

Our Ref: **FOI HQ 16036**

15th June 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request dated 18 May 2016 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) for:

1. The quantity of drugs each visitor caught smuggling drugs into prison brought in individually with them and as an overall quantity for the past three years.
2. What methods do they use to smuggle the drugs in as they try to get them in unnoticed?

We have now completed our search for the information you request, please find responses below.

1. The tables attached provide a breakdown of suspected drug recoveries over the last 3 years, for those recorded incidents of recoveries on visitors as well as a breakdown of suspected drug types and quantities over the last three years.
2. We do endeavour to provide information whenever possible. However, in this instance an exemption under section s.35 (1)(f) of FOISA applies to the information requested. – The maintenance of security and good order in prisons. As the exemption is conditional we have applied the ‘public interest test’. This means we have, in all the circumstances of this case, considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. It should be noted that the test considers what is in the public interest not what is of interest to the public. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. While we recognise that there is some public interest in release because of general interest in the daily operation and security of prisons, this is outweighed by ensuring that we do not encourage by disclosure, the various methods used to conceal contraband on their person or within their personal property.

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

SPS Headquarters

The table below illustrates the breakdown of total suspected drug recoveries on visitors over the last three years.

	2015-16 Visitors	2014-2015 Visitors	2013-2014 Visitors
Aberdeen			8
Addiewell	2	4	4
Barlinnie	1	6	10
Cornton Vale	6	7	7
Dumfries	11	7	3
Edinburgh	12	6	7
Glenochil	11	2	5
Grampian	7	6	1
Greenock	0	3	0
Inverness	2	0	0
Kilmarnock	7	1	10
Low Moss	5	2	5
Open Estate	0	0	0
Perth	13	11	6
Peterhead			1
Polmont	3	1	3
Shotts	7	1	2

Please note that establishments carry out presumptive testing on illicit articles recovered prior to issue to the Police to provide an indication of the substance found. All substances recovered are sent to the police for either further investigation or disposal as appropriate. The outcome of Police Investigations are seldom notified to the SPS. The quantities detailed below were compiled using the data we have using presumptive testing, for suspected recoveries on visitors over the last 3 years.

	Heroin	Cocaine	Cannabis	Misc Tablets
	Qty (grams)	Qty (grams)	Qty (grams)	Qty (ea)
2015/16	61.1	6.8	111.5	886
2014/15	14.1	0	5.5	50
2013/14	40.5	1.1	92.65	680