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**Justice Analytical Services
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Data Report:**

July 2021

August 2021

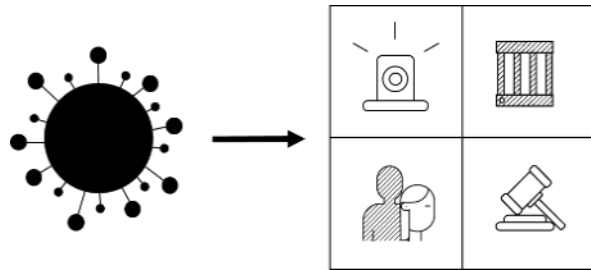


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Summary

This pack provides information on the impact of COVID-19 on the Justice system during July 2021.

Data has been gathered from a number of different sources and may be subject to future revision.



Public compliance

This pack includes information on COVID-19 related interventions undertaken by Police Scotland. In addition to this, information on the public's compliance with measures to help restrict the spread of COVID-19 is collected from surveys of the population. Findings from these surveys can be found in the [Public attitudes to Coronavirus: March Update](#).

Three quarters of respondents agreed that the best thing to do is to follow the government's advice. This has remained high and stable through January and February. However, those stating they had engaged in a non-compliant activity has risen from the start of January (23% to 33%).

Police activity

- The number of crimes recorded in July 2021 was lower than that in both July 2020 and July 2019.
- Weekly Police recorded incident numbers have been similar in July 2021, compared to July 2020.
- The number of Domestic Abuse incidents recorded by the Police in July 2021 was lower than the level seen in July 2020 and in July 2019.
- The use of Police COVID-19 interventions decreased in July 2021.

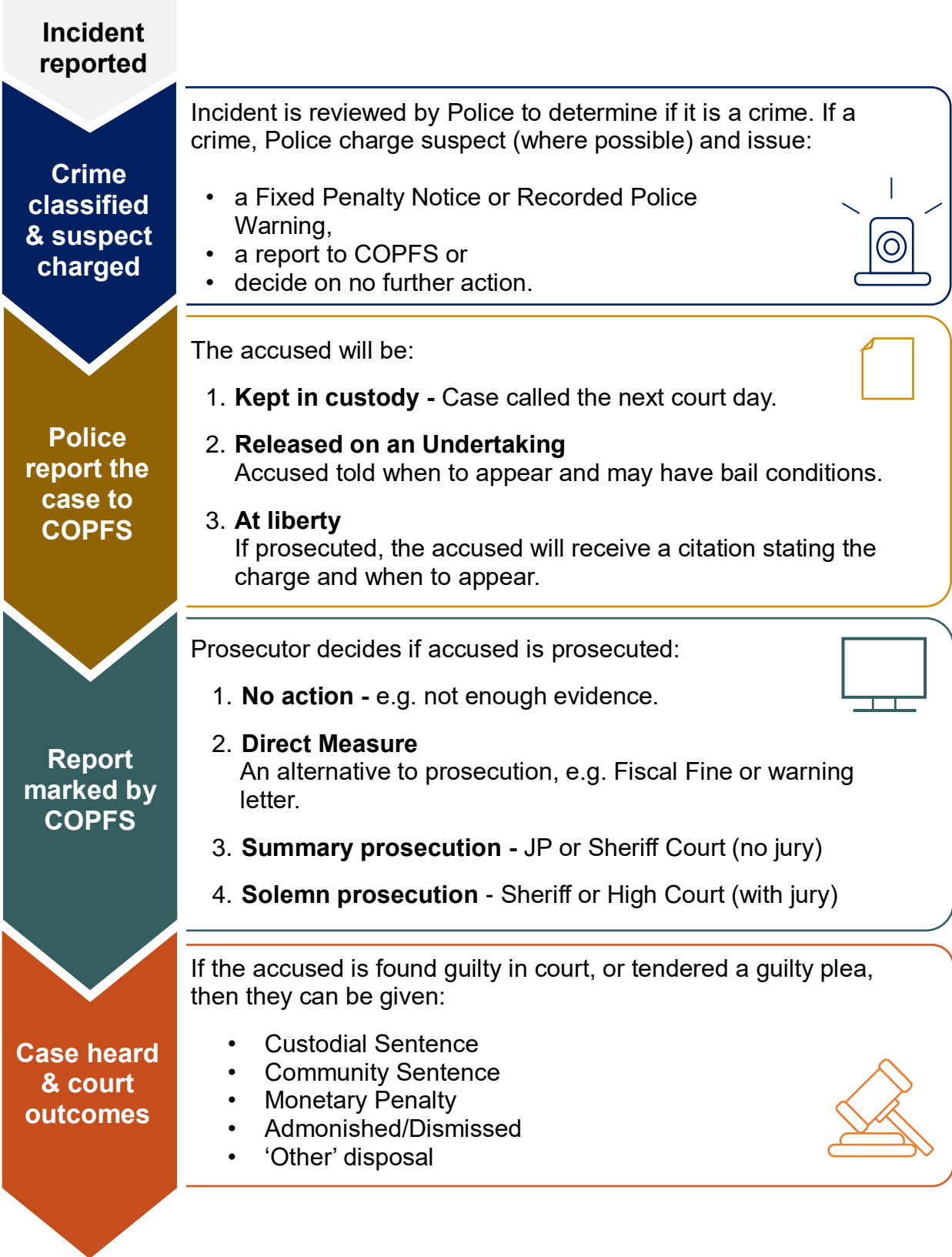
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), Courts & Prisons

- Custody reports received by COPFS remain consistently below pre-pandemic levels and undertaking reports remain consistently above pre-pandemic levels.
- Subjects marked for court by COPFS remain below pre-pandemic levels, driven by a decrease in summary court markings.
- Initiations in the civil court remain below 19-20 levels, while disposals have almost returned to 19-20 levels.
- Prison populations initially decreased as court business abated.
- The number of prisoners on remand subsequently rose to its current, historically high, level.
- The prison population has reached its highest level since November 2020

Contents

- Summary 1
- How crime flows through the Justice System 3
- 101 and 999 call volumes 5
- Incidents recorded 6
- Recorded Crime in Scotland 7
 - Coronavirus legislation intervention activity 10
 - Police Recorded Domestic Abuse Incidents 12
- Reports received by COPFS 16
- First substantive marking 18
- Summary of COPFS First Substantive Markings 19
- Subjects marked for court 21
- Criminal Registered & Scheduled Trials 23
- Criminal Disposals 24
- Sheriff Court Civil Case Volumes 25
 - Initiations and disposals 25
 - Sheriff Court cases by procedure 26
 - Focus on case types 27
- Prison population 29
 - Remand Arrival Offences 30
- Sources and further information 32

How crime flows through the Justice System



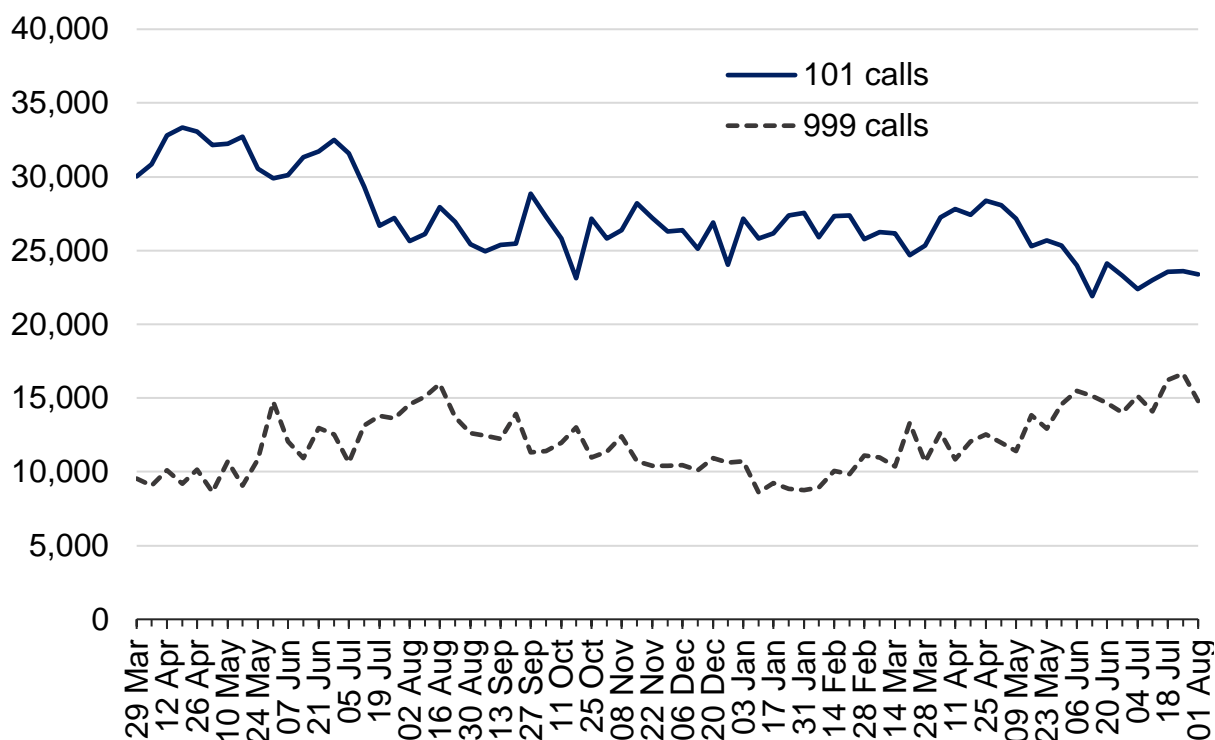
Police Activity (Police Scotland)

101 and 999 call volumes

Total weekly 999 & 101 calls have generally been lower compared to the equivalent weeks from the previous year.

- 101 calls have remained relatively stable over the past six months (although in recent weeks they have shown a downward trend), whilst 999 calls have experienced an increasing trend.
- In the week ending 1st August, 38,148 calls were made to Police Scotland.
- When combined, calls were lower than the previous week.

Chart: Number of calls



Type of call	Week ending 25th July 2021	Week ending 1st August 2021
101 calls	23,603	23,379
999 calls	16,653	14,769
Total calls	40,256	38,148

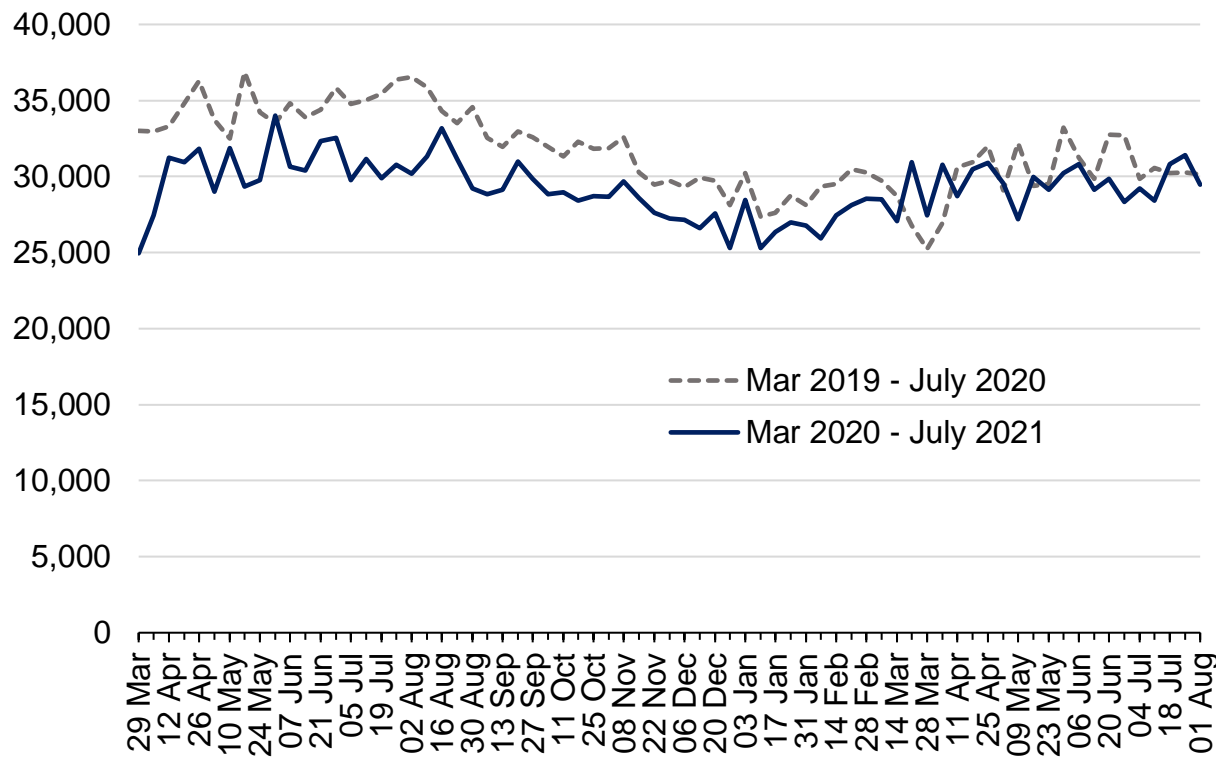
Incidents recorded

Weekly incident numbers have been similar in July 2021, compared to July 2020. It should be noted that coronavirus restrictions were in place during both months.

Incident levels have generally been lower in recent weeks compared to the equivalent weeks from the previous year.

Scotland entered Phase 2 of its route map on 28th May 2020. There was an increase in incidents during that week (ending Sunday 31st May). However, incident numbers remained below 2019-20 levels in the weeks that followed, and declined from November onwards. Scotland entered a new period of lockdown on 5th January 2021. Since then, there has been evidence of an increasing trend although levels remain generally lower than at the start of the pandemic.

Chart: Number of incidents



In the week ending 1st August:

29,463
incidents recorded



Down 2% compared to the equivalent week in 2020 (30,125 incidents)

Further information:

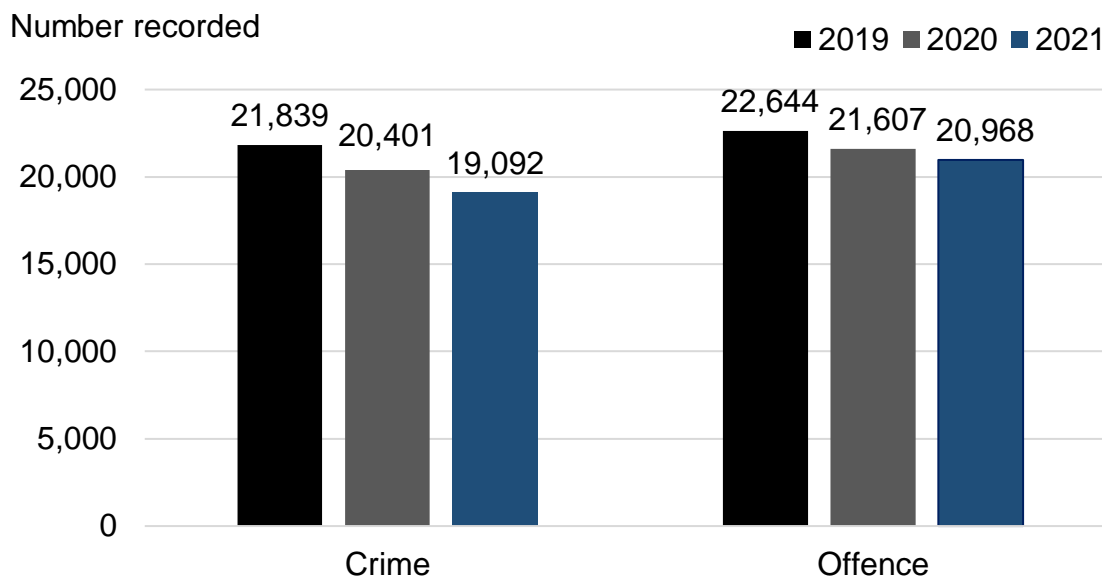
A full breakdown of calls & incident volumes is available from:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/covid-19-police-scotland-response/enforcement-and-response-data/>

Recorded Crime in Scotland

The recorded crime figures presented below exclude crimes recorded under the coronavirus legislation.

Chart: Number of crimes and offences recorded



Note: Each set of columns shows from left to right, July 2019, 2020 and 2021

July 2021

The number of crimes recorded in July 2021 was 6% lower than in July 2020 and 13% lower than in July 2019. The number of offences was 3% lower than in July 2020 and 7% lower than in July 2019.

Non-sexual crimes of violence were 6% higher (or 51 crimes) compared to July 2020, increasing from 827 to 878 crimes, and 11% higher compared to July 2019 (increasing from 794 crimes). Within this, Attempted murder and serious assault increased by 3% compared to July 2020 (from 351 to 361). Other violence increased by 30% compared to July 2020 (from 168 to 218) and also increased by 68% from July 2019 (from 130 to 218).

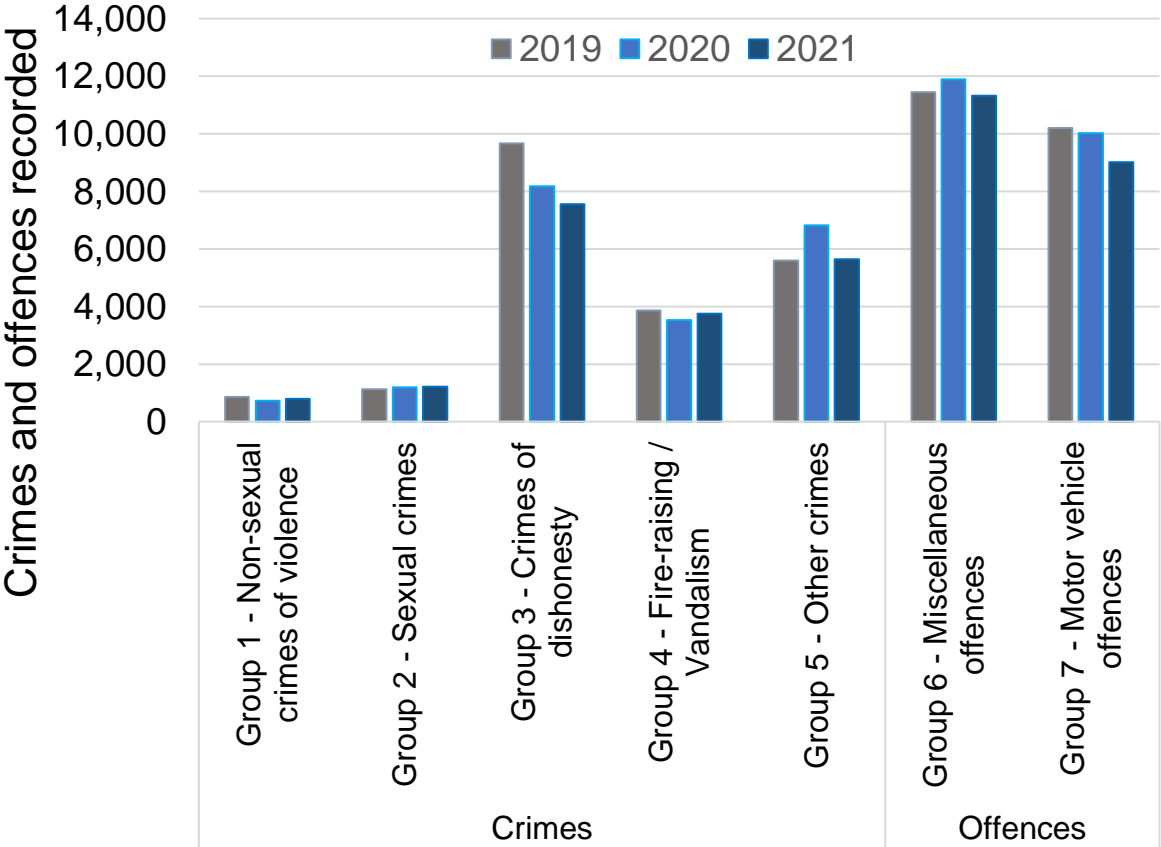
Sexual crimes were 4% lower (or 45 crimes) compared to last July, decreasing from 1,203 to 1,158 crimes. This was 4% higher than in July 2019 (increasing from 1,117 crimes). Sexual assault saw the largest increase since July 2020, increasing by 5% (from 400 to 419). However, this was 3% lower than in July 2019. Rape and attempted rape decreased by 22% compared to July 2020, from 255 to 199 crimes. This was also an 11% increase compared to July 2019 (from 179 to 199 crimes).

Fire raising, vandalism etc. remained relatively unchanged (2 fewer crimes) than in July 2020, but 8% lower than in July 2019.

Crimes of dishonesty were 3% lower (or 223 crimes) compared to July 2020, decreasing from 8,166 to 7,943 crimes. This was also 21% lower than in July 2019 (decreasing from 10,008 crimes). Crimes of Fraud have increased throughout the pandemic, however there has been a 10% decrease since July 2020 (from 1,534 to 1,381).

Other crimes were 17% lower (or 1,090 crimes) than in July 2020, decreasing from 6,445 to 5,355 crimes. This was also 8% lower than July 2019 (decreasing from 5,836 to 5,355 crimes). The main contributors to these decreases were Drugs (which fell by 25% compared to July 2020 and 28% compared to July 2019) and Crimes against public justice (which fell by 8% compared to July 2020 but were 23% higher compared to July 2019).

The following chart shows a breakdown of the crime and offence groups, comparing July 2019, 2020 and 2021



Note: each category shows columns from left to right for July 2019, 2020 and 2021

The biggest drivers of the decrease from July 2020 to July 2021 were Drugs and Crimes against public justice.

The biggest drivers of the 6% decrease over this period were:

Drugs

- ↓ 25% (or 795 crimes)
- ↓ 28% (or 909 crimes) compared to July 2019

Crimes against public justice

- ↓ 8% (or 178 crimes)
- ↑ 23% (or 393 crimes) compared to July 2019

The biggest increases from July 2020 to July 2021 (by volume) were:

Other violence

- ↑ 30% (or 50 crimes)
- ↑ 68% (or 88 crimes) compared to July 2019

Theft of a motor vehicle

- ↑ 13% (or 45 crimes)
- ↓ 10% (or 45 crimes) compared to July 2019

Further Information: The data in this section comes from the monthly Official Statistics on crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, please see [Recorded Crime in Scotland: July 2021](#).

Coronavirus legislation intervention activity

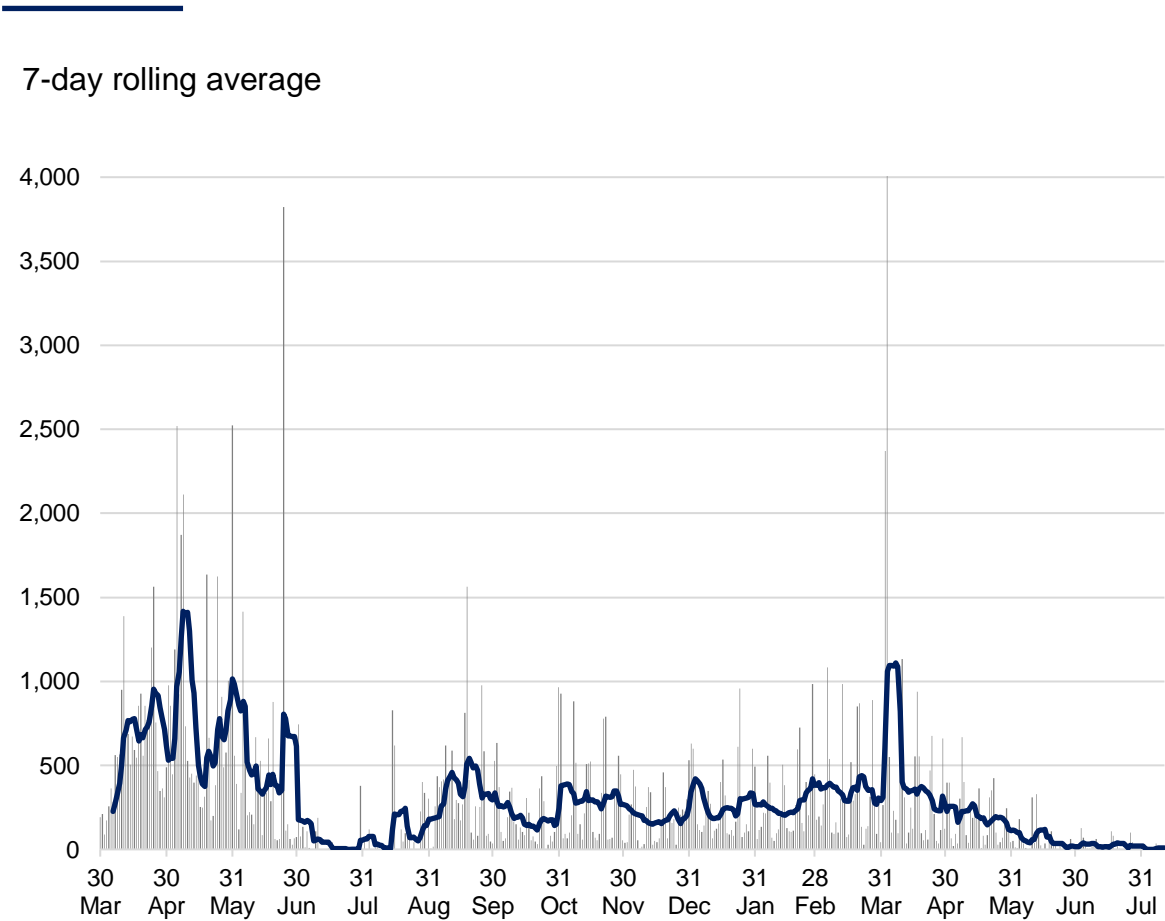
This information is drawn from Police Scotland’s ‘Coronavirus Interventions’ application, which relies on manual input from Police Officers. Due to this manual input, these figures should be viewed as indicative only.

This system currently provides the broadest picture of the differing levels of co-operation experienced by Police across Scotland.

The use of interventions decreased in July 2021. This may primarily be due to the lifting of restrictions.

Total use of interventions decreased by 53% (or 803 interventions) since the previous month.

Chart: Number of interventions (including 7-day rolling average)



COVID-19 Intervention Activity in July 2021


In July, 96% of interventions made were dispersals. This is a slightly higher percentage than the previous month (93% in June).

Chart: Monthly COVID-19 interventions

726 interventions in July



 33% of interventions were dispersals but only when instructed (238)

 48% of interventions were dispersals when informed (348)

Of the remaining 19% of interventions:

- 108 were dispersed using reasonable force
- 30 were issued a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN)
- 2 were arrested

Further Information:

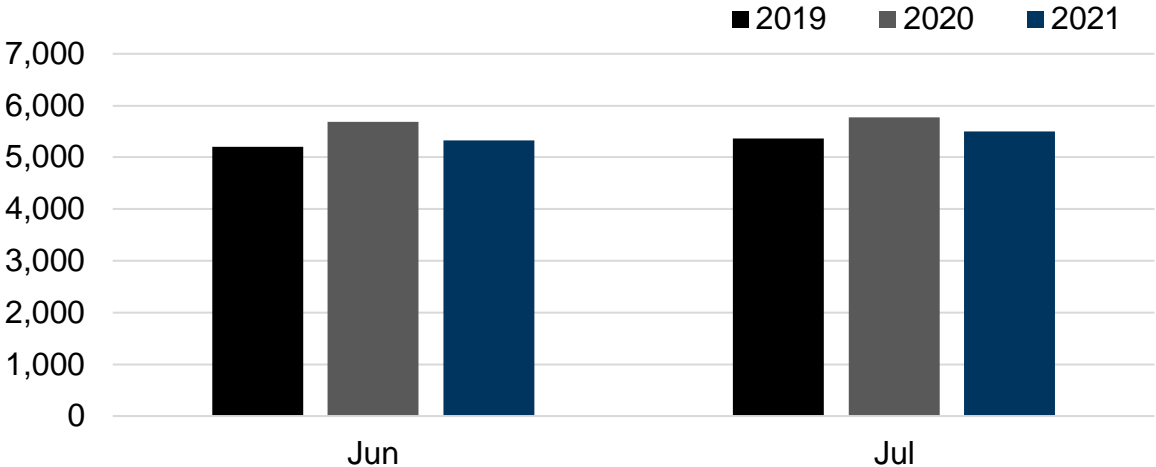
A full breakdown of interventions is available from Police Scotland:
<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/covid-19-police-scotland-response/enforcement-and-response-data/>

Police Recorded Domestic Abuse Incidents

The number of Domestic Abuse incidents recorded in July 2021 was lower than the level seen in July 2020, but higher than in July 2019.

These updates (including the proportion with a crime or offence) will be reflected in future editions of the Official Statistics on [Domestic Abuse in Scotland](#). The most recent edition covers the 2019-20 reporting year.

Chart: Number of domestic abuse incidents recorded in June and July 2019, 2020 and 2021



In July 2021:

5,503 Domestic incidents recorded	↓	Down 5% since July 2020 (5,769 incidents)	↑	Up 3% since July 2019 (5,358 incidents)
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In April to July 2021:

21,252 Domestic incidents recorded	↓	Down 8% since the same months in 2020 (23,021 incidents)	↔	Unchanged (up <1%) since the same months in 2019 (21,210 incidents)
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The proportion of April to July 2021 incidents that included the recording of at least one crime or offence was 42.3%. [Police Scotland’s Management Information Report](#) suggests an equivalent figure of 42.4% for 2020-21.

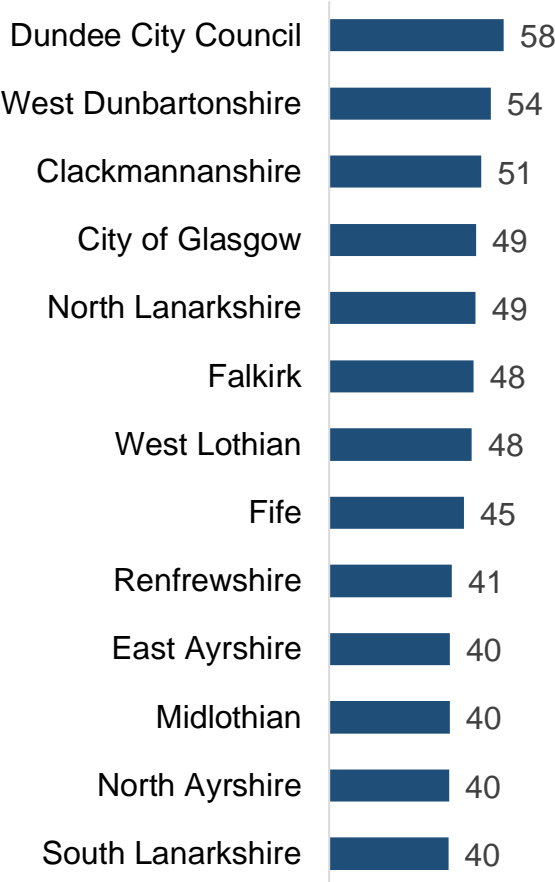
In addition to the above, separate figures on crimes recorded under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 are available from the Recorded Crime in Scotland monthly Official Statistics. There were 131 such crimes recorded by the police in July 2021, this is 11% lower than July 2020 (148 crimes) and 6% lower than July 2019 (140 crimes).

Police Recorded Domestic Abuse Incidents per 10,000 population

Across Scotland as a whole, the police recorded 39 domestic abuse incidents per 10,000 population¹ during the period April to July 2021.

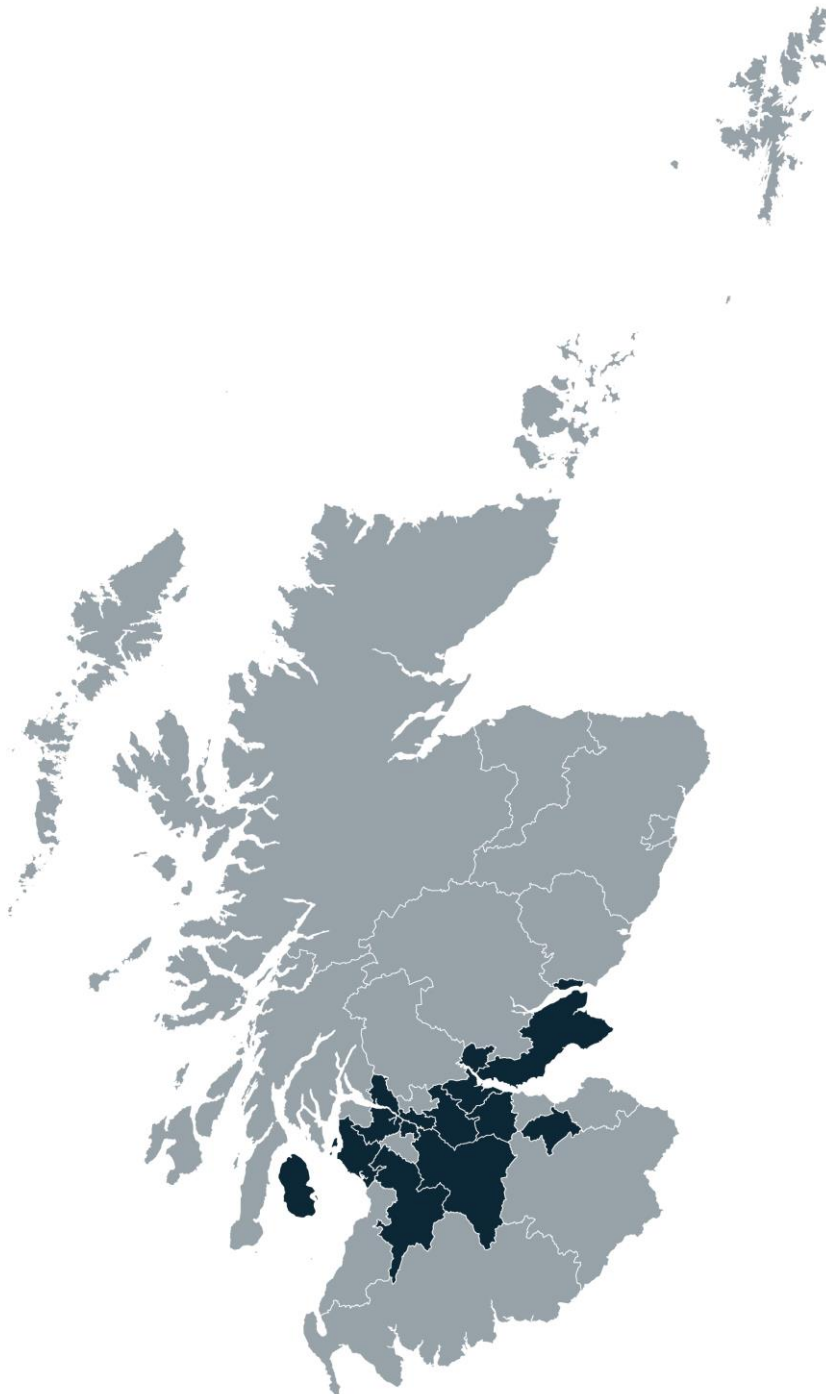
The local authorities with the highest rates were Dundee City Council (58), West Dunbartonshire (54) and Clackmannanshire (51).

The following chart shows local authorities with rates above the national average.



¹ [NRS Population Projections](#) are used for these calculations.

The following map shows local authorities with above the national average (in a darker shading) of Domestic Abuse incidents per 10,000 population, in the period April to July 2021.



Further Information:

The crime data in this section comes from the monthly Official Statistics on crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, please see [Recorded Crime in Scotland: July 2021](#).

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS)

Reports received by COPFS

After a crime is classified and a suspect charged, police send a report to the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS).

Total reports received by COPFS have remained just below pre-pandemic levels since March 2021.

- The total number of reports received by COPFS decreased substantially at the beginning of lockdown. Numbers increased to pre-pandemic levels before a substantial decrease in February 2021. Reports in March recovered to just under pre-pandemic levels and remain below pre-pandemic levels.
- Custody report numbers are consistently around two-thirds of 19-20 average levels.
- Undertaking report numbers remain consistently around 50% higher than 2019-20 levels and were at their highest level since the pandemic started (almost twice the 19-20 average) in June 2021.

Chart: All reports received by COPFS (bars – monthly count April 2020 to July 2021, dashed line 19-20 average)

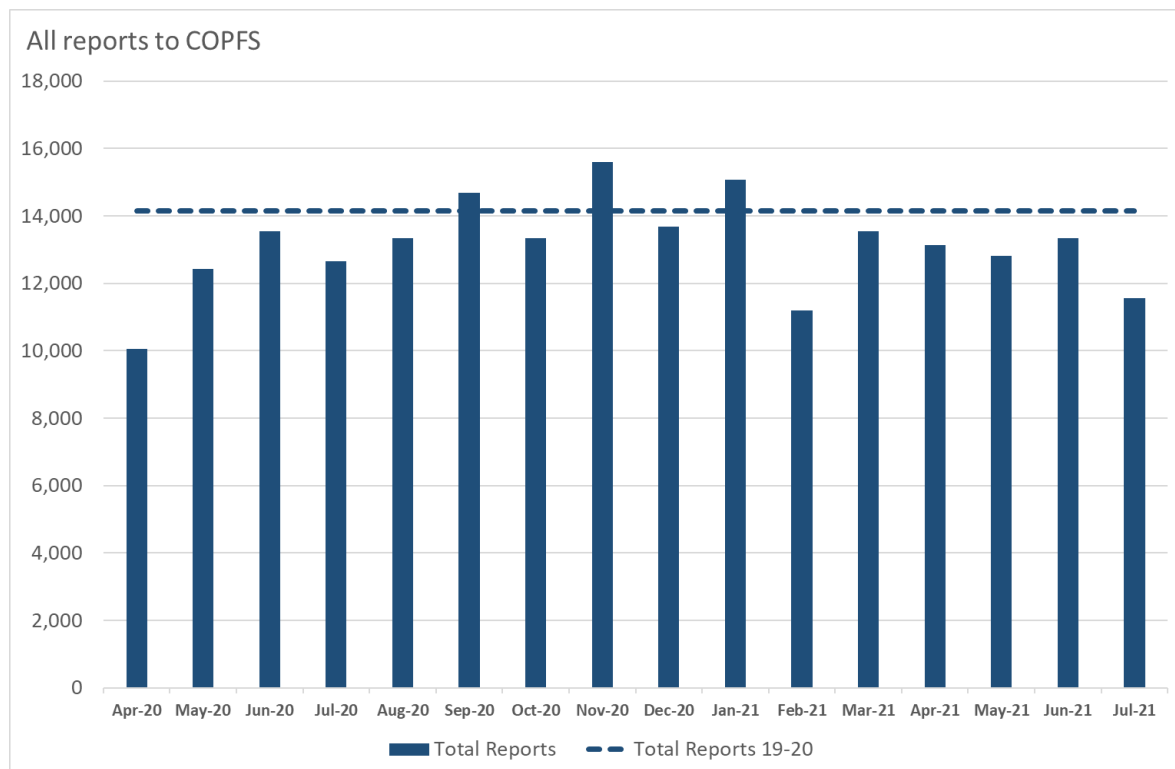


Chart: Custody reports received by COPFS (bars – monthly count April 2020 to July 2021, dashed line 19-20 average)

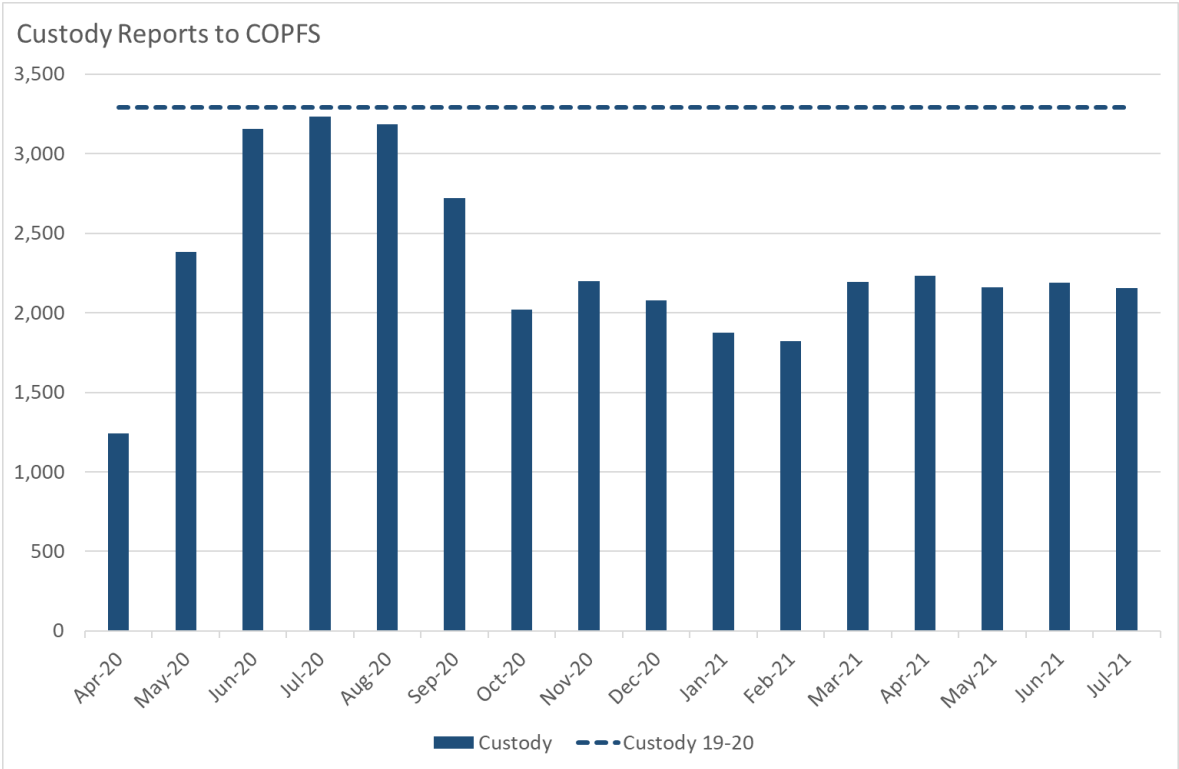
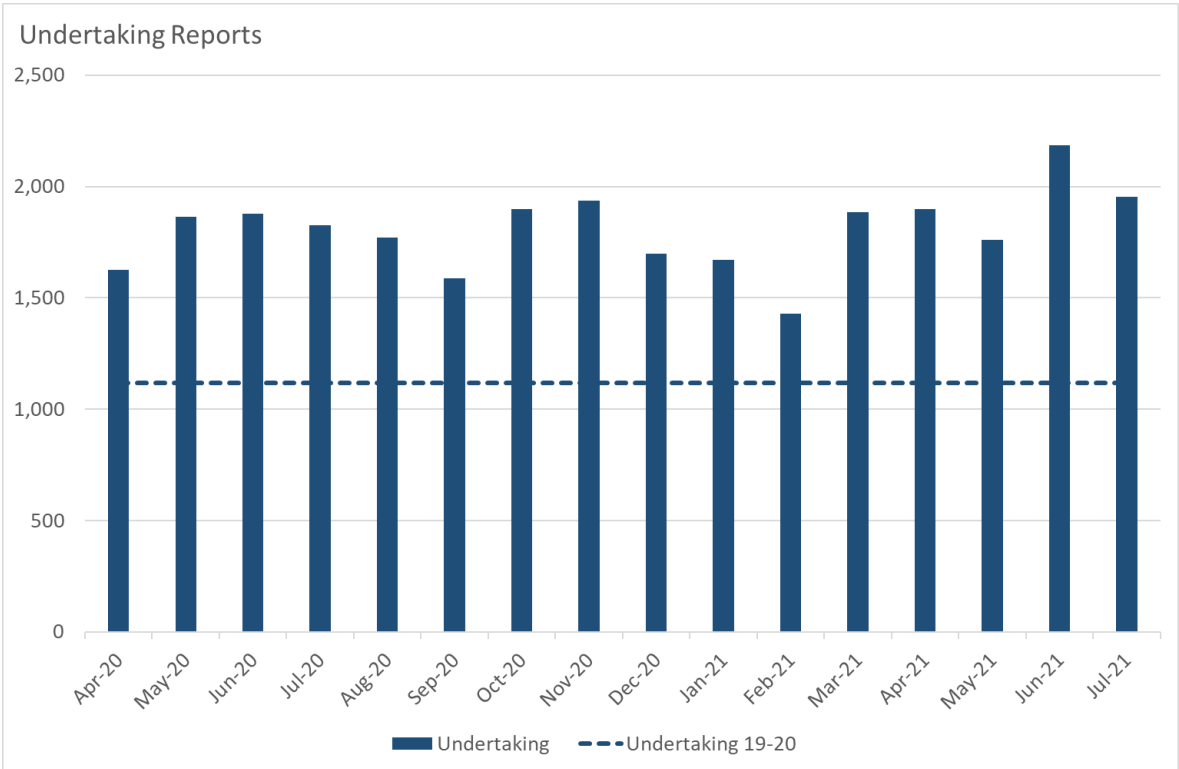


Chart: Undertaking reports received by COPFS (bars – monthly count April 2020 to July 2021, dashed line 19-20 average)

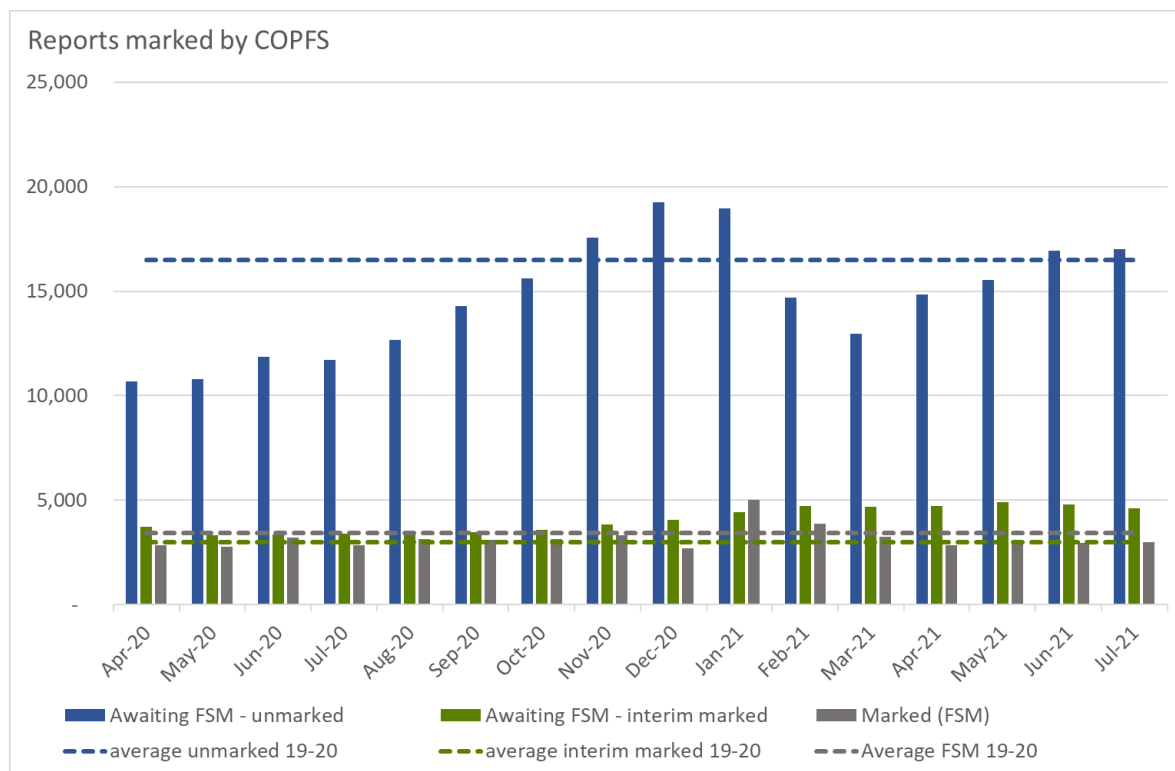


First substantive marking

When COPFS receive a report that someone has committed a crime the prosecutor must decide whether and what action to take. This is recorded on the case as a “marking”. If a decision cannot be taken immediately, an interim marking may be recorded. When a substantive decision is reached a First Substantive Marking (FSM) is recorded, to indicate how the prosecutor has decided to proceed.

The number of accused given a FSM by COPFS remains below pre-pandemic levels. The number of reports awaiting marking has been increasing in recent months and now sits above 19-20 average levels. The number of reports with an interim marking has been above 19-20 average levels throughout 2020 and into 2021.

Chart: Marking status of COPFS reports (bars – monthly count April 2020 to July 2021, dashed lines 19-20 average)



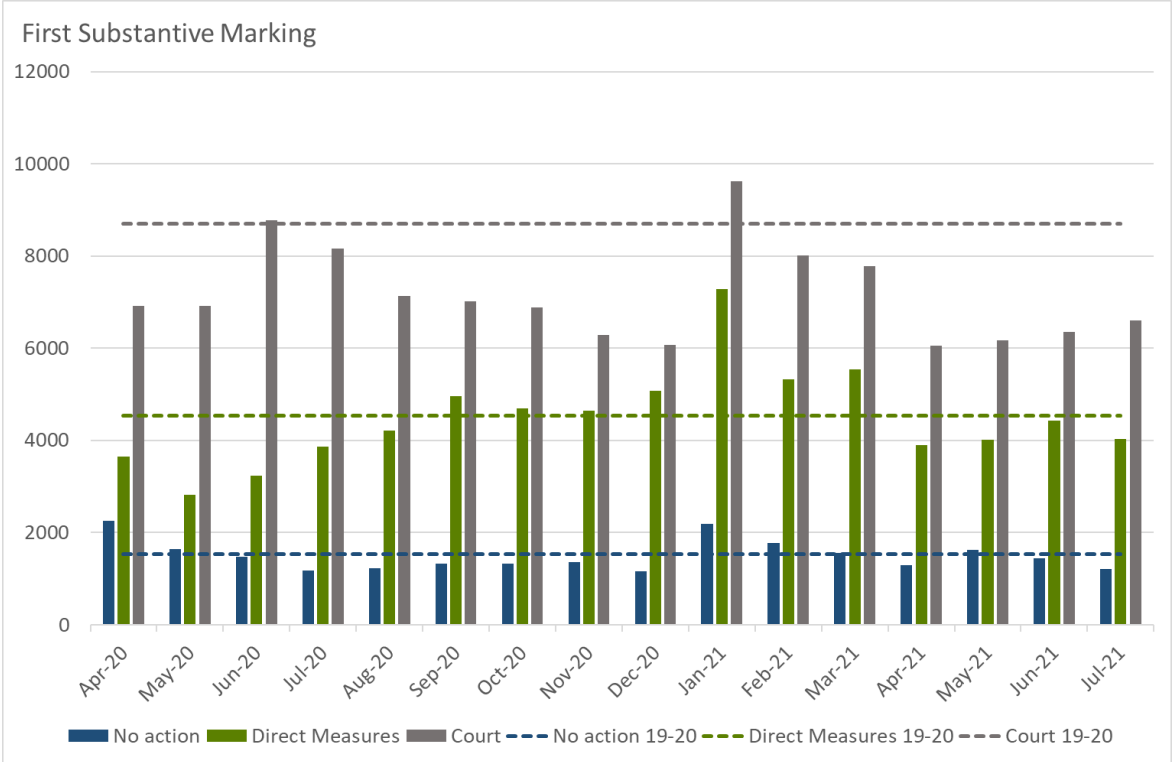
Summary of COPFS First Substantive Markings

There are 3 types of marking decision available to COPFS:

- No Action
- Direct Measures
- Court proceedings

Following an increase in all marking types in January 2021, numbers of markings subsequently decreased. Markings for No Action remain below pre-pandemic levels, marking for Direct Measures have decreased and they are under pre-pandemic levels and markings for court remain well below pre-pandemic levels.

Chart: First Substantive Marking (bars – monthly count April 2020 to July 2021, dashed lines 19-20 average)



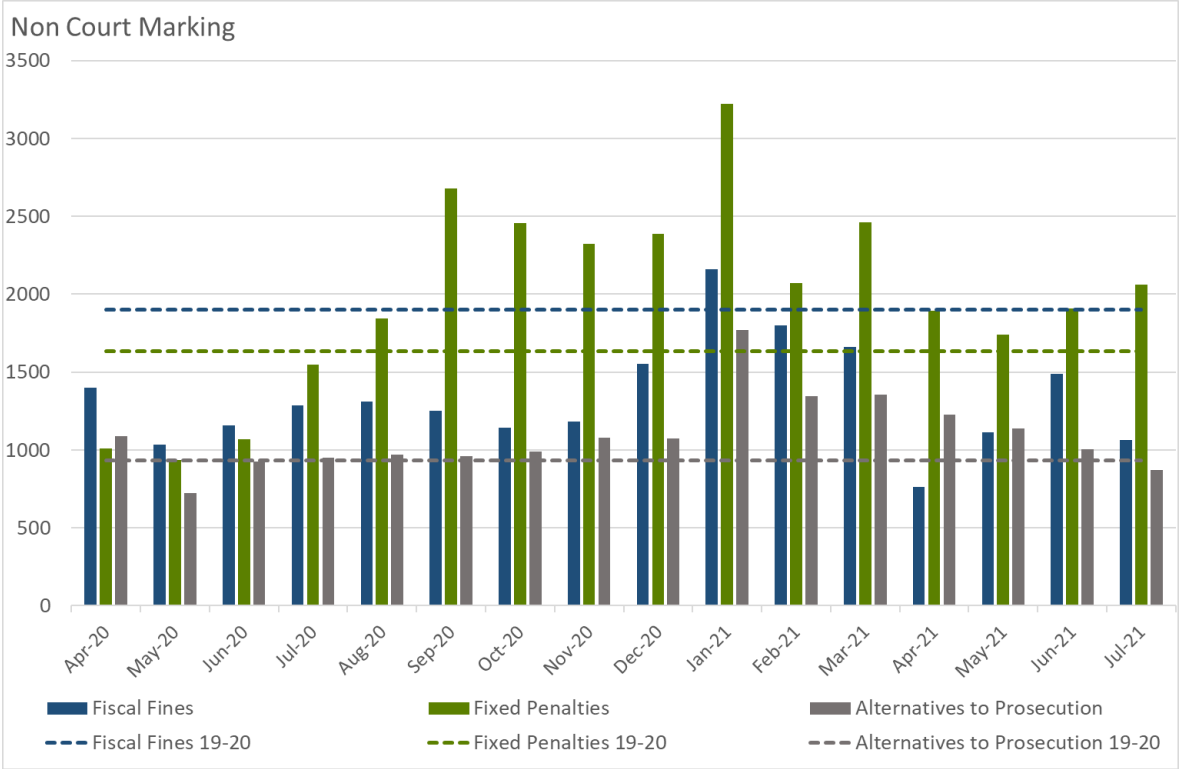
Subjects marked for Direct Measure

Direct measure or alternatives to court include diversion, fiscal fines, fixed penalties, community and work orders. Fiscal fine limits were increased as part of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020.

In January 2021, for the first time in 2020-21, the numbers of subjects receiving a Fiscal Fine increased to above 19-20 average levels (dotted lines). Numbers reached a low in April 2021 before appearing to rebound until another fall in July. They remain well below pre-pandemic levels.

The number of subjects given Fiscal fixed penalties increased from May 2020, and have remained above 19-20 average levels since that time.

Chart: Subjects marked for direct measures (bars – monthly count April 2020 to July 2021, dashed lines 19-20 average)



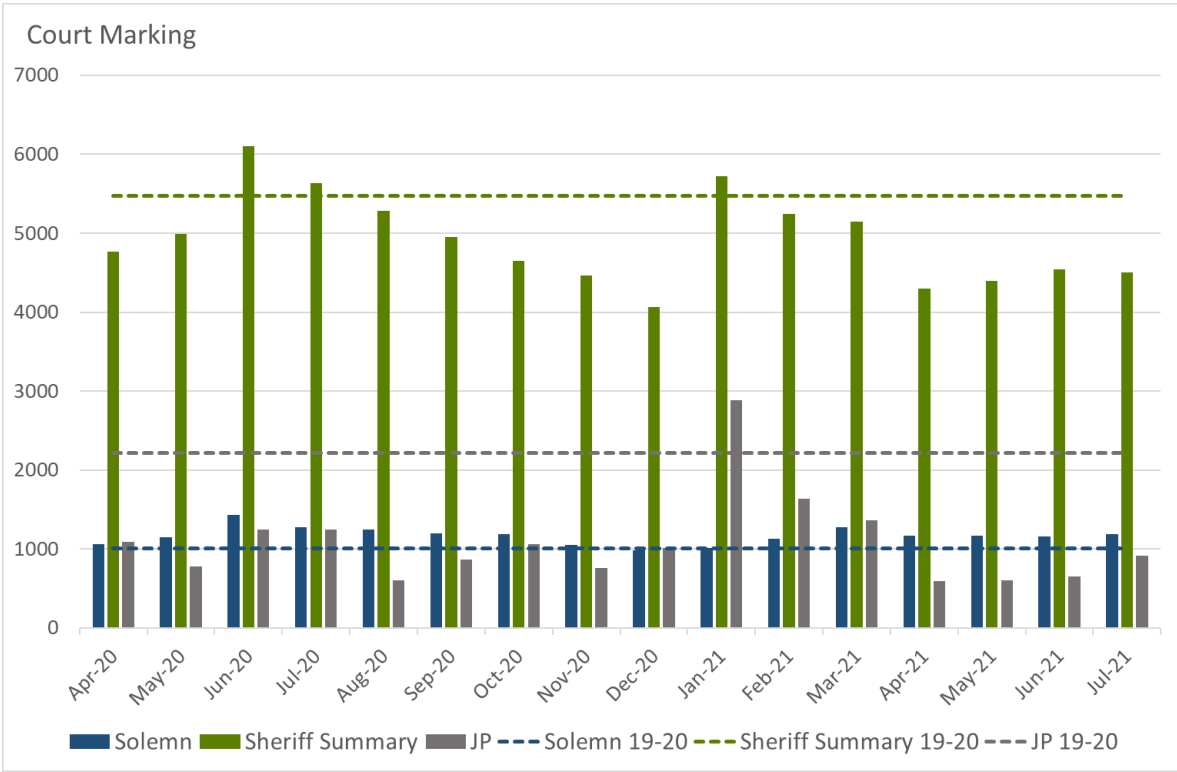
Subjects marked for court

The type of court proceedings appropriate for a case depends on the nature of the crimes or offences involved. The most serious crimes are marked for solemn proceedings, whilst less serious crimes and offences will be marked for Sheriff Summary or JP courts.

The number of people marked for proceedings in:

- Solemn court (High Court or Sheriff & Jury) has been consistently at or above 19-20 average levels since April 2020.
- Sheriff Summary court have, on the whole, remained below pre pandemic levels since April 2020. In July 2021, numbers were around 80% of the 19-20 average.
- Markings for JP court have remained below the 19-20 average.

Chart: Subjects marked for court (bars – monthly count April 2020 to July 2021, dashed lines 19-20 average)



Fatal Accident Inquiries (as of 02 August 2021)

FAIs with scheduled court dates: 31
 FAIs with First Notice lodged, awaiting court dates: 1

Source:
 Data in this section has come from COPFS Internal Management Information System.

Scottish Courts & Tribunal Service (SCTS)

Criminal Registered & Scheduled Trials

Since the initial lockdown in March 2020, there have been 104,953 criminal registrations in the courts. 516 of these registrations have been COVID-19 related (0.5%).

In July 2021, almost all types of court registration remained lower than 2019-20 averages. Solemn sheriff court registrations in July 2021 were 15% higher than the 19-20 average. JP registrations were almost 40% lower than the 19-20 average.

- Indictments registered in the High Court were 22% lower than the 19-20 average.
- Indictments registered in the Sheriff court (solemn cases) were 15% above the 19-20 average.
- Complaints (summary cases) registered in the Sheriff Court were 19% lower than the 19-20 average.
- Complaints registered in the JP court were 39% lower than the 19-20 average.

Cases Registered	19-20 monthly average	July 2021	Change from 19-20 monthly average	Outstanding trials March 2020	Outstanding trials July 2021
Indictments					
High Court	85	66	-19 (-22%)	390	325
Sheriff Court	454	520	+66 (+15%)	497	1,684
Complaints					
Sheriff Court	5,478	4,440	-1,038 (-19%)	13,971	33,602
JP Court	2,799	1,717	-1,082 (-39%)	3,497	7,730

At the end of July 2021 there were 43,341 trials outstanding. This compares to 18,355 at the end of 2019-20. In addition, SCTS have forecast that there are another 5,657 cases in the system which are likely to come to trial but have not yet had a trial date set (see SCTS published monthly criminal statistics for more detail - <https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/official-statistics>).

Criminal Disposals

In July 2021 there were 6,092 disposals (excluding secondary disposals and the 'other' disposal category) from Scotland's courts. This is 84% of the 19-20 monthly average of 7,277 and 4% higher than June 2021.

Between April 2020 and July 2021 there were 47,517 (41%) fewer disposals than would have been expected based on 19-20 average figures. Over this time period, there have been 34% fewer custodial sentences and 44% fewer community disposals imposed by the courts than might have been expected.

To:	Monthly average	July	Change	Estimated*	Actual	
31 July 2021	2019-20	2021	%	April 2020 – July 2021	April 2020 – July 2021	Change %
Imprisonment	1,010	665	-34%	16,167	10,609	-34%
Community Disposal (CPO & DTTO)	1,383	1,083	-22%	22,133	12,458	-44%
Restriction of Liberty Order	296	317	+7%	4,740	3,891	-18%
Fine etc.	3,105	2,797	-10%	49,684	26,066	-48%
Admonished/ Discharged	1,482	1,230	-17%	23,705	15,888	-33%

* based on 19-20 monthly average disposals

Disposals from court at any point in time are related both to the volume of business coming into courts and the length of time it takes that business to proceed through the court system. Therefore, changes in crime levels or the ability of courts to function in the usual way may have associated impacts on disposals.

Further Information: Latest SCTS published official statistics can be found here:

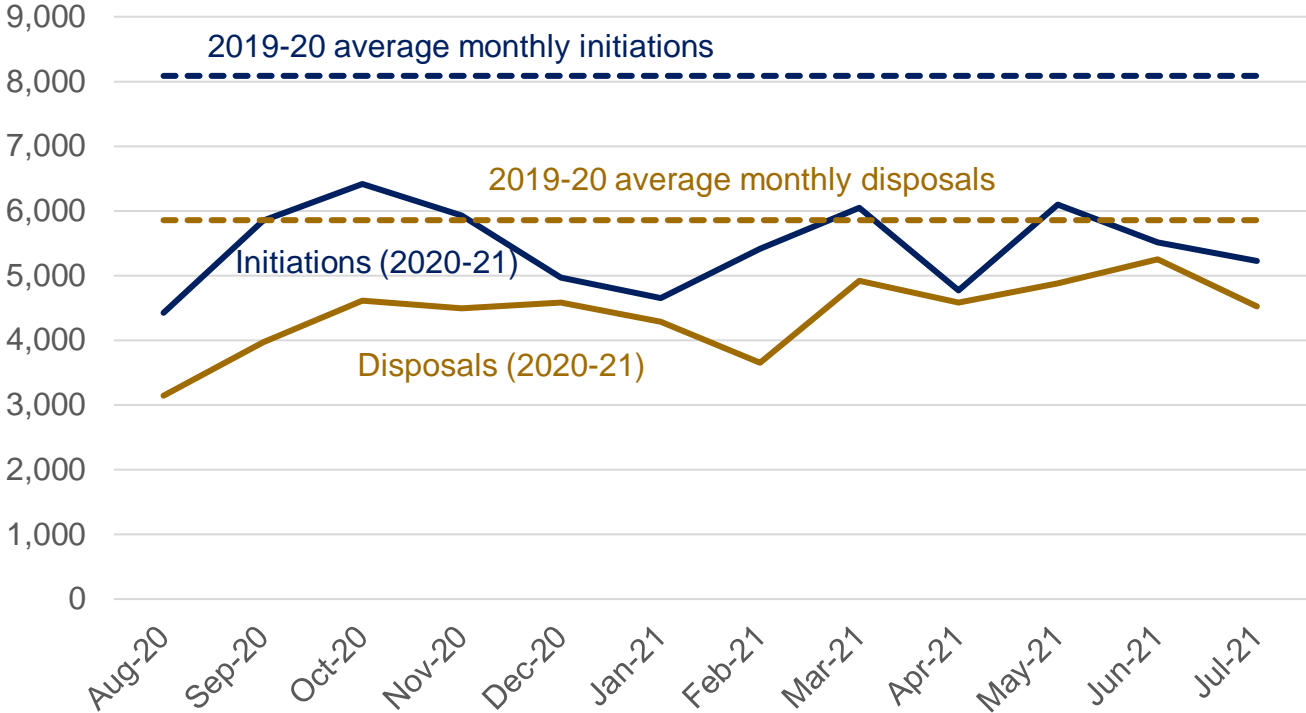
<https://scotcourts.gov.uk/official-statistics>

Sheriff Court Civil Case Volumes

Initiations and disposals

Initiations in the Sheriff Civil Courts remain lower than the 2019-20 typical levels, while disposals have almost returned to 2019-20 levels (see dotted lines). In July there were decreases in both initiations and disposals from the previous month.

Chart: Initiations and disposals



Sheriff Court cases by procedure

Initiated case numbers for ordinary cause and simple procedure are returning to 2019-20 monthly average levels, with month to month variation, but both decreased from the previous month. Simple procedure initiations in July were less than half their 2019-20 monthly average levels. Summary cause is much lower than 2019-20 levels, but increased slightly from the previous month. Small claims have largely been replaced by simple procedure.

Likewise, disposed cases for ordinary cause and simple procedure are returning to 2019-20 levels. Both ordinary cause and simple procedure decreased in July in line with overall disposals. Summary cause disposals are returning to 2019-20 monthly average levels, but decreased in July. Summary cause disposals had steadily increased since March 2021.





Summary cause figures are heavily influenced by the emergency legislation which protected tenants during the pandemic, brought into force in April 2020 as part of [Coronavirus \(Scotland\) Act 2020](#). The provisions of the Act expired on 30 March 2021.

Procedures	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	2019/20 monthly average
Initiated						
Ordinary cause	2,161	1,676	1,838	1,796	1,753	1,928
Summary cause	228	181	274	266	303	1,132
Small claim	1	0	0	0	0	2
Simple procedure	1,823	1,369	2,311	1,680	1,267	2,695
Total initiated	4,213	3,226	4,423	3,742	3,323	5,758
Disposed						
Ordinary cause	1,428	1,254	1,374	1,638	1,400	1,445
Summary cause	644	724	794	848	556	1,096
Small claim	4	0	0	26	8	5
Simple procedure	2,148	2,000	2,079	1,928	1,772	2,306
Total disposed	4,224	3,978	4,247	4,440	3,736	4,852

1. Figures exclude summary applications.
2. Figures for initiations and disposals do not necessarily refer to the same cases.
3. Excludes Sheriff Personal Injury Court.

Focus on case types

- The case types presented below show gradual return to 2019-20 levels of initiation, with some month to month variation. Family cases in July were higher than the 2019-20 average levels, while the other case types shown are much lower.
- There was a decrease in disposals in July. All the case types presented below decreased from the previous month.

Initiated Cases (July 21)			Disposed Cases (July 21)	
July 2021	Change from 19-20	Case Type	July 2021	Change from 19-20
1,095	104% of 19-20 average month (1,055 cases)	 Family	870	96% of 19-20 average month (910 cases)
394	65% of 19-20 average month (602 cases)	 Children's Referrals	115	44% of 19-20 average month (260 cases)
1,557	54% of 19-20 average month (2,883 cases)	 Debt	2,033	86% of 19-20 average month (2,368 cases)
247	61% of 19-20 average month (402 cases)	 Personal Injury	209	68% of 19-20 average month (306 cases)

Further Information:

Latest published Civil Justice Statistics can be found here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/civil-justice-statistics-scotland-2019-20/>

Prisons

Prison population

While the overall prison population is lower than pre-pandemic levels, the number of people held on remand remains at a historic high. The changing levels across groups that are required by law to be housed separately – like those on remand – pose new difficulties in the management of the prison population.

In July 2021 (up until the morning of Sunday 1st August 2021):

- the population increased by 46 to 7,548
- 2,088 were on remand: 1,740 (23%) untried & 348 (5%) awaiting sentence
- 65% of arrivals were untried (599 of 919), and 19% awaiting sentence (178)

During the pandemic, growth in the prison population was largely driven by growth in the remand population. However, the prison population rose in June 2021 while remand population remained relatively static. This is likely an effect of increasing court activity following the easing of public health restrictions.

Chart: Total prison population

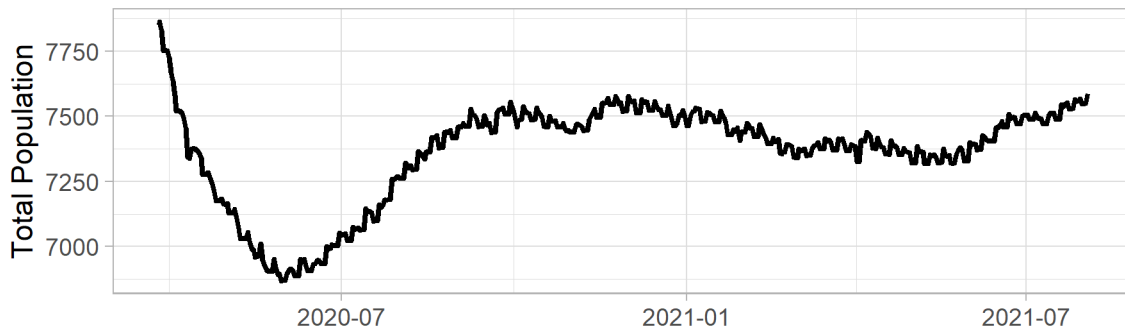
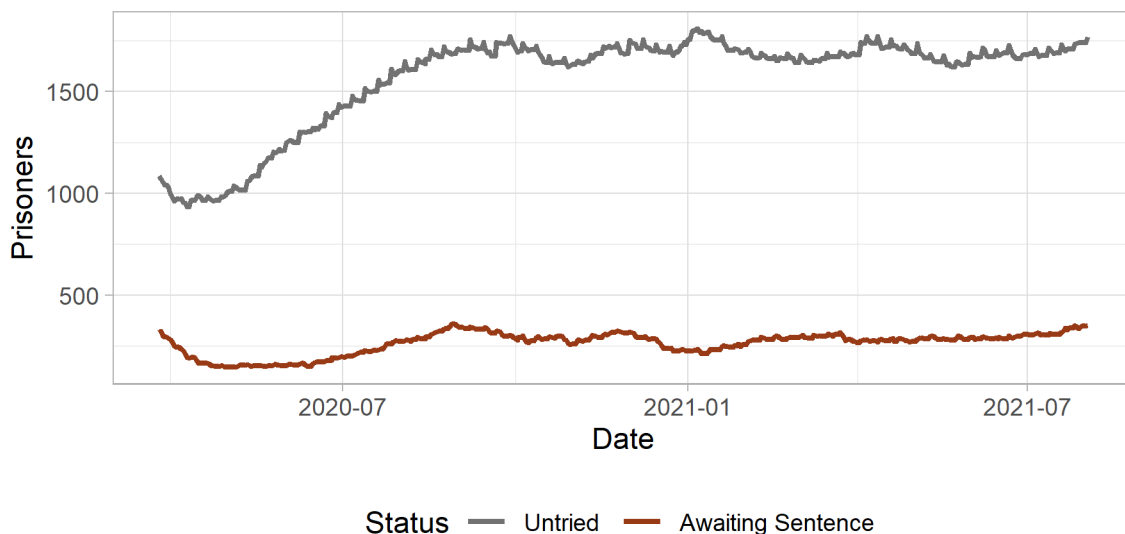


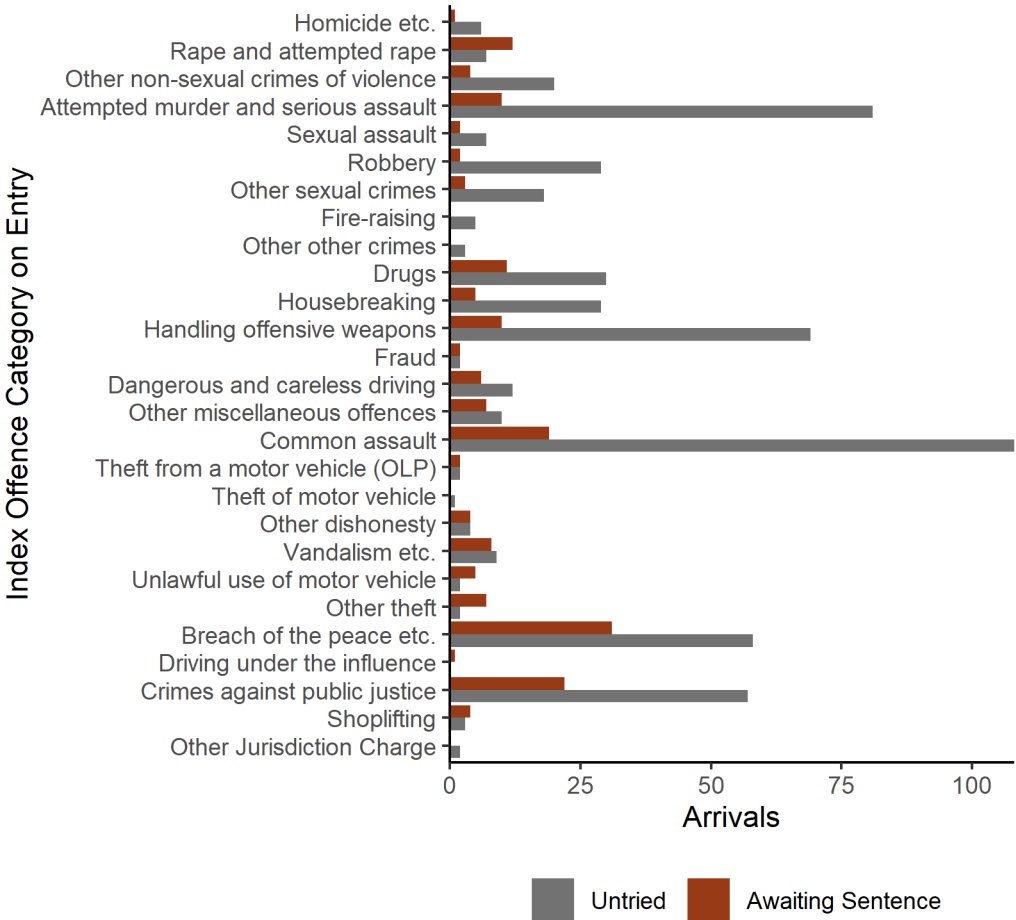
Chart: Remand population



Remand Arrival Offences

There were 754 un-sentenced arrivals to prison with known offence types in July, awaiting trial or sentence for the following alleged offences (see chart below).

Chart: Index offence category on entry of un-sentenced arrivals



Note: Double-counting may occur where an individual is absent from prison for a night in the week and then returns. Where an individual has multiple alleged offence types, the offence towards the top of the list in the chart is used as the index offence.

Further Information:

Latest published annual prison population statistics can be found here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-prison-population-statistics-legal-status-2019-20/>

Sources and Further Information

Sources and further information

The information presented in this pack are compiled from a range of sources – including Official Statistics, management information published by partner bodies, and more recent analysis of administrative data. These are combined to provide users with a summary of the latest impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Scotland.

It should be noted that where information has come from non-Official Statistics sources, it will be provisional in nature and may be subject to future revision. It's inclusion at this stage is to provide users with more timely and detailed information on how the pandemic has affected different parts of Scotland's Justice system. As such this should be seen as providing a broadly indicative summary – rather than a precise measure of activity.

In due course and as standard practice, many of these measures will be reflected in the associated annual Official Statistics. Links to these related products are provided below, along with management information published by partner organisations.

Police activity:

- Monthly [Recorded Crime in Scotland](#) Bulletin. This contains Official Statistics on crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland.
- [Domestic Abuse Statistics: 2019-20](#) Official statistics on domestic abuse in Scotland.
- Quarterly [Police Scotland Management Information](#) reports. These contain the number of domestic abuse incidents recorded by the police in Scotland and the proportion of these incidents that resulted in the recording of a crime or offence.
- Police Scotland [Enforcement and Response Data](#). Includes data on enforcement activity and demands on policing. As this is drawn from management information it is subject to change.

Courts and prisons data:

- Annual [Civil Justice Statistics Bulletin](#). This contains Official Statistics on civil justice and court reform as recorded by the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS).
- [Scottish Prison Population Statistics, 2019-20](#). Experimental statistics on Scottish prison populations, exploring population levels and composition and change over time.
- [SCTS Official Statistics](#). Includes quarterly data on fines, financial penalty collection rates, and criminal court activity in Scotland.

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