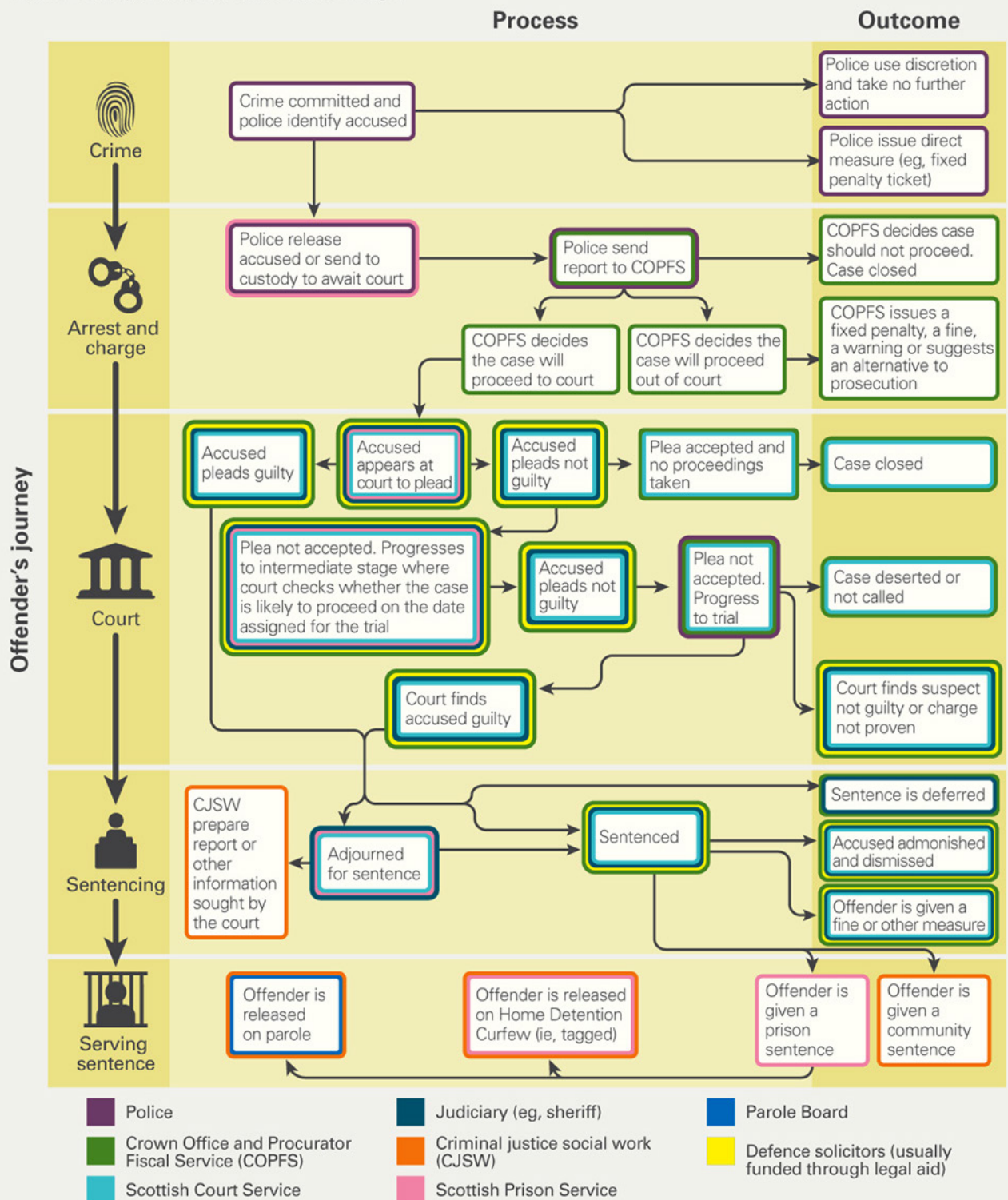
- (a) the estimated release date for a custodial sentence imposed for the conviction, or
- (b) the sentence date for non-custodial sentences imposed for the conviction.

Whichever conviction had the earliest of these dates in a given financial year is defined as the index conviction for an individual offender. The crime which resulted in the index conviction is the “index crime”, and the sentence given for the index conviction is the “index disposal”. (See [Annex Table A1](#) and [Annex A5](#) for definitions and more details).

Chart 2: An offender's journey through the criminal justice system

Overview of an offender's journey through the criminal justice system

Scotland's criminal justice system comprises many processes and is delivered by a range of bodies and individuals, with different possible outcomes at each stage.



(Source: Audit Scotland 2011 *An overview of Scotland's criminal justice system*)

Measures of reconviction: the reconviction rate

The reconviction rate is presented as the percentage of offenders in the cohort who were reconvicted one or more times within a specified follow up period from the date of the index conviction. For most analyses in this bulletin, the follow-up period is one year, except for [Table 12](#) where a two year follow up period is presented and for [Table 15](#) and [Table 16](#) where the previous conviction history of offenders over a ten year period is presented. For example, the 2014-15 reconviction rate is 28.2% ([Table 1](#)), and this means that just over a quarter of offenders were reconvicted at least once in the year following their non-custodial conviction or release from a custodial sentence in 2014-15. The definitions in [Annex Table A1](#) provide more details about the terminology used in this publication.

Information presented in this bulletin is derived from the Scottish Offenders Index (SOI), which is derived from a subset of the [Criminal Proceedings in Scotland](#) dataset. The SOI contains all convictions where the main offence involved was either a crime in Groups 1-5 of the Scottish Government's classification of crimes, or some of the offences in Group 6. Minor sentences, such as drunkenness and the majority of vehicle offences, are excluded. See [Annex B1](#), [Annex B3](#), and [Annex Table A2](#) for more details.

Measures of reconviction: average number of reconvictions per offender

The reconviction rate provides an indication of progress in tackling overall offender recidivism. This measure, however, may not be sensitive enough to detect individual-level progress as a result of interventions and programmes in the criminal justice system. Such programmes may have been successful in reducing the number of reconvictions, but not complete desistance from crime, by an offender. This bulletin provides a more detailed analysis of reconvictions by also reporting the complementary measure of the average number of reconvictions per offender.

The average number of reconvictions per offender is a measure of the number of times that offenders in a cohort are reconvicted within the follow-up period. It is calculated as the total number of reconviction events of all the offenders in the cohort, divided by the total number of offenders in the cohort. For example, the average number of reconvictions per offender for the 2014-15 cohort over one year is 0.50 ([Table 1](#)), which means that, on average, offenders have about 0.5 reconvictions in a one year follow up period. It should be noted that as this measure is an average, there may be variation in the number of reconvictions that individual offenders have: for example any group may include offenders with no reconvictions and some offenders with multiple reconvictions.

In this bulletin we also measure the proportion of people who receive a non-court disposal and go on to receive another non-court disposal within a year. The cohort for non-court disposals is defined as the group of people who receive a non-court disposal from the police or Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), such as a fine or warning, in a given financial year.

1. Main findings: reconviction rates for court disposals

This section provides statistics on reconviction rates for offenders convicted in court in 2014-15, which includes only those offenders whose index conviction was dealt with in court.

1.1 Headline figures

[\(Table 1\)](#)

There were 43,634 offenders discharged from custody or given a non-custodial sentence in 2014-15, a number which had been declining every year from 53,309 in 2006-07 to 41,705 in 2012-13, but has increased by 4.6% (1,929 offenders) since 2012-13.

The reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender ([Table 1](#) and [Chart 1](#)) have generally been declining over the past decade. There was a slight increase in both the reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender in 2008-09 which is likely to be due to Summary Justice Reform, which was designed to take less serious cases out of the justice system at an earlier stage, and to improve the efficiency of court processes, which resulted in cases being processed faster through the courts. Between 2005-06 and 2014-15, the reconviction rate has fallen by 4.3 percentage points from 32.5% to 28.2%, and the average number of reconvictions per offender has fallen by 16.7% from 0.60 to 0.50. These reductions are set against the context of a 41% drop in recorded crime since 2006-7 ([Recorded Crime in Scotland](#)). Crime and victimisation surveys also reveal a similar pattern of falling incidence of crime ([Scottish Crime and Justice Survey](#)).

1.2 Age and gender

[\(Table 2, Table 3, Table 4 and Table 5\)](#)

Headlines for gender

Continuing a persistent long-term trend, males have higher reconviction rates and a higher average number of reconvictions per offender than females ([Table 2](#) and [chart 3](#) and [4](#)). The average number of reconvictions per offender for the 2014-15 cohort was 0.51 for males, and 0.44 for females which represents a 3.8% decrease for males and no change for females since 2013-14. The reconviction rates were 29.2% for males and 23.4% for females, representing a 0.4 percentage point decrease for males and a 0.1 percentage point increase for females since 2013-14.

Chart 3: Average number of reconvictions per offender males and females, 2014-15 offender cohort

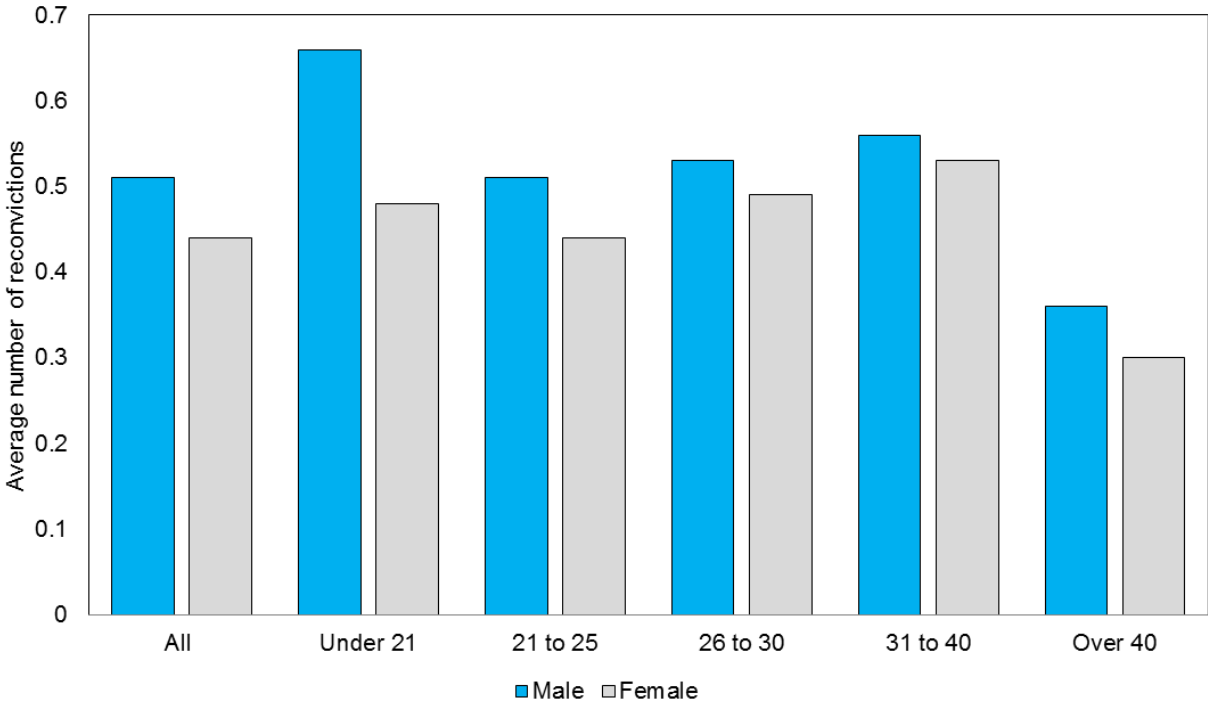
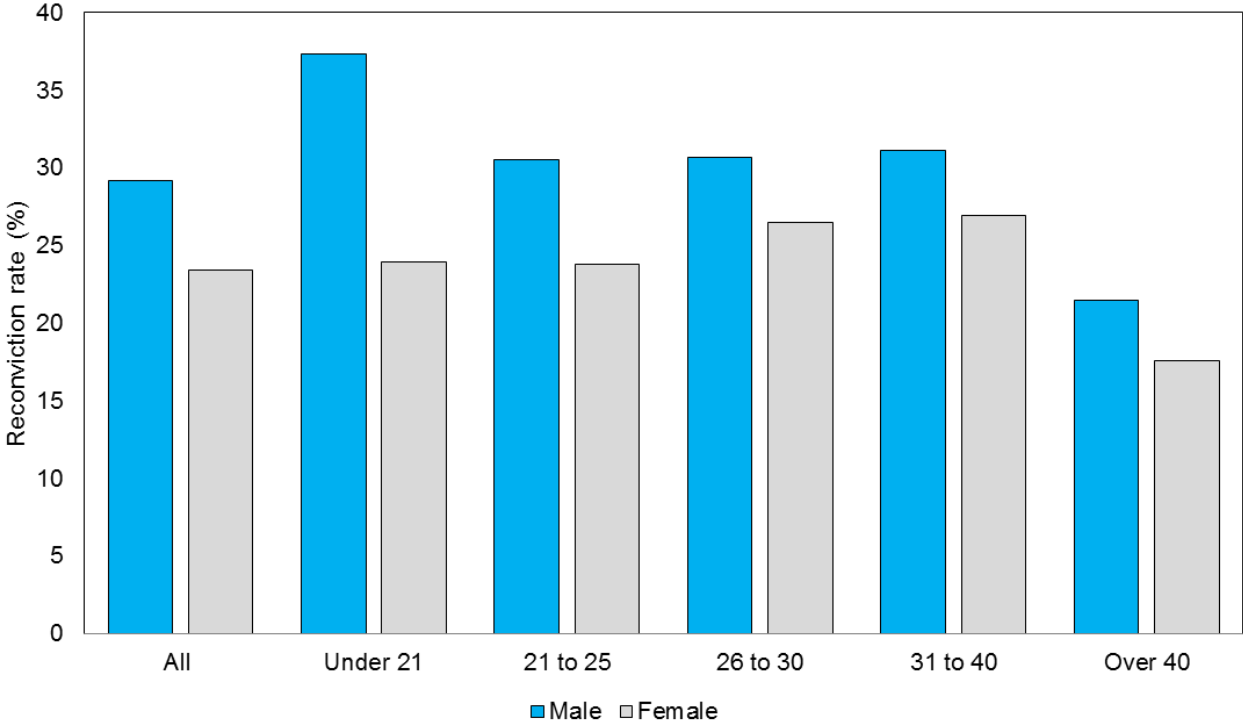


Chart 4: Reconviction rate for males and females, 2014-15 cohort



Aged under 21

Offenders under the age of 21 had the highest reconviction rate of all the age groups (35.3%) in 2014-15, an increase of 1 percentage point from the previous cohort. They also had the highest average number of reconvictions per offender (0.64). This was 14% higher than for the age group with the second highest average number of reconvictions per offender, which was the 31 to 40 age category at 0.56 ([Table 3](#)).

Over the longer term, the average number of reconvictions per offender under 21 has decreased, by 31% from its highest level of 0.93 in 1997-98 to 0.64 in 2014-15. And while reconvictions for offenders aged under 21 were previously considerably higher than for the other age groups, their current levels are now comparable.

More recently however, the reconviction rate for the under 21 age group has increased for the second time in a row, rising by nearly 2 percentage points from 33.4% in 2012-13 to 35.3% in 2014-15. Despite the recent increase the current value is still 7.1 percentage points lower than the 1997-98 value of 42.4 ([Table 3](#)).

Males aged under 21 had the highest reconviction rate (37.3%) and average number of reconvictions per offender (0.66) of any age-gender combination in 2014-15. The average number of reconvictions per offender was considerably higher than that for the next highest group, males aged 31 to 40, who had an average of 0.56 reconvictions per offender in the same year ([Table 4](#) and [Chart 3](#)).

Aged between 21 to 25

There has also been a long-term decline in the reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender in the 21 to 25 age group in the past ten years. The reconviction rate decreased by 5.7 percentage points from 35.2% in 2005-6 to 29.5% in 2014-15; and in the same period the average number of reconvictions per offender decreased from 0.68 to 0.50, a 26.5% reduction ([Table 3](#)).

Aged between 26 and 30

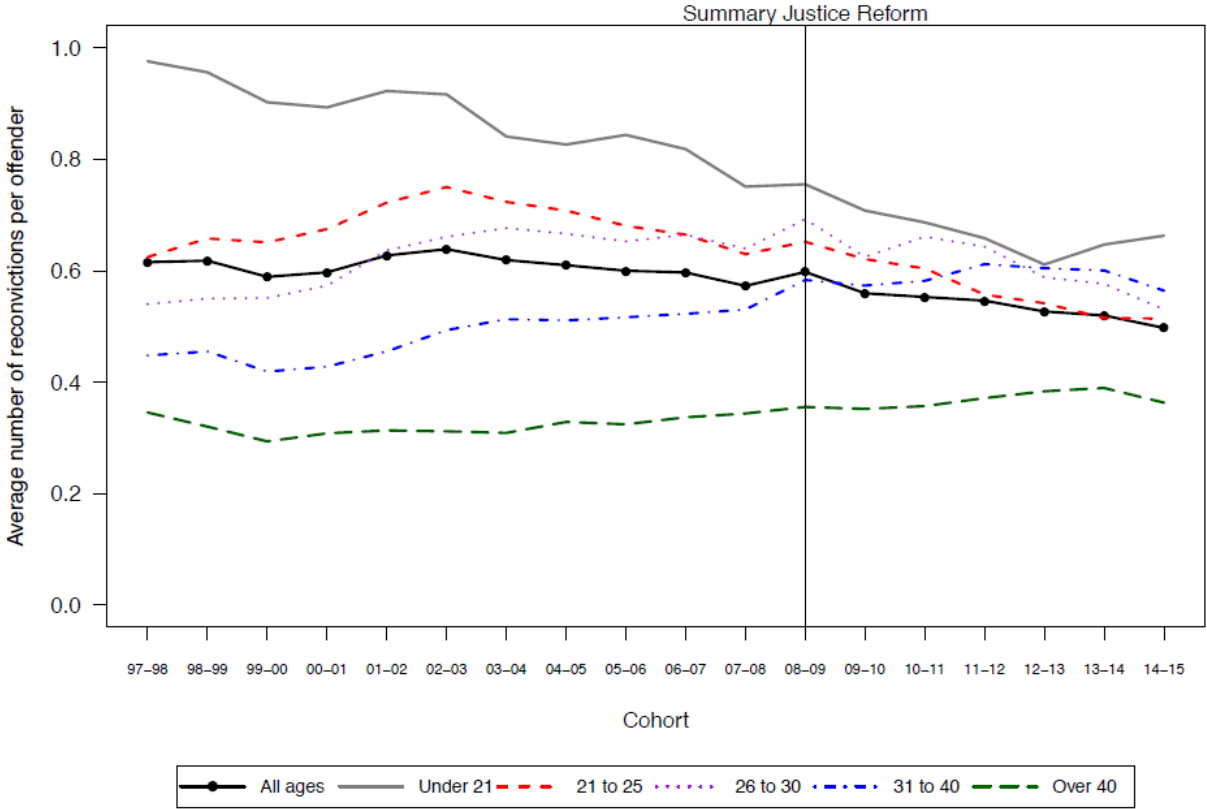
As for the younger age groups, reconvictions for the 26 to 30 year age group have declined in the past ten years ([Table 3](#)). Between 2005-06 and 2014-15 the average number of reconvictions per offender dropped from 0.64 in 2005-6 to 0.52 in 2014-15, the lowest values since 1997-8. This represents an 8.8% decrease since 2013-14, and this is the fourth consecutive year on year decrease. The reconviction rate for this age group has also decreased 1.2 percentage points since 2013-14 to the lowest value since 1997-8 of 30.0.

Aged over 30

In contrast to the younger age groups, reconvictions for the older age groups have generally increased over the past ten years. Between 2005-06 and 2014-15, the reconviction rate for offenders aged 31 to 40 and those aged over 40 both increased, by 1.8 and 1.6 percentage points respectively, from 28.5% to 30.3% for the 31-40 age group, and from 19.2 to 20.8 for offenders over 40. In the same time period, the average number of reconvictions per offender for the 31 to 40 age group has increased by 14.3% from 0.49 to 0.56, and for the over 40 age group, it has increased by 12.9% from 0.31 to 0.35.

In contrast to the longer term increase, reconvictions have decreased or remained unchanged in the most recent year. The reconviction rate dropped by 0.7% from 30.5% to 30.3% for the 31 to 40 age group, and increased very slightly by 0.5% for the over 40s from 20.7% to 20.8%. The average number of reconvictions declined for both groups, from 0.58 to 0.56 (3.4%) for offenders aged 31-40 and 0.38 to 0.35 (7.9%) for the over 40 group. The reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender for the over 40 age group are still considerably lower than for the other age groups ([Table 3](#)).

Chart 5: Average number of reconvictions per offender, males by age: 1997-98 to 2014-15 cohorts



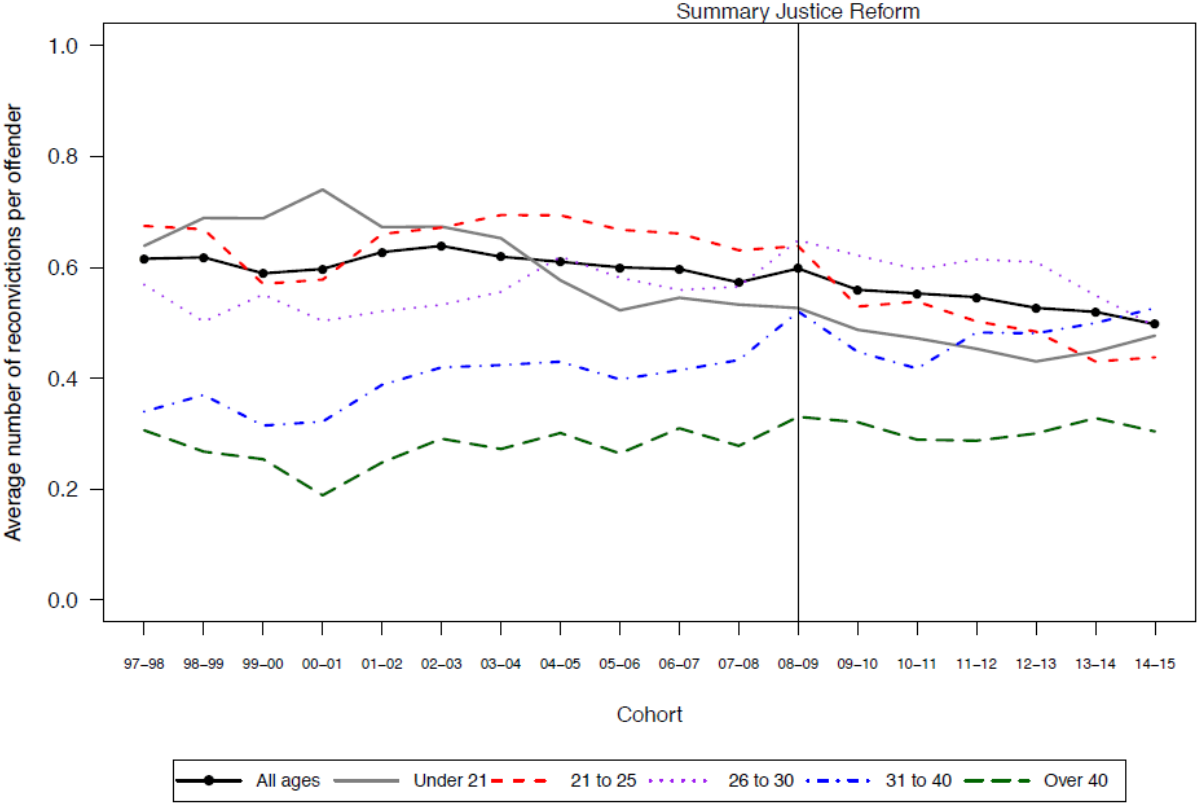
Males

Patterns of change in reconvictions (both rates and averages numbers) for males of different age groups were generally the same ([Table 4](#)) as those for all offenders ([Table 3](#)), with males comprising the majority of offenders (82.9% in 2014-15).

Since 2005-06 the average number of reconvictions per offender for males under 21 has decreased by 21.4% (from 0.84 in 2005-06 to 0.66 in 2014-15) and for males aged 21 to 25 by 25.0% (from 0.68 in 2005-06 to 0.51 in 2014-15). The average number of reconvictions per offender for males aged 26 to 30 has also decreased, by 18.5% since 2005-06 (from 0.65 to 0.53). The average number of reconvictions per offender has increased for the older age groups over the past 10 years. Males aged 31 to 40 have increased by 7.7% (from 0.52 in 2005-06 to 0.56 in 2014-15) and males aged over 40 years have increased by 12.5% (from 0.32 in 2005-06 to 0.36 in 2014-15). Both these

groups did however see a decrease in the most recent year, decreasing by 6.7% for offenders aged 31-40 (0.60 to 0.56) and by 7.7% for those aged over 40 (0.39 to 0.36) ([Table 4](#) and [Chart 5](#)).

Chart 6: Average number of reconvictions per offender, females by age: 1997-98 to 2014-15 cohorts



Females

Reconvictions for females under 21 and between 21 and 25 have seen some increases over the most recent couple of years. Although the reconviction rate for the under 21 age group saw a 3.6% decrease (24.8% to 23.9%) between 2013-14 and 2014-15, the average number of reconvictions per offender increased by 6.7% (0.45 to 0.48) over the same period and by 11.6% since 2012-13. The 21 to 25 age group also saw increases, with the reconviction rate increasing by 3.5% (23.0% to 23.8%) and average reconvictions per offender increasing by 2.3% (0.43 to 0.44) since 2013-14.

Over the past 10 years however, reconvictions for females aged under 21 and aged between 21 to 25 have generally decreased. The average number of reconvictions per offender decreased by 7.7% for females aged under 21 (from 0.52 in 2005-06 to 0.48 in 2014-15) and by 34.3% (from 0.67 in 2005-06 to 0.44 in 2014-15) for females age 21 to 25. Reconvictions for females aged 26 to 30 have been fluctuating over the past ten years, but they are now at their lowest level since 1997-98 with a reconviction rate of 26.5% and average reconvictions at 0.49. Reconvictions for females aged 31 to 40 have increased over the past 10 years, with average reconvictions rising 32.5% in the past ten years, from 0.40 in 2005-6 to 0.53 for the 2014-15 cohort, and the reconviction

rate rose from 24.0% to 26.9% over the same period. Reconvictions for females over 40 have also increased over the past ten years, with average reconvictions increasing by 15.4%, from 0.26 in 2005-6 to 0.30 for the 2014-15 cohort. The reconviction rate also increased over the same period, by 1.6 percentage points from 16.0% to 17.6%. ([Table 5](#) and [Chart 6](#)).

1.3 Index crime

([Table 6](#) and [Table 7](#))

An “index crime” is the crime which corresponds to an “index conviction”. This means it is the crime relating to the earliest conviction for non-custodial, or release date for a custodial sentences within a financial year. Please see [Annex Table A1](#) and [Annex A5](#) for definitions.

In general the data shows that offenders who were convicted for lower level index crimes (i.e. shoplifting), which tend to be committed in higher volumes, are more likely to be reconvicted than those who commit more serious crimes (i.e. sexual crimes). As has been true since 1997-98, offenders with an index crime of dishonesty, e.g. shoplifting (see [Annex Table A2](#) for crime groupings), have the highest average number of reconvictions per offender and reconviction rate of any index crimes ([Table 6](#) and [Chart 7](#)). For the 2014-15 cohort, the average number of reconvictions per offender for offenders convicted of crimes of dishonesty was 0.92, and the reconviction rate was 42.5%.

By index crime: sexual crimes

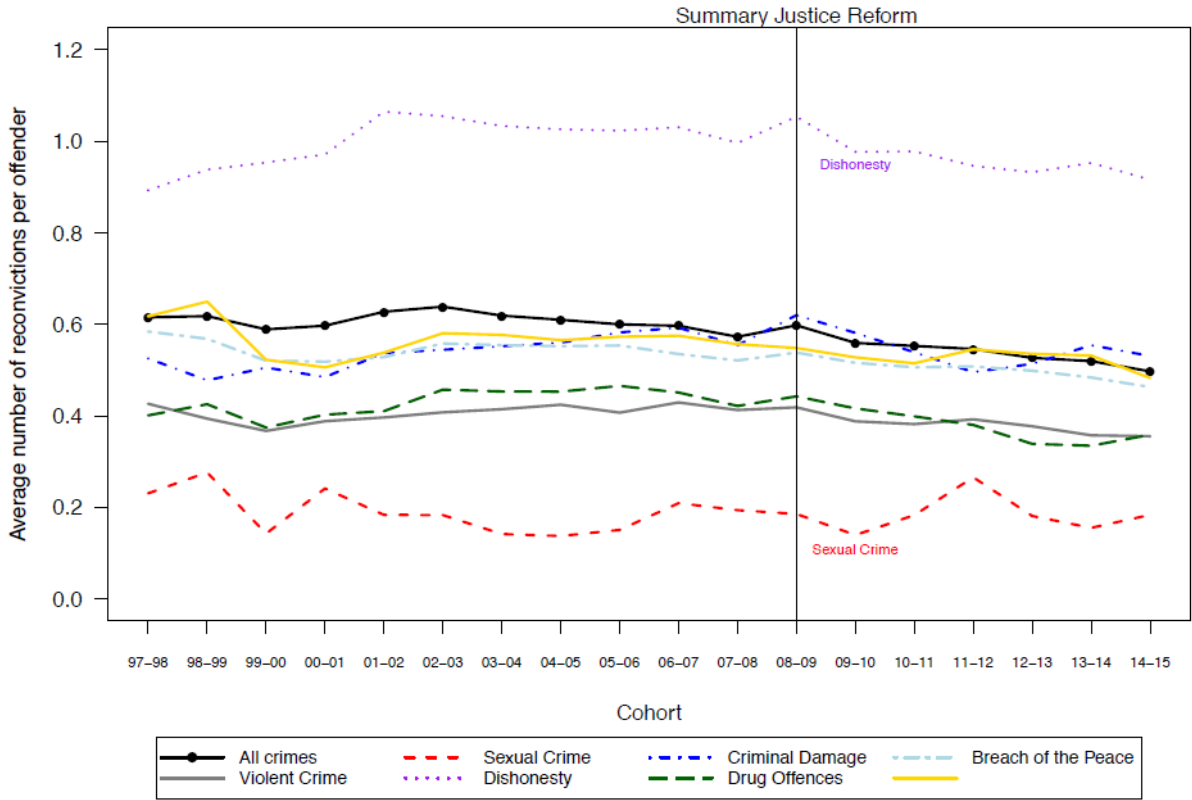
Offenders in the 2014-15 cohort who had an index crime of a sexual crime had the lowest average number of reconvictions per offender (0.18) and the lowest reconviction rate (12.1%) of any index crime ([Chart 7](#) and [Table 6](#)). The reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender for an index sexual crime are both higher in 2014-15 than they were in 2013-14, with the reconviction rate increasing by 1.8 percentage points and average reconvictions per offender increasing by 12.5%. Both measures are still considerably lower than in 2011-12, when the reconviction rate was 13.2% and the average reconvictions per offender stood at 0.27. Because these averages are based on small numbers of offenders, compared with other index crimes, caution should be taken in drawing any longer term conclusions, as small underlying numbers are sensitive to large fluctuations in percentage terms.

Other index crimes

Offenders from the 2014-15 cohort who had index crimes other than sexual crimes or crimes of dishonesty had an average number of reconvictions per offender between 0.36, for drug offences and violent crime, and 0.53, for criminal damage. The reconviction rates were between 22.3%, for violent crime, and 31.5%, for criminal damage. The average number of reconvictions per offender for all index crimes has decreased since 2013-14 with the

exception of sexual crimes, as discussed above, and drug offences, which increased by 9.1% (from 0.33 to 0.36) ([Table 6](#) and [Chart 7](#)).

Chart 7: Average number of reconvictions per offender, by index crime: 1997-98 to 2014-15 cohorts



Reconviction crime by index crime

[Table 7](#) shows the types of crimes that offenders in the 2014-15 cohort were reconvicted for, by the index crime. Overall, more offenders were reconvicted for breach of the peace than any other type of crime (10.8% of all offenders), and fewer offenders were reconvicted for a sexual crime than any other type of crime (0.3% of all offenders).

[Table 7](#) also shows that for offenders with index crimes of violent crime, criminal damage, breach of the peace, and other crimes, are most often reconvicted for breach of the peace. Offenders with index crimes of drug offences or dishonesty, were most often reconvicted for those offences again. For those convicted of sexual crimes, the majority of those reconvicted received convictions for other crimes. It is important to note that even index crimes where the majority of offenders reconvicted were reconvicted for the same crime as the index crime, there were many offenders who were reconvicted for different crimes than their index crimes. This suggests that offenders don't necessarily specialise in a particular type of crime.

1.4 Index disposal

[\(Table 8\)](#)

A disposal is the sentence given for a court conviction (i.e. custodial or community sentence), or the action taken in non-court cases (i.e. Anti-social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Notices or Fiscal Fines). The index disposal is the sentence received for an index conviction (see [Annex Table A1](#) and [Annex A5](#) for definitions). If a person is convicted for more than one charge, then it is the disposal for the main crime/offence that is considered the index disposal (see [Annex A4](#)). A disposal may affect the reconviction rates, but different disposals are given for different types of offending behaviour, which are also likely to affect reconviction rates. There has been a general decline in the average number of reconvictions per offender across all types of disposals since 2004-05 ([Chart 8](#)).

Custodial sentences

Those offenders released from a custodial sentence in the 2014-15 cohort had a higher reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender than offenders given any other disposal except a DTTO. The reconviction rate for offenders released from custody in the 2014-15 cohort was 43.3%, a 0.6 percentage point decrease on the 2013-14 rate of 43.9%. The average number of reconvictions per offender has stayed the same at 0.85 between 2013-14 and 2014-15 ([Table 8](#) and [Chart 8](#)).

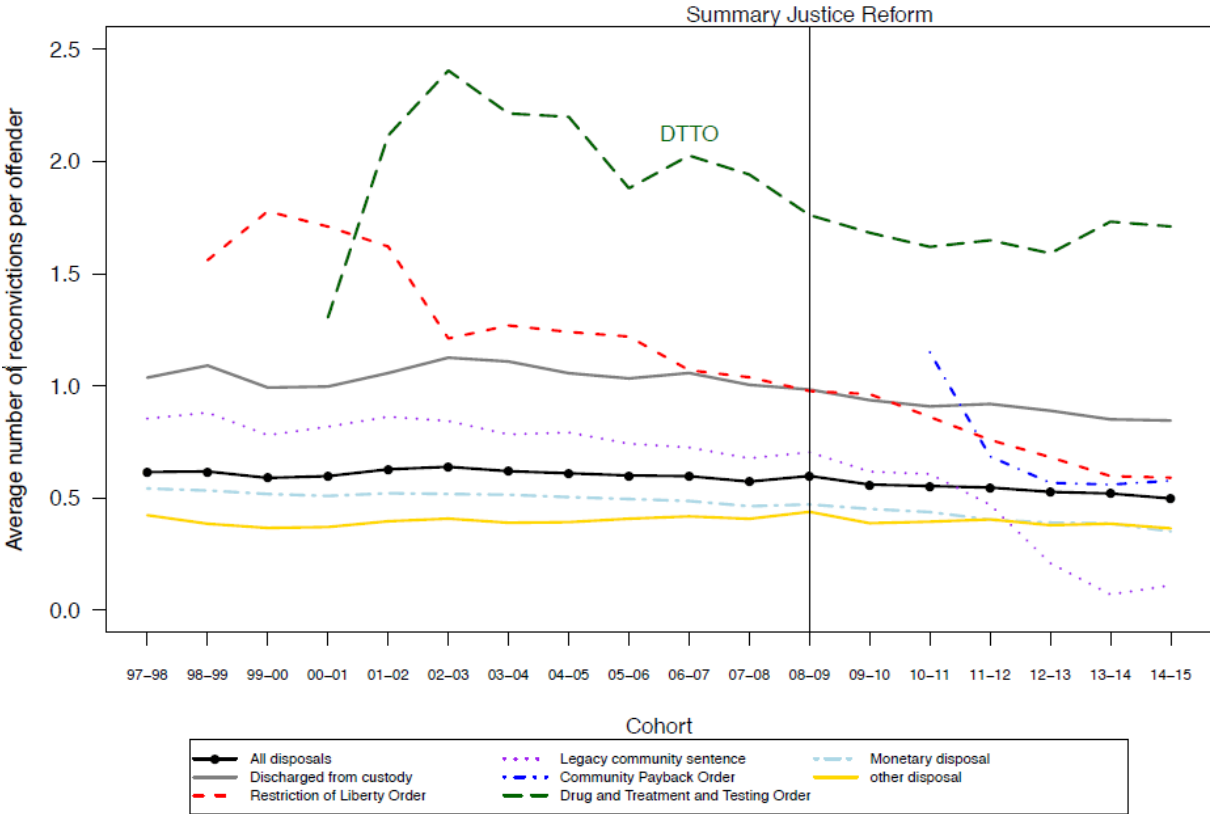
Over the last decade, there has been a decline in the average number of reconvictions per offender for those released from custodial sentences, decreasing by 17.5% from 1.03 in 2005-06 to 0.85 in 2014-15 ([Table 8](#), [Chart 8](#)). The long term decline in the reconviction rate for custodial sentences has been set against a sustained overall increase in the prison population during the 2000s. Since 2011-12, the prison population has been decreasing by about 2% a year. However, the relationship between patterns of reconviction and the prison population is not straightforward and one should not necessarily infer a direct causal link between the two. Trends in and drivers of the prison population are discussed in detail in the publication [Prison statistics and population projections Scotland](#): 2013-14.

Restriction of Liberty Orders

Offenders given Restriction of Liberty Orders (RLOs) in the 2014-15 cohort had a reconviction rate of 33.5%, the third highest rate compared to other disposals. This is 2 percentage points lower than in 2013-14. The average number of reconvictions per offender was 0.59, also the third highest, and that is 1.7% lower than in 2013-14.

Over the last decade there has been a 20.5 percentage point decrease in the reconviction rate for RLOs, and the average number of reconvictions has more than halved from 1.22 in 2005-6 to 0.59 for the most recent cohort. Because these averages are based on small numbers of offenders, compared with other index disposals, caution should be taken in drawing any longer term conclusions, as small underlying numbers are sensitive to large fluctuations in percentage terms.

Chart 8: Average number of reconvictions per offender by index disposal: 1997-98 to 2014-15 cohorts



Community Payback Orders

Community Payback Orders (CPOs) were introduced by the [Criminal Justice and Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) and came into effect from 1 February 2011. The CPO replaces provisions for Community Service Orders (CSO), Probation Orders (PO) and Supervised Attendance Orders (SAO) – the “legacy orders” - for any offences committed after this date. Annex D gives a brief overview of the trends for the transitional period from 2010-11 to 2013-14.

The 10,854 offenders with an index disposal of a CPO in 2014-15 had a reconviction rate of 32.7%, which is two percentage points higher than the rate in 2013-14. This rate is 1.1 percentage points lower than the reconviction rate (33.6%) of the legacy orders in 2009-10 before CPOs were introduced. The average number of reconvictions per offender for individuals given a CPO in 2014-15 was 0.58, 3.6% higher than in 2013-14, but 6.5% lower than the figure of 0.62 for the legacy orders in 2009-10.

Drug Treatment and Testing Orders

Offenders given a Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO) have the highest average number of reconvictions per offender and the highest reconviction rate compared to the other disposals ([Table 8](#) and [Chart 8](#)). The number of offenders who received a DTTO in the 2014-15 cohort was 259. The average

number of reconvictions per offender was 1.71 for this cohort, which represents a decrease of 1.2% on the 2013-14 value of 1.73, and the reconviction rate was 63.3% which is a 1 percentage point decrease on the 2013-14 value of 64.3%.

Over time, there has been a general decline in the average number of reconvictions per offender for offenders who are given a DTTO. In the past ten years, the average number of reconvictions per offender for DTTOs decreased by 9.0%, from 1.88 in 2005-06 to 1.71 in 2014-15. In the same period there has also been a 9.7% decline in reconviction rates, decreasing from 70.1% in 2005-6 to the current rate of 63.3%. Again, however, caution should be taken in drawing any longer term conclusions, due to the small numbers of DTTOs issued each year.

Monetary disposals

Between the 2013-14 and 2014-15 cohorts, the average number of reconvictions for monetary disposals has decreased by 10.3%, from 0.39 to 0.35. The reconviction rate also decreased, by one percentage point from 23.2% to 22.2%.

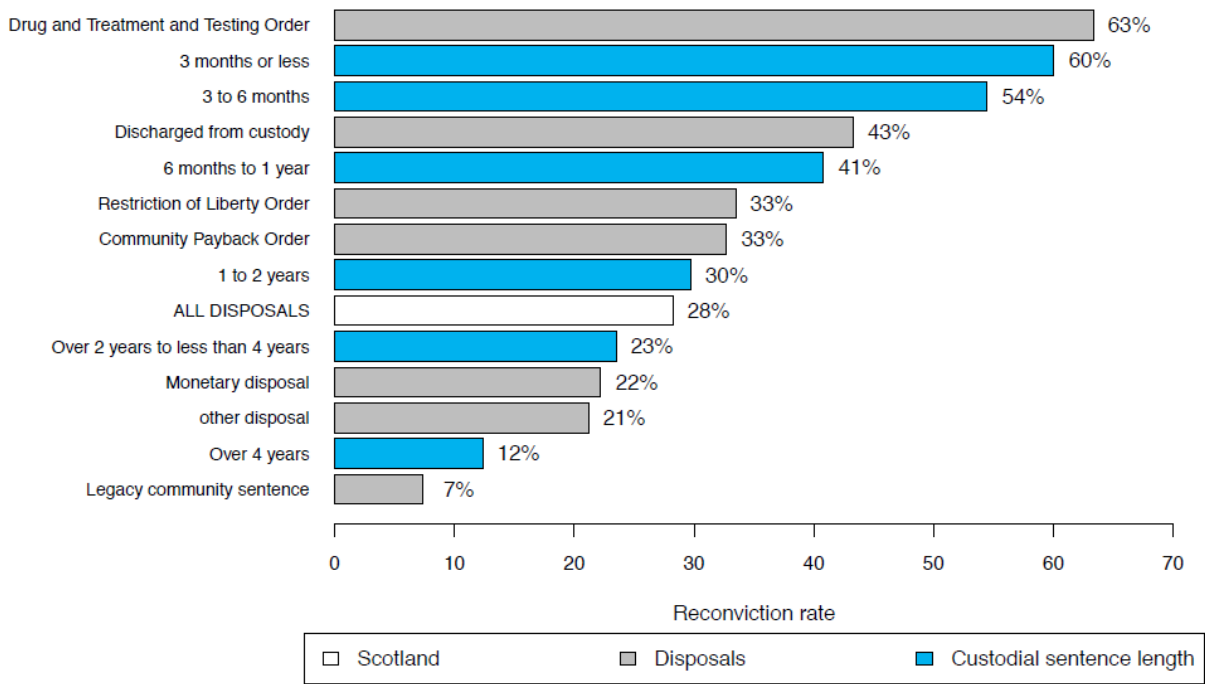
There was a continual decrease in the number of individuals who were given a monetary disposal between 2006-07 and 2012-13. In 2006-07 there were 28,500 offenders with an index monetary disposal which has since nearly halved to 14,802 in 2012-13, although the numbers have increased by just over 400 disposals over the recent two cohorts. This may in part reflect the impact of Summary Justice Reform which were designed to take less serious cases out of the court system. Between 2006-7 and 2012-13, the average number of reconvictions for offenders with an index monetary disposal fell from 0.49 to 0.39, a decrease of 20.4%.

1.5 Sentence length of custodial index conviction

(Table 9)

Offenders who were released from a custodial sentence of 3 months or less have a higher reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender compared to those released from longer custodial sentences ([Table 9](#) and [Chart 9](#)). Offenders who commit relatively low level crimes but in high volumes are more likely to be reconvicted (see [Section 1.3](#)), and these offenders are more likely to get short custodial sentences. In contrast, longer custodial sentences are given to offenders who commit more serious crimes, but these offenders tend to commit these crimes in low volumes, and hence are less likely to be reconvicted.

Chart 9: Reconviction rates for index disposals and sentence lengths for the 2014-15 cohort¹



1. Chart 9 shows reconviction rates broken down by disposal type. This includes the category “disposal from custody” which shows reconviction rates for all offenders discharged from a custodial sentence in 2014-15, as well a further breakdown of this category by length of custodial sentence for comparison.

For those released from short sentences of under 3 months, the average number of reconvictions per offender was 1.25, representing a 6.0% decrease since 2013-14, and the reconviction rate was 60.0%, a decrease of 0.8 percentage points since 2013-14. On the other hand, offenders released from sentences of over 4 years had an average number of reconvictions per offender of 0.13, an increase of 0.04 percentage points, and a reconviction rate of 12.3%, an increase of 4.5 percentage points in 2014-15. Over the longer term however, reconvictions for sentences over 4 years have seen a steady decline over the past ten years. Moreover however, caution should be taken in drawing any longer term conclusions, due to the small, and declining, numbers of offenders with an index disposal of a sentence over 4 years in each cohort.

1.6 Conviction history prior to index conviction

(Table 10)

Conviction history is a strong predictor for the likelihood of reconviction, as reconviction rates increase with increasing numbers of previous reconvictions. Offenders with more than 10 previous convictions in the past ten years have the highest reconviction rates, whereas offenders with no previous convictions in the past ten years have the lowest reconviction rates. This pattern holds true even when age, sex, or disposal (all of which have an association with the likelihood of reconviction) are taken into account (Table 10).

1.7 Two year rates

[\(Table 12\)](#)

Historically, reconviction rates in Scotland have been reported with a two-year follow-up period. From the 2009-10 cohort bulletin onwards, the focus has been mainly on a follow-up period of one year rather than two years as, in general, the one-year rate tracks the two year rate and has the benefit of being more timely.

Using the two-year follow up period there has been a decline in the reconviction rate and in the average number of reconvictions per offender in the past 10 years ([Table 12](#)). Since 2005-06 the average number of reconvictions per offender has fallen by 15.0% from 1.13 to 0.96 in 2013-14 and the reconviction rate has seen a 4.9 percentage point reduction from 44.8% to 39.9% in 2013-14.

These declining trends mirror those seen for the one-year follow up period ([Table 1](#)) but as the number of reoffenders for the two-year follow up period will also include those who reoffend over longer time periods, the associated values will typically be greater, for instance:

- In 2013-14 the two-year reconviction rate was 11.7 percentage points higher than the rate using a one-year follow on period; and
- The average reconvictions per offender are nearly half a conviction (0.46) higher for the two-year rate.

2. Main findings: reconviction rates for non-court disposals

Changes were introduced as a result of the Criminal Proceedings Act 2007 and these were collectively known as Summary Justice Reform. They were designed to take less serious cases out of the justice system at an earlier stage, and to improve the efficiency of court processes. These non-court prosecution options are used to deal with less serious offences, and include both police and crown office disposals.

This section provides statistics on reconviction rates for offenders whose index conviction and subsequent reconviction was dealt with outside of court. Reconvictions for non-court disposals are separate from those for court disposals, because they are recorded on a separate database. The index convictions, reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender in this section therefore refer to only to non-court disposals.

2.1 Police disposals

[\(Table 13\)](#)

The following non-court disposals are available to the police when dealing with a case directly:

- **Anti-Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Notices** (ASBFPNs) as provided for in the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004 for a range of offences including drunken-related behaviours and playing loud music;
- **Formal adult warnings** are for minor offences wherein a warning letter is issued to the offender and were in force until 11th January 2016, when they were replaced by **police recorded warnings**. The 2015-16 bulletin will include these.
- Actions which are used specifically for juveniles (aged 8 to 17) such as **restorative justice warnings** and **Early and Effective Interventions** (EEI).

There are further options available to the police that we are not able to provide data on such as conditional offers of a fixed penalty notice for moving motor vehicle offences. More information is available in Annex D of the [Criminal Proceedings](#) publication.

Of all the individuals given a non-court disposal (by the police or COPFS) in 2014-15, those given ASBFPN had the highest percentage of individuals who received another non-court disposal within one year (22.6%) and the highest average number of non-court disposals per individual (0.42) of any non-court disposal. Since 2012-13 there has been a decline in the average number of non-court disposals per individual as well as the percentage of individuals given another non-court disposal, with a 22.2% decline in the former, from 0.54 in 2012-13 to 0.42 in 2014-15, and a 5.3 percentage point decline in the latter from 27.9% in 2012-13 to 22.6% in 2014-15. ([Table 13](#) and [Table 14](#)).

Of the individuals given a Formal Adult Warning between 2008-09 and 2014-15, the percentage who received another non-court disposal within one year decreased by 7.4 percentage points from 18.1% to 10.7%, and there was a 42.9% decrease in the average number of non-court disposals per individual from 0.28 to 0.16 ([Table 13](#)).

Of the individuals given an Early and Effective Intervention (EEI), 22.5% received another non-court disposal within one year, and they received on average 0.37 non-court disposals per individual. Over the last year there has been a decline in both measures, with the percentage receiving another non-court disposal remaining relatively stable, declining by 0.2 percentage points, and the average number of non-court disposal decreasing by 2.6%. ([Table 13](#)). Please note that the figures on EEIs in this bulletin have been back-revised, please see Annex B for more information.

2.2 Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) disposals

([Table 14](#))

These non-court disposals are available to the Crown Office and Prosecutor Fiscal Service (COPFS):

- **Fiscal fines** of between £50 and £300;
- **Compensation orders** of up to £5,000;
- **Fixed penalties** of between £50 and £300, generally issued for motor vehicle offences.

There are further actions that COPFS can take that are not included in this report such as fiscal warnings as well as diverting cases to social work and other agencies and referrals to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA). More information is available in Annex D of the [Criminal Proceedings](#) publication.

Of those individuals given a COPFS disposal in 2014-15, those given a Fiscal Fine had the highest percentage of individuals who received another non-court disposal (21.1%) and the highest average number of non-court disposals per individual (0.31). Individuals given a Fiscal Fixed Penalty had the lowest percentage of individuals who received another non-court disposal (6.4%) and the lowest average number of non-court disposals per individual (0.07).

Between 2008-09 and 2014-15, those COPFS disposals have all seen a decrease in the percentage of individuals who received another non-court disposal within one year and a decrease in the average number of non-court disposals per individual.

Fiscal Work Orders (FWOs) were introduced across Scotland in April 2015. The process of recording these disposals is currently being investigated for the [Criminal Proceedings](#) publication, and it is hoped that statistics for these will be available to publish in the 2016-17 publication.

3. Comparing reconviction rates across administrative areas

[\(Table 11\)](#)

The reconviction rate for an administrative area is based on information for offenders convicted in courts that fall within that administrative area's boundary. Typically an offender would go to a court located in the same administrative area in which they live, though occasionally an offender may be seen by a court located in a different administrative area. Similarly an offender may not always be supervised in the area in which they are convicted and subsequent reconvictions may have occurred in different areas. In addition, the areas that courts serve don't exactly match Local Authorities (see [Annex A10](#) and the footnote of [Table 11](#)).

Reconviction rates vary across administrative areas (based on court location). [Table 11](#) shows that the highest reconviction rate in the 2014-15 cohort was for offenders whose index conviction was given at courts in both the Clackmannanshire and Dundee City areas (32.8% each), with the former having the highest average number of convictions per offender (0.66). The lowest reconviction rate (16.1%), and lowest average number of reconvictions per offender (0.20), were both for offenders whose index conviction was given at a court in the Orkney Islands. These are unadjusted figures which do not take account of underlying differences in population size and the characteristics of offenders in each area. It should also be noted that several Local Authorities have small numbers of offenders, within which small between year fluctuations in the numbers of offenders reconvicted may lead to larger changes in the reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender than for Local Authorities with larger numbers of offenders.

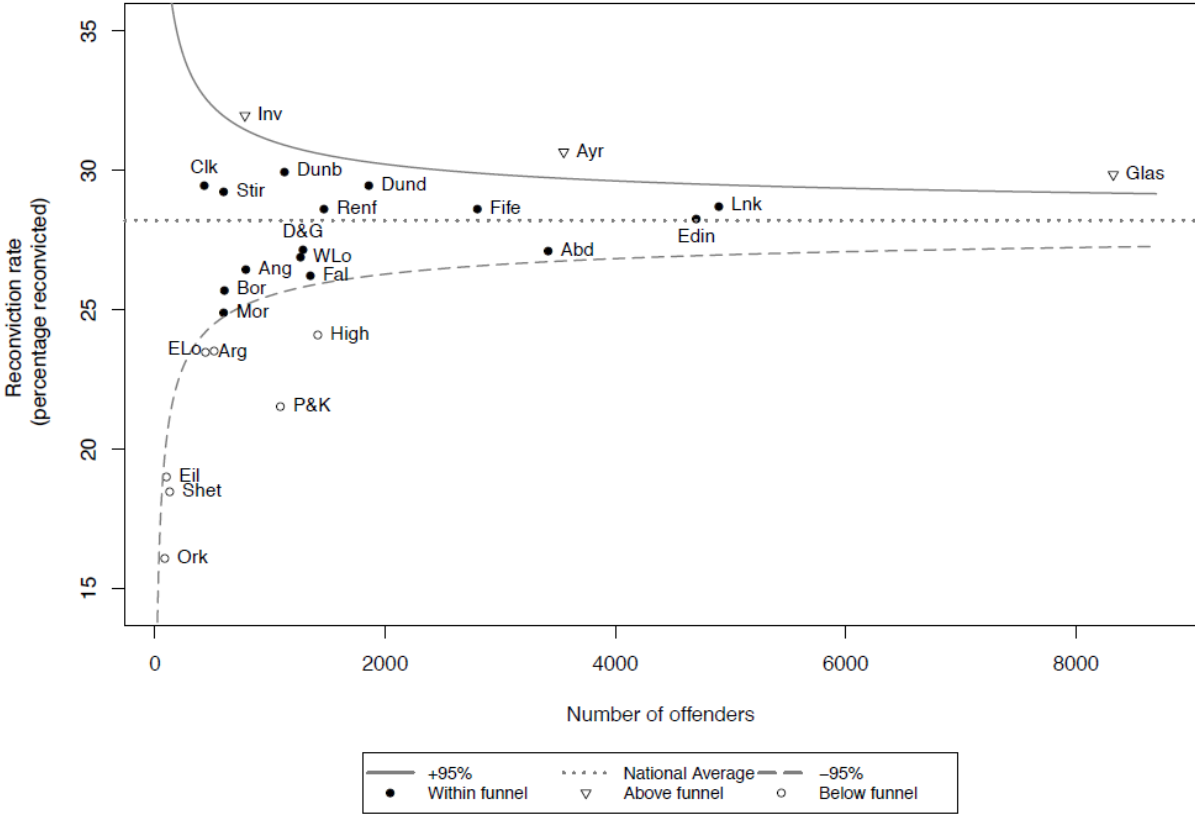
3.1 Accounting for the variability between local authorities

Reconviction rates are used as a Scottish Government National Indicator in the Scottish Government's [National Performance Framework](#). As such, they are commonly used to rank performance across different jurisdictions and Local Authorities. However, there is an inherent problem in using this approach since it implicitly assumes that a difference in reconviction rate reflects a 'real' difference between organisations. In reality, all systems within which these organisations operate, no matter how stable, will produce variable outcomes in the normal run of events. In particular, outcomes in jurisdictions with smaller sized populations tend to vary more than those in jurisdictions with larger populations. The question we need to answer is therefore: Is the observed variation more or less than we would normally expect?

In this respect, it is better to use a method of comparison that takes account of inherent variability between jurisdictions². The funnel plot is a simple statistical method that takes into account the variability of different sized populations and so highlights whether there are differences that may be attributed to some other special cause³.

[Table 11](#) shows the average number of reconvictions per offender and reconviction rates for each Local Authority group and [Chart 10](#) shows the reconviction rates against the number of offenders. The plot takes into account the increased variability of the Local Authorities with smaller populations, where a small increase in the number of reconvictions may lead to a large percentage change in the reconviction rate. Rates for Local Authorities which lie inside the funnel are not significantly different from the national rate, and we can then usefully focus on possible explanations for rates which deviate significantly from the national figure. In this case, the cut-off level for statistical significance is 95% (or two standard deviations from the mean): if there were no difference between Local Authorities apart from that which could reasonably be attributed to random variation, we would expect that 5% of the authorities (i.e. only 1 of them) would lie outside the funnel.

Chart 10: Reconviction rates by Local Authority group: 2014-15 cohort⁴



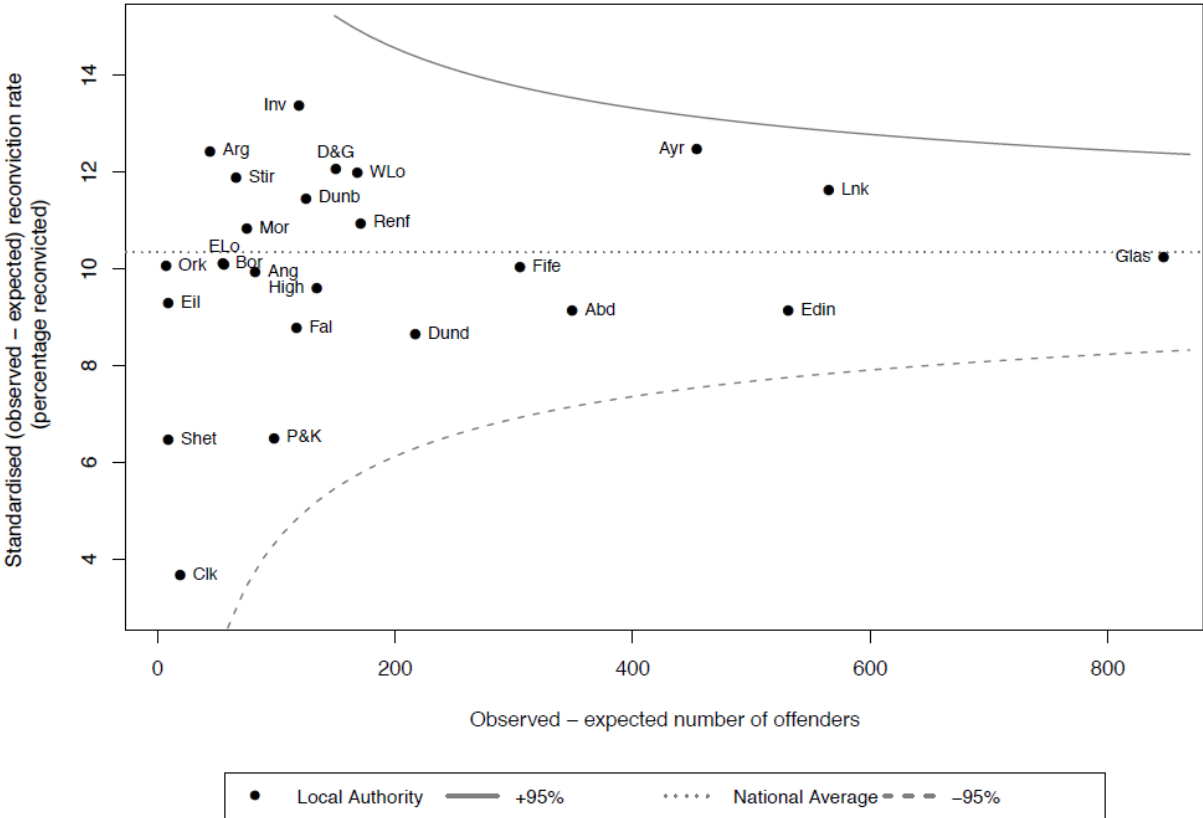
² Royal Statistical Society (2003) *Performance Indicators: Good, Bad, and Ugly* Royal Statistical Society Working Party on Performance Monitoring in the Public Services. <http://www.rss.org.uk/Images/PDF/publications/rss-reports-performance-monitoring-public-services-2003.pdf>

³ Battersby, J. & Flowers, J. (2004) *Presenting performance indicators* Eastern Region Public Health Observatory. Obtained from <http://www.erpho.org.uk/viewResource.aspx?id=7518>

[Chart 10](#) shows that Inverclyde, East North and South Ayrshire and Glasgow City lie above the funnel, and so have higher reconviction rates than expected. East Lothian, Argyll and Bute, Highland, Perth and Kinross, Na h-Eileanan Siar, the Shetland Islands and the Orkney Islands lie below the funnel and so have lower rates than expected. Whilst this is useful for highlighting that there are practical differences in reconviction rates between each Local Authority, even after taking into account differences in population sizes, it does not allow us to identify if this disparity is due to variation in the characteristics of offenders in each area or a variation in practices between different Local Authorities. Different offender characteristics between Local Authorities could include: age, gender, crime, disposal, ethnicity, deprivation, etc.

[Chart 11](#) is standardised to take into account differences between Local Authorities attributable to the characteristics of offenders, such as the number of previous offences, sentence, gender, and age. It provides the standardised reconviction rates⁴ against the observed number of offenders minus expected number of offenders. Since all Local Authorities are within the funnel it suggests that the apparent differences in reconviction rates in [Chart 10](#) are primarily attributable to either the variation in the characteristics of the offenders, the type of crime they committed, or the sentence they received, rather than differences in ‘performance’ between the Local Authorities. This overall conclusion for all local authorities on the 2014-15 cohort is consistent with the findings of the previous two cohorts provided in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 [Reconviction Rates in Scotland](#) publications.

Chart 11: Standardised reconviction rates by Local Authority group: 2014-15 cohort⁸



⁴ Spiegelhalter, D. J. (2005) *Funnel plots for comparing institutional performance* *Statistics in Medicine* 24 1185-1202.

4. Number and type of previous convictions: 2006-07 to 2015-16

([Table 15](#) and [Table 16](#))

This section presents information on previous convictions for those offenders who were convicted on at least one occasion in 2015-16 ([Table 15](#) and [Table 16](#)). These two tables are compiled on a different basis to the remainder of this publication; looking at the number of individuals convicted at least once in 2015-16 and then examining their conviction history over the previous ten years. In contrast, all other tables in this publication focus on those convicted in 2014-15 and then count how many were reconvicted in the 2015-16 follow up period.

Of the 45,230 individuals convicted at least once in 2015-16 for a crime or relevant offence, 57% had at least one prior conviction in the previous ten years, whilst 13% had over 10 previous convictions ([Table 16](#)).

As is consistent with the findings of previous [Reconviction Rates in Scotland](#) publications, sentencing is influenced by offending history as well as the circumstances of a particular case. [Table 15](#) and [Chart 12](#) shows that:

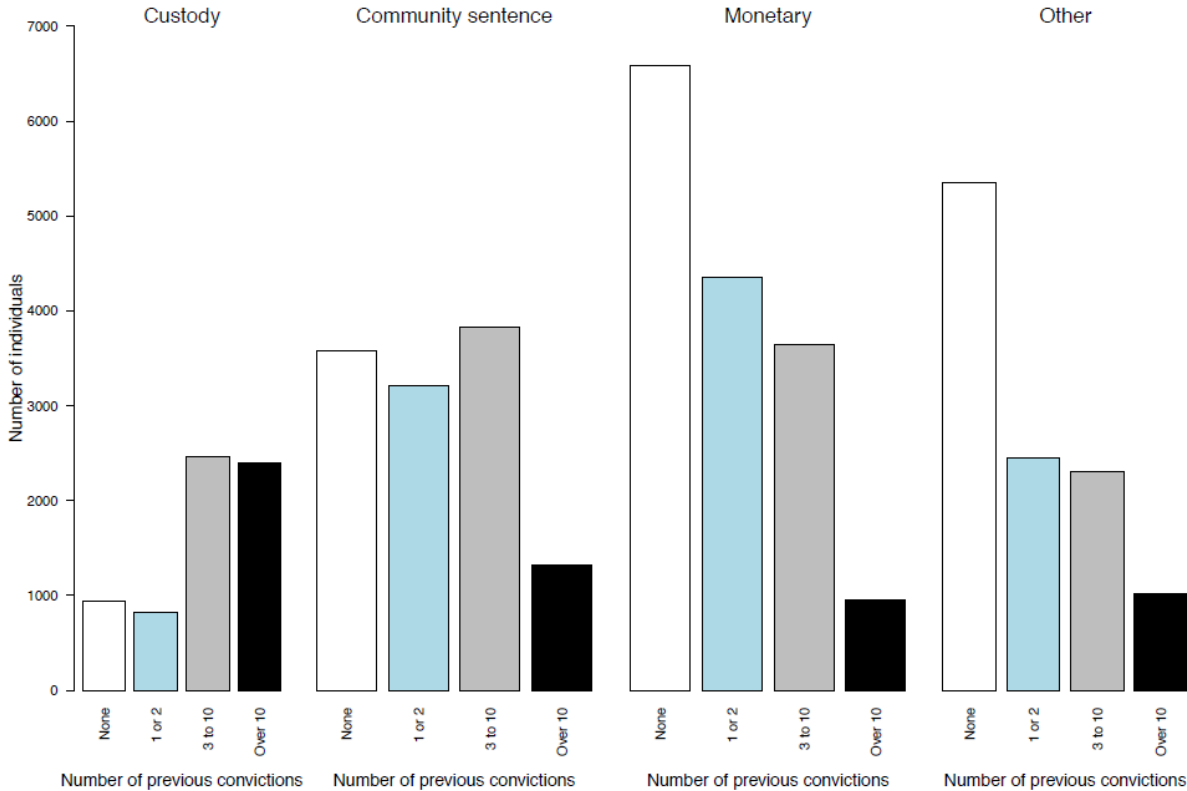
- The proportion of offenders given a custodial sentence increases with the number of previous convictions of an individual offender over the past ten years. Only 5.7% of first time offenders were given custodial sentences while this value increases to 20.1% of those with between 3 and 10 previous convictions and 42.0% of those with more than 10 previous convictions in the past ten years.
- A high proportion of first time offenders are given a caution/admonition (32.5%) but for offenders with more previous convictions this value decreases from 22.6% for those with one or two convictions to 18.8% for those with 3 to 10 and 17.9% for those with more than 10 previous convictions.
- The proportion of offenders given community sentences is nearly the same for first time offenders and offenders with more than 10 previous convictions (21.8% and 23.2% each respectively). Offenders with one or two and between 3 and 10 previous convictions are more likely to be given community sentences at 29.6 and 31.3% respectively.
- First time offenders and those with one or two previous convictions are most likely to be given fines (40.1% and 40.2% respectively). Offenders with more than 10 previous convictions are least likely to be given fines (16.8%).

The number of prior convictions for serious offences is strongly linked to the likelihood of getting a custodial sentence: 9.9% of those with no prior solemn convictions (i.e. in the high or sheriff solemn court) get a custodial sentence,

rising to 35.0% for those with 1 or 2 solemn convictions and 60.4% for those with 3 to 10 solemn convictions.

Over the past ten years the proportion of prolific offenders, those with more than ten previous convictions, has remained relatively constant ([Table 16](#)). Twelve per cent of offenders in 2006-07 had over 10 previous convictions in the previous ten years and the figure has fluctuated between 12 and 14 per cent over the last decade, with 13 per cent of offenders in 2015-16 having over 10 previous convictions in the previous ten years.

Chart 12: Number of individuals convicted in 2014-15, by last disposal in 2014-15 and the number of previous convictions since 2005-06



Tables

The following symbols are used throughout the tables in this bulletin:

-	Nil
*	Less than 0.5
n/a	Not available
**	Rates based on fewer than 10 people and not suitable for publication

All percentages, reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender are shown in italics.

These tables can also be found, with additional datasets that contain supplementary information, on the [datasets](#) page.

In Tables 1 to 12, the number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. These values are included in the additional [datasets](#) which accompany this bulletin.

The definitions of reconviction rate and the average number of reconvictions per offender are described in [Annex Table A1](#).

Table 1: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender: 1997-98 to 2014-15 cohorts

Cohort	Number of offenders¹	Reconviction rate¹	Average number of reconvictions per offender¹
1997-98	53,445	31.8	0.62
1998-99	49,145	31.8	0.62
1999-00	44,229	31.3	0.59
2000-01	41,568	31.8	0.60
2001-02	43,650	32.4	0.63
2002-03	44,863	32.9	0.64
2003-04	46,984	32.7	0.62
2004-05	49,371	32.4	0.61
2005-06	50,330	32.5	0.60
2006-07	53,309	32.4	0.60
2007-08	53,053	31.2	0.57
2008-09	49,663	31.5	0.60
2009-10	47,415	30.6	0.56
2010-11	44,704	30.1	0.55
2011-12	43,828	29.6	0.55
2012-13	41,705	28.9	0.53
2013-14	42,191	28.5	0.52
2014-15	43,634	28.2	0.50

1. Figures for previous cohorts may differ from previously published figures as updated information is fed into the Scottish Offenders Index.

Table 2: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by gender: 1997-98 to 2014-15 cohorts

Gender	Total offenders¹	Reconviction rate¹	Average number of reconvictions¹
Males			
1997-98	45,706	32.9	0.63
1998-99	41,842	32.9	0.64
1999-00	37,564	32.2	0.61
2000-01	35,271	32.7	0.62
2001-02	36,965	33.4	0.65
2002-03	37,781	33.9	0.66
2003-04	39,510	33.7	0.64
2004-05	41,524	33.2	0.63
2005-06	42,208	33.7	0.62
2006-07	44,760	33.4	0.62
2007-08	44,383	32.2	0.59
2008-09	41,429	32.5	0.61
2009-10	39,400	31.7	0.58
2010-11	36,985	31.5	0.57
2011-12	36,435	30.8	0.56
2012-13	34,663	30.0	0.54
2013-14	35,004	29.6	0.53
2014-15	36,154	29.2	0.51
Females			
1997-98	7,739	25.4	0.51
1998-99	7,303	25.8	0.52
1999-00	6,665	25.7	0.49
2000-01	6,297	26.4	0.48
2001-02	6,685	26.8	0.51
2002-03	7,082	27.3	0.52
2003-04	7,474	27.2	0.53
2004-05	7,847	27.9	0.52
2005-06	8,122	26.2	0.48
2006-07	8,549	27.1	0.49
2007-08	8,670	26.5	0.49
2008-09	8,234	26.5	0.53
2009-10	8,015	25.1	0.47
2010-11	7,719	23.9	0.45
2011-12	7,393	24.1	0.46
2012-13	7,042	23.9	0.45
2013-14	7,187	23.3	0.44
2014-15	7,480	23.4	0.44

1. Figures for previous cohorts may differ from previously published figures as updated information is fed into the Scottish Offenders Index.

Table 3: Reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender, by age: 1997-98 to 2014-15 cohorts

Age ²	Total offenders ¹	Reconviction rate ¹	Average number of reconvictions ¹
Under 21			
1997-98	13,790	42.4	0.93
1998-99	12,984	42.1	0.92
1999-00	11,785	41.0	0.87
2000-01	11,005	41.5	0.87
2001-02	11,232	41.2	0.89
2002-03	11,060	41.3	0.88
2003-04	11,315	40.6	0.82
2004-05	11,646	39.4	0.79
2005-06	12,115	41.4	0.80
2006-07	12,688	40.6	0.78
2007-08	12,404	38.2	0.72
2008-09	10,754	37.9	0.72
2009-10	9,323	36.8	0.68
2010-11	8,243	36.1	0.66
2011-12	7,432	35.0	0.63
2012-13	6,089	33.4	0.58
2013-14	5,390	34.3	0.62
2014-15	5,157	35.3	0.64
21 to 25			
1997-98	12,183	34.1	0.63
1998-99	10,763	34.4	0.66
1999-00	9,455	34.5	0.64
2000-01	8,993	35.5	0.66
2001-02	9,477	36.5	0.71
2002-03	9,927	37.1	0.74
2003-04	10,338	36.4	0.72
2004-05	10,593	36.4	0.71
2005-06	10,586	35.2	0.68
2006-07	11,240	35.3	0.66
2007-08	11,139	34.3	0.63
2008-09	10,107	34.2	0.65
2009-10	9,807	33.7	0.61
2010-11	8,998	32.9	0.59
2011-12	8,887	31.1	0.55
2012-13	8,401	31.0	0.53
2013-14	8,290	29.5	0.50
2014-15	8,121	29.5	0.50
26 to 30			
1997-98	9,595	30.3	0.54
1998-99	8,674	30.4	0.54
1999-00	7,453	31.5	0.55
2000-01	6,943	31.2	0.56
2001-02	7,167	33.3	0.62
2002-03	7,129	34.5	0.64
2003-04	7,258	35.6	0.66
2004-05	7,526	34.5	0.66
2005-06	7,589	34.8	0.64
2006-07	8,011	34.7	0.65
2007-08	8,253	33.6	0.63
2008-09	7,989	34.9	0.68
2009-10	7,895	32.9	0.62
2010-11	7,482	33.5	0.65
2011-12	7,434	32.8	0.64
2012-13	7,412	31.5	0.59
2013-14	7,217	31.2	0.57
2014-15	7,459	30.0	0.52

(continued on following page)

Table 3 (continued)

31 to 40			
1997-98	11,462	25.2	0.43
1998-99	10,816	25.4	0.44
1999-00	10,063	24.6	0.40
2000-01	9,439	24.9	0.41
2001-02	10,138	26.3	0.44
2002-03	10,576	27.4	0.48
2003-04	11,291	28.5	0.50
2004-05	12,075	28.9	0.50
2005-06	11,956	28.5	0.49
2006-07	12,642	29.0	0.50
2007-08	12,199	28.6	0.51
2008-09	11,638	30.2	0.57
2009-10	11,218	30.3	0.55
2010-11	10,839	29.9	0.55
2011-12	10,802	30.7	0.59
2012-13	10,577	30.2	0.58
2013-14	11,040	30.5	0.58
2014-15	11,543	30.3	0.56
Over 40			
1997-98	6,409	18.7	0.34
1998-99	5,900	18.3	0.31
1999-00	5,463	16.8	0.29
2000-01	5,181	17.8	0.29
2001-02	5,633	17.5	0.30
2002-03	6,170	18.4	0.31
2003-04	6,780	17.4	0.30
2004-05	7,529	19.2	0.32
2005-06	8,083	19.2	0.31
2006-07	8,728	19.5	0.33
2007-08	9,058	19.5	0.33
2008-09	9,175	19.8	0.35
2009-10	9,172	19.2	0.35
2010-11	9,142	19.7	0.34
2011-12	9,273	20.2	0.36
2012-13	9,226	20.7	0.37
2013-14	10,254	20.7	0.38
2014-15	11,354	20.8	0.35

1. Figures for previous cohorts may differ from previously published figures as updated information is fed into the Scottish Offenders Index.

2. There were a small number of offenders (3 per cohort on average) whose age could not be determined. These offenders are not included here.

Table 4: Reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender, males by age: 1997-98 to 2014-15 cohorts

Age	Total Offenders ¹	Reconviction rate ¹	Average number of reconvictions ¹
Under 21			
1997-98	12,076	44.2	0.98
1998-99	11,283	43.9	0.96
1999-00	10,196	42.6	0.90
2000-01	9,600	42.6	0.89
2001-02	9,781	42.7	0.92
2002-03	9,621	42.9	0.92
2003-04	9,810	42.2	0.84
2004-05	10,158	41.0	0.83
2005-06	10,490	43.3	0.84
2006-07	10,991	42.3	0.82
2007-08	10,677	39.7	0.75
2008-09	9,229	39.6	0.76
2009-10	7,981	38.6	0.71
2010-11	7,052	38.0	0.69
2011-12	6,346	36.8	0.66
2012-13	5,194	34.9	0.61
2013-14	4,620	35.8	0.65
2014-15	4,387	37.3	0.66
21 to 25			
1997-98	10,557	34.8	0.62
1998-99	9,215	35.0	0.66
1999-00	8,038	35.2	0.65
2000-01	7,695	36.0	0.67
2001-02	8,091	37.2	0.72
2002-03	8,441	37.8	0.75
2003-04	8,784	37.0	0.72
2004-05	8,943	36.7	0.71
2005-06	9,003	35.9	0.68
2006-07	9,582	35.9	0.66
2007-08	9,427	34.9	0.63
2008-09	8,553	35.1	0.65
2009-10	8,318	34.7	0.62
2010-11	7,599	33.8	0.60
2011-12	7,619	32.0	0.56
2012-13	7,147	31.9	0.54
2013-14	7,067	30.7	0.51
2014-15	6,944	30.5	0.51
26 to 30			
1997-98	8,146	30.7	0.54
1998-99	7,349	30.8	0.55
1999-00	6,308	31.8	0.55
2000-01	5,818	31.8	0.57
2001-02	6,009	34.2	0.64
2002-03	5,970	35.4	0.66
2003-04	5,995	36.6	0.68
2004-05	6,257	34.8	0.67
2005-06	6,230	35.5	0.65
2006-07	6,641	35.2	0.66
2007-08	6,839	34.2	0.64
2008-09	6,570	35.5	0.69
2009-10	6,500	33.2	0.62
2010-11	6,172	34.3	0.66
2011-12	6,125	33.5	0.64
2012-13	6,175	32.1	0.59
2013-14	6,014	31.7	0.58
2014-15	6,192	30.7	0.53

(continued on following page)

Table 4 (continued)

31 to 40			
1997-98	9,499	26.0	0.45
1998-99	8,990	26.2	0.46
1999-00	8,349	25.5	0.42
2000-01	7,785	25.8	0.43
2001-02	8,365	26.9	0.46
2002-03	8,621	28.1	0.49
2003-04	9,268	29.4	0.51
2004-05	9,834	29.8	0.51
2005-06	9,779	29.6	0.52
2006-07	10,323	29.8	0.52
2007-08	9,962	29.4	0.53
2008-09	9,531	31.0	0.58
2009-10	9,120	31.5	0.57
2010-11	8,719	31.5	0.58
2011-12	8,750	31.7	0.61
2012-13	8,633	31.2	0.60
2013-14	8,964	31.6	0.60
2014-15	9,380	31.1	0.56
Over 40			
1997-98	5,425	19.2	0.35
1998-99	4,999	18.8	0.32
1999-00	4,667	17.2	0.29
2000-01	4,370	18.6	0.31
2001-02	4,717	17.9	0.31
2002-03	5,128	18.6	0.31
2003-04	5,652	17.9	0.31
2004-05	6,330	19.5	0.33
2005-06	6,705	19.8	0.32
2006-07	7,223	20.0	0.34
2007-08	7,478	20.0	0.34
2008-09	7,546	20.3	0.36
2009-10	7,481	19.9	0.35
2010-11	7,443	20.4	0.36
2011-12	7,595	21.1	0.37
2012-13	7,514	21.5	0.38
2013-14	8,339	21.4	0.39
2014-15	9,251	21.5	0.36

1. Figures for previous cohorts may differ from previously published figures as updated information is fed into the Scottish Offenders Index.

2. There were a small number of offenders (1 per cohort on average) whose age could not be determined. These offenders are not included here.

Table 5: Reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender, females by age: 1997-98 to 2014-15 cohorts

Age ²	Total offenders ¹	Reconviction rate ¹	Average number of reconvictions ¹
Under 21			
1997-98	1,714	29.6	0.64
1998-99	1,701	30.0	0.69
1999-00	1,589	30.5	0.69
2000-01	1,405	34.0	0.74
2001-02	1,451	31.2	0.67
2002-03	1,439	30.2	0.67
2003-04	1,505	30.2	0.65
2004-05	1,488	28.5	0.58
2005-06	1,625	28.6	0.52
2006-07	1,697	29.5	0.55
2007-08	1,727	28.8	0.53
2008-09	1,525	27.5	0.53
2009-10	1,342	26.4	0.49
2010-11	1,191	24.6	0.47
2011-12	1,086	24.2	0.45
2012-13	895	24.5	0.43
2013-14	770	24.8	0.45
2014-15	770	23.9	0.48
21 to 25			
1997-98	1,626	29.7	0.67
1998-99	1,548	30.5	0.67
1999-00	1,417	30.6	0.57
2000-01	1,298	32.0	0.58
2001-02	1,386	32.5	0.66
2002-03	1,486	33.2	0.67
2003-04	1,554	33.1	0.69
2004-05	1,650	34.9	0.69
2005-06	1,583	31.0	0.67
2006-07	1,658	31.7	0.66
2007-08	1,712	30.6	0.63
2008-09	1,554	29.2	0.64
2009-10	1,489	27.8	0.53
2010-11	1,399	27.8	0.54
2011-12	1,268	25.9	0.50
2012-13	1,254	25.4	0.48
2013-14	1,223	23.0	0.43
2014-15	1,177	23.8	0.44
26 to 30			
1997-98	1,449	28.0	0.57
1998-99	1,325	27.8	0.50
1999-00	1,145	29.7	0.55
2000-01	1,125	28.2	0.50
2001-02	1,158	28.8	0.52
2002-03	1,159	30.0	0.53
2003-04	1,263	30.9	0.56
2004-05	1,269	33.1	0.62
2005-06	1,359	31.6	0.58
2006-07	1,370	32.3	0.56
2007-08	1,414	30.6	0.57
2008-09	1,419	32.4	0.65
2009-10	1,395	31.5	0.62
2010-11	1,310	29.7	0.60
2011-12	1,309	29.4	0.61
2012-13	1,237	28.4	0.61
2013-14	1,203	28.3	0.55
2014-15	1,267	26.5	0.49

(continued on following page)

Table 5 (continued)

31 to 40			
1997-98	1,963	21.2	0.34
1998-99	1,826	21.6	0.37
1999-00	1,714	20.0	0.31
2000-01	1,654	21.0	0.32
2001-02	1,773	23.2	0.39
2002-03	1,955	24.3	0.42
2003-04	2,023	24.6	0.42
2004-05	2,241	24.9	0.43
2005-06	2,177	24.0	0.40
2006-07	2,319	25.4	0.41
2007-08	2,237	25.2	0.43
2008-09	2,107	26.8	0.52
2009-10	2,098	25.0	0.45
2010-11	2,120	23.0	0.42
2011-12	2,052	26.3	0.48
2012-13	1,944	25.8	0.48
2013-14	2,076	25.3	0.50
2014-15	2,163	26.9	0.53
Over 40			
1997-98	984	15.9	0.31
1998-99	901	15.3	0.27
1999-00	796	14.1	0.25
2000-01	811	13.3	0.19
2001-02	916	15.3	0.25
2002-03	1,042	17.2	0.29
2003-04	1,128	15.4	0.27
2004-05	1,199	17.7	0.30
2005-06	1,378	16.0	0.26
2006-07	1,505	17.5	0.31
2007-08	1,580	17.4	0.28
2008-09	1,629	17.4	0.33
2009-10	1,691	16.3	0.32
2010-11	1,699	16.8	0.29
2011-12	1,678	15.9	0.29
2012-13	1,712	17.1	0.30
2013-14	1,915	17.4	0.33
2014-15	2,103	17.6	0.30

1. Figures for previous cohorts may differ from previously published figures as updated information is fed into the Scottish Offenders Index.

2. There were a small number of offenders (1 per cohort on average) whose age could not be determined. These offenders are not included here.

Table 6: Reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender, by index crime: 1997-98 to 2014-15 cohorts

Index Crime	Total offenders ¹	Reconviction rate ¹	Average number of reconvictions ¹
Violent Crime			
1997-98	11,428	25.5	0.43
1998-99	10,848	23.5	0.39
1999-00	10,274	22.9	0.37
2000-01	9,747	23.9	0.39
2001-02	10,073	24.0	0.40
2002-03	10,300	24.0	0.41
2003-04	10,779	24.6	0.41
2004-05	11,607	24.8	0.42
2005-06	12,354	24.7	0.41
2006-07	12,953	25.4	0.43
2007-08	13,271	24.6	0.41
2008-09	12,970	25.5	0.42
2009-10	12,762	23.8	0.39
2010-11	12,497	24.1	0.38
2011-12	12,463	23.9	0.39
2012-13	11,603	23.2	0.38
2013-14	11,218	22.4	0.36
2014-15	11,422	22.3	0.36
Sexual Crime²			
1997-98	286	13.6	0.23
1998-99	282	15.2	0.28
1999-00	392	9.7	0.14
2000-01	410	13.9	0.24
2001-02	419	11.9	0.18
2002-03	420	11.7	0.18
2003-04	458	9.8	0.14
2004-05	574	9.1	0.14
2005-06	517	10.3	0.15
2006-07	492	14.2	0.21
2007-08	474	12.9	0.19
2008-09	490	12.4	0.19
2009-10	494	9.7	0.14
2010-11	480	11.9	0.18
2011-12	523	13.2	0.27
2012-13	623	12.5	0.18
2013-14	708	10.3	0.16
2014-15	876	12.1	0.18
Dishonesty			
1997-98	15,225	40.3	0.89
1998-99	14,127	41.5	0.94
1999-00	12,696	43.1	0.95
2000-01	11,637	44.0	0.97
2001-02	11,724	45.9	1.06
2002-03	11,568	46.0	1.05
2003-04	10,860	45.9	1.03
2004-05	10,656	45.9	1.03
2005-06	9,911	46.4	1.02
2006-07	9,993	46.6	1.03
2007-08	9,802	44.8	1.00
2008-09	9,528	45.0	1.05
2009-10	9,173	44.2	0.98
2010-11	9,131	43.5	0.98
2011-12	8,746	42.3	0.95
2012-13	8,016	41.9	0.93
2013-14	7,815	41.7	0.95
2014-15	7,428	42.5	0.92
Criminal Damage			
1997-98	3,591	28.8	0.53
1998-99	3,327	27.2	0.48
1999-00	2,981	28.5	0.51
2000-01	2,966	28.8	0.48
2001-02	2,986	30.7	0.54
2002-03	3,071	30.6	0.54
2003-04	3,537	29.7	0.55
2004-05	3,648	31.2	0.56
2005-06	3,625	33.0	0.58
2006-07	3,889	33.0	0.59
2007-08	3,902	32.0	0.55
2008-09	3,163	33.9	0.62
2009-10	2,835	32.7	0.58
2010-11	2,458	30.8	0.54
2011-12	2,209	29.7	0.50
2012-13	1,925	31.1	0.51
2013-14	1,928	31.6	0.55
2014-15	1,812	31.5	0.53

(continued on following page)

Table 6 (continued)

Drug Offences			
1997-98	5,652	26.3	0.40
1998-99	5,321	27.5	0.43
1999-00	4,838	25.5	0.37
2000-01	4,182	26.1	0.40
2001-02	4,693	25.3	0.41
2002-03	4,671	28.0	0.46
2003-04	5,523	29.3	0.45
2004-05	5,773	28.8	0.45
2005-06	5,795	29.5	0.47
2006-07	6,820	28.0	0.45
2007-08	6,585	27.3	0.42
2008-09	5,704	27.1	0.44
2009-10	5,945	26.9	0.42
2010-11	5,935	25.9	0.40
2011-12	5,673	23.9	0.38
2012-13	5,412	22.3	0.34
2013-14	5,592	22.1	0.33
2014-15	5,733	23.0	0.36
Breach of the Peace³			
1997-98	13,726	31.4	0.58
1998-99	12,118	31.3	0.57
1999-00	10,314	29.7	0.52
2000-01	9,751	29.7	0.52
2001-02	10,333	30.3	0.53
2002-03	10,870	30.9	0.56
2003-04	11,454	31.0	0.55
2004-05	12,271	31.1	0.55
2005-06	12,933	31.4	0.55
2006-07	13,655	31.1	0.54
2007-08	13,375	30.2	0.52
2008-09	12,149	30.0	0.54
2009-10	11,270	29.3	0.52
2010-11	9,614	28.6	0.51
2011-12	9,865	29.0	0.51
2012-13	10,326	28.7	0.50
2013-14	10,967	28.3	0.48
2014-15	12,417	27.9	0.46
Other Crimes and Offences			
1997-98	3,537	30.4	0.62
1998-99	3,122	32.4	0.65
1999-00	2,734	29.8	0.52
2000-01	2,875	29.4	0.51
2001-02	3,422	30.5	0.54
2002-03	3,963	32.7	0.58
2003-04	4,373	33.0	0.58
2004-05	4,842	32.1	0.57
2005-06	5,195	32.2	0.57
2006-07	5,507	33.1	0.58
2007-08	5,644	31.4	0.56
2008-09	5,659	30.7	0.55
2009-10	4,936	30.7	0.53
2010-11	4,589	30.3	0.51
2011-12	4,349	31.4	0.55
2012-13	3,800	30.8	0.54
2013-14	3,963	31.3	0.53
2014-15	3,946	29.2	0.48

1. Figures for previous cohorts may differ from previously published figures as updated information is fed into the Scottish Offenders Index.

2. Sexual crime excludes offences associated with prostitution. The latter are included in other crimes and offences. Breach of sexual offender order and breach of sexual harm order are included in other crimes and offences.

3. Breach of the peace grouping, in line with the Criminal Proceedings in Scotland publication, includes the offences of "threatening or abusive behaviour" and "offence of stalking", which are part of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010; and "offensive behaviour at football" and "threatening communications" (under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communication Scotland Act 2012)".

Table 7: Reconviction rates for crimes by index crime: 2014-15 cohort

Index crime ³ 2014-15	Total number (=100%)	Percentage reconvicted within 1 year for ¹ :							
		Any crime ²	Violent crime	Sexual crime ⁴	Crimes of dishonesty	Criminal damage	Drug offences	Breach of the peace ⁵	Other crimes and offences
All offenders	43,634	28.2	7.5	0.3	8.8	1.8	4.4	10.8	4.1
Violent crime	11,422	22.3	8.4	0.1	3.9	1.5	2.2	9.7	3.3
Sexual crime ⁴	876	12.1	1.7	2.3	1.6	0.6	0.7	3.8	5.3
Crimes of dishonesty	7,428	42.5	7.3	0.2	28.9	1.8	6.1	9.7	4.3
Criminal damage	1,812	31.5	9.6	0.4	6.1	3.8	4.1	14.0	4.6
Drug offences	5,733	23.0	4.2	0.1	5.7	1.0	10.2	5.8	2.8
Breach of the peace ⁵	12,417	27.9	8.4	0.2	4.6	2.2	3.1	14.6	4.1
Other crimes and offences	3,946	29.2	8.2	0.5	6.1	1.9	4.5	10.9	7.3

1. Shading has been added to the table for the reconvictions of each crime type to visually distinguish the different reconviction rates. The darker the shading, the higher the reconviction rate. White numbers are used on darker backgrounds for contrast.

2. Offenders may be reconvicted for more than one type of crime in a year, so the row totals for the specific crime groups will not necessarily equal the overall percentage in "Any crime".

3. More detailed breakdowns can be found in the additional datasets which will be published to accompany this bulletin.

4. Sexual crime excludes offences associated with prostitution. The latter are included in other crimes and offences. Breach of sexual offender order and breach of sexual harm order are included in other crimes and offences.

5. Breach of the peace grouping, in line with the Criminal Proceedings in Scotland publication, includes the offences of "threatening or abusive behaviour" and "offence of stalking", which are part of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010; and "offensive behaviour at football" and "threatening communications" (under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communication Scotland Act 2012)".

Table 8: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by index disposal: 1997-98 to 2014-15 cohorts

Index disposal	Total offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions
Discharged from Custody			
1997-98	6,118	48.4	1.04
1998-99	5,821	49.1	1.09
1999-00	5,744	46.3	0.99
2000-01	5,573	47.4	1.00
2001-02	5,950	47.9	1.06
2002-03	6,011	49.9	1.13
2003-04	5,886	50.1	1.11
2004-05	6,127	47.9	1.06
2005-06	6,240	47.4	1.03
2006-07	6,912	48.5	1.06
2007-08	7,060	46.8	1.00
2008-09	7,408	47.0	0.98
2009-10	7,433	45.9	0.94
2010-11	7,291	45.2	0.91
2011-12	7,311	44.2	0.92
2012-13	7,436	43.6	0.89
2013-14	7,121	43.9	0.85
2014-15	6,691	43.3	0.85
Restriction of Liberty Order			
1997-98			
1998-99	25	60.0	1.56
1999-00	54	68.5	1.78
2000-01	62	62.9	1.71
2001-02	58	72.4	1.62
2002-03	223	53.8	1.21
2003-04	372	58.3	1.27
2004-05	442	57.7	1.24
2005-06	524	54.0	1.22
2006-07	548	52.4	1.07
2007-08	556	50.9	1.04
2008-09	594	47.8	0.98
2009-10	511	49.5	0.96
2010-11	460	45.0	0.86
2011-12	497	40.2	0.76
2012-13	559	36.3	0.68
2013-14	643	35.5	0.60
2014-15	732	33.5	0.59
Legacy Community Order (CSO, PO)³			
1997-98	6,085	39.6	0.85
1998-99	5,949	40.3	0.88
1999-00	5,593	38.5	0.78
2000-01	5,645	38.9	0.82
2001-02	6,086	40.5	0.86
2002-03	6,558	40.7	0.84
2003-04	6,449	39.0	0.78
2004-05	7,093	39.7	0.79
2005-06	7,773	38.3	0.74
2006-07	7,607	38.1	0.72
2007-08	8,115	36.5	0.68
2008-09	8,852	37.1	0.70
2009-10	8,658	33.6	0.62
2010-11	8,243	33.7	0.61
2011-12	3,772	27.7	0.47
2012-13	660	14.5	0.21
2013-14	202	5.9	0.07
2014-15	109	7.3	0.11
Community Payback Order⁴			
1997-98	-	-	-
1998-99	-	-	-
1999-00	-	-	-
2000-01	-	-	-
2001-02	-	-	-
2002-03	-	-	-
2003-04	-	-	-
2004-05	-	-	-
2005-06	-	-	-
2006-07	-	-	-
2007-08	-	-	-
2008-09	-	-	-
2009-10	-	-	-
2010-11	174	54.6	1.15
2011-12	6,110	36.6	0.68
2012-13	9,465	32.5	0.57
2013-14	10,550	30.7	0.56
2014-15	10,853	32.7	0.58

(continued on following page)

Table 8 (continued)

Drug Treatment and Testing Order			
1997-98	-	-	-
1998-99	-	-	-
1999-00	1	0.0	0.00
2000-01	36	58.3	1.31
2001-02	95	74.7	2.12
2002-03	143	75.5	2.41
2003-04	201	79.1	2.21
2004-05	231	78.4	2.20
2005-06	268	70.1	1.88
2006-07	303	75.2	2.03
2007-08	327	70.9	1.94
2008-09	360	67.5	1.76
2009-10	362	66.3	1.68
2010-11	373	66.8	1.62
2011-12	279	62.0	1.65
2012-13	315	65.1	1.59
2013-14	328	64.3	1.73
2014-15	259	63.3	1.71
Monetary Disposal			
1997-98	32,894	29.5	0.54
1998-99	29,560	29.4	0.53
1999-00	25,603	28.9	0.52
2000-01	23,816	28.9	0.51
2001-02	24,866	29.0	0.52
2002-03	24,851	29.1	0.52
2003-04	26,685	29.5	0.51
2004-05	27,461	29.2	0.50
2005-06	27,039	29.3	0.50
2006-07	28,500	29.0	0.49
2007-08	27,495	27.6	0.46
2008-09	22,845	26.7	0.47
2009-10	20,961	26.6	0.45
2010-11	18,679	25.6	0.44
2011-12	17,123	24.1	0.40
2012-13	14,802	23.3	0.39
2013-14	14,829	23.2	0.39
2014-15	15,210	22.2	0.35
Other Disposal⁵			
1997-98	8,348	23.0	0.42
1998-99	7,790	21.5	0.38
1999-00	7,234	21.7	0.37
2000-01	6,436	22.2	0.37
2001-02	6,595	22.5	0.40
2002-03	7,077	23.0	0.41
2003-04	7,391	22.1	0.39
2004-05	8,017	22.3	0.39
2005-06	8,486	23.7	0.41
2006-07	9,439	23.7	0.42
2007-08	9,500	23.2	0.41
2008-09	9,604	23.6	0.44
2009-10	9,490	22.1	0.39
2010-11	9,484	21.9	0.39
2011-12	8,736	22.6	0.40
2012-13	8,468	21.2	0.38
2013-14	8,518	20.9	0.39
2014-15	9,780	21.2	0.36

1. Figures for previous cohorts may differ from previously published figures as updated information is fed into the Scottish Offenders Index.

2. Caution is needed when comparing reconvictions between different disposals. A disposal may affect the reconviction rates, but different disposals are given for different types of offending behaviour, which are themselves also likely to affect reconviction rates.

3. Legacy community order refers to Community Service Orders (CSOs) and Probation Orders (POs) which were replaced by Community Payback Orders for crimes or offences committed after 1 February 2011. Legacy community orders given after 1 February are for crimes or offences committed prior to 1 February 2011.

4. Community Payback Orders (CPOs) were introduced by the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 and came into effect from 1 February 2011. The CPO replaces provisions for Community Service Orders, Probation Orders, and Supervised Attendance Orders.

5. Includes Supervised Attendance Orders.

Table 9: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by custodial sentence length: 1997-98 to 2014-15 cohorts

Custodial sentence length	Total offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions
3 months or less			
1997-98	2,724	56.7	1.33
1998-99	2,555	59.3	1.42
1999-00	2,540	55.5	1.28
2000-01	2,393	58.0	1.31
2001-02	2,463	58.2	1.37
2002-03	2,639	61.4	1.49
2003-04	2,472	63.0	1.51
2004-05	2,563	61.5	1.44
2005-06	2,724	59.1	1.37
2006-07	3,066	60.7	1.40
2007-08	2,870	59.0	1.35
2008-09	2,362	59.7	1.38
2009-10	2,067	58.9	1.32
2010-11	1,824	61.7	1.35
2011-12	1,406	59.7	1.36
2012-13	1,405	60.5	1.39
2013-14	1,306	60.8	1.33
2014-15	1,294	60.0	1.25
Over 3 months to 6 months			
1997-98	1,459	58.0	1.22
1998-99	1,403	57.9	1.31
1999-00	1,330	56.7	1.23
2000-01	1,325	58.0	1.24
2001-02	1,431	57.2	1.33
2002-03	1,382	60.1	1.37
2003-04	1,346	59.8	1.33
2004-05	1,338	57.3	1.31
2005-06	1,371	56.9	1.31
2006-07	1,470	58.0	1.29
2007-08	1,454	57.9	1.34
2008-09	1,901	55.1	1.20
2009-10	1,935	54.1	1.15
2010-11	2,024	53.2	1.11
2011-12	2,332	53.3	1.19
2012-13	2,304	51.8	1.13
2013-14	2,212	54.6	1.09
2014-15	2,021	54.5	1.16
Over 6 months to 1 year			
1997-98	596	35.6	0.65
1998-99	533	33.0	0.61
1999-00	540	37.4	0.71
2000-01	493	34.5	0.64
2001-02	578	40.7	0.74
2002-03	518	36.1	0.67
2003-04	563	36.4	0.72
2004-05	558	33.3	0.69
2005-06	575	36.0	0.67
2006-07	629	37.2	0.70
2007-08	771	36.7	0.67
2008-09	1,032	44.3	0.83
2009-10	1,181	42.4	0.82
2010-11	1,217	41.6	0.80
2011-12	1,250	42.7	0.81
2012-13	1,343	42.4	0.80
2013-14	1,290	43.2	0.78
2014-15	1,176	40.8	0.75

(continued on following page)

Table 9 (continued)

Over 1 year to 2 years			
1997-98	566	30.4	0.52
1998-99	489	33.1	0.55
1999-00	511	29.2	0.48
2000-01	495	32.3	0.54
2001-02	553	30.0	0.50
2002-03	506	30.0	0.53
2003-04	559	31.1	0.52
2004-05	636	32.9	0.55
2005-06	552	28.8	0.48
2006-07	643	30.2	0.54
2007-08	803	35.1	0.59
2008-09	944	34.2	0.53
2009-10	1,072	34.4	0.60
2010-11	1,025	32.0	0.53
2011-12	1,029	32.8	0.59
2012-13	1,170	33.0	0.54
2013-14	1,125	30.6	0.50
2014-15	1,070	29.7	0.47
Over 2 years to less than 4 years			
1997-98	371	27.5	0.37
1998-99	359	25.6	0.41
1999-00	352	21.9	0.32
2000-01	366	20.8	0.30
2001-02	378	27.5	0.44
2002-03	396	27.0	0.46
2003-04	364	27.7	0.46
2004-05	423	22.9	0.41
2005-06	397	23.2	0.38
2006-07	483	25.9	0.43
2007-08	535	22.1	0.35
2008-09	614	27.0	0.44
2009-10	622	29.3	0.48
2010-11	732	27.0	0.43
2011-12	760	27.2	0.43
2012-13	708	26.4	0.40
2013-14	659	25.6	0.39
2014-15	639	23.5	0.36
Over 4 years			
1997-98	305	23.9	0.35
1998-99	384	21.9	0.29
1999-00	346	15.3	0.17
2000-01	392	14.8	0.16
2001-02	424	17.2	0.24
2002-03	449	16.7	0.21
2003-04	444	18.5	0.24
2004-05	444	16.4	0.20
2005-06	464	18.8	0.22
2006-07	495	13.7	0.16
2007-08	497	13.3	0.16
2008-09	460	15.0	0.19
2009-10	440	16.4	0.17
2010-11	374	12.6	0.15
2011-12	422	13.0	0.15
2012-13	418	10.0	0.11
2013-14	425	7.8	0.09
2014-15	373	12.3	0.13

1. Figures for previous cohorts may differ from previously published figures as updated information is fed into the Scottish Offenders Index.

2. Caution is needed when comparing reconvictions between different sentence lengths. The length of a sentence may affect the reconviction rates, but different lengths of sentence are given for different types of offending behaviour, which are themselves also likely to affect reconviction rates.

Table 10: Reconviction rates by offender characteristics: 2014-15 cohort

Index disposal in 2014-15 by age	Percentage of male offenders reconvicted ¹				Percentage of female offenders reconvicted ¹			
	Number of previous convictions ²				Number of previous convictions ²			
	None	1 or 2	3 to 10	Over 10	None	1 or 2	3 to 10	Over 10
All	12	21	31	53	9	20	32	55
under 21	25	42	60	70	15	43	45	**
21 to 25	12	23	40	64	9	21	46	67
26 to 30	9	19	31	59	8	21	36	63
31 to 40	8	16	26	52	10	17	29	54
over 40	6	12	20	45	5	13	23	48
Discharged from custody	8	21	35	58	**	**	42	63
under 21	22	41	56	68	**	**	67	**
21 to 25	**	18	40	64	**	**	50	63
26 to 30	**	20	28	59	**	**	43	74
31 to 40	**	20	27	57	**	**	38	62
over 40	5	8	25	54	**	**	**	50
Community Payback Orders³	19	27	36	54	11	25	35	61
under 21	34	48	64	81	22	56	**	**
21 to 25	19	25	44	67	11	26	54	76
26 to 30	13	25	34	62	10	21	38	70
31 to 40	9	19	29	53	13	18	30	55
over 40	6	14	22	44	**	12	28	60
Legacy community orders⁴	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
under 21	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
21 to 25	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
26 to 30	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
31 to 40	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
over 40	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Restriction of Liberty Order	28	29	38	45	**	**	**	**
under 21	51	51	82	**	**	**	**	**
21 to 25	**	**	48	**	**	**	**	**
26 to 30	**	**	21	64	**	**	**	**
31 to 40	**	**	36	42	**	**	**	**
over 40	**	**	**	31	**	**	**	**
Drug Treatment and Testing Order	**	**	55	67	**	**	58	57
under 21	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
21 to 25	**	**	**	79	**	**	**	**
26 to 30	**	**	**	69	**	**	**	**
31 to 40	**	**	**	71	**	**	**	**
over 40	**	**	**	54	**	**	**	**
Monetary	11	18	27	45	9	19	32	51
under 21	19	35	57	**	14	34	**	**
21 to 25	11	21	36	58	8	18	48	**
26 to 30	8	17	32	51	9	19	38	67
31 to 40	8	15	23	45	10	19	31	48
over 40	6	12	18	41	5	15	24	48
Other⁵	10	18	26	49	8	17	26	49
under 21	23	37	57	61	9	34	45	**
21 to 25	8	27	36	62	8	18	37	61
26 to 30	8	15	26	59	7	20	28	47
31 to 40	7	12	23	49	9	14	25	53
over 40	5	10	17	42	5	12	18	40

1. Shading has been added to the table to distinguish the different reconviction rates visually. The darker the shading, the higher the reconviction rate.

2. Convictions since the start of 1989. Caution should be exercised when comparing this table with similar tables in previous publications. There will be fewer previous convictions in earlier cohorts because convictions didn't start to be recorded in the SOI until 1989.

3. Community Payback Orders (CPOs) were introduced by the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 and came into effect from 1 February 2011. The CPO replaces provisions for Community Service Orders, Probation Orders, and Supervised Attendance Orders and came into effect from 1 February 2011. The CPO replaces provisions for Community Service Orders, Probation Orders and Supervised Attendance Orders.

4. Legacy community order refers to Community Service Orders (CSOs) and Probation Orders (POs) which were replaced by Community Payback Orders for crimes or offences committed after 1 February 2011. Legacy community orders given after 1 February are for crimes or offences committed prior to 1 February 2011.

5. Includes Supervised Attendance Orders.

Table 11: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by Local Authority group: 2014-15 cohort

Local Authority group ¹	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions
Scotland total	43,634	28.2	0.50
Clackmannanshire	428	29.4	0.54
Falkirk	1,351	26.2	0.48
Fife	2,802	28.6	0.49
Stirling	599	29.2	0.49
Glasgow City ^{2,3}	8,326	29.8	0.54
North and South Lanarkshire ⁴	4,900	28.7	0.52
East Lothian	514	23.5	0.36
Edinburgh and Midlothian ⁵	4,704	28.3	0.53
Scottish Borders	603	25.7	0.44
West Lothian	1,265	26.9	0.41
Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire ⁶	3,415	27.1	0.50
Na h-Eileanan Siar	100	19.0	0.33
Highland	1,416	24.1	0.38
Moray	599	24.9	0.39
Orkney Islands	87	16.1	0.20
Shetland Islands	130	18.5	0.33
Argyll & Bute	439	23.5	0.35
East and West Dunbartonshire ^{7,8}	1,125	30.0	0.53
East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire ⁹	1,471	28.6	0.49
Inverclyde	782	32.0	0.55
Dumfries & Galloway	1,286	27.1	0.48
East, North, and South Ayrshire ¹⁰	3,552	30.7	0.54
Angus	791	26.4	0.46
Dundee City	1,857	29.5	0.49
Perth & Kinross	1,092	21.5	0.34

1. Approximate areas are based on where the courts of the offenders' index convictions are located, including high courts. Some sheriff court boundaries include more than one Local Authority area, so they are grouped together so that there are 25 groups of Local Authorities rather than all 32 being displayed separately. See relevant footnotes below.

2. Glasgow Sheriff Court also serves parts of East Dunbartonshire, and North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire. However, since this analysis is based on approximation of court areas, numbers for Glasgow Sheriff Court are only included within the Glasgow Local Authority area.

3. Includes the Stipendiary Magistrates court.

4. North and South Lanarkshire (Airdrie, Hamilton and Lanark Sheriff Courts). Some parts of North and South Lanarkshire are also covered by Glasgow Sheriff Court, but the figures for Glasgow Sheriff Court are only included within the Glasgow Local Authority area.

5. City of Edinburgh and Midlothian (Edinburgh Sheriff Court).

6. Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire (Aberdeen, Banff, Stonehaven and Peterhead Sheriff Courts).

7. Parts of East Dunbartonshire are also served by Glasgow Sheriff Court, but the figures for Glasgow Sheriff Court are only included within the Glasgow Local Authority area.

8. East and West Dunbartonshire (Dumbarton Sheriff Court).

9. Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire (Paisley Sheriff Court).

10. East, North, and South Ayrshire (Kilmarnock and Ayr Sheriff Courts).

Table 12: Two year reconviction rates and two year average number of reconvictions per offender: 1997-98 to 2013-14 cohorts

Cohort	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions
1997-98	53,445	42.6	1.10
1998-99	49,145	42.5	1.08
1999-00	44,229	42.9	1.08
2000-01	41,568	43.8	1.13
2001-02	43,650	44.2	1.16
2002-03	44,863	45.3	1.18
2003-04	46,984	44.7	1.15
2004-05	49,371	44.5	1.13
2005-06	50,330	44.8	1.13
2006-07	53,309	44.1	1.09
2007-08	53,053	42.5	1.06
2008-09	49,663	42.4	1.08
2009-10	47,415	41.5	1.03
2010-11	44,704	41.1	1.02
2011-12	43,828	40.8	1.00
2012-13	41,705	40.6	0.99
2013-14	42,191	39.9	0.96

1. Figures for previous cohorts may differ from previously published figures as updated information is fed into the Scottish Offenders Index.

Table 13: Individuals given police disposals and subsequent non-court disposals, by disposal type: 2008-09 to 2014-15 cohorts

(see note 1)

Police disposal	Number of offenders	Percentage of individuals given a non-court disposal within a year of receiving a police disposal ³	Average number of non-court disposals per individual within a year of receiving a police disposal ³
ASBFPN			
2008-09	39,080	28.5	0.48
2009-10	48,231	27.5	0.47
2010-11	42,835	27.4	0.49
2011-12	41,492	27.9	0.53
2012-13	42,062	27.9	0.54
2013-14	42,851	25.5	0.47
2014-15	33,837	22.6	0.42
Formal Adult Warning			
2008-09	6,819	18.1	0.28
2009-10	7,476	14.7	0.22
2010-11	6,775	13.3	0.20
2011-12	7,556	14.5	0.22
2012-13	7,324	14.9	0.24
2013-14	6,496	12.8	0.21
2014-15	4,358	10.7	0.16
Restorative Justice Warning			
2008-09	2,272	7.7	0.09
2009-10	2,154	6.0	0.07
2010-11	1,646	6.1	0.08
2011-12	957	6.4	0.07
2012-13	521	13.2	0.19
2013-14	341	15.0	0.22
2014-15	196	20.9	0.33
Early and Effective Interventions⁴			
2008-09	93	15.1	0.17
2009-10	215	21.4	0.27
2010-11	432	19.2	0.25
2011-12	2,178	20.1	0.28
2012-13	3,449	19.5	0.28
2013-14	3,963	22.7	0.38
2014-15	4,149	22.5	0.37

1. Figures for previous cohorts may differ from previously published figures as updated information is fed into the Scottish Offenders Index.

2. The non-court disposals dataset is independent of the dataset on court convictions.

3. Includes any non-court disposal within one year of receiving a police disposal, and therefore could include COPFS disposals as well as police disposals.

4. The measurement of EEIs has been amended since the last publication, and these figures have been back-revised. Please see publication Annex and table B2 for more information.

Table 14: Individuals given COPFS disposals and subsequent non-court disposals, by disposal type: 2008-09 to 2014-15 cohorts

(see note 1)

COPFS disposal	Number of offenders	Percentage of individuals given a non-court disposal within a year of receiving a COPFS disposal³	Average number of non-court disposals per individual within a year of receiving a COPFS disposal³
Fiscal Fine			
2008-09	30,228	25.7	0.39
2009-10	28,100	23.4	0.35
2010-11	28,165	22.9	0.34
2011-12	32,966	24.7	0.35
2012-13	37,726	24.7	0.35
2013-14	36,961	21.5	0.33
2014-15	28,940	21.3	0.31
Fiscal Fixed Penalty			
2008-09	17,064	8.7	0.10
2009-10	17,439	9.4	0.11
2010-11	19,016	9.6	0.11
2011-12	19,698	9.2	0.11
2012-13	20,139	10.0	0.12
2013-14	21,966	8.8	0.10
2014-15	14,802	6.4	0.07
Fiscal Combined Fine with Compensation			
2008-09	1,157	23.8	0.35
2009-10	1,739	19.0	0.25
2010-11	1,888	19.1	0.25
2011-12	2,267	19.0	0.23
2012-13	1,954	20.8	0.27
2013-14	1,590	18.5	0.26
2014-15	1,647	17.1	0.22
Fiscal Compensation			
2008-09	1,648	25.7	0.36
2009-10	1,661	20.1	0.28
2010-11	1,531	20.1	0.26
2011-12	1,111	21.5	0.27
2012-13	851	19.9	0.26
2013-14	676	16.3	0.22
2014-15	510	15.3	0.22

1. Figures for previous cohorts may differ from previously published figures as updated information is fed into the Scottish Offenders Index.

2. The non-court disposals dataset is independent of the dataset on court convictions.

3. Includes any non-court disposal within one year of receiving a COPFS disposal, and therefore could include police disposals as well as COPFS disposals.

Table 15: Individuals convicted in 2015-16, by gender, age and number and type of previous convictions in 10 years from 2006-07 to 2015-16

(see notes 1 and 2)

Number and type of previous convictions from 2005-06 to 2015-16	Total	Gender		Age ²					(Last) sentence in 2015-16			
		Male	Female	under 21	21 to 25	26 to 30	31 to 40	over 40	Custody	Community sentence (CPO, CSO, PO, RLO, DTTO) ³	Monetary	Other ⁴
Number of persons with charge proved	45,230	37,222	8,008	4,884	8,010	7,790	12,225	12,321	6,603	11,946	15,551	11,130
All previous convictions⁵												
None	16,459	12,831	3,628	2,721	2,770	2,113	3,540	5,315	935	3,581	6,592	5,351
1 or 2	10,838	8,929	1,909	1,171	2,017	1,797	2,813	3,040	818	3,209	4,359	2,452
3 to 10	12,238	10,500	1,738	882	2,241	2,477	3,780	2,858	2,457	3,835	3,641	2,305
Over 10	5,695	4,962	733	110	982	1,403	2,092	1,108	2,393	1,321	959	1,022
Previous custodial sentences												
None	33,757	26,810	6,947	4,349	6,156	5,349	8,208	9,695	2,078	9,192	13,211	9,276
1 or 2	4,824	4,352	472	290	801	939	1,548	1,246	1,386	1,318	1,308	812
3 to 10	5,146	4,673	473	238	886	1,109	1,846	1,067	2,235	1,200	894	817
Over 10	1,503	1,387	116	7	167	393	623	313	904	236	138	225
Previous community sentences												
None	27,617	22,105	5,512	3,472	4,523	4,115	6,829	8,678	2,288	6,410	11,117	7,802
1 or 2	11,111	9,559	1,552	1,016	1,976	2,100	3,420	2,599	2,202	3,591	3,182	2,136
3 to 10	6,286	5,394	892	394	1,455	1,502	1,919	1,016	2,044	1,874	1,217	1,151
Over 10	216	164	52	2	56	73	57	28	69	71	35	41
Previous solemn convictions⁶												
None	37,865	30,439	7,426	4,489	6,656	6,055	9,769	10,896	3,752	10,233	13,892	9,988
1 or 2	6,276	5,724	552	372	1,162	1,388	2,086	1,268	2,194	1,542	1,527	1,013
3 to 10	1,086	1,056	30	23	191	346	369	157	656	171	132	127
Over 10	3	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	2
Previous convictions for crimes of violence												
None	41,125	33,539	7,586	4,643	7,053	6,620	11,014	11,795	5,027	10,948	14,674	10,476
1 or 2	3,936	3,527	409	239	894	1,097	1,189	517	1,471	962	862	641
3 to 10	169	156	13	2	63	73	22	9	105	36	15	13
Over 10												
Previous convictions for crimes of dishonesty												
None	33,630	27,512	6,118	4,237	6,037	5,366	8,136	9,854	3,214	8,891	12,681	8,844
1 or 2	6,133	5,164	969	488	1,281	1,307	1,802	1,255	1,368	1,814	1,768	1,183
3 to 10	3,943	3,284	659	157	602	829	1,511	844	1,323	943	897	780
Over 10	1,524	1,262	262	2	90	288	776	368	698	298	205	323
Previous convictions for drug offences												
None	36,668	29,700	6,968	4,653	6,889	5,964	8,760	10,402	4,430	9,699	12,951	9,588
1 or 2	6,917	6,056	861	218	1,021	1,519	2,634	1,525	1,665	1,859	2,163	1,230
3 to 10	1,623	1,445	178	13	100	303	816	391	500	386	432	305
Over 10	22	21	1	0	0	4	15	3	8	2	5	7

1. This table is compiled on a different basis to tables 1-12; using individuals convicted in 2015-16, and counting their previous convictions over 10 years.

2. Age as at date of last conviction in 2015-16.

3. Community Sentence refers to Restriction of Liberty Orders, Drug Treatment and Testing Orders, Community Service Orders, Probation Orders and Community Payback Orders (CPOs).

4. The 'Other' category includes Supervised Attendance Orders. It also includes: remit to children's hearing; community reparation order; caution; admonition; absolute discharge; insanity; guardianship; and hospital order.

5. Convictions for crimes, and offences of common assault, breach of the peace, racially aggravated conduct or harassment, firearms offences or social security offences. Excludes convictions outside of Scotland.

6. Convictions in the high court or in a sheriff and jury court.

Table 16: Individuals convicted by number of previous convictions in 10 years from 2006-07 to 2015-16¹

Number and type of previous convictions ²	1997-98 to 2006-07		1998-99 to 2007-08		1999-00 to 2008-09		2000-01 to 2009-10		2001-02 to 2010-11		2002-03 to 2011-12		2003-04 to 2012-13		2004-05 to 2013-14		2005-06 to 2014-15		2006-07 to 2015-16	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Number of persons with charge proved (=100%)	53,819		53,557		50,555		48,358		45,656		44,942		42,529		43,150		44,789		45,230	
All previous convictions³																				
None	18,992	35	18,717	35	17,346	34	16,467	34	15,349	34	14,833	33	13,873	33	14,734	34	16,073	36	16,459	36
1 or 2	13,665	25	13,654	25	12,313	24	11,899	25	10,937	24	10,707	24	10,104	24	10,344	24	10,598	24	10,838	24
3 to 10	14,824	28	14,908	28	14,341	28	13,593	28	13,024	29	13,082	29	12,403	29	12,005	28	12,221	27	12,238	27
Over 10	6,338	12	6,278	12	6,555	13	6,399	13	6,346	14	6,320	14	6,149	14	6,067	14	5,897	13	5,695	13

1. This table is compiled on a different basis to tables 1-12; using individuals convicted in 2015-16 and counting their previous convictions over 10 years.

2. The number and type of previous convictions in 10 year windows.

3. Convictions for crimes, and offences of common assault, breach of the peace, racially aggravated conduct or harassment, firearms offences or social security offences. Excludes convictions outside of Scotland.

Annex

Annex A – Definitions, counting rules, and pseudo reconvictions

Background and definitions

A1 Statistics on **convictions** and **reconvictions** do not measure **offending** and **reoffending**, or **recidivism**. Not all offences which are committed are reported to the police, while some of those that are reported and recorded do not result in an offender being identified, charged and eventually being tried in court. For cases which are reported to the Procurator Fiscal, it may be decided to take no proceedings, or to employ some alternative to prosecution such as a warning letter or a fiscal fine. In addition, where persons are prosecuted, the proceedings may end up being dropped. This could be for various reasons, for example, witnesses failing to turn up. Convictions and reconvictions are therefore a subset of actual offending and reoffending, and reconviction rates are only a proxy measure of reoffending rates.

A2 Generally only the initial court sentence is included in the statistics on convictions, so that, for example, a person fined is regarded as fined, even if he or she subsequently goes to prison in default of payment. Similarly, the offenders released from prison who are included in the analysis in this bulletin will only include those directly sentenced to prison, i.e. persons released after imprisonment for fine default are excluded. Also, no account is taken of the outcome of appeals, or of interim decisions such as deferral of sentence.

Table A1 Definitions

The following terminology is applied throughout the bulletin:

Average number of reconvictions per offender – in a cohort, the total number of reconvictions from a court recorded within a specified follow up period from the date of index convictions, divided by the total number of offenders in the cohort with index convictions from a court. Unless otherwise stated, the average number of reconvictions per offender that are quoted in this bulletin are for a follow-up period of one year. It should be noted that because this measure is an average, there may be variation in the number of reconvictions of offenders within the group the measure is applied to: for example, the group may include some offenders who have no reconvictions and some offenders with multiple reconvictions.

Cohort – all offenders who either received a non-custodial conviction or were released from a custodial sentence in a given financial year, from the 1st April to the 31st March the following year. In the analyses for non-court disposals, a cohort is all the individuals who either received a police or COPFS disposal in a given financial year. In this bulletin, for ease of communication, the cohort may be referred to by year alone.

Conviction – a formal declaration by the verdict of a jury or the decision of a judge in a court of law that someone is guilty of a criminal offence.

Crime or Offence – an action that is deemed to be illegal under common or statutory law. Contraventions of the law are divided, for statistical purposes only, into crimes and offences.

Custodial reconviction – a reconviction which resulted in a custodial sentence being imposed.

Date of the index conviction – the sentence date for non-custodial convictions or the estimated date of discharge from custody for custodial convictions.

Date of the index non-court disposal – the date the non-court disposal was imposed.

Disposal – the sentence given for a court conviction, or the action taken in non-court cases.

Index conviction – the reference conviction which is determined by either: (a) the estimated release date for a custodial sentence imposed for the conviction, or (b) the sentence date for non-custodial sentences imposed for the conviction. Whichever conviction has the earlier of these dates in a given financial year is the index conviction.

Index crime or offence – the main crime or offence of the index conviction.

Index disposal – the type of sentence imposed for the index conviction.

Index non-court disposal – the reference police or COPFS disposal imposed (e.g. a fine), which is the first non-court disposal given to an individual in a given financial year.

Previous convictions – convictions preceding the index conviction.

Pseudo reconviction – convictions which occur after the index conviction, but relate to offences committed prior to the index conviction.

Recidivism – repeated reoffending after being convicted.

Reconviction – convictions which occur after the relevant date of the index conviction.

Reconviction rate – the percentage of offenders with index convictions from a court in the cohort who were reconvicted one or more times by a court within a specified follow up period from the relevant date of the index conviction. Unless otherwise stated, the reconviction rates that are quoted in this bulletin are for a follow-up period of one year.

Reoffending – the action of committing a further offence after a conviction.

Counting rules

A3 If more than one set of court proceedings against an offender is disposed of on the same day, then each proceeding will be counted as a separate conviction record in the SOI database.

A4 Where a person is convicted for more than one charge, then it is the main crime/offence which is recorded in the SOI. The main charge is the one receiving the most severe penalty (or disposal) if one or more charges are proved, and is identified using a look-up table which ranks the disposal types in order of importance. For example, custody is ranked higher than a monetary fine, so for a proceeding where there was a mixture of these two types of disposal, the main charge counted for this record would be the charge associated with the custody disposal rather than the charge related to the monetary disposal.

A5 In order to produce meaningful analysis on reconvictions, a decision is made as to which of an individual's convictions in a series is to be taken as a reference point, known as the **index conviction**. In this bulletin, the rule for choosing the index conviction is:

- (a) the first occasion in the financial year in question when an individual was given a non-custodial sentence, or
- (b) the first date when an individual was estimated to have been released from prison from a custodial sentence.

Whichever conviction has the earlier of these dates in a given financial year is the index conviction. The crime and sentence linked to this index conviction are referred to throughout this bulletin as the **index crime** and **index disposal**, respectively. In the case of the reconviction rate, the analysis then considers the proportion of these individuals who are reconvicted within one year (or two years in [Table 12](#)) from the date of sentence or the estimated prison release date, i.e. from the relevant date of the index conviction, whereas the average number of reconvictions per offender considers the number of times offenders are reconvicted in the same period. Convictions for a crime against public justice, such as committing an offence while on bail, are not considered as index convictions. If the first conviction in the year for a particular offender was for such an offence, their next conviction which wasn't a crime against public justice was taken instead. Where an individual had no further convictions in the year for crimes other than crimes against public justice they are not included in the data set.

A6 For the purposes of the analysis in this bulletin, the date of release for offenders given a custodial sentence has been estimated from their date of sentence, the length of sentence imposed, assumptions about time spent on remand and release on parole, and information about whether the offender had been granted bail. The release date estimated by this approach will not always tie in with the actual release date because, for example, the offender may be serving other custodial sentences. However, this is not judged to be significant for the

purposes of the current analysis. The main exception to this relates to offenders discharged from life sentences or, for some cohorts, very long determinate custodial sentences – see below.

A7 It is not possible to accurately identify the release date for offenders serving life sentences or, in some instances, very lengthy determinate sentences. Therefore this category of offender will not have been available for possible selection for the set of index convictions in each cohort year. However, the number of offenders involved is relatively small (32 offenders received a life sentence in 2014-15) and so will not affect the analysis presented in this bulletin significantly. Separate research evidence ([Life Sentence Prisoners in Scotland, Scottish Office, Machin et al, 1999](#)) shows that just over one quarter of the 491 life sentence prisoners released on licence were reconvicted. However, this figure may not be directly comparable with the reconviction rates presented in this bulletin, as the reconvictions for life sentence prisoners may have been for minor offences which are excluded from analysis in this bulletin, or reconvictions may have occurred more than a year after release from custody.

A8 The counting rules for non-court disposals are similar to those for analysing court reconvictions in that the first police or COPFS disposal in the financial year in question is counted as the index non-court disposal. Further non-court disposals from either the police or COPFS within one year of the index non-court disposal are counted, regardless whether the index non-court disposal was issued by the police or COPFS. The measure does not include activity for those who were then convicted in court within a year.

Data definitions

A9 The age of each person relates to their age at the time that sentence was passed. This also applies to offenders discharged from a custodial sentence, i.e. their age at the date of sentence is taken rather than the estimated release date.

A10 The areas that courts serve don't exactly match administrative areas for Local Authorities. For example, Edinburgh Sheriff Court serves the Local Authority areas of the City of Edinburgh and Midlothian. As a result, in [Table 11](#), [Chart 8](#) and [Chart 9](#) in this bulletin, Local Authorities are based on approximate areas. Some Local Authorities are grouped together so that there are 25 grouped Local Authorities presented, rather than all 32 being displayed separately. See the footnote of [Table 11](#) for details of the approximations for each administrative area.

A11 Tables A2 and A3 detail how crimes and offences, and sentence type have been grouped in this bulletin.

Table A2 Crime Groupings

Crime category	Crimes and offences included
Violent crime	Murder, culpable homicide, attempted murder, serious assault, robbery, common assault, death involving a motor vehicle, other violence.
Sexual crime	<p>Sexual crime includes sexual assault and other sexual crimes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual assault includes: rape; attempted rape; contact sexual assault (13-15 yr. old or adult 16+); sexually coercive conduct (13-15 yr. old or adult 16+); sexual offences against children under 13 years; and lewd and libidinous practices. • Other sexual crimes includes: other sexually coercive conduct; other sexual offences involving 13-15 year old children; taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children; incest; unnatural crimes; public indecency; sexual exposure; and other sexual offences. <p>These are the notifiable crimes for an offender who has been placed on the sex offenders register. The definitions are aligned with the <i>Criminal Proceedings in Scotland</i> publication. Sexual crime excludes offences associated with prostitution.</p>
Prostitution	Procuration (excluding homosexual acts); brothel keeping; immoral traffic; offences related to prostitution; procuration of homosexual acts; procuration of sexual services from children under 18; and soliciting services of a person engaged in prostitution.
Dishonesty	Housebreaking, theft by opening lockfast places, theft of motor vehicle, other theft, fraud, other crimes of dishonesty and social security offences.
Criminal damage	Fire-raising, vandalism.
Drug offences	Illegal importation, supply or possession of drugs, other drug offences.
Breach of the peace	Breach of the peace, racially aggravated harassment, racially aggravated conduct, threatening or abusive behaviour, offence of stalking, offensive behaviour at football, and threatening communications (under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communication Scotland Act 2012).
Other crimes and offences	Crimes against public justice, (breach of sexual offender order and breach of sexual harm order are included in crimes against public justice), handling offensive weapons (in possession of an offensive weapon; having in a public place an article with a blade or point, and restriction of weapons), miscellaneous firearm offences, other crimes and offences (not elsewhere specified).
Serious violent crime	As per violent crime, but including only those convictions which took place in the high court or a sheriff solemn court.

Serious crime	All convictions which took place in the high court or in a sheriff solemn court, and any other convictions for serious assault, robbery, possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life etc., abduction, attempted rape and indecent assault.
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Table A3 Sentence groupings

Sentence category	Sentences included
Custody	Custodial sentence to prison, young offender's institution, or child detention, excluding life and indeterminate sentences.
CPO	Community Payback Order ⁵
CSO	Community Service Order
PO	Probation Order (with or without CSO or RLO)
DTTO	Drug Treatment and Testing Order
RLO	Restriction of Liberty Order
Monetary	Fine, compensation order, caution.
Other	Supervised Attendance Orders, absolute discharge, remit to children's hearing, admonishment, hospital order, guardianship order, finding of insanity, hospital order & restricted order, supervision and treatment order and disposals not elsewhere specified.
Police disposals	Anti-Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Notices (ASBFPNs), Formal Adult Warnings and Early and Effective Interventions (EElS)
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service disposals	Fiscal Fines, Fiscal Compensation Orders, Fiscal Fixed Penalties.

The effect of pseudo reconvictions

A12 Pseudo reconvictions are convictions which occur after the index conviction, but relate to offences committed prior to the index conviction. They can arise in cases where there are several sets of proceedings in train against an individual for offences committed on a range of dates.

A13 Pseudo reconvictions could potentially have the following effects:

- In theory, they may exaggerate the rate of "real" reconvictions to some extent.
- They will complicate comparisons between reconviction rates for different types of disposal as they tend to be less common for offenders who are discharged from a long custodial sentence compared to those given non-custodial sentences.

⁵ Community Payback Orders (CPOs) were introduced by the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 and came into effect from 1 February 2011. The CPO replaces provisions for Community Service Orders, Probation Orders and Supervised Attendance Orders.

- They will tend to be more significant when considering reconviction rates for groups of offenders with a relatively high frequency of offending, such as younger offenders, or those engaged in acquisitive crime.

A14 However, excluding pseudo reconvictions will not necessarily result in an improved estimate of the reconviction rate, unless one also addresses the issue of offences committed during the follow-up period, but which have a conviction date outside of this period and are therefore currently excluded from the calculation. Excluding both cases is likely to result in a downward bias of the estimate. One year and two year reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender without pseudo reconvictions were shown in [previous publications](#) for the purposes of illustration. The figures up to the 2013-14 cohort can be found in the additional [datasets](#) which accompany this publication.

Annex B – Sources of information, data quality and confidentiality, and revisions

Sources of information

B1 Information presented in this bulletin is based on data held in the Scottish Offenders Index (SOI), which is derived from the data used in the [Criminal Proceedings in Scotland](#) statistical bulletin. The Criminal Proceedings data is in turn derived from information held on the Criminal History System (CHS) which is owned by Police Scotland.

B2 The SOI currently contains a record of criminal proceedings against individuals (excluding companies) in Scottish courts as well as information on non-court disposals. The data in the SOI currently covers all convictions where a sentence was imposed since the beginning of 1989, and the main offence involved was either a crime in Groups 1-5, or some of the offences in Group 6, in the Scottish Government's classification of crimes.

B3 The distinction between crimes and offences is made only for statistical reporting purposes. Although the violations allocated under "crimes" tend to be more serious there are some "offences" that have more severe punishments associated with them e.g. drink driving is classified under "offences" in the "motor vehicle offences" section rather than under "crimes". Groups 1-5 of the Scottish Government's classification covers non-sexual crimes of violence, sexual crimes, crimes of dishonesty, fire-raising, vandalism etc. and other crimes. The offences in Group 6 which are included in the SOI are: common assault, breach of the peace, threatening or abusive behaviour, offence of stalking, offensive behaviour at football and threatening communications (under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communication Scotland Act 2012), racially aggravated harassment or conduct, miscellaneous firearms offences, and social security offences. See [Annex Table A2](#) for a more detailed list of the types of crimes in the SOI.

B4 Each record on the SOI database includes information on the sex and date of birth of the offender, the dates of conviction and sentence, the main offence involved and details of the sentence imposed. Information is also available on any offences which were additional to the main offence involved. Each offender has a unique reference number, which allows individual convictions for that offender to be linked together. The SOI is a statistical database and does not include personally identifiable information.

B5 Not all convictions in the Scottish courts are included on the SOI. Crime types for minor offences (such as drunkenness, and almost all motor vehicle offences) are not included. The SOI contained information going back to 1989.

B6 All but the most serious offences alleged to have been committed by children under the age of 16 are generally dealt with by the children's hearings system. The SOI does not currently hold information on offenders' juvenile offending history.

Data quality

B7 The figures in the bulletin have been derived from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. During the production of this bulletin we have put in place processes to ensure that the data are fit for purpose for this publication, which are listed below.

B8 Data standards are adhered to by organisations inputting data to the CHS in terms of the definitions of data items and their corresponding values. These standards are agreed under the Justice Digital Strategy and ensure there is consistency across the justice organisations in the information they collect. Further information on the data standards can be found [here](#).

B9 The following protocols also ensure consistency in the data collected:

- The Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service protocol for the handling of errors that may occur in the transmission of data between justice partners' databases;
- The protocol for the investigation/resolution of disputed data between Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service;
- The protocol for sharing electronic information between justice partners.

Further information on these protocols can be seen [here](#).

B10 The Scottish Government also has representation on a data quality group and is kept informed of any data quality issues relating to the CHS. This group meets around three times a year and has representation from Police Scotland, COPFS, Scottish Prison Service and Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service.

B11 The Scottish Government also has representation on a data quality group and is kept informed of any data quality issues relating to the CHS. This group meets around three times a year and has representation from Police Scotland, COPFS, Scottish Prison Service and Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service.

B12 The analyses in this bulletin are based on the data published in the [Criminal Proceedings in Scotland](#) statistical bulletin, and the quality assurance process is described in the section on **Data quality: Data validation during production of the statistical bulletin** in Annex B of the Criminal Proceedings bulletin. In summary, the validation processes include automated and manual checks on the data. Any unusual or missing values are referred back to either Police Scotland, the Scottish Court Service (SCS), or the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). The figures are also checked against case processing information published by COPFS and management information provided by SCS to ensure that the court volumes are consistent. Police Scotland, SCS, COPFS and policy experts within the Scottish Government are also consulted to give insight on an operational level and provide insight into why any significant changes may have occurred. The figures are also checked by Scottish Government statisticians, who have not been

involved in the production process, and they may highlight any issues that may have gone unnoticed.

B13 During the production of this bulletin, the data undergoes processing to calculate the frequency and prevalence of reconvictions. The numbers are manually checked to determine whether there are any unusual values, and if so, then the calculations are rechecked. Like the [Criminal Proceedings in Scotland](#) publication, the new figures in this bulletin have undergone a further round of checks by Scottish Government statisticians, and policy experts within the Scottish Government are again consulted to provide insight and context to any significant changes in the figures.

Data confidentiality

B14 Court proceedings are held in public and may be reported on by the media unless the court orders otherwise, for example where children are involved. While our aim is for the statistics in this bulletin to be sufficiently detailed to allow a high level of practical utility, care has been taken to ensure that it is not possible to identify an individual or organisation and obtain any private information relating to them.

B15 We have assessed the risk of individuals being identified in the tables in this bulletin and have established that no private information can be identified. Where demographic information is provided this is done in wider categories of ages. This ensures that where there are small numbers, individuals can not be identified.

B16 Some of the additional data tables we provide alongside this publication have local authority information related to the offender. In the Local Authority tables, either demographic information is provided or offence-level information is provided, but not a combination of both. Similar to the main publication tables demographic information is divided into wider age categories to further ensure no information about individuals can be extracted from these tables.

B17 In terms of security and confidentiality of the data received from the data suppliers, only a small number of Scottish Government employees have access to the datasets outlined in the various stages of processing outlined above. The only personal details received by the Scottish Government in the data extract are those which are essential for the analyses in this bulletin.

Revisions

B18 The CHS is not designed for statistical purposes. It is dependent on receiving timely information from the SCS, COPFS, and the police. It should also be noted that some types of outcome are removed from the system after a prescribed length of time. A pending case on the CHS is updated in a timely manner, but there are occasions when a slight delay may happen. Recording delays of this sort generally affect high court disposals relatively more than those for other types of court. The figures provided in this bulletin reflect the details of court proceedings recorded on the CHS and supplied to the Scottish Government by the end of September 2016 to allow later convictions for 2015-16 to be captured on the CHS.

B19 The CHS is regularly updated, so subsequent analyses will result in revised figures (shown in [Annex Table B1](#)) as late records are added. The first revision of the reconviction rate in the following year's bulletin is typically 0.4 percentage points higher than the figures published initially, and the average number of reconvictions per offender is typically 0.01 to 0.02 higher.

Table B1 Revisions to reconviction rates

Cohort	Initial published figures		1st revision of published figures		2nd revision of published figures		3rd revision of published figures	
	Reconv. rate	Av. no. of reconv. per offender	Reconv. rate	Av. no. of reconv. per offender	Reconv. rate	Av. no. of reconv. per offender	Reconv. rate	Av. no. of reconv. per offender
2006-07	32.2	0.59* [†]	32.4	0.60* [†]	32.4	0.60 [†]	32.4	0.60 [†]
2007-08	30.9	0.56* [†]	31.2	0.57 [†]	31.3	0.57 [†]	31.2	0.57 [†]
2008-09	31.0	0.58 [†]	31.5	0.60 [†]	31.5	0.60 [†]	31.5	0.60
2009-10	30.1	0.54 [†]	30.5	0.56 [†]	30.6	0.56	30.6	0.56
2010-11	28.4 ^x	0.50 ^{†x}	30.1 ^x	0.55 ^x	30.1	0.55	30.1	0.55
2011-12	29.2	0.53	29.6	0.54	29.6	0.55	29.6	0.55
2012-13	28.6	0.51	28.9	0.53	28.9	0.53	-	-
2013-14	28.3	0.51	28.5	0.52	-	-	-	-
2014-15	28.2	0.50	-	-	-	-	-	-

* These figures were not published initially, but it is possible to determine their magnitude retrospectively.

[†] These figures have been previously reported as the reconviction frequency rate, which was the number of reconvictions per 100 offenders. Therefore these figures are the original figure divided by 100 to get the average number of reconvictions per offender.

^x From the 2011-12 bulletin, some new offences that came into effect from 2010 were included in calculations for the reconviction rate and the average number of reconvictions. These offences weren't included in calculations in the 2009-10 or 2010-11 cohort bulletins. The increase in the numbers after revision led to a slightly higher increase at the 1st revision for the 2010-11 cohort than it had been in previous and subsequent years. See note in Annex B13.

B20 Since the last publication it was identified that the Early and Effective Interventions (EIs) statistics were underestimated as not all codes used to record them on the CHS were picked up. EI practices vary greatly by local authority with different areas using different combinations of codes. After consultation with Police Scotland, we have included two more CHS codes and it is felt that by including these we are now providing a fuller measure of EI activity.

B21 The inclusion of these new codes has meant that EI figures presented in last year's bulletin have now been revised. The table below compares the differences as a result of these revisions and shows that in absolute number more offenders are now included, it also shows that the reconviction rate and average reconvictions have been revised down.

Table B2 Revisions to EI reconviction rates

Cohort	Initial			Revised and new figures		
	Number of offenders	Reconv. rate	Av. no. of reconv. per offender	Number of individuals	Reconv. rate	Av. no. of reconv. per offender
2008-09	35	17.1	0.20	93	15.1	0.17
2009-10	173	24.9	0.31	215	21.4	0.27
2010-11	261	23.8	0.31	432	19.2	0.25
2011-12	476	21.6	0.34	2,178	20.1	0.28
2012-13	1,018	25.3	0.42	3,449	19.5	0.28
2013-14	1,789	29.4	0.54	3,963	22.7	0.38
2014-15	-	-	-	4,149	22.5	0.37

Annex C – Uses and users of reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender

C1 The Scottish Government completed a user survey for the Reconviction Rates in Scotland statistical bulletin in December 2014. The results can be found at the link [here](#). Some of the points noted in the survey have been addressed in this bulletin.

C2 Reconviction rates are a helpful tool in supporting policy development, and informing implementation of the Scottish Government's Justice Strategy which seeks to prevent and reduce further offending by addressing the underlying causes and delivering a decisive shift in the balance between community and custodial sentences. This requires collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders across the justice system looking to safely and effectively manage and support those who have committed offences to help them reintegrate into their communities in order to prevent further offending.

C3 The average number of reconvictions per offender is also used to inform the National Indicator '[Reduce reconviction rates](#)' in the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework (NPF). The NPF was put into place in 2007 by the incoming government at that time and progress is measured and reported on the [Scotland Performs](#) website.

C4 Progress in terms of the reconviction indicator on Scotland Performs is assessed annually by considering whether or not the latest average number of reconvictions per offender has improved or declined compared to the previous year. The baseline average number of reconvictions per offender was chosen as the number in 2006-07 because that relates to the financial year coinciding with the end of the previous government. The methodology for determining progress is discussed in a [technical note](#) on Scotland Performs.

C5 Users of information on reconviction rates include:

- Community Justice Scotland
- Local Authorities
- Scottish Prison Service
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Court Service
- Risk Management Authority
- Parole Board for Scotland
- Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
- Health boards
- Victim Support
- Third sector partners

- Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)
- Association of Directors of Social Work

C6 We are made aware of new users, and their uses of this data, on an ongoing basis and we will continue to include their contributions to the development of reconviction statistics in Scotland.

C7 Local Authorities find the data useful for identifying local issues and to inform feedback on performance to partners. These data are useful in terms of providing contextual information to help assess the effectiveness of justice programmes, and for gaining understanding about structural patterns in offending, such as the age-crime curve. The data are also used to answer ad-hoc parliamentary questions and freedom of information requests.

Annex D – Transitional period between legacy community order and Community Payback Order between 2009-10 and 2013-14

D1 There has been a transition period between the phasing out of the legacy orders and the establishment of CPOs between 2010-11 up to 2013-14, due to the different disposals being given for offences committed before or after the 1st February 2011. The first cohort of offenders with an index disposal of a CPO in 2010-11 was therefore very small as they had to commit a crime and also be convicted between 1 February and 31 March 2011. As CPOs have become established, the number of offenders with an index disposal of a CPO increased from 174 in 2010-11 to 10,854 in 2014-15, whereas those with an index disposal of a legacy order decreased from 8,245 to 109 in the same period ([Table 8](#)).

During the transition period from legacy orders to CPOs between 2010-11 and 2013-14, there were changes in the characteristics of offenders that were given these disposal types. Therefore caution is needed when comparing changes between the two disposal types during the transition period. Changes in offender characteristics are also likely to be responsible for the decreases in reconvictions of offenders given CPOs and legacy orders during the transition period, as both disposals showed an increase in the proportion of groups of offenders that typically have lower reconviction rates.

As CPOs have become more established, one can now be more confident in comparing changes in reconvictions for CPOs over time. Care should be taken in comparing reconviction rates between legacy orders and CPOs, as the type of offender they are given to may differ, and this may affect the rate.

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