

UNCLASSIFIED

National Probation Service Bulletin



Issue 105

9 May 2008

The Bulletin has been improved for easier on-screen reading. It now summarises new content placed on Epic (<http://npsintranet.probation.gsi.gov.uk/index.htm>) in the previous week and significant messages that have been circulated on the Chief Officer gateway. Articles can now be read by either scrolling down the page or by clicking the titles below:

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108/08 NEW REDUCING REOFFENDING STATISTICS (2000-2005)

Statistics have been released on reducing reoffending. The number of adult reoffenders fell 7.4% from 2000 to 2005, according to adult reoffending statistics released today (9 May 2008).

This indicates that the government is likely to have achieved its target of a 5% reduction by 2006. There was an 11.4% fall in the number of adult re-offences, and a 17.4% fall in the number of juvenile re-offences committed between 2000 and 2005.

The number of adult re-offences classified as serious rose from 0.78 serious re-offences per 100 offenders in 2000 to 0.88 in 2005; an increase of 0.001 serious offences per offender. The number of juvenile re-offences classified as serious fell from 0.91 serious re-offences per 100 offenders in 2000 to 0.90 in 2005.

Reoffending statistics have also released for juveniles.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm>

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109/08 NEW NATIONAL REOFFENDING MEASURES - A GUIDE

Linked to the new format for showing reoffending statistic, guidance on new measures were released on Wednesday 7 May. Statistics have previously shown how many offenders commit further offences following commencement of a community sentence, or release from prison for adults. For juveniles it includes offenders commencing pre-court disposals, non-custodial court disposals or release from custody.

The new style figures will now show how many re-offences are committed - that is, the frequency of reoffending. This will be the new headline measure against which our targets will be set. They will also show how many serious re-offences are committed. The definition 'serious' covers a small number of re-offences that are defined as the most serious such as serious violence (grievous bodily harm, murder, manslaughter), and serious sexual offences.

How the statistics are measured

The measure does not track all the offenders in a given year, but instead looks at a 'cohort'. The cohort is made up of all offenders discharged from a custodial sentence or starting a community sentence in the first three months of each calendar year (January to March). This cohort usually consists of between 40,000 and 50,000 offenders. The results drawn from the cohort are not representative of reoffending over the whole year but provide a point of comparison which can be used to indicate progress in reducing reoffending. The same time period is used each year to ensure consistent and fair comparisons can be made over time.

Epic: Navigate from *Home>News & Comms> New National Reoffending Measures - A Guide*

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110/08 MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Today marks the first anniversary of the Ministry of Justice.

The Ministry of Justice was created to focus on protecting the public, and bring a coherent oversight across the justice system and offender management process.

To mark the occasion, Jack Straw met probation service staff in Hounslow, West London; Lord Hunt visited the probation board and a community payback initiative in Leicestershire and David Hanson was at Flint probation office. Maria Eagle met a victims group at Liverpool Crown Court.

For more information about the Ministry of Justice and the new departmental strategic objectives, see <http://intranet.justice.gsi.gov.uk/justice/ourmoj/index.htm>

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111/08 INCORRECT ENTRY IN NAPO DIRECTORY – LONDON PROBATION

The 2008 Probation Directory (page 106) has the wrong numbers for the telephone and fax for the London Probation Office at 117 Stockwell Road, Lambeth SW9 9TN.

The correct telephone number is **020 7326 7700**

The correct fax number is **020 7326 7701**

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112/08 APPOINTMENTS

- Mike Maiden has been appointed Chief Officer for West Midlands.

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113/08 ISSUED RECENTLY

Probation Circulars 2008:

PC09 Annual Reports and Accounts 2007/08

Issued 30 April

The format for annual reports for 2007-08 takes account of the requirement to adhere to the principles outlined within the Treasury Financial Reporting Manual for 2007-08 (FReM). These stipulate that a management commentary should encompass both reporting elements within a single document. Details of the requirements in terms of content are attached at Annex A.

PC08 National Rules for Tiering Cases and Associated Guidance

Issued 29 April

The concept and principles of case tiering were introduced as an integral element of the Offender Management Model in January 2005.

Rules and guidance for tiering individual cases were issued in PC 65/2005. These rules were permissive, not mandatory. Consequently, areas are now applying different rules for tiering cases. This has contributed to tier profiles between areas diverging to an extent which is simply too great to reflect underlying differences in the risk characteristics of the caseload.

Tiering determines the level of supervision required in Community Orders and Licences. Tiering is integrated into the Workload Measurement Tool and has become a common language for exchanging information between probation areas, prisons and other stakeholders. It is important that the tiering of cases is consistent across areas and complies with a transparent and defensible set of national rules.

This circular introduces those rules. It has been the subject of extensive consultation with providers.

PC07 Parole Processes

Issued 28 April

This probation circular should be read in conjunction with NOMS Implementation Manual for Phase III – Offender Management and Indeterminate Sentence Prisoners - issued in November 07 and PSO 4700 – Chapters 5 & 6 (Parole Board review processes for indeterminate sentence prisoners). These chapters have not yet been updated to account for the changes implemented by OM phase III

OASys Messages to Areas – Via Epic:

Message 18 08 e-OASys Release 4.2.4b T1, T2 & Production Deployment Issued 22 April

NPS Briefings:

Briefing 42 Accommodation and Support Service for Bail and HDC Issued 9 May

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npsbulletin@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

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