

Our Ref: HQ17020

19 May 2017

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 20 April 2017 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA). This gives a statutory deadline for responding by 19 May 2017. For reference, I have copied your request for information below. You asked for:

- Please list the names of any public buildings (including but not limited to: prisons, waste management facilities) which have been built since 1996 and where potentially dangerous defects have been found between 1 April 2007 and 1 April 2017. This would NOT include expected, minor wear and tear maintenance work;
- Please detail what these defects were and what disruption to services they caused (please provide all relevant documents including but not limited to building surveys, emails, memos and reports), when they were reported, when the fixes were completed and at what cost to your organisation;
- Please list when the construction of each building listed in part one of this request was completed and how it was financed i.e. PPP/NPD/DBFM/capital funded.

I have now completed my search for the information you request.

In response to your request I have noted below a list of the 'defects' the Scottish Prison Service (SPS), have encountered between 1 April 2007 and 1 April 2017, in buildings constructed since 1995. Reports relating to these defects have been included where available. The majority of these defects were dealt with primarily at a local level by Estates staff at the relevant establishments. As such any e-mail correspondence held within Headquarters Estates Department only covers a portion of the overall correspondence and is of a general nature. Although this correspondence has not been included a summary of it has been provided:

**HMYOI Polmont – Munro Hall high level brickwork – Constructed 2007**

This defect occurred when a contractor was fitting a TV aerial onto brickwork at a high level and failed to take into account compression of the outer leaf of brick when tightening the support bracket. The incident took place in July 2007 where it was attended to locally and repairs verified by the SPS Clerk of Works. It was not considered that the defect was 'potentially dangerous' as it was attended to immediately with no impact on the on-going occupation or operation of the building. The cost of this repair was met from the establishment's budget.

### **HMP Glenochil – Gymnasium Internal Blockwork Cracking – Constructed 2010**

This defect appeared a number of years after completion. The original contractor was contacted and the defect inspected by the original design structural engineer and a further independent engineer appointed by the Contractor. The defect was not considered to be dangerous and was rectified by the original Contractor at no cost to SPS. The Games Hall was taken out of use for a short period of time as a precaution whilst the defect was investigated. Report attached.

The emails on this are general correspondence, arranging for the Contractor and engineers to attend etc.

### **HMP Perth – Energy Centre Ridge Flashings and Regimes Verge – Constructed 2007**

During exceptionally high winds, a section of the ridge flashing on the Energy Centre at HMP Perth and a section of verge flashings on the Regimes Building were dislodged slightly. The defect was reported to the original contractor who effected repairs through his original roofing contractor at no cost to SPS. The roofing supplier was also contacted for advice on fixings. The Energy Centre is located in a restricted area and there was no impact on the continued use of the building beyond the immediate restrictions put in place during the high winds. The defect to the Regimes roof was not considered dangerous. Report attached.

The emails are general correspondence with the roofing supplier and requests to the Contractor to attend.

### **HMP & YOI Grampian – Bullnose and Ridges – Constructed 2013**

During high winds in October and December 2014, shortly after handover of the facility, a section of cladding above the link corridor, a section of a 'Bullnose' overhang and a length of ridge flashing became loose. Apart from immediate restrictions on access to the areas, there was no further impact on the operation or occupation of the buildings. The defect was attended to by the original Contractor at no cost to the SPS as part of his responsibilities for liability and other fixings checking.

Email correspondence is general correspondence between local the Estates Manager and Clerk of Works.

### **HMP Perth – Entrance Building Roofing – Constructed 2011**

During high winds in July 2011 a section of roof cladding became loose and blew off the building. The defect was attended to by the original Contractor at no cost to SPS and additional fixings installed to prevent any recurrence. Apart from immediate restrictions on access to the areas during the period of high winds, there was no further impact on the operation or occupation of the buildings.

No access to any email correspondence on this incident.

### **HMYOI Polmont – Blair Hall, Roof Flashings – Constructed 2009**

In January 2015 a section of roof flashing was dislodged during high winds. The original Contractor was contacted who attended the site with his roofing contractor. A check against design details was also undertaken by our in-house Architect. The defect was rectified by the roofing contractor at no cost to the SPS. There was no impact on the continued operation or occupation of the building.

Email correspondence includes issuing of the supplier's product information and as-built drawings.

**HMP Edinburgh – Ratho Hall, Rooflights – Constructed 2009**

During high winds in early December 2011 a rooflight was dislodged. An investigation was undertaken by the original Contractor and his sub-contractor and rooflight supplier. The rooflights are fitted with self-closing devices connected to wind and rain sensors. The rooflight may have remained open during the storms but the root cause of this was not identified. Repair was carried out and other aspects of the design and installation were checked at no cost to SPS. Report attached.

**HMP Edinburgh – Ratho Hall, Smoke Vent – Constructed 2009**

In January 2015, a smoke vent was also dislodged. This was similar to the previous event. The actuating arms were strengthened to reduce the potential for this issue to recur again at no cost to SPS. Access restrictions were put in place internally in the area of the building affected but this was primarily to address safety issues arising from any rain ingress during the course of the storm.

Email correspondence is primarily between the Area Maintenance Manager and in-house Architect, along with general correspondence arranging access for the Contractor.

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

Corporate Communications Manager  
Scottish Prison Service