

Ref; HQ 16206

21 December 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

Thank you for your recent freedom of information request, which was received on 22 November 2016. This gives a statutory deadline for responding of 21 December 2016 under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

You asked the following, and for ease of reference I have copied your original request for information (RFI) as follows.

1. RFI – The number of prisoners who have participated in outdoor education programmes like the John Muir Award for the last five years, broken down by prison and year.
2. RFI – A breakdown of re-offending rates of prisoners who have participated in an outdoor education programme such as the John Muir Award as compared to prisoners who have not

In response to **RFI 1 & 2**; having completed our search of all electronic and paper records held by the SPS I can confirm that the following prisons have participated in outdoor education programmes. We do not hold specific records for each year or prisoner details to provide re-offending rates but can confirm the following level of participation by prison in the last 5 years.

**HMP & YOI Polmont;** HMP YOI Polmont delivers the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award and part of the Silver Award in partnership with Barnardos. This has been delivered on a continuous basis within HMP YOI Polmont since 2011 with 150 young men participating. Of these 115 young men achieved sectional Bronze Awards and the remaining 35 completed the full Bronze Award and sectional Silver Awards

**HMP Castle Huntly;** HMP Castle Huntly delivers an outdoor education programme with the John Muir Trust. Over the last 5 years HMP Castle Huntly has supported prisoners to attend the John Muir Trust on 19 separate occasions. This has resulted in the achievement of 133 prisoners attaining Award status with the John Muir Trust.

**HMP & YOI Cornton Vale;** HMP YOI Cornton Vale delivered the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award in partnership with Barnardos. This was delivered in 2013 only with 4 young females participating and all gaining sectional awards. No full awards were completed.

**HMP Edinburgh;** All HMP Edinburgh records have since been destroyed however the figures provided are from the officer that managed the programmes and they were all for completions of the Duke of Edinburgh (DOE) Bronze award. From memory, 8 prisoners had completed the

Bronze award. He further stated that there were numerous others that gained sectional awards but was unable to provide an accurate figure.

We are sorry we are unable to provide the detailed information you requested. 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,

Corporate Communications Manager  
Scottish Prison Service