

Quick Reference Guide for Probation Practitioners – Fixed Term Recalls.

What Do I Need to Know and Do?

For further details of anything in this guide, please refer to the full operational guidance and annexes. Further queries can be emailed to [REDACTED]

From 31st March 2026, the Sentencing Bill mandates the use of Fixed Term Recall (FTR) for the majority of adult Standard Determinate Sentence (SDS) cases who do not meet the exclusion criteria below, regardless of sentence length. This is a *permanent* change.

The type of recall Fixed or Standard, will be determined at the point of recall using the **Consider A Recall (CAR)** tool. The exclusion criteria are listed within CAR to guide you as to whether the individual will be subject to a fixed or a standard recall.

A Standard Determinate Sentence recalled case is mandated to receive a fixed term recall **unless** they meet any of the following **exclusion criteria**:

- MAPPA level 2 or 3
- Recalled on account of being charged with an offence
- Serving a Sentence for Offenders of Particular Concern (SOPC)
- Having been repatriated to the UK following a sentence for murder
- Are MAPPA category 4
- Are considered to be a person who may be at risk of involvement in foreign power threat activity i.e. national security risk
- Are serving a sentence for a terrorist or national security offence
- Are serving only a youth sentence.
- Are serving a sentence to which the release provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 or 1967 apply

For more detailed explanations of the exclusions please refer to the operational guidance

New Information is received since recall that the prisoner has been charged with a further offence, or that their MAPPA Level is increased to L2 or 3 or that they are now assessed as Category 4 or posing a national security risk? A '**Recall Upgrade Request Form**' must be submitted to PPCS. PPCS will then determine whether they should be converted to a standard recall.

See guidance for details.

Probation Practitioner believes there is **an imminent risk of serious harm** if the prisoner is released at the automatic 56-day point? PP must assess the case to see if can be evidenced they meet the '**Significant Risk Test**' criteria and submit an application to PPCS. PPCS will then determine the recall type.

For a more detailed explanation refer to the operational guidance

Recalling for further charges or further charges during the recall: If recalled on account of a further charge and that charge is later dropped or NFA'd or the case is found not guilty they remain on standard recall. If a new charge arose during the recall, and the recall was converted to standard, it stays standard even if charges are later withdrawn. PPs should be alert to charges made during the recall and ensure that that PPCS are informed.

Significant Risk Test: when considering to apply for the SRT please ensure that you are able to evidence that the case meets the criteria and ensure that you have explored whether the case is suitable for MAPPA management at Level 2 or 3.

Use of Risk Assessed Recall Review (RARR): RARR will remain and can be used at any point where there is information that indicates the recall is no longer necessary for public protection.