

Online Statistics 2012/13

Full statistical analysis



SCOTTISH
CHILDREN'S REPORTER
ADMINISTRATION

Changing for children and young people



About this report

This report covers the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013. It presents our full statistical analysis on children and young people referred to the Reporter in the year 2012/13. As stated in the Annual Report, SCRA transitioned to its new Case Management System during 2012/13. One of the impacts of this has been a legacy with the recording of some historical data. For the purposes of this report, only data that has been wholly mapped across to the new system is included.

This will mean that 2012/13 figures slightly undercount the actual volumes of casework undertaken by SCRA during the year, but do not impact the overall trends.

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This statistical analysis is supported by our online statistical service which provides more indepth information about individual local authority areas. All the information is available on our website www.scra.gov.uk

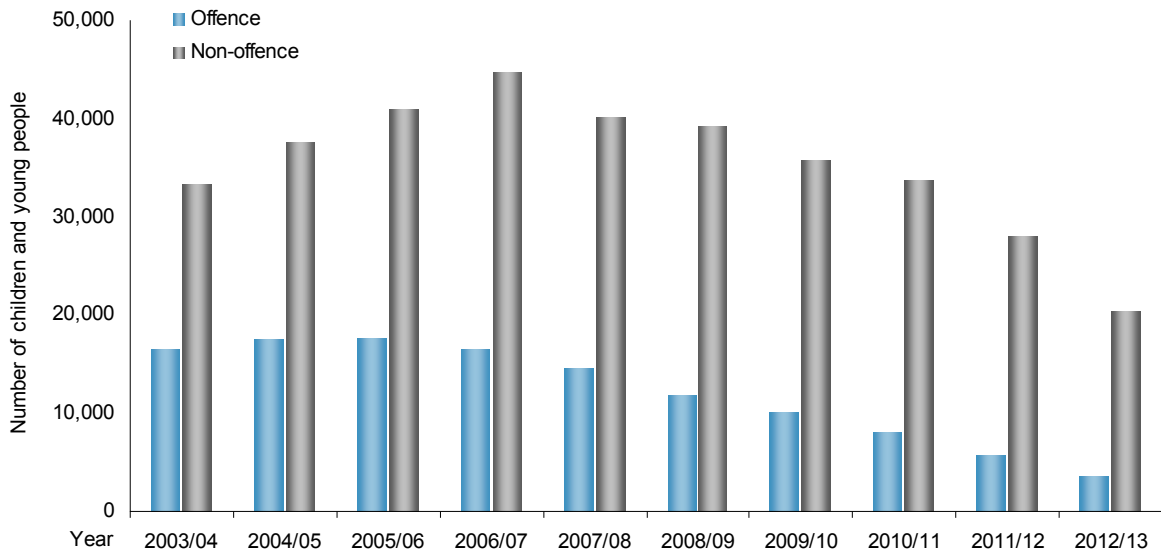
Children and young people referred to the Reporter

In 2012/13, 22,561 children and young people in Scotland were referred¹ to the Reporter:

- 20,308 on non-offence (care and protection) grounds.
- 3,636 on offence grounds².

The figure of 22,561 children and young people referred to the Reporter in 2012/13 represents 2.5% of all children and young people in Scotland³. Within this, 2.2% of all children and young people were referred on care and protection grounds and 0.8% of all children and young people aged between eight⁴ and 16 years were referred on offence grounds.

Figure 1. Children and young people referred 2003/04 to 2012/13



The number of children and young people referred to the Reporter has decreased for the sixth consecutive year and is at its lowest level since 1989. The 28.6% decrease from 2011/12 levels was due to reductions in the numbers of both children and young people referred on care and protection grounds (down 27.5%) and children and young people referred on offence grounds (down 35.1%).

The last few years have seen excellent co-operation and partnership working to ensure that children and young people who do not require compulsory measures of supervision receive earlier and effective intervention from our partners elsewhere in the children's services arena. The impact of this is undoubtedly highlighted through the numbers of children and young people referred.

Comparing referrals from 2003/04 to the current year with information about whether the child or young person was subject to a Supervision Requirement at the point of referral (see page 17 for more information about Supervision Requirements) provides further detail to the changing profile of referrals and the effect of the partnership working outlined above.

¹ Reporters decide the category and the grounds of referral at the time of receipt based on information contained within the referral.

² These figures include 1,383 children and young people who were referred on both types of grounds (care and protection and offence).

³ % of population aged under 16 years, based on mid-year estimates for 2012 from the General Register Office for Scotland.

⁴ Eight years is the age of criminal responsibility in Scotland. Children under eight years cannot be referred for offending.

Table 1. Children and young people referred in 2012/13 compared to 2003/04

		Number of children and young people	Change from 2003/04
All grounds	Subject to a Supervision Requirement at receipt	3,676	-23%
	Not subject to a Supervision Requirement at receipt	19,285	-54%
	Total	22,561	-51%
Non-offence*	Subject to a Supervision Requirement at receipt	2,798	-9%
	Not subject to a Supervision Requirement at receipt	17,779	-42%
	Total	20,308	-39%
Offence* (8 years and over) ⁵	Subject to a Supervision Requirement at receipt	1,574	-42%
	Not subject to a Supervision Requirement at receipt	2,206	-84%
	Total	3,636	-78%

* Some children and young people may be referred on more than one category during the year (offence or non-offence grounds and on supervision, not on supervision). The totals count each child or young person once.

Within the 22,561 children and young people referred to the Reporter in 2012/13, there are certain types of referrals that indicate greater concern about the child or young person's safety or behaviour. These include Child Protection Orders (CPOs) and Joint Reports to the Reporter and Procurator Fiscal.

Child Protection Orders

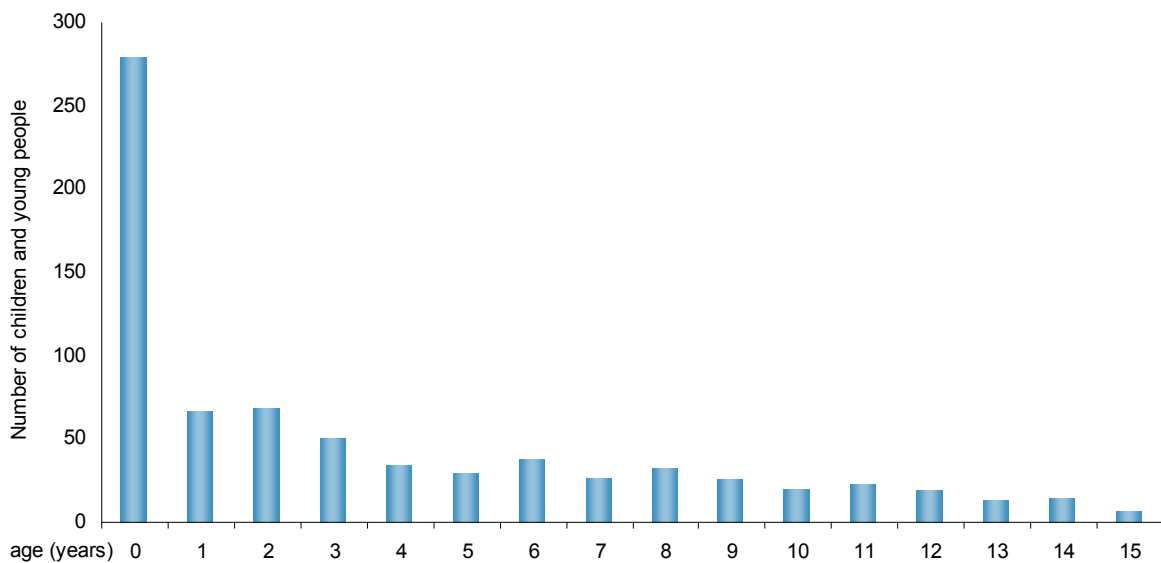
A Sheriff may grant a CPO to address emergency and/or high risk situations where measures need to be put in place immediately to protect a child or young person. The granting of a CPO requires the child or young person to be removed to (or kept in) a place of safety away from home. For this measure to be considered, a child or young person must be at risk of significant harm.

Table 2. Child Protection Orders

	Number of children and young people			
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Children and young people with CPOs	665	678	781	743

Proportionately, more CPOs are granted for very young children (especially newborn babies), than any other age, reflecting their high risk and vulnerability and requirement for immediate protection.

Figure 2. Children and young people with Child Protection Orders received in 2012/13



⁵ Eight years is the age of criminal responsibility in Scotland. Children and young people under eight years cannot be referred for offending.

Of the 743 children and young people with CPO referrals to Children’s Hearings in 2012/13, 160 (21.5%) were aged under 20 days at the date of receipt and 344 (46.3%) were aged under two years.

Joint reports to the Reporter and Procurator Fiscal

Where a child or young person is alleged to have committed an offence described in the Lord Advocate’s Guidelines (*To Chief Constables: Reporting to Procurator Fiscals of Offences Alleged to have been Committed by Children*), the police will make a joint report to the Procurator Fiscal and the Reporter. Following discussion with the Reporter, the Procurator Fiscal will decide whether to prosecute or refer the case to the Reporter.

Table 3. Joint reports to the Reporter and Procurator Fiscal

	Number of children and young people			
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Joint reports to the Reporter and Procurator Fiscal	2,009	1,695	1,335	1,210

In 2012/13, 1,210 children and young people were jointly reported on 2,324 referrals. The number of children and young people jointly reported has decreased for the last eight years.

Gender of children and young people referred

The number of girls referred to the Reporter fell by 28.8% (from 14,222 to 10,121) while the number of boys referred fell by 28.6% (from 16,822 to 12,005). There was an almost equal number of boys and girls referred on care and protection grounds, whereas boys continued to make up the majority (74%) of children and young people referred on offence grounds.

Table 4. Gender of children and young people referred in 2012/13

		Number of children and young people	%	Change from 2011/12
All grounds	Girls	10,121	45%	-28.8%
	Boys	12,005	53%	-28.6%
	Total	22,561⁶		-28.6%
Non-offence*	Girls	9,676	48%	-28.5%
	Boys	10,210	50%	-27.0%
	Total	20,308		-27.5%
Offence* (8 years and over) ⁷	Girls	911	25%	-34.6%
	Boys	2,707	74%	-34.9%
	Total	3,636		-35.1%

* Some children and young people were referred on both offence and non-offence grounds.

Gender and age of children and young people referred

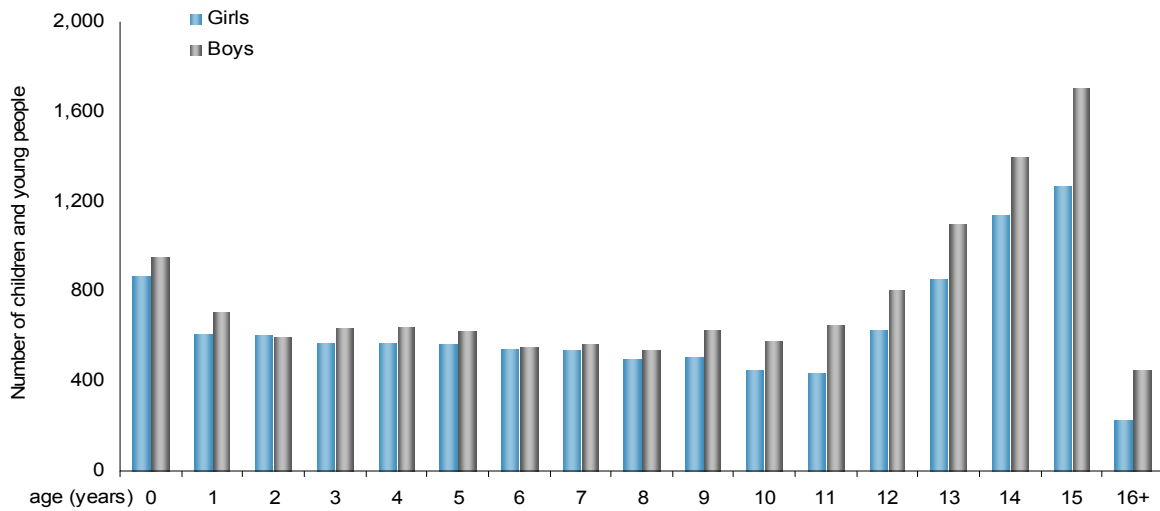
The most common ages for children and young people to be referred to the Reporter continue to be 14 and 15 years. This applies to both boys and girls.

⁶ The total of 22,561 children and young people includes 435 whose gender was not recorded - this is broken down to 422 in the non-offence category and 18 in the offence category (five children and young people whose gender were not recorded were referred on both non-offence and offence grounds in the year).

⁷ Eight years is the age of criminal responsibility in Scotland. Children and young people under eight years cannot be referred for offending.

Young people aged 16 and 17 years can be referred to the Reporter if they are still subject to Supervision Requirements or are remitted by a court. This only applies to a small number of young people, thereby accounting for the drop in referrals seen between the ages of 15 and 16+ years⁸.

Figure 3. Age of children and young people referred by gender in 2012/13

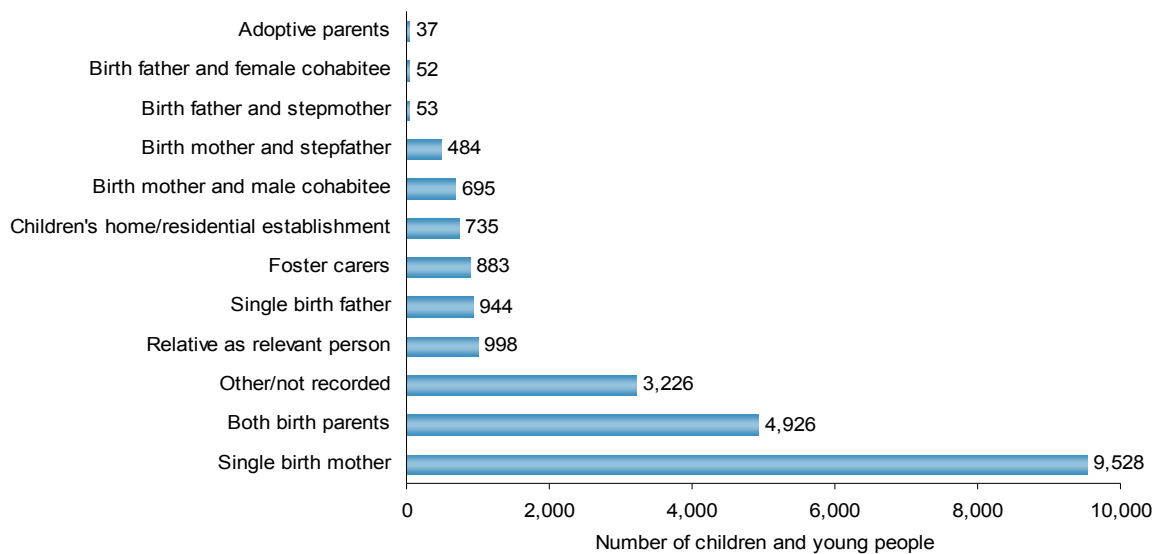


Recent years have seen proportional increases in the number of very young children being referred to the Reporter. For the majority of children who were aged under two years, the referral was on grounds of being victims of offences or lack of parental care. 14.0% of all children and young people referred in 2012/13 were aged under two years.

Living arrangements of children and young people referred

As with previous years, the most common living arrangement of children and young people referred to the Reporter in 2012/13 was with a single birth mother. Again, similarly to previous years, almost half (46.4%) of the children and young people referred lived in a single parent household either with their mother or father. The second most common living arrangement was with both birth parents (21.8% of children and young people referred).

Figure 4. Living arrangements of children and young people referred 2012/13



⁸ Young people aged 16 and 17 years are combined to provide an age group of 16+ years in this report.

Referrals received

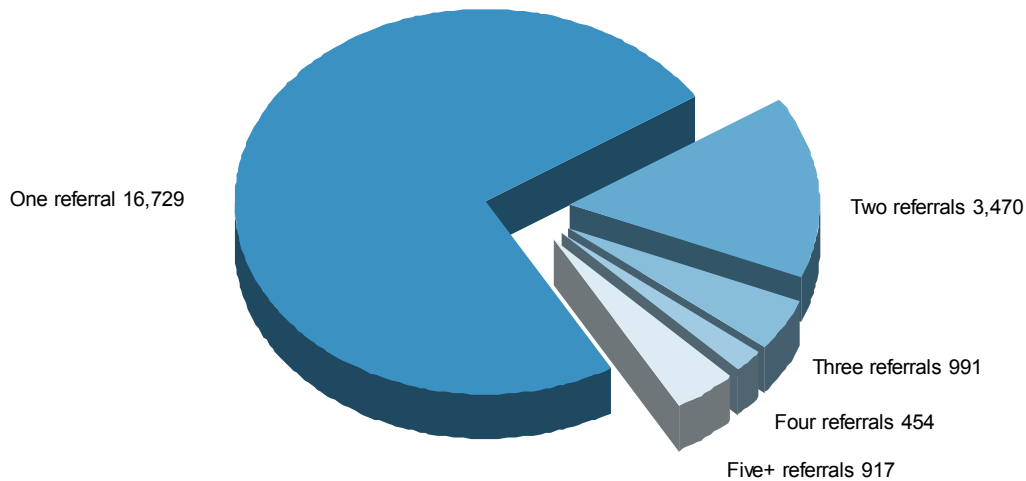
In 2012/13, 36,298 referrals were received by the Reporter, this was a 30.9% decrease from 2011/12 levels. Care and protection referrals decreased by 30.8% to 27,503 while offence referrals decreased by 31.2% to 8,824.

Table 5. Numbers of offence and non-offence referrals

Type of referral	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Offence	22,585	17,667	12,831	8,824
Non-offence	51,276	48,206	39,737	27,503
Total referrals ⁹	73,783	65,824	52,527	36,298

Most children and young people (74.2%) were referred only once in the year, with 4.1% referred five or more times.

Figure 5. Referrals per child or young person 2012/13



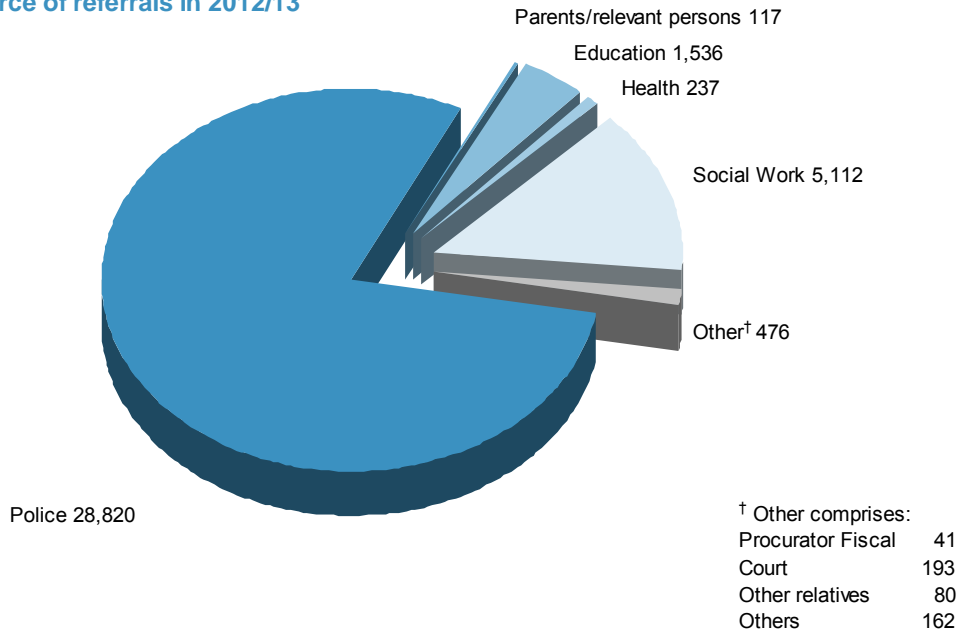
76.2% of girls had a single care and protection referral in the year compared to 72.0% of boys. For offence referrals, 58.2% of children and young people referred had a single referral in the year. Girls (61.1%) were more likely than boys (57.0%) to be referred on a single occasion in the year.

⁹ The totals are not the sum of referrals on offence and care and protection grounds as a single referral can contain both types of grounds.

Source of referrals

Referrals of children and young people to the Reporter come from five main sources - the police, social work, education, health and parents/relevant persons. The police are the main source of referrals, comprising 79.4% of all referrals to the Reporter in 2012/13 - 99.7% of all offence referrals and 72.9% of all care and protection referrals.

Figure 6. Source of referrals in 2012/13



Grounds on which children and young people were referred to the Reporter

The reasons (grounds) on which children and young people are referred to the Reporter are those set out in section 52(2) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, and are summarised in Table 6.

Table 6. Grounds of referral and number of children and young people referred

Grounds of referral		Number of children and young people			
		2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
(a)	Beyond control of any relevant person	3,920	3,305	2,980	2,530
(b)	Bad associations or moral danger	2,383	2,299	2,114	1,692
(c)	Lack of parental care	14,430	13,006	11,194	9,664
(d)	Victim of a Schedule 1 offence *	16,660	16,847	13,151	7,112
(e)	Member of the same household as a victim of a Schedule 1 offence	1,167	1,243	1,083	851
(f)	Member of the same household as a Schedule 1 offender	534	580	503	427
(g)	Member of the same household as an incest victim and perpetrator	14	9	<5	10
(h)	Not attending school	2,033	1,817	1,632	1,314
(i)	Allegedly committed an offence	10,012	8,126	5,604	3,608
(j)	Misused alcohol or drugs	1,114	744	520	463
(k)	Misused solvents	18	10	8	12
(l)	In the care of the local authority, and special measures are necessary	30	49	80	112
Other/none**					478
Total children and young people referred***		42,532	39,217	31,593	22,561

*Any of the offences mentioned in Schedule 1 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 (offences against children to which special provisions apply). For a breakdown of these offences see Table 7.

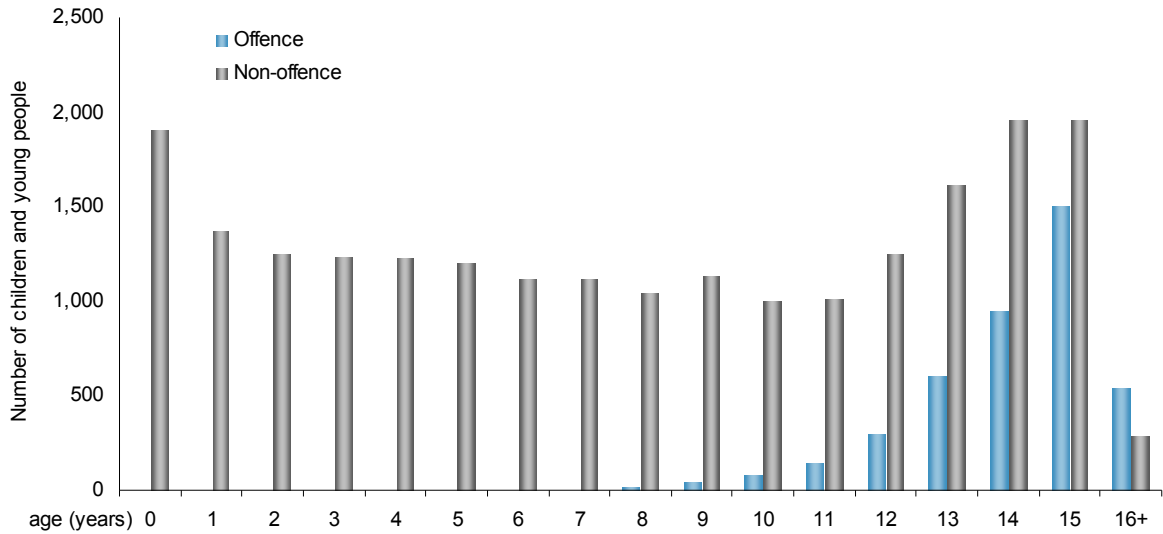
**Some children and young people have had referrals processed through the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011, while some other referrals have no grounds yet added. These are therefore recorded as other/none.

***A child or young person may be referred to the Reporter more than once in the year on the same and/or different grounds. These totals count every child or young person referred to the Reporter during the year once.

All of the main grounds of referral saw decreases when compared with 2011/12. "lack of parental care" was the most common ground of referral, replacing "victim of a Schedule 1 offence" which has been the most common ground of referral for each of the past six years. Since the peak number of children and young people referred in 2006/07 (56,199), the numbers of children and young people referred on (a), (h), (i) and (j) grounds have decreased year on year.

The age breakdown of children and young people referred on both offence and care and protection grounds is shown in Figure 7. The most common ages for children and young people to be referred to the Reporter on care and protection and offence grounds was 14 and 15 years.

Figure 7. Age of children and young people referred on offence* and non-offence grounds in 2012/13

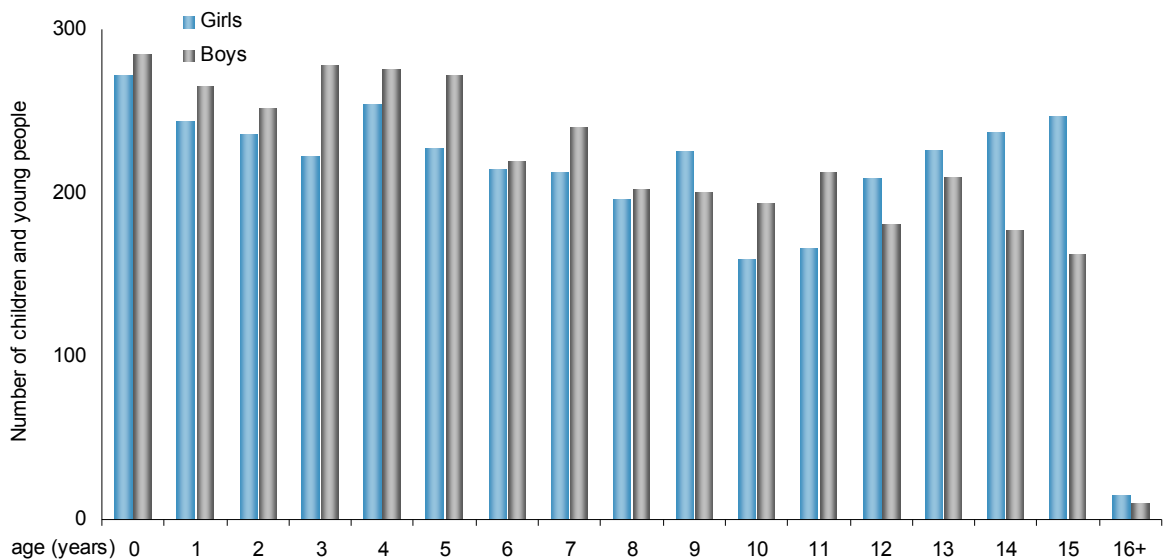


* Eight years is the age of criminal responsibility in Scotland. Children and young people under eight years cannot be referred to the Reporter for having committed an offence. Such behaviour in a child or young person aged under eight years may be referred under another ground (e.g. 'beyond control of any relevant person').

Children and young people referred as victims of Schedule 1 offences

Children and young people referred under section 52(2)(d) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 have been referred as victims of Schedule 1 offences. The number of children and young people referred on this ground decreased by 45.9% in the year. The referral rate remained relatively constant throughout the childhood years, but children aged under six were slightly more likely to be referred as victims of Schedule 1 offences.

Figure 8. Age of children and young people referred as victims of Schedule 1 offences by gender in 2012/13



The most common offences committed against children and young people within section 52(2)(d) are under section 12 of the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937. This section covers offences including ill-treatment, neglect, abandonment and exposure. 6,046 children and young people were referred to the Reporter for this reason in 2012/13 (Table 7).

Table 7. Children and young people referred under section 52(2)(d) (victim of a Schedule 1 offence) in 2012/13

Ground 'd' (victim of a Schedule 1 offence)	Number of children and young people		
	Girls	Boys	Total
Child victim - incest, sexual offences or homosexual offences	272	85	363 ¹⁰
Child victim of bodily injury	193	250	450 ¹¹
Child victim of lewd, indecent or libidinous practice or behaviour	7	<5	11
Child victim – other	204	240	448 ¹²
Child victim (ill treatment, abandonment, neglect and exposure) - section 12 1937 Act	2,870	3,034	6,046 ¹³
Total ¹⁴	3,441	3,513	7,112

Girls were significantly more likely than boys to be referred as a victim of incest, sexual offences or homosexual offences, in contrast, boys were more likely to be referred as victims of bodily injury.

Children and young people referred for lack of parental care

The number of children and young people referred because of lack of parental care decreased by 13.7% in the year. Children and young people of all ages were referred because of lack of parental care, but numbers generally decreased with age (Figure 9). Very young children were more likely to be referred on this ground, with more referred in the first year of their life than any other age (1,340). 22.2% of the children and young people referred on this ground were aged between birth and two years (2,146).

10 Six children and young people – gender not recorded

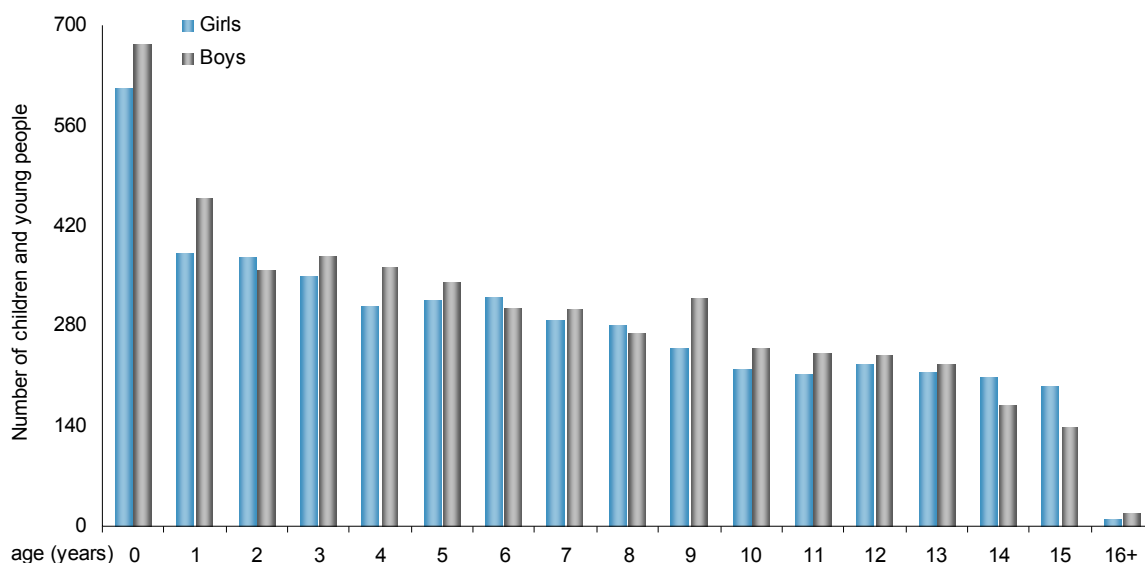
11 Seven children and young people - gender not recorded

12 <5 children and young people – gender not recorded

13 142 children and young people - gender not recorded

14 Totals do not equal the sums as children and young people can be referred more than once in the year and/or a referral can contain more than one ground. Totals count each child or young person once.

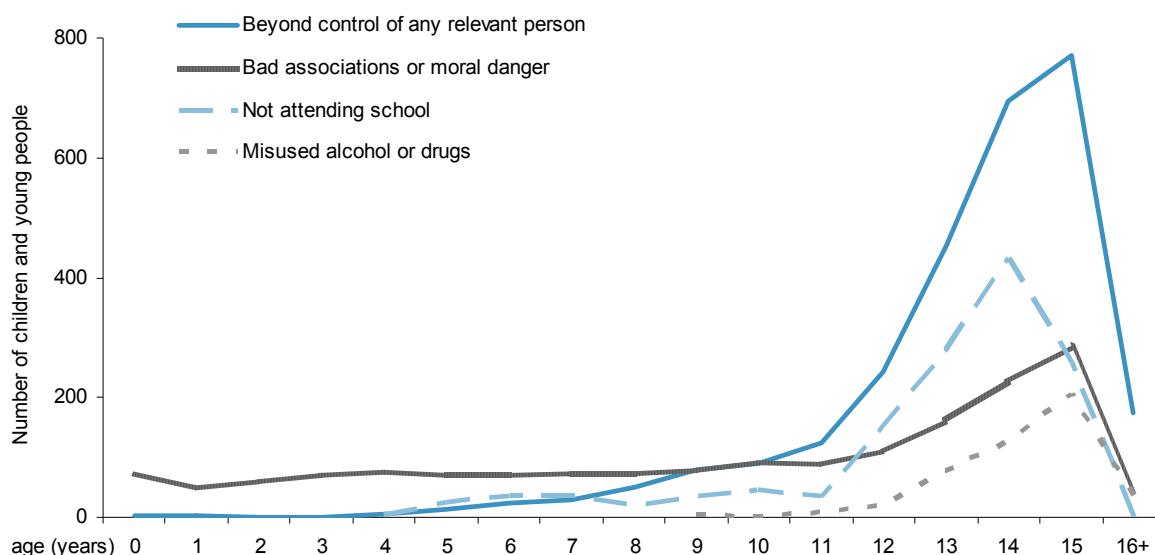
Figure 9. Age of children and young people referred for lack of parental care by gender in 2012/13



Other non-offence grounds of referral

There were notable differences in the ages of children and young people referred to the Reporter on several other care and protection grounds. Older children and young people were more likely to be referred on the grounds of 'beyond control of any relevant person', 'bad associations or moral danger', 'not attending school' and 'misused alcohol or drugs'. The most common ages for referral on these grounds were 14 and 15 years. The exception to this was 'not attending school' where 13 and 14 years were the most common ages.

Figure 10. Other non-offence grounds of referral in 2012/13

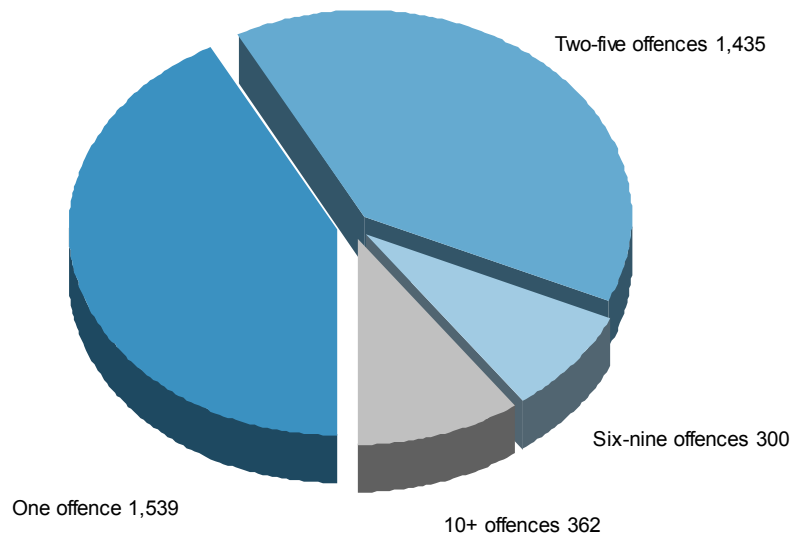


Children and young people referred on offence grounds

In 2012/13, 3,636 children and young people aged between eight and 17 years were referred to the Reporter on offence grounds. These children and young people were referred for 14,300 alleged offences on 8,824 referrals. The most common types of alleged offences were assault, vandalism and threatening or abusive behaviour.

Figure 11 shows that nearly half of all children and young people (42.3%) referred on offence grounds, committed only one alleged offence in 2012/13.

Figure 11. Number of offences per child or young person referred on offence grounds in 2012/13



Custody referrals to the Procurator Fiscal and the Reporter

Where a child or young person has been taken into custody, a decision will be taken as to whether to refer the child or young person either to the Procurator Fiscal or the Reporter (following a discussion between the Procurator Fiscal and the Reporter).

Table 8. Custody referrals

	Number of children and young people			
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Custody referrals received	219	166	192	122

The number of children and young people with custody referrals decreased by 36.5% in 2012/13.

Reporter decisions on children and young people referred

Reporters investigate as necessary when a referral is received. They do so by obtaining information on the child or young person and their circumstances from relevant agencies.

There is a wide network of partner agencies that Reporters can ask for advice, with the main agencies outlined in Table 9.

Table 9. Communications requested by the Reporter, by receiving agency

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Social Work	57,621	53,078	49,127	44,464
Education	29,674	26,718	23,630	22,956
Health	2,564	2,417	2,025	1,791
Restorative Justice	1,039	731	283	44
Other	74	73	20	64
Total requests*	90,972	83,017	75,085	69,499

* A large proportion of these requests are for information not relating to referrals such as Supervision Requirement reviews. A small percentage of requests are also cancelled before being sent.

The level of information required in each report can vary significantly. For social work requests, depending on the report type, the Reporter can request anything from background information about the child or young person referred, to a comprehensive assessment of the child or young person's situation that would involve social work contacting the family as well as any other agencies involved in the child or young person's upbringing.

Education authorities can be asked by the Reporter to provide information about a child or young person's attendance at school or about their behaviour.

Health (utilising information from health visitors, community psychiatric nurses and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services) can provide relevant information on the impact on the child or young person or family of particular health issues. The information that health visitors provide is especially important as it can indicate if the child or young person is failing to thrive (through growth centiles and developmental measures).

If the child or young person has committed an offence, Restorative Justice reports can be used to assess the suitability and willingness of the young person to engage with the Restorative Justice Service.

The family may also be asked to provide any relevant information when they are notified that a referral has been received by the Reporter. This allows the family to inform the Reporter of any factors that may affect a Reporter decision on the referral i.e. any changes in circumstances or any measures the family have taken as a result of the referral.

Once any required information has been received, the Reporter will analyse the situation and make a decision about whether to arrange a Children's Hearing based on their assessment of the need for compulsory intervention in the child or young person's life. At this stage they also decide the category and grounds of the referral, ensuring that if the case is to go to a Children's Hearing, there is sufficient evidence for the grounds to be proven in court, if necessary.

Where the Reporter has arranged a Children's Hearing, they are obliged, if they have not previously done so, to request a report for information about the child or young person from the local authority.

Reporters have other options available to them to find the right help for children and young people. The other decisions that a Reporter may make in relation to a referred child or young person include asking the local authority to provide voluntary advice, guidance and assistance to the child or young person, to take no action because there is insufficient evidence, or to take no formal action because other intervention is more appropriate (e.g. family support or diversion).

Table 10. Reporter decisions in 2012/13*

Reporter decision	Number of children and young people		
	Non-offence	Offence	Total
Arrange Children's Hearing (on new grounds)	4,142	472	4,472
No indication of a need for compulsory measures	7,083	1,237	8,103
No Hearing - insufficient evidence to proceed	4,076	347	4,382
No Hearing - measures already in place	2,888	1,528	3,797
No Hearing - refer to local authority	3,863	447	4,177
No Hearing - family have taken action	1,110	99	1,194
No Hearing - diversion to other measures	76	152	213
Total**	20,325	3,436	22,348

* Data in this table relates to cases decided in 2012/13 as opposed to referrals received in 2012/13.

** The totals do not equal the sums as children and young people can be referred more than once in the year and may have multiple Reporter decisions. The totals count each child or young person once.

In 2012/13, 20.0% of children and young people (4,472) with cases decided had a Reporter decision to arrange a Children's Hearing on at least one referral. For 36.3% of children and young people (8,103), Reporters decided that there was no indication of a need for compulsory measures on at least one of their referrals.

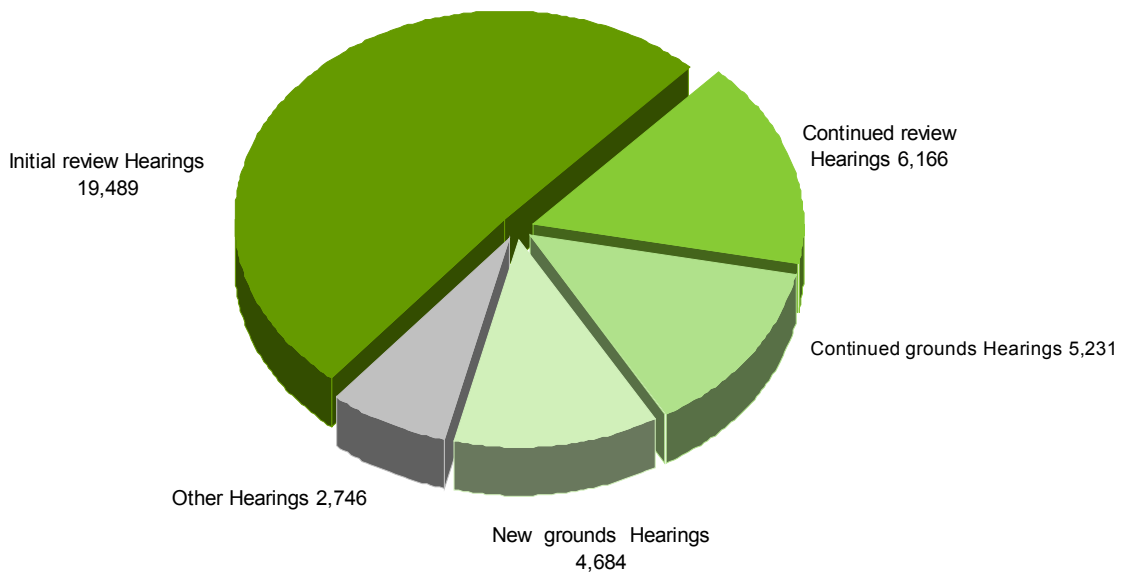
Number of Children's Hearings held

In 2012/13, 38,316 Children's Hearings were held for 18,039 children and young people. This was the lowest annual number of Hearings since 2004/05 and a 5.9% drop from 2011/12. Of the children and young people with Hearings in the year, 45.6% had a single Hearing, with 8.3% having five or more Hearings.

Table 11. Number of Children's Hearings held

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Number of Children's Hearings	43,614	41,825	40,708	38,316

Figure 12. Breakdown of types of Children's Hearings held in 2012/13



Of the 38,316 Hearings in 2012/13, 12.2% (4,684) related to new grounds.

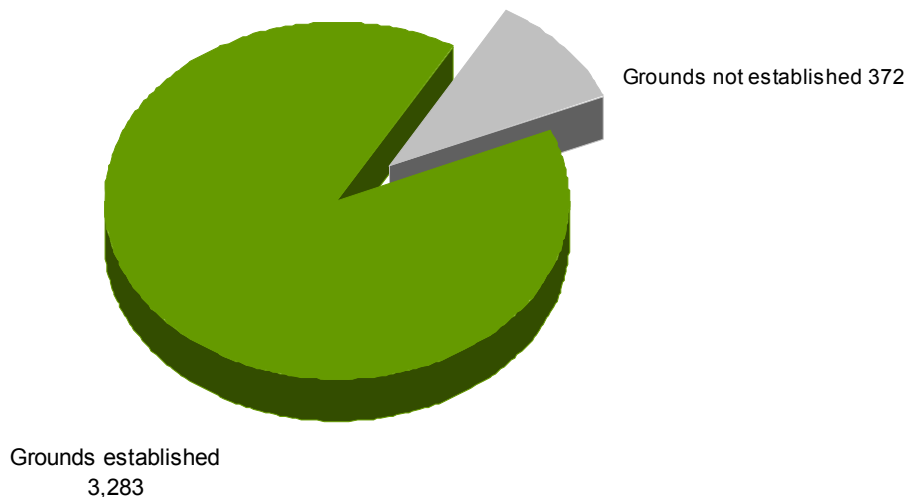
25,655 (67.0%) Hearings were linked to initial review or continued review Hearings for Supervision Requirements. A Supervision Requirement must be reviewed at least once annually. A review will take place earlier than this if required by the family/relevant person, the child/young person, the social worker or the Hearing. These Hearings exclude initial review Hearings and continued review Hearings which contained new grounds.

5,231 Hearings (13.7%) related to grounds that were continued at the initial Hearing stage, as outlined below, the majority of these continuations were due to applications to the Sheriff to establish the grounds for referral. 7.2% of Hearings (2,746) were due to other Hearing types such as Place of Safety Warrants, considerations of CPOs or to provide advice to court (excluding those Hearings that contained new grounds).

Applications to the Sheriff for proof

If the child or young person and/or their relevant persons do not accept some or all of the grounds for referral which form the basis of the Children's Hearing, or the child or young person does not understand the grounds, the Children's Hearing may direct the Reporter to apply to the Sheriff to establish the grounds for referral (section 68 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995). Overall, 3,655 applications were concluded in 2012/13 and 89.8% were held to be established by the Sheriff.

Figure 13. Applications to the Sheriff for proof in 2012/13



When an application to the Sheriff for proof has been established, the grounds are referred back to a Children's Hearing to decide what/if compulsory measures are necessary.

Compulsory measures of intervention

Children's Hearings decide whether compulsory measures of intervention are necessary (in respect of the child or young person) to protect the child or young person and/or address their behaviour.

Child Protection Orders and Place of Safety Warrants

Children's Hearings can make short-term decisions to address emergency and/or high risk situations where measures have to be put in place immediately to protect children and young people or address their behaviour. This may include Hearings arranged as a result of the Sheriff granting a CPO.

In 2012/13, Children's Hearings:

- Considered¹⁵ the cases of 743 children and young people with CPOs under section 59(2) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995; and
- Made 1,968 children and young people subject to Place of Safety Warrants under sections 66(1) and 69(7) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

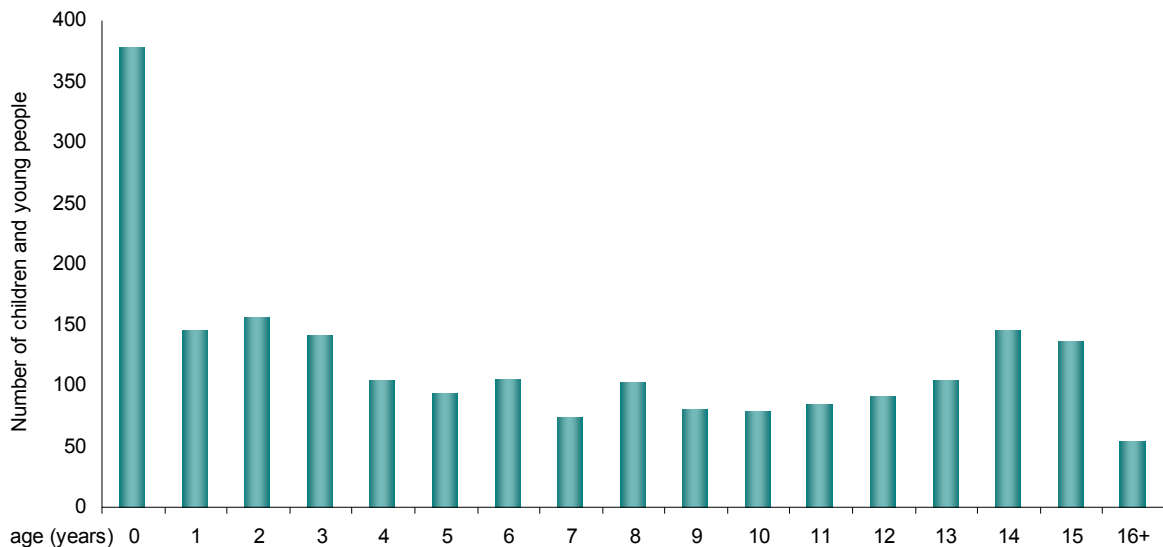
There is a significant link between CPOs and Place of Safety Warrants. CPOs will be continued at a second working day Hearing if it is felt that the child or young person is still at significant risk and can only be in place for eight working days in total, when the grounds will be referred to a Hearing (if required). At this point, one of the options open to a Hearing is to make a Place of Safety Warrant which requires the child or young person to be kept in a place of safety away from home (a child or young person must be at significant risk for this measure to be considered).

Place of Safety Warrants can therefore be used to protect the child or young person while the grounds of the referral are established at proof or where the Hearing is continued to allow the Reporter to gather evidence about the grounds of referral.

Table 12. Place of Safety Warrants made

	Number of children and young people			
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Place of Safety Warrants made	2,044	1,922	1,994	1,968

Figure 14. Children and young people with Place of Safety Warrants made in 2012/13



Place of Safety Warrant numbers are highest for children aged under one, but are also common for older age groups.

¹⁵ The Hearing may continue a CPO, which has already been approved by a Sheriff, with or without a variation to the condition(s). The Hearing may also decide not to continue a CPO.

Supervision Requirements

Supervision Requirements are the most common form of compulsory intervention made by Children's Hearings. They are also the only longer-term option available to Hearings. It is the statutory responsibility of local authorities to implement Supervision Requirements.

At Children's Hearings in 2012/13, 3,552 children and young people had a new Supervision Requirement made on grounds referred, see Table 13.

Table 13. Hearings' decisions in 2012/13

Hearing decision	Number of children and young people		
	Non-offence	Offence	Total
Grounds accepted/established and new Supervision Requirement made	3,441	193	3,552
Grounds accepted/established and considered in review of existing Supervision Requirement	174	202	359
Grounds discharged	358	157	506
Total*	3,924	436	4,231

* The totals do not equal the sums as children and young people can have more than one Hearing decision on different grounds contained within a referral or may have more than one referral on new grounds sent to a Hearing during the year. The totals count each child or young person once.

At 31 March 2013, 12,514 children and young people were subject to Supervision Requirements. This is 1.4%¹⁶ of all children and young people in Scotland.

Table 14. Supervision Requirements in place at 31 March

	Number of children and young people			
	2010	2011	2012	2013
Supervision Requirements in place at 31 March	13,829	13,474	13,093	12,514

As with Children's Hearings, the number of children and young people subject to Supervision Requirements has decreased for a third consecutive year. Children and young people aged under eight subject to Supervision Requirements in 2012/13 decreased by 5.5% to 5,147, while children and young people aged eight and over decreased by 3.6% (to 7,367).

¹⁶ % of population aged under 16 years, based on mid-year estimates for 2012 from the General Register Office for Scotland.

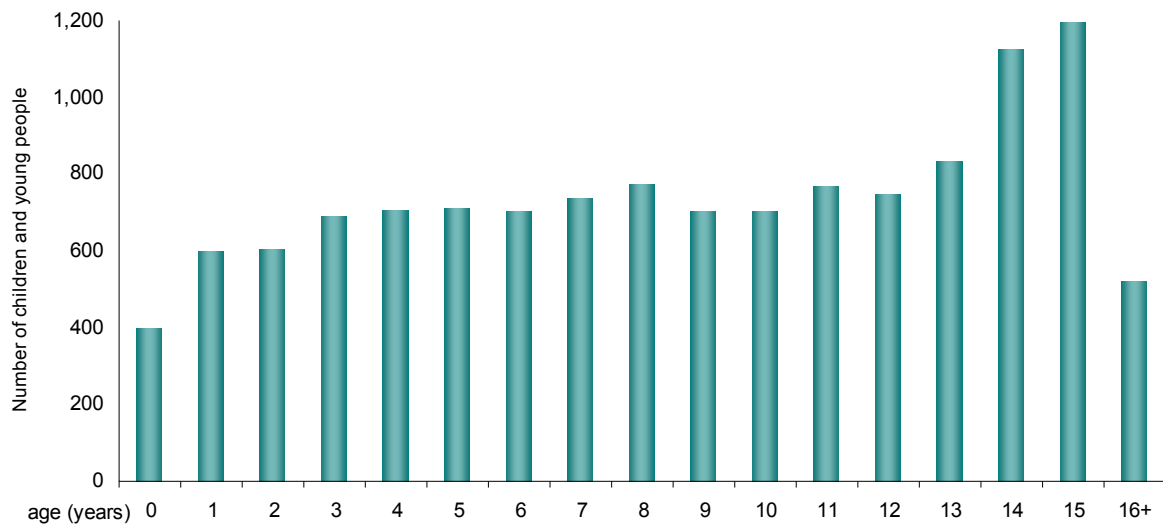
The types of Supervision Requirements in place at 31 March 2013 are shown in Table 15.

Table 15. Supervision Requirements in place at 31 March 2013

Types of Supervision Requirement	Number of children and young people
With parent/relevant person	5,952
With other approved foster parent	3,187
With relative/friend - other	1,312
With relative/friend - approved foster parent	797
Local authority home	358
Residential school	287
Other residential placement	187
Other	62
Independent living	13
Other non-residential placement	5
None recorded	354
Total	12,514

The most common ages of children and young people subject to Supervision Requirements continue to be 14 and 15 years. Figure 15 shows the number of Supervision Requirements by age.

Figure 15. Supervision Requirements in place at 31 March 2013



Secure Authorisations made by Children's Hearings

Secure Authorisations can be made as conditions of Warrants or Supervision Requirements. The criteria by which they can be made are set out in section 70(10) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995:

"(a) that the child, having previously absconded, is likely to abscond and, if he absconds, it is likely that his physical, mental or moral welfare will be at risk: and

(b) that the child is likely to injure himself or some other person."

Table 16. Secure Authorisations made by Children's Hearings

	Number of children and young people			
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
As a condition of Warrants	180	146	146	135
As a condition of Supervision Requirements	141	117	119	112

Secure Authorisations as a condition of Warrants were decreased by 7.5% while Secure Authorisations as a condition of Supervision Requirements decreased by 5.9%.

Appeals

Children and young people and/or their relevant persons can appeal to the Sheriff against decisions made by Children's Hearings. In 2012/13, 792 children and young people had appeals concluded. At appeal, 67% had Hearings' decisions upheld by the Sheriff on at least one appeal in the year.

Table 17. Children and young people with appeals to the Sheriff

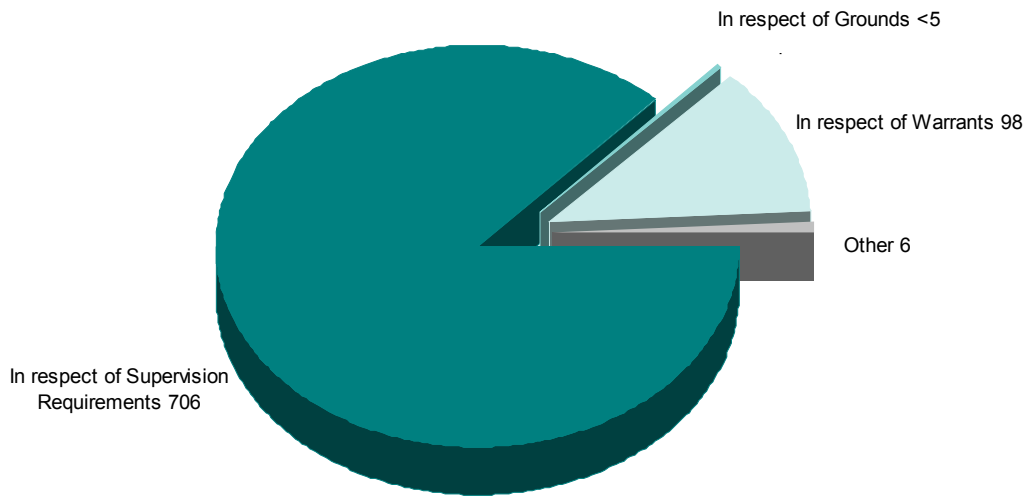
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Total children and young people with appeals*	605	670	714	792
% with Hearings' decisions upheld	68%	65%	70%	67%

*Previous annual figures have been recalculated to count children and young people with appeals concluded rather than appeals concluded to fit in with our current counting conventions.

Where a Children's Hearing decision wasn't upheld, the most common outcome was for the Sheriff to remit the grounds back to a Hearing for a decision on compulsory measures.

The types of appeals against Children's Hearings' decisions are displayed over the page. The most common type of appeal is in respect of Supervision Requirements, whether made, varied or continued. This is expected in the context of Supervision Requirements being the most common outcome of Hearings. Several children and young people have had more than one appeal type in the year.

Figure 16. Children and young people with appeals against Hearings' decisions in 2012/13



In addition, applications can be made to the Sheriff to recall or vary the conditions on a CPO. 37 children/young people had applications to recall or vary CPOs in the year.

Time taken to progress referrals through the Children’s Hearings System

The Time Interval (TI) Standards for the Children’s Hearings System were published in 2001¹⁷. There are 14 standards covering various aspects of the process within the Hearings System and the different agencies involved. Those of most relevance to SCRA are shown below.

Table 18. Performance against Time Interval Standard targets in 2012/13

Time Interval (TI) Standard	National target	Total number	Number on time	% on time
Standard T14 – The Reporter will make a decision about a referral within 50 working days of receipt	60%	35,780 referrals	26,334 referrals	74%
Standard T15 – The Reporter will inform the child and family of the outcome of a referral within 5 working days of making a decision	60%	25,488 tasks	17,324 tasks	68%
Standard T16 – Hearings will be scheduled to take place within a maximum of 20 working days of the Reporter’s decision	90%	6,506 referrals	4,762 referrals	73%
Standard T18 – All relevant people, information and resources will be available to Hearings to ensure that continuations are kept to a minimum	75%	20,769 Hearings	15,930 Hearings	77%
Standard T114 – The child and family will be sent written notification of the outcome of a Hearing within 5 working days of the Hearing.	60%	38,117 tasks	34,336 tasks	90%

SCRA continued its good performance against the Time Interval Standards in 2012/13, exceeding four of the five relevant targets (T14, T15, T18 and T114).

Table 19. Performance against Time Interval Standard targets

Time Interval (TI) Standard	National target	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
T14	60%	76%	78%	75%	74%
T15	60%	82%	78%	65%	68%
T16	90%	75%	79%	79%	73%
T18	75%	75%	76%	76%	77%
T114	60%	95%	93%	87%	90%

Table 19 shows that SCRA reached its highest performance in recent years for T18, with T15 and T114 also improving on 2011/12. The other two targets were below recent levels, but T14 was above the national targets, illustrating the good performance achieved despite the continued challenging operating context.

¹⁷ Scottish Executive (2001) Blueprint for the Processing of Children’s Hearings Cases. Inter-agency Code of Practice and National Standards.

Table 20. SCRA's performance against targets in 2012/13

Performance against the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) contained in the 2011-14 Corporate Plan has been good, with seven of the 10 reportable indicators met for the year. Improvements have been seen against both notification targets as well as initial Hearings proceeding to disposal.

Outcomes for Children, Young People and Families	Target 2012/13	Performance 2012/13	Change from 2011/12
The percentage of Hearings scheduled to take place within 20 working days.	73%	73%	down 6.2%
The percentage of written notifications of referral outcomes sent to children and families from the Reporter within 5 working days	75%	68%	up 2.5%
The percentage of written notifications of Hearing decisions sent to children and families from the Reporter within 5 working days	90%	90%	up 2.6%
The percentage of decisions on referrals made within 50 working days of receipt	72%	74%	down 1.4%
Outcomes for Stakeholders and Partners	Target 2012/13	Performance 2012/13	Change from 2011/12
The degree to which SCRA core properties comply with SCRA property standards	85%	85%	down 0.1%
The percentage of initial Hearings proceeding to disposal	76%	77%	up 0.8%
Organisational Efficiency Outcomes	Target 2012/13	Performance 2012/13	Change from 2011/12
Variance in annual revenue spends as a percentage of the available revenue budget	Within 5%	0.6%	n/a
Variance in annual capital spends as a percentage of the available capital budget	Within 10%	11.5%	n/a
The Scottish Government efficiency savings target will be met	3%	Target met	n/a
The percentage of revenue savings achieved in the year	4%	3.4%	n/a

Key

Target met	Within 1% of target	Target not met
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www.scra.gov.uk

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
Ochil House
Springkerse Business Park
Stirling
FK7 7XE

Tel: 0300 200 1555

communications@scra.gsi.gov.uk