

working with others to protect the public

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the Parole Board for England and Wales

Annual Report and Accounts 2012/13

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the Parole Board for England and Wales Annual Report and Accounts 2011/12

Annual Report and Accounts 2010/11 the Parole Board for England and Wales

Annual Report and Accounts 2005/10 the Parole Board for England and Wales

Annual Report and Accounts of the Parole Board for England and Wales 2008-2009

Annual Report and Accounts of the Parole Board for England and Wales 2007/08

Parole Board for England and Wales Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07

Annual Report & Accounts of the Parole Board for England and Wales 2005-06

Annual Report and Accounts 2004-05 Parole Board

Parole Board for

Parole Board Annual Report and Accounts 2003-04

Transparency and risk - the view from the Parole Board Caroline Corby, Chair of the Parole Board England and Wales November 2018

PAROLE BOARD ANNUAL REPO

Report of the Parole Board 98-99

#### 50 years and counting...



- The Parole Board was created almost exactly 50 years ago in 1967
- There were just 17 members (16 men, one woman)
- At that point in time the Board was advisory
- There were no hearings
- The process was secret, with no reasons provided

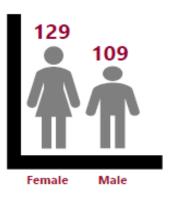






The Board is now an **independent** court like body which **orders** the release of prisoners.











#### Context



The aim of the Parole Board is to protect the public by risk assessing prisoners to decide whether they can be safely released into the community

Almost all of the people we consider have committed grave/serious offences and most of our decisions have potential to upset victims and attract criticism

Our sole focus is risk



## Problems facing us in 2015?



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Significant delays/backlog

A huge and diverse caseload

Outdated infrastructure

A lack of awareness of our work

Insufficient resources

Significant public money paid to prisoners for delay





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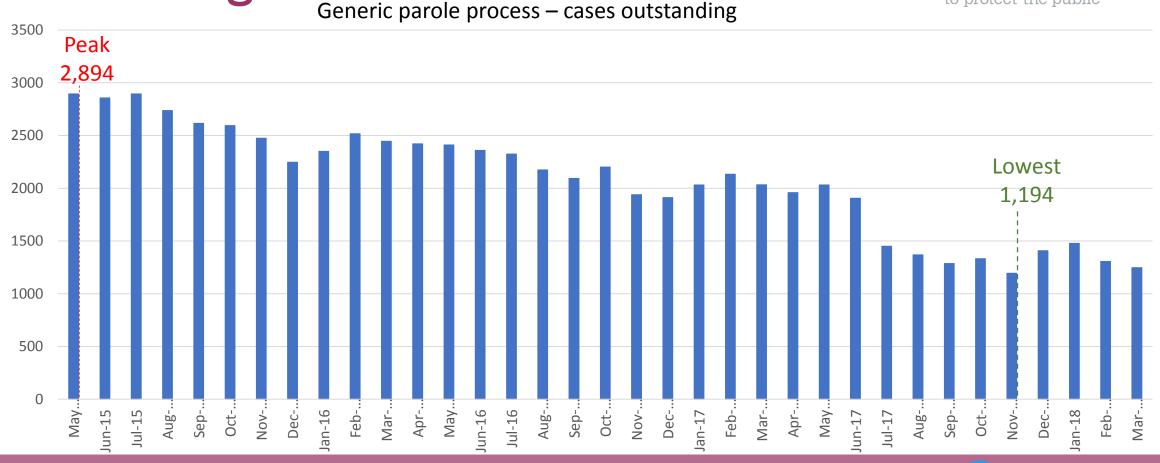
## How are we doing?



# Do we have problems with backlog?



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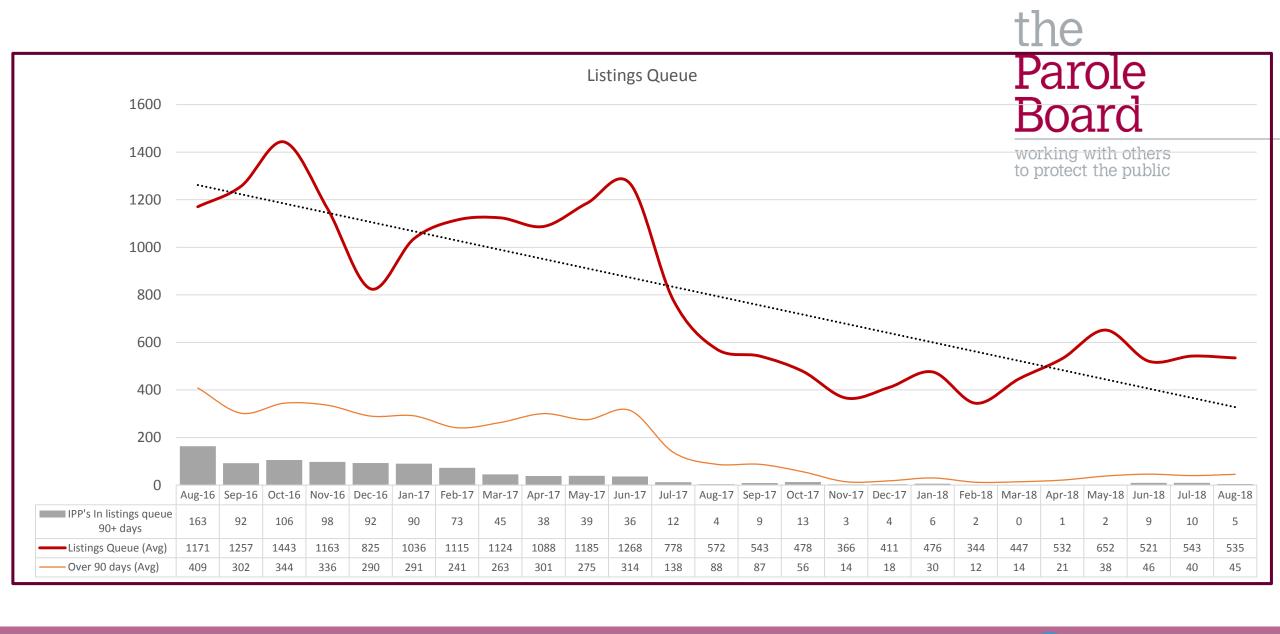
# Does the Parole Board protect the public?



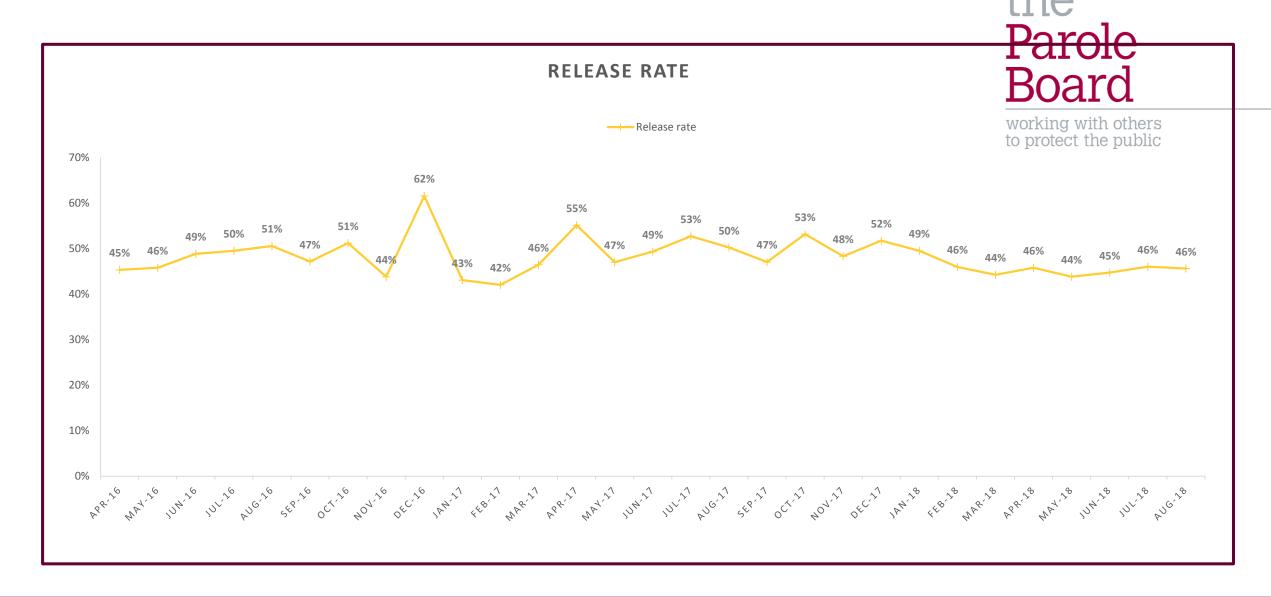


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#### Number of release/open decisions

IPP population reduced by 53%



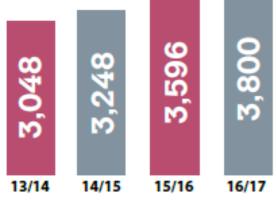
of panel chairs can digitally record hearings



of our members can access case information digitally



of parole hearings involved some form of remote evidence



17/18

# But none of our decisions are easy or popular



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## The Worboys impact?



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# Deluge of requests to see parole decisions after John Worboys case

#### Treatment of victims



- The Parole Board is committed to treating victims with respect and humanity
- We have extensive guidance and training for members and have been developing guidance on restorative justice
- Last year our CEO wrote to 200 victims who had attended parole hearings
- We regularly talk to individual victims about their experiences
- We will pay the travelling expenses of victims who go to hearings
- Welcome the new Victim Strategy
- The Board has little direct contact with victims. The system as a whole needs to improve



### Moving forward



- Despite the good work, the Worboys case has had an impact on public, parliamentary and internal confidence and we are taking steps to repair the damage
- We believe greater transparency is an opportunity so far there have been over 1400 requests for summaries and 500+ summaries issued
- We welcome the new reconsideration mechanism but are working with MoJ to ensure it is workable and proportionate
- We hope that the MoJ Review will give the Board more teeth



#### Increasing transparency



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#### Our processes:

- Better information on our website
- Videos on-line explain the parole process
- Regional engagement to explain our work to the public

#### Our values:

**Our performance:** 

Performance data on-line

User-friendly annual report

- Continued comms to prisoners and victims about how our work affects them
- Engagement on social media
- Regular blog posts on our website

#### **Our decisions:**

- Summaries of Parole Board decisions available to victims and the public
- New decision-making framework
- Member guidance (new handbook)







- Ultimately we consider the most difficult cases people who have committed the most awful offences – but our focus is risk
- The law requires that an independent body should review the lawfulness of detention after the period for punishment
- We are essentially a court and should make our decisions "without fear or favour"
- We should not, and will not, change our decisions as a result of "pressure" –
  our decisions must be based on the law, and the evidence presented
- Fairness is paramount

