

# SPS COVID-19 Route Map - Executive Summary

Very soon after the beginning of the UK COVID-19 lockdown on 24 March, all prisons faced a complex set of challenges. As distinct communities, they were at once protected from, but also vulnerable to, the impact of Covid-19. All at a time when the medical community and governments across the world sought to quickly put in place measures which would protect lives, economies and jobs.

In Scotland, the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) took action to modify prison regimes so maintain its core responsibilities to those in its care, and to the people of Scotland by protecting the public. Putting in place safe working practices and following expert advice to manage and control, as far as possible the impact of the outbreak. It established a National Coronavirus Response Group focussed on developing and overseeing key policy changes – informed by advice from Health Protection Scotland. This action was taken to ensure that field operations could continue in ways that were safe and provided as many opportunities for those in custody as possible. In parallel with this shift to a different regime mirrored across 7 days, all parts of the SPS had to quickly adjust their staffing as the workforce – designated by Scottish Government as ‘key workers’, became ill or faced practical problems such as disruption to childcare.

Staff and trades unions collaborated to ensure that the necessary changes were made, quickly in these truly exceptional circumstances to ensure that both staff and prisoners were safe and able to go about business albeit in a different way. Despite all of these actions, six men have sadly died in custody of causes linked to Covid-19.

In seeking to move forward, the publication of the SPS Route Map – guided by the Scottish Government’s own publication on 28 May – shows how controlled changes can be made across the estate to underpin a return to normality for Scotland’s prison communities. The progression of this plan will depend upon a range of factors such as viral prevalence, staff availability for work, the support and cooperation of Justice partners as key parts of the system return to more “normal” working. In addition, we will of course need to rely on the continued understanding of those in custody and their families.

During the initial ‘Lockdown’ and Phase 1 of the Scottish Government’s plan, SPS sought to manage and address the inevitable feelings of isolation and heightened safety concerns from both staff and prisoner groups. This initial response period has also seen the introduction of a range of innovations to assist in maintaining family contact, crucial to those in our care. Thus we are rolling out virtual visits and mobile phones across the whole of the prison estate.

This plan represents a series of connected, and carefully controlled steps which will be taken to ensure that SPS can move back to “normal” whilst acknowledging the measures we will have to continue to take, such as physical distancing and handwashing to help prevent the spread of the virus or further outbreaks occurring. SPS will continue to be subject to scrutiny by the independent Inspectorate of Prisons in Scotland and to be accountable to Parliament.

SPS is proud of its achievements during this difficult period and remains committed to supporting staff and prisoners – both part of the same prison communities – in moving forward.

confidently

 Click to navigate	Phase 1 to Phase 2	Phase 2 to Phase 3	Phase 4
<b>General Operations</b>	Operational Guidance Cell Sharing Risk Assessment (CSRA) Criteria Visit's to Prisons by Families and Friends HSE Engagement & Local Health & Safety Activity Review Appropriate PPE Usage Review Home Working Visit Room Risk Assessment with Local Health Protection Team Virtual Inter-Prison Visits Review Mental Health Support	Operational Guidance Cell Sharing Risk Assessment (CSRA) Criteria Visit's to Prisons by Families and Friends HSE Engagement & Local Health & Safety Activity Review Appropriate PPE Usage Recreation Review Cell Association review Outside Exercise Review	
<b>Direct Prisoner Services</b>	Virtual & Supported Learning Enhanced Annual Learning Planning Programme Resource Allocation and Activity Soft Start for Identified Critical Prison Based Industries Resumption of Prisoner Monitoring and Assurance Group (PMAG) Corporate & Site Status Approval for Phase Transitions Prisoner Transfers	Enhanced Annual Learning Plan Soft Start for Non-All Critical Prison Based Industries Social Dining Managing Ongoing Resumption of Court Business Management of Establishment Parole Board Activity Population Management Transfers, Placements & Home Leave Prison Based Gymnasia & Satellites	
<b>Key Support Services</b>	Mobile Phone Roll-Out Support Working Better Across Justice - IT Capabilities Functional Capacity to Deliver Key Support Services Prisoner Progression & Risk Management Team (RMT) Resumption Common Good Fund (CGF) Impact Estates Development and Maintenance	Administration Functions Restored or Upscaled VT Activities Re-Open Peer Support Estates Development and Maintenance	
<b>Healthcare</b>	Primary Care Services Mental Health and Addictions Service Allied Health Services	Recovery Services	
<b>Resources:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human</li> <li>• Technical</li> <li>• Financial</li> <li>• Legal</li> </ul>	HR Delivery Shielding & General COVID-19 Absence Update Partners' Status Media Communications – Social Media Content Review	Amended Rules For Visits Shielding & General COVID-19 Absence Update SPS Staff Training Recovery Planning Risk Management Team (RMT), Generic Programmes Assessment (GPA) & Risk Management Planning Amended Prison Rules Review Homeworking Review Media Communications – Social Media Content Review	