



HEADQUARTERS

Calton House

5 Redheughs Rigg

Edinburgh

EH12 9HW

Dear [REDACTED]

30th April 2014

Thank you for your request dated 20th April 2014 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) requesting data on the effectiveness of educational-rehabilitation programmes in Scottish prisons.

In particular, you asked for:

- 1) The number of inmates who complete the programmes i.e. qualifications;
- 2) The percentage of people who reoffend after completing programmes;
- 3) The percentage of inmates who participate in the programmes;
- 4) The level of education of the inmates prior to the prison sentence.

We have now completed our search for the information you requested for the academic year and advise the following in response:

- 1) In the reporting year August 2012 – July 2013 for public sector prisons, 4,595 SQA qualifications were awarded to prisoners with 707 certificates awarded by other bodies.
- 2) We have no data on the percentage of people who reoffend after completing programmes as there is no way of evidencing what interventions, if any, were responsible for reductions in reoffending.
- 3) The percentage of prisoners who participate in education programmes varies daily across the estate. Figures show an average of 2,489 learners were listed to attend the learning centres in any given month during the reporting period. Our average population, in the public sector, during the same period was 6615. These figures will include multiple attendances by the same person over a number of months.

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- 4) We do not routinely collate the levels of education of prisoners entering Scottish prisons. It would be extremely difficulty and time consuming to attempt to validate educational claims in the absence of any evidence. However, we do offer a literacy/numeracy screening for those prisoners willing and eligible to attend learning services. The following figures highlight the accumulated data for the period August 2012-July 2013.

Of the 4,889 learners who completed screening for literacy were assessed as being at:

Level 2	763.00
Level 3	1294.00
Level 4	1327.00
Level 5	1455.00

Of the 4837 learners who completed screening for numeracy were assessed as being at:

Level 2	579.00
Level 3	1526.00
Level 4	1877.00
Level 5	801.00

