

The Release of Prisoners (Coronavirus) (Scotland)

Regulations 2020

Interim Report – Tranche 1

Scottish Prison Service

Office of the Chief Executive

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Version 1.1

Unlocking Potential. Transforming Lives

Version Control

Version Number	Date of Version	Nature of changes made in this update
1.0	18 May 2020	Introduction of new document.
1.1	18 May 2020	Analytical review (JAS)

Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Tranche 1 – Overview by Establishment	3
3. Tranche 1 - Overview by Local Authority	4
4. Tranche 1 – Overview by Age Range.....	5
5. Tranche 1 – Overview by Gender.....	5

1. Introduction

Scottish Prison Service (SPS) Early Release Statistics

Official Statistics: Special Release of Management Information

The Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 provides new powers for the early release of a specific class of prisoners held in Scottish prisons.

Early Release has been deemed necessary in order to provide SPS with additional operational capacity including allowing for a greater use of single cell occupancy, keeping prison staff and the people in their care safe.

A total of **154 people** have been released from prison in the first phase of release. The first early releases took place on 6th May, 2020.

As well as a specific set of exclusions¹, Governors In Charge (GIC) are empowered to veto a release if they consider that “if released, the person would pose an immediate risk of harm to an identified person”².

The following tables provide information on the outcomes of Governors’ assessments, and the numbers of prisoners released under this scheme. This information is collated by the governor of each prison and aggregated by SPS Operations Directorate.

Early release is being rolled out in three tranches. This report covers those considered for early release in Tranche 1.

	Release Period	Total Eligible
Tranche 1	04/05/2020 - 18/05/2020	204
Tranche 2	19/05/2020 - 25/05/2020	133
Tranche 3	26/05/2020 - 01/06/2020	108

In Tranche 1, 204 individuals were eligible. 154 were released early, 23 had their release prevented by the Governor in Charge’s veto, and 27 were released on their pre-existing schedule. None of those eligible in tranche 1 were symptomatic with COVID-19, which would have led to a delay in their release.

All enquiries should be addressed to: SPSNews@sps.pnn.gov.uk

¹ Prisoner groups identified in paragraph 19(4) are excluded from early release <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2020/7/schedule/4/paragraph/19>,

² *Ibid.* Paragraph 19(3)(b) details the Governor’s veto

2. Tranche 1 – Overview by Establishment

Establishment	Total			Veto		Time-bound*	
	Considered	Released	row %	Applied	row %		row %
Addiewell	17	11	65%	1	6%	5	29%
Barlinnie	36	25	69%	9	25%	2	6%
Cornton Vale	4	2	50%	2	50%	0	0%
Dumfries	2	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%
Edinburgh	20	19	95%	0	0%	1	5%
Glenochil	20	17	85%	3	15%	0	0%
Grampian	15	13	87%	0	0%	2	13%
Greenock	9	4	44%	0	0%	5	56%
Inverness	4	4	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Kilmarnock	18	17	94%	0	0%	1	6%
Low Moss	24	17	71%	4	17%	3	13%
Perth	19	14	74%	2	11%	3	16%
Polmont	16	10	63%	1	6%	5	31%
Grand Total	204	154	75%	23	11%	27	13%

* Time-bound: Those individuals where there was insufficient time to consider their case fully due to their original release date being within the first few days of the Regulation.

3. Tranche 1 - Overview by Local Authority

Local Authority	T1: Total Considered	Released	row %	Veto Applied	row %	Time-bound*	row %
Aberdeen City	11	8	73%	1	9%	2	18%
Aberdeenshire	5	5	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Angus	3	1	33%	0	0%	2	67%
Argyll And Bute	3	3	100%	0	0%	0	0%
City Of Edinburgh	15	14	93%	0	0%	1	7%
Clackmannanshire	2	2	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Dundee City	13	8	62%	3	23%	2	15%
East Ayrshire	5	3	60%	0	0%	2	40%
East Renfrewshire	3	2	67%	1	33%	0	0%
Falkirk	8	6	75%	1	13%	1	13%
Fife	21	17	81%	3	14%	1	5%
Glasgow City	31	21	68%	5	16%	5	16%
Highland	4	4	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Inverclyde	5	3	60%	0	0%	2	40%
Na H-Eileanan Siar	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%
North Ayrshire	8	8	100%	0	0%	0	0%
North Lanarkshire	11	6	55%	2	18%	3	27%
Orkney Islands	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Outwith Scotland	10	8	80%	2	20%	0	0%
Perth And Kinross	6	6	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Renfrewshire	2	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%
Scottish Borders	2	2	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Shetland Islands	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%
South Ayrshire	9	9	100%	0	0%	0	0%
South Lanarkshire	16	10	63%	3	19%	3	19%
Stirling	2	1	50%	0	0%	1	50%
West Dunbartonshire	5	3	60%	1	20%	1	20%
West Lothian	1	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%
Total	204	154	75%	23	11%	27	13%

* Time-bound: Those individuals where there was insufficient time to consider their case fully due to their original release date being within the first few days of the Regulation.

4. Tranche 1 – Overview by Age Range

Age Range	Total Considered	Released	row %	Veto Applied	row %	Time-bound*	row %
18-22	16	10	63%	1	6%	5	31%
23-27	29	21	72%	4	14%	4	14%
28-32	44	35	80%	2	5%	7	16%
33-37	42	32	76%	7	17%	3	7%
38-42	27	20	74%	4	15%	3	11%
43-47	31	25	81%	3	10%	3	10%
48-52	7	6	86%	1	14%	0	0%
53-57	7	5	71%	1	14%	1	14%
58-62	1	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%
Total	204	154	75%	23	11%	27	13%

* Time-bound: Those individuals where there was insufficient time to consider their case fully due to their original release date being within the first few days of the Regulation.

5. Tranche 1 – Overview by Gender

Outcome	Female	col %	Male	col %
Released	18	72%	135	75%
Veto Applied	2	8%	22	12%
Time-bound*	5	20%	22	12%
Total	25	100%	179	100%

* Time-bound: Those individuals where there was insufficient time to consider their case fully due to their original release date being within the first few days of the Regulation.