

Our Ref HQ17079

24 August 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request dated 25 July 2017 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA). This gives a statutory deadline for responding by 23 August 2017. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you. For reference I have copied your request below. You asked;

1. How many pregnant women have been in custody in each of the past five years?
2. How many women have become pregnant while in custody in each of the past five years?
3. How many babies have been born while their mother was in custody in each of the past five years?
4. How many specialist mother and baby units has the Scottish prison service had available in each of the past five years and what has the occupancy rate been in each of these years?
5. What percentage of applications for places in specialist mother and baby units have been approved in each of the past five years?
6. Does the Scottish prison service employ anyone with responsibility for or specifically hired for their experience with maternal and perinatal mental health?
7. What percentage of mothers in prison last year had dependent children? Please break this down by i) all dependent children, ii) aged less than 5, iii) aged less than 3, iv) Aged less than 18 months?

I have now completed my search for the information you request and the answers re detailed below.

1. The number of pregnant women in custody in each of the past 5 years

	HMP & YOI Cornton Vale		HMP & YOI Grampian
2012	34	2012/13	n/a
2013	17	2013/14	n/a
2014	26	2014/15	n/a
2015	15	2015/16	n/a
2016	19	2016/17	5
2017	12 (up to 02/08/2017)	2017/18	0

2. The number of women who became pregnant whilst in custody in each of the past 5 years is shown in the table below.

	HMP & YOI Cornton Vale		HMP & YOI Grampian
2012	0	2012/13	n/a
2013	0	2013/14	n/a
2014	1	2014/15	n/a
2015	0	2015/16	n/a
2016	1	2016/17	0
2017	2 (up to 02/08/2017)	2017/18	0

3. The number of babies born whilst their mother was in custody in each of the past 5 years is shown in the table below.

	HMP & YOI Cornton Vale		HMP & YOI Grampian
2012	10	2012/13	n/a
2013	3	2013/14	n/a
2014	8	2014/15	n/a
2015	6	2015/16	n/a
2016	5	2016/17	3
2017	2 (up to 02/08/2017)	2017/18	0

4. The mother and baby unit at HMP & YOI Cornton Vale has 7 spaces. HMP & YOI Cornton Vale also has Independent Living Units and these units are used to support women as they reintegrate back into their communities. One of these units has been adapted to make it child friendly e.g. radiator guards, baby gates etc. to allow any women who has been living within the prison with their baby to progress to these units if it is deemed appropriate. The mother and baby unit at HMP & YOI Grampian opened in 2016 and has 2 spaces.

The number of occasions that these spaces have been occupied are detailed below.

	HMP & YOI Cornton Vale		HMP & YOI Grampian
2012	2	2012/13	n/a
2013	0	2013/14	n/a
2014	5	2014/15	n/a
2015	0	2015/16	n/a
2016	1	2016/17	1
2017	2 (up to 02/08/2017)	2017/18	0

5. All pregnant women in custody are referred to community based Children and Families social workers. Women who are expected to give birth during their time in custody are subject to a multi-disciplinary pre-birth assessment, led by community based social work. If this assessment deems them suitable to have care of their baby i.e. there are no child protection concerns and crucially, they want to have their baby with them in a custodial setting, a place in a mother and baby unit will be allocated.

6. Prisoner healthcare, including mental health, is the responsibility of the National Health Service in Scotland. Women who are pregnant in custody should have access to the same services and supports as women in the community.

There is a designated Mother and Baby Nurse who works in HMP & YOI Cornton Vale who specialises in mental health and addictions. She manages and co-ordinates all aspects of the care of pregnant women in custody and their babies, linking in with local midwifery, health visiting and substance misuse teams to ensure a comprehensive care package is provided.

Post-natal care at HMP Grampian is currently provided by a health visitor.

7. We do endeavour to provide information wherever possible but on this occasion a cost exemption applies. This information is not held on our Prisoner Records System (PR2) and would require a manual search to be carried out on every individual prisoners file to ascertain whether or not this information is held. It is also worth noting that this information, should it exist, would be self-reported and therefore SPS would not be able to confirm the accuracy of any information that it did hold.

We have now completed our search for the information you request, and a copy is enclosed. If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review, by writing to The Chief Executive, Calton House, 5 Redheughs Rigg, Edinburgh, EH12 9HW. Your request should explain why you wish a review to be carried out, and should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

SPS HQ