

Northern Ireland Fact Sheet

August 2019¹

423 prison sentences were given to women in Northern Ireland in 2017/18.

30% of all prison sentences given to women in 2017/18 were for **theft offences**.

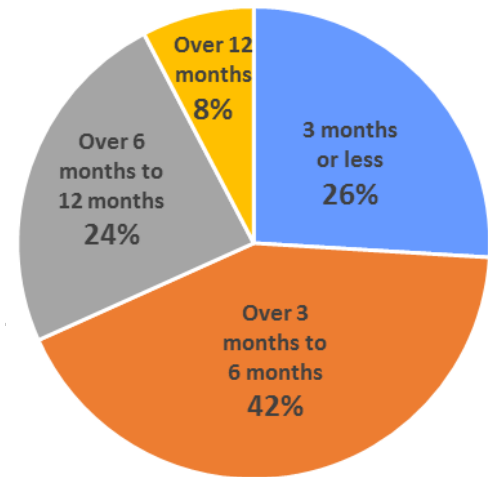
In 2016/17 the average yearly cost per prison place in Northern Ireland was

£53,408²

In 2017/18 the average daily number of women in prison in Northern Ireland was

57

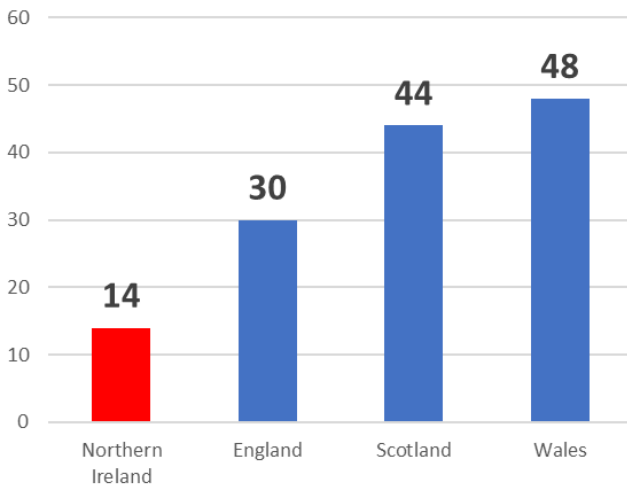
68% of the sentences given to women in 2017/18 were for **less than 6 months**.



58% of women sent to prison on in 2017/18 were on **remand**.

Northern Ireland has the lowest imprisonment rate in

the UK of **14 women per 100,000** of the population:³



The number of sentences of **3 months or less** given to women **doubled** between 2016/17 and 2017/18.

The number of incidents of women being received into prison in Northern Ireland has

increased by 38% in the past 3 years.

*"The population of Ash House remained a complex one, with many of the women experiencing mental health issues, high levels of self-harming behaviour, domestic violence and drug and alcohol abuse."*⁴

¹ The data on this fact sheet is taken from the following source unless otherwise stated: The Northern Ireland Prison Population 2017/18, Belfast: Department of Justice

² House of Commons (2018) UK Prison Population Statistics Briefing Paper

³ London: Home Office and Office for National Statistics, Population Pivot Tool mid-2016 UK, London: ONS. England and Wales- Ministry of Justice (2018) Court Outcomes by Police Force Area Data Tool, Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: December 2017, London: MoJ. Scotland- Table 10b, The Scottish Government (2018) Criminal proceedings in Scotland 2016-17, Edinburgh: The Scottish Government. Northern Ireland- Table 8, The Northern Ireland Prison Population 2017/18 Tables open data format, Belfast: Department of Justice These rates should be treated with caution, as they have been calculated using multiple data sources and imprisonment figures from various time frames, 2016/17 and 2017. The rates are used created using 2016 estimated general population data from the Office for National Statistics

⁴ Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (2016) Report on an unannounced inspection of Ash House women's prison Hydebank wood