2025 Community Justice Performance Framework

Guidance and Technical Notes

Version 3

Version control

Version	Published	Changes
1	30/03/2023	Original guidance
2	15/03/2024	Section 3: Details of national indicator publication dates updated Annex A: Year 2027 added to timeline Annex B updated technical notes for: • Disposal grouping split • More people are assessed for and successfully complete bail supervision • More people have access to, and continuity of, health and social care following release from a prison sentence • More people with convictions access support to enhance their readiness for employment • More people across the workforce and in the community understand, and have confidence in, community justice
3	14/03/2025	Section 3.1: Removal of indicators under development, as these are now in place Annex B updated technical notes for: • referrals from custody centres (added 01/11/2024) • voluntary throughcare (added 14/03/2024) • links to data sources

1. Background

The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 (the Act) provides the legislative framework for the model of community justice.

As part of that model, s17 of the Act requires the Scottish Ministers to publish a performance framework, setting out nationally determined outcomes which are to be achieved in each local authority area, and national indicators which are to be used in measuring performance against these.

A revised version of the performance framework (referred to as the Community Justice Performance Framework (CJPF)) was published under s18(4)(a) of the Act. The CJPF supersedes the version (referred to as the Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework (OPIF)) that was published in 2016.

This revised document accompanies the CJPF and provides information on how to use the nationally determined outcomes and national indicators. In particular, it describes the source of the data underlying each national indicator, sets out how this data will be supplied to local areas, and provides additional technical notes. Guidance on reporting periods is also provided and updated technical notes for each nationally determined outcomes are included in Annex B.

This document is primarily for statutory community justice partners acting jointly at a local level (referred to as 'community justice partnerships'). This document is published by the Scottish Government and is kept under review and updated as necessary.

In addition to this document, statutory guidance to support statutory community justice partners to understand their roles arising from the Act (as per s24 of the Act), in relation to local planning and reporting, is also published by the Scottish Government and is kept under review and updated as necessary.

2. Guidance on reporting periods

Community justice partnerships (CJPs) should use the nationally determined outcomes and national indicators in the CJPF to support their local planning and reporting cycles, as set out in the Act.

The first reporting period for the revised CJPF is 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The first local annual reports aligned to this CJPF should therefore be published as soon as reasonably practicable following 31 March 2024 (as per s23 of the Act).

3. National Indicator Guidance

A table of the nationally determined outcomes and national indicators is included within the CJPF.

3.1 Sourcing of the national indicator data

This section sets out information on the source of the national indicator data.

The data for the majority of the 10 national indicators will be sourced from national available statistics (publications and dashboards) and supplied to CJPs by the Scottish Government. The national indicators were chosen based on both their ability to provide a suitable performance measure for the relevant outcomes, and the availability and consistency of the underlying data.

The data for one national indicator (see below) will need to be sourced by CJPs from management information (MI) systems within local authorities between June and September each year. The existing national statistics collection cannot provide this information for CJPs within the legislative reporting timeframe.

National indicator to be requested by CJPs from MI systems within local authorities:

Percentage of:

- community payback orders successfully completed
- drug treatment and testing orders successfully completed

3.2 Supplying the national indicator data

This section sets out the arrangements in relation to the national indicators which the Scottish Government is supplying to CJPs.

3.2.1 First reporting year

For the first reporting year (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024), where indicator data is available it will be supplied. Where possible, the data will cover the period from 2015-16 to 2022-23. This historical trend data will be supplied to CJPs in spring 2024.

The remaining data required for reporting purposes (data covering the period concerned, i.e. 2023-24) will be supplied by the Scottish Government to local areas when it becomes available, between June 2024 and September 2024. This will likely to be via email, with the relevant link to the published information. There is one indicator which CJPs will need to request directly from local authorities during this period.

To reflect these arrangements, the expectation for partners to publish their local annual reports (as per s23 in the Act) in September will be extended to December each year. This expectation is set out in the statutory guidance to support statutory community justice partners to understand their roles arising from the Act (as per s24 of the Act). At the time of publication, an update to this statutory guidance is planned. Community Justice Scotland (CJS) retains the right to ask for local returns in its own timeframe for the purposes of reporting on performance and improvement.

3.2.2 Annual process

It is the intention of the Scottish Government that this will become the annual process i.e. historical trend data to be provided in spring each year and data relating to the relevant reporting year to be provided between June and September each year.

An illustration of this cycle is available in Annex A.

The data will be supplied in an excel spreadsheet. A copy of the data will also be supplied to Community Justice Scotland.

Most of the data will be at a local authority level. Where data is from a higher geographical level, this will be supplied to the local authorities that it covers. For example, if a health board area covers three local authorities, the same information will be supplied to each of the CJPs covering those local authorities.

Technical information on each indicator is provided in Annex B. Links to other published data sources have also been provided to support CJPs with more information relevant to the nationally determined outcomes.

3.3 How to use the national indicators

This section sets out suggestions that CJPs may find helpful in using the national indicators to measure performance in achieving the nationally determined outcomes.

- **Picking a base year.** When examining the current year data within a trend, it is important to pick a base year where it was 'business as usual'. It is advisable not to use 2020-21 and 2021-22, as a lot of the evidence has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, unless this is something you are wishing to measure. The choice of base year for each national indicator should be stated and kept constant throughout the lifetime of the current CJPF. Where available, historical trend data will be provided from 2015-16 onwards.

- **Use the indicators to identify where improvements need to be made.** An indicator measures change over time, so where possible it is important to look at previous comparable data (i.e. trend data) to see the pattern of movement. A base year should be chosen, and data should be compared and considered every year within the trend to see what movement is occurring across the CJP area. In general, indicators should be maintaining or improving over time. It is expected that monitoring within this framework will occur from the base year to the next revision of the CJPF.

- **Examining trend data.** When looking at the data from the relevant reporting period, it should be examined along with trend data. It is normal for data points to move up and down by small amounts (variability) throughout the years. Plotting the data points on a graph will show if there is a line or curve through the data which indicates a direction. It is important to look at trend data over at least four years where possible. This movement of indicators should raise questions for CJPs to discuss every year. For example:

- Increasing – are we expecting a genuine increase or is this just natural variability? Has a programme/project been implemented in the past years and the data is beginning to reflect this? Has something changed in national policy or legislation that is creating improvement, how have the CJP contributed to this?
- Stable – how long has the trend been stable? Is there anything that can be done to create improvement? If so, how long would it be before the data might change – a year or two years?
- Decreasing – is this a genuine decrease or is this just natural variability? Has something happened that affected this work area e.g. global pandemic, funding implications, etc.? What can the CJP do to support improvement in this area?

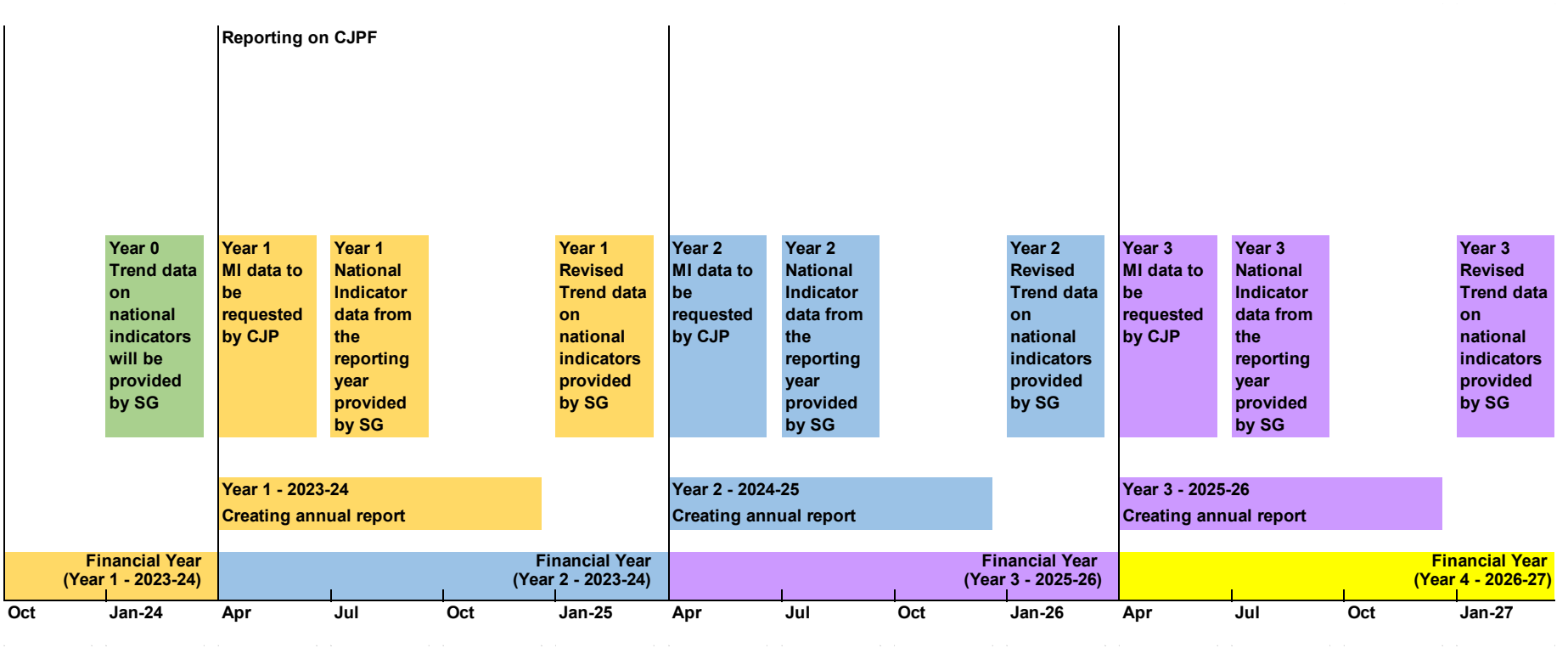
- **Small numbers.** It is important to identify if the data contains small numbers. This is particularly relevant to percentages. For example, if you have ten people, one person would be 10% compared to if you had 40 people and one person would be 2.5%. If your data dropped 20 percentage points from one year to another – this could be only two people. It is important discuss this information in numbers rather than percentages. Local evidence may be more useful in explaining what is happening in the CJP area for small numbers. For example, low numbers may indicate that a service is not reaching your target group (if you are aware you have a large number of people in the target group), or that a third sector organisation is delivering the service and is not picked up by the national indicator.

- **Data revision.** Trend data related to the national indicators will be supplied every year by the Scottish Government. Some of the data sources allow for revisions and it is advised that the most recent trend data supplied each year is used. If there are revisions to trend data, these are normally very small, and we recommend highlighting these revisions in any reporting.

- **Use local evidence relevant to each outcome to explore specific improvements.** As set out in the CJPF, evidence collected at a local level will supplement the national indicator data. The national indicators will provide a measure of performance in achieving the nationally determined outcomes and indicate areas for improvement. Local evidence will provide further context to this and enable local analysis to be undertaken to explore specific improvements that may be needed. Further guidance on how this local evidence should be gathered and analysed will be set out by CJS in Improvement Tools published on its website. There is an expectation that local areas will develop, gather and utilise information in collaboration with CJS in order to support ongoing improvement work and the achievement of the nationally determined outcomes. This includes an expectation that local areas will provide CJS with local evidence as part of their annual reporting for Scotland as a whole.

Annex A: Flow of data and reporting

This is an illustration of the intended flow of the data and reporting timeframe.



Annex B: Data sources and data information

High level national indicator: Disposal grouping split

Desired indicator direction

Decrease in percentage of custody disposals compared to other disposal groups. This a long term, very high-level indicator.

Movement of data should be considered every year and an awareness of what is happening in other disposal groups should be considered when reviewing this against other evidence.

Trend data source

Scottish Government: Justice Analytical Services Criminal Disposals Dashboard

The information reported within the dashboard is available quarterly. Data presented in the dashboard is based on MI supplied by the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service. As such, results from the dashboard should be seen as providing a broadly indicative summary – rather than a precise measure of activity. The Scottish Government, where possible, will supply financial year trend data.

The data counts the number of disposals issued at charge level in Scottish criminal courts. The data does not tell you how many people received disposals, as each accused person can have multiple charges. Information is not included on charges for which the accused is not convicted.

The data provided is split into the following disposal groupings:
custody, community, monetary, and other disposals.

The disposals under the four main categories are:

- Custody: Including Imprisonment, Detention in a Young Offenders Institution, Supervised Released Orders, Extended Sentences, Orders for Life Long Restriction (OLR) and Life Sentences.
- Community: Including Community Payback Orders (CPO), Restriction of Liberty Orders (RLO), Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTO) and other community disposals not already mentioned.
- Monetary: Including fines and compensation.
- Other disposal: Any disposal which does not fall in any of the previous categories, including: admonishments, absolute discharge and a range of orders relating to mental health and other issues.

Local Authority information based on the offender's postcode is presented. Postcode information is not available for all disposals and some of the available postcodes are non-Scottish. Completeness of Local Authority information based on a valid Scottish postcode is currently 76%. Completeness rates can vary considerably by different characteristics of the data.

Frequency of trend source publication

Quarterly

Original source of data
Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service

Geography
National, Local Authority Level

Data required for annual report
Only percentages to be published to support statistical disclosure control (ie to reduce the risk of disclosing information on individuals).

Historical trend data will be supplied in spring of every reporting year e.g. data up to 2022-23 supplied spring 2024.

Data for the reporting year will be supplied in June to September each year e.g. data for 2023-24 supplied between June and September 2024.

Data notes to be included by CJPs in annual reporting
Source:
Data from <Year> to <Year> : Scottish Government: Justice Analytical Services Criminal Disposals Dashboard

Additional evidence base
More information on disposals, including further breakdowns on types of community disposals:
Scottish Government: Justice Analytical Services Criminal Disposals Dashboard

Nationally determined outcome: More people successfully complete diversion from prosecution

National indicator
Number of diversion from prosecution:
- assessments undertaken
- cases commenced
- cases successfully completed

Desired indicator direction
Increase from base year to year of next revision of CJPF. Movement of data to be examined and considered every year.

Trend data source
Justice Social Work Statistics – local authority additional tables
Download: diversion from prosecution – part 1

The source of this data is Justice Social Work statistics. This data is limited to information that is provided and collected from justice social work management systems. The number of assessments undertaken, cases commenced, and cases successfully completed is from a justice social work perspective.

It should be noted that decisions in relation to when to offer referral for diversion from prosecution are made by prosecutors within COPFS, acting independently and in the public interest.

Frequency of trend source publication
Annually – reported on financial year

Original source of data
Local Authority – Justice Social Work

Geography
National, Local Authority Level

Data required for annual report
Historical trend data will be supplied in spring of every reporting year e.g. data up to 2022-23 supplied spring 2024.

Data for the reporting year will be supplied in June to September each year e.g. data for 2023-24 supplied between June and September 2024.

Data notes to be included by CJPs in annual reporting
Source:
Data from <Year> to <Year> : Scottish Government – National Statistics- Justice Social Work Statistics

Additional evidence base
More information on diversion from prosecution in link provided in trend data source:
Justice Social Work Statistics – local authority additional tables

Nationally determined outcome: More people in police custody receive support to address their needs

National indicator
Number of:
- referrals from custody centres

Desired indicator direction
Increase from the base year to the year of the next revision of the CJPF. Movement of data to be examined and considered every year.

Trend data source
The Healthcare and Interventions team within Police Scotland
How we are performing - Police Scotland

There are 29 Primary police custody centres and a number of ancillary centres across the country. The custody centres cover 32 local authority areas, and while they do not always align with local authority boundaries, the use of email-based arrest referral pathways is intended to mitigate this and allows for people to have a direct pathway to a support service in the local authority where they live.

The figures provided are taken from the number of Support Service Arrest Referral forms shared with the National Healthcare and Interventions team within Police Scotland. Some of the support service data returns covers more than one local authority and the data cannot be separated into each local authority. This is an improvement that is being progressed. A few local authorities have a nil return, but residents from within that local authority may have been referred to a national level Support Service. These have been included in the Scotland level figure rather than the local authority figure.

At present these figures do not include referrals made by healthcare staff, or those referrals made directly between the support service link worker and the person in custody.

The geography is at local authority level where this is possible. This has been identified by using the postal town of the person being referred supplied on the referral form. There will be some slight under coverage in local authority returns for example, if the person is referred to a national level Support Service. Where values are between 1 and 4 for a local authority data will be reported as **z**, as part of statistical disclosure control.

It is advised that new data collection procedures are being introduced during 2024-25. Comparison to 2023-24 should therefore be avoided. It is advised that 2024-25 figures should be considered as the base year rather than 2023-24.

Frequency of trend source publication
National annual figure published in Performance Report Quarter 4. Data for Custody Centre will be supplied to Scottish Government after this report is published. for reporting on Community Justice Performance Framework.

Original source of data
Police Scotland – management information comprising the number of Support Service referral forms shared with the Healthcare and Interventions team.

Geography
National, Police Custody Centres

Data required for annual report
There will be no trend data available before 2023-24.

Data for the reporting year will be supplied in June to September each year e.g. data for 2023-24 supplied between June and September 2024.

Data notes to be included by CJPs in annual reporting
Source:
Data from <Year> to <Year> : Police Scotland – Performance Report Quarter 4

Additional evidence base
Police Scotland Performance Reports, are produced quarterly. This is the most current at time of publication:
How we are performing - Police Scotland

Nationally determined outcome: More people are assessed for and successfully complete bail supervision

National indicator
Number of:
- assessment reports for bail suitability
- bail supervision cases commenced
- bail supervision cases completed

Desired indicator direction
Increase from the base year to the year of the next revision of the CJPF. Movement of data to be examined and considered every year.

Trend data source
Justice Social Work Statistics – local authority additional tables
Download: court and bail – part 1

The source of this data is Justice Social Work statistics, this indicator is on bail supervision only. Bail supervision is a social work or third sector service that supports people to comply with the conditions of their bail.

This data is limited to information that is provided and collected from justice social work management systems. Justice social work services undertake assessments of suitability for bail (including bail supervision and/or an electronic monitoring order) and provide reports to the court. They provide bail supervision services (either directly or via a commissioned third sector organisation) based on local needs and priorities. Bail supervision commences when the court imposes a bail supervision condition. Bail supervision case completion is when the period of bail supervision ends and when an individual has met all the terms of their bail supervision.

Assessment reports for bail suitability and bail supervision cases completed have been collected for the first time in 2022-23. Local authorities were only advised during year 2022-23 of the change to the collection for that year. It would therefore be expected, as any collection of new information needs time to standardise, that the quality of the new statistics will not be as good as data which has been collected over a longer period of time. As a result, the statistics for bail supervision are classified as “official statistics in development”. Apart from bail supervision cases commenced which has been collected for over a decade.

The information for assessment reports for bail suitability and bail supervision cases completed has been supplied for information purposes only. It is advised against making 2022-23 the base year. Local authorities have identified changes needed to guidance to improve consistency in the collection for 2023-24.

Frequency of trend source publication
Annually – reported on financial year

Original source of data
Local Authority – Justice Social Work

Geography
National, Local Authority Level

Data required for annual report
Number of:

- bail supervision cases commenced

Historical trend data will be supplied in spring of every reporting year e.g. data up to 2022-23 supplied spring 2024.

Data for the reporting year will be supplied in June to September each year e.g. data for 2023-24 supplied between June and September 2024.
Number of:

- assessment reports for bail suitability
- bail supervision cases completed

Data was requested for the first time in 2022-23. These will be marked as official statistics in development. There will be no trend data available before 2022-23.

Data for the reporting year will be supplied in June to September each year e.g. data for 2023-24 supplied between June and September 2024.

Data notes to be included by CJPs in annual reporting
Source:
Data from <Year> to <Year> : Scottish Government – National Statistics- Justice Social Work Statistics

Additional evidence base
More information on bail supervision in link provided in trend data source: Justice Social Work Statistics – local authority additional tables

More information on bail is available in Scottish Courts: Official Statistics supplied by Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service.

Nationally determined outcome: More people access services to support desistence and successfully complete community sentences

National indicator
Percentage of:
- community payback orders successfully completed
- drug treatment and testing orders successfully completed

Desired indicator direction
Increase from the base year to the year of the next revision of the CJPF. Movement of data to be examined and considered every year.

Trend data source
Justice Social Work Statistics – local authority additional tables

Download:
- community payback orders – part 2
- drug treatment and testing orders – part 2

The source of this data is justice social work. The percentage of successfully completed orders in trend data is calculated as:

[(Number of orders completed successfully **plus** those subject to early discharge in the financial year)] **DIVIDED BY** [(Number of orders terminated in financial year) **minus** (Number of orders terminated in the financial year due to being transferred to another area)]

This trend data allows for revisions, in general they are small changes. Use the most current trend data supplied when reporting.

Frequency of trend source publication
Annually

Original source of data
Local Authority – Justice Social Work

Geography
National, Local Authority Level

Data required for annual report
Historical trend data will be supplied in spring of every reporting year e.g. data up to 2022-23 supplied spring 2024.

Data for the reporting year is required to be sourced from local authority MI systems by CJPs.

Data notes to be included by CJPs in annual reporting
Source:
Data from <Year> to <Year> : Scottish Government – National Statistics- Justice Social Work Statistics

Data from <Reporting year>: Local Authority: Justice Social Work

Additional evidence base

More information on community payback orders and drug treatment and testing orders in link provided in trend data source:

Justice Social Work Statistics – local authority additional tables

Community Payback Orders – unpaid work and other activity requirement

Scottish Courts: Official Statistics

Nationally determined outcome: More people have access to, and continuity of, health and social care following release from a prison sentence

National indicator

Number of transfers in drug/alcohol treatments from:

- custody to community

Desired indicator direction

Increase from the base year to the year of the next revision of the CJPF. Movement of data to be examined and considered every year

Trend data source

Public Health Scotland: National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times Annual data tables

This indicator is sourced from Public Health's Scotland Drug and Alcohol Information System (DAISy) dataset. It describes the number of custody to community continuation of care transfers for specialist drug, alcohol or co-dependency (both alcohol and drug) treatment in Scotland in each financial year. A continuation of care transfer occurs when a person is transferred between services that provide the same specialist care, allowing treatment to continue without delay.

The continuation of care process affects how waiting times are recorded when people who are already in treatment move from one service provider to another i.e., from prison to community. In DAISy, if there is no break or change in the patient's treatment, no waiting time needs to be recorded at the receiving service.

These data describe the number of referrals in the financial year that are transferred between different service providers without incurring a delay in treatment. As multiple referrals may be necessary to transfer all elements of specialist treatment, these figures should not be interpreted as indicative of the number of individuals subject to continuation of care transfers. NHS Board / ADP figures are based on the service receiving the continuation of care transfer. Please note, Clackmannanshire and Stirling are reported as two separate ADPs at the ADP's request.

These data are estimated to be of high quality - quarterly returns are signed off by Alcohol and Drug Partnership co-ordinators and data are subject to rigorous quality assurance checks.
The Scottish Government is working with relevant community justice partners to develop an indicator that shows the continuity of drug and alcohol treatments from a prison setting to a community setting. This indicator will be sourced from Public Health's Scotland Drug and Alcohol Information System (DAISy) dataset.

Frequency of trend source publication

Published quarterly as part of National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times but data at NHS Board and Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs) level in the annual tables only. Reported on financial year, can be split into three more categories: Drugs only, Alcohol only and Co-dependency (both alcohol and drug). For 2022-23, table 1.3.

Original source of data
Public Health Scotland - Drug and Alcohol Information System (DAISy)

Geography
National, Health Boards and Alcohol and Drug Partnerships

Data required for annual report
Historical trend data will be supplied in spring of every reporting year e.g. data up to 2022-23 supplied spring 2024

Data will be requested for the reporting year and will be supplied between June and September each year e.g. data for 2023-24 supplied between June and September 2024.

Data notes to be included by CJPs in annual reporting
Source:
Data from <Year> to <Year>: Public Health Scotland: National drug and alcohol treatment waiting times

Additional evidence base
Scottish Prison Service: Prisoner Survey 2019 – prevalence of prisoners with heath issues

For information on National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times: Public Health Scotland: Prison Health Information Dashboard

For information Scottish Prison population: Scottish Prison Population Statistics - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

Nationally determined outcome: More people have access to suitable accommodation following release from a prison sentence

National indicator
Number of:

- homelessness applications where prison was the property the main applicant became homeless from

Desired indicator direction
Decrease from the base year to the year of the next revision of the CJPF. Movement of data to be examined and considered every year.

Trend data source
Scottish Government: Homelessness in Scotland: prison homelessness

The Scottish Government publishes bespoke secondary analysis for 'prison service homelessness' in the form of data tables, following the release of annual Homelessness statistics publications. This includes data for homelessness applications, by local authority, where the main applicant reports prison as the property type they have been made homeless/threatened with homelessness.

Prison should be recorded where an applicant has given up or lost accommodation for a stay in prison, irrespective of the length of time in prison.

Where the applicant has been staying in accommodation on a temporary basis prior to making a homelessness application, including staying with friends or relatives, for a period of less than six months because he or she had already become homeless prior to the application being made, the property type from which the person became homeless should be recorded, not the temporary accommodation.

This data does not capture individuals who have been released from prison to known accommodation for over 6 months as this 'known' accommodation would be recorded as the property type, and not prison.

This trend data allows for revisions, in general the changes are small. The most current trend data published should be used for reporting.

Frequency of trend source publication
Annually – reported on financial year

Original source of data
Local Authority – Homelessness

Geography
National, Local Authority Level

Data required for annual report
Historical trend data will be supplied in spring of every reporting year e.g. data up to 2022-23 supplied spring 2024.

Data will be requested for the reporting year and will be supplied between June and September each year e.g. data for 2023-24 supplied between June and September 2024.

Data notes to be included by CJPs in annual reporting

Source:
Data from <Year> to <Year> : Scottish Government – Prison Service Homelessness
Data is rounded to the nearest five.

Additional evidence base

Additional information on characteristics of homelessness requests or people leaving prison: Homelessness in Scotland: prison homelessness

Numbers and characteristics of people leaving prison:
Scottish Prison Population Statistics

Scottish Prison Service – prevalence of prisoners with housing issues: Prisoner Survey 2019

Nationally determined outcome: More people with convictions access support to enhance their readiness for employment

National indicator
Percentage of:
- those in employability services with convictions

Desired indicator direction
Increase from the base year to the year of the next revision of the CJPF. Movement of data to be examined and considered every year.

Trend data source
Scottish Government: Scotland's Devolved Employment Services statistics

No One Left Behind is a strategy for placing people at the centre of the design and delivery of employability services. This is funded by Scottish Government and administered by local authorities.

The statistics are currently official statistics in development. Work is ongoing with data suppliers to improve the quality of returns and an enhanced process of data quality checks have been implemented. These statistics will be assessed for official statistics status in the near future.

Data is provided is on individuals that have a criminal conviction which is not 'spent', is exempt from becoming 'spent' or remains a barrier to progressing within the labour market e.g. gaps in C.V. This is self-reported and can be updated throughout the person's time receiving support.

The percentage was calculated as number of persons with criminal conviction divided by total number of participants in the financial year.

The data allows for revisions, in general the changes are small. The most current trend data published should be used for reporting.

Frequency of trend source publication
Annually – local authority data reported in the statistical summary normally published between July and September.

Original source of data
Local Authorities

Geography
National, Local Authority level

Data required for annual report
Data will be requested for the reporting year and will be supplied between June and September each year e.g. data for 2023-24 supplied between June and September 2024.

Data notes to be included by CJPs in annual reporting

Source:
Data from <Year> to <Year>: Scottish Government: Scotland's Devolved Employment Services statistics

Additional evidence base

Quarterly data is published (Scotland's Devolved Employment Services statistics) with national level information on criminal convictions.

Nationally determined outcome: More people access voluntary throughcare following a short term prison sentence

National indicator
Number of:
- voluntary throughcare cases commenced

Desired indicator direction
Increase from the base year to the year of the next revision of the CJPF. Movement of data to be examined and considered every year.

Trend data source
Justice Social Work Statistics – local authority additional tables
Download: Throughcare – part 1

The source of this data is Justice Social Work statistics, and this indicator is on voluntary throughcare. Voluntary throughcare is available to those who are not subject to statutory throughcare, but who request support from local authorities while in custody or within 12 months of release.

This data is limited to information that is provided and collected from justice social work management systems. There has been a change to the guidance for the 2024-25 data collection. Due to new counting practices, there may be larger differences in commencement figures between 2023-24 and 2024-25 for some local authorities. It would be important to annotate these changes when the trend is being reported, please see publication notes on this.

There are other voluntary throughcare services that provide support in prison and after leaving prisons run by third sectors organisations. The Scottish Government wants to work with the Scottish Government funded third sector organisations in the future to increase the scope of this indicator. It is hoped that this information may become available from late 2026 onwards.

Frequency of trend source publication
Annually

Original source of data
Local Authority – Justice Social Work

Geography
National, Local Authority Level

Data required for annual report
Historical trend data will be supplied in spring of every reporting year e.g. data up to 2022-23 supplied spring 2024.

Data will be requested for the reporting year and will be supplied between June and September each year e.g. data for 2023-24 supplied between June and September 2024.

Data notes to be included by CJPs in annual reporting

Source:
Data from <Year> to <Year> : Scottish Government – National Statistics- Justice Social Work Statistics

Additional evidence base

More information on voluntary throughcare in link provided in trend data source:
Justice Social Work Statistics – local authority additional tables

Annual reports on third sector organisation voluntary throughcare services by the following, these provide national information on referrals:
New Routes
Shine

Nationally determined outcome: More people across the workforce and in the community understand, and have confidence in, community justice

National indicator
Percentage of people who agree that:

- people should help their community as part of a community sentence rather than spend a few months in prison for a minor offence

Desired indicator direction
Increase from the base year to the year of the next revision of the CJPF. Movement of data to be examined and considered every year.

Trend data source
Scottish Government: National Statistics
Scottish Crime and Justice Survey
Module B – Sentencing

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) is a large-scale social survey which asks people about their experiences and perceptions of crime in Scotland. The sample is designed to be nationally representative of all private residential households in Scotland.

The SCJS also gathers information on attitudes towards prisons and community sentences to understand what the public thinks about the process of sentencing and rehabilitation. It is important to note that questions on attitudes towards community sentences within the SCJS are asked without reference to specific crime circumstances or individuals backgrounds, which may influence opinions about what constitutes a suitable sentence or approach.

The SCJS gathers information from a sample rather than from the whole population and, although the sample is designed carefully, survey results are always estimates, not precise figures. This means that the results are subject to a margin or error which can have an impact on whether we can say whether any change between two years (or specific categories in a single year) represent a real change. If there is no significant found, we can be 95% confidence there is no different in the percentages reported between the two surveys. (More technical information can be found in Annex E of the most recent population)

Frequency of trend source publication
Scottish Crime and Justice Survey – annual (apart from suspension due to Covid after March 2020, resuming November 2021)

Original source of data
Scottish Crime and Justice Survey

Geography
National

Data required for annual report

Previous trend data will be supplied in spring of every reporting year e.g. data up to 2019-20 supplied in spring 2023.

There will be a time lag with this information as it is from a large survey, but it gives a very important national picture of the public confidence in this area.

Data notes to be included by CJPs in annual reporting

Source:
Data from <Year> to <Year> : Scottish Government – Scottish Crime and Justice Survey

Additional evidence base

More information on community sentencing in link provided in trend data source:
Scottish Crime and Justice Survey