



Ministry
of Justice

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Transparency Data

Standard Determinate Sentences 40% (SDS40) Detailed Data, England and Wales

**Monthly SDS40 Releases from 01 January 2025 to 31
March 2026**

**Release Type, Demographic and Sentence characteristics
data**

Policy Background

This document contains information relating to the operation of SDS40 (Standard Determinate Sentences 40%), which was announced by the then Lord Chancellor on 12 July 2024: [Lord Chancellor sets out immediate action to defuse ticking prison 'time-bomb' - GOV.UK](#)

SDS40 allows certain prisoners serving a 'standard determinate sentence' (with a 50% conditional release point) to be released at the 40% point of their sentence, subject to eligibility criteria.

SDS40 has been in operation since 10 September 2024 (with the first 'Tranche 1' releases happening on this date):

- 'Tranche 1' releases were comprised of eligible prisoners serving sentences of 'less than 5 years'.
- 'Tranche 2' releases were comprised of eligible prisoners serving sentences of '5 years or more'. The first 'Tranche 2' releases took place on 22 October 2024.

On 7 November 2024, transparency data was published detailing Day 1 release volumes for Tranches 1 and 2: [Transparency data - SDS40 tranches 1 and 2 day one.pdf](#)

There were bulk releases on the first day of each tranche, but releases for both tranches continued after this date. A series of publications have reported on these releases: [SDS40 Release Data – Collection](#). This publication provides an update on

SDS40 releases for the latest five quarter period, from 01 January 2025 to 31 March 2026¹.

It disaggregates this data by release type, as well as demographic and sentence characteristics. 'SDS40 releases' refers here to those releases where the prisoner's Conditional Release Date was brought earlier because of SDS40 and where the release type had the potential to have been impacted by SDS40.

Number of SDS40 releases

In the latest 12-month period (April 2025 to March 2026), there were **43,610** SDS40 releases, with **9,958** of those coming in the latest quarter (January to March 2026). This is a 3% decrease compared with the same quarter in 2025, broadly in line with the decrease in overall prison releases observed over the same period.

Releases by month and type

In the latest quarter, monthly SDS40 releases remained relatively stable and in line with previous monthly figures.

Conditional releases remained the largest number of releases across all months, with 7,225 in the latest quarter. This accounts for around 73% of all SDS40 releases during this period, an increase from 68% between January and March 2025.

Prisoner Demographics

Sex

91% of releases during the latest quarter were from male prison establishments (9,049). There were 909 releases from female establishments in the same period.

Age

The age group with the highest number of SDS40 releases was '30 – 39' years, accounting for roughly 36% of releases (3,619).

Nationality

The majority of releases (92%) were British Nationals (9,204).

¹ Until the October to December 2025 publication, SDS40 data had been reported on all SDS40 releases from September 2024, when the scheme began, to the latest reporting period. SDS40 has now run for a sufficient period to bring reporting in line with how data on releases are routinely presented in the Offender Management Statistics Quarterly bulletin. Therefore, these publications will now present the latest 5 quarters of data (October 2024 to December 2025). Data on SDS40 releases prior to this will still be available in previous versions of the publication.

Ethnicity

Approximately three quarters (77%) of prisoners released were White (7,717), 8% were Black or Black British (842), and 7% were Asian or Asian British (667).

Sentence Length

Nearly half (48%) of those released had a Judicially Imposed Sentence Length (JISL) of less than 12 months (4,783). 12% of those released had a JISL of 4 years or more.

Releasing prison

HMP Berwyn and HMP Humber jointly released the largest number of prisoners under SDS40 (315 each). They were followed by HMP Fosse Way (281). These findings align with the higher release volumes seen in these prisons more generally.

Further Information

This publication of transparency data presents the number of SDS40 releases between 01 January 2025 and 31 March 2026 (the latest five quarters), broken down by prisoner demographics and sentence characteristics.

‘SDS40 releases’ refers to those releases where the prisoner's Conditional Release Date was brought earlier because of SDS40 and where the release type had the potential to have been impacted by SDS40. This could include some individuals included who were released under existing processes (e.g. Home Detention Curfew) where they were actually released on a date that would have been possible under SDS50.

‘Releases’ have only been reported where they meet the criteria for inclusion in the Accredited Official Statistics on releases in Offender Management Statistics Quarterly (OMSQ), which excludes most post-recall releases. Release codes that would not be impacted by SDS40 (e.g. deaths) have been excluded, though please note that release codes can sometimes be incorrectly assigned.

Known Releases in Error have also been removed from these figures, because these are not legitimate SDS40 releases. Future figures are subject to change if new information comes to light about releases.

These figures only cover prisoners where the calculation before release was calculated using the Calculate Release Dates Service (CRDS) in Prison Digital Services. The CRDS tool was updated to reflect the new SDS40 rules and rapidly deployed across all prisons in England and Wales to support accurate and efficient recalculations. Some release dates may not have been calculated in CRDS and instead may have been inputted directly into Prison-NOMIS (e.g. for unusual calculations not supported by CRDS). Prisoners for whom a calculation was only

inputted in Prison-NOMIS will not be shown, and if a CRDS calculation was overridden in Prison-NOMIS only that latest CRDS release date will be reflected. This is expected to have a greater impact on the earlier weeks of data, when SDS40 policy was newly introduced to prisons.

This data has been extracted from a mixture of live operational reporting systems. As with any data extracted from administrative systems, it is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to revision if the underlying data changes. The processing of this data aligns predominantly with that of the Offender Management Quarterly Statistics (OMSQ). It does not align with the source, coverage or methodology used to report on the previously published transparency data for SDS40 Day 1 Tranche release volumes. Therefore, it is important to note that this data will not align with the SDS40 Day 1 Tranche transparency data published in November 2024.

Our statisticians regularly review the content of publications, and we are actively considering the most appropriate means of routinely publishing updated data. Development of new and improved statistical outputs is usually dependent on reallocating existing resources. As part of our continual review and prioritisation, we welcome user feedback on existing outputs including content, breadth, frequency, and methodology. Please send any comments you have on this publication including suggestions for further developments or reductions in content.

Accompanying files

- Data tables

Contact

Press enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/about/media-enquiries>

Non-Press enquiries relating to this publication should be sent to: OMSQ-SiC-publications@justice.gov.uk URL:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/standard-determinate-sentence-sds40-release-data>

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