

Statistical Bulletin

Crime and Justice Series

A National Statistics Publication for Scotland

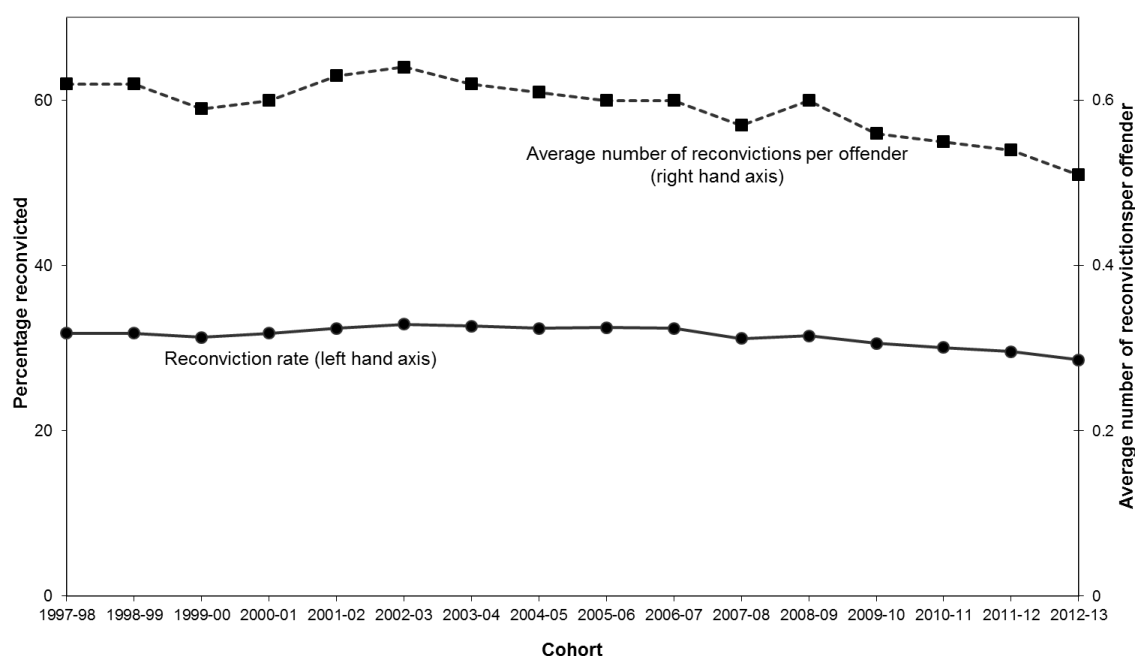


RECONVICTION RATES IN SCOTLAND: 2012-13 OFFENDER COHORT 31 March 2015

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This publication provides analyses of trends in reconviction figures up to the latest cohort of 2012-13.
- 1.2 The reconviction rate has fallen by 1 percentage point, from 29.6 for the 2011-12 cohort to 28.6 per cent for the 2012-13 cohort. ([Chart 1](#) and [Table 1](#)).
- 1.3 The average number of reconvictions per offender has fallen by 0.03 reconvictions, or nearly 6 per cent, from 0.54 for the 2011-12 cohort to 0.51 for the 2012-13 cohort ([Chart 1](#) and [Table 1](#)).

Chart 1 Reconviction rates and the average number of reconvictions per offender: 1997-98 to 2012-13 cohorts



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2 Key points

- The reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender have been generally declining over the past decade. Between 2003-04 and the most recent cohort of 2012-13, the reconviction rate decreased by 4.1 percentage points from 32.7 per cent to 28.6 per cent. In the same period, the average number of reconvictions per offender decreased by nearly 18 per cent from 0.62 to 0.51 ([Table 1](#)).
- Male offenders have more reconvictions on average than females. In 2012-13 the average number of reconvictions for male offenders was 0.53 which is 23 per cent higher than the value of 0.43 for females ([Table 2](#)).
- There has been a marked fall in the average number of reconvictions for offenders aged under 25 over the past 10 years. In 2003-04 the average number of reconvictions per offenders in the under 21 age group was 0.82 and it had decreased 31 per cent to 0.57 in 2012-13. In the same period the average number of reconvictions per offender for the 21 to 25 age group decreased by 28 per cent from 0.72 to 0.52 ([Table 3](#)).
- In contrast to the younger age groups, the average number of reconvictions per offender for the older age groups have generally increased over the same period. Between 2003-04 and 2012-13 the average number of reconvictions per offender for the 31 to 40 age group increased by 12 per cent from 0.50 to 0.56, and increased by 20 per cent for the over 40 age group from 0.30 to 0.36.
- Offenders who commit a crime of dishonesty have the highest average number of reconvictions per offender (0.90 in 2012-13), whereas offenders who commit a sexual crime have the lowest (0.17 in 2012-13), compared to offenders that committed other crimes ([Table 6](#)).
- ¹Offenders with an index disposal of a Community Payback Order (CPO) in 2012-13 had an average number of reconvictions per offender of 0.55 ([Table 8](#)). This average was 11 per cent lower than the figure of 0.62 for those offenders with index disposals of Community Service Orders and Probation Orders in 2009-10, prior to the introduction of CPOs.
- Offenders given a Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO) have the highest average number of reconvictions compared to other disposals, although this number has dropped considerably over the past ten years. In 2003-04 the average number of reconvictions per offender was 2.21 and in 2012-13 it was 1.46, representing a drop of 34 per cent, or three quarters of a reconviction per offender on average ([Table 8](#)).
- Offenders released from a custodial sentence had an average number of reconvictions of 0.87 ([Table 8](#)). Those released from a sentence of 3 months or less have, on average, a higher number of reconvictions than those released from longer custodial sentences ([Table 9](#)). However, offenders that commit relatively low level crimes but in high volumes are more likely to be reconvicted, and these offenders are more likely to get short custodial sentences.

¹ 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 Background

3.1 Recidivism is where someone has received some form of criminal justice sanction (such as a community sentence or a fine) and goes on to commit another offence. Therefore determining recidivism is important as it illustrates 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 recorded by the police will necessarily result in a conviction in court (see [Annex A1](#)).

3.2 Scotland's criminal justice system has many different possible outcomes and 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 (as measured at the start of the process) is not the same thing as reconviction (produced right at the end of the criminal justice process). The latter can be affected by many different variables that are not necessarily related to the incidence of crime (see National Audit Office 2012 Report [Comparing International Criminal Justice Systems](#)).

3.3 For the majority of the analyses in this bulletin, we measure the reconvictions of a cohort of offenders within a follow-up period of one year after a conviction. A cohort is defined as all the offenders that have either estimated to have been released from a custodial sentence, or given a non-custodial sentence, in a specified financial year. For example, the 2012-13 cohort is the group of offenders who were released from a custodial sentence, or were given a non-custodial sentence, between the 1st April 2012 and the 31st March 2013 (See [Annex Table A1](#) and [Annex A5](#) for definitions and more details). In this bulletin, for clarity, the cohort may be referred to by its year alone.

3.4 The "index conviction" is 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 had the earliest of these dates in a given financial year is defined as the index conviction. 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).

3.5 The reconviction rate is presented here as the percentage of offenders in the cohort who were reconvicted one or more times 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 12](#) where a two year follow up period is presented. For example, the 2012-13 reconviction rate is 28.6 per cent ([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 2012-13. The definitions in [Annex Table A1](#) in the annex provide more details about the terminology used in this publication.

3.6 Convictions that are counted as index convictions and reconvictions, are those listed in the Scottish Offenders Index (SOI). The data in the SOI 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 of the Scottish Government's classification of crimes, or some offences in Group 6. Minor sentences, such as

drunkenness and the majority of vehicle offences, are excluded. See [Annex B1](#), [Annex B3](#), and in [Annex Table A2](#) for more details.

3.7 This bulletin provides more detailed analysis of reconvictions by also reporting the complementary measure of average number of reconvictions per offender. The reconviction rate, which is the percentage of offenders in a cohort who receive a reconviction, provides an indication of progress in tackling overall offender recidivism. However, the reconviction rate 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 reconvictions, but not complete desistance from crime, by an offender.

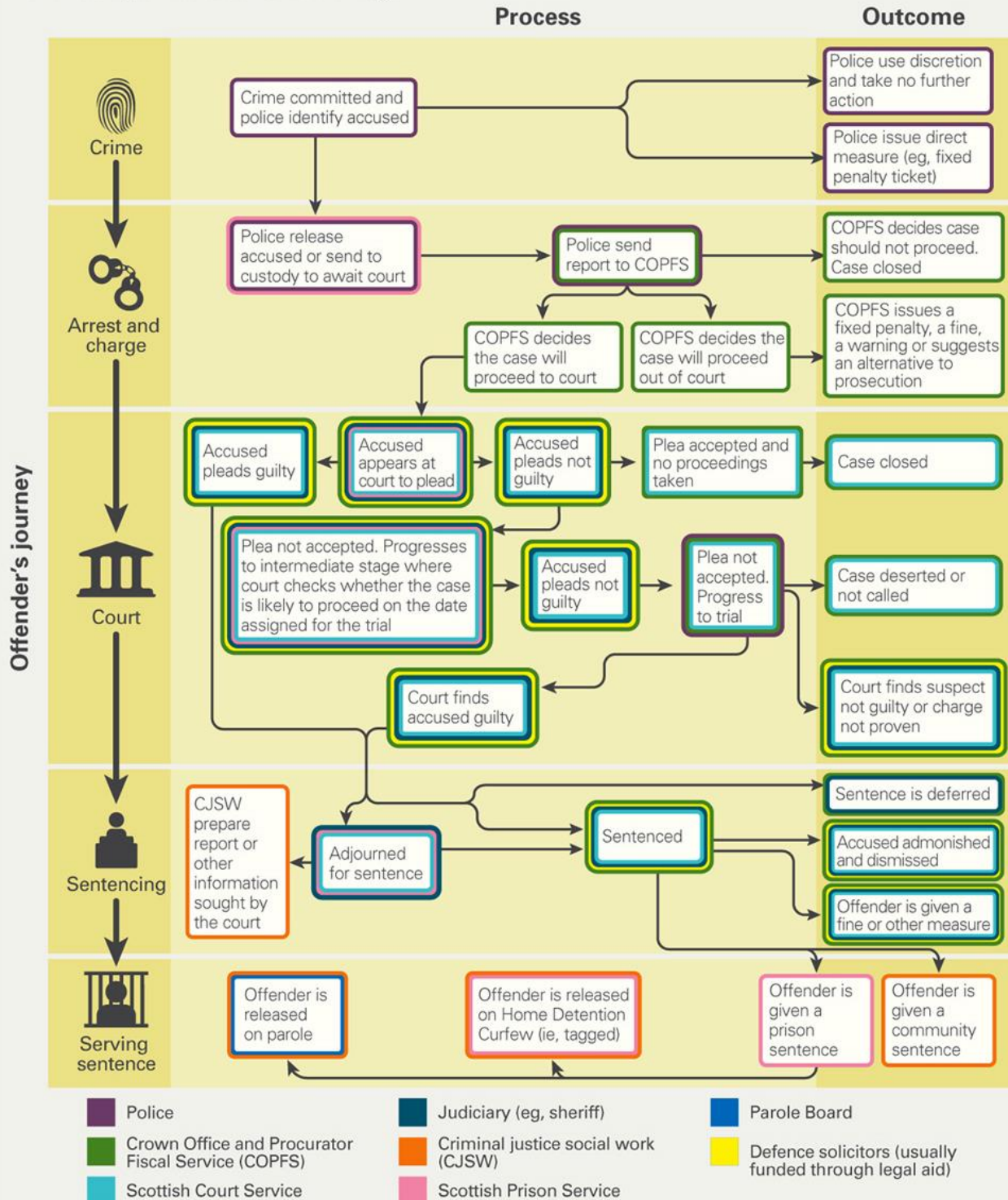
3.8 The average number of reconvictions per offender is a measure of the number of times that offenders in a cohort are reconvicted within the follow-up period. It is calculated as the total number of reconviction events within the specified follow up period of all the offenders in the cohort, divided by the total number of offenders in the cohort. For example, the average number of reconvictions per offender in one year for the 2012-13 cohort is 0.51 ([Table 1](#)), which means that, on average, offenders have about half a reconviction in a one year follow up period. It should be noted that because this measure is a mean 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.

3.9 In this bulletin we also measure the proportion of people who receive a non-court disposal and who go on to receive another non-court disposal within a year. The cohort for non-court convictions is defined as the group of people who receive a non-court disposal from the police or Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), such as a fine or warning, in a given financial year.

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.



Note: Coloured borders round the boxes signify the different bodies generally involved at that stage of the process.
Source: Audit Scotland

(Source: Audit Scotland 2012 *An overview of Scotland's criminal justice system*)

4 Main findings: reconviction rates for court disposals

[\(Tables 1 to 12\)](#)

4.1 There were 41,710 offenders discharged from custody or given a non-custodial sentence in 2012-13 ([Table 1](#)), a number which has been declining every year from 53,300 in 2006-07.

4.2 The reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender ([Table 1](#) and [Chart 1](#)) have generally been declining over the past decade. There was a slight increase in reconvictions in 2008-09 which is likely to be due to the Summary Justice Reforms which meant that cases were processed faster through the courts. Between 2003-04 and 2012-13, the reconviction rate has fallen by 4.1 percentage points from 32.7 to 28.6, and the average number of reconvictions has fallen by 18 per cent from 0.62 to 0.51. These reductions are also set against the context of a falling number of crimes recorded by the police since 2004-05 ([Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14](#)). Crime and victimisation surveys also reveal a similar pattern of falling incidence of crime ([Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, 2012-13](#)).

Age and gender

4.3 Males have higher reconviction rates and a higher average number of reconvictions per offender than females ([Table 2](#)). The average number of reconvictions per offender for the 2012-13 cohort was 0.53 for males, and 0.43 for females. The reconviction rates were 29.6 per cent for males and 23.3 per cent for females.

4.4 Offenders under the age of 21 had the highest reconviction rate of all the age groups (33.0 per cent) in 2012-13. Offenders under 21 also have one of the highest average number of reconvictions per offender of the age groups (0.57), but this is equal with the 26 to 30 age group, and only slightly higher than the 31 to 40 age group ([Table 3](#)).

4.5 Reconvictions for offenders aged under 21 used to be significantly higher than the other age groups, but they have showed substantial declines over time to their current levels which are more similar to the other age groups. The average number of reconvictions has dropped to 0.57 in 2012-13 by nearly 39 per cent from its highest level of 0.93 in 1997-98, and by nearly 31 per cent from 0.82 in 2003-04. The reconviction rate of the under 21 age group decreased to 33.0 per cent in 2012-13 by 9.4 percentage points from 42.4 per cent in 1997-98, and by 7.6 percentage points from 40.6 per cent in 2003-04 ([Table 3](#), [Chart 3](#), and [Chart 4](#)).

4.6 There have also been large declines in the reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender in the 21 to 25 age group in the past 10 years. The reconviction rate decreased by 5.7 percentage points from 36.4 per cent in 2003-04 to 30.7 per cent in 2012-13; and in the same period the average number of reconvictions per offender decreased from 0.72 to 0.52, a 28 per cent reduction.

4.7 Unlike the younger age groups, the figures for the 26 to 30 year age group have shown no clear trend over the past 10 years ([Table 3](#)). However, in 2012-13 the reconviction rate for this age group decreased to 31.0 per cent which is its lowest level since 1998-99 and the average number of reconvictions decreased to 0.57 which is its lowest level since 2000-01.

4.8 In this bulletin we now separately present the reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions for offenders age 31 to 40 and for offenders over 40. In previous bulletins, these age groups were combined in an “over 30” age group. The over 30 age group has now been split for two reasons. Firstly, it was the largest age group in terms of offender numbers, and now it has been split into two roughly equal sized groups that are also similar in size to the other age groups. Secondly, the 2011-12 cohort bulletin reported that over 30 age group was the only age group that had been showing an increase in reconvictions over the past 10 years, so splitting it may aid the understanding of where the increases are occurring.

4.9 Reconvictions of the older age groups have generally increased over the past 10 years. Between 2003-04 and 2012-13, the reconviction rate for offenders aged 31 to 40 has increased by 1.3 percentage points from 28.5 per cent to 29.8 per cent, and the over 40 age group has increased by 3 percentage points from 17.4 to 20.4. In the same time period the average number of reconvictions for the 31 to 40 age group has increased by 12 per cent from 0.50 to 0.56, and for the over 40 age group it has increased by 20 per cent from 0.30 to 0.36. However, the reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions for the age 31 to 40 age group have shown a slight decline in the past year, and the reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions for the over 40 age group are still significantly lower than the other age groups.

4.10 Males aged under 21 had the highest reconviction rate of any age-gender combination in 2012-13 at 34.6 per cent ([Table 4](#)).

4.11 Males aged under 21 and males aged 31 to 40 had the highest average number of reconvictions per offender of any age-gender combination, with both at 0.59 in 2012-13. ([Table 4](#) and [Chart 3](#)). This number was only slightly higher than that for females aged 26 to 30, who had an average of 0.58 reconvictions per offender in the same year ([Table 5](#) and [Chart 4](#)).

4.12 Patterns of change in reconvictions (both rates and averages numbers) for males of different age groups are generally the same ([Table 4](#)) as those for the overall age groups ([Table 3](#)), as males make up the majority of offenders. For example, in the past 10 years the average number of reconvictions have decreased considerably for males under 21 (almost 30 per cent from 0.84 in 2003-04 to 0.59 in 2012-13) and also for males aged 21 to 25 (over 26 per cent from 0.72 in 2003-04 to 0.53 in 2012-13). The average number of reconvictions per offender for males aged 26 to 30 have followed no clear trend over past 10 years, whereas they increased by nearly 16 per cent (from 0.51 in 2003-04 to 0.59 in 2012-13) for males aged 31 to 40 and increased by 20 per cent (from 0.31 in 2003-04 to 0.37 in 2012-13) for males aged over 40 years ([Table 4](#) and [Chart 3](#)).

4.13 Females show a slightly different pattern of reconvictions (both rates and average number per offender) by age compared to males. Like males, reconvictions for females aged under 21 and aged between 21 to 25 have shown large decreases over the past 10 years. i.e. the average number of reconvictions per offender decreased by nearly 37 per cent for females aged under 21 (from 0.65 in 2003-04 to 0.41 in 2012-13) and by more than 33 per cent (from 0.69 in 2003-04 to 0.46 in 2012-13) for females age 21 to 25. Similarly to males of the same age group, reconvictions for females aged 26 to 30 have been fluctuating over the past 10 years. However, unlike reconvictions for males, reconvictions for females aged 31 to 40, and females over 40, have generally remained level over the past 10 years.

4.14 There is also a difference in the age group with the highest levels of reconvictions for females compared to males. In 2012-13, females aged 26 to 30 had the highest average number of convictions per offender (0.58), the 21 to 25 and 31 to 40 age groups have the next highest (both 0.46). Unlike males where the under 21 age group was the highest of the age groups, the under 21 age group of females had the second lowest average number of reconvictions (0.41). The over 40 female age group, like its male counterpart, had the lowest number (0.29) ([Table 5](#) and [Chart 4](#)).

Chart 3 Average number of reconvictions per offender, males by age: 1997-98 to 2012-13 cohorts

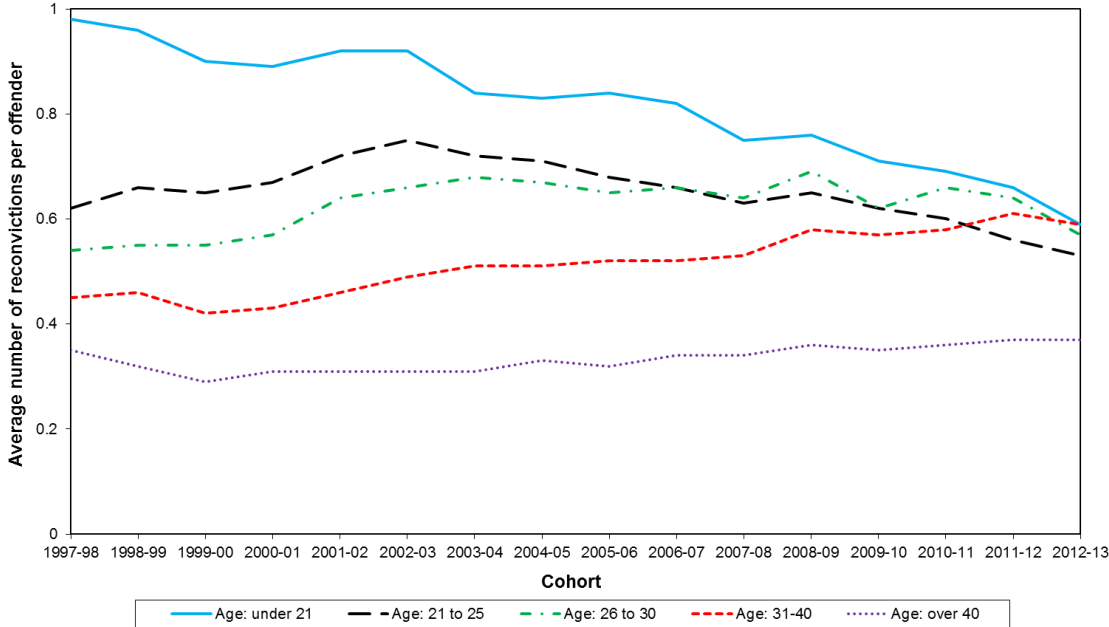


Chart 4 Average number of reconvictions per offender, females by age: 1997-98 to 2012-13 cohorts



Index crime

4.15 An “index crime” is the crime which resulted in an “index conviction”. The “index conviction” is 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 earliest of these dates in a given financial year is defined as the index conviction (see [Annex Table A1](#) and [Annex A5](#) for definitions).

4.16 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. Offenders with an index crime of dishonesty, e.g. shoplifting (see [Annex Table A2](#) for crime groupings), have the highest average number of reconvictions and reconviction rate of any of the types of index crimes ([Chart 5](#) and [Table 6](#)). For the 2012-13 cohort, the average number of reconvictions for offenders who were convicted of crimes of dishonesty was 0.90, and the reconviction rate was 41.3 per cent.

4.17 Offenders in the 2012-13 cohort who had an index crime of a sexual crime had the lowest average number of reconvictions and the lowest reconviction rate of any of the types of index crime. The average number of reconvictions per offender was 0.17 and the reconviction rate was 12.2 per cent ([Chart 5](#) and [Table 6](#)). The reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender for an index sexual crime are both lower in 2012-13 than they were in 2011-12, whereas both measures of reconvictions had been increasing for this index crime between 2009-10 to 2011-12. The earlier rise in the numbers may in part be explained by a widening of the definition of rape in the new Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009, which came into force in December 2010, and by increased reporting in the wake of high-profile cases. Also, as these averages are based on small numbers of offenders, it may have just been due to a slight fluctuation in the numbers that may occur occasionally.

4.18 Offenders from the 2012-13 cohort who had index crimes other than sexual crimes or crimes of dishonesty had an average number of reconvictions between 0.33 and 0.49. The reconviction rates were between 22.0 and 30.3 per cent ([Chart 5](#) and [Table 6](#)).

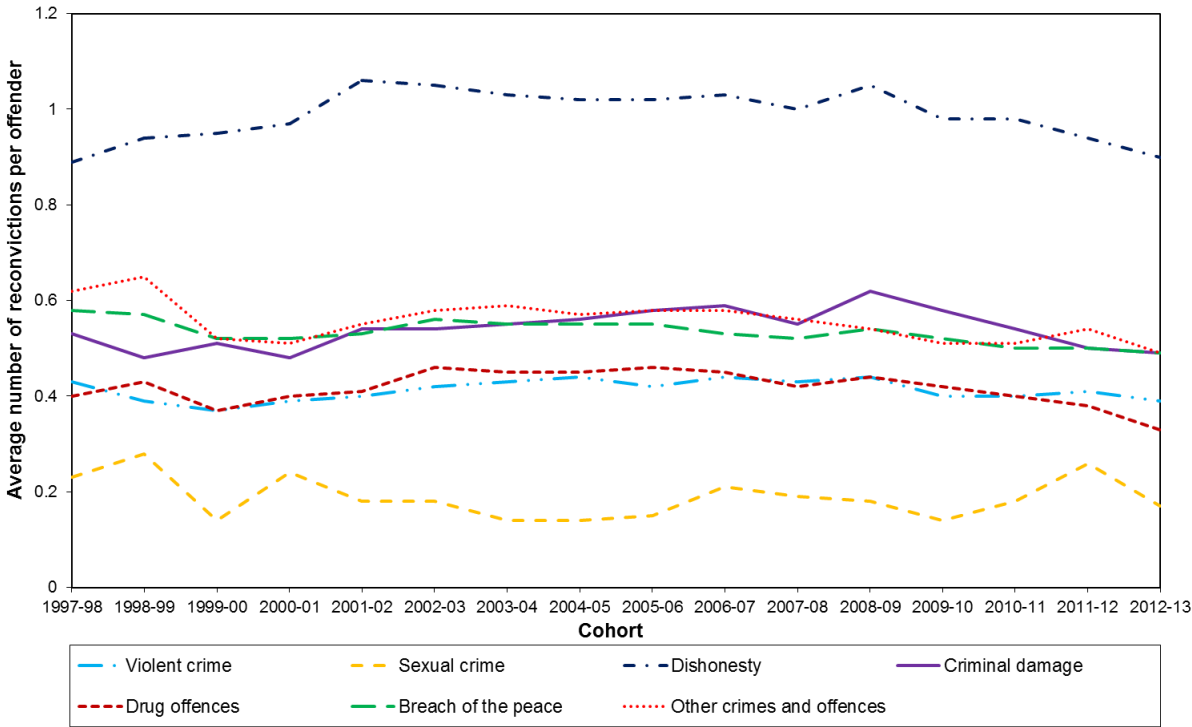
4.19 [Table 7](#)² shows the types of crimes that offenders in the 2012-13 cohort were reconvicted for, by the index crime of the offenders. Overall, more offenders were reconvicted for breach of peace than any other type of crime (9.9 per cent of all offenders), and fewer offenders were reconvicted for a sexual crime than any other type of crime (0.2 per cent of all offenders).

4.20 [Table 7](#) also shows that for those offenders with index crimes of violent crimes, crimes of dishonesty, drug offences, or breach of the peace; the majority of those reconvicted were for the same type of crime as their index crime. However, for those convicted of sexual crimes, the majority of those reconvicted were for other crimes or offences. For those convicted of criminal damage it was breach of peace, and for those convicted of other crimes and offences it was also breach of peace. Even for

² The information in [Table 7](#) is not comparable with figures in publications prior to the 2011-12 Offender Cohort bulletin. The table has been constructed from the "persons proceeded against" datasource, whereas in publications prior to the 2011-12 Offender Cohort bulletin, the table has been constructed from a different datasource: the "offences relating to persons proceeded against" datasource.

index crimes where the majority of those offenders reconvicted were for the same crime as the index crime, there were some offenders who were reconvicted for different crimes to their index crimes. This suggests that offenders don't necessarily specialise on a particular type of crime.

Chart 5 Average number of reconvictions per offender, by index crime: 1997-98 to 2012-13 cohorts



Index disposal³

4.21 An index disposal is the sentence received for an index conviction (see [Annex Table A1](#) and [Annex A5](#) for definitions). A disposal may affect the reconviction rates, but different disposals are given for different types of offending behaviour, which are also likely to affect reconviction rates. There has been some evidence of a decline in the average number of reconvictions per offender across all types of disposals since 2003-04.

4.22 Offenders given a Drug Treatment or Testing Order (DTTO) have the highest average number of reconvictions and the highest reconviction rate compared to the other disposals ([Table 8](#) and [Chart 6](#)). The number of offenders who received a DTTO in the 2012-13 cohort was 316, the average number of reconvictions per offender was 1.46 for this cohort, and the reconviction rate was 62.0 per cent.

4.23 Over time there has been a large decline in the average number of reconvictions for offenders who are given a DTTO. These orders were first introduced on a pilot basis in Glasgow and Fife in 1999, and were subsequently rolled out across the whole of Scotland in phases, concluding with Argyll and Bute in 2006. In the past 10 years the average number of reconvictions per offender for DTTOs

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

decreased by three quarters of an offence (0.75) per offender, on average, from 2.21 in 2003-04 to 1.46 in 2012-13. There has also been a decline in reconviction rates for those given DTTOs in the past 10 years. The reconviction rate for 2012-13 was 62.0 per cent, which is 17.1 percentage points lower than the rate of 79.1 per cent in 2003-04.

4.24 Those offenders released from a custodial sentence in the 2012-13 cohort had a higher reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions than offenders given any other disposal except a DTTO. The reconviction rate for offenders released from custody in the 2012-13 cohort was 43.3 per cent and the average number of reconvictions per offender was 0.87.

4.25 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 commencement date. As a result, the legacy orders are now mainly being used in cases which have taken longer to progress from the offence being committed to sentencing in court. This may bias comparisons with other types of disposal. In line with previous bulletins, SAOs are still grouped under “other”, due to the small numbers issued.

4.26 There has been a transition period between the phasing out of the legacy orders and the establishment of CPOs between 2010-11 up to the most recent cohort 2012-13, 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. As CPOs have become established, the number of offenders of an index disposal of a CPO increased from 178 in 2010-11 to 9,511 in 2012-13, whereas those with an index disposal of a legacy order decreased from 8,264 to 638 in the same period.

4.27 During the transition period from legacy orders to CPOs between 2010-11 and the most recent cohort of 2012-13, there were changes in the characteristics of offenders that were given these disposal types. Therefore caution is needed when comparing changes between the two disposal types during the transition period. Annex D details how three offender characteristics (number of previous convictions, gender and age) changed for CPOs and legacy orders during the transition period. Changes in offender characteristics are also likely to be responsible for the decreases in reconvictions of 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.

4.28 The 9,511 offenders with an index disposal of a CPO in 2012-13 had a reconviction rate of 32.1 per cent, which is 1.6 percentage points lower than the reconviction rate (33.7 per cent) of the legacy orders in 2009-10 before CPOs were introduced. The average number of reconvictions per offender for CPOs of 0.55 in 2012-13 was 11 per cent lower than the figure of 0.62 for the legacy orders in 2009-10.

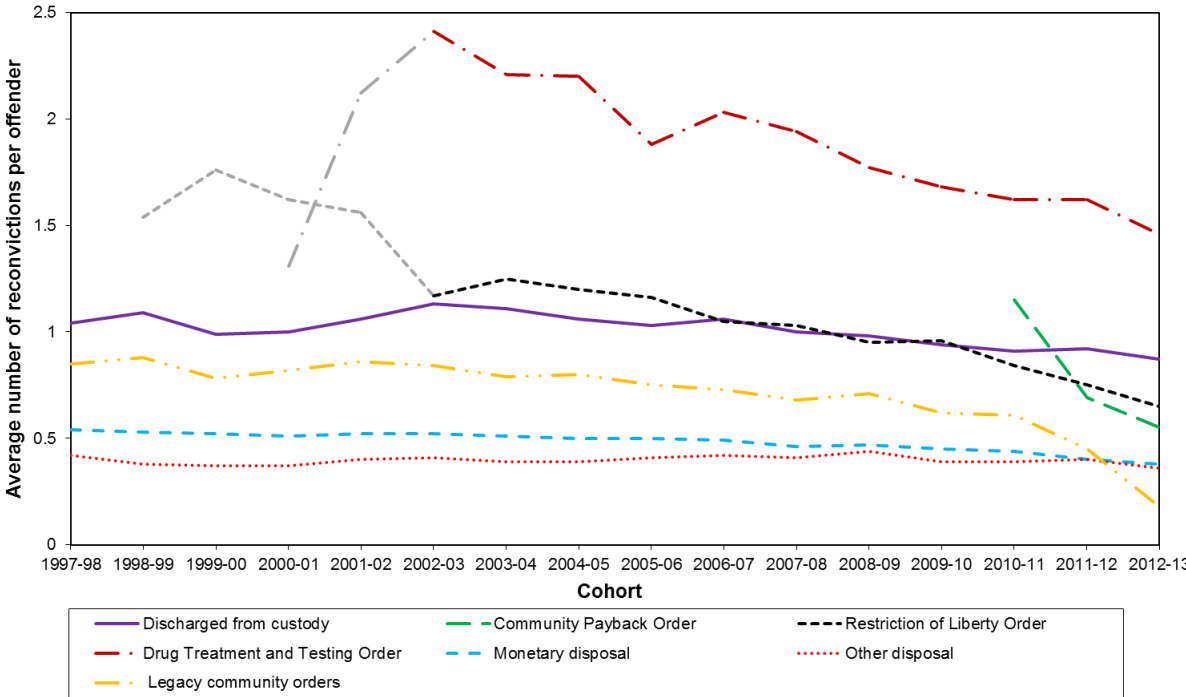
4.29 Between 2010-11 and 2012-13 the average number of reconvictions per offender for CPOs decreased by 52 per cent from 1.15 to 0.55, and for the legacy orders they decreased by 70 per cent from 0.61 to 0.18. However, the characteristics

of those offenders with an index disposal of a CPO in 2012-13 are still different from those given legacy orders in 2009-10 prior to the transition.

4.30 There has been a decline in the average number of reconvictions per offender for those released from custodial sentences (a 22 per cent decrease from 1.11 in 2003-04 to 0.87 in 2012-13), but this is set against a rising prison population during the same period. The complexity in relation to the drivers of the prison population is discussed in detail in the publication [Prison statistics and population projections Scotland: 2011-12](#).

4.31 There has been a continual decrease in the number of individuals who were given a monetary disposal since 2006-07. In 2006-07 there were 28,497 offenders with an index monetary disposal which had dropped substantially to 14,804 in 2012-13. This may in part reflect the impact of Summary Justice Reform which was designed to take less serious cases out of the court system (see [Section 5](#)). During this period the average number of reconvictions fell from 0.49 to 0.38, a decrease of 22 per cent.

Chart 6 Average number of reconvictions per offender by index disposal: 1997-98 to 2012-13 cohorts



Sentence length of custodial index conviction

4.32 Offenders who were released from a custodial sentence of 3 months or less have a higher reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions compared to those released from longer custodial sentences ([Table 9](#)). Offenders that commit relatively low level crimes but in high volumes are more likely to be reconvicted, and these offenders are more likely to get short custodial sentences. In contrast, longer custodial sentences are given to offenders that commit high level crimes, but these offenders tend to commit these crimes in low volumes, and hence are less likely to be reconvicted. For those released from short sentences of under 3 months, the average number of reconvictions per offender was 1.35 for the 2012-13 cohort, and the reconviction rate was 60.2 per cent. On the other hand, offenders released from sentences of over 4 years had an average number of reconvictions of 0.11 and a reconviction rate of 10.1 per cent in 2012-13.

Conviction history prior to index conviction

4.33 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 in the past 10 years have the highest reconviction rates, whereas offenders with no previous convictions in the past 10 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 10⁴](#))

Two year rates

4.34 Historically the reconviction rates in Scotland have been reported with a two year follow-up period. From the 2009-10 cohort bulletin, 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.

4.35 When reconvictions are measured using a two year follow up period there has been a decline in the reconviction rate and in the average number of reconvictions per offender since 2005-06 ([Table 12](#)). For the 2005-06 cohort, the average number of reconvictions per offender was 1.13 and the reconviction rate was 44.8 per cent, whereas for the most recent cohort of 2011-12, these were 0.98 and 40.6 per cent, respectively. Overall, there has been a 13 per cent reduction of 0.15 reconvictions per offender on average, between 2005-06 and 2011-12, and a decrease in the reconviction rate by 4.2 percentage points.

⁴ The information in [Table 10](#) is not comparable with figures in previous publications. Earlier publications will show fewer prior convictions as these represent cumulative convictions since 1989.

5 Main findings: non-court disposals

(Tables [13](#) and [14](#))

5.1 Changes were introduced as a result of the [Criminal Proceedings Act 2007](#) and these were collectively known as [Summary Justice Reform](#). They were designed to take less serious cases out of the justice system at an earlier stage, and to improve the efficiency of court processes.

5.2 In 2007-08 new options became available to the police for dealing with minor offences. These included [Anti-Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Notices](#) (ASBFPNs) and Formal Adult Warnings for crimes such as breach of the peace, urinating, consuming alcohol in a public place, and for other, more minor offences.

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

5.4 As part of Summary Justice Reform, the Scottish Parliament provided prosecutors with powers to issue an enhanced range of fiscal fines and to award compensation to victims, through Fiscal Compensation Orders. Collectively these non-court prosecution options are used to deal with less serious offences.

Police disposals

5.5 Individuals given ASBFPNs in 2012-13 had the highest percentage of individuals who received another non-court disposal within one year and the highest average number of non-court disposals per individual of any non-court disposal (police and COPFS) ([Table 13](#) and [Table 14](#)). Of the individuals given an ASBFPN, between 2008-09 and 2012-13 the percentage who received another non-court disposal within one year decreased by 0.6 percentage points from 28.5 per cent to 27.9 per cent, whereas there was a 12 per cent increase in the average number of non-court disposals per individual from 0.48 to 0.54 ([Table 13](#)).

5.6 Individuals who were given a Formal Adult Warning had roughly half the percentage of individuals who received another non-court disposal within one year and roughly half the average number of non-court disposals per individual of compared to individuals given an ASBFPN ([Table 13](#)). Of the individuals given an Formal Adult Warning, between 2008-09 and 2012-13 the percentage who received another non-court disposal within one year decreased by 3.3 percentage points from 18.0 per cent to 14.7 per cent, and there was an 14 per cent decrease in the average number of non-court disposals per individual from 0.28 to 0.24.

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) disposals

5.7 Of the COPFS disposals, in 2012-13 individuals given a Fiscal Fine had the highest percentage of individuals who received another non-court disposal (24.7 per cent) and the highest average number of non-court disposals per individual (0.35). Individuals given a Fiscal Fixed Penalty had the lowest percentage of individuals who received another non-court disposal (10.0 per cent) and the highest average number of non-court disposals per individual (0.12).

5.8 Between 2008-09 and 2012-13, Fiscal Fines, Fiscal Combined Fine and Compensation, and Fiscal Compensation Orders have all seen a decrease in the percentage of individuals who received another non-court disposal within one year and a decrease in the average number of non-court disposals per individual, whereas there has been a slight increase in both measures for Fiscal Fixed Penalties.

5.9 At present, information is not collected on Fiscal Work Orders in the Scottish Offenders Index and they are therefore not included in this publication.

6 Comparing reconviction rates across administrative areas

6.1 Reconviction rates vary across administrative areas (based on court location). However, it is important to note that an offender may not always be supervised in the area in which they are convicted and subsequent reconvictions may have occurred in different areas. The characteristics of offenders are also likely to vary across these 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 below).

6.2 The areas that courts serve don't exactly match administrative areas for Local Authorities or Community Justice Authorities (CJAs). For example, Edinburgh Sheriff Court serves the Local Authority areas of the City of Edinburgh and Midlothian; and Glasgow Sheriff Court, which covers the Glasgow CJA, also covers parts of East Dunbartonshire which are in the North Strathclyde CJA. Therefore in [Table 11](#), [Chart 7](#), and [Chart 8](#) in this bulletin, CJAs and Local Authorities are based on approximate areas. Therefore, some Local Authorities are grouped together so that there are 25 groups of 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.

6.3 [Table 11](#) shows that the highest reconviction rate in the 2012-13 cohort was for offenders whose index conviction was given at courts in the Stirling area (33.2 per cent), and the highest average number of convictions per offender was in the Clackmannanshire area (0.68). The lowest reconviction rate (16.2 per cent), and lowest average number of reconvictions (0.22), was for offenders whose index conviction was given at a court in the Shetland Islands. These are unadjusted figures which do not take account of underlying differences in population size and the characteristics of offenders in each area. It should also be noted that several Local Authorities have small numbers of offenders, and so small between year fluctuations in the numbers of offenders reconvicted, may lead to larger changes in the reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions than those for Local Authorities with larger numbers of offenders.

6.4 [Table 11](#) also includes measures of the reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender at the Community Justice Authority (CJA) level for the 2012-13 cohort. It shows that the highest average number of reconvictions per offender (0.60) and highest reconviction rate (30.7) per cent is in the Glasgow CJA. The lowest average number of reconvictions per offender (0.44) and the lowest reconviction rate (26.3 per cent) is for the Northern CJA.

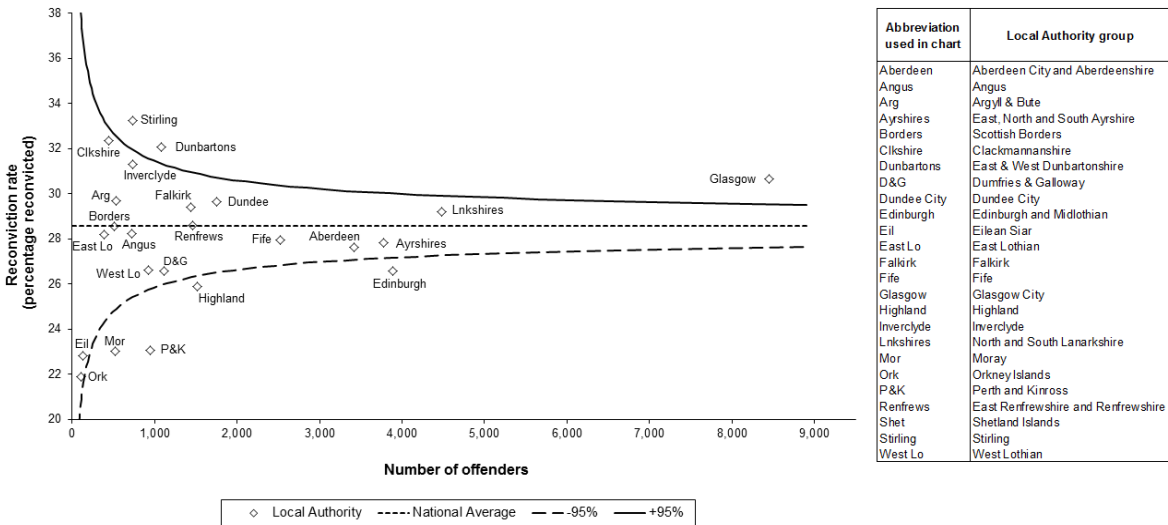
6.5 Reconviction rates are a Scottish Government National Indicator on [Scotland Performs](#). As such, they are commonly used to rank performance across different jurisdictions, such as Community Justice Authorities and Local Authorities. However, there is an inherent problem in using this approach since it implicitly assumes that a difference in reconviction rates reflects a 'real' difference between organisations. In reality, all systems within which these organisations operate, no matter how stable, will produce variable outcomes in the normal run of events. In particular, outcomes in jurisdictions with smaller sized populations tend to vary more than those in jurisdictions with larger populations. The question we need to answer is therefore: Is the observed variation more or less than we would normally expect?

6.6 In this respect, it is better to use a method of comparison that takes account of inherent variability between jurisdictions⁵. 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 cause⁶.

6.7 [Table 11](#) shows the average number of reconvictions per offender and reconviction rates for each Local Authority group and [Chart 7](#) shows the reconviction rates against the number of offenders. The plot takes into account the increased variability of the Local Authorities 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 Authorities 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 per cent (or two standard deviations from the mean): if there were no difference between Local Authorities apart from that which could reasonably be attributed to random variation, we would expect that 5 per cent of the authorities (i.e. only 1 of them) would lie outside the funnel.

6.8 [Chart 7](#) shows that East and West Dunbartonshire, Glasgow City, and Stirling lie above the funnel, and so have higher reconviction rates than expected. Edinburgh and Midlothian, Highland, Moray, and Perth and Kinross 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, 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 Authorities. Different offender characteristics between Local Authorities could include: age, gender, crime, disposal, ethnicity, deprivation, etc.

Chart 7 Reconviction rates by Local Authority group: 2012-13 cohort

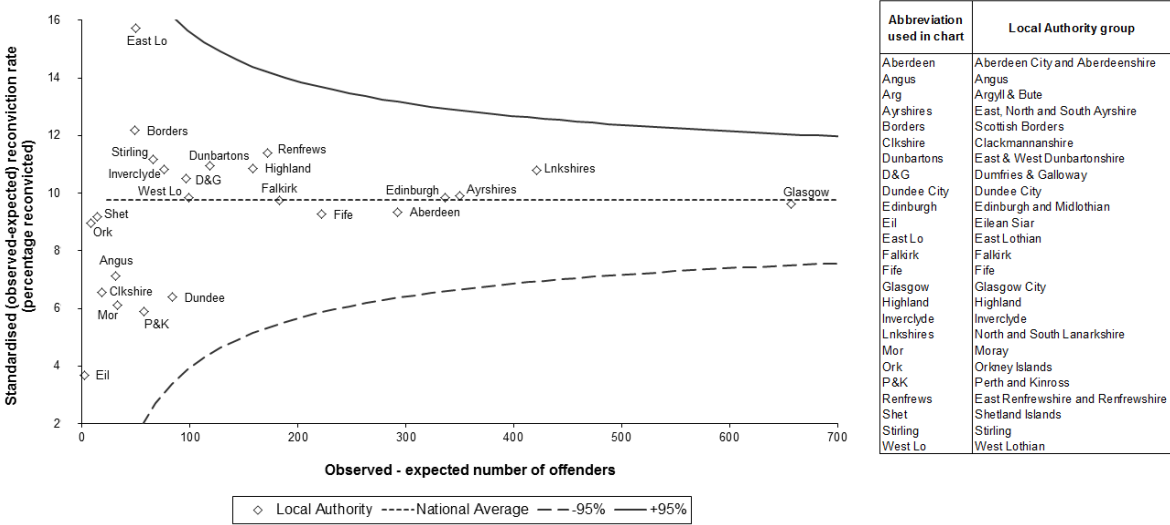


⁵ Royal Statistical Society (2003) *Performance Indicators: Good, Bad, and Ugly* Royal Statistical Society Working Party on Performance Monitoring in the Public Services. <http://www.rss.org.uk/Images/PDF/publications/rss-reports-performance-monitoring-public-services-2003.pdf>

⁶ Battersby, J. & Flowers, J. (2004) *Presenting performance indicators* Eastern Region Public Health Observatory. Obtained from <http://www.erpho.org.uk/viewResource.aspx?id=7518>

6.9 [Chart 8](#) is standardised to take into account of differences between Local Authorities attributable to the characteristics of offenders, such as the number of previous offences, sentence, gender, and age. It provides the standardised reconviction rates⁷ against the observed number of offenders minus expected number of offenders. Since all Local Authorities are within the funnel it suggests that the apparent differences in reconviction rates in [Chart 7](#) 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 Authorities. This overall conclusion for all local authorities on the 2012-13 cohort is consistent with the findings provided in the [2014 reconvictions publication](#). Previous publications that have presented findings at the CJA level, also showed that CJAs were within the funnels with either one year (the [2013](#) and [2012](#) reconvictions publications) or two year reconviction rates (the [2011 reconvictions publication](#)).

Chart 8 Standardised reconviction rates by Local Authority group: 2012-13 cohort



⁷ Spiegelhalter, D. J. (2005) *Funnel plots for comparing institutional performance* Statistics in Medicine 24 1185-1202.

7 Number and type of previous convictions: 2004-05 to 2013-14 ([Table 15](#) and [Table 16](#))

7.1 This section presents information on previous convictions for the 43,095 individual offenders who were convicted on at least one occasion in 2013-14 ([Table 15](#) and [Table 16](#)). These two tables are compiled on a different basis to the remainder of this publication. They are constructed from [criminal proceedings](#) data rather than the Scottish Offenders Index.

7.2 Of the 43,095 individuals convicted at least once in 2013-14 for a crime or relevant offence, 66 per cent had at least one previous conviction in the previous ten years, whilst 14 per cent had over 10 previous convictions ([Table 16](#)).

7.3 Sentencing is influenced by offending history as well as the circumstances of a particular case. [Table 15](#) shows that:

- first time offenders tend to get fines (42 per cent of first time offenders) or caution/admonition (29 per cent). Community sentences⁸ account for 23 per cent and custodial sentences for 6 per cent.
- sporadic offenders with one or two convictions in the past 10 years tend to get fines (41 per cent), community sentences (30 per cent), or caution/admonition (20 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 (21 per cent) than those with fewer previous convictions, although most get community sentences (32 per cent) or fines (30 per cent).
- those with more than 10 convictions in the past 10 years tend to get custodial sentences (44 per cent).

7.4 The number of prior convictions for serious offences is strongly linked to the likelihood of getting a custodial sentence: about 11 per cent of those with no prior solemn convictions get a custodial sentence, rising to 38 per cent and 60 per cent for those with 1 or 2 and 3 to 10 solemn convictions respectively.

7.5 Over the past 10 years there has been very little change in the number of prolific offenders ([Table 16](#)). Thirteen per cent of offenders in 2004-05 had over 10 previous convictions in the previous 10 years, and this has fluctuated between 12 and 14 per cent for subsequent years. Fourteen per cent of offenders in 2013-14 had over 10 previous convictions in the previous 10 years.

⁸ In Table 15, Community Sentence refers to Community Payback Orders, Community Service Orders, Probation Orders, Restriction of Liberty Orders and Drug Treatment and Testing Orders.

8 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 percentages, and reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, 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 12 the number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. They are also 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 2012-13 cohorts

Cohort	Number of offenders¹	Reconviction rate¹	Average number of reconvictions per offender¹
1997-98	53,444	<i>31.8</i>	<i>0.62</i>
1998-99	49,145	<i>31.8</i>	<i>0.62</i>
1999-00	44,229	<i>31.3</i>	<i>0.59</i>
2000-01	41,568	<i>31.8</i>	<i>0.60</i>
2001-02	43,651	<i>32.4</i>	<i>0.63</i>
2002-03	44,861	<i>32.9</i>	<i>0.64</i>
2003-04	46,984	<i>32.7</i>	<i>0.62</i>
2004-05	49,368	<i>32.4</i>	<i>0.61</i>
2005-06	50,324	<i>32.5</i>	<i>0.60</i>
2006-07	53,300	<i>32.4</i>	<i>0.60</i>
2007-08	53,042	<i>31.2</i>	<i>0.57</i>
2008-09	49,652	<i>31.5</i>	<i>0.60</i>
2009-10	47,414	<i>30.6</i>	<i>0.56</i>
2010-11	44,711	<i>30.1</i>	<i>0.55</i>
2011-12	43,828	<i>29.6</i>	<i>0.54</i>
2012-13	41,710	<i>28.6</i>	<i>0.51</i>

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

Gender	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
Males			
1997-98	45,705	32.9	0.63
1998-99	41,841	32.9	0.64
1999-00	37,564	32.2	0.61
2000-01	35,271	32.7	0.62
2001-02	36,966	33.4	0.65
2002-03	37,780	33.9	0.66
2003-04	39,511	33.7	0.64
2004-05	41,523	33.2	0.63
2005-06	42,203	33.7	0.62
2006-07	44,757	33.4	0.62
2007-08	44,380	32.2	0.59
2008-09	41,425	32.5	0.61
2009-10	39,400	31.7	0.58
2010-11	36,992	31.5	0.57
2011-12	36,435	30.7	0.56
2012-13	34,668	29.6	0.53
Females			
1997-98	7,739	25.4	0.51
1998-99	7,304	25.8	0.52
1999-00	6,665	25.7	0.49
2000-01	6,297	26.4	0.48
2001-02	6,685	26.8	0.51
2002-03	7,081	27.3	0.52
2003-04	7,473	27.2	0.53
2004-05	7,845	27.9	0.52
2005-06	8,121	26.2	0.48
2006-07	8,543	27.1	0.49
2007-08	8,662	26.4	0.48
2008-09	8,227	26.5	0.53
2009-10	8,014	25.0	0.47
2010-11	7,719	23.9	0.45
2011-12	7,393	24.0	0.46
2012-13	7,042	23.3	0.43

Table 3 Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by age

Age	Number of offenders ¹	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
Under 21			
1997-98	13,790	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	11,059	41.3	0.89
2003-04	11,315	40.6	0.82
2004-05	11,647	39.4	0.79
2005-06	12,113	41.4	0.80
2006-07	12,687	40.6	0.78
2007-08	12,402	38.2	0.72
2008-09	10,754	37.9	0.72
2009-10	9,323	36.8	0.68
2010-11	8,243	36.0	0.66
2011-12	7,432	34.9	0.63
2012-13	6,089	33.0	0.57
21 to 25			
1997-98	12,183	34.1	0.63
1998-99	10,762	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	9,926	37.1	0.74
2003-04	10,338	36.4	0.72
2004-05	10,592	36.5	0.71
2005-06	10,584	35.2	0.68
2006-07	11,239	35.2	0.66
2007-08	11,137	34.3	0.63
2008-09	10,105	34.2	0.65
2009-10	9,807	33.7	0.61
2010-11	9,002	32.9	0.59
2011-12	8,886	31.1	0.55
2012-13	8,401	30.7	0.52
26 to 30			
1997-98	9,595	30.3	0.54
1998-99	8,675	30.4	0.54
1999-00	7,453	31.5	0.55
2000-01	6,942	31.2	0.56
2001-02	7,168	33.3	0.62
2002-03	7,129	34.5	0.64
2003-04	7,258	35.6	0.66
2004-05	7,527	34.5	0.66
2005-06	7,588	34.8	0.64
2006-07	8,009	34.7	0.65
2007-08	8,249	33.6	0.63
2008-09	7,987	34.9	0.68
2009-10	7,895	32.9	0.62
2010-11	7,484	33.6	0.65
2011-12	7,434	32.8	0.64
2012-13	7,415	31.0	0.57
31 to 40			
1997-98	11,462	25.2	0.43
1998-99	10,816	25.4	0.44
1999-00	10,063	24.6	0.40
2000-01	9,440	24.9	0.41
2001-02	10,138	26.3	0.44
2002-03	10,576	27.4	0.48
2003-04	11,291	28.5	0.50
2004-05	12,071	28.9	0.50
2005-06	11,955	28.5	0.49
2006-07	12,640	29.0	0.50
2007-08	12,197	28.6	0.51
2008-09	11,635	30.2	0.57
2009-10	11,219	30.3	0.55
2010-11	10,840	29.9	0.55
2011-12	10,804	30.6	0.59
2012-13	10,577	29.8	0.56
Over 40			
1997-98	6,408	18.7	0.34
1998-99	5,900	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	6,780	17.4	0.30
2004-05	7,529	19.2	0.32
2005-06	8,083	19.1	0.31
2006-07	8,725	19.6	0.33
2007-08	9,057	19.5	0.33
2008-09	9,171	19.8	0.35
2009-10	9,170	19.2	0.35
2010-11	9,141	19.7	0.34
2011-12	9,272	20.1	0.36
2012-13	9,228	20.4	0.36

1. There were a small number of offenders (3 per cohort on average) where their age could not be determined. These offenders aren't included in this table.

Table 4 Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, males by age

Age	Number of offenders ¹	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
Under 21			
1997-98	12,076	44.2	0.98
1998-99	11,283	43.9	0.96
1999-00	10,195	42.6	0.90
2000-01	9,600	42.6	0.89
2001-02	9,781	42.7	0.92
2002-03	9,620	43.0	0.92
2003-04	9,810	42.2	0.84
2004-05	10,159	41.0	0.83
2005-06	10,488	43.3	0.84
2006-07	10,991	42.3	0.82
2007-08	10,677	39.7	0.75
2008-09	9,230	39.7	0.76
2009-10	7,981	38.6	0.71
2010-11	7,052	38.0	0.69
2011-12	6,346	36.8	0.66
2012-13	5,194	34.6	0.59
21 to 25			
1997-98	10,557	34.8	0.62
1998-99	9,214	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	8,441	37.8	0.75
2003-04	8,785	37.0	0.72
2004-05	8,942	36.7	0.71
2005-06	9,002	35.9	0.68
2006-07	9,582	35.9	0.66
2007-08	9,426	34.9	0.63
2008-09	8,553	35.1	0.65
2009-10	8,318	34.7	0.62
2010-11	7,602	33.8	0.60
2011-12	7,619	31.9	0.56
2012-13	7,148	31.7	0.53
26 to 30			
1997-98	8,146	30.7	0.54
1998-99	7,349	30.8	0.55
1999-00	6,308	31.8	0.55
2000-01	5,817	31.8	0.57
2001-02	6,010	34.2	0.64
2002-03	5,970	35.4	0.66
2003-04	5,995	36.6	0.68
2004-05	6,258	34.8	0.67
2005-06	6,229	35.5	0.65
2006-07	6,641	35.2	0.66
2007-08	6,837	34.2	0.64
2008-09	6,568	35.4	0.69
2009-10	6,500	33.2	0.62
2010-11	6,175	34.4	0.66
2011-12	6,125	33.5	0.64
2012-13	6,178	31.7	0.57
31 to 40			
1997-98	9,499	26.0	0.45
1998-99	8,990	26.2	0.46
1999-00	8,349	25.5	0.42
2000-01	7,786	25.8	0.43
2001-02	8,365	26.9	0.46
2002-03	8,621	28.1	0.49
2003-04	9,268	29.4	0.51
2004-05	9,832	29.8	0.51
2005-06	9,778	29.5	0.52
2006-07	10,322	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	8,720	31.5	0.58
2011-12	8,751	31.7	0.61
2012-13	8,632	30.8	0.59
Over 40			
1997-98	5,424	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	5,652	17.9	0.31
2004-05	6,330	19.5	0.33
2005-06	6,705	19.8	0.32
2006-07	7,221	20.0	0.34
2007-08	7,478	20.0	0.34
2008-09	7,544	20.3	0.36
2009-10	7,480	19.9	0.35
2010-11	7,443	20.4	0.36
2011-12	7,594	21.1	0.37
2012-13	7,516	21.2	0.37

1. There were a small number of offenders (2 per cohort on average) where their age could not be determined. These offenders aren't included in this table.

Table 5 Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender , females by age

Age	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
Under 21			
1997-98	1,714	29.6	0.64
1998-99	1,701	30.0	0.69
1999-00	1,589	30.5	0.69
2000-01	1,405	34.0	0.74
2001-02	1,451	31.2	0.67
2002-03	1,439	30.2	0.67
2003-04	1,505	30.2	0.65
2004-05	1,488	28.5	0.58
2005-06	1,625	28.6	0.52
2006-07	1,696	29.5	0.54
2007-08	1,725	28.8	0.53
2008-09	1,524	27.5	0.53
2009-10	1,342	26.4	0.49
2010-11	1,191	24.6	0.47
2011-12	1,086	24.0	0.45
2012-13	895	23.9	0.41
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	1,485	33.2	0.67
2003-04	1,553	33.2	0.69
2004-05	1,650	34.9	0.69
2005-06	1,582	31.1	0.67
2006-07	1,657	31.6	0.66
2007-08	1,711	30.5	0.63
2008-09	1,552	29.1	0.64
2009-10	1,489	27.7	0.53
2010-11	1,400	27.8	0.54
2011-12	1,267	25.9	0.50
2012-13	1,253	24.7	0.46
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	1,125	28.2	0.50
2001-02	1,158	28.8	0.52
2002-03	1,159	30.0	0.53
2003-04	1,263	30.9	0.56
2004-05	1,269	33.1	0.62
2005-06	1,359	31.6	0.58
2006-07	1,368	32.2	0.56
2007-08	1,412	30.7	0.57
2008-09	1,419	32.4	0.65
2009-10	1,395	31.5	0.62
2010-11	1,309	29.7	0.60
2011-12	1,309	29.3	0.61
2012-13	1,237	27.6	0.58
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	1,955	24.3	0.42
2003-04	2,023	24.6	0.42
2004-05	2,239	24.9	0.43
2005-06	2,177	24.0	0.40
2006-07	2,318	25.4	0.42
2007-08	2,235	25.2	0.43
2008-09	2,105	26.8	0.52
2009-10	2,098	25.0	0.45
2010-11	2,120	23.0	0.42
2011-12	2,053	26.2	0.48
2012-13	1,945	25.1	0.46
Over 40			
1997-98	984	15.9	0.31
1998-99	901	15.3	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	1,199	17.7	0.30
2005-06	1,378	16.0	0.26
2006-07	1,504	17.6	0.31
2007-08	1,579	17.4	0.28
2008-09	1,627	17.3	0.33
2009-10	1,690	16.3	0.32
2010-11	1,698	16.8	0.29
2011-12	1,678	15.9	0.29
2012-13	1,712	16.9	0.29

1. There were a small number of offenders (1 per cohort on average) where their age could not be determined. These offenders aren't included in this table.

Table 6 Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by index crime

Index crime	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
Violent crime			
1997-98	11,426	25.5	0.43
1998-99	10,852	23.5	0.39
1999-00	10,278	22.9	0.37
2000-01	9,823	24.0	0.39
2001-02	10,461	24.1	0.40
2002-03	11,149	24.8	0.42
2003-04	11,852	25.3	0.43
2004-05	12,679	25.5	0.44
2005-06	13,566	25.3	0.42
2006-07	14,223	26.2	0.44
2007-08	14,588	25.4	0.43
2008-09	14,223	26.2	0.44
2009-10	13,812	24.6	0.40
2010-11	13,516	24.7	0.40
2011-12	13,530	24.6	0.41
2012-13	12,386	24.0	0.39
Sexual crime¹			
1997-98	286	13.6	0.23
1998-99	282	15.2	0.28
1999-00	392	9.7	0.14
2000-01	410	13.9	0.24
2001-02	419	11.9	0.18
2002-03	420	11.7	0.18
2003-04	458	9.8	0.14
2004-05	574	9.1	0.14
2005-06	515	10.1	0.15
2006-07	491	14.1	0.21
2007-08	474	12.9	0.19
2008-09	489	12.3	0.18
2009-10	492	9.8	0.14
2010-11	478	11.9	0.18
2011-12	521	12.9	0.26
2012-13	624	12.2	0.17
Dishonesty			
1997-98	15,224	40.3	0.89
1998-99	14,125	41.5	0.94
1999-00	12,696	43.1	0.95
2000-01	11,638	44.0	0.97
2001-02	11,717	45.9	1.06
2002-03	11,552	46.0	1.05
2003-04	10,845	45.8	1.03
2004-05	10,643	45.9	1.02
2005-06	9,893	46.3	1.02
2006-07	9,982	46.6	1.03
2007-08	9,791	44.7	1.00
2008-09	9,520	45.0	1.05
2009-10	9,166	44.2	0.98
2010-11	9,122	43.5	0.98
2011-12	8,742	42.3	0.94
2012-13	8,000	41.3	0.90
Criminal damage			
1997-98	3,591	28.8	0.53
1998-99	3,328	27.2	0.48
1999-00	2,981	28.5	0.51
2000-01	2,963	28.7	0.48
2001-02	2,984	30.7	0.54
2002-03	3,067	30.5	0.54
2003-04	3,533	29.6	0.55
2004-05	3,643	31.2	0.56
2005-06	3,620	33.0	0.58
2006-07	3,869	32.9	0.59
2007-08	3,890	31.8	0.55
2008-09	3,145	33.7	0.62
2009-10	2,829	32.6	0.58
2010-11	2,452	30.7	0.54
2011-12	2,203	29.7	0.50
2012-13	1,929	30.3	0.49

(continued on following page)

Table 6 (continued)

Drug offences			
1997-98	5,653	26.3	0.40
1998-99	5,321	27.5	0.43
1999-00	4,836	25.5	0.37
2000-01	4,184	26.1	0.40
2001-02	4,691	25.2	0.41
2002-03	4,670	28.0	0.46
2003-04	5,521	29.3	0.45
2004-05	5,766	28.9	0.45
2005-06	5,788	29.4	0.46
2006-07	6,806	28.0	0.45
2007-08	6,572	27.3	0.42
2008-09	5,691	27.0	0.44
2009-10	5,943	27.0	0.42
2010-11	5,935	26.0	0.40
2011-12	5,676	23.9	0.38
2012-13	5,415	22.0	0.33
Breach of the peace²			
1997-98	13,727	31.4	0.58
1998-99	12,112	31.3	0.57
1999-00	10,316	29.7	0.52
2000-01	9,748	29.7	0.52
2001-02	10,328	30.3	0.53
2002-03	10,850	30.9	0.56
2003-04	11,445	31.0	0.55
2004-05	12,256	31.1	0.55
2005-06	12,909	31.4	0.55
2006-07	13,629	31.0	0.53
2007-08	13,343	30.2	0.52
2008-09	12,115	29.9	0.54
2009-10	11,244	29.3	0.52
2010-11	9,583	28.6	0.50
2011-12	9,851	28.9	0.50
2012-13	10,314	28.3	0.49
Other crimes and offences			
1997-98	3,537	30.4	0.62
1998-99	3,125	32.4	0.65
1999-00	2,730	29.7	0.52
2000-01	2,802	29.5	0.51
2001-02	3,051	31.2	0.55
2002-03	3,153	32.6	0.58
2003-04	3,330	33.8	0.59
2004-05	3,807	31.9	0.57
2005-06	4,033	32.5	0.58
2006-07	4,300	33.1	0.58
2007-08	4,384	31.3	0.56
2008-09	4,469	30.3	0.54
2009-10	3,928	29.9	0.51
2010-11	3,625	30.1	0.51
2011-12	3,305	30.8	0.54
2012-13	3,042	28.5	0.49

1. 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.

2. 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: 2012-13 cohort

Index crime ^{3,4} 2012-13	Total number (=100%)	Percentage reconvicted within 1 year for ¹ :							
		Any crime ²	Violent crime	Sexual crime ⁵	Crimes of dishonesty	Criminal damage	Drug offences	Breach of the peace ⁶	Other crimes and offences
All offenders	41,710	28.6	8.3	0.2	9.6	2.0	4.0	9.9	4.2
Violent crime	12,386	24.0	9.8	0.1	4.7	2.0	2.3	9.4	3.7
Sexual crime ⁵	624	12.2	2.6	2.1	**	**	**	3.0	4.0
Crimes of dishonesty	8,000	41.3	7.6	0.2	27.8	2.2	5.1	9.2	4.3
Criminal damage	1,929	30.3	10.7	**	6.1	4.2	3.1	13.0	4.0
Drug offences	5,415	22.0	3.8	**	5.7	1.2	9.2	4.5	2.7
Breach of the peace ⁶	10,314	28.3	9.6	0.3	5.3	2.1	2.6	14.0	4.4
Other crimes and offences	3,042	28.5	8.1	0.4	7.3	1.9	4.4	9.3	7.5

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. In previous years this table (Table 12 in the 2011-12 Offender Cohort bulletin) has given a more detailed breakdown of crimes, but they have now been omitted for greater clarity. More detailed breakdowns are still included in the additional datasets which accompany this bulletin.

4. Prior to the Reconvictions Rates in Scotland 2011-12 Cohort Bulletin, this table was constructed from a different datasource: the "offences relating to persons proceeded against" datasource. For consistency with the other court reconviction tables, this table is now produced from the "persons proceeded against" datasource. Therefore this table cannot be compared with those in bulletins prior to the 2011-12 Cohort Bulletin.

5. 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.

6. 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 per offender, by index disposal

Index disposal	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
Discharged from custody			
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	5,950	47.9	1.06
2002-03	6,011	49.9	1.13
2003-04	5,885	50.1	1.11
2004-05	6,127	47.9	1.06
2005-06	6,240	47.4	1.03
2006-07	6,909	48.5	1.06
2007-08	7,060	46.8	1.00
2008-09	7,404	47.1	0.98
2009-10	7,432	45.9	0.94
2010-11	7,290	45.2	0.91
2011-12	7,314	44.2	0.92
2012-13	7,436	43.3	0.87
Community Payback Order¹			
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	178	55.6	1.15
2011-12	6,192	36.8	0.69
2012-13	9,511	32.1	0.55
Legacy community order (CSO, PO)²			
1997-98	6,084	39.6	0.85
1998-99	5,950	40.3	0.88
1999-00	5,597	38.5	0.78
2000-01	5,651	39.0	0.82
2001-02	6,093	40.5	0.86
2002-03	6,569	40.7	0.84
2003-04	6,466	39.0	0.79
2004-05	7,119	39.8	0.80
2005-06	7,808	38.6	0.75
2006-07	7,643	38.2	0.73
2007-08	8,135	36.6	0.68
2008-09	8,878	37.1	0.71
2009-10	8,679	33.7	0.62
2010-11	8,264	33.8	0.61
2011-12	3,700	27.0	0.45
2012-13	638	13.3	0.18
Restriction of Liberty Order³			
1997-98	-	-	-
1998-99	24	58.3	1.54
1999-00	50	66.0	1.76
2000-01	55	60.0	1.62
2001-02	54	70.4	1.56
2002-03	212	53.3	1.17
2003-04	353	57.8	1.25
2004-05	414	57.2	1.20
2005-06	486	52.1	1.16
2006-07	510	51.2	1.05
2007-08	533	50.7	1.03
2008-09	567	47.1	0.95
2009-10	489	49.3	0.96
2010-11	444	44.4	0.84
2011-12	485	40.0	0.75
2012-13	537	35.6	0.65

(continued on following page)

Table 8 (continued)

Drug Treatment and Testing Order⁴			
1997-98	-	-	-
1998-99	-	-	-
1999-00	1	-	-
2000-01	36	58.3	1.31
2001-02	95	74.7	2.12
2002-03	143	75.5	2.41
2003-04	201	79.1	2.21
2004-05	231	78.4	2.20
2005-06	268	70.1	1.88
2006-07	302	75.2	2.03
2007-08	326	70.9	1.94
2008-09	362	67.7	1.77
2009-10	362	66.3	1.68
2010-11	373	66.8	1.62
2011-12	280	60.7	1.62
2012-13	316	62.0	1.46
Monetary disposal			
1997-98	32,894	29.5	0.54
1998-99	29,560	29.4	0.53
1999-00	25,603	28.9	0.52
2000-01	23,817	28.9	0.51
2001-02	24,863	29.0	0.52
2002-03	24,851	29.1	0.52
2003-04	26,686	29.5	0.51
2004-05	27,460	29.2	0.50
2005-06	27,035	29.3	0.50
2006-07	28,497	29.0	0.49
2007-08	27,492	27.6	0.46
2008-09	22,839	26.7	0.47
2009-10	20,962	26.6	0.45
2010-11	18,679	25.6	0.44
2011-12	17,121	24.1	0.40
2012-13	14,804	23.0	0.38
Other disposal⁵			
1997-98	8,348	23.0	0.42
1998-99	7,790	21.5	0.38
1999-00	7,234	21.7	0.37
2000-01	6,436	22.2	0.37
2001-02	6,596	22.5	0.40
2002-03	7,075	23.0	0.41
2003-04	7,393	22.1	0.39
2004-05	8,017	22.3	0.39
2005-06	8,487	23.8	0.41
2006-07	9,439	23.6	0.42
2007-08	9,496	23.2	0.41
2008-09	9,602	23.5	0.44
2009-10	9,490	22.1	0.39
2010-11	9,483	21.9	0.39
2011-12	8,736	22.6	0.40
2012-13	8,468	20.8	0.36

1. 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.

2. 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.

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

4. Drug Treatment and Testing Orders were first introduced on a pilot basis in Glasgow and Fife in 1999, and were subsequently rolled out across Scotland in phases, concluding with Argyll and Bute in 2006.

5. Includes Supervised Attendance Orders

Table 9 Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by index custodial sentence length

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	2,555	59.3	1.42
1999-00	2,540	55.5	1.28
2000-01	2,393	58.0	1.31
2001-02	2,463	58.2	1.37
2002-03	2,639	61.4	1.49
2003-04	2,471	63.1	1.51
2004-05	2,563	61.5	1.44
2005-06	2,723	59.2	1.37
2006-07	3,063	60.8	1.40
2007-08	2,870	59.0	1.35
2008-09	2,360	59.6	1.38
2009-10	2,067	58.9	1.33
2010-11	1,823	61.7	1.35
2011-12	1,405	59.6	1.35
2012-13	1,403	60.2	1.35
Over 3 months to 6 months			
1997-98	1,459	58.0	1.22
1998-99	1,403	57.9	1.31
1999-00	1,330	56.7	1.23
2000-01	1,325	58.0	1.24
2001-02	1,431	57.2	1.33
2002-03	1,382	60.1	1.37
2003-04	1,346	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	1,453	57.9	1.34
2008-09	1,899	55.2	1.20
2009-10	1,935	54.1	1.15
2010-11	2,024	53.1	1.11
2011-12	2,333	53.2	1.19
2012-13	2,302	51.5	1.12
Over 6 months to 2 years			
1997-98	978	35.1	0.62
1998-99	856	34.8	0.61
1999-00	891	35.9	0.64
2000-01	821	35.3	0.64
2001-02	935	36.8	0.65
2002-03	863	33.7	0.60
2003-04	937	35.2	0.66
2004-05	992	34.2	0.65
2005-06	984	34.6	0.62
2006-07	1,092	35.3	0.65
2007-08	1,392	36.4	0.64
2008-09	1,746	41.5	0.73
2009-10	2,029	40.1	0.75
2010-11	2,024	38.2	0.70
2011-12	2,098	39.1	0.73
2012-13	2,296	39.1	0.70
Over 2 years to less than 4 years			
1997-98	555	25.8	0.38
1998-99	525	25.1	0.42
1999-00	512	21.1	0.32
2000-01	533	21.8	0.32
2001-02	574	28.0	0.46
2002-03	557	27.8	0.50
2003-04	549	27.3	0.44
2004-05	625	24.5	0.42
2005-06	540	21.9	0.36
2006-07	663	25.2	0.44
2007-08	718	24.7	0.40
2008-09	844	26.4	0.43
2009-10	845	28.3	0.46
2010-11	950	27.2	0.43
2011-12	945	27.4	0.44
2012-13	929	26.0	0.39
Over 4 years			
1997-98	402	21.6	0.31
1998-99	482	20.5	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	622	17.5	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	10.1	0.11

Table 10 Reconviction rates by offender characteristics: 2012-13 cohort

Index disposal in 2012-13 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	12	20	31	54	9	17	32	54
under 21	21	39	53	72	17	29	43	77
21 to 25	11	21	39	65	11	25	36	61
26 to 30	8	17	31	59	9	16	36	58
31 to 40	8	13	23	51	6	12	30	54
over 40	5	10	20	45	4	12	25	47
Discharged from custody	10	18	35	60	**	21	36	68
under 21	27	36	52	72	**	**	**	**
21 to 25	9	16	39	66	**	**	43	74
26 to 30	**	11	34	59	**	**	43	67
31 to 40	**	8	25	57	**	**	35	68
over 40	5	12	21	56	**	**	**	67
Community Payback Orders³	19	25	35	52	14	24	37	54
under 21	30	43	59	78	28	34	49	**
21 to 25	14	25	42	64	13	27	40	53
26 to 30	13	21	34	57	14	29	44	56
31 to 40	13	16	25	49	**	**	32	57
over 40	6	10	27	43	8	19	32	46
Legacy community orders⁴	**	14	29	33	**	**	**	**
under 21	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	-
21 to 25	**	**	37	**	**	**	**	**
26 to 30	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
31 to 40	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
over 40	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Restriction of Liberty Order	16	24	38	57	**	**	43	**
under 21	**	46	57	**	**	**	**	-
21 to 25	**	**	51	79	**	**	**	**
26 to 30	**	**	**	45	**	**	**	**
31 to 40	**	**	**	49	**	**	**	**
over 40	**	**	**	62	**	**	**	**
Drug Treatment and Testing Order	**	**	52	69	**	**	42	74
under 21	-	-	-	-	-	**	**	-
21 to 25	**	-	**	91	**	**	**	**
26 to 30	**	**	73	81	**	**	**	**
31 to 40	**	**	41	66	-	-	**	**
over 40	-	**	**	55	**	-	**	**
Monetary	11	19	26	48	9	16	30	48
under 21	17	36	45	85	10	25	**	**
21 to 25	11	20	39	62	11	27	28	58
26 to 30	9	14	27	61	12	10	41	51
31 to 40	9	15	20	45	9	11	31	45
over 40	5	12	16	38	**	12	23	46
Other⁵	9	16	28	46	7	14	26	48
under 21	16	39	55	54	14	25	**	**
21 to 25	9	17	32	66	9	18	34	50
26 to 30	5	21	29	52	**	13	23	52
31 to 40	6	9	22	44	6	12	27	51
over 40	5	5	20	41	**	11	22	38

1. Shading has been added to the table to distinguish the different reconviction rates visually. The darker the shading, the higher the reconviction rate. Numbers in the boxes that are greater than 50 have been coloured white to distinguish them from darker backgrounds.

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. 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.

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. Includes Supervised Attendance Orders.

Table 11 Reconvection rates and average number of reconventions per offender, by CJA and Local Authority group: 2012-13 cohort

Community Justice Authority (CJA) ¹	Local Authority group ²	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconventions per offender
Scotland³		41,710	28.6	0.51
Fife & Forth Valley	All	5,128	29.5	0.54
	Clackmannanshire	445	32.4	0.68
	Falkirk	1,434	29.4	0.50
	Fife	2,521	28.0	0.51
	Stirling	728	33.2	0.65
Glasgow³	All	8,448	30.7	0.60
	Glasgow City ^{3,4}	8,448	30.7	0.60
Lanarkshire⁵	All	4,481	29.2	0.51
	North and South Lanarkshire ⁵	4,481	29.2	0.51
Lothian & Borders	All	5,704	26.9	0.49
	East Lothian	383	28.2	0.47
	Edinburgh and Midlothian ⁶	3,892	26.6	0.50
	Scottish Borders	508	28.5	0.50
	West Lothian	921	26.6	0.45
Northern	All	5,831	26.3	0.44
	Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire ⁷	3,415	27.6	0.48
	Eilean Siar	127	22.8	0.36
	Highland	1,519	25.9	0.43
	Moray	517	23.0	0.34
	Orkney Islands	105	21.9	0.31
	Shetland Islands	148	16.2	0.22
	All	3,798	30.3	0.50
North Strathclyde⁸	Argyll & Bute	529	29.7	0.44
	East and West Dunbartonshire ^{8,9}	1,075	32.1	0.58
	East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire ¹⁰	1,459	28.6	0.45
	Inverclyde	735	31.3	0.53
South West Scotland	All	4,897	27.5	0.46
	Dumfries & Galloway	1,118	26.6	0.49
	East, North, and South Ayrshire ¹¹	3,779	27.8	0.45
Tayside	All	3,420	27.5	0.50
	Angus	722	28.3	0.55
	Dundee City	1,753	29.7	0.54
	Perth & Kinross	945	23.1	0.37
Unknown	All	3	**	**
	Unknown	3	**	**

1. Approximate areas are based on where the courts of the offenders' index convictions are located, including high Courts. Some sheriff court boundaries cover more than one CJA, see relevant footnotes below.

2. 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.

3. Glasgow Sheriff Court also serves parts of East Dunbartonshire (North Strathclyde CJA), and North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire (Lanarkshire CJA). However, since this analysis is based on approximation of court areas, numbers for Glasgow Sheriff Court are only included within the Glasgow CJA and Glasgow Local Authority area.

4. Includes the Stipendiary Magistrates court.

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

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

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

8. Parts of East Dunbartonshire (North Strathclyde CJA) are also served by Glasgow Sheriff Court, but the figures for Glasgow Sheriff Court are only included within the Glasgow Local Authority and Glasgow CJA area.

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

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

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

Table 12 Two year reconviction rates and two average number of reconvictions per offender: 1997-98 to 2011-12 cohorts

Cohort	Number of offenders¹	Reconviction rate¹	Average number of reconvictions per offender¹
1997-98	53,444	42.6	1.10
1998-99	49,145	42.5	1.08
1999-00	44,229	42.9	1.08
2000-01	41,568	43.8	1.13
2001-02	43,651	44.2	1.16
2002-03	44,861	45.3	1.18
2003-04	46,984	44.7	1.15
2004-05	49,368	44.5	1.13
2005-06	50,324	44.8	1.13
2006-07	53,300	44.1	1.09
2007-08	53,042	42.5	1.06
2008-09	49,652	42.4	1.08
2009-10	47,414	41.5	1.03
2010-11	44,711	41.1	1.02
2011-12	43,828	40.6	0.98

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

Table 13 Individuals given police disposals and subsequent non-court disposals, by disposal type: 2008-09 to 2012-13 cohorts
(see note 1)

Police disposal	Number of individuals	Percentage of individuals given a non-court disposal within a year of receiving a police disposal²	Average number of non-court disposals per individual within a year of receiving a police disposal²
ASBFPN			
2008-09	39,250	28.5	0.48
2009-10	48,364	27.5	0.47
2010-11	42,993	27.4	0.49
2011-12	41,753	27.8	0.52
2012-13	42,270	27.9	0.54
Formal Adult Warning			
2008-09	6,822	18.0	0.28
2009-10	7,477	14.5	0.22
2010-11	6,777	13.3	0.20
2011-12	7,556	14.4	0.22
2012-13	7,323	14.7	0.24

1. The non-court disposals dataset is independent of the dataset on court convictions.
2. Includes any non-court disposal within one year of receiving a police disposal, and therefore could include COPFS disposals as well as police disposals.

Table 14 Individuals given COPFS disposals and subsequent non-court disposals, by disposal type: 2008-09 to 2012-13 cohorts
(See note 1)

COPFS disposal	Number of individuals	Percentage of individuals given a non-court disposal within a year of receiving a COPFS disposal²	Average number of non-court disposals per individual within a year of receiving a COPFS disposal²
Fiscal Fine			
2008-09	30,227	25.7	0.39
2009-10	28,097	23.4	0.35
2010-11	28,160	22.9	0.34
2011-12	32,956	24.7	0.35
2012-13	37,717	24.7	0.35
Fiscal Fixed Penalty			
2008-09	17,038	8.7	0.10
2009-10	17,438	9.4	0.11
2010-11	19,009	9.6	0.11
2011-12	19,693	9.2	0.11
2012-13	20,138	10.0	0.12
Fiscal Combined Fine with Compensation			
2008-09	1,156	23.8	0.35
2009-10	1,738	19.0	0.25
2010-11	1,888	19.1	0.25
2011-12	2,267	19.0	0.23
2012-13	1,954	20.9	0.28
Fiscal Compensation			
2008-09	1,649	25.7	0.36
2009-10	1,660	20.1	0.28
2010-11	1,532	20.1	0.26
2011-12	1,111	21.6	0.27
2012-13	852	20.0	0.26

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

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

Table 15 Individuals convicted in 2013-14, by gender, age, and number and type of previous convictions in 10 years from 2004-05 to 2013-14
(See notes 1 and 2)

Number and type of previous convictions from 2004-05 to 2013-14 ³	Total	Gender		Age ⁴			(Last) sentence in 2013-14			
		Male	Female	under 21	21 to 30	over 30	Custody	Community sentence (CPO, CSO, PO, RLO, DTTO) ⁵	Monetary	Other ⁶
Number of persons with charge proved	43,095	35,724	7,371	5,274	15,751	22,070	6,961	11,803	14,952	9,379
All previous convictions⁷										
None	14,727	11384	3343	2695	4413	7619	907	3400	6143	4277
1 or 2	10,327	8653	1674	1327	3723	5277	846	3145	4254	2082
3 to 10	11,982	10388	1594	1101	4868	6013	2520	3872	3555	2035
Over 10	6,059	5299	760	151	2747	3161	2688	1386	1000	985
Previous custodial sentences										
None	31,521	25189	6332	4587	11092	15842	2141	8980	12714	7686
1 or 2	4,872	4413	459	381	1878	2613	1493	1379	1260	740
3 to 10	5,045	4598	447	296	2073	2676	2285	1183	828	749
Over 10	1,657	1524	133	10	708	939	1042	261	150	204
Previous community sentences										
None	26,218	21109	5109	3623	8547	14048	2469	6434	10818	6497
1 or 2	10,594	9236	1358	1172	4117	5305	2285	3483	2997	1829
3 to 10	6,039	5204	835	472	2948	2619	2107	1822	1101	1009
Over 10	244	175	69	**	139	98	100	64	36	44
Previous solemn convictions⁸										
None	35,866	29055	6811	4825	12508	18533	3961	10041	13447	8417
1 or 2	6,226	5702	524	426	2715	3085	2397	1572	1397	860
3 to 10	1,002	966	36	23	528	451	602	190	108	102
Over 10	**	**	-	-	-	**	-	**	**	**
Previous convictions for crimes of violence										
None	38,700	31769	6931	4928	13399	20373	5172	10712	14025	8791
1 or 2	4,196	3776	420	343	2210	1643	1662	1059	902	573
3 to 10	199	179	20	**	142	54	127	32	25	15
Over 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Previous convictions for crimes of dishonesty										
None	30,922	25428	5494	4454	10773	15695	3202	8475	12051	7194
1 or 2	6,214	5310	904	634	2730	2850	1459	1846	1810	1099
3 to 10	4,264	3554	710	183	1694	2387	1470	1132	868	794
Over 10	1,695	1432	263	**	554	1138	830	350	223	292
Previous convictions for drug offences										
None	34,442	28165	6277	5037	12456	16949	4624	9529	12358	7931
1 or 2	7,036	6136	900	226	2778	4032	1806	1912	2144	1174
3 to 10	1,601	1408	193	11	511	1079	527	361	444	269
Over 10	16	15	**	-	**	10	**	**	**	**

1. This table is constructed from a different datasource to tables 1-12 in this bulletin. It is constructed from Criminal Proceedings data rather than the Scottish Offenders Index.

2. Changes have been made to how this table is reported since the 2011-12 Offender Cohort bulletin. For improved clarity, and to allow comparisons between and down columns, as well as across rows, the absolute numbers of offenders are reported. Prior to the 2011-12 Offender Cohort bulletin, the relative proportions of offenders across a single row in each column were reported as percentages.

3. From the Reconvictions Rates in Scotland 2010-11 Cohort Bulletin onwards, changes have been made to the way this table is reported. The number and type of previous convictions are now based upon a 10 year window.

4. Age as at date of last conviction in 2012-13.

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

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

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

Table 16 Individuals convicted 2004-05 to 2013-14, by number of previous convictions in 10 years.
(see note 1)

Number and type of previous convictions ²	1995-96 to 2004-05		1996-97 to 2005-06		1997-98 to 2006-07		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	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Number of persons with charge proved (=100%)	49,620		50,587		53,810		53,547		50,547		48,356		45,655		44,941		42,524		43,095	
All previous convictions³																				
None	17,229	35	17,878	35	18,989	35	18,717	35	17,347	34	16,463	34	15,349	34	14,833	33	13,874	33	14,727	34
1 or 2	12,418	25	12,953	26	13,660	25	13,652	25	12,314	24	11,903	25	10,937	24	10,702	24	10,102	24	10,327	24
3 to 10	13,703	28	13,652	27	14,824	28	14,902	28	14,332	28	13,595	28	13,022	29	13,088	29	12,400	29	11,982	28
Over 10	6,270	13	6,104	12	6,337	12	6,276	12	6,554	13	6,395	13	6,347	14	6,318	14	6,148	14	6,059	14

1. This table is constructed from a different datasource to tables 1-12 in this bulletin. It is constructed from criminal proceedings data rather than the Scottish Offenders Index.

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

3. Convictions for crimes or 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 Information on **convictions** and **reconvictions** is not the same thing as information on **offending** and **reoffending**, or **recidivism**. Not all offences which are committed are reported to the police, while some of those that are reported and recorded do not result in an offender being identified, charged and a report being sent to the Procurator Fiscal. For cases which are reported to the Procurator Fiscal, it may be decided to take no proceedings, or to employ some alternative to prosecution such as a warning letter or a fiscal fine. Where persons are prosecuted, the proceedings may end up being dropped, e.g. witnesses fail to turn up. Convictions and reconvictions are therefore a subset of actual offending and reoffending, and reconviction rates only a proxy measure of reoffending rates.

Table A1 Definitions

The following terminology is applied throughout the bulletin:

Average number of reconvictions per offender – in a cohort it is 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 that are quoted in this bulletin are for a follow-up period of one year. It should be noted that because this measure is a mean 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.

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 – is 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 earliest of one 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 convictions.

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 – conviction after the relevant date of the index conviction.

Reconviction rate – the percentage of offenders with index convictions from a court in the cohort 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 offence after a conviction.

Counting rules

A2 If more than one set of court proceedings against an offender is disposed of on the same day, then each occasion will be counted as a separate conviction record in the SOI collection of reconvictions.

A3 Generally only the initial court sentence is included in the statistics on convictions, so that, for example, a person fined is regarded as fined, even if he or she subsequently goes to prison in default of payment. Similarly, the offenders released from prison who are included in the analysis in this bulletin will only include those directly sentenced to prison, i.e. persons released after imprisonment for fine default are excluded. Also, no account is taken of the outcome of appeals, or of interim decisions such as deferral of sentence.

A4 Where a person is convicted for more than one charge, then it is the main crime/offence which is recorded in the SOI. The main crime/offence is taken to be the charge receiving the severest penalty. If more than one charge receives the same (or a combined) penalty, then the main crime/offence is the one judged to be the most serious based on the Scottish Government's classification of crimes and offences.

The exception to this is where an offender was sentenced for a crime against public justice (such as failure to appear) and other crimes/offences on the same day, then the most serious of the latter is taken as being the main crime/offence (even where the crime against public justice had attracted the heaviest penalty).

A5 In order to analyse reconvictions, a decision has to be made as to which of an individual's convictions in a series is to be taken as a reference point, known as the **index conviction**. That is, the conviction before which all convictions are counted as previous convictions, and after which are counted as reconvictions. In this bulletin, the rule for choosing the index conviction is: (a) the first occasion in the financial year in question when an individual was given a non-custodial sentence, (b) the first date when an individual was estimated to have been released from prison from a custodial sentence. Whichever conviction has the earliest of one 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 within one year (or two years in [Table 12](#)) from the date of sentence or the estimated prison release date, i.e. from the relevant date of the index conviction, whereas the average number of reconvictions considers the number of times offenders are reconvicted in the same period. 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.

A6 Information on the actual release dates of prisoners is not linked with the conviction data held on the Scottish Offenders Index. For the purposes of the analysis in this bulletin, the date of release for offenders given a custodial sentence has therefore been estimated from their date of sentence, the length of sentence imposed, assumptions about time spent on remand and release on parole, and information about whether the offender had been granted bail. The release date estimated by this approach will not always tie in with the actual release date because the offender may be serving other custodial sentences, for example. However, this is not judged to be significant for the purposes of the current analysis. The main exception to this relates to offenders discharged from life sentences or, for some cohorts, very long determinate custodial sentences – see below.

A7 The method described above cannot be used to accurately identify the release date for offenders serving life sentences or, in some instances, very lengthy determinate sentences. Therefore this category of offender will not have been available for possible selection for the set of index convictions in each cohort year. However, the number of offenders involved is relatively small (only around 50 offenders receive such sentences each year) and so will not affect the analysis presented in this bulletin significantly. Separate research evidence ([Life Sentence Prisoners in Scotland, Scottish Office, Machin et al, 1999](#)) shows that just over a quarter of the 491 life sentence prisoners released on licence were reconvicted. 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.

A8 Where there is a choice of more than one index conviction for an individual, i.e. where they received more than one sentence disposal on the same day, then the one selected is by reference to a) the most severe form of sentence, and then b) the most serious main crime/offence.

A9 The counting rules for non-court disposals are similar to those for analysing court reconvictions. When analysing non-court disposals, 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.

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 rather than estimated release date is taken.

A11 Crimes and offences and sentence type have been grouped in this bulletin as follows:

Table A2 Crime Groupings

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 indecency. <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 indecency 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. <p>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.</p>
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, excluding life and indeterminate sentences.
CPO	Community Payback Order ⁹
CSO	Community Service Order
PO	Probation Order (with or without CSO or RLO)
DTTO	Drug Treatment and Testing Order
RLO	Restriction of Liberty Order
Monetary	Fine, compensation order, caution.
Other	Supervised Attendance Orders, absolute discharge, remit to children's hearing, admonishment, hospital order, guardianship order, finding of insanity, hospital order & restricted order, supervision and treatment order and disposals not elsewhere specified.
Police disposals	Anti-Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Notices (ASBFPNs), Formal Adult Warnings.
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service disposals	Fiscal Fines, Fiscal Compensation Orders, Fiscal Fixed Penalties.

The effect of pseudo reconvictions

A12 Pseudo reconvictions are convictions which occur after the index conviction, but relate to offences committed prior to the index conviction. They can arise in cases where there are several sets of proceedings in train against an individual for offences committed on a range of dates.

A13 Pseudo reconvictions could potentially have the following effects:

- In theory they may exaggerate the rate of "real" reconvictions to some extent.

⁹ 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.

- They will complicate comparisons between reconviction rates for different types of disposal as they will 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.

A14 However, excluding pseudo reconvictions will not necessarily result in an improved estimate of the reconviction rate, unless one also addresses the issue of offences committed during the follow-up period, but which have a conviction date 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 without pseudo reconvictions were shown in [previous publications](#) for the purposes of illustration. The figures up to the 2012-13 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 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) maintained by Police Scotland. It currently contains a record of criminal proceedings against individuals (excluding companies) in Scottish courts as well as information on non-court disposals. The data in the SOI 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 of the Scottish Government's classification of crimes; or some offences in Group 6. Groups 1-5 of the Scottish Government's classification covers crimes of violence (including death involving a motor vehicle), sexual crimes, crimes involving dishonesty, fire-raising and vandalism, and other crimes. The offences in Group 6 which are included in the 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 in [Annex Table A2](#) for a more detailed list of the types of crimes in the SOI.

B2 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 offence involved and details of the sentence imposed. Information is also available on any offences which were additional to the main offence involved. Each offender has a unique reference number, which allows individual convictions for that offender to be linked together. The SOI is a statistical database and does not include personal information.

B3 While virtually all convictions since 1989 for the crimes listed in [Annex Table A2](#) are covered by the SOI, some other convictions are not. These include convictions for minor statutory and common law offences (such as drunkenness, and almost all motor vehicle offences), convictions in courts outside of Scotland, convictions prior to 1989, and any relevant convictions not recorded on the CHS by the end of July 2014.

B4 All but the most serious offences alleged to have been committed by children under the age of 16 are generally dealt with by the children's hearings system. The SOI does not currently hold information on offenders' juvenile offending history.

Data quality

B5 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.

B6 There are standards for the definitions of the data items and their corresponding values that are inputted on the CHS. These standards are agreed by the Integration of Scottish Criminal Justice Information Systems/ Co-ordinating IT and

Management Information (ISCJIS/CIMI) programme and should ensure there is consistency across the justice organisations in the information they collect. Given a number of different organisations input information to the CHS, this is crucial. Further information on the data standards can be found here:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/archive/law-order/iscjis/standards>

B7 The police record very detailed information on statutory offences but this does not always correspond exactly to the Scottish Government classification of crimes and offences. The most important example in numerical terms is an offence under Section 41(1)(a) of the Police (Scotland) Act 1967. This offence relates to "any person who assaults, resists, obstructs, molests or hinders a constable..". Scottish Government classification divides this into 3 categories - resisting arrest, serious assault, and common assault, but this distinction is not made by the courts. The majority of such cases are thought to have been classed as common assault, and all the offences under this subsection have been so classified from 1988 onwards. Only a minimal number of cases are affected by other instances of this type of problem.

B8 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 2013-14 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 Scottish Court Service (SCS), or the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). The figures are also checked against case processing information published by COPFS and management information provided by SCS to ensure that the court volumes are consistent. Police Scotland, SCS, COPFS and policy experts within the Scottish Government are also consulted to give insight on 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.

B9 During production of the 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* 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.

Data confidentiality

B10 Information on the outcomes of court proceedings is publicly available. However, 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 glean any private information relating to them.

B11 Furthermore, to maintain the security and confidentiality of the data received from the data suppliers, only a small number of Scottish Government employees have access to the data. 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

B12 The CHS is not designed for statistical purposes. It is dependent on receiving timely information from the SCS, COPFS, and the police. It should also be noted that some types of outcome, such as acquittals, are removed from the system after a prescribed length of time. A pending case on the CHS is updated in a timely manner, but there are occasions when a slight delay may happen. Recording delays of this sort generally affect high court disposals relatively more than those for other types of court. The figures provided in this bulletin reflect the details of court proceedings recorded on the CHS and supplied to the Scottish Government by the end of July 2014 to allow later convictions for 2013-14 to be captured on the CHS.

B13 The CHS is regularly updated, so subsequent analyses will result in revised figures (shown in the [Annex Table B1](#) at the end of this section) as late records are added. The first revision of the reconviction rate in the following year's bulletin is typically 0.4 percentage points higher than the figures published initially, and the average number of reconvictions is typically 0.01 to 0.02 higher.

B14 There was a larger increase from the initial published figures at the first revision of the figures for the 2010-11 cohort, than the average increase has been at the first revision of other cohorts. This is because the calculations of index offences and reconvictions, from the 2011-12 cohort bulletin onwards, included new offences which came into effect from 2010, which weren't included in the 2010-11 cohort bulletin. The new offences that were included from the 2011-12 cohort bulletin onwards are 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)". These offences are grouped under "breach of peace" in [Table 6](#) and [Table 7](#), in line with the [Criminal Proceedings in Scotland](#) publication.

Table B1 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 ^{tx}	30.1 ^x	0.55 ^x	30.1	0.55	-	-
2011-12	29.2	0.53	29.6	0.54	-	-	-	-
2012-13	28.6	0.51	-	-	-	-	-	-

* 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. See note in Annex B14.

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 this bulletin. However, due to the short period of time from the closing date of the survey to the publication date of this bulletin, other points will be addressed in future versions of this bulletin.

C2 Reconviction rates are a helpful tool in supporting policy development, including the Scottish Government's Reducing Reoffending Programme, Phase 2 (RRP2). This is a collaborative programme with a broad range of stakeholder involvement looking to deliver better outcomes for persistent offenders. Clearly success here is likely to translate to a reduction in crime, victimisation, and the negative effects these can have on local communities and the economy.

C3 The average number of reconvictions per offender is also used to inform the national indicator to [reduce reconviction rates](#) on Scotland Performs, the Scottish Government National Performance Framework. Scotland Performs measures and reports on progress of government in Scotland in creating a more successful country. It was put into place in 2007 by the incoming government at that time.

C4 Progress in terms of the reconviction indicator on Scotland Performs is assessed annually by considering whether or not the latest average number of reconvictions per offender has improved or declined compared to the baseline average number of reconvictions per offender (this was chosen as the number in 2006-07 because that relates to the financial year coinciding with the end of the previous government). The methodology for determining progress is discussed in a [technical note](#) on Scotland Performs.

C5 Users of information on reconviction rates include:

- Community Justice Authorities
- Local Authorities
- Scottish Prison Service
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Court Service
- Risk Management Authority
- Parole Board for Scotland
- Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
- Health boards
- Victim Support
- Third sector partners
- Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)
- Association of Directors of Social Work

C6 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.

C7 CJAs use the data for strategic planning so that resources can be targeted effectively. Local Authorities find it 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. The data are also used to answer ad-hoc parliamentary questions and freedom of information requests.

Annex D – Characteristics of offenders with an index disposal of a Community Payback Order or a legacy community order between 2009-10 and 2012-13

D1 This section details how different characteristics of offenders with an index disposal of a Community Payback Order (CPOs) or a legacy community order (Community Service Orders (CSO) and Probation Orders (PO)) have changed during the transition period from the legacy orders to CPOs. CPOs were introduced on 1st February 2011 and legacy orders are now only given for offences committed prior to 1st February 2011. The characteristics for offenders given the legacy orders in 2009-10 prior to the transition period are also given for comparison.

D2 As detailed below, during the transition period between 2010-11 and up to the most recent cohort of 2012-13, the legacy community orders and CPOs have both shown increased percentages of the types of offenders that generally have a lower likelihood of being reconvicted i.e. more females, more older offenders, and more offenders with no previous convictions. This may explain, in part, why the reconviction rates of both disposal types decreased during the transition period. The legacy community orders, in particular, have shown large increases in the proportion of these types of offenders, which may be why the reconviction rates of the legacy orders were very low in 2012-13.

Number of previous convictions

D3 Offenders with no, or very few, previous convictions tend to have lower reconviction rates than offenders with more previous convictions (see [Table 10](#)).

D4 For CPO index disposals, the percentage of offenders with no previous convictions increased by 2.4 percentage points from 21.9 per cent of offenders in 2010-11 to 24.3 per cent of offenders in 2012-13, and in the same period the percentage of offenders with over 10 previous convictions decreased by 1 percentage point from 19.7 per cent of offenders to 18.7 per cent ([Table D1](#)).

D5 Legacy community order index disposals showed a large increase in the percentage of offenders with no previous convictions and a decrease in the percentage of offenders with more than 10 previous conviction from 2009-10 (prior to the introduction of the CPOs) to 2012-13. The percentage of offenders with no previous convictions increased by 20.3 percentage points from 27.5 per cent in 2009-10 to 47.8 per cent in 2012-13, and the percentage of offenders with more than 10 previous convictions decreased by 5.2 percentage points ([Table D1](#)).

D6 In 2012-13, which is nearing the end of the transition period, more offenders with a CPO index disposal have over 10 previous convictions than offenders with a legacy order index disposal did in 2009-10. In 2012-13, 18.7 per cent of offenders with a CPO index disposal had more than 10 previous convictions, compared to 16 per cent of offenders with a legacy order index disposal in 2009-10. Additionally, a smaller percentage of offenders with a CPO index disposal in 2012-13 had no previous convictions (24.3 per cent), compared to those with legacy orders in 2009-10 (27.5 per cent).

Table D1 Percentages of offenders by numbers of previous convictions within each financial year for index disposals of legacy community orders and CPOs

Index Disposal	Number of offenders	Percentage of each group within financial year			
		Number of previous convictions			
		None	1 to 2	3 to 10	over 10
CPOs					
2009-10	-	-	-	-	-
2010-11	178	21.9	24.2	34.3	19.7
2011-12	6192	23.1	22.7	34.3	19.9
2012-13	9511	24.3	22	35	18.7
Legacy					
2009-10	8679	27.5	23.7	32.7	16
2010-11	8264	26.5	23.6	33.2	16.7
2011-12	3700	31.4	23	31	14.7
2012-13	638	47.8	21	20.4	10.8

Gender

D7 Females generally have lower reconviction rates than males ([Table 2](#)).

D8 The CPO index disposals had a slight increase of in the percentage of females, by 1.9 percentage points, from 14 per cent in 2010-11 to 15.9 per cent in 2012-13 ([Annex Table D2](#)).

D9 Legacy community order index disposals had an increase in the percentage of females from 18.8 in 2009-10 prior to the introduction of the CPOs, to 36.1 per cent in 2012-13, an increase of 17.3 percentage points ([Annex Table D2](#)).

D10 In 2012-13, which is nearing the end of the transition period, a smaller percentage of females have a CPO index disposal than offenders with a legacy orders index disposal did 2009-10 prior to the transition. In 2012-13, 15.9 per cent of offenders with a CPOs index disposal were female, compared to 18.8 per cent of offenders with a legacy order disposal in 2009-10.

Table D2 Percentages of offenders by gender within each financial year for index disposals of legacy community orders and CPOs.

Index Disposal	Number of offenders	Percentage of each group within financial year	
		Gender	
		Male	Female
CPOs			
2009-10	-	-	-
2010-11	178	86	14
2011-12	6192	85.9	14.1
2012-13	9511	84.1	15.9
Legacy			
2009-10	8679	81.2	18.8
2010-11	8264	82.1	17.9
2011-12	3700	77.4	22.6
2012-13	638	63.9	36.1

Age

D11 Younger offenders generally have higher reconviction rates than older offenders ([Table 3](#)).

D12 CPO index disposals had a decrease in the percentage of offenders under the age of 21, from 24.7 per cent in 2010-11 to 18.6 per cent in 2012-13, a decrease of 6.1 percentage points. The percentage of offenders in all the other age groups showed a slight increase in the same period ([Annex Table D3](#)).

D13 Legacy community orders index disposals had a large decrease in the percentage of offenders under the age of 21 from 24.5 in 2009-10, to 8.9 per cent in 2012-13, a decrease of 15.6 percentage points. In the same period the percentage of offenders over 40 increased 22.5 percentage points from 17.5 per cent to 40 per cent ([Annex Table D3](#)).

Table D3 Percentages of offenders by age within each financial year for index disposals of legacy community orders and CPOs.

Index Disposal	Number of offenders	Percentage of each group within financial year				
		Age				
		Under 21	21 to 25	26 to 30	31 to 40	Over 40
CPOs						
2009-10	-	-	-	-	-	-
2010-11	178	24.7	20.8	16.3	21.3	16.9
2011-12	6192	21.9	22	15.7	22.7	17.7
2012-13	9511	18.6	21.2	17.7	23.9	18.6
Legacy						
2009-10	8679	24.5	20.1	16.2	21.6	17.5
2010-11	8264	23.4	20.6	15.6	21.8	18.6
2011-12	3700	19.8	20.4	15.4	23	21.4
2012-13	638	8.9	15.5	14.3	21.3	40

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How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

- are available in more detail through Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics
- are available via an alternative route
- may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact JusticeAnalysts@scotland.gsi.gov.uk for further information.
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