

INFORMATION ON SERIES OF DOCUMENTS

Series	HO 8
Title	Home Office: Convict Hulks, Convict Prisons and Criminal Lunatic Asylums: Quarterly Returns of Prisoners 1824-1876
Structure	<p>Section XIV of the Transportation of Offenders Act 1824 (5 Geo IV chapter 85) provided that the Superintendent of Convicts should make sworn quarterly returns of prisoners in the hulks to the Secretary of State.</p> <p>Sworn lists of convicts on board the convict hulks (until 1861) and in the convict prisons (from 1848). Criminal lunatic asylums are included from 1862.</p> <p>Some returns for hulks at Bermuda are included. The given particulars are their ages, convictions and sentences, health, behaviour, etc. Both male and female convicts are included.</p>
Size/Scope	207 bound volumes. Only a small sample taken but suggests approximately 57,000 images with an approximate number of 285,000 named individuals in this series.
Physical Format and Condition	Original paper records only. Bound volumes A3 in size and have been foliated. One entry covers a double page spread. Approximately 5/10 convicts per double page. Some of the edges are tatty and the spines of the volumes are worn or broken but otherwise records in good condition. One piece sampled had fold out pages of A3.
Popularity	Between 1st January 2009 and 31st December 2009 this series of records was requested in the reading rooms at The National Archives some 604 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. Some files contain medical information of use to social historians. In addition they provide a key into other criminal records held at TNA and at County Record Offices.