

INFORMATION ON SERIES OF DOCUMENTS

Series	HO 23
Title	Home Office: Registers of Prisoners from national prisons lodged in County Prisons 1847-1866
Structure	<p>Registers of prisoners in the county prisons of Aylesbury, Bath, Leeds, Leicester, Northampton, Nottingham, Preston, Reading, Somerset, and Wakefield, where the government rented cells for the housing of overflow prisoners from the national prisons.</p> <p>The registers give each prisoner's age, marital status and number of children, whether they can read or write, trade, when and where convicted, crime, sentence, where and whence received, previous offences, when removed and where.</p>
Size/Scope	20 volumes. Each is indexed. There are approximately 150 pages to each bound volume but there are many blank pages so accurate assessment of the number of images is difficult and subject to a high margin of error but the best estimate is a maximum 3,000 images for the series.
Physical Format and Condition	Original paper records only but in very good condition. 6 large boxes of bound volumes A4-A3 size. One entry covers a double page spread. As many as 10/15 individuals on each double page.
Popularity	Between 1st January 2009 and 31 December 2009 this series of records was requested in the reading rooms at The National Archives some 18 times. In a package with other related material it is expected to be of greater interest to the public. Popularity would also be greatly increased by improved ease of access.
Research Guide	<p>Tracing 19th and 20th Century Criminals</p> <p>Sources for Convicts and Prisoners</p>
Possible areas for indexing	Name, Age, Crime, Date of sentencing, Sentence, Court name and session
Any other relevant information	More people are discovering ancestors in prison through the Census. Prison enquiries are increasing. These files can contain lots of personal information of use to family historians. The files will also be of interest to convicts' decedents (Australia) if later transported. In addition some files contain medical information of use to social historians. Plus they provide a key into other criminal records held at TNA and at County Record Offices.