



Seirbhís Phríosúin
na hÉireann
Irish Prison Service



VIDEOLINK - MAXIMISING RESOURCES FOR SERVICE DELIVERY

EuroPris

Online Workshop in ICT in prisons

Tuesday 29 September, 2020



**Seirbhís Phríosúin
na hÉireann**
Irish Prison Service

Michael O'Mahony
Governor



Pre-Covid prisoner escort arrangements



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All higher courts escorts &
lower courts sentenced
escorts



All lower courts escorts
awaiting trial



Background of videolink in the Irish Prison context

- 2005: *The Denham Report on Video-conferencing* promoted the concept in the Irish Courtroom setting, authored by Justice Susan Denham.
- **2007: Prisons Act 2007, s33.**
- 2009: 19th May first case heard via Videolink
- 2010 – 2016 System gradually gains traction and investment
- 2017 -2018: Seven new Courthouse built incorporating videolink technology
- **2020: The Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020**, commenced September 14th

“An evolution, not a revolution”



Videolink in custody cases: Benefits

- Financial savings (subsistence / fleet / victualling)
- Improved security
- Care for vulnerable prisoners
- Less disruption of prison regime
- Minimise risk of escape
- Mitigation of risk of drug/weapon smuggling
- Protection of witnesses and victims in court
- Reduced wear and tear in cells
- Reduced need for cell accommodation in Courts

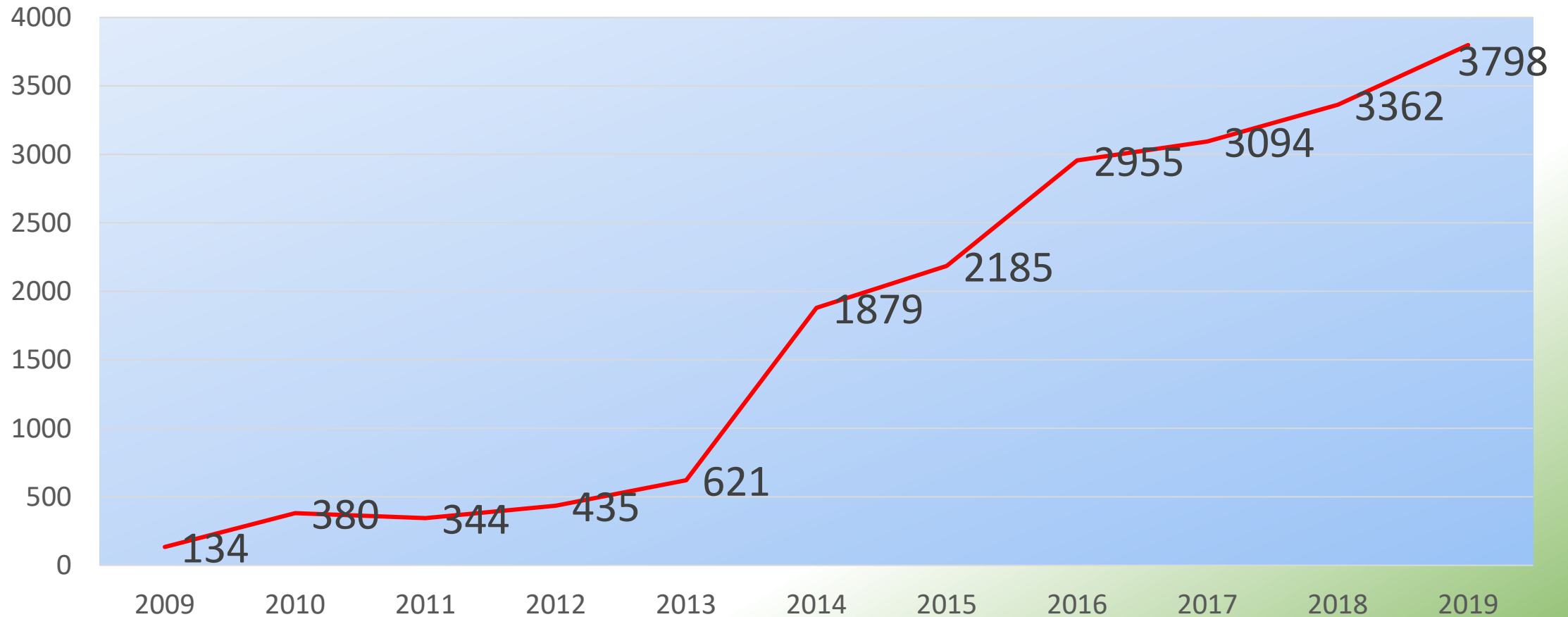


Videolink: other applications

- Professional Consultations – JABBER/TMS.
- Probation Interviews.
- Vulnerable witness deposition.
- National witness deposition.
- International witness deposition.
- Prisoner Case Conference.
- Inter-Prison family visits.
- Videolink visits to family on home computers.



Videolink escort activity annual totals: pre-Covid





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Pandemic Contingency Planning





Emergency Response Planning Team (ERPT)

- Clinical considerations
- Security
- Courts – Constitutional obligations
- Provisions
- Catering
- Waste-management
- Entertainment in lockdown: Netflix, library
- Communications



Pre-Covid prisoner escort arrangements



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Covid-19 prisoner escort arrangements



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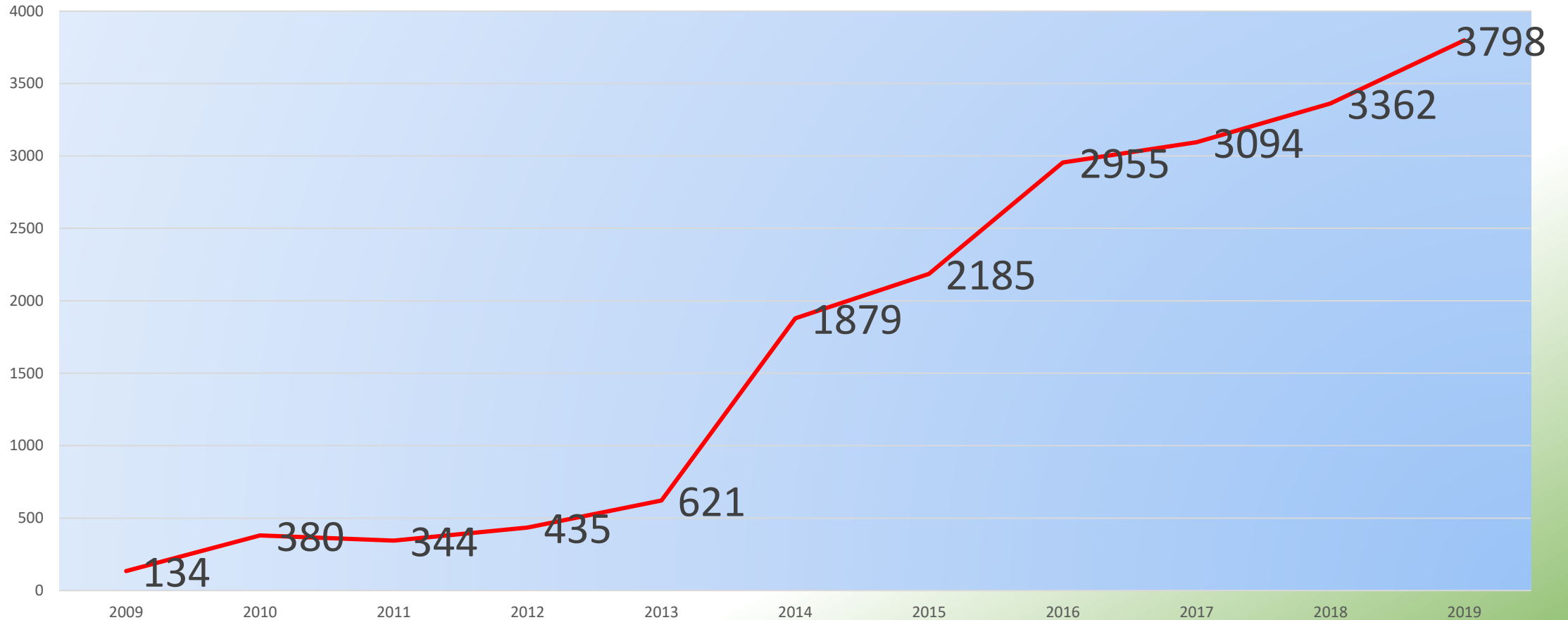
All prisoners escorts



Nil:
Police redeployed to Covid duties

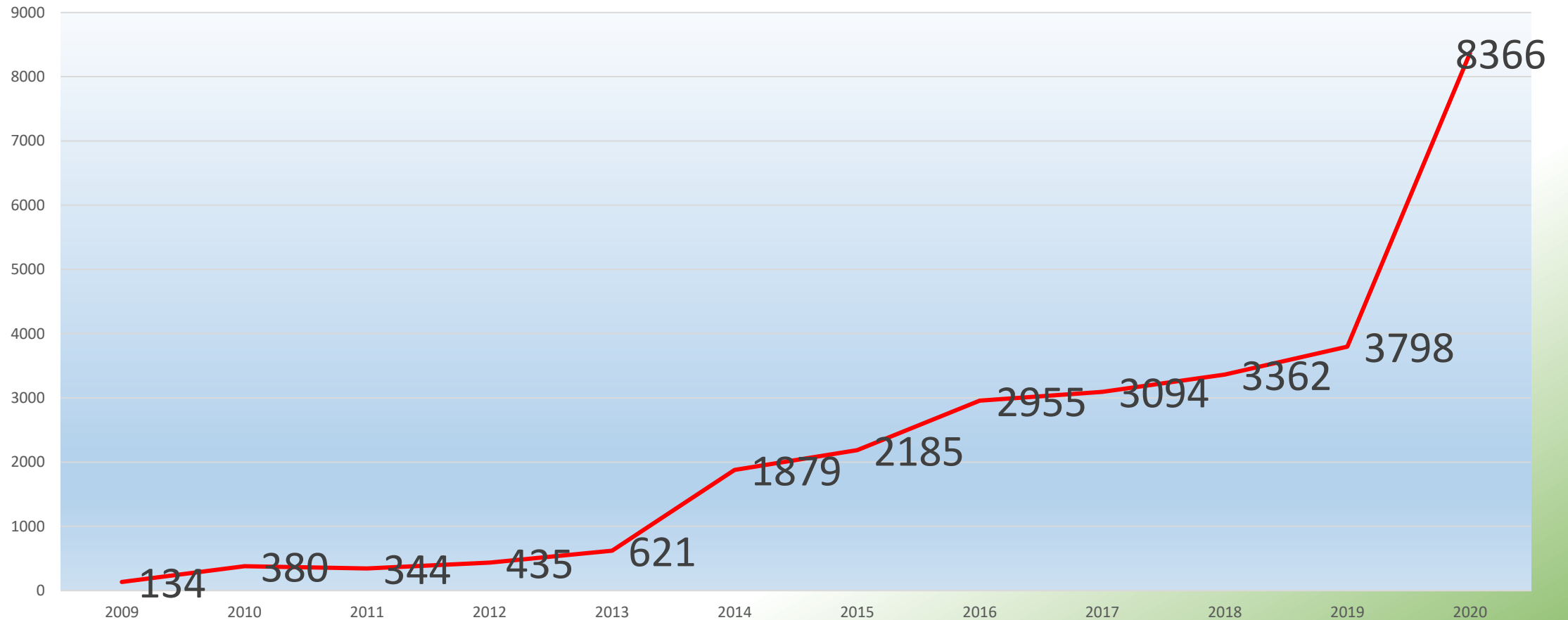


Videolink escort activity annual totals: pre-Covid



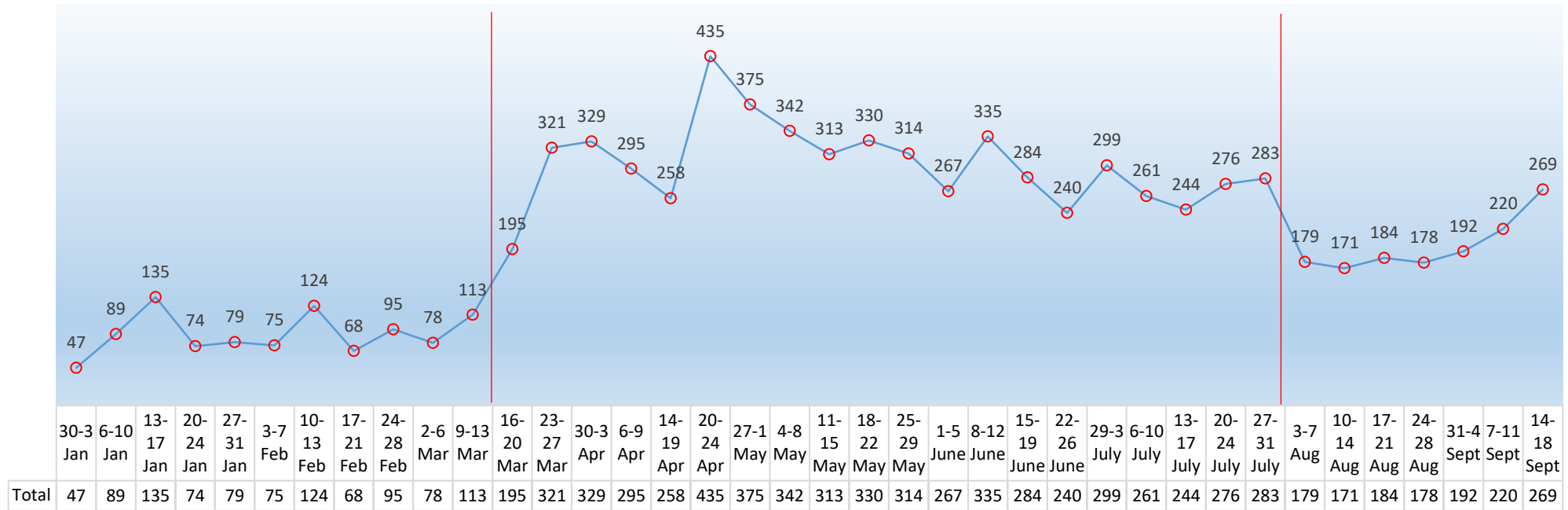


Videolink court activity annual totals Covid era



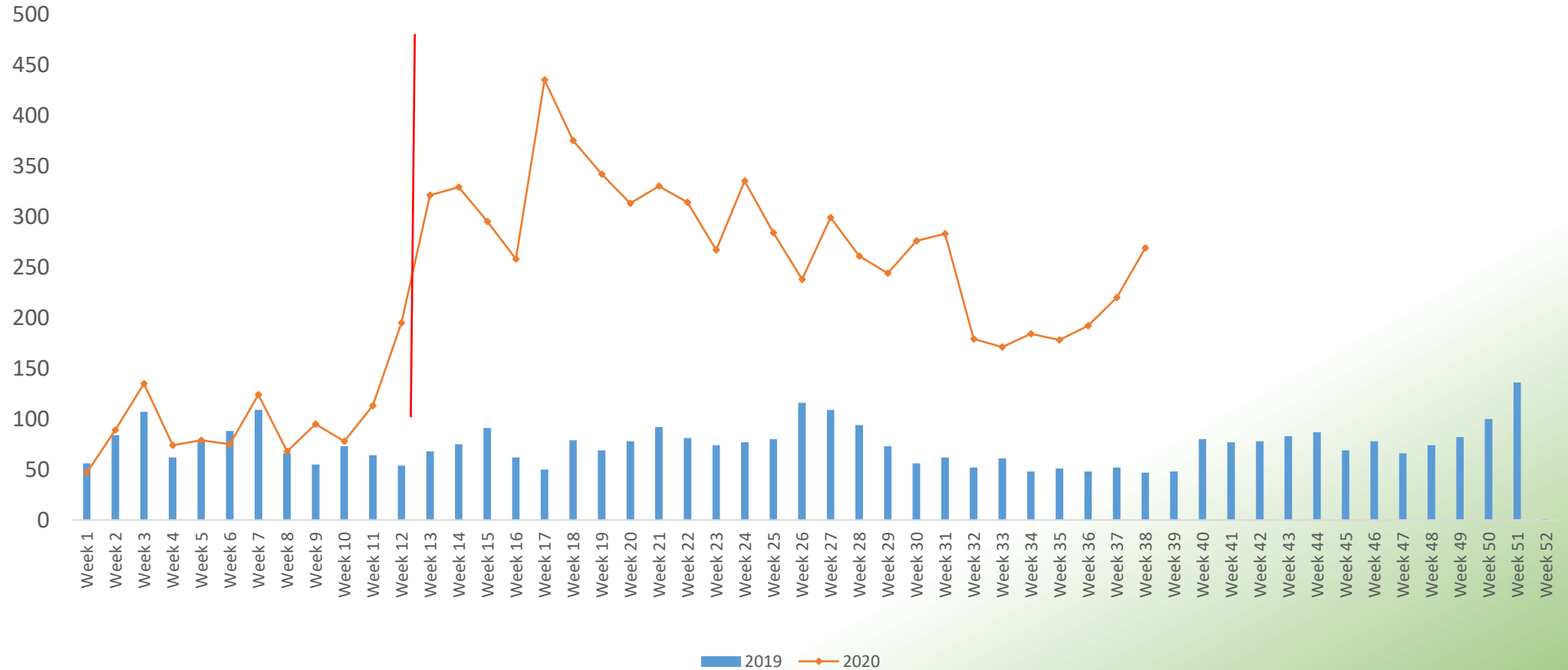


Videolink court appearances carried out in 2020



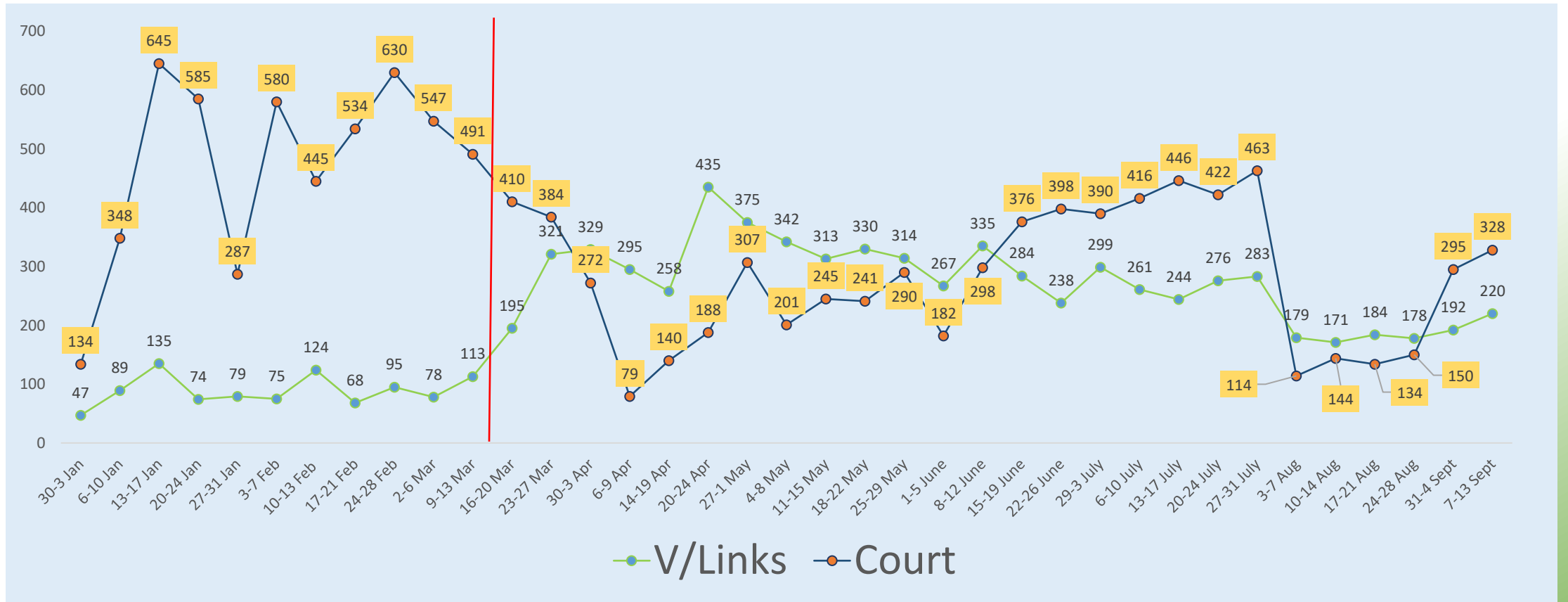


2019 & 2020 Videolink to Court Comparison





Videolink vs physical appearances 2020





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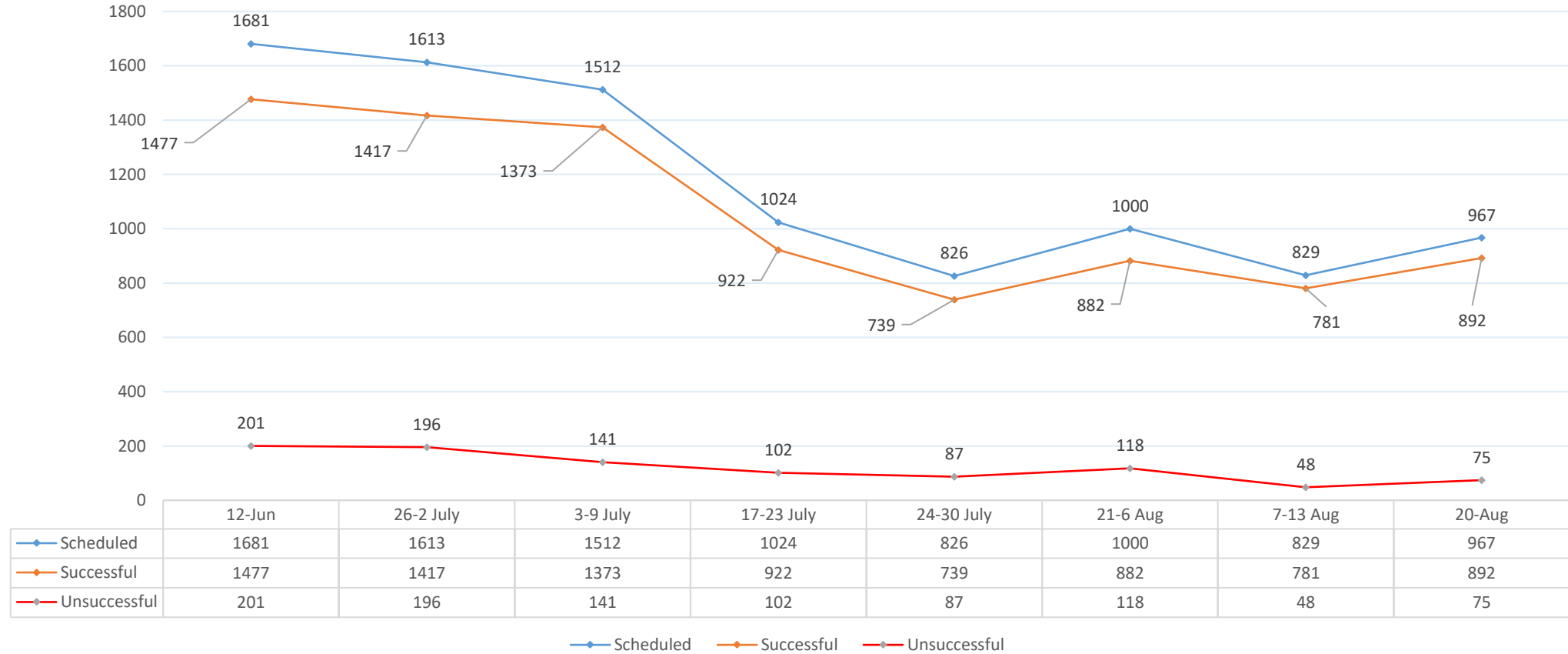
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Information for Families of Prisoners June 2020



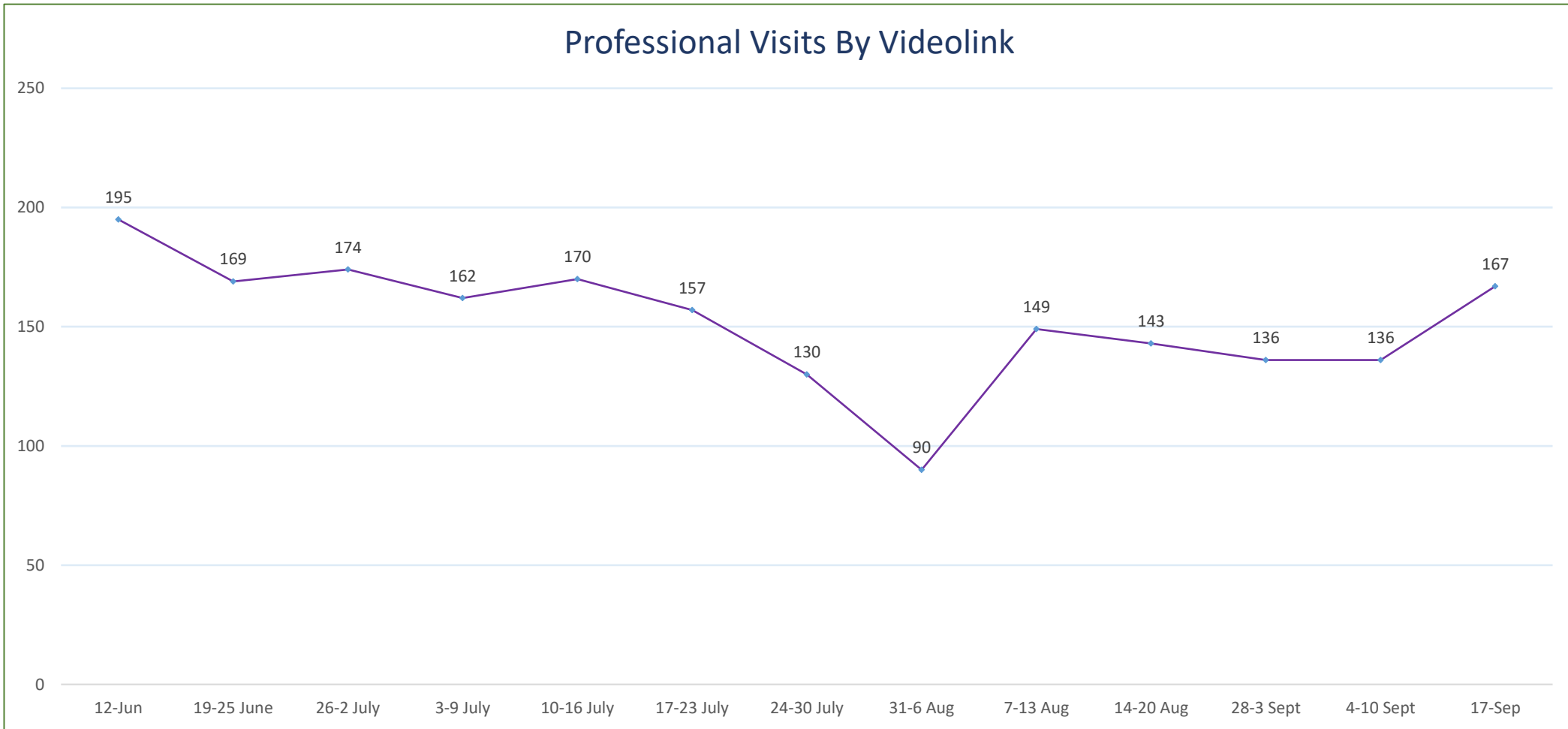


Family Visits Via Videolink



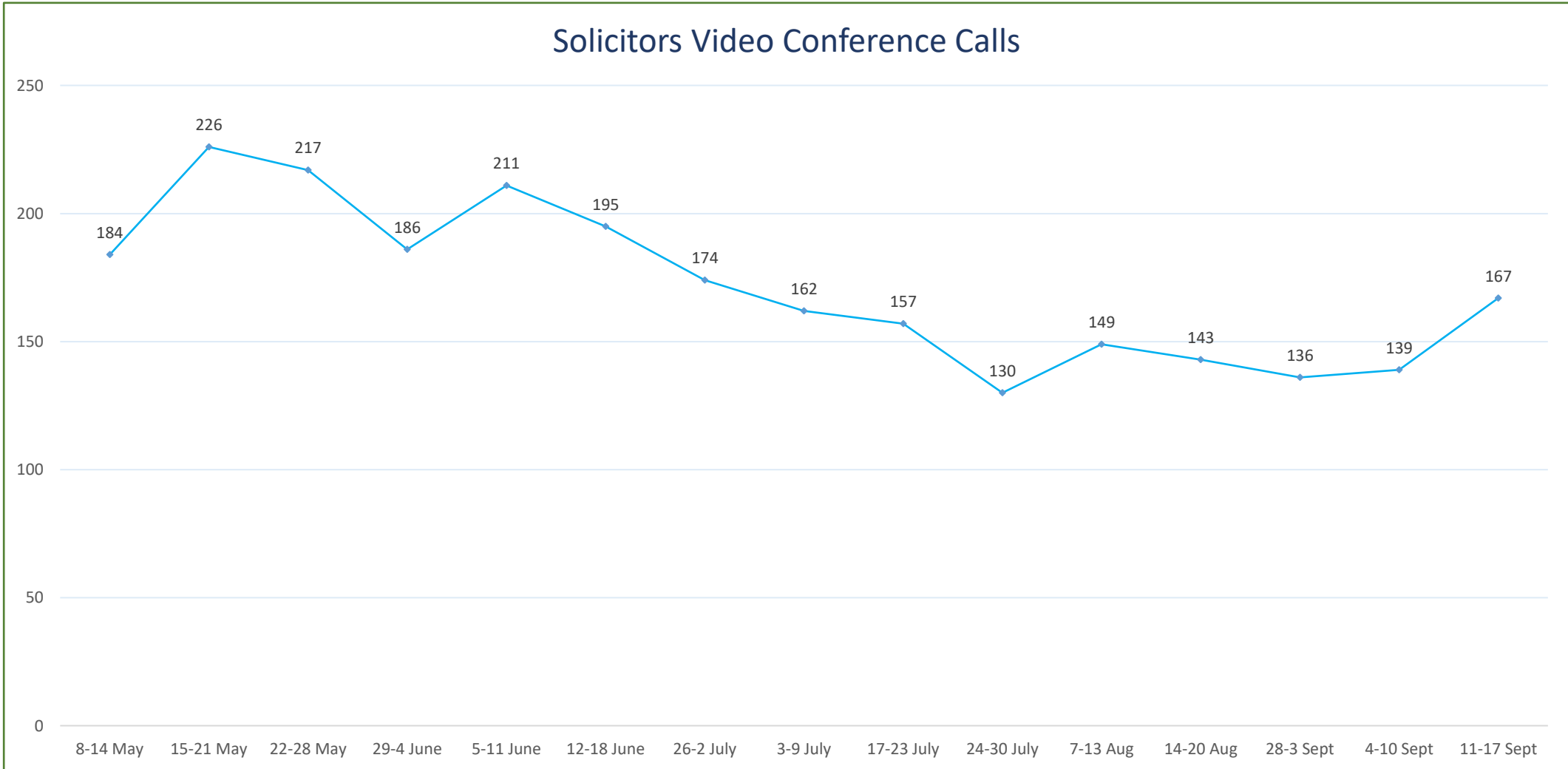


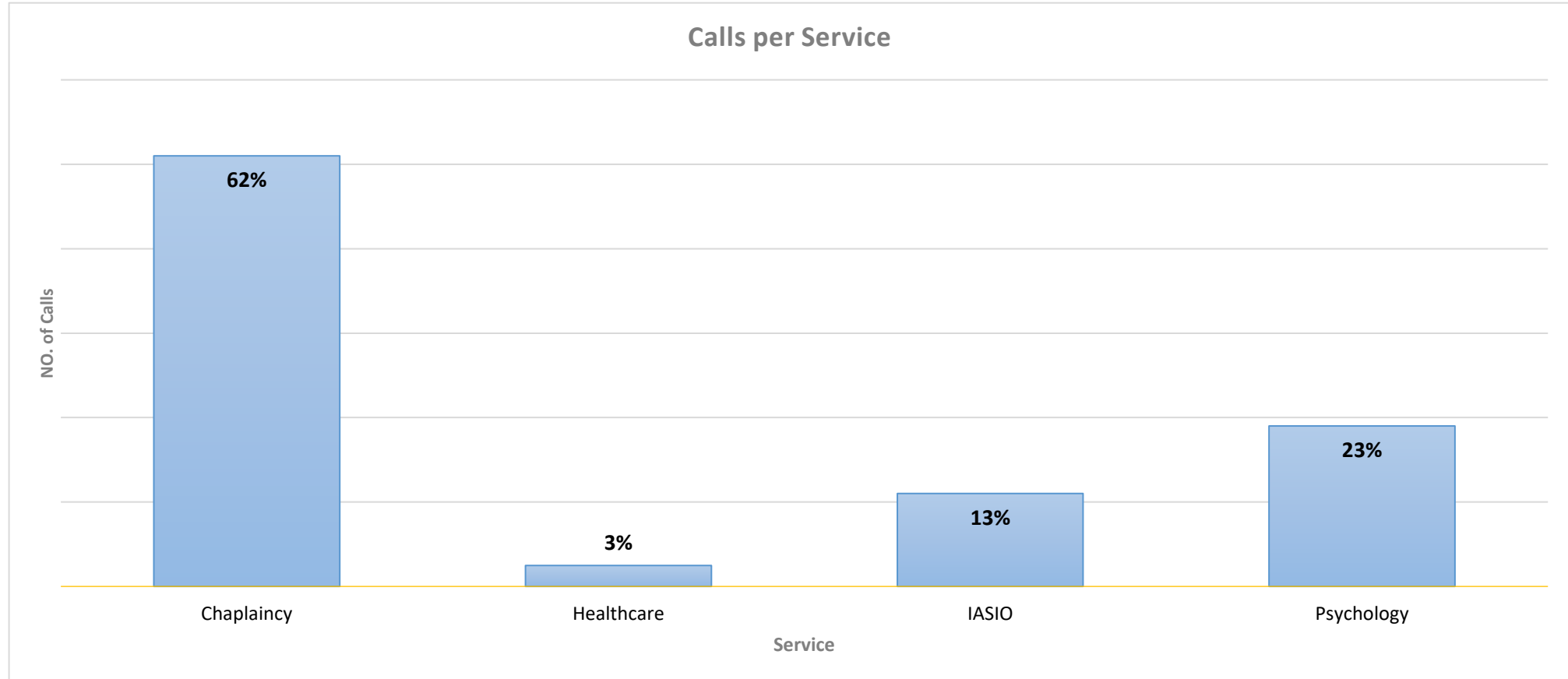
Professional Visits By Videolink





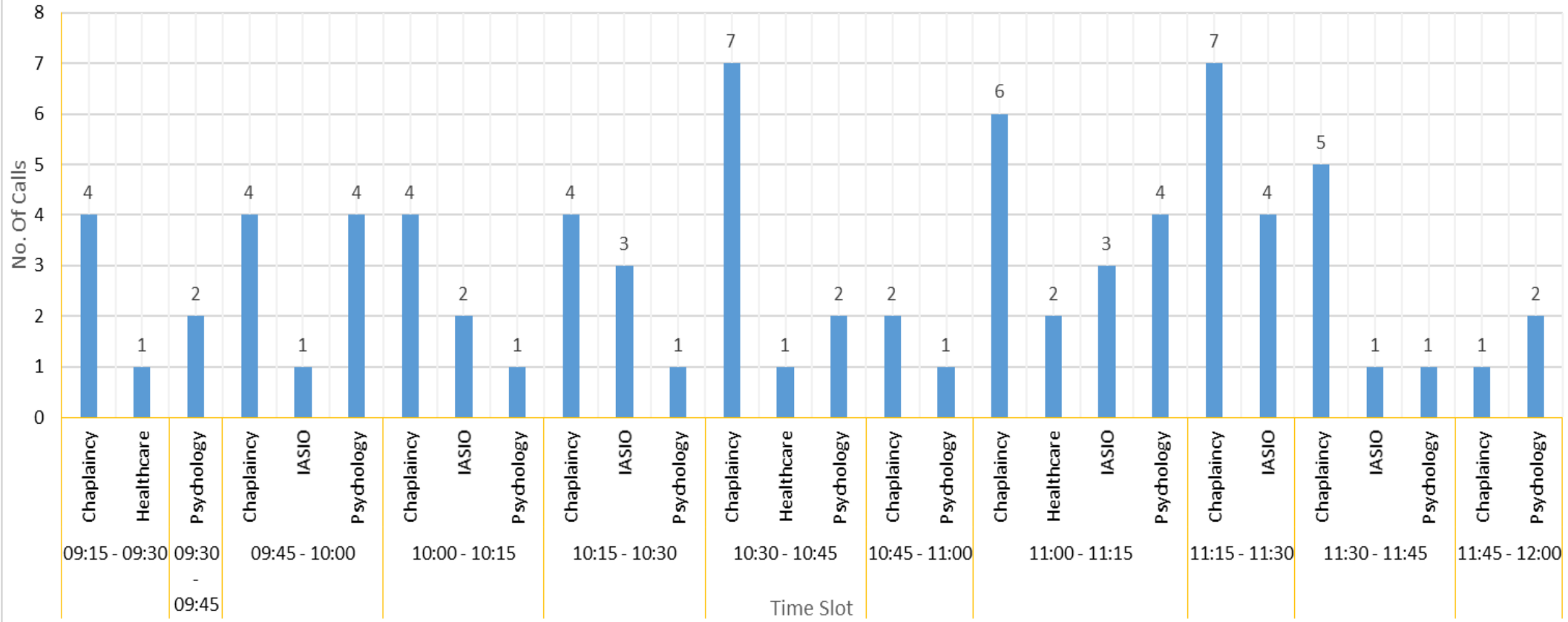
Solicitors Video Conference Calls





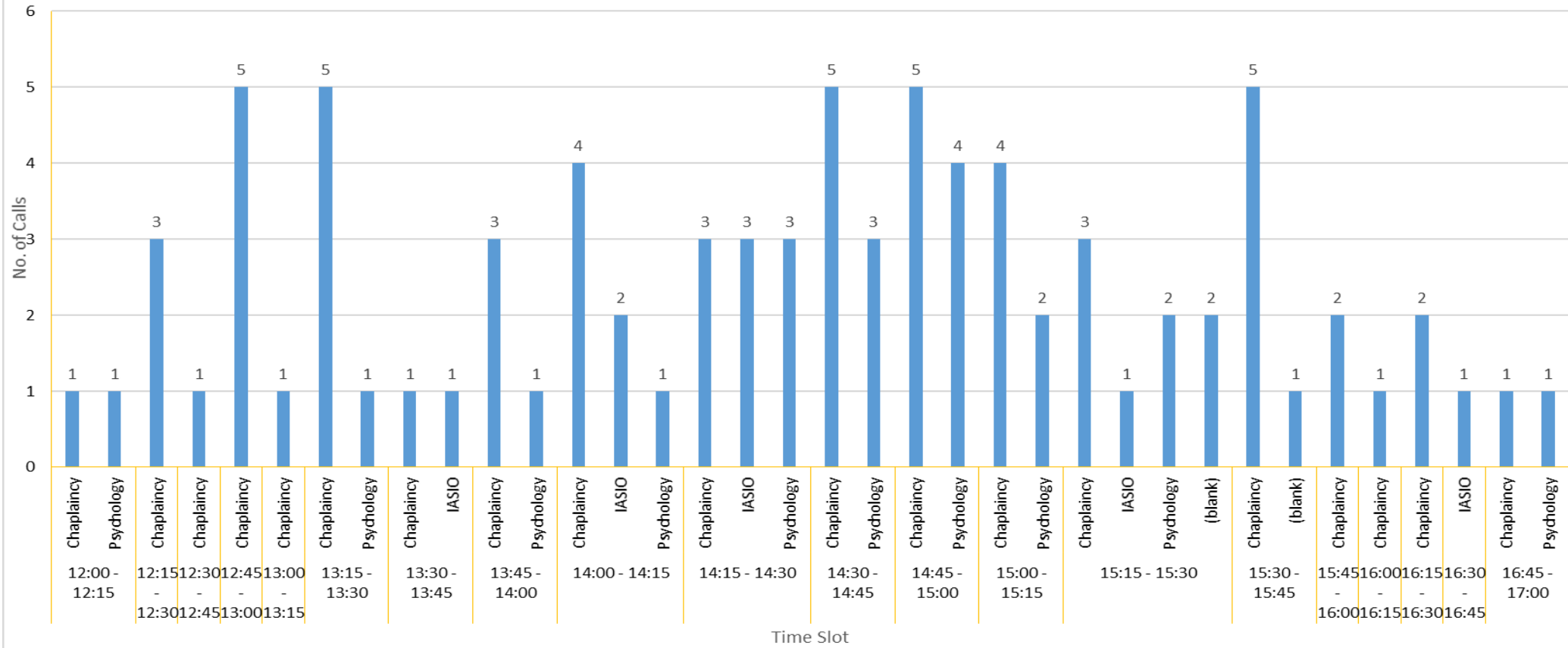


Number of Calls per Service - AM





Number of Calls Per Service - PM





The technology and the software





PRISONS

- What we do.
- How we do it.
- Why we do it.



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**“REAL CHANGE,
ENDURING CHANGE,
HAPPENS ONE STEP AT
A TIME”**



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Thank you for your attention.

Questions?