



Ministry  
of Justice

# **Justice Data Lab Statistics April to October 2013**

10<sup>th</sup> October 2013



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**Contents**

Introduction	3
Key findings	4
Summary of requests	6
Contact details	11

## **Introduction**

This report presents a summary of the requests for re-offending information through the Justice Data Lab for the period 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> September 2013. This report is published alongside the tailored reports which have been produced for individual organisations requesting information through the Justice Data Lab.

This report has been produced and published in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This report will be updated and published on the second Thursday of each month for the duration of the Justice Data Lab pilot.

### **What is the Justice Data Lab initiative, and how does it work?**

The Justice Data Lab has been launched as a pilot for one year from April 2013. During this year, a small team from Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice (the Justice Data Lab team) will support organisations that provide offender services by allowing them easy access to aggregate re-offending data, specific to the group of people they have worked with. This will support organisations in understanding their effectiveness at reducing re-offending.

Participating organisations supply the Justice Data Lab with details of the offenders who they have worked with, and information about the services they have provided. The Justice Data Lab team will match these individuals to the re-offending datasets held within the Ministry of Justice, then use statistical modeling techniques to generate a matched control group of individuals with very similar characteristics. As standard the Justice Data Lab will supply aggregate one-year proven re-offending rates for that group, and that of a matched control group of similar offenders. The re-offending rates for the organisation's group and the matched control group are compared using statistical testing to assess the impact of the organisation's work on reducing re-offending. The results are then returned to the organisation with explanations of the key metrics, and any caveats and limitations necessary for interpretation of the results. The tailored reports produced for each organisation will then be published on the Ministry of Justice website to promote transparency and ensure that findings produced through this service can be used by others to improve the rehabilitation of offenders.

## Key Findings

This publication reports on the Justice Data Lab requests received in the six months between the launch of the Justice Data Lab on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013, and 31<sup>st</sup> September 2013. During this period there were 52 requests for re-offending information completed through the Justice Data Lab. Of these requests;

- 7 requests have been fully answered. The headline finding of each request is in Table 1 on the following pages, and a tailored report goes into further detail about the analysis. All of these reports can be found at the following link: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/justice-data-lab-pilot-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/justice-data-lab-pilot-statistics)
- 7 requests could not be answered, as the minimum criteria for a Data Lab analysis had not been met
- The rest will be processed in due course.

The outcome of all requests which have been fully answered can be seen in Table 1 on the following pages.

## Caveats and Limitations

The statistical methods used in the Justice Data Lab analysis are based on data collected for administrative purposes. While these data include details of each offender's previous criminal, benefit and employment history alongside more basic offender characteristics such as age, gender and ethnicity, it is possible that other important contextual information that may help explain the results has not been accounted for. It is possible that underlying characteristics about the individuals included in the analysis which were not captured by the data may have impacted re-offending behaviour. Where any additional limitations specific to an analysis are relevant, these limitations will be clearly explained in the organisation's report.

The tailored reports contain information about re-offending behaviour only. The services or interventions to which these figures relate may have had an impact on other outcomes that have not been captured in these reports.

When matching to administrative datasets, it is likely that not all individuals will be matched. This is called attrition, and may be due to a variety of reasons. The Justice Data Lab is a service providing a new use of administrative data, and it is clear that a reasonable level of attrition is occurring when matching between an organisation's individual level data, and the administrative data held by the Ministry of Justice. Reasons for the attrition are given below:

- The minimum criteria to match individuals has not been provided (name, date of birth, gender etc);
- The identifying information about the individual may not be the same as what is held on the administrative databases (name, date of birth, gender etc) meaning that we could not be confident about the match;
- There may be more than one individual with the same identifying information, and it is not possible to establish which identity is correct;
- Information about the sentence (including sentence type) does not match what is held on the administrative records to an extent where we cannot be confident that a re-offending follow up would be appropriate;
- Individuals who were targeted in custody may have still been in custody after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 – currently the last date in the Data Lab where re-offending data can be calculated from;
- The individuals cannot be matched to offenders with similar characteristics.

Table 1: Requests through the Justice Data Lab for the period April 2013 to September 2013. Requests are ordered alphabetically.

	<b>Organisation and Programme</b>	<b>Summary of Programme</b>	<b>How many participants shared / how many matched. Additionally, reasons for any attrition are given (see each report for a more detailed explanation)</b>	<b>Result of Analysis</b>	<b>Date of Publication</b>
1	Blue Sky  Short term, full-time employment contracts	Blue Sky offers ex-offenders up to six months, full-time employment contracts and aims to move them into onward full-time employment elsewhere. This analysis relates to offenders who undertook an employment spell with Blue Sky between 2005 and 2010, and relates to those individuals who were employed by Blue Sky <u>after leaving custody only</u> .	321 / 72  Unmatched cases had dates of birth missing or the relevant sentence could not be found	This analysis indicates that individuals who received short-term, full time employment with Blue Sky within 6 months of leaving custody experienced a reduction in re-offending between 1 and 23 percentage points.	October 2013
2	Brighton & Hove City Council  Preventing Offender Accomodation Loss (POAL)	The POAL Project is a service delivered by Brighton & Hove City Council, in HMP Lewes. The Project specifically targets short term offenders (remand, and those sentenced to less than 12 months custody), although other cases are dealt with on a case-by-case basis beyond this remit. The POAL Project is funded to provide a homelessness intervention specifically for offenders in custody. For offenders who are homeless, this can take the form of assessing statutory duties under the Housing Act (1996,	88 / 30  This project targets offenders on remand, and it is likely many of those unmatched spent their entire custody on remand, or were on remand with no	This analysis indicates that individuals targeted by the POAL Project, who had been convicted and served a custodial sentence, experienced a reduction in re-offending between 1 and 38 percentage points.	October 2013

	Project	2002), referrals to supported housing, rehabilitation, private sector Landlord and floating support providers; for offenders with accommodation, this can involve liaising with landlords and colleagues in housing benefit in order to sustain, or terminate, a tenancy; whichever is the more suitable. The POAL Project works in conjunction with established multi-agency frameworks such as Integrated Offender Management (IOM) and Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). This analysis relates to offenders who were targeted by the POAL Project during 2009 and 2010 in HMP Lewes.	subsequent conviction. These persons cannot be easily identified in our underlying data.		
3	The Koestler Trust Koestler Trust awards	The Koestler Trust has run arts Awards for over 50 years, with the aim of helping offenders lead more positive lives, by motivating them to participate and achieve in the arts. Entries to the Koestler Awards are accepted for original work in 60 artforms by offenders in a wide range of settings across the country. Every entrant receives a certificate, most receive written feedback, and around a third win Awards, some with cash prizes. Information on participants who entered the Awards in 2009 was shared with the Justice Data Lab to examine the impact of entering the Awards on proven re-offending.	1,987 / 290  This data was missing dates of birth which are necessary for matching; those matched were identified using prison number.	There is insufficient evidence at this stage to draw a conclusion about the impact of entering a Koestler Award on re-offending.	October 2013

4	Prison Fellowship Sycamore Tree	Sycamore Tree is a victim awareness programme that teaches the principles of restorative justice. Prisoners on the programme explore the effects of crime on victims, offenders, and the community, and discuss what it would mean to take responsibility for their personal actions. This analysis relates to offenders who undertook the Sycamore Tree programme between 2005 and 2008 in five prisons.	411 / 192  Those unmatched were missing date of birth, had previously been convicted of sex offences or had not yet completed their sentence.	There is insufficient evidence at this stage to draw a conclusion about the impact of completing the Sycamore Tree programme run by the Prison Fellowship on re-offending.	October 2013
5	Safe Ground Family Man	Safe Ground is a charity working with offenders on a range of projects both in prison and in the community with the aim of reducing re-offending by developing relationship skills. This analysis relates to male offenders who completed the Family Man course between 2005 and 2008 in Wandsworth Prison. Family Man is a course about family relationships, which uses drama and group work to develop offenders' thinking.	207 / 35  Those unmatched were missing dates of birth or forenames, or had not yet completed their sentence.	There is insufficient evidence at this stage to draw a conclusion about the impact of attending the Family Man course run by Safe Ground on re-offending.	October 2013
6	Shelter Housing advice / assessment sessions in	Shelter is an organisation working with offenders to keep previous accommodation or to procure new accommodation upon release. Shelter's Prison Housing Advice Service in Yorkshire and Humberside provides information, advice, advocacy and support on all aspects of housing and housing related debt, including finding accommodation and securing existing homes or	197 / 99  Some of the unmatched group had a release date from custody in 2011 for which re-	The one year proven re-offending rate for people whom Shelter worked with at HMP Armley was 79%; this rate is higher than the matched control group by between 0.4 and 18 percentage points. It is possible that this could be explained by	October 2013

	HMP Armley	<p>tenancies. The service is funded to work with offenders in custody and up to the point of release. Offenders can access the service through self referral or referral by an in-prison service, but does not target specific offenders. A face to face assessment is conducted which covers all aspects of an offender's housing situation and needs. Following the initial assessment the adviser will discuss with the client what their housing rights are and what options are available to them. From this initial appointment the adviser will carry out casework according to the client's wishes to resolve their housing issues/ concerns whether this is finding the client somewhere to go on release; dealing with housing related debts; securing an existing tenancy; mediating; or supporting the client to make a homeless applications or application to other housing/ support provider. An advisor sees a client face-to-face for approximately 20-30 minutes. There may be further meetings depending on the case. The total amount of time spent with a client is approximately two hours, but this varies per case. There is no capacity to work with offender past the point of release but clients are referred on to other services as appropriate to their needs. This analysis relates to offenders who received advice from Shelter during 2010.</p>	<p>offence data is not available, or the relevant sentence could not be found.</p>	<p>characteristics (in particular factors associated with homelessness or accommodation issues) of this cohort which are not reflected in the MoJ underlying data.</p>	
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7	HMP Swansea  Community Chaplaincy Project	The Swansea Community Chaplaincy Project is a service delivered by the Chaplaincy Department at HMP Swansea. The project works with prisoners who volunteer to engage with the chaplaincy department, but working with individuals especially who are known to have particularly complex needs, and who are at very high risk of re-offending. The framework for engaging with prisoners is to work together for the six weeks prior to their release and for 12 weeks after their release (however there is some flexibility depending upon needs). The project does not specifically target prisoners' needs but aims to work alongside and enable the prisoner to engage with 'target set' agencies as required by the prisoner. The project will work with individuals with multiple interventions as is deemed necessary by the prisoner. The Project has been running since 2001, but this analysis is on interventions run in 2009 and 2010.	124 / 81  Some of the unmatched group had a release date from custody in 2011 for which re-offence data is not available, or the relevant sentence could not be found.	There is insufficient evidence at this stage to draw a conclusion about the impact of the Swansea Community Chaplaincy Project on re-offending.	October 2013
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## **Contact points for further information**

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