



Department of
Justice

www.dojni.gov.uk

Analytical Services Group

The Northern Ireland Prison Population 2014 and 2014/15

Research and Statistical Bulletin 18/2015

E Crone

This is a National Statistics publication.

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They are produced free from any political interference and undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs.

For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service at:
Room 1.015, Office for National Statistics, Cardiff Road,
Newport NP10 8XG

Tel: 0845 6013034
minicom: 01633 812399
E-mail: info@statistics.gov.uk
Fax: 01633 652747

Internet: www.statistics.gov.uk

Produced by Analytical Services Group,
Department of Justice.

For further information write to:

**Analytical Services Group,
Laganside House,
Belfast,
BT1 3LA**

Telephone: 028 9052 5151

Email: statistics.research@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk

This bulletin is available on the Internet at:

www.dojni.gov.uk

Executive Summary

Average Daily Prison Population

- ◆ The average daily prison population in 2014 was 1,830; this was just marginally higher than the same figure for 2013 (1,826).
- ◆ 2014 saw the continuation of a trend evident since 2011; although the average daily prison population had been increasing, it had been doing so at a decreasing rate, (15% increase in 2011; 5% in 2012; 3% in 2013 and 0.2% in 2014).
- ◆ For the third year in a row the average daily remand prisoner population fell, decreasing by 14% in 2014 (492 to 421).
- ◆ The average number of fine default prisoners in 2014 was 2, decreasing from 4 the previous year. Following on from the recent Judicial Review, Fine Default Hearings were introduced in June 2014; it is too early to say what the full impact will be of the introduction and bedding in of this process.
- ◆ In 2014, the average daily immediate custody population accounted for almost 77% of the total prison population. For the fourth year in a row the average daily immediate custody population increased (925 in 2010; 1,057 in 2011; 1,193 in 2012; 1,330 in 2013 and 1,406 in 2014).
- ◆ After four years of the average daily male prison population increasing, 2014 saw a marginal decrease in the numbers by 2 (1,765 to 1,763). This was in contrast to the average daily female population which increased from 61 to 67 in 2014.
- ◆ The largest proportion of females was in the age category 40 to 49 years, making up 31% of the total average daily female prison population, whereas the largest proportion of males was in the 21 to 29 age category (38%).
- ◆ The proportion of sentenced life prisoners fell for the fourth year in a row; in 2010 20% of the average daily immediate custody prison population were life prisoners compared with a figure for 2014 of 12%.
- ◆ As in previous years the principal offence grouping which made up the largest proportion of those under sentence of immediate custody was Violence against the Person (VAP), with 32% of all principal offences falling in this category.
- ◆ In 2014, the average prison population under sentence of immediate custody where the principal offence was classified as a Public Order Offence increased by almost 47% since the previous year. This was the only offence category where the change was significant.
- ◆ When looking at principal offence by gender, a larger proportion of female principal offences were for Theft offences when compared with males; 20% compared to 4%.

Receptions

- ◆ There were 4,917 receptions into Northern Ireland Prisons during 2014. This compares to 5,361 receptions during 2013. The fall was the second year in succession that the number of prisoner receptions decreased (33% during 2013 and 8% during 2014).
- ◆ There were 2,736 remand receptions during 2014, this represented a decrease of 4.5% compared to the 2013 figure, and was the third year in succession that the number of remand receptions fell. (3% during 2012; 17% during 2013 and 4.5% during 2014).
- ◆ During 2014 there were 139 fine default receptions, compared to 304 during 2013.

- ◆ During 2014 there were 2,023 sentenced receptions, a decrease of 7% compared to 2013. This was the first time since 2010 that the number of sentenced receptions fell and it is also worth noting that the number of sentenced receptions for 2014/15 was 1,899.
- ◆ During 2014, both male and female receptions fell, males by 8% and females by 14%. This represented a lower rate of decrease than was the case for 2013, where male receptions fell by 33% and female receptions by 36%.
- ◆ During 2014, the largest proportion of prisoners received into prison under sentence of immediate custody was aged between 21 and 29 years at reception (42%).
- ◆ Females aged between 40 to 49 years make up a larger proportion of total receptions when compared with males of the same age group (21% for females compared with 13% for males).
- ◆ When looking at immediate custody receptions by gender and custody sentence length, significant differences can be seen for sentence lengths of greater than one year and less than or equal to 5 years (21% for males compared to 13% for females), and greater than 3 months but less than or equal to 6 months (31% for males and 41% for females).
- ◆ Although receptions for immediate custody prisoners fell by 7% during 2014, this was not replicated across all of the offence groupings. Four out of the 13 groupings saw an increase in the number of sentenced receptions: namely Public Order Offences, Motoring Offences, Burglary and Other Offences (24%, 17%, 8% and 5% respectively).

International Comparisons

- ◆ During 2014 Northern Ireland had 99 prisoners for every 100,000 people in the population; this compared to a figure of 85 for the Republic of Ireland and 147 for England and Wales.
- ◆ Northern Ireland had 23% of its prison population on Remand/Pre Trial, compared to 20% for Scotland, 18% for Republic of Ireland and 13% for England and Wales.

Introduction

A series of detailed consultation exercises on the preferred structure and format of the Northern Ireland Prison Population publication was carried out in late 2013 and early 2014. In addition to this online survey conducted across Northern Ireland of known and potential users of prison statistics, the views of selected British, Irish and European statistical colleagues and academics were also sought. The outcome of the online survey itself is available on our website at:

<http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications/onlineprisonconsultationsurvey.pdf>

Four issues emerged in particular from this consultation. Specifically there was interest expressed among users or sub-groups of users in:

- (a) Greater use of comparative information;
- (b) More explanation of the reasons for trends/changes across years;
- (c) Provision of future population projections; and
- (d) Provision of figures on a financial as well as calendar year basis.

Points (a) and (b) have been taken on board and were incorporated in the previous Prison Population Report: The Northern Ireland Prison Population 2013. This publication included new comparative information in relation to remand/pre-trial prisoners across selected European Jurisdictions (which included comparative information for Ireland, England and Wales and Scotland). This was in addition to comparative information already included in previous publications on the overall prison population. As updated figures for this information were not available at the time of publication, they have not been included in this report; instead some statistics relating to England and Wales, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland (ROI) have been included in the comparisons section.

In relation to point (b), every effort has been made to supply possible explanations of the reasons for trends/changes across years with reference to publications from the Court Service and Conviction and Sentencing Statistics published by the Department of Justice.

As touched upon in the previous publication, providing future prison population projections is something which is currently being looked at for possible future development, dependant of course on resource allocations. If and when a new model is developed, it would be the intention that once it has been suitably tested and validated, that the summary projection figures would be included in subsequent publications.

The provision of figures on a financial year basis was requested by a substantial proportion of respondents. This publication includes both information on a calendar and financial year basis for 2014 and 2014/15. As this is the first year data has been published on a financial year basis, it is merely included for purposes of information; all the trend analysis and commentary still relates to calendar years. It is not yet clear how future publications will be formatted, and if both financial and calendar year information will be included.

Users

The statistics included in this publication are used extensively and meet a broad spectrum of user needs as shown below:

User	Summary of main statistical needs
DOJ Minister/Director General of the Northern Ireland Prison Service	Use the statistics to monitor the prison population and capacity of the prison estate
NI Assembly	Statistics are used to answer assembly questions

User	Summary of main statistical needs
Policy teams in DoJ	Statistics are used to inform policy development and to monitor impact of changes over time and the impact they have on the system
Agencies responsible for offender management	Current and historical robust administrative data are used to support performance management information at national and local levels within each agency to complement their understanding of the current picture and trends over time
Academia, students and businesses	Used as a source of statistics for research purposes and to support lectures, presentations and conferences
Journalists	Used as a compendium of robust data on prison population
General public	Data are used to respond to ad-hoc requests and requests made under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act

National Statistics

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 broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

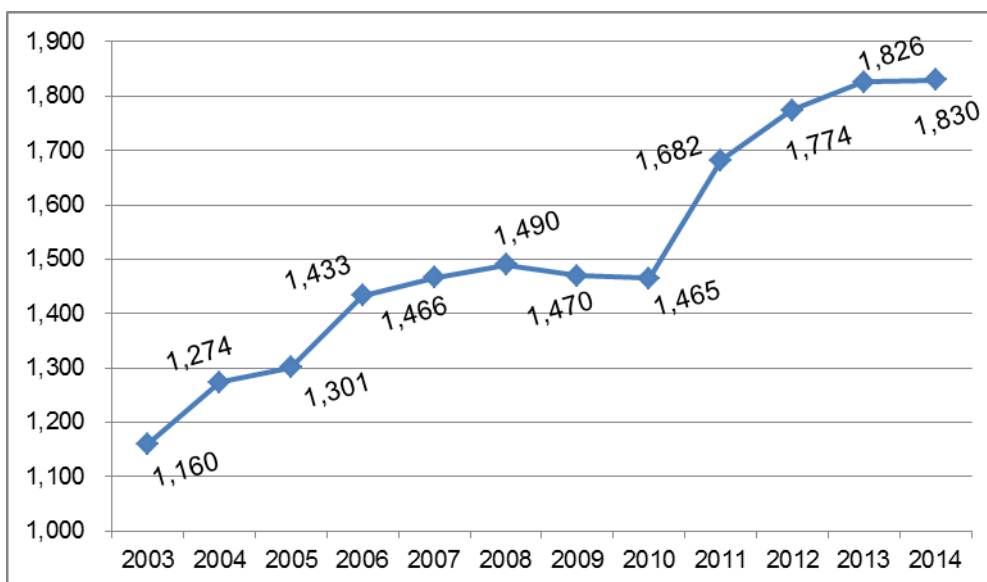
- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

Average Daily Prison Population

The average daily prison population data for this report is based on the average of daily prison snapshots. Further details on this can be found in the Methodology and Counting Rules section at the back of this report.

**Figure 1: Average Daily Prison Population
2003-2014**



The average daily prison population in 2014 was 1,830, this was just marginally higher than the same figure for 2013 (1,826). 2014 saw the continuation of a trend evident since 2011; although the average daily prison population has been increasing, it has been doing so at a decreasing rate, (15% increase in 2011; 5% in 2012; 3% in 2013 and 0.2% in 2014).

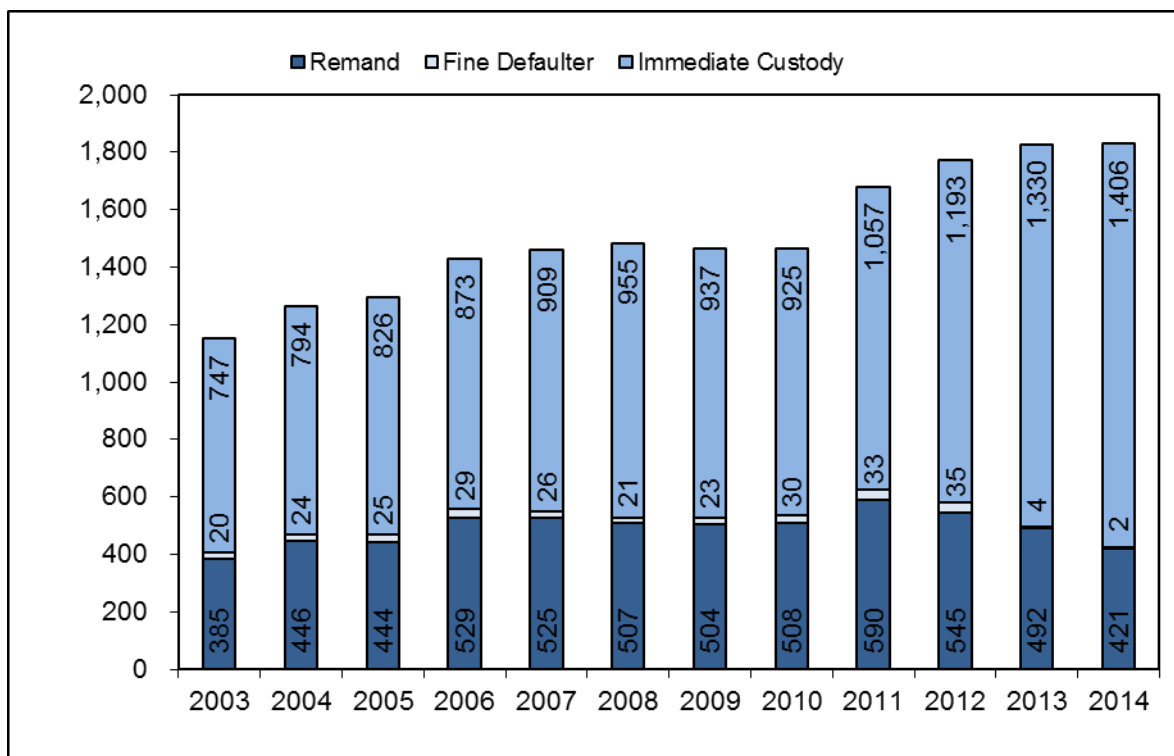
It is worth noting that although the overall daily average prison population increased slightly in 2014, the average daily prison population for Hydebank Young Offenders Centre actually decreased; 170 in 2013 reducing to 156 in 2014 (a reduction of just over 8%).

The average daily prison population for the financial year 2014/15 was 1,799, this is lower than the 2014 calendar year daily prison population of 1,830. This is not surprising when one takes into account the trends in the number of custodial convictions. This information can be found in the Northern Ireland Conviction and Sentencing Statistics bulletins, published by the Department of Justice. Custodial convictions increased year on year from 2010 to 2013 (increasing from 2,910 in 2010 to 3,769 in 2013). However statistics for 2014 reveal a drop in custodial convictions to 3,446, a decrease of almost 9% from the previous year, therefore it is not surprising that the financial year average daily prison population figure for 2014/15 is lower than the figure for 2014. Publications can be found using the following link:

<http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications/prosecutions-and-convictions.htm>

Average Daily Prison Population by Prisoner Type

Figure 2: Average Daily Prison Population by Prisoner Type 2003-2014



Remand Prisoners

For the third year in a row the average daily remand prisoner population fell, decreasing by 14% in 2014 (492 to 421). Since 2003, this population was at its highest in 2011 (590), however it was in 2006 that the proportion of overall prisoners on remand was at its highest, 37%. Not only had the average daily remand prisoner population fell from 2011, the proportion this represented also fell, from 35% in 2011 to 23% in 2014. (Figure 2)

As touched upon in the last report, it is hard to pin point the exact cause of the continuing decrease in the remand prisoner population. One possible explanation put forward previously was linked to the falling number of adult criminal defendants received in the magistrates' courts. In 2014 this figure continued to fall, resulting in the number of adult criminal defendants received in the magistrates' courts falling by 23% from 2010 to 2014. Average waiting times could also have an impact on the remand prisoner population; the average waiting times between a summons/charge and disposal in the magistrates' courts decreased by 17% between 2010 and 2014. The average waiting times in criminal cases were targeted with the introduction of Case Progression Officers into each court division in 2008. Their role was to work with other criminal justice agency officials and the judiciary to minimise delay in the Criminal Courts. In addition average waiting times between committal and start of trial in the Crown Court fell by 18% in 2014 (113 days in 2014 compared to 137 days in 2013), the lowest level over the last 5 years. The average waiting time between conviction to disposal was 51 days, 9% less than in 2013 (56 days). (http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/en-GB/Publications/Targets_and_Performance/Documents/Judicial%20Statistics%202014/Judicial%20Statistics%202014.pdf)

Fine Defaulters

The number of fine defaults in prison remained low for the second year in a row (4 in 2013 and 2 in 2014). A Judicial Review in 2012 which challenged arrangements for imposing and enforcing fines and confiscation orders led to the temporary suspension of Fine Defaulters being sent to prison. This was

reflected in the average number of fine defaulters decreasing from 35 in 2012 to 4 in 2013. Following on from the Judicial Review, Fine Default Hearings were introduced in June 2014. It is too early to say what the full impact will be of the introduction and bedding in of this process.

Immediate Custody Prisoners

In 2014 the daily average immediate custody population was 1,406; this represented almost 77% of the total prison population. 2014 was the fourth year in a row that the average daily immediate custody population increased; since 2010 the population for this category has increased by 52% (925 to 1,406). However, as is the case for the average daily total prison population, although the average daily immediate custody population has been increasing it has been doing so at a decreasing rate: 14% in 2011; 13% in 2012, 11% in 2013 and 6% in 2014. (Figure 2)

It is interesting to look at the daily average immediate custody population for the financial year 2014/15. This figure was lower than for the calendar year 2014 (1,376 compared to 1,406). This downward trend is not surprising given the downward trend in the number of defendants sentenced to a custody disposal (3,769 custodial convictions in 2013 compared to 3,446 in 2014)

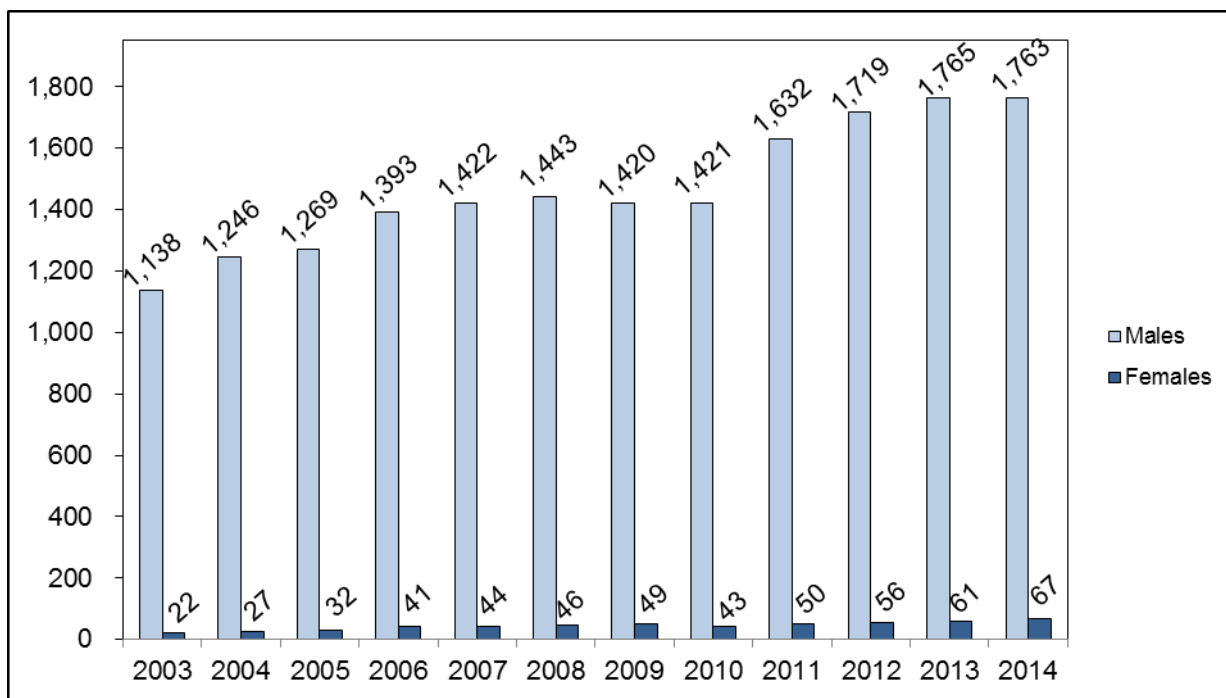
<http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications/prosecutions-and-convictions/r-s-bulletin-3-2015-court-prosecutions-conviction-and-out-of-court-disposals-statistics-for-northern-ireland-2014.htm>

Non-criminal Prisoners

The average number of non-criminal prisoners - mainly immigrant detainees – remained at 1 for the third successive year. (Table 1)

Average Daily Prison Population by Gender

Figure 3: Average Daily Prison Population by Gender 2003-2014

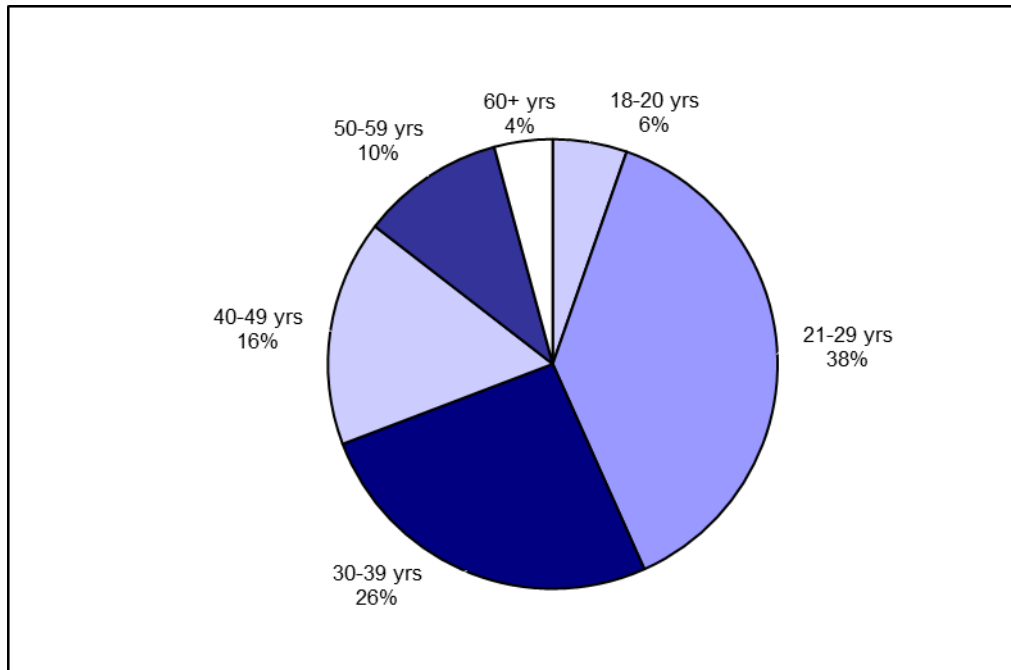


After four years of the average daily male prison population increasing, 2014 saw a small decrease in the numbers by 2 (1,765 to 1,763). This is in contrast to the average daily female population which increased from 61 to 67 in 2014. Although females account for a small proportion of the overall prison

population, it is worth noting that the number of females in prison has risen from 22 in 2003 to 67 in 2014. (Figure 3)

Average Daily Immediate Custody Prison Population by Current Age

Figure 4: Average Daily Prison Population under Sentence of Immediate Custody by Current Age, 2014



As was the case in 2013, the largest proportion of the prison population in 2014 was aged between 21 to 29 years (38% in 2014 and 40% in 2013). The largest proportion of females was in the age category 40 to 49 years, making up 31% of the total female prison population. The largest age category for males was in the 21 to 29 age category (38%). (Figure 4 and Table 2)

Average Daily Immediate Custody Prison Population by Sentence Length

Figure 5: Average Daily Prison Population under Sentence of Immediate Custody by Sentence Length, 2014

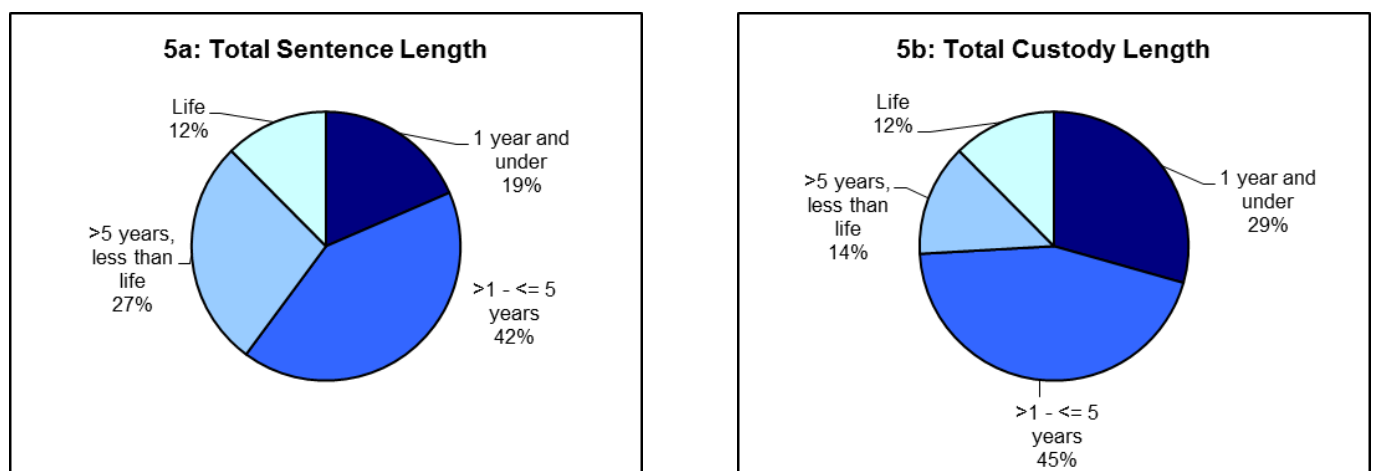


Figure 5a and 5b shows the breakdown of total sentence length and total custody length for prisoners under sentence of immediate custody during 2014. The largest percentage of the average daily prison

population under sentence of immediate custody were sentenced to custody for more than a year but less than or equal to 5 years (45%).

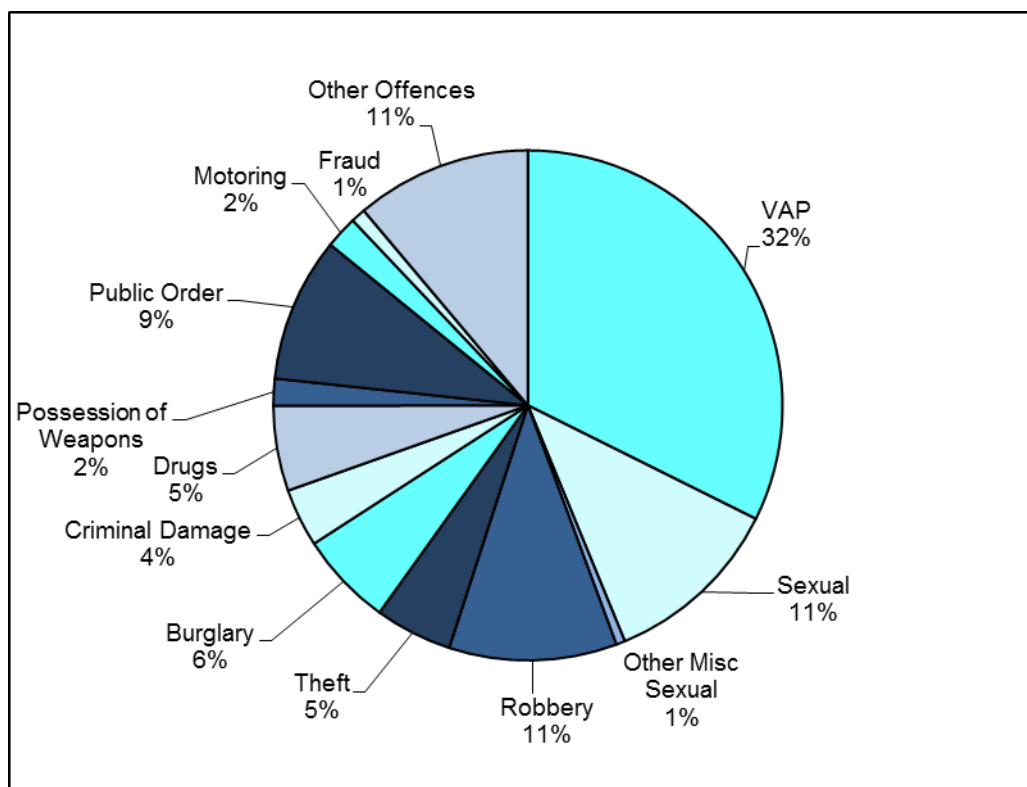
The proportion of sentenced life prisoners has fallen for the fourth year in a row. In 2010, 20% of the average daily immediate custody prison population was sentenced to life, whereas the equivalent figure for 2014 was 12%.

Average Daily Immediate Custody Prison Population by Principal Offence

Figure 6 shows the breakdown of the average prison population under sentence of immediate custody by Principal Offence during 2014. As in previous years the offence grouping which made up the largest proportion was Violence against the Person (VAP), with 32% of all principal offences falling into this category. In 2014, the average prison population under sentence of immediate custody where the principal offence was classified as a Public Order Offence, increased by almost 47% since the previous year. This was the only offence category where the change was a significant one. (Table 6)

Although the numbers of females in prison are considerably smaller than males, one significant difference which stands out when looking at the breakdown of offences by gender (as was also the case in 2013), is the larger proportion of female offences falling in the Theft category compared to that for males (20% of females compared to 4% of males). (Table 6)

Figure 6: Average Daily Prison Population under Sentence of Immediate Custody by Principal Offence, 2014

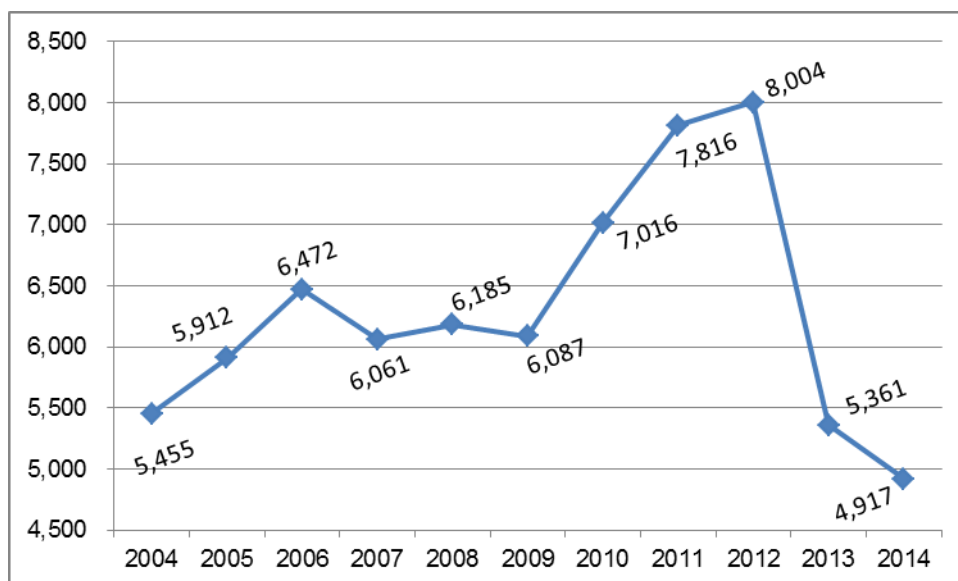


Receptions into Prison

For the second year in succession the number of prisoner receptions fell, although the decrease in receptions during 2014 was smaller than the decrease in 2013 (33% during 2013 compared to 8% during 2014). The large decrease from 2012 to 2013 was primarily the result of the decrease in Fine Default Receptions, which occurred as a result of the Judicial Review. (Figure 7)

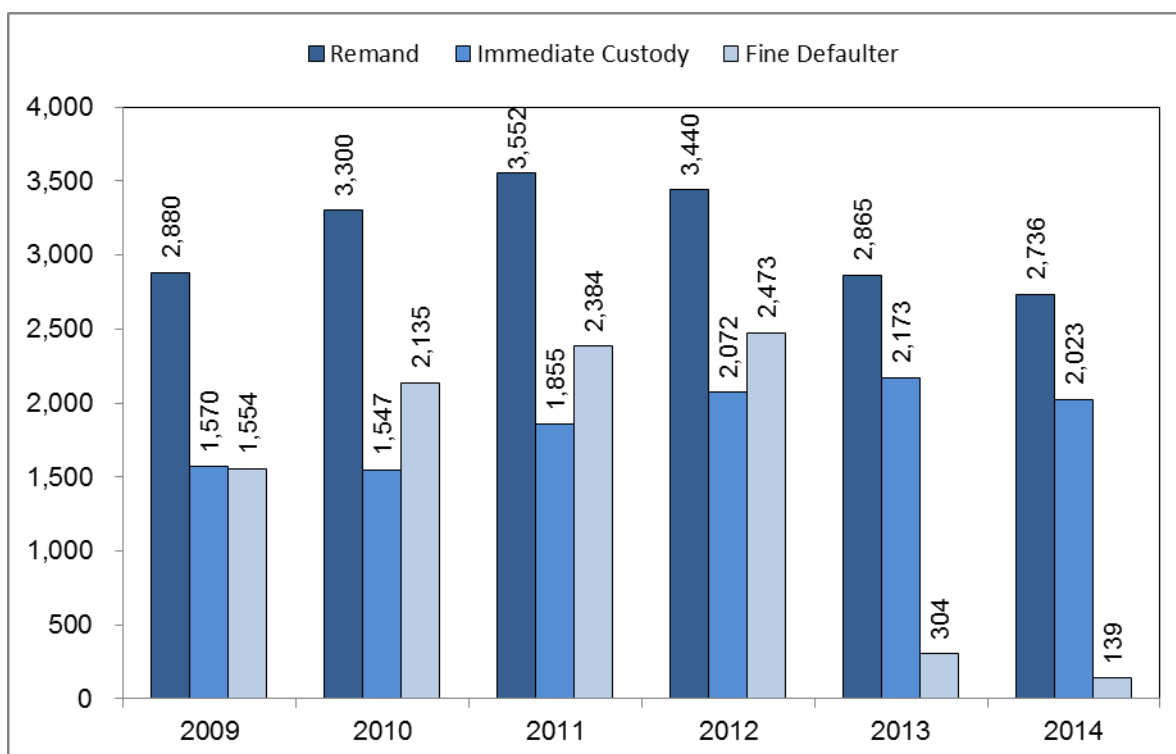
The number of receptions per prisoner (reception rate) during 2014 fell slightly when compared with the 2013 rate: 1.9 receptions per prisoner during 2013 to 1.7 receptions per prisoner during 2014. In 2014 there were 4,917 receptions for 2,961 individuals.

**Figure 7: Prison Receptions
2004-2014**



Prison Receptions by Prisoner Type

**Figure 8: Prison Receptions by Prisoner Type
2009-2014**



Remand Prisoners

There were 2,736 remand receptions during 2014, this represented a decrease of 4.5% compared to the 2013 figure, and was the third year in succession that the number of remand receptions fell. However, the rate of decrease during 2014 was much smaller than the decrease experienced during 2013 (17% during 2013 compared with 4.5% during 2014). (Figure 8 and Table 7)

Possible explanations for this continued decline have been included under the Average Daily Remand Section (page 6); it includes details of the fall in the number of adult criminal defendants received in the magistrates' court and the decrease in waiting times between committal and the start of trial.

Fine Defaulters

Following on from the impact of the Judicial Review on Fine Defaulters being sent to prison, it is not surprising that during 2014 the number of fine default receptions continued to fall (304 during 2013 and 139 during 2014). As a result of the Judicial Review, Fine Default Hearings were introduced in June 2014, whilst it is too early to assess the full impact of this; it is worth noting that during the 2014/15 financial year fine default receptions increased to 224. (Figure 8 and Table 7)

Immediate Custody Prisoners

During 2014 there were 2,023 sentenced receptions and this represented a decrease of 7% compared to the number for 2013. This was the first time since 2010 that the number of sentenced receptions fell. It is also worth noting that the number of sentenced receptions for 2014/15 was lower than for 2014 (1,899 compared to 2,023).

Non-Criminal Prisoners

The number of non-criminal prisoner receptions (mainly immigrant detainees) represents a relatively small number of overall receptions (0.4%). The number of receptions in this category has remained constant at 19 since 2012. (Table 7)

Prison Receptions by Gender

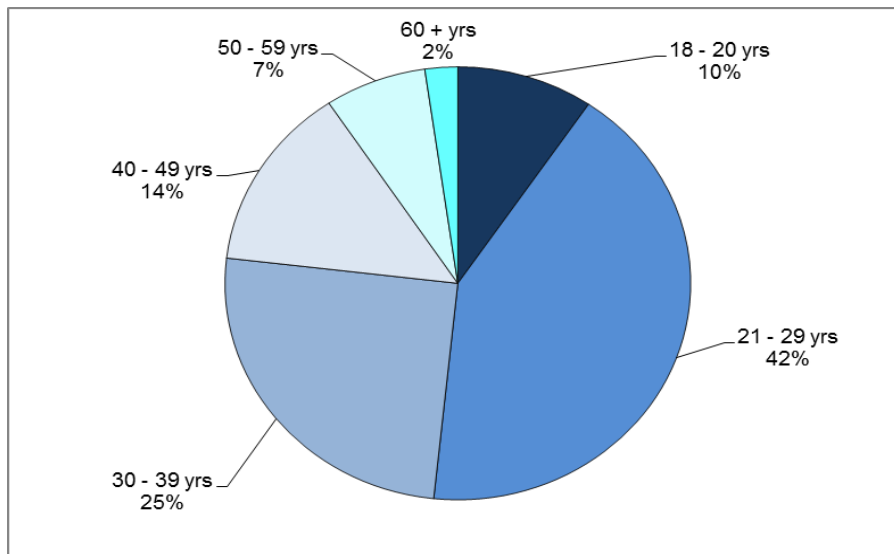
During 2014, both male and female receptions fell, males by 8% and females by 14%. This represented a lower rate of decrease than was the case for 2013, where male receptions fell by 33% and female receptions by 36%. (Table 7)

Immediate Custody Receptions by Age at Reception

During 2014, the largest proportion of prisoners received into prison under sentence of immediate custody was aged between 21 and 29 years at reception (42%). (Figure 9) This was the largest category for both males and females (43% for males and 35% for females).

Females aged between 40 to 49 years make up a larger proportion of total receptions when compared with males of the same age group (21% for females compared with 13% for males). (Table 8)

Figure 9: Immediate Custody Receptions by Age at Reception 2014



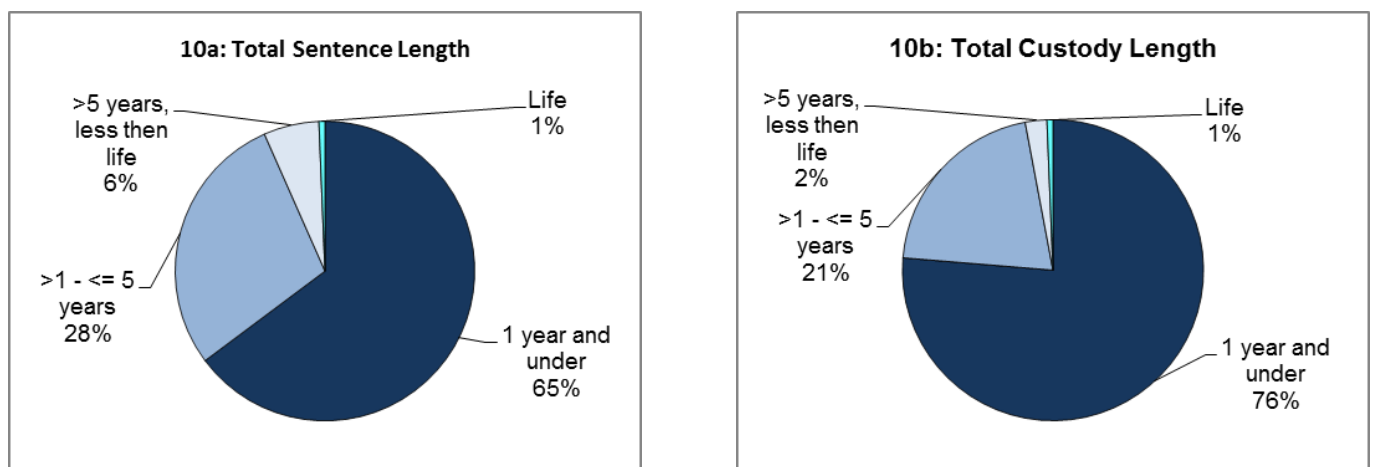
Immediate Custody Receptions by Sentence Length

Figure 10 shows the breakdown of sentences for immediate custody receptions for both the total sentence length and the custody length.

The largest proportion of immediate custody receptions was for total sentences for one year or less, (65%). This was also the largest category for custodial sentence receptions (76%). (Table 10)

When looking at immediate custody receptions by gender and custody sentence length, significant differences can be seen for sentence lengths of greater than one year and less than or equal to 5 years (21% for males compared to 13% for females), and greater than 3 months but less than or equal to 6 months (31% for males and 41% for females).

Figure 10: Immediate Custody Receptions by Sentence Length, 2014



Immediate Custody Receptions by Principal Offence

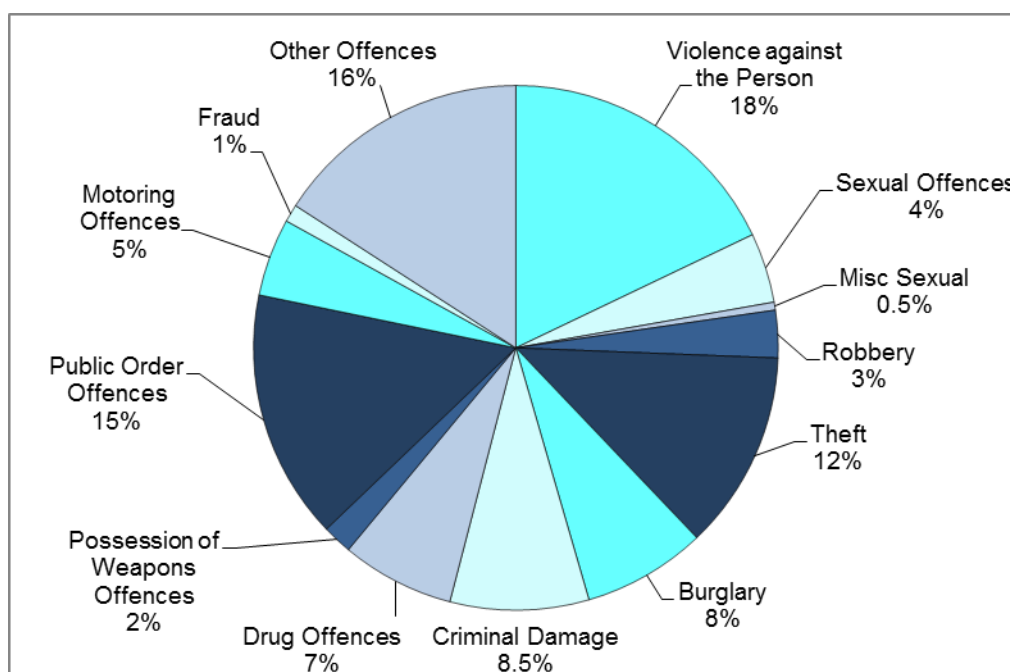
Violence against the Person (VAP) offences once again made up the majority of immediate custody receptions for 2014, with 18% of all receptions being for this category. (Figure 11)

Although receptions for immediate custody prisoners fell by 7% during 2014, this was not replicated across all of the offence groupings. Four out of the 13 groupings saw an increase in the number of sentenced receptions: namely Public Order Offences, Motoring Offences, Burglary and Other Offences (24%, 17%, 8% and 5% respectively). (Table 12)

Offences for Robbery showed the largest decrease from 2013 to 2014, (-46%) followed by Miscellaneous Sexual Offences (-44%) and then Fraud (-39%) and Drug Offences (-20%).

In terms of differences in offence groupings by gender, there was a significantly larger proportion of immediate custody receptions for theft offences for females compared to males (32% compared to 11%).

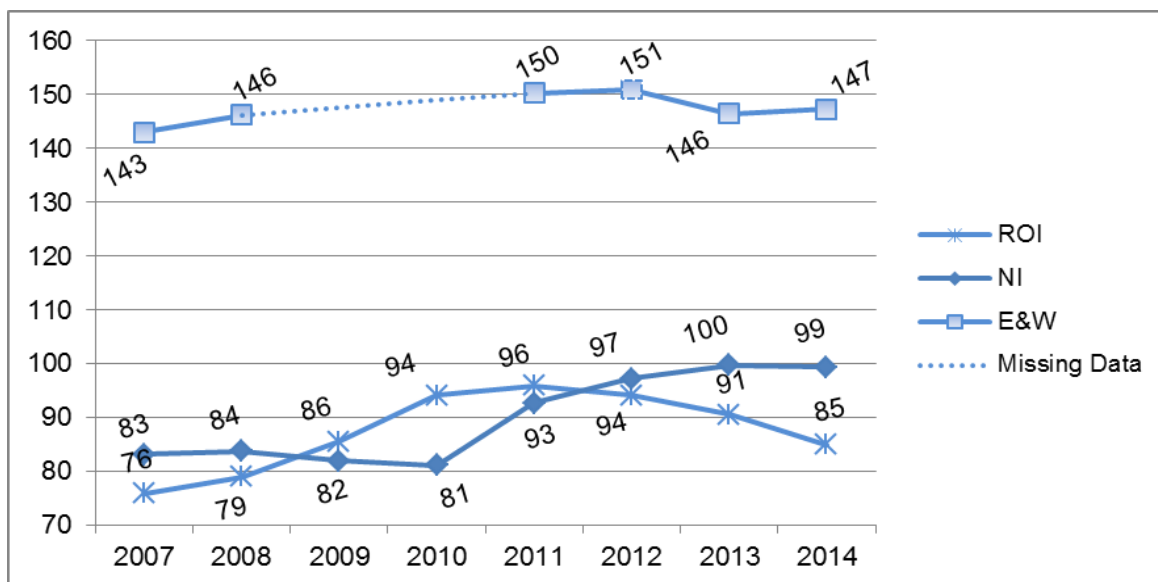
Figure 11: Immediate Custody Receptions by Principal Offence 2014



Comparisons

Figure 12 shows the trends in the prison population per 100,000 population for the Republic of Ireland (ROI), Northern Ireland and England and Wales. Due to a system re-design as a result of changes within the Scottish Government the latest available prison data for Scotland is 2011/12, therefore data for Scotland is not included in this chart. Figures are calculated using the daily average prison population for each year and the mid-year population estimates for each country. Data for 2009 and 2010 for England and Wales is missing (see footnote Figure 12).

Figure 12: Prison Population per 100,000 Population 2007-2014



Note: Figures are based on the daily average prison population for each year and the mid year population estimates for each country.

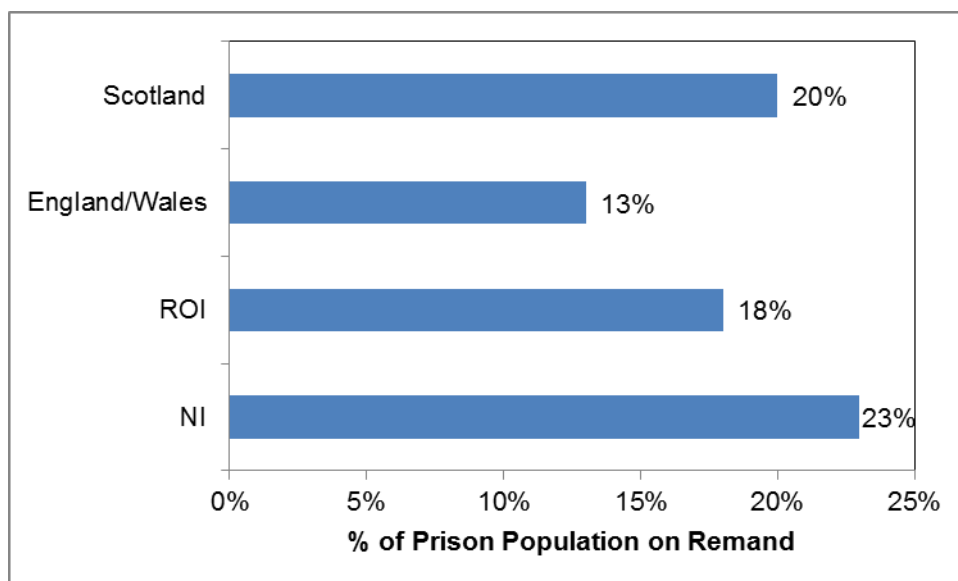
Due to issues with the roll-out of a new case management system, figures are not available for England and Wales for 2009 and 2010.

As can be seen from the chart, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland have a much lower rate of imprisonment per 100,000 population than England and Wales.

Northern Ireland had a higher rate of imprisonment than the ROI between 2007 and 2008 and then the rate in the ROI surpassed that for Northern Ireland in 2009, 2010 and 2011. The last three years saw the imprisonment rate per 100,000 population decrease for the ROI from 96 in 2011 to 85 in 2014, whereas the figure for Northern Ireland increased from 96 in 2011 to 100 in 2013, before slightly dropping to 99 in 2014.

Figure 13 shows the percentage of the prison population on Remand/Pre Trial for various jurisdictions. As can be seen England and Wales have the lowest proportion with 13% of the prison population on remand whilst Northern Ireland the highest, at 23%.

Figure 13: Percentage of the Prison Population on Remand/PreTrial



Note: Figures for NI and ROI relate to daily averages for 2014; figures for England and Wales relate to snapshot as at 30th September 2013 and figures for Scotland relate to daily averages for 2011/12.

Table 1: Average Daily Northern Ireland Prison Population by Prisoner Type, Gender and Establishment

		2013	2014	2014/15*
Remand	Maghaberry	422	359	357
	Hydebank Wood YOC Males	53	41	41
	Hydebank Wood Females	17	21	21
	Total	492	421	419
Immediate Custody	Maghaberry	624	689	671
	Magilligan	545	558	556
	Hydebank Wood YOC Males	117	114	106
	Hydebank Wood Females	44	45	44
	Total	1,330	1,406	1,376
Fine Defaulter	Maghaberry	3	1	2
	Hydebank Wood YOC Males	0	0	0
	Hydebank Wood Females	0	0	0
	Total	4	2	3
Non Criminal	Maghaberry	1	1	1
	Hydebank Wood YOC Males	0	0	0
	Hydebank Wood Females	0	0	0
	Total	1	1	1
Males		1,765	1,763	1,734
Females		61	67	65
Establishment	Maghaberry	1,050	1,050	1,031
	Magilligan	545	558	556
	Hydebank Wood YOC Males	170	156	147
	Hydebank Wood Females	61	67	65
	Total	1,826	1,830	1,799

Note: *Refers to the period 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.
Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Table 2: Average Daily Northern Ireland Prison Population under Sentence of Immediate Custody by Gender and Current Age

		2013	2014	2014/15*
MALES	18 - 20 years	81	73	66
	21 - 29 years	514	522	504
	30 - 39 years	311	356	354
	40 - 49 years	214	215	210
	50 - 59 years	107	137	138
	60 + years	58	58	59
	Total	1,286	1,361	1,333
FEMALES	18 - 20 years	1	2	2
	21 - 29 years	12	13	13
	30 - 39 years	10	8	7
	40 - 49 years	14	14	14
	50 - 59 years	7	8	7
	60 + years	0	1	2
	Total	44	45	44
ALL	18 - 20 years	82	75	68
	21 - 29 years	526	534	517
	30 - 39 years	321	364	361
	40 - 49 years	228	229	224
	50 - 59 years	114	145	146
	60 + years	58	59	61
	Total	1,330	1,406	1,376

Note: *Refers to the period 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.
Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Table 3: Average Daily Northern Ireland Prison Population under Sentence of Immediate Custody by Current Age, Gender and Sentence Length

		2013			2014			2014/15*		
		Total Length	Custody Length	Licence Length	Total Length	Custody Length	Licence Length	Total Length	Custody Length	Licence Length
ADULT MALES (Aged 21 and Over)	Life	176	176	176	166	166	166	165	165	165
	>10yrs, less than life	104	71	0	114	71	0	114	71	0
	>5yrs and <=10yrs	217	121	10	258	115	18	259	114	18
	>4yrs and <=5yrs	92	41	25	94	56	41	88	56	42
	>3yrs and <=4yrs	111	68	60	115	94	82	115	95	81
	>2yrs and <=3yrs	134	123	156	150	159	175	147	157	173
	>1yr and <=2yrs	161	259	229	170	273	237	166	268	233
	>6mths and <=12mths	119	215	86	117	220	105	113	211	101
	>3mths and <=6mths	67	105	19	79	107	19	77	106	19
	<=3 months	22	24	0	24	25	0	22	23	0
	No Length	0	0	443	0	0	444	0	0	434
	missing data	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		1,204	1,204	1,204	1,287	1,287	1,287	1,266	1,266	1,266
YOUNG MALES (Aged Less than 21)	Life	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
	>10yrs, less than life	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
	>5yrs and <=10yrs	13	2	0	9	1	0	8	1	0
	>4yrs and <=5yrs	9	1	1	5	1	0	4	1	0
	>3yrs and <=4yrs	7	5	4	9	4	3	7	3	2
	>2yrs and <=3yrs	11	11	17	13	7	10	11	7	8
	>1yr and <=2yrs	12	24	17	13	21	21	12	18	19
	>6mths and <=12mths	12	19	7	10	21	10	10	19	9
	>3mths and <=6mths	10	14	1	10	13	2	10	13	2
	<=3 months	5	5	0	3	3	0	3	3	0
	No Length	0	0	36	0	0	27	0	0	25
	missing data	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		81	81	81	73	73	73	66	66	66
ALL MALES		1,286	1,286	1,286	1,361	1,361	1,361	1,333	1,333	1,333
ADULT FEMALES (Aged 21 and Over)	Life	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
	>5yrs, less than life	4	2	0	4	2	0	5	2	0
	>1yr and <=5yrs	16	10	14	16	12	9	16	13	10
	>6mths and <=12mths	7	11	4	7	12	7	7	11	6
	>3mths and <=6mths	5	9	1	6	8	1	5	6	0
	<=3 months	2	3	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
	No Length	0	0	16	0	0	19	0	0	18
	missing data	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		43	43	43	43	43	43	42	42	42
YOUNG FEMALES (Aged Less than 21)	Life	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	>5yrs, less than life	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	>1yr and <=5yrs	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
	>6mths and <=12mths	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
	>3mths and <=6mths	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
	<=3 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	No Length	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total		1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
ALL FEMALES		44	44	44	45	45	45	44	44	44

Note: *Refers to the period 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.
 Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.
 Life includes those detained at the Secretary of State's Pleasure.

Table 4: Average Daily Northern Ireland Prison Population under Sentence of Immediate Custody by Gender and Sentence Length

		2013			2014			2014/15*		
		Total Length	Custody Length	Licence Length	Total Length	Custody Length	Licence Length	Total Length	Custody Length	Licence Length
MALES	Life	176	176	176	167	167	167	166	166	166
	>10yrs, less than life	105	71	0	115	71	0	115	71	0
	>5yrs and <=10yrs	230	123	10	267	116	18	266	115	18
	>4yrs and <=5yrs	101	42	26	99	57	41	91	57	42
	>3yrs and <=4yrs	118	73	64	124	98	84	122	99	83
	>2yrs and <=3yrs	145	134	173	163	166	185	158	164	181
	>1yr and <=2yrs	174	283	245	183	295	259	178	286	252
	>6mths and <=12mths	131	234	93	127	242	114	123	230	109
	>3mths and <=6mths	78	119	20	89	120	21	87	119	21
	<=3 months	27	29	0	27	28	0	25	26	0
	No Length	0	0	479	0	0	471	0	0	459
	missing data	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		1,286	1,286	1,286	1,361	1,361	1,361	1,333	1,333	1,333
FEMALES	Life	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
	>5yrs, less than life	4	2	0	4	2	0	5	2	0
	>1yr and <=5yrs	16	10	14	17	12	10	17	13	11
	>6mths and <=12mths	7	12	4	8	13	7	7	12	6
	>3mths and <=6mths	5	9	1	7	9	1	6	7	0
	<=3 months	3	3	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
	No Length	0	0	17	0	0	20	0	0	19
	missing data	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		44	44	44	45	45	45	44	44	44
ALL	Life	185	185	185	175	175	175	174	174	174
	>5yrs, less than life	339	197	10	386	189	18	386	188	18
	>1yr and <=5yrs	555	542	522	586	628	579	566	618	569
	>6mths and <=12mths	138	247	97	135	254	121	131	243	115
	>3mths and <=6mths	83	128	21	96	129	22	93	126	22
	<=3 months	30	32	0	29	30	0	26	28	0
	No Length	0	0	496	0	0	491	0	0	478
	missing data	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total		1,330	1,330	1,330	1,406	1,406	1,406	1,376	1,376

Note: *Refers to the period 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.
 Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.
 Life includes those detained at the Secretary of State's Pleasure.

Table 5: Average Daily Northern Ireland Prison Population under Sentence of Immediate Custody by Current Age, Gender and Principal Offence

		2013		2014		2014/15*	
		Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Aged 21 and Over	Violence against the Person	402	19	423	18	420	19
	Sexual Offences	150	1	156	0	153	0
	Misc Sexual	8	0	8	0	7	0
	Robbery	143	2	139	2	133	2
	Theft	51	6	55	8	55	7
	Burglary	77	1	76	1	75	1
	Criminal Damage	51	2	46	2	45	2
	Drug Offences	73	2	75	0	74	1
	Possession of Weapons Offences	19	0	22	0	19	0
	Public Order Offences	77	2	110	2	108	2
	Motoring Offences	21	0	27	0	25	0
	Fraud	11	2	11	2	9	2
	Other Offences	121	6	142	8	144	6
	Missing	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	1,204	43	1,287	43	1,266	42
Aged Less than 21	Violence against the Person	20	0	13	1	13	1
	Sexual Offences	4	0	5	0	5	0
	Misc Sexual	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Robbery	11	0	9	0	8	0
	Theft	5	0	5	1	4	1
	Burglary	7	0	7	0	7	0
	Criminal Damage	5	0	4	0	5	0
	Drug Offences	3	0	1	0	1	0
	Possession of Weapons Offences	1	0	2	0	1	0
	Public Order Offences	9	1	17	0	15	0
	Motoring Offences	2	0	2	0	1	0
	Fraud	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other Offences	15	0	7	0	6	0
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	81	1	73	2	66	2
ALL		1,286	44	1,361	45	1,333	44

Note: * Refers to the period 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Offence Classification and Principal Offence Methodology have been revised and updated, therefore in terms of average data, comparisons with previous years (pre 2013) is not possible.

Misc Sexual includes sexual offences which for England and Wales have moved to the Other Offences Categories but for clarity they are included in a separate category here – they include offences like making/possessing/distributing indecent photos of children and possession of extreme pornographic images.

Table 6: Average Daily Northern Ireland Prison Population under Sentence of Immediate Custody by Gender and Principal Offence

		2013	2014	2014/15*
MALES	Violence against the Person	422	436	432
	Sexual Offences	154	161	157
	Misc Sexual	8	8	7
	Robbery	154	148	141
	Theft	56	60	59
	Burglary	84	83	82
	Criminal Damage	56	50	49
	Drug Offences	76	76	75
	Possession of Weapons Offences	20	24	20
	Public Order Offences	86	127	123
	Motoring Offences	22	28	27
	Fraud	11	11	9
	Other Offences	137	149	151
	Missing	1	0	0
	Total	1,286	1,361	1,333
FEMALES	Violence against the Person	19	19	20
	Sexual Offences	1	0	0
	Misc Sexual	0	0	0
	Robbery	2	2	2
	Theft	6	9	8
	Burglary	1	1	1
	Criminal Damage	2	2	2
	Drug Offences	2	0	1
	Possession of Weapons Offences	0	0	0
	Public Order Offences	2	2	2
	Motoring Offences	0	0	0
	Fraud	2	2	2
	Other Offences	6	8	6
	Missing	0	0	0
	Total	44	45	44
ALL	Violence against the Person	441	455	452
	Sexual Offences	155	161	157
	Misc Sexual	8	8	7
	Robbery	156	150	143
	Theft	62	69	67
	Burglary	84	84	83
	Criminal Damage	58	52	51
	Drug Offences	77	76	76
	Possession of Weapons Offences	21	24	21
	Public Order Offences	88	129	125
	Motoring Offences	23	29	27
	Fraud	13	13	11
	Other Offences	143	157	157
	Missing	1	0	0
	Total	1,330	1,406	1,376

Note: * Refers to the period 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Offence Classification and Principal Offence Methodology have been revised and updated, therefore in terms of average data, comparisons with previous years (pre 2013) is not possible.

Misc Sexual includes sexual offences which for England and Wales have moved to the Other Offences Categories but for clarity they are included in a separate category here – they include offences like making/possessing/distributing indecent photos of children and possession of extreme pornographic images.

Table 7: Northern Ireland Prison Receptions by Prisoner Type, Gender and Establishment

		2012	2013	2014	2014/15*
Remand	Maghaberry	2,688	2,236	2,194	2,122
	Hydebank Wood YOC Males	544	420	350	350
	Hydebank Wood Females	208	209	192	182
	Total	3,440	2,865	2,736	2,654
Immediate Custody	Maghaberry	1,689	1,783	1,710	1,611
	Hydebank Wood YOC Males	276	258	195	185
	Hydebank Wood Females	107	132	118	103
	Total	2,072	2,173	2,023	1,899
Fine Defaulter	Maghaberry	1,936	244	121	184
	Hydebank Wood YOC Males	276	33	11	19
	Hydebank Wood Females	261	27	7	21
	Total	2,473	304	139	224
Non Criminal	Maghaberry	17	17	18	19
	Hydebank Wood YOC Males	0	1	1	1
	Hydebank Wood Females	2	1	0	0
	Total	19	19	19	20
Males		7,426	4,992	4,600	4,491
Females		578	369	317	306
Establishment	Maghaberry	6,330	4,280	4,043	3,936
	Hydebank Wood YOC Males	1,096	712	557	555
	Hydebank Wood Females	578	369	317	306
	Total	8,004	5,361	4,917	4,797

Note: *Refers to the period 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

Table 8: Northern Ireland Prison Receptions under Sentence of Immediate Custody by Gender and Age at Reception

		2012	2013	2014	2014/15*
MALES	18 - 20 years	257	244	182	172
	21 - 29 years	865	911	812	775
	30 - 39 years	432	453	480	445
	40 - 49 years	282	267	254	239
	50 - 59 years	96	124	132	120
	60 + years	33	42	45	45
	Total	1,965	2,041	1,905	1,796
FEMALES	18 - 20 years	11	8	10	8
	21 - 29 years	27	48	41	32
	30 - 39 years	27	34	30	25
	40 - 49 years	30	21	25	23
	50 - 59 years	11	18	11	12
	60 + years	1	3	1	3
	Total	107	132	118	103
ALL	18 - 20 years	268	252	192	180
	21 - 29 years	892	959	853	807
	30 - 39 years	459	487	510	470
	40 - 49 years	312	288	279	262
	50 - 59 years	107	142	143	132
	60 + years	34	45	46	48
	Total	2,072	2,173	2,023	1,899

Note: *Refers to the period 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

Table 9: Northern Ireland Prison Receptions under Sentence of Immediate Custody by Age at Reception, Gender and Sentence Length

		2013			2014			2014/15*		
		Total Length	Custody Length	Licence Length	Total Length	Custody Length	Licence Length	Total Length	Custody Length	Licence Length
ADULT MALES (Aged 21 and Over)	Life	20	20	20	12	12	12	12	12	12
	>10yrs, less than life	24	12	0	28	21	0	18	13	0
	>5yrs and <=10yrs	103	28	5	89	25	5	70	15	2
	>4yrs and <=5yrs	53	23	14	36	20	19	45	20	14
	>3yrs and <=4yrs	93	50	39	74	35	25	74	30	19
	>2yrs and <=3yrs	163	90	98	138	87	74	137	83	83
	>1yr and <=2yrs	269	267	234	257	235	182	227	233	175
	>6mths and <=12mths	362	507	168	332	466	157	327	448	142
	>3mths and <=6mths	415	499	38	455	515	40	447	498	34
	<=3 months	294	300	0	301	306	1	265	270	1
	No Length*	0	0	1,180	0	0	1,207	0	0	1,140
	missing data	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
	Total	1,797	1,797	1,797	1,723	1,723	1,723	1,624	1,624	1,624
YOUNG MALES (Aged Less than 21)	Life	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
	>10yrs, less than life	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	>5yrs and <=10yrs	9	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
	>4yrs and <=5yrs	6	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	0
	>3yrs and <=4yrs	12	6	3	10	1	1	7	0	1
	>2yrs and <=3yrs	16	8	14	13	2	5	10	3	6
	>1yr and <=2yrs	25	32	26	26	24	21	19	20	15
	>6mths and <=12mths	53	65	14	36	52	17	37	48	9
	>3mths and <=6mths	64	72	3	59	67	6	60	65	4
	<=3 months	58	59	0	34	35	0	34	35	0
	No Length*	0	0	184	0	0	131	0	0	136
	missing data	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	244	244	244	182	182	182	172	172	172
ALL MALES		2,041	2,041	2,041	1,905	1,905	1,905	1,796	1,796	1,796
ADULT FEMALES (Aged 21 and Over)	Life	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	>5yrs, less than life	2	1	0	2	1	0	2	1	0
	>1yr and <=5yrs	25	9	14	22	15	11	26	19	15
	>6mths and <=12mths	23	27	10	22	28	8	20	25	8
	>3mths and <=6mths	35	46	3	40	42	0	30	33	0
	<=3 months	39	41	0	22	22	0	17	17	0
	No Length*	0	0	97	0	0	89	0	0	72
	missing data	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	124	124	124	108	108	108	95	95	95	
YOUNG FEMALES (Aged Less than 21)	Life	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	>5yrs, less than life	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	>1yr and <=5yrs	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
	>6mths and <=12mths	3	4	0	1	2	0	1	1	0
	>3mths and <=6mths	1	1	0	6	6	0	5	5	0
	<=3 months	3	3	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
	No Length*	0	0	7	0	0	9	0	0	8
	missing data	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8	8	8	10	10	10	8	8	8	
ALL FEMALES		132	132	132	118	118	118	103	103	103

Note: *Refers to the period 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.
Life includes those detained at the Secretary of State's Pleasure.

Table 10: Northern Ireland Prison Receptions under Sentence of Immediate Custody by Gender and Sentence Length

		2013			2014			2014/15*		
		Total Length	Custody Length	Licence Length	Total Length	Custody Length	Licence Length	Total Length	Custody Length	Licence Length
MALES	Life	20	20	20	13	13	13	13	13	13
	>10yrs, less than life	25	12	0	28	21	0	18	13	0
	>5yrs and <=10yrs	112	29	5	91	25	5	71	15	2
	>4yrs and <=5yrs	59	24	14	37	20	19	48	20	14
	>3yrs and <=4yrs	105	56	42	84	36	26	81	30	20
	>2yrs and <=3yrs	179	98	112	151	89	79	147	86	89
	>1yr and <=2yrs	294	299	260	283	259	203	246	253	190
	>6mths and <=12mths	415	572	182	368	518	174	364	496	151
	>3mths and <=6mths	479	571	41	514	582	46	507	563	38
	<=3 months	352	359	0	335	341	1	299	305	1
	No Length	0	0	1,364	0	0	1,338	0	0	1,276
	missing data	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Total	2,041	2,041	2,041	1,905	1,905	1,905	1,796	1,796	1,796	
FEMALES	Life	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	>5yrs, less than life	2	1	0	2	1	0	2	1	0
	>1yr and <=5yrs	26	9	15	23	15	12	26	19	15
	>6mths and <=12mths	26	31	10	23	30	8	21	26	8
	>3mths and <=6mths	36	47	3	46	48	0	35	38	0
	<=3 months	42	44	0	24	24	0	19	19	0
	No Length	0	0	104	0	0	98	0	0	80
	missing data	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	132	132	132	118	118	118	103	103	103
ALL	Life	20	20	20	13	13	13	13	13	13
	>5yrs, less than life	139	42	5	121	47	5	91	29	2
	>1yr and <=5yrs	663	486	443	578	419	339	548	408	328
	>6mths and <=12mths	441	603	192	391	548	182	385	522	159
	>3mths and <=6mths	515	618	44	560	630	46	542	601	38
	<=3 months	394	403	0	359	365	1	318	324	1
	No Length	0	0	1,468	0	0	1,436	0	0	1,356
	missing data	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
	Total	2,173	2,173	2,173	2,023	2,023	2,023	1,899	1,899	1,899

Note: *Refers to the period 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.
Life includes those detained at the Secretary of State's Pleasure.

Table 11: Northern Ireland Prison Receptions under Sentence of Immediate Custody by Age at Reception, Gender and Principal Offence

		2013		2014		2014/15*	
		Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Aged 21 and over	Violence against the Person	378	19	312	14	322	14
	Sexual Offences	93	0	85	1	70	1
	Misc Sexual	18	0	10	0	11	0
	Robbery	94	4	51	2	53	2
	Theft	192	28	185	37	184	29
	Burglary	120	4	125	7	113	7
	Criminal Damage	155	17	138	9	140	9
	Drug Offences	161	6	129	5	147	9
	Possession of Weapons Offences	35	3	33	0	19	0
	Public Order Offences	202	13	259	13	198	7
	Motoring Offences	74	1	90	2	76	2
	Fraud	28	8	18	3	16	2
	Other Offences	245	21	287	15	272	13
	Missing	2	0	1	0	3	0
	Total	1,797	124	1,723	108	1,624	95
Aged Less than 21	Violence against the Person	48	2	31	5	32	4
	Sexual Offences	6	0	1	0	1	0
	Misc Sexual	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Robbery	12	0	6	0	9	0
	Theft	30	0	25	1	21	1
	Burglary	18	0	22	0	24	0
	Criminal Damage	35	2	24	2	30	2
	Drug Offences	10	0	7	0	6	0
	Possession of Weapons Offences	6	0	4	0	3	0
	Public Order Offences	33	3	37	2	23	1
	Motoring Offences	8	0	5	0	3	0
	Fraud	0	0	1	0	1	0
	Other Offences	38	1	19	0	19	0
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	244	8	182	10	172	8
ALL		2,041	132	1,905	118	1,796	103

Note: * Refers to the period 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

Offence Classification and Principal Offence Methodology have been revised and updated therefore only reception information from 2009 will be comparable.

Misc Sexual includes sexual offences which for England and Wales have moved to the Other Offences Categories but for clarity they are included in a separate category here – they include offences like making/possessing/distributing indecent photos of children and possession of extreme pornographic images.

Table 12: Northern Ireland Prison Receptions under Sentence of Immediate Custody by Gender and Principal Offence

		2012	2013	2014	2014/15*
MALES	Violence against the Person	375	426	343	354
	Sexual Offences	91	99	86	71
	Misc Sexual	15	18	10	11
	Robbery	118	106	57	62
	Theft	209	222	210	205
	Burglary	185	138	147	137
	Criminal Damage	225	190	162	170
	Drug Offences	129	171	136	153
	Possession of Weapons Offences	30	41	37	22
	Public Order Offences	259	235	296	221
	Motoring Offences	104	82	95	79
	Fraud	24	28	19	17
	Other Offences	198	283	306	291
	Missing	3	2	1	3
	Total		1,965	2,041	1,905
FEMALES	Violence against the Person	22	21	19	18
	Sexual Offences	1	0	1	1
	Misc Sexual	0	0	0	0
	Robbery	2	4	2	2
	Theft	35	28	38	30
	Burglary	3	4	7	7
	Criminal Damage	9	19	11	11
	Drug Offences	6	6	5	9
	Possession of Weapons Offences	1	3	0	0
	Public Order Offences	11	16	15	8
	Motoring Offences	2	1	2	2
	Fraud	3	8	3	2
	Other Offences	12	22	15	13
	Missing	0	0	0	0
	Total		107	132	118
ALL	Violence against the Person	397	447	362	372
	Sexual Offences	92	99	87	72
	Misc Sexual	15	18	10	11
	Robbery	120	110	59	64
	Theft	244	250	248	235
	Burglary	188	142	154	144
	Criminal Damage	234	209	173	181
	Drug Offences	135	177	141	162
	Possession of Weapons Offences	31	44	37	22
	Public Order Offences	270	251	311	229
	Motoring Offences	106	83	97	81
	Fraud	27	36	22	19
	Other Offences	210	305	321	304
	Missing	3	2	1	3
	Total		2,072	2,173	2,023

Note: * Refers to the period 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.
 Offence Classification and Principal Offence Methodology have been revised and updated therefore only reception information from 2009 will be comparable.
 Misc Sexual includes sexual offences which for England and Wales have moved to the Other Offences Categories but for clarity they are included in a separate category here – they include offences like making/possessing/distributing indecent photos of children and possession of extreme pornographic images.

METHODOLOGY AND COUNTING RULES

The data used in this bulletin are derived from analysing the daily prison population for a given year, taken from the Northern Ireland Prison Service Management Information System (PRISM). As this is mainly an Administrative Data base, rigorous validation procedures are followed to ensure the data presented is as accurate as possible. More details on the validation procedures followed are included in the Quality Assurance/Validation Section of this report.

Whilst vigorous validation procedures were carried out by the Analytical Services Group of the Department of Justice, the data is subject to the limitations inherent in any large scale recording system and to variation in recording practice over time.

Unlawfully at large prisoners are excluded from these numbers.

Average Prisoner Population

Daily Population snapshots are downloaded from the PRISM system; the average daily prisoner population for a given year is derived from the average of these.

Receptions Data

The data used in this bulletin are derived from analysing the daily prison population for a given year, taken from PRISM. Receptions are counted whenever there is a change in a prisoner's custody type from one day to the next. E.g. if during the time period in question a prisoner is committed into prison as a remand prisoner, then without being released is sentenced, this would count as one remand reception and one sentenced reception.

However, if a sentenced prisoner receives another sentence whilst currently serving a sentence, this will not be counted as a new sentenced reception, as the custody type has not changed. In these cases the sentence details of the first sentence are used to work out sentence lengths and offence categories.

Fine Default prisoners are counted on the system as sentenced prisoners, as such if a prisoner is sentenced and during this sentence decides to serve some time as a fine default prisoner their status does not change, meaning that fine default receptions are only picked up if they change from remand to fine default, or if they are committed to prison as a fine default prisoner.

If a prisoner is released and is subsequently committed on the same or different custody status this is counted as a new reception.

The receptions data are based on the premise that when a person is received more than once during a year he will be counted separately on each occasion, including each occasion of change of status between remand and sentenced/fine defaulter during the same period of custody.

If a prisoner is committed and released on the same day then they will not be included in this analysis as the daily population snapshot is taken at midnight.

The methodology for producing receptions data from 2009 onwards has changed from previous years. So too has the source from whence the data originates. Therefore caution should be exercised when making comparisons with previous years.

Age

For the daily averages, the age of a prisoner is calculated at the time of the snapshot. This differs from previous reports where the age was calculated at age of most recent reception. Age at snapshot gives a better indication of the age profile of the prison publication and is more consistent with reporting standards in other jurisdictions, making way for improved comparisons. Due to the change in

methodology in computing age, comparisons with data from earlier years, broken down by age, in terms of averages will not be possible.

For the receptions information, the age of a prisoner is calculated at age of reception, similar to previous data on receptions.

Some of the tables in this bulletin refer to 'adult' and 'young' prisoners. An 'adult' is aged 21 years and over and a 'young' prisoner is aged under 21 years.

Offence Grouping

An extensive exercise was carried out in late 2013 by statisticians across Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland, to reclassify all offences into main offence groupings, as far as possible, that are more in line with England and Wales. Due to this exercise receptions data published prior to 2009 on offence groupings will not be directly comparable with those from 2009 onwards. Data relating to averages pre 2013 on offence groupings will also not be directly comparable, as data published on averages pre 2013 used the old classification system.

Principal Offence

Where a person is received under sentence for two or more offences, only the principal offence is used. Following a review during 2013 by statisticians in the Department of Justice, Northern Ireland, an updated algorithm for calculating principal offence was adopted. Details on this can be found in a special paper using the link <http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications/prosecutions-and-convictions/principal-offence-methodology.htm>.

Due to the way data is stored and extracted in PRISM, sentence lengths for each individual offence cannot be extracted, as such calculating principal offence using actual sentence length is not possible. Instead principal offence using the principal at trial algorithm is used at the basis for calculating principal offence for prison statistics. This calculates principal offence based on the offence that has the statutory highest maximum sentence. For offences with the same highest maximum sentence then further flags are used to calculate the principal offence. More detail on this can be found in the above report. Due to slight differences in data, the methodology is adapted for Prison purposes. PRISM holds a flag which determines if the offence is a main offence or not; this flag is used in the Prison methodology. The actual offence date is held in PRISM but due to difficulties extracting this, it cannot be used as a method for calculating principal offence. As such this step in the process is replaced by ordering based on the numerical offence code for each offence.

Sentence Length

If a person is received under sentence for two or more offences at the same time, sentence length is taken as the longest of any concurrent sentences, with consecutive sentences being treated as one sentence equal in length to the sentences added together.

Type of Prisoner

Currently there are three prison establishments in Northern Ireland receiving prisoners - HMP Magilligan, HMP Maghaberry and Hydebank Wood Young Offenders Centre & Prison. Female prisoners are held in a separate unit within the Hydebank Wood Prison. HMP Magilligan only accommodates sentenced prisoners who are transferred from a sentenced status. Therefore prisoners in Magilligan do not change custody type and as such there are no receptions for Magilligan.

While the prison population consists mainly of offenders sentenced by the courts to immediate custody for criminal offences, it also includes fine defaulters, remand prisoners and a small number of non-criminal prisoners.

Fine defaulters are those who have been given a fine by the courts (strictly a fine or custodial sentence), have not paid the fine within a stipulated time, and have then been the subject of a warrant issued by the court. The duration of sentence is dependent upon the amount of the unpaid fine and ranges from one week where the default is £200 or less, to ten years where the default exceeds £1 million. Fine defaulters aged under 17 are no longer held in custody, due to changes brought about by the Criminal Justice Order (1998), and are not included in this bulletin.

Remand prisoners include those charged with an offence and whom the courts have ruled should be detained in custody pending trial; those whom the courts have permitted to be released on bail pending trial but have not as yet met the conditions (usually financial) of the bail; those who had been released on bail but have subsequently been re-admitted to prison because they breached a condition of bail; and those who have been found guilty by the court but have been ordered to be detained in custody pending sentence.

Non-criminal prisoners are mainly made up of those being held under the terms of the Immigration Act.

Significant Testing

Findings in this report were compared using statistical testing. This was done to provide a level of confidence as to whether there was a real difference in findings between years or categories, or whether apparent differences were simply within the range expected with chance variation. The test employed was a Chi Square, which tests for association between two categorical variables - for example, gender (males and females) and offence category (Theft and non-Theft). Where a statistically significant result was found (i.e. a result with a probability of less than 5% under chance conditions) this has been reported in the text.

Quality Assurance/Validation

The steps taken to quality assure this information for statistical purposes are described below.

The data used to derive receptions information originates from the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) case management system (PRISM). This is a live recording system which is used extensively by NIPS for day to day case management purposes. As such the information extracted, while subject to human data entry error, needs to be highly accurate as it is the main information tool used to manage prisoners on a day-to-day basis, to list their status/privileges and, for that matter to regulate discharge dates/record sentence lengths. It is used not only by Prison Service Staff but also Probation Staff. The data from which receptions information are derived are therefore core fields, the accuracy of which is a requirement for the effective handling of day-to-day prison operations.

It is perhaps important to emphasise that Prison Service Staff themselves have a vested interest in the complete reliability of the data populated into the fields used for this analysis. Information is not derived from subsidiary screens which do not contribute to the officer's own capacity to discharge his/her duties or which can be bypassed without impacting immediately on the officer's own work.

The procedure undertaken to derive the statistics now has the following stages. A data download is extracted from PRISM which includes details on individual prisoners. This is used as the primary source of information to calculate the prison population. Rigorous validation exercises are then conducted to ensure that the information produced is as accurate as possible.

These Quality Assurance/Validation procedures can be split into two parts, firstly ensuring the data from PRISM is accurate and up to date. For this purpose, manual checks are carried out and data corrected to ensure:

- that all sentenced prisoners have a sentence length;
- that there are no sentence lengths that are discrepant (e.g. murder offences attracting a sentence of 7 days);
- that the total effective sentence adds up to the custody sentence plus the licence sentence;

- that the stated age of prisoners is appropriate and realistic (e.g. no-one aged 8,108, etc.);
- that the gender of prisoners is appropriate for the prison establishment (e.g. no male prisoners in a female prison); and
- that a general check of the data as a whole suggests no other anomalies.

Any such discrepancies identified at this stage (for which there may on, albeit rare, occasion be valid reason) are checked out against the Integrated Court Operations System (ICOS), the Criminal Records Viewer and additional screens on PRISM itself. Any issues are resolved on an individual basis.

Secondly, an extensive manual cross checking exercise is conducted using PRISM to ensure that after manipulating the data, the information produced is correct. A list of all receptions for each prisoner is listed and details are then cross checked manually against the records held on PRISM.

Whilst these checking procedures are extensive and robust, the statistics contained in the publication are inevitably subject to the limitations inherent in any large-scale recording system and to variations in recording practice over time. However, as PRISM is used extensively for the operation of the core business and the fields used are fields in the accuracy of which officers themselves have a strong vested interest, one can now be confident in the accuracy and robustness of the source administrative data to a degree much greater than would normally be the case with administrative systems requiring lower degrees of operational precision.

Analytical Services Group
Department of Justice
Laganside House
Belfast BT1 3LA

Email: statistics.research@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 028 9052 5151

www.dojni.gov.uk