



Ref: HQ 15273

26 February 2016

Dear ,

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

Thank you for your recent Freedom of Information request, which was received on 1 February 2016. This gives a statutory deadline for responding of 29 February 2016 under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act (FOISA) 2002.

You asked the following, and for ease of reference I have copied your original questions as follows.

- (a) how many education courses were available to prisoners at each prison in Scotland, (b) the names of courses available, (c) how many of these courses were (i) below SVQ level 1, (ii) SVQ level 1, (iii) SVQ level 2, (iv) SVQ level 3, (v) SVQ level 4 and above, in each year since 2012/13, and year up to date.
- How many prisoners (a) applied for and (b) received a permission to undertake studies through Open University or other similar providers in each Scottish prison, in each year since 2012/13, and the year up to date.
- How many prisoners attended (a) basic numeracy and (b) basic literacy classes in each Scottish Prison, in each year since 2012/13, and the year up to date.

. The following are the responses to the 3 questions in the order as they were raised.

1. This information is not fully held by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS). The breakdown by SVQ level is not held, and the available courses for each year is not held, however, the attachment to this letter details the range of education classes that were made available at each public sector prison in January 2016.
2. Attached at Annex 2 is a table setting out the numbers of higher education applications received from prisoners and the numbers approved in each year since 2012/13.
3. Information on prisoner numbers attending literacy and numeracy classes is not held by SPS. However, SPS publishes the percentage of education classes spent delivering literacy and numeracy in its Annual Reports. This can be found at page 9 of our Annual Report for 2014/15

and is available on the SPS website at

<http://www.sps.gov.uk/Corporate/Publications/Publication-3360.aspx>

4. If you do not have access to obtain this information from the website listed, then please contact me and I will arrange to provide it in hard copy.

The provision of learning and skills services in SPS public run prisons is currently provided, under contracts, by New College Lanarkshire and Fife College. Both Colleges may be able to assist further and can be contacted at: New College Lanarkshire, Motherwell Campus, 1 Enterprise Way, Motherwell ML1 2TX; and Fife College, Halbeath Campus, Pittsburgh Road, Dunfermline KY11 8DY.

I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Corporate Communications Manager  
Scottish Prison Service