

21 November 2016

Our Ref; HQ 16176

Dear [REDACTED],

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your recent freedom of information request, which was received on 24 October 2016. This gives a statutory deadline for responding of 21 November 2016 under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. For ease of reference I have copied your original request for information below. You asked for;

- *the most recent information available on purposeful activity currently available in each prison in Scotland, and*
- *the number of inmates who are participating in available activity as well as requests for activity that may not be available in the individual prison.*

Having completed a search of all electronic and paper records held by the SPS, please see my response below.

The Scottish Prison Service delivered over **7 million hours** of purposeful activity in the last financial year across all of its prisons. Purposeful Activity is defined in the Prison and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules 2011 as:

- A) Work,
- B) Education of any kind, including physical education,
- C) Counselling and other rehabilitation programmes,
- D) Vocational training,
- E) Work placements outside the prison, and
- F) Any activity which is designed to assist the prisoner's reintegration into the community following release.

Those in our care have challenging and complex needs. Establishments ensure that activities are tailored and relevant to the needs of their population. Specific attention is given to ensuring that activities are relevant to Females, Young Offenders and those of minority groups. Examples of current purposeful activities include:

Work

Repair Work: bicycles, recycling machinery, prison waste, clothing etc

Production/Assembly Work: manufacturing garden sheds, benches, Post Office trolleys, textiles

Commercial Partner Work: Freedom Bakeries

Packaging Work: tea and coffee work parties

Establishment Services: passmen, kitchen, laundry, gardens, horticulture.

Education

Physical education

Literacy assessment

Literacy classes

Numeracy classes

English for speakers of other languages

Art classes

Peer support

Music classes

Drama classes

Vocational and employability classes - painting and decorating, hairdressing and bricklaying.

Counselling and Other Rehabilitative Programmes

Alcohol Awareness

Drugs Action for Change

SMART Recovery

First Step

Relationship Skills

START (Long Term Prisoner Coping Skills)

Connections for Women

Parenting for women who have a substance misuse problem

Sense of Balance

Anxiety & Sleep Management

Constructs:

Moving Forward Making Changes

Self-Change Programme

Controlling Anger and Regulating Emotions

Youth Justice Programme

Female Offending Behaviour Programme

Work Placements outside prison

Community Placements e.g. wood recycling, groundwork, working with Phoenix Future Trusts, etc.

We do endeavour to provide information wherever possible, however, on this occasion, we are unable to provide the information you request under point 2 as this information is not held. The SPS is currently unable to provide accurate information both on the number of people participating in purposeful activities and in terms of the volume of requests for activities which may not be available in individual prisons. The organisation's PR2 prisoner records system does not have the capability nor capacity to provide such a specific response. In addition, the SPS does not hold waiting lists for prisoners accessing purposeful activities as, here too, our current recording and reporting systems do not have this capability.

SPS is taking forward a range of actions aimed at developing, improving and aligning purposeful activities to our Vision of *Helping to build a safer Scotland- Unlocking Potential-Transforming Lives*. The development of purposeful activities is also informed by recommendations made by the Justice Committee, the SPS Organisational Review and *Delivering a Strategy for Purposeful Activity in the Scottish Prison Service*. Given the scale and scope of work required, a strategic decision was taken to deliver these improvements via a formal MSP (Managing Successful Programmes) approach. The purposeful activity programme is one of the SPS transformational change programmes and as such is subject to the highest degree of scrutiny.

Tranche one of the programme focuses on the following areas:

- **Throughcare**

The SPS now employs 41 Throughcare Support Officers (TSOs) and 3 managers resulting in a voluntary service to all short term prisoners on liberation from all establishments in Scotland.

- **Case Management**

We are developing a range of improved case management procedures for all convicted prisoners, piloting a number of approaches and actively engaging with key partners to agree a range of new multi-disciplinary approaches.

- **Psychology**

All offending behaviour programmes are being realigned to ensure that they support the asset based, person centre approach defined in our Mission and Vision. This entails developing, updating and presenting all of our programmes to SAPOR for approval. The Youth Justice Programme, Self-Change (accredited by NOMS) and Moving Forward Making Change (MFMC) have been accredited with plans in place to progress CARE, the Substance Related Offending Behaviour Programme (SROBP) and Constructs for approval.

- **Learning and Skills**

SPS is in the process of procuring a new contract for the provision of learning services within our prisons in line with the recently published *Learning and Skills Strategy 2016 – 2021*. In addition, we are piloting the use of the ‘Do it Profiler’ tool to identify people with learning disabilities as well as progressing options to enhance the skills and certification of peer mentoring across the SPS.

- **Employability & Enterprise.**

We have developed models to support establishments in securing partnership arrangements with external companies such as Freedom Bakeries. These partnerships deliver real work based experience to our population with the goal of breaking down barriers and securing employment. We are also developing links with relevant occupational bodies ensuring that we are providing skills opportunities relevant to the employment market.

- **Health & Wellbeing**

Our new Mission and Vision sees the person as a whole and recognises the links between good health wellbeing and desistance. We are therefore developing standards which seek to place health and wellbeing in a central position, making clear links with individuals’ case management noted above.

- **Defining Purposeful Activity**

We have updated the legal definition of purposeful activity within Prison Rules and are developing a new framework document to set the direction of purposeful activity for the future. The SPS is also developing a new management information system with new ways of monitoring and recording these activities.

All of the developments listed above are being progressed while maintaining high levels of performance in relation to the ongoing delivery of purposeful activity. Further information in respect of the progress of PA is covered within the SPS Annual Report 2015 -2016 which can be accessed via the SPS Website at:

<http://www.sps.gov.uk/Corporate/Publications/Publication-4206.aspx>

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you have the right to request a review. Your request should be made within 40 working days of the date of receipt of this letter and we will reply within 20 working days of receiving your request. Under section 20(3)(c)(ii) of the Act your request should outline your reason for seeking a review.

If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain unsatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to Colin McConnell, Chief Executive, Scottish Prison Service, Calton House, Redheughs Rigg, Edinburgh EH12 9HW. The review will be undertaken by staff not involved in the original decision making process.

I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Purposeful Activity Project Manager