

COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE IN CUSTODY – 27 MARCH 2020

As you know, the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) is following national advice provided by Health Protection Scotland and the Scottish Government to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Both the Prime Minister and the First Minister have recently announced further measures to restrict movement and reduce the spread of infection.

COVID-19 is impacting all areas of life. On Tuesday 24 March we told you about the difficult decision we have taken to suspend visits. We appreciate your patience and understanding and we are working quickly to introduce ways in which we can support you to maintain contact with your family during this time.

Whilst visits have been temporarily suspended, SPS will give everyone £2.50 per week (for free) on their PIN phone balance. SPS has also introduced a Family Support Line, available on 0131 330 3888. This line will provide your family and friends service information between 9am and 3pm each week day. Please note that we are unable to discuss personal issues relating to you or your specific circumstances.

Prison Regime - You will have already started to notice a number of changes to the prison regime and your daily routine. These changes and the measures we have put in place to support you during this time are:

- **Work** - Only those who undertake essential services to keep the prison running e.g laundry, catering and cleaning will continue to attend work. If you work in these essential services will receive an additional £10 weekly bonus, on top of your current wages.
- All others work parties have been suspended. You will not lose money as a result of not being able to attend work. If you have a job and you are unable to do this, then you will continue to be paid your full wage. If you do not work but receive a 'cell wage' then you will continue to get this and an extra £2 per week.
- **Money and Property** - Our staff will no longer be accepting money or personal property being handed in at the front of prisons. However, your family and friends can continue to send this to you by post. Your family and friends will also be able to place money in a safety box at some prisons and very soon will be able to transfer money electronically using a mobile banking app. The weekly TV rental fee will also be suspended and £1 will no longer be taken from you.
- **Gym** - Large group physical activity within gyms have been suspended. Outdoor exercise activities will be encouraged in line with public health guidance.
- **Education** - Fife College are unable to provide education during this time.
- **Meals** - Communal dining will be temporarily suspended to maintain social distance.
- **Movement and Progression** - All temporary absence, including Home Leave, Work Placements and Escorted Leave has been suspended. Due to restrictions on movement across the country, progression has now been suspended. However, pre-release case conferences will continue to take place. Those who are approaching critical dates will be prioritised.

You should expect to have conversations with staff in the coming days to get your thoughts about what these may look like.

If you have any concerns or questions, please speak to an Officer or a member of your local NHS healthcare team.