

FOI HQ15055

3rd July 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your recent freedom of information request, which was dated 5th June 2015. This gives a statutory deadline for responding of 3rd July 2015 under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. For reference I have copied your request below;

- *For each of the past 5 years the number of prisoners who have escaped from open prisons in Scotland*
- *For each of the past 5 years the number of prisoners who have escaped from open prisons in Scotland and subsequently committed a further criminal offence, while at large.*
- *Of those who committed a further offence, I would like to know what crime they were serving a sentence for and what crime they committed while at large.*

Following clarification, you advised that you would also like the number of absconds from open prisons. We have now completed our search for the information you requested. Our answer is set out below.

For reference we have now provided definitions of Escapes, Absconds and Failures to Return in relation to the Scottish Prison Service Key performance Indicators.

Extreme Risk Escapes

Definition: A prisoner escapes from an extreme risk escort

Escapes at Other Supervision Level

Definition: Where a prisoner breaches a secure perimeter, security barrier or evades a secure escort and the escapee is out of sight of the escorting officers.

Absconds

Definition: Where any low supervision prisoner leaves a place of custody without permission that does not have a secure physical external perimeter.

Incidents of Failure to Return

Definition: Where any prisoner who has been temporarily released on licence and fails to return to lawful custody at a designated time.

In relation to question 1, there have been 0 escapes from open prisons in the last 5 years. As this is the case, we are not in a position to answer question 2 and 3 of your FOI request.

As there have been 0 escapes from Open Prisons in the last 5 years I have included the number of prisoners who have absconded from open prisons and also included those who have failed to return to open prisons from placements and licence.

Reporting Year	Absconds from Open Estate	Failure to Return from Placement to Open Estate	Failure to Return from Licence to Open Estate
2010/2011	2		7
2011/2012		1	11
2012/2013	2		9
2013/2014			9
2014/2015	1		6

The table above is information reported in the SPS Annual Accounts

In regards to the number of prisoners who have escaped from open prisons in Scotland and subsequently committed a further criminal offence while at large. Other than the offence of being unlawfully at large there were 0 offences committed in any of the reporting years.

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of the way in which we handled have your request, 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, Room G20 Calton House, Redheughs Rigg, Edinburgh. The review will be undertaken by staff not involved in the original decision making process.

Yours sincerely,

Head of Corporate Affairs
Scottish Prison Service