

GUIDANCE

Offender Group Reconviction Scale

Version 3

The Offender Group Reconviction Scale estimates the probability that offenders with a given history of offending will be resanctioned (reconvicted or given a caution, reprimand or final warning) for any recordable offence within two years of sentence, or release if sentenced to custody. It does not define the probability that a particular offender will be resanctioned.

OGRS is only one aspect of risk assessment - many other factors have to be taken into account when assessing the risk posed by a particular offender. While research shows it to be a strong predictor of proven reoffending, it cannot adjust for the individual's dynamic risk factors. OGRS is an aid to judgement. It is not a substitute for that judgement.

This document introduces OGRS 3. It explains what is included in OGRS 3 and its known limitations, and provides guidance on the factors that contribute to OGRS 3 scores. The accompanying Appendix includes more detail about the history of OGRS and its place in practice and research.



Introduction to OGRS 3

OGRS 3 is the revised **Offender Group Reconviction Scale**, and is the most accurate and user-friendly version of OGRS to date. It is a predictor of proven reoffending within 1 and 2 years of non-custodial sentence or discharge from custody.

Changes between OGRS 2 and OGRS 3

OGRS 3 is based on a more recent sample than OGRS 2, and takes account of the different relationships between age and reoffending for female and male offenders. The number of questions required has been reduced to those which are most vital to predict proven reoffending. It is suitable for use in custody and will eventually replace the Sentence Planning Predictor, allowing simpler communication between staff in custodial settings and the community.

The factors used in the model include:

- Offender's age in years at time of sentence
- Offender's age in years at time of actual or earliest possible release from custody, or start of community order (at "effective assessment date")
- Gender
- Offence category
- Offending history status
- The Copas rate variable - a measure of the quantity and speed of past offending, requiring:
 - Age at time of sentence (as above)
 - Number of previous sanctions (court appearances at which convicted, formal cautions, reprimands and final warnings)
 - Age at first sanction

Some of the above are explained in greater detail in the following pages. The offending history status and the Copas rate itself are calculated automatically and are not explained further here.

The following OGRS 2 questions have been entirely removed

- Number of youth custodial sentences
- History of burglary (whether the offender has a current or previous history of burglary)
- History of breach (whether the offender has a current or previous history of a breach)

There is no longer a need to identify 'standard list' offences. All recordable offences – those which are recorded on the Police National Computer – are included. The inclusion of formal cautions, reprimands and final warnings means that convictions no longer need to be separated from these other sanctions¹.

There is no longer a separate predictor of sexual and violent reoffending. OGRS 3 is a good predictor of proven violent reoffending, though as with all group reoffending scales it does not take account of the individual's dynamic risk factors. Where the offender has a history of sexual offending, Risk Matrix 2000 should be used in addition to OGRS 3.

OGRS 3 should form part of the targeting matrices for accredited programmes in place of OGRS 2. However, when an offender has been assessed as suitable under OGRS 2 during their current sentence, it is not necessary to reconsider that assessment solely because of the introduction of OGRS 3.

¹ Fixed Penalty Notices and Penalty Notices for Disorder have not been included in this version of OGRS 3, as there has been insufficient opportunity to research their use and prevalence, but they may be included in a future iteration. For the time being, do not count them as previous sanctions.

Known limitations of OGRS

OGRS 3 builds on knowledge gained in developing the two earlier versions, and is based on a very large sample of assessments. However, every risk predictor has its limitations, which should be openly acknowledged.

Individual prediction and dynamic risk factors

The use of OGRS scores for individual offenders has sometimes been criticised. It is argued that as the Offender **Group** Reconviction Scale is based on large samples and uses demographic and historical data, the predictions are not valid for **individuals** as the particular circumstances of the offender are not taken into account. This criticism has some truth to it, but is overstated. OGRS is not, and does not claim to be, a complete offender assessment and management system.

OGRS does not take account of dynamic risk factors which are vital in understanding **why** offending occurs and in writing sentence plans or recommendations for sentencers in order to tackle future offending behaviour. However, OGRS still has considerable value when used as a predictor for individual offenders. It is a powerful predictor of proven reoffending by individual offenders, and an extremely practical tool which can be used in a wide range of situations, including those (e.g. Fast Delivery PSR writing) where meaningful assessment of dynamic risk factors is impractical. A balanced view of OGRS is therefore that it plays an important role in the assessment of offenders, provided that the influence of dynamic risk factors is also considered wherever possible

What is being predicted?

Despite the expansion from “reconviction for a ‘standard list’ offence” to “proven reoffending”, the predicted outcome is still a measure of reoffending known to the authorities. Clearly, some offenders will reoffend on one or several occasions without being brought to justice, and the average predicted likelihood of reoffending will therefore be an underestimate.

OGRS does not measure the severity of predicted reoffending. In particular, those convicted of sexual offences have generally low OGRS scores, but this should not be taken as a measure of the potential severity of any sexual reoffending which might occur. The time-bounded nature of OGRS is also an issue: studies with long followup periods have shown that the reoffending rates of sex offenders continue to increase over many years. By contrast, those convicted of theft offences have high OGRS scores and may reoffend rapidly, but are comparatively unlikely to be involved in serious further offending.

OGRS also only measures proven reoffending over a certain time period – specifically, the two years following discharge from custody or sentencing to a community order. If the two years have passed without a proven reoffence being committed, the OGRS score no longer has an exact meaning: while it is reasonable to assume that those with high scores are more likely to reoffend in the future, the extent of the difference between high- and low-scoring offenders is not known. OGRS also cannot take into account periods of recall to custody following discharge, which may distort the individual’s probability of proven reoffending.

Breaches of orders or licence are not generally criminal offences, and therefore do not count as proven reoffending and also are not counted as previous sanctions when calculating the OGRS score. The guidance on ‘Total number of previous sanctions’ below explains which types of breach do count as previous sanctions – this same set of breaches also count as proven reoffending.

Other outcomes which do not count as proven reoffending include recalls to custody, prison disciplinary adjudications, informal cautions and events such as police callouts, arrests and impending prosecution.

Offender characteristics

The accuracy of prediction has been checked for various subgroups of offenders, including by offence group, age, gender and ethnicity, and OGRS 3 takes account of the differing age/crime curves of

female and male offenders. Even so, it cannot be guaranteed that predictions are equally valid for every possible combination of these characteristics. Data on some personal characteristics such as disability and religion has not been available for testing. This does not render OGRS automatically invalid for offenders from non-majority groups: rather, as with dynamic risk factors, consideration should be given to whether these characteristics are related to the individual's offending behaviour in the context of their environment and personal circumstances.

Offences committed outside the United Kingdom

Counts of previous sanctions for OGRS are based on Police National Computer (PNC) data. The PNC only records offences where the conviction or other sanction was incurred in the United Kingdom, and typically the assessor will only be aware of these sanctions. Therefore, the OGRS scores of offenders with non-UK criminal records are likely to underestimate their true likelihood of proven reoffending, assuming that they remain in the UK. Where an offender has lived abroad or there are other grounds to suspect that they have non-UK criminal records, their OGRS score should be interpreted cautiously.

Information used to calculate OGRS 3 scores

In total, six pieces of information are needed in order to calculate an OGRS 3 score.

Unlike previous versions of OGRS, OGRS 3 takes account of not only convictions but also other formal outcomes. These include formal cautions and the youth justice outcomes of reprimand and final warning. The term “sanction” is therefore used to refer to convictions, formal cautions, reprimands and final warnings. (Penalty Notices are not currently included, but this guidance may be revised later.)

In OASys, all of this information is extracted automatically from the Case ID and Section 1, and the OGRS 3 scores are calculated automatically as question 1.27. Explanations are given below so assessors can understand how the process works and check the basis of any scores which appear to be incorrect.

Gender

The combination of gender and age at effective assessment date is an important component of the OGRS 3 score. It is only possible to produce an OGRS 3 score when the offender can be categorised as “Male” or “Female”.

Age: at first sanction and at current sanction

These two fields record the age at first sanction (conviction, formal caution, reprimand or final warning, whichever happened first), and the age at current sanction. The age at current sanction *need not* be the same as the current age of the offender.

If there are no previous sanctions the age at first sanction is equal to the age at current sanction.

When the assessment takes place at pre-sentence stage, the age at current sanction should be set equal to the age at the date of the assessment.

In OASys, the age at first sanction is equal to the lower (non-missing) value of questions 1.7 and 1.8.

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| 1.7 | Age at first conviction (record in years) |
| 1.8 | Age first in contact with police: first recorded caution, reprimand or final warning (record in years) |

It is important that these ages are recorded exactly.

The age at current sanction is calculated from Case ID information on the offender's date of birth and sentence date. When sentence date is missing, the date of the assessment is used instead. As this may give misleading results for non-PSR assessments, sentence dates should be entered wherever possible.

Age at effective assessment date

The “effective assessment date” is the date from which the offender could potentially reoffend. Their age at this date is combined with their gender to calculate one of the elements of their OGRS score.

When the assessment takes place at pre-sentence stage, this equals their age at the date of the assessment.

When the offender is sentenced to a non-custodial sentence, a custodial sentence which has been fully served while on remand or an unactivated suspended sentence, or is subject to a sanction other than conviction, this equals their age at sentence or other sanction.

When the offender has been sentenced to custody, this equals their age at which discharge from custody occurred, or the earliest possible age at release if the offender is in custody and does not yet have a definite known discharge date. If the offender is in custody because they have been discharged but then recalled, use age at assessment date.

The “earliest possible” date refers to what is legally possible under the terms of the current sentence, and does not require a judgement of what is likely to actually occur (for example, if an offender is approaching their Parole Eligibility Date, this would be the “earliest possible” date even if you consider them extremely unlikely to receive parole on this date). Where the offender will become eligible for End of Custody Licence and/or Home Detention Curfew in the future, this eligibility date may be the “earliest possible” date. Releases on Temporary Licence or other non-final discharges are not considered.

When the offender is still under sentence, but at least two years have passed since the start of a non-custodial sentence or original discharge from custody, this equals their age at the date of the assessment. Please refer to the guidance on the limitations of OGRS scores in this situation.

In OASys, information from the Case ID section on whether a sentence has been passed, the type and date of any sentence, and date of any discharge from custody are used to determine which of these scenarios applies. Where appropriate, the “earliest possible” date is calculated from the earliest future date amongst the various dates drawn through from LIDS.

Offence categories

This field refers to the **principal offence**. The principal offence is the offence which receives the **most severe sentence** at the court appearance for which you are preparing the PSR, or for the offender's current order or other sentence or non-conviction sanction. **In OASys**, this is the offence listed under question 1.1a.

Offences are divided into twenty categories of recordable offences.

The numbers in the left-hand column below correspond to the 5 digit offence codes maintained by the Home Office. They are the same as those used in Section 1 of OASys, but may not be the same as those used in all probation or Prison Service IT systems. These offence categories were developed in the course of the research leading to the construction of OGRS, and do not necessarily correspond with groupings used in other contexts. They are specific to OGRS 3, and cannot be used for earlier versions.

Offences are listed in numerical order by category. Where specific offences need to be identified or excluded, the specific 5 digit code is shown. In all other cases the main offence code is shown and should be interpreted as including all offences within that code range (e.g. 00500 includes all offences within the code range 005nn, therefore all “wounding or other act endangering life” offences).

Offences which involve attempts, threats, conspiracies, assistance, incitement and other like offences are almost always coded in the same way as their parent offence. The one exception is murder, where codes 00200 and 00300 are available for variant offences. A number of codes no longer in use are included for the sake of completeness, and are denoted ‘(historic code)’.

Code	Title of Offence
Violence:	
00100	Murder
00200	Attempted murder
00300	Threat or conspiracy to murder
00401, 00402, 00403, 00405, 00407	Manslaughter, Infanticide and other manslaughter (non-motoring)
00500	Wounding or other act endangering life
00600	Endangering railway passenger
00700	Endangering life at sea
00800	(except 00832 see Other) Other indictable assaults (including GBH without intent and ABH), indictable possession/use of an offensive weapon, indictable harassment offences, all racially- and religiously aggravated assaults, indictable Dangerous Dogs offences
00900	Assault (historic code)
01100	Cruelty to or neglect of children
01200	Child abandonment
01300	Child abduction
01400	Procuring illegal abortion
01500	Concealment of birth
02900	Aggravated burglary in a dwelling
03100	(except 03101, 03102, 03105) Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling
03500	Blackmail
03600	Kidnapping
07902, 07903, 07904, 07905	Perverting the course of justice (intimidating, harming or threatening witness or juror)
08100	Firearms offences
09000	Knives Act offences
10300	Aggravated assault
10400	Assault on a constable
10500	Common assault
10900	Cruelty to or neglect of children
11100	(except 11101, 11103-11108, 11110-11111, 11121-11124 see Other) Dangerous Dogs offences
11300	Explosives offences
11500	Firearms offences
14501	Intimidation (Trade Unions and Industrial Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992)
16504	Possession of offensive weapon (historic code)
19594	Harassment (Protection From Harassment Act 1997)
Robbery:	
03400	Robbery
Public order / riot offences:	
06400	Rioting
06500	Violent disorder
06600	(except 06608, 06617-06620, 06624-06627 see Sexual offences not against a child) Other offences against the State or public order (including affray, stirring up racial hatred and terrorism-related offences)

12500	Summary public order offences
14000	Drunkenness offences
14100	(except 14102, 14108, 14109 see Drink Driving) Drunkenness offences (including drunk & disorderly)
16400	(except 16409-16411, 16415-16416 see Other; 16412 see Sexual offences not against a child) Offences against certain local regulations
Sexual offences not against a child:	
01600	(except 01612, 01617, 01623-01628 see Sexual offences against a child) Buggery
01700	(except 01701 see Soliciting / prostitution 01705, 01711, 01714, 01716 see Sexual offences against a child) Indecent assault on a male
01800	(except 01803, 01804, 01807, 01808, 01811 - Sexual offences against a child) Gross indecency
01901-01906	(not 01907, 01909, 01911, 01913, 01916-01919 see Sexual offences against a child) Rape
02002, 02003, 02005	Indecent assault on a female
02312, 02313	Incest
02500	Abduction
06608, 06617-06620, 06624-06627	Breach of Sex Offender Order and similar offences
07000	Sexual offences against person with a mental disorder
07200	Sexual exploitation/trafficking offences
07301-07306	Abuse of trust (not with child) and failure to notify police of name / address offences
08600	(except 08602, 08610 see Sexual offences against a child) Possession of obscene material, etc.
08800	(except 08801, 08802) Miscellaneous sexual offences
13900	Indecent exposure (Vagrancy Act 1824)
16412	Indecent exposure (Town Police Clauses Act 1847)
50300	Sexual Offences Prevention Order
50400	Risk of Sexual Harm Order
Sexual offences against a child:	
01612, 01617, 01623-01628	Buggery
01705, 01711, 01714, 01716	Indecent assault on a male
01803, 01804, 01807, 01808, 01811	Gross indecency
01907, 01909, 01911, 01913, 01916-01919	Rape
02001, 02004, 02006	Indecent assault on a female
02100	Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13
02200	Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16
02300	(except 02312, 02313 see Sexual offences not against a child) Incest
02503	Abduction
07100	Arranging or facilitating child sex offences, paying for sex with a child
07307-07318	Abuse of trust (with a child)
07400	Gross indecency with children

08602, 08610	Taking, making or possession indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children
Soliciting / prostitution:	
01701	Solicitation by men (historic code)
02400	Procuration
02700	Soliciting by a man
10700	Brothel keeping
16500	Kerb crawling and similar offences
16600	Offence by prostitutes
18700	Aiding and abetting prostitutes
Burglary (Domestic):	
02800	Burglary in a dwelling
Burglary (Other):	
03000	Burglary other than in a dwelling
03101, 03102, 03105	Attempted burglary
03300	Going equipped for stealing
18500	Found in enclosed premises
Theft (Non-motor):	
03800	Criminal property offences and money laundering
03900	Theft from the person of another
04000	Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter
04100	Theft by an employee
04200	Theft or unauthorised taking from mail
04300	Abstracting electricity
04400	Theft of pedal cycle
04600	Theft from shops
04700	Theft from automatic machine or meter
04900	Other theft or unauthorised taking
11800	Night poaching
11900	Day poaching
12106, 12107	Game offences
17400	Stealing a bird
Handling stolen goods:	
05400	Handling stolen goods
12000	Handling unlawfully obtained game
12101-12105	Dealing in game
17800	Handling stolen bird or tree, or receiving stolen property
Fraud and forgery:	
05000	Obtaining goods by false pretences
05100	Fraud by company director, etc.
05200	False accounting
05300	Other fraud
05500	Bankruptcy offence
05800	Forgery (documents and receipts)
05900	Forgery (historic code)
06000	Forgery, or use, of false prescription (in respect of drugs listed in Schedule 2 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
06100	Other forgery, etc. (including coinage and hallmarking offences)
Abconding / bail offences:	

08000	Absconding from lawful custody
08300	Failing to surrender to bail
Taking and driving away and related offences:	
03700	Aggravated vehicle taking
04800	Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle
13000	(except 13005, 13006 see Drink driving) Stealing and unauthorised taking of a conveyance
13100	Aggravated vehicle taking- criminal damage of two thousand pounds or under
91800	Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle
Theft from vehicles:	
04500	Theft from vehicle
Other motoring:	
00404, 00408, 00409	Causing death by driving
12600	Interference with a motor vehicle
17000	Keeping vehicle on highway without a valid licence
17300	(except 17330, 17331 see Other) Taxi cab etc. offences
80200	Dangerous driving
80400	Careless driving
80500	Failing to stop after an accident
80700	Driving while disqualified
80900	Vehicle insurance offences
81000	Vehicle registration and licensing offences
81100	Records and tachograph offences
81200	Operators licence offences
81300	Vehicle test offences
81400	Fraud and forgery associated with vehicle or driver records
81500	Vehicle in dangerous or defective condition
81600	Speed limit offences
81700	Motorway offences
81800	Traffic light and direction offences
81900	Neglect of pedestrian rights
82000	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences
82100	Lighting offences
82200	Noise offences
82300	Load offences
82400	Motorcycle offences
82500	Miscellaneous motoring offences
Drink driving:	
13005, 13006	Driving under influence of drink or drugs
14102, 14108, 14109	Other offences of drink driving
80300	Driving after consuming alcohol or drugs
Criminal Damage:	
05600	Arson
05700	Criminal damage endangering life (excluding arson)
05800	Other offences of criminal damage
05900	Threat or possession with intent to commit criminal damage
14900	Summary offences of criminal or malicious damage
Drugs import, export, production or supply:	

07701, 07702, 07705-07708, 07713-07716, 07719-07731, 07735, 07738-07740, 07745, 07747, 07750, 07791, 07792	Production, or being concerned in the production of a controlled drug
09201, 09203, 09204, 09205	Offence in relation to the unlawful importation of a controlled drug
09202, 09206, 09207, 09208	Offence in relation to the unlawful exportation of a controlled drug
09210-09229	Production offences
09230-09249	Supply offences
09355, 09961	Methylamphetamine production and supply
Drugs possession / small scale supply:	
07703, 07704, 07709, 07710, 07712, 07717, 07732-07734, 07736, 07737, 07741-07743, 07751-07760	Having possession of a controlled drug and related offences
07706	Permitting premises to be used
09250-09269	Possession offences
09270-09289	Possession with intent to supply offences
09300	(except 09355, 09361 see Drugs import, export, production or supply) Permitting premises to be used for unlawful (drug-related) purposes
19300	Summary drugs offences
Other: Any other offences, including (but not restricted to):	
00832	Breach of Anti Social Behaviour Order
02600	Bigamy
06700	Perjury
07500	Betting, gaming and lottery offences
07800	Assisting entry of illegal immigrant
07901	Perverting the course of justice
08200	Revenue Law offence
08400	Trade Descriptions Act and similar offences
08500	Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974
08700	Protection From Eviction Act 1977
08900	Adulteration of food or drugs
09000	Knives Act 1997
09900	Other indictable offences
11101, 11103-11108, 11110-11111, 11121-11124	Offences in relation to dogs
16409-16411, 16415-16416	Other offences against certain local regulations
17330, 17331	Transport Act 2000 (S.148 & S.153)
19400	Summary immigration offences
19500	(except 19594 see Violence) Impersonating a police officer and other summary offences
19600	Other summary offences

Total number of previous sanctions

The **Total number of previous sanctions** field refers to the number of times a person has been to court and been convicted of at least one recordable offence, plus the number of times they have received a formal caution, reprimand or final warning. Count each sanction (court appearance leading to conviction(s), formal caution, reprimand or final warning) only once, even if it represents more than one offence. Do not count the current sanction.

Informal cautions are not counted, nor are convictions for non-recordable offences such as parking and speeding offences. Recordable offences are those which are recorded on the Police National Computer – so a PNC printout can easily be used to count the total sanctions. It is recognised that some cautions received while the offender is a juvenile are later removed from the PNC: as these have been removed in accordance with Data Protection policy, only cautions, reprimands and final warnings which appear on the PNC printout should be counted. Penalty Notices should not be counted.

Convictions in Scotland (PNC prefix 'S'), Northern Ireland (prefix 'N'), the Isle of Man (prefix 'M') and the Channel Islands (prefixes 'G' and 'J') are usually recorded on the PNC and therefore should be counted as previous sanctions.

Do not count court appearances where the appearance is solely due to a non-criminal breach of an order or licence. Only count breaches when the breach itself constitutes a criminal offence: as of February 2008, these include breaches of conditions of injunctions against harassment (offence code 00829), Restraining Order (codes 00831 and 00839), Anti-Social Behaviour Order (code 00832), Sex Offender Order (code 06608), other orders for sex offenders (codes 066-17 to 20), Non-Molestation Order (code 06639), Control Order (code 06640), Domestic Football Banning Order (code 12530) or Individual Support Order (code 19613). Failures to comply with Reparation Order (code 19555), Action Plan Order (code 19556), Detention and Training Order (code 19560), early release (code 19566), supervision (code 19567) or Sex Offenders Act 1997 (codes 195-95 to 98) requirements are also criminal offences. In general, fully numeric offence codes indicate criminal offences, while those starting with 'B' are non-criminal.

If an offender has a history only of informal cautions and/or non-recordable offences and/or Penalty Notices, then for the purposes of this calculation they have no previous sanctions.

In OASys, the total number of previous sanctions is calculated as the sum of questions 1.5, 1.6 and 1.24.

- 1.5 Number of court appearances at which convicted aged under 18
- 1.6 Number of court appearances at which convicted aged 18 years or over. Do not include current appearances
- 1.24 Number of previous formal cautions, reprimands and final warnings