

CRIME AND JUSTICE

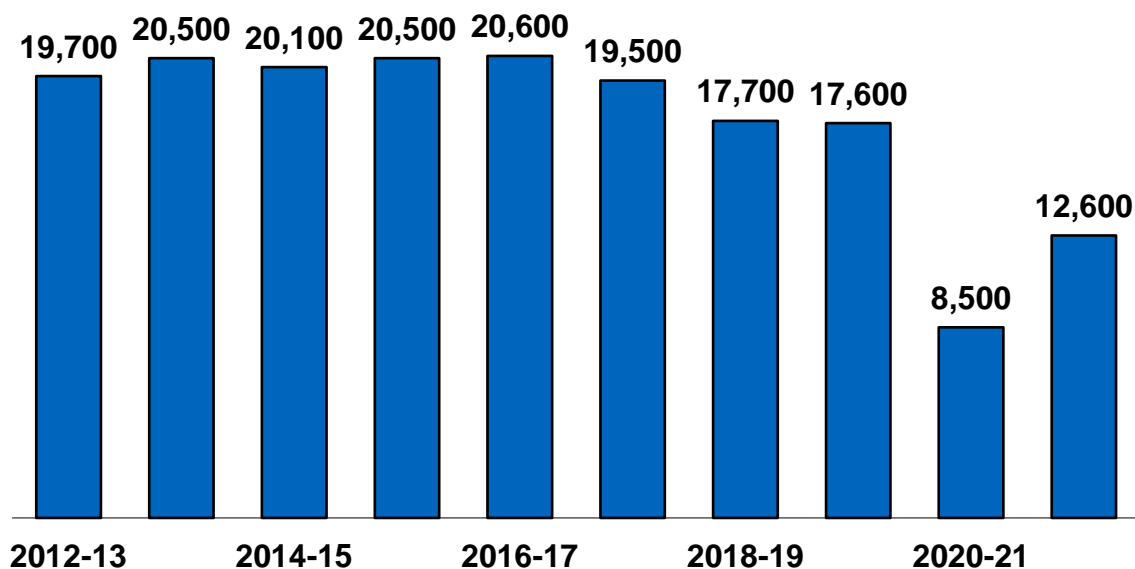
Justice Social Work Statistics in Scotland: 2021-22

31 January 2023

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This publication presents national-level information on justice social work activity in Scotland. It includes data on justice social work services and social work orders, as well as characteristics of the individuals involved.
- 1.2 The nationwide lockdowns and other public health measures put in place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic have had a big impact on social work activity since March 2020. Caution is advised in comparing activity in years 2020-21 and 2021-22 with previous years.
- 1.3 The number of social work orders issued in 2021-22 was 12,600, up 48 per cent on 2020-21 but still much lower than any of the previous eight years (Chart 1).

Chart 1 Social work orders issued: 2012-13 to 2021-22



Note: Figures in this chart are rounded to the nearest 100. Figures from 2015-16 onwards exclude a small number of legacy orders.

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Key Points

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and associated public health measures, have had an impact on many areas of justice social work during years 2020-21 and 2021-22. This resulted in lower volumes of cases going through courts, especially during 2020-21. Justice social work was affected by the national lockdowns and other measures to keep people safe. Some caution is advised in interpreting the figures in this bulletin for 2020-21 and 2021-22, particularly how they compare with earlier years.

- The number of diversion from prosecution cases commenced rose by 20 per cent between 2020-21 and 2021-22 to 2,700, the highest level in the last decade.
- The number of bail supervision cases commenced in 2021-22 was 570, the highest in the last decade. This was an increase of 20 per cent on the second highest level of 470 in 2019-20.
- The number of criminal justice social work reports (including supplementary reports) rose by 36 per cent between 2020-21 and 2021-22 to 23,000. This was still lower than in the previous three pre-pandemic years which averaged around 28,200.
- There were 12,150 community payback orders (CPOs) commenced in 2021-22. This was 49 per cent higher than in 2020-21 but was the second lowest in the last decade. From 2012-13 to 2019-20, the number of orders commenced ranged from 16,100 to 19,500.
- In 2021-22, as in 2020-21, more CPOs were issued with supervision (71 per cent) than unpaid work requirements (63 per cent) ([Chart 4](#)). This may still have been influenced by COVID-related restrictions affecting the delivery of unpaid work as, prior to the pandemic, unpaid work had always been the most commonly issued requirement.
- The average length of CPO supervision requirements increased in the last two years. From 2017-18 to 2019-20 it was under 16 months. It increased to 16.7 months in 2020-21 and then to 16.9 months in 2021-22.
- The number of CPOs in existence increased by nine per cent during 2021-22, from 13,800 at 31 March 2021 to 15,000 at 31 March 2022. This was the third lowest figure in ten years. From 2012-13 to 2019-20, there was an average of 16,200 orders.
- The number of drug treatment and testing orders commenced rose by 58 per cent between 2020-21 and 2021-22 to 360. This was lower than in any of the previous eight years when numbers averaged 560.
- There were 930 structured deferred sentences imposed in Scotland in 2021-22. This was the highest number in the last four years.
- There were 1,700 statutory custody and community based throughcare cases commenced in 2021-22. This was higher than in 2020-21 but still the second lowest in the last ten years.
- The number of home detention curfew assessment reports completed fell to 790 in 2021-22, the lowest level in the last ten years.

2 Background

- 2.1 The name of this publication has been changed from ‘Criminal Justice Social Work Statistics’ to ‘Justice Social Work Statistics’. This change has been made as the term justice social work is now the one consistently used across the justice system for social work provided within it. This is only a change of name and does not affect comparability with the data published under the previous name.
- 2.2 Significant public health measures relating to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, including two national lockdowns, were in place during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 recording years. For example, the temporary closure of many courts early in 2020-21, as well as reduced capacity when courts reopened, mean that statistics for most areas of justice social work are lower than in previous years. Caution is advised in comparing 2020-21 and 2021-22 data with that from earlier years.
- 2.3 The data quoted in the text of this publication is rounded. The tables published alongside contain unrounded data. More information is available in [section 9](#).
- 2.4 Local authority justice social work teams provide a range of services, including:
- assessments and reports to assist decisions on sentencing
 - court services to assist those attending court
 - bail information and supervision services as an alternative to custodial remand
 - supervising people on social work orders to tackle offending behaviour
 - supervising people who need to perform unpaid, useful work for the benefit of the community
 - prison-based social work services to those serving custodial sentences
 - preparing reports for the Parole Board to assist decisions about release from prison
 - throughcare services including parole, supervised release and other prison aftercare orders to ensure public safety
 - some support to those who have experienced crime and their families.
- 2.5 The data presented in this publication comes from justice social work management information systems for each of Scotland’s local authorities. Further information on the collection and processing of the data is in [Annex A](#).
- 2.6 The structure of this report reflects the main stages at which there is social work involvement in the justice system. This starts with diversion from prosecution and court based services. It then goes through to the implementation of social work orders and structured deferred sentences, followed by the supervision and support for those serving prison sentences before and after release. The following sections describe some key orders and services, and further definitions are in [Annex B](#).

2.7 Most of the time series tables which accompany this publication are for the past five years. This is normally long enough to illustrate current trends. However, we also publish some [additional datasets](#) which provide national and local authority data from 2004-05. The numbers in these additional tables as well as the Scotland level tables published alongside this publication are given unrounded, but are rounded for presentational purposes in this text.

3 Diversion from prosecution (Tables 1, 3 & 4)

3.1 The relevant prosecution policy of the Lord Advocate is that diversion should be considered for all individuals where there is an identifiable need that has contributed to their offending and which is best met through a diversion scheme. This is particularly the case where the individual is under 18 years of age and there is a presumption that an alternative to prosecution will be in the public interest. In diversion cases, a Procurator Fiscal may decide to waive prosecution or to defer prosecution pending the successful completion of the diversion scheme.

3.2 The number of diversion from prosecution cases commenced rose by 20 per cent between 2020-21 and 2021-22 to around 2,700. The rise in the most recent year has brought numbers to their highest in the last ten years (see [additional datasets](#) which accompany this publication).

3.3 During 2021-22, there were around 4,800 referrals, 4,300 assessments and 2,200 cases completed.

3.4 Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, the number of cases commenced rose for all age groups. This rise was highest (39 per cent) for those aged between 21 and 30.

3.5 By far the most likely people to get diversion from prosecution, as a proportion of the [overall population](#), were those aged 16 to 17. They accounted for 26 per cent of people getting diversion from prosecution in 2021-22 but only three per cent of the Scottish population aged 16 to 70. Similarly, 18-20 years olds accounted for 13 per cent of diversion cases in 2021-22 but only 5 per cent of the population aged 16 to 70.

3.6 In the last three years, just over two-thirds of cases commenced were for men. In 2021-22, 63 per cent were for people who were either unemployed or economically inactive.

4 Court-based services and social work reports (Tables 1 & 5 to 7)

4.1 There are various tasks associated with providing information and advice to the court. These include:

- oral/written reports and information at the court's request on specific matters. These inform the sentencing process or the decision to remand to custody rather than grant bail

- diverting people with mental health difficulties who may be a risk to themselves from remand in custody. This diversion would be either to hospital or to appropriate bail accommodation, where available, for assessment
- interviewing individuals immediately after the court has passed a disposal involving justice social work. Such interviews further explain the decision of the court and what this means for individuals. They also establish if there are any pressing issues which need dealt with immediately, and they inform individuals about the availability of relevant social work or other services
- offering advice and practical assistance to family or friends of those appearing on the day of court, when appropriate
- forwarding relevant information to prisons in the event of a custodial sentence. This would include details on people who may pose a risk of harm to themselves and/or others
- representing the local authority justice social work service in the court setting (including, where appropriate, court users' groups) and liaising with other professional groups

4.2 Detailed information on bail supervision services can be found in the [National guidance on bail supervision](#). This has recently been updated and published on the Scottish Government website.

4.3 During 2021-22, the courts made 3,800 requests for bail information. This was 11 per cent higher than in 2020-21 but still the second lowest in the last ten years. In some cases, bail information requests may result in the use of supervised bail rather than remand. A total of 570 bail supervision cases commenced in 2021-22, the highest in the last ten years. Numbers had increased sharply in each of 2018-19 and 2019-20. They then fell by 48 per cent in 2020-21, reflecting the fact that a number of courts were closed for long periods due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

4.4 Same day reports are either pre-sentence reports or specific sentence reports requested by the court. There were 1,100 such reports provided to the courts in 2021-22. This was down 22 per cent on 2020-21 and the lowest in the last decade. In 2021-22, there were 7,700 post sentence interviews with people remanded into custody or receiving custodial sentences for the first time. This was higher than the COVID-affected total of 4,100 in 2020-21 but still only around half of the number in 2019-20.

Criminal justice social work reports (Tables 1 & 5)

4.5 The criminal justice social work report (CJSWR) in its current format was introduced across Scotland from February 2011. The CJSWR ensures a consistent provision of information is provided, including the social worker's professional assessment. This report helps to assist in the sentencing process and to complement the range of other considerations, such as victim information and narratives from the Procurator Fiscal. In particular, the CJSWR provides information on social work interventions and how these may prevent or reduce further offending. A court must request a CJSWR:

- before imposing a custodial sentence for the first time or where a person is under 21
 - when imposing a community payback order (CPO) with a supervision requirement or a level 2 (over 100 hours) unpaid work or other activity requirement
 - when imposing a drug treatment and testing order
 - when the person is already subject to statutory supervision.
- 4.6 The number of CJSWRs submitted (including supplementary reports but excluding letters sent instead of reports) have averaged 28,200 over 2017-18 to 2019-20. With the lower volume of cases going through courts in 2020-21, numbers inevitably fell to 16,900. Numbers increased by 36 per cent to 23,000 in 2021-22, though this was still lower than the levels of previous years.
- 4.7 The number of full CJSWRs (i.e. excluding supplementary reports) also fell, by 41 per cent between 2019-20 and 2020-21, to 15,100. Numbers then rose by 39 per cent to 21,000 in 2021-22. Nine per cent of all reports were supplementary in 2021-22, slightly down on the previous six years, when it was around 10 to 11 per cent.
- 4.8 The increase in CJSWRs in 2021-22, was reflected throughout all 32 local authority areas. Further information is in the [additional datasets](#) which are published alongside this publication
- 4.9 In the last five years, around 30 per cent of CJSWRs were for people aged 31-40 years old. One in six CJSWRs were for females.

Preferred sentencing options for criminal justice social work reports (Tables 6 & 7)

- 4.10 The criminal justice social work report writer provides a professional assessment on the suitability of available sentencing options. This assessment should highlight the individual's attitude to offending and motivation to change, as well as any risks and identified needs. It should also attempt to maximise the opportunity for the individual to change their behaviour and desist from offending. While the decision on sentencing is for the court to take, the expectation is that the professional analysis will cover substantive issues such as the need for specialist assessment where there are significant difficulties around substance use or mental health. There is also the expectation that the report will include an assessment of the suitability or otherwise of a CPO. This should include the individual's motivation to successfully complete the order.
- 4.11 Forty-five per cent of CJSWRs in 2021-22 recommended the use of a CPO . Twenty-one per cent recommended a CPO with supervision but no unpaid work, while 11 per cent recommended unpaid work but no supervision. The proportion for unpaid work but no supervision was higher than in 2020-21 but still lower than earlier years. This is likely to reflect awareness of the impact of necessary public health measures relating to the coronavirus pandemic on

the delivery of unpaid work. This included the suspension of face to face delivery of unpaid work for periods, and lower capacity at other times.

- 4.12 In addition, 12 per cent of reports recommended either a structured deferred sentence or a deferred sentence of three months or more. A further six per cent suggested a monetary penalty. Custody was the preferred option in six per cent of reports. Twenty per cent suggested some other form of sentence (including a restriction of liberty order or deferment for a drug treatment and testing order assessment). Eleven per cent of CJSWRs gave no preferred sentencing option.
- 4.13 The main outcome for 42 per cent of CJSWRs in 2021-22 was a CPO. Eight per cent of reports resulted in a CPO with unpaid work but no supervision, and 16 per cent resulted in an order with supervision but no unpaid work. In 17 per cent of cases, the main outcome was a CPO with both supervision and unpaid work.
- 4.14 Custody was the main outcome for 13 per cent of reports in 2021-22. The largest other main outcome categories in 2021-22 were a deferred sentence and a monetary penalty (nine and seven per cent of the total respectively).

5.1 Social work orders (Tables 2 & 9)

- 5.1.1 Total social work orders since 2015-16 include community payback, drug treatment & testing and fiscal work orders only. Community payback orders (CPOs) replaced community service, probation and supervised attendance orders (the latter three referred to as 'legacy' orders in this report) for offences committed from February 2011 onwards. Due to the low numbers involved, the number of legacy orders commenced was not collected from 2015-16 onwards.
- 5.1.2 There were 12,600 social work orders commenced in 2021-22. This was a rise of 48 per cent on the level of 8,500 in 2020-21 but still the second lowest in the last ten years. In the previous eight years, social work orders commenced has ranged from 17,600 to 20,600. The temporary closure of many courts early in 2020-21, as well as reduced capacity when courts reopened, mean that statistics for most areas of justice social work are lower than in previous years.
- 5.1.3 The vast majority (97 per cent) of social work orders in 2021-22 were CPOs. Local authority level breakdowns for each of the individual order types are available in the [additional datasets](#) which accompany this publication.
- 5.1.4 In total, 62 per cent of social work orders commencing in 2021-22 included an element of unpaid work or other activity. This proportion was substantially lower than in the years before 2020-21. It comprised less than 80 fiscal work orders and 7,700 CPOs with an unpaid work or other activity requirement.
- 5.1.5 Seventy-three per cent of social work order terminations in 2021-22 were successfully completed or discharged. This proportion was relatively stable,

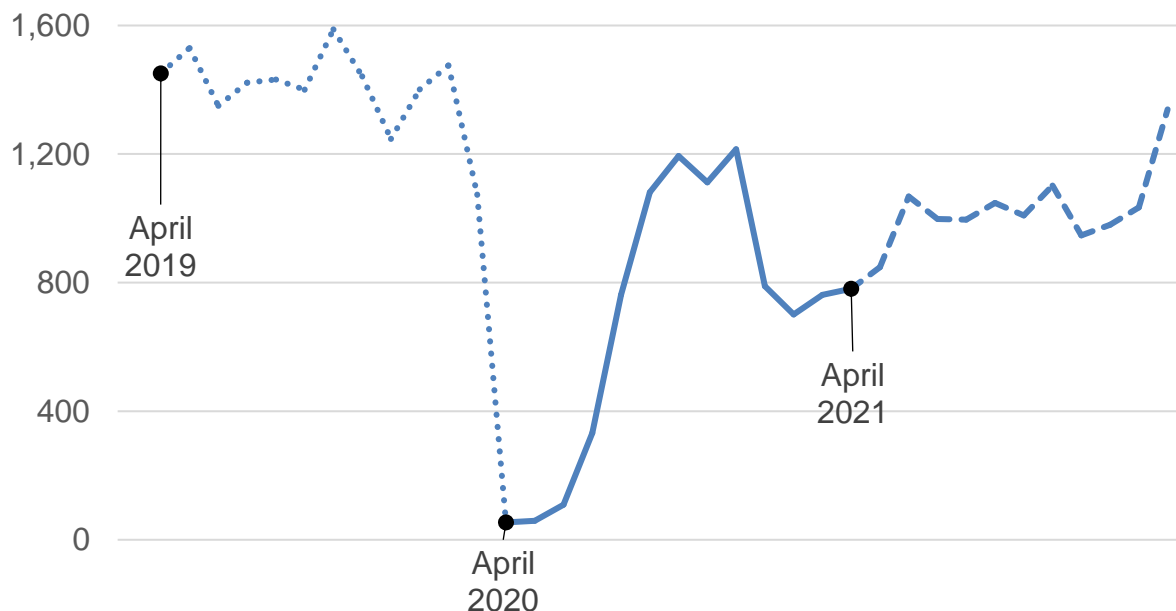
ranging from 68 to 70 per cent, in the years 2014-15 to 2019-20. It then rose to 75 per cent in 2020-21 and dropped to 73 per cent in 2021-22. The completion rates in 2021-22 varied between different types of order. The highest rate was for fiscal work orders (76 per cent) and the lowest for the higher tariff drug treatment and testing orders (50 per cent). The completion rate for CPOs was 74 per cent in 2021-22 and is the main component of this proportion due to the large numbers it contributes. More details about the completion rates for CPOs and drug treatment and testing orders, and how they compare with previous years, are in sections 5.2 and 5.3 respectively.

5.2 Community payback orders (Tables 2 & 8 to 17 and Charts 2-5)

5.2.1 There was a rise in the number of community payback orders (CPOs) in the initial years following their introduction. Numbers reached a peak of 19,500 in 2015-16. This was an expected rise, due to CPOs replacing legacy orders for offences committed on or after 1 February 2011. The total CPOs imposed then fell in the next three years to 16,500 in 2018-19, before a small rise to 16,800 in 2019-20. The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting decrease in court business meant numbers fell sharply in 2020-21, to 8,200. Numbers then rose by 49 per cent in 2021-22 to the second lowest level in ten years of 12,200.

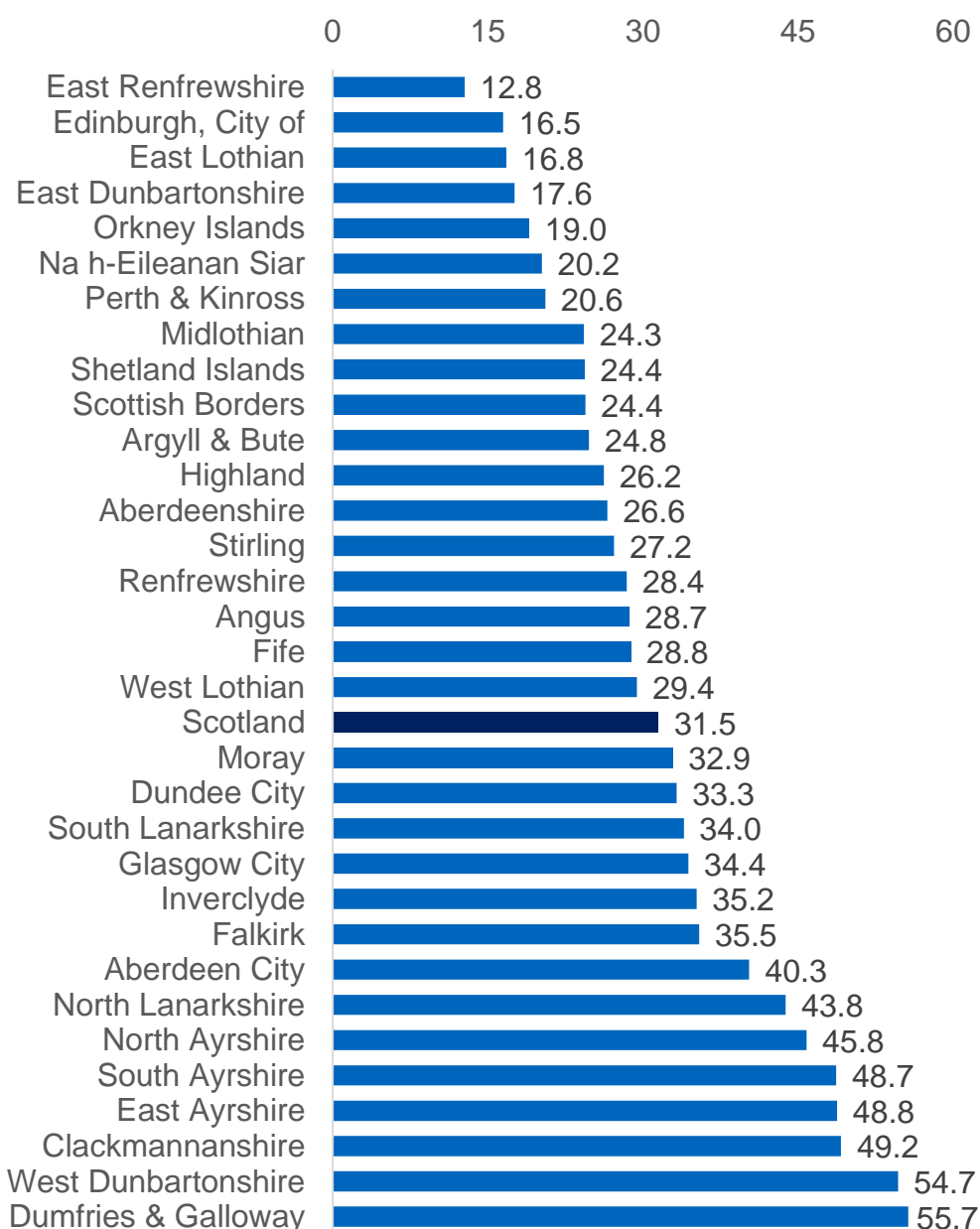
5.2.2 [Chart 2](#) shows how numbers imposed by courts were lower in every month of 2020-21 than they were in the equivalent month in 2019-20. This was particularly the case during the period April to June 2020. The graph clearly shows the dramatic drop of CPOs imposed when COVID-19 related public health restrictions were at their highest level. Numbers during 2021-22 were more consistent from month to month but were still lower than in 2019-20 in every month except for the higher value in March 2022.

Chart 2 Number of community payback orders imposed per month, April 2019 to March 2022



- 5.2.3 In 2021-22, there were 32 CPOs imposed per 10,000 population ([Chart 3](#)). This proportion was higher for Scotland and for every local authority area in 2021-22 than in 2020-21. The national rate in 2020-21 was 21 per 10,000 population but was much higher at 44 in 2019-20.
- 5.2.4 In 2021-22, the highest proportion per 10,000 population was for those living in Dumfries & Galloway (56), followed by West Dunbartonshire (55). The lowest proportions were for those living in East Renfrewshire (13) and City of Edinburgh (16). While the proportion for City of Edinburgh was much lower than for Scotland as a whole, the city council areas of Aberdeen (40), Glasgow (34) and Dundee (33) were each slightly higher than the national average. More detailed information by local authority area is in the [additional datasets](#) which accompany this publication.

Chart 3 Number of community payback orders imposed per 10,000 population: Breakdown by local authority area, 2021-22



Note : Population aged 16 to 70.

Requirements (Tables 9 to 11 and [Chart 4](#))

5.2.5 There are now ten potential requirements as part of a CPO at first imposition:

- Unpaid work or other activity
- Offender supervision
- Conduct
- Programme
- Alcohol treatment
- Compensation
- Drug treatment
- Mental health treatment
- Residence
- Restricted movement

Restricted movement requirements became available to issue at first imposition from 17th May 2022. This is outwith the period covered by this publication. Every order should have either or both an 'unpaid work or other activity requirement' or an 'offender supervision requirement'. In the remainder of this publication, these are referred to as unpaid work requirements and supervision requirements respectively.

5.2.6 For every year up to 2019-20, unpaid work was the requirement most commonly issued as part of a CPO. The proportion of orders with unpaid work was high in the early years after the introduction of the orders, and was 80 per cent in both 2012-13 and 2013-14. This then fell slightly in each of the next six years, reaching 70 per cent in 2019-20 ([Chart 4](#)). The prevalence then fell sharply to 58 per cent in 2020-21 before increasing slightly to 63 per cent in 2021-22.

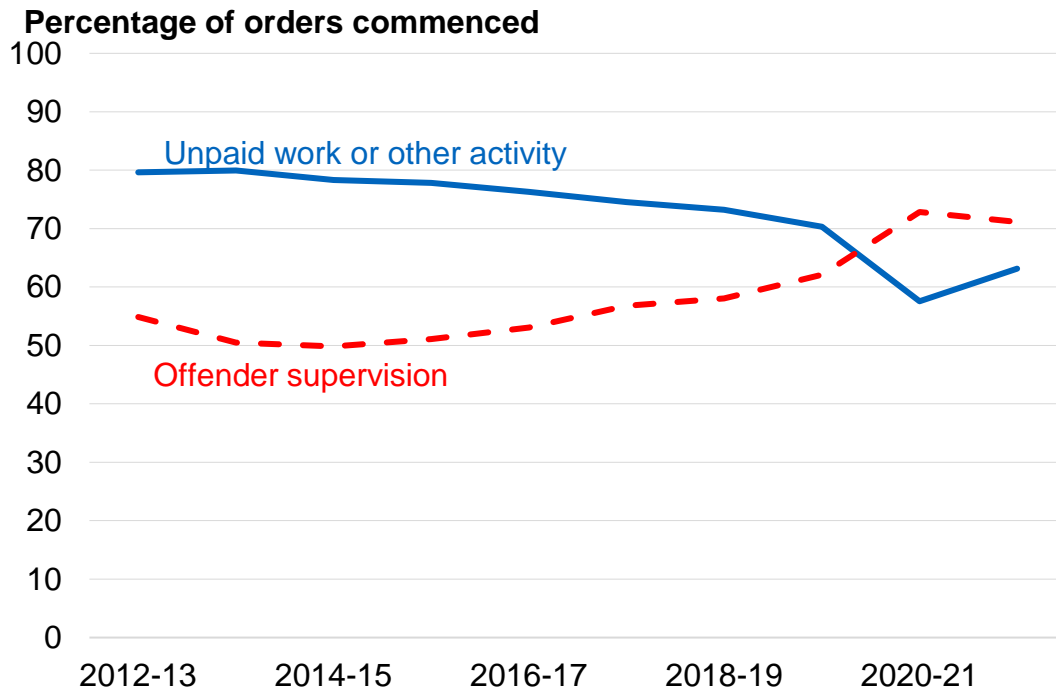
5.2.7 The average number of hours given as part of unpaid work requirements rose from 124 hours in 2017-18 to 132 hours in 2021-22. Even though the proportion of CPOs imposed with an unpaid work requirement was the second lowest in ten years, changes in the length of hours have been occurring. In 2017-18, of 1,656,000 hours imposed, 29 per cent were for level 1 requirements (i.e. those with 100 hours or less). This proportion has dropped every year since then. In 2021-22, level 1 requirements were only 25 per cent of the 1,009,000 hours commenced.

5.2.8 In contrast, the proportion of orders with a supervision requirement has been rising over recent years, reaching 62 per cent in 2019-20 ([Chart 4](#)). The proportion then rose sharply in 2020-21 to 73 per cent and only fell slightly in 2021-22 to 71 per cent.

5.2.9 In the years 2017-18 to 2019-20, around or just less than 58 per cent of supervision requirements were for 12 months or less. This fell to 51 per cent in 2020-21 and then to 49 per cent in 2021-22. The average length of supervision requirements across 2017-18 to 2019-20 was around 15.5

months. It was, however, much higher in 2020-21 (16.7 months) and remained high in 2021-22 (16.9 months).

Chart 4 Percentage of community payback orders with unpaid work or other activity and with offender supervision: 2012-13 to 2021-22



5.2.10 **Chart 4** illustrates how much the composition of orders has changed since 2012-13. Greater use is being made of supervision and less is being made of unpaid work. In 2013-14, 80 per cent of orders had an unpaid work requirement and 50 per cent had a supervision requirement. By 2019-20, unpaid work remained the most common requirement, but it had fallen to 70 per cent. Supervision had risen to 62 per cent by this time. There was then a major change in 2020-21, the first year of the pandemic. The proportion with unpaid work dropped markedly to 58 per cent while those with supervision showed a big increase to 73 per cent. There was a slight reversal of this trend in 2021-22, with unpaid work rising to 63 per cent and supervision falling to 71 per cent.

5.2.11 The type of orders issued in both 2020-21 and 2021-22 was likely influenced significantly by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Face-to-face delivery of unpaid work had to be suspended for some periods and courts would have been aware of the challenges of delivering unpaid work. Factors relating to the nature of cases which had court hearings during the pandemic, and the circumstances of the individuals involved, may also have been a relevant factor

5.2.12 After unpaid work and supervision requirements, conduct and programme have been the most commonly issued of the remaining requirements. The proportion of orders with conduct requirements has risen in each of the last five years from eight per cent in 2017-18 to 13 per cent in 2021-22. The proportion of orders with a programme requirement rose each year from

2017-18 (five per cent) to 2020-21 (nine per cent), before falling slightly to eight per cent in 2021-22.

5.2.13 The rest of the requirements were at around the same level in 2021-22 as 2020-21.

5.2.14 The average number of requirements per order has been steadily rising over the last five years. It increased from 1.50 in 2017-18 to 1.61 in 2021-22.

Characteristics (Table 8)

5.2.15 In 2019-20, people aged 18 to 20 were the most likely, as a proportion of the overall population, to get a CPO. In 2020-21 and 2021-22 though, it was those aged 26 to 30 who were the most likely. In 2021-22, those aged 26 to 30 accounted for 17 per cent of people getting a CPO but only ten per cent of the Scottish population aged 16 to 70. Similarly, those aged 21 to 25 in 2021-22 accounted for 15 per cent of people getting a CPO but only nine per cent of the Scottish population aged 16 to 70.

5.2.16 People receiving CPOs have been getting slightly older in the last five years. In 2017-18, 31 per cent of orders were for people aged 25 and under. By 2021-22, this had fallen to 24 per cent. Those aged over 30 accounted for just over half of orders in 2017-18 but now account for 60 per cent in 2021-22. As a result, the average age of a CPO recipient has risen from 30 to 35 over the last ten years.

5.2.17 The proportion of CPOs issued to males has remained at 85 or 86 per cent over the last five years. Where ethnicity was recorded, over the last five years, 96 per cent classified themselves as white. For eight per cent of orders, the ethnicity was either not supplied or not known.

5.2.18 When employment status was known, 69 per cent of those receiving orders were either unemployed or economically inactive in 2021-22. A further 29 per cent were in employment or self-employed.

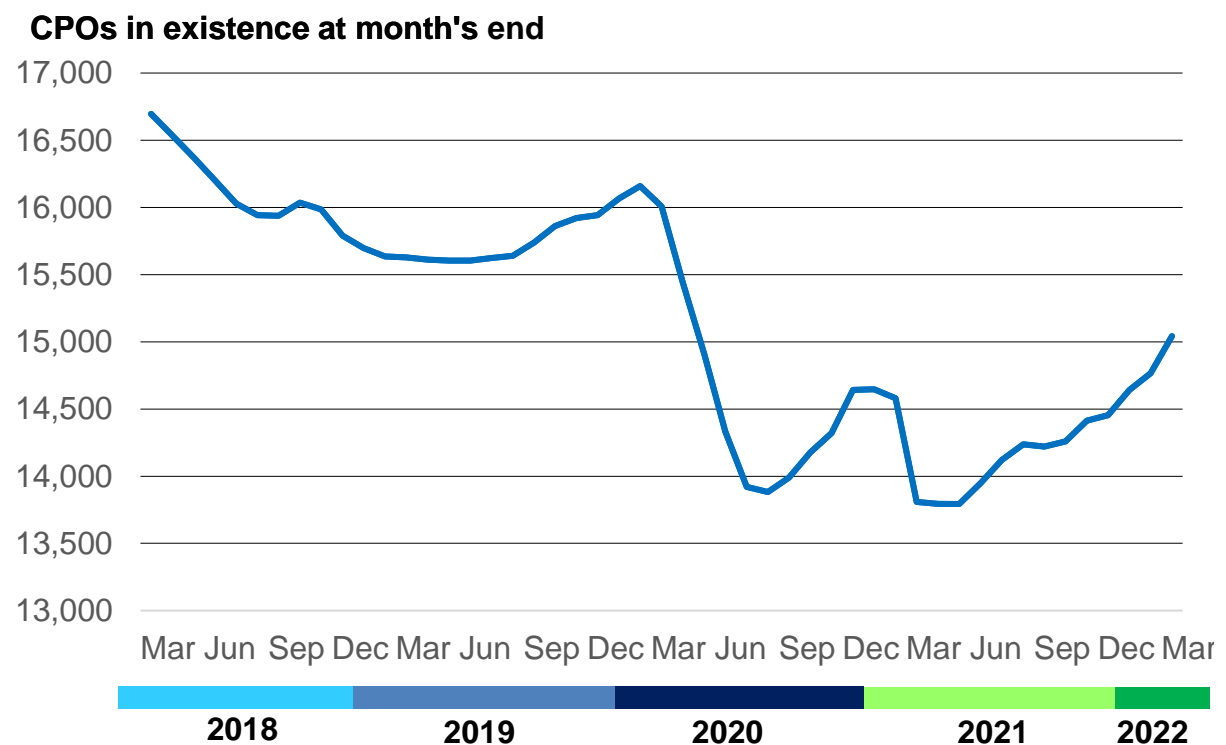
Orders in existence at year end (Table 2)

5.2.19 The number of CPOs in existence increased by nine per cent during 2021-22, from 13,800 at 31 March 2021 to 15,000 at 31 March 2022. This was the third lowest figure in ten years. From 2012-13 to 2019-20, there was an average of 16,200.

5.2.20 [Chart 5](#) shows how the numbers in existence changed throughout the last four years. Numbers fell during 2018 then rose slightly between the middle of 2019 and the start of the pandemic. They then went down sharply in the period between March and August 2020, reflecting the closure over this period of many courts (as seen in [Chart 2](#)). Numbers picked up during the rest of 2020 as more cases were processed by the courts. The drop between March and August 2021 was greatly influenced by [The Community Orders](#)

(Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 coming into force. Under these regulations, the specified hours for existing orders with unpaid work or other activity requirements were reduced by 35 per cent (except for requirements imposed for offences involving domestic abuse, sexual offences or stalking). In some cases, this resulted in the requirement finishing on the date the regulations came into force. Between May 2021 and March 2022, the number of CPOs in existence showed a steady increase. However, at the end of that period, they were still lower than at the start of the pandemic in March 2020

Chart 5 Number of community payback orders in existence as at the end of the month: March 2018 to March 2022



Note : In order to better illustrate changes over the period covered by this graph, the vertical axis does not begin at number zero.

Timescales for implementation (Tables 12 to 13)

- 5.2.21 The [Scottish Government community payback order practice guidance](#) supports practitioners and managers to improve their performance and work towards the achievement of the national outcomes and standards for social work services in the justice system. Further details on the guidance are in paragraph B.6 of [Annex B](#).
- 5.2.22 First direct contact took place within one working day of imposition for 61 per cent of orders imposed in 2021-22 where this information was known. This was slightly higher than the level of 58 per cent in 2020-21, although it was still considerably lower than in the previous three years when it generally fluctuated around 75 per cent. In addition, in 2021-22, 20 per cent took more than five working days compared with 13 to 14 per cent across 2017-18 to 2019-20.

- 5.2.23 In 2021-22, where this information was known, 71 per cent of first induction/ case management meetings took place within five working days. This was slightly up on 2020-21 but lower than in the previous three years. Generally around 80 per cent took place within that timescale in each of the years 2017-18 to 2019-20. Roughly equal proportions (15 per cent) took six to ten working days and more than ten working days in 2021-22.
- 5.2.24 Where the timescale was known, 56 per cent of unpaid work placements started within seven working days in 2021-22. This was up on the low of 49 per cent in 2020-21 but still considerably lower than the levels of 2017-18 to 2019-20 which ranged from 68 to 73 per cent.
- 5.2.25 The lower proportions in 2020-21 and 2021-22 for these timescales were likely to have been influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic and related public health measures to keep people safe.

Terminations (Tables 2 & 14 to 17)

- 5.2.26 The successful completion rate for CPOs terminated in 2021-22 was 74 per cent, similar to the rate of 75 per cent in 2020-21. These were higher than the rates in the previous five years when it was generally just under 70 per cent. [The Community Orders \(Coronavirus\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2021](#) coming into force is likely to have been a factor in this. The calculation of successful completion rates excludes CPOs that were terminated due to being transferred out to a different area.
- 5.2.27 In 2021-22, 12 per cent of orders terminated were revoked following a breach application to the courts. A further eight per cent were revoked following a review.
- 5.2.28 Seventy-nine per cent of orders which finished during 2021-22 did not involve any breach applications during the duration of the order. For the remainder, there were a total of 2,800 breach applications made. The vast majority of breach applications (79 per cent) were lodged with the court within five working days of the decision to make an application.
- 5.2.29 For CPOs revoked due to breach, the most likely outcome from courts were a new CPO at 29 per cent, “other” outcomes (e.g. admonishment, no further action etc.) at 28 per cent and a custodial sentence at 21 per cent. For orders revoked due to review, 14 per cent resulted in a custodial sentence. Another 20 per cent got a new CPO or a monetary penalty, while 43 per cent had an “other” outcome.
- 5.2.30 During 2021-22, a total of 5,500 unpaid work requirements were successfully completed. This was substantially higher than in 2020-21 (3,200). However, it was still low when compared with the previous three years, when levels ranged from 7,400 to 8,900. This reflects the fact that, in the last two years, there were fewer unpaid work requirements imposed and there were also issues impacting the delivery of unpaid work. Both of these relate to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and related public health measures.

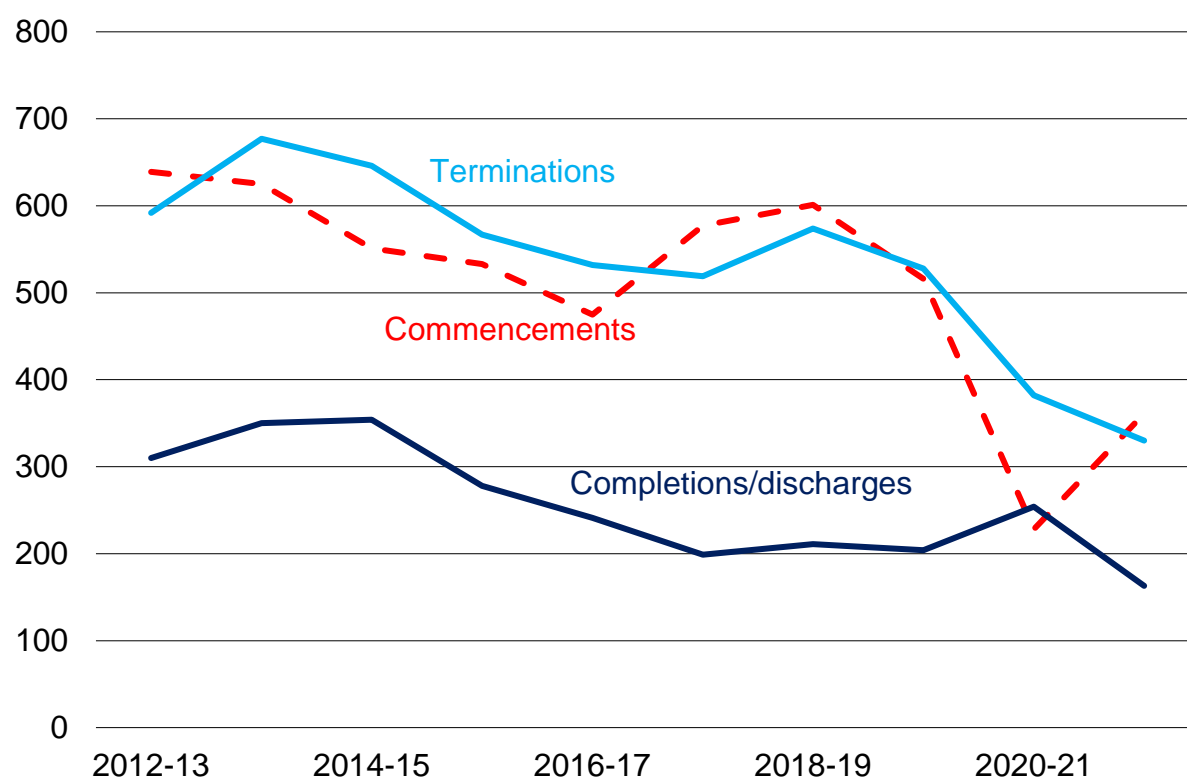
5.2.31 On average, there were 115 hours carried out for each requirement in 2021-22. This was much lower than in the previous four years. [The Community Orders \(Coronavirus\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2021](#) is likely to have been a factor in this.

5.2.32 It took a year on average to complete an unpaid work requirement in 2021-22. This was slightly shorter than in 2020-21 (403 days) but considerably longer than in the previous three years (between 214 and 226 days). This was expected given that the [Coronavirus \(Scotland\) Act 2020](#) extended time limits for unpaid work in CPOs by 12 months, and required any new requirements made to be given at least 12 months to complete. This came into effect on 7 April 2020 and provisions were extended through to the end of September 2022 by the [Coronavirus \(Extension and Expiry\) \(Scotland\) Act 2021](#).

5.3 Drug treatment and testing orders (Tables 2 & 18 to 22 and Charts 6 & 7)

5.3.1 The drug treatment and testing order (DTTO) is available to courts (excluding justice of the peace courts). It is an intensive disposal for people with substance-related offending who might otherwise get a custodial sentence. The less intensive DTTO II is available to courts in City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and Highland. DTTO IIs accounted for around 13 per cent of the DTTOs in these areas in 2021-22 (see paragraph B.7 in [Annex B](#)).

Chart 6 Drug treatment and testing order commencements, terminations and completions/discharges: 2012-13 to 2021-22



- 5.3.2 The COVID-19 pandemic meant a large number of court cases could not be conducted. As a result, the number of DTTOs commenced fell to 230 in 2020-21, the lowest level in the last decade ([Chart 6](#)). While numbers rose to by 58 per cent in 2021-22 to 360, this was still a very low level, with numbers for the five years before 2020-21 averaging 540.
- 5.3.3 Over the last five years, people aged 31 to 40 have been the most likely to receive a DTTO. In relation to Scotland's population, two people per 10,000 for this age range got a DTTO in 2021-22. Compared to the other age ranges, those aged 25 and under and over 40 were the least likely to receive a DTTO (both 0.6 people per 10,000 population in 2021-22).
- 5.3.4 The proportion of orders issued to males has been around 80 per cent over the last five years. A very high proportion, generally around 90 per cent, of those receiving a DTTO are unemployed or economically inactive.
- 5.3.5 The average length of a DTTO was generally around 17 or 18 months in the last five years.
- 5.3.6 There were 450 DTTOs in existence on 31 March 2022. This was seven per cent higher than in 2020-21 but 21 per cent lower than in 2019-20.

Timescales for implementation (Table 19)

- 5.3.7 In 2021-22, for DTTOs where first direct contact was known, 64 per cent had contact within one working day of the order being imposed. In 13 per cent of cases, it took longer than five working days for first direct contact to take place.
- 5.3.8 Where known, the first case management meeting took place within five working days in 2021-22 for 83 per cent of orders. In eight per cent of these cases, it took longer than ten working days for the first meeting to take place.
- 5.3.9 These proportions can fluctuate from year to year due to the small number of orders involved. The figures for 2020-21 and 2021-22 are broadly similar to previous years. Therefore, while implementation may have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the trends have remained stable.

Terminations (Tables 2 & 20 and [Chart 7](#))

- 5.3.10 The percentage of orders successfully completed tends to be lower for DTTOs than for other social work orders. This is due, in part, to the complex needs of those involved and the intensity of the supervision involved in a DTTO.
- 5.3.11 The completion rate for DTTOs terminated in 2020-21 was 67 per cent. This was substantially higher than at any point in the last ten years. This rate was, however, likely to have been influenced by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Particular factors may be the type of cases where it had been

possible for the order to finish and the fact that, over some periods, it was not possible to conduct testing. The completion rate then fell to 50 per cent in 2021-22. In previous years, the rate rose to 55 per cent in 2014-15 before falling to 39 per cent in 2019-20. Caution is advised in drawing any conclusions on completion rates over time.

5.3.12 **Chart 7** shows how successful completion rates each quarter have changed over the last four years. Prior to the pandemic, rates were consistently just under 40 per cent. There was a slight rise during the first quarter of 2020 before the rate rose sharply to 81 per cent in the second quarter. Since then, rates have been on a general downward trend, with the exception being the first quarters of both 2021 and 2022. The higher levels are likely to reflect the COVID-19 restrictions in place during those periods which impacted on the supervision of orders. Figures should therefore be treated with caution.

Chart 7 Drug treatment and testing order quarterly successful completion rates: quarter 2 of 2018 to quarter 1 of 2022



5.3.13 The proportion of orders revoked due to review and due to breach in 2021-22 were 32 and 9 per cent respectively. A custodial sentence was imposed in 46 per cent of revoked cases in 2021-22.

5.3.14 Seventy-eight per cent of orders terminated without breach applications in 2021-22. Almost all (98 per cent) of breach applications were lodged with the court within five working days of the decision being made to make an application (see the [additional datasets](#) which accompany this publication).

5.4 Fiscal work orders

(Tables 2 and 23 to 24)

- 5.4.1 Fiscal work orders (FWOs) were introduced nationally on 1 April 2015. They allow Procurators Fiscal to offer unpaid work orders as an alternative to prosecution. They can be for a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 50 hours and should be completed within six months.
- 5.4.2 The number of FWOs commenced in Scotland increased after they were introduced nationally, reaching a high of 1,030 in 2017-18. Numbers have then dropped in each of the next four years, with 76 issued in 2021-22.
- 5.4.3 In 2021-22, there were 150 fiscal work order assessments undertaken by local authorities. In 80 of these assessments, the orders were accepted with the remaining 70 deemed unsuitable by local authorities. The number of orders which finished was 110, of which 76 per cent were successfully completed.
- 5.4.4 In past years, people given fiscal work orders tended to be younger than those given CPOs. However this was much less the case in the most recent year. Thirty-seven per cent of orders commenced in 2021-22 were for people aged 25 and under, compared with 44 per cent in 2020-21.
- 5.4.5 In 2021-22, 70 per cent of fiscal work orders issued were for unemployed or economically inactive people when employment status was known. A further 27 per cent were for people in employment.
- 5.4.6 Almost half (49 per cent) of orders imposed in 2021-22 were for 50 hours. A further 22 per cent were for 40 hours and 18 per cent for 30 hours.

6 Structured deferred sentences

(Tables 1 and 25 to 26)

- 6.1 Structured deferred sentences (SDS) offer courts the option to provide a short period of intensive supervision to individuals post-conviction but before final sentencing. Justice social work departments will identify those cases which may be suitable for consideration in a CJSWR. SDS offers the opportunity to engage individuals in initial supportive interventions without the need for statutory supervision. The court can then be better informed of the need for further interventions when the person returns to court for sentencing.
- 6.2 After falling sharply in 2020-21 to 450, the number of SDS imposed in Scotland rose to its highest level of 930 in 2021-22 . In each of the last four years, between 70 and 75 per cent of SDS were for males. In the last three years, over a third were aged 25 or under. The next biggest age group was 31-40 years which accounted for around 25 to 30 per cent of the total. Where employment status was known, 77 per cent of people given SDS in 2021-22 were either unemployed or economically inactive.

- 6.3 Nineteen per cent of SDS had a length of less than three months. A further 46 per cent were between three months and less than six months. The remaining 35 per cent were for six months or more.
- 6.4 There were 660 SDS which finished during 2021-22. In 45 per cent of these, the person was admonished. A further 12 per cent got a CPO. Figures on outcomes by local authority area are in the [additional datasets](#) which accompany this publication. As well as judicial decision making, different outcomes may reflect the fact that SDS are not all used in the same way by different local authorities. In addition, SDS is currently not available in some local authority areas.

7 Statutory/voluntary throughcare (Tables 1 and 27 to 28)

- 7.1 Justice social work departments are expected to provide a throughcare service to all those who are subject to statutory supervision on release from prison. This includes people serving sentences of four years or more (or six months or more for sexual offences) as well as those subject to an extended sentence or supervised release order. Throughcare begins at the start of the sentence and is implemented through the Scottish Prison Service's Integrated Case Management process. Voluntary throughcare services are also available to those who are not subject to supervision on release from prison. These services may be requested while in custody or up to 12 months after release.
- 7.2 Commencements for statutory throughcare in custody generally fluctuated around 1,000 in the years 2012-13 to 2019-20. Numbers fell in 2020-21 to 630 cases and then rose to 850 in 2021-22. Thirty-eight per cent of cases in 2021-22 involved determinate sentences of four years or more. Supervised release orders and short-term sex offenders accounted for a further 23 and 19 per cent respectively.
- 7.3 Similarly, the number of commencements for statutory throughcare cases in the community was generally around 1,000 up to 2019-20. In the last two years, the number has declined slightly and there were 850 cases in 2021-22. This was the lowest in the last decade. Twenty-three per cent of all cases commenced in 2021-22 related to supervised release orders. Parole, short-term sex offenders and non-parole accounted for a further 17, 16 and 15 per cent respectively.
- 7.4 The statutory custody-based and community-based throughcare caseload totalled 5,400 individuals on 31 March 2022. This was seven per cent lower than in March 2021 and the lowest in ten years. On 31 March 2022, two thirds of the caseload was custody-based compared to one third that was community-based.
- 7.5 The number of completions of statutory throughcare cases in the community has ranged from 890 to 1,120 over the last ten years. The lowest of 890 was in 2021-22.

- 7.6 The number of voluntary throughcare cases in 2021-22 was 1,800, the second lowest in ten years. This was 27 per cent higher than in 2020-21, which was the lowest at 1,400.

8 Pre-release reports

(Table 1)

- 8.1 Part of statutory throughcare involves preparing reports to inform temporary release from prison on home leave and liberation on licence.
- 8.2 In 2021-22, 890 home leave reports were produced. This was a fall of five per cent on the previous year and the lowest number of reports in the last decade. A total of 2,400 reports for release from prison on parole/non-parole licence were recorded in 2021-22. Numbers have increased every year since 2012-13. Overall, pre-release reports from 2012-13 to 2016-17 were nearly 50:50 between home leave and parole/non-parole reports. This ratio has, however, changed in the last five years. The percentage of reports which were parole/non-parole increased to 73 per cent in 2021-22, with the remaining 27 per cent home leave reports.
- 8.3 From 2006, those serving a custodial sentence may also be released early under a home detention curfew scheme. From 2012-13 to 2017-18, there were at least 2,500 reports a year. This declined in 2018-19 to 1,900 with a sharp drop to 810 in 2019-20. This dropped further in 2021-22 and was at the lowest level in the last decade at 790.

9 Tables

- 9.1 The detail on the findings in this publication are drawn from the tables which are published alongside the publication. These tables are no longer contained within the publication itself due to accessibility issues. They are, however, as per previous years, published separately alongside the publication.
- 9.2 The following symbols are used throughout these tables:
low a percentage which is not actually 0% but is less than 0.05%.
x data which was not collected in the year(s) in question.
z data for a category which did not exist in the year(s) in question.
- 9.3 Percentage figures given in tables and charts may not always sum to the exact totals due to rounding.
- 9.4 The data in the tables is drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the data, it is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. The figures have been checked as far as practicable. However, they should be regarded as approximate and not necessarily accurate to the last whole number in the tables. They are also updated and quality assured on an on-going basis. The information in this publication supersedes that in any previous publications. We advise that you always taken the information from the most recent publication and associated tables, as the figures shown may differ slightly from those published previously. Where substantive revisions have been

made to improve the quality of the data, the footnotes to the tables provide details of this.

9.5 Numbers in the tables are exact but, in the text, they are rounded for presentational purposes. The numbers in the text are generally rounded as follows:

1,000 to less than 100,000 – rounded to the nearest 100

100 to less than 1,000 – rounded to the nearest 10

Less than 100 – unrounded

Also in the text, percentages are calculated based on the unrounded numbers and are then rounded to the nearest whole number.

Annex A Sources of information and data quality

- A.1 The annual aggregate justice social work return for local authority justice social work services was introduced for 1999-00. It covered social enquiry reports (now criminal justice social work reports), community service orders and probation orders. The content and format of the return has changed over time. This is to reflect new developments and an increasing demand for information, as well as to clarify points of definition in relation to particular data items. Additional items include:
- supervised attendance orders (2000-01, removed, alongside community service orders and probation orders, from 2016-17 onward)
 - throughcare (statutory post release supervision) (2001-02)
 - diversion from prosecution (2001-02)
 - drug treatment and testing orders (2003-04, removed from 2012-13 onward, see paragraph A.2 below)
 - bail information (2003-04)
 - voluntary throughcare (2004-05)
 - court services (2004-05)
 - throughcare addiction service (2005-06, removed from 2015-16 onward)
 - community payback orders (2011-12, removed from 2012-13 onwards, see paragraph A.2 below)
 - fiscal work orders (2015-16)
 - structured deferred sentences (2018-19).
- A.2 Data for community payback and drug treatment & testing orders has been collected at unit level for each order since 2012-13. The aim of this change has been to enable analysis of the process and outcomes for individual orders, which is not feasible through a collection of aggregate tables. This allows the scope for looking at how each order progresses and provides more detailed information on outcomes.
- A.3 All 32 Scottish local authorities have been able to provide the CPO unit level data in each of the years 2013-14 to 2021-22. In the 2020-21 publication, statistical estimates were used for Renfrewshire local authority area due to issues with the supply of data in that year. The data for 2020-21 has now been revised in this publication and this supersedes previous published information.
- A.4 After the introduction of the CPO, information on the legacy orders (community service, probation and supervised attendance orders) was phased out of the aggregate return. Due to the small numbers involved, recent years' returns have not collected information on the number of legacy orders commenced and terminated.
- A.5 Figures in this publication are extracted from live justice social work information management systems. The statistics presented for the most recent year reflect information on activity in the financial year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. Figures for earlier years may differ slightly from those published previously – see paragraph A.7 for examples of revisions

- A.6 Revisions are flagged up in the publication at the time but not in future publications. The live tables, including earlier data at sub-Scotland level, on the [Scottish Government crime and justice statistics website](#) may be revised at any point if required. Revisions are highlighted in the relevant table.
- A.7 As a result of information provided by local authorities with their 2021-22 unit returns, some revisions were made to the 2020-21 and (to a lesser extent) earlier years' data. The main reasons for these revisions were:
- The inclusion in the 2021-22 data of orders which were in existence before the 2021-22 year but which had been excluded from earlier years' data returns in error,
 - Some orders which were previously advised in the 2020-21 returns as being in existence at the end of that year but which had actually been completed/terminated before then. Some authorities advised of substantial numbers of CPOs falling into this category. This was due mainly to orders not being closed off on their IT systems, and
 - The originally published 2020-21 CPO figures included estimates for Renfrewshire. As outlined in paragraph A.3, these have been superseded now that data for that year has been supplied. The provision of this data has only slightly altered the picture at national level.

As a result of these changes, the total for CPO terminations in 2020-21 has been revised upwards by around 300 (up 3 per cent). CPOs in existence at 31 March 2021 were revised downwards by around 500 (4 per cent).

- A.8 In this publication, successful completion rates for community payback orders and drug treatment & testing orders are calculated as follows. The number of successful completions and early discharges are divided by the total orders terminated less orders which were transferred out of a local authority.
- A.9 Figures in this publication on the number of new orders commenced are not collected on the same basis as those published in the [criminal proceedings publications](#). This is partly due to differences in the unit of analysis (cases versus orders). In addition, criminal proceedings data refer to the court rather than the local authority implementing the order.
- A.10 The data obtained from local authorities comes from recording systems which are used for case management and for internal monitoring. Information on personal characteristics such as gender and ethnicity are taken directly from these systems. While recording practices may vary across local authorities, it is likely that the recording of gender and ethnicity will include a mixture of self-identified values and values as perceived by the justice professional recording the information, for example a case worker.
- A.11 Administrative data will always be subject to some degree of error that arises in any large scale recording system. The data in this publication has, however, been quality assured as far as practicable. This is done through a series of validation processes before publication. As a result, the data is considered of good quality.

A.12 The aggregate return includes electronic checks to notify local authorities of inconsistencies within the data. Where there have been big changes since the previous year, the local authority is asked to confirm the figures are correct. Once data returns from all authorities are in, some further analysis is carried out. This helps to detect any major changes to figures over recent time periods.

A.13 The unit level collections for CPOs and DTTOs include automatic checks built into the data loading system. This identifies errors in the information at an early stage for correction by local authority staff. The data is then checked for accuracy by the Scottish Government statistical team. Checks are also made to ensure there is consistency between 2021-22 and earlier years' data.

A.14 In some parts of this publication, ratios are calculated per 10,000 people in the Scottish population. The population numbers used in these calculations are mid-year estimates for the appropriate year, published on the [National Records of Scotland website](#). For example, a ratio for the 2021-22 data would be calculated using the mid-year population estimates at 30 June 2021.

A.15 There are [additional datasets](#) at local authority level on the Scottish Government website.

A.16 England, Wales and Northern Ireland have different judicial systems. This makes comparing information on justice social work statistics unfeasible. Statistical information on their judicial systems can be found at:

- England and Wales: [Statistics at Ministry of Justice](#)
- Northern Ireland: [Department of Justice](#)

There are a range of other statistics on the Scottish judicial system:

- [Scottish Government Crime and Justice Statistics](#)
- [Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service – Official Statistics](#)
- [Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service - Publications](#)
- [Scottish Prison Service - Information](#)

Annex B Definitions

- B.1 The following section provides a brief description of the main types of justice social work orders and services. More information on social work orders and the operation of the justice system is in the [Criminal Proceedings in Scotland publications](#). Details on court services is in commensurate justice social work practice guidance. In addition to social work orders issued by the courts, the procurator fiscal can offer work orders as an alternative to summary court proceedings when appropriate.
- B.2 Diversion from prosecution schemes have been in existence in Scotland since the early 1980s. They aim to provide support and advice in relation to the underlying causes of offending, such as substance use. In the late 1990s, the Scottish Office provided funding for some pilot schemes, which it rolled out across Scotland in 2000. Historically, diversion involves relatively low volumes compared to other fiscal disposals such as fines and warnings, or court proceedings.
- B.3 Bail information services assist procurators fiscal and courts through verification of information in cases where bail might otherwise have been opposed or refused. In a proportion of cases, this will result in a period of supervised bail. Updated [national bail supervision guidance](#) was published in May 2022.
- B.4 A court may ask for a same day oral or written report from a court-based worker during the court proceedings and adjourn a case until later in the day for this to be completed. A same day report will be a brief report and not a full criminal justice social work report. Same day reports tend to deal with issues specific to the case to inform decision-making. The information may be relevant to decisions about bail or custodial remand, the need for a full report or the need to defer a case to a future date and final sentence.
- B.5 The community payback order (CPO) was introduced by the [Criminal Justice and Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#). The CPO replaced provisions for community service, probation and supervised attendance orders for offences committed from 1 February 2011 onwards. It is available to all courts, with some restrictions applying to justice of the peace courts in relation to treatment and programme requirements. For the period covered by this publication, there were up to nine different requirements which could be issued at the initial imposition of a CPO. While restricted movement requirements have always been able to be added following a breach of the order, a change was made from 16th May 2022 that this requirement could be issued at initial imposition of the order. This change is, however, outwith the period covered by this publication. The most common requirements issued as part of a CPO are unpaid work and supervision. Courts may not impose unpaid work on someone under 16 years old. Supervision must be imposed for someone aged under 18. More information on the CPO is in the most recent [community payback order practice guidance](#).
- B.6 The [community payback order practice guidance](#) contains many principles of best practice, including:

- the first direct contact should take place on the same day as the order is imposed, or the next working day
- where a supervision requirement has been imposed, the appointed case manager should arrange to meet the individual within five working days of the date of imposition of the order
- where an unpaid work requirement has been imposed, arrangements should be made for the individual to begin the induction process within five working days of the date of imposition of the order
- where an unpaid work requirement is imposed, the work placement should begin within seven working days of the order being imposed.

B.7 The drug treatment and testing order (DTTO) is a high tariff disposal for people with more serious substance use related to their offending, who might otherwise receive a custodial sentence. This order includes the need for regular reviews by the court and for the person to consent to frequent random drug tests throughout the lifetime of the order. On the basis of these regular reviews, the judiciary may, among other courses of action, vary the conditions of the order. This may include varying the frequency of testing, varying the type of treatment or the frequency of attendance at treatment, revoking the order on the basis that satisfactory progress has been made or, in the event of non-compliance, revoking the order and re-sentencing the person for the original offence. DTTOs were rolled out across Scotland in phases between 1999 and 2002. They are available to all courts apart from justice of the peace courts. In addition, the less intensive DTTO II was introduced in the Lothian areas (apart from West Lothian) in June 2008 for people committing lower tariff offences at a relatively early stage in their lives. The DTTO II is now also able to be issued in the Highland area and is available from justice of the peace courts.

B.8 Fiscal work orders allow fiscals to offer unpaid work orders as an alternative to prosecution, where:

- There is enough evidence to prosecute a summary offence,
- A financial penalty or other direct measure is not deemed appropriate.

These orders were introduced nationally on 1 April 2015. They can be for a minimum of ten and a maximum of 50 hours and should be completed within six months.

B.9 Restriction of liberty orders have been available to courts (excluding justice of the peace courts) since May 2002. This order can be imposed for periods of up to one year. It involves restricting an individual to a specified place for up to 12 hours per day and/or from a specified place for up to 24 hours. The number of people receiving a restriction of liberty order is reported in the [Criminal Proceedings in Scotland publications](#). G4S provide the electronic monitoring service in Scotland, under Scottish Government contract. This includes the monitoring of restriction of liberty orders. Some additional management data will be available from G4S.

B.10 Throughcare is the provision of a range of social work and associated services to people serving a prison sentence and their families. These services are available from the point of sentence or remand, during the period of imprisonment and following release into the community. People serving more than four years are released under statutory supervision. Those serving less

than four years who are short-term sex offenders under [Section 15 of the Management of Offenders Etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#), or who are subject to an extended sentence or supervised release order, are also supervised on release. The aim of throughcare services is public protection, as well as assisting individuals to prepare for release and supporting community reintegration and rehabilitation.

B.11 Voluntary throughcare is available to those who are not subject to statutory throughcare, but who request support from local authorities while in custody or within 12 months of release.

B.12 Structured deferred sentences (SDS) offer courts the option to provide a short period of intensive supervision to individuals post-conviction but before final sentencing. They are designed to help individuals address their underlying issues, improve their employment prospects and build a sense of routine and self-esteem, allowing them to move away from offending. SDS are not a statutory order and as such are not used by every local authority. Areas with SDS schemes may utilise it as part of an early intervention approach, as an alternative or precursor to a community sentence or as an alternative to a short period of custody, depending on the needs of the local area. The Scottish Government published [National guidance on structured deferred sentences in Scotland](#) in February 2021.

Annex C Consultation and accreditation

- C.1 A working group involving data providers and other internal/external stakeholders was formed in early 2010 as part of a Scottish Government review of justice social work statistics. The group met during 2010 and 2011 and agreed to collect unit level data for community payback and drug treatment and testing orders from 2012-13 onwards. The data collected has helped to provide better information on the process and outcome of these orders.
- C.2 The statistics collected on justice social work have a wide range of uses. They contribute to policy development, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation. Keeping in regular contact with local authorities is also advantageous as this enables the Scottish Government to ensure it is kept up to date on matters which affect implementation and delivery. Meetings of the Local Authority Social Work Statistics: Justice (LASWS:J) group are generally held on an annual basis to discuss relevant data collection and other matters.
- C.3 Some examples of how these data are being used include:
- determining annual funding allocations for local authorities,
 - supporting local authority workload planning exercises, performance management and the allocation of staff resources,
 - assessing the uptake of specific preferred options in justice social work reports,
 - benchmarking demand on local authority service to compare how different authorities operate.
- C.4 The United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) designated the statistics in this publication as National Statistics. Under the provisions of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, UKSA had a statutory responsibility to conduct periodic assessments. This was to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. UKSA confirmed the National Statistics designation of justice social work statistics in [assessment report 128](#) on the UK Statistics Authority website. The UKSA evolved into the Office of Statistical Regulation (OSR) in November 2016.
- C.5 A data user review of justice social work statistics will commence in 2023. It is our aim to engage with a wide range of users and potential users of this publication so that we can better adapt our outputs to suit user needs. If you are interested in being involved, you can contact us direct on email Justice_Analysts@gov.scot or register your interest under Crime & Justice via the [Scotstat register](#).

A National Statistics publication For Scotland

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

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

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How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical publication:

- are available in more detail through [Scotland's official statistics website](#).
- are available via an alternative route, namely the [justice social work datasets on the Scottish Government website](#).
- 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, email statistics.enquiries@gov.scot.

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