

17 May 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your recent freedom of information request, which was received on 19 April 2016. This gives a statutory deadline for responding of 17 May 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 spent time in solitary confinement in Scottish prisons in 2015? Could you please break this down and give me the number for each prison? And for how long?
2. How many prisoners spent time in solitary confinement in Scottish prisons in 2014? Could you please break this down and give me the number for each prison? And for how long?
3. How many prisoners spent time in solitary confinement in Scottish prisons in 2013? Could you please break this down and give me the number for each prison? And for how long?
4. How many prisoners spent time in solitary confinement in Scottish prisons in 2012? Could you please break this down and give me the number for each prison? And for how long?

In response to **Question 1 to 4 inclusive**; having completed our search of all electronic and paper records held by the SPS I can confirm the Scottish Prison Service does not have any records of prisoners held in 'solitary confinement'.

The Scottish Prison Service does however provide for prisoners to be held out of association for specified periods under Prison Rules 41 & 95. However our electronic prisoner records system does not aggregate the information to provide a report similar to your request. We do endeavour to provide information whenever possible, however, in this instance the costs of locating, retrieving and providing the information requested would involve an individual location search of all prisoners held in custody for each of the periods specified. A search of individual records would therefore exceed the cost limit on this occasion. Under section 12 of FOISA public authorities are not required to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the upper cost limit, which is currently set at £600 by Regulations made under section 12.

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