

Our Ref HQ 17263

22 March 2018

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 22 February 2018 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA). This gives a statutory deadline for responding by 22 March 2018. For reference I have copied your request below. You asked;

Request for Information

RFI 1. Thank you for your recent answer to an FOI on days prisoners are spending in SRUs. According to these figures, there are 114 prisoners being held in SRUs currently according to a recent FOI. I would like to know how many times these 114 prisoners have been transferred between prisons and/or separation and reintegration units over the whole duration of their sentence.

I have now completed my search for the information you request. We do endeavour to provide information whenever possible. However, in this instance the costs of locating, retrieving and providing the information requested would exceed the upper cost limit of £600.

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you request is not held centrally by the Scottish Prison Service. This is because our electronic prisoner records system (PR2) does not allow us to retrospectively interrogate an individual's cell history. In order to ascertain whether this information is available, a manual search would have to be carried out on every prisoner record in to ascertain whether they were one of the 114 individuals in the Separation and Reintegration Unit on the day in question. This would involve a manual search and investigation of in excess 7300 records. If identification were possible, a further comprehensive search of these records would be required in order to identify their cell / establishment history. In these circumstances a cost exemption applies. Under section 12 of FOISA public authorities are not required to comply with a request for

information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the upper cost limit, which is currently set at £600 by Regulations made under section 12.

I am sorry we are unable to assist with your enquiry. If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review, by writing 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