

Our Ref: HQ17273

3 April 2018

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your request dated 12th March 2018 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA). This gives a statutory deadline for responding by 10 April 2018. For reference I have copied your request below. You asked for:

Request for Information

- RFI 1 The number/percentage of prisoners lacking functional literacy.
- RFI 2 The number/percentage of prisoners lacking functional numeracy.
- RFI 3 The number/percentage of young offenders lacking functional literacy.
- RFI 4 The number/percentage of young offenders lacking functional numeracy.

We have now completed our search for the information you have requested with the following results.

Please note that the Scottish Government determine 'lacking functional literacies' as those learners screened at or below SCQF Level 4. This equates to a former standard grade and constitutes a relatively high standard for literacies competence.

Based on data collated for the period August 2015 – July 2017, of those voluntarily agreeing to initial literacies screening, the results were as follows:

RFI 1 Literacy:

August 2015 – July 2016 Those screened at or below SCQF Level 4 = 70%
August 2016 – July 2017 Those screened at or below SCQF Level 4 = 68% (public sector prisons only)

RFI 2 Numeracy:

August 2015 – July 2016 Those screened at or below SCQF Level 4 = 82%
August 2016 – July 2017 Those screened at or below SCQF Level 4 = 84% (public sector prisons only)

In relation to RFI 3 and 4, given that HMP &YOI Polmont now has a mixed population of young people and adult female prisoners, the authority is unable to provide separate data for these population groups.

However, for the period August 2015 – July 2016 (prior to population changes) the literacies statistics for young people at Polmont were as follows:

Literacy – Those screened at or below SCQF Level 4 = 66%
Numeracy – Those screened at or below SCQF Level 4 = 85%

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,

Head of Learning & Skills