

Justice Committee**Prisoners (Control of Release) (Scotland) Bill****Supplementary written submission from Dr Monica Barry, University of Strathclyde**

I have just received the first statistics on our sample of 9,626 cases across 3 case study areas in Scotland, of which 736 cases were post-release licences (including life, extended sentences, parole and non-parole, SROs, etc). The main offences of these post-release people were predominantly violence (41%), followed by sexual offences (19%), both categories being serious offences which would have no doubt attracted a prison sentence rather than a community disposal.

Breach of post-release licence conditions arose because of further offending in the majority of violent offender cases BUT because of non-compliance with the conditions in the majority of sex offender cases. This is an interesting finding (that violent offenders are perhaps more prone to reoffending than sexual offenders) but we will need to explore this more in our forthcoming analyses. Where breach occurred, the vast majority of post-release licensees were recalled, irrespective of whether the breach resulted from a further offence or non-compliance with the conditions. No surprises there, I suppose!

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