

Ref: HQ 17159

29 November 2017

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

Thank you for your recent freedom of information request, which was received on 1 November 2017. This gives a statutory deadline for responding of 28 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.

**Request for Information**

1. RFI - How many days of home leave have been granted to prisoners in Scotland in each of the last three complete years (whether calendar or financial), broken down by year and by prison.
2. RFI – Over the same period, can you also tell me in how many cases a prisoner either reoffended or broke the rules of home leave while out on home leave again broken down by year and by jail?
3. RFI – Over the same period, can you please tell me the total number of absconds from open jails / escapes from mainstream jails in each of the last three years, broken down by jail and year. Please also provide the category of offence for each person who absconded or escaped (e.g. murder, housebreaking etc.)

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

In response to **RFI 1**; having completed our search of all electronic and paper records held by the SPS I can confirm the following information is held for the last 3 completed financial years. For completeness we have provided the number of prisoners involved also. Please also note that HMP Addiewell does not normally support Home Leaves however, 1 prisoner was granted leave on compassionate grounds in FY 2015- 16

	FY 2014 - 2015		FY 2015 - 2016		FY 2016 - 2017	
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Establishment	Days on Home Leave	Number of prisoners	Days on Home Leave	Number of prisoners	Days on Home Leave	Number of prisoners
Addiewell	0	0	35	1	0	0
Cornton Vale	847	31	610	27	528	20
Grampian	348	11	328	14	387	13
Open Estate	20982	502	17202	463	15880	402
Polmont	373	13	244	10	391	17
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22550</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>18384</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>17186</b>	<b>452</b>

In response to **RFI 2**; having completed our search of all electronic and paper records held by the SPS I can confirm the following:

	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016 -17
Establishment	Number of incidents on home leave	Number of incidents on home leave	Number of incidents on home leave
Addiewell	0	0	0
Cornton Vale	1	1	0
Grampian	0	1	0
Open Estate	56	42	27
Polmont	0	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>27</b>

The majority detailed above relates to breaches of licence conditions whilst on home leave. Each breach would have been considered by the local Risk Management Team (RMT) to determine the seriousness of the breach and any actions required to mitigate any repeat breaches including a period of further testing or in some cases a return to closed conditions.

In response to **RFI 3**; under section 25(1) of FOISA, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you have requested is available from the SPS Website in our annual reports (appendix 4) for financial years 2014-2015, 2015-2016 & 2016-2017. To assist please follow the link below to performance reports;

<http://www.sps.gov.uk/Corporate/Publications/Publications.aspx> search under performance reports.

The category of offences for each person that has absconded in the last 3 financial years includes the following:

Theft  
 Assault  
 Indecent Assault  
 Defeating the ends of justice

Culpable Homicide  
Attempted Murder &  
Murder

Please note these figures do not aggregate between Absconds from Home leave or Work Placements however, please note that HMP Barlinnie & HMP Greenock do not support Home Leaves. In addition, there have been no escapes recorded from establishments in the last 3 financial years.

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