

22 March 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your recent freedom of information request, which was received on 24 February 2016. This gives a statutory deadline for responding of 23 March 2016 under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

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

1. How many prisoners were provided with the service?
2. How much did the service cost (for each year)?
3. What hotel chains (if any) were used as part of the service?
4. How many (if any) prisoners were recorded as having absconded while using the service?

The questions relate to homeless prisoners being put up in hostels while released for 'home leave' from Castle Huntly (for the purposes of this FOI this scheme will be referred to as "service")

In response to **Question 1**; having completed our search of all electronic and paper records held by the SPS I can confirm we only hold records for the past two financial years 2014/15 & 2015/16.

- 2014/15 – 42 prisoners
- 2015/16 – 33 prisoners (to date)

In response to **Question 2**; having completed our search of all electronic and paper records held by the SPS I can confirm we only hold records for the past two financial years 2014/15 & 2015/16.

- 2014/15 - £140,208.00
- 2015/16 - £128,671.00

In response to **Question 3**; having completed our search of all electronic and paper records held by the SPS I can confirm No Hotel Chains have been used.

In response to **Question 4**; having completed our search of all electronic and paper records held by the SPS I can confirm only 1 prisoner recorded as having absconded.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, 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, Calton House, Redheughs Rigg, Edinburgh EH12 9HW. The review will be undertaken by staff not involved in the original decision making process.

I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Corporate Communications Manager
Scottish Prison Service