

Statistical Bulletin

Crime and Justice Series

A National Statistics Publication for Scotland



RECONVICTION RATES IN SCOTLAND: 2007-08 AND 2008-09 OFFENDER COHORTS

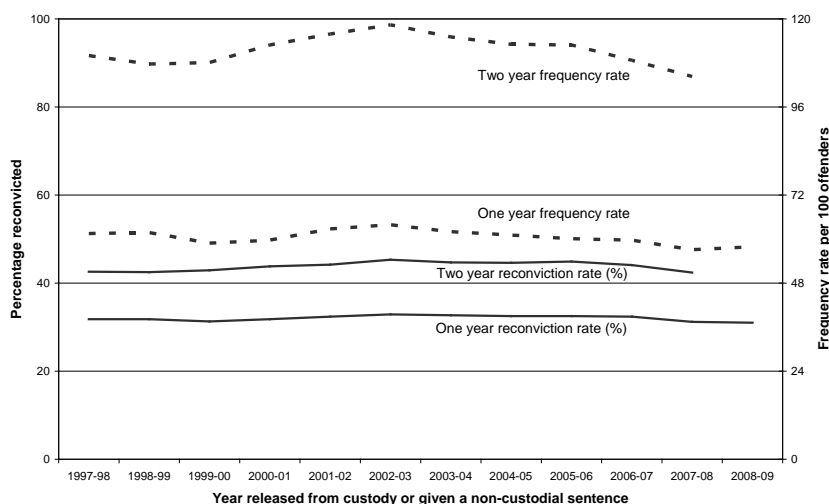
30 August 2011

1 Introduction

1.1 This publication provides analyses of reconviction rates for the 2007-08 cohort and the 2008-09 cohort. The one year reconviction rates have fallen slightly by 0.2 percentage points, the most recent figure being 31.0 per cent in 2008-09. In 2007-08 the two year reconviction rate was 42.4 per cent; a fall of 1.7 percentage points from the 2006-07 two year reconviction rate of 44.1 per cent¹ ([Chart 1](#)).

1.2 As well as the reconviction rate, this bulletin also includes a more sensitive measure of reconviction; the reconviction frequency rate² is the average number of reconvictions for every 100 offenders. The one year reconviction frequency rate for the 2008-09 cohort is 57.9 reconvictions for every 100 offenders, a small increase on the 2007-08 reconviction frequency rate of 57.1. The bulletin also includes figures for individuals given non-court disposals in 2008-09, as described in [Section 4](#).

Chart 1 **Reconviction frequency rates and reconviction rates: 1997-98 to 2008-09**



¹ Previously reported as 44.0%, however the revised figure is marginally higher at 44.1%.

² See [Section 3](#).

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2 Key points

- The two year reconviction rate for the 2007-08 cohort is 1.7 percentage points lower than that of the previous year (42.4 compared to 44.1 per cent for 2006-07) ([Chart 1](#) and [Table 17](#)). The two year reconviction rate has changed relatively little since 1997-98, fluctuating between 42.4 and 45.3 per cent.
- Over the past seven years there has been a decline in the one year reconviction rate. In 2002-03 the one year reconviction rate was 32.9 per cent, whereas in 2008-09 it is 31.0 per cent; a reduction of 1.9 percentage points. Over the same time period there has been a reduction in reconviction frequency rate from 63.9 to 57.9; a reduction of 6 reconvictions for every 100 offenders ([Table 1](#)).
- Over time, there has been a marked fall in the number of reconvictions for the under 21 age group. In 1997-98 this group had a reconviction frequency rate of 93.4 and in 2008-09 the reconviction frequency rate is 70.3; over eleven years a fall of just over 23 reconvictions for every 100 young offenders ([Table 2](#)).
- Between 2006-07 and 2008-09 there has been a slight decline in the reconviction frequency rate for those female offenders who are aged 25 and under ([Table 4](#) and [Chart 5](#)), whereas during the same period there has been a slight increase in the reconviction frequency rate for those aged 26 and over.
- Over time there has been a decline in the reconviction frequency rate for those offenders who were given a Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO). In 2002-03 the one year reconviction frequency rate was 240.6 and in 2008-09 the rate is 162.3, representing a reduction of nearly 80 reconvictions for every 100 DTTO offenders over a six year period ([Table 5](#)). Offenders given a DTTO have the highest reconviction frequency rate compared to other disposals.
- Offenders who commit a crime of dishonesty have the highest reconviction frequency rate compared to those who commit other crimes, and offenders who commit a sexual crime have the lowest reconviction frequency rate. In 2008-09, the reconviction frequency rate is 101.3 for offenders who committed crimes of dishonesty and 18.2 for offenders who committed a sexual crime ([Table 6](#)).
- Offenders who were released from a custodial sentence of 3 months or less have the highest reconviction frequency rate compared to those who were released from longer sentences. The reconviction frequency rate for those released from a sentence of 3 months or less is 135.3. This compares with a reconviction frequency rate of 71.5 for those released from a sentence of 6 months to 2 years. Over time there is some evidence of a reduction in the reconviction frequency rate. In five years, there has been a reduction of nearly 16 reconvictions for every 100 offenders who served a sentence of less than 3 months ([Table 7](#)).
- In 2008-09, 76.9 per cent of police disposals were anti social behaviour fixed penalty notices and 28.5 per cent of offenders who were given these disposals were given another non-court disposal within one year ([Table 19](#)).
- In 2008-09, 57.3 per cent of Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal disposals were fiscal fines and 25.6 per cent of offenders who were given these disposals were given another non-court disposal within one year ([Table 20](#)).

3 Commentary on reconviction frequency rates and reconviction rates³ ([Tables 1 to 16](#))

Overall reconviction frequency rates and reconviction rates

3.1 This bulletin provides more detailed analysis of reconvictions by focussing on the complementary measure of frequency of reconviction, in addition to the reconviction rate. While the reconviction rate provides an indication of progress in tackling offender recidivism at a global level, it 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 frequency of reconviction, but not in stopping reconviction completely.

3.2 The reconviction frequency rate is presented here as the average number of reconvictions within a specified follow up period from the date of the index conviction per 100 offenders. For example, the 2008-09 one year reconviction frequency rate is 57.9 ([Table 1](#)) and this means that there were 57.9 reconvictions in 2009-10 for every 100 offenders who had an index conviction in 2008-09.

3.3 This bulletin also focuses on a follow-up period of one year rather than two years as the one year rate tracks the two year rate (as shown below in [Chart 2](#) and [Chart 3](#)) and is more timely. This makes it more useful in practice as it better reflects current patterns of reconviction and gives an earlier indication of potential change in the system, although it must be noted that the shorter follow up period will result in lower figures overall. There is also evidence from published material that the criminal justice system is processing cases faster, and this is particularly apparent in the Scottish Government publication of the [26 week target of Summary Court cases](#).

3.4 **One year reconviction frequency rates and one year reconviction rates are the main focus of this bulletin.** Two year rates are shown for key areas to ensure consistency with previously published figures and for reporting progress against the [National Indicator for reconviction](#). There are also additional datasets, in the form of Excel worksheets, which accompany this publication. These contain a full set of tables with information on the one year reconviction frequency rates and one year reconviction rates, and two year reconviction frequency rates and two year reconviction rates.

3.5 There were 49,613 offenders discharged from custody or given a non-custodial sentence in 2008-09 ([Table 1](#)). In the following year, these 49,613 offenders had 57.9 reconvictions for every 100 offenders, and the reconviction rate was 31.0 per cent.

3.6 Over the past seven years the number of offenders discharged from custody or given a non-custodial sentence increased from 44,854 in 2002-03 to 53,247 in 2006-07 but has since declined to 49,613 in 2008-09. During this period, there has generally been a decline in the one year reconviction frequency rate and a corresponding decline in the one year reconviction rate ([Table 1](#) and [Chart 2](#)).

3.7 In 2002-03, the reconviction frequency rate was 63.9 and the reconviction rate was 32.9 per cent, whereas in 2008-09 they are 57.9 reconvictions per 100 offenders

³ The reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate applies to all offenders subject to an index disposal, irrespective of whether the offender successfully completed their sentence. Information is not available via the Scottish Offenders Index on completion rates for community sentences.

and 31.0 per cent respectively. Overall, this shows that there has been a reduction of 6 reconvictions for every 100 offenders between 2002-03 and 2008-09, and a decrease in offender reconviction by 1.9 percentage points.

Chart 2 One year reconviction frequency rates and one year reconviction rates

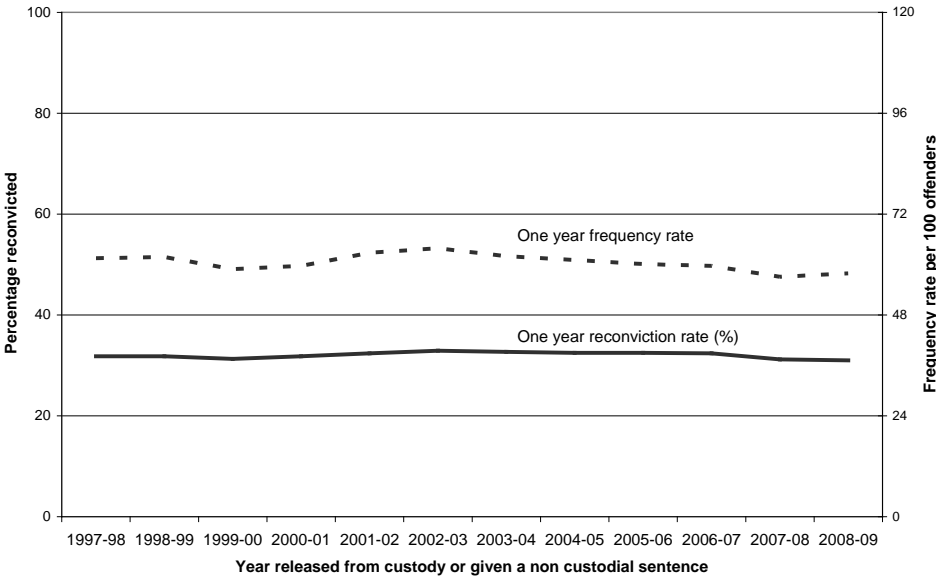
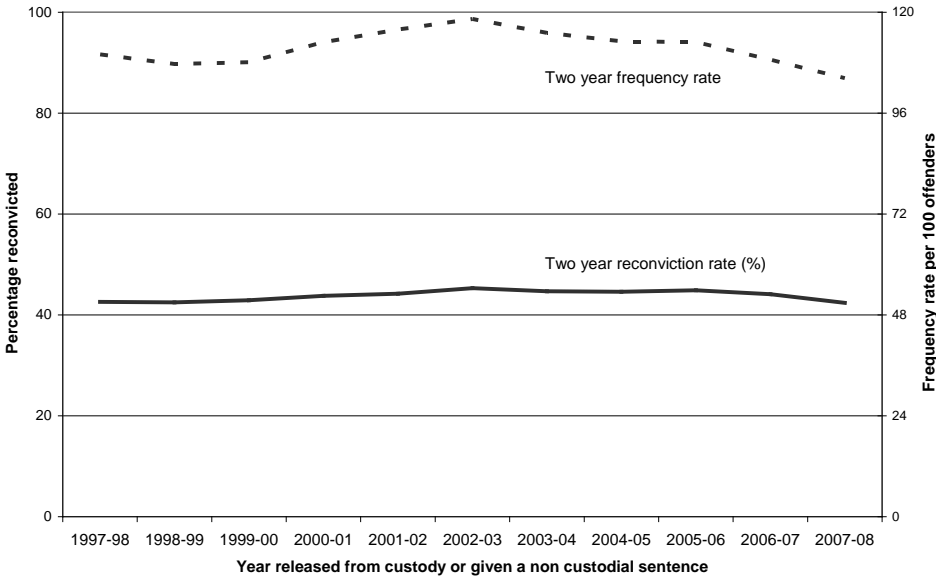


Chart 3 Two year reconviction frequency rates and two year reconviction rates



Reconviction frequency rates and reconviction rates by age

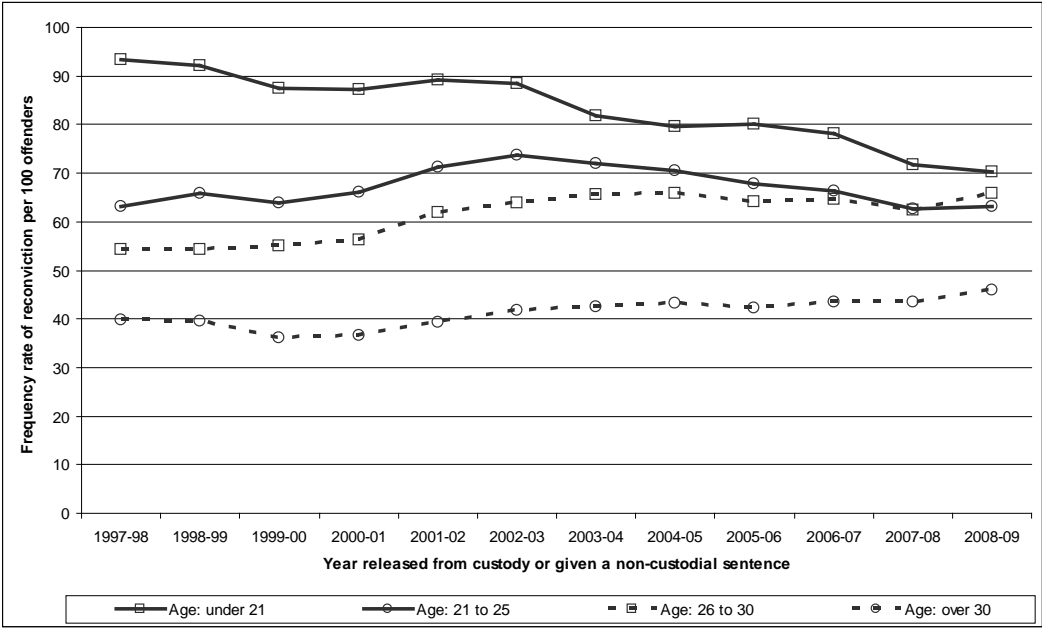
3.8 Those aged under 21 have the highest reconviction frequency rate and the highest reconviction rate (Table 2 and Chart 4). The reconviction frequency rate is 70.3 in 2008-09, a fall of 1.5 reconvictions for every 100 offenders since 2007-08. The reconviction rate for this age group is 37.4 per cent in 2008-09, a fall of 0.8 percentage points since 2007-08.

3.9 In 1997-98 there was a marked difference in the level of reconviction between those offenders aged under 21, against those aged 21 and over. However, in 2008-09 the difference in reconviction between these two age groups is not as pronounced. In 1997-98 the reconviction frequency rate for the under 21 age group

was 93.4 and for those aged over 21 it ranged from 39.7 to 63.1. However, in 2008-09 the reconviction frequency rate for the under 21 age group was 70.3 and for those aged over 21 it ranged from 46.0 to 63.1. Therefore, this marked difference is largely because of a striking fall in the number of reconvictions for the under 21 age group. In 1997-98 this group had a reconviction frequency rate of 93.4 and in 2008-09 the reconviction frequency rate is 70.3; a fall of about 23 reconvictions for every 100 offenders over an 11 year period.

3.10 Over the past seven years there has also been a decline in reconviction frequency rate for those offenders who are aged 21 to 25. In 2002-03 the one year reconviction frequency rate was 73.8 and in 2008-09 it is 63.1 (a return to the level of reconviction frequency rate in 1997-98). Overall, for those aged between 21 and 25, this shows that there has been a reduction of over 10 reconvictions for every 100 of these offenders.

Chart 4 One year reconviction frequency rates by age: 1997-98 to 2008-09 cohorts



3.11 There has also been a decline in the one year reconviction rate between 2002-03 and 2008-09. The one year reconviction rates for 2002-03 were 41.3 and 37.1 per cent for the under 21 and 21 to 25 age groups respectively, and the reconviction rates for 2008-09 were 37.4 and 33.8 per cent for the two age groups.

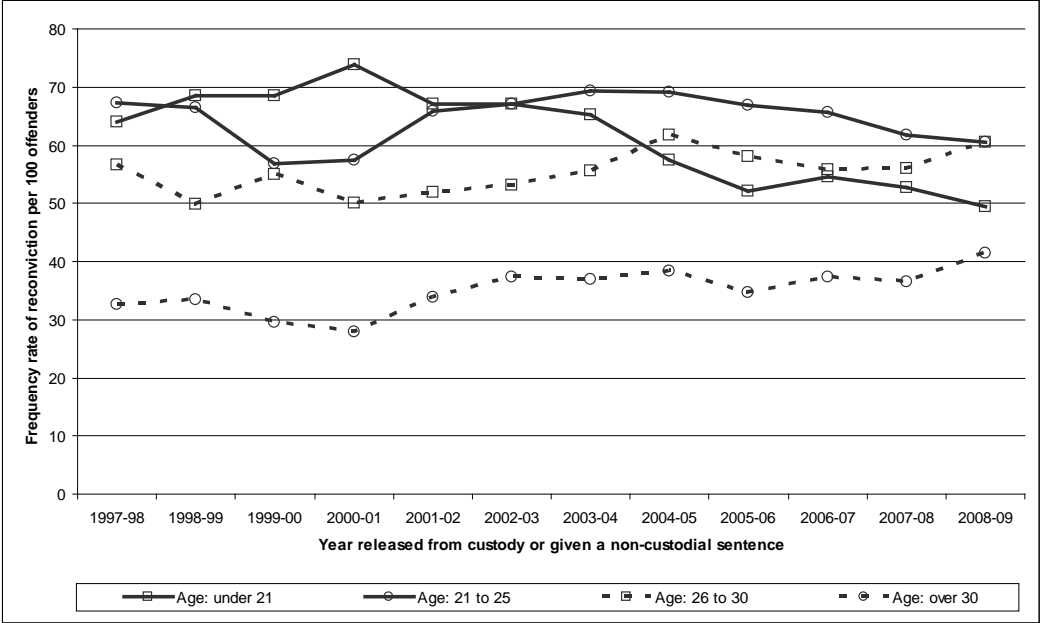
3.12 Conversely, over the past seven years there has been an increase in reconviction frequency rate for those offenders aged over 30. In 2002-03, the one year reconviction frequency rate was 41.7, and in 2008-09 it is 46.0. Overall, this shows that there has been an increase of over 4 reconvictions for every 100 of these offenders between 2002-03 and 2008-09.

Reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rates by sex and age

3.13 Males aged under 21 have the highest reconviction frequency rate and the highest reconviction rate (Table 3). The reconviction frequency rate is 73.7 in 2008-09, and the reconviction rate for this age group is 39.1 per cent.

3.14 Between 2006-07 and 2008-09 there has been a slight decline in the reconviction frequency rate for those female offenders who are aged 25 and under (Table 4 and Chart 5). The under 21 age group declined from 54.5 to 49.5 and the 21 to 25 age group declined from 65.7 to 60.5. During the same period there has been a slight increase in the reconviction frequency rate for those aged 26 and over (the 26 to 30 age group increased from 55.7 to 60.6, and the over 30 age group increased from 37.4 to 41.4, although there was a slight dip in 2007-08).

Chart 5 One year reconviction frequency rates, females by age: 1997-98 to 2008-09 cohorts



Reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rates by index disposal

3.15 Offenders given a DTTO have the highest reconviction frequency rate and the highest reconviction rate compared to the other disposals (Table 5 and Chart 6). The reconviction frequency rate is 162.3 in 2008-09, and the reconviction rate is 63.9 per cent.

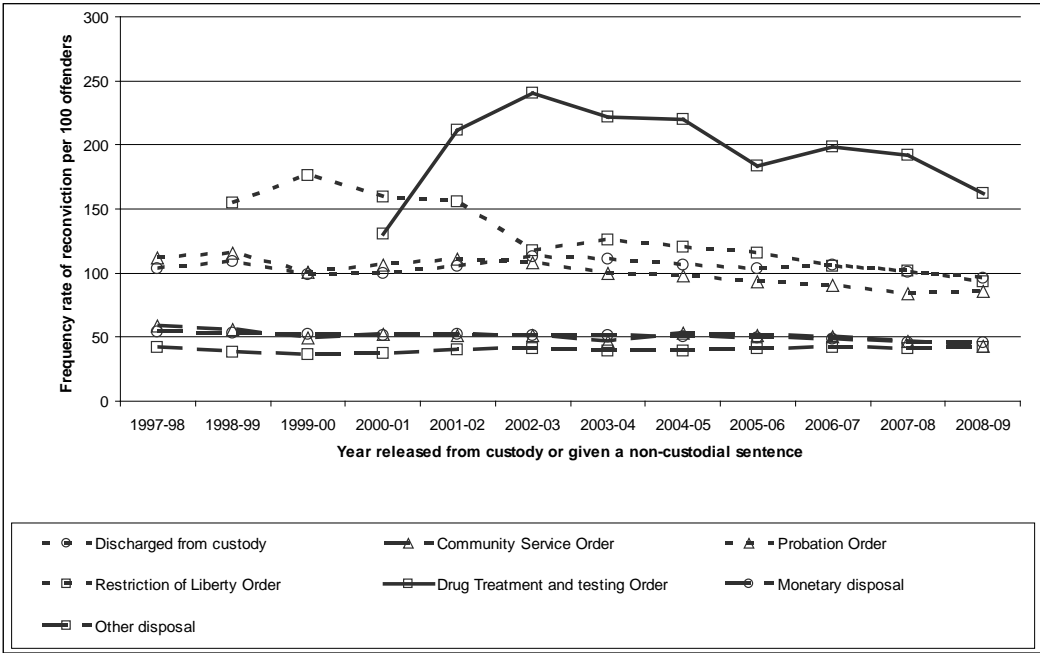
3.16 Over time there has been a decline in the reconviction frequency rate for those offenders who are given a DTTO. These orders were rolled out to Glasgow, Fife and Aberdeen between 1999 and 2002, and Edinburgh, Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Tayside in 2002-03. In 2002-03 the one year reconviction frequency rate was 240.6 and in 2008-09 the rate is 162.3. Overall, for those given a DTTO, this shows that there has been a reduction of nearly 80 reconvictions for every 100 of these offenders.

3.17 There has also been a decline in reconviction rates for those given DTTOs. The one year reconviction rate for 2003-04 was 79.1 per cent, and the reconviction rate for 2008-09 was 63.9 per cent.

3.18 The reconviction frequency rate for offenders given a custodial sentence or a probation order are of a similar magnitude. The reconviction frequency rates are 96.0 and 86.0 respectively for these disposals in 2008-09. On the other hand, the reconviction frequency rate for offenders given a community service order is 42.5 for every 100 offenders in 2008-09.

3.19 The reconviction frequency rate for all disposals show some evidence of a decline since 2002-03.

Chart 6 One year reconviction frequency rates by disposal: 1997-98 to 2008-09 cohorts



Reconviction frequency rates and reconviction rates by index crime

3.20 Offenders who committed a crime of dishonesty have the highest reconviction frequency rate and the highest reconviction rate compared to those who committed other crimes ([Table 6](#)). The reconviction frequency rate is 101.3 for offenders who committed crimes of dishonesty in 2008-09, and the reconviction rate is 44.1 per cent.

3.21 Offenders who committed a sexual crime have the lowest reconviction frequency rate and the lowest reconviction rate compared to those who committed other crimes. The reconviction frequency rate is 18.2 for those who committed a sexual crime in 2008-09, and the reconviction rate is 12.2 per cent.

3.22 Offenders who committed crimes other than sexual crimes or crimes of dishonesty in 2008-09 have a reconviction frequency rate between 40 and 60. The reconviction rates are between 25 and 35 per cent.

Reconviction frequency rates and reconviction rates by sentence length

3.23 Offenders who were released from a custodial sentence of 3 months or less have the highest reconviction frequency rate and the highest reconviction rate compared to those who were released from longer sentences ([Table 7](#)). For those on these short sentences the reconviction frequency rate is 135.3 in 2008-09, and the reconviction rate is 59.1 per cent. On the other hand, those released from sentences of over 6 months to 2 years had a reconviction frequency rate of 71.5 in 2008-09.

3.24 In recent years there is some evidence of a reduction in the reconviction frequency rate for offenders who were released from a custodial sentence of 3 months or less. In 2003-04 the reconviction frequency rate was 151.1 and in 2008-09

it has declined to 135.3. In five years, a reduction of nearly 15 reconvictions for every 100 offenders.

Reconviction frequency rates and reconviction rates by number and type of previous convictions

The 2010 publication “Reconviction rates in Scotland: 2006-07 and 2007-08 Offender cohorts” provided statistics on the two year reconviction rates by number and type of previous convictions. In this bulletin, statistics are provided on the one year reconviction rates by number and type of previous convictions. However, to ensure that there isn’t a gap in the statistics, information is provided on the one year reconviction rates for the 2007-08 cohort as well as the 2008-09 cohort ([Tables 11](#) and [12](#)).

3.25 Offenders with a history of convictions have the highest reconviction frequency rate and the highest reconviction rate ([Tables 8 to 12](#), and [Chart 7](#)). Those offenders with over 10 previous convictions in 2008-09 had a reconviction frequency rate of 125.9. The reconviction rate is 57.1 per cent for this cohort in 2008-09.

3.26 Over time there is some evidence of a reduction in the reconviction frequency rate for offenders who had over 10 previous convictions. In 1997-98 the reconviction frequency rate was 156.0, and in 2008-09 this has declined to 125.9. In eleven years, a reduction of over 30 reconvictions for every 100 of these prolific offenders.

3.27 The reconviction frequency rate declines as the number of previous convictions decline. Offenders who had no previous convictions have the lowest reconviction frequency rate and the lowest reconviction rate. The reconviction frequency rate is 22.8 in 2008-09, and the reconviction rate was 14.7 per cent.

Reconviction frequency rates and reconviction rates by local geographic breakdown

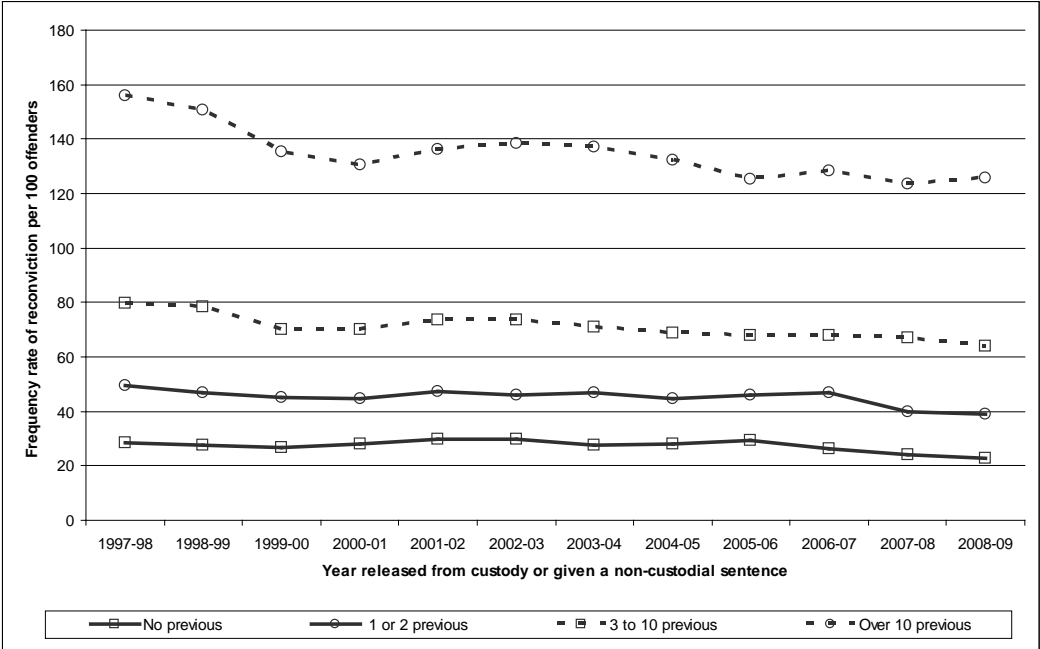
The 2010 publication “Reconviction rates in Scotland: 2006-07 and 2007-08 Offender cohorts” provided statistics on the two year reconviction rates by Community Justice Authority (CJA) and local authority, and by police force of index conviction. In this bulletin, statistics are provided on the one year reconviction rates by CJA and local authority, and by police force of index conviction. However, to ensure that there isn’t a gap in the statistics, information is provided on the one year reconviction rates for the 2007-08 cohort as well as the 2008-09 cohort ([Tables 13 to 16](#)).

3.28 This analysis compares reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rates across approximate local authority areas, CJAs and police forces, based on the location of the court where the index conviction was heard. Whilst this approach provides a useful estimate for these areas, it is important to note that an offender may not always be supervised in the area in which they are convicted and, additionally, subsequent reconvictions may have occurred in different areas. The characteristics of offenders are also likely to vary across these areas.

3.29 The 2007-08 cohort can be grouped into approximate local authority areas according to the court of the offenders index conviction, as in [Table 13](#) and described in its footnotes. The two highest reconviction frequency rates and reconviction rates were for offenders whose index conviction was given at courts in the Clackmannanshire area and the Dundee City area, and the lowest reconviction frequency rate and the lowest reconviction rate was for offenders whose index

conviction was received at a court in Shetland. The 2008-09 cohort has similarly been grouped into approximate local authority areas, as in [Table 14](#). Again the highest rates were for offenders whose index conviction was given at courts in the Clackmannanshire area and the Dundee City area, and the lowest rate was for offenders whose index conviction was received at a court in Orkney. However, such comparisons between areas should be treated with caution as they take no account of the inherent variability in measuring reconviction rates, and it is suggested that a method which takes this into account should be employed (see [Section 5](#)).

Chart 7 One year reconviction frequency rates by previous convictions: 1997-98 to 2008-09 cohorts



3.30 [Table 13](#) also includes measures of the reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate at the CJA level for the 2007-08 cohort. It shows that the highest reconviction frequency rate is in Tayside CJA (67.0), whereas the lowest is in Lothian and Borders CJA (47.7). The reconviction rate is also highest for Tayside CJA (34 per cent) and lowest for Lothian and Borders CJA (27 per cent). The 2008-09 cohort provides similar results, as shown in [Table 14](#); the highest reconviction frequency rate is in Tayside CJA (74.2), whereas the lowest is in Lothian and Borders CJA (50.0). The reconviction rate is also highest for Tayside CJA (36 per cent) and lowest for Lothian and Borders CJA (27 per cent).

3.31 [Table 15](#) includes measures of the reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate at the police force level for the 2007-08 cohort. It shows that the highest reconviction frequency rate is in Central Scotland Police force (67.1), whereas the lowest is in Lothian and Borders Police (48.7). The reconviction rate is also highest for Central Scotland Police (35 per cent) and lowest for Lothian and Borders Police (28 per cent). The 2008-09 cohort provides similar results, as shown in [Table 16](#); the highest reconviction frequency rate is in Tayside Police force (73.6), whereas the lowest is in Northern Constabulary (47.7). The reconviction rate is also highest for Tayside (36 per cent), however the lowest is for Lothian and Borders Police force (28 per cent). This suggests that there were fewer reconvictions for the 2008-09 cohort in Northern Constabulary compared to Lothian and Borders Police, but there were a similar number of offenders in both of these police force areas.

Two year reconviction frequency rates and reconviction rates

3.32 Since 2002-03 there has been a decline in the two year reconviction frequency rate and a corresponding decline in the two year reconviction rate ([Table 17](#) and [Chart 3](#)). In 2002-03 the reconviction frequency rate was 118.4 and the reconviction rate was 45.3 per cent whereas in 2007-08 these were 104.3 and 42.4 per cent respectively. Overall, this shows that there has been a reduction of just over 14 reconvictions for every 100 offenders between 2002-03 and 2007-08, and a decrease in offender reconviction by 2.9 percentage points.

Reconviction rates for main crimes and other crimes resulting in a conviction

3.33 In 2007-08 offenders who were convicted of prostitution, housebreaking and shoplifting had the highest two year reconviction rates ([Table 18](#)). Those convicted of these crimes had two year reconviction rates of 79, 68 and 68 per cent respectively.

3.34 Fifty two per cent of offenders who were convicted of shoplifting in 2007-08 were reconvicted of at least one other crime of dishonesty within two years.

4 Commentary on individuals given non-court disposals: 2008-09 cohort **([Tables 19](#) and [20](#))**

4.1 In 2007-08 a range of options became available to the police for dealing with minor offences. This included anti-social behaviour fixed penalty notices (ASBFPNs) and formal adult warnings for crimes such as breach of the peace, urinating, consuming alcohol in a public place, and for minor driving offences.

4.2 Prosecution in court is only one of a range of options available for dealing with people who have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Procurators Fiscal have had long standing powers to issue fiscal fines as an alternative to court prosecution for a range of offences and to offer a conditional offer of a fixed penalty to offenders for speeding offences and other road traffic related offences.

4.3 In 2007-08, following a review of the summary criminal justice system, the Scottish Parliament provided prosecutors with powers to issue an enhanced range of fiscal fines and to award compensation to victims, through fiscal compensation offers. Collectively these non-court prosecution options are known as direct measures and are utilised for less serious offences.

4.4 In 2008-09, the majority of Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) non-court disposals were fiscal fines, followed by fiscal road traffic fixed penalties. The remaining disposals were either fiscal fines which also had a compensation requirement, or fiscal compensation offers, or some Pre-Summary Justice Reform (SJR) fiscal fines.

Police disposals

4.5 [Table 19](#) shows that 50,511 individuals were given a police disposal in 2008-09. Seventeen per cent of these were given another non-court disposal within 6 months and 25 per cent given another within one year. The majority of the police disposals in 2008-09 (76.9 per cent) were ASBFPNs. Nineteen per cent of those with an index crime of an ASBFPN in 2008-09 were given another non-court disposal within 6 months and 28 per cent given another within one year.

4.6 In 2008-09, there were 6,758 individuals given a formal adult warning, 13.4 per cent of all the police disposals. Twelve per cent of those with an index crime of a formal adult warning were given another non-court disposal within 6 months, 18 per cent were given another within one year.

4.7 In 2008-09, the remaining police disposals were composed of either restorative justice warnings, or other police warnings, or warning letters.

Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) disposals

4.8 [Table 20](#) shows that 52,030 individuals were given a COPFS disposal in 2008-09. Twelve per cent of these were given another non-court disposal within 6 months and 20 per cent within 1 year. The majority of the COPFS disposals in 2008-09 (57.3 per cent) were fiscal fines. Sixteen per cent of those with an index crime of a fiscal fine in 2008-09 were given another non-court disposal within 6 months, 26 per cent within one year.

4.9 In 2008-09, there were 16,944 individuals given a fiscal fixed penalty, 32.6 per cent of all the COPFS disposals. Five per cent of those with an index crime of a fiscal fixed penalty were given another non-court disposal within 6 months, 9 per cent within one year.

4.10 In 2008-09, the remaining COPFS disposals were either composed of fines with a compensation requirement, or a compensation requirement excluding a fine, or some Pre-Summary Justice Reform (SJR) fixed penalties.

5 Comparing reconviction rates across Community Justice Authorities

5.1 Reconviction rates have historically been used as a Scottish Government National Indicator and they are also included in the Scottish Policing Performance Framework. As such, they are commonly used to rank performance across different jurisdictions, such as Community Justice Authorities (CJAs), local authorities or police force areas. However, there is an inherent problem in using this approach since it implicitly assumes that a difference in reconviction rates 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. The questions we need to answer are therefore: Is the observed variation more or less than we would normally expect? What are the possible explanations for outcomes which show significant deviations from the norm?

5.2 In this respect, it is better to use a method of comparison that takes account of inherent variability⁴. The funnel plot is a technique used in statistical process control and provides a simple way of determining whether differences are likely to be due to spurious or common-cause variation, rather than some special cause⁵. Common-cause variation is the variation inherent within any system, for instance, variations in healthcare outcomes due to differences in case-mix and client characteristics, and can never be completely eliminated. Special-cause variation cannot be attributed to the inherent variability within a system and requires further explanation to identify its cause.

5.3 In effect, a process control chart allows organisations to be split into three groups: those with outcomes which are as expected (the majority of organisations in a stable system), and those with outcomes which are significantly higher or lower compared to the norm. Such differences can provide a useful start in terms of thinking about potential differences in the context within which these organisations operate, such as population composition or differences in practice, which may explain some of the difference in outcomes.

5.4 [Table 13](#) provides the reconviction rates for each CJA area and [Chart 8](#) shows these reconviction rates against the number of offenders. The plot takes into account the increased variability of the smaller authorities, where a small increase in the number of reconvictions may lead to a large percentage change in the reconviction rates. Rates for CJAs 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 CJAs apart from what could reasonably attribute to random variation, we would expect that 5 per cent of the authorities would lie outside the funnel.

5.5 [Chart 8](#) shows that Tayside and Fife & Forth Valley have higher reconviction rates than one might expect, while Lothian & Borders has lower rates than expected. Whilst this is useful for highlighting that there are practical differences in reconviction

⁴ Royal Statistical Society (2003) *Performance Indicators: Good, Bad, and Ugly* Royal Statistical Society Working Party on Performance Monitoring in the Public Services. Obtained from <http://membership.rss.org.uk/pdf/PerformanceMonitoringReport.pdf>

⁵ Battersby, J. & Flowers, J. (2004) *Presenting performance indicators* Eastern Region Public Health Observatory. Obtained from <http://www.erpho.org.uk/viewResource.aspx?id=7518>

rate between each CJA, it does not allow us to identify if this disparity is due to a variation in case-mix or a variation in practice. Case-mix refers to the differences in offender characteristics (such as age, gender, crime, disposal).

5.6 [Chart 9](#) provides the standardised reconviction rates⁶ against the observed number of offenders minus expected number of offenders. In this plot, the differences attributable to the case-mix have been removed⁷. This provides us with an ability to analyse any variation which is due to practice alone. The data indicates that none of the CJAs have a higher or lower than expected reconviction rate due to the way they carry out their practices. Since all CJAs are within the funnel it suggests that any differences could be attributable to a variation in the characteristics of the offenders between authorities.

Chart 8 One year reconviction rate by CJA: 2007-08 cohort

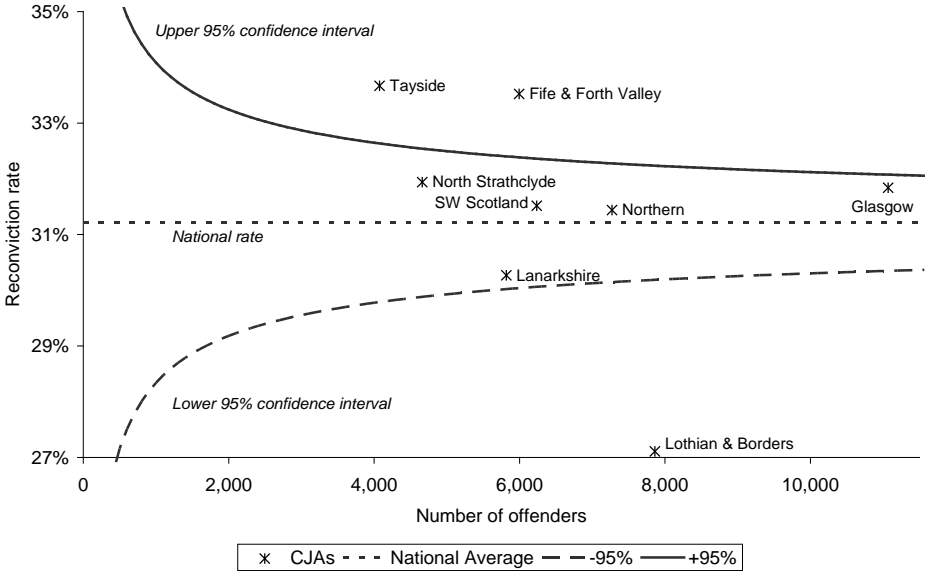
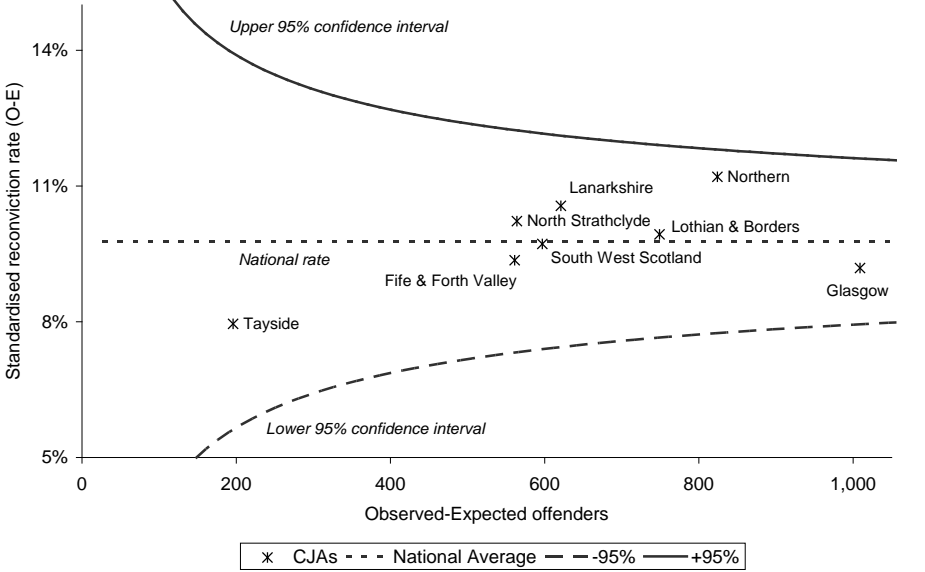


Chart 9 Standardised one year reconviction rate by CJA: 2007-08 cohort



⁶ Spiegelhalter, D. J. (2005) *Funnel plots for comparing institutional performance* Statistics in Medicine 24 1185-1202.

⁷ Reconviction rates are standardised using a logistic regression model with the following predictors: Copas rate, number of previous convictions, number of previous offences and CJA. The Copas rate is a single measure which reflects the intensity and length of the offender’s criminal career (expressed as $\log(\text{number of sanction occasions} / (10 + \text{years between first and current sanction}))$).

Table 1 One year reconviction frequency rates and one year reconviction rates: 1997-98 to 2008-09 cohorts

(see note 1)

Overall cohort	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate²	Reconviction frequency rate²
1997-98	53,453	31.8	61.5
1998-99	49,133	31.8	61.8
1999-00	44,202	31.3	58.9
2000-01	41,568	31.8	59.7
2001-02	43,644	32.4	62.8
2002-03	44,854	32.9	63.9
2003-04	46,931	32.7	62.0
2004-05	49,283	32.5	61.1
2005-06	50,247	32.5	60.1
2006-07	53,247	32.4	59.7
2007-08	52,983	31.2	57.1
2008-09	49,613	31.0	57.9

1. The number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.
2. The definition of reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate is described in section 6.2.1
3. Figures for previous cohorts may differ from previously published figures as updated information is fed into the Scottish Offenders Index.

Table 2 One year reconviction frequency rates and one year reconviction rates, by age
(see note 1)

Age: under 21	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate²	Reconviction frequency rate²
1997-98	13,792	42.4	93.4
1998-99	12,983	42.1	92.1
1999-00	11,783	41.0	87.4
2000-01	11,007	41.5	87.3
2001-02	11,230	41.2	89.1
2002-03	11,060	41.3	88.4
2003-04	11,318	40.6	81.7
2004-05	11,656	39.4	79.5
2005-06	12,111	41.4	80.1
2006-07	12,680	40.6	78.2
2007-08	12,395	38.2	71.8
2008-09	10,754	37.4	70.3
Age: 21 to 25			
1997-98	12,185	34.1	63.1
1998-99	10,762	34.4	65.9
1999-00	9,449	34.5	63.9
2000-01	8,992	35.5	66.1
2001-02	9,476	36.5	71.3
2002-03	9,927	37.1	73.8
2003-04	10,332	36.4	72.0
2004-05	10,587	36.5	70.6
2005-06	10,578	35.2	67.9
2006-07	11,235	35.3	66.3
2007-08	11,124	34.2	62.6
2008-09	10,097	33.8	63.1
Age: 26 to 30			
1997-98	9,596	30.3	54.4
1998-99	8,670	30.4	54.3
1999-00	7,450	31.5	55.1
2000-01	6,943	31.2	56.2
2001-02	7,167	33.3	61.8
2002-03	7,127	34.5	64.0
2003-04	7,252	35.6	65.6
2004-05	7,521	34.6	65.9
2005-06	7,580	34.8	64.1
2006-07	8,005	34.7	64.7
2007-08	8,244	33.5	62.5
2008-09	7,984	34.3	65.9
Age: over 30			
1997-98	17,880	22.8	39.7
1998-99	16,718	22.9	39.5
1999-00	15,520	21.8	36.1
2000-01	14,626	22.4	36.6
2001-02	15,771	23.1	39.3
2002-03	16,740	24.1	41.7
2003-04	18,029	24.4	42.5
2004-05	19,519	25.3	43.2
2005-06	19,978	24.8	42.3
2006-07	21,327	25.2	43.4
2007-08	21,220	24.7	43.4
2008-09	20,778	25.2	46.0

1. The number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.

2. The definition of reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate is described in section 6.2.1

Table 3 One year reconviction frequency rates and one year reconviction rates, males by age
(see note 1)

Age: under 21	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate²	Reconviction frequency rate²
1997-98	12,083	44.1	97.5
1998-99	11,286	43.9	95.6
1999-00	10,201	42.6	90.2
2000-01	9,602	42.6	89.3
2001-02	9,784	42.7	92.2
2002-03	9,622	42.9	91.6
2003-04	9,812	42.2	84.2
2004-05	10,165	41.1	82.8
2005-06	10,486	43.3	84.4
2006-07	10,986	42.3	81.8
2007-08	10,672	39.7	74.9
2008-09	9,230	39.1	73.7
Age: 21 to 25			
1997-98	10,561	34.8	62.4
1998-99	9,214	35.0	65.8
1999-00	8,036	35.2	65.1
2000-01	7,694	36.1	67.5
2001-02	8,092	37.2	72.2
2002-03	8,446	37.8	75.0
2003-04	8,780	37.0	72.4
2004-05	8,938	36.8	70.8
2005-06	8,997	35.9	68.1
2006-07	9,580	35.9	66.5
2007-08	9,413	34.9	62.8
2008-09	8,545	34.7	63.5
Age: 26 to 30			
1997-98	8,148	30.7	54.0
1998-99	7,346	30.8	55.0
1999-00	6,305	31.8	55.1
2000-01	5,819	31.8	57.3
2001-02	6,009	34.1	63.7
2002-03	5,970	35.4	66.1
2003-04	5,989	36.6	67.7
2004-05	6,251	34.8	66.7
2005-06	6,222	35.5	65.3
2006-07	6,637	35.2	66.5
2007-08	6,832	34.1	63.8
2008-09	6,565	34.9	67.1
Age: over 30			
1997-98	14,929	23.5	41.1
1998-99	13,991	23.6	40.7
1999-00	13,013	22.5	37.4
2000-01	12,160	23.2	38.4
2001-02	13,083	23.7	40.4
2002-03	13,742	24.6	42.6
2003-04	14,879	25.0	43.7
2004-05	16,081	25.9	44.2
2005-06	16,423	25.7	44.0
2006-07	17,505	25.8	44.7
2007-08	17,408	25.3	44.9
2008-09	17,045	25.8	46.9

1. The number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.

2. The definition of reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate is described in section 6.2.1

Table 4 One year reconviction frequency rates and one year reconviction rates, females by age
(see note 1)

Age: under 21	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate²	Reconviction frequency rate²
1997-98	1,724	29.6	64.0
1998-99	1,705	29.9	68.6
1999-00	1,594	30.3	68.5
2000-01	1,409	33.9	73.8
2001-02	1,461	31.2	67.1
2002-03	1,442	30.2	67.1
2003-04	1,509	30.2	65.3
2004-05	1,491	28.4	57.5
2005-06	1,628	28.6	52.1
2006-07	1,695	29.5	54.5
2007-08	1,727	28.6	52.7
2008-09	1,525	26.5	49.5
Age: 21 to 25			
1997-98	1,636	29.6	67.3
1998-99	1,558	30.3	66.4
1999-00	1,425	30.5	56.8
2000-01	1,306	31.9	57.5
2001-02	1,388	32.3	65.9
2002-03	1,487	33.2	67.0
2003-04	1,555	33.1	69.4
2004-05	1,653	34.8	69.1
2005-06	1,584	31.1	66.8
2006-07	1,656	31.5	65.7
2007-08	1,712	30.4	61.7
2008-09	1,553	28.3	60.5
Age: 26 to 30			
1997-98	1,456	28.0	56.7
1998-99	1,331	27.6	49.9
1999-00	1,152	29.6	54.9
2000-01	1,131	28.0	50.0
2001-02	1,161	28.9	52.0
2002-03	1,162	29.9	53.1
2003-04	1,265	30.8	55.5
2004-05	1,271	33.1	61.8
2005-06	1,362	31.6	58.0
2006-07	1,372	32.1	55.7
2007-08	1,414	30.6	56.0
2008-09	1,419	31.2	60.6
Age: over 30			
1997-98	2,959	19.4	32.7
1998-99	2,735	19.5	33.5
1999-00	2,520	18.1	29.5
2000-01	2,473	18.4	27.8
2001-02	2,697	20.5	33.9
2002-03	3,006	21.8	37.4
2003-04	3,154	21.3	36.9
2004-05	3,444	22.4	38.4
2005-06	3,558	20.9	34.6
2006-07	3,824	22.3	37.4
2007-08	3,813	21.9	36.6
2008-09	3,733	22.1	41.4

1. The number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.

2. The definition of reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate is described in section 6.2.1

Table 5 One year reconviction frequency rates and one year reconviction rates, by disposal
(see note 1)

Discharged from custody	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate²	Reconviction frequency rate²
1997-98	6,123	48.4	103.6
1998-99	5,818	49.1	109.1
1999-00	5,741	46.3	99.2
2000-01	5,576	47.4	99.6
2001-02	5,942	48.0	105.7
2002-03	6,011	49.9	112.6
2003-04	5,874	50.2	111.0
2004-05	6,109	48.0	105.9
2005-06	6,218	47.5	103.6
2006-07	6,889	48.7	106.0
2007-08	7,033	46.9	100.5
2008-09	7,395	46.7	96.0
Community Service Order			
1997-98	3,043	32.0	59.0
1998-99	2,752	31.1	55.7
1999-00	2,493	28.8	49.5
2000-01	2,510	29.4	51.9
2001-02	2,505	29.2	51.4
2002-03	2,700	29.0	51.0
2003-04	2,513	27.7	47.0
2004-05	2,795	30.4	53.4
2005-06	3,271	29.8	51.2
2006-07	3,296	30.0	50.2
2007-08	3,500	28.1	46.3
2008-09	3,727	26.6	42.5
Probation Order			
1997-98	3,042	47.2	111.8
1998-99	3,198	48.2	115.9
1999-00	3,101	46.3	101.0
2000-01	3,139	46.6	106.0
2001-02	3,588	48.4	110.8
2002-03	3,865	49.0	107.9
2003-04	3,909	46.7	99.7
2004-05	4,256	46.5	98.1
2005-06	4,488	45.3	92.8
2006-07	4,314	44.7	90.4
2007-08	4,602	43.0	83.6
2008-09	5,122	43.2	86.0
Restriction of Liberty Order³			
1997-98	0	-	-
1998-99	24	58.3	154.2
1999-00	50	66.0	176.0
2000-01	54	59.3	159.3
2001-02	54	70.4	155.6
2002-03	212	53.3	117.5
2003-04	353	57.8	125.5
2004-05	413	57.4	119.9
2005-06	486	52.1	115.8
2006-07	510	51.2	105.1
2007-08	533	50.7	101.5
2008-09	567	46.4	93.3

(continued on following page)

Table 5 (continued)

Drug Treatment and testing Order⁴			
1997-98	0	-	-
1998-99	0	-	-
1999-00	1	-	-
2000-01	36	58.3	130.6
2001-02	95	74.7	211.6
2002-03	143	75.5	240.6
2003-04	201	79.1	221.4
2004-05	231	78.4	219.9
2005-06	275	69.1	184.0
2006-07	314	73.9	198.1
2007-08	326	70.2	192.3
2008-09	363	63.9	162.3
Monetary disposal			
1997-98	32,897	29.5	54.2
1998-99	29,552	29.4	53.3
1999-00	25,584	28.9	51.8
2000-01	23,817	28.9	50.9
2001-02	24,864	29.0	52.1
2002-03	24,845	29.1	51.7
2003-04	26,686	29.5	51.5
2004-05	27,456	29.2	50.4
2005-06	27,032	29.3	49.5
2006-07	28,496	29.0	48.6
2007-08	27,492	27.5	46.1
2008-09	22,837	26.4	45.9
Other disposal			
1997-98	8,348	23.0	42.3
1998-99	7,789	21.5	38.5
1999-00	7,232	21.7	36.6
2000-01	6,436	22.2	37.1
2001-02	6,596	22.5	39.6
2002-03	7,078	23.0	40.7
2003-04	7,395	22.1	38.9
2004-05	8,023	22.3	39.2
2005-06	8,477	23.7	40.7
2006-07	9,428	23.6	41.7
2007-08	9,497	23.2	40.6
2008-09	9,602	23.0	42.3

1. The number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.

2. The definition of reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate is described in section 6.2.1

3. Restriction of Liberty Orders were not available nationally until 2002.

4. DTTOs were rolled out to Glasgow, Fife and Aberdeen between 1999 and 2002, Edinburgh, Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Tayside in 2002-03 and has been available to almost every court in Scotland since 2005-06.

5. See section 6.4.11 for definitions of the notation used in this table.

Table 6 One year reconviction frequency rates and one year reconviction rates, by crime type
(see note 1)

Violent crime	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate²	Reconviction frequency rate²
1997-98	11,447	25.4	42.5
1998-99	10,857	23.6	39.5
1999-00	10,273	22.9	36.8
2000-01	9,815	23.9	39.0
2001-02	10,452	24.1	40.0
2002-03	11,121	24.8	42.4
2003-04	11,824	25.4	43.0
2004-05	12,656	25.6	44.1
2005-06	13,487	25.4	42.3
2006-07	14,151	26.2	44.4
2007-08	14,474	25.5	42.7
2008-09	14,132	25.9	42.6
Sexual crime			
1997-98	546	10.3	17.0
1998-99	493	13.8	23.5
1999-00	461	9.1	13.0
2000-01	428	13.3	23.1
2001-02	435	11.5	17.7
2002-03	459	12.0	18.5
2003-04	459	9.8	14.8
2004-05	539	10.8	16.3
2005-06	516	11.0	16.3
2006-07	508	15.6	22.2
2007-08	542	13.3	20.3
2008-09	639	12.2	18.2
Dishonesty			
1997-98	15,228	40.3	89.3
1998-99	14,116	41.5	93.9
1999-00	12,679	43.2	95.5
2000-01	11,641	44.0	97.2
2001-02	11,723	45.9	106.4
2002-03	11,553	46.0	105.4
2003-04	10,855	45.8	103.3
2004-05	10,670	45.9	102.5
2005-06	9,899	46.3	102.1
2006-07	9,993	46.6	103.1
2007-08	9,795	44.6	98.9
2008-09	9,543	44.1	101.3
Criminal damage			
1997-98	3,590	28.7	52.4
1998-99	3,329	27.2	48.1
1999-00	2,980	28.5	50.5
2000-01	2,959	28.7	48.2
2001-02	2,984	30.7	53.8
2002-03	3,066	30.5	54.2
2003-04	3,529	29.7	54.9
2004-05	3,640	31.2	55.9
2005-06	3,618	33.0	58.1
2006-07	3,870	32.9	58.9
2007-08	3,891	31.6	54.8
2008-09	3,149	33.3	60.1

(continued on following page)

Table 6 (continued)

Drug offences			
1997-98	5,654	26.3	40.1
1998-99	5,321	27.5	42.5
1999-00	4,836	25.5	37.4
2000-01	4,185	26.1	40.3
2001-02	4,691	25.2	40.9
2002-03	4,671	28.0	45.8
2003-04	5,522	29.3	45.3
2004-05	5,770	28.9	45.3
2005-06	5,788	29.4	46.5
2006-07	6,807	28.0	45.0
2007-08	6,574	27.2	42.0
2008-09	5,689	26.5	42.6
Breach of the peace			
1997-98	13,708	31.5	58.5
1998-99	12,106	31.2	56.7
1999-00	10,317	29.7	52.0
2000-01	9,757	29.7	51.8
2001-02	10,337	30.3	52.9
2002-03	10,846	30.9	55.6
2003-04	11,426	30.9	55.3
2004-05	12,204	31.0	55.0
2005-06	12,918	31.4	55.3
2006-07	13,638	31.0	53.3
2007-08	13,362	30.1	51.9
2008-09	12,118	29.5	52.0
Other crimes and offences			
1997-98	3,280	32.3	65.8
1998-99	2,911	33.8	68.2
1999-00	2,656	30.4	53.5
2000-01	2,783	29.6	50.9
2001-02	3,022	31.2	55.2
2002-03	3,138	32.6	58.4
2003-04	3,316	33.9	59.5
2004-05	3,804	32.0	56.7
2005-06	4,021	32.6	58.4
2006-07	4,280	33.1	58.0
2007-08	4,345	31.3	56.0
2008-09	4,343	30.2	53.2

1. The number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.
2. The definition of reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate is described in section 6.2.1

Table 7 One year reconviction frequency rates and one year reconviction rates, by sentence length
(see note 1)

3 months or less	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate²	Reconviction frequency rate²
1997-98	2,728	56.6	132.4
1998-99	2,552	59.4	142.8
1999-00	2,537	55.5	127.6
2000-01	2,398	58.0	130.4
2001-02	2,456	58.3	137.5
2002-03	2,641	61.4	149.4
2003-04	2,470	63.0	151.1
2004-05	2,561	61.5	144.2
2005-06	2,722	59.1	136.6
2006-07	3,063	60.8	140.5
2007-08	2,869	59.0	134.4
2008-09	2,360	59.1	135.3
Over 3 months to 6 months			
1997-98	1,459	58.0	122.3
1998-99	1,403	57.9	130.9
1999-00	1,331	56.7	123.1
2000-01	1,324	58.0	124.4
2001-02	1,431	57.2	133.2
2002-03	1,379	60.2	137.2
2003-04	1,340	60.0	133.7
2004-05	1,335	57.5	130.9
2005-06	1,365	57.1	131.1
2006-07	1,467	58.1	129.7
2007-08	1,448	58.1	133.6
2008-09	1,894	55.0	116.5
Over 6 months to 2 years			
1997-98	979	35.1	62.5
1998-99	856	34.8	60.9
1999-00	890	35.8	64.4
2000-01	820	35.1	63.3
2001-02	934	36.8	65.4
2002-03	863	33.7	60.5
2003-04	936	35.3	66.2
2004-05	983	34.5	65.9
2005-06	969	35.1	62.5
2006-07	1,083	35.6	65.1
2007-08	1,384	36.5	64.2
2008-09	1,745	41.2	71.5
Over 2 years to less than 4 years			
1997-98	555	25.8	37.8
1998-99	525	25.1	41.7
1999-00	512	21.1	32.4
2000-01	533	21.8	32.3
2001-02	574	28.0	45.6
2002-03	558	27.8	49.8
2003-04	547	27.4	44.2
2004-05	621	24.6	41.9
2005-06	539	21.9	36.2
2006-07	655	25.5	44.7
2007-08	706	25.1	40.4
2008-09	841	26.3	41.9
Over 4 years			
1997-98	402	21.6	31.3
1998-99	482	20.5	27.0
1999-00	471	14.4	17.0
2000-01	501	15.6	17.2
2001-02	547	17.4	23.4
2002-03	570	17.9	22.6
2003-04	581	18.1	22.9
2004-05	609	16.1	19.7
2005-06	623	17.5	21.0
2006-07	621	14.0	16.4
2007-08	626	13.7	16.3
2008-09	555	14.4	18.0

1. The number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.

2. The definition of reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate is described in section 6.2.1

Table 8 One year reconviction frequency rates and one year reconviction rates, by previous convictions
(see note 1 and 2)

No previous convictions	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate ³	Reconviction frequency rate ³
1997-98	19,464	16.6	28.5
1998-99	16,951	16.0	27.4
1999-00	14,738	16.3	26.9
2000-01	13,544	17.1	28.2
2001-02	14,511	17.3	29.8
2002-03	14,545	17.4	29.9
2003-04	15,588	17.4	27.8
2004-05	16,082	17.0	28.2
2005-06	16,684	18.5	29.4
2006-07	17,268	16.8	26.1
2007-08	16,853	15.3	23.9
2008-09	15,246	14.7	22.8
1 or 2 previous convictions			
1997-98	13,741	27.6	49.4
1998-99	12,340	27.0	46.9
1999-00	10,576	25.7	45.0
2000-01	9,941	26.1	44.8
2001-02	10,077	26.8	47.1
2002-03	10,343	26.9	46.1
2003-04	10,787	27.3	46.8
2004-05	11,179	26.8	44.8
2005-06	11,489	27.1	45.9
2006-07	12,460	28.2	46.9
2007-08	12,140	25.4	39.9
2008-09	10,832	24.1	39.1
3 to 10 previous convictions			
1997-98	14,502	42.6	79.9
1998-99	13,771	41.7	78.3
1999-00	12,620	38.7	70.0
2000-01	11,695	38.8	70.1
2001-02	12,162	39.1	73.4
2002-03	12,517	39.3	73.5
2003-04	12,792	38.8	70.9
2004-05	13,457	38.8	68.8
2005-06	13,387	38.2	68.0
2006-07	14,394	38.4	67.7
2007-08	14,605	38.1	66.9
2008-09	13,873	36.3	63.8
Over 10 previous convictions			
1997-98	5,746	65.8	156.0
1998-99	6,071	63.3	150.7
1999-00	6,268	60.9	135.4
2000-01	6,388	58.9	130.6
2001-02	6,894	60.2	136.3
2002-03	7,449	60.6	138.6
2003-04	7,764	60.7	137.1
2004-05	8,565	58.9	132.3
2005-06	8,687	57.8	125.4
2006-07	9,125	58.3	128.2
2007-08	9,385	56.7	123.6
2008-09	9,662	57.1	125.9

1. The number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.

2. Convictions since start of 1989.

3. The definition of reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate is described in section 6.2.1

Table 9 One year reconviction frequency rates and one year reconviction rates, by previous custodial convictions
(see note 1 and 2)

No previous convictions	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate ³	Reconviction frequency rate ³
1997-98	43,280	26.0	46.4
1998-99	38,997	25.5	45.2
1999-00	34,336	24.9	43.1
2000-01	32,019	25.6	44.4
2001-02	33,586	26.0	46.2
2002-03	34,182	26.1	45.8
2003-04	35,814	25.9	44.3
2004-05	37,352	25.7	43.8
2005-06	38,463	26.2	44.2
2006-07	40,719	26.0	43.4
2007-08	40,085	24.4	40.0
2008-09	36,516	23.4	38.8
1 or 2 previous convictions			
1997-98	4,717	46.6	96.2
1998-99	4,499	47.2	94.8
1999-00	4,330	44.2	87.4
2000-01	4,052	41.7	80.4
2001-02	4,153	43.3	87.9
2002-03	4,438	45.0	90.0
2003-04	4,566	43.2	85.1
2004-05	4,816	43.4	82.9
2005-06	4,834	43.3	80.8
2006-07	5,068	42.3	80.6
2007-08	5,273	42.0	77.1
2008-09	5,198	41.7	79.8
3 to 10 previous convictions			
1997-98	4,158	60.7	133.9
1998-99	4,208	58.4	133.0
1999-00	3,992	57.2	119.5
2000-01	3,976	56.6	118.7
2001-02	4,131	56.5	121.4
2002-03	4,336	56.9	125.9
2003-04	4,486	58.1	124.7
2004-05	4,841	56.4	118.4
2005-06	4,595	55.6	113.6
2006-07	4,996	55.8	114.5
2007-08	5,004	55.7	115.4
2008-09	5,182	54.7	111.5
Over 10 previous convictions			
1997-98	1,298	77.0	207.5
1998-99	1,429	75.9	201.9
1999-00	1,544	69.8	173.8
2000-01	1,521	69.4	171.9
2001-02	1,774	70.4	180.1
2002-03	1,898	71.9	187.0
2003-04	2,065	71.4	182.1
2004-05	2,274	68.8	178.0
2005-06	2,355	68.1	171.7
2006-07	2,464	70.1	176.0
2007-08	2,621	66.5	166.0
2008-09	2,717	68.0	171.2

1. The number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.

2. Convictions since start of 1989.

3. The definition of reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate is described in section 6.2.1

Table 10 One year reconviction frequency rates and one year reconviction rates, by previous community convictions
(see note 1, 2 and 3)

No previous convictions	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate ⁴	Reconviction frequency rate ⁴
1997-98	40,410	25.0	44.9
1998-99	35,981	24.4	43.1
1999-00	31,209	23.4	39.9
2000-01	28,826	23.8	40.6
2001-02	29,960	24.1	41.8
2002-03	30,413	24.1	41.8
2003-04	31,743	23.8	39.9
2004-05	32,619	23.6	39.4
2005-06	33,313	23.8	39.2
2006-07	34,917	23.4	38.0
2007-08	34,096	21.7	34.6
2008-09	30,683	20.5	33.1
1 or 2 previous convictions			
1997-98	9,474	48.6	100.7
1998-99	9,405	48.2	99.0
1999-00	8,925	45.3	90.1
2000-01	8,538	45.4	88.7
2001-02	9,069	44.8	90.9
2002-03	9,208	45.2	90.4
2003-04	9,431	45.4	89.7
2004-05	10,296	43.6	84.6
2005-06	10,218	43.0	82.4
2006-07	11,044	43.3	81.5
2007-08	11,283	41.6	76.5
2008-09	11,021	40.8	76.0
3 to 10 previous convictions			
1997-98	3,494	63.5	144.6
1998-99	3,655	61.3	145.3
1999-00	3,965	60.3	135.3
2000-01	4,065	57.8	128.0
2001-02	4,426	61.0	140.0
2002-03	5,016	61.7	142.3
2003-04	5,492	60.3	135.1
2004-05	6,026	59.5	132.2
2005-06	6,315	58.9	128.1
2006-07	6,816	58.0	128.1
2007-08	7,127	57.7	125.4
2008-09	7,331	57.4	126.1
Over 10 previous convictions			
1997-98	75	73.3	233.3
1998-99	92	82.6	247.8
1999-00	103	73.8	196.1
2000-01	139	79.1	233.8
2001-02	189	73.0	220.1
2002-03	217	70.5	214.7
2003-04	265	73.6	209.8
2004-05	342	67.8	174.0
2005-06	401	66.8	158.6
2006-07	470	71.9	169.6
2007-08	477	69.4	182.0
2008-09	578	67.5	166.6

1. The number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.

2. Convictions since start of 1989.

3. Convictions resulting in a Community Service Order, Probation Order, Restriction of Liberty Order or Drug Treatment and Testing Order.

4. The definition of reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate is described in section 6.2.1

Table 11 One year reconviction rates by offender characteristics: 2007-08 cohort

Index disposal in 2007-08 by age	Percentage of Male offenders reconvicted				Percentage of Female offenders reconvicted			
	Number of previous convictions				Number of previous convictions			
	None	1 or 2	3 to 10	Over 10	None	1 or 2	3 to 10	Over 10
All	16	26	38	57	12	24	40	55
under 21	27	44	61	78	20	39	59	73
21 to 25	12	26	45	70	12	27	50	71
26 to 30	9	16	34	62	9	24	40	63
over 30	7	13	27	49	7	17	32	46
Discharged from custody	13	26	44	63	**	34	43	62
under 21	31	43	64	73	**	**	67	**
21 to 25	10	29	48	71	**	**	47	71
26 to 30	**	**	39	66	**	**	41	67
over 30	5	14	28	56	**	**	34	52
Community Service Order	17	26	36	56	8	15	36	54
under 21	25	42	57	80	**	**	**	-
21 to 25	16	24	42	79	**	**	**	-
26 to 30	13	17	28	57	**	**	**	**
over 30	5	9	24	46	**	**	23	53
Probation Order	30	41	46	58	24	36	48	57
under 21	46	60	65	91	35	54	66	-
21 to 25	21	44	52	74	**	27	53	80
26 to 30	19	30	36	58	**	45	40	72
over 30	6	19	36	51	13	24	44	45
Restriction of Liberty Order	37	49	54	64	**	**	56	**
under 21	38	58	71	77	**	**	**	**
21 to 25	**	**	56	74	-	**	**	**
26 to 30	**	**	**	64	-	**	**	**
over 30	**	**	42	56	-	-	-	-
Drug Treatment and Testing Order	-	**	57	77	**	**	62	74
under 21	-	-	**	**	**	**	**	**
21 to 25	-	**	74	88	**	**	**	**
26 to 30	-	**	60	88	-	**	**	85
over 30	-	-	**	65	-	-	**	**
Monetary	16	24	35	51	12	25	38	56
under 21	25	41	56	78	18	39	57	**
21 to 25	12	25	43	66	11	29	52	70
26 to 30	8	16	33	58	10	24	39	58
over 30	7	13	26	45	7	18	32	51
Other	14	20	33	50	11	18	35	47
under 21	23	42	63	91	18	30	42	-
21 to 25	11	23	41	62	13	22	45	69
26 to 30	9	13	35	56	**	14	38	59
over 30	6	10	22	43	6	13	29	35

1. Convictions since the start of 1989.

2. See Section 6.4.11 of the statistical bulletin for definitions of the notation used in this table.

Table 12 One year reconviction rates by offender characteristics: 2008-09 cohort

Index disposal in 2008-09 by age	Percentage of Male offenders reconvicted				Percentage of Female offenders reconvicted			
	Number of previous convictions				Number of previous convictions			
	None	1 or 2	3 to 10	Over 10	None	1 or 2	3 to 10	Over 10
All	16	24	36	57	11	25	36	56
under 21	26	42	59	76	18	35	51	80
21 to 25	12	25	43	68	10	26	43	71
26 to 30	11	16	34	61	7	28	39	59
over 30	7	12	25	51	7	18	30	49
Discharged from custody	15	24	43	64	**	23	39	63
under 21	32	43	62	75	**	**	**	83
21 to 25	10	24	47	69	**	**	41	66
26 to 30	**	18	37	65	**	**	33	66
over 30	7	9	28	59	**	**	37	57
Community Service Order	18	23	34	51	6	22	40	50
under 21	27	39	58	69	**	50	**	-
21 to 25	15	21	36	67	**	**	**	-
26 to 30	11	13	28	48	**	**	**	**
over 30	7	12	23	45	**	**	30	**
Probation Order	31	39	44	62	25	39	46	64
under 21	45	62	67	79	35	45	65	**
21 to 25	13	30	54	79	33	41	47	88
26 to 30	23	29	36	63	**	43	49	61
over 30	9	18	30	56	**	31	41	56
Restriction of Liberty Order	43	42	45	57	**	57	**	**
under 21	49	51	63	**	**	**	-	-
21 to 25	**	**	35	78	**	-	-	-
26 to 30	-	**	**	62	-	-	-	**
over 30	-	**	37	40	**	**	**	**
Drug Treatment and Testing Order	**	**	62	69	**	**	63	63
under 21	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	-
21 to 25	-	-	81	84	-	**	**	**
26 to 30	-	**	64	79	-	**	**	**
over 30	-	-	**	59	**	**	**	63
Monetary	15	22	33	52	10	22	34	52
under 21	23	38	53	80	17	29	52	**
21 to 25	12	25	41	65	9	23	48	71
26 to 30	11	14	33	57	7	29	34	58
over 30	7	12	25	46	8	17	28	45
Other	13	21	31	49	9	21	31	52
under 21	21	39	56	68	13	32	40	-
21 to 25	11	24	40	58	8	23	36	66
26 to 30	8	14	33	58	8	17	40	57
over 30	7	13	20	43	6	19	22	45

1. Convictions since the start of 1989.

2. See Section 6.4.11 of the statistical bulletin for definitions of the notation used in this table.

Table 13 One year reconviction frequency rates and one year reconviction rates, by CJA and LA: 2007-08 cohort
(see note 1)

Community Justice Authority	Local Authority ⁽²⁾	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate ⁽³⁾	Reconviction frequency rate ⁽³⁾	
Scotland⁽⁴⁾		52,981	31.2	57.1	
Fife & Forth Valley	All	5,993	33.5	63.2	
	Clackmannanshire	584	37.3	78.1	
	Falkirk	1,582	35.6	67.8	
	Fife	2,787	31.2	57.8	
	Stirling	1,040	34.4	62.1	
Glasgow	All	11,061	31.9	60.0	
	Glasgow City ⁽⁵⁾	11,061	31.9	60.0	
Lanarkshire	All	5,818	30.3	52.3	
	North and South Lanarkshire ⁽⁶⁾	5,818	30.3	52.3	
Lothian & Borders	All	7,861	27.1	47.7	
	East Lothian	539	26.7	42.1	
	Edinburgh and Midlothian ⁽⁷⁾	5,117	26.8	48.8	
	Scottish Borders	1,029	29.1	48.7	
	West Lothian	1,176	26.9	44.4	
Northern	All	7,270	31.4	59.0	
	Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire ⁽⁸⁾	3,501	33.5	68.2	
	Eilean Siar	225	31.6	50.2	
	Highland	2,496	29.4	50.4	
	Moray	759	30.7	52.3	
	Orkney Islands	94	27.7	53.2	
	Shetland Islands	195	24.1	41.5	
	North Strathclyde⁽⁹⁾	All	4,662	31.9	54.3
		Argyll & Bute	623	29.1	44.1
East and West Dunbartonshire ⁽¹⁰⁾		1,316	33.1	57.8	
East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire ⁽¹¹⁾		1,864	32.9	57.7	
Inverclyde		859	30.2	49.0	
South West Scotland	All	6,235	31.5	55.8	
	Dumfries & Galloway	1,597	31.1	57.2	
	East, North and South Ayrshire ⁽¹²⁾	4,638	31.7	55.3	
Tayside	All	4,075	33.7	67.0	
	Angus	916	29.7	56.3	
	Dundee City	2,098	37.5	77.9	
	Perth & Kinross	1,061	29.5	54.8	
Unknown	All	6	-	-	
	Unknown ⁽¹³⁾	6	-	-	

1. The number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.

2. Approximate areas are based on the court of the offenders index conviction. Some Sheriff Court boundaries include more than one local authority area.

3. The definition of reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate is described in section 6.2.1

4. Includes High Court and Remit to High Court.

5. Includes the Stipendiary Magistrates court.

6. North and South Lanarkshire (Airdrie, Hamilton and Lanark Sheriff Courts).

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

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

9. Parts of East Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute are also served by Glasgow Sheriff Court as well as the Sheriff Courts in North Strathclyde. However, since this analysis is based on an approximation of court areas, East Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute have been included with North Strathclyde whilst Glasgow Sheriff Court is included with Glasgow CJA area.

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

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

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

13. There were six offenders for which the court of the index conviction was unknown.

14. See Section 6.4.11 of the statistical bulletin for definitions of the notation used in this table.

Table 14 One year reconviction frequency rates and one year reconviction rates, by CJA and LA: 2008-09 cohort
(see note 1)

Community Justice Authority	Local Authority ⁽²⁾	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate ⁽³⁾	Reconviction frequency rate ⁽³⁾
Scotland⁽⁴⁾		49,612	31.0	57.9
Fife & Forth Valley	All	5,831	32.1	57.9
	Clackmannanshire	616	37.0	70.1
	Falkirk	1,489	32.5	60.3
	Fife	2,850	30.4	53.2
	Stirling	876	33.4	60.8
Glasgow	All	10,040	32.7	63.5
	Glasgow City ⁽⁵⁾	10,040	32.7	63.5
Lanarkshire	All	5,194	30.7	53.9
	North and South Lanarkshire ⁽⁶⁾	5,194	30.7	53.9
Lothian & Borders	All	7,464	27.1	50.0
	East Lothian	609	27.3	49.6
	Edinburgh and Midlothian ⁽⁷⁾	4,820	27.4	52.4
	Scottish Borders	855	27.5	47.0
	West Lothian	1,180	25.7	42.5
Northern	All	7,326	30.4	58.6
	Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire ⁽⁸⁾	3,979	32.1	65.2
	Eilean Siar	162	25.9	38.3
	Highland	2,148	27.8	48.9
	Moray	789	30.3	60.1
	Orkney Islands	100	24.0	41.0
	Shetland Islands	148	29.7	48.6
	All	4,273	29.3	52.6
North Strathclyde⁽⁹⁾	Argyll & Bute	586	27.0	42.5
	East and West Dunbartonshire ⁽¹⁰⁾	1,282	31.7	59.4
	East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire ⁽¹¹⁾	1,621	30.2	55.5
	Inverclyde	784	25.5	43.2
	All	5,903	31.3	55.2
South West Scotland	Dumfries & Galloway	1,609	28.5	53.1
	East, North and South Ayrshire ⁽¹²⁾	4,294	32.4	56.0
	All	3,570	35.8	74.2
Tayside	Angus	859	32.6	67.5
	Dundee City	1,746	39.8	85.5
	Perth & Kinross	965	31.5	59.7
	All	11	54.5	81.8
Unknown	Unknown ⁽¹³⁾	11	54.5	81.8

1. The number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.

2. Approximate areas are based on the court of the offenders index conviction. Some Sheriff Court boundaries include more than one local authority area.

3. The definition of reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate is described in section 6.2.1

4. Includes High Court and Remit to High Court.

5. Includes the Stipendiary Magistrates court.

6. North and South Lanarkshire (Airdrie, Hamilton and Lanark Sheriff Courts).

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

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

9. Parts of East Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute are also served by Glasgow Sheriff Court as well as the Sheriff Courts in North Strathclyde. However, since this analysis is based on an approximation of court areas, East Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute have been included with North Strathclyde whilst Glasgow Sheriff Court is included with Glasgow CJA area.

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

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

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

13. There were 11 offenders for which the court of the index conviction was unknown.

14. See Section 6.4.11 of the statistical bulletin for definitions of the notation used in this table.

Table 15 One year reconviction frequency rates and one year reconviction rates by police force: 2007-08 cohort
(see note 1)

Police Force of Index Conviction	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate⁽²⁾	Reconviction frequency rate⁽²⁾
All	52,981	31.2	57.1
Central	3,256	35.2	67.1
Dumfries & Galloway	1,628	30.8	56.5
Fife	2,827	31.0	57.2
Grampian	4,289	32.9	65.1
Lothian & Borders	7,612	27.6	48.7
Northern	3,023	29.1	49.7
Strathclyde	26,234	31.4	56.3
Tayside	4,107	33.5	66.5
Unknown ⁽³⁾	5	**	**

1. The number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.

2. The definition of reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate is described in section 6.2.1

3. There were five offenders for which the police force of the index conviction was unknown.

4. See Section 6.4.11 of the statistical bulletin for definitions of the notation used in this table.

Table 16 One year reconviction frequency rates and one year reconviction rates by police force: 2008-09 cohort
(see note 1)

Police Force of Index Conviction	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate⁽²⁾	Reconviction frequency rate⁽²⁾
All	49,612	31.0	57.9
Central	3,032	33.5	61.9
Dumfries & Galloway	1,635	28.3	52.5
Fife	2,907	30.4	52.9
Grampian	4,783	31.7	64.1
Lothian & Borders	7,229	27.5	50.9
Northern	2,576	27.6	47.7
Strathclyde	23,841	31.6	58.1
Tayside	3,608	35.6	73.6
Unknown ⁽³⁾	1	**	**

1. The number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.

2. The definition of reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate is described in section 6.2.1

3. There was one offender for which the police force of the index conviction was unknown.

4. See Section 6.4.11 of the statistical bulletin for definitions of the notation used in this table.

Table 17 Two year reconviction frequency rates and two year reconviction rates: 1997-98 to 2007-08 cohorts

(see note 1)

Overall cohort	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate⁽²⁾	Reconviction frequency rate⁽²⁾
1997-98	53,453	42.6	110.0
1998-99	49,133	42.5	107.7
1999-00	44,202	42.9	108.1
2000-01	41,568	43.8	112.9
2001-02	43,644	44.2	115.9
2002-03	44,854	45.3	118.4
2003-04	46,931	44.7	115.1
2004-05	49,283	44.6	113.1
2005-06	50,247	44.9	112.9
2006-07	53,247	44.1	108.7
2007-08	52,983	42.4	104.3

1. The number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.

2. The definition of reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate is described in section 6.2.1

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

Table 18 Two year reconviction rates by index crime: 2007-08 cohort

Index crime 2007-08	Total number (=100%)	Percentage reconvicted within 2 years for:							
		Any crime	Violent Crime	Crimes of indecency	Crimes of dishonesty	Criminal damage	Other	Serious violent crime	Serious crime
All offenders	52,981	43	18	1	15	6	33	4	8
Violent Crime									
Serious assault and homicide	1,536	35	17	*	7	5	25	5	9
Robbery	443	63	32	1	27	10	46	14	22
Simple Assault	12,230	37	20	*	8	6	28	3	6
Other Violence	263	37	16	2	12	5	27	3	6
Crimes of indecency									
Sexual Assault	164	22	5	4	5	1	14	1	4
Other indecency	402	22	8	7	3	2	15	3	5
Prostitution	104	79	21	48	28	2	58	7	11
Crimes of dishonesty									
Housebreaking	1,035	68	21	*	48	9	45	7	19
Theft OLP	507	64	21	*	43	9	44	6	13
Theft of motor vehicle	545	56	21	*	34	10	40	5	13
Shoplifting	3,897	68	18	1	52	5	46	5	10
Other Theft	1,877	51	16	1	33	6	35	4	10
Fraud	970	22	5	*	13	1	13	1	3
Other Dishonesty	964	40	12	*	25	4	27	3	10
Criminal damage									
Fireraising	164	47	23	1	13	13	33	4	7
Malicious & reckless conduct	3,727	43	22	1	10	11	32	4	7
Other									
Handling offensive weapons	2,609	44	17	*	13	6	36	4	10
Crimes against public justice	1,406	44	15	1	13	4	35	4	10
Drugs	6,574	40	10	*	11	3	33	3	8
Breach of peace	13,362	42	19	1	9	6	34	3	6
Other crime	182	42	25	1	5	5	36	4	5
Other offences	20	35	20	*	10	*	15	*	5

1. See Section 6.4.11 of the statistical bulletin for definitions of the notation used in this table.

2. A more detailed breakdown of the crimes for which the cohort are reconvicted are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.

Table 19 Individuals given police disposals by disposal type, 2008-09
(see note 1)

	Total number (=100%)	Percentage given a non-court ² disposal within:	
		6 months	1 year
Individuals	50,511	17.0	25.3
ASBFPN	38,856	19.3	28.5
Formal Adult Warning	6,758	12.1	18.1
Restorative Justice Warning	2,175	5.1	8.7
Other Police Warnings	279	19.0	25.4
Warning Letter	2,443	5.0	8.9

1. These figures are derived from a dataset which is independent of the dataset on court convictions and therefore do not include court convictions. In future we will investigate ways of incorporating the non-court disposals with the court convictions.
2. Includes any non-court disposal, and therefore could include COPFS disposals as well as police disposals.

Table 20 Individuals given COPFS disposals by disposal type, 2008-09
(see note 1)

	Total number (=100%)	Percentage given a non-court ² disposal within:	
		6 months	1 year
Individuals	52,030	12.5	19.9
Fiscal Fine	29,811	16.0	25.6
Fiscal Fixed Penalty	16,944	5.3	8.8
Fiscal Combined Fine with Compensation	1,148	16.3	24.1
Fiscal Compensation	1,634	17.6	25.6
Fiscal Fixed Penalty (Pre-SJR)	2,493	14.3	20.9

1. These figures are derived from a dataset which is independent of the dataset on court convictions and therefore do not include court convictions. In future we will investigate ways of incorporating the non-court disposals with the court convictions.
2. Includes any non-court disposal, and therefore could include police disposals as well as COPFS disposals.

6 Annex

6.1 The effect of pseudo reconvictions

([Table 21](#) and [22](#))

6.1.1 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. They could potentially have the following effects:

- In theory they may exaggerate the rate of “real” reconvictions to some extent;
- They will have a greater impact on reconviction rates with shorter follow-up periods. For instance, marked differences will be seen for a 6-month reconviction period, but there will be a less marked difference for a 2-year reconviction period;
- They will also complicate comparisons between reconviction rates for different types of disposal as they will tend to have less impact on the reconviction rates for offenders who are discharged from a long custodial sentence compared to those given non-custodial sentences; and
- They will also 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.

6.1.2 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 outwith this period and are therefore currently excluded from the calculation. Excluding both cases is likely to result in a downward bias of the estimate, and we are currently assessing the feasibility of moving to a reconviction indicator based on proven reoffending, similar to the approach adopted by the Ministry of Justice (see Appendix C in [Adult re-convictions: results from the 2009 cohort \(England and Wales\)](#) for further details of this methodology). One year and two year reconviction frequency rates and reconviction without pseudo reconvictions are shown in [Table 21](#) and [Table 22](#) for the purposes of illustration, although these figures should be treated with caution.

Overall reconviction frequency rates and reconviction rates excluding pseudo reconvictions

6.1.3 When pseudo reconvictions are excluded, the one year 2008-09 reconviction frequency rate is 41.3 and the one year reconviction rate is 23.8 per cent ([Table 21](#)). This compares with a reconviction frequency rate of 57.9 and a reconviction rate of 31.0 per cent when pseudo reconvictions are included ([Table 1](#)).

6.1.4 When pseudo reconvictions are excluded, the two year 2007-08 reconviction frequency rate is 81.3 and the two year reconviction rate is 35.5 per cent ([Table 22](#)). This compares with a reconviction frequency rate of 104.3 and a reconviction rate of 42.4 per cent when pseudo reconvictions are included ([Table 17](#)).

Table 21 One year reconviction frequency rates and one year reconviction rates (excluding pseudo): 2003-04 to 2008-09 cohorts
(see note 1)

Overall cohort	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate⁽²⁾	Reconviction frequency rate⁽²⁾
2003-04	46,931	20.4	33.9
2004-05	49,283	20.6	34.3
2005-06	50,247	21.9	36.3
2006-07	53,247	21.8	36.2
2007-08	52,983	21.6	36.0
2008-09	49,613	23.8	41.3

1. The number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.

2. The definition of reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate is described in section 6.2.1

Table 22 Two year reconviction frequency rates and two year reconviction rates (excluding pseudo): 2003-04 to 2007-08 cohorts
(see note 1)

Overall cohort	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate⁽²⁾	Reconviction frequency rate⁽²⁾
2003-04	46,931	36.1	83.7
2004-05	49,283	36.4	83.1
2005-06	50,247	37.8	86.4
2006-07	53,247	36.7	82.9
2007-08	52,983	35.5	81.3

1. The number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.

2. The definition of reconviction frequency rate and reconviction rate is described in section 6.2.1

6.2 Background and methodology

6.2.1 The Scottish Offenders Index (SOI) currently contains data on 450,000 offenders and 1,700,000 convictions since SOI records began in 1989. According to earlier analyses of this dataset, 84 per cent of offenders were male. Fifty-seven per cent of convictions recorded on the SOI are accounted for by 15 per cent of offenders who each had 6 or more convictions. Only 17 per cent of male offenders and 6 per cent of female offenders present on the SOI had received one or more custodial convictions since 1989, whereas 80 per cent of males and 66 per cent of females had received more than one fine or other monetary penalty.

Definitions

The following terminology is applied throughout the bulletin:

Index conviction – in the case of a court disposal, the conviction that resulted in a non-custodial sentence being imposed or the one which had originally led to a custodial sentence being served. In the case of a non-court disposal, the police or COPFS disposal imposed.

Relevant date of the index conviction – in the case of a court disposal, the sentence date for non-custodial sentences or the estimated date of discharge from custody for custodial convictions.

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

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

Index crime – the main offence for which the offender was convicted.

Previous convictions – convictions preceding the index convictions.

Reconvictions – convictions after the relevant date of the index conviction.

Custodial reconviction – that which results in a custodial sentence being imposed.

Reconviction frequency rate – the average number of reconvictions within a specified follow up period from the date of the index conviction per 100 offenders. Unless stated otherwise the reconviction frequency rates that are quoted in this bulletin are for a follow-up period of one year.

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

6.2.2 Information on **convictions** and **reconvictions** is not the same thing as information on **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 a report being sent to the Procurator Fiscal. 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. Where persons are prosecuted, the proceedings may end up being dropped, e.g. witnesses fail to turn up, or accused is acquitted. Convictions and reconvictions are therefore a subset of actual offending and reoffending, and reconviction rates only a proxy measure of reoffending rates.

6.2.3 The Scottish Prison Service has previously published annual return to custody information by gender, type of offender, age of offender, type of offence, length of time in prison prior to release and the time between release and subsequent return for those offenders who return to prison within the follow up period. This information can be accessed via their website at www.sps.gov.uk.

6.3 Sources of information

6.3.1 Information presented in this bulletin is based on data held in the SOI, which is in turn derived from information held on the Criminal History System (CHS) at the Scottish Police Services Authority (SPSA). It currently contains a record of criminal proceedings against individuals (excluding companies) in Scottish courts. The data currently covers all convictions where sentence was imposed in the period beginning 1989 and the main offence involved was a crime in Groups 1-5 of the Scottish Government's classification of crimes and offences or the offences of common assault, breach of the peace, racially aggravated harassment or conduct, miscellaneous firearms offences and social security offences. Groups 1-5 of the Scottish Government's classification covers non-sexual crimes of violence, crimes of indecency, crimes involving dishonesty, fire-raising and vandalism, and other crimes.

6.3.2 The CHS is not designed for statistical purposes. It is dependent on receiving timely information from the courts and police force records offices and it should be noted that some types of outcome, such as acquittals, 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 as made available to and recorded at SPSA, and as supplied to the Scottish Government by the end of August 2010 (note: this is not the expected date of March 2010, the end of the financial year, because it is important to take account of "late" convictions for 2009-10 which take time to be captured on the CHS).

6.3.3 Each record on the SOI database includes information on the sex and age 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 personal information on offenders is not held).

6.3.4 While virtually all convictions since 1989, for crimes listed in [section 6.3.1](#), are covered by the SOI, other types of conviction are not. These include convictions for motor vehicle and most minor statutory and common law offences, convictions in courts outwith Scotland, convictions prior to 1989, and any relevant convictions not recorded by SPSA by the end of August 2009

6.3.5 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.

6.3.6 The method described in [section 6.4.10](#) cannot be used to accurately identify the release date for offenders serving life sentences or, in some instances, very lengthy determinate sentences. This category of offender will therefore 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 (only around 50 offenders receive such sentences each year) 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 a quarter of the 491 life sentence prisoners released on licence were reconvicted.

6.4 Counting rules, data definitions and notation

Counting rules

6.4.1 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.

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

6.4.3 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.

6.4.4 Where a person is convicted for more than one charge, then it is the main offence which is recorded in the SOI. The main offence is taken to be the charge receiving the severest penalty. If more than one charge receives the same (or a combined) penalty, then the main offence is the one judged to be the most serious based on the Scottish Government's classification of crimes and offences. In the analysis of reconvictions presented in this bulletin, where an offender was sentenced for a bail-related offence (such as "failure to appear") and other offences on the same day, then the most serious of the latter is taken as being the main offence (even where the bail offence had attracted the heaviest penalty).

6.4.5 The police record very detailed information on statutory offences but this does not always correspond exactly to the Scottish Government classification of crimes and offences. The most important example in numerical terms is an offence under Section 41(1)(a) of the Police (Scotland) Act 1967. This offence relates to "any person who assaults, resists, obstructs, molests or hinders a constable..". Scottish Government classification divides this into 3 categories - resisting arrest, serious assault and simple assault, but this distinction is not made by the courts. The majority of such cases are thought to have been classed as common assault, and all the offences under this subsection have been so classified from 1988 onwards. Only a minimal number of cases are affected by other instances of this type of problem.

6.4.6 In order to analyse reconvictions, a decision has to be made as to which of an individual's convictions in a series is to be taken as a reference point, or index conviction. That is, the conviction before which all convictions are counted as previous convictions, and after which are counted as reconvictions. In this bulletin, the rule for choosing the index conviction is: (a) the first occasion in the year in question on which an individual was given a non-custodial sentence, (b) the first date at which an individual was estimated to have been released from prison from a custodial sentence, or (c) the first occasion in the year in question on which an individual was given a non-court disposal, whichever occurred first. This is defined to be the offender's index conviction. The crime and sentence involved in this index conviction are referred to throughout this bulletin as the index crime and index

disposal respectively. The analysis then considers the proportion of these individuals who are reconvicted within one and two years from the date of sentence or the estimated prison release date, i.e. from the relevant date of the index conviction. Convictions for a court or bail related offence, 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 non-court related conviction was taken instead. Where an individual had no further convictions in the year for non-court related crimes they are not included in the data set.

6.4.7 Where there is a choice of more than one index conviction for an individual, i.e. where they received more than one sentence disposal on the same day, then the one selected is by reference to a) the most severe form of sentence, and then b) the most serious main offence.

Data definitions

6.4.8 Crimes and offences and sentence type have been grouped in this bulletin as follows.

Crime category	Crimes and offences included
Violent crime	Murder, culpable homicide, attempted murder, serious assault, robbery, common assault, other violence.
Sexual crime	Rape, attempted rape, indecent assault, lewd and libidinous practices, other indecency, breach of a sex offender order. Excludes prostitution offences.
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.
Other crimes and offences	Crimes against public justice, handling offensive weapons, miscellaneous firearm offences, prostitution 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.

Sentence category	Sentences included
Custody	Custodial sentence to prison, young offender's institution or child detention, excluding life and indeterminate sentences.
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, other police warnings.
Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service disposals	Fiscal fines, fiscal fixed penalties.

6.4.9 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 rather than estimated release date is taken.

6.4.10 Information on actual dates of release for prisoners is not currently available for matching with the conviction data held on the Scottish Offenders Index. For the purposes of the analysis in this bulletin, the date of release for offenders given a custodial sentence has therefore 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 the offender may be serving other custodial sentences, for example. 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 [Section 6.3.6](#).

Notation

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

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

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Correspondence and enquiries

Enquiries on this publication should be addressed to:

Ian Morton
Justice Analytical Services
Justice and Communities Directorate
2WR, St. Andrews House
Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
Telephone: 0131 244 2752;
Fax: 0131 244 2623
e-mail: Ian.Morton@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

General enquiries on Scottish Government statistics can be addressed to:

Office of the Chief Statistician
Scottish Government
1N.04, St Andrews House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG
Telephone: (0131) 244 0442
e-mail: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

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