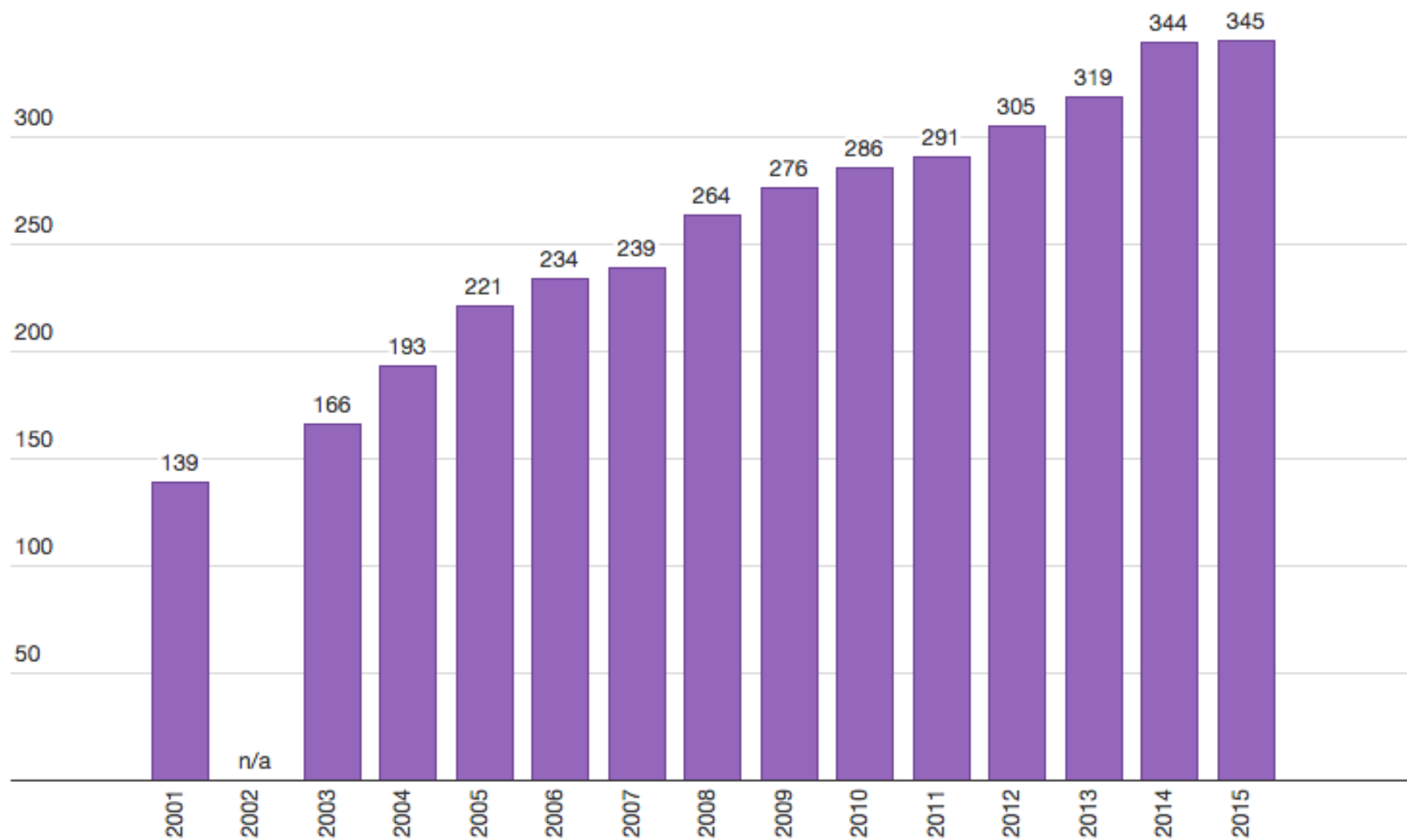


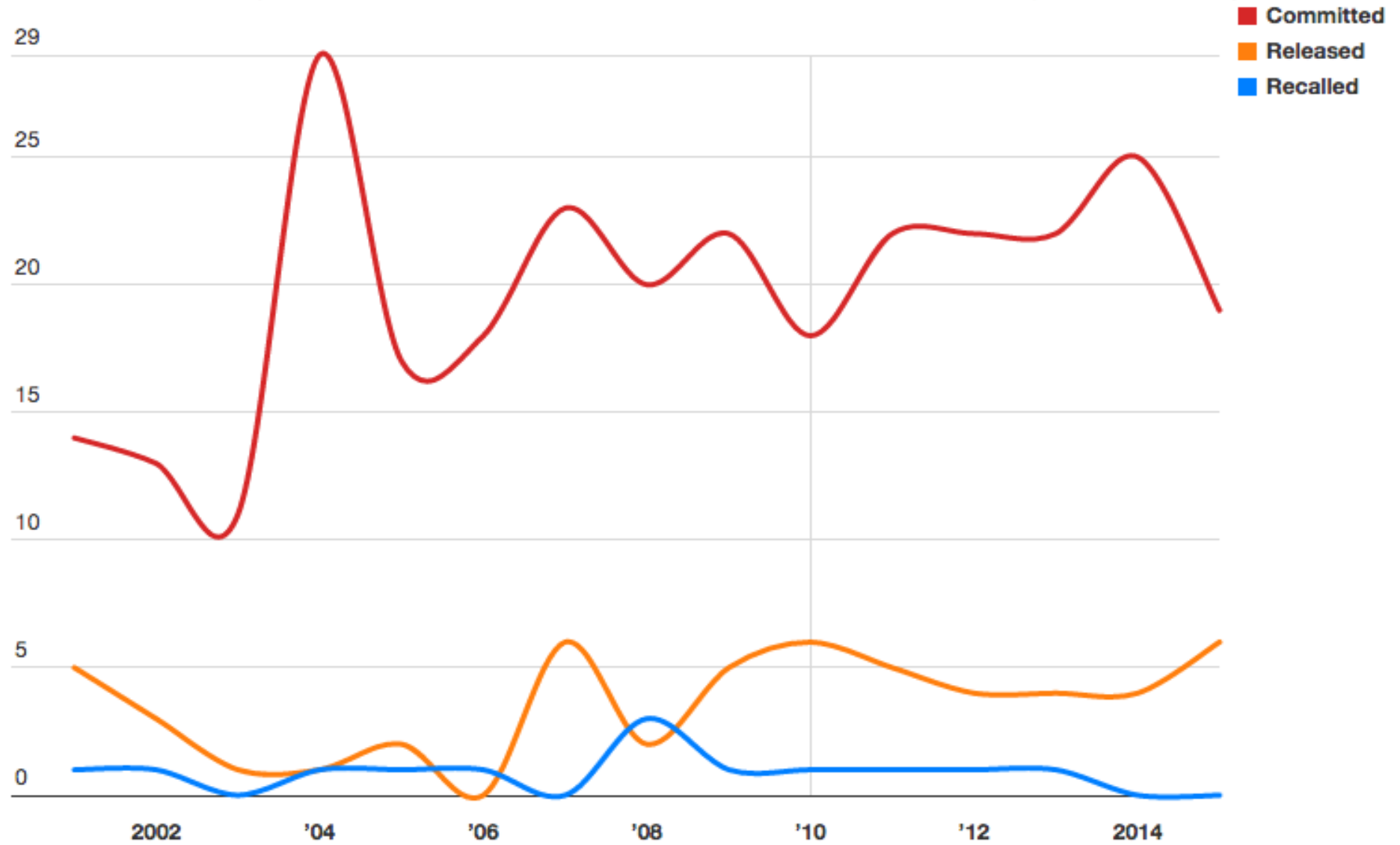
THE PAROLE BILL 2016

Dr. Diarmuid Griffin
NUI Galway

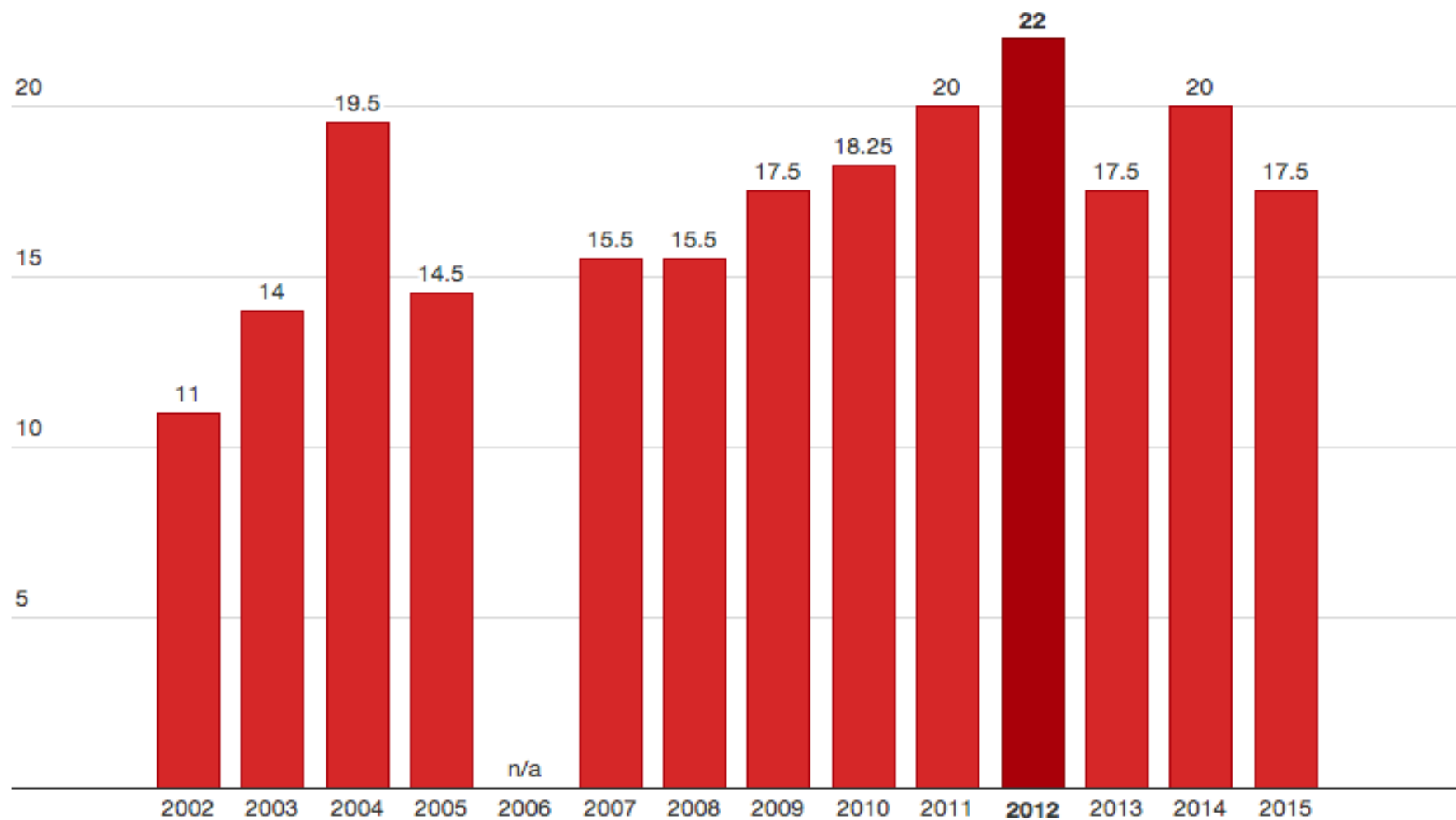
Life sentence prisoners in custody (2001-2015)



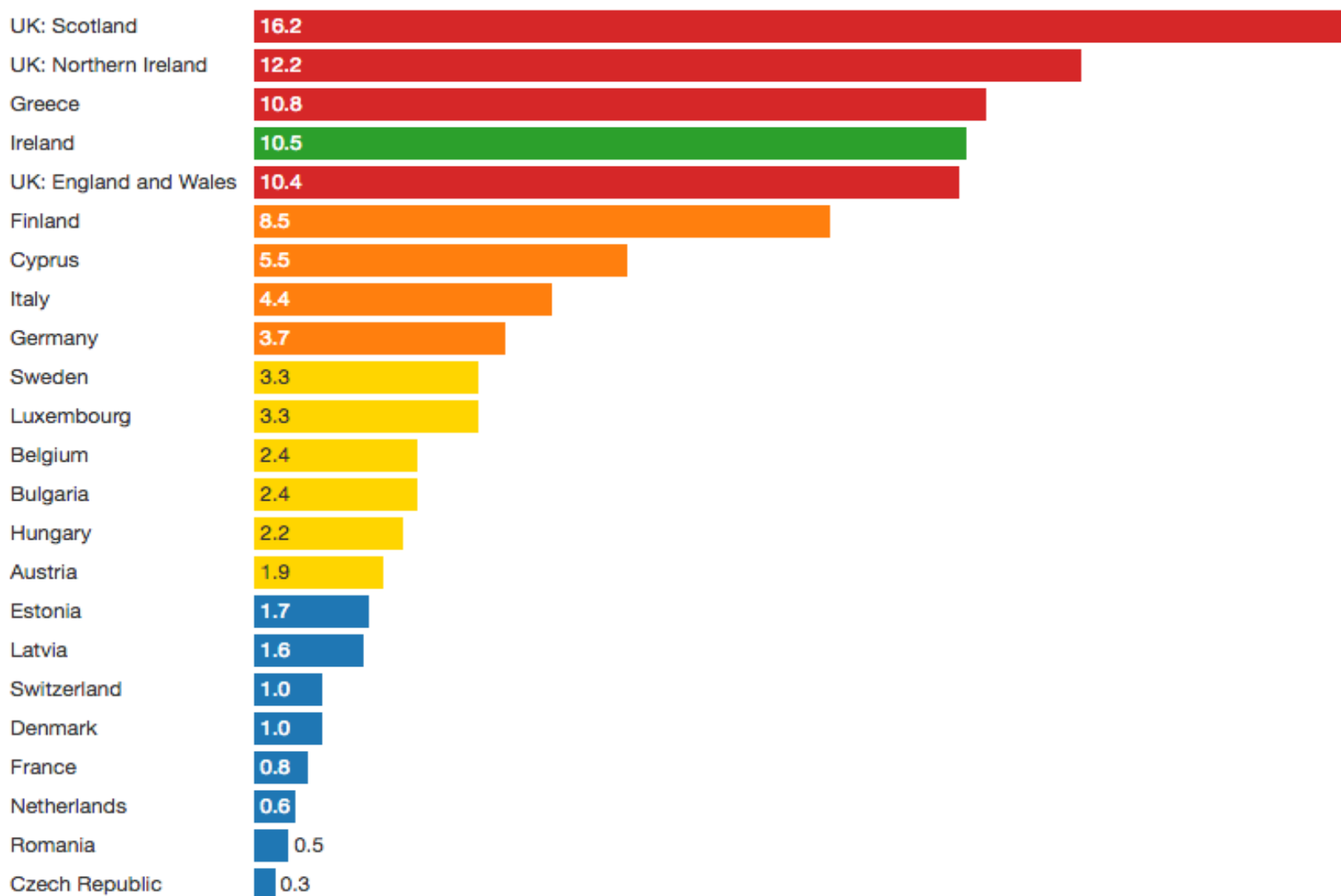
Life sentence prisoners committed, released and recalled (2001-2015)



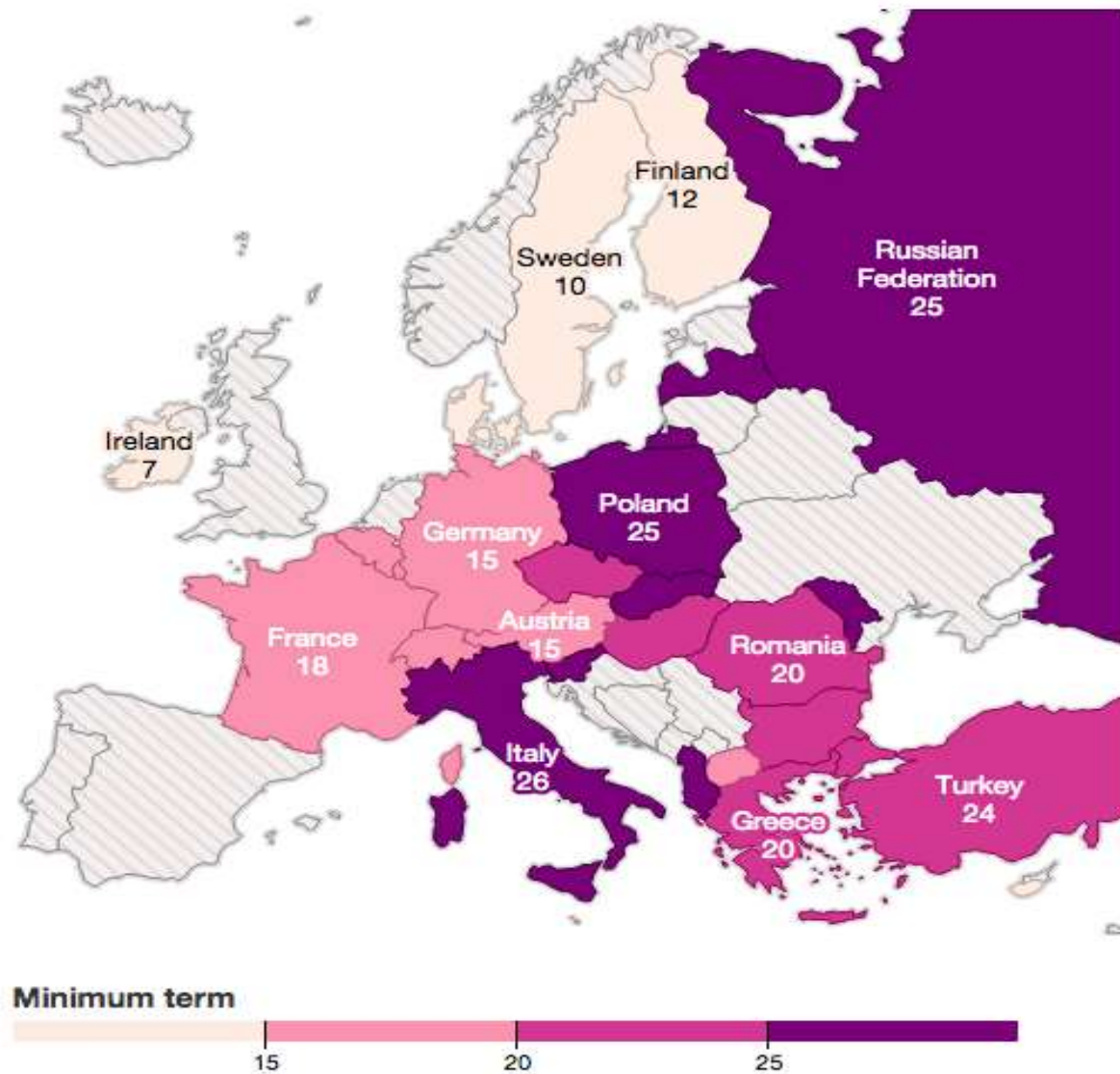
Average time served by life sentence prisoners on release (2002-2015)



Life sentence prisoners as a percentage of all sentenced prisoners (2014) (selected countries)



Minimum term imposed for life sentence prisoners



Function of the Parole Board

Parole Bill 2016 states that the function of the Parole Board is to consider persons for parole and direct their release subject to conditions.

(Section 7)

We are also responsible for case management. A murderer can come before us after seven years, there's no question of his getting out for about let's say another seven. But we will now direct or suggest what he should be doing for himself to improve himself so that when the times comes he will have fulfilled his debt to society, will have done all he can to rehabilitate himself and we will be able to make a recommendation to let him out.

(Parole Board member 04)

The carrot of the parole system forces these applicants to engage far greater with services that are available. I've seen many instances of people having no contact at all with the services within the prison until the Parole Board process kicks in.

(Parole Board member 11)

Guiding principles and criteria for parole

Parole Bill 2016 states that the safety of the community is the paramount consideration. The Parole Board may grant parole to a person who does not present an undue risk to society and parole will facilitate the reintegration of that person into society.

(Sections 18 and 19)

Carney J stated that his 'primary function' in imposing a life sentence for attempted murder was to protect the community. The Parole Board could monitor the offender 'to see when it is safe for society' to recommend release, adding the comment that, 'I can't look into the future but the Parole Board can.'

The Supreme Court acknowledged that the imposition of the life sentence had a preventive element, but this in effect was incidental and did 'not exceed what is required for purely penal purposes.'

(People (DPP) v Eric Daniels IESC, 4 November 2014)

Victim Input

Parole Bill 2016 permits written submission from any victim and allows a victim to appear and make an oral submission to assist the Parole Board in its decision-making if the Parole Board deems it necessary.

(Section 14)

Poor victims hear that Joe Bloggs is up for review after seven years and they'll say 'what, he just killed my daughter seven years ago and now they're reviewing him', you know, and that puts them through *torture*. Now we know and I know that the likelihood in that probable case is that person's not going to get out for another seven years. So I think that's the biggest change that I would make, is that I would think you need to start the process at an appropriate time.

(Parole Board member 07)

Timeline of a life sentence prisoner committed in 1990 and released in 2012

