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Research Note 4

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Suspended sentences: The case for abolition

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Research from the Centre for Crime Prevention reveals an astonishing number of serious and repeat offenders' prison sentences are being suspended by the courts.

Suspended sentences are now handed out for tens of thousands of violent, property and sexual offences each year, ranging from spitting at people to manslaughter. They include throwing fireworks into a crowd, theft, molesting children, assault, taking a bomb into a hotel, running a brothel, benefit fraud, burglary, faking one's death, strangling a cat and sex with a dog. One judge claims they are being used "A bit like confetti".

11,670 serious offenders had their prison sentence suspended in 2012/13 despite **more than 10** previous convictions or cautions. **9,052** serious offenders had their prison sentence suspended in 2012/13 despite **15 or more** previous conviction or cautions.

They are also failing to stop reoffending. Data from Freedom of Information requests reveals there were **110,745** cases of criminals sentenced last year despite one or more previous suspended sentences. There were **215** examples of criminals being found guilty despite **10 or more** suspended sentences.

Almost one in three (**31%**) prison sentences were suspended in 2012 – up from **2%** a decade ago.

Victoria, Australia is currently in the process of abolishing failing suspended sentences. In light of similar failings here, England and Wales should do the same.

The key findings of the report are:

- There were **11,670** cases of serious offenders having their prison sentence suspended in 2012/13 despite **more than 10** previous convictions or cautions.
- There were **9,052** cases of serious offenders having their prison sentence suspended in 2012/13 despite **15 or more** previous conviction or cautions.
- In 2002, **2,519** prison sentences (**2%** of all prison sentences) were suspended. This rose to **44,644** (**31%** of all prison sentences) by 2012.
 - For violence against the person, the figure rose **14-fold** from **504** in 2002 to **7,288** in 2012 (**35%** of all prison sentences for these violent offenders)

- For sex offenders the figure rose **8-fold** from **58** to **488** (**1 in 8** of all prison sentences for sex offenders)
- For burglars and other serious property offenders the figure rose **18-fold** from **778** to **14,060**.
- Almost half (**45%**) of prison sentences for fraud were fully suspended.
- **110,745 (22%)** of the **510,065** sentences passed by courts in 2012/13 were to criminals who had previously had at least one prison sentence suspended. (There were **66,443** individual offenders in this category, some of which were sentenced more than once in this year.)
 - **48,108** were given to those with 2 or more previous suspended sentences;
 - **22,776** were given to those with 3 or more;
 - **5,678** were given to those with 5 or more;
 - **215** were given to those with 10 or more; and
 - **17** were given to those with 15 or more
- **34,733 (35%)** of the 100,335 prison sentences handed down in 2012/13 were given to criminals who had previously had at least one prison sentence suspended.
 - **16,906** prison sentences were given to those who had previously been given 2 or more suspended sentences (**10,865** individual offenders);
 - **8,444** to those previously given 3 or more;
 - **2,303** to those previously given 5 or more;
 - **650** to those previously given 7 or more; and
 - **96** to those previously given 10 or more
- Those given suspended sentences between 2007 and 2011 have already reoffended **202,845** times.
- Hertfordshire saw an **82-fold** increase in the number of criminals whose prison sentence were suspended – from **10** (1 in 2,102) to **821** (1 in 28). The areas with the greatest increases were:

	No. in 2002	1 in ...	No. in 2012	1 in ...	Increase (-fold)	% of prison sentences suspended (2002)	% of prison sentences suspended (2012)
1 Hertfordshire	10	2,102	821	28	82	1%	36%
2 Bedfordshire	10	1,301	346	43	35	1%	26%
3 Cambridgeshire	20	457	678	22	34	2%	34%
4 Merseyside	41	1,081	1,338	28	33	1%	32%
5 Cumbria	13	877	409	28	31	1%	31%
6 Northamptonshire	16	653	487	25	30	1%	25%
7 Lancashire	57	846	1,693	24	30	2%	36%
8 Thames Valley	43	1,074	1,239	31	29	2%	30%
9 Essex	42	1,137	1,134	26	27	1%	33%
10 Cheshire	26	1,095	692	28	27	1%	28%

- More than **four in ten** prison sentences (**42%**) in Northumbria are suspended, up from **3%** in 2002. The areas with the highest share of criminals sentenced to prison who have their sentences suspended are:

	2002	1 in ...	2012	1 in ...	Increase (-fold)	% of prison sentences suspended (2002)	% of prison sentences suspended (2012)
1 Northumbria	89	560	1,391	35	16	3%	42%
2 Cleveland	46	446	730	23	16	3%	37%
3 Durham	28	502	568	22	20	2%	37%
4 Hertfordshire	10	,102	821	28	82	1%	36%
5 Lancashire	57	846	1,693	24	30	2%	36%
6 Devon and Cornwall	56	642	980	24	18	3%	36%
7 Leicestershire	50	598	835	23	17	2%	36%
8 Kent	132	258	1,340	24	10	4%	35%
9 Suffolk	25	637	464	32	19	3%	34%
10 Cambridgeshire	20	457	678	22	34	2%	34%

- Derbyshire is the area where the greatest share of *all criminals* receive a suspended sentence (**1 in 17**, up from **1 in 653** a decade earlier). The others are:

	2002	1 in ...	2012	1 in ...	Increase (-fold)	% of prison sentences suspended (2002)	% of prison sentences suspended (2012)
1 Derbyshire	41	653	980	17	24	2%	34%
2 West Midlands	129	688	2,996	20	23	1%	31%
3 Durham	28	502	568	22	20	2%	37%
4 Nottinghamshire	123	236	1,168	22	9	4%	33%
5 Cambridgeshire	20	457	678	22	34	2%	34%
6 Leicestershire	50	598	835	23	17	2%	36%
7 Cleveland	46	446	730	23	16	3%	37%
8 Devon and Cornwall	56	642	980	24	18	3%	36%
9 Greater Manchester	119	821	3,010	24	25	2%	32%
10 Lancashire	57	846	1,693	24	30	2%	36%

See the Appendix for a full region by region breakdown.

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Suspended sentences

In November, 40 year old Andrew Young from Dorset pointed out to a young man that cycling on the pavement was dangerous. The thug was so angered by the slight that he killed Young with a single punch. The CCTV footage which shocked the country, and the post-mortem, gave no indication that the multi-lingual victim had taken any action to defend himself. He'd simply chosen the wrong person to reprimand mildly.¹

Young, whose attacker was sentenced in February, is the most high-profile recent victim of a phenomenal increase in suspended sentences. His killer had already been convicted of both robbery and handling stolen goods. But he had then walked out of court a free man, his prison sentence fully suspended. He was in the right place at the right time to kill Andrew Young.

A suspended sentence means the criminal has avoided prison. Among so many other problems, this leads to real public confusion. The author has spoken to victims who have told others about the suspended sentences their attackers received and a common response was that those they told clearly thought the criminal was therefore in prison. In fact, the criminal walks free, the sentence never served as long as the criminal is not caught reoffending, or caught in breach of basic requirements.

Even a breach of these requirements, which the Sentencing Council recommends should be "less onerous than those imposed as part of a community sentence",² is far from a guarantee of a prison sentence.

If they are breached, a "reasonable excuse" means no further action.³ If the criminal has no reasonable excuse, a mere warning from the responsible officer will again end the matter.⁴ If the responsible officer takes the matter further with breach proceedings, the court is free after considering the facts of the new offence or breach simply to extend the operational period of the suspended sentence.⁵ The court may also refuse to activate the sentence because the new offence is non-imprisonable,⁶ is imprisonable but less serious⁷, because the reoffending criminal has otherwise been relatively compliant,⁸ or is near the end of the operational period of the suspended sentence.⁹

Even if the court decides, after rejecting all these options, to activate the suspended sentence, it is free to do so for a reduced prison term.¹⁰ Even then, an activated suspended sentence is always served consecutively with - rather than in addition to - the sentence imposed for the new offence.¹¹

It is therefore unsurprising that while a suspended sentence is a potential tragedy for victims of crime such as Andrew Young, it can be elating for the criminal. As a Slough magistrate puts it: "What sort of punishment is that? All he has to do is go home, sit in the window and watch the world go by."¹² "Yes!", the N-Dubz rapper Dappy shouted in delight in court as he received his suspended sentence for assault and affray.¹³

The criminal justice expert Brian Lawrence has strongly condemned suspended sentences:

"It is contradictory to say that an offence is so serious that only imprisonment can be justified, and then the next second go on to inform the defendant that despite that being so he is not going to prison."¹⁴

But he was writing in 1999, and he correctly noted that back then “suspended sentences are fairly rare”.¹⁵ In 2002, just over 2,500 prison sentences were suspended. Fewer than 150 prison sentences were suspended in Surrey, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Warwickshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Wiltshire, Northamptonshire and Cumbria combined.

Ministry of Justice figures reveal how courts have in a little over a decade gone from suspending prison sentences vanishingly rarely – just 2% of the time - to doing so for almost one prison sentence in three. By 2012, the annual figure was 44,644.¹⁶ The nine counties above saw not 150 prison sentences suspended, but 4,156.¹⁷ In Hertfordshire there was an 82-fold increase in suspended sentences, from 10 to 821. (See the table in the Appendix for a full breakdown by police force areas in England and Wales.)

As one District Judge has put it, suspended sentences are now used “A bit like confetti”.¹⁸

Suspended sentences for prolific offenders

This increase was driven overwhelmingly by the explosion of suspended sentences for repeat and prolific offenders. Table 1 below shows the number of suspended sentences given to those found guilty of more serious – indictable - offences.

Table 1: Number of previous convictions or cautions of those given a suspended sentence for indictable offences, 2002/02 – 2012/13¹⁹

	0	1+	3+	7+	11+	15+	Total
2002/03	604	1,522	1,162	772	528	346	2,126
2003/04	602	1,573	1,231	806	555	383	2,175
2004/05	694	2,315	1,874	1,296	919	660	3,009
2005/06	2,155	12,988	10,803	7,728	5,648	4,087	15,143
2006/07	3,868	23,199	18,952	13,217	9,515	6,878	27,067
2007/08	4,436	26,080	20,992	14,609	10,561	7,742	30,516
2008/09	4,618	26,294	20,943	14,695	10,714	7,971	30,912
2009/10	5,001	26,688	21,060	14,426	10,572	7,780	31,689
2010/11	5,046	25,789	20,210	13,728	10,011	7,520	30,835
2011/12	4,987	25,381	20,101	14,155	10,545	7,920	30,368
2012/13	4,962	26,694	21,407	15,325	11,670	9,052	31,656

With more than 9,000 criminals caught for at least 15 previous offences receiving a suspended sentence in 2012/13, there was a 26-fold increase in suspended sentences for the most prolific serious, repeat offenders. There was a 22-fold increase for criminals found guilty of at least 10 previous offences. In all, almost 32,000 serious offenders had their prison sentence suspended, compared to just over 2,000 a decade earlier.

By far the most likely explanation for this is the changes made in the Blair Government’s 2003 Criminal Justice Act. The Act abolished the requirement that courts suspend a prison sentence only when this could be “justified by the exceptional circumstances of the case”.²⁰ This requirement kept a lid on the overuse of suspended sentences. Its abolition has meant an explosion in numbers.

As important in explaining these numbers is the callous and misguided view that not sending serious, repeat offenders to prison is a worthy objective. A survey of judges and magistrates revealed that “By far the most commonly mentioned advantage of the SSO [Suspended

Sentence Order] was that it gave sentencers the opportunity to avoid sentencing an offender to imprisonment”.²¹

Suspended sentences for serious offenders

Just as dramatic is the range of offences now deemed trivial enough for a fully suspended prison sentence. Recent examples include:

- A London man who punched a 63 year old, causing a fatal brain haemorrhage²²
- A Lancashire teacher who molested an 11 year old girl²³
- A Dorset woman who stole more than £47,000 from a monkey sanctuary to fund her obsession with Sir Cliff Richard concerts and memorabilia²⁴
- A Lincolnshire man who recorded himself having sex with a Staffordshire bull terrier²⁵
- A Hertfordshire man whose bomb in a Peterborough hotel failed to detonate²⁶
- A Yorkshire driver who tried to kill someone in a road rage frenzy, using his camper van as a weapon²⁷
- A Boston burglar who forced a woman to strip to her underwear as he stole from her flat²⁸
- A County Durham hooligan who threw a firework into a crowd, burning and partially deafening the main victim²⁹
- A Warwickshire man who kept his father’s death a secret for five years so that he could claim his father’s pension³⁰
- A Derbyshire man who strangled a cat and threw the body in the bin³¹
- A Berkshire father who continued to use his home as a brothel after a previous soft sentence by the courts for the same offence³²
- The Emmerdale actor Luke Tittensor, who “brutally” attacked a 16 year old, fracturing his jaw as he stamped on the victim’s head³³
- The singer Pete Doherty, who admitted a string of drug and driving offences³⁴
- The former GMTV presenter Louise Port, found guilty of stealing £76,000 from the taxpayer in a housing benefit fraud³⁵
- The reality TV star Paddy Docherty, who head-butted someone at a funeral in North Wales³⁶
- The retired footballer Paul Gascoigne, caught drink-driving in Newcastle³⁷
- A Manchester woman whose dogs savaged a 14 year old girl to death³⁸
- An Essex paedophile found guilty of sexual activity with, and making indecent images of, a 13 year old girl – in a rare case this suspended sentence was later overturned³⁹
- A Suffolk woman who faked her own death to avoid prosecution for fraud⁴⁰
- The husband of a Yorkshire headmistress who abused dozens of children at his wife’s school for the deaf for more than thirty years (in addition to his suspended sentence he received a £1,500 fine)⁴¹

- A Devon man who smashed a kitten to the floor so badly it died of its injuries⁴²
- A brother and sister in Wales who verbally abused and spat on a bus driver⁴³
- A Hampshire paedophile caught with hundreds of child abuse images on his computer, including babies being raped and tortured – who in addition to his suspended sentence was permitted to go on working with children⁴⁴
- A Wigan thug who kicked a complete stranger in the head, seizing the moment of vulnerability as he tied his shoelaces⁴⁵
- A Lancashire man who punched someone outside a pub, went back inside, then returned later to head-butt him⁴⁶
- A Stockport dog-owner who watched his dog savage a man and then walked away, leaving the victim unable to work⁴⁷
- A Cumbria woman who imported more than £130,000 of illegal drugs⁴⁸
- A woman from Northern Ireland who stole more than £200,000 from victims who believed they were investing in properties in Spain⁴⁹
- A serial downloader of child pornography in Kent, already on the sex offenders' register for previous offences⁵⁰
- A Manchester man who filmed himself beating his dog with a pole 27 times⁵¹
- A Southampton drug dealer with 12 previous convictions for 17 offences including robbery⁵²

Table 2 below shows suspended sentences in 2002 and 2012 (the last full year for which these figures are available) broken down by category of offence.

Table 2: Categories of crimes receiving a suspended sentence⁵³

	No. of suspended sentences (2002)	No. of suspended sentences (2012)	Increase (-fold)	% of prison sentences suspended (2002)	% of prison sentences suspended (2012)
Fraud and forgery	330	3,250	10	8%	45%
Violence against the person	504	7,288	14	4%	35%
Drug offences	245	4,215	17	3%	32%
Theft and handling stolen goods	342	8,210	24	1%	26%
Criminal damage	30	348	12	2%	26%
Burglary	106	2,600	25	1%	19%
Sexual offences	58	488	8	2%	12%
Robbery	26	555	21	0%	10%
All offences	2,519	44,644	18	2%	31%

In 2002, 778 burglars and other serious property offenders had their prison sentences suspended. By 2012, the figure had grown 18-fold, to 14,060. Almost half (45%) of prison sentences for fraud are now fully suspended.

For violence against the person the figure rose 14-fold - from 504 in 2002 to 7,288 in 2012 (representing 35% of all prison sentences for these violent offenders).

For sex offenders the figure rose 8-fold from 58 to 488 (representing one in eight prison sentences for sex offenders).

For drug offences, the figure rose 17-fold, from 245 to 4,215.

Reoffending by criminals given suspended sentences

More than 30% of those given a suspended sentence reoffend within a year.⁵⁴ Even though prison sentences tend to be given to even more serious and prolific criminals, the reoffending rate for suspended sentences is either similar to or higher than all but the shortest of prison sentences.⁵⁵ Most importantly, prison alone protects the public for the duration of the sentence.

There were 202,845 reoffences by those given a suspended sentences in a five year period between 2007 to 2011.⁵⁶ The most recent annual figure of 34,486 reoffences was a 578% increase on the figure just six years earlier (of 5,088).⁵⁷

A Freedom of Information request from the Centre for Crime Prevention reveals that approaching 70,000 individuals were convicted of an offence in 2012/13 having previously served at least one suspended sentence.

Table 3 below shows the number of previous suspended sentences of those convicted of another offence from 2008/09 to 2012/13. Notably, this table counts each offender only once in each year even if they were convicted multiple times in that year. Counting the same offenders *each time* they were convicted meant 110,745 convictions in 2013 of those who previously served at least one suspended sentence, not 66,443.⁵⁸

Table 3: Number of individual offenders by the number of their previous suspended sentences received from the point of the latest conviction⁵⁹

	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	6+	7+	8+	9+	10+	11+	12+
2008/09	54,874	17,477	6,209	2,369	917	375	172	84	36	16	9	6
2009/10	59,855	19,821	7,326	2,865	1,170	489	208	91	40	17	10	6
2010/11	64,595	22,564	8,703	3,583	1,505	672	288	122	54	27	13	6
2011/12	66,709	24,229	9,798	4,267	1,868	844	394	179	78	41	21	9
2012/13	66,443	25,338	10,807	4,942	2,276	1,097	566	288	146	68	35	18

Table 4 below counts both the total number of convictions of offenders in 2012/13, and the number of individual offenders (the right column counts each offender only once, however many times they were convicted in this period).

Table 4: Number of previous suspended sentences of all those sentenced in 2012/13⁶⁰

	Number of offenders convicted of an offence, 12 months ending June 2013, by number of previous suspended sentences (an offender may appear more than once if sentenced on multiple occasions in the year)	Number of <i>individual</i> offenders convicted of an offence, 12 months ending June 2013, by number of previous suspended sentences (an offender will appear only once in the totals even if sentenced on multiple occasions in the same year - for their most recent offence)
0	399,320	308,398
1+	110,745	66,443
2+	48,108	25,338
3+	22,776	10,807
4+	11,320	4,942
5+	5,678	2,276
6+	2,975	1,097
7+	1,565	566
8+	831	288
9+	410	146
10+	215	68
11+	111	35
12+	62	18
13+	32	9
14+	20	7
15+	17	4
16+	10	2
17+	4	1
18+	3	1
19+	1	1

Almost 111,000 convictions were of those with at least one previous suspended sentence – compared to 399,320 who had served none. This means 22% of the 510,065 sentences passed by courts in 2012/13 were to criminals who had previously had at least one prison sentence suspended.

Over 48,000 convictions (25,000 individual offenders) were of those who had already served two or more suspended sentences. 22,776 convictions were of those who had already served three or more.

5,678 convictions were of those who had already served three or more suspended sentences, 215 convictions were of those who had already served 10 or more and 17 convictions were of those who had already served 15 or more.

Just as telling of the failure of suspended sentences to prevent reoffending is the number sent to prison who had previously served one or more suspended sentences. The middle column in Table 5 below counts the number of prison sentences in 2012/13 and the number of previous suspended sentences.

Table 5: Number of previous suspended sentences of those sentenced to prison in 2012/13⁶¹

Number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody, 12 months ending June 2013, by number of previous suspended sentences (an offender may appear more than once if sentenced on multiple occasions in the year)

Number of *individual* offenders sentenced to immediate custody, 12 months ending June 2013, by number of previous suspended sentences (an offender will appear only once in the totals even if sentenced on multiple occasions in the same year - for their most recent offence)

0	65,602	52,782
1+	34,733	24,167
2+	16,906	10,865
3+	8,444	5,152
4+	4,349	2,502
5+	2,303	1,244
6+	1,237	620
7+	650	325
8+	340	171
9+	177	88
10+	96	45
11+	53	24
12+	26	11
13+	14	5
14+	8	4
15+	8	4
16+	3	2
17+	1	1
18+	1	1

24,167 individual offenders (31%) who went to prison had previously served one or more suspended sentences – compared to 52,782 who had served none.

16,906 prison sentences were given to those who had previously served two or more suspended sentences (10,865 individual offenders).

8,444 prison sentences were given to those who had previously served 3 or more suspended sentences. 2,303 went to those previously given five or more, 650 to those previously given 7 or more and 96 to those previously given ten or more.

Recommendation

The figures above are a failure of public protection. The Blair Government's decision to remove the requirement that prison sentences be suspended only in exceptional circumstances had lead to an explosion in numbers. This means tens of thousands of killers, thugs, sex offenders and fraudsters avoiding prison and reoffending hundreds of thousands of times.

Victoria, Australia's second-most populous state, recently decided to abolish suspended sentences entirely by the end of 2014.⁶² In light of their failure here, England and Wales should do the same.

This is different from arguing that an extra 45,000 criminals should all face prison, although the figures above suggest most should. Suspended sentences have exploded partly because they are being used for offenders who would otherwise be in prison and partly because they are being used in place of other non-custodial sentences. But as Brian Lawrence states, either an offence is serious enough to merit prison - in which case the offender should go to prison – or is trivial enough to merit a lesser sentence – in which case imposing and then suspending a prison sentence is inappropriate.

As they explode in numbers, suspended sentences are failing to control crime and to protect the public. Once a curious anomaly in the criminal justice system, the injustice and misery they cause is growing to alarming levels. Suspended sentences should be abolished.

Appendix: Number of suspended sentences by police force area⁶³

	No. of suspended sentences (2002)	1 in ... crimes punished by a suspended sentence (2002)	No. of suspended sentences (2012)	1 in ... crimes punished by a suspended sentence (2012)	Increase (-fold)	% of prison sentences suspended (2002)	% of prison sentences suspended (2012)
Hertfordshire	10	2,102	821	28	82	1%	36%
Bedfordshire	10	1,301	346	43	35	1%	26%
Cambridgeshire	20	457	678	22	34	2%	34%
Merseyside	41	1,081	1,338	28	33	1%	32%
Cumbria	13	877	409	28	31	1%	31%
Northamptonshire	16	653	487	25	30	1%	25%
Lancashire	57	846	1,693	24	30	2%	36%
Thames Valley	43	1,074	1,239	31	29	2%	30%
Essex	42	1,137	1,134	26	27	1%	33%
Cheshire	26	1,095	692	28	27	1%	28%
Surrey	18	848	474	37	26	2%	30%
Greater Manchester	119	821	3,010	24	25	2%	32%
Derbyshire	41	653	980	17	24	2%	34%
West Midlands	129	688	2,996	20	23	1%	31%
Hampshire	63	717	1,322	25	21	2%	34%
Durham	28	502	568	22	20	2%	37%
West Mercia	34	780	688	30	20	2%	31%
Wiltshire	12	1,286	238	39	20	2%	31%
Avon and Somerset	64	605	1,189	25	19	3%	33%
Suffolk	25	637	464	32	19	3%	34%
London	404	502	7,223	30	18	2%	27%
Devon and Cornwall	56	642	980	24	18	3%	36%
West Yorkshire	89	658	1,498	33	17	1%	27%
North Yorkshire	27	512	454	31	17	3%	32%
Leicestershire	50	598	835	23	17	2%	36%
Norfolk	33	503	550	30	17	3%	32%
Cleveland	46	446	730	23	16	3%	37%
Humberside	59	411	934	26	16	3%	33%
Northumbria	89	560	1,391	35	16	3%	42%
North Wales	34	576	526	26	15	3%	27%
Warwickshire	17	636	239	50	14	3%	31%
Staffordshire	45	417	632	37	14	2%	26%
Dyfed-Powys	20	645	277	37	14	3%	33%
Gloucestershire	24	541	284	27	12	4%	30%
Gwent	38	535	447	35	12	3%	28%
Sussex	81	345	895	29	11	3%	32%
South Wales	144	282	1,562	27	11	4%	31%
Dorset	24	600	259	47	11	2%	26%
Kent	132	258	1,340	24	10	4%	35%
South Yorkshire	128	318	1,226	25	10	4%	31%
Lincolnshire	45	472	428	37	10	5%	34%
Nottinghamshire	123	236	1,168	22	9	4%	33%
England	2,283	581	41,832	27	18	2%	31%
Wales	236	396	2,812	29	12	4%	30%
England and Wales	2,519	564	44,644	28	18	2%	31%

Endnotes

- ¹ 'Man jailed for killing pedestrian with punch', Ben Quinn and agencies, The Guardian, 26 February 2014 at <http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/feb/26/bournemouth-man-jailed-kill-punch>
- ² New Sentences: Criminal Justice Act 2003, Sentencing Guidelines Council, December 2004, p.25, at http://sentencingcouncil.judiciary.gov.uk/docs/web_new_sentences_guideline1.pdf
- ³ Ibid, p.26, paragraph 2.2.15
- ⁴ Ibid
- ⁵ Ibid, paragraph 2.2.16
- ⁶ Ibid, paragraph 2.2.15
- ⁷ Ibid, paragraph 2.2.20
- ⁸ Ibid, paragraph 2.2.18
- ⁹ Ibid, paragraph 2.2.19
- ¹⁰ Ibid, paragraph 2.2.17 and paragraph 2.2.20
- ¹¹ Ibid, paragraph 2.2.21
- ¹² *They Call It Justice* (1999), Brian Lawrence, The Book Guild Ltd, Sussex, p.174
- ¹³ 'N-Blubz: Rapper Dappy breaks down in court as he is spared jail for petrol station brawl', Natalie Evans, Daily Mirror, 15 February 2013, at <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/dappy-trial-n-dubz-star-given-1711611>
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