

Our Ref: HQ 17148

20 November 2017

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your recent freedom of information request, which was received on 25 October 2017. This gives a statutory deadline for responding of 22 November 2017 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 1 – I would like to request a breakdown of the books requested through the prison library service and read by prisoners in HMP Grampian and HMP Inverness since January 2017.
2. RFI 2 – I would like for this to be provided in separate lists for each prison, and detail which books were requested and the number of times it was requested in each establishment.
3. RFI 3 – If a book was requested but not obtained by the library service can this be made clear?
4. RFI 4 - I would like a list for each prison detailing the number of time each book was checked out by inmates since January 2017.

We can advise that this is not information which is held by the Scottish Prison Services (SPS) as SPS library services are provided by the local authorities. However, in order to be helpful we approached the local authorities for the information which you have requested. Unfortunately Aberdeenshire Council have not provided us with the information requested therefore all information contained within this response relates to HMP & YOI Grampian.

In response to RFI 1, 2 & 4 please find attached a list, provided by Highland Council, which provides the titles of 1088 books requested and the number of times each have been requested individually.

In response to RFI 3 We have been advised that on 123 occasion's titles which were requested could not be provided. Out of the 123 Highland Council attempted to source 81 of these titles from other Highland libraries and the remaining 42 were titles held in the library which were out on loan.

If you require any further information regarding library services within HMP Inverness and HMP & YOI Grampian we would advise you to use the following link and email address:

Contact form: <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/apps/contact/>

Email: info@highlifehighland.com

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

Communications Manager