INFORMATION ON SERIES OF DOCUMENTS

Series	PCOM 5
Title	Home Office: Old Captions and Transfer Papers 1843-1871
Structure	Copies of orders of court ('old captions') for the imprisonment or transportation of convicts and transfer papers for removal of a convict to a government prison, each containing the penal records and other particulars of the prisoners.
Size/Scope	**Approximately 34,500 images containing approximately 18,000 named individuals** The records are original documents only. They comprise boxes of bundles with each file being for one convict. Pieces 22 to 41 contain tied folders, one for each convict with loose and attached inserted papers. These pieces contain 30/40 convicts each. Other pieces contain loose sheets with unbound folders of each convict so have many more individuals. There are 52 boxes and currently reference is by means of indexes in PCOM 6 .
Physical Format and Condition	Good condition, mostly handwritten on printed records, some tattered edges to pages. Foolscap size sheets. During 20% sampling exercise only two large documents were found that were larger than A3.
Popularity	Between 1st January 2008 and 31 December 2009 this series of records was requested in the reading rooms at The National Archives some 42 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	PCOM 6 contains indexes of PCOM 5 records in bound volumes. 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. n addition some files contain medical information of use to social historians.They provide a key into other criminal records held at TNA and at County Record Offices.

Whilst The National Archives endeavours to ensure that the information is correct, in no event shall The National Archives be responsible for any loss or damage of any kind arising out of access to or reliance on or use of any information. This document is intended to provide guidance only and it is recommended that personal research of the records be undertaken