



THE NORTHERN IRELAND PRISON POPULATION IN 2002

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SUMMARY

- ◆ The total average prison population increased by 13% from an average of 910 in 2001 to an average of 1,026 in 2002 (Table 1).
- ◆ The total number of receptions into prison increased by 10% from 4,416 in 2001 to 4,865 in 2002 (Table 7).
- ◆ The overall prison population was predominantly male (98% in 2002) (Table 1).
- ◆ In 2002, 51% of the average immediate custody prison population were between the ages of 17 and 29 (Table 4).
- ◆ In 2002, 62% of the immediate custody prisoners were serving sentences for violent offences (violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery). 9% were serving sentences for drug offences (Figure 3).
- ◆ Prisoners with sentences of greater than one year but less than or equal to five years formed 40% of the immediate custody population in 2002; those sentenced to more than five years but less than life made up 25%; those with sentences of one year and under formed 19%. Life sentence prisoners made up 15% of the average immediate custody population in 2002 (Figure 4).
- ◆ Northern Ireland had a rate of 62 prisoners per 100,000 population in 2002 compared to 139 in England & Wales and 126 in Scotland. The Republic of Ireland had a rate of 86 prisoners per 100,000 population. Hungary had the highest rate of imprisonment per 100,000 population of the European Union countries surveyed (179) whilst Denmark (59), Norway (59) and Finland (59) had the lowest rates (Figure 8).

INTRODUCTION

1. This bulletin examines the size and composition of the prison population in Northern Ireland in 2002 compared with previous years during the last decade (1993 – 2002). The statistics presented in the bulletin consist of:

- ◆ the average prison population held during each year, and
- ◆ all receptions of prisoners into prison establishments during the year.

The statistics presented in this bulletin have been derived from analysis of the Northern Ireland prisoner database, which is maintained by the Statistics and Research Branch of the Northern Ireland Office. This database is continuously updated with prison population and reception information received from all prison establishments in Northern Ireland.

AVERAGE PRISON POPULATION

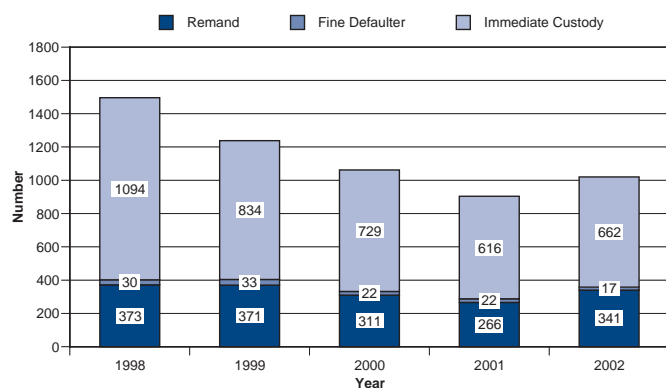
2. The overall average prison population in Northern Ireland increased by 13% from an average of 910 in 2001 to an average of 1,026 in 2002. This was the first annual average increase since 1993 (Table 1). In the last five years (1998-2002) the average prison population has fallen by 32%, from an average of 1,507 in 1998 (Figure 1). Compared with 1993 (1,934) the overall average population in 2002 has decreased by 47%.

AVERAGE PRISON POPULATION BY PRISONER TYPE

Remand Prisoners

3. The 2002 remand population average of 341 was 28% higher than the 2001 level (Table 1). This was the first annual average increase since 1998. It should be noted, however, that the average remand population has fluctuated quite substantially over the last decade from a high of 439 in 1994 to a low of 266 in 2001.

Figure 1: Average prison population by prisoner type 1998 - 2002



Fine Defaulters

4. The average fine defaulter population in 2002 was 17, down 23% from the previous year (22). This was the lowest average recorded in the last decade.

Immediate Custody Prisoners

5. The average immediate custody population in 2002 was 662, 7% higher than in 2001 (616) and was the first annual increase since 1993 (Table 1). The most noticeable decline in the average immediate custody population occurred between 1998 (1,094) and 2001 (616), a decrease of 44%. The immediate custody population has more than halved overall since 1993, when the average total was 1,475.

6. The overall decrease in the average immediate custody population during the last decade can be partially explained by the number of prisoners discharged under the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1998. Under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act was introduced in July 1998. Prisoners convicted of scheduled offences and attracting a sentence of five years or more became eligible to apply for early release to the Independent Sentence Review Commission. A total of 447 prisoners have been released up until the end of 2002 under the Act. No prisoners were released under the Act during 2002.

Non-criminal Prisoners

7. The average number of non-criminal prisoners - mainly immigrant detainees - in 2002 (6) was equal to that in each of the previous three years and was lower than the 1998 figure (10) (Table 1). The average total has varied over the last decade from a low of 1 in 1993 and 1994 to a high of 11 in 1996 but has been constant in more recent years.

AVERAGE PRISON POPULATION BY SEX

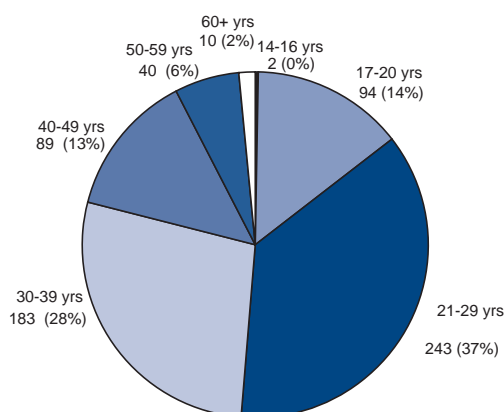
8. Males accounted for 98% of the average total prison population in each of the last ten years (1993-2002). This sex distribution was relatively constant irrespective of prisoner type; males accounted for 97-99% of all the remand and immediate custody prison population during 1993-2002 (Table 1). In the same period the proportion of the average fine defaulter population that was male ranged from 90% to 100%. On average in the last 10 years nearly all non-criminal prisoners were male - there has been a very small average number of female non-criminal prisoners.

AVERAGE IMMEDIATE CUSTODY PRISON POPULATION BY AGE

9. In 2002, 15% (96) of the average immediate custody population in prison were less than 21 years old, with 37% (243) being between the ages of 21 and 29 at reception (Figure 2). A further 28% (183) were aged between 30 and 39, 13% (89) were between the ages of 40 and 49, while 6% (40) were aged between 50 and 59. Immediate custody prisoners aged 60 years or more at reception accounted for 2% of the average immediate custody population.

10. The age profile at reception of the average immediate custody population in prison is markedly different from the overall Northern Ireland population. In 2002, 51% of the average immediate custody prison population were between the ages of 17 and 29, compared to 18% of the Northern Ireland population as a whole. 37% of immediate custody prisoners were between the ages of 21 and 29 at reception (Figure 2) compared to 12% of the Northern Ireland population - based on the 2001 Census. While the average number of immediate custody prisoners aged under 21 increased by 28% (75 in 2001 to 96 in 2002), there has been a general downward trend over the last decade. For example the average under 21 years of age immediate custody prison population in 1998 was 159 and 258 in 1993 (Table 4). The proportion of under 21's within the immediate custody population has fluctuated over the decade ranging from 17% in 1993 to 12% in 2001. The 2002 rate was 15%.

Figure 2: Average prison population under sentence of immediate custody by age at reception 2002



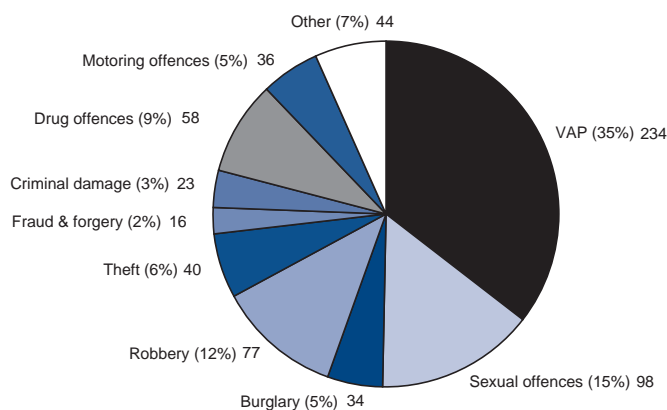
AVERAGE IMMEDIATE CUSTODY PRISON POPULATION BY OFFENCE

11. The total average immediate custody prison population increased by 7% from 616 in 2001 to 661 in 2002. This was the first annual increase in the total average immediate custody population in the last decade – the total average fell by 55% between 1993 (1,475) and 2002 (661) and by 40% between 1998 (1,094) and 2002 (661) (Table 6). Seven of the ten

offence categories of immediate custody prisoner listed in Table 6 increased between 2001 and 2002. Violence against the person (VAP) increased by 6% from an average of 221 to 234. Sexual offences increased by 2% from an average of 96 to 98. The average number of prisoners held in immediate custody for burglary increased by 6% from 32 to 34. Prisoners convicted of robbery offences increased by 8% from an average of 71 to 77. The average criminal damage immediate custody population increased from 14 to 23. Those imprisoned for motoring and other offences increased from averages of 26 and 36 in 2001 to averages of 36 and 44 respectively in 2002. Two of the ten offence categories in Table 6 decreased between 2001 and 2002. The number of those convicted for theft fell by 5% from an average of 42 to 40 while the average immediate custody population for drug offences fell by 6% from 62 to 58. The average number of those convicted for offences of fraud and forgery remained the same in 2001 and 2002 (16). In the last decade, a downward trend has been evident in all offence categories except drug offences. The drug offences average immediate custody population has risen from 19 in 1993 to 58 in 2002.

12. The overall decrease in the average immediate custody population in the last decade (1993 - 2002) masks proportionate variations within individual offence categories. The violence against the person (VAP) category accounted for 53% of the immediate custody population in 1993 decreasing to 35% in 2002. Burglary offenders decreased from 7% to 5% over the same period. During this ten-year period sexual offenders increased from 8% to 15%. Drug offenders increased from 1% in 1993 to 9% in 2002. Prisoners convicted for motoring and 'other offences' both increased from 3% to 5% and 7% respectively (Table 6 and Figure 3). Fraud and forgery and criminal damage prisoners each accounted for 2% and 3% respectively of the immediate custody prison population in both 1993 and 2002. Prisoners convicted of robbery decreased slightly from 13% in 1993 to 12% in 2002 whilst those in prison for theft offences increased slightly from 5% to 6% in the same period.

Figure 3: Average prison population under sentence of immediate custody by offence 2002



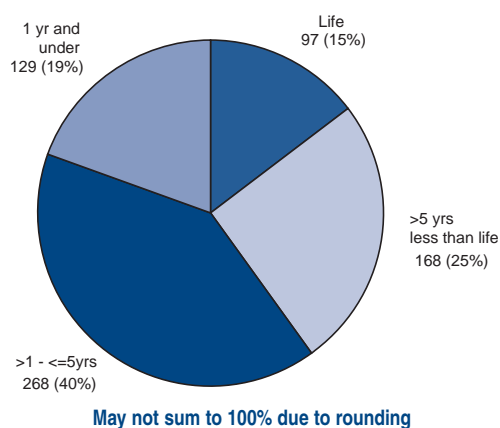
May not sum to 100% due to rounding

AVERAGE IMMEDIATE CUSTODY PRISON POPULATION BY SENTENCE LENGTH

13. The following analysis of the immediate custody prison population consists of three groups - life sentence prisoners, prisoners with determinate sentences of more than five years and prisoners with determinate sentences of five years or less. A determinate sentence is a sentence where a specific period of imprisonment is given to the person convicted. This excludes a life sentence or the detention of a person at the Secretary of State's Pleasure.

14. The average life sentence prison population increased from 88 in 2001 to 97 in 2002, an increase of 10%. However, the average life sentence prison population has fallen by 67% during the last decade, from 292 in 1993 to 97 in 2002 (influenced by the early release arrangements of the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1998). The average number of prisoners serving determinate sentences greater than five years increased by 8% between 2001 (155) and 2002 (168), the first increase in seven years. The average number of prisoners in this category was at its highest at 603 prisoners in 1994, then decreased by 74% to the 2001 figure. The annual average population of those sentenced to five years or less increased by 6% between 2001 (374) and 2002 (397). The rate of decrease in the annual average population of this group is not as pronounced, falling by 41% from a high of 629 in 1993 to the 2001 figure.

Figure 4: Average prison population under sentence of immediate custody by sentence length 2002



15. Between 2001 and 2002, life sentence prisoners increased from 14% to 15% of the immediate custody population. The proportions sentenced to a determinate sentence of more than 5 years were unchanged at 25%. The proportion of those sentenced to less than 5 years decreased from 61% to 60%. An analysis of the proportion of the immediate custody population by sentence length across the decade shows an interesting trend. During the last decade, life sentence prisoners have decreased from 20% of the immediate custody population in 1993 to 19% in 1998 and 15% in 2002. The proportion of those sentenced to

a determinate sentence of more than five years has declined from 38% of the population in 1993, to 34% in 1998, and to 25% in 2002. Those sentenced to less than five years represented 60% of the immediate custody population in 2002 compared to 47% in 1998 and 43% in 1993 (Table 3 and Figure 4).

RECEPTIONS INTO PRISON

16. The total number of receptions into prison increased between 2001 and 2002. A total of 4,865 prisoners were received during 2002, 10% higher than in 2001 (4,416), but 13% less than in 1998 (5,565) and 6% less than in 1993 (5,191) (Table 7).

PRISON RECEPTIONS BY PRISONER TYPE

Remand Prisoners

17. The number of remand receptions fluctuated quite substantially over the last decade, from a high of 2,497 in 1999 to a low of 1,922 in 2001. The 2002 figure (2,337) was 22% higher than the previous year, 2% higher than in 1998 (2,284) and 14% higher than in 1993 (2,045).

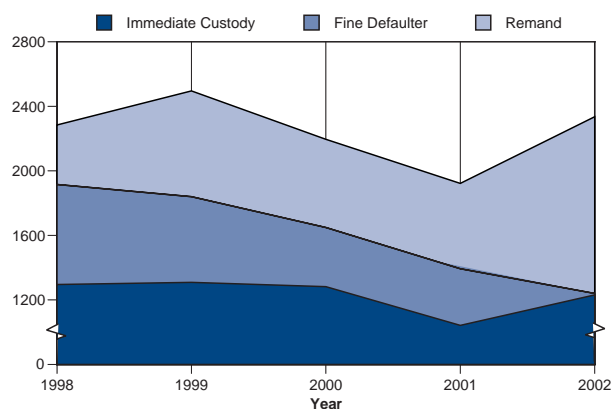
Fine Defaulters

18. Fine defaulters represent a small part of the overall average annual prison population due to the short duration of their time in prison. The number of fine default receptions, however, is substantial and accounts for a quarter of all receptions (Table 7). The 2002 figure (1,240) was 11% lower than that for 2001 (1,393) and was the lowest number of fine default receptions in the last decade. The 2002 figure was 35% lower than the 1998 figure (1,915) and 21% lower than the 1993 figure (1,574).

Immediate Custody Prisoners

19. The number of prisoners received under sentence of immediate custody in 2002 (1,231) was 18% higher than in 2001 (1,043) but 5% lower than in 1998 (1,296) and 21% lower than in 1993 (1,551). The 2002 figure represented the first increase in three years. Overall the number of immediate custody receptions has fluctuated during the last decade.

Figure 5: Prison receptions by prisoner type 1998 - 2002



Non-Criminal Prisoners

20. Only a small number of non-criminal prisoners relative to the overall number of receptions are received into prison each year (Table 7). The 2002 figure (57) was similar to the number received in 2001 (58) but the number has fluctuated over the last decade from 21 in 1993, to a low of 13 in 1994 and a high of 70 in 1998.

PRISON RECEPTIONS BY SEX

21. Females accounted for 5% (225) of all receptions into prison during 2002 while males accounted for 95% (4,640). Male receptions increased by 10% between 2001 (4,212) and 2002 (4,640) although the 2002 figure was 13% less than that for 1998 (5,339). The 2002 female figure (225) increased by 15% compared with 2001 (196) but was similar to that of 1998 (226) (Table 7). Proportionately, females were more likely to be received for fine default than males - 34% of all female receptions compared to 25% of males in 2002. Males (26%) were more likely to be received under sentence of immediate custody than females (13%) whilst the proportion of males and females received as remand prisoners were the same (48%). The 11 females who were received as non-criminal prisoners in 2002 represented 19% of all receptions in this category and 5% of total female receptions.

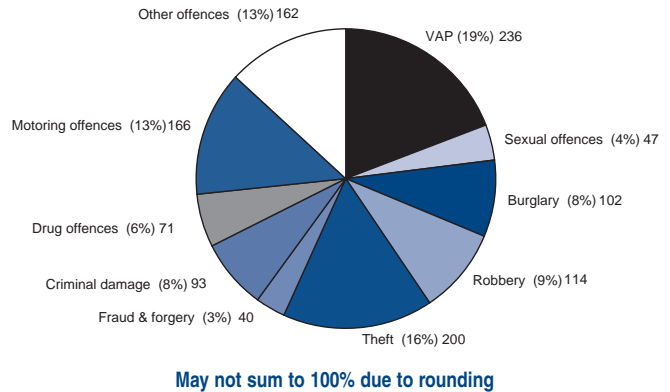
IMMEDIATE CUSTODY RECEPTIONS BY AGE

22. In each year of the last decade (1993 - 2002), approximately one quarter of all immediate custody prisoners were aged less than 21 years at reception (Table 10). The proportion was 26% in 2002, 27% in 1998 and 28% in 1993. 40% of all immediate custody prisoners were aged between 21 and 29 years in 2002 and 2001 compared with 39% in 1998 and 45% in 1993. 30% were aged between 30 and 49 in each of the years 1998, 2001 and 2002, compared with 24% in 1993. 4% of all immediate custody prisoners were aged over 50 years in 2002 compared with 5% in 2001, 3% in 1998 and 3% in 1993.

IMMEDIATE CUSTODY RECEPTIONS BY OFFENCE

23. Overall the number of immediate custody receptions increased by 18% between 2001 (1,043) and 2002 (1,231) (Table 12). Receptions for offences of violence against the person (VAP), burglary, robbery, theft, fraud and forgery, criminal damage, motoring offences and 'other offences' all increased in 2002 compared with 2001. Sexual offences and drug offence receptions decreased by 29% and 11% respectively.

Figure 6: Immediate custody receptions by offence 2002



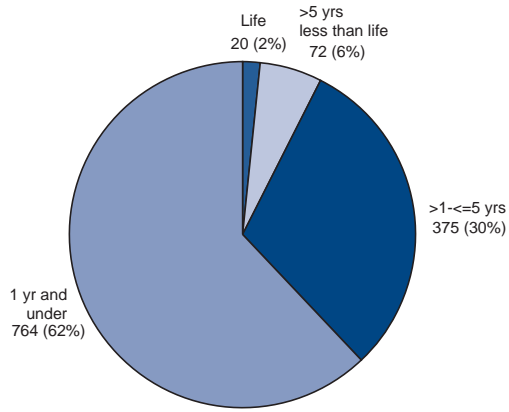
24. Closer analysis of Table 12 reveals that immediate custody receptions for VAP decreased on 3 consecutive occasions from 327 in 1998 to 174 in 2001 before increasing to 236 in 2002. Receptions for sexual offences remained similar in 2001 (66) compared to 2000 (65) but decreased in 2002 (47). Drug offences receptions fell for the second consecutive year, from 80 in 2001 to 71 in 2002. The 2002 robbery figure (114) increased slightly compared to the 2001 figure (109) but was similar to the 2000 figure (115). Receptions for offences of fraud and forgery increased in 2002 (40) compared to 2001 (34) but were less than in 1998 (46). Criminal damage receptions increased from 55 in 2001 to 93 in 2002 but the 2002 figure was higher than that for 1998 (86). Burglary and theft receptions increased between 2001 and 2002, but remained below the 2000 levels. Motoring offences and 'other offences' which had been increasing from 1998 both fell in 2001 before increasing again in 2002.

25. Further analysis of the immediate custody receptions for motoring offences in 2002 reveals that 62% (103) of prisoners received under this category were convicted of 'driving while disqualified', 19% (31) were convicted of 'driving under the influence' and 6% (10) were convicted of 'reckless driving'.

IMMEDIATE CUSTODY RECEPTIONS BY SENTENCE LENGTH

26. Life sentence prisoners form a small number of those received into prison each year (Figure 7 and Table 9). The total number of life sentence receptions in 2002 (20) was 5 receptions more than in 2001 (15). In 1995 there were 26 receptions, the highest number in the last decade, falling to 12 and 7 receptions in 1996 and 1997 respectively and increasing to 23 in 1998. The 2002 figure is the same as that in 1993 (20).

Figure 7: Immediate custody receptions by sentence length 2002



27. Those received into prison who had been sentenced to five years or more but less than life increased in 2002 compared to 2001 (from 62 to 72). This was the second consecutive increase in this sentence length category and represented an overall increase of 9% compared with the 1998 figure (66) but an overall decrease of 58% compared with the 1993 figure (172). The trend for those sentenced to terms of imprisonment greater than one year but less than or equal to five years continues to fluctuate. The 2002 figure (375) was higher than the 2001 figure (318) but was less than the 1998 (397) and 1993 (407) levels. For those sentenced to determinate sentences of one year and less the number of receptions increased for the first time since 1999 – up from 648 in 2001 to 764 in 2002. Overall, the number of prisoners received with sentences of one year and less has decreased by 20% between 1993 (952) and 2002 (Table 9).

COMPARING PRISON RECEPTIONS AND THE PRISON POPULATION

28. Most prisoners sentenced to immediate custody are received into prison with sentences of one year or less - 62% of receptions in 2002 (Figure 7). However, because these prisoners remain in prison for a relatively short period (when the effect of remission is taken into account) the average daily prison population is made up primarily of longer sentence prisoners (Figure 4). For example, on average in 2002, only 19% of those in prison who had been sentenced to immediate custody, had sentences of one year or less compared to 62% of receptions, 25% had determinate sentences of over five years and less than life compared to 6% of receptions; 40% had sentences greater than one year up to and including five years compared to 30% of receptions and 15% were serving life sentences (including those detained at the Secretary of State's pleasure) compared to 2% of receptions (Tables 3 and 9).

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

29. The Home Office Research Findings No.188 “World Prison Population List (fourth edition)” published in 2003 indicated that on 28 October 2002, Northern Ireland had 62 prisoners for every 100,000 people in the population. Figure 8 shows that on similar dates in England & Wales and Scotland the equivalent figures were 139 and 126 respectively. The rate in the Republic of Ireland was 86 (10 April 2002). Among European Union countries, the rate for Portugal (131) was third highest after Hungary (179) and England & Wales (139). Other European countries with similar rates to Northern Ireland were Finland, Denmark and Norway (each 59 - all on 1 September 2001). The USA (686 on 31 December 2001) had the highest rate in the world, followed by the Cayman Islands (664 on 9 October 2002) and the Russian Federation (638 on 1 September 2002).

Figure 8: Prisoners per 100,000 population for selected European jurisdictions

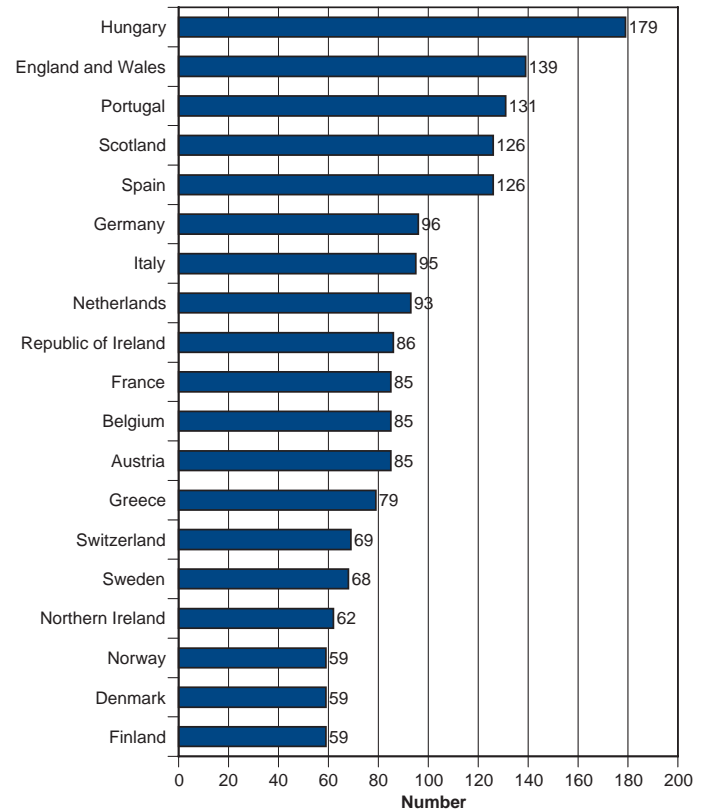


TABLE 1: Average Northern Ireland prison population, by sex, prisoner type and age group 1993-2002

1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002

Male Prisoners										
Remand										
Aged under 21	96	106	72	69	70	71	75	69	62	81
Aged 21 or over	322	321	240	249	288	291	286	232	198	250
	418	427	312	318	358	362	361	301	260	331
Fine defaulter										
Aged under 21	7	4	5	5	6	7	8	5	4	3
Aged 21 or over	23	23	23	19	23	22	23	15	17	13
	30	27	28	24	29	29	31	20	21	16
Immediate Custody										
YOC	153	133	118	115	104	114	103	78	58	73
Young Prisoners	100	91	87	66	57	44	27	22	17	20
Adult Prisoners	1192	1179	1177	1076	1044	921	695	618	533	557
	1445	1403	1382	1257	1205	1079	825	718	608	650
Non-Criminal	1	1	5	11	10	10	6	6	5	5
All Males	1894	1858	1727	1610	1602	1480	1223	1045	894	1002

Female Prisoners										
Remand										
Aged under 21	2	5	2	2	3	4	4	2	1	1
Aged 21 or over	6	7	3	6	5	7	5	8	5	9
	8	12	5	8	8	11	10	10	6	11
Fine defaulter										
Aged under 21	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aged 21 or over	1	2	1	0	1	1	2	2	1	1
	2	3	1	0	1	1	2	2	1	1
Immediate Custody										
YOC	3	4	6	4	3	1	1	1	1	3
Young Prisoners	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adult Prisoners	24	19	21	16	18	14	8	10	7	9
	30	26	29	21	21	15	9	11	8	11
Non-Criminal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
All Females	40	41	35	29	30	27	21	23	16	24

All Prisoners										
Remand	426	439	317	326	366	373	371	311	266	341
Fine Defaulter	32	30	29	24	30	30	33	22	22	17
Immediate Custody	1475	1429	1411	1278	1226	1094	834	729	616	662
Non-Criminal	1	1	5	11	10	10	6	6	6	6
TOTAL	1934	1899	1762	1639	1632	1507	1244	1068	910	1026

Note: (1) Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.

TABLE 2: Average Northern Ireland prison population under sentence of immediate custody, by age, sex and sentence length 1993-2002

1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002

Adult Males

Life	262	225	232	223	209	184	121	99	77	85
>10 years, less than life	252	282	278	264	246	203	110	73	46	53
>5 and <=10 years	226	244	241	180	157	139	105	100	102	106
>4 and <=5 years	83	88	76	48	45	54	52	47	50	45
>3 and <=4 years	73	62	65	56	62	70	53	59	52	46
>2 and <=3 years	76	67	72	71	92	90	66	63	50	59
>1 and <=2 years	83	86	87	93	102	78	77	72	71	73
>6 and <=12 months	79	72	66	82	78	55	60	63	53	51
>3 and <=6 months	46	40	50	45	42	37	39	34	24	30
<=3 months	12	12	10	14	10	9	12	9	8	8
TOTAL	1192	1179	1177	1076	1044	921	695	618	533	557

Young Males

Life	26	18	17	19	18	15	11	10	10	11
>10 years, less than life	27	29	27	26	25	18	6	5	3	3
>5 and <=10 years	41	37	35	18	12	7	5	6	3	5
>4 and <=5 years	7	7	7	3	2	4	5	1	1	1
>3 and <=4 years	29	23	19	14	14	17	11	5	3	6
>2 and <=3 years	23	26	16	19	23	19	15	11	9	9
>1 and <=2 years	38	28	23	26	21	23	24	24	16	21
>6 and <=12 months	35	36	33	31	23	32	29	23	16	22
>3 and <=6 months	24	18	22	20	18	17	18	10	10	12
<=3 months	5	3	5	5	5	5	7	4	3	4
TOTAL	253	224	205	181	161	158	130	100	75	93
ALL MALES	1445	1403	1382	1257	1205	1079	825	718	608	650

Adult Females

Life	4	5	6	6	6	6	1	1	1	1
>5 years, less than life	9	8	9	7	6	3	0	1	1	1
>1 and <=5 years	8	3	2	2	1	2	3	4	3	5
>6 and <=12 months	3	0	4	1	2	1	3	2	0	1
>3 and <=6 months	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
<=3 months	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	24	19	21	16	18	14	8	10	7	9

Young Females

Life	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
>5 years, less than life	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
>1 and <=5 years	2	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	2
>6 and <=12 months	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
>3 and <=6 months	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
<=3 months	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	6	7	8	5	3	1	1	1	1	2
ALL FEMALES	30	26	29	21	21	15	9	11	8	11

- Notes: (1) Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.
 (2) Life includes those detained at the Secretary of State's Pleasure.

TABLE 3: Average Northern Ireland prison population under sentence of immediate custody, by sex and sentence length 1993-2002

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
All Males										
Life	288	243	249	242	227	199	132	109	87	96
>10 years, less than life	279	311	305	290	271	221	116	78	49	56
>5 and <=10 years	267	281	276	198	169	146	111	106	105	111
>4 and <=5 years	90	95	83	51	47	58	57	48	51	46
>3 and <=4 years	102	85	84	70	76	87	64	64	56	52
>2 and <=3 years	99	93	88	90	115	109	81	74	60	69
>1 and <=2 years	121	114	110	119	123	101	101	96	87	94
>6 and <=12 months	114	108	99	113	101	87	89	86	68	73
>3 and <=6 months	70	58	72	65	60	54	57	44	34	42
<=3 months	17	15	15	19	15	14	19	13	11	12
TOTAL	1445	1403	1382	1257	1205	1079	825	718	608	650
All Females										
Life	4	5	6	6	6	6	1	1	1	1
>5 years, less than life	12	11	11	8	6	3	0	1	1	1
>1 and <=5 years	10	4	5	3	3	2	3	4	4	7
>6 and <=12 months	3	1	6	2	3	1	3	3	0	1
>3 and <=6 months	2	3	2	2	4	1	2	2	2	1
<=3 months	1	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	30	26	29	21	21	15	9	11	8	11
All Prisoners										
Life	292	248	255	248	233	205	133	110	88	97
>5 years, less than life	558	603	592	496	446	370	227	185	155	168
>1 and <=5 years	422	391	370	333	364	357	306	286	258	268
>6 and <=12 months	117	109	105	115	104	88	92	88	69	74
>3 and <=6 months	72	61	74	67	64	55	58	46	36	43
<=3 months	18	17	16	21	15	15	19	13	11	12
TOTAL	1475	1429	1411	1278	1226	1094	834	729	616	662

- Notes: (1) Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.
(2) Life includes those detained at the Secretary of State's Pleasure.

TABLE 4: Average Northern Ireland prison population under sentence of immediate custody, by sex and age at reception 1993-2002

1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002

Male Prisoners										
14-16 years	13	8	12	9	10	6	3	4	1	1
17-20 years	239	215	193	172	150	152	128	96	73	92
21-29 years	719	707	686	622	584	495	336	295	244	241
30-39 years	331	341	357	324	317	283	233	202	169	179
40-49 years	97	87	91	92	101	99	83	73	72	88
50-59 years	34	34	31	25	30	37	33	34	37	40
60+ years	10	11	11	13	12	7	11	14	11	10
TOTAL	1445	1403	1382	1257	1205	1079	825	718	608	650

Female Prisoners										
14-16 years	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
17-20 years	5	5	7	4	3	1	1	1	1	2
21-29 years	13	9	11	9	10	6	4	4	3	3
30-39 years	8	6	5	5	5	6	2	5	4	5
40-49 years	3	3	5	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
50-59 years	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
60+ years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	30	26	29	21	21	15	9	11	8	11

All Prisoners										
14-16 years	14	10	12	9	10	6	3	4	1	2
17-20 years	244	220	200	176	154	153	128	96	74	94
21-29 years	732	717	697	631	594	501	340	298	247	243
30-39 years	339	347	362	329	322	289	235	207	172	183
40-49 years	100	90	97	94	104	101	84	75	73	89
50-59 years	34	34	31	25	30	38	33	34	37	40
60+ years	10	11	11	13	12	7	11	14	11	10
TOTAL	1475	1429	1411	1278	1226	1094	834	729	616	662

Note: (1) Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.

TABLE 5: Average Northern Ireland prison population under sentence of immediate custody, by age, sex and principal offence 1993-2002

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adult Males										
Violence against the person	666	690	694	627	561	495	310	256	196	201
Sexual offences	102	96	92	92	102	104	103	101	90	92
Burglary	74	62	65	43	46	38	34	25	24	26
Robbery	151	146	126	103	96	91	79	71	62	63
Theft	57	50	48	54	54	33	31	27	27	26
Fraud & forgery	33	23	25	24	19	15	19	18	16	16
Criminal damage	27	19	19	16	26	26	18	16	10	14
Drug offences	11	26	37	68	81	68	49	51	59	52
Motoring offences	28	28	30	25	33	27	30	28	22	29
Other offences	44	40	42	24	25	23	22	25	27	37
TOTAL	1192	1179	1177	1076	1044	921	695	618	533	557
Young Males										
Violence against the person	95	84	82	68	70	59	39	29	21	27
Sexual offences	16	14	9	11	10	8	6	5	5	6
Burglary	33	29	32	21	17	16	17	17	7	9
Robbery	37	40	31	22	18	21	15	9	8	14
Theft	12	11	12	24	17	18	17	14	14	12
Fraud & forgery	2	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1
Criminal damage	23	13	9	10	6	11	11	5	4	7
Drug offences	6	5	6	14	11	11	7	5	2	4
Motoring offences	22	20	18	4	5	7	10	6	3	7
Other offences	7	7	7	6	5	6	9	10	9	7
TOTAL	253	224	205	181	161	158	130	100	75	93
ALL MALES	1445	1403	1382	1257	1205	1079	825	718	608	650
Adult Females										
Violence against the person	18	14	14	11	10	10	3	4	4	5
Sexual offences	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Robbery	1	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Theft	2	1	4	3	3	2	2	1	1	2
Fraud & forgery	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Criminal damage	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Drug offences	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	1
Motoring offences	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Other offences	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	24	19	21	16	18	14	8	10	7	9
Young Females										
Violence against the person	6	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Theft	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fraud & forgery	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criminal damage	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Drug offences	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Motoring offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	6	7	8	5	3	1	1	1	1	2
ALL FEMALES	30	26	29	21	21	15	9	11	8	11

Note: (1) Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.

TABLE 6: Average Northern Ireland prison population under sentence of immediate custody, by sex and principal offence 1993-2002

1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002

Male Prisoners										
Violence against the person	761	774	776	695	631	554	349	284	217	229
Sexual offences	118	110	101	103	112	112	108	106	96	98
Burglary	98	91	97	64	63	54	51	42	32	34
Robbery	188	186	157	125	114	112	94	80	71	77
Theft	69	61	60	78	71	51	48	41	41	38
Fraud & forgery	35	24	25	25	20	17	19	18	16	16
Criminal damage	50	32	28	26	32	37	29	21	14	21
Drug offences	17	31	43	82	92	79	56	56	60	56
Motoring offences	50	48	48	29	38	34	39	34	26	36
Other offences	51	47	49	30	30	29	31	35	36	44
TOTAL	1445	1403	1382	1257	1205	1079	825	718	608	650

Female Prisoners										
Violence against the person	24	17	17	13	11	11	3	4	4	5
Sexual offences	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Robbery	1	1	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
Theft	2	2	5	3	3	2	2	1	1	2
Fraud & forgery	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Criminal damage	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Drug offences	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	3	2	2
Motoring offences	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Other offences	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	30	26	29	21	21	15	9	11	8	11

All Prisoners										
Violence against the person	785	791	793	708	642	564	351	289	221	234
Sexual offences	118	110	101	104	113	112	109	106	96	98
Burglary	107	91	97	64	65	55	51	42	32	34
Robbery	189	187	160	126	117	112	94	80	71	77
Theft	71	63	65	81	74	53	51	43	42	40
Fraud & forgery	36	25	27	25	20	18	20	18	16	16
Criminal damage	50	32	29	26	32	37	30	22	14	23
Drug offences	19	32	43	83	92	79	58	59	62	58
Motoring offences	50	48	49	29	38	34	39	34	26	36
Other offences	51	48	51	30	30	30	31	36	36	44
TOTAL	1475	1429	1411	1278	1226	1094	834	729	616	662

Note: (1) Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.

TABLE 7: Northern Ireland prison receptions, by sex, prisoner type and age group 1993-2002

1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002

Male Prisoners										
Remand										
Aged under 21	641	579	627	623	609	661	708	634	582	677
Aged 21 or over	1333	1362	1306	1565	1492	1528	1674	1455	1255	1551
	1974	1941	1933	2188	2101	2189	2382	2089	1837	2228
Fine defaulter										
Aged under 21	335	267	343	362	353	370	401	373	293	245
Aged 21 or over	1188	1141	1216	1320	1436	1450	1329	1176	1020	919
	1523	1408	1559	1682	1789	1820	1730	1549	1313	1164
Immediate Custody										
YOC	407	332	356	343	321	339	341	275	245	310
Young Prisoners	23	14	14	6	8	9	6	2	4	7
Adult Prisoners	1086	991	1022	1045	1029	917	938	969	766	885
	1516	1337	1392	1394	1358	1265	1285	1246	1015	1202
Non-Criminal	20	13	45	27	38	65	32	50	55	46
All Males	5033	4699	4929	5291	5286	5339	5429	4934	4212	4640

Female Prisoners										
Remand										
Aged under 21	21	47	23	37	36	22	35	32	24	28
Aged 21 or over	50	55	47	67	51	73	80	76	61	81
	71	102	70	104	87	95	115	108	85	109
Fine defaulter										
Aged under 21	18	9	8	11	13	15	16	16	10	5
Aged 21 or over	33	49	32	54	77	80	94	85	70	71
	51	58	40	65	90	95	110	101	80	76
Immediate Custody										
YOC	9	14	15	19	10	8	5	7	7	5
Young Prisoners	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adult Prisoners	25	24	34	19	25	23	19	30	21	24
	35	38	49	38	35	31	24	37	28	29
Non-Criminal	1	0	0	0	4	5	6	6	3	11
All Females	158	198	159	207	216	226	255	252	196	225

All Prisoners										
Remand	2045	2043	2003	2292	2188	2284	2497	2197	1922	2337
Fine Defaulter	1574	1466	1599	1747	1879	1915	1840	1650	1393	1240
Immediate Custody	1551	1375	1441	1432	1393	1296	1309	1283	1043	1231
Non-Criminal	21	13	45	27	42	70	38	56	58	57
TOTAL	5191	4897	5088	5498	5502	5565	5684	5186	4416	4865

TABLE 8: Northern Ireland prison receptions under sentence of immediate custody, by age, sex and sentence length 1993-2002

1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002

Adult Males

Life	19	23	23	11	6	20	17	18	14	17
>10 years, less than life	78	32	51	14	32	15	13	14	14	17
>5 and <=10 years	74	75	68	45	46	48	46	41	46	52
>4 and <=5 years	40	35	32	22	33	36	26	46	20	35
>3 and <=4 years	52	43	53	41	50	47	46	51	41	39
>2 and <=3 years	69	50	83	83	100	95	64	85	58	73
>1 and <=2 years	139	145	134	165	181	142	148	168	132	154
>6 and <=12 months	227	207	189	247	220	174	222	222	175	165
>3 and <=6 months	247	223	254	247	222	192	218	205	154	203
<=3 months	141	158	135	170	139	149	138	119	112	130
TOTAL	1086	991	1022	1045	1029	918	938	969	766	885

Young Males

Life	0	0	3	1	1	2	0	1	1	2
>10 years, less than life	10	3	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	0
>5 and <=10 years	8	7	7	2	4	1	4	1	2	2
>4 and <=5 years	5	4	2	1	2	4	2	0	1	3
>3 and <=4 years	22	14	12	7	16	12	9	0	6	6
>2 and <=3 years	25	21	15	23	18	17	18	13	18	13
>1 and <=2 years	51	44	43	48	44	41	52	55	38	43
>6 and <=12 months	112	102	98	101	65	92	82	77	67	98
>3 and <=6 months	139	103	124	103	115	100	101	68	69	96
<=3 months	58	48	64	61	63	76	79	62	47	54
TOTAL	430	346	370	349	329	347	347	277	249	317
ALL MALES	1516	1337	1392	1394	1358	1265	1285	1246	1015	1202

Adult Females

Life	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
>5 years, less than life	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
>1 and <=5 years	4	1	3	6	2	3	3	8	2	7
>6 and <=12 months	7	1	9	2	4	6	8	6	6	3
>3 and <=6 months	3	12	6	3	14	7	6	7	7	3
<=3 months	9	7	14	8	5	6	2	8	6	9
TOTAL	25	24	34	19	25	23	19	30	21	24

Young Females

Life	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
>5 years, less than life	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
>1 and <=5 years	0	3	2	1	1	0	1	2	2	2
>6 and <=12 months	0	2	6	3	2	1	2	1	0	1
>3 and <=6 months	3	4	2	4	5	2	1	2	2	2
<=3 months	6	5	5	11	2	5	1	2	3	0
TOTAL	10	14	15	19	10	8	5	7	7	5
ALL FEMALES	35	38	49	38	35	31	24	37	28	29

Note: (1) Life includes those detained at the Secretary of State's Pleasure.

TABLE 9: Northern Ireland prison receptions under sentence of immediate custody, by sex and sentence length 1993-2002

1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002

All Males										
Life	19	23	26	12	7	22	17	19	15	19
>10 years, less than life	88	35	53	16	33	17	13	14	14	17
>5 and <=10 years	82	82	75	47	50	49	50	42	48	54
>4 and <=5 years	45	39	34	23	35	40	28	46	21	38
>3 and <=4 years	74	57	65	48	66	59	55	51	47	45
>2 and <=3 years	94	71	98	106	118	112	82	98	76	86
>1 and <=2 years	190	189	177	213	225	183	200	223	170	197
>6 and <=12 months	339	309	287	348	285	266	304	299	242	263
>3 and <=6 months	386	326	378	350	337	292	319	273	223	299
<=3 months	199	206	199	231	202	225	217	181	159	184
TOTAL	1516	1337	1392	1394	1358	1265	1285	1246	1015	1202

All Females										
Life	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
>5 years, less than life	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
>1 and <=5 years	4	4	5	7	3	3	4	10	4	9
>6 and <=12 months	7	3	15	5	6	7	10	7	6	4
>3 and <=6 months	6	16	8	7	19	9	7	9	9	5
<=3 months	15	12	19	19	7	11	3	10	9	9
TOTAL	35	38	49	38	35	31	24	37	28	29

All Prisoners										
Life	20	25	26	12	7	23	17	19	15	20
>5 years, less than life	172	118	130	63	83	66	63	57	62	72
>1 and <=5 years	407	360	379	397	447	397	369	428	318	375
>6 and <=12 months	346	312	302	353	291	273	314	306	248	267
>3 and <=6 months	392	342	386	357	356	301	326	282	232	304
<=3 months	214	218	218	250	209	236	220	191	168	193
TOTAL	1551	1375	1441	1432	1393	1296	1309	1283	1043	1231

Note: (1) Life includes those detained at the Secretary of State's Pleasure.

TABLE 10: Northern Ireland prison receptions under sentence of immediate custody, by sex and age at reception 1993-2002

1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002

Male Prisoners										
14-16 years	16	23	49	39	23	20	11	14	8	6
17-20 years	414	323	321	310	306	328	336	263	241	311
21-29 years	682	608	587	599	577	493	512	531	412	478
30-39 years	270	278	296	289	297	278	299	281	221	250
40-49 years	90	72	89	114	111	105	84	106	84	114
50-59 years	29	21	39	31	34	32	29	34	38	36
60+ years	15	12	11	12	10	9	14	17	11	7
TOTAL	1516	1337	1392	1394	1358	1265	1285	1246	1015	1202

Female Prisoners										
14-16 years	0	3	0	3	0	1	2	0	1	1
17-20 years	10	11	15	16	10	7	3	7	6	4
21-29 years	14	12	14	10	13	16	10	12	9	12
30-39 years	7	9	13	7	8	4	7	14	9	7
40-49 years	4	3	6	2	3	2	1	4	3	4
50-59 years	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1
60+ years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	35	38	49	38	35	31	24	37	28	29

All Prisoners										
14-16 years	16	26	49	42	23	21	13	14	9	7
17-20 years	424	334	336	326	316	335	339	270	247	315
21-29 years	696	620	601	609	590	509	522	543	421	490
30-39 years	277	287	309	296	305	282	306	295	230	257
40-49 years	94	75	95	116	114	107	85	110	87	118
50-59 years	29	21	40	31	35	33	30	34	38	37
60+ years	15	12	11	12	10	9	14	17	11	7
TOTAL	1551	1375	1441	1432	1393	1296	1309	1283	1043	1231

TABLE 11: Northern Ireland prison receptions under sentence of immediate custody, by age, sex and principal offence 1993-2002

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adult Males										
Violence against the person	344	266	263	235	214	244	239	218	135	179
Sexual offences	57	55	60	68	69	63	51	64	60	46
Burglary	144	117	120	113	112	69	103	76	60	56
Robbery	59	68	60	72	80	79	67	96	78	87
Theft	161	133	132	171	174	115	128	120	105	125
Fraud & forgery	48	35	54	49	36	39	28	41	30	37
Criminal damage	62	64	51	45	71	49	59	44	33	50
Drug offences	30	56	81	126	102	82	73	94	73	57
Motoring offences	116	133	122	99	111	94	104	112	94	129
Other offences	65	64	79	67	60	83	86	104	98	119
TOTAL	1086	991	1022	1045	1029	917	938	969	766	885
Young Males										
Violence against the person	76	50	44	52	70	78	63	35	34	50
Sexual offences	8	4	6	11	4	5	2	1	6	1
Burglary	81	67	94	71	64	53	61	49	33	46
Robbery	30	29	23	22	25	20	25	19	30	24
Theft	47	43	51	90	75	77	77	77	69	70
Fraud & forgery	5	5	1	4	3	5	0	2	2	3
Criminal damage	55	27	21	33	26	36	35	20	19	38
Drug offences	14	10	21	23	16	15	11	11	4	12
Motoring offences	87	93	89	20	16	27	28	23	20	35
Other offences	27	18	20	23	30	32	45	40	32	38
TOTAL	430	346	370	349	329	348	347	277	249	317
ALL MALES	1516	1337	1392	1394	1358	1265	1285	1246	1015	1202
Adult Females										
Violence against the person	7	9	3	1	3	4	3	7	4	6
Sexual offences	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Burglary	0	2	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
Robbery	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	3
Theft	7	7	14	9	12	6	5	7	5	4
Fraud & forgery	3	1	6	1	2	2	1	2	2	0
Criminal damage	0	0	4	4	2	1	2	3	2	3
Drug offences	3	0	0	0	2	2	5	5	2	2
Motoring offences	0	2	3	1	0	1	0	1	3	2
Other offences	4	1	2	1	2	4	2	5	2	4
TOTAL	25	24	34	19	25	23	19	30	21	24
Young Females										
Violence against the person	5	2	2	7	3	1	0	3	1	1
Sexual offences	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	0
Robbery	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Theft	3	4	4	2	1	4	0	0	2	1
Fraud & forgery	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criminal damage	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	1	1	2
Drug offences	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	1	1	0
Motoring offences	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences	0	3	4	3	1	3	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	10	14	15	19	10	8	5	7	7	5
ALL FEMALES	35	38	49	38	35	31	24	37	28	29

TABLE 12: Northern Ireland prison receptions under sentence of immediate custody, by sex and principal offence 1993-2002

1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002

Male Prisoners										
Violence against the person	420	316	307	287	284	322	302	253	169	229
Sexual offences	65	59	66	79	73	68	53	65	66	47
Burglary	225	184	214	184	176	122	164	125	93	102
Robbery	89	97	83	94	105	99	92	115	108	111
Theft	208	176	183	261	249	192	205	197	174	195
Fraud & forgery	53	40	55	53	39	44	28	43	32	40
Criminal damage	117	91	72	78	97	85	94	64	52	88
Drug offences	44	66	102	149	118	97	84	105	77	69
Motoring offences	203	226	211	119	127	121	132	135	114	164
Other offences	92	82	99	90	90	115	131	144	130	157
TOTAL	1516	1337	1392	1394	1358	1265	1285	1246	1015	1202

Female Prisoners										
Violence against the person	12	11	5	8	6	5	3	10	5	7
Sexual offences	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Burglary	1	4	1	1	4	3	0	1	1	0
Robbery	1	2	2	3	1	0	0	0	1	3
Theft	10	11	18	11	13	10	5	7	7	5
Fraud & forgery	3	3	7	1	2	2	1	2	2	0
Criminal damage	0	1	4	4	4	1	5	4	3	5
Drug offences	3	0	1	3	2	2	6	6	3	2
Motoring offences	1	2	3	3	0	1	0	1	3	2
Other offences	4	4	6	4	3	7	3	6	3	5
TOTAL	35	38	49	38	35	31	24	37	28	29

All Prisoners										
Violence against the person	432	327	312	295	290	327	305	263	174	236
Sexual offences	65	59	68	79	73	68	54	65	66	47
Burglary	226	188	215	185	180	125	164	126	94	102
Robbery	90	99	85	97	106	99	92	115	109	114
Theft	218	187	201	272	262	202	210	204	181	200
Fraud & forgery	56	43	62	54	41	46	29	45	34	40
Criminal damage	117	92	76	82	101	86	99	68	55	93
Drug offences	47	66	103	152	120	99	90	111	80	71
Motoring offences	204	228	214	122	127	122	132	136	117	166
Other offences	96	86	105	94	93	122	134	150	133	162
TOTAL	1551	1375	1441	1432	1393	1296	1309	1283	1043	1231

TYPES OF PRISONER

1. In 2002 there were three prison establishments in Northern Ireland receiving prisoners - these were HMP Magilligan, HMP Maghaberry and HM Young Offenders Centre Hydebank Wood. Female prisoners were held in a separate unit within the HMP Maghaberry establishment.

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

3. Fine defaulters are those who have been given a fine by the courts (strictly a fine or custodial sentence), have not paid the fine within a stipulated time, and have then been the subject of a warrant issued by the court. The duration of sentence is dependent upon the amount of the unpaid fine. This ranges in magistrates' courts from one week where the default is £200 or less, to one year, where it is over £10,000. In the Crown Court the duration of sentence may be up to ten years where the default is £1 million or more. Fine defaulters aged under 17 are no longer held in custody, due to changes brought about by the Criminal Justice Order (1998), and are not included in this bulletin.

4. Remand prisoners include those charged with an offence and whom the courts have ruled should be detained in custody pending trial; those whom the courts have permitted to be released on bail pending trial but have not as yet met the conditions (usually financial) of the bail; those who had been released on bail but have subsequently been re-admitted to prison because they breached a condition of bail; and those who have been found guilty by the court but have been ordered to be detained in custody pending sentence. Persons aged under seventeen years on remand will normally be detained in a juvenile justice centre, and are excluded from this bulletin.

5. Non-criminal prisoners include those who have been imprisoned for non-payment of maintenance, non-payment of a debt, contempt of court, or are being held under the terms of an Immigration Act.

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

COUNTING RULES

7. The prison population fluctuates throughout the year and within each week. This is a consequence of factors such as the pattern of court sitting and discharge rules relating to weekends. To remove within-week variation and provide a more consistent approach, prison population statistics are based on counts taken on the last Thursday night of each month. Annual averages are derived from twelve such monthly counts. Annual prison receptions are calculated simply as the sum total of admissions into prisons during the year.

8. In general the counting rules in operation closely follow those used by the Home office. Important features of these are:

- ◆ where a person is received more than once a year he will be counted separately on each occasion, including each occasion of change of status between remand and sentenced/fine defaulter;
- ◆ where a person is received under sentence for two or more offences, only the principal criminal offence is recorded;
- ◆ where a person is received under sentence for two or more offences, sentence length is taken as the longest of any concurrent sentences, with consecutive sentences being treated as one sentence equal in length to the sentences added together; and
- ◆ the age of a prisoner is calculated as age at reception.

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