

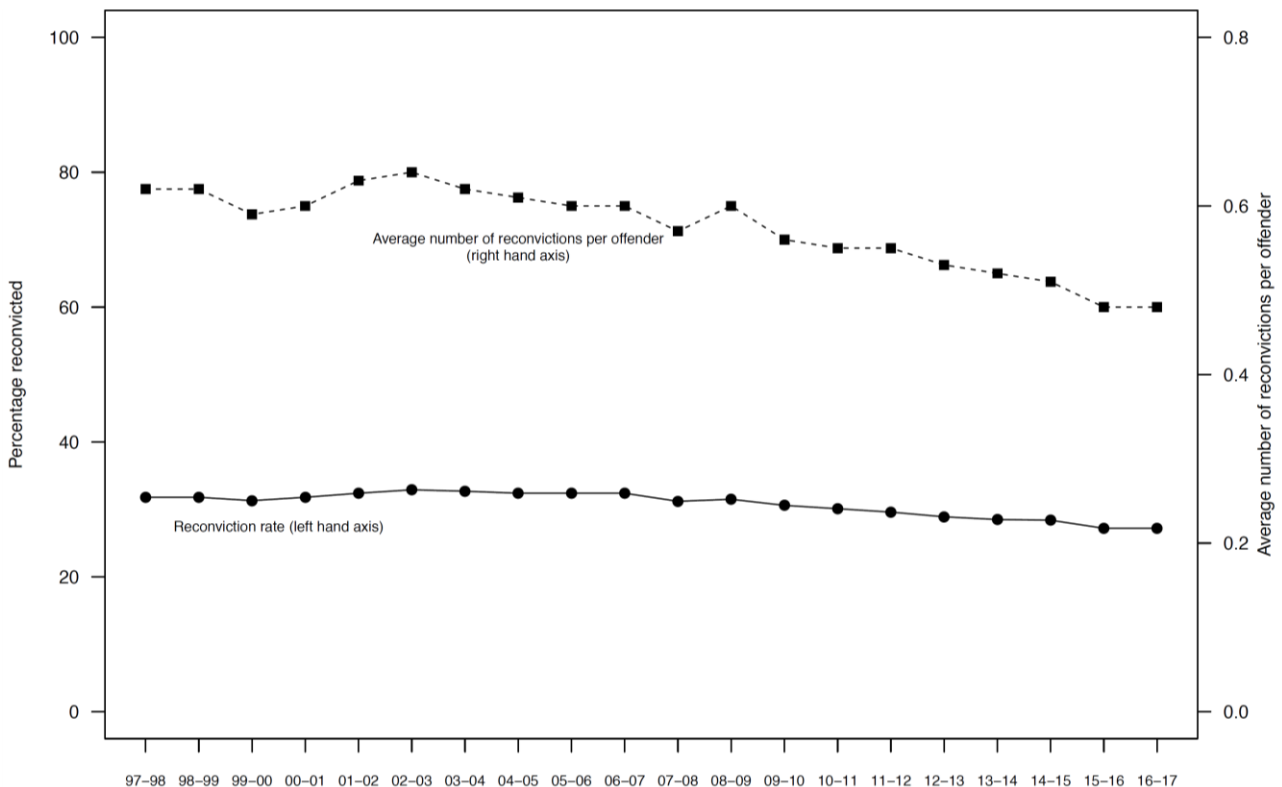
CRIME AND JUSTICE

Reconviction Rates in Scotland: 2016-17 Offender Cohort

This bulletin forms part of the Scottish Government series of statistical bulletins on the criminal justice system. Statistics are presented on the number of individuals who were released from a custodial sentence or given a non-custodial sentence in 2016-17 and then subsequently reconvicted within a year, along with selected trends.

The reconviction rate, which is the percentage of offenders who are reconvicted in a year, was 27.2% in 2016-17, which is the same as it was in 2015-16. The average number of reconvictions per offender in 2016-17 was 0.48, which was also the same as it was in the previous year. See [Chart 1](#) and [Table 1](#).

Chart 1: Reconviction rate and the average number of reconvictions per offender: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohort



Contents

Introduction	7
Changes made to this year’s report.....	7
Background	8
1. Main findings: reconviction rates for court disposals	12
1.1 Headline figures.....	12
1.2 Age and gender.....	13
1.3 Index crime.....	18
1.4 Domestic abuse index crimes and offences.....	20
1.5 Index disposal.....	21
1.6 Sentence length of custodial index conviction.....	25
1.7 Conviction history prior to index conviction.....	26
1.8 Two year rates.....	26
2. Main findings: Repeat non-court disposals	27
2.1 Police disposals.....	27
2.2 Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) disposals.....	29
2.3 Characteristics of individuals given non-court disposals.....	30
3. Comparing reconviction rates across local authorities	30
3.1 Accounting for the variability between local authorities.....	33
4. Number and type of previous convictions: 2008-09 to 2017-18	36
Tables	38
Annex	69
Annex A – Definitions, counting rules, and pseudo reconvictions.....	69
Background and definitions.....	69
Counting rules.....	71
Data definitions.....	73
The effect of pseudo reconvictions.....	75
Annex B – Sources of information, data quality and confidentiality, and revisions.....	77
Sources of information.....	77
Data quality.....	78
Data confidentiality.....	82
Revisions.....	83
Annex C – Uses and users of reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender.....	84
Annex D – Transitional period between legacy community orders and Community Payback Orders.....	85

List of Charts

Chart 1: Reconviction rate and the average number of reconvictions per offender: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohort..... 1

Chart 2: An offender’s journey through the criminal justice system 9

Chart 3: Average number of reconvictions per offender for males and females, 2016-17 offender cohort 13

Chart 4: Reconviction rate for males and females, 2016-17 offender cohort.. 14

Chart 5: Average number of reconvictions per offender, males by age: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts 17

Chart 6: Average number of reconvictions per offender, females by age: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts 17

Chart 7: Average number of reconvictions per offender, by index crime: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts 19

Chart 8: Average number of reconvictions per offender by index disposal: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts 24

Chart 9: Reconviction rates for index disposals and sentence lengths for the 2016-17 cohort¹ 25

Chart 10: Reconviction rates by local authority group: 2016-17 cohort..... 35

Chart 11: Standardised reconviction rates by local authority group: 2016-17 cohort..... 35

Chart 12: Number of individuals convicted in 2017-18, by last disposal in 2017-18 and the number of previous convictions since 2008-09 37

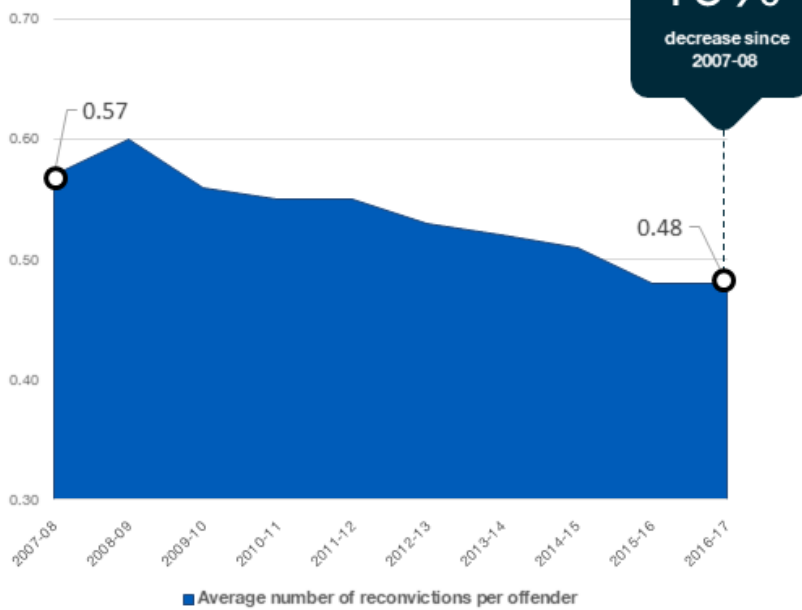
List of Tables

Table 1: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts	39
Table 2: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by gender: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts	40
Table 3: Reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender, by age: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts	41
Table 4: Reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender, males by age: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts.....	43
Table 5: Reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender, females by age: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts.....	45
Table 6: Reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender, by index crime: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts.....	47
Table 7: Reconviction rates for crimes by index crime: 2016-17 cohort.....	49
Table 8a: Reconviction rates for domestic abuse and non-domestic abuse crimes and offences, 2009-10 to 2016-17 cohorts.....	50
Table 9: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by index disposal: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts.....	51
Table 10a: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by custodial sentence length: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts	55
Table 11: Reconviction rates by offender characteristics: 2016-17 cohort.....	58
Table 12: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by local authority group based on court areas: 2016-17 cohort	59
Table 13: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by local authority based on residence of offenders: 2016-17 cohort.....	60
Table 14: Two year reconviction rates and two year average number of reconvictions per offender: 1997-98 to 2015-16 cohorts.....	61
Table 15: Individuals given police disposals and subsequent non-court disposals, by disposal type: 2008-09 to 2016-17 cohorts	62
Table 16: Individuals given COPFS disposals and subsequent non-court disposals, by disposal type: 2008-09 to 2016-17 cohorts	63
Table 17: Individuals given non-court disposals and subsequent non-court disposals, by gender: 2008-09 to 2016-17 cohorts	64
Table 18: Individuals given non-court disposals and subsequent non-court disposals, by age: 2008-09 to 2016-17 cohorts	65
Table 19: Repeat non-court disposal rates by characteristics: 2016-17 cohort	66
Table 20: Individuals convicted in 2017-18, by gender, age and number and type of previous convictions in 10 years from 2008-09 to 2017-18.....	67
Table 21: Individuals convicted by number of previous convictions in 10 years from 2008-09 to 2017-18 ¹	68

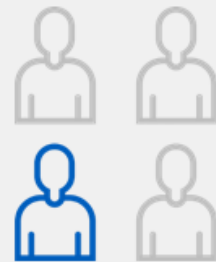
RECONVICTION RATES IN SCOTLAND: 2016-2017 OFFENDER COHORT



▶ RECONVICTIONS HAVE DECREASED IN THE PAST DECADE



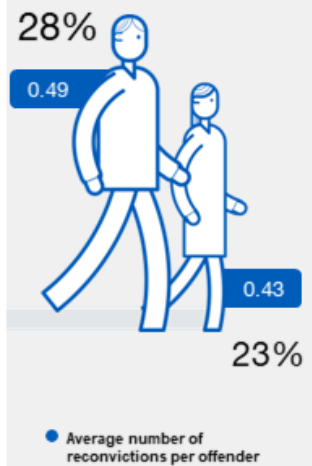
▶ In 2016-17, 27.2% offenders were reconvicted within a year



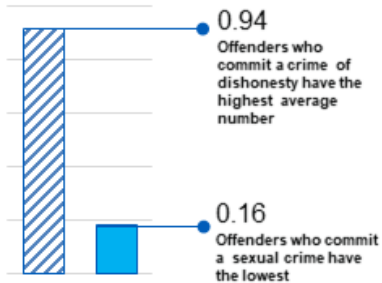
1 in 4

▶ Men are reconvicted more than women:

RECONVICTION RATE



▼ 2016-17 cohort – Average number of reconvictions per offender



▼ Of the 37,191 offenders convicted in 2017-18



Key points

- The reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender were unchanged over the past year, with a reconviction rate of 27.2% and an average number of reconvictions of 0.48 in 2016-17 and 2015-16 ([Table 1](#)). In addition there was little change in reconvictions over the past year across most of the groupings that are presented in this bulletin.
- Over the longer term, the reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender have generally decreased. In the past decade between 2007-08 and 2016-17, the reconviction rate decreased by four percentage points from 31.2% to 27.2%, and the average number of reconvictions per offender decreased by 16% from 0.57 to 0.48 ([Table 1](#)).
- Male offenders are reconvicted more often, on average, than female offenders. In 2016-17, the average number of reconvictions per offender for male offenders was 0.49, which was 14% higher than the value of 0.43 for female offenders. Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions for males were near identical between 2015-16 and 2016-17, but slightly increased for females over the same period ([Table 2](#)).
- Across the age groups there was a mixed picture in changes in the reconviction rate between 2015-16 and 2016-17. There was a decrease for under 21s, an increase for 21 to 25 year olds, and the other age groups were near identical between the two years ([Table 3](#)).
- As in previous years, offenders who commit a crime of dishonesty have the highest average number of reconvictions per offender (0.94 in 2016-17), compared to offenders that committed another type of crime. Offenders who commit a sexual crime have the lowest (0.16 in 2016-17) ([Table 6](#)).
- 9.2% of offenders with an index domestic abuse crime or offence in 2016-17 were reconvicted for a further domestic abuse crime or offence ([Table 8a](#)), and 11.2% were convicted for a non-domestic abuse crime or offence.
- Offenders released from a custodial sentence had an average number of reconvictions per offender of 0.82 in 2016-17, which was 5% lower than 0.86 in 2015-16 ([Table 9](#)). Short custodial sentences have higher reconvictions than longer sentences. This is largely because offenders who are given shorter sentences commit relatively less serious crimes such as shoplifting, and tend to commit more of these crimes than those committing more serious crimes, and so they are reconvicted more often. In 2016-17 the average number of reconvictions per offender for custodial sentences under three months was 1.25, compared to 0.13 for those over four years ([Table 10a](#)).
- The reconviction rate for CPOs, the most commonly used community sentence, was 31.2% in 2016-17, which was nearly identical to the figure of 31.1% 2015-16. The average number of reconvictions per offender for CPOs was 0.55 in 2016-17, which was the same as in 2015-16 ([Table 9](#)).
- 18.5% of individuals given a non-court disposal by the police in 2016-17 (such as a warning or fine), and 14.5% of individuals given a non-court disposal by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, received another non-court disposal within a year ([Table 19](#)).

Introduction

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

Changes made to this year's report

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

- New tables showing reconviction rates ([Table 8a](#)) and average number of reconvictions ([Table 8b](#)) for domestic abuse crimes and offences.
- A new table showing reconviction rates and average number of convictions for custodial sentences of 1 year or less ([Table 10b](#)).
- High Court index convictions are separated from local authority groups in the table that shows reconvictions for local authorities based on court location ([Table 12](#)).
- Inclusion of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) Fiscal Warning non-court disposal ([Table 16](#)).

Background

This publication presents information on reconvictions and repeat non-court disposals for cohorts of offenders from 1997-98 up to the latest cohort of 2016-17. Cohorts include offenders with an [‘index conviction’](#) or [‘index non-court disposal’](#) in the particular financial year. Section one of this publication presents reconviction statistics for offenders with court convictions, section two covers repeat instances of individuals dealt with outside of court (non-court disposals), section three presents analyses of reconviction rates by local authority, and section four looks at the number of previous court convictions for offenders convicted in 2017-18.

Recidivism and reconvictions

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

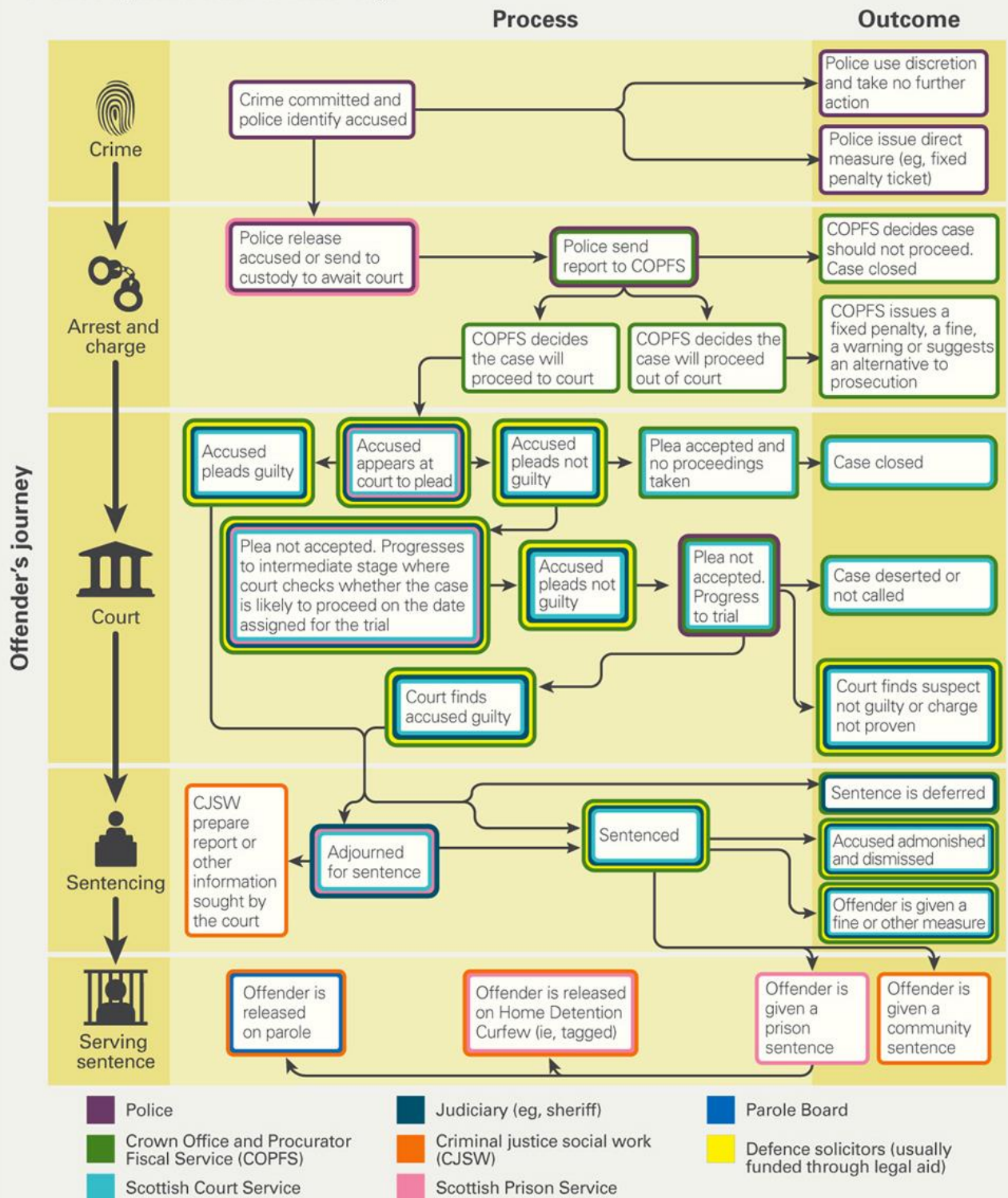
The Scottish justice system

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

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

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

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



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

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

Index convictions: the reference convictions

For the majority of the analyses in this bulletin, we measure reconvictions given by a court for a cohort of offenders within a follow-up period of one year after a conviction given by a court. A cohort is defined as all the offenders that are either estimated to have been released from a custodial sentence ([see Annex A7](#)), or given a non-custodial sentence, in a specified financial year. For example, the 2016-17 cohort is the group of offenders who were released from a custodial sentence, or were given a non-custodial sentence, between the 1st April 2016 and the 31st March 2017 (See [Annex Table A1](#) and [Annex A5](#)). In this bulletin, for brevity, the cohort may be referred to by its year alone, for example 2016-17.

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

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

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

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

Measures of reconviction: the reconviction rate

The reconviction rate is presented as the percentage of offenders in the cohort who were reconvicted one or more times by a court within a specified follow up period from the date of the index conviction. For most reconviction analyses in this bulletin, the follow-up period is one year, except for [Table 14](#) where a two year follow up period is presented. For example, the 2016-17 reconviction rate is 27.2% ([Table 1](#)), and this means that just over a quarter of offenders were reconvicted at least once in the year following a non-custodial conviction or release from a custodial sentence in 2016-17. The definitions in [Annex Table A1](#) provide more details about the terminology used in this publication.

Measures of reconviction: average number of reconvictions per offender

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

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

It is calculated as the total number of reconvictions of all the offenders in the cohort, divided by the total number of offenders in the cohort. For example, the average number of reconvictions per offender for the 2016-17 cohort in one year is 0.48 ([Table 1](#)). This means that, on average, offenders have just under half a reconviction in a one year follow up period. It should be noted that as this measure is an average, there may be variation in the number of reconvictions that individual offenders have: for example, any group may include offenders with no reconvictions and offenders with multiple reconvictions.

Repeat non-court disposals

This bulletin also presents the **repeat non-court disposal rate** and the **average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual**. The repeat non-court disposal rate is analogous to the reconviction rate, and is the proportion of people who receive a non-court disposal and go on to receive another non-court disposal within a year. The average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual, is analogous to the average number of reconvictions, and is a measure of the number of times that a cohort of individuals receive non-court disposals after being given a non-court disposal.

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

Note that court convictions are not included in the repeat non-court disposals, and non-court disposals are not counted towards reconvictions. This is because the court conviction dataset is independent of the non-court disposal dataset. For example, if someone was convicted in court and given a community sentence and were subsequently given a warning by the police, the warning would not be counted as a reconviction. The warning may either be counted as an index non-court disposal if it was the first non-court disposal they received in a financial year, or a repeat non-court disposal if they had already received another non-court disposal in the financial year.

Data Source: The Scottish Offenders Index

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

before the index conviction, as opposed to reconvictions which look at convictions after the index conviction.

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

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

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

1. Main findings: reconviction rates for court disposals

1.1 Headline figures

[\(Table 1\)](#)

The reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender ([Table 1](#) and [Chart 1](#)) have generally decreased over the past decade. Between 2007-08 and 2016-17, the reconviction rate has fallen by four percentage points from 31.2% to 27.2%, and the average number of reconvictions per offender has fallen by 16% from 0.57 to 0.48. These reductions are set against the context of a 38% drop in recorded crime over the same period between 2007-08 and 2016-17 ([Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2017-18](#)). The [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey](#) also reveals a similar pattern of falling incidence of crime.

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

Over the shorter-term, there was no change in the reconviction rate or average number of reconvictions for the latest cohort of 2016-17 compared to the previous cohort of 2015-16.

The size of the cohort had been increasing every year since a low of 41,695 in 2012-13. However, in 2016-17 the cohort size decreased by 8% to 40,606 from 44,051 in 2015-16. This is the smallest cohort in the past 20 years, and reflects the decreases in the number of people convicted seen in the [Criminal Proceedings Statistics](#) since 2015-16. The slight lag in the reconviction cohort compared to the number of people convicted is likely to be because those given custodial sentences are counted at sentence date in the Criminal Proceedings Statistics, whereas they are counted later in a reconvictions cohort at the estimated time when they are released.

1.2 Age and gender

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

Gender

Continuing a persistent long-term trend, males have higher reconviction rates and a higher average number of reconvictions per offender than females ([Table 2](#) and [Chart 3](#) and [4](#)). However, the gap has narrowed in recent years. The average number of reconvictions per offender for the 2016-17 cohort was 0.49 for males, and 0.43 for females. This is the same as the figure in 2015-16 for males, but there was a slight increase for females (from 0.42) in the same period. The reconviction rates in 2016-17 were 28.0% for males and 23.3% for females, which is a slight 0.2 percentage point decrease for males (from 28.2%), but a small 0.6 percentage point increase for females (from 22.7%) from the preceding year of 2015-16.

Over the longer-term, numbers for males and females have generally decreased, but have occasionally fluctuated year to year. In the past decade, the average number of reconvictions fell by 17% for males from 0.59 in 2007-08 to 0.49 in 2016-17, and the reconviction rate fell by 4.2 percentage points from 32.2% to 28.0% in the same period. The figures for males are now similar to those for females just over a decade ago. For females, the average number of reconvictions decreased by 10% from 0.48 in 2007-08 to 0.43 in 2016-17, and the reconviction rate decreased by 3.1 percentage points from 26.4% to 23.3% in same period.

As the decrease has been greater for males over the past decade, the gap in reconvictions has narrowed between males and females. Ten years ago, the average number of reconvictions for males were 23% higher than females, compared to 14% higher in the most recent cohort.

Chart 3: Average number of reconvictions per offender for males and females, 2016-17 offender cohort

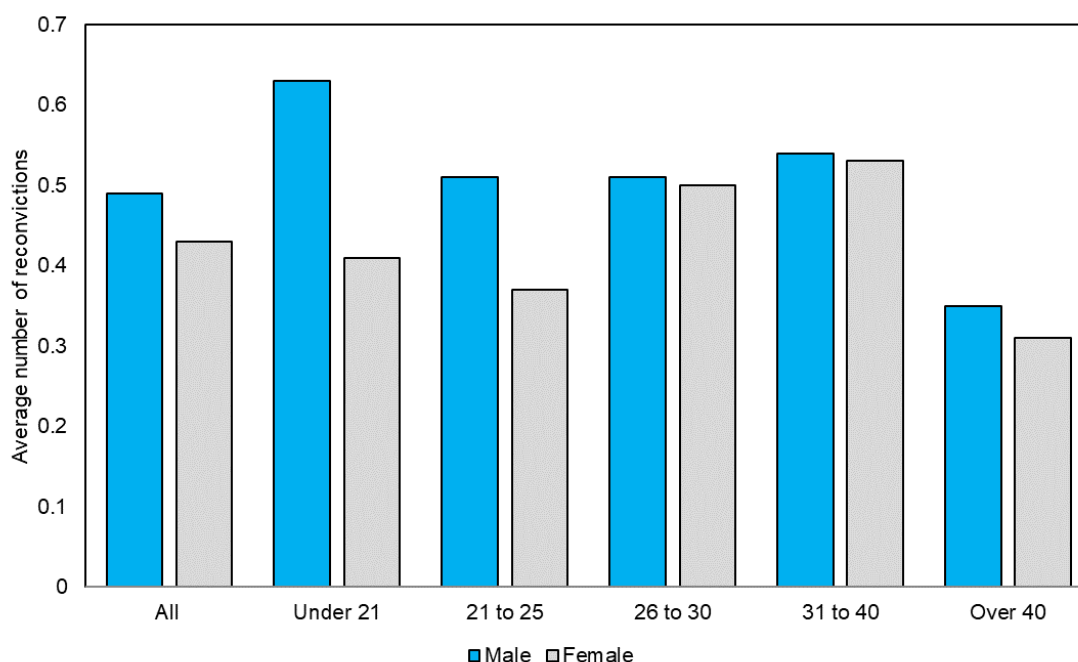
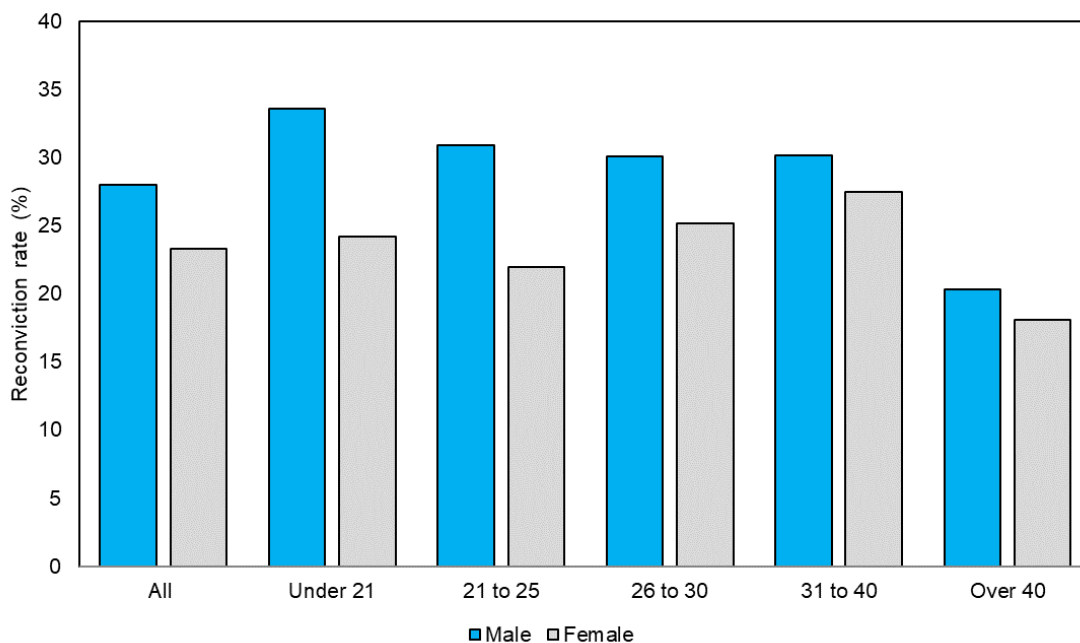


Chart 4: Reconviction rate for males and females, 2016-17 offender cohort



Age

There was a mixed picture in the changes in reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions between 2015-16 and 2016-17. The under 21 and over 40 age groups showed decreases, the 21 to 25 age group showed an increase, whereas the 26 to 30 and 31 to 40 age groups were near identical to the previous year ([Table 3](#)).

Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions for under 21s were the highest of the age groups in 2016-17 (32.2% and 0.59, respectively), and lowest for the over 40s (19.9% and 0.34, respectively), as they have been historically. The other age groups (21 to 25, 26 to 30, and 31 to 40) were quite similar to each other in 2016-17, with reconviction rates ranging from 29.3% to 29.7%, and average number of reconvictions ranging from 0.49 to 0.54 ([Table 3](#)).

Over time, the average number of reconvictions for under 21s have decreased by more than a third (37%), from a high of 0.93 twenty years ago in 1997-98 to the latest figure of 0.59 in 2016-17. The figures for under 21s had seen a rise in 2013-14 and 2014-15, but have decreased in the past two years and the 2016-17 figures are the lowest levels recorded in the period covered by this publication ([Table 3](#)).

It should also be noted that the under 21 cohort size decreased significantly in the past 20 years by 69% from 13,796 in 1997-98 to 4,340 in 2016-17. It has decreased by 65% in the past decade alone from 12,403 in 2007-08. In terms of its effect on the national cohort size, 20 years ago the under 21 cohort represented 26% of the national cohort, compared to 11% in the most recent cohort. This large change in the under 21 cohort size, coupled with the

decrease in reconvictions for this group, means that they have been a significant driver in the reduction in the overall national reconviction rate.

The reconviction rate for the 21 to 25 age group increased by 1.1 percentage points between 2015-16 and 2016-17, from 28.5% to 29.6%. The average number of reconvictions per offender increased very slightly in the same period from 0.48 to 0.49. Reconvictions for this group have fluctuated in the past 4 years, but they are still lower than they were a decade ago, with the average number of reconvictions 22% lower in 2016-17 than in 2007-08 (0.49 compared to 0.63).

Reconvictions for the 26 to 30 and 31 to 40 age groups are essentially unchanged between 2015-16 and 2016-17. For the 26 to 30 age group the reconviction rate of 29.3% in 2016-17 was slightly higher than the figure of 29.1%, in 2015-16, and the average number of reconvictions was 0.51 in both years. Similarly, for the 31 to 40 age group, the reconviction rate in 2016-17 was also slightly higher (29.7%) compared to 2015-16 (29.6%), and the average number of reconvictions was the same in both years (0.54). Over recent years the patterns have been different for these two groups, with reconviction rates for the 26 to 30 age group decreasing each year between 2011-12 and 2015-16, whereas reconviction rates for the 31 to 40 group have fluctuated ([Table 3](#)), although the average number of reconvictions for both groups has showed a downwards trend over the same period.

The reconviction rate for the over 40 age group increased from 2010-11, but has decreased in the past two years. In the past year, the reconviction rate decreased slightly by 0.4 percentage points from 20.3% in 2015-16 to 19.9% in 2016-17. The average number of reconvictions has been gradually decreasing for the past three years and decreased slightly from 0.35 to 0.34 between 2015-16 and 2016-17. Reconvictions for this group in 2016-17 were slightly higher than they were a decade ago, and also higher than they were at their lowest level in 1999-00 with a reconviction rate of 16.8% and average reconvictions of 0.29 ([Table 3](#)). The cohort size for the over 40 group is almost double the size it was 20 years ago, and as the over 40 group has the lowest reconviction rates of any age group, this has been a partial driver of the reductions seen in the overall national reconviction rate.

Age and gender

Patterns of change in reconvictions (both rates and average numbers) for males of different age groups are generally similar over time ([Table 4](#)) to those for all offenders ([Table 3](#)), as males comprise the majority of offenders in the cohort (82% in 2016-17) ([Chart 5](#)).

For male age groups between 2015-16 and 2016-17, the reconviction rate decreased for all age groups except the 21 to 25 age group. The decreases ranged from a 0.1 percentage point decrease in the 26 to 30 and 31 to 40 age groups, to a 1.4 decrease in the under 21 age group. The reconviction rate for the 21 to 25 year age group increased by 1.1 percentage points. The average number of reconvictions also saw the same directions of change as the

reconviction rates over the same period, with the exception of the under 21 age group which did not change ([Table 4](#)).

Under 21s had the highest average number of reconvictions of the male age groups in 2016-17 (0.63), followed by 31 to 40 (0.54), 26 to 30 and 21 to 25 (0.51); with the over 40s having the lowest (0.35) ([Chart 3](#)). Historically the average number of reconvictions used to decrease with age, but in recent years the pattern has changed as the gap has narrowed between the age groups, and the 21 to 40 year age groups are now very similar to each other ([Table 4](#) and [Chart 5](#)).

For females, patterns of change in reconvictions between 2015-16 and 2016-17 were mixed. The reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions decreased for the under 21 age group, with a 1 percentage point decrease in the reconviction rate and a 9% decrease in the average number of reconvictions. The over 40 age group saw a small decrease in both measures of reconvictions. The reconviction rate increased by 1 percentage point in the 21 to 25 and 31 to 40 age groups, and increased by 1.7 percentage points in the 26 to 30 age group. The average number of reconvictions increased by 9% for the 26 to 30 age group over the past year, and by 6% for the 31 to 40 age group. Although the reconviction rate increased over the past year for the 21 to 25 age group, the average number of reconvictions decreased slightly for this group ([Table 5](#)).

For females, the pattern of reconvictions across age groups is slightly different to males. In 2016-17, the age group with the highest average number of reconvictions was the 31 to 40 group (0.53), followed by 26 to 30 (0.50), under 21 (0.41), 21 to 25 (0.37); with the lowest for the over 40s (0.31) ([Chart 3](#)). The most notable difference to males is for the under 21 age group, which has always been highest of the male age groups, but this hasn't been the case for the under 21 female age group since 2001-02 ([Table 5](#) and [Chart 6](#)).

Chart 5: Average number of reconvictions per offender, males by age: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts

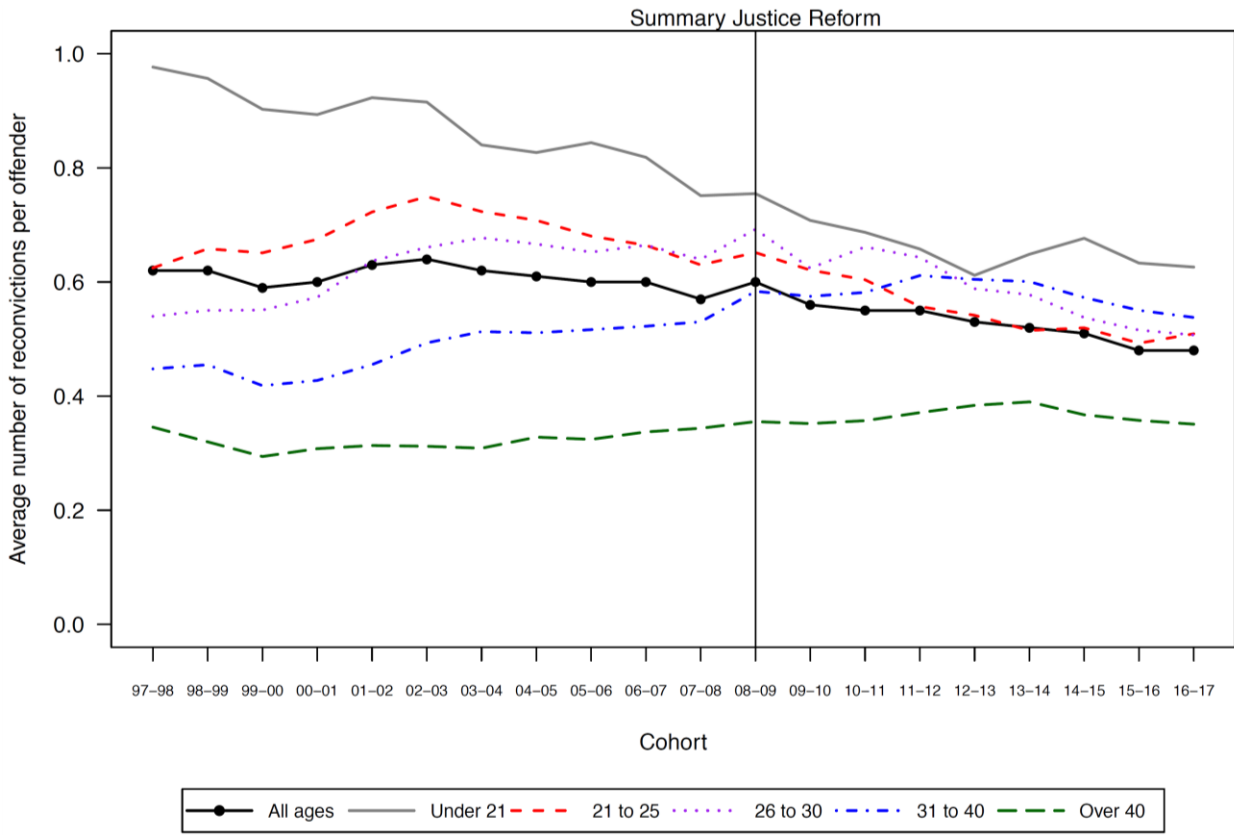
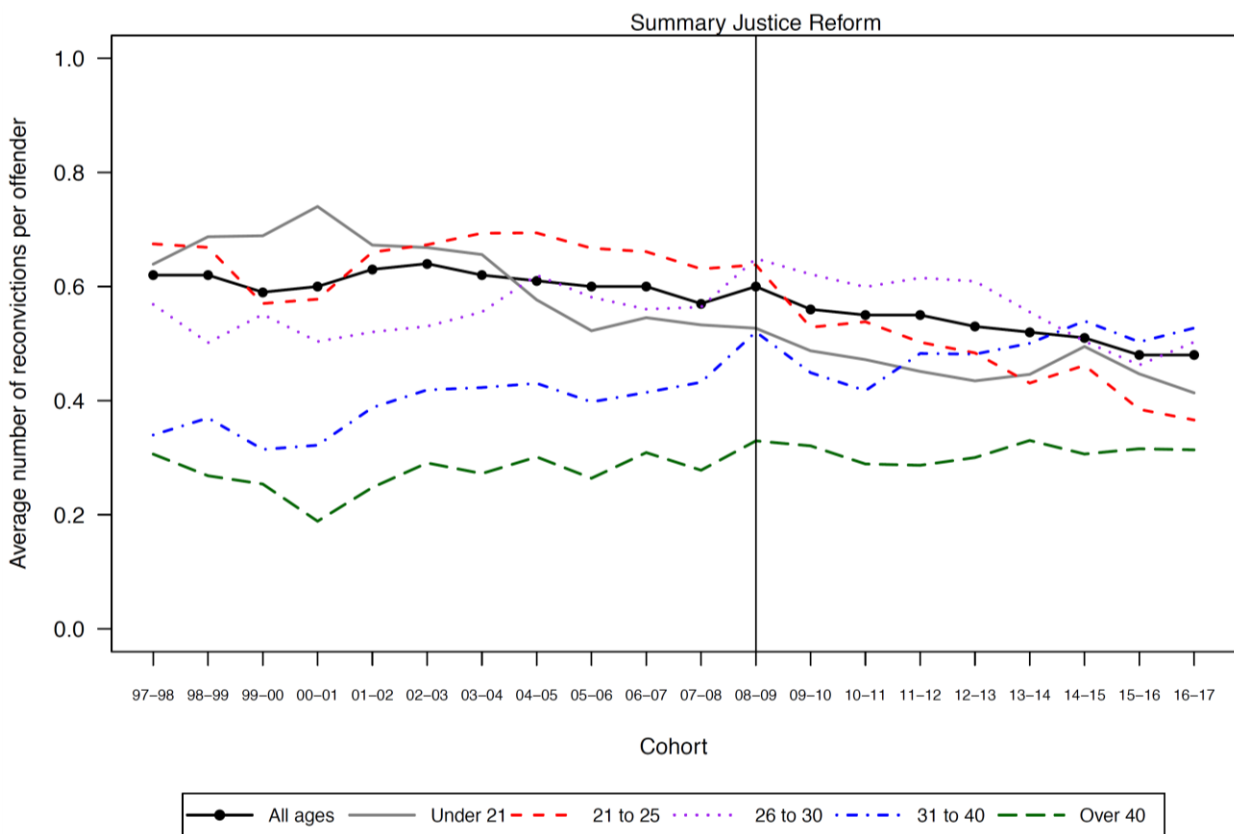


Chart 6: Average number of reconvictions per offender, females by age: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts



1.3 Index crime

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

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

In general, offenders who were convicted for lower level index crimes which tend to be committed in higher volumes, are more likely to be reoffend than those who commit more serious crimes. However, note that different disposals are given for different crimes, which may also affect the likelihood of reoffending. As has been true since 1997-98, offenders with an index crime of dishonesty, for example shoplifting (see [Annex Table A2](#) for crime groupings), have the highest average number of reconvictions per offender and reconviction rate of any of the index crimes ([Table 6](#) and [Chart 7](#)). For offenders convicted of crimes of dishonesty in the 2016-17 cohort, the reconviction rate was 43.5%, and there was an average of nearly 1 reconviction per offender (0.94). This compares to offenders with an index crime of a sexual crime, which had the lowest reconviction rate (10.6%) and lowest average number of reconvictions per offender (0.16) of any index crime ([Chart 7](#) and [Table 6](#)).

Offenders from the 2016-17 cohort who had index crimes, other than sexual crimes or crimes of dishonesty, had an average number of reconvictions per offender ranging between 0.34 for violent crime and 0.50 for other crimes and offences. The reconviction rates ranged between 21.5% for violent crime, and 30.4% for other crimes and offences ([Table 6](#) and [Chart 7](#)).

As with other trends in this publication, reconvictions for different crimes in 2016-17 were very similar to 2015-16 across all crime types ([Table 6](#) and [Chart 7](#)). Reconviction rates and the average number of reconvictions for sexual crimes, criminal damage, breach of the peace, and other crimes and offences decreased slightly between 2015-16 and 2016-17. The largest decrease in the reconviction rate was a 0.8 percentage point decrease for breach of the peace from 26.0% to 25.2%, and the largest decrease in the average number of reconvictions was a 7% decrease for the Other crimes and offences category from 0.54 to 0.50.

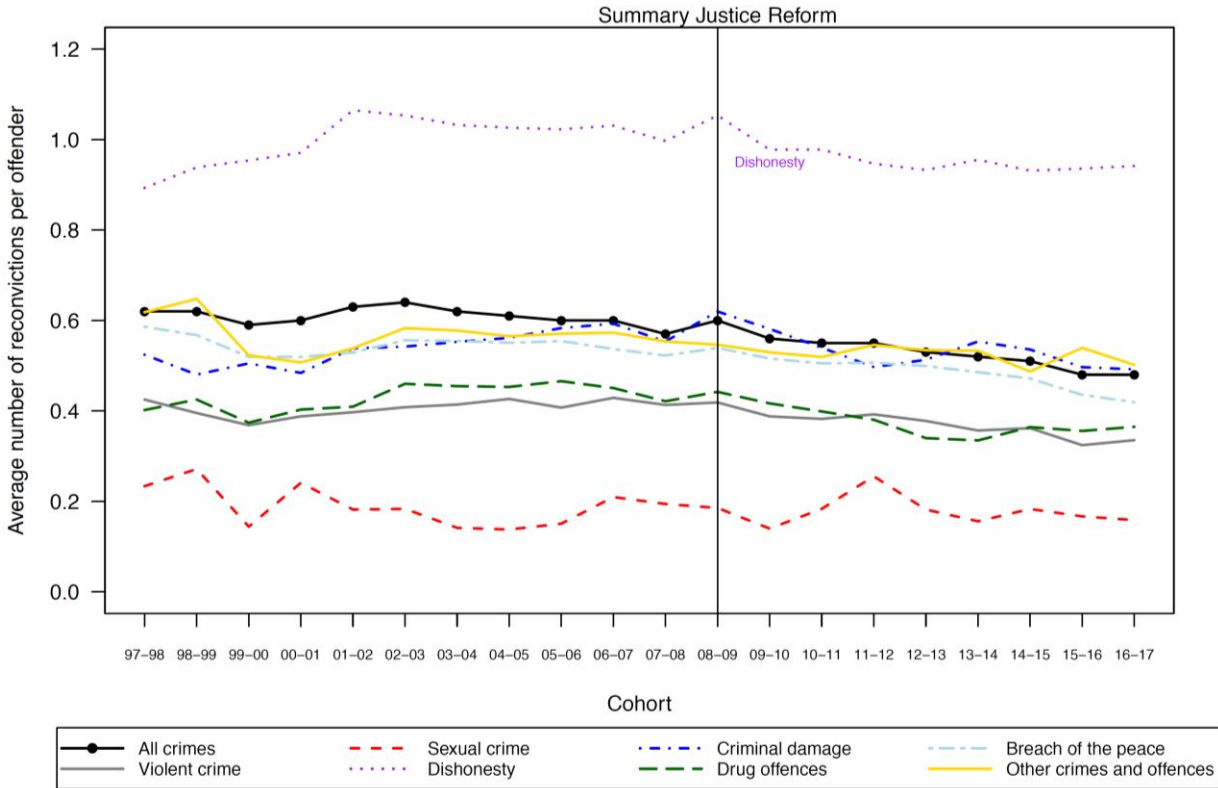
The largest increase in reconvictions between 2015-16 and 2016-17 was for violent crime, which had a small 0.6 percentage increase from 20.9% to 21.5%, and a 6% increase in the average number of reconvictions from 0.32 to 0.34. However, reconvictions for violent crime in 2016-17 are still relatively low, with the second lowest recorded figures in this publication after the 2015-16 figures.

For drug offences and crimes of dishonesty, the reconviction rate slightly increased by 0.2 and 0.3 percentage points, respectively, between 2015-16

and 2016-17. The average number of reconvictions remained the same for the two types of crimes/offences in the same period.

Over the past decade, trends in reconvictions across crimes have been mixed. Violent crime, breach of peace, and drug offences have shown a general downwards trend, whereas other groups have tended to fluctuate from year to year with no clear trend ([Table 6](#) and [Chart 7](#)).

Chart 7: Average number of reconvictions per offender, by index crime: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts



Reconviction crime by index crime

[Table 7](#) shows the types of crimes that offenders in the 2016-17 cohort were reconvicted for, by each type of index crime. The majority of offenders in the cohort (almost three quarters, 72.8%) were not reconvicted for any crime. For those that were reconvicted, more were reconvicted for breach of the peace than any other type of crime (10.2% of all offenders) and fewer offenders were reconvicted for a sexual crime (0.3% of all offenders).

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

1.4 Domestic abuse index crimes and offences ([Table 8a](#) and [Table 8b](#))

[Table 8a](#) and [Table 8b](#) show the reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender, respectively, for offenders with domestic abuse and non-domestic abuse index crimes and offences from 2009-10 to 2016-17. The tables also show the percentage of offenders reconvicted for a domestic crime or offence, and the average number of reconvictions for a domestic abuse crime or offence per offender. Note that the crimes and offences are mostly referred to as “crimes” below for brevity.

The crimes counted here as domestic abuse index convictions or reconvictions are not standalone domestic abuse crimes. Those counted are crimes that are domestically aggravated, and are marked with a non-statutory domestic abuse identifier on the CHS. For example, a common assault offence committed against a partner would be given a domestic abuse identifier. Crimes are marked with the identifier by the police or COPFS and are taken into account during sentencing. A new standalone offence of domestic abuse was created by the [Domestic Abuse \(Scotland\) Act 2018](#). This offence covers a course of behaviour which is abusive of a person’s partner or ex-partner. This offence was introduced on 1st April 2019 which is later than the date covered by this bulletin so they are not counted here. This will be included in the future once they feed into the SOI. See [Annex B](#) for information on data quality.

[Table 8a](#) shows that offenders with a domestic abuse index crime were more likely to be reconvicted for a non-domestic abuse crime than a domestic abuse crime. In 2016-17, 20.4% of offenders with a domestic abuse index crime were reconvicted for any crime, compared to 9.2% convicted for domestic abuse crimes. Note that the percentage reconvicted for any crime includes those reconvicted for domestic abuse crimes, so the percent reconvicted for non-domestic abuse crimes can be calculated by subtraction, which gives a figure of 11.2% of offenders with a domestic abuse index crime reconvicted for a non-domestic abuse offence.

[Table 8a](#) shows that the percentage of offenders with a domestic abuse index crime who were reconvicted for a further domestic crime increased slightly by 0.4 percentage points from 8.8% in 2015-16 to 9.2% in 2016-17. [Table 8b](#) shows that there was a very small increase in the average number of reconvictions for a further domestic abuse crime for domestic abuse offenders from 0.10 in 2015-16 to 0.11 in 2016-17. Over the last six years, for domestic offenders the percentage reconvicted for a further domestic abuse crime and the average number of reconvictions for a further domestic abuse crime has been similar, with small year to year fluctuations.

[Additional tables](#) showing reconvictions for domestic abuse offenders by age, gender, crime, and disposal are published alongside this publication. The patterns for offenders with a domestic abuse index conviction that were reconvicted for a further domestic abuse crime follow similar patterns to reconvictions for all offenders across all types of crimes that are presented in

the other sections of this bulletin. For example, a higher percentage of men are reconvicted for another domestic abuse crime than women (9.8% of males and 5.6% of females in 2016-17), and reconvictions for those given custodial sentences were higher than those given community sentences. There was no relationship between age and reconvictions.

1.5 Index disposal

[\(Table 9\)](#)

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

A disposal may reduce the likelihood of reoffending as offenders are rehabilitated. However, different disposals are given for different types of crime and differing offending histories, and as seen elsewhere in this bulletin, these factors are also predictors of whether an offender is likely to reoffend or not. These factors should be considered when comparing the effectiveness of different types of sentences. [Table 11](#) and the *Reconviction rates by disposal, age, sex and previous convictions* table in the [additional tables](#) published with this publication give reconviction rates for different offender characteristics for the disposals.

Custodial sentences

Reconviction rates for extended sentences (ES) and supervised release orders (SROs) are presented separately from other custodial sentences ([Table 9](#)). The custodial sentence category only includes those that were sent to prison or young offenders institutions, plus a small number of orders for lifelong restriction. Note that the SROs and ES are included in the custodial sentence length table along with the other custodial sentences ([Table 10a](#)).

Offenders released from a custodial sentence in 2016-17 had a higher reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender than offenders given any other disposal except a DTTO. The reconviction rate for offenders released from custody in 2016-17 cohort was 42.3%, a 1.4 percentage point decrease on the 2015-16 rate of 43.7%. The average number of reconvictions per offender decreased by 5% from 0.86 to 0.82 in the same period ([Table 9](#) and [Chart 8](#)). Note that reconviction rates for different lengths of custodial sentences vary considerably which is discussed in the next section of this bulletin.

Over the last decade, for those released from custodial sentences, there has been a 20% decrease from just over one reconviction per offender on average (1.02) in 2007-08, to below one on average (0.82) in 2016-17 ([Table 9](#), [Chart 8](#)).

Extended Sentences (ES) are custodial sentences given for sexual crimes, or violent crimes that attract a custodial sentence of 4 years or more. ES have a period of supervision of up to 10 years in the community after the custodial sentence. If offenders breach their licence during the extended part of the sentence they can be recalled to prison. Reconviction rates for ES, like other custodial sentences, are based on the estimated release date from the custodial part of the sentence. We do not have information on the length of the supervision period on our dataset, just the length of the custodial part of the sentence. The reconviction rates are low compared to other disposals, in part, because they are generally given to sex offenders, who are typically reconvicted less than other offenders ([Table 6](#) shows that offenders convicted of a sexual crime had the lowest reconviction rates for any index crime). Reconviction rates for ES decreased between 2015-16 and 2016-17 by 1.1 percentage points from 12.6% to 11.5%. The average number of reconvictions in 2016-17 was 0.13, which was slightly lower than 0.15 in 2015-16. Reconvictions have fluctuated from year to year for ES, which in part is probably due to the small cohort sizes and low numbers of reconvictions, where a small change would have a greater effect on percentages compared to larger cohorts ([Table 9](#) and [Chart 8](#)).

SROs are given for crimes other than sexual crimes and consist of a custodial sentence of 1 to 4 years, followed by a period of supervision of up to a year by a social worker. If the offender breaches the order they can be returned to prison. As with ES, we do not have information on the length of the supervision period on our dataset. Reconvictions for SROs are lower than non-supervised custodial sentences. The reconviction rate of 36.6% for SROs in 2016-17 was slightly lower (0.2 percentage points) than the figure of 36.8% in 2015-16, and the average number of reconvictions decreased by 6% from 0.62 to 0.58 in the same period. In the last decade, reconvictions for SROs have been fluctuating, but were broadly similar in the last five years ([Table 9](#) and [Chart 8](#)).

Community sentences: CPOs, DTTOs, RLOs

Community Payback Orders (CPOs) are a community sentence and consist of one or more of nine requirements imposed by the courts, including: offender supervision, compensation, unpaid work or other activity, mental health treatment, drug treatment and alcohol treatment. Every order must contain either an unpaid work or other activity requirement, or an offender supervision requirement (or both). If an offender fails to comply with a requirement in the order, the court can impose a number of sanctions, including a restricted movement requirement.

CPOs replaced the **legacy community orders** in 2011. There were still a very small number of offenders given a legacy community order in 2016-17 as they were given for offences committed prior to February 2011. During the transition from legacy orders to CPOs from 2010-11 to 2013-14, there were changes in the characteristics of offenders that were given these disposal types. [Annex D](#) gives a brief overview of the trends during the transitional period.

CPOs are the mostly widely used community sentence, with a cohort size of 10,016 in 2016-17. Reconvictions for CPOs were almost the same in 2016-17 as they were in 2015-16. The reconviction rate in 2016-17 was 31.2% which was 0.1 percentage points higher than 2015-16 and the average number of reconvictions per offender was 0.55 in both years. Reconvictions for CPOs have slightly fluctuated year to year after the transitional period from 2013-14 onwards, with no upwards or downwards trend ([Table 9](#) and [Chart 8](#)).

A Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO) is a high tariff disposal for people with serious drug use problems, and includes the requirement for regular reviews by the court and that the person consents to frequent random drug tests throughout the lifetime of the order. Offenders given a DTTO have the highest average number of reconvictions per offender and the highest reconviction rate compared to the other disposals ([Table 9](#) and [Chart 8](#)). The average number of reconvictions per offender was 1.47 in 2016-17, which is a decrease of 16% from 1.76 in 2015-16. The reconviction rate decreased by 2.9 percentage points over the same period from 67.2% to 64.3%.

Over the longer term, reconvictions for DTTOs are lower than they were a decade ago, with the average number of convictions falling by 24% over the past decade from 1.94 in 2007-08 to 1.47 in 2016-17, although they fluctuated between 2008-09 and 2015-16. Reconvictions rates are also lower than they were 10 years ago, and have also been somewhat similar since then, with year to year fluctuations.

Restriction of Liberty Orders (RLOs) are imposed for periods of up to one year, and involve restricting an individual to a specified place for up to 12 hours per day and/or from a specified place for up to 24 hours. The reconviction rate for RLOs in 2016-17 of 33.6% was slightly lower (0.7 percentage points) than the figure of 34.3% in 2015-16. The average number of reconvictions was 0.59 in 2016-17 which was the same as the previous year.

Over the longer term, reconvictions are now much lower for RLOs than they used to be, with the average number of reconvictions decreasing by 43% over the past decade from 1.04 in 2007-08 to 0.59 in 2016-17. RLOs have been more widely used over the past decade, with the size of the cohort more than doubling from 556 in 2007-08 to 1,391 in 2016-17 ([Table 9](#) and [Chart 8](#)).

Monetary and other disposals

The reconviction rate and the average number of reconvictions for **monetary disposals** in 2016-17 were very similar to the figures in 2015-16. The reconviction rate decreased slightly by 0.2 percentage points from 21.3% in 2015-16, to 21.1% in 2016-17. The average number of reconvictions also decreased slightly over the same period, from 0.34 to 0.33.

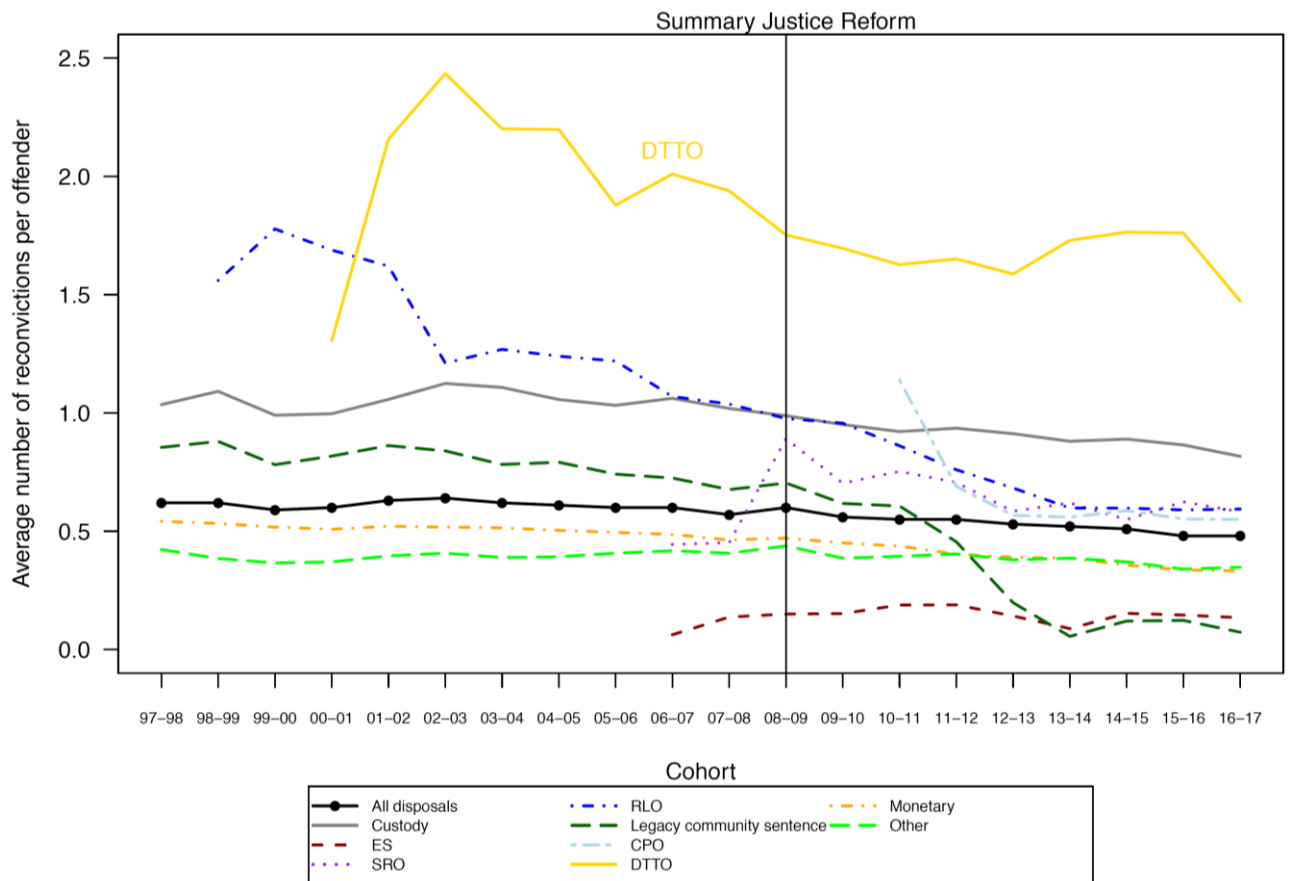
The numbers of offenders with a monetary index conviction has more than halved in the past decade from 27,495 offenders in 2007-08 to 13,305 in 2016-17. This may, in part, reflect the impact of Summary Justice Reform which was

designed to take less serious cases out of the court system, and deal with them using non-court disposals (see [Section 2](#)). Reconvictions have also fallen for monetary disposals in the past decade, with the average number of reconvictions decreasing by 28% from 0.46 in 2007-08 to 0.33 in 2016-17 ([Table 9](#) and [Chart 8](#)).

For **Other disposals**, which includes admonishments, cautions, and absolute discharges; figures were also very similar between 2016-17 and 2015-16. The reconviction rate of 20.2% in 2016-17 was slightly lower (by 0.2 percentage points) than the figure of 20.4% in 2015-16. The average number of reconvictions per offender was slightly higher in 2016-17 with a figure of 0.35 compared to 0.34 in 2015-16.

Over time, reconvictions for Other disposals have fluctuated with no clear trend. In the past decade the reconviction rates have ranged from 20.2% to 23.5% and the average number of reconvictions per offender ranged from 0.34 to 0.44 ([Table 9](#) and [Chart 8](#)).

Chart 8: Average number of reconvictions per offender by index disposal: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts



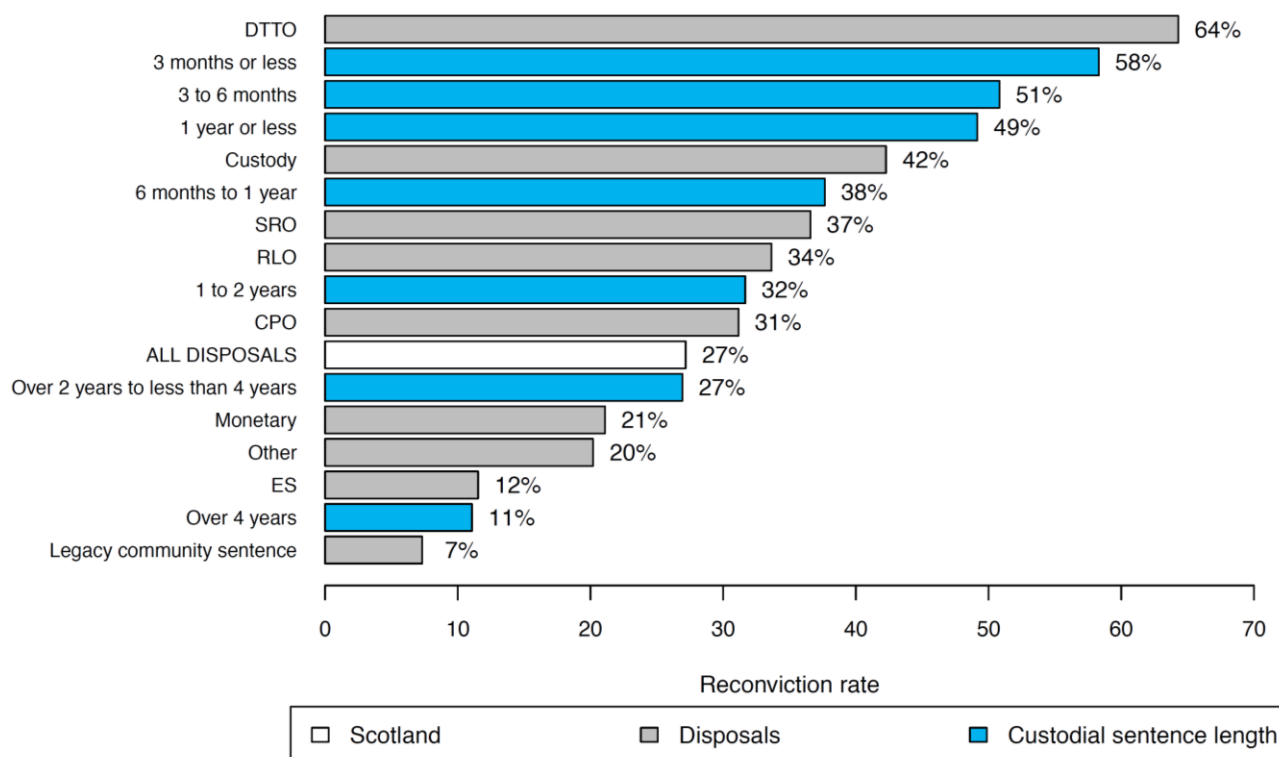
1.6 Sentence length of custodial index conviction

([Table 10a](#) and [Table 10b](#))

Note that [Table 10a](#) which presents reconviction rates by custodial sentence length, includes ES and SROs, whereas they are presented separately from other custodial sentences in [Table 9](#). This is because the numbers of ES and SROs are small in each sentence length category and it is difficult to interpret reconviction rates calculated on small groups.

Short custodial sentences have high reconviction rates ([Table 10a](#) and [Chart 9](#)). Offenders who commit relatively less serious crimes but in high volumes are more likely to be reconvicted (see [Section 1.3](#)), and these offenders are more likely to get short custodial sentences. In contrast, longer custodial sentences are given to offenders who commit more serious crimes, but these offenders tend to commit these crimes in low volumes, and hence fewer are reconvicted. For example, the reconviction rate for custodial sentences of 3 months or less in 2016-17 was 58.3%, compared to 11.1% for sentences over 4 years.

Chart 9: Reconviction rates for index disposals and sentence lengths for the 2016-17 cohort¹



1. Chart 9 shows reconviction rates for each disposal type. The category “disposal from custody” shows reconviction rates for all offenders discharged from a prison or young offender institutions in 2016-17. SROs and ES are presented separately. Custodial sentence length includes all custodial sentences (prison, young offender institutions, ES, and SROs).

There is a mixed picture for changes in reconvictions over the past year for different lengths of custodial sentences ([Table 10a](#)). Reconviction rates decreased for all sentence lengths of 1 year or less, but increased for

sentences over 1 year. Average numbers of reconvictions also followed a similar trend, except for sentences of over 2 years and less than 4 years that saw an increase in the reconviction rate of 1.5 percentage points (the largest increase of any sentence length), but a small decrease in the average number of reconvictions.

The decreases in reconvictions for sentences between 3 months to 1 year, over the past year were notable. There was a 6% decrease in the average reconvictions for sentences of 3 to 6 months, from 1.08 in 2015-16, to 1.02 in 2016-17. Sentences of 6 months to 1 year decreased by 10% from 0.79 in 2015-16 to 0.71 in 2016-17. However, the 2016-17 figures for shorter sentences remain relatively high compared to other disposals (compare [Table 10a](#) to [Table 9](#), and [Chart 9](#) shows a comparison of reconviction rates).

The picture is somewhat complicated over the longer term for all sentence lengths ([Table 10a](#)). Over the past 20 years, reconvictions have fluctuated for all sentence lengths.

[Table 10b](#) shows reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions for all custodial sentences of 1 year or less from 1997-98 to 2016-17. These combine all the 1 year or less custodial sentence length reconvictions that are presented in [Table 10a](#). This table has been included in response to user need for these figures.

1.7 Conviction history prior to index conviction

[\(Table 11\)](#)

Conviction history is a strong predictor for the likelihood of reconviction, as reconviction rates increase with increasing numbers of previous reconvictions. Offenders with more than 10 previous convictions have the highest reconviction rates, whereas offenders with no previous convictions in the past ten years have the lowest reconviction rates. This pattern holds true even when age, sex, or disposal (all of which have an association with the likelihood of reconviction) are taken into account ([Table 11](#)).

1.8 Two year rates

[\(Table 14\)](#)

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

Using the two-year follow up period there has been a decrease in the reconviction rate and in the average number of reconvictions per offender every year from 2009-10 onwards ([Table 14](#)). Between 2014-15 and 2015-16, the reconviction rate decreased by 1.7 percentage points from 39.0% to 37.3%, and the average number of reconvictions fell by 7% from 0.92 to 0.86. Over 10 years from 2006-07 to 2015-16, the average number of reconvictions

per offender has fallen by 21% from 1.09 to 0.86, and the reconviction rate saw a 6.8 percentage point reduction from 44.1% to 37.3%.

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

- In 2015-16, the two-year reconviction rate was 10.1 percentage points higher than the rate for the one-year reconviction rate (37.3% for the two year compared to 27.2% for the one year rate).
- The average reconvictions per offender are over a third of a conviction (0.38) higher for the two-year rate (0.86 reconvictions per offender on average over two years, compared to 0.48 over one year).

2. Main findings: Repeat non-court disposals

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

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

2.1 Police disposals

([Table 15](#) and [Table 19](#))

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

- **Anti-Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Notices** (ASBFPNs) as provided for in the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004 for a range of offences including drunken-related behaviours and playing loud music;
- **Formal Adult Warnings** are for minor offences where a warning letter is issued to the individual and were in force until 11th January 2016, when they were replaced and extended by **Recorded Police Warnings** which cover a wider range of offences.

- Actions which are used specifically for young people (aged 8 to 17) such as **Restorative Justice Warnings** and **Early and Effective Interventions (EEI)**.

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

The repeat non-court disposal rate for police disposals in 2016-17 was 18.5% ([Table 19](#)).

Of all the individuals given a non-court disposal (by the police or COPFS) in 2016-17, those given a Formal Adult Warning had the highest repeat non-court disposal rate (25.0%) and the highest average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual (0.47) of any non-court disposal, which is a large increase from 10.8% and 0.15, respectively, in 2015-16. However, as they have been replaced by Recorded Police Warnings and were only given to a small number of individuals (for offences prior to 11th January 2016), they are not directly comparable with previous years ([Table 15](#)).

Early and Effective Interventions (EEI) had the second highest repeat non-court disposal rate and average numbers of repeat non-court disposals in 2016-17. Although note that this was behind the Formal Adult Warnings, which as noted above, were only given to a small number of individuals in 2016-17. There has also been an increase in the number of repeat non-court disposals for individuals given an EEI over the past year. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, the repeat non-court disposal rate for EEIs increased by 1 percentage point from 23.6% to 24.6%. The average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual for EEIs increased by 12% from 0.41 to 0.46 ([Table 15](#)).

The repeat non-court disposal rate for **Recorded Police Warnings** was 15.3% in 2016-17, and the average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual was 0.20. These figures were slightly higher than 2015-16, however, as these disposals were only in place for the last 3 months of 2015-16, the two years are not directly comparable ([Table 15](#)).

The repeat non-court disposal rate for **ASBFPNs** was the same in 2016-17 and 2015-16 at 20.4%. The average number of repeat non-court disposals decreased by 9% over the past year from 0.35 to 0.32 ([Table 15](#)). Repeat non-court disposals for ASBFPNs are now much lower than they were four or more years ago. It should also be noted that the cohort size is much lower than it was historically, with the cohort size halving in the past year alone. The decrease in cohort size may be due to Police Scotland issuing revised guidance around the use of ASBFPNs, and there may be some displacement by the use of Recorded Police Warnings in the past year.

2.2 Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) disposals

([Table 16](#) and [Table 19](#))

These non-court disposals are available to COPFS:

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

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

The repeat non-court disposal rate for COPFS disposals was 14.5% in 2016-17 ([Table 19](#)). Between 2008-09 and 2016-17, all COPFS disposals have seen a decrease in the repeat non-court disposal rate and the average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual. Over the past year, all of the COPFS disposals saw either a decrease or remained the same for both measures ([Table 16](#)).

Of those individuals given a COPFS disposal in 2016-17, those given a **Fiscal Fine** had the highest non-court disposal rate (18.5%), and the highest average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual (0.24). Individuals given a **Fiscal Fixed Penalty** had the lowest repeat non-court disposal rate (5.6%) and the lowest average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual (0.06) ([Table 16](#)).

Over the past year from 2015-16 to 2016-17, the repeat non-court disposal rate for **Fiscal Fines** decreased by 0.9 percentage points from 19.4% to 18.5%, and the average number of repeat non-court disposals decreased from 0.26 to 0.24. For **Fiscal Combined Fines With Compensation**, the repeat non-court disposal rate decreased by 2.9 percentage points from 20.0% to 17.2%, and the average number of repeat non-court disposals decreased by 17% from 0.24 to 0.20. For **Fiscal Compensation Orders**, the repeat non-court disposal rate of 14.9% in 2016-17 was 2.3 percentage points lower than the figure of 17.2% in 2015-16, and the average number of repeat non-court disposals decreased by 18% from 0.22 to 0.18. Both repeat measures for **Fiscal Fixed Penalties** were the same in 2015-16 and 2016-17 ([Table 16](#)).

Fiscal Warnings have been included for the first time in this bulletin and figures are provided from where we have data of sufficient quality from 2012-13 to the latest year of 2016-17. Both measures of repeat non-court disposals for Fiscal Warnings were the second lowest of any non-court disposal in 2016-17 after Fiscal Fixed Penalties. The repeat non-court disposal rate was 13.5% in 2016-17, which was slightly lower (0.4 percentage points) than the figure of 13.9% in 2015-16. The average number of repeat non-court disposals was the

same (0.18) in 2016-17 and 2015-16. Over the past four years, repeat non-court disposals for Fiscal Warnings have been similar each year, and were slightly higher five years ago in 2012-13 ([Table 16](#)).

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

2.3 Characteristics of individuals given non-court disposals

[Table 17](#) shows the repeat non-court disposal rate and average number of repeat non-court disposals from 2008-09 to 2016-17 by gender and [Table 18](#) shows them by age. In [Tables 17](#) and [18](#), all the types of non-court disposal are combined together. [Table 19](#) shows the percentage of individuals given a repeat non-court disposal in 2016-17 for each type of non-court disposal, by age and gender.

Like reconvictions in court, males and younger people are more likely to receive further non-court disposals than females and older people ([Table 17](#), [Table 18](#), and [Table 19](#)).

17.4% of males who received a non-court disposal in 2015-16 were given another non-court disposal within a year, compared to 13.8% of females ([Table 17](#)). The figure has been decreasing for males in each of the past 4 years, whereas they have been relatively stable for females over the same period.

The percentage of individuals given a repeat non-court disposal decreases with increasing age, with a repeat non-court disposal rate of 22.1% for under 21s, compared to 12.9% for the over 40s ([Table 18](#)). Repeat non-court disposals decreased across all age groups between 2015-16 and 2016-17, with the exception of the over 40 age group which had the same repeat non-court disposal rate in both years, and had a small decrease in the average number of repeat non-court disposals.

3. Comparing reconviction rates across local authorities

([Table 12](#))

Estimating reconviction rates for local authorities

In *Reconviction rates in Scotland*, we have historically only published reconviction rates for local authorities based on information for offenders convicted in courts that fall within that local authority area's boundary. This is because it was the only information on local authority that we could obtain. However, the areas that courts serve do not exactly match local authorities;

and offenders may be convicted in a court located in a different administrative area to where they live, yet they would be supervised in their area of residence (see [Annex A12](#) and the footnote of [Table 12](#)). The characteristics of offenders are also likely to vary across local authority areas, therefore such comparisons between areas should be treated with caution, and it is suggested that a method which takes these factors into account should be employed (see [section 3.1](#)).

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

Local authority reconviction rates based on court area

Reconviction rates vary across local authority groups (based on the area covered by courts). Note that because some sheriff courts cover more than one local authority, we cannot distinguish between convictions in the different local authorities. Therefore some local authorities are grouped together, so that there are 25 groups rather than 32 separate local authorities.

This year, for the first time we have separated out convictions in High Courts from local authority groups. Previously High Court convictions were included in the local authority group where High Courts were located. As the appearance of offenders at a particular High Court does not necessarily have any reflection on the local authority they were from, or where the offences were committed, they have been removed from the local authority groups. Removing these slightly elevates the reconviction rates by less than 1 percentage point for the local authority groups where the High Court permanently sits, which are: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire, Edinburgh and Midlothian, and Glasgow City; as offenders convicted for more serious offences typically have low reconviction rates. It has had little effect on rates for the local authority groups where the High Court periodically sits, which are: Dunbartonshire, East and West; Lanarkshire, North and South; Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire; Stirling; and West Lothian. The [additional tables](#) published alongside this publication present revised reconviction rates for previous cohorts of local authority groups.

[Table 12](#) shows that the highest reconviction rate in the 2016-17 cohort was for offenders whose index conviction was given in courts in Clackmannanshire (31.6%). Clackmannanshire also had had the highest number of reconvictions per offender on average along with Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire (0.64).

Excluding convictions in the High Court, the lowest reconviction rate (17.0%), and lowest average number of reconvictions per offender (0.21), were for offenders whose index conviction was given at a court in Na h-Eileanan Siar. These are unadjusted figures which do not take account of underlying differences in population size and the characteristics of offenders in each area (see [section 3.1](#) for comparisons of standardised reconviction rates which take these into account).

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

Local authority reconviction rates based on residence

[Table 13](#) shows reconviction rates based on the local authority of offenders' residence. This is achieved by matching the local authority to the first half of offenders' postcodes. The local authority reconviction rates based on postcode are currently labelled as [Experimental Statistics: Data being developed](#), as this analysis was only introduced last year, and we did not have postcodes for a fifth of offenders (20%) with an index conviction in 2016-17. Postcodes may be missing because offenders have no fixed abode, but it may also be a recording issue.

Custodial sentences have a higher percentage of missing postcodes compared to other sentences. 30% of offenders with an index disposal of a custodial sentence were missing postcodes. This is not surprising as many custodial sentences counted here would have been recorded on the CHS before Police Scotland started sending us conviction data with postcode information. Sentences over 4 years have the highest percentage of missing postcodes, with 46% of offenders missing postcodes. Note that the data quality issues around the recording of postcodes only affects the local authority reconviction rates presented in [Table 13](#) and does not affect any of the other reconviction rates presented in this publication.

Annex [Table B1](#) shows the number and percentage of offenders with missing postcodes in each local authority group, based on the location of the court they were convicted in. It also shows the percentage of offenders living in the local authorities that are covered by the court areas, and the percentages that live in different local authorities to those covered by the court areas. This shows that there are significant percentages of offenders who are convicted in a court that covers a different local authority to where they live. Stirling had the highest percentage (29%) of offenders living in a different local authority to the court area where they were convicted. Note that percentages may be higher in other local authority groups but this cannot be determined due to the missing postcode data.

The group with missing postcodes had a higher reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions (31.1% and 0.58) compared to the national rates for

Scotland as a whole (27.2% and 0.48). This suggests that there is possibly some bias in the recording of postcodes.

Reconviction rates based on postcode data varied between 33.3% for Aberdeen to 20.7% for Na h-Eileanan Siar ([Table 13](#)). However, as Annex [Table B1](#) shows, there is variation in the percentages of missing postcodes between local authorities, so direct comparisons between local authorities should be treated with caution. The missing data may mean that the reconviction rates are over or underinflated, but we do not have enough information to know fully know the effects of the missing data on the rates. Also, different local authorities may have different mixes of offender characteristics, and small local authorities may experience greater fluctuations, which should be considered when comparing local authorities. The next section discusses these considerations in more detail (although those comparisons of local authorities are based on court area, the same factors would apply here).

3.1 Accounting for the variability between local authorities

Reconviction rates could be used to rank performance across different local authorities. However, there is an inherent problem in using this approach since it implicitly assumes that a difference in reconviction rates reflects a 'real' difference between local authorities. In reality, all systems within which these local authorities operate, no matter how stable, will produce variable outcomes in the normal run of events. In particular, outcomes in local authorities with smaller sized populations tend to vary more than those in local authorities with larger populations. The question we need to answer is therefore: Is the observed variation more or less than we would normally expect?

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

[Table 12](#) shows the average number of reconvictions per offender and reconviction rates for each local authority group (based on court area of conviction) and [Chart 10](#) shows these reconviction rates against the number of offenders. The plot takes into account the increased variability of the local authority groups with smaller populations, where a small increase in the number of reconvictions may lead to a large percentage change in the reconviction rate. Rates for local authority groups which lie inside the funnel are not significantly different from the national rate, and we can then usefully focus on possible explanations for rates which deviate significantly from the

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

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

national figure. In this case, the cut-off level for statistical significance is 95% (or two standard deviations from the mean): if there were no difference between local authorities groups apart from that which could reasonably be attributed to random variation, we would expect that 5% of the authorities (i.e. only 1 of them) would lie outside the funnel.

Note that East Lothian is not included in the charts as the number of offenders with an index conviction in this court in 2016-17 was too small to calculate a reconviction rate. The low numbers are due to the closure of Haddington Sheriff Court in 2015 and the transfer of business to Edinburgh Sheriff Court. The small number of offenders with an index convictions in East Lothian in the 2016-17 cohort are those that were given a custodial conviction in Haddington Sheriff Court prior to 2015 and were estimated to be released in 2016-17. These are included in [Table 12](#) this year, but in future bulletins East Lothian will only be grouped with Edinburgh and Midlothian.

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

[Chart 11](#) is standardised to take into account some of the differences between local authority groups attributable to the characteristics of offenders, such as the number of previous offences, sentence, gender, and age. It provides the standardised reconviction rates³ against the observed number of offenders minus expected number of offenders. Since all local authorities groups are within the funnel it suggests that the apparent differences in reconviction rates in [Chart 10](#) are primarily attributable to either the variation in the characteristics of the offenders, the type of crime they committed, or the sentence they received, rather than differences in 'performance' between the local authority groups. This overall conclusion for all local authorities on the 2016-17 cohort is consistent with findings in the previous [Reconviction Rates in Scotland](#) publications.

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

Chart 10: Reconviction rates by local authority group: 2016-17 cohort⁴

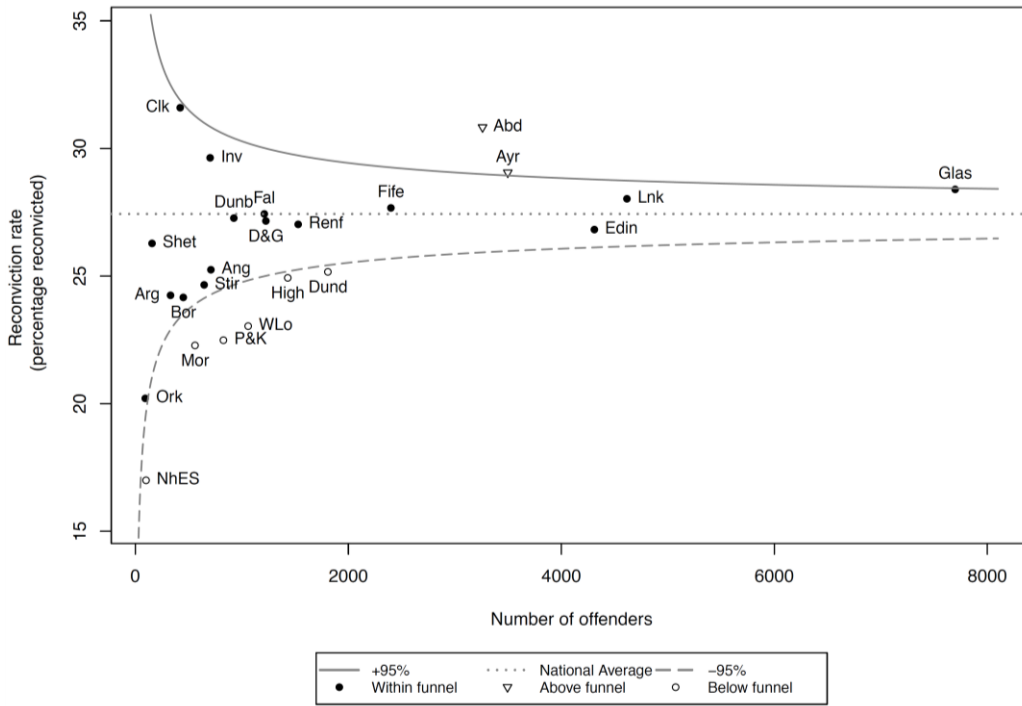
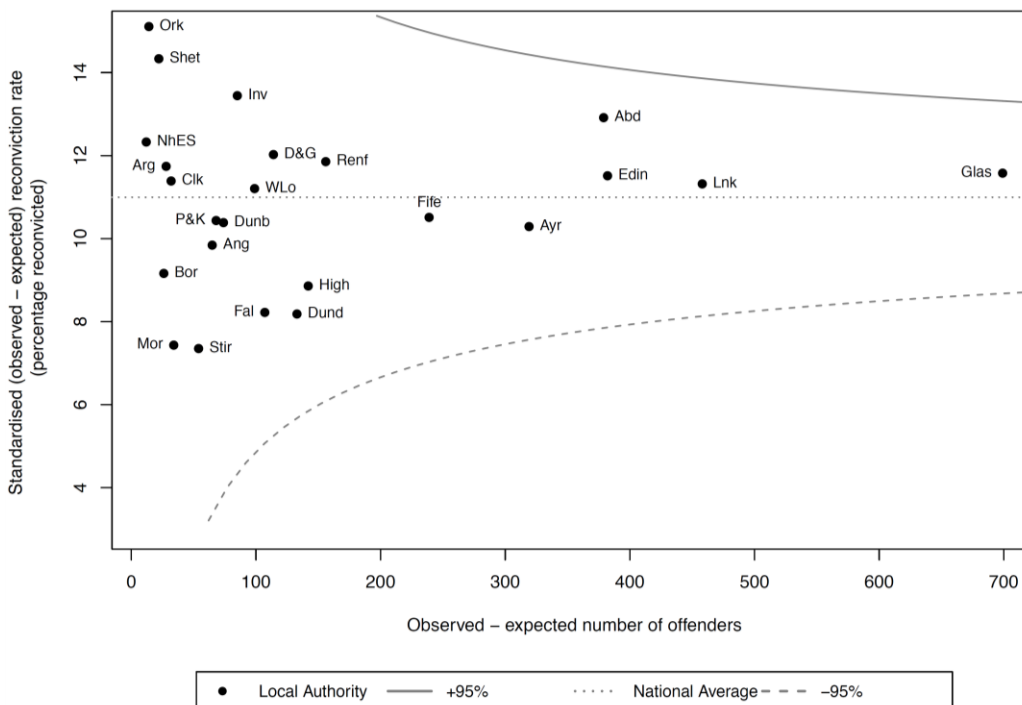


Chart 11: Standardised reconviction rates by local authority group: 2016-17 cohort³



⁴ Abbreviations for local authority groups used in Chart 10 and Chart 11: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire (Abd), Angus (Ang), Argyll & Bute (Arg), Ayrshire, East, North and South (Ayr), Scottish Borders (Bor), Clackmannanshire (Clk), Dunbartonshire, East and West (Dunb), Dumfries & Galloway (D&G), Dundee City (Dund), Edinburgh and Midlothian (Edin), East Lothian (ELo), Falkirk (Fal), Fife (Fife), Glasgow City (Glas), Highland (High), Inverclyde (Inv), Lanarkshire, North and South (Lnk), Moray (Mor), Na h-Eileanan Siar (NhES), Orkney Islands (Ork), Perth and Kinross (P&K), Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire (Renf), Shetland Islands (Shet), Stirling (Stir), West Lothian (WLo).

4. Number and type of previous convictions: 2008-09 to 2017-18

([Table 20](#) and [Table 21](#))

This section presents information on previous convictions for those offenders who were convicted on at least one occasion in 2017-18 ([Table 20](#)) or in previous years ([Table 21](#)). These two tables are compiled on a different basis to the rest of this publication. They look at convictions **before** a reference conviction, whereas reconvictions look at convictions **after** a reference conviction. Specifically, these tables look at the number of offenders convicted at least once in a year and then count the numbers of convictions they had over the previous ten years. If an offender had more than one conviction in the year, then the most recent conviction was counted as the reference conviction, and the earlier convictions were counted as previous convictions. In contrast, the reconviction tables in this publication focus on those with an index conviction in a particular year and then count how many were reconvicted in a year follow up period after that conviction. The most recent cohort here (2017-18) is one year later than the latest reconvictions cohort (2016-17), because there is not a year follow up period here. Note that convictions counted in [Table 20](#) and [Table 21](#) are the same type of those that are counted for reconvictions, which are all crimes in groups 1 to 5 and some offences in group 6 (see [Annex B1](#), [Annex B3](#), and [Annex Table A2](#) for more details), and non-court disposals are not included.

Of the 37,191 individuals convicted at least once in 2017-18 for a crime or relevant offence, 65% had at least one prior conviction in the previous ten years, whilst 13% had over ten previous convictions ([Table 21](#)).

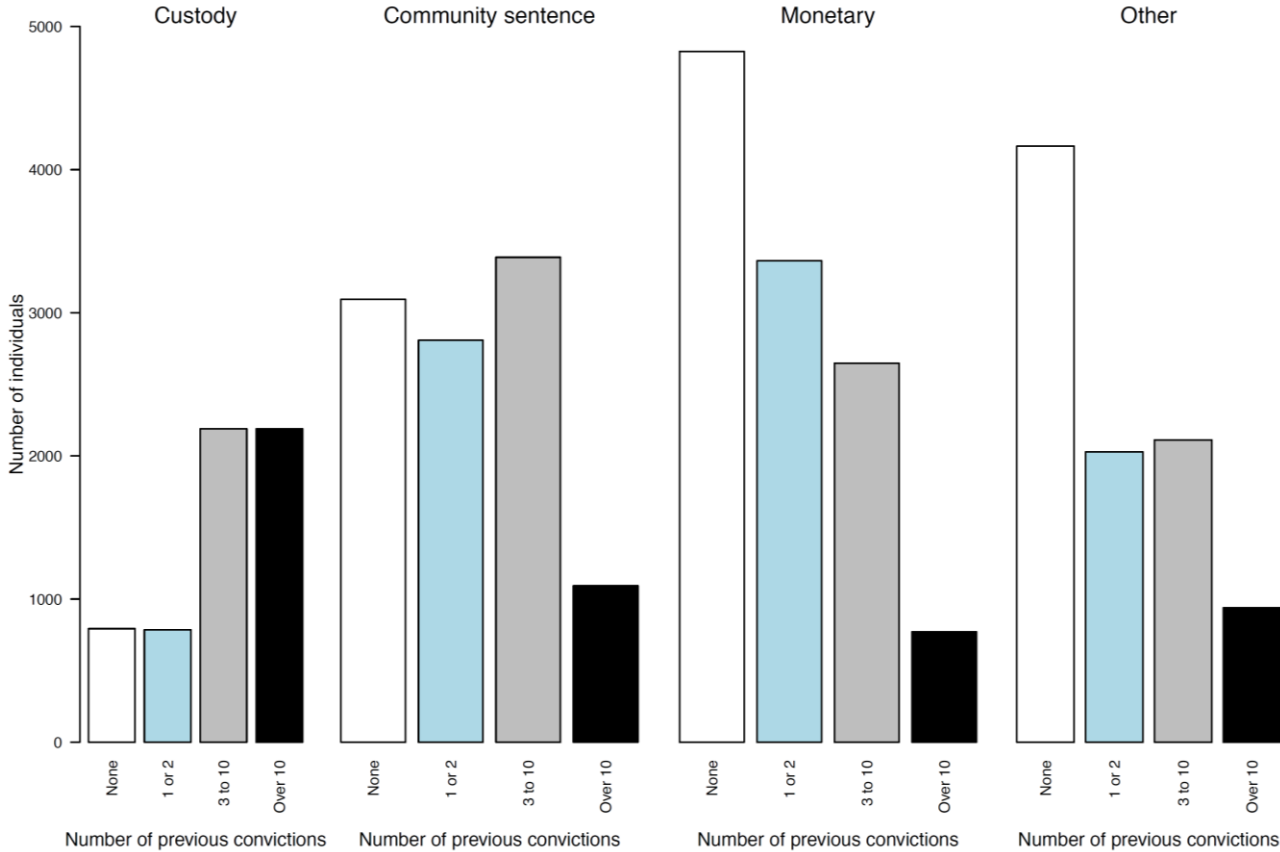
Consistent with the findings of previous [Reconviction Rates in Scotland](#) publications, sentencing is influenced by offending history as well as the circumstances of a particular case. [Table 20](#) and [Chart 12](#) show that:

- First time offenders tend to get monetary disposals (37 per cent of first time offenders) or other disposal such as caution/admonition (32 per cent). Community sentences account for 24 per cent and custodial sentences for 6 per cent of sentences for first time offenders.
- Sporadic offenders with one or two convictions in the past 10 years tend to get monetary disposals (37 per cent), community sentences (31 per cent), or other disposal (23 per cent). Custodial sentences account for 9 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 (33 per cent) or monetary disposals (26 per cent).
- Those with more than 10 convictions in the past 10 years tend to get custodial sentences (44 per cent).

The number of prior convictions for serious offences is strongly linked to the likelihood of getting a custodial sentence: 10% of those with no prior solemn convictions (i.e. in the high or sheriff solemn court) get a custodial sentence, rising to 36 % for those with 1 or 2 solemn convictions and 64% for those with 3 to 10 solemn convictions.

Over the past 10 years there has been very little change in the number of prolific offenders ([Table 21](#)). Thirteen per cent of offenders in 2008-09 had over 10 previous convictions in the previous ten years and the figure has fluctuated between 13 and 14 per cent over the last decade, with 13 per cent of offenders in 2016-17 having over ten previous convictions in the previous ten years.

Chart 12: Number of individuals convicted in 2017-18, by last disposal in 2017-18 and the number of previous convictions since 2008-09



Tables

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

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

All reconviction rates and percentages are shown in italics.

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

In Tables 1 to 6, 9-10, 12, and 14, the number of offenders that are reconvicted, and the number of reconvictions, are omitted from the bulletin for clarity. These values are included in the additional [datasets](#) which accompany this bulletin.

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

Table 1: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts¹

Cohort	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
1997-98	53,460	31.8	0.62
1998-99	49,145	31.8	0.62
1999-00	44,245	31.3	0.59
2000-01	41,561	31.8	0.60
2001-02	43,647	32.4	0.63
2002-03	44,848	32.9	0.64
2003-04	47,003	32.7	0.62
2004-05	49,353	32.4	0.61
2005-06	50,344	32.4	0.60
2006-07	53,305	32.4	0.60
2007-08	53,044	31.2	0.57
2008-09	49,665	31.5	0.60
2009-10	47,416	30.6	0.56
2010-11	44,707	30.1	0.55
2011-12	43,819	29.6	0.55
2012-13	41,695	28.9	0.53
2013-14	42,177	28.5	0.52
2014-15	43,614	28.4	0.51
2015-16	44,051	27.2	0.48
2016-17	40,606	27.2	0.48

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

Table 2: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by gender: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts¹

Gender	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
Males			
1997-98	45,723	32.9	0.63
1998-99	41,840	32.9	0.64
1999-00	37,581	32.2	0.61
2000-01	35,266	32.7	0.62
2001-02	36,960	33.4	0.65
2002-03	37,772	33.9	0.66
2003-04	39,527	33.7	0.64
2004-05	41,511	33.2	0.63
2005-06	42,218	33.6	0.62
2006-07	44,758	33.4	0.62
2007-08	44,376	32.2	0.59
2008-09	41,431	32.5	0.61
2009-10	39,402	31.7	0.58
2010-11	36,988	31.5	0.57
2011-12	36,429	30.8	0.56
2012-13	34,655	30.0	0.54
2013-14	34,991	29.6	0.54
2014-15	36,137	29.3	0.52
2015-16	36,318	28.2	0.49
2016-17	33,435	28.0	0.49
Females			
1997-98	7,737	25.4	0.51
1998-99	7,305	25.8	0.52
1999-00	6,664	25.7	0.49
2000-01	6,295	26.4	0.48
2001-02	6,687	26.8	0.51
2002-03	7,076	27.3	0.52
2003-04	7,476	27.2	0.53
2004-05	7,842	27.9	0.52
2005-06	8,126	26.2	0.48
2006-07	8,547	27.1	0.49
2007-08	8,668	26.4	0.48
2008-09	8,234	26.5	0.53
2009-10	8,014	25.0	0.47
2010-11	7,719	23.9	0.45
2011-12	7,390	24.1	0.46
2012-13	7,040	23.9	0.45
2013-14	7,186	23.3	0.45
2014-15	7,477	23.7	0.45
2015-16	7,733	22.7	0.42
2016-17	7,171	23.3	0.43

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

Table 3: Reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender, by age: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts¹

Age ²	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
Under 21			
1997-98	13,796	42.4	0.93
1998-99	12,988	42.1	0.92
1999-00	11,785	41.0	0.87
2000-01	11,004	41.5	0.87
2001-02	11,233	41.2	0.89
2002-03	11,054	41.3	0.88
2003-04	11,322	40.6	0.82
2004-05	11,639	39.4	0.79
2005-06	12,120	41.3	0.80
2006-07	12,686	40.6	0.78
2007-08	12,403	38.2	0.72
2008-09	10,757	37.9	0.72
2009-10	9,325	36.8	0.68
2010-11	8,239	36.1	0.66
2011-12	7,430	34.9	0.63
2012-13	6,090	33.4	0.59
2013-14	5,387	34.3	0.62
2014-15	5,151	35.5	0.65
2015-16	4,930	33.5	0.61
2016-17	4,340	32.2	0.59
21 to 25			
1997-98	12,185	34.1	0.63
1998-99	10,763	34.4	0.66
1999-00	9,458	34.5	0.64
2000-01	8,993	35.5	0.66
2001-02	9,473	36.5	0.71
2002-03	9,925	37.1	0.74
2003-04	10,337	36.4	0.72
2004-05	10,591	36.5	0.71
2005-06	10,587	35.2	0.68
2006-07	11,240	35.2	0.66
2007-08	11,136	34.3	0.63
2008-09	10,105	34.2	0.65
2009-10	9,809	33.7	0.61
2010-11	9,001	32.9	0.59
2011-12	8,887	31.1	0.55
2012-13	8,398	31.0	0.53
2013-14	8,288	29.5	0.50
2014-15	8,123	29.7	0.51
2015-16	7,873	28.5	0.48
2016-17	6,901	29.6	0.49
26 to 30			
1997-98	9,596	30.3	0.54
1998-99	8,678	30.4	0.54
1999-00	7,456	31.5	0.55
2000-01	6,942	31.2	0.56
2001-02	7,165	33.3	0.62
2002-03	7,127	34.5	0.64
2003-04	7,264	35.6	0.66
2004-05	7,522	34.5	0.66
2005-06	7,592	34.8	0.64
2006-07	8,011	34.7	0.65
2007-08	8,252	33.6	0.63
2008-09	7,989	34.9	0.68
2009-10	7,891	32.9	0.62
2010-11	7,484	33.5	0.65
2011-12	7,430	32.8	0.64
2012-13	7,411	31.5	0.59
2013-14	7,213	31.2	0.57
2014-15	7,454	30.1	0.53
2015-16	7,567	29.1	0.51
2016-17	6,918	29.3	0.51

(continued on following page)

Table 3 (continued)

31 to 40			
1997-98	11,468	25.2	0.43
1998-99	10,810	25.4	0.44
1999-00	10,069	24.6	0.40
2000-01	9,436	24.9	0.41
2001-02	10,139	26.3	0.44
2002-03	10,569	27.4	0.48
2003-04	11,297	28.5	0.50
2004-05	12,071	28.9	0.50
2005-06	11,960	28.5	0.49
2006-07	12,640	29.0	0.50
2007-08	12,196	28.6	0.51
2008-09	11,638	30.2	0.57
2009-10	11,219	30.3	0.55
2010-11	10,841	29.8	0.55
2011-12	10,800	30.7	0.59
2012-13	10,573	30.2	0.58
2013-14	11,036	30.5	0.58
2014-15	11,532	30.4	0.57
2015-16	11,862	29.6	0.54
2016-17	11,222	29.7	0.54
Over 40			
1997-98	6,409	18.7	0.34
1998-99	5,898	18.3	0.31
1999-00	5,467	16.8	0.29
2000-01	5,179	17.8	0.29
2001-02	5,634	17.5	0.30
2002-03	6,172	18.4	0.31
2003-04	6,781	17.4	0.30
2004-05	7,528	19.2	0.32
2005-06	8,084	19.1	0.31
2006-07	8,728	19.5	0.33
2007-08	9,057	19.5	0.33
2008-09	9,176	19.8	0.35
2009-10	9,172	19.2	0.35
2010-11	9,142	19.7	0.34
2011-12	9,272	20.1	0.36
2012-13	9,223	20.7	0.37
2013-14	10,253	20.7	0.38
2014-15	11,354	20.9	0.36
2015-16	11,819	20.3	0.35
2016-17	11,225	19.9	0.34

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

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

Table 4: Reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender, males by age: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts¹

Age ²	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
Under 21			
1997-98	12,083	44.2	0.98
1998-99	11,287	44.0	0.96
1999-00	10,197	42.6	0.90
2000-01	9,599	42.6	0.89
2001-02	9,782	42.7	0.92
2002-03	9,616	42.9	0.92
2003-04	9,816	42.2	0.84
2004-05	10,151	41.0	0.83
2005-06	10,495	43.3	0.84
2006-07	10,990	42.3	0.82
2007-08	10,676	39.7	0.75
2008-09	9,233	39.6	0.75
2009-10	7,983	38.6	0.71
2010-11	7,048	38.0	0.69
2011-12	6,344	36.8	0.66
2012-13	5,195	34.9	0.61
2013-14	4,618	35.9	0.65
2014-15	4,381	37.5	0.68
2015-16	4,187	35.0	0.63
2016-17	3,680	33.6	0.63
21 to 25			
1997-98	10,559	34.8	0.62
1998-99	9,215	35.1	0.66
1999-00	8,041	35.2	0.65
2000-01	7,695	36.0	0.67
2001-02	8,087	37.2	0.72
2002-03	8,441	37.8	0.75
2003-04	8,784	37.0	0.72
2004-05	8,941	36.7	0.71
2005-06	9,004	35.9	0.68
2006-07	9,582	35.9	0.66
2007-08	9,424	34.9	0.63
2008-09	8,550	35.1	0.65
2009-10	8,320	34.7	0.62
2010-11	7,602	33.8	0.60
2011-12	7,619	32.0	0.56
2012-13	7,145	31.9	0.54
2013-14	7,067	30.6	0.52
2014-15	6,945	30.6	0.52
2015-16	6,685	29.8	0.49
2016-17	5,882	30.9	0.51
26 to 30			
1997-98	8,147	30.7	0.54
1998-99	7,352	30.8	0.55
1999-00	6,311	31.8	0.55
2000-01	5,818	31.8	0.57
2001-02	6,006	34.1	0.64
2002-03	5,969	35.4	0.66
2003-04	6,000	36.6	0.68
2004-05	6,254	34.8	0.67
2005-06	6,233	35.4	0.65
2006-07	6,642	35.2	0.66
2007-08	6,837	34.2	0.64
2008-09	6,570	35.5	0.69
2009-10	6,496	33.2	0.62
2010-11	6,174	34.4	0.66
2011-12	6,123	33.5	0.64
2012-13	6,175	32.1	0.59
2013-14	6,010	31.8	0.58
2014-15	6,188	30.8	0.54
2015-16	6,250	30.2	0.52
2016-17	5,778	30.1	0.51

(continued on following page)

Table 4 (continued)

31 to 40			
1997-98	9,505	26.0	0.45
1998-99	8,984	26.2	0.45
1999-00	8,355	25.5	0.42
2000-01	7,783	25.7	0.43
2001-02	8,365	26.9	0.46
2002-03	8,616	28.1	0.49
2003-04	9,273	29.4	0.51
2004-05	9,833	29.8	0.51
2005-06	9,780	29.6	0.52
2006-07	10,321	29.9	0.52
2007-08	9,961	29.3	0.53
2008-09	9,532	31.0	0.58
2009-10	9,121	31.5	0.57
2010-11	8,721	31.5	0.58
2011-12	8,749	31.7	0.61
2012-13	8,629	31.2	0.60
2013-14	8,960	31.7	0.60
2014-15	9,371	31.2	0.57
2015-16	9,601	30.3	0.55
2016-17	8,999	30.2	0.54
Over 40			
1997-98	5,426	19.2	0.35
1998-99	4,996	18.8	0.32
1999-00	4,671	17.3	0.29
2000-01	4,368	18.6	0.31
2001-02	4,718	18.0	0.31
2002-03	5,130	18.6	0.31
2003-04	5,653	17.8	0.31
2004-05	6,330	19.5	0.33
2005-06	6,705	19.8	0.32
2006-07	7,223	20.0	0.34
2007-08	7,478	20.0	0.34
2008-09	7,546	20.3	0.36
2009-10	7,482	19.9	0.35
2010-11	7,443	20.4	0.36
2011-12	7,594	21.1	0.37
2012-13	7,511	21.5	0.38
2013-14	8,336	21.4	0.39
2014-15	9,252	21.6	0.37
2015-16	9,595	20.8	0.36
2016-17	9,096	20.3	0.35

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

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

Table 5: Reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender, females by age: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts¹

Age ²	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
Under 21			
1997-98	1,713	29.6	0.64
1998-99	1,701	29.9	0.69
1999-00	1,588	30.5	0.69
2000-01	1,405	34.0	0.74
2001-02	1,451	31.2	0.67
2002-03	1,438	30.2	0.67
2003-04	1,506	30.2	0.66
2004-05	1,488	28.5	0.58
2005-06	1,625	28.6	0.52
2006-07	1,696	29.5	0.55
2007-08	1,727	28.8	0.53
2008-09	1,524	27.5	0.53
2009-10	1,342	26.4	0.49
2010-11	1,191	24.6	0.47
2011-12	1,086	24.2	0.45
2012-13	895	24.5	0.43
2013-14	769	24.7	0.45
2014-15	770	24.2	0.49
2015-16	743	25.2	0.45
2016-17	660	24.2	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	1,484	33.4	0.67
2003-04	1,553	33.2	0.69
2004-05	1,650	34.9	0.69
2005-06	1,583	31.0	0.67
2006-07	1,658	31.7	0.66
2007-08	1,712	30.6	0.63
2008-09	1,555	29.2	0.64
2009-10	1,489	27.7	0.53
2010-11	1,399	27.7	0.54
2011-12	1,268	25.9	0.50
2012-13	1,253	25.5	0.48
2013-14	1,221	23.0	0.43
2014-15	1,178	24.4	0.46
2015-16	1,188	21.0	0.38
2016-17	1,019	22.0	0.37
26 to 30			
1997-98	1,449	28.0	0.57
1998-99	1,326	27.8	0.50
1999-00	1,145	29.7	0.55
2000-01	1,124	28.2	0.50
2001-02	1,159	28.8	0.52
2002-03	1,158	30.0	0.53
2003-04	1,264	30.9	0.56
2004-05	1,268	33.1	0.62
2005-06	1,359	31.6	0.58
2006-07	1,369	32.3	0.56
2007-08	1,415	30.6	0.56
2008-09	1,419	32.4	0.65
2009-10	1,395	31.5	0.62
2010-11	1,310	29.7	0.60
2011-12	1,307	29.5	0.62
2012-13	1,236	28.3	0.61
2013-14	1,203	28.5	0.56
2014-15	1,266	26.7	0.50
2015-16	1,317	23.5	0.46
2016-17	1,140	25.2	0.50

(continued on following page)

Table 5 (continued)

31 to 40			
1997-98	1,963	21.2	0.34
1998-99	1,826	21.6	0.37
1999-00	1,714	20.0	0.31
2000-01	1,653	21.0	0.32
2001-02	1,774	23.2	0.39
2002-03	1,953	24.3	0.42
2003-04	2,024	24.6	0.42
2004-05	2,238	24.9	0.43
2005-06	2,180	24.0	0.40
2006-07	2,319	25.4	0.41
2007-08	2,235	25.1	0.43
2008-09	2,106	26.8	0.52
2009-10	2,098	25.0	0.45
2010-11	2,120	23.0	0.42
2011-12	2,051	26.3	0.48
2012-13	1,944	25.8	0.48
2013-14	2,076	25.3	0.50
2014-15	2,161	27.0	0.54
2015-16	2,261	26.5	0.50
2016-17	2,223	27.5	0.53
Over 40			
1997-98	983	15.9	0.31
1998-99	902	15.4	0.27
1999-00	796	14.1	0.25
2000-01	811	13.3	0.19
2001-02	916	15.3	0.25
2002-03	1,042	17.2	0.29
2003-04	1,128	15.4	0.27
2004-05	1,198	17.7	0.30
2005-06	1,379	16.0	0.26
2006-07	1,505	17.5	0.31
2007-08	1,579	17.4	0.28
2008-09	1,630	17.4	0.33
2009-10	1,690	16.3	0.32
2010-11	1,699	16.8	0.29
2011-12	1,678	15.8	0.29
2012-13	1,712	17.1	0.30
2013-14	1,917	17.5	0.33
2014-15	2,102	17.7	0.31
2015-16	2,224	18.3	0.32
2016-17	2,129	18.1	0.31

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

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

Table 6: Reconviction rate and average number of reconvictions per offender, by index crime: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts¹

Index Crime	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
Violent Crime			
1997-98	11,456	25.4	0.43
1998-99	10,859	23.6	0.40
1999-00	10,280	22.9	0.37
2000-01	9,736	23.9	0.39
2001-02	10,074	24.0	0.40
2002-03	10,315	24.0	0.41
2003-04	10,793	24.6	0.41
2004-05	11,631	24.8	0.43
2005-06	12,355	24.7	0.41
2006-07	12,945	25.4	0.43
2007-08	13,265	24.7	0.41
2008-09	12,989	25.5	0.42
2009-10	12,759	23.8	0.39
2010-11	12,498	24.1	0.38
2011-12	12,455	23.8	0.39
2012-13	11,595	23.3	0.38
2013-14	11,203	22.3	0.36
2014-15	11,422	22.4	0.36
2015-16	11,804	20.9	0.32
2016-17	11,077	21.5	0.34
Sexual Crime²			
1997-98	287	13.9	0.23
1998-99	280	15.0	0.27
1999-00	396	9.8	0.14
2000-01	411	13.9	0.24
2001-02	418	11.7	0.18
2002-03	420	11.7	0.18
2003-04	460	9.8	0.14
2004-05	574	9.1	0.14
2005-06	518	10.2	0.15
2006-07	492	14.2	0.21
2007-08	474	12.9	0.19
2008-09	491	12.4	0.19
2009-10	494	9.7	0.14
2010-11	480	11.9	0.18
2011-12	521	12.9	0.26
2012-13	622	12.5	0.18
2013-14	706	10.3	0.16
2014-15	869	12.0	0.18
2015-16	900	10.7	0.17
2016-17	770	10.6	0.16
Dishonesty			
1997-98	15,224	40.3	0.89
1998-99	14,126	41.5	0.94
1999-00	12,696	43.1	0.95
2000-01	11,637	44.0	0.97
2001-02	11,722	45.9	1.06
2002-03	11,557	46.0	1.05
2003-04	10,872	45.9	1.03
2004-05	10,652	45.9	1.03
2005-06	9,913	46.3	1.02
2006-07	9,991	46.6	1.03
2007-08	9,798	44.8	1.00
2008-09	9,534	45.0	1.05
2009-10	9,173	44.2	0.98
2010-11	9,126	43.5	0.98
2011-12	8,744	42.3	0.95
2012-13	8,014	41.9	0.93
2013-14	7,810	41.8	0.96
2014-15	7,429	42.7	0.93
2015-16	6,934	43.2	0.94
2016-17	6,360	43.5	0.94
Criminal Damage			
1997-98	3,589	28.8	0.52
1998-99	3,332	27.3	0.48
1999-00	2,980	28.5	0.51
2000-01	2,961	28.7	0.48
2001-02	2,985	30.8	0.54
2002-03	3,066	30.5	0.54
2003-04	3,537	29.7	0.55
2004-05	3,650	31.2	0.56
2005-06	3,625	33.0	0.58
2006-07	3,886	33.1	0.59
2007-08	3,906	31.9	0.55
2008-09	3,166	33.9	0.62
2009-10	2,837	32.7	0.58
2010-11	2,457	30.8	0.54
2011-12	2,204	29.7	0.50
2012-13	1,926	31.1	0.51
2013-14	1,930	31.6	0.55
2014-15	1,809	31.7	0.54
2015-16	1,633	30.1	0.50
2016-17	1,478	29.9	0.49

(continued on following page)

Table 6 (continued)

Drug Offences			
1997-98	5,654	26.3	0.40
1998-99	5,320	27.5	0.43
1999-00	4,844	25.5	0.37
2000-01	4,182	26.1	0.40
2001-02	4,696	25.2	0.41
2002-03	4,675	28.1	0.46
2003-04	5,524	29.3	0.45
2004-05	5,777	28.8	0.45
2005-06	5,794	29.5	0.47
2006-07	6,822	28.0	0.45
2007-08	6,578	27.3	0.42
2008-09	5,701	27.1	0.44
2009-10	5,946	26.9	0.42
2010-11	5,941	25.9	0.40
2011-12	5,677	23.9	0.38
2012-13	5,415	22.3	0.34
2013-14	5,585	22.0	0.33
2014-15	5,726	23.1	0.36
2015-16	5,858	23.3	0.36
2016-17	5,172	23.5	0.36
Breach of the Peace³			
1997-98	13,709	31.5	0.59
1998-99	12,108	31.2	0.57
1999-00	10,316	29.6	0.52
2000-01	9,757	29.8	0.52
2001-02	10,336	30.3	0.53
2002-03	10,857	30.9	0.56
2003-04	11,437	31.0	0.55
2004-05	12,217	31.0	0.55
2005-06	12,946	31.4	0.55
2006-07	13,671	31.1	0.54
2007-08	13,403	30.3	0.52
2008-09	12,153	30.0	0.54
2009-10	11,285	29.3	0.52
2010-11	9,603	28.6	0.51
2011-12	9,866	29.0	0.51
2012-13	10,325	28.7	0.50
2013-14	10,981	28.3	0.49
2014-15	12,423	28.1	0.47
2015-16	13,161	26.0	0.44
2016-17	12,342	25.2	0.42
Other Crimes and Offences			
1997-98	3,541	30.4	0.62
1998-99	3,120	32.3	0.65
1999-00	2,733	29.8	0.52
2000-01	2,877	29.4	0.51
2001-02	3,416	30.5	0.54
2002-03	3,958	32.7	0.58
2003-04	4,380	33.0	0.58
2004-05	4,852	32.1	0.57
2005-06	5,193	32.1	0.57
2006-07	5,498	33.0	0.57
2007-08	5,620	31.3	0.55
2008-09	5,631	30.6	0.55
2009-10	4,922	30.6	0.53
2010-11	4,602	30.5	0.52
2011-12	4,352	31.5	0.55
2012-13	3,798	30.8	0.53
2013-14	3,962	31.3	0.53
2014-15	3,936	29.3	0.49
2015-16	3,761	30.7	0.54
2016-17	3,407	30.4	0.50

1. Figures for previous cohorts may differ from previously published figures as updated information is fed into the Scottish Offenders Index.
2. Sexual crime excludes offences associated with prostitution. The latter are included in other crimes and offences. Breach of sexual offender order and breach of sexual harm order are included in other crimes and offences.
3. Breach of the peace grouping, in line with the Criminal Proceedings in Scotland publication, includes the offences of "threatening or abusive behaviour" and "offence of stalking", which are part of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010; and "offensive behaviour at football" and "threatening communications" (under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communication Scotland Act 2012 which was repealed on 20 April 2018, although prosecutions under the act were informally ended during 2017).

Table 7: Reconviction rates for crimes by index crime: 2016-17 cohort

Index crime ³ 2016-17	Total number (=100%)	Percentage reconvicted within 1 year for ¹ :							
		Any crime ²	Violent crime	Sexual crime ⁴	Crimes of dishonesty	Criminal damage	Drug offences	Breach of the peace ⁵	Other crimes and offences
All offenders	40,606	27.2	7.3	0.3	8.4	1.6	4.0	10.2	4.0
Violent crime	11,077	21.5	8.2	0.1	3.6	1.4	2.1	9.2	3.0
Sexual crime ⁴	770	10.6	1.2	1.7	0.8	0.3	0.5	3.1	5.3
Crimes of dishonesty	6,360	43.5	6.9	0.4	30.6	1.8	6.0	8.9	4.8
Criminal damage	1,478	29.9	9.8	0.3	6.2	3.4	2.7	13.1	3.7
Drug offences	5,172	23.5	4.9	0.1	5.7	0.8	10.2	5.2	2.9
Breach of the peace ⁵	12,342	25.2	7.6	0.3	3.8	1.7	2.5	13.6	3.8
Other crimes and offences	3,407	30.4	8.2	0.6	5.7	2.1	4.2	11.4	8.1

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

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

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

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

5. Breach of the peace grouping, in line with the Criminal Proceedings in Scotland publication, includes the offences of "threatening or abusive behaviour" and "offence of stalking", which are part of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010; and "offensive behaviour at football" and "threatening communications" (under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communication Scotland Act 2012 which was repealed on 20 April 2018, although prosecutions under the act were informally ended during 2017).

Table 8a: Reconviction rates for domestic abuse and non-domestic abuse crimes and offences, 2009-10 to 2016-17 cohorts

Index year	Number of offenders			Percentage reconvicted for a domestic abuse crime or offence ¹			Percentage reconvicted for any crime or offence		
	DA index ¹	Non-DA		DA index ¹	Non-DA		DA index ¹	Non-DA	
		index	All index		index	All index		index	All index
2009-10	6,466	40,950	47,416	7.9	2.9	3.6	19.0	32.4	30.6
2010-11	6,061	38,646	44,707	7.4	2.8	3.5	19.1	31.9	30.1
2011-12	6,142	37,677	43,819	8.5	2.9	3.7	20.7	31.1	29.6
2012-13	6,227	35,468	41,695	9.6	3.3	4.2	21.0	30.3	28.9
2013-14	7,439	34,738	42,177	9.6	3.9	4.9	20.7	30.2	28.5
2014-15	8,448	35,166	43,614	9.5	4.0	5.0	20.4	30.3	28.4
2015-16	8,399	35,652	44,051	8.8	3.8	4.7	19.1	29.2	27.2
2016-17	7,418	33,188	40,606	9.2	3.4	4.5	20.4	28.7	27.2

DA = domestic abuse

1. Domestic abuse crimes and offences are those marked with a domestic abuse identifier.

Table 8b: Average number of reconvictions per offender for domestic abuse and non-domestic abuse crimes and offences, 2009-10 to 2016-17 cohorts

Index year	Number of offenders			Average number of reconvictions for a domestic abuse crime or offence per offender ¹			Average number of reconvictions for any crime or offence per offender		
	DA index ¹	Non-DA		DA index ¹	Non-DA		DA index ¹	Non-DA	
		index	All index		index	All index		index	All index
2009-10	6,466	40,950	47,416	0.09	0.03	0.04	0.28	0.60	0.56
2010-11	6,061	38,646	44,707	0.08	0.03	0.04	0.28	0.60	0.55
2011-12	6,142	37,677	43,819	0.10	0.03	0.04	0.31	0.59	0.55
2012-13	6,227	35,468	41,695	0.11	0.04	0.05	0.32	0.56	0.53
2013-14	7,439	34,738	42,177	0.11	0.04	0.06	0.30	0.57	0.52
2014-15	8,448	35,166	43,614	0.11	0.04	0.06	0.30	0.55	0.51
2015-16	8,399	35,652	44,051	0.10	0.04	0.05	0.27	0.53	0.48
2016-17	7,418	33,188	40,606	0.11	0.04	0.05	0.28	0.52	0.48

DA = domestic abuse

1. Domestic abuse crimes and offences are those marked with a domestic abuse identifier.

Table 9: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by index disposal: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts^{1,2}

Index disposal	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
Discharged from Custody³			
1997-98	6,133	48.4	1.04
1998-99	5,820	49.2	1.09
1999-00	5,759	46.2	0.99
2000-01	5,570	47.4	1.00
2001-02	5,948	48.0	1.06
2002-03	6,007	49.8	1.12
2003-04	5,887	50.1	1.11
2004-05	6,124	47.9	1.06
2005-06	6,242	47.4	1.03
2006-07	6,869	48.7	1.06
2007-08	6,911	47.3	1.02
2008-09	7,223	47.2	0.99
2009-10	7,201	46.3	0.95
2010-11	7,030	45.6	0.92
2011-12	7,006	44.6	0.94
2012-13	7,081	44.3	0.91
2013-14	6,716	45.1	0.88
2014-15	6,257	44.7	0.89
2015-16	6,293	43.7	0.86
2016-17	5,917	42.3	0.82
Extended Sentences			
1997-98	-	-	-
1998-99	-	-	-
1999-00	-	-	-
2000-01	-	-	-
2001-02	-	-	-
2002-03	-	-	-
2003-04	-	-	-
2004-05	-	-	-
2005-06	1	**	**
2006-07	16	6.3	0.06
2007-08	51	11.8	0.14
2008-09	40	12.5	0.15
2009-10	79	13.9	0.15
2010-11	101	15.8	0.19
2011-12	106	14.2	0.19
2012-13	134	12.7	0.14
2013-14	181	6.6	0.09
2014-15	209	14.4	0.15
2015-16	199	12.6	0.15
2016-17	208	11.5	0.13
Supervised Release Orders			
1997-98	-	-	-
1998-99	-	-	-
1999-00	-	-	-
2000-01	-	-	-
2001-02	-	-	-
2002-03	-	-	-
2003-04	-	-	-
2004-05	-	-	-
2005-06	-	-	-
2006-07	27	37.0	0.44
2007-08	93	35.5	0.45
2008-09	147	46.9	0.89
2009-10	155	40.0	0.70
2010-11	162	43.8	0.75
2011-12	201	44.8	0.71
2012-13	219	38.8	0.58
2013-14	226	38.1	0.62
2014-15	233	36.5	0.55
2015-16	261	36.8	0.62
2016-17	287	36.6	0.58

(continued on following page)

Table 9 (continued)

Restriction of Liberty Order			
1997-98	-	-	-
1998-99	25	60.0	1.56
1999-00	54	68.5	1.78
2000-01	61	62.3	1.69
2001-02	58	72.4	1.62
2002-03	223	53.8	1.21
2003-04	372	58.3	1.27
2004-05	442	57.7	1.24
2005-06	524	54.0	1.22
2006-07	548	52.4	1.07
2007-08	556	50.9	1.04
2008-09	594	47.8	0.98
2009-10	510	49.4	0.96
2010-11	461	45.1	0.86
2011-12	496	40.3	0.76
2012-13	558	36.4	0.68
2013-14	642	35.5	0.60
2014-15	731	33.7	0.60
2015-16	993	34.3	0.59
2016-17	1,391	33.6	0.59
Legacy Community Order (CSO, PO)⁴			
1997-98	6,083	39.6	0.85
1998-99	5,952	40.3	0.88
1999-00	5,594	38.5	0.78
2000-01	5,643	38.9	0.82
2001-02	6,085	40.5	0.86
2002-03	6,555	40.6	0.84
2003-04	6,449	39.0	0.78
2004-05	7,089	39.6	0.79
2005-06	7,770	38.3	0.74
2006-07	7,604	38.1	0.72
2007-08	8,109	36.5	0.68
2008-09	8,850	37.1	0.70
2009-10	8,656	33.7	0.62
2010-11	8,237	33.7	0.61
2011-12	3,698	27.1	0.46
2012-13	641	13.7	0.20
2013-14	198	5.1	0.06
2014-15	108	8.3	0.12
2015-16	65	9.2	0.12
2016-17	41	7.3	0.07
Community Payback Order⁵			
1997-98	-	-	-
1998-99	-	-	-
1999-00	-	-	-
2000-01	-	-	-
2001-02	-	-	-
2002-03	-	-	-
2003-04	-	-	-
2004-05	-	-	-
2005-06	-	-	-
2006-07	-	-	-
2007-08	-	-	-
2008-09	-	-	-
2009-10	-	-	-
2010-11	179	55.3	1.14
2011-12	6,175	36.8	0.69
2012-13	9,480	32.6	0.57
2013-14	10,539	30.6	0.56
2014-15	10,833	32.9	0.59
2015-16	10,804	31.1	0.55
2016-17	10,016	31.2	0.55

(continued on following page)

Table 9 (continued)

Drug Treatment and Testing Order			
1997-98	-	-	-
1998-99	-	-	-
1999-00	1	**	**
2000-01	36	58.3	1.31
2001-02	95	75.8	2.16
2002-03	145	75.9	2.43
2003-04	204	78.9	2.20
2004-05	232	78.4	2.20
2005-06	271	70.1	1.88
2006-07	305	75.1	2.01
2007-08	327	70.6	1.94
2008-09	364	67.3	1.75
2009-10	365	66.0	1.70
2010-11	375	67.2	1.63
2011-12	278	62.2	1.65
2012-13	315	65.1	1.59
2013-14	329	64.1	1.73
2014-15	259	63.7	1.76
2015-16	238	67.2	1.76
2016-17	224	64.3	1.47
Monetary Disposal			
1997-98	32,895	29.5	0.54
1998-99	29,561	29.4	0.53
1999-00	25,604	28.9	0.52
2000-01	23,816	28.9	0.51
2001-02	24,865	29.0	0.52
2002-03	24,847	29.1	0.52
2003-04	26,693	29.5	0.51
2004-05	27,451	29.2	0.50
2005-06	27,047	29.2	0.50
2006-07	28,498	29.0	0.49
2007-08	27,495	27.6	0.46
2008-09	22,846	26.7	0.47
2009-10	20,961	26.6	0.45
2010-11	18,679	25.6	0.44
2011-12	17,122	24.1	0.40
2012-13	14,800	23.3	0.39
2013-14	14,823	23.2	0.39
2014-15	15,205	22.3	0.36
2015-16	15,150	21.3	0.34
2016-17	13,305	21.1	0.33
Other Disposal⁶			
1997-98	8,349	23.0	0.42
1998-99	7,787	21.5	0.38
1999-00	7,233	21.7	0.37
2000-01	6,435	22.2	0.37
2001-02	6,596	22.5	0.40
2002-03	7,071	23.0	0.41
2003-04	7,398	22.1	0.39
2004-05	8,015	22.3	0.39
2005-06	8,489	23.7	0.41
2006-07	9,438	23.7	0.42
2007-08	9,502	23.2	0.41
2008-09	9,601	23.5	0.44
2009-10	9,489	22.1	0.39
2010-11	9,483	21.9	0.39
2011-12	8,737	22.6	0.40
2012-13	8,467	21.2	0.38
2013-14	8,523	21.0	0.39
2014-15	9,779	21.3	0.37
2015-16	10,048	20.4	0.34
2016-17	9,217	20.2	0.35

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

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

3. Discharged from custody includes imprisonment and admission to a

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

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

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

6. Includes Supervised Attendance Orders; remit to children's hearing; community reparation order; caution; admonition; absolute discharge; insanity; guardianship; and hospital order.

Table 10a: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by custodial sentence length: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts^{1,2,3}

Custodial sentence length	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
3 months or less			
1997-98	2,726	56.7	1.33
1998-99	2,552	59.3	1.43
1999-00	2,538	55.5	1.28
2000-01	2,395	58.1	1.31
2001-02	2,458	58.3	1.37
2002-03	2,636	61.4	1.50
2003-04	2,472	63.1	1.51
2004-05	2,563	61.5	1.44
2005-06	2,725	59.1	1.37
2006-07	3,066	60.7	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	61.6	1.35
2011-12	1,406	59.6	1.36
2012-13	1,406	60.5	1.39
2013-14	1,309	60.9	1.34
2014-15	1,298	60.6	1.27
2015-16	1,325	58.7	1.27
2016-17	1,156	58.3	1.25
Over 3 months to 6 months			
1997-98	1,455	57.9	1.22
1998-99	1,403	57.9	1.31
1999-00	1,331	56.7	1.23
2000-01	1,325	58.0	1.24
2001-02	1,431	57.2	1.33
2002-03	1,378	60.0	1.37
2003-04	1,348	59.8	1.33
2004-05	1,337	57.2	1.31
2005-06	1,372	56.9	1.31
2006-07	1,470	57.9	1.29
2007-08	1,450	58.0	1.34
2008-09	1,901	55.0	1.20
2009-10	1,936	54.1	1.15
2010-11	2,023	53.2	1.11
2011-12	2,334	53.3	1.19
2012-13	2,303	51.8	1.13
2013-14	2,211	54.6	1.09
2014-15	2,025	54.5	1.18
2015-16	1,978	52.6	1.08
2016-17	1,840	50.8	1.02
Over 6 months to 1 year			
1997-98	595	35.6	0.66
1998-99	533	33.0	0.61
1999-00	540	37.4	0.71
2000-01	492	34.3	0.64
2001-02	577	40.7	0.75
2002-03	518	35.9	0.66
2003-04	563	36.4	0.72
2004-05	558	33.3	0.69
2005-06	575	35.8	0.66
2006-07	630	37.3	0.70
2007-08	771	36.7	0.67
2008-09	1,033	44.3	0.83
2009-10	1,181	42.3	0.82
2010-11	1,219	41.6	0.80
2011-12	1,251	42.8	0.81
2012-13	1,342	42.3	0.80
2013-14	1,291	43.1	0.78
2014-15	1,176	40.9	0.75
2015-16	1,219	41.2	0.79
2016-17	1,187	37.7	0.71

(continued on following page)

Table 10a (continued)

Over 1 year to 2 years			
1997-98	566	30.4	0.52
1998-99	489	33.1	0.55
1999-00	511	29.2	0.48
2000-01	495	32.3	0.54
2001-02	552	29.9	0.50
2002-03	507	30.2	0.54
2003-04	556	30.9	0.52
2004-05	636	32.9	0.55
2005-06	552	28.6	0.48
2006-07	643	30.3	0.54
2007-08	804	35.2	0.59
2008-09	944	34.2	0.53
2009-10	1,072	34.4	0.60
2010-11	1,026	32.0	0.53
2011-12	1,030	32.7	0.59
2012-13	1,170	33.0	0.54
2013-14	1,125	30.6	0.50
2014-15	1,070	29.9	0.48
2015-16	1,125	31.3	0.51
2016-17	1,140	31.7	0.52
Over 2 years to less than 4 years			
1997-98	387	28.2	0.38
1998-99	359	25.6	0.41
1999-00	352	21.9	0.32
2000-01	366	20.8	0.30
2001-02	378	27.5	0.44
2002-03	396	27.0	0.46
2003-04	365	27.7	0.45
2004-05	423	22.9	0.41
2005-06	397	23.2	0.38
2006-07	483	25.9	0.43
2007-08	534	22.3	0.36
2008-09	615	27.0	0.44
2009-10	623	29.2	0.48
2010-11	733	27.0	0.43
2011-12	759	27.3	0.43
2012-13	707	26.3	0.40
2013-14	660	25.6	0.39
2014-15	640	23.4	0.36
2015-16	582	25.4	0.39
2016-17	583	26.9	0.38
Over 4 years			
1997-98	404	21.5	0.32
1998-99	484	21.5	0.28
1999-00	487	14.8	0.17
2000-01	497	15.3	0.17
2001-02	552	17.8	0.24
2002-03	572	18.0	0.23
2003-04	583	18.2	0.23
2004-05	607	16.0	0.20
2005-06	622	17.7	0.21
2006-07	620	14.0	0.16
2007-08	626	13.7	0.16
2008-09	557	14.5	0.18
2009-10	556	16.7	0.18
2010-11	469	13.2	0.16
2011-12	533	13.7	0.16
2012-13	506	10.5	0.12
2013-14	527	10.2	0.12
2014-15	490	13.7	0.15
2015-16	524	9.2	0.10
2016-17	506	11.1	0.13

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

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

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

Table 10b - Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by custodial sentence length 1 year or less: 1997-98 to 2016-17 cohorts^{1,2,3}

Custodial sentence length	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
1 year or less			
1997-98	4,776	54.4	1.21
1998-99	4,488	55.8	1.29
1999-00	4,409	53.6	1.19
2000-01	4,212	55.3	1.21
2001-02	4,466	55.7	1.28
2002-03	4,532	58.1	1.36
2003-04	4,383	58.7	1.35
2004-05	4,458	56.7	1.31
2005-06	4,672	55.6	1.26
2006-07	5,166	57.0	1.29
2007-08	5,091	55.3	1.24
2008-09	5,294	55.0	1.21
2009-10	5,184	53.3	1.14
2010-11	5,065	53.4	1.12
2011-12	4,991	52.4	1.14
2012-13	5,051	51.7	1.11
2013-14	4,811	53.3	1.08
2014-15	4,499	52.7	1.09
2015-16	4,522	51.3	1.06
2016-17	4,183	49.2	0.99

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

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

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

Table 11: Reconviction rates by offender characteristics: 2016-17 cohort

Index disposal in 2016-17 by age	Percentage of male offenders reconvicted ¹				Percentage of female offenders reconvicted ¹			
	Number of previous convictions ²				Number of previous convictions ²			
	None	1 or 2	3 to 10	Over 10	None	1 or 2	3 to 10	Over 10
All	11	20	30	50	9	17	32	53
under 21	22	42	56	74	19	29	42	**
21 to 25	12	25	41	63	9	22	42	61
26 to 30	9	17	31	56	9	20	33	54
31 to 40	8	14	26	50	7	14	32	58
over 40	5	11	18	42	5	12	26	43
Discharged from custody³	9	18	35	56	5	12	35	65
under 21	25	41	58	75	**	**	**	**
21 to 25	9	17	41	61	20	**	38	61
26 to 30	9	10	39	61	**	**	22	75
31 to 40	6	17	23	55	6	**	42	67
over 40	3	8	23	51	*	**	36	54
Extended Sentences	3	6	13	26	**	**	**	**
under 21	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
21 to 25	**	**	8	**	**	**	**	**
26 to 30	**	**	10	**	**	**	**	**
31 to 40	**	**	20	33	**	**	**	**
over 40	*	*	*	8	**	**	**	**
Supervised Release Orders	15	17	38	44	**	**	**	**
under 21	**	**	64	**	**	**	**	**
21 to 25	**	**	41	38	**	**	**	**
26 to 30	**	**	28	56	**	**	**	**
31 to 40	**	**	25	43	**	**	**	**
over 40	**	**	**	32	**	**	**	**
Restriction of Liberty Order	11	32	36	52	6	27	45	61
under 21	19	62	72	**	8	**	**	**
21 to 25	13	44	43	74	**	**	55	**
26 to 30	5	22	34	47	**	**	42	69
31 to 40	7	16	29	53	5	19	47	53
over 40	2	12	23	43	2	20	**	62
Legacy community orders⁴	13	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
under 21	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
21 to 25	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
26 to 30	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
31 to 40	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
over 40	6	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Community Payback Orders⁵	18	26	34	49	12	22	40	58
under 21	30	47	59	74	30	36	47	**
21 to 25	18	29	45	69	13	23	47	61
26 to 30	14	19	32	49	11	24	42	49
31 to 40	11	16	31	48	4	17	41	64
over 40	7	15	23	42	7	17	32	51
Drug Treatment and Testing Order	**	**	59	68	**	**	47	63
under 21	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
21 to 25	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
26 to 30	**	**	**	78	**	**	**	**
31 to 40	**	**	53	73	**	**	**	53
over 40	**	**	**	57	**	**	**	**
Monetary	10	17	24	44	9	17	27	51
under 21	17	36	45	**	11	27	**	**
21 to 25	10	21	36	63	8	22	37	73
26 to 30	8	16	27	51	11	22	30	50
31 to 40	8	12	23	46	10	18	25	61
over 40	5	11	15	36	6	10	26	39
Other⁶	9	17	25	47	8	13	27	42
under 21	18	34	49	67	18	19	48	**
21 to 25	11	24	44	65	7	22	40	47
26 to 30	7	20	25	60	7	15	27	40
31 to 40	5	14	24	47	7	8	27	47
over 40	4	8	13	37	3	10	21	34

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

2. Convictions since the start of 1989. Caution should be exercised when comparing this table with similar tables in previous publications. There will be fewer previous convictions in earlier cohorts because the recording of convictions in the SOI started in 1989.

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

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

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

6. Includes Supervised Attendance Orders; remit to children's hearing; community reparation order; caution; admonition; absolute discharge; insanity; guardianship; and hospital order.

Table 12: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by local authority group based on court areas: 2016-17 cohort

Local authority group ¹	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
All	40,606	27.2	0.48
Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire ^{2,14}	3,260	30.8	0.64
Angus	709	25.2	0.40
Argyll & Bute ³	330	24.2	0.36
Ayrshire, East, North and South ⁴	3,497	29.1	0.51
Clackmannanshire	421	31.6	0.64
Dumfries & Galloway	1,226	27.2	0.47
Dunbartonshire, East and West ^{5,6}	924	27.3	0.43
Dundee City ⁷	1,808	25.2	0.42
East Lothian ⁸	9	**	**
Edinburgh and Midlothian (and East Lothian) ^{8,9,14}	4,310	26.8	0.49
Falkirk	1,210	27.4	0.50
Fife ⁷	2,400	27.7	0.46
Glasgow City ^{10,11,14}	7,699	28.4	0.50
Highland	1,432	24.9	0.41
Inverclyde ³	702	29.6	0.51
Lanarkshire, North and South ¹²	4,616	28.0	0.48
Moray	561	22.3	0.37
Na h-Eileanan Siar	100	17.0	0.21
Orkney Islands	94	20.2	0.26
Perth and Kinross	827	22.5	0.35
Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire ¹³	1,528	27.0	0.45
Scottish Borders	451	24.2	0.40
Shetland Islands	156	26.3	0.30
Stirling	645	24.7	0.42
West Lothian	1,059	23.0	0.34
High Court ¹⁴	630	11.1	0.12
Unknown	2	**	**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11. Includes the Stipendiary Magistrates court.

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

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

14. The High Court sits permanently in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. It also periodically sits in Dumbarton, Lanark, Livingston, Paisley and Stirling. In previous years, these were included in the local authority group that contained the High Court. These are now presented separately under "High Court" as the appearance of offenders at a particular High Court does not necessarily have any reflection on the local authority they were from, or where the offences were committed. Removing these slightly elevates the reconviction rates by less than 1 percentage point for Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire, Edinburgh and Midlothian, and Glasgow City where the High Court permanently sits, as offenders convicted for more serious offences typically have low reconviction rates. It has had little effect on rates for Dunbartonshire, East and West; Lanarkshire, North and South; Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire; Stirling; and West Lothian where the High Court periodically sits. The additional tables present revised reconviction rates for previous cohorts.

Table 13: Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by local authority based on residence of offenders: 2016-17 cohort¹

Local Authority	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
All	40,606	27.2	0.48
Aberdeen City	1,963	33.3	0.71
Aberdeenshire	1,021	28.2	0.54
Angus	692	23.8	0.38
Argyll & Bute	320	21.9	0.33
Clackmannanshire	426	27.5	0.56
Dumfries & Galloway	1,002	28.1	0.48
Dundee City	1,349	25.4	0.40
East Ayrshire	801	27.7	0.53
East Dunbartonshire	286	21.0	0.34
East Lothian	480	21.0	0.36
East Renfrewshire	349	22.6	0.30
Edinburgh, City of	2,378	24.6	0.43
Falkirk	1,033	26.6	0.48
Fife	2,386	26.2	0.43
Glasgow City	4,869	28.1	0.48
Highland	1,137	25.1	0.39
Inverclyde	445	29.2	0.43
Midlothian	480	23.8	0.40
Moray	542	23.6	0.39
Na h-Eileanan Siar	82	20.7	0.28
North Ayrshire	806	25.8	0.40
North Lanarkshire	2,161	25.9	0.44
Orkney Islands	82	23.2	0.30
Perth & Kinross	655	24.6	0.39
Renfrewshire	911	24.7	0.41
Scottish Borders	419	23.4	0.40
Shetland Islands	114	25.4	0.31
South Ayrshire	509	28.9	0.55
South Lanarkshire	2,075	26.3	0.44
Stirling	459	26.4	0.47
West Dunbartonshire	629	27.8	0.42
West Lothian	1,022	23.1	0.35
Other British ²	499	9.4	0.13
Unknown ³	8,224	31.1	0.58

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

2. Includes convictions for offenders with a postcode in England, Northern Ireland, Wales, or a Crown Dependency. Note that these only include convictions in Scottish Courts. Offenders may have other convictions in other countries which are not counted here, so they are not comparable to the data for Scotland or Scottish local authorities.

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

Table 14: Two year reconviction rates and two year average number of reconvictions per offender: 1997-98 to 2015-16 cohorts¹

Cohort	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
1997-98	53,460	42.6	1.10
1998-99	49,145	42.5	1.08
1999-00	44,245	42.9	1.08
2000-01	41,561	43.8	1.13
2001-02	43,647	44.2	1.16
2002-03	44,848	45.2	1.18
2003-04	47,003	44.6	1.15
2004-05	49,353	44.5	1.13
2005-06	50,344	44.8	1.13
2006-07	53,305	44.1	1.09
2007-08	53,044	42.5	1.06
2008-09	49,665	42.4	1.08
2009-10	47,416	41.5	1.03
2010-11	44,707	41.1	1.02
2011-12	43,819	40.7	1.00
2012-13	41,695	40.6	0.99
2013-14	42,177	40.0	0.97
2014-15	43,614	39.0	0.92
2015-16	44,051	37.3	0.86

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

Table 15: Individuals given police disposals and subsequent non-court disposals, by disposal type: 2008-09 to 2016-17 cohorts^{1,2}

Police disposal	Number of individuals	Repeat non-court disposal rate ^{3,4}	Average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual ³
ASBFPN			
2008-09	38,917	28.5	0.48
2009-10	48,241	27.5	0.47
2010-11	42,841	27.4	0.49
2011-12	41,500	28.3	0.53
2012-13	41,783	28.7	0.56
2013-14	42,655	26.0	0.48
2014-15	33,623	23.5	0.43
2015-16	24,205	20.4	0.35
2016-17	12,859	20.4	0.32
Formal Adult Warning			
2008-09	6,803	18.0	0.28
2009-10	7,474	14.7	0.22
2010-11	6,775	13.3	0.20
2011-12	7,561	15.1	0.23
2012-13	7,438	16.3	0.26
2013-14	6,592	13.6	0.22
2014-15	4,379	11.9	0.18
2015-16	3,158	10.8	0.15
2016-17	216	25.0	0.47
Restorative Justice Warning			
2008-09	2,269	7.9	0.10
2009-10	2,153	6.0	0.07
2010-11	1,646	6.9	0.09
2011-12	949	8.6	0.10
2012-13	547	18.5	0.29
2013-14	376	18.6	0.29
2014-15	212	21.2	0.32
2015-16	281	27.4	0.51
2016-17	282	23.0	0.42
Early and Effective Interventions			
2008-09	93	15.1	0.17
2009-10	215	21.4	0.27
2010-11	432	19.2	0.25
2011-12	2,190	20.3	0.29
2012-13	3,438	19.8	0.29
2013-14	3,857	23.4	0.39
2014-15	4,198	23.0	0.38
2015-16	5,103	23.6	0.41
2016-17	4,533	24.6	0.46
Recorded Police Warning			
2008-09	-	-	-
2009-10	-	-	-
2010-11	-	-	-
2011-12	-	-	-
2012-13	-	-	-
2013-14	-	-	-
2014-15	-	-	-
2015-16	3,556	14.7	0.19
2016-17	17,833	15.3	0.20

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

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

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

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

5. Formal Adult Warnings were replaced and extended by Recorded Police Warnings in January 2016 which cover a wider range of offences. Formal Adult Warnings given after January 2016 were for offences committed before January 2016.

Table 16: Individuals given COPFS disposals and subsequent non-court disposals, by disposal type: 2008-09 to 2016-17 cohorts^{1,2}

COPFS disposal	Number of individuals	Repeat non-court disposal rate ^{3,4}	Average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual ³
Fiscal Fine			
2008-09	30,031	25.7	0.40
2009-10	28,057	23.4	0.35
2010-11	28,150	22.9	0.34
2011-12	32,940	25.3	0.36
2012-13	37,246	25.7	0.37
2013-14	36,603	21.8	0.33
2014-15	28,765	22.3	0.33
2015-16	28,764	19.4	0.26
2016-17	18,565	18.5	0.24
Fiscal Fixed Penalty			
2008-09	16,997	8.8	0.10
2009-10	17,427	9.4	0.11
2010-11	19,016	9.6	0.11
2011-12	19,707	9.6	0.11
2012-13	20,069	10.4	0.12
2013-14	21,884	9.1	0.10
2014-15	14,768	7.5	0.09
2015-16	10,262	5.6	0.06
2016-17	8,114	5.6	0.06
Fiscal Combined Fine with Compensation			
2008-09	1,150	23.9	0.35
2009-10	1,734	18.9	0.24
2010-11	1,887	19.1	0.25
2011-12	2,265	19.6	0.24
2012-13	1,928	21.3	0.28
2013-14	1,574	19.3	0.27
2014-15	1,644	19.4	0.25
2015-16	2,185	20.0	0.24
2016-17	1,935	17.1	0.20
Fiscal Compensation			
2008-09	1,644	25.9	0.37
2009-10	1,660	20.1	0.28
2010-11	1,530	20.0	0.26
2011-12	1,110	22.1	0.28
2012-13	841	20.7	0.27
2013-14	663	16.6	0.22
2014-15	508	16.5	0.23
2015-16	442	17.2	0.22
2016-17	585	14.9	0.18
Fiscal Warning			
2008-09	-	-	-
2009-10	-	-	-
2010-11	-	-	-
2011-12	-	-	-
2012-13	12,970	16.0	0.21
2013-14	8,094	13.9	0.18
2014-15	7,993	13.1	0.17
2015-16	12,815	13.9	0.18
2016-17	7,833	13.5	0.18

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

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

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

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

Table 17: Individuals given non-court disposals and subsequent non-court disposals, by gender: 2008-09 to 2016-17 cohorts^{1,2}

Gender	Number of Individuals	Repeat non-court disposal rate³	Average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual
Males			
2008-09	77,071	24.7	0.40
2009-10	82,412	23.9	0.39
2010-11	78,218	23.2	0.38
2011-12	81,823	23.8	0.40
2012-13	92,219	23.9	0.41
2013-14	90,986	22.0	0.37
2014-15	73,469	20.8	0.34
2015-16	66,880	18.3	0.28
2016-17	52,988	17.4	0.25
Females			
2008-09	23,497	16.7	0.23
2009-10	24,929	15.3	0.21
2010-11	24,151	15.1	0.21
2011-12	26,446	18.3	0.26
2012-13	34,102	18.6	0.26
2013-14	31,361	14.2	0.21
2014-15	22,651	13.9	0.21
2015-16	23,907	13.8	0.19
2016-17	19,782	13.8	0.18

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

2. Includes police and COPFS disposals.

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

Table 18: Individuals given non-court disposals and subsequent non-court disposals, by age: 2008-09 to 2016-17 cohorts^{1,2}

Age	Number of Individuals	Repeat non-court disposal rate ³	Average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual
Under 21			
2008-09	27,484	32.2	0.53
2009-10	28,260	30.2	0.50
2010-11	24,414	29.0	0.47
2011-12	24,017	29.0	0.48
2012-13	25,117	28.9	0.48
2013-14	22,970	27.8	0.46
2014-15	18,894	25.3	0.40
2015-16	17,671	22.7	0.35
2016-17	14,871	22.1	0.33
21 to 25			
2008-09	19,774	24.6	0.36
2009-10	21,701	23.8	0.36
2010-11	20,407	22.9	0.35
2011-12	20,524	24.6	0.38
2012-13	23,164	25.1	0.38
2013-14	22,651	22.0	0.33
2014-15	16,963	20.4	0.31
2015-16	14,720	18.4	0.26
2016-17	11,250	16.7	0.21
26 to 30			
2008-09	14,001	20.8	0.31
2009-10	15,396	20.2	0.30
2010-11	15,098	20.4	0.31
2011-12	16,514	22.1	0.34
2012-13	19,198	22.7	0.36
2013-14	18,561	19.9	0.31
2014-15	14,457	19.0	0.29
2015-16	13,338	17.2	0.24
2016-17	10,157	15.6	0.20
31 to 40			
2008-09	19,415	18.3	0.28
2009-10	20,256	18.1	0.29
2010-11	20,015	19.5	0.33
2011-12	22,143	21.3	0.36
2012-13	26,515	21.5	0.36
2013-14	26,173	19.0	0.33
2014-15	20,560	19.0	0.32
2015-16	19,653	16.6	0.25
2016-17	15,835	16.1	0.23
Over 40			
2008-09	19,894	14.1	0.23
2009-10	21,728	13.9	0.23
2010-11	22,435	13.7	0.23
2011-12	25,071	15.8	0.27
2012-13	32,327	16.2	0.27
2013-14	31,992	14.0	0.24
2014-15	25,246	14.0	0.24
2015-16	25,405	12.9	0.20
2016-17	20,657	12.9	0.19

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

2. Includes police and COPFS disposals.

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

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

Table 19: Repeat non-court disposal rates by characteristics: 2016-17 cohort^{1,2,3}

Index non-court disposal in 2016-17 by gender	Age					
	All	Under 21	21 to 25	26 to 30	31 to 40	Over 40
All	16	22	17	16	16	13
Male	17	24	18	16	17	14
Female	14	18	13	14	15	11
Police Disposals	19	22	17	16	18	16
Male	20	23	17	17	19	17
Female	15	18	13	14	16	13
ASBFPN	20	22	18	19	22	22
Male	21	22	19	19	22	22
Female	20	20	15	19	21	23
Formal Adult Warning	25	35	15	22	24	25
Male	26	31	**	25	28	27
Female	20	**	**	**	**	21
Restorative Justice Warning	23	23	**	**	**	**
Male	25	25	**	**	**	**
Female	19	19	**	**	**	**
Early and Effective Interventions	25	25	**	**	**	**
Male	27	27	**	**	**	**
Female	19	19	**	**	**	**
Recorded Police Warning	15	19	15	13	15	13
Male	17	21	16	14	16	14
Female	12	15	12	11	14	10
COPFS Disposals	15	23	17	15	15	11
Male	15	25	19	16	15	12
Female	13	17	12	14	14	11
Fiscal Fine	19	27	20	20	18	16
Male	20	29	22	21	19	17
Female	16	19	14	17	16	14
Fiscal Fixed Penalty	6	13	8	6	6	4
Male	6	16	9	7	7	4
Female	4	2	5	4	4	3
Fiscal Combined Fine with Compensation	17	22	21	13	18	16
Male	18	23	24	15	18	16
Female	14	19	13	9	17	14
Fiscal Compensation	15	23	16	16	16	8
Male	16	24	20	14	15	9
Female	12	18	4	25	19	6
Fiscal Warning	14	21	17	13	15	9
Male	14	22	18	14	15	10
Female	12	18	12	13	14	7
Fiscal Fixed Penalty (Pre-SJR)	13	**	**	**	**	**
Male	18	**	**	**	**	**
Female	**	**	**	**	**	**

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

2. Includes police and COPFS disposals.

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

Table 20: Individuals convicted in 2017-18, by gender, age and number and type of previous convictions in 10 years from 2008-09 to 2017-18¹

Number and type of previous convictions from 2008-09 to 2017-18	Total	Gender		Age ²					(Last) sentence in 2017-18			
		Male	Female	under 21	21 to 25	26 to 30	31 to 40	over 40	Custody ³	DTTO ⁴	Monetary	Other ⁵
Number of persons with charge proved	37,191	30,707	6,484	3,658	5,941	6,182	10,796	10,614	5,957	10,383	11,608	9,243
All previous convictions⁶												
None	12,877	10,097	2,780	2,004	1,927	1,571	2,996	4,379	793	3,094	4,826	4,164
1 or 2	8,984	7,429	1,555	915	1,493	1,482	2,478	2,616	785	2,808	3,363	2,028
3 to 10	10,338	8,852	1,486	637	1,759	1,980	3,415	2,547	2,190	3,388	2,648	2,112
Over 10	4,992	4,329	663	102	762	1,149	1,907	1,072	2,189	1,093	771	939
Previous custodial sentences												
None	27,145	21,605	5,540	3,286	4,479	4,137	7,057	8,186	1,802	8,026	9,789	7,528
1 or 2	4,145	3,746	399	193	591	778	1,444	1,139	1,256	1,141	988	760
3 to 10	4,538	4,105	433	175	747	947	1,671	998	2,060	1,018	717	743
Over 10	1,363	1,251	112	4	124	320	624	291	839	198	114	212
Previous community sentences												
None	21,587	17,323	4,264	2,564	3,132	3,036	5,707	7,148	2,047	5,362	8,027	6,151
1 or 2	9,583	8,219	1,364	801	1,536	1,814	3,095	2,337	1,993	3,127	2,514	1,949
3 to 10	5,820	5,012	808	286	1,241	1,269	1,928	1,096	1,842	1,829	1,039	1,110
Over 10	201	153	48	7	32	63	66	33	75	65	28	33
Previous solemn convictions⁷												
None	30,333	24,398	5,935	3,330	4,793	4,665	8,329	9,216	3,163	8,807	10,255	8,108
1 or 2	5,776	5,250	526	298	970	1,219	2,043	1,246	2,097	1,433	1,249	997
3 to 10	1,080	1,057	23	30	177	297	424	152	695	143	104	138
Over 10	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
Previous convictions for crimes of violence⁸												
None	23,948	19,433	4,515	2,867	3,439	3,237	6,541	7,864	2,433	6,412	8,356	6,747
1 or 2	10,117	8,560	1,557	686	1,830	2,043	3,309	2,249	2,211	3,217	2,713	1,976
3 to 10	3,094	2,692	402	105	669	894	930	496	1,294	749	535	516
Over 10	32	22	10	0	3	8	16	5	19	5	4	4
Previous convictions for crimes of dishonesty⁹												
None	27,437	22,603	4,834	3,197	4,467	4,282	7,197	8,294	2,951	7,885	9,437	7,164
1 or 2	5,079	4,275	804	358	926	1,074	1,570	1,151	1,201	1,438	1,333	1,107
3 to 10	3,382	2,792	590	100	492	637	1,330	823	1,211	815	671	685
Over 10	1,293	1,037	256	3	56	189	699	346	594	245	167	287
Previous convictions for drug offences												
None	29,816	24,258	5,558	3,473	5,043	4,793	7,720	8,787	3,951	8,410	9,637	7,818
1 or 2	5,905	5,156	749	177	802	1,148	2,350	1,428	1,519	1,641	1,626	1,119
3 to 10	1,451	1,274	177	8	96	238	715	394	480	331	340	300
Over 10	19	19	0	0	0	3	11	5	7	1	5	6

1. This table is compiled on a different basis to tables 1-14. It counts individuals convicted in 2016-17 and counts their previous convictions over 10 years. If they were convicted more than once in 2017-18, their final conviction in the year is counted as the index conviction and the earlier convictions are counted as previous convictions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. Crimes of violence includes common assault, in line with Tables 6 and 7.

9. Crimes of dishonesty includes social security offences, in line with Tables 6 and 7.

Table 21: Individuals convicted by number of previous convictions in 10 years from 2008-09 to 2017-18¹

Number and type of previous convictions ²	1999-00 to 2008-09		2000-01 to 2009-10		2001-02 to 2010-11		2002-03 to 2011-12		2003-04 to 2012-13		2004-05 to 2013-14		2005-06 to 2014-15		2006-07 to 2015-16		2007-08 to 2016-17		2008-09 to 2017-18	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Number of persons with charge proved (=100%)	50,555		48,358		45,656		44,942		42,529		43,152		44,777		45,224		41,626		37,191	
All previous convictions³																				
None	17,348	34	16,467	34	15,350	34	14,833	33	13,876	33	14,736	34	16,064	36	16,465	36	14,500	35	12,877	35
1 or 2	12,314	24	11,898	25	10,938	24	10,704	24	10,099	24	10,342	24	10,596	24	10,831	24	10,161	24	8,984	24
3 to 10	14,338	28	13,595	28	13,019	29	13,087	29	12,403	29	12,008	28	12,220	27	12,239	27	11,480	28	10,338	28
Over 10	6,555	13	6,398	13	6,349	14	6,318	14	6,151	14	6,066	14	5,897	13	5,689	13	5,485	13	4,992	13

1. This table is compiled on a different basis to tables 1-14. It counts individuals convicted in the final year of the 10 year window, and counts their previous convictions over the 10 year window. If they were convicted more than once in the final year of the window, their final conviction in the year is counted as the index conviction and the earlier convictions are counted as previous convictions.

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

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

Annex

Annex A – Definitions, counting rules, and pseudo convictions

Background and definitions

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

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

Table A1 Definitions

The following terminology is applied throughout the bulletin:

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

Average number of repeat non-court disposals per individual - the total number of non-court disposals received by a cohort within a year of the index non-court disposal, divided by the total number of individuals in the cohort with an index non court disposal. This measures the frequency of the cohort receiving non-court disposals.

Cohort – all offenders who either received a non-custodial conviction or were released from a custodial sentence in a given financial year, from the 1st April to the 31st March the following year. In the analyses for non-court disposals, a cohort is all the individuals who either received a police or COPFS disposal in a given financial year. In this bulletin, for ease of communication, the cohort may be referred to by year alone, for example 2016-17.

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. See [Annex D](#) of the Criminal Proceedings Bulletin for further information about what are classified as crimes or 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.

Domestic abuse crime or offence – a crime or offence, such as common assault, that was domestically aggravated and marked with a domestic abuse identifier on the CHS by the police or COPFS.

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

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

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

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

Previous convictions – convictions preceding the index conviction.

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

Recidivism – repeated reoffending after being convicted.

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

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

Repeat non-court disposal rate – the percentage of individuals who are given a further non-court disposal within a year of receiving a non-court disposal from the police or COPFS.

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

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

Counting rules

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

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

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

- (a) the first occasion in the financial year in question when an individual was given a non-custodial sentence, or

(b) the first date when an individual was estimated to have been released from prison from a custodial sentence.

Whichever conviction has the earlier of these dates in a given financial year is the index conviction. The crime and sentence linked to this index conviction are referred to throughout this bulletin as the **index crime** and **index disposal**, respectively. In the case of the reconviction rate, the analysis then considers the proportion of these individuals who are reconvicted in court within one year (or two years in [Table 14](#)) from the date of sentence or the estimated custody release date, i.e. from the relevant date of the index conviction, whereas the average number of reconvictions per offender considers the number of times offenders are reconvicted in the same period.

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

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

A8 It is not possible to accurately identify the release date for offenders serving life sentences or, in some instances, very lengthy determinate sentences. However, the number of offenders involved is relatively small (27 offenders received a life sentence in 2017-18: see [Table 10d in Criminal Proceedings in Scotland, 2017-18](#)) and so will not affect the analysis presented in this bulletin significantly. Separate research evidence ([Life Sentence Prisoners in Scotland, Scottish Office, Machin et al, 1999](#)) shows that just over one quarter of the 491 life sentence prisoners released on licence were reconvicted. However, this figure may not be directly comparable with the reconviction rates presented in this bulletin, as the reconvictions for life sentence prisoners may have been for minor offences which are excluded from analysis in this bulletin, or reconvictions may have occurred more than a year after release from custody.

A9 The crimes counted as domestic abuse index convictions or reconvictions are not standalone domestic abuse crimes or offences. Those that are counted are crimes or offences that are domestically aggravated, and are marked with a non-statutory domestic abuse identifier on the CHS by the police or COPFS. For example, a common assault offence committed against a partner would be given a

domestic abuse identifier, and counted here either as a domestic abuse index crime or offence, or a domestic abuse reconviction.

A10 The counting rules for non-court disposals are similar to those for analysing court reconvictions. The first police or COPFS disposal in the financial year in question is counted as the **index non-court disposal**. Further non-court disposals from either the police or COPFS within one year of the index non-court disposal are counted, regardless whether the index non-court disposal was issued by the police or COPFS. The measure does not include activity for those who were then convicted in court within a year.

Data definitions

A11 The age of each person relates to their age at the time that sentence was passed. This also applies to offenders discharged from a custodial sentence, i.e. their age at the date of sentence is taken rather than at the estimated release date.

A12 The areas that courts serve do not exactly match administrative areas for local authorities. For example, Edinburgh Sheriff Court serves the local authority areas of the City of Edinburgh and Midlothian, and East Lothian from the 1st February 2015 when Haddington Sheriff Court closed. As a result, in [Table 12](#), [Chart 10](#) and [Chart 11](#) in this bulletin, local authorities are based on approximate areas. Some local authorities are grouped together so that there are 25 grouped local authorities presented, rather than all 32 being displayed separately. See the footnote of [Table 12](#) for details of the approximations for each administrative area. Note that offenders may be tried in a court that covers a different local authority to where they live if they commit a crime in a different area, or because their local authority does not have a court. [Table 13](#), shows reconviction rates by the local authority of offenders' residence, which is compiled by using the first half of an offender's postcode to assign them to a local authority. [Table 13](#) is labelled as [Experimental Statistics: Data being developed](#) and not National Statistics, as the data quality for this new analysis does not yet meet the standards for National Statistics. Therefore we recommend that the figures based on court area are still used as the definitive local authority reconviction rates.

A13 Tables A2 and A3 detail how crimes and offences, and sentence type have been grouped in this bulletin.

Table A2 Crime Groupings for Convictions and Reconvictions

Crime category	Crimes and offences included
Violent crime	Murder, culpable homicide, attempted murder, serious assault, robbery, common assault, death involving a motor vehicle, other violence.

Sexual crime	<p>Sexual crime includes sexual assault and other sexual crimes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual assault includes: rape; attempted rape; contact sexual assault (13-15 yr. old or adult 16+); sexually coercive conduct (13-15 yr. old or adult 16+); sexual offences against children under 13 years; and lewd and libidinous practices. • Other sexual crimes includes: other sexually coercive conduct; other sexual offences involving 13-15 year old children; taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children; incest; unnatural crimes; public indecency; sexual exposure; and other sexual offences. <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, orders for lifelong restriction. Life and indeterminate sentences are excluded. Also includes Supervised Release Orders and Extended Sentences in Table 10 and Table 20 .
ES	Extended Sentence
SRO	Supervised Release Order
CPO	Community Payback Order ⁵
Legacy community order	Probation Order (with or without CSO or RLO), or Community Service Order
DTTO	Drug Treatment and Testing Order
RLO	Restriction of Liberty Order
Monetary	Fine, compensation order
Other	Supervised Attendance Orders, caution, absolute discharge, remit to children's hearing, admonishment, hospital order, guardianship order, finding of insanity, hospital order & restricted order, supervision and treatment order and disposals not elsewhere specified.
Police disposals	Anti-Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Notices (ASBFPNs), Formal Adult Warnings, Restorative Justice Warnings, Early and Effective Interventions (EEl), and Recorded Police Warnings.
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service disposals	Fiscal Fines, Fiscal Compensation Orders, Fiscal Fixed Penalties, Fiscal Combined Fines with Compensation, and Pre-Scottish Justice Reform Fiscal Fixed Penalties.

The effect of pseudo convictions

A14 Pseudo convictions are convictions which occur after the index conviction, but relate to offences committed prior to the index conviction. They can arise in cases where there are several sets of proceedings simultaneously in train against an individual for offences committed on a range of dates.

A15 Pseudo convictions could potentially have the following effects:

- In theory, they may exaggerate the rate of "real" convictions to some extent.
- They will complicate comparisons between conviction rates for different types of disposal as they tend to be less common for offenders who are discharged from a long custodial sentence compared to those given non-custodial sentences.

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

- 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.

A16 Excluding pseudo reconvictions will not necessarily result in an improved estimate of the reconviction rate, unless one also addresses the issue of offences committed during the follow-up period, but which have a conviction date outside of this period and are therefore currently excluded from the calculation. Excluding both cases is likely to result in a downward bias of the estimate. One year and two year reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender without pseudo reconvictions were shown in previous publications for the purposes of illustration. The figures up to the 2016-17 cohort can be found in the [additional datasets](#) which accompany this publication.

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

Sources of information

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

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

B3 The data in the SOI on court convictions currently covers all convictions where a sentence was imposed since the beginning of 1989, and the main offence involved was either a crime in Groups 1-5, or some of the offences in Group 6, in the Scottish Government's classification of crimes (see [Annex D](#) of the Criminal Proceedings Bulletin for further information about these classification groups). Minor offences (such as drunkenness, and almost all motor vehicle offences) are not included in the SOI.

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

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

B6 Each record on the SOI database includes information on the sex and date of birth of the offender, the dates of conviction and sentence, the main crime or offence involved and details of the sentence imposed. Information is also available on any crimes which were additional to the main crime. Each offender has a unique reference number, which allows individual convictions for that offender to be linked together. The SOI does not include the name and address of an offender, except

the first half of an offender's postcode. A [privacy notice](#) is available on the Scottish Government's website.

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

B8 The Scottish Offenders Index (SOI) currently contains data on 584,000 offenders and 2,193,000 convictions since SOI records began in 1989. Eighty-five percent of the offenders are male and 15 percent are female.

Data quality

B9 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.

B10 Data standards are adhered to by organisations inputting data to the CHS in terms of the definitions of data items and their corresponding values. These standards are agreed under the Justice Digital Strategy and ensure there is consistency across the justice organisations in the information they collect. Further information on the data standards can be found in the [Integration of Scottish Criminal Justice Information Systems \(ISCJIS\) data sharing manual](#).

B11 The following protocols also ensure consistency in the data collected:

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

B12 The Scottish Government has representation on a data quality group and is kept informed of any data quality issues relating to the CHS. This group meets around three times a year and also has representation from Police Scotland, COPFS, the Scottish Prison Service, and SCTS.

B13 The analyses in this bulletin are based on the data published in the [Criminal Proceedings in Scotland](#) statistical bulletin, and the quality assurance process is described in the section on **Data quality: Data validation during production of the statistical bulletin** in Annex B of the Criminal Proceedings bulletin. In summary, the validation processes include automated and manual checks on the data. Any unusual or missing values are referred back to either Police Scotland, the SCTS, or COPFS. The figures are also checked against case processing information published by COPFS and management information provided by SCTS to ensure that the court volumes are consistent. Police Scotland, SCTS, COPFS

and policy experts within the Scottish Government are also consulted to give insight on an operational level and provide insight into why any significant changes may have occurred. The figures are also checked by Scottish Government statisticians, who have not been involved in the production process, and they may highlight any issues that may have gone unnoticed.

B14 During the production of this bulletin, the data undergoes processing to calculate the frequency and prevalence of reconvictions. The numbers are manually checked to determine whether there are any unusual values, and if so, then the calculations are rechecked. Like the [Criminal Proceedings in Scotland](#) publication, the figures in this bulletin have undergone a further round of checks by Scottish Government statisticians, and policy experts within the Scottish Government are again consulted to provide insight and context to any significant changes in the figures.

Postcode data quality

B15 From the 2015-16 cohort publication, we have published reconviction rates for local authorities based on offenders' home postcode ([Table 13](#)) alongside the reconviction rates for local authorities based on court location ([Table 12](#)).

B16 Previously we could only calculate reconviction rates for local authorities based on the court location of where offenders were convicted, as this was the only geographical information that we had. This approach has limitations, because some court areas cover multiple local authorities and offenders may be convicted for crimes committed in different areas to where they live. In particular, these figures are not fully suitable for local authority community justice partners, as they have a need for reconviction figures for offenders who live in their area for planning purposes, such as: schemes to reduce reoffending, or estimating the number of offenders that social workers need to supervise in their area.

B17 We started receiving data from Police Scotland on the first half of an offender's postcode in 2014, and coverage was high enough from 2015-16 onwards to start using the data. With the first half of an offender's postcode we can match offenders to their home local authority and calculate reconviction rates based on offenders' home local authority.

B18 We are classifying the reconviction rates for local authorities based on the postcode data as [Experimental Statistics: Data being developed](#), as the data are of insufficient quality to be labelled as National Statistics as the rest of the data in this publication are. We did not have postcodes for a fifth of offenders (20%) with an index conviction in 2016-17, and we are unsure of how this may affect the reconviction rates.

B19 Postcodes may be missing because offenders have no fixed abode, but it may also be a recording issue. We are also less likely to have the postcode of offenders released from a custodial sentence, as we would have received their conviction data before we started collecting the postcode. The missing category

also includes a small number where postcodes were supplied, but they were not valid postcodes. We are working with Police Scotland to improve the coverage, and as the accuracy improves we will remove the experimental label.

B20 Annex [Table B1](#) shows the percentage of offenders with missing postcodes in each local authority group based on location of the court they were convicted in. It also shows the percentage of offenders living in each local authority that make up the local authority group. This shows that there are significant percentages of offenders who are convicted in a court that covers a different local authority to where they live.

Table B1 Postcode coverage for each local authority group

Local authority group based on court location ¹	Offender's local authority ²	Number	% of LA group
Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	Aberdeen City	1870	57%
	Aberdeenshire	949	29%
	other LA	259	8%
	Missing	182	6%
Angus	Angus	538	76%
	other LA	93	13%
	Missing	78	11%
Argyll & Bute	Argyll & Bute	206	62%
	other LA	51	15%
	Missing	73	22%
Ayrshire, East, North and South	East Ayrshire	710	20%
	North Ayrshire	712	20%
	South Ayrshire	462	13%
	other LA	238	7%
	Missing	1375	39%
Clackmannanshire	Clackmannanshire	298	71%
	other LA	60	14%
	Missing	63	15%
Dumfries & Galloway	Dumfries & Galloway	955	78%
	other LA	175	14%
	Missing	96	8%
Dunbartonshire, East and West	East Dunbartonshire	25	3%
	West Dunbartonshire	482	52%
	other LA	186	20%
	Missing	231	25%
Dundee City	Dundee City	1196	66%
	Fife	216	12%
	other LA	186	10%
	Missing	210	12%
East Lothian	East Lothian	6	67%
	other LA	1	11%
	Missing	2	22%
Edinburgh and Midlothian (and East Lothian)	East Lothian	442	10%
	Edinburgh, City of	2144	50%
	Midlothian	445	10%
	other LA	488	11%
	Missing	791	18%
Falkirk	Falkirk	831	69%
	other LA	213	18%
	Missing	166	14%
Fife	Fife	1931	80%
	other LA	124	5%
	Missing	345	14%

(Continued on next page)

Table B1 – continued

Glasgow City	Glasgow City	4095	53%
	East Dunbartonshire	221	3%
	North Lanarkshire	188	2%
	South Lanarkshire	534	7%
	other LA	765	10%
	Missing	1896	25%
Highland	Highland	1054	74%
	other LA	169	12%
	Missing	209	15%
Inverclyde	Inverclyde	349	50%
	Argyll & Bute	24	3%
	other LA	71	10%
	Missing	258	37%
Lanarkshire, North and South	North Lanarkshire	1755	38%
	South Lanarkshire	1369	30%
	other LA	424	9%
	Missing	1068	23%
Moray	Moray	473	84%
	other LA	54	10%
	Missing	34	6%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	Na h-Eileanan Siar	75	75%
	other LA	12	12%
	Missing	13	13%
Orkney Islands	Orkney Islands	72	77%
	other LA	8	9%
	Missing	14	15%
Perth & Kinross	Perth & Kinross	546	66%
	other LA	196	24%
	Missing	85	10%
Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire	East Renfrewshire	134	9%
	Renfrewshire	683	45%
	other LA	238	16%
	Missing	473	31%
Scottish Borders	Scottish Borders	354	78%
	other LA	49	11%
	Missing	48	11%
Shetland Islands	Shetland Islands	107	69%
	other LA	25	16%
	Missing	24	15%
Stirling	Stirling	359	56%
	other LA	187	29%
	Missing	99	15%
West Lothian	West Lothian	788	74%
	other LA	137	13%
	Missing	134	13%
High Court	Postcode present	372	59%
	Missing	258	41%

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

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

Domestic abuse data quality

B21 Reconviction rates for domestic abuse crimes and offences were first published as an [adhoc analysis of the previous 2015-16 offender cohort](#) in April 2019. Therefore this is only the second time that reconviction rates for domestic abuse have been published.

B22 The domestic abuse identifier used to identify domestic abuse and non-domestic abuse crimes in these statistics has been used in the [Criminal Proceedings in Scotland](#) National Statistics publication for several years. Also the process to calculate reconvictions is the same as used to calculate reconvictions elsewhere in the bulletin. This means that relevant quality assurance has been carried out on all the data used in these figures. However, as these data have only recently started to be used in combination in these statistics, there may be some minor data quality issues that we may not have identified yet.

B23 A new statutory domestic abuse aggravation was created by the [Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#) and introduced in 2017-18 which would apply to some of the reconvictions for the 2016-17 cohort. This is also recorded by the police or COPFS. As this statutory aggravation is not currently applied to a conviction without the non-statutory identifier, this will not affect comparability before and after the introduction of the statutory aggravation.

Data confidentiality

B24 We have completed a data protection impact assessment to assess and mitigate any privacy issues with the collection, use, and publication of reconviction data.

B25 A [privacy notice](#) is available on the Scottish Government's website covering the data used in this publication.

B26 The Scottish Government are legally able to collect the data for this publication as [Section 84\(1 & 2\) of the Police and Fire Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2012](#) states that the "Scottish Police Authority must provide Scottish Ministers with reports, statistics or other information relating to the Police Service or functions, and the state of crime".

B27 Court proceedings are held in public and may be reported on by the media, unless the court orders otherwise, for example where children are involved. While our aim is for the statistics in this bulletin to be sufficiently detailed to allow a high level of practical utility, care has been taken to ensure that it is not possible to identify an individual and obtain any private information relating to them.

B28 We have assessed the risk of individuals being identified in the tables in this bulletin and have established that no private information can be identified. Where demographic information is provided this is done in wider categories.

B29 Some of the additional data tables we provide alongside this publication have local authority information related to the offender. In the local authority tables, either demographic information is provided or offence-level information is provided, but not a combination of both.

B30 To maintain the security and confidentiality of the data received from the data suppliers, only a small number of Scottish Government statisticians and statistical support officers have access to the datasets outlined in the various stages of processing outlined above. The only personal details received by the Scottish Government in the data extract are those which are essential for the analyses in this bulletin and do not include the names of offenders.

Revisions

B31 The CHS is not designed for statistical purposes. It is dependent on receiving timely information from the SCTS, COPFS, and the police. It should also be noted that some types of outcome are removed from the system after a prescribed length of time. A pending case on the CHS is updated in a timely manner, but there are occasions when a slight delay may happen. Recording delays of this sort generally affects high court disposals relatively more than those for other types of court. The figures provided in this bulletin reflect the details of court proceedings recorded on the CHS and supplied to the Scottish Government by the end of September 2018 to allow later reconvictions in 2017-18 to be captured on the CHS.

B32 The CHS is regularly updated, so subsequent analyses will result in revised figures (shown in [Annex Table B2](#)) as late records are added. The first revision of the reconviction rate in the following year's bulletin was typically around 0.4 percentage points higher than the figures published initially, although this has improved recently and the revised figure for last year was 0.2 percentage points higher. The first revision of the average number of reconvictions per offender is typically 0.01 to 0.02 higher than the initially published figure.

Table B2 Revisions to reconviction rates

Cohort	Initial published figures		1st revision of published figures		2nd revision of published figures		3rd revision of published figures	
	Reconv. rate	Av. no. of reconv. per offender	Reconv. rate	Av. no. of reconv. per offender	Reconv. rate	Av. no. of reconv. per offender	Reconv. rate	Av. no. of reconv. per offender
2006-07	32.2	0.59 [†]	32.4	0.60 [†]	32.4	0.60 [†]	32.4	0.60 [†]
2007-08	30.9	0.56 [†]	31.2	0.57 [†]	31.3	0.57 [†]	31.2	0.57 [†]
2008-09	31.0	0.58 [†]	31.5	0.60 [†]	31.5	0.60 [†]	31.5	0.60
2009-10	30.1	0.54 [†]	30.5	0.56 [†]	30.6	0.56	30.6	0.56
2010-11	28.4 ^X	0.50 ^{†X}	30.1 ^X	0.55 ^X	30.1	0.55	30.1	0.55
2011-12	29.2	0.53	29.6	0.54	29.6	0.55	29.6	0.55
2012-13	28.6	0.51	28.9	0.53	28.9	0.53	28.9	0.53
2013-14	28.3	0.51	28.5	0.52	28.5	0.52	28.5	0.52
2014-15	28.2	0.50	28.3	0.50	28.4	0.51	-	-
2015-16	27.0	0.47	27.2	0.48	-	-	-	-
2016-17	27.0	0.47	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

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

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

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

C1 The Scottish Government carried out a user survey for the Reconviction Rates in Scotland statistical bulletin in December 2014. The results of the survey can be found on the [Scottish Government's website](#). Some of the points noted in the survey have been addressed in subsequent bulletins.

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

C3 Users of information on reconviction rates include:

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

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

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

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

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

D1 CPOs replaced the provisions for the “legacy” community orders of Community Service Orders (CSO), Probation Orders (PO), and Supervised Attendance Orders (SAO) on the 1st February 2011.

D2 There was a transition period between the phasing out of the legacy orders and the establishment of CPOs, due to the different disposals being given for offences committed before or after the 1st February 2011. The first cohort of offenders with an index disposal of a CPO in 2010-11 was therefore very small as they had to commit a crime and also be convicted between 1 February and 31 March 2011.

D3 As CPOs have become established, the number of offenders with an index disposal of a CPO increased from 179 in 2010-11 to more than 10,000 from 2013-14 onwards. The number of those with an index disposal of a legacy order (CSO or PO) decreased from 8,237 to 198 between 2010-11 and 2013-14. There has been a very small number of offenders with an index disposal of a legacy order since 2013-14 which are given for offences committed prior to February 2011 ([Table 9](#)).

D4 During the transition from legacy orders to CPOs, there were changes in the characteristics of offenders that were given these disposal types. Therefore it is difficult to compare the two disposal types in the same year since the introduction of CPOs. Changes in offender characteristics are also likely to be responsible for the decreases in reconvictions of offenders given CPOs and legacy orders during the transition period, as both disposals showed an increase in the proportion of groups of offenders that typically have lower reconviction rates (females, older offenders, and offenders with fewer previous convictions). The characteristics of offenders given CPOs as they became fully established is similar to the legacy sentences prior to the introduction of CPOs. See [Annex D of the Reconviction Rates in Scotland: 2013-14 cohort](#) publication for further comparison of the characteristics of offenders given CPOs and legacy orders.

D5 As CPOs have become established, changes in reconvictions for CPOs can be compared over time and CPOs can be compared with legacy orders prior to the introduction of CPOs. Compared to the legacy community orders, reconviction rates for CPOs are 2.5 percentage points lower than the last full year of legacy orders in 2009-10 before CPOs were introduced (31.2% for CPOs in 2016-17 and 33.7% for legacy orders in 2009-10). There were 0.55 reconvictions per offender on average for CPOs in 2016-17, which is 11% lower than 0.62 for the legacy orders in 2009-10 ([Table 9](#) and [Chart 8](#)).

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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

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

Correspondence and enquiries

For enquiries about this publication please contact:

Andrew Morgan,
Justice Analytical Services, Scottish Government,
Telephone: 0131 244 9076
email: Justice_Analysts@gov.scot

For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

Office of the Chief Statistician, Telephone: 0131 244 0442,
e-mail: statistics.enquiries@gov.scot

How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

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

Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, GR, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail statistics.enquiries@gov.scot.

If you would like to be consulted about statistical collections or receive notification of publications, please register your interest at www.gov.scot/scotstat
Details of forthcoming publications can be found at www.gov.scot/statistics

ISBN 978-1-78781-925-2 (web only)

Crown Copyright

You may use or re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. See: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/