

# **Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in Scotland:**

**National Overview Report 2020/2021**

**November 2021**



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# Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in Scotland: National Overview Report 2020 / 2021

## 1. Background

The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), are a set of statutory partnership working arrangements introduced in 2007 under [Section 10 of the Management of Offenders etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#) (the 2005 Act).

The purpose of MAPPA is public protection and the reduction of serious harm. In Scotland MAPPA brings together the Police, Scottish Prison Service (SPS), Health and the Local Authorities, in partnership as the Responsible Authorities, to assess and manage the risk posed for certain categories of offender:

- Sex offenders who are subject to notification requirements under the Sexual Offences Act 2003;
- Mentally disordered restricted patients; and
- Other individuals who by reason of their conviction are assessed by the Responsible Authorities as posing a risk of serious harm to the public.

A number of other agencies are under a duty to co-operate with the Responsible Authorities and include housing providers, the voluntary sector and the Children's Reporter.

MAPPA is supported by the Violent and Sex Offender Register (ViSOR). This is a UK-wide IT system which facilitates inter-agency communication and ensures that the Responsible Authorities contribute, share and securely store critical information about individuals subject to MAPPA. It improves the capacity to share intelligence and supports the immediate transfer of key information when these individuals move between areas.

Responsible Authorities fulfil their statutory duties by jointly preparing and publishing MAPPA annual reports. Each of these reports can be viewed on Local Authority websites as included at Appendix A and cover the reporting period - 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

This report covers the fourteenth year of MAPPA in operation in Scotland and provides an overview of the main national developments in relation to MAPPA as a result of work conducted by the Scottish Government, and its partners. The statistics provided at Appendix B are an aggregate of data collated via the 10 MAPPA areas as included at Appendix A.

## **2. The National Picture**

### **The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Scotland's Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements are an excellent example of joint working between justice partners which is driven by the shared aim of managing individuals who present a risk of serious harm and ensuring that the protection of the public remains paramount.

This was clearly evidenced when the Government COVID-19 restrictions were put in place to manage the spread of the virus, which impacted on the way in which MAPPAs operated across the country.

This notwithstanding, Scotland's Responsible Authorities and duty to co-operate agencies were fast to respond and a series of contingency measures were urgently put in place to enable MAPPAs partners to continue to work together, to focus on risk management and continued protection of the public.

Nationally MAPPAs has seen a number of developments in the past 12 months and work continues to deliver future improvement to the arrangements.

### **3. MAPPAs Developments**

A summary of this work includes:

#### **MAPPAs and Terrorism**

Following the publication in May 2020 of the "Terrorist Risk Offenders - Independent Review of Statutory Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements" [report](#) by Jonathan Hall and the subsequent UK Government Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Bill, the Scottish Government engaged with the Risk Management Authority (RMA) in their work to review existing information and research on terrorism and radicalisation. This work led to two reports - one on risk assessment tools and risk factors and the other on risk management approaches, and these will inform future policy direction in this area.

In addition to this, the Scottish Government set up a multi-partner working group to consider the risk assessment and risk management arrangements for this particular cohort in Scotland. The Scottish Government-led national MAPPAs Development Group will take work forward to consider MAPPAs's role in this area.

#### **National Accommodation Strategy for Sex Offenders (NASSO)**

[Scotland's Housing Network](#), who host a practice exchange forum for Local Authority Sex Offender Liaison Officers (SOLO) and Registered Social Landlord (RSL) Link Officers, supported the development of guidance on information sharing for SOLOs and RSL Link Officers, published in October 2020. The guidance was developed to cover commonly recurring questions around information sharing.

Building on the existing measures in place, scoping work with stakeholders to develop a national inter-authority placement protocol for the housing of Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) in social housing, where an offender needs to be housed in a different local authority area from the area they are currently living, will take place when resources permit.

## **Social Security Scotland**

On 8th January 2021, [the Management of Offenders etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(Specification of Persons\) Amendment Order 2020](#) came into force. The 2020 Order amended the Management of Offenders etc. (Scotland) Act 2005 (Specification of Persons) Order 2007 to include Social Security Scotland as a 'duty to cooperate' agency under the terms of the 2005 Act and this Order provides for the exchange of certain prescribed information for those individuals subject to MAPPA.

An Information Sharing Agreement and an updated version of the Operational Guidance (which operates as a Memorandum of Understanding) has been entered into by Police Scotland, the Scottish Prison Service and Social Security Scotland. This ensures that appropriate information sharing to manage the risks posed by individuals managed under MAPPA can take place for the protection of the public.

Prior to becoming a duty to cooperate organisation, Social Security Scotland delivered training to its central MAPPA team. This learning included:

- Data handling procedures
- MAPPA guidance and Social Security Scotland referral processes
- Case studies

## **4. Risk Management Authority**

### **Risk Practice Course**

Due to the impact of COVID-19, the Risk Management Authority (RMA) was unable to deliver face-to-face training to police and social work colleagues on risk assessment and risk management. Work was therefore undertaken to produce a training format suitable to virtual delivery. Thus far 1 event has been delivered to 12 police colleagues with plans to pilot a further 3 events between August and October 2021. The social work course has also been converted into an online course and will be delivered in August 2021 and March 2022.

The RMA also produced an evaluation of the course focused on the period since the requirement for completion of a Risk Management Plan (RMP). This was introduced in October 2019 and means that following attendance at the 3-day course, trainees are required to submit an RMP for evaluation. The RMA evaluate this RMP against the Standards and Guidelines for Risk Management and provide feedback on strengths and developmental points. A conclusion is also provided on whether the RMP meets the standards. In order to complete the course each trainee must produce an RMP that meets the required standard. Trainees have the possibility of a resubmission if the first submission does not meet the standards.

Of the initial 24 trainees, 19 provided RMPs which met the required standard; all of which went through the resubmission process. The reasons for non-completion varied across unsuitable cases, a lack of an identifiable case, and not meeting the standard following resubmission. Overall the quality of RMP's increased substantially from first submission to resubmission. In particular, the quality of risk assessment improved across submissions which impacted on the overall quality of RMPs. Generally the areas of partnership-working and risk management measures – whilst improved in line with risk assessment improvements – were areas of strength.

### **Internet Offending Assessment Framework**

In response to the Joint Thematic Review of MAPPA in Scotland, the RMA completed a literature review in 2018, which examined the risk posed by internet offenders. This informed the development of an assessment framework throughout 2019-20. This aims to support decision-making with regard to the assessment of those convicted of internet offences. A multi-agency working group supported this development process and featured representation from Social Work, Police, Forensic Network, Academia and Scottish Government. This resulted in a framework being produced which will be piloted during 2021-22. The process for the pilot is currently being discussed between the RMA and Scottish Government before being communicated out to local authorities for their consideration and interest. The pilot will involve testing the proposed framework in several local authorities, as well as carrying out research to help understand the long-term suitability of the framework at a national level.

### **Counter Terrorism & Sentencing Bill**

In October 2020, the RMA became involved in the review of the UK Government's Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Bill. This included providing information to the then Cabinet Secretary for Justice highlighting the implications for the Order for Lifelong Restriction disposal. Having completed rapid reviews of the available evidence, the RMA worked closely with justice partners to scope the wider impact for risk assessment and management. In 2021-2022 the RMA will continue to work with justice partners to support the implementation of evidence-led effective practice in terrorism risk assessment and management, including the use of MAPPA for those convicted of terrorist offences.

### **5. ViSOR**

ViSOR is the Home Office's recognised IT system designed to support MAPPA by assisting co-operative working between the Responsible Authorities in their joint management of individuals subject to the arrangements. It is an important intelligence and secure information sharing tool in relation to these individuals and is the agreed system used by Scotland's MAPPA Responsible Authorities in accordance with the [MAPPA National Guidance 2016](#) and under the duty to cooperate, both of which are underpinned by the [Management of Offenders etc \(Scotland\) Act 2005 - Section 10](#).

The Scottish Government works with the Responsible Authorities to consider and develop solutions to issues which impact on the effective and efficient use of this

multi-agency information sharing system. Whilst the Scottish Government-led Short Life Working Group was paused during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Scottish Government engaged with national partners through the Justice Social Work-led ViSOR User Groups.

## **6. The Scottish Prison Service (SPS)**

The Scottish Prison Service (SPS) is committed to protecting the public from harm as a Responsible Authority in the operation and governance of the MAPPA.

The risk assessment and management of individuals in custody who are subject to release on licence is carried out in partnership with Local Authority Justice Social Workers, through an enhanced version of the Integrated Case Management (ICM) process.

Such individuals are risk assessed, using a structured professional judgement approach informed by a variety of risk assessment tools. For certain individuals, a Psychological Risk Assessment may be carried out by SPS Forensic Psychologists and used to inform ICM case conferences and at key points in a person's time in custody, to share information and inform action plans.

SPS establishments work in partnership with MAPPA Coordinators, prison and community based Justice Social Work Teams and Police Scotland Offender Management Units.

SPS is represented on the MAPPA National Strategic Group, MAPPA Development Group and short-life working groups established to progress the future delivery of MAPPA. Prison Governors also contribute to and attend local Strategic Oversight Groups.

SPS activity in 2020-2021 largely focussed on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and developing and implementing its COVID-19 Route Map for recovery, guided by the Scottish Government's own plan. Additional activity included:

- Ensuring all internal practitioners and stakeholders are aware of relevant policy and guidance.
- Continued response to all actions relating to Significant Case Review (SCR) Recommendations.
- Working closely with the Scottish Government in continuing to review processes relating to First Grant of Temporary Release applications, in order to strengthen focus on: Risk Assessment, Analysis, suitability of Risk Management Plans and assurance. An enhanced model of quality assurance was implemented by SPS in January 2021.

Considering findings and recommendations of an external report by an experienced prison operator which reviewed implementation of the 2018 revision to policy and guidance for Risk Management, Progression & Temporary Release. The [SPS Risk Management Review](#) was published on the SPS Website on 17 August 2021.

## Programme Delivery

As anticipated in the SPS submission for last year's report, COVID-19 restrictions significantly impacted delivery of offending behaviour programmes (OBPs). Having been temporarily suspended on 20 March 2020, delivery of OBPs recommenced in early September 2020, adhering to physical distancing requirements. As such SPS delivered 66 completions of its range of OBPs to individuals who were assessed as eligible and motivated to participate. This is broken down in the following table:

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Target Risk</b>	<b>Number of Completions</b>
Moving Forward: Making Changes	Sex Offending	12
Self-Change	Instrumental Violence	16
Discovery	Violence	9
Constructs	Problem solving & consequential thinking	17
Pathways	Drug & Alcohol Misuse	9
Youth Justice	Youth Offending	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>66</b>

SPS continue to be represented on the Scottish Government Moving Forward: Making Changes (MF:MC) National Advisory Board, along with a number of other national partners with expertise in this area. Further to last year's report, work continues on the redesign of the MF:MC Programme. All MF:MC programme completions annotated in the above table were delivered to the standards in place when the programme was subject to accreditation.

SPS also offers a range of other opportunities and supports to people in custody to help them build their strengths and address their needs in preparation for release. Such supports are assessed on an individual basis and can include substance misuse treatment, assistance with mental health, vocational and academic education to increase job readiness, and support with family matters such as parenting and relationships. There is a specific intervention for young adult men and a separate specific intervention for female offending, which is scheduled to be submitted for accreditation late 2021.

Programme delivery is being prioritised across the prison estate, with scheduling taking account of the competing demands for staffing and space requirements to adhere to the current COVID-19 restrictions.

## 7. Health

The Health contribution to the MAPPA process has continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic albeit in an adapted way with remotely attended meetings having become the norm. NHS Boards have a dual role under MAPPA and are both a Responsible Authority and a Duty to Co-operate Agency under [Section 10\(3\) of the 2005 Act](#). As a Responsible Authority, Health Boards are the lead agency for the management of restricted patients. This means they are responsible for both clinical care and risk management of restricted patients in accordance with the MAPPA National Guidance. This also extends to providing data to the MAPPA co-coordinators for publication in the local annual report about the number of restricted patients in each Health Board Area.

NHS Boards also have a responsibility to contribute to MAPPA strategic planning. Each Board has a nominated senior manager who will represent the Board at the strategic and also Level 3 MAPPA meetings. As a Duty to Co-operate Agency, NHS Boards also have a responsibility to share risk relevant information about individuals subject to MAPPA. Each Board has a MAPPA health liaison officer who has responsibility for this. The MAPPA health liaison officer will also represent the Health Board at MAPPA meetings and as well as sharing health information that is relevant to risk, will also manage risk relevant information that is provided to them by other MAPPA partners. This information is then used to ensure that risk is considered and, when appropriate, managed within a healthcare setting.

In addition, the Scottish Government continues to provide funding to the Forensic Mental Health Services Managed Care Network (the Forensic Network) to support engagement by the NHS with MAPPA. The Forensic Network, through the Lead for Serious and Violent Offenders, supports the NHS MAPPA work in a number of ways. These include attendance at National Strategic meetings on behalf of Health and chairing regular meetings with MAPPA Health liaison colleagues to share good practice and undertake specific MAPPA related pieces of work which has this year included contributing to the revision of the MAPPA guidance. All of this work has been able to continue in an adapted way throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Forensic Network Lead also advises on a range of MAPPA related projects, for example the development of training packages for those working with Internet Offenders and the revision of treatment packages for those who have committed sexual offences.

The Forensic Network also supports the MAPPA Clinical Forum, an annual practitioner forum which has the objectives of “Networking, Education, Operations and Policy”. The forum provides a vehicle for services to consider areas within MAPPA practice that might require guidance and a shared approach, as well as providing the opportunity to network and share good practice. This year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fora have been delivered remotely and have involved one on the theme of risk formulation and one on managing Terrorist Risk offenders under MAPPA which welcomed Jonathan Hall QC, the UK’s Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, as its key speaker. The Forensic Network Lead, along with other health colleagues, also support MAPPA partners through research which has

this year included a study into the applicability of a new risk assessment tool for use in Scotland.

## **The Independent Review into the Delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services**

### [The Independent Review into the Delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services](#)

chaired by Derek Barron, published its final report in February 2021. The Review made a number of recommendations which, if taken forward will have implications for MAPPA partners. One MAPPA specific recommendation is for the Scottish Government to consider the development of a more consistent way of sharing forensic mental health expertise with MAPPA partners and other external individuals or organisations (including other NHS services) across the country, citing the NHS Lothian SOLS and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde STARR services as potential models for this.

The Scottish Government are currently considering all recommendations made in the final report and will publish a formal response in due course.

## **8. Police Scotland**

Police Scotland work in partnership with other Responsible Authorities and Duty to Cooperate Agencies to provide effective and efficient MAPPA management of RSOs and Other Risk of Serious Harm individuals. This is achieved through consistent practice, enhancing and developing new and existing partnerships to manage the inherent risks and challenges posed by these individuals.

Police Scotland's response to the policing of Registered Sex Offenders during the COVID-19 pandemic has remained unchanged. Sex Offender Policing Units have continued to police sex offenders in the community using a risk based approach to physical contacts to protect staff and the public, and limit the spread of infection. Police Scotland's National ViSOR Unit and Sex Offender Policing Units have maintained a permanent presence within the Police estate, ensuring continued access to the secure ViSOR network and business as usual practices in the recording and sharing of information with MAPPA partners and other relevant agencies.

Ensuring the Sex Offender Policing Unit staff are supported and provided with the required knowledge and tools to effectively carry out their role is crucial to the continued identification and mitigation of risk and keeping the communities of Scotland safe. Although initially impacted by restrictions on travel and gatherings, risk assessed, socially distanced, training continues to be delivered at the Scottish Police College. Working with Justice Scotland partners, Police Scotland developed an online platform to deliver risk assessment training, an essential tool in the policing of offenders.

Police Scotland continue to exploit technological advancements in support of Sex Offender Policing and the use of Remote Monitoring Software (RMS) and Triage Devices to monitor the online activity of offenders with relevant prevention orders is embedded in daily business. Advancement in RMS technology during 2021 has

resulted in a 100% increase in its deployment and continues to provide real time monitoring, behavioural analysis and risk assessment.

Online offending and online facilitated offending remains a high priority for Police Scotland and they continue to explore technological opportunities to tackle these behaviours. It is important to note that the use of technology does not replace conventional sex offender policing methods, but supports and enhances established practices.

The use of technology has not only ensured business has continued through these difficult times, but has also identified improvements in efficiency which can be maintained following the removal of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

### **Police Scotland National Systems Support**

Police Scotland National Systems Support (NSS) also provides support to every Local Authority, Scottish Government Mental Health Division and SPS in their access to, and use of ViSOR. Within NSS, support is provided by a Police Sergeant and a National System Supervisor. Further support is provided by the Head of NSS, National System Manager and Administrator assistance. Police Scotland ICT also provide additional technical support in deploying, maintaining and updating ViSOR terminals across Scotland.

Following amendments and discussion, the ViSOR National Standards were signed off in November 2020. NSS continue to support Responsible Authorities in discussion and amendment of the ViSOR Scottish Standards which have been signed off by Police Scotland, SPS and Health.

The support provided by NSS is primarily focused on promoting and facilitating ViSOR usage across the Responsible Authorities and includes, but is not limited to:

- the provision and delivery of accredited bespoke ViSOR training for all Scottish users;
- regularly meeting with Local Authority ViSOR users to discuss current issues in relation to ViSOR and provide advice and support at a local level in an effort to increase ViSOR usage;
- manage and coordinate all Scottish ViSOR change requests from initiation to implementation providing appropriate support and advice as required throughout, including facilitation of Home Office User Acceptance Testing; and
- facilitate and support the setting of nationally agreed Standards for Scottish individuals managed under MAPPA to be read and adhered to in conjunction with the ViSOR National Standards.

## **9. Sex Offender Community Disclosure Scheme (Keeping Children Safe)**

The [Sex Offender Community Disclosure Scheme](#) (Keeping Children Safe) scheme was introduced across Scotland in 2011 and is managed by Police Scotland.

The scheme enables parents, carers or guardians to make a formal request for information about a named person who may have contact with their child if they are concerned that he or she may be a risk to their child's safety and wellbeing.

For the year 2020/2021, Police Scotland received a total of 285 applications, a decrease of 11 from the previous year. The preferred method of submission was via the online application where 253 of the 285 were received - an increase of 12 from 2019/2020. Clearly the online method being by far the preferred method of submission as opposed to the more traditional channels of telephone or in person. However, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and national lockdowns is likely to have been a factor over the reporting year.

Each application submitted is carefully reviewed and risk assessed by specialist officers, ensuring potentially direct or indirect risks towards children are identified and progressed by Police Scotland. Of the 285 applications received, a total of 9 progressed for disclosure - 4 of which were in relation to concerns around a Registered Sex Offender.

The scheme remains a proactive tool in protecting children, providing a clear access route for the public to raise potential child protection concerns and allowing parents/carers to make informed action to safeguard their children or indeed provides reassurance.

## **10. MAPPA National Guidance**

The Scottish Government continued with the process of updating the MAPPA National Guidance in collaboration with key justice partners and stakeholders. It is intended that this will help to bring greater clarity to MAPPA procedures.

Should you have any queries in relation to this report, please email the Scottish Government at [MAPPAenquiries@gov.scot](mailto:MAPPAenquiries@gov.scot).

## Appendix A: MAPPA Website Addresses

Fife

[www.fifedirect.org.uk/](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/)

Forth Valley

[www.clacks.gov.uk/community/ccjp/](http://www.clacks.gov.uk/community/ccjp/)

[www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/people-communities/community-justice.aspx](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/people-communities/community-justice.aspx)

<https://sc-public.azurewebsites.net/social-care-health/criminal-justice-social-work/>

Glasgow

[www.glasgowcity.hscp.scot/](http://www.glasgowcity.hscp.scot/)

Lanarkshire

[www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/)

[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/)

Lothian and Border

[www.midlothian.gov.uk/](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/)

[www.scotborders.gov.uk/MAPPAreport](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/MAPPAreport)

[www.westlothianhchcp.org.uk/article/3073/Risk-Assessment-and-Management](http://www.westlothianhchcp.org.uk/article/3073/Risk-Assessment-and-Management)

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/crime>

[www.eastlothian.gov.uk/mappa](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/mappa)

Grampian

<http://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/our-priorities/aberdeenshire-community-justice-partnership/mappa/>

## Highlands and Islands

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

[www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/S/criminal-justice-team.htm#MultiAgency](http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/S/criminal-justice-team.htm#MultiAgency)

[www.shetland.gov.uk/social-care-health/justice-social-work](http://www.shetland.gov.uk/social-care-health/justice-social-work)

## North Strathclyde

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

[www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk](http://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

[www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

[www.inverclyde.gov.uk](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk)

[www.renfrewshire.gov.uk](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk)

[www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk](http://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

## South West Scotland

[www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

[www.dumgal.gov.uk](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk)

[www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

[www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk)

## Tayside

[www.Angus.gov.uk](http://www.Angus.gov.uk)

[www.PKC.gov.uk](http://www.PKC.gov.uk)

[www.dundeecity.gov.uk](http://www.dundeecity.gov.uk)

## Appendix B: MAPPA National Data

This Appendix outlines patterns in information on Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) extracted from the ViSOR database on 31st March of each year. This provides a snapshot at a point in time.

### Numbers of Registered Sex Offenders in Scotland, 2020 to 2021

Category	2020	2021
RSOs in custody and at liberty on 31 March	5,905	5,830
RSOs at liberty on 31 March	4,453	4,358
RSOs at liberty managed at Level 1 on 31 March	4,335	4,234
RSOs at liberty managed at Level 2 on 31 March	115	115
RSOs at liberty managed at Level 3 on 31 March	3	2
RSOs reported for breaches of notification	344	282
RSOs convicted of a further group 1 or 2 crime*	97	96
RSOs wanted on 31 March	17	13
RSOs missing on 31 March	0	0

\*Group 1 and 2 crimes - Group 1 relates to non-sexual crimes of violence and group 2 relates to sexual crimes.

On 31 March 2021, there were 5,830 RSOs in Scotland who were either in custody or at liberty and being managed in the community. The total number of RSOs has decreased by 1.3% compared with 2020 when there were 5,905 recorded.

The [National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2020-2021](#) published in September 2021, illustrated that sexual crimes accounted for 5% of all crimes recorded in Scotland in 2020-21. The report states that sexual crimes recorded by the police fell in 2019-20, down by 233 (2%) from 13,364 in 2019-20 to 13,131 in 2020-21.

On 31st March 2021, three quarters of RSOs (75% or 4,358 RSOs) were in the community being managed, with the vast majority (97% or 4,234 RSOs) of these being managed at Level 1. The remaining 117, or 3%, were being managed at level 2 or level 3.

The proportion of RSOs who have been convicted of a further Group 1 or 2 crime has decreased slightly in the last year (96 in 2020-21 compared to 97 in 2019-20). These convictions include offences detected as a result of proactive management

and effective policing by the partner agencies. When individuals managed under MAPPA commit further serious crimes, the significant case review process remains in place, which examines the management arrangements for the individual and identifies areas of learning and improvement for future policy and practice.

In 2020-2021, 95% of RSOs complied with their notification requirements under the Sexual Offences Act 2003. The proportion of RSOs who failed to comply with their notification requirements has fluctuated at around 5%-6% for the last five years. Sex Offender Notification Requirements are robustly policed so that those who breach their terms are identified at the earliest opportunity. The RSO can receive a maximum penalty of 5 years' imprisonment for failing to comply with notification requirements.

### **Wanted and Missing Registered Sex Offenders:**

A Missing person is defined as anyone whose whereabouts is unknown and:

- where the circumstances are out of character; or
- the context suggests the person may be subject to crime; or
- the person is at risk of harm to themselves or another.

A Wanted Registered Sex Offender is defined as those who are subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and who have a live warrant in force.

In March 2021, all 13 of the Wanted RSOs were assessed as having left the UK with no indication they have returned. Police Scotland treat all missing and wanted RSOs with the utmost seriousness and will carry out thorough enquiries to trace their whereabouts and to re-establish the management required to protect the public. On all occasions a Senior Investigating Officer of a rank no less than Inspector will be appointed to lead these investigations. Up to date figures are available via the [Police Scotland website](#).



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