

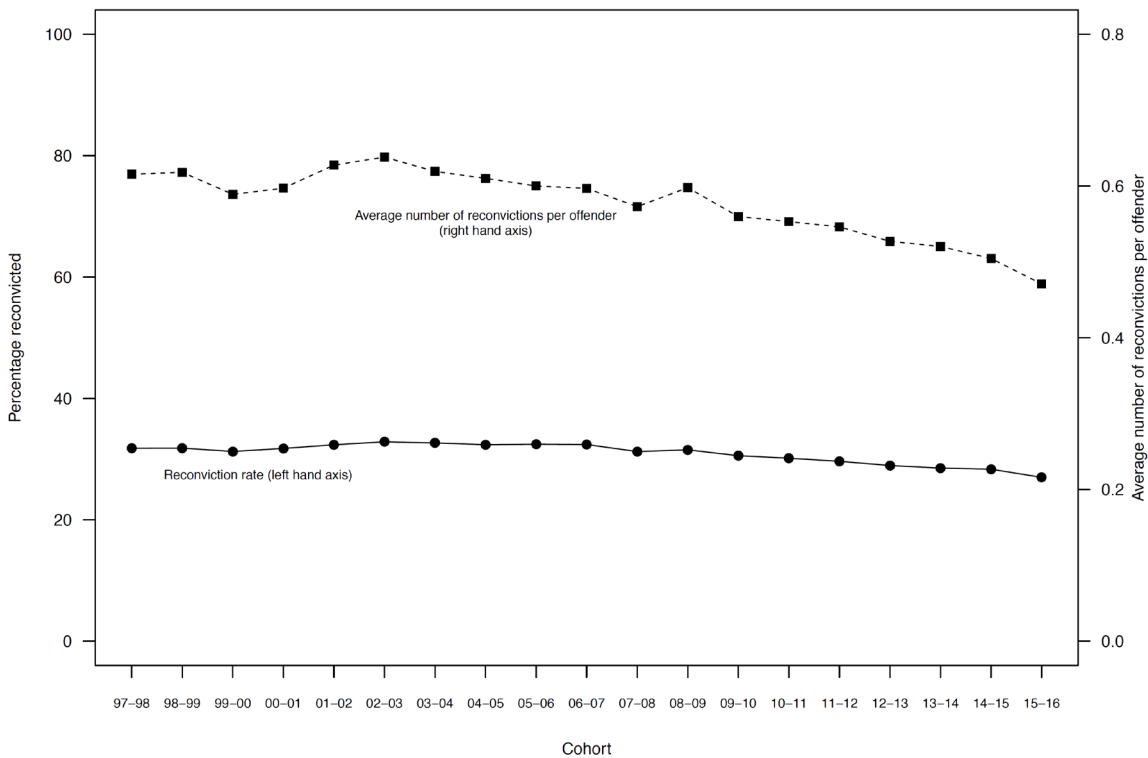
CRIME AND JUSTICE

Reconviction Rates in Scotland: 2015-16 Offender Cohort

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

The reconviction rate, which is the percentage of offenders who are reconvicted, and the average number of reconvictions per offender in 2015-16 have both decreased since 2014-15, continuing a general decrease since 2003-04. Between 2014-15 and 2015-16, the reconviction rate decreased by 1.3 percentage points, from 28.3% to 27.0% and the average number of reconvictions per offender decreased by 6%, from 0.50 to 0.47 ([Chart 1](#) and [Table 1](#)).

Chart 1: Reconviction rate and the average number of reconvictions per offender: 1997-98 to 2015-16 cohort



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RECONVICTION RATES IN SCOTLAND: 2015-2016 OFFENDER COHORT



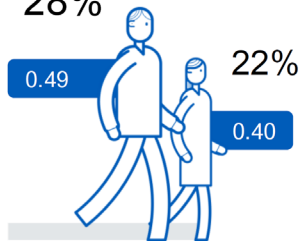
▶ In 2015-16, 1 in 4 (27%) offenders were reconvicted within a year



▶ Men are reconvicted more than women:

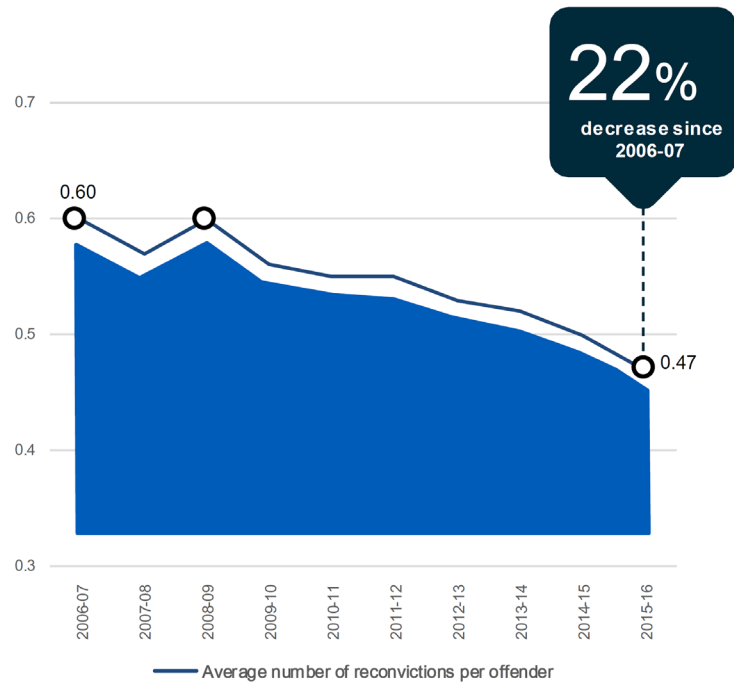
RECONVICTION RATE

28%



● Average number of reconvictions per offender

▶ RECONVICTIONS HAVE DECREASED IN THE PAST DECADE

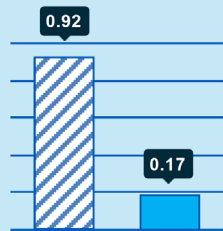


○ Average number of reconvictions per offender

▼ Average number of reconvictions per offender

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

☐ Offenders who commit a sexual crime have the lowest



2015-16

▼ Of the 41,612 offenders convicted in 2016-17:

65%

had at least one previous conviction in the past 10 years



13%

had over 10 previous convictions in the past 10 years



RECONVICTION RATES IN SCOTLAND: 2015-16 OFFENDER COHORT

Justice Analytical Services

Key points

- Both the reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender have generally decreased over the past decade. Over the past 10 years between 2006-07 and 2015-16, the reconviction rate decreased by 5.4 percentage points from 32.4% to 27.0%. In the same period, the average number of reconvictions per offender decreased by 22% from 0.60 to 0.47 ([Table 1](#)).
- Male offenders are reconvicted more often, on average, than female offenders. In 2015-16, the average number of reconvictions per offender for male offenders was 0.49 which is 23% higher than the value of 0.40 for female offenders. Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions for males and females both decreased between 2014-15 and 2015-16 ([Table 2](#)).
- For all age groups the reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions decreased between 2014-15 and 2015-16 ([Table 3](#)).
- As in previous years, offenders who commit a crime of dishonesty have the highest average number of reconvictions per offender (0.92 in 2015-16), compared to offenders that committed other crimes. Offenders who commit a sexual crime have the lowest (0.17 in 2015-16) ([Table 6](#)).
- Many offenders were reconvicted for different types of crimes to their index crimes which suggests that offenders do not necessarily specialise on a particular type of crime ([Table 7](#)).
- Offenders released from a custodial sentence had an average number of reconvictions per offender of 0.86 in 2015-16, which was slightly lower than 0.89 in 2014-15 ([Table 8](#)). Short custodial sentences have higher numbers of reconvictions than longer sentences. This is largely because offenders who are given shorter sentences commit relatively low level crimes such as shoplifting, and tend to commit these crimes in higher volumes than those committing more serious crimes, and so they are reconvicted more often. In 2015-16 the average number of reconvictions for custodial sentences under 3 months was 1.26, compared to 0.10 for sentences over 4 years ([Table 9](#)).
- The reconviction rate for CPOs, the most commonly used community sentence, was 30.8% in 2015-16, which was a decrease of 2.1 percentage points from 32.9% 2014-15. The average number of reconvictions per offender for CPOs also fell over the past year from 0.59 to 0.54, a decrease of 8% ([Table 8](#)).
- Of the 41,612 individuals convicted at least once in 2016-17, 65% had at least one prior conviction in the previous ten years, whilst 13% had over ten previous convictions ([Table 20](#)).
- 18.6% of individuals in 2015-16 who received a non-court disposal from the police, such as a warning or fine, went on to receive another non-court disposal within a year. In the same year, 15.1% of individuals who received a non-court disposal from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service went on to receive another non-court disposal within a year ([Table 18](#)).

Introduction

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

Changes made to this year's report

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

- Reconviction rates for extended sentences and supervised release orders have been published separately from other custodial sentences ([Table 8](#)).
- New experimental statistics showing the reconviction rate by offender's local authority of residence have been included ([Table 12](#)).
- Inclusion of the recently introduced Recorded Police Warning non-court disposal ([Table 14](#)).
- New tables have been added that show breakdowns by age and gender for repeat non-court disposals (Tables [16](#), [17](#), and [18](#)).

Background

This publication presents information on reconviction rates and repeat non-court disposals for cohorts of offenders from 1997-98 up to the latest cohort of 2015-16. Cohorts include offenders with an [‘index conviction’ or ‘index non-court disposal’](#) in the particular financial year. Section one of this publication presents reconviction statistics for offenders with court convictions, section two covers repeat instances of individuals dealt with outside of court (non-court disposals), section three presents analyses of reconviction rates by local authority, and section four looks at the number of previous court convictions for offenders convicted in 2016-17.

Recidivism and reconvictions

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

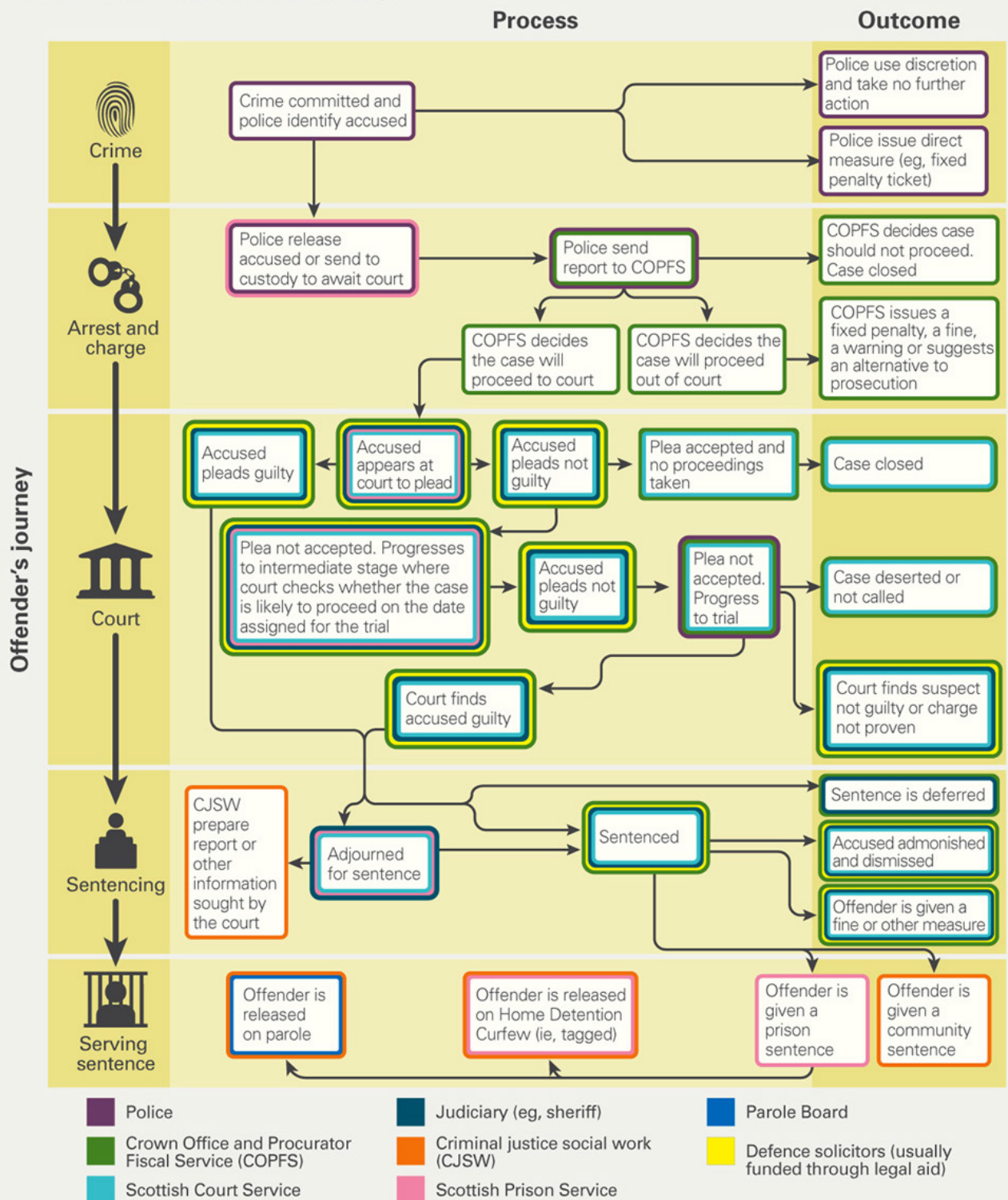
The Scottish justice system

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

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

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

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



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

Index convictions: the reference convictions

For the majority of the analyses in this bulletin, we measure reconvictions given by a court for a cohort of offenders within a follow-up period of one year after a conviction given by a court. A cohort is defined as all the offenders that are either estimated to have been released from a custodial sentence ([see Annex A7](#)), or given a non-custodial sentence, in a specified financial year. For example, the 2015-16 cohort is the group of offenders who were released from a custodial sentence, or were given a non-custodial sentence, between the 1st April 2015 and the 31st March 2016 (See [Annex Table A1](#) and [Annex A5](#)). In this bulletin, for brevity, the cohort may be referred to by its year alone.

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

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

Whichever conviction had the earliest of these dates in a given financial year is defined as the index conviction for an individual offender.

The crime which resulted in the index conviction is the “index crime”, and the sentence given for the index conviction is the “index disposal”. (See [Annex Table A1](#) and [Annex A5](#) for definitions and more details).

Measures of reconviction: the reconviction rate

The reconviction rate is presented as the percentage of offenders in the cohort who were reconvicted one or more times by a court within a specified follow up period from the date of the index conviction. For most analyses in this bulletin, the follow-up period is one year, except for [Table 13](#) where a two year follow up period is presented. For example, the 2015-16 reconviction rate is 27.0% ([Table 1](#)), and this means that just over a quarter of offenders were reconvicted at least once in the year following their non-custodial conviction or release from a custodial sentence in 2015-16. The definitions in [Annex Table A1](#) provide more details about the terminology used in this publication.

Measures of reconviction: average number of reconvictions per offender

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

The average number of reconvictions per offender is a measure of the number of times that offenders in a cohort are reconvicted within the follow-up period.

It is calculated as the total number of reconvictions of all the offenders in the cohort, divided by the total number of offenders in the cohort. For example, the average number of reconvictions per offender for the 2015-16 cohort in one year is 0.50 ([Table 1](#)), which means that, on average, offenders have half a reconviction in a one year follow up period. It should be noted that as this measure is an average, there may be variation in the number of reconvictions that individual offenders have: for example, any group may include offenders with no reconvictions and offenders with multiple reconvictions.

Repeat non-court disposals

In this bulletin we also measure the **repeat non-court disposal rate** and the **average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual**. The repeat non-court disposal rate is analogous to the reconviction rate, and is the proportion of people who receive a non-court disposal and go on to receive another non-court disposal within a year. The average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual, is analogous to the average number of reconvictions, and is a measure of the number of times that individuals receive non-court disposals after being given a non-court disposal. Note that court convictions are not included in the repeat non-court disposals, and non-court disposals are not counted towards reconvictions.

The cohort for non-court disposals is defined as the group of people who receive a non-court disposal, such as a fine or warning, from the police or COPFS in a given financial year. The first non-court disposal in the year is counted as the **index non-court disposal**, and subsequent non-court disposals given to the individuals within a year are counted as repeat non-court disposals.

Data Source: The Scottish Offenders Index

Information on reconvictions presented in this bulletin is derived from the Scottish Offenders Index (SOI), which is derived from a subset of the [Criminal Proceedings in Scotland](#) dataset. The SOI contains all convictions in court since 1989 where the main offence involved was either a crime in Groups 1-5 of the Scottish Government's classification of crimes, or some of the offences in Group 6. Minor offences, such as drunkenness and the majority of vehicle offences, are excluded. This data source is also used to calculate the number and type of previous convictions in section 4, which looks back in time at conviction history **before** the index conviction, as opposed to reconvictions which look at convictions after the index conviction.

The SOI also contains information on non-court disposals given by the police and COPFS since 2008. This contains non-court disposals given for all crimes and offences, including motor vehicle offences.

The court convictions and non-court disposals are held in separate datasets by the Scottish Government and so are independent of each other, and analysed separately in this bulletin.

See [Annex B1](#), [Annex B3](#), and [Annex Table A2](#) for more details.

1. Main findings: reconviction rates for court disposals

1.1 Headline figures

([Table 1](#))

The reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender ([Table 1](#) and [Chart 1](#)) have generally decreased over the past decade. Between 2006-07 and 2015-16, the reconviction rate has fallen by 5.4 percentage points from 32.4% to 27.0%, and the average number of reconvictions per offender has fallen by 22% from 0.60 to 0.47. These reductions are set against the context of a 41% drop in recorded crime over the same period between 2006-7 and 2015-16 ([Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2015-16](#)). The [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey](#) also reveals a similar pattern of falling incidence of crime.

There was a slight increase in both the reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender in 2008-09. This is due to the Summary Justice Reform, which was designed to take less serious cases out of the justice system at an earlier stage, and to improve the efficiency of court processes, which resulted in cases being processed faster through the courts.

The size of the cohort has increased every year since a low of 41,697 in 2012-13. In 2015-16 there were 44,036 offenders discharged from custody or given a non-custodial sentence (index convictions). However, the figure in 2015-16 was still lower than the figure of 53,306 a decade ago, in 2006-07.

1.2 Age and gender

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

Gender

Continuing a persistent long-term trend, males have higher reconviction rates and a higher average number of reconvictions per offender than females ([Table 2](#) and [Chart 3](#) and [4](#)). The average number of reconvictions per offender for the 2015-16 cohort was 0.49 for males, and 0.40 for females. This is a 6% decrease for males (from 0.52) and an 11% decrease for females (from 0.45) compared to 2014-15. The reconviction rates in 2015-16 were 28.0% for males and 22.3% for females, a 1.3 percentage point decrease for both males (from 29.3%) and females (from 23.6%) in 2014-15.

Over the longer term, reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions for males have been declining from a high of 33.9% and 0.66, respectively, in 2002-03; and the levels are now similar to those for females about 10 years ago. For females, reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions were at a high of 27.9% in 2004-05 and 0.53 in 2003-04 and 2008-09,

respectively. Numbers have generally fallen over the past decade for males and females, but have occasionally fluctuated year to year.

Chart 3: Average number of reconvictions per offender for males and females, 2015-16 offender cohort

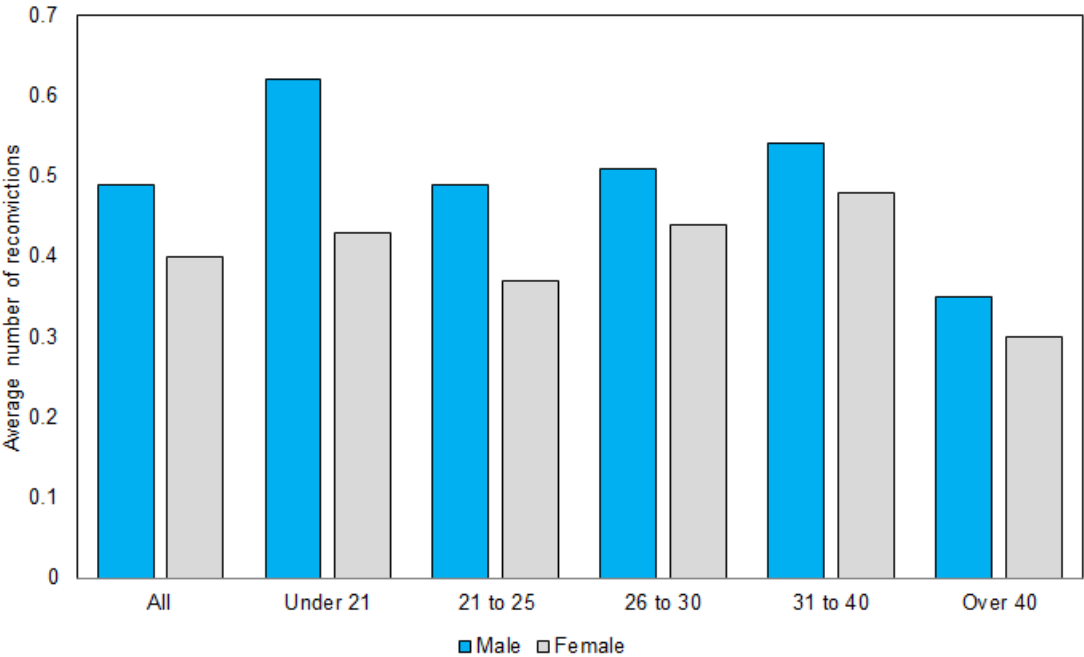
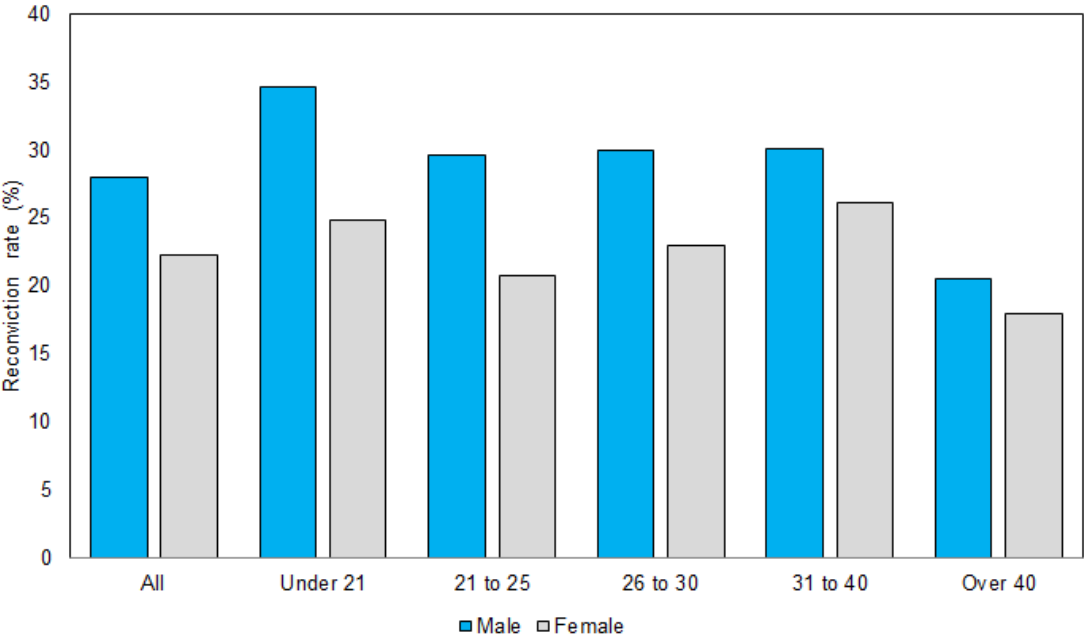


Chart 4: Reconviction rate for males and females, 2015-16 offender cohort



Age

Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions decreased for all age groups between 2014-15 and 2015-16 ([Table 3](#)). The decrease in the average number of reconvictions ranged from 9% for the under 21s, to 6% for the 26 to 30 and over 40 age groups.

Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions for under 21s were the highest of the age groups in 2015-16 (33.2% and 0.59, respectively), and lowest for the over 40s (20.1% and 0.34, respectively), as they have been historically. The other age groups (21 to 25, 26 to 30, and 31 to 40) were quite similar in 2015-16, with reconviction rates ranging from 28.3% to 29.3%, and average number of reconvictions ranging from 0.47 to 0.53 ([Table 3](#)).

Over time, the average number of reconvictions for under 21s have decreased by more than a third (37%), from a high of 0.93 in 1997-98 to the latest figure of 0.59 in 2015-16. The figures for under 21s had seen a rise in 2013-14 and 2014-15, but the 2015-16 figures are the lowest levels recorded in the period covered by this publication ([Table 3](#)).

The average number of reconvictions for the 21 to 25 age group peaked at 0.74 in 2002-03, and a year later for the 26 to 30s at 0.66 in 2003-04. Average numbers of reconvictions for both age groups have generally decreased from their peak to their lowest level in 2015-16 of 0.47 for the 21 to 25 year olds (a 36% decrease since their peak) and 0.50 for those aged 26 to 30 (a decrease of 24% since their peak) ([Table 3](#)).

The average number of reconvictions for the older age groups (31 to 40 and over 40) have generally increased in recent years. The average number of reconvictions in 2015-16 for the 31 to 40 group was 33% higher than the lowest figure in 1999-00 (0.40 compared to 0.53), and was 17% higher for the over 40s than the lowest figure in 1999-00 and 2000-01 (0.29 compared to 0.34). However, as previously noted, the figures decreased over the past year between 2014-15 and 2015-16 for both age groups, but it is too early to determine if this is the start of a downwards trend for these age groups ([Table 3](#)).

Age and gender

Patterns of change in reconvictions (both rates and average numbers) for males of different age groups were generally similar ([Table 4](#)) to those for all offenders ([Table 3](#)), as males comprise the majority of cohorts (82% in 2015-16). As for the overall pattern by age, the average number of reconvictions for all male age groups decreased between 2014-15 and 2015-16, ranging from a 7% decrease for the under 21s, to a 5% decrease for the 31 to 40 and over 40 age groups.

Under 21s had the highest average number of reconvictions of the male age groups in 2015-16 (0.62), followed by 31 to 40 (0.54), 26 to 30 (0.51), 21 to 25 (0.49); with the over 40s having the lowest (0.35) ([Chart 3](#)). Historically the average number of reconvictions used to decrease with age, but in recent years the gap has narrowed between the under 40 age groups ([Table 4](#) and [Chart 5](#)).

Like males, the average number of reconvictions fell across all female age groups between 2014-15 and 2015-16, but the decrease was generally greater across the age groups compared to males, ranging from 20% for those

aged 21 to 25, to 3% for the over 40s. The reconviction rate also decreased in three of the five age groups, with very small increases seen in the under 21 and over 40 age groups ([Table 5](#)).

For females, the patterns of reconvictions across age groups is slightly different to males. In 2015-16, the age group with the highest average number of reconvictions was the 31 to 40 group (0.48), followed by 26 to 30 (0.44), under 21 (0.43), 21 to 25 (0.37); with the lowest for the over 40s (0.30) ([Chart 3](#)). The most notable difference to males is for the under 21 age group, which has always been highest of the male age groups, but this hasn't been the case for the under 21 female age group since 2002-03 ([Table 5](#) and [Chart 6](#)).

Chart 5: Average number of reconvictions per offender, males by age: 1997-98 to 2015-16 cohorts

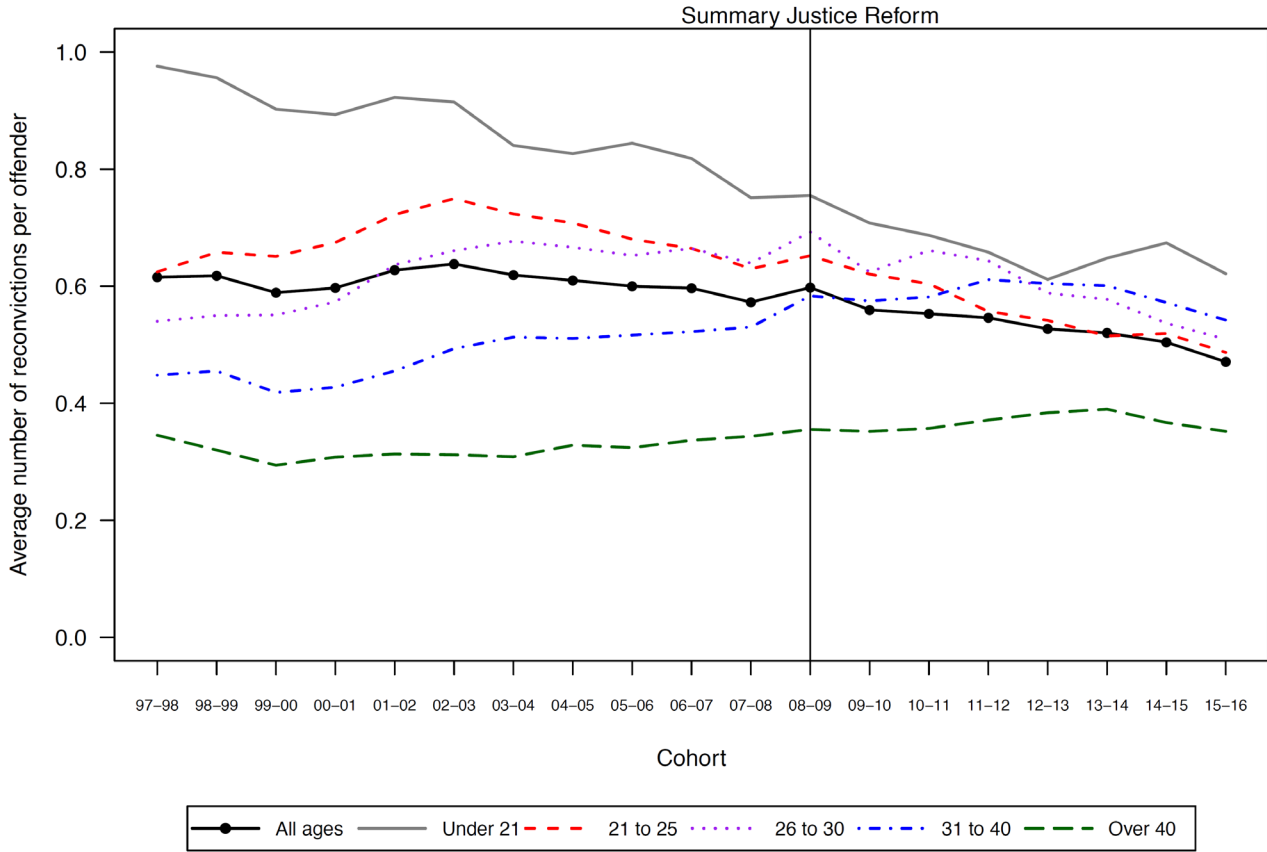
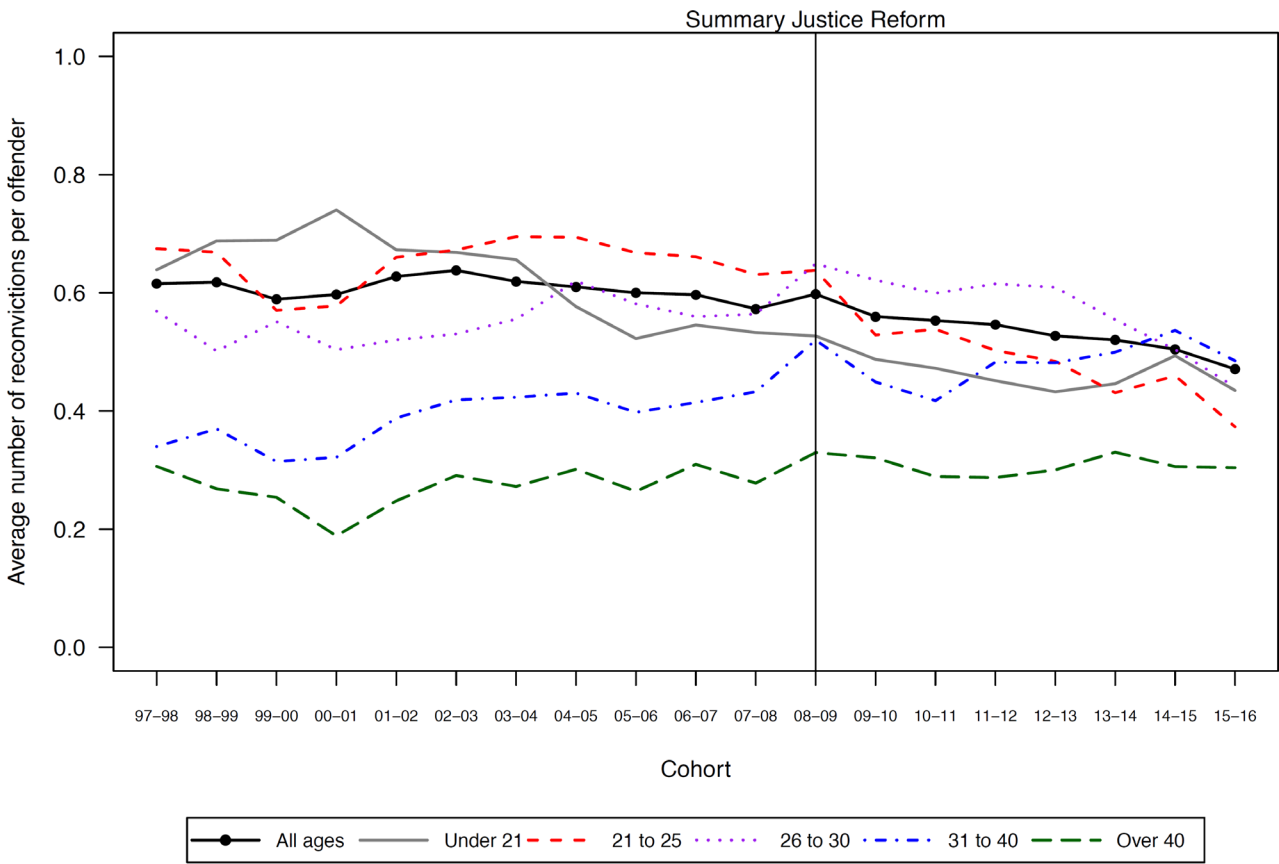


Chart 6: Average number of reconvictions per offender, females by age: 1997-98 to 2015-16 cohorts



1.3 Index crime

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

An “index crime” is the crime which resulted in the “index conviction”, the reference conviction which reconvictions are counted from. If a person was convicted for more than one charge in a set of proceedings, then the crime that was given the most serious disposal is counted as the index crime (see [Annex A4](#)). See [Annex Table A1](#) and [Annex A5](#) for definitions.

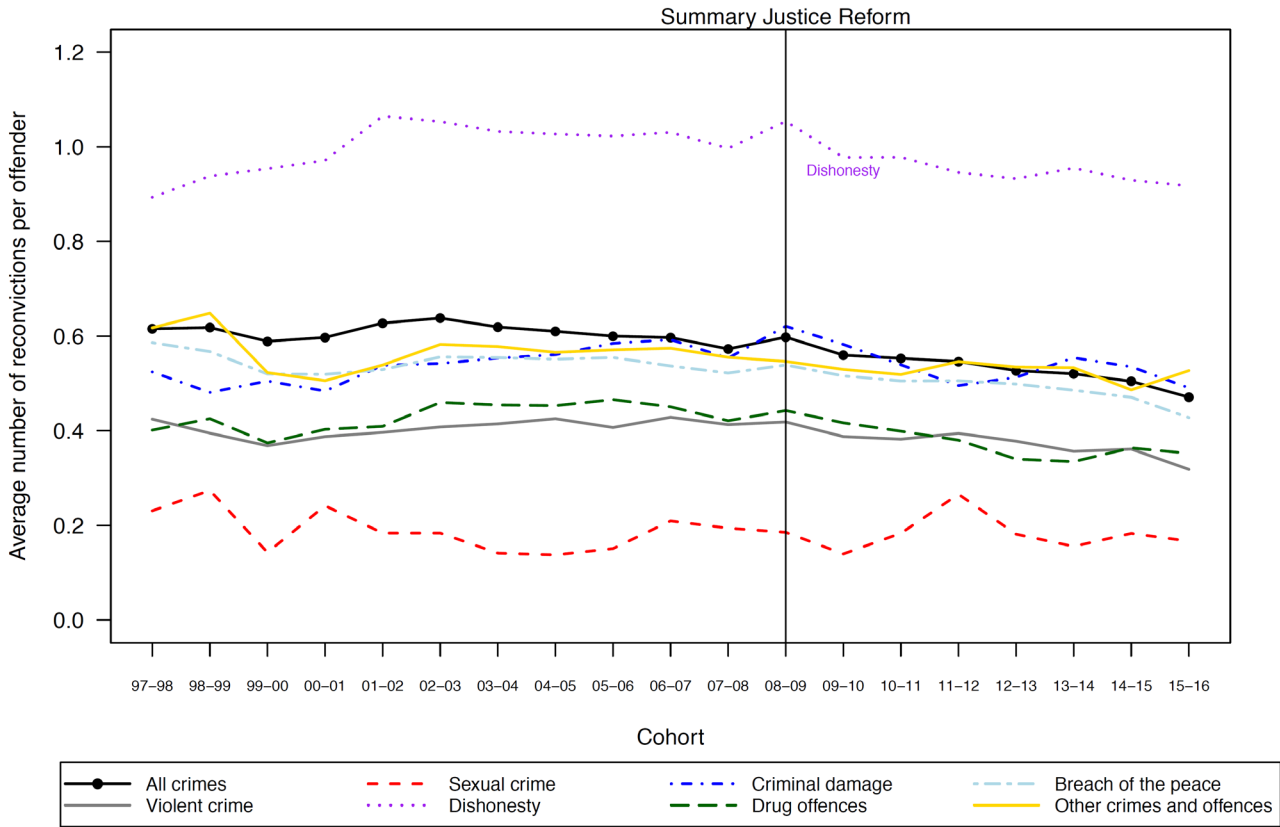
In general, offenders who were convicted for lower level index crimes which tend to be committed in higher volumes, are more likely to be reconvicted than those who commit more serious crimes. As has been true since 1997-98, offenders with an index crime of dishonesty, for example shoplifting (see [Annex Table A2](#) for crime groupings), have the highest average number of reconvictions per offender and reconviction rate of any of the index crimes ([Table 6](#) and [Chart 7](#)). For offenders convicted of crimes of dishonesty in the 2015-16 cohort, the reconviction rate was 42.8%, and there was an average of nearly 1 reconviction per offender (0.92). This compares to offenders with an index crime of a sexual crime, which had the lowest reconviction rate (10.7%) and lowest average number of reconvictions per offender (0.17) of any index crime ([Chart 7](#) and [Table 6](#)).

Offenders from the 2015-16 cohort who had index crimes, other than sexual crimes or crimes of dishonesty, had an average number of reconvictions per offender ranging between 0.32 for violent crime and 0.53 for other crimes and offences. The reconviction rates ranged between 20.7% for violent crime, and 30.4% for other crimes and offences ([Table 6](#) and [Chart 7](#)).

Reconviction rates and the average number of reconvictions for violent crimes, sexual crimes, criminal damage, and breach of the peace decreased between 2014-15 and 2015-16. In contrast, reconviction rates and average numbers of reconvictions both increased for the Other crimes and offences category over the past year. For crimes of dishonesty and drug offences, reconvictions were near identical to last year. Decreases in the average number of reconvictions between 2014-15 and 2015-16 ranged from 11% for violent crime to 1% for crimes of dishonesty, whereas the increase for other crimes and offences was 8% ([Table 6](#) and [Chart 7](#)).

Over the longer term, reconvictions for most index crimes have been declining, apart from sexual crimes, criminal damage, and other crimes and offences, which tend to fluctuate from year to year with no clear trend ([Table 6](#) and [Chart 7](#)).

Chart 7: Average number of reconvictions per offender, by index crime: 1997-98 to 2015-16 cohorts



Reconviction crime by index crime

[Table 7](#) shows the types of crimes that offenders in the 2015-16 cohort were reconvicted for by each type index crime. The majority of offenders in the cohort (almost three quarters, 73%) were not reconvicted for any crime. For those that were reconvicted, overall more were reconvicted for breach of the peace than any other type of crime (10.2% of all offenders), and fewer offenders were reconvicted for a sexual crime than any other type of crime (0.3% of all offenders).

[Table 7](#) highlights the degree to which offenders specialise on particular types of crime. Offenders convicted of crimes of dishonesty, drug offences, and breach of the peace were reconvicted for the same type of crime more than other types. Even in these cases where the majority of offenders reconvicted were reconvicted for the same crime as the index crime, there were other offenders who were reconvicted for different crimes to their index crimes. This suggests that offenders do not necessarily specialise on a particular type of crime.

1.4 Index disposal

[\(Table 8\)](#)

The index disposal is the sentence received for an index conviction (see [Annex Table A1](#) and [Annex A5](#) for definitions). If a person is convicted for more than one charge in a set of proceedings, then the charge that receives the most serious disposal is counted as the index disposal (see [Annex A4](#)).

A disposal may reduce reconvictions as offenders are rehabilitated. However, different disposals are given for different types of crime and differing offending histories, and as seen elsewhere in this bulletin, these factors are also determinants of whether an offender is likely to reoffend or not. These factors should be considered when comparing the effectiveness of different types of sentences. [Table 10](#) and the *Reconviction rates by disposal, age, sex and previous convictions* table in the [additional tables](#) published with this publication give reconviction rates for different offender characteristics for the disposals.

Custodial sentences

This year, for the first time, we have published reconviction rates for extended sentences (ES) and supervised release orders (SROs) separately from other custodial sentences ([Table 8](#)). This is because there were changes to the [Criminal Proceedings](#) data methodology in 2015-2016 that allowed ES and SROs to be identified separately to other custodial sentences in the extract that we receive from the CHS. The custodial sentence category now only includes those that were sent to prison or young offenders institutions, plus a small number of orders for lifelong restriction.

Offenders released from a custodial sentence in 2015-16 had a higher reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender than

offenders given any other disposal except a DTTO. The reconviction rate for offenders released from custody in 2015-16 cohort was 43.4%, a 1.2 percentage point decrease on the 2014-15 rate of 44.6%. The average number of reconvictions per offender decreased by 3% from 0.89 to 0.86 in the same period ([Table 8](#) and [Chart 8](#)). Note that reconviction rates for different lengths of custodial sentences vary considerably which is discussed in the next section of this bulletin.

Over the last decade, for those released from custodial sentences, there has been a 19% decrease from just over one reconviction per offender on average (1.06) in 2006-07, to below one on average (0.86) in 2015-16 ([Table 8](#), [Chart 8](#)). The long term decline in the reconviction rate for custodial sentences has been set against a sustained overall increase in the prison population during the 2000s. Since 2011-12, the prison population has been decreasing by about 2% a year. However, the relationship between patterns of reconviction and the prison population is not straightforward and one should not necessarily infer a direct causal link between the two. Trends in and drivers of the prison population are discussed in detail in the publication [Prison statistics and population projections Scotland: 2013-14](#).

ES are custodial sentences given for sexual crimes, or violent crimes that attract a custodial sentence of 4 years or more. ES have a period of supervision of up to 10 years in the community after the custodial sentence. If offenders breach their licence during the extended part of the sentence they can be recalled to prison. Reconviction rates, like the other custodial sentences, are based on the estimated release date from the custodial part of the sentence. We do not have information on the length of the supervision period on our dataset, just the length of the custodial part of the sentence. The reconviction rates are low compared to other disposals because they are generally given to sex offenders, who typically are reconvicted less than other offenders ([Table 6](#) shows that offenders convicted of a sexual crime had the lowest reconviction rates for any index crime). Reconviction rates for ES fell between 2014-15 and 2015-16 by 2.2 percentage points from 14.3% to 12.1%. The average number of reconvictions in 2015-16 was 0.14, which was very similar to last year's figure of 0.15. Reconvictions have fluctuated from year to year for ES, which in part is probably due to the small cohort sizes and low numbers of reconvictions, where a small change would have a greater effect on percentages compared to larger cohorts ([Table 8](#) and [Chart 8](#)).

SROs are given for crimes other than sexual crimes and consist of a custodial sentence of 1 to 4 years, followed by a period of supervision of up to a year by a social worker. If the offender breaches the order they can be returned to prison. As with ES, we do not have information on the length of the supervision period on our dataset. Reconvictions for SROs are similar to Restriction of Liberty Orders (RLOs) and Community Payback Orders (CPOs), and lower than non-supervised custodial sentences. The reconviction rate of 36.0% for SROs in 2015-16 was slightly lower (0.8 percentage points) than the figure of 36.8% in 2014-15, but the average number of reconvictions increased by 11% from 0.55 to 0.61 in the same period. However, reconvictions for SROs are generally lower than they were five years ago ([Table 8](#) and [Chart 8](#)).

Community sentences: CPOs, DTTOs, RLOs

Community Payback Orders (CPOs) were introduced by the [Criminal Justice and Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) and came into effect from 1 February 2011. The CPO replaces provisions for Community Service Orders (CSO), Probation Orders (PO) and Supervised Attendance Orders (SAO) – the “legacy orders” - for any offences committed after this date. [Annex D](#) gives a brief overview of the trends for the transitional period from 2010-11 to 2013-14. There were still a small number of offenders given a legacy community order in 2015-16 as they were given for offences committed prior to February 2011.

CPOs are the mostly widely used community sentence, with a cohort size of 10,801 in 2015-16. Reconviction rates for CPOs fell by 2.1 percentage points over the past year from 32.9% in 2014-15 to 30.8% in 2015-16. The average number of reconvictions per offender for CPOs also fell in the same period from 0.59 to 0.54, a decrease of 8%. Reconvictions for CPOs haven't showed a clear trend since they have become established and have fluctuated year to year ([Table 8](#) and [Chart 8](#)).

Compared to the legacy community orders, reconviction rates for CPOs are 2.8 percentage points lower than the last full year of legacy orders in 2009-10 before CPOs were introduced (30.8% for CPOs in 2015-16 and 33.6% for legacy orders in 2009-10). There were 0.54 reconvictions per offender on average for CPOs in 2015-16, which is 13% lower than 0.62 for the legacy orders in 2009-10 ([Table 8](#) and [Chart 8](#)). Note that is difficult to compare the remaining legacy orders that have been issued with CPOs due to changes in the type of offenders given the legacy orders now (see [Annex D](#)).

A Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO) is a high tariff disposal for people with serious drug use problems, and includes the requirement for regular reviews by the court and that the person consents to frequent random drug tests throughout the lifetime of the order. Offenders given a DTTO have the highest average number of reconvictions per offender and the highest reconviction rate compared to the other disposals ([Table 8](#) and [Chart 8](#)). The average number of reconvictions per offender was 1.68 in 2015-16, which is a slight decrease of 5% from 1.77 in 2014-15. In contrast, the reconviction rate increased slightly by 0.8 percentage points over the same period from 63.6% to 64.4%. Over a longer period, reconvictions for DTTOs are lower than they were a decade ago, with the average number of convictions falling by 17% over the past decade from 2.02 in 2006-07 to 1.68 in 2015-16. However, reconvictions have been somewhat similar over the past 5 years with year to year fluctuations.

Restriction of Liberty Orders (RLOs) are imposed for periods of up to one year, and involves restricting an individual to a specified place for up to 12 hours per day and/or from a specified place for up to 24 hours. The reconviction rate (33.9%) and average number of reconvictions (0.58) for RLOs in 2015-16 were very similar to the figures in 2014-15 (33.7%, and 0.60, respectively). Over the longer term, reconvictions are now much lower for RLOs than they used to be,

with the average number of reconvictions decreasing by 46% over the past decade from 1.07 in 2006-07 to 0.58 in 2015-16. RLOs have been more widely used over the past decade with the size of the cohort almost doubling from 548 in 2006-07 to 993 in 2015-16 ([Table 8](#) and [Chart 8](#)).

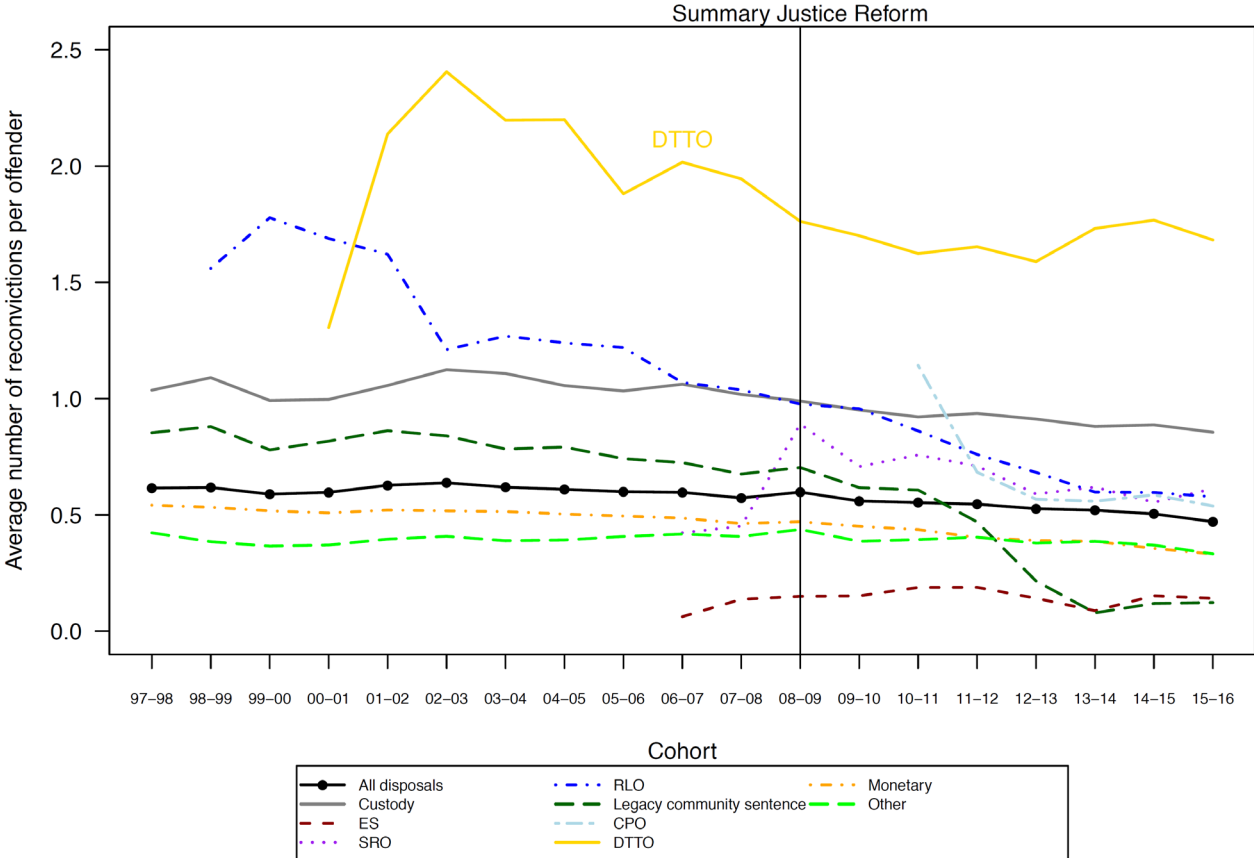
Monetary and other disposals

Between 2014-15 and 2015-16, the average number of reconvictions for monetary disposals decreased by 8%, from 0.36 to 0.33. The reconviction rate also decreased, by 1.2 percentage points from 22.3% to 21.1%.

The numbers of offenders with an monetary index conviction has nearly halved in the past decade from 28,500 offenders in 2006-07 to 15,100 in 2015-16. This may, in part, reflect the impact of Summary Justice Reform which was designed to take less serious cases out of the court system. Reconvictions have also fallen for monetary disposals in the past decade, with the average number of reconvictions decreasing by a third (33%) from 0.49 in 2006-07 to 0.33 in 2015-16 ([Table 8](#) and [Chart 8](#)).

For Other disposals, such as admonishments, there was a decrease in the reconviction rate from 21.3% to 20.1% and the average number of reconvictions per offender from 0.37 to 0.33 between 2014-15 and 2015-16. Over time, reconvictions for Other disposals have fluctuated with no clear trend. The reconviction rates have ranged from 20.1% to 23.8% and the average number of reconvictions per offender ranged from 0.44 to 0.33 ([Table 8](#) and [Chart 8](#)).

Chart 8: Average number of reconvictions per offender by index disposal: 1997-98 to 2015-16 cohorts



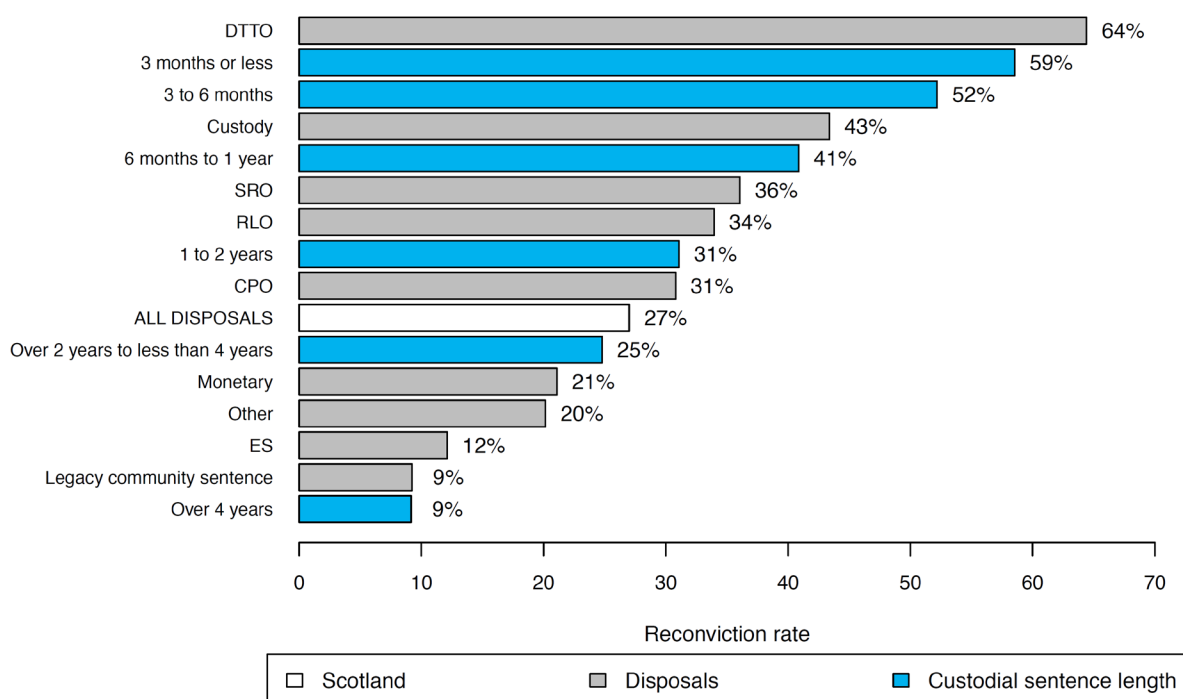
1.5 Sentence length of custodial index conviction

(Table 9)

Note that [Table 9](#) which presents reconviction rates by custodial sentence length, includes ES and SROs as in previous years. This is because the numbers of ES and SROs are small in each sentence length category and it is difficult to interpret reconviction rates calculated on small groups.

Short custodial sentences have high reconviction rates ([Table 9](#) and [Chart 9](#)). Offenders who commit relatively low level crimes but in high volumes are more likely to be reconvicted (see [Section 1.3](#)), and these offenders are more likely to get short custodial sentences. In contrast, longer custodial sentences are given to offenders who commit more serious crimes, but these offenders tend to commit these crimes in low volumes, and hence fewer are reconvicted. For example, the reconviction rate for custodial sentences of 3 months or less in 2015-16 was 58.5%, compared to 9.2% for sentences over 4 years.

Chart 9: Reconviction rates for index disposals and sentence lengths for the 2015-16 cohort¹



1. Chart 9 shows reconviction rates for each disposal type. The category “disposal from custody” shows reconviction rates for all offenders discharged from a prison or young offender institutions in 2015-16. SROs and ES are presented separately. Custodial sentence length includes all custodial sentences (prison, young offender institutions, ES, and SROs).

There is a mixed picture for changes in reconvictions over the past year for different lengths of custodial sentences ([Table 9](#)). Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions decreased for sentences of 3 to 6 months and over 4 years and; but increased for sentences between 1 and 4 years long. For sentences under 3 months the reconviction rate decreased, but the average number of reconvictions stayed the same; and for sentences of 6 months to 1 year the reconviction rate stayed the same, but the average number of reconvictions increased.

The picture is somewhat complicated over the longer term for all sentence lengths ([Table 9](#)). Over the past 19 years, reconvictions have fluctuated for all sentence lengths.

1.6 Conviction history prior to index conviction

[\(Table 10\)](#)

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

1.7 Two year rates

[\(Table 13\)](#)

Reconviction rates in Scotland were reported with a two-year follow-up period before the 2009-10 cohort bulletin. After this point, the focus has been mainly on a follow-up period of one year rather than two years as, in general, the one-year rate tracks the two year rate, and has the benefit of being more timely.

Using the two-year follow up period there has been a decline in the reconviction rate and in the average number of reconvictions per offender every year since 2009-10 ([Table 13](#)). Over 10 years from 2005-06 to 2014-15, the average number of reconvictions per offender has fallen by 19% from 1.13 to 0.91, and the reconviction rate has seen a 5.9 percentage point reduction from 44.8% to 38.9%. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15 the reconviction rate decreased by 1 percentage point from 39.9% to 38.9% and the average number of reconvictions fell by 6% from 0.97 to 0.91.

These declining trends mirror those seen for the one-year follow up period ([Table 1](#)) but as there is a longer follow-up period, the associated values are typically greater, for instance:

- In 2014-15 the two-year reconviction rate was 10.6 percentage points higher than the rate for the one-year reconviction rate (38.9% for the two year compared to 28.3% for the one year rate).
- The average reconvictions per offender are nearly half a conviction (0.41) higher for the two-year rate (0.91 reconvictions per offender on average over two years, compared to 0.50 over one year).

2. Main findings: Repeat non-court disposals

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

This section provides statistics on the repeat numbers of non-court disposals for individuals within a year after they were given an initial non-court disposal. Two measures are presented, the **repeat non-court disposal rate**, which is the percentage of offenders who are given a further non-court disposal within a year of receiving a police or COPFS disposal, and the **average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual**. These measures are analogous to the reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender. This section does not include convictions and reconvictions dealt with in court.

2.1 Police disposals([Table 14](#))

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

- **Anti-Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Notices** (ASBFPNs) as provided for in the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004 for a range of offences including drunken-related behaviours and playing loud music;
- **Formal Adult Warnings** are for minor offences where a warning letter is issued to the offender and were in force until 11th January 2016, when they were replaced and extended by **Recorded Police Warnings** which cover a wider range of offences. Recorded Police Warnings are included for the first time in this year's bulletin.
- Actions which are used specifically for juveniles (aged 8 to 17) such as **Restorative Justice Warnings** and **Early and Effective Interventions** (EEI).

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

18.6% of individuals in 2015-16 who received a non-court disposal from the police, such as a warning or fine, went on to receive another non-court disposal within a year ([Table 18](#)).

Of all the individuals given a non-court disposal (by the police or COPFS) in 2015-16, those given a Restorative Justice Warning had the highest repeat non-court disposal rate (25.5%) and the highest average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual (0.49) of any non-court disposal, an increase from 21.9% and 0.33, respectively, in 2014-15. As they are now given

to a small number of individuals, this relatively high rate over the past two years may reflect a shift in the type of individuals that receive these disposals ([Table 14](#)).

Repeat non-court disposals for ASBFPNs and Formal Adult Warnings both fell between 2014-15 and 2015-16, which is the 3rd year in a row that both have decreased ([Table 14](#)). For ASBFPNs the average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual fell by 21% from 0.42 in 2014-15 to 0.33 in 2015-16, and Formal Adult Warnings fell 19% from 0.16 to 0.13 over the same period. Note that Formal Adult Warnings were only in place for just over nine months of 2015-16 before they were discontinued, which may have some effect on the repeat rates.

There has been an increase in the number of repeat non-court disposals for individuals given an Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) over the past year. Between 2014-15 and 2015-16 the percentage of individuals given another non-court disposal within a year of receiving an EEI increased slightly by 0.7 percentage points from 22.6% to 23.3%. The average number of non-court disposals per individual within a year of receiving an EEI increased by 8% from 0.37 to 0.40 ([Table 14](#)).

Repeat non-court disposals for Recorded Police Warnings have been published for the first time this year since their introduction at the start of 2016. The repeat non-court disposal rate was 13.6% in 2015-16, and the average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual was 0.17. However, these were only in place for just the last 3 months of 2015-16, so we will not have a fully accurate picture of the repeat rates of this disposal until next year when a full year of data will be available ([Table 14](#)).

2.2 Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) disposals ([Table 15](#))

These non-court disposals are available to COPFS:

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

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

15.1% of individuals in 2015-16 who received a non-court disposal from the COPFS, such as a warning or fine, went on to receive another non-court disposal within a year ([Table 18](#)).

Of those individuals given a COPFS disposal in 2015-16, those given a Fiscal Combined Fine had the highest percentage of individuals who received

another non-court disposal (18.8%), and individuals given a Fiscal Fine had the highest average number of non-court disposals per individual (0.24). Individuals given a Fiscal Fixed Penalty had the lowest percentage of individuals who received another non-court disposal (4.9%) and the lowest average number of non-court disposals per individual (0.05) ([Table 15](#)).

Between 2008-09 and 2015-16, all COPFS disposals have seen a decrease in the repeat non-court disposal rate and the average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual. Three COPFS disposals also saw a decrease in these measures between 2014-15 and 2015-16. For Fiscal Fines, the repeat non-court disposal rate decreased by 2.9 percentage points from 21.3% to 18.4%, and the average number of repeat non-court disposals decreased by 23% from 0.31 to 0.24. For Fiscal Fixed Penalties, the repeat non-court disposal rate decreased by 1.5 percentage points from 6.4% to 4.9%, and there was a slight decrease in the average number of repeat non-court disposals from 0.07 to 0.05. For Fiscal Compensation Orders, the repeat non-court disposal rate (15.2%) and the average number of repeat non-court disposals (0.20) were slightly lower than last year's figures (15.3% and 0.22, respectively).

The repeat non-court disposal rate for Fiscal Combined Fines with Compensation increased by 1.7 percentage points in the past year, from 17.1% in 2014-15 to 18.8% in 2015-16, and there was a slight increase in the average number of repeat non-court disposals, from 0.22 to 0.23 in the same period.

Fiscal Work Orders (FWOs) were introduced across Scotland in April 2015. The process of recording these disposals is currently being investigated for the [Criminal Proceedings](#) publication. Reconviction statistics for FWOs will not be available until this investigation has concluded.

2.3 Characteristics of individuals given non-court disposals

This year, for the first time, we have published the repeat non-court disposal measures by age and gender. [Table 16](#) shows the rate of repeat non-court disposals and average number of repeat non-court disposals from 2008-09 to 2015-16, by gender and [Table 17](#) shows them by age. In [Tables 16](#) and [17](#), all the types of non-court disposal are combined together. [Table 18](#) shows the percentage of individuals given a repeat non-court disposal in 2015-16 for each type of non-court disposal, by age and gender.

Like reconvictions in court, males and younger offenders are more likely to receive further non-court disposals than females and older offenders ([Table 16](#), [Table 17](#), and [Table 18](#)). 17.9% of males who received a non-court disposal in 2015-16 were given another non-court disposal within a year, compared to 13.4% of females ([Table 16](#)). The percentage of individuals given a repeat non-court disposal decreased with age, with a repeat non-court disposal rate of 21.9% for under 21s, compared to 12.8% for the over 40s ([Table 17](#)). [Tables 16](#) and [17](#) show that repeat rates across all non-court disposals have fallen for both genders and all age groups between 2008-09 and 2015-16, and over the past year.

3. Comparing reconviction rates across local authorities

([Table 11](#))

Estimating reconviction rates for local authorities

In *Reconviction rates in Scotland*, we have previously only published reconviction rates for local authorities based on information for offenders convicted in courts that fall within that local authority area's boundary. This is because it was the only information on local authority that we could obtain. However, the areas that courts serve don't exactly match local authorities; and offenders may be convicted in a court located in a different administrative area to where they live, yet they would be supervised in their area of residence (see [Annex A11](#) and the footnote of [Table 11](#)). The characteristics of offenders are also likely to vary across local authority areas, therefore such comparisons between areas should be treated with caution, and it is suggested that a method which takes these factors into account should be employed (see [section 3.1](#)).

To improve estimates of reconviction rates for local authorities, we have started to collect data on the first half of an offender's home postcode from Police Scotland, for example EH1 or G1. This data can then be used to match an offender to their home local authority. This information will be particularly important for local authorities who use these statistics for planning purposes, such as schemes to reduce reoffending, or estimating the number of offenders that social workers need to supervise in their area. Local authority reconviction rates based on offender postcodes are published for the first time this year, but due to incomplete postcode coverage we will still publish reconviction rates based on court area until it improves. We recommend that the figures based on court area are still used as the definitive local authority reconviction rates.

Local authority reconviction rates based on court area

Reconviction rates vary across local authority groups (based on the area covered by courts). Note that because some sheriff courts cover more than one local authority, we cannot distinguish between convictions in the different local authorities so some local authorities are grouped together, so that there are 25 groups rather than 32 separate local authorities. [Table 11](#) shows that the highest reconviction rate in the 2015-16 cohort was for offenders whose index conviction was given in courts in Ayrshire, East, North and South (30.1%). Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire had the highest number of reconvictions per offender on average (0.56). The lowest reconviction rate (13.1%), and lowest average number of reconvictions per offender (0.19), were for offenders whose index conviction was given at a court in Na h-Eileanan Siar. These are unadjusted figures which do not take account of underlying differences in population size and the characteristics of offenders in each area (see [section 3.1](#) for comparisons of standardised reconviction rates which take these into account).

Reconvictions tend to fluctuate year to year for local authorities. Smaller local authorities tend to have larger fluctuations as they have small numbers of offenders. Small between year fluctuations in the numbers of offenders reconvicted may lead to larger changes in the reconvictions in percentage terms than for local authorities with larger numbers of offenders.

Local authority reconviction rates based on residence

For the first time, we have published reconviction rates based on the local authority of offenders' residences, by matching the local authority to the first half of offenders' postcodes. These are presented in [Table 12](#). The local authority reconviction rates based on postcode are currently labelled as [Experimental Statistics: Data being developed](#), as we did not have postcodes for almost a quarter of offenders (24%) with an index conviction in 2015-16. Postcodes may be missing because offenders have no fixed abode, but it may also be a recording issue. This missing total also includes a small number of cases where postcode information was recorded, but it wasn't a valid Scottish postcode.

Custodial sentences have a higher percentage of missing postcodes compared to other sentences. 36% of offenders with an index disposal of a custodial sentence were missing postcodes. This isn't surprising as many custodial sentences would have started before Police Scotland started sending us conviction data with postcode information. Sentences over 4 years have the highest percentage of missing postcodes, with 55% of offenders missing postcodes. Short sentences also have relatively high percentages of missing postcodes, with 39% of those given sentences of less than three months missing postcodes, and 38% of those given sentences of 3 to 6 months. For offenders with sentences of 6 months to 4 years, about 30% were missing postcodes. Note that the data quality issues around the recording of postcodes only affects the local authority reconviction rates presented in [Table 12](#) and does not affect any of the other reconviction rates presented in this publication.

Annex [Table B1](#) shows the number and percentage of offenders with missing postcodes in each local authority group, based on the location of the court they were convicted in. It also shows the percentage of offenders living in the local authorities that are covered by the court areas, and the percentages that live in different local authorities to those covered by the court areas. This shows that there are significant percentages of offenders who are convicted in a court that covers a different local authority to where they live. For example, for offenders convicted in courts in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire in 2015-16, 56% of offenders were known to reside in Aberdeen and 27% resided in Aberdeenshire, but 6% resided in another local authority, and 10% had missing postcode data.

The group with missing postcodes had a higher reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions (31.4% and 0.58) compared to the national rates for Scotland as a whole (27.0% and 0.47). This suggests that there is possibly some bias in the recording of postcodes. This could potentially be explained by

this group having a higher proportion of offenders with short term custodial sentences that have high reconviction rates. About 15% of the offenders with missing postcodes (1649) had short term custodial sentences of under a year, which may slightly inflate the reconviction rate for the group with missing postcodes, but doesn't fully explain the higher reconviction rates for group with missing postcodes.

Reconviction rates for local authorities based on the postcode data were generally lower than those based on court area, due to the potential biases in the recording of postcodes as discussed above. Therefore the actual reconviction rates for each local authority are potentially slightly higher than presented in the table. Reconviction rates based on postcode data varied between 31.8% for Inverclyde to 11.9% for Na h-Eileanan Siar ([Table 12](#)). However, as Annex [Table B1](#) shows, there is variation in the percentages of missing postcodes between local authorities, so this direct comparisons between local authorities should be treated with caution. Also, different local authorities may have different mixes of offender characteristics, and small local authorities may experience greater fluctuations, which should be considered when comparing local authorities. The next section discusses these considerations in more detail (although those comparisons of local authorities are based on court area, the same factors would apply here).

3.1 Accounting for the variability between local authorities

Reconviction rates could be used to rank performance across different local authorities. 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 local authorities. In reality, all systems within which these local authorities operate, no matter how stable, will produce variable outcomes in the normal run of events. In particular, outcomes in local authorities with smaller sized populations tend to vary more than those in local authorities with larger populations. The question we need to answer is therefore: Is the observed variation more or less than we would normally expect?

In this respect, it is better to use a method of comparison that takes account of inherent variability between local authorities¹. The funnel plot is a simple statistical method that takes into account the variability of different sized populations and so highlights whether there are differences that may be attributed to some other special cause².

[Table 11](#) shows the average number of reconvictions per offender and reconviction rates for each local authority group (based on court area of conviction) and [Chart 10](#) shows these reconviction rates against the number of

¹ Royal Statistical Society (2003) *Performance Indicators: Good, Bad, and Ugly* Royal Statistical Society Working Party on Performance Monitoring in the Public Services. <http://www.rss.org.uk/Images/PDF/publications/rss-reports-performance-monitoring-public-services-2003.pdf>

² Battersby, J. & Flowers, J. (2004) *Presenting performance indicators* Eastern Region Public Health Observatory.

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

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

[Chart 11](#) is standardised to take into account some of the differences between local authority groups attributable to the characteristics of offenders, such as the number of previous offences, sentence, gender, and age. It provides the standardised reconviction rates³ against the observed number of offenders minus expected number of offenders. Since all local authorities groups are within the funnel it suggests that the apparent differences in reconviction rates in [Chart 10](#) are primarily attributable to either the variation in the characteristics of the offenders, the type of crime they committed, or the sentence they received, rather than differences in 'performance' between the local authority groups. This overall conclusion for all local authorities on the 2015-16 cohort is consistent with previous findings in the [Reconviction Rates in Scotland](#) publications.

³ Spiegelhalter, D. J. (2005) *Funnel plots for comparing institutional performance* *Statistics in Medicine* 24 1185-1202.

Chart 10: Reconviction rates by local authority group: 2015-16 cohort⁴

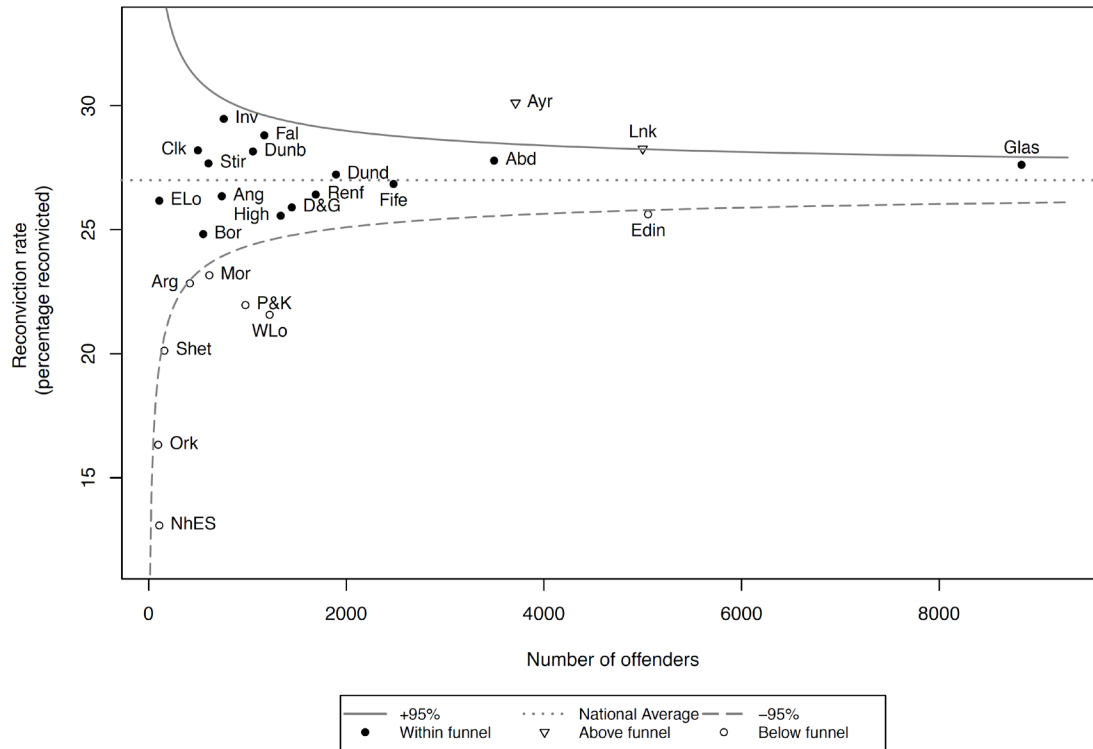
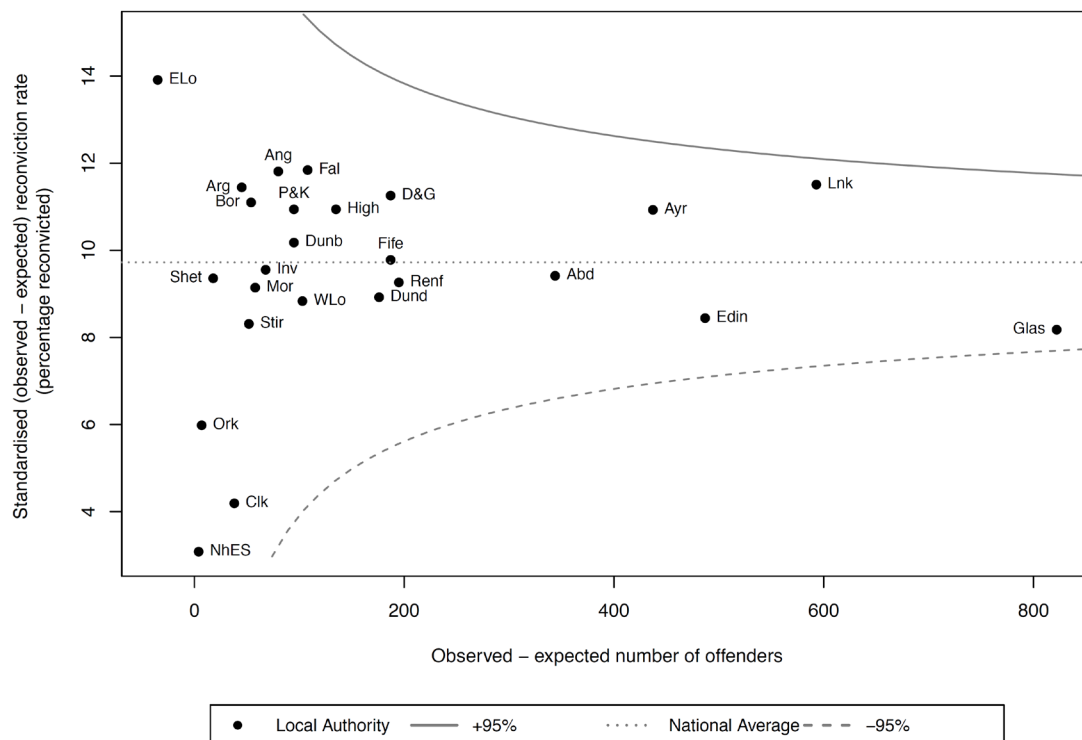


Chart 11: Standardised reconviction rates by local authority group: 2015-16 cohort³



⁴ Abbreviations for local authority groups used in Chart 8 and Chart 9: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire (Abd), Angus (Ang), Argyll & Bute (Arg), Ayrshire, East, North and South (Ayr), Scottish Borders (Bor), Clackmannanshire (Clk), Dunbartonshire, East and West (Dunb), Dumfries & Galloway (D&G), Dundee City (Dund), Edinburgh and Midlothian (Edin), East Lothian (ELo), Falkirk (Fal), Fife (Fife), Glasgow City (Glas), Highland (High), Inverclyde (Inv), Lanarkshire, North and South (Lnk), Moray (Mor), Na h-Eileanan Siar (NhES), , Orkney Islands (Ork), Perth and Kinross (P&K), Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire (Renf), Shetland Islands (Shet), Stirling (Stir), West Lothian (WLo).

4. Number and type of previous convictions: 2007-08 to 2016-17

([Table 19](#) and [Table 20](#))

This section presents information on previous convictions for those offenders who were convicted on at least one occasion in 2016-17 ([Table 19](#)) or in previous years ([Table 20](#)). These two tables are compiled on a different basis to the rest of this publication. They look at the number of offenders convicted at least once in a year and then count the numbers of convictions they had over the previous ten years. If an offender had more than one conviction in the year, then the most recent conviction was counted as the reference conviction, and the earlier convictions were counted as previous convictions. In contrast, the reconviction tables in rest of this publication focus on those with an index conviction a year and then count how many were reconvicted in a year follow up period after that conviction. Note that convictions counted in [Table 19](#) and [Table 20](#) are only those that are counted for reconvictions, which are all crimes in groups 1 to 5 and some offences in group 6 (see [Annex B1](#), [Annex B3](#), and [Annex Table A2](#) for more details), and non-court disposals are not included.

Of the 41,612 individuals convicted at least once in 2016-17 for a crime or relevant offence, 65% had at least one prior conviction in the previous ten years, whilst 13% had over ten previous convictions ([Table 20](#)).

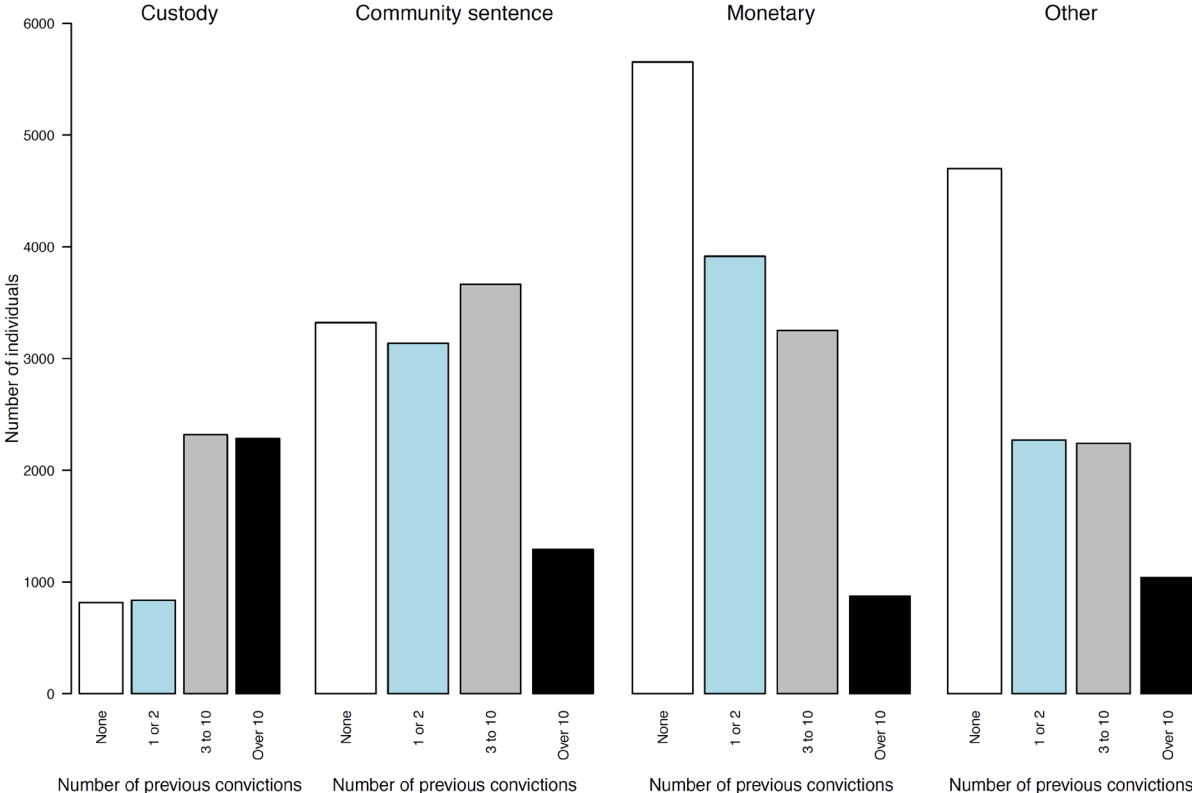
Consistent with the findings of previous [Reconviction Rates in Scotland](#) publications, sentencing is influenced by offending history as well as the circumstances of a particular case. [Table 19](#) and [Chart 12](#) show that:

- First time offenders tend to get fines (39 per cent of first time offenders) or caution/admonition (32 per cent). Community sentences account for 23 per cent and custodial sentences for 6 per cent of sentences for first time offenders.
- Sporadic offenders with one or two convictions in the past 10 years tend to get fines (39 per cent), community sentences (31 per cent), or caution/admonition (22 per cent). Custodial sentences account for 8 per cent.
- Those with a several convictions in the past 10 years (between 3 and 10 convictions) are somewhat more likely to get a custodial sentence (20 per cent) than those with fewer previous convictions, although most get community sentences (32 per cent) or fines (28 per cent).
- Those with more than 10 convictions in the past 10 years tend to get custodial sentences (42 per cent).

The number of prior convictions for serious offences is strongly linked to the likelihood of getting a custodial sentence: 10% of those with no prior solemn convictions (i.e. in the high or sheriff solemn court) get a custodial sentence, rising to 36 % for those with 1 or 2 solemn convictions and 62% for those with 3 to 10 solemn convictions.

Over the past 10 years there has been very little change in the number of prolific offenders ([Table 20](#)). Twelve per cent of offenders in 2007-08 had over 10 previous convictions in the previous ten years and the figure has fluctuated between 12 and 14 per cent over the last decade, with 13 per cent of offenders in 2016-17 having over ten previous convictions in the previous ten years.

Chart 12: Number of individuals convicted in 2016-17, by last disposal in 2016-17 and the number of previous convictions since 2007-08



Tables

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

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

All reconviction rates and percentages are shown in italics.

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

In Tables 1 to 10 and 13, the number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. These values are included in the additional [datasets](#) which accompany this bulletin.

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

Table 1: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender: 1997-98 to 2015-16 cohorts¹

Cohort	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
1997-98	53,445	31.8	0.62
1998-99	49,148	31.8	0.62
1999-00	44,230	31.3	0.59
2000-01	41,565	31.8	0.60
2001-02	43,649	32.4	0.63
2002-03	44,844	32.8	0.64
2003-04	47,005	32.7	0.62
2004-05	49,358	32.4	0.61
2005-06	50,341	32.5	0.60
2006-07	53,306	32.4	0.60
2007-08	53,053	31.2	0.57
2008-09	49,657	31.5	0.60
2009-10	47,416	30.6	0.56
2010-11	44,704	30.1	0.55
2011-12	43,820	29.6	0.55
2012-13	41,697	28.9	0.53
2013-14	42,182	28.5	0.52
2014-15	43,614	28.3	0.50
2015-16	44,036	27.0	0.47

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

Table 2: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by gender: 1997-98 to 2015-16 cohorts¹

Gender	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
Males			
1997-98	45,707	32.9	0.63
1998-99	41,844	32.9	0.64
1999-00	37,566	32.2	0.61
2000-01	35,269	32.7	0.62
2001-02	36,963	33.4	0.65
2002-03	37,768	33.9	0.66
2003-04	39,527	33.7	0.64
2004-05	41,516	33.2	0.63
2005-06	42,215	33.7	0.62
2006-07	44,759	33.4	0.62
2007-08	44,383	32.2	0.59
2008-09	41,424	32.5	0.61
2009-10	39,402	31.7	0.58
2010-11	36,986	31.5	0.57
2011-12	36,430	30.8	0.56
2012-13	34,656	30.0	0.54
2013-14	34,996	29.6	0.54
2014-15	36,138	29.3	0.52
2015-16	36,303	28.0	0.49
Females			
1997-98	7,738	25.4	0.51
1998-99	7,304	25.8	0.52
1999-00	6,664	25.7	0.49
2000-01	6,296	26.4	0.48
2001-02	6,686	26.8	0.51
2002-03	7,076	27.3	0.52
2003-04	7,478	27.2	0.53
2004-05	7,842	27.9	0.52
2005-06	8,126	26.2	0.48
2006-07	8,547	27.1	0.49
2007-08	8,670	26.4	0.48
2008-09	8,233	26.5	0.53
2009-10	8,014	25.0	0.47
2010-11	7,718	23.9	0.45
2011-12	7,390	24.1	0.46
2012-13	7,041	23.9	0.45
2013-14	7,186	23.3	0.45
2014-15	7,476	23.6	0.45
2015-16	7,733	22.3	0.40

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

Table 3: Reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender, by age: 1997-98 to 2015-16 cohorts¹

Age²	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
Under 21			
1997-98	13,791	42.4	0.93
1998-99	12,984	42.1	0.92
1999-00	11,784	41.0	0.87
2000-01	11,005	41.5	0.87
2001-02	11,232	41.2	0.89
2002-03	11,051	41.3	0.88
2003-04	11,323	40.6	0.82
2004-05	11,643	39.4	0.79
2005-06	12,117	41.4	0.80
2006-07	12,687	40.6	0.78
2007-08	12,404	38.2	0.72
2008-09	10,754	37.9	0.72
2009-10	9,324	36.8	0.68
2010-11	8,239	36.1	0.66
2011-12	7,431	34.9	0.63
2012-13	6,090	33.4	0.59
2013-14	5,388	34.3	0.62
2014-15	5,151	35.4	0.65
2015-16	4,924	33.2	0.59
21 to 25			
1997-98	12,183	34.1	0.63
1998-99	10,763	34.4	0.66
1999-00	9,455	34.5	0.64
2000-01	8,993	35.5	0.66
2001-02	9,477	36.5	0.71
2002-03	9,923	37.1	0.74
2003-04	10,339	36.4	0.72
2004-05	10,591	36.5	0.71
2005-06	10,588	35.2	0.68
2006-07	11,239	35.3	0.66
2007-08	11,138	34.3	0.63
2008-09	10,105	34.2	0.65
2009-10	9,808	33.6	0.61
2010-11	9,000	32.9	0.59
2011-12	8,887	31.1	0.55
2012-13	8,401	31.0	0.53
2013-14	8,289	29.5	0.50
2014-15	8,121	29.7	0.51
2015-16	7,871	28.3	0.47
26 to 30			
1997-98	9,594	30.3	0.54
1998-99	8,676	30.4	0.54
1999-00	7,454	31.5	0.55
2000-01	6,942	31.2	0.56
2001-02	7,167	33.3	0.62
2002-03	7,128	34.5	0.64
2003-04	7,264	35.6	0.66
2004-05	7,523	34.5	0.66
2005-06	7,591	34.8	0.64
2006-07	8,010	34.7	0.65
2007-08	8,254	33.6	0.63
2008-09	7,988	34.9	0.68
2009-10	7,893	32.9	0.62
2010-11	7,482	33.5	0.65
2011-12	7,429	32.8	0.64
2012-13	7,410	31.5	0.59
2013-14	7,215	31.2	0.57
2014-15	7,454	30.1	0.53
2015-16	7,566	28.8	0.50

(continued on following page)

Table 3 (continued)

31 to 40			
1997-98	11,463	25.2	0.43
1998-99	10,816	25.4	0.44
1999-00	10,063	24.6	0.40
2000-01	9,437	24.9	0.41
2001-02	10,137	26.3	0.44
2002-03	10,571	27.4	0.48
2003-04	11,296	28.5	0.50
2004-05	12,071	28.9	0.50
2005-06	11,960	28.5	0.49
2006-07	12,642	29.0	0.50
2007-08	12,198	28.6	0.51
2008-09	11,636	30.2	0.57
2009-10	11,219	30.3	0.55
2010-11	10,841	29.8	0.55
2011-12	10,801	30.7	0.59
2012-13	10,573	30.2	0.58
2013-14	11,037	30.5	0.58
2014-15	11,534	30.4	0.57
2015-16	11,859	29.3	0.53
Over 40			
1997-98	6,408	18.7	0.34
1998-99	5,901	18.3	0.31
1999-00	5,464	16.8	0.29
2000-01	5,181	17.8	0.29
2001-02	5,633	17.5	0.30
2002-03	6,170	18.4	0.31
2003-04	6,781	17.4	0.30
2004-05	7,528	19.2	0.32
2005-06	8,084	19.1	0.31
2006-07	8,728	19.5	0.33
2007-08	9,059	19.5	0.33
2008-09	9,174	19.8	0.35
2009-10	9,172	19.2	0.35
2010-11	9,142	19.7	0.34
2011-12	9,272	20.2	0.36
2012-13	9,223	20.7	0.37
2013-14	10,253	20.7	0.38
2014-15	11,354	20.9	0.36
2015-16	11,816	20.1	0.34

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

2. There were a small number of offenders (no more than 10 per cohort) prior to 2006-07 where age could not be determined. These offenders are not included here.

Table 4: Reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender, males by age: 1997-98 to 2015-16 cohorts¹

Age ²	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
Under 21			
1997-98	12,077	44.2	0.98
1998-99	11,284	43.9	0.96
1999-00	10,196	42.6	0.90
2000-01	9,600	42.6	0.89
2001-02	9,781	42.7	0.92
2002-03	9,613	42.9	0.91
2003-04	9,817	42.2	0.84
2004-05	10,155	41.0	0.83
2005-06	10,492	43.3	0.84
2006-07	10,991	42.3	0.82
2007-08	10,677	39.7	0.75
2008-09	9,230	39.6	0.76
2009-10	7,982	38.6	0.71
2010-11	7,049	38.0	0.69
2011-12	6,345	36.8	0.66
2012-13	5,195	34.9	0.61
2013-14	4,619	35.9	0.65
2014-15	4,381	37.4	0.67
2015-16	4,181	34.6	0.62
21 to 25			
1997-98	10,557	34.8	0.62
1998-99	9,215	35.0	0.66
1999-00	8,038	35.2	0.65
2000-01	7,695	36.0	0.67
2001-02	8,091	37.2	0.72
2002-03	8,439	37.8	0.75
2003-04	8,785	37.0	0.72
2004-05	8,941	36.7	0.71
2005-06	9,005	35.9	0.68
2006-07	9,581	35.9	0.66
2007-08	9,426	34.9	0.63
2008-09	8,550	35.2	0.65
2009-10	8,319	34.7	0.62
2010-11	7,601	33.8	0.60
2011-12	7,619	32.0	0.56
2012-13	7,147	31.9	0.54
2013-14	7,068	30.6	0.51
2014-15	6,944	30.6	0.52
2015-16	6,684	29.6	0.49
26 to 30			
1997-98	8,145	30.7	0.54
1998-99	7,350	30.8	0.55
1999-00	6,309	31.8	0.55
2000-01	5,818	31.8	0.57
2001-02	6,008	34.2	0.64
2002-03	5,970	35.4	0.66
2003-04	6,000	36.6	0.68
2004-05	6,255	34.8	0.67
2005-06	6,232	35.5	0.65
2006-07	6,641	35.2	0.66
2007-08	6,839	34.2	0.64
2008-09	6,569	35.5	0.69
2009-10	6,498	33.2	0.62
2010-11	6,172	34.3	0.66
2011-12	6,122	33.5	0.64
2012-13	6,174	32.1	0.59
2013-14	6,012	31.8	0.58
2014-15	6,188	30.8	0.54
2015-16	6,249	30.0	0.51

(continued on following page)

Table 4 (continued)

31 to 40			
1997-98	9,500	26.0	0.45
1998-99	8,990	26.2	0.46
1999-00	8,349	25.5	0.42
2000-01	7,783	25.7	0.43
2001-02	8,364	26.9	0.46
2002-03	8,618	28.1	0.49
2003-04	9,271	29.4	0.51
2004-05	9,833	29.8	0.51
2005-06	9,780	29.6	0.52
2006-07	10,323	29.8	0.52
2007-08	9,962	29.3	0.53
2008-09	9,530	31.0	0.58
2009-10	9,121	31.5	0.57
2010-11	8,721	31.5	0.58
2011-12	8,750	31.7	0.61
2012-13	8,629	31.2	0.60
2013-14	8,961	31.7	0.60
2014-15	9,373	31.2	0.57
2015-16	9,597	30.1	0.54
Over 40			
1997-98	5,425	19.2	0.35
1998-99	4,999	18.8	0.32
1999-00	4,668	17.2	0.29
2000-01	4,370	18.6	0.31
2001-02	4,717	17.9	0.31
2002-03	5,128	18.6	0.31
2003-04	5,653	17.8	0.31
2004-05	6,330	19.5	0.33
2005-06	6,705	19.8	0.32
2006-07	7,223	20.0	0.34
2007-08	7,479	19.9	0.34
2008-09	7,545	20.3	0.36
2009-10	7,482	19.9	0.35
2010-11	7,443	20.4	0.36
2011-12	7,594	21.1	0.37
2012-13	7,511	21.5	0.38
2013-14	8,336	21.4	0.39
2014-15	9,252	21.6	0.37
2015-16	9,592	20.5	0.35

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

2. There were a small number of offenders (no more than 6 per cohort) prior to 2006-07 where their age could not be determined. These offenders are not included here.

Table 5: Reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender, females by age: 1997-98 to 2015-16 cohorts¹

Age ²	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
Under 21			
1997-98	1,714	29.6	0.64
1998-99	1,700	29.9	0.69
1999-00	1,588	30.5	0.69
2000-01	1,405	34.0	0.74
2001-02	1,451	31.2	0.67
2002-03	1,438	30.2	0.67
2003-04	1,506	30.2	0.66
2004-05	1,488	28.5	0.58
2005-06	1,625	28.6	0.52
2006-07	1,696	29.5	0.55
2007-08	1,727	28.8	0.53
2008-09	1,524	27.5	0.53
2009-10	1,342	26.4	0.49
2010-11	1,190	24.6	0.47
2011-12	1,086	24.2	0.45
2012-13	895	24.5	0.43
2013-14	769	24.7	0.45
2014-15	770	24.2	0.49
2015-16	743	24.9	0.43
21 to 25			
1997-98	1,626	29.7	0.67
1998-99	1,548	30.5	0.67
1999-00	1,417	30.6	0.57
2000-01	1,298	32.0	0.58
2001-02	1,386	32.5	0.66
2002-03	1,484	33.3	0.67
2003-04	1,554	33.2	0.69
2004-05	1,650	34.9	0.69
2005-06	1,583	31.0	0.67
2006-07	1,658	31.7	0.66
2007-08	1,712	30.6	0.63
2008-09	1,555	29.2	0.64
2009-10	1,489	27.7	0.53
2010-11	1,399	27.7	0.54
2011-12	1,268	25.9	0.50
2012-13	1,254	25.4	0.48
2013-14	1,221	23.0	0.43
2014-15	1,177	24.3	0.46
2015-16	1,187	20.8	0.37
26 to 30			
1997-98	1,449	28.0	0.57
1998-99	1,326	27.8	0.50
1999-00	1,145	29.7	0.55
2000-01	1,124	28.2	0.50
2001-02	1,159	28.8	0.52
2002-03	1,158	30.0	0.53
2003-04	1,264	30.9	0.56
2004-05	1,268	33.1	0.62
2005-06	1,359	31.6	0.58
2006-07	1,369	32.3	0.56
2007-08	1,415	30.6	0.56
2008-09	1,419	32.4	0.65
2009-10	1,395	31.5	0.62
2010-11	1,310	29.7	0.60
2011-12	1,307	29.5	0.62
2012-13	1,236	28.3	0.61
2013-14	1,203	28.5	0.55
2014-15	1,266	26.7	0.50
2015-16	1,317	23.0	0.44

(continued on following page)

Table 5 (continued)

31 to 40			
1997-98	1,963	21.2	0.34
1998-99	1,826	21.6	0.37
1999-00	1,714	20.0	0.31
2000-01	1,654	21.0	0.32
2001-02	1,773	23.2	0.39
2002-03	1,953	24.3	0.42
2003-04	2,025	24.6	0.42
2004-05	2,238	24.9	0.43
2005-06	2,180	24.0	0.40
2006-07	2,319	25.4	0.41
2007-08	2,236	25.2	0.43
2008-09	2,106	26.8	0.52
2009-10	2,098	25.0	0.45
2010-11	2,120	23.0	0.42
2011-12	2,051	26.3	0.48
2012-13	1,944	25.8	0.48
2013-14	2,076	25.3	0.50
2014-15	2,161	27.0	0.54
2015-16	2,262	26.1	0.48
Over 40			
1997-98	983	15.9	0.31
1998-99	902	15.4	0.27
1999-00	796	14.1	0.25
2000-01	811	13.3	0.19
2001-02	916	15.3	0.25
2002-03	1,042	17.2	0.29
2003-04	1,128	15.4	0.27
2004-05	1,198	17.7	0.30
2005-06	1,379	16.0	0.26
2006-07	1,505	17.5	0.31
2007-08	1,580	17.4	0.28
2008-09	1,629	17.4	0.33
2009-10	1,690	16.3	0.32
2010-11	1,699	16.8	0.29
2011-12	1,678	15.9	0.29
2012-13	1,712	17.1	0.30
2013-14	1,917	17.5	0.33
2014-15	2,102	17.7	0.31
2015-16	2,224	18.0	0.30

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

2. There were a small number of offenders (no more than 4 per cohort) prior to 2004-05 where their age could not be determined. These offenders are not included here.

Table 6: Reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender, by index crime: 1997-98 to 2015-16 cohorts¹

Index Crime	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
Violent Crime			
1997-98	11,444	25.4	0.42
1998-99	10,855	23.6	0.39
1999-00	10,272	22.9	0.37
2000-01	9,737	23.9	0.39
2001-02	10,074	23.9	0.40
2002-03	10,312	24.0	0.41
2003-04	10,794	24.7	0.41
2004-05	11,632	24.8	0.43
2005-06	12,349	24.7	0.41
2006-07	12,939	25.4	0.43
2007-08	13,265	24.6	0.41
2008-09	12,979	25.5	0.42
2009-10	12,755	23.8	0.39
2010-11	12,491	24.0	0.38
2011-12	12,464	23.9	0.39
2012-13	11,598	23.2	0.38
2013-14	11,205	22.3	0.36
2014-15	11,423	22.4	0.36
2015-16	11,802	20.7	0.32
Sexual Crime²			
1997-98	286	13.6	0.23
1998-99	281	14.9	0.27
1999-00	392	9.7	0.14
2000-01	410	13.9	0.24
2001-02	419	11.9	0.18
2002-03	419	11.7	0.18
2003-04	460	9.8	0.14
2004-05	574	9.1	0.14
2005-06	517	10.3	0.15
2006-07	492	14.2	0.21
2007-08	474	12.9	0.19
2008-09	491	12.4	0.19
2009-10	494	9.7	0.14
2010-11	480	11.9	0.18
2011-12	523	13.2	0.27
2012-13	623	12.5	0.18
2013-14	707	10.3	0.16
2014-15	869	12.0	0.18
2015-16	900	10.7	0.17
Dishonesty			
1997-98	15,224	40.3	0.89
1998-99	14,124	41.5	0.94
1999-00	12,697	43.1	0.95
2000-01	11,641	44.0	0.97
2001-02	11,723	45.9	1.06
2002-03	11,559	46.0	1.05
2003-04	10,874	45.9	1.03
2004-05	10,654	45.9	1.03
2005-06	9,912	46.3	1.02
2006-07	9,992	46.6	1.03
2007-08	9,802	44.8	1.00
2008-09	9,532	45.1	1.05
2009-10	9,173	44.2	0.98
2010-11	9,127	43.5	0.98
2011-12	8,741	42.3	0.95
2012-13	8,015	41.9	0.93
2013-14	7,812	41.8	0.95
2014-15	7,428	42.7	0.93
2015-16	6,934	42.8	0.92
Criminal Damage			
1997-98	3,589	28.8	0.52
1998-99	3,332	27.3	0.48
1999-00	2,980	28.5	0.51
2000-01	2,960	28.7	0.48
2001-02	2,986	30.7	0.54
2002-03	3,066	30.5	0.54
2003-04	3,538	29.7	0.55
2004-05	3,649	31.2	0.56
2005-06	3,625	33.0	0.58
2006-07	3,886	33.0	0.59
2007-08	3,903	31.9	0.55
2008-09	3,165	33.9	0.62
2009-10	2,837	32.7	0.58
2010-11	2,457	30.8	0.54
2011-12	2,206	29.6	0.50
2012-13	1,923	31.1	0.51
2013-14	1,931	31.6	0.55
2014-15	1,809	31.7	0.54
2015-16	1,631	29.9	0.49

(continued on following page)

Table 6 (continued)

Drug Offences			
1997-98	5,654	26.2	0.40
1998-99	5,321	27.5	0.43
1999-00	4,838	25.5	0.37
2000-01	4,184	26.1	0.40
2001-02	4,694	25.2	0.41
2002-03	4,674	28.1	0.46
2003-04	5,524	29.3	0.45
2004-05	5,777	28.8	0.45
2005-06	5,794	29.5	0.47
2006-07	6,821	28.0	0.45
2007-08	6,581	27.2	0.42
2008-09	5,700	27.1	0.44
2009-10	5,946	26.9	0.42
2010-11	5,940	25.9	0.40
2011-12	5,674	23.9	0.38
2012-13	5,415	22.3	0.34
2013-14	5,584	22.0	0.33
2014-15	5,726	23.1	0.36
2015-16	5,855	23.3	0.35
Breach of the Peace³			
1997-98	13,709	31.5	0.59
1998-99	12,115	31.2	0.57
1999-00	10,317	29.7	0.52
2000-01	9,758	29.8	0.52
2001-02	10,338	30.3	0.53
2002-03	10,856	30.9	0.56
2003-04	11,435	31.0	0.55
2004-05	12,217	31.0	0.55
2005-06	12,948	31.4	0.55
2006-07	13,674	31.1	0.54
2007-08	13,397	30.3	0.52
2008-09	12,155	30.0	0.54
2009-10	11,286	29.4	0.52
2010-11	9,605	28.6	0.51
2011-12	9,855	29.0	0.51
2012-13	10,324	28.7	0.50
2013-14	10,983	28.4	0.49
2014-15	12,423	28.0	0.47
2015-16	13,153	25.7	0.43
Other Crimes and Offences			
1997-98	3,539	30.4	0.62
1998-99	3,120	32.4	0.65
1999-00	2,734	29.8	0.52
2000-01	2,875	29.4	0.51
2001-02	3,415	30.5	0.54
2002-03	3,958	32.6	0.58
2003-04	4,380	33.0	0.58
2004-05	4,855	32.1	0.57
2005-06	5,196	32.1	0.57
2006-07	5,502	33.1	0.57
2007-08	5,631	31.4	0.56
2008-09	5,635	30.6	0.55
2009-10	4,925	30.6	0.53
2010-11	4,604	30.5	0.52
2011-12	4,357	31.5	0.55
2012-13	3,799	30.8	0.53
2013-14	3,960	31.3	0.53
2014-15	3,936	29.3	0.49
2015-16	3,761	30.4	0.53

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

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

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

Table 7: Reconviction rates for crimes by index crime: 2015-16 cohort

Index crime ³ 2015-16	Total number (=100%)	Percentage reconvicted within 1 year for ¹ :							
		Any crime ²	Violent crime	Sexual crime ⁴	Crimes of dishonesty	Criminal damage	Drug offences	Breach of the peace ⁵	Other crimes and offences
All offenders	44,036	27.0	7.1	0.3	8.2	1.6	4.3	10.2	3.9
Violent crime	11,802	20.7	8.0	0.2	3.3	1.2	2.1	8.8	2.9
Sexual crime ⁴	900	10.7	1.9	2.6	1.7	0.4	0.4	3.0	3.9
Crimes of dishonesty	6,934	42.8	7.0	0.3	29.2	1.9	6.4	8.8	4.3
Criminal damage	1,631	29.9	9.7	0.3	5.0	4.5	3.2	13.1	4.7
Drug offences	5,855	23.3	4.0	0.2	5.2	0.8	10.2	6.2	3.1
Breach of the peace ⁵	13,153	25.7	7.5	0.3	4.3	1.8	2.8	13.5	3.8
Other crimes and offences	3,761	30.4	8.5	0.4	6.4	2.0	4.5	12.3	7.3

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

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

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

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

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

Table 8: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by index disposal: 1997-98 to 2015-16 cohorts^{1,2}

Index disposal	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
Discharged from Custody³			
1997-98	6,118	48.4	1.04
1998-99	5,821	49.1	1.09
1999-00	5,744	46.3	0.99
2000-01	5,573	47.4	1.00
2001-02	5,949	47.9	1.06
2002-03	6,003	49.8	1.12
2003-04	5,885	50.1	1.11
2004-05	6,127	47.9	1.06
2005-06	6,239	47.4	1.03
2006-07	6,871	48.7	1.06
2007-08	6,917	47.2	1.02
2008-09	7,218	47.2	0.99
2009-10	7,201	46.3	0.95
2010-11	7,030	45.6	0.92
2011-12	7,005	44.7	0.94
2012-13	7,084	44.3	0.91
2013-14	6,715	45.1	0.88
2014-15	6,260	44.6	0.89
2015-16	6,295	43.4	0.86
Extended Sentences			
1997-98	-	-	-
1998-99	-	-	-
1999-00	-	-	-
2000-01	-	-	-
2001-02	-	-	-
2002-03	-	-	-
2003-04	-	-	-
2004-05	-	-	-
2005-06	1	**	**
2006-07	16	6.3	0.06
2007-08	51	11.8	0.14
2008-09	40	12.5	0.15
2009-10	79	13.9	0.15
2010-11	101	15.8	0.19
2011-12	106	14.2	0.19
2012-13	134	12.7	0.14
2013-14	182	6.6	0.09
2014-15	210	14.3	0.15
2015-16	198	12.1	0.14
Supervised Release Orders			
1997-98	-	-	-
1998-99	-	-	-
1999-00	-	-	-
2000-01	-	-	-
2001-02	-	-	-
2002-03	-	-	-
2003-04	-	-	-
2004-05	-	-	-
2005-06	-	-	-
2006-07	26	34.6	0.42
2007-08	93	35.5	0.45
2008-09	147	46.9	0.89
2009-10	154	40.3	0.71
2010-11	161	44.1	0.76
2011-12	200	45.0	0.71
2012-13	217	39.2	0.59
2013-14	226	38.1	0.62
2014-15	231	36.8	0.55
2015-16	258	36.0	0.61

(continued on following page)

Table 8 (continued)

Restriction of Liberty Order			
1997-98	-	-	-
1998-99	25	60.0	1.56
1999-00	54	68.5	1.78
2000-01	61	62.3	1.69
2001-02	58	72.4	1.62
2002-03	223	53.8	1.21
2003-04	372	58.3	1.27
2004-05	442	57.7	1.24
2005-06	524	54.0	1.22
2006-07	548	52.4	1.07
2007-08	556	50.9	1.04
2008-09	594	47.8	0.98
2009-10	510	49.4	0.96
2010-11	461	45.1	0.86
2011-12	496	40.3	0.76
2012-13	558	36.4	0.68
2013-14	642	35.5	0.60
2014-15	731	33.7	0.60
2015-16	993	33.9	0.58
Legacy Community Order (CSO, PO)⁴			
1997-98	6,084	39.6	0.85
1998-99	5,951	40.3	0.88
1999-00	5,593	38.5	0.78
2000-01	5,644	38.9	0.82
2001-02	6,087	40.5	0.86
2002-03	6,554	40.6	0.84
2003-04	6,452	39.0	0.78
2004-05	7,091	39.6	0.79
2005-06	7,773	38.3	0.74
2006-07	7,608	38.1	0.72
2007-08	8,113	36.5	0.68
2008-09	8,851	37.0	0.70
2009-10	8,658	33.6	0.62
2010-11	8,242	33.7	0.61
2011-12	3,774	27.7	0.47
2012-13	663	14.9	0.22
2013-14	203	6.4	0.08
2014-15	109	8.3	0.12
2015-16	65	9.2	0.12
Community Payback Order⁵			
1997-98	-	-	-
1998-99	-	-	-
1999-00	-	-	-
2000-01	-	-	-
2001-02	-	-	-
2002-03	-	-	-
2003-04	-	-	-
2004-05	-	-	-
2005-06	-	-	-
2006-07	-	-	-
2007-08	-	-	-
2008-09	-	-	-
2009-10	-	-	-
2010-11	175	54.3	1.14
2011-12	6,104	36.6	0.68
2012-13	9,459	32.6	0.57
2013-14	10,539	30.6	0.56
2014-15	10,831	32.9	0.59
2015-16	10,801	30.8	0.54

(continued on following page)

Table 8 (continued)

Drug Treatment and Testing Order			
1997-98	-	-	-
1998-99	-	-	-
1999-00	1	**	**
2000-01	36	58.3	1.31
2001-02	94	75.5	2.14
2002-03	143	75.5	2.41
2003-04	203	78.8	2.20
2004-05	231	78.4	2.20
2005-06	268	70.1	1.88
2006-07	301	75.1	2.02
2007-08	326	70.9	1.94
2008-09	362	67.7	1.76
2009-10	364	66.2	1.70
2010-11	372	66.9	1.62
2011-12	277	62.1	1.65
2012-13	314	65.0	1.59
2013-14	328	64.3	1.73
2014-15	258	63.6	1.77
2015-16	236	64.4	1.68
Monetary Disposal			
1997-98	32,895	29.5	0.54
1998-99	29,562	29.4	0.53
1999-00	25,605	28.9	0.52
2000-01	23,816	28.9	0.51
2001-02	24,865	29.0	0.52
2002-03	24,849	29.1	0.52
2003-04	26,694	29.5	0.51
2004-05	27,452	29.2	0.50
2005-06	27,048	29.2	0.50
2006-07	28,498	29.0	0.49
2007-08	27,495	27.6	0.46
2008-09	22,844	26.7	0.47
2009-10	20,961	26.6	0.45
2010-11	18,679	25.6	0.44
2011-12	17,121	24.1	0.40
2012-13	14,802	23.3	0.39
2013-14	14,825	23.2	0.39
2014-15	15,205	22.3	0.36
2015-16	15,145	21.1	0.33
Other Disposal⁶			
1997-98	8,348	23.0	0.42
1998-99	7,789	21.5	0.38
1999-00	7,233	21.7	0.37
2000-01	6,435	22.2	0.37
2001-02	6,596	22.5	0.40
2002-03	7,072	23.0	0.41
2003-04	7,399	22.1	0.39
2004-05	8,015	22.3	0.39
2005-06	8,488	23.8	0.41
2006-07	9,438	23.7	0.42
2007-08	9,502	23.2	0.41
2008-09	9,601	23.5	0.44
2009-10	9,489	22.1	0.39
2010-11	9,483	21.9	0.39
2011-12	8,737	22.6	0.40
2012-13	8,466	21.2	0.38
2013-14	8,522	21.0	0.39
2014-15	9,779	21.3	0.37
2015-16	10,045	20.1	0.33

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

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

3. Discharged from custody includes imprisonment and admission to a

young offenders institution, and from 2010-11 also includes a small number of offenders (between 5 and 16 per cohort) given Orders for Lifelong Restriction.

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

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

6. Includes Supervised Attendance Orders.

Table 9: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by custodial sentence length: 1997-98 to 2015-16 cohorts^{1,2,3}

Custodial sentence length	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
3 months or less			
1997-98	2,724	56.7	1.33
1998-99	2,554	59.3	1.42
1999-00	2,539	55.5	1.27
2000-01	2,394	58.1	1.31
2001-02	2,462	58.2	1.37
2002-03	2,633	61.3	1.49
2003-04	2,471	63.1	1.51
2004-05	2,563	61.5	1.44
2005-06	2,725	59.2	1.37
2006-07	3,066	60.7	1.40
2007-08	2,870	59.0	1.35
2008-09	2,359	59.6	1.38
2009-10	2,067	58.9	1.32
2010-11	1,824	61.7	1.35
2011-12	1,406	59.7	1.36
2012-13	1,406	60.5	1.39
2013-14	1,308	60.9	1.34
2014-15	1,299	60.5	1.26
2015-16	1,324	58.5	1.26
Over 3 months to 6 months			
1997-98	1,459	58.0	1.22
1998-99	1,403	57.9	1.31
1999-00	1,331	56.7	1.23
2000-01	1,325	58.0	1.24
2001-02	1,431	57.2	1.33
2002-03	1,381	60.1	1.37
2003-04	1,347	59.8	1.33
2004-05	1,338	57.3	1.31
2005-06	1,371	56.9	1.31
2006-07	1,470	58.0	1.29
2007-08	1,452	57.9	1.34
2008-09	1,902	55.0	1.20
2009-10	1,936	54.1	1.15
2010-11	2,024	53.2	1.11
2011-12	2,333	53.3	1.19
2012-13	2,304	51.8	1.13
2013-14	2,211	54.6	1.09
2014-15	2,025	54.5	1.17
2015-16	1,978	52.2	1.07
Over 6 months to 1 year			
1997-98	596	35.6	0.65
1998-99	533	33.0	0.61
1999-00	540	37.4	0.71
2000-01	492	34.3	0.64
2001-02	578	40.7	0.74
2002-03	517	36.0	0.67
2003-04	563	36.4	0.72
2004-05	558	33.3	0.69
2005-06	575	36.0	0.67
2006-07	630	37.3	0.70
2007-08	772	36.7	0.67
2008-09	1,032	44.4	0.84
2009-10	1,181	42.4	0.82
2010-11	1,217	41.6	0.80
2011-12	1,251	42.8	0.81
2012-13	1,343	42.4	0.80
2013-14	1,291	43.1	0.78
2014-15	1,176	40.9	0.75
2015-16	1,221	40.9	0.78

(continued on following page)

Table 9 (continued)

Over 1 year to 2 years			
1997-98	566	30.4	0.52
1998-99	489	33.1	0.55
1999-00	511	29.2	0.48
2000-01	495	32.3	0.54
2001-02	553	30.0	0.50
2002-03	506	30.0	0.53
2003-04	558	31.2	0.52
2004-05	636	32.9	0.55
2005-06	551	28.7	0.48
2006-07	643	30.2	0.54
2007-08	804	35.2	0.59
2008-09	944	34.2	0.53
2009-10	1,072	34.4	0.60
2010-11	1,026	32.0	0.53
2011-12	1,029	32.8	0.59
2012-13	1,170	33.0	0.54
2013-14	1,125	30.6	0.50
2014-15	1,070	29.8	0.48
2015-16	1,123	31.1	0.51
Over 2 years to less than 4 years			
1997-98	371	27.5	0.37
1998-99	359	25.6	0.41
1999-00	352	21.9	0.32
2000-01	366	20.8	0.30
2001-02	378	27.5	0.44
2002-03	396	27.0	0.46
2003-04	364	27.7	0.46
2004-05	423	22.9	0.41
2005-06	397	23.2	0.38
2006-07	483	25.9	0.43
2007-08	536	22.2	0.35
2008-09	613	27.1	0.45
2009-10	622	29.3	0.48
2010-11	732	27.0	0.43
2011-12	759	27.3	0.43
2012-13	706	26.3	0.40
2013-14	660	25.6	0.39
2014-15	640	23.4	0.36
2015-16	581	24.8	0.38
Over 4 years			
1997-98	402	21.6	0.31
1998-99	483	20.7	0.27
1999-00	471	14.4	0.17
2000-01	501	15.6	0.17
2001-02	547	17.4	0.23
2002-03	570	17.9	0.23
2003-04	582	18.2	0.23
2004-05	609	15.9	0.20
2005-06	621	17.7	0.21
2006-07	621	14.0	0.16
2007-08	627	13.7	0.16
2008-09	555	15.0	0.19
2009-10	556	16.7	0.18
2010-11	469	13.2	0.16
2011-12	533	13.7	0.16
2012-13	506	10.5	0.12
2013-14	528	10.2	0.12
2014-15	491	13.6	0.15
2015-16	524	9.2	0.10

1. This table includes imprisonment, admission to young offenders institution, Extended Sentences (from 2005-06), Supervised Release Orders (from 2006-07) and Orders for Lifelong Restriction (from 2010-11).

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

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

Table 10: Reconviction rates by offender characteristics: 2015-16 cohort

Index disposal in 2015-16 by age	Percentage of male offenders reconvicted ¹				Percentage of female offenders reconvicted ¹			
	Number of previous convictions ²				Number of previous convictions ²			
	None	1 or 2	3 to 10	Over 10	None	1 or 2	3 to 10	Over 10
All	11	20	30	52	8	18	33	52
under 21	22	42	61	63	17	35	49	67
21 to 25	11	23	40	64	8	21	40	58
26 to 30	9	17	30	59	7	18	32	58
31 to 40	7	14	26	52	6	14	34	53
over 40	5	11	19	43	6	13	25	46
Discharged from custody³	12	18	34	58	9	15	42	61
under 21	37	37	61	58	**	**	**	**
21 to 25	10	20	40	64	**	**	44	70
26 to 30	5	15	30	61	9	**	33	65
31 to 40	10	15	29	56	10	**	42	60
over 40	5	7	19	54	13	**	45	57
Extended Sentences	5	10	11	27	**	**	**	**
under 21	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
21 to 25	**	**	5	20	**	**	**	**
26 to 30	**	**	**	46	**	**	**	**
31 to 40	**	**	**	*	**	**	**	**
over 40	4	*	11	**	**	**	**	**
Supervised Release Orders	19	18	27	50	**	**	**	**
under 21	**	20	28	**	**	**	**	**
21 to 25	**	**	43	52	**	**	**	**
26 to 30	**	**	27	67	**	**	**	**
31 to 40	**	**	7	47	**	**	**	**
over 40	18	**	18	27	**	**	**	**
Restriction of Liberty Order	19	26	42	42	11	29	41	44
under 21	38	48	82	**	**	**	**	**
21 to 25	17	22	44	66	**	**	50	**
26 to 30	8	12	41	58	**	**	**	**
31 to 40	5	16	27	42	**	17	40	31
over 40	*	19	37	24	*	**	**	**
Legacy community orders⁴	3	14	**	**	8	**	**	**
under 21	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
21 to 25	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
26 to 30	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
31 to 40	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
over 40	*	**	**	**	10	**	**	**
Community Payback Orders⁵	15	25	35	52	11	23	37	55
under 21	29	49	65	75	30	47	68	**
21 to 25	13	30	43	70	11	21	39	65
26 to 30	13	17	33	61	9	26	32	55
31 to 40	8	14	30	53	6	21	38	56
over 40	4	13	23	39	4	14	30	51
Drug Treatment and Testing Order	**	**	66	71	**	**	50	70
under 21	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
21 to 25	**	**	**	100	**	**	**	**
26 to 30	**	**	**	81	**	**	**	70
31 to 40	**	**	56	71	**	**	**	69
over 40	**	**	**	60	**	**	**	**
Monetary	10	17	25	45	8	17	28	45
under 21	16	32	56	**	14	37	20	**
21 to 25	10	21	38	64	7	17	35	44
26 to 30	9	17	24	51	7	18	35	49
31 to 40	7	14	24	48	8	15	29	49
over 40	5	11	17	37	6	15	23	38
Other⁶	10	18	25	47	7	14	29	48
under 21	21	43	60	**	13	26	42	**
21 to 25	10	21	37	61	7	23	41	48
26 to 30	8	18	33	58	5	13	29	62
31 to 40	6	13	20	46	5	9	33	48
over 40	4	10	17	41	6	10	20	42

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

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

3. Custody includes imprisonment, young offender institutions, and orders for lifelong restriction. Supervised release orders and extended sentences are presented separately for the first time this year.

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

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

6. Includes Supervised Attendance Orders.

Table 11: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by local authority group based on court areas: 2015-16 cohort

Local authority group ¹	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
All	44,036	27.0	0.47
Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire ²	3,495	27.8	0.56
Angus	740	26.4	0.48
Argyll & Bute ³	416	22.8	0.33
Ayrshire, East, North and South ⁴	3,713	30.1	0.53
Clackmannanshire	500	28.2	0.52
Dumfries & Galloway	1,448	25.9	0.44
Dunbartonshire, East and West ^{5,6}	1,055	28.2	0.47
Dundee City ⁷	1,895	27.2	0.46
East Lothian ⁸	107	26.2	0.30
Edinburgh and Midlothian ^{8,9}	5,055	25.6	0.46
Falkirk	1,170	28.8	0.47
Fife ⁷	2,477	26.8	0.46
Glasgow City ^{10,11}	8,834	27.6	0.49
Highland	1,338	25.6	0.40
Inverclyde ³	760	29.5	0.51
Lanarkshire, North and South ¹²	5,000	28.3	0.50
Moray	613	23.2	0.39
Na h-Eileanan Siar	107	13.1	0.19
Orkney Islands	98	16.3	0.20
Perth and Kinross	979	22.0	0.34
Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire ¹³	1,692	26.4	0.41
Scottish Borders	552	24.8	0.42
Shetland Islands	159	20.1	0.33
Stirling	607	27.7	0.50
West Lothian	1,224	21.6	0.32
Unknown	2	**	**

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

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

3. Rothesay Sheriff Court closed in 2013 and the business moved to Greenock Sheriff Court. Therefore some of the Argyll and Bute figures are included under Inverclyde.

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

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

6. Parts of East Dunbartonshire are also served by Glasgow Sheriff Court, but the figures for Glasgow Sheriff Court are only included within the Glasgow local authority area.

7. Cupar Sheriff and Justice of the Peace Court closed in 2014 and the business was moved to Dundee Sheriff and Justice of the Peace Court. Therefore some Fife figures are counted under Dundee City.

8. Haddington Sheriff Court and Justice of the Peace Court closed at the start of 2015 and the business was moved to Edinburgh Sheriff Court. Therefore some of the East Lothian figures are included under Edinburgh and Midlothian.

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

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

11. Includes the Stipendiary Magistrates court.

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

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

Table 12: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by local authority based on residence of offenders: 2015-16 cohort¹

Local Authority	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
All	44,036	27.0	0.47
Aberdeen City	2,078	29.9	0.64
Aberdeenshire	1,004	22.0	0.35
Angus	644	24.7	0.43
Argyll & Bute	399	22.1	0.31
Clackmannanshire	440	26.8	0.49
Dumfries & Galloway	1,113	28.1	0.47
Dundee City	1,439	26.3	0.46
East Ayrshire	823	28.1	0.52
East Dunbartonshire	337	17.2	0.23
East Lothian	517	22.1	0.38
East Renfrewshire	346	20.8	0.33
Edinburgh, City of	2,667	24.7	0.42
Falkirk	1,037	27.7	0.45
Fife	2,317	24.2	0.43
Glasgow City	5,078	27.2	0.46
Highland	1,078	24.5	0.38
Inverclyde	440	31.8	0.51
Midlothian	508	22.2	0.36
Moray	541	21.4	0.36
Na h-Eileanan Siar	84	11.9	0.18
North Ayrshire	839	28.0	0.41
North Lanarkshire	2,259	26.5	0.44
Orkney Islands	83	16.9	0.22
Perth & Kinross	776	23.3	0.37
Renfrewshire	1,021	23.9	0.38
Scottish Borders	490	22.9	0.40
Shetland Islands	105	21.0	0.29
South Ayrshire	515	24.1	0.44
South Lanarkshire	2,200	27.1	0.47
Stirling	468	25.2	0.38
West Dunbartonshire	714	27.0	0.45
West Lothian	1,057	19.8	0.29
Unknown ²	10,619	31.4	0.58

1. These data are classed as [Experimental Statistics: Data being developed](#), as the data are not yet of sufficient quality to be labelled as National Statistics.

2. Unknown local authority is where data wasn't available on the first part of an offenders' postcode so they could not be assigned to a local authority. This also includes a small number where postcodes were supplied, but they were not valid Scottish postcodes.

Table 13: Two year reconviction rates and two year average number of reconvictions per offender: 1997-98 to 2014-15 cohorts¹

Cohort	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
1997-98	53,445	42.6	1.10
1998-99	49,148	42.5	1.08
1999-00	44,230	42.9	1.08
2000-01	41,565	43.8	1.13
2001-02	43,649	44.2	1.16
2002-03	44,844	45.2	1.18
2003-04	47,005	44.7	1.15
2004-05	49,358	44.5	1.13
2005-06	50,341	44.8	1.13
2006-07	53,306	44.1	1.09
2007-08	53,053	42.5	1.06
2008-09	49,657	42.4	1.08
2009-10	47,416	41.5	1.03
2010-11	44,704	41.1	1.02
2011-12	43,820	40.8	1.00
2012-13	41,697	40.6	0.99
2013-14	42,182	39.9	0.97
2014-15	43,614	38.9	0.91

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

Table 14: Individuals given police disposals and subsequent non-court disposals, by disposal type: 2008-09 to 2015-16 cohorts^{1,2}

Police disposal	Number of individuals	Repeat non-court disposal rate ^{3,4}	Average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual ³
ASBFPN			
2008-09	38,917	28.5	0.48
2009-10	48,241	27.5	0.47
2010-11	42,841	27.4	0.49
2011-12	41,489	27.9	0.53
2012-13	42,029	27.9	0.54
2013-14	42,822	25.5	0.47
2014-15	33,804	22.7	0.42
2015-16	24,402	19.4	0.33
Formal Adult Warning			
2008-09	6,803	18.0	0.28
2009-10	7,474	14.7	0.22
2010-11	6,775	13.3	0.20
2011-12	7,554	14.5	0.22
2012-13	7,316	14.9	0.25
2013-14	6,495	12.9	0.21
2014-15	4,351	11.0	0.16
2015-16	3,157	9.6	0.13
Restorative Justice Warning			
2008-09	2,269	7.9	0.10
2009-10	2,153	6.0	0.07
2010-11	1,646	6.9	0.09
2011-12	951	8.8	0.10
2012-13	516	14.5	0.20
2013-14	335	16.1	0.24
2014-15	192	21.9	0.33
2015-16	267	25.5	0.49
Early and Effective Interventions			
2008-09	93	15.1	0.17
2009-10	215	21.4	0.27
2010-11	432	19.2	0.25
2011-12	2,178	20.1	0.28
2012-13	3,449	19.5	0.28
2013-14	3,963	22.7	0.38
2014-15	4,149	22.6	0.37
2015-16	5,057	23.3	0.40
Recorded Police Warning			
2008-09	-	-	-
2009-10	-	-	-
2010-11	-	-	-
2011-12	-	-	-
2012-13	-	-	-
2013-14	-	-	-
2014-15	-	-	-
2015-16	3,633	13.6	0.17

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

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

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

4. The percentage of individuals receiving a non-court disposal within a year of receiving a police disposal.

Table 15: Individuals given COPFS disposals and subsequent non-court disposals, by disposal type: 2008-09 to 2015-16 cohorts^{1,2}

COPFS disposal	Number of individuals	Repeat non-court disposal rate^{3,4}	Average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual³
Fiscal Fine			
2008-09	30,031	25.7	0.40
2009-10	28,057	23.4	0.35
2010-11	28,149	22.9	0.34
2011-12	32,941	24.7	0.35
2012-13	37,707	24.7	0.35
2013-14	36,915	21.4	0.33
2014-15	28,907	21.3	0.31
2015-16	29,175	18.4	0.24
Fiscal Fixed Penalty			
2008-09	16,997	8.8	0.10
2009-10	17,428	9.4	0.11
2010-11	19,016	9.6	0.11
2011-12	19,707	9.2	0.11
2012-13	20,142	10.0	0.12
2013-14	21,967	8.8	0.10
2014-15	14,807	6.4	0.07
2015-16	10,376	4.9	0.05
Fiscal Combined Fine with Compensation			
2008-09	1,150	23.9	0.35
2009-10	1,734	18.9	0.24
2010-11	1,887	19.1	0.25
2011-12	2,265	18.9	0.23
2012-13	1,951	20.9	0.27
2013-14	1,589	18.5	0.26
2014-15	1,647	17.1	0.22
2015-16	2,313	18.8	0.23
Fiscal Compensation			
2008-09	1,644	25.9	0.37
2009-10	1,660	20.1	0.28
2010-11	1,530	20.0	0.26
2011-12	1,110	21.4	0.27
2012-13	851	19.9	0.26
2013-14	673	16.3	0.22
2014-15	509	15.3	0.22
2015-16	448	15.2	0.20
Fiscal Fixed Penalties (Pre-SJR)			
2008-09	2,664	20.6	0.32
2009-10	380	18.2	0.24
2010-11	92	19.6	0.35
2011-12	47	10.6	0.11
2012-13	31	35.5	0.52
2013-14	35	11.4	0.11
2014-15	24	4.2	0.13
2015-16	11	9.1	0.09

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

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

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

4. The percentage of individuals receiving a non-court disposal within a year of receiving a COPFS disposal.

Table 16: Individuals given non-court disposals and subsequent non-court disposals, by gender: 2008-09 to 2015-16 cohorts^{1,2}

Gender	Number of Individuals	Repeat non-court disposal rate³	Average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual
Males			
2008-09	77,073	24.7	0.40
2009-10	82,411	23.9	0.39
2010-11	78,217	23.2	0.38
2011-12	81,810	23.4	0.39
2012-13	84,401	23.8	0.41
2013-14	85,861	22.0	0.37
2014-15	68,172	20.3	0.33
2015-16	58,112	17.9	0.27
Females			
2008-09	23,495	16.7	0.23
2009-10	24,931	15.3	0.21
2010-11	24,151	15.1	0.21
2011-12	26,432	17.6	0.25
2012-13	29,591	18.2	0.25
2013-14	28,933	14.1	0.21
2014-15	20,218	13.6	0.21
2015-16	20,727	13.4	0.18

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

2. Includes police and COPFS disposals.

3. The percentage of individuals receiving a non-court disposal within a year of receiving a non-court disposal.

Table 17: Individuals given non-court disposals and subsequent non-court disposals, by age: 2008-09 to 2015-16 cohorts^{1,2}

Age ³	Number of Individuals	Repeat non-court disposal rate ⁴	Average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual
Under 21			
2008-09	27,484	32.2	0.53
2009-10	28,260	30.2	0.50
2010-11	24,414	29.0	0.47
2011-12	24,003	28.5	0.47
2012-13	22,958	28.1	0.47
2013-14	21,613	27.3	0.45
2014-15	17,528	24.8	0.40
2015-16	15,987	21.9	0.34
21 to 25			
2008-09	19,774	24.6	0.36
2009-10	21,701	23.8	0.36
2010-11	20,407	22.9	0.35
2011-12	20,521	24.2	0.37
2012-13	21,244	25.1	0.39
2013-14	21,489	21.8	0.33
2014-15	15,782	19.8	0.30
2015-16	12,949	17.8	0.25
26 to 30			
2008-09	14,001	20.8	0.31
2009-10	15,396	20.2	0.30
2010-11	15,098	20.4	0.31
2011-12	16,511	21.6	0.33
2012-13	17,573	22.5	0.36
2013-14	17,647	19.7	0.31
2014-15	13,445	18.3	0.28
2015-16	11,534	16.6	0.23
31 to 40			
2008-09	19,415	18.3	0.28
2009-10	20,256	18.1	0.29
2010-11	20,014	19.5	0.33
2011-12	22,141	20.7	0.35
2012-13	24,015	21.4	0.37
2013-14	24,717	19.1	0.33
2014-15	18,972	18.5	0.32
2015-16	16,948	16.1	0.24
Over 40			
2008-09	19,894	14.1	0.23
2009-10	21,729	13.9	0.23
2010-11	22,435	13.7	0.23
2011-12	25,066	15.3	0.26
2012-13	28,202	16.3	0.28
2013-14	29,325	14.3	0.25
2014-15	22,651	13.9	0.24
2015-16	21,420	12.8	0.20

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

2. Includes police and COPFS disposals.

3. There were a small number of individuals (no more than 12 per cohort) between 2013-14 and 2015-16 where age could not be determined. These offenders are not included here.

4. The percentage of individuals receiving a non-court disposal within a year of receiving a non-court disposal.

Table 18: Repeat non-court disposal rates by characteristics: 2015-16 cohort^{1,2,3}

Index non-court disposal in 2015-16 by gender	Age					
	All	Under 21	21 to 25	26 to 30	31 to 40	Over 40
All	17	22	18	17	16	13
Male	18	23	19	17	17	14
Female	13	16	13	15	14	11
Police Disposals	19	22	17	17	18	16
Male	20	23	18	17	19	18
Female	15	17	13	15	17	11
ASBFPN	19	22	18	18	20	19
Male	20	22	19	18	20	20
Female	16	18	14	16	19	14
Formal Adult Warning	10	11	9	12	9	8
Male	11	15	10	13	10	9
Female	8	5	8	12	9	7
Restorative Justice Warning	26	26	-	-	-	-
Male	28	28	-	-	-	-
Female	17	17	-	-	-	-
Early and Effective Interventions	23	23	-	-	-	-
Male	26	26	-	-	-	-
Female	18	18	-	-	-	-
Recorded Police Warning	14	17	12	13	14	11
Male	14	19	13	12	12	12
Female	12	12	11	13	17	10
COPFS Disposals	15	23	19	16	15	11
Male	16	25	21	17	16	11
Female	13	15	13	15	13	11
Fiscal Fine	18	25	21	19	18	15
Male	20	27	24	20	20	16
Female	15	17	13	17	15	13
Fiscal Fixed Penalty	5	12	9	6	5	3
Male	5	14	10	6	5	3
Female	3	2	6	4	3	3
Fiscal Combined Fine with Compensation	19	20	21	20	18	17
Male	20	18	22	20	21	17
Female	17	29	20	20	10	18
Fiscal Compensation	15	24	18	17	13	9
Male	15	26	20	18	10	5
Female	15	9	10	14	19	15
Fiscal Fixed Penalty (Pre-SJR)	9	**	-	**	**	**
Male	**	**	-	**	**	**
Female	**	-	-	**	**	**

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

2. Includes police and COPFS disposals.

3. The table shows repeat non-court disposal rates, which is the percentage of individuals receiving a non-court disposal within a year of receiving a non-court disposal.

Table 19: Individuals convicted in 2016-17, by gender, age and number and type of previous convictions in 10 years from 2007-08 to 2016-17¹

Number and type of previous convictions from 2007-08 to 2016-17	Total	Gender		Age ²					(Last) sentence in 2015-16			
		Male	Female	under 21	21 to 25	26 to 30	31 to 40	over 40	Custody ³	Community sentence (CPO, CSO, PO, RLO, DTTO) ⁴	Monetary	Other ⁵
Number of persons with charge proved	41,612	34,223	7,389	4,287	6,979	7,070	11,620	11,656	6,255	11,415	13,693	10,249
All previous convictions⁶												
None	14,490	11,228	3,262	2,334	2,266	1,761	3,218	4,911	815	3,322	5,654	4,699
1 or 2	10,159	8,399	1,760	1,087	1,799	1,623	2,779	2,871	837	3,135	3,916	2,271
3 to 10	11,476	9,809	1,667	741	2,048	2,349	3,587	2,751	2,319	3,665	3,251	2,241
Over 10	5,487	4,787	700	125	866	1,337	2,036	1,123	2,284	1,293	872	1,038
Previous custodial sentences												
None	30,557	24,170	6,387	3,806	5,334	4,706	7,642	9,069	1,887	8,739	11,559	8,372
1 or 2	4,617	4,190	427	252	689	874	1,586	1,216	1,298	1,326	1,152	841
3 to 10	4,955	4,499	456	221	816	1,131	1,756	1,031	2,203	1,106	843	803
Over 10	1,483	1,364	119	8	140	359	636	340	867	244	139	233
Previous community sentences												
None	24,694	19,675	5,019	2,994	3,773	3,531	6,343	8,053	2,188	5,947	9,617	6,942
1 or 2	10,499	9,032	1,467	906	1,823	1,995	3,287	2,488	2,105	3,376	2,928	2,090
3 to 10	6,222	5,365	857	383	1,336	1,490	1,927	1,086	1,889	2,036	1,125	1,172
Over 10	197	151	46	4	47	54	63	29	73	56	23	45
Previous solemn convictions⁷												
None	34,216	27,400	6,816	3,906	5,676	5,363	9,078	10,193	3,337	9,681	12,145	9,053
1 or 2	6,307	5,767	540	350	1,116	1,375	2,160	1,306	2,245	1,559	1,429	1,074
3 to 10	1,087	1,054	33	31	185	332	382	157	671	175	119	122
Over 10	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Previous convictions for crimes of violence⁸												
None	27,109	21,817	5,292	3,390	4,087	3,708	7,216	8,708	2,591	7,099	9,890	7,529
1 or 2	11,102	9,433	1,669	776	2,131	2,304	3,454	2,437	2,269	3,430	3,201	2,202
3 to 10	3,356	2,946	410	121	759	1,032	941	503	1,366	881	599	510
Over 10	45	27	18	0	2	26	9	8	29	5	3	8
Previous convictions for crimes of dishonesty⁹												
None	30,631	25,083	5,548	3,721	5,222	4,800	7,718	9,170	3,067	8,479	11,096	7,989
1 or 2	5,750	4,866	884	438	1,152	1,216	1,722	1,222	1,328	1,689	1,603	1,130
3 to 10	3,823	3,115	708	124	533	820	1,455	891	1,241	958	803	821
Over 10	1,408	1,159	249	4	72	234	725	373	619	289	191	309
Previous convictions for drug offences												
None	33,458	27,082	6,376	4,050	5,946	5,391	8,321	9,750	4,143	9,261	11,355	8,699
1 or 2	6,548	5,730	818	226	919	1,379	2,521	1,503	1,610	1,800	1,922	1,216
3 to 10	1,581	1,387	194	11	112	295	763	400	492	349	412	328
Over 10	25	24	1	0	2	5	15	3	10	5	4	6

1. This table is compiled on a different basis to tables 1-13. It counts individuals convicted in 2016-17 and counts their previous convictions over 10 years. If they were convicted more than once in 2016-17, their final conviction in the year is counted as the index conviction and the earlier convictions are counted as previous convictions.

2. Age as at date of last conviction in 2016-17.

3. Custodial sentence includes: Imprisonment, Young Offenders Institution, Orders for Lifelong Restriction, Extended Sentences, and Supervised Release Orders.

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

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

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

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

8. Crimes of violence now includes common assault, in line with Tables 6 and 7. Therefore numbers in this category are not comparable with those presented in previous bulletins.

9. Crimes of dishonesty now includes social security offences, in line with Tables 6 and 7. Therefore numbers in this category are not comparable with those presented in previous bulletins.

Table 20: Individuals convicted by number of previous convictions in 10 years from 2007-08 to 2016-17¹

Number and type of previous convictions ²	1998-99 to 2007-08		1999-00 to 2008-09		2000-01 to 2009-10		2001-02 to 2010-11		2002-03 to 2011-12		2003-04 to 2012-13		2004-05 to 2013-14		2005-06 to 2014-15		2006-07 to 2015-16		2007-08 to 2016-17	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Number of persons with charge proved (=100%)	53,557		50,555		48,358		45,656		44,942		42,529		43,152		44,776		45,224		41,612	
All previous convictions³																				
None	18,718	35	17,347	34	16,467	34	15,350	34	14,833	33	13,876	33	14,736	34	16,062	36	16,465	36	14,490	35
1 or 2	13,658	26	12,313	24	11,899	25	10,938	24	10,704	24	10,099	24	10,343	24	10,597	24	10,831	24	10,159	24
3 to 10	14,903	28	14,341	28	13,593	28	13,020	29	13,086	29	12,403	29	12,007	28	12,220	27	12,239	27	11,476	28
Over 10	6,278	12	6,554	13	6,399	13	6,348	14	6,319	14	6,151	14	6,066	14	5,897	13	5,689	13	5,487	13

1. This table is compiled on a different basis to tables 1-13. It counts individuals convicted in the final year of the 10 year window, and counts their previous convictions over the 10 year window. If they were convicted more than once in the final year of the window, their final conviction in the year is counted as the index conviction and the earlier convictions are counted as previous convictions.

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

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

Annex

Annex A – Definitions, counting rules, and pseudo reconvictions

Background and definitions

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

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

Table A1 Definitions

The following terminology is applied throughout the bulletin:

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

Cohort – all offenders who either received a non-custodial conviction or were released from a custodial sentence in a given financial year, from the 1st April to the 31st March the following year. In the analyses for non-court disposals, a cohort is all the individuals who either received a police or COPFS disposal in a given financial year. In this bulletin, for ease of communication, the cohort may be referred to by year alone, for example 2015-16.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Previous convictions – convictions preceding the index conviction.

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

Recidivism – repeated reoffending after being convicted.

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

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

Reoffending – the action of committing a further crime or offence after committing a crime or offence.

SOI – The Scottish Offenders Index. This consists of two separate databases. One contains a record of all convictions since 1989 for either a crime in Groups 1-5 or some of the offences in Group 6 in the Scottish Government’s classification of crimes. The second database contains a record of all non-court disposals for any crime or offence since 2008.

Counting rules

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

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

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

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

Whichever conviction has the earlier of these dates in a given financial year is the index conviction. The crime and sentence linked to this index conviction are referred to throughout this bulletin as the **index crime** and **index disposal**, respectively. In the case of the reconviction rate, the analysis then considers the proportion of these individuals who are reconvicted in court within one year (or two years in [Table 13](#)) from the date of sentence or the estimated custody release date, i.e. from the relevant date of the index conviction, whereas the average number of reconvictions per offender considers the number of times offenders are reconvicted in the same period.

A6 Convictions for a crime against public justice, such as committing an offence while on bail, are not considered as index convictions. If the first conviction in the year for a particular offender was for such an offence, their next conviction which wasn't a crime against public justice was taken instead. Where an individual had no

further convictions in the year for crimes other than crimes against public justice they are not included in the data set.

A7 For the purposes of the analysis in this bulletin, the date of release for offenders given a custodial sentence has been estimated. This is estimated from their sentence date, the length of sentence imposed, assumptions about time spent on remand and release on parole, and information about whether the offender had been granted bail. The release date estimated by this approach will not always tie in with the actual release date because, for example, the offender may be serving other custodial sentences. However, this is not judged to be significant for the purposes of the current analysis. The main exception to this relates to offenders discharged from life sentences or, for some cohorts, very long determinate custodial sentences – see below.

A8 It is not possible to accurately identify the release date for offenders serving life sentences or, in some instances, very lengthy determinate sentences. However, the number of offenders involved is relatively small (27 offenders received a life sentence in 2015-16: see [Table 10d in Criminal Proceedings in Scotland, 2016-17](#)) and so will not affect the analysis presented in this bulletin significantly. Separate research evidence ([Life Sentence Prisoners in Scotland, Scottish Office, Machin et al, 1999](#)) shows that just over one quarter of the 491 life sentence prisoners released on licence were reconvicted. However, this figure may not be directly comparable with the reconviction rates presented in this bulletin, as the reconvictions for life sentence prisoners may have been for minor offences which are excluded from analysis in this bulletin, or reconvictions may have occurred more than a year after release from custody.

A9 The counting rules for non-court disposals are similar to those for analysing court reconvictions. The first police or COPFS disposal in the financial year in question is counted as the **index non-court disposal**. Further non-court disposals from either the police or COPFS within one year of the index non-court disposal are counted, regardless whether the index non-court disposal was issued by the police or COPFS. The measure does not include activity for those who were then convicted in court within a year.

Data definitions

A10 The age of each person relates to their age at the time that sentence was passed. This also applies to offenders discharged from a custodial sentence, i.e. their age at the date of sentence is taken rather than at the estimated release date.

A11 The areas that courts serve don't exactly match administrative areas for local authorities. For example, Edinburgh Sheriff Court serves the local authority areas of the City of Edinburgh and Midlothian, and East Lothian from the 1st February 2015 when Haddington Sheriff Court closed. As a result, in [Table 11](#), [Chart 10](#) and [Chart 11](#) in this bulletin, local authorities are based on approximate areas. Some local authorities are grouped together so that there are 25 grouped local authorities presented, rather than all 32 being displayed separately. See the footnote of [Table 11](#) for details of the approximations for each administrative area. Note that

offenders may be tried in a court that covers a different local authority to where they live if they commit a crime in a different area, or because their local authority doesn't have a court. [Table 12](#), shows reconviction rates by the local authority of offenders' residence, which is compiled by using the first half of an offender's postcode to assign them to a local authority. [Table 12](#) is labelled as [Experimental Statistics: Data being developed](#) and not National Statistics, as the data quality for this new analysis doesn't yet meet the standards for National Statistics. Therefore we recommend that the figures based on court area are still used as the definitive local authority reconviction rates.

A12 Tables A2 and A3 detail how crimes and offences, and sentence type have been grouped in this bulletin.

Table A2 Crime Groupings for Convictions and Reconvictions

Crime category	Crimes and offences included
Violent crime	Murder, culpable homicide, attempted murder, serious assault, robbery, common assault, death involving a motor vehicle, other violence.
Sexual crime	Sexual crime includes sexual assault and other sexual crimes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual assault includes: rape; attempted rape; contact sexual assault (13-15 yr. old or adult 16+); sexually coercive conduct (13-15 yr. old or adult 16+); sexual offences against children under 13 years; and lewd and libidinous practices. Other sexual crimes includes: other sexually coercive conduct; other sexual offences involving 13-15 year old children; taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children; incest; unnatural crimes; public indecency; sexual exposure; and other sexual offences. These are the notifiable crimes for an offender who has been placed on the sex offenders register. The definitions are aligned with the <i>Criminal Proceedings in Scotland</i> publication. Sexual crime excludes offences associated with prostitution.
Prostitution	Procuration (excluding homosexual acts); brothel keeping; immoral traffic; offences related to prostitution; procuration of homosexual acts; procuration of sexual services from children under 18; and soliciting services of a person engaged in prostitution.
Dishonesty	Housebreaking, theft by opening lockfast places, theft of motor vehicle, other theft, fraud, other crimes of dishonesty and social security offences.
Criminal damage	Fire-raising, vandalism.
Drug offences	Illegal importation, supply or possession of drugs, other drug offences.
Breach of the peace	Breach of the peace, racially aggravated harassment, racially aggravated conduct, threatening or abusive behaviour, offence of

	stalking, offensive behaviour at football, and threatening communications (under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communication Scotland Act 2012).
Other crimes and offences	Crimes against public justice, (breach of sexual offender order and breach of sexual harm order are included in crimes against public justice), handling offensive weapons (in possession of an offensive weapon; having in a public place an article with a blade or point, and restriction of weapons), miscellaneous firearm offences, other crimes and offences (not elsewhere specified).
Serious violent crime	As per violent crime, but including only those convictions which took place in the high court or a sheriff solemn court.
Serious crime	All convictions which took place in the high court or in a sheriff solemn court, and any other convictions for serious assault, robbery, possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life etc., abduction, attempted rape and indecent assault.

Table A3 Sentence groupings

Sentence category	Sentences included
Custody	Custodial sentence to prison, young offender's institution, or child detention, orders for lifelong restriction. Life and indeterminate sentences are excluded. Also includes Supervised Release Orders and Extended Sentences in Table 9 and Table 19 .
ES	Extended Sentence
SRO	Supervised Release Order
CPO	Community Payback Order ⁵
Legacy community order	Probation Order (with or without CSO or RLO), or Community Service Order
DTTO	Drug Treatment and Testing Order
RLO	Restriction of Liberty Order
Monetary	Fine, compensation order
Other	Supervised Attendance Orders, caution, 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, Restorative Justice Warnings, Early and Effective Interventions (EEl), and Recorded Police Warnings.

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

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service disposals	Fiscal Fines, Fiscal Compensation Orders, Fiscal Fixed Penalties, Fiscal Combined Fines with Compensation, and Pre-Scottish Justice Reform Fiscal Fixed Penalties.
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The effect of pseudo reconvictions

A13 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 simultaneously in train against an individual for offences committed on a range of dates.

A14 Pseudo reconvictions could potentially have the following effects:

- In theory, they may exaggerate the rate of “real” reconvictions to some extent.
- They will complicate comparisons between reconviction rates for different types of disposal as they tend to be less common for offenders who are discharged from a long custodial sentence compared to those given non-custodial sentences.
- They will tend to be more significant when considering reconviction rates for groups of offenders with a relatively high frequency of offending, such as younger offenders, or those engaged in acquisitive crime.

A15 Excluding pseudo reconvictions will not necessarily result in an improved estimate of the reconviction rate, unless one also addresses the issue of offences committed during the follow-up period, but which have a conviction date outside of this period and are therefore currently excluded from the calculation. Excluding both cases is likely to result in a downward bias of the estimate. One year and two year reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender without pseudo reconvictions were shown in previous publications for the purposes of illustration. The figures up to the 2015-16 cohort can be found in the [additional datasets](#) which accompany this publication.

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

Sources of information

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

B2 The SOI currently contains a record of criminal proceedings against individuals (excluding companies) in Scottish courts as well as information on non-court disposals. The court convictions and non-court disposals are held in separate datasets by the Scottish Government and so are independent of each other.

B3 The data in the SOI on court convictions currently covers all convictions where a sentence was imposed since the beginning of 1989, and the main offence involved was either a crime in Groups 1-5, or some of the offences in Group 6, in the Scottish Government's classification of crimes. Minor offences (such as drunkenness, and almost all motor vehicle offences) are not included.

B4 The distinction between crimes and offences is made only for statistical reporting purposes. Although the violations allocated under "crimes" tend to be more serious, there are some "offences" that have more severe punishments associated with them e.g. drink driving is classified under "offences" in the "motor vehicle offences" section rather than under "crimes". Groups 1-5 of the Scottish Government's classification covers non-sexual crimes of violence, sexual crimes, crimes of dishonesty, fire-raising, vandalism etc. and other crimes. The offences in Group 6 which are included in the court conviction SOI are: common assault, breach of the peace, threatening or abusive behaviour, offence of stalking, offensive behaviour at football and threatening communications (under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communication Scotland Act 2012), racially aggravated harassment or conduct, miscellaneous firearms offences, and social security offences. See [Annex Table A2](#) for a more detailed list of the types of crimes in the SOI.

B5 The data in the SOI on non-court disposals covers all crimes and offences, including motor offences, where a non-court disposal was given, back to 2008.

B6 Each record on the SOI database includes information on the sex and date of birth of the offender, the dates of conviction and sentence, the main crime or offence involved and details of the sentence imposed. Information is also available on any crimes which were additional to the main crime involved. Each offender has a unique reference number, which allows individual convictions for that offender to be linked together. The SOI does not include the name and address of an offender, except the first half of an offender's postcode. A [privacy notice](#) is available on the Scottish Government's website.

B7 All but the most serious offences alleged to have been committed by children under the age of 16 are generally dealt with outside of the courts in the children's hearings system, or by Early and Effective Interventions or other non-court disposals. The SOI does not currently hold data taken from the children's hearings system.

Data quality

B8 The figures in the bulletin have been derived from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. During the production of this bulletin we have put in place processes to ensure that the data are fit for purpose for this publication, which are listed below.

B9 Data standards are adhered to by organisations inputting data to the CHS in terms of the definitions of data items and their corresponding values. These standards are agreed under the Justice Digital Strategy and ensure there is consistency across the justice organisations in the information they collect. Further information on the data standards can be found [here](#).

B10 The following protocols also ensure consistency in the data collected:

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

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

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

B12 The analyses in this bulletin are based on the data published in the [Criminal Proceedings in Scotland](#) statistical bulletin, and the quality assurance process is described in the section on **Data quality: Data validation during production of the statistical bulletin** in Annex B of the Criminal Proceedings bulletin. In summary, the validation processes include automated and manual checks on the data. Any unusual or missing values are referred back to either Police Scotland, the SCTS, or COPFS. The figures are also checked against case processing information published by COPFS and management information provided by SCTS to ensure that the court volumes are consistent. Police Scotland, SCTS, COPFS and policy experts within the Scottish Government are also consulted to give insight on an operational level and provide insight into why any significant changes may have occurred. The figures are also checked by Scottish Government statisticians,

who have not been involved in the production process, and they may highlight any issues that may have gone unnoticed.

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

Postcode data quality

B14 This year, for the first time, we have published reconviction rates for local authorities based on offenders' home postcode ([Table 12](#)) alongside the reconviction rates for local authorities based on court location ([Table 11](#)).

B15 Previously we could only calculate reconviction rates for local authorities based on the court location of where offenders were convicted, as this was the only geographical information that we had. This approach has limitations, because some court areas cover multiple local authorities and offenders may be convicted for crimes committed in different areas to where they live. In particular, these figures aren't fully suitable for local authority community justice partners, as they have a need for reconviction figures for offenders who live in their area for planning purposes, such as: schemes to reduce reoffending, or estimating the number of offenders that social workers need to supervise in their area.

B16 We started receiving data from Police Scotland on the first half of an offender's postcode in 2014, and coverage was high enough from 2015-16 onwards to start using the data. With the first half of an offender's postcode we can match offenders to their home local authority and calculate reconviction rates based on offenders' home local authority.

B17 We are classifying the reconviction rates for local authorities based on the postcode data as [Experimental Statistics: Data being developed](#), as the data are of insufficient quality to be labelled as National Statistics as the rest of the data in this publication are. We did not have postcodes for almost a quarter of offenders (24%) with an index conviction in 2015-16, and are unsure of how this may affect the reconviction rates.

B18 Postcodes may be missing because offenders have no fixed abode, but it may also be a recording issue. We are also less likely to have the postcode of offenders released from a custodial sentence, as we would have received their conviction data before we started collecting the postcode. The missing category also includes a small number where postcodes were supplied, but they were not valid Scottish postcodes. We are working with Police Scotland to improve the coverage, and as the accuracy improves we will remove the experimental label.

B19 Annex [Table B1](#) shows the percentage of offenders with missing postcodes in each local authority group based on location of the court they were convicted in. It also shows the percentage of offenders living in each local authority that make up the local authority group. This shows that there are significant percentages of offenders who are convicted in a court that covers a different local authority to where they live.

Table B1 Postcode coverage for each local authority group

Local authority group based on court location ¹	Offender's local authority ²	Number	% of LA group
Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	Aberdeen City	1966	56%
	Aberdeenshire	949	27%
	other LA	220	6%
	Missing	360	10%
Angus	Angus	508	69%
	other LA	101	14%
	Missing	131	18%
Argyll & Bute	Argyll & Bute	236	57%
	other LA	67	16%
	Missing	113	27%
Ayrshire, East, North and South	East Ayrshire	727	20%
	North Ayrshire	730	20%
	South Ayrshire	458	12%
	other LA	220	6%
	Missing	1578	42%
Clackmannanshire	Clackmannanshire	320	64%
	other LA	92	18%
	Missing	88	18%
Dumfries & Galloway	Dumfries & Galloway	1073	74%
	other LA	105	7%
	Missing	270	19%
Dunbartonshire, East and West	East Dunbartonshire	31	3%
	West Dunbartonshire	527	50%
	other LA	203	19%
	Missing	294	28%
Dundee City	Dundee City	1238	65%
	Fife	203	11%
	other LA	151	8%
	Missing	303	16%
East Lothian	East Lothian	70	65%
	other LA	14	13%
	Missing	23	21%
Edinburgh and Midlothian	East Lothian	425	8%
	Edinburgh, City of	2464	49%
	Midlothian	465	9%
	other LA	508	10%
	Missing	1193	24%
Falkirk	Falkirk	824	70%
	other LA	132	11%
	Missing	214	18%

(Continued on next page)

Table B1 – continued

Fife	Fife	1904	77%
	other LA	125	5%
	Missing	448	18%
Glasgow City	Glasgow City	4332	49%
	East Dunbartonshire	259	3%
	North Lanarkshire	204	2%
	South Lanarkshire	642	7%
	other LA	905	10%
	Missing	2492	28%
Highland	Highland	983	73%
	other LA	113	8%
	Missing	242	18%
Inverclyde	Inverclyde	349	46%
	Argyll & Bute	53	7%
	other LA	55	7%
	Missing	303	40%
Lanarkshire, North and South	North Lanarkshire	1914	38%
	South Lanarkshire	1410	28%
	other LA	409	8%
	Missing	1267	25%
Moray	Moray	483	79%
	other LA	65	11%
	Missing	65	11%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	Na h-Eileanan Siar	76	71%
	other LA	11	10%
	Missing	20	19%
Orkney Islands	Orkney Islands	79	81%
	other LA	5	5%
	Missing	14	14%
Perth and Kinross	Perth & Kinross	658	67%
	other LA	192	20%
	Missing	129	13%
Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire	East Renfrewshire	140	8%
	Renfrewshire	772	46%
	other LA	213	13%
	Missing	567	34%
Scottish Borders	Scottish Borders	413	75%
	other LA	47	9%
	Missing	92	17%
Shetland Islands	Shetland Islands	98	62%
	other LA	19	12%
	Missing	42	26%
Stirling	Stirling	343	57%
	other LA	148	24%
	Missing	116	19%
West Lothian	West Lothian	829	68%
	other LA	140	11%
	Missing	255	21%

1. Local authority group is based on the court location of where an offender was convicted.

2. The offender's local authority is based on their postcode. Only authorities in the local authority group are shown. Those that live in other local authorities are grouped under "other LA". Missing is the percentage of offenders convicted in the local authority with a missing postcode.

Data confidentiality

B20 We have completed a data protection impact assessment to assess and mitigate any privacy issues with the collection, use, and publication of reconviction data.

B21 A [privacy notice](#) is available on the Scottish Government's website covering the data used in this publication.

B22 The Scottish Government are legally able to collect the data for this publication as Section 84(b&c) of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 states that the Scottish Police Authority must provide Scottish Ministers with reports, statistics or other information relating to the Police Service or functions, and the state of crime.

B23 Court proceedings are held in public and may be reported on by the media unless the court orders otherwise, for example where children are involved. While our aim is for the statistics in this bulletin to be sufficiently detailed to allow a high level of practical utility, care has been taken to ensure that it is not possible to identify an individual and obtain any private information relating to them.

B24 We have assessed the risk of individuals being identified in the tables in this bulletin and have established that no private information can be identified. Where demographic information is provided this is done in wider categories.

B25 Some of the additional data tables we provide alongside this publication have local authority information related to the offender. In the local authority tables, either demographic information is provided or offence-level information is provided, but not a combination of both.

B26 To maintain the security and confidentiality of the data received from the data suppliers, only a small number of Scottish Government statisticians and statistical support officers have access to the datasets outlined in the various stages of processing outlined above. The only personal details received by the Scottish Government in the data extract are those which are essential for the analyses in this bulletin and do not include the names of offenders.

Revisions

B27 The CHS is not designed for statistical purposes. It is dependent on receiving timely information from the SCTS, COPFS, and the police. It should also be noted that some types of outcome are removed from the system after a prescribed length of time. A pending case on the CHS is updated in a timely manner, but there are occasions when a slight delay may happen. Recording delays of this sort generally affects high court disposals relatively more than those for other types of court. The figures provided in this bulletin reflect the details of court proceedings recorded on the CHS and supplied to the Scottish Government by the end of September 2017 to allow later reconvictions in 2016-17 to be captured on the CHS.

B28 The CHS is regularly updated, so subsequent analyses will result in revised figures (shown in [Annex Table B2](#)) as late records are added. The first revision of the reconviction rate in the following year's bulletin was typically 0.4 percentage points higher than the figures published initially, although this has improved recently and the revised figure for last year was only 0.2 percentage points higher. The first revision of the average number of reconvictions per offender is typically 0.01 to 0.02 higher.

Table B2 Revisions to reconviction rates

Cohort	Initial published figures		1st revision of published figures		2nd revision of published figures		3rd revision of published figures	
	Reconv. rate	Av. no. of reconv. per offender	Reconv. rate	Av. no. of reconv. per offender	Reconv. rate	Av. no. of reconv. per offender	Reconv. rate	Av. no. of reconv. per offender
2006-07	32.2	0.59*†	32.4	0.60*†	32.4	0.60†	32.4	0.60†
2007-08	30.9	0.56*†	31.2	0.57†	31.3	0.57†	31.2	0.57†
2008-09	31.0	0.58†	31.5	0.60†	31.5	0.60†	31.5	0.60
2009-10	30.1	0.54†	30.5	0.56†	30.6	0.56	30.6	0.56
2010-11	28.4 ^x	0.50† ^x	30.1 ^x	0.55 ^x	30.1	0.55	30.1	0.55
2011-12	29.2	0.53	29.6	0.54	29.6	0.55	29.6	0.55
2012-13	28.6	0.51	28.9	0.53	28.9	0.53	28.9	0.53
2013-14	28.3	0.51	28.5	0.52	28.5	0.52	-	-
2014-15	28.2	0.50	28.3	0.50	-	-	-	-
2015-16	27.0	0.47	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

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

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

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

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

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

C3 Users of information on reconviction rates include:

- Scottish Government
- Community Justice Scotland
- Local Authorities
- Scottish Prison Service
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service
- Scottish Sentencing Council
- Risk Management Authority
- Parole Board for Scotland
- Health boards
- Victim Support
- Third sector partners
- Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)
- Association of Directors of Social Work

C4 We are made aware of new users, and their uses of this data, on an ongoing basis and we will continue to include their contributions to the development of reconviction statistics in Scotland.

C5 Local authorities find the data useful for identifying local issues and to inform feedback on performance to partners. These data are useful in terms of providing contextual information to help assess the effectiveness of justice programmes, and for gaining understanding about structural patterns in offending, such as the age-crime curve.

C6 The Scottish Government uses the data for purposes of government, which includes developing policies to reduce reoffending, answering parliamentary questions from MSPs from all political parties, and answering freedom of information requests.

Annex D – Transitional period between legacy community orders and Community Payback Orders

D1 There has been a transition period between the phasing out of the legacy orders (Community Service Orders and Probation Orders) and the establishment of CPOs due to the different disposals being given for offences committed before or after the 1st February 2011. The first cohort of offenders with an index disposal of a CPO in 2010-11 was therefore very small as they had to commit a crime and also be convicted between 1 February and 31 March 2011.

D2 As CPOs have become established, the number of offenders with an index disposal of a CPO increased from 175 in 2010-11 to about 10,500 from 2013-14 onwards. The number of those with an index disposal of a legacy order decreased from 8,242 to 203 between 2010-11 and 2013-14. There has been a very small number of offenders with an index disposal of a legacy order since 2013-14 ([Table 8](#)).

D3 During the transition from legacy orders to CPOs, there were changes in the characteristics of offenders that were given these disposal types. Therefore caution is needed when comparing changes between the same cohort year for the two disposal types since the introduction of CPOs. Changes in offender characteristics are also likely to be responsible for the decreases in reconvictions of offenders given CPOs and legacy orders during the transition period, as both disposals showed an increase in the proportion of groups of offenders that typically have lower reconviction rates (females, older offenders, and offenders with fewer previous convictions). The characteristics of offenders given CPOs as they became fully established is similar to the legacy sentences prior to the introduction of CPOs. See Annex D of the [Reconviction Rates in Scotland: 2013-14 cohort](#) publication for further comparison of the characteristics of offenders given CPOs and legacy orders.

D4 As CPOs have become established, changes in reconvictions for CPOs can be compared over time and CPOs can be compared with legacy orders prior to the introduction of CPOs. Care should be taken in comparing reconviction rates between legacy orders and CPOs from the same cohort year, as the type of offender they are given to differs.

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be interpreted to mean that the statistics: meet identified user needs; are produced, managed and disseminated to high standards; and are explained well.

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How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

- are available in more detail through www.statistics.gov.scot.
- are available via an alternative route.
- may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact Justice_Analysts@gov.scot for further information.
- cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

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