

# SPS Quarterly Public Information Page

**Prison by Numbers Quarter 1 (April-June  
2021)**

**Unlocking Potential - Transforming Lives.**

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## 1.0 Key Messages & Contact Information

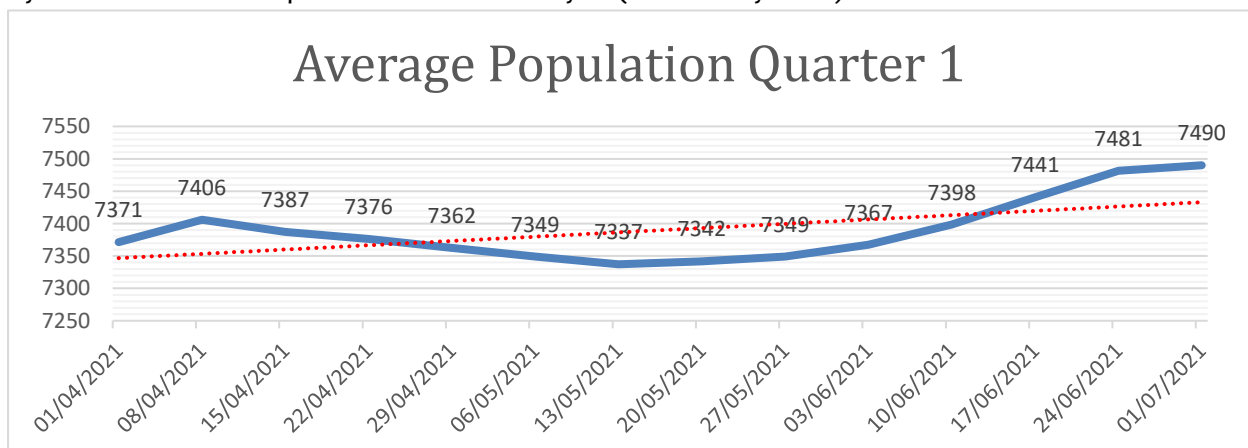
Key messages drawn from this quarterly report are as follows:

- The prison population is rising and the complexities of our growing population and configuration of our estate continue to place pressure on our prisons
- Remand occupies over **26%** of the total population and Remand within Young Person and Women's estate are higher still, at **52%** and **32.3%** respectively
- The population for those in our custody who have a history of sexual offending continues to rise, growth rate of 2.1% during Quarter 1
- COVID-19 continues to present challenges to on-going management of the prison estate, however figures remain low both in our staff group and prisoner populations as we continue to respond the management of the pandemic in our prisons in line with Scottish Government guidelines

General Enquiries Email: [gaolinfo@sps.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:gaolinfo@sps.pnn.gov.uk)

## 2.0 Average Weekly Population

Weekly Average population showed a slight decrease during the first part of quarter one, followed by a sustained period of recovery (Mid May-June). Overall increase **1.6%**:

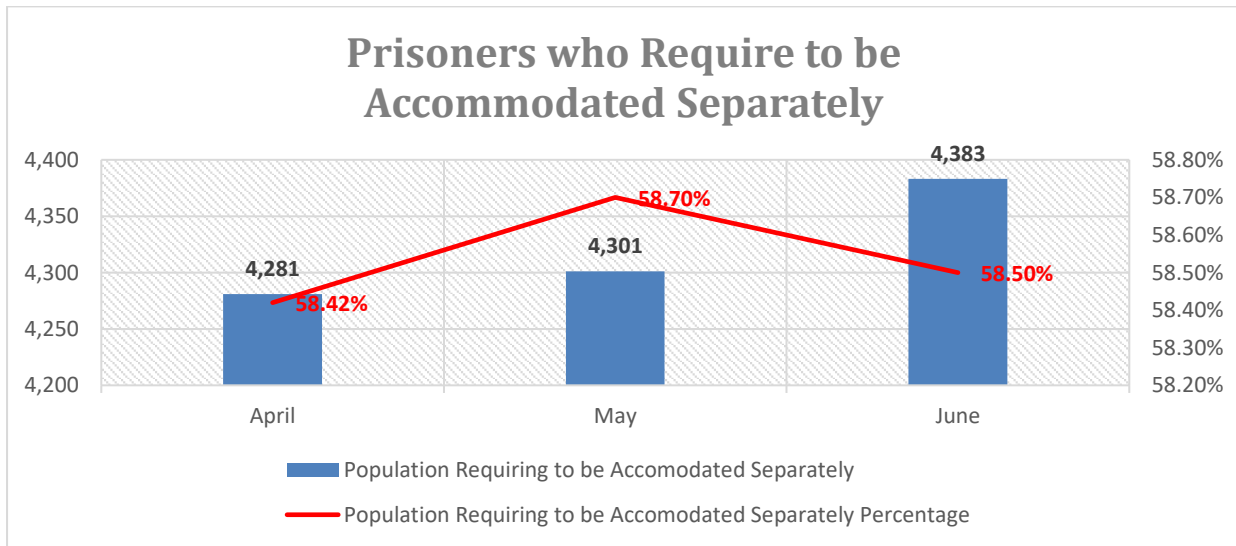


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<sup>1</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report April-June 2021

### 3.0 Complexities of Population

The rising overall population numbers are of concern in terms of ongoing management when we move close to population and design capacity however also of note is the rising complexities of the population who require to be accommodated separately. This can be for a number of reasons such as, legal status (convicted & untried), gender, age, offence type, protection status, health care and specific management issues. During Quarter 1 we can see a rise in the number of individuals who require to be accommodated separately in numeric terms and a slight decrease by quarter-end when consider proportionate to the overall population. The decrease in month 3 is marginal and remains over 58% each month:

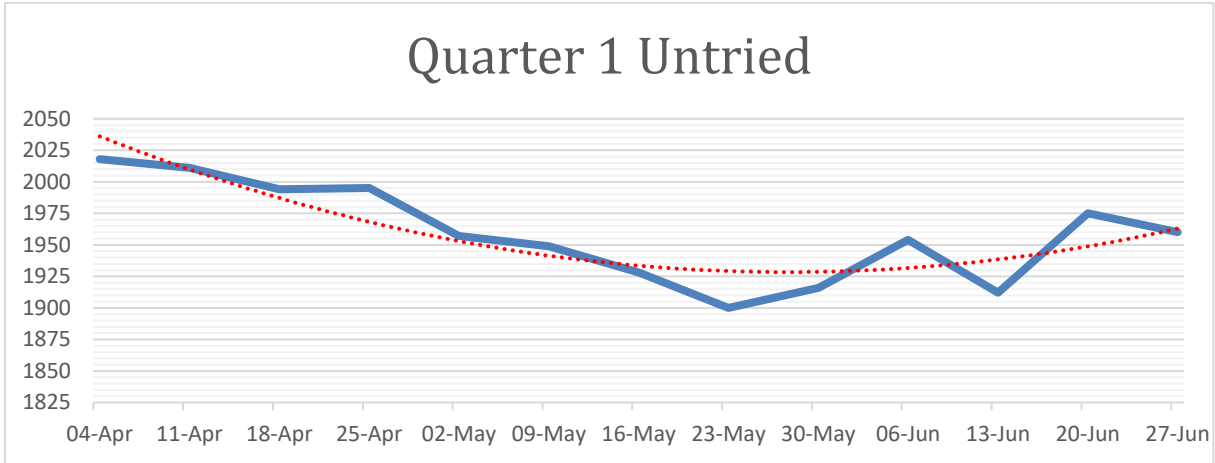


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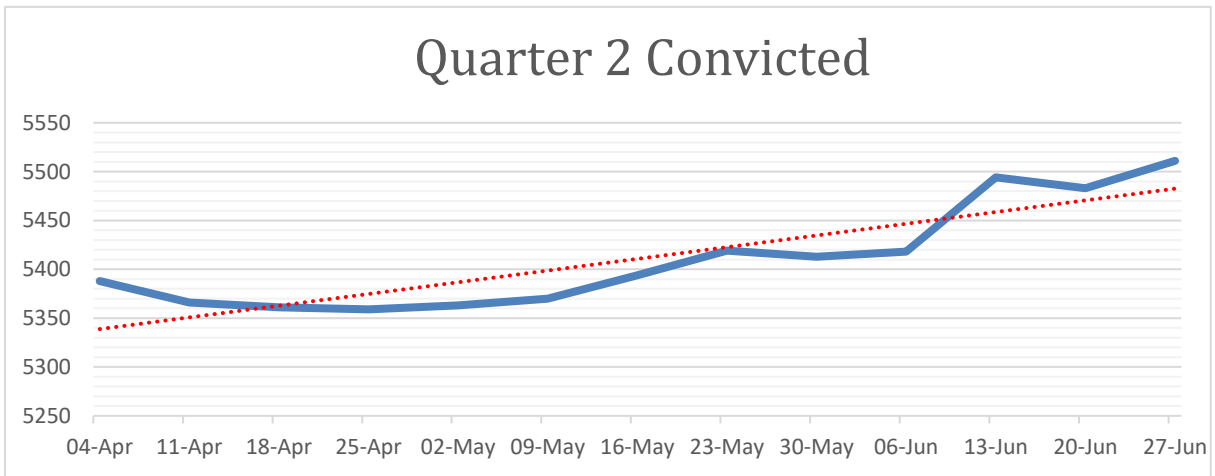
### 4.0 Legal Status (Convicted & Untried)

As the population increases during the first quarter, the breakdown of the population reveals a steady decrease in remand followed by slight recovery at the end of May. In terms of the convicted population this has seen a sustained rise since 02 May. By Quarter-end Untried assumes 26.5% of the population and Convicted 73.5%:

<sup>2</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Operations Directorate Population Reports April-June 2021



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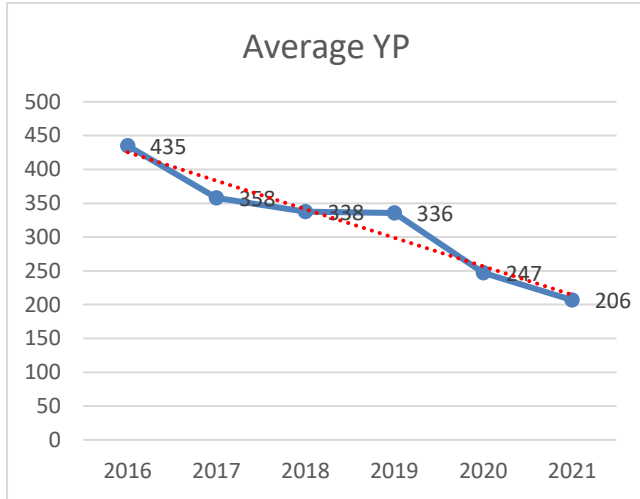
## 5.0 Young People in our Care

Average Young People in custody has dropped significantly since 2016 however during Quarter 1 there is a slight increase in this population overall and within Remand and Convicted Awaiting Sentencing (CAS). From the chart it is evident that the Remand population for Young People is disproportionate to that of the adult population. In the Young Person population, Untried occupies an average of **52%**, this includes those on remand and those convicted awaiting sentencing however for the adult population this was **25.5%**.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report April-June 2021

<sup>4</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report April-June 2020

<sup>5</sup> Population as of 27 June 2021

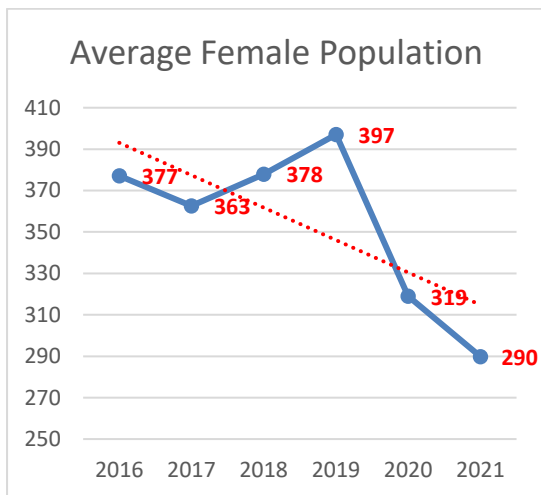


	April	May	June
<b>CONVICTED</b>	98	95	96
<b>REMAND</b>	84	88	87
<b>CAS</b>	15	18	19
<b>PAD</b>	0	0	0
<b>In Custody</b>	197	201	202

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## 6.0 Women in our Care

The average female population continues to decline. The graph illustrates the average annual female population 2016-2021 which has fallen significantly and continues to decline. The table illustrates the fluctuations month on month during Quarter 1. Average untried females during Quarter 1 is **32.3%** (Remand and CAS):



	April	May	June
<b>CONVICTED</b>	191	191	195
<b>REMAND</b>	72	71	78
<b>CAS</b>	18	20	17
<b>PAD</b>	0	0	0
<b>In Custody</b>	281	282	290

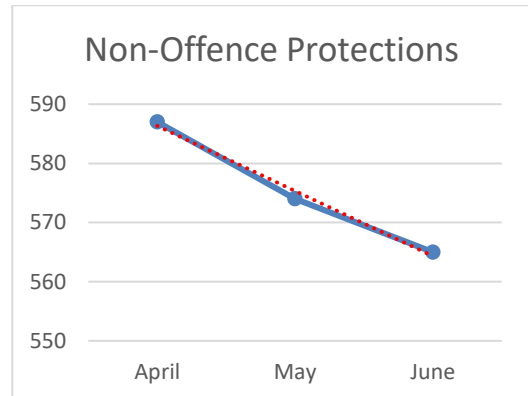
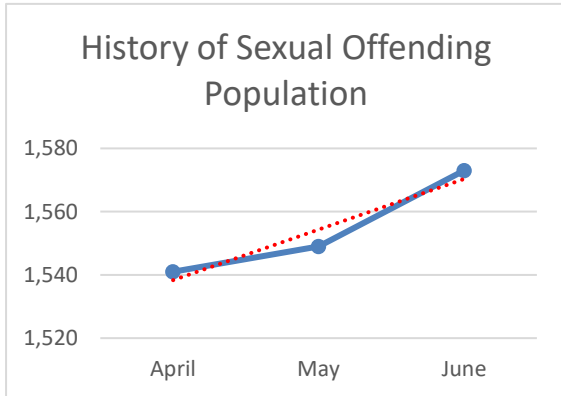
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<sup>6</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System Business Objects & OD Population Management April-June

<sup>7</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System Business Objects & OD Population Management April-June

## 7.0 Protection Population – People with a history of Sexual Offending & Non-Offence Protection

The population comprising of those with a history of sexual offending in our custody continues to rise during quarter 1 an overall increase of **2.1%**. The non-offence protection population shows a decrease during quarter 1 of **3.7%**:

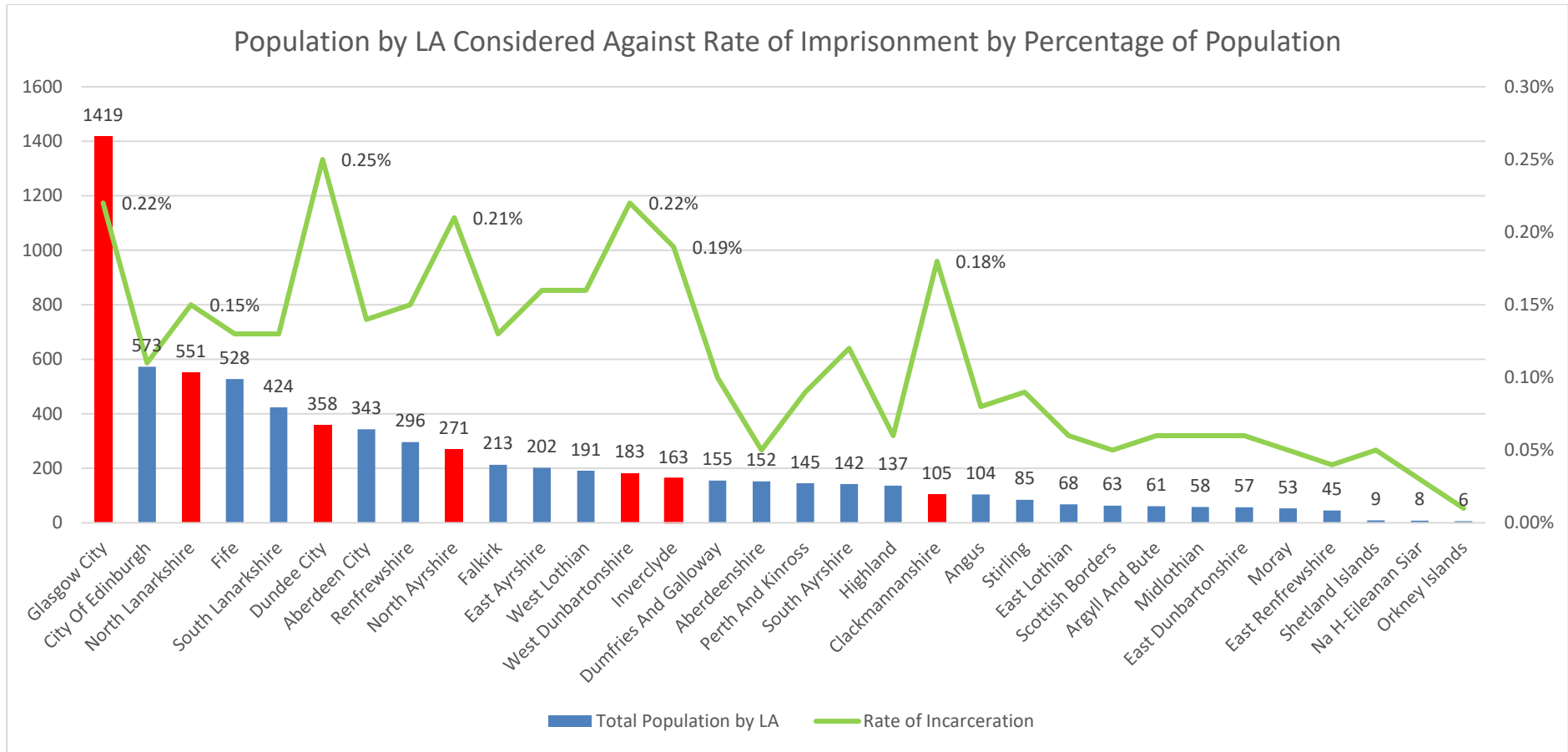


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## 8.0 Geography of Population

The following graph illustrates the total population broken down by known local authority. The totals include both those on remand and those convicted. This is then considered against rate of imprisonment by local authority using the percentage for each local authority population that are currently in custody. Those areas highlighted in red show the highest rates of imprisonment. From this we can not only see the largest population by LA but also areas where the rate of incarceration is disproportionate to the area population totals:

<sup>8</sup> SPS Operations Directorate Population Statistics April-June 2021



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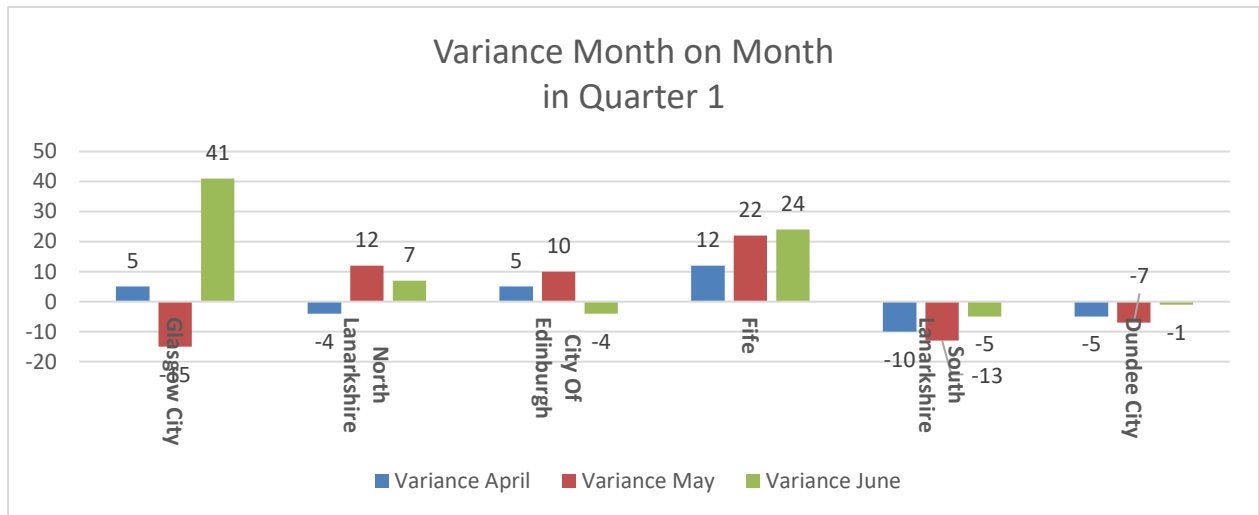
<sup>9</sup> Population at 30 June 2021 SPS Prisoner Records System Business Objects



When considering the population by Local Authority and legal status, it would be expected that the largest local authority populations occupy the largest prison population however this is not the case when considering the 6 largest prison populations we can see that Dundee City has the highest rate of imprisonment than any other local Authority and this is disproportionate to the size of their population<sup>10</sup>. Also of note is the increase in prisoners from the Fife area, a rise of **9.54%** since April:

	April		May		June		Population in Custody by Local Authority	Rank by Population Size
	Convicted	Untired	Convicted	Untired	Convicted	Untired		
Glasgow City	1019	374	1008	370	1045	374	0.22%	1st
North Lanarkshire	364	168	386	158	385	166	0.10%	4th
City Of Edinburgh	428	141	435	144	442	131	0.17%	2nd
Fife	371	111	392	112	409	119	0.14%	3rd
South Lanarkshire	318	124	319	110	319	105	0.13%	5th
Dundee City	251	115	252	107	252	106	0.24%	13th

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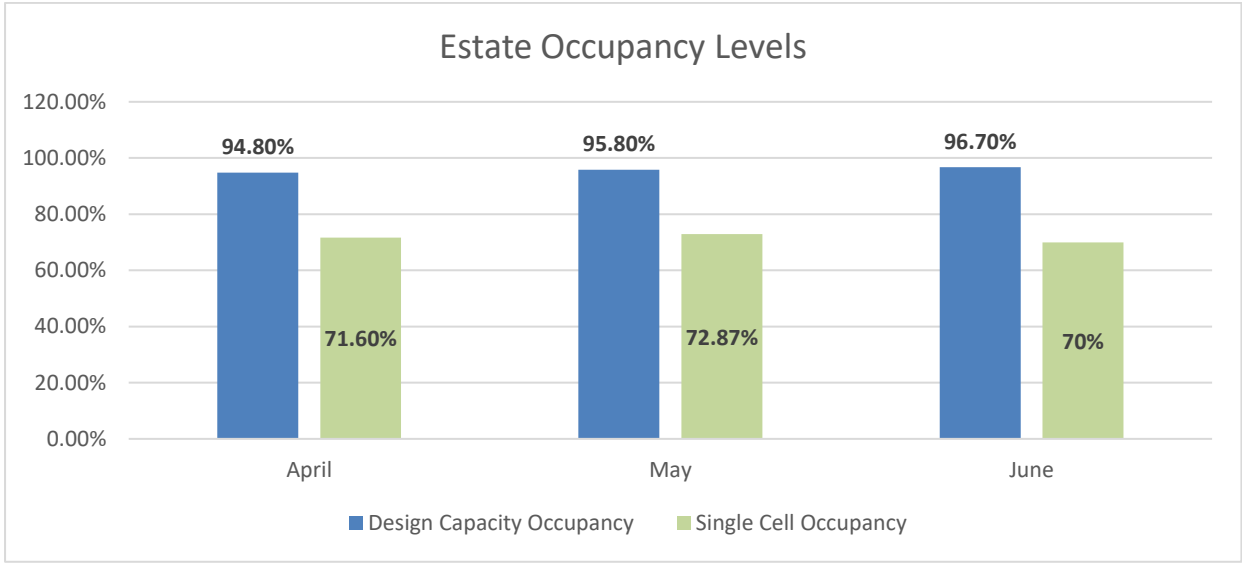


## 9.0 Prison Estate & Configuration

As the population rises across the estate so too does the pressures on single cell occupancy, cumulative totals combined with pressures from the complexity of our population continue to put pressure on the estate. The graph below illustrates the percentage of occupancy by design capacity and the percentage overall, of single cell occupancy:

<sup>10</sup> Statsta.com Population statistics

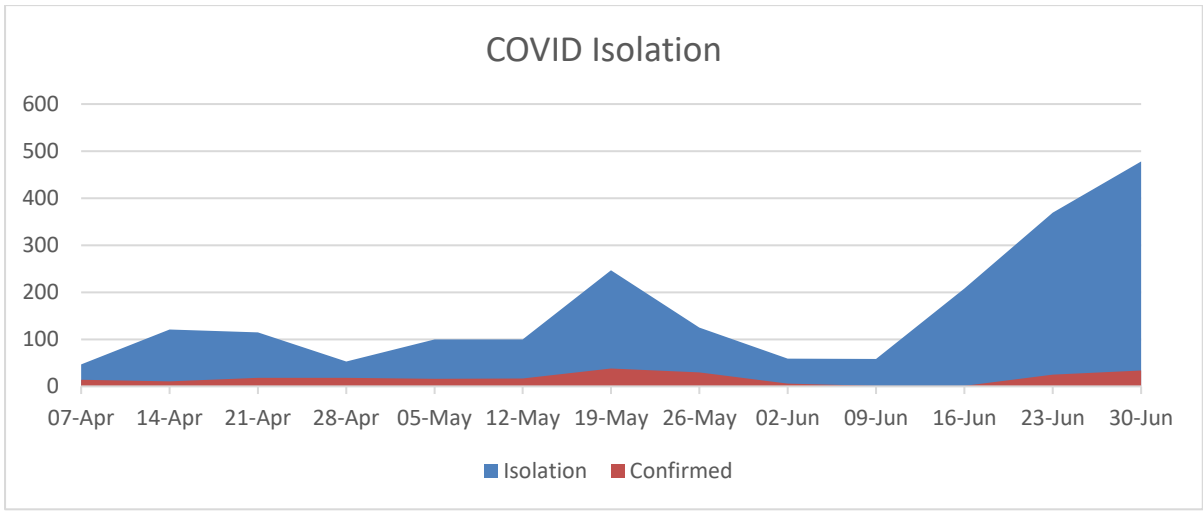
<sup>11</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report April-June



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## 10.0 COVID-19

Since the peak of the initial outbreak in 2020, both confirmed rates and suspected cases have decreased significantly, however isolation cases and confirmed cases continue to fluctuate. The graph illustrates the COVID-19 isolation and confirmed cases across the estate each Monday of the month over quarter 1. As confirmed cases rise so too does the number of individuals that require to be held in isolation as a precautionary measure:



<sup>12</sup> SPS Operations Directorate Single Cell Occupancy & Business Objects Report April-June

COVID isolation figures will continue to fluctuate within the establishments as we continue to minimise the risk of transmission within our prisons. Prisoners will be held in Rule 41 COVID isolation for a number of reasons, those who are symptomatic, those in contact with confirmed or symptomatic case, those in quarantine due to admission from abroad, those as a precautionary measure and those confirmed cases of COVID-19. The SPS continues to respond to changes in Government Guidance and implement the required changes to reflect the recommendations, such as the introduction of the Tier system nationally and return to national lockdown. However, as we now approach a proposed full unlock in society numbers in our prisons and measures compliant with Government and Public Health Guidance will be communicated to our prisons to ensure that whilst we comply with guidance, safety and infection control and management process remain a priority.

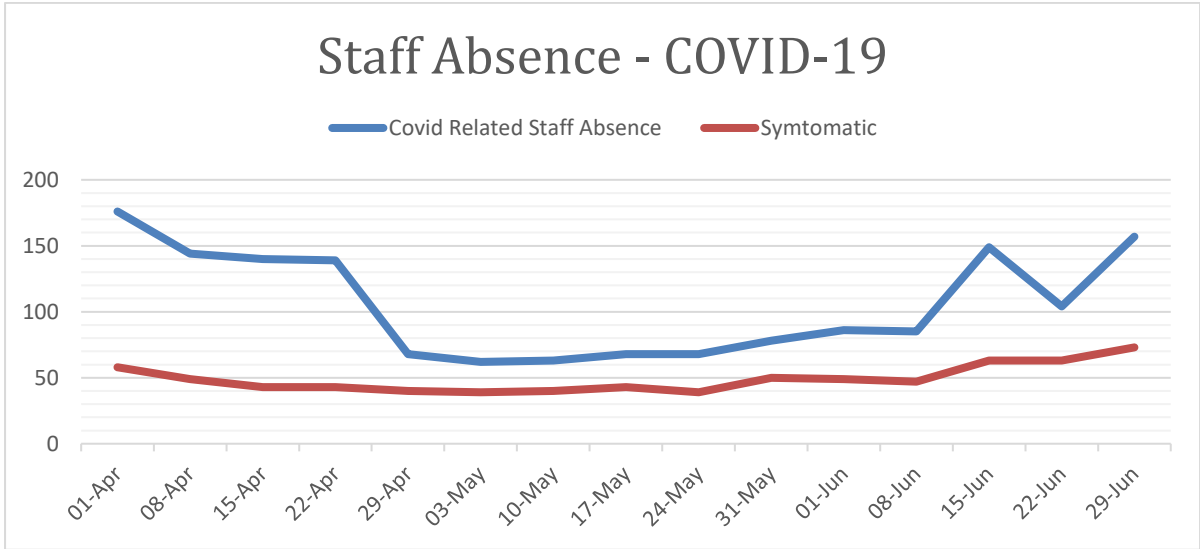
## 11.0 Staff Absence

Staff absence has significantly reduced compared to the start of the pandemic which saw 1,050<sup>14</sup> staff absent from work, in the first quarter of 2021 staff absence remains relatively stable. Fluctuations correlate directly with rise in COVID related absence, which would suggest that staff absence is stable and fluctuations are a direct result of COVID (either symptomatic, confirmed case or close contact isolation). The graph illustrates the overall staff absence, COVID-19 related absence and those absent due to displaying symptoms of COVID-19

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<sup>13</sup> SPS Health – Weekly Situation Report April-June 2021

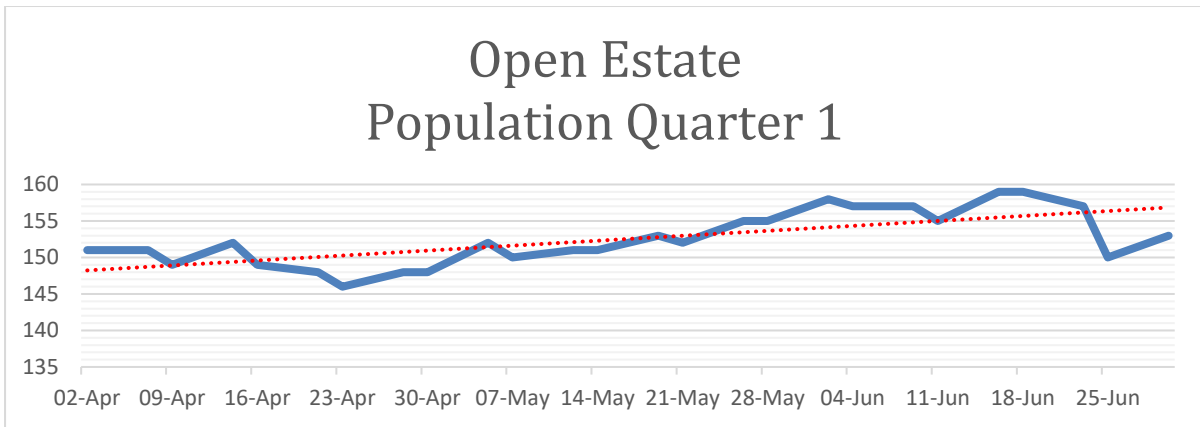
<sup>14</sup> SPS Human Resource Staff Absence Data 01 April 2020



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## 12.0 Open Estate

The Open Estate has a design capacity for 285 individuals however at present the population is approximately 50% of capacity, in June the total was 150 individuals<sup>16</sup>. Progression to the Open Estate is a risk managed process and is available to all category of prisoner once the criteria is met and is managed via Open Estate (Castle Huntly) HMP&YOI Polmont for Young People and HMP&YOI Cornton Vale for the female estate. There is currently **one** female in HMP&YOI Cornton Vale Open Estate and no YPs in HMP & YOI Polmont. The graph shows moderate fluctuations in the male estate OE at Castle Huntly during quarter one and illustrates an overall upward trajectory:

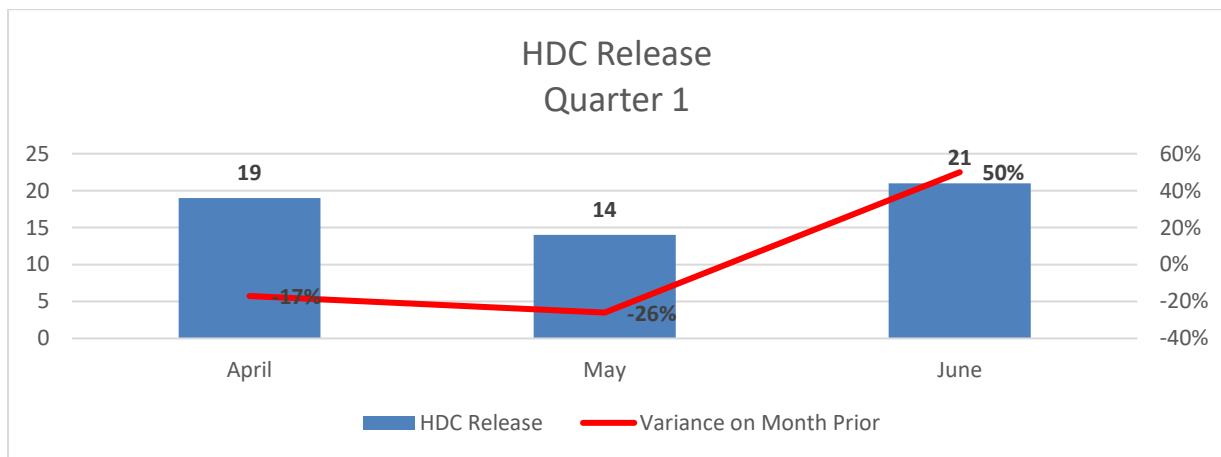


<sup>15</sup> SPS Human Resource Staff Absence Data April-June

<sup>16</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System 30 June 2021

## 13.0 Home Detention Curfew (HDC)

The new Home Detention Curfew (HDC) assessment framework came in to effect in December 2019. The revised framework, with the removal of the presumptions against HDC and the inclusion of those individuals on Medium supervision level, came in to effect 13 April 2020. At present the total eligible cases stands at **248**. Since the revisal of HDC in 2018 we can see year on year the number released under HDC has significantly dropped. However, the new assessment framework that came into effect in April 2020 would see these numbers rise. The graph illustrates the total HDC release April-June and the variance on the month prior:



## 14.0 Useful Links

- [Scottish Prison Population Statistics: Legal Status, 2019-20 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)
- [http://www.sps.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.aspx?fileName=Carbon+Management+Strategy+2015-2021Signed+by+Cheif+Executive+November+20196757\\_3194.pdf](http://www.sps.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.aspx?fileName=Carbon+Management+Strategy+2015-2021Signed+by+Cheif+Executive+November+20196757_3194.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System Business Objects Report June 2021

<sup>18</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System Business Objects Report 30 June 2021

- [Public Sector Equality Duties \(sps.gov.uk\)](http://www.sps.gov.uk)
- <http://www.sps.gov.uk/Corporate/Publications/Publication-7139.aspx>
- [FOI Responses \(sps.gov.uk\)](http://www.sps.gov.uk)