INFORMATION ON SERIES OF DOCUMENTS

Series	HO 24
Title	Home Office: Prison Registers and Statistical Returns 1838-1875
Structure	This series includes registers of prisoners in Millbank, Parkhurst and Pentonville prisons. These 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. Each volume is indexed. Similar registers for overflow prisoners kept in cells rented from county prisons are in HO 23. Also includes annual statistical returns, 1860 to 1869, from county gaols and juvenile schools for England and Wales, arranged by county.
Size/Scope	29 volumes. Very small sample suggests that there could be **14,500 images i**n this series.
Physical Format and Condition	Original paper records only. Very large volumes. One entry covering a double page spread. Approx. 20 convicts to a double page, A single entry would require a larger than A3 scanner. One piece sampled contained on volume of approximately 500 pages.
Popularity	Between 1st January 2009 and 31st December 2009 this series of records was requested in the reading rooms at The National Archives 100 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	Tracing 19th and 20th Century Criminals Sources for Convicts and Prisoners
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

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