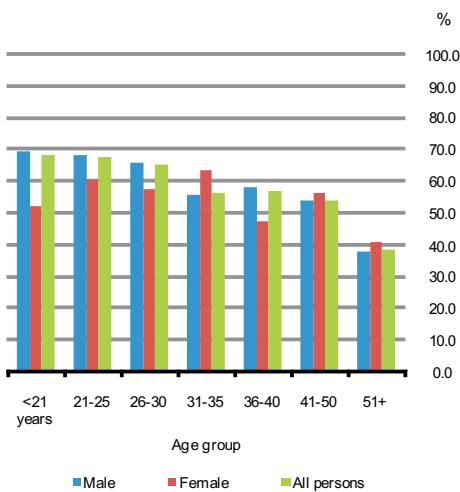


Figure 1: Recidivism rates by age and sex, 2007



Prison Recidivism 2007

Table 1.1 Offender numbers classified by whether there was a re-offence within three years, 2007

	Re-offence within three years			Recidivism ¹ rate
	Yes	No	Total	
Total offenders	4,795	2,906	7,701	62.3
Sex				
Male	4,445	2,644	7,089	62.7
Female	350	262	612	57.2
All persons age group				
<21 years	857	395	1,252	68.5
21-25	1,367	650	2,017	67.8
26-30	983	525	1,508	65.2
31-35	645	495	1,140	56.6
36-40	416	309	725	57.4
41-50	409	344	753	54.3
51+	118	188	306	38.6

¹ See Background Notes.

Just over 62% re-offended within 3 years

In 2007, 7,701 individuals (cases) were released from the custody of the Irish Prison Service. Of these, 4,795 (62.3%) re-offended within a three-year period. However, there are significant differences in the re-offending rates (recidivism) when considering age, sex and the initial offence for which the offender was imprisoned (the imprisonment offence). See table 1.

This release is a study of individuals who were released from the custody of the Irish Prison Service in the year 2007, and their subsequent levels of re-offending (**which is termed recidivism, and is based on first subsequent conviction**). Please see the *Background Notes* for detailed information on how recidivism is defined; the scope and extent of this study; and how these figures were produced.

There is a detailed report on recidivism issued by the Irish Prison Service, which can be found on their website www.irishprisons.ie. It provides detailed analysis and discussion from a criminal justice perspective.

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Figure 2: Recidivism rates by imprisonment offence group, 2007

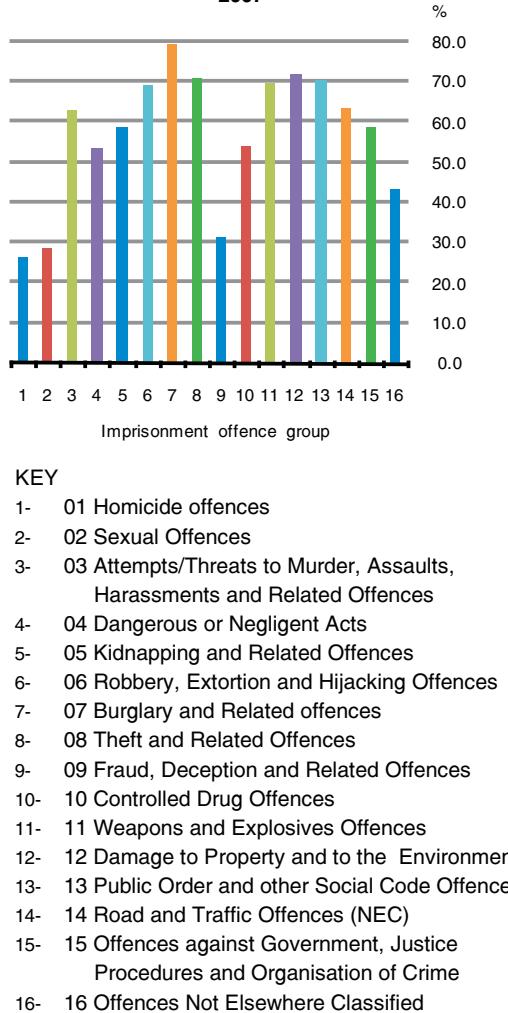
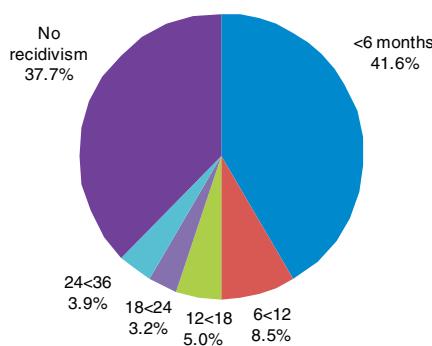


Figure 3: Recidivism rates by time period to first re-offence 2007



Demographic information on releases in 2007

Recidivism was higher for males than females and for younger age groups. Most re-offences occurred within 6 months of release.

Of the 7,701 individuals released in 2007, over 92% (7,089) were male, over 60% were aged 30 years or less, and a small proportion (4.0%) aged 51 years or greater.

Of released individuals, 17.6% had been imprisoned for *Group 13 Public order and other social code offences*, 14.0% imprisoned for *Group 08 Theft and Related Offence* and almost 10% for *Group 14 Road Traffic Offences (NEC)*. See table 1.

Recidivism by age and sex

Of the 7,089 males released in 2007, 62.7% re-offended within three years, while the corresponding figure for females was 57.2%. See table 1 and figure 1.

Overall, recidivism rates decreased with age. While 68.5% of individuals aged less than 21 years re-offended; the recidivism rate fell to 38.6% for both the 51-60 and the 61 years and older age categories (though it is important to note that only 70 individuals were in the latter age group).

Imprisonment offence group

Recidivism rates differed by imprisonment offence group. The lowest rates were recorded for *Group 01 Homicide Offences* (26.2%), *Group 02 Sexual Offences* (28.7%) and *Group 09 Fraud, Deception and Related Offences* (31.5%).

The highest rates were recorded for *Group 07 Burglary and Related Offences* (79.5%) and *Group 12 Damage to property and to the environment* (72.0%). See table 1 and figure 2.

Imprisonment offence and re-offence

Of the 4,795 re-offenders, 1,936 (40.4%) committed a first subsequent re-offence either in *Group 13 Public order and other social code offences* or *Group 14 Road and Traffic Offences (NEC)* while 856 (17.9%) of re-offences were in *Group 08 Theft and Related Offences*; 438 (9.1%) for *Group 04 Dangerous or Negligent Acts* offences and 407 (8.5%) for *Group 10 Controlled Drug Offences*. See table 2.

When considering imprisonment offences, and subsequent re-offences, different trends were seen across different offence groups. Of the 962 re-offences where the initial offence was classified under *Group 13 Public Order and Other Social Code Offences*, 418 (43.5%) of the subsequent re-offences were also classified under Group 13, while 147 (15.3%) were classified under similar *Group 04 Dangerous and Negligent Acts* and *Group 14 Road and Traffic Offences (NEC)*.

Such a relationship between imprisonment offence and subsequent re-offence is not as evident in other groups. For example, of re-offenders initially imprisoned for *Group 07 Burglary and Related Offences*, 57 (30.0%) re-offended in the same group, while 34 (17.9%) re-offended in *Group 13 Public Order and Other Social Code Offences* and 25 (13.2%) in either *Group 04 Dangerous and Negligent Acts* or *Group 14 Road and Traffic Offences (NEC)*.

Time to re-offence and re-offending rates

Of the 4,795 individuals who re-offended, the majority (3,201 or 66.8%) did so within the first six months of official release from custody. See table 3 and figure 3.

Table 1 Offender numbers classified by sex, age group, imprisonment offence group and whether there was a re-offence within three years, 2007

	Re-offence ¹ within three years			Recidivism ¹ rate %
	Yes	No	Total	
Total offenders	4,795	2,906	7,701	62.3
Sex				
Male	4,445	2,644	7,089	62.7
Female	350	262	612	57.2
Male age group				
<21 years	817	359	1,176	69.5
21-25	1,282	595	1,877	68.3
26-30	906	469	1,375	65.9
31-35	569	452	1,021	55.7
36-40	384	274	658	58.4
41-50	378	320	698	54.2
51-60	85	132	217	39.2
61 +	24	43	67	35.8
Female age group				
<21 years	40	36	76	52.6
21-25	85	55	140	60.7
26-30	77	56	133	57.9
31-35	76	43	119	63.9
36-40	32	35	67	47.8
41-50	31	24	55	56.4
51-60	6	13	19	31.6
61 +	3	0	3	100.0
All persons age group				
<21 years	857	395	1,252	68.5
21-25	1,367	650	2,017	67.8
26-30	983	525	1,508	65.2
31-35	645	495	1,140	56.6
36-40	416	309	725	57.4
41-50	409	344	753	54.3
51-60	91	145	236	38.6
61 +	27	43	70	38.6
Imprisonment offence group (ICCS)				
01 Homicide offences	11	31	42	26.2
02 Sexual offences	31	77	108	28.7
03 Attempts/Threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences	465	270	735	63.3
04 Dangerous or negligent acts	307	266	573	53.6
05 Kidnapping and related offences	10	7	17	58.8
06 Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences	63	28	91	69.2
07 Burglary and related offences	190	49	239	79.5
08 Theft and related offences	763	314	1,077	70.8
09 Fraud, deception and related offences	68	148	216	31.5
10 Controlled drug offences	298	252	550	54.2
11 Weapons and explosives offences	176	77	253	69.6
12 Damage to property and to the environment	308	120	428	72.0
13 Public order and other social code offences	962	397	1,359	70.8
14 Road and traffic offences (NEC)	483	278	761	63.5
15 Offences against Government, justice procedures and organisation of crime	442	309	751	58.9
16 Offences not elsewhere classified	218	283	501	43.5

¹ See Background Notes.

Table 2 Re-offender numbers classified by imprisonment offence group and subsequent re-offence group, 2007

	Subsequent re-offence group (ICCS)								08 Theft and related offences
	01 Homicide offences	02 Sexual offences	03 Attempts/ Threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences	04 Dangerous or negligent acts	05 Kidnapping and related offences	06 Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences	07 Burglary and related offences		
Total re-offenders	3	7	167	438	3	72	291	856	
Imprisonment offence group (ICCS)									
01 Homicide offences	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	
02 Sexual offences	0	5	2	4	0	0	1	3	
03 Attempts/Threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences	1	1	47	39	0	5	24	59	
04 Dangerous or negligent acts	0	0	10	90	0	1	4	34	
05 Kidnapping and related offences	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	1	
06 Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences	0	0	2	6	0	6	4	15	
07 Burglary and related offences	0	0	5	11	1	3	57	32	
08 Theft and related offences	0	0	12	34	1	21	49	292	
09 Fraud, deception and related offences	0	0	1	8	0	2	4	14	
10 Controlled drug offences	0	0	9	19	0	4	14	36	
11 Weapons and explosives offences	0	1	7	12	0	3	7	28	
12 Damage to property and to the environment	1	0	9	26	0	1	24	53	
13 Public order and other social code offences	1	0	36	62	0	12	51	119	
14 Road and traffic offences (NEC)	0	0	8	69	0	6	19	54	
15 Offences against Government, justice procedures and organisation of crime	0	0	9	34	0	3	25	78	
16 Offences not elsewhere classified	0	0	9	18	0	5	8	37	

Table 2 (contd.) Re-offender numbers classified by imprisonment offence group and subsequent re-offence group, 2007

Subsequent re-offence group (ICCS)									Total
09 Fraud, deception and related offences	10 Controlled drug offences	11 Weapons and explosives offences	12 Damage to property and to the environment	13 Public order and other social code offences	14 Road and traffic offences (NEC)	15 Offences against Government, justice procedures and Organisation of Crime	16 Offences not elsewhere Classified		
46	407	110	172	1,281	655	269	18	4,795	Total re-offenders
Imprisonment offence group (ICCS)									
0	1	0	0	2	3	1	0	11	01 Homicide offences
1	0	0	0	8	4	2	1	31	02 Sexual offences
5	32	9	24	137	60	22	0	465	03 Attempts/Threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences
0	20	4	6	75	47	14	2	307	04 Dangerous or negligent acts
0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	10	05 Kidnapping and related offences
0	4	1	2	9	10	4	0	63	06 Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences
0	11	5	8	34	14	9	0	190	07 Burglary and related offences
12	57	20	13	142	65	42	3	763	08 Theft and related offences
14	2	0	0	6	11	3	3	68	09 Fraud, deception and related offences
1	83	8	5	50	54	13	2	298	10 Controlled drug offences
1	18	18	14	44	10	13	0	176	11 Weapons and explosives offences
1	20	3	40	93	26	10	1	308	12 Damage to property and to the environment
4	64	20	37	418	85	51	2	962	13 Public order and other social code offences
3	42	6	9	82	163	19	3	483	14 Road and traffic offences (NEC)
3	28	12	7	120	65	58	0	442	15 Offences against Government, justice procedures and organisation of crime
1	24	4	7	59	37	8	1	218	16 Offences not elsewhere classified

Table 3 Re-offender numbers classified by time period to first re-offence, sex and age group, 2007

	Time period to first re-offence											
	<6 months ¹		6<12		12<18		18<24		24<36		Total	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Total re-offenders	3,201	66.8	657	13.7	387	8.1	248	5.2	302	6.3	4,795	100.0
Sex												
Male	2,971	66.8	607	13.7	356	8.0	228	5.1	283	6.4	4,445	100.0
Female	230	65.7	50	14.3	31	8.9	20	5.7	19	5.4	350	100.0
Male age group												
<21 years	667	81.6	87	10.6	32	3.9	14	1.7	17	2.1	817	100.0
21-25	856	66.8	183	14.3	111	8.7	72	5.6	60	4.7	1,282	100.0
26-30	573	63.2	124	13.7	82	9.1	43	4.7	84	9.3	906	100.0
31-35	363	63.8	81	14.2	49	8.6	34	6.0	42	7.4	569	100.0
36-40	234	60.9	60	15.6	32	8.3	25	6.5	33	8.6	384	100.0
41-50	213	56.3	58	15.3	42	11.1	31	8.2	34	9.0	378	100.0
51-60	48	56.5	9	10.6	8	9.4	9	10.6	11	12.9	85	100.0
61 +	17	70.8	5	20.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	8.3	24	100.0
Female age group												
<21 years	31	77.5	7	17.5	2	5.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	40	100.0
21-25	55	64.7	10	11.8	7	8.2	6	7.1	7	8.2	85	100.0
26-30	53	68.8	12	15.6	5	6.5	4	5.2	3	3.9	77	100.0
31-35	46	60.5	12	15.8	6	7.9	7	9.2	5	6.6	76	100.0
36-40	15	46.9	4	12.5	6	18.8	3	9.4	4	12.5	32	100.0
41-50	24	77.4	4	12.9	3	9.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	31	100.0
51-60	6	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	100.0
61 +	0	0.0	1	33.3	2	66.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	100.0
All persons age group												
<21 years	698	81.4	94	11.0	34	4.0	14	1.6	17	2.0	857	100.0
21-25	911	66.6	193	14.1	118	8.6	78	5.7	67	4.9	1,367	100.0
26-30	626	63.7	136	13.8	87	8.9	47	4.8	87	8.9	983	100.0
31-35	409	63.4	93	14.4	55	8.5	41	6.4	47	7.3	645	100.0
36-40	249	59.9	64	15.4	38	9.1	28	6.7	37	8.9	416	100.0
41-50	237	57.9	62	15.2	45	11.0	31	7.6	34	8.3	409	100.0
51-60	54	59.3	9	9.9	8	8.8	9	9.9	11	12.1	91	100.0
61 +	17	63.0	6	22.2	2	7.4	0	0.0	2	7.4	27	100.0

¹ Includes those who reoffended before official release date.

Background Notes

Introduction The Prison Recidivism, 2007 release provides figures for the re-offending rates of those released from the custody of the Irish Prison Service in 2007. These figures were produced using a combination of Garda Síochána and Prison Service records, based on the Irish Crime Classification System (ICCS).

The term “offences” in this report refers only to crime incidents known to An Garda Síochána and recorded as such in the Garda PULSE (Police Using Leading Systems Effectively) system. Because of timing issues with respect to the extraction of data, figures may be revised subsequent to this publication.

Data collection The production of these statistics involved the combination of Garda PULSE and Prison PRIS (Prison Computer System) data. Since there is no direct link between the two systems, a statistical matching protocol was devised by the CSO to match Prison and Garda records. For this report, prison orders from 2007 for over 7,700 individuals were linked from Prison PRIS to their corresponding entries in the Garda PULSE system. Numerous quality control tests were then conducted to verify the accuracy of this matching system, in addition to various consultations with academics specializing in criminology. The year 2007 was chosen for analysis, since a lengthy interval (three years for offence to be committed and additional time for court proceedings to commence) is required for the definition of recidivism used in this report.

**Recidivism/
Re-offending** **For this report, a re-offender is defined as an individual who committed a recorded offence within three years of prison release date; and who is subsequently convicted in court proceedings.** For example, if a person is released on December 31st 2007, and committed an offence on the December 30th 2010, they would be considered as having re-offended within three years if the court proceedings lead to a conviction.

**Court proceedings
leading to a conviction** From Garda PULSE, the court date is used to mark the commencement of criminal proceedings. Court proceedings leading to a conviction do not include those cases where appeals are pending. The fact that an individual is suspected of committing an offence is not enough evidence for re-offender status to be designated; a conviction must have been secured.

Crime recording Incidents reported or which become known to members of An Garda Síochána are recorded when, on the balance of probability, a Garda determines that a criminal offence defined by law has taken place, and there is no credible evidence to the contrary. If it is subsequently determined that a criminal offence did not take place, the criminal offence recorded is invalidated and is not counted in the statistics. If a person makes a report and subsequently withdraws it by stating that the criminal act did not take place, then this too is invalidated unless there is evidence to suggest that, by reasonable probability, the offence has taken place.

For criminal offences where victim confirmation is required (e.g. assault, fraud), a criminal offence is recorded only where the victim confirms the offence or where there is evidence to suggest that by reasonable probability it occurred. Another important feature of a recorded offence is that it is based on the date reported to, or that it became known to, the Gardaí. This has major implications for some offence types. Notable amongst these are sexual offences, as it has often been the case that such incidents have been reported to An Garda Síochána many years (sometimes decades) after the event(s). Thus a sexual assault, which occurred in 1960, would be included in the statistics for 2008 if it was first reported in that year.

Crime classification A criminal offence is classified as a particular offence type at the initial recording of that offence. However, upon investigation, it may later become apparent that an alternative offence type should be used. In this event, the record is amended to reflect this. Re-classification on the basis of court proceedings only occurs in relation to homicide offences. A murder offence is reclassified as manslaughter when a charge of manslaughter commences or when a murder charge results in a conviction for manslaughter. It is also possible, though more rare, that an incident originally classified as manslaughter may be re-classified as murder. Also, a re-classification to a homicide offence occurs when, for example, a serious assault has been recorded and, some time later, the victim dies as a consequence of the assault.

General Counting Rules

Crime counting rules are applied to all criminal offences for the purposes of the statistics. The following are the main rules relevant to the quarterly figures:

Primary Offence Rule: Where two or more criminal offences are disclosed in a single episode, it is the primary criminal offence that is counted. The primary offence is that offence which the greater penalty may apply. Where offences have similar penalties, offences against the person take precedence over offences against property for the purpose of determining the primary offence.

One Offence Counts Per Victim: One offence counts per victim involved with the exceptions of cheque/credit card fraud and burglary. Under certain circumstances, the cheque/credit card exception necessitates that a series of these offences counts as one crime where the originating bank ultimately suffers the loss. The burglary exception dictates that one burglary offence is counted where property belonging to two or more victims is stolen (or damaged) during a single burglary.

Continuous Series Involving the Same Victim and Same Offender: A continuous series of offences against the same victim involving the same offender counts as one offence.

ICCSq Offence Groups

01 Homicide offences	Murder Manslaughter Infanticide Manslaughter (traffic fatality) Dangerous driving causing death
02 Sexual offences	Rape of a male or female Rape Section 4 Unlawful carnal knowledge / Criminal law (Sexual Offences Act) 2006 Buggery Sexual offence involving mentally impaired person Aggravated sexual assault Sexual assault Incest Child pornography offences Child pornography – obstruction of warrant Gross indecency
03 Attempts or threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences	Murder-attempt Murder-threat Assault causing harm Poisoning Assault or obstruction of Garda/official, resisting arrest Minor assault Coercion Harassment, stalking, threats Demanding payment of debt causing alarm Housing Act Menacing phone calls Incitement to hatred offences
04 Dangerous or negligent acts	Dangerous driving causing serious bodily harm Driving/In charge of a vehicle while over legal alcohol limit Driving/In charge of a vehicle under the influence of drugs Endangerment with potential for serious harm or death Abandoning a child, child neglect and cruelty Unseaworthy/dangerous use of boat or ship False alarm/interference with aircraft or air transport facilities Endangering traffic offences
05 Kidnapping and related offences	False imprisonment Abduction of person under 16 years of age Human trafficking offences
06 Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences	Robbery of an establishment or institution Robbery of cash or goods in transit Robbery from the person Blackmail or extortion Carjacking, hijacking/unlawful seizure of aircraft/vessel
07 Burglary and related offences	Aggravated burglary Burglary (not aggravated) Possession of an article (with intent to burgle, steal, demand)

08 Theft and related offences	Theft/Unauthorised taking of vehicle Interfering with vehicle (with intent to steal item or vehicle) Theft from person Theft from shop Theft from vehicle Theft/ Unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle Theft of, or interference with, mail Handling or possession of stolen property Theft of other property
09 Fraud, deception and related offences	Fraud, deception, false pretence offences Forging an instrument to defraud Possession of an article for use in fraud, deception or extortion Falsification of accounts Offences under the Companies Act Offences under the Investment Intermediaries Act Offences under the Stock Exchange Act Money laundering Embezzlement Fraud against the European Union Importation/Sale/Supply of tobacco Counterfeiting notes and coins Counterfeiting of goods Bad debts criminal (Debtors Ireland) Corruption (involving public office holder)
10 Controlled drug offences	Importation of drugs Cultivation or manufacture of drugs Possession of drugs for sale or supply Possession of drugs for personal use Forged or altered prescription offences Obstruction under the Drugs Act
11 Weapons and explosives offences	Causing an explosion Making of explosives Possession of explosives Chemical weapons offences Discharging a firearm Possession of a firearm Possession of offensive weapons (not firearms) Fireworks offences (for sale, igniting etc.)
12 Damage to property and to the environment	Arson Criminal damage (not arson) Litter offences
13 Public order and other social code offences	Affray/Riot/Violent disorder Public order offences Drunkenness offences Air rage-disruptive or drunken behaviour on aircraft Forcible entry and occupation (not burglary) Trespass on lands or enclosed areas Liquor licensing offences Registered clubs offences Special restaurant offences Provision of intoxicating liquor to under 18 year olds Purchase or consumption of alcohol by under 18 year olds Sale of intoxicating liquor to under 18 year olds

13 Public order and other social code offences (contd)	Brothel keeping Organisation of prostitution Prostitution, including soliciting etc. Offences under the Betting Acts Collecting money without permit, unauthorised collection Offences under Gaming and Lotteries Acts Permit/License offences for casual/street trading Allowing a child (under 16 years) to beg Bigamy Bestiality Indecency Begging
14 Road and traffic offences (NEC)	Driving licence-failure to have, produce, etc. Insurance-failure to have, produce, display, etc. No tax, non-display of tax, unregistered vehicle etc. Misuse of Trade Licence Misuse of trailers, weight and other offences Obstruction under road traffic acts Other road offences Road transport - carriage of goods offences Public service vehicle offences Light rail offences (Luas)
15 Offences against Government, justice procedures and organisation of crime	Treason Breaches of Offences Against the State Acts Breaches of Official Secrets Act Impersonating member of An Garda Síochána Electoral offences including personation Public mischief-annoying phone calls, wasting police time Criminal Assets Bureau offences Non compliance with Garda direction Criminal organisation offences (organised crime) Conspiracy to commit a crime Perjury Interfering with a jury (embracery) Assisting offenders Public mischief, pervert course of justice, conceal offence Escape or help to escape from custody Prison offences Breach of Domestic Violence Order (protection, safety, barring) Breach of order under Family Law Act Breach of bail Failure to comply under Sex Offenders Act Other failure to comply with court order, jury summons, warrant etc.

16 Offences not elsewhere classified

Illegal importation of animals
Control of horses offences
Dog ownership offences (licence, control etc)
Offences against animals
Breaches of EU fishing quota and related EU regulation
Merchant shipping / Maritime safety offences
Unauthorised accessing of data
Recording, possession or distribution of counterfeit material
Unauthorised broadcasting and illegal signal reception
Abortion
Procuring or assisting in abortion
Concealment of birth
Destroying / Disposing of a dead body
Pawnbroking offences
Offences in connection with rail travel
Employment permit offences (relating to non-Irish national)
Immigration offences /carrier liability
Private security services act 2004