

Ref HQ15073

Dear [REDACTED]

29 July 2015

Thank you for your request dated 1 July 2015 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA). For reference I have copied your request below. You asked for;

- the number of absconds from Scotland’s prisons in each of the past 3 years to date;
- the number of prisoners who failed to return to their respective prisons in each of the past 3 years to date; and
- clarification of the SPS’s definitions of both ‘absconds’ and ‘failure to return.’

We have now completed our search for the information you request. The table below provides information relating to your first two questions.

Reporting Year	Absconds from HMP Castle Huntly*	Failure to return from licence
2012-2013	2	9
2013-2014	0	9
2014-2015	1	6

*Absconds can only be from HMP Castle Huntly as this is the only prison in Scotland that does not have a secure physical external perimeter.

Absconds

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

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.

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

Corporate Communications Manager
Scottish Prison Service