

Our Ref: HQ 18286

1 March 2019

Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

Thank you for your recent freedom of information request, which was received on 5 February 2019. This gives a statutory deadline for responding of 4 March 2019 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

Could you please tell me is there are currently animal training / socialisation programmes being run in prisons in Scotland whereby prisoners socialise or train such animals as dogs. If there are such programmes could you tell me at what establishments they operate.

In response to your RFI; having completed our search of all electronic and paper records held by the SPS I can confirm the SPS are currently involved in therapy training programmes. 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 requested is available from our website [www.sps.gov.uk](http://www.sps.gov.uk) under the section 'Gallery Magazine' where our involvement is published. The link below will take you to the specific area.

Gallery Magazine issue 76 – Dementia Dogs - HMP Castle Huntly

<http://www.sps.gov.uk/Corporate/Information/GalleryMagazine.aspx>

In addition, having researched other historical sources we can provide the following enclosed information. 'Paws for Progress' was also supported in HMP YOI Cornton Vale for a period and continues in HMP YOI Polmont. The SPS continues to explore all opportunities for such activities.

<https://twitter.com/PawsforProgress>

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