



HEADQUARTERS  
Calton House  
5 Redheughs Rigg  
Edinburgh  
EH12 9HW

Ref: HQ18255

12 March 2019

Dear,

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REVIEW REQUEST**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) review request of 3 February 2019 seeking a review of the SPS response to questions 2 and 3 of your Freedom of Information request dated 29 November 2018. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you, which was down to an administrative oversight.

For reference, I have copied questions 2 and 3 from your original request.

#### **Request for Information**

RFI 1 A list and details of the rehabilitation services currently available for prisoners serving short-term sentences.

RFI 2 For 16/17 and 17/18, the number of prisoners - by rehabilitation service - that could have benefited from a rehabilitation service vs the actual number who participated.

I have now completed my review and conclude that the original decision should be upheld, with modifications. I would like to take the opportunity to explain my decision.

**In the response to your RFI 1**, it was clearly explained that the term "Purposeful Activity (PA)" is used to describe rehabilitative activities within Scottish Prisons. This includes work; education of any kind, including physical education; counselling and other rehabilitative programmes; Vocational training; and Work placements outside the prison.

Getting an individual into work, teaching an individual to read, count etc are all rehabilitative services and establishments offer a range of activities and services under each of the above categories which are available to all convicted people in our care, including those serving short sentences.

There is no national register of rehabilitation services but you were provided with the results of a mapping exercise on purposeful activity which was carried out in 2014. This was the last time a full exercise was carried out across the entire estate.

**UNLOCKING POTENTIAL - TRANSFORMING LIVES**

In your follow-up request of 3 February 2019, you detailed your reasons for a review as set out below:-

*“I did not seek information about Purposeful Activity but information about rehabilitation services to prevent re-offending which looks to be item (c) in the response provided, ie counselling and other rehabilitative programmes. Even if you do not have a national register you will still be required to keep records as all Scottish public sector bodies are subject to the Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011. My response therefore should only relate to counselling and other rehabilitative programmes in regards to my second and third questions.”*

As explained, counselling and rehabilitative programmes are one element of a suite of activities and opportunities which SPS regard as rehabilitative services available to those in our care. However, given the narrowing of your scope for request, I have on this occasion been able to provide some further details in relation to counselling and rehabilitative programmes.

### ***Counselling and rehabilitative programmes.***

With regard to rehabilitation services currently available for prisoners serving short-term sentences, SPS offers a range of offending behaviour programmes designed to support individuals with desistance from offending. I have attached a document covering these for your reference (Interventions Leaflet). Serving a short-term sentence does not exclude any individual in our care from being able to access these interventions, so long as they have an identified need for the intervention through assessment and have sufficient time to complete the programme in custodial settings.

SPS also delivers the Short Term Interventions Programme (STIP), which is an accredited programme designed specifically for adult males serving short-term sentences. Participation in the programme is via self-referral. STIP was designed with an overall aim of increasing individuals' hope and self-efficacy to support desistance and reduce recidivism in this group. It is underpinned by the Good Lives Model to support participants in achieving their goals in a prosocial manner and to progress on their desistance pathway. STIP was developed and first piloted in November 2013 at HMP Low Moss. It was then delivered in HMP Perth as of April 2017. This intervention was accredited by SAPOR on 13 September 2018.

SPS Chaplaincy also delivers Sycamore Tree, which is a volunteer-led victim awareness programme that teaches the principles of restorative justice, over a six week period. Please see the following link for further information: [Sycamore Tree](#). Within the years for which you have requested information, Sycamore Tree has been delivered in HMPs: Addiewell, Castle Huntly, Edinburgh, Glenochil, Grampian, Kilmarnock, Inverness, Low Moss and Shotts.

In relation to Counselling for the years covered within your request, SPS contracted childhood sexual abuse counselling services from Open Secret. This service was provided to those in our care who had experienced childhood sexual abuse and who wished to address this as part of their rehabilitation within their time in custody. This

service was available at HMPs: Barlinnie, Cornton Vale, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Glenochil, Grampian, Greenock, Low Moss, Perth, Polmont and Shotts.

**In the response to your RFI 2**, with regard to the number of prisoners in 2016/17 and 2017/18 - by rehabilitation service - that could have benefited from a rehabilitation service vs the actual number who participated: as stated in response to re-numbered request for information 1); individuals who have need identified through assessment and have sufficient time left in custody can choose to engage with offending behaviour programmes (or Rehabilitation Services as defined by your request). Whilst it is not possible to gauge exactly how many individuals could have benefited from a rehabilitation service, it is possible to provide some perspective in relation to numbers.

In 2016/17 there were an average of 3,300 individuals in custody serving a short-term sentence. Within HMP Low Moss (the only establishment delivering STIP in this year) there were an average of 330 individuals serving a short-term sentence: 202 individuals completed STIP in 2016/17.

In 2017/18 there were an average of 3,240 individuals in custody serving a short-term sentence. Within HMPs Low Moss and Perth (the only establishments delivering STIP in this year) there were an average of 335 and 325 individuals, respectively, serving a short-term sentence. A total of 321 individuals completed STIP in 2017/18, 210 at HMP Low Moss and 111 at HMP Perth. SPS holds the total completion numbers for all offending behaviour programmes (attachment SPS Programme Completions 2016-2018).

In relation to Sycamore Tree, there were a total of 88 completions in 2016/17 and 86 completions in 2017/18.

With regard to Open Secret Counselling; the number of individuals engaged with the service in prison for 2016/17 is not held by SPS, but is contained in the Wellbeing Scotland Report. I have attached a copy for your information. This information is not captured by sentence length. SPS has yet to receive the report for 2017/18 with the number of referrals, however you will be able to access the report on the Wellbeing Scotland website once published. Again, these numbers will not be held by sentence length.

With regard to providing information for Offending Behaviour Programmes and Sycamore Tree in specific relation to individuals who were serving a short-term sentence at point of completion (participation); this calculation would incur a cost exemption for the information requested as it would exceed 40 hours of work to collect. This would involve searching of paper records at all relevant establishments and then accessing individual accounts on Prisoner Records. It would further involve checking the live Warrant and Sentence Length at the time of completion to establish if the individual was serving a short-term sentence. You will see from the attachment SPS Programme Completions 2016-2018 that for Constructs and Pathways (Substance Misuse) alone, this number is over 450 individuals.

I trust you find this response helpful. If you remain unsatisfied following this internal review, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner. You can contact the Commissioner at:-

Scottish Information Commissioner  
Kinburn Castle  
Doubledykes Road  
St Andrews  
Fife  
KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334-464610

Email: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)

Yours sincerely,