

Our Ref: HQ16187

28th November 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your request dated 3rd November 2016 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA). This gives a statutory deadline for responding of 02 December 2016. For reference, I have copied your request below. You asked for;

1. The range of education classes available at each prison on 2014, 2015 and 2016.
2. The range and number of SQA qualifications or similar awards attained by prisoners in 2014, 2015 and 2016.
3. The number of presentations put forward for SQA qualifications or similar awards that did not result in a pass in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

I have now completed my searches for the information you request and my response to each question is detailed below.

1. Learning services and opportunities across the Scottish Prison Service are structured around Curriculum for Excellence, thus providing a range of classes across various levels of Core Skills; Life-skills; Social Science subjects; Scottish Studies; Arts and Creative activities and Study Skills supporting higher and distance learning.

The range of education classes available at each prison fluctuates on a regular basis depending on a number of factors such as changes to the curriculum to stimulate interest; changes to the population or learning needs and availability of subject specialist teachers.

Embedded literacies also support the delivery of various vocational training opportunities to enhance employability skills.

2. The number of SQA qualifications achieved by prisoners over the past 3 years are;

2013-14 = 4789

2014-15 = 4508

2015-16 = 3806

The range of subjects are included as attachments detailing the SQA courses available at each prison in each of the years you have asked for.

3. We do endeavour to provide information wherever possible however on this occasion, section 17 of the Act applies as the information you request is not held by the authority.

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,

Head of Learning & Skills

Scottish Prison Service

