

Sentencing Council

Information related to the costs of sentencing

The Sentencing Council aims to help people have a better understanding of sentencing so that they might feel more confident that it is a fair and balanced process.¹

One aspect of how sentencing works relates to how much each type of sentence costs and how effective it is at reducing re-offending. While the Council must have regard to the cost of different sentences,² monitoring the costs of sentencing falls within the remit of the Ministry of Justice. Similarly, sentencing guidelines produced by the Sentencing Council are not influenced by the relative costs of different sentences – our remit is to ensure that the sentencing process enables judges to sentence fairly.

Information on the cost of different sentencing options is published by the National Offender Management Service, an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice. The figures published include the average cost of a prison place and of holding a prisoner per year and the annual cost of a prisoner undertaking a community order or a suspended sentence order.

Below are links, where available, to information published by the National Offender Management Service relating to the cost of various sentencing options.

Prison costs

Information on the average cost of a prison place/prisoner in [2013/14](#).

This information is broken down in tables by [prison function type and establishment](#).

[Supplementary tables](#) show this information broken down by male and female prisons, adult and youth prisons and both public sector and contracted prisons. A breakdown of expenditure and unit cost is also provided in these tables.

This information is due to be updated with 2014/15 figures at the end of October 2015.

Probation costs

Information on the average cost of i) a community order or suspended sentence order, ii) offender supervision on licence post-release and iii) a Pre-Sentence report in [2012/13](#).

These figures are broken down by probation trust in [these tables](#).

The publication of probation trust unit costs was suspended while the probation service restructured, but work is under way to develop unit costs for the National Probation Service (NPS) and NOMS will seek to publish this information once it is sufficiently robust. This will include the cost of activities that NPS choose to purchase from Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs), but not those activities which NOMS has contracted CRCs to deliver.

For further information on any of these figures please contact the Planning & Analysis Group, National Offender Management Service at statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk.

¹ s.129(2) Coroners and Justice Act 2009

² s.120(11)(e) Coroners and Justice Act 2009

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