

SPS Quarterly Public Information Page

**Prison by Numbers Quarter 1 (April - June
2023)**

Unlocking Potential - Transforming Lives.

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1.0 Key Messages

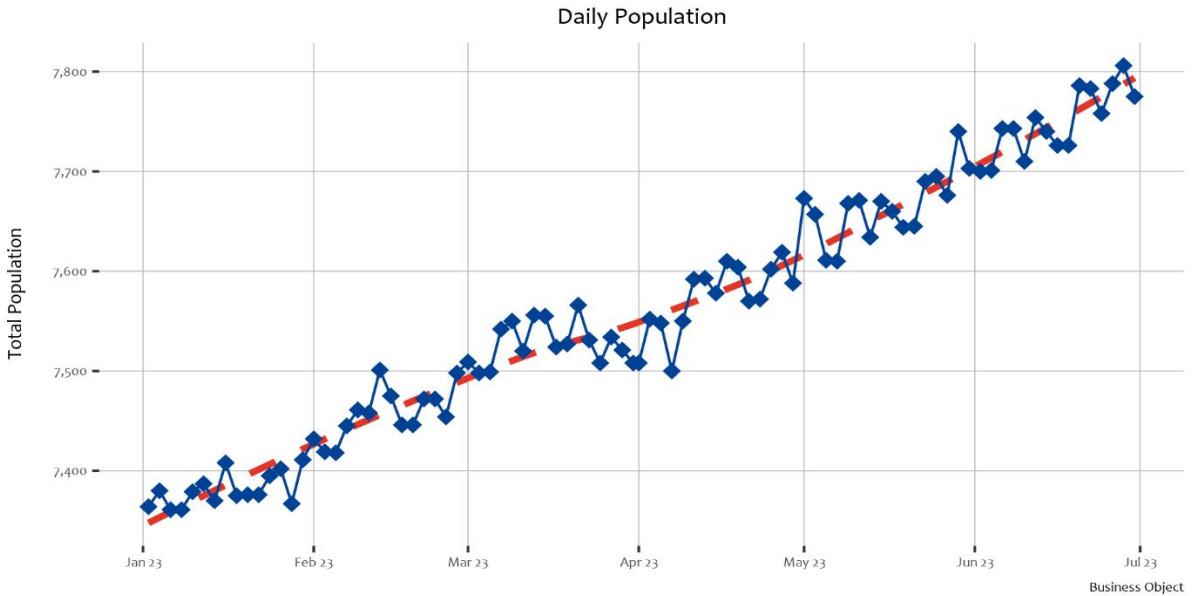
Key messages drawn from this quarterly report are as follows:

- The weekly average population increased by 3.6% in Quarter 1 23/24 compared to the end of the previous quarter. Compared to the same period last year, the prison population increased by 3.2%.
- The remand population increased by 3.6% in Quarter 1 23/24.
- The long-term population continued to increase while life sentences has shown another decrease.
- The women's prison population increased by 6.9% in the six months of 2023 compared to an increase of 1.6% of the men's prison population over the same period.
- The population of those with a history of sexual offending has continued to increase in Quarter 1 23/24.
- Single cell occupancy decreased to 62.7% in Q1 23/24 as a result of the increase of the prison population.
- In reviewing the characteristics of those in our care in Q1 23/24, the majority of the prisoner population were male (96%), heterosexual (91%), had a marital status of single (78%) and were white (94%).
- The national rate of imprisonment in Scotland remained at 0.1% at the end of June. Rates of imprisonment equal to or above the national rate were observed in 18 of 32 Local Authorities.
- 45% of those in our care come from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland.

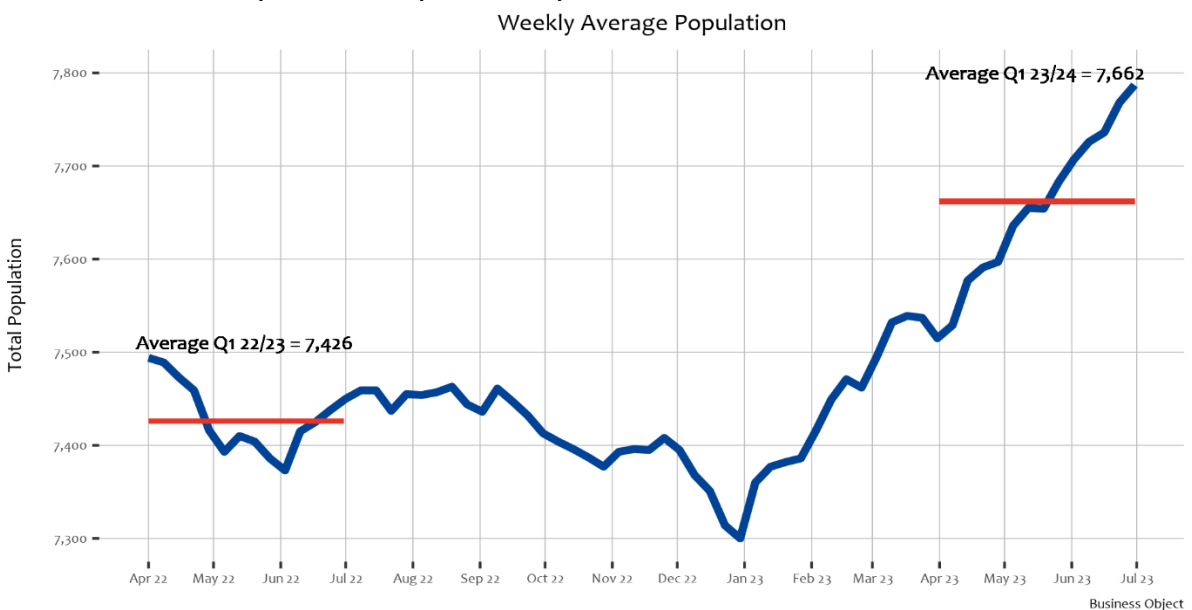
General Enquiries Email: gaolinfo@sps.pnn.gov.uk

2.0 Prison Population

The daily prison population increased throughout Q1 23/24, from 7,508 in the beginning of April to 7,775 at the end of June. The population peaked on June 27th at 7,807. Overall, the daily prison population was 3.6% higher at the end of Q1 23/24 compared to the end of the previous quarter.



In Q4 22/23, the weekly average prison population reached the highest number at the end of June. Compared to the last week of Q4 22/23, the weekly average prison population increased by 3.6% in Q1 23/24. The graph below illustrates that the weekly average population in Q1 23/24 increased compared to the same period last year. The average prison population in Q1 22/23 was 7,426 and in Q1 23/24 was 7,662. This represents an increase of 3.2% in Q1 23/24 compared to Q1 22/23.



The SPS (Scottish Prison Service) publishes Prison Population Reports illustrating the population in custody broken down by custody type, gender, and age, as well as the population on Home Detention Curfew by gender. The Prison Population Reports can be found on the links below:

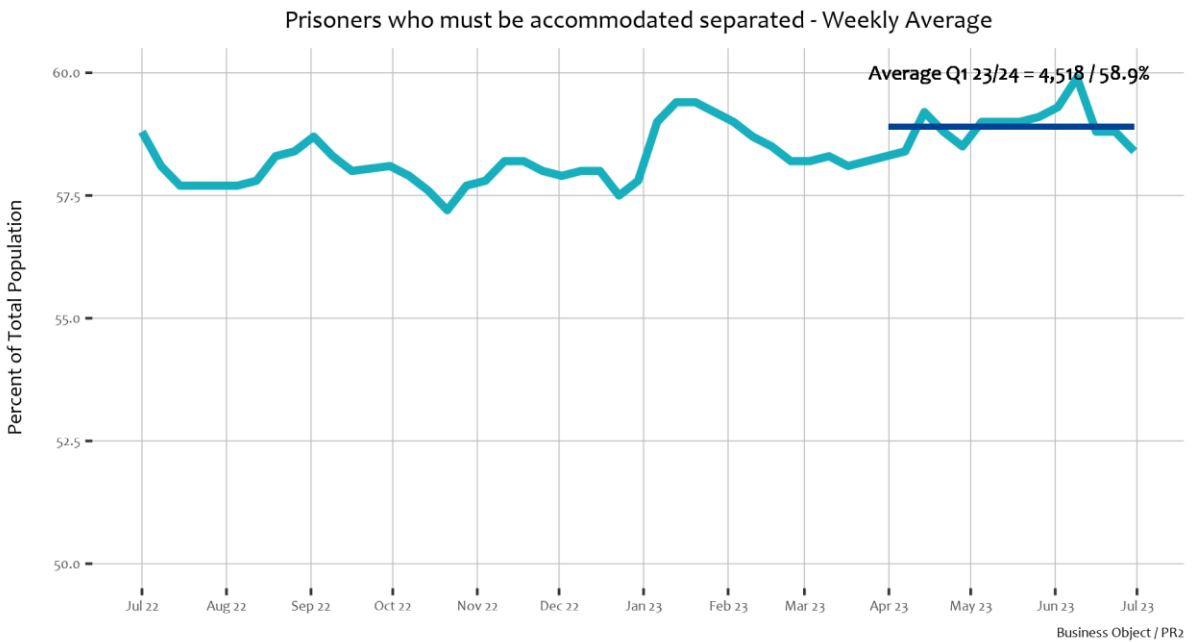
[Prison Population Report – Weekly time series](#)

[Prison Population Report – Annual prison Population](#)

3.0 Complexities of Population

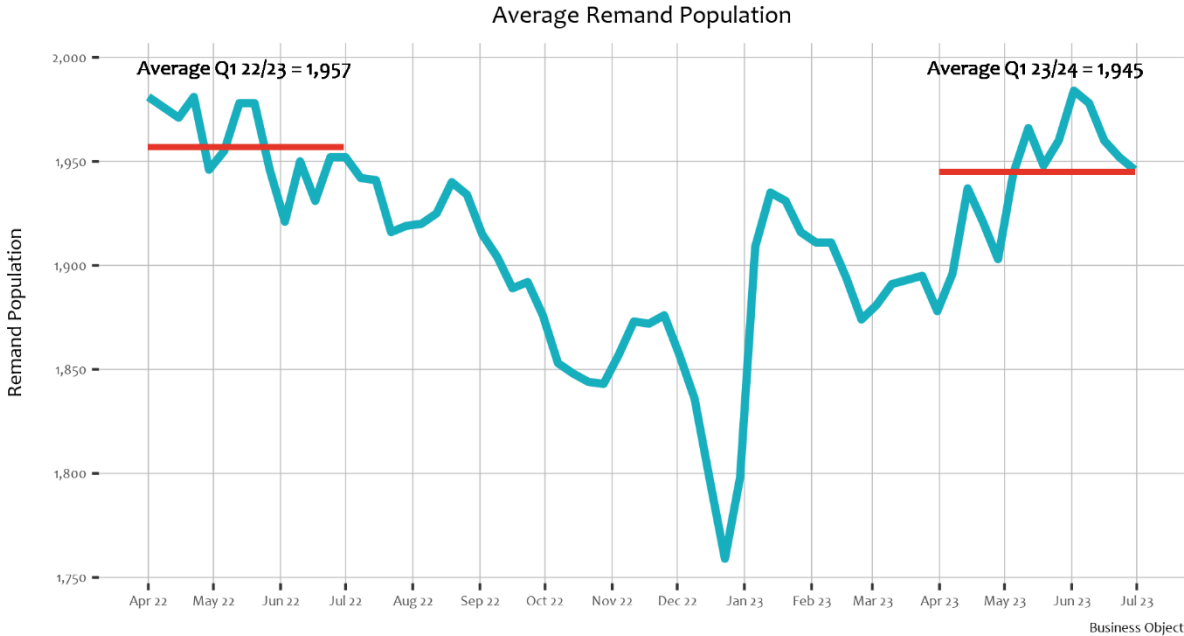
The rising overall population numbers are of concern in terms of ongoing management when we move close to population and design capacity; however also of note is the rising complexity of Scotland’s prison population. Many individuals need to be accommodated separately for a variety of reasons i.e., due to people’s legal status, gender, offence type, protection status, and/or health care needs, as well as residents with individual management needs.

The number of those in our care who must be accommodated separately increased between April and beginning of June, reducing fast until the end of the month. An average of around 58.9% of the prison population, or 4,518 individuals needed to be accommodated separately in Q1 23/24, due to their legal status (convicted / untried), gender, offence type, protections status, health care needs or specific management issues.



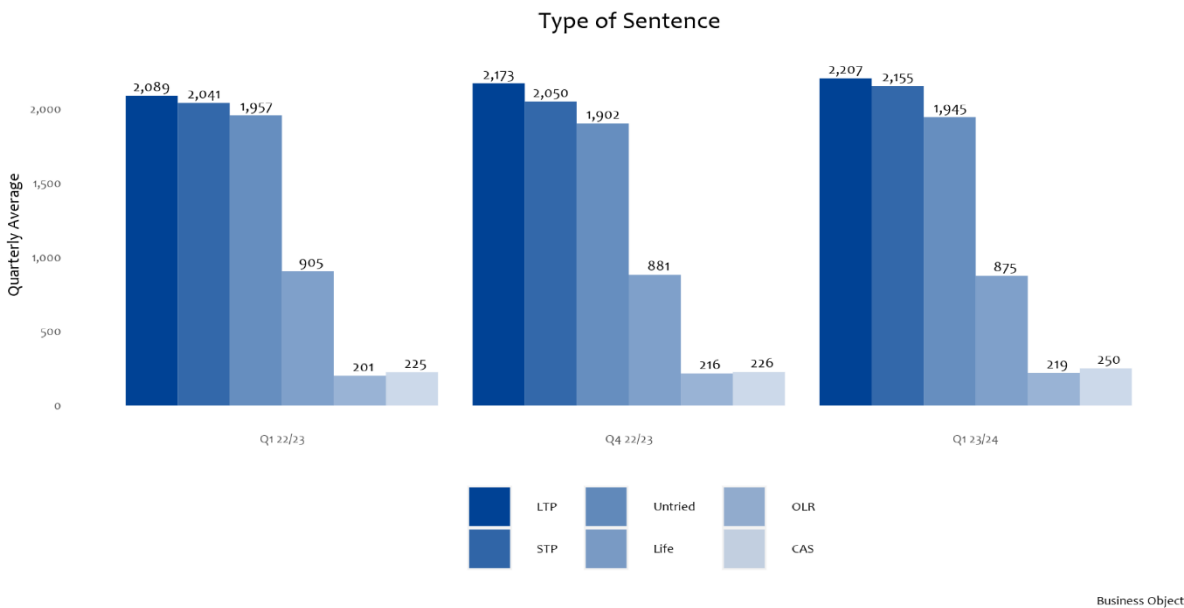
4.0 Legal Status (Sentenced & Remand)

The remand population increased by 3.6% in Q1 23/24, from 1,878 individuals at the end of March to 1,946 individuals at the end of June. Compared to the same period last year, the remand population reduced from an average of 1,957 in Q1 22/23 to an average of 1,945 in Q1 23/24, a decrease of 0.6%.



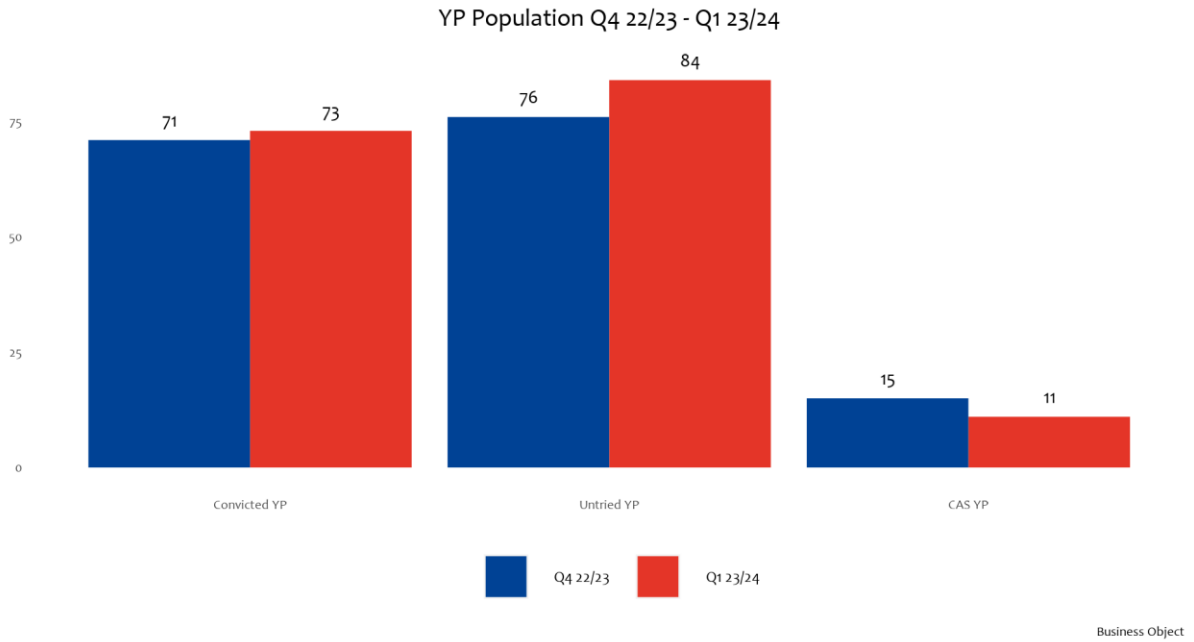
The number of those on remand remains high compared to the pre-pandemic period. High numbers of individuals on remand can create management issues for establishments, such as people having to move to convicted halls early; and long periods on remand mean that individuals spend longer without access to the full regime.

The long-term population increased by 1.6% in Q1 23/24 compared to the previous quarter and by 5.6% compared to the same period last year. Life sentences (not including OLRs) have continued to decrease since Q1 22/23. The short-term population increased by 5.1% in Q1 23/24 compared to Q4 22/23.



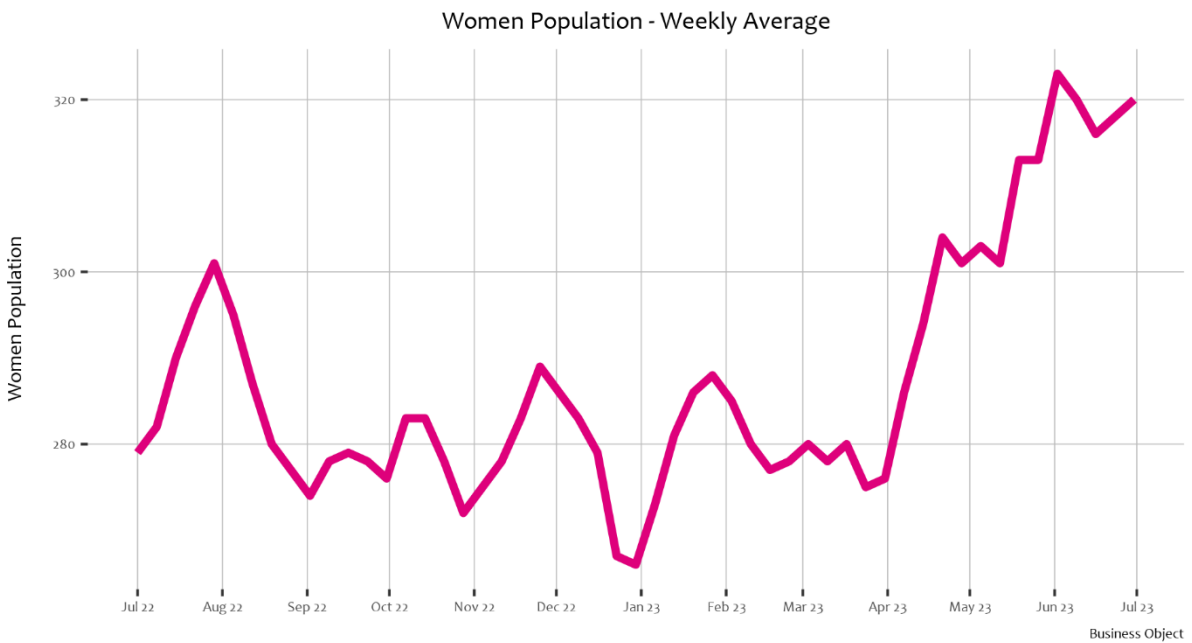
5.0 Young People in our Care

The quarterly average Young People population increased from 163 in Q4 22/23 to 168 in Q1 23/24. As observed below, convicted YP and untried YP increased in Q1 23/24 while CAS YP reduced in the same period.

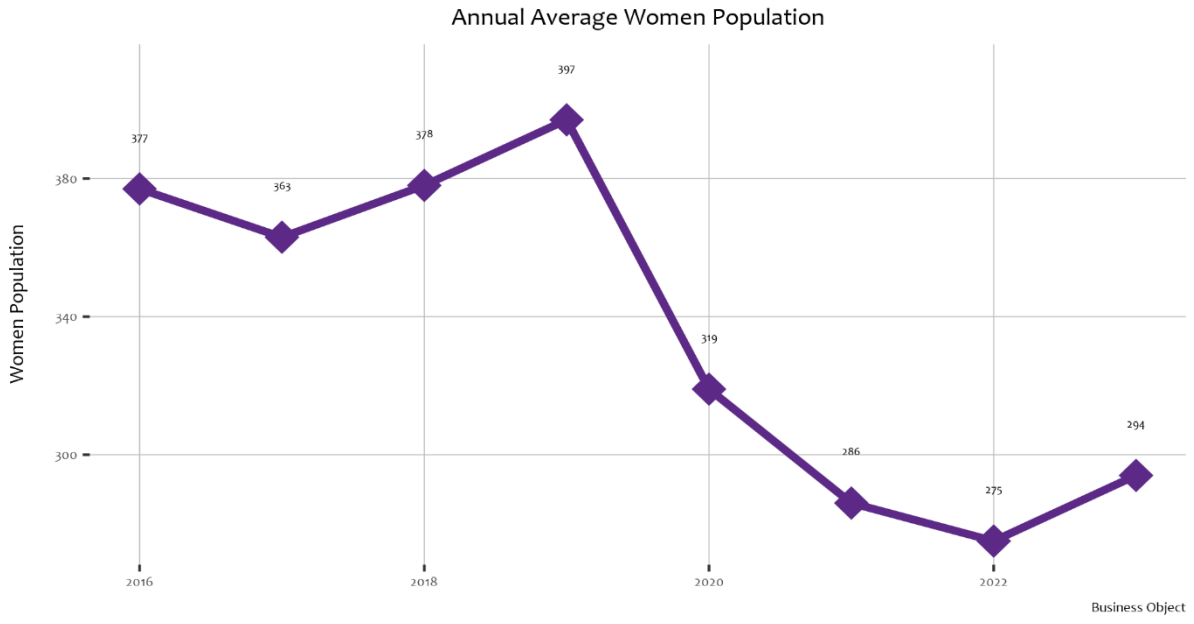


6.0 Women in our Care

In Q4 22/23, the weekly average women population increased by 15.9% in Q1 23/24 compared to the previous quarter, from 276 at the end of March to 320 at the end of June. The increase observed in the women population in Q1 23/24 was mainly due to an increase in the women adult population, which rose 12.6%. The adult men population increased by 3% in the same period.



The average women’s population has been decreasing since 2019, reducing from an annual average of 397 to 286 in 2021, as observed below. In 2022, the annual average women population decreased to 275, however in the first quarter of 2023/24, the annual average increased to 294. The men’s prison population increased by 1.6% in the same period, from 7,036 in 2022 to 7,147 in 2023.



7.0 Equality and Diversity

The Scottish Prison Service aims to provide accessible services to meet the needs of those in our care. This means an ongoing commitment to promote equal opportunities through policies and strategies to promote equality throughout all our establishments. The following data presents an overview of the diversity of the 7,774 people in our care on 30th June 2023.¹

Information regarding religious affiliation is not robust enough to publish at this stage. Further Equality and Diversity reports are available [here](#).

Affirmed Gender

SPS defines affirmed gender as the gender in which a person lives their day-to-day life. It may differ from the gender assigned at birth, which is the gender a person was originally registered as on their birth certificate. Non-binary individuals identify themselves as having no gender or as being on a gender spectrum² between man and woman. Gender-fluid is defined³ by “not having only one gender or moving freely between genders.”

In Q1 23/24, 96% of the people in our care were recorded as men and another 4% as women. Trans men, trans women and non-binary/gender-fluid combined accounted for less than 1% of the total population. In total, there were 21 trans people in custody at the end of Q1 23/24.

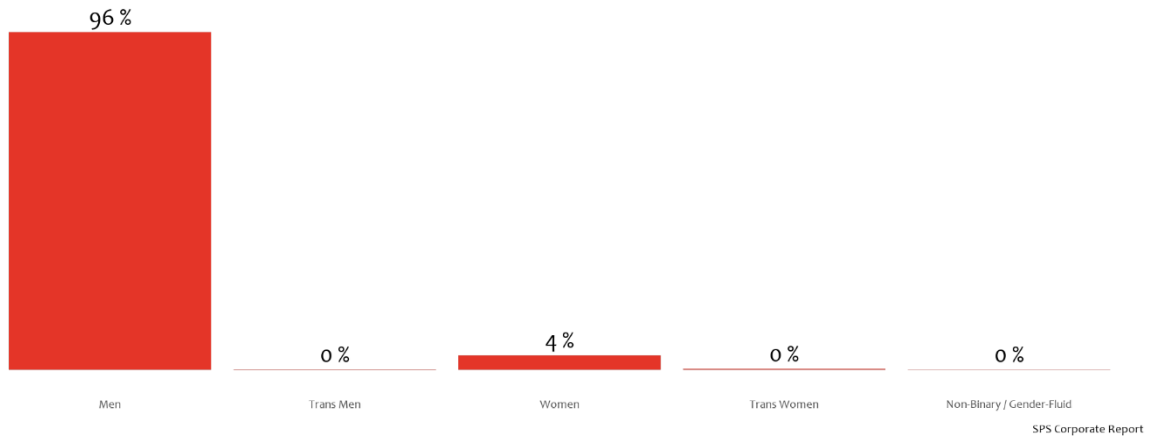
¹ The Public Information Page is a working document. The inclusion of data on protected characteristics is being kept under review to ensure the public scrutiny requirements are met whilst protecting the privacy of those in our care.

² Available on

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/articles/whatisthedifferencebetweensexandgender/2019-02-21#:~:text=The%20UK%20government%20defines%20gender,they%20were%20assigned%20at%20birth>

³ Cambridge Dictionary definition available on <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/gender-fluid>

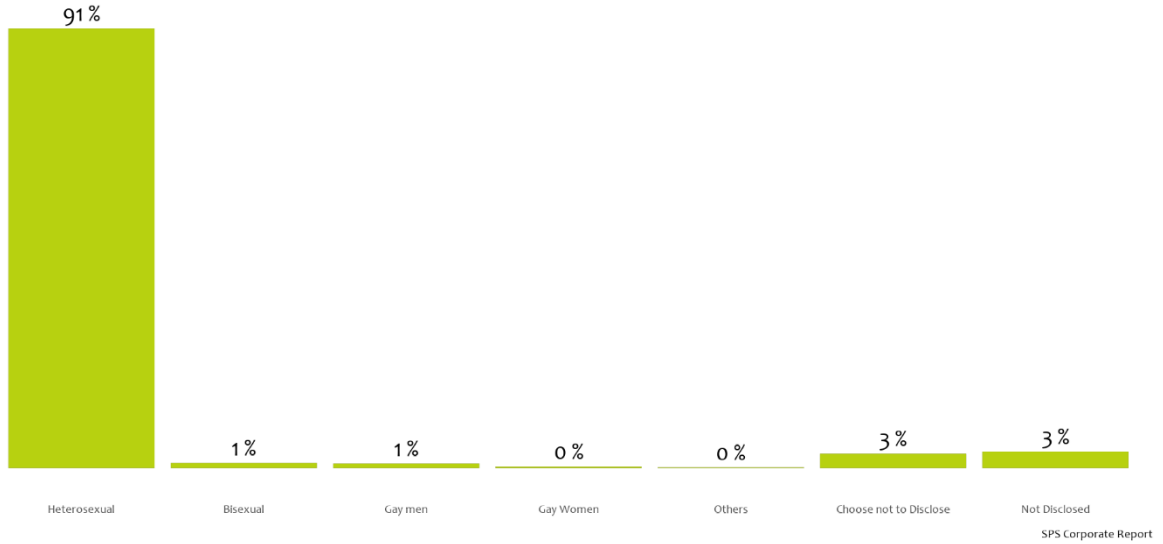
Social Gender



Sexual Orientation

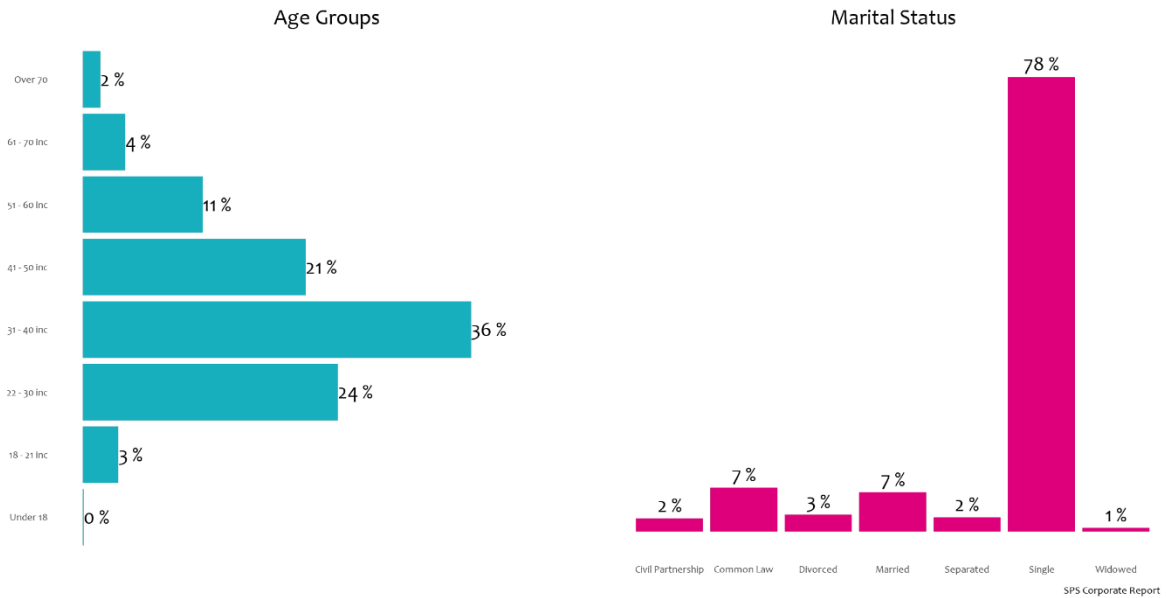
Most of the people in our care declared themselves as heterosexual, 91%. Bisexuals, gay men and gay women comprised 2%. Another 3% preferred not to disclose while a further 3% were not obtained. More details are illustrated in the chart below.

Sexual Orientation



Age Group and Marital Status

The chart below illustrates the prison population in Q1 23/24 by age group and marital status. The highest age group continues to be those aged between 31 and 40 years old (36%), while the lowest proportion is individuals under 18 years old, with less than 1%.



Most of the people in our care reported themselves as single in Q1 23/24, 78%. Another 7% reported as “Common Law (or cohabitation with a partner)” and married, each.

Ethnic Group

In Q1 23/24, 94% of the prison population declared themselves as white. African comprised 1% while Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British comprised 2%. Those who declared themselves Caribbean or Black were 1%. Other Ethnic Group and Mixed or Multiple represented 1% and less than 1%, respectively. More details can be observed in the chart below.



Disability

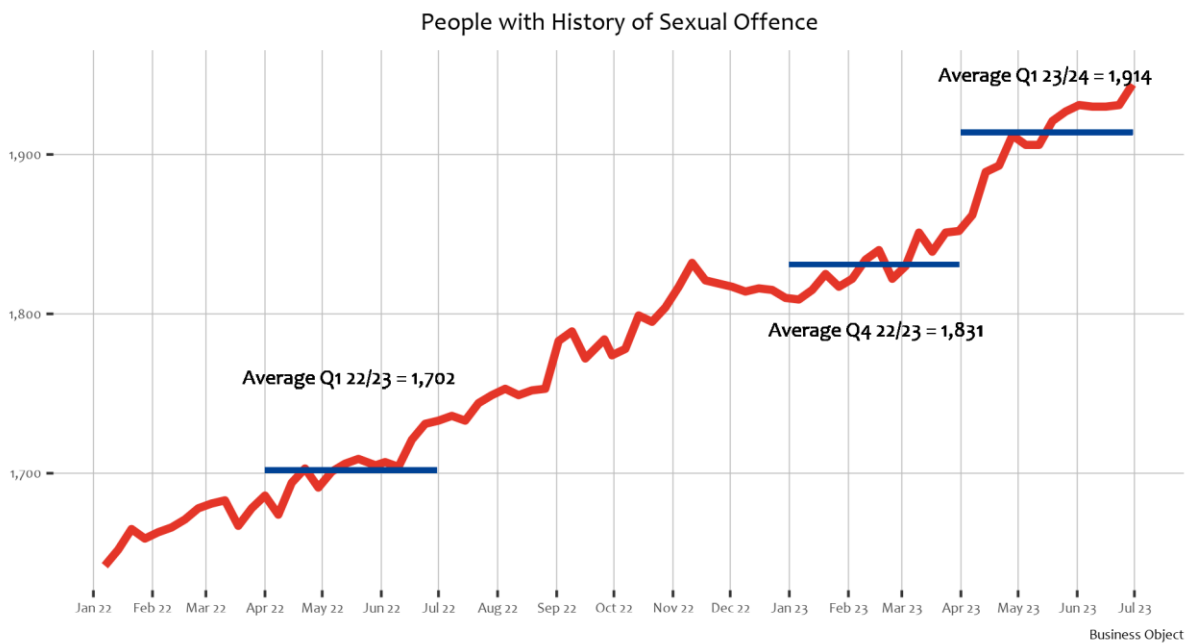
Ten percent of the people in our prisons have told us that they have a disability. Another 88% did not report any disability and 2% opted not to disclose.

| Disability | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Yes | 10% |
| No | 88% |
| Choose not to Disclose | 2% |

8.0 Protection Populations

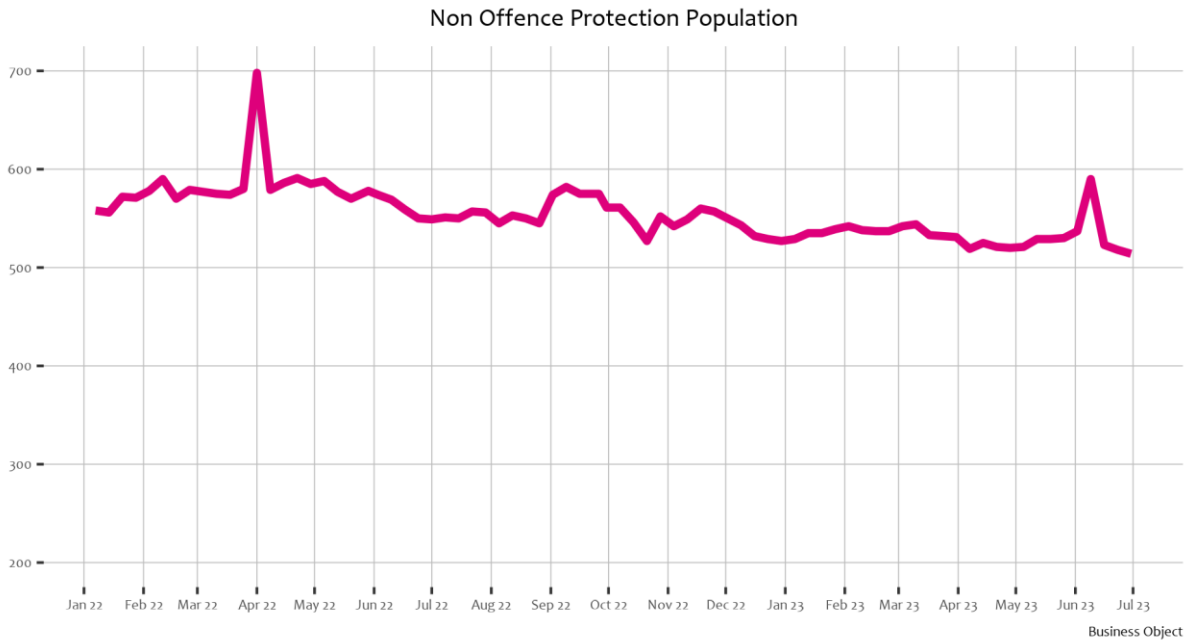
Across the estate there are people with a history of sexual offending in each of Scotland's prisons, including HMP Stirling. This illustrates the extent of the accommodation issues in terms of this prisoner group, where there is a need to accommodate them across all establishments and for a variety of reasons. This impacts on the operational running of each prison as this category of prisoner must be separate from the mainstream population.

The population of those with a history of sexual offending in custody increased by 5% in Q1 23/24, compared to the end of the previous quarter. In average, the population of those with history of sexual offending in Q4 22/23 increased by 12.5% compared to the same period last year.



Non-Offence Protections (NOPs) also need to be located and managed separately from mainstream prisoners due to being identified as those who are considered at risk should they associate together. There are a number of factors which contribute to this such as previous or current charges which have received negative media attention and could endanger the individuals, those previously employed in the Police or Prison services or those who have generated enemies and/or debts to an extent that there may be a risk to the individual should they be allocated into a mainstream residential area. This negatively impacts the operational running of the prison because NOP prisoners sometimes need to be accommodated *and* managed separately, depending on the severity of need for protection status.

In Q1 23/24, the number of individuals within the NOP population peaked in the first week of June but overall reduced compared to the previous quarter.



9.0 Geography of Imprisonment in Scotland

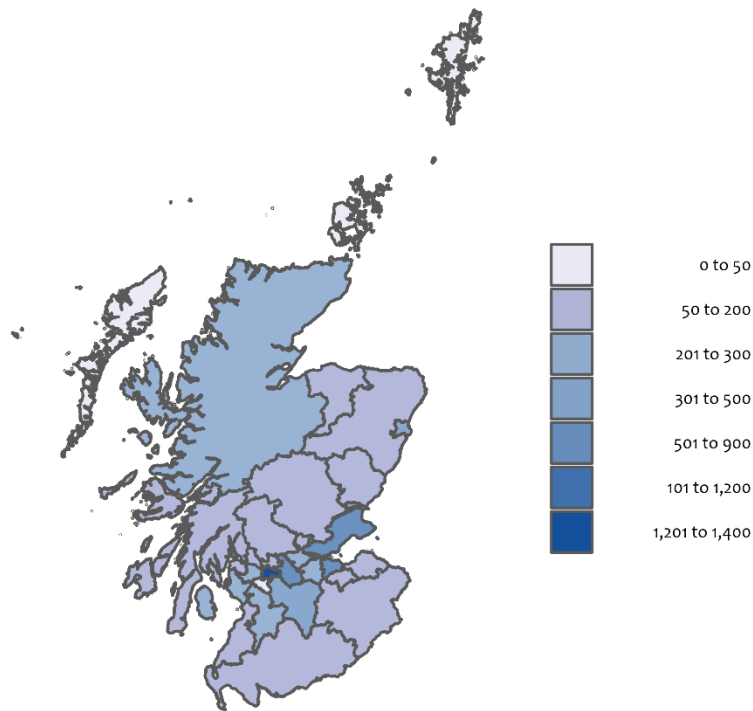
When considering the prisons population by Local Authority (LA), Glasgow City continued to have the largest number; 1,378 individuals in custody, comprising 17.6% of the total prison population at the end of Q1 23/24. The City of Edinburgh has the second largest prison population, with 603 individuals, followed by Fife and North Lanarkshire with 539 individuals each.

Na H-Eileanan Siar, Shetland Islands and Orkney Island have the smallest number of individuals in custody. The three Local Authorities together comprise 0.1% of the total of residents in prison.

According to the Prisons` Records, 4.8% of the people in our care recorded an address outwith Scotland, therefore they are not associated with any LA. Another 0.2% do not have an identifiable address or do not have any address recorded in our system.

The map below illustrates the number of people in custody by LA on 30th June 2023.

Number of People in Custody by Local Authority

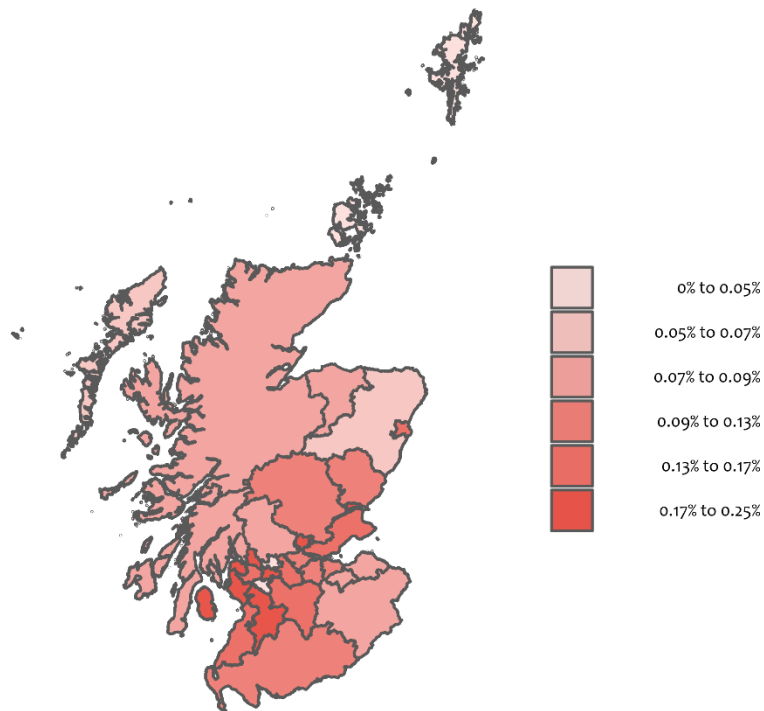


Business Object

The national rate of imprisonment in Scotland⁴ was 0.1% at the end of March. Rates of imprisonment equal or above the national rate were observed in 18 of the 32 LAs.

The map below illustrates the rate of imprisonment by LA on 30th June 2023.

Rate of Imprisonment by Local Authority



Business Object

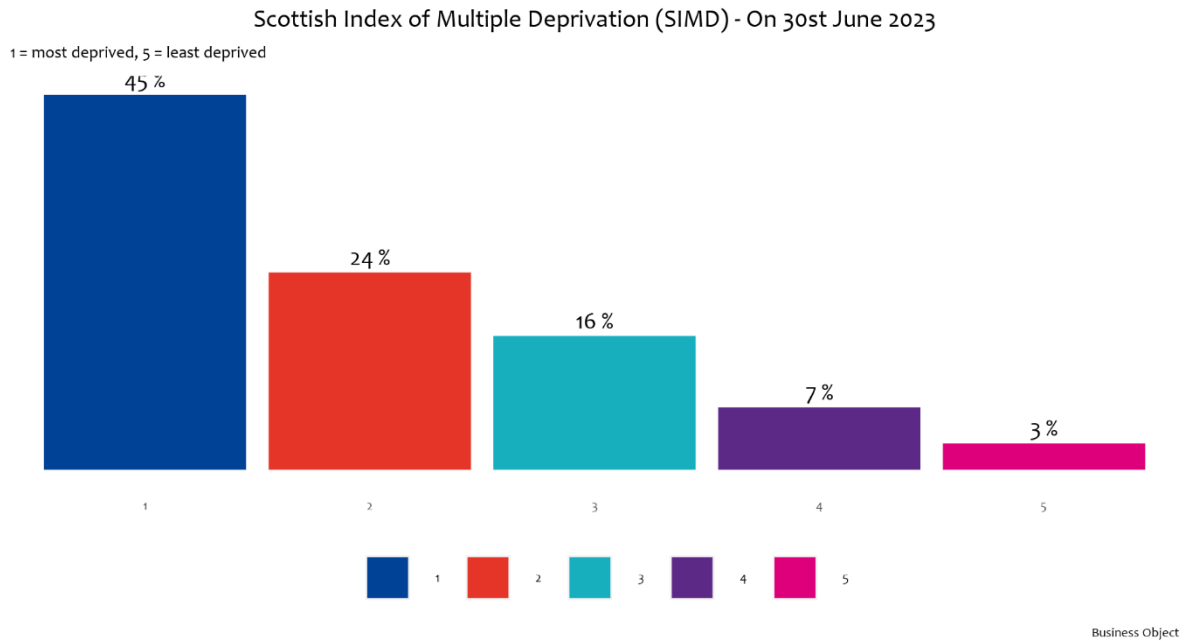
⁴ The Scottish population figures used to calculate the rate of imprisonment was obtained from [Mid-2020 Population Estimates Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/population-estimates-scotland)

The table below illustrates the total number of individuals in custody on 30th June 2023, broken down by length of sentence per LA.

| | Remand + Undetermined Sentence | Short Term Prisoners - Less than 4 years | Long Term Prisoners - Over 4 Years (including Life) |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Aberdeen City | 98 | 113 | 123 |
| Aberdeenshire | 46 | 49 | 74 |
| Angus | 48 | 31 | 38 |
| Argyll And Bute | 16 | 17 | 37 |
| City Of Edinburgh | 167 | 161 | 275 |
| Clackmannanshire | 25 | 55 | 32 |
| Dumfries And Galloway | 74 | 43 | 66 |
| Dundee City | 141 | 103 | 126 |
| East Ayrshire | 75 | 76 | 77 |
| East Dunbartonshire | 16 | 19 | 23 |
| East Lothian | 27 | 35 | 30 |
| East Renfrewshire | 9 | 7 | 15 |
| Falkirk | 71 | 57 | 80 |
| Fife | 124 | 181 | 234 |
| Glasgow City | 370 | 384 | 624 |
| Highland | 67 | 49 | 85 |
| Inverclyde | 52 | 40 | 73 |
| Midlothian | 22 | 19 | 34 |
| Moray | 28 | 24 | 29 |
| Na H-Eileanan Siar | 8 | < 5 | < 5 |
| North Ayrshire | 71 | 82 | 89 |
| North Lanarkshire | 152 | 146 | 241 |
| Orkney Islands | < 5 | < 5 | 5 |
| Outwith Scotland | 131 | 90 | 152 |
| Perth And Kinross | 45 | 40 | 66 |
| Renfrewshire | 70 | 74 | 126 |
| Scottish Borders | 18 | 32 | 38 |
| Shetland Islands | 5 | < 5 | < 5 |
| South Ayrshire | 50 | 58 | 49 |
| South Lanarkshire | 141 | 136 | 197 |
| Stirling | 23 | 25 | 27 |
| Unidentifiable Address | < 5 | < 5 | < 5 |
| West Dunbartonshire | 54 | 57 | 69 |
| West Lothian | 59 | 67 | 93 |
| Not on Prison Records | 6 | 5 | < 5 |

Deprivation

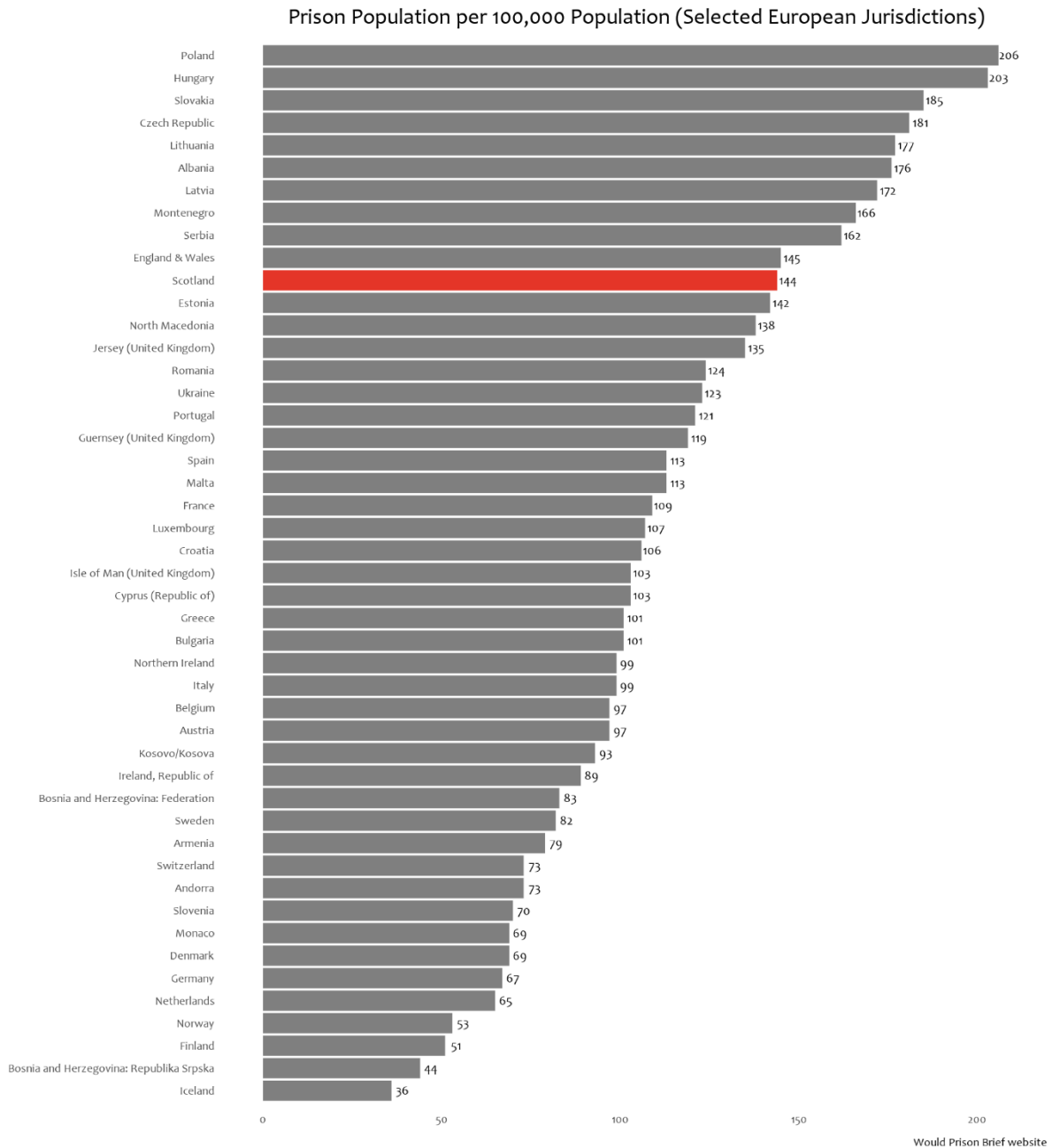
The data extracted from the Prison Records on 30th June 2023 indicates that 45% of the prison population come from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland while 3% come from the least deprived areas⁵.



⁵ The Scottish Index Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a relative measure of deprivation across 6,976 small areas. SIMD ranks from most deprived (ranked 1) to least deprived (ranked 6,976). This Public Information Page linked SIMD Geographical Data to the postcode of those in our care and focused on the areas below 20% most deprived data zones in Scotland.

10.0 International Comparisons

The figure below shows the prison population per 100,000 people for a selection of European countries⁶. Scotland has a rate of 144 prisoners for every 100,000 people.

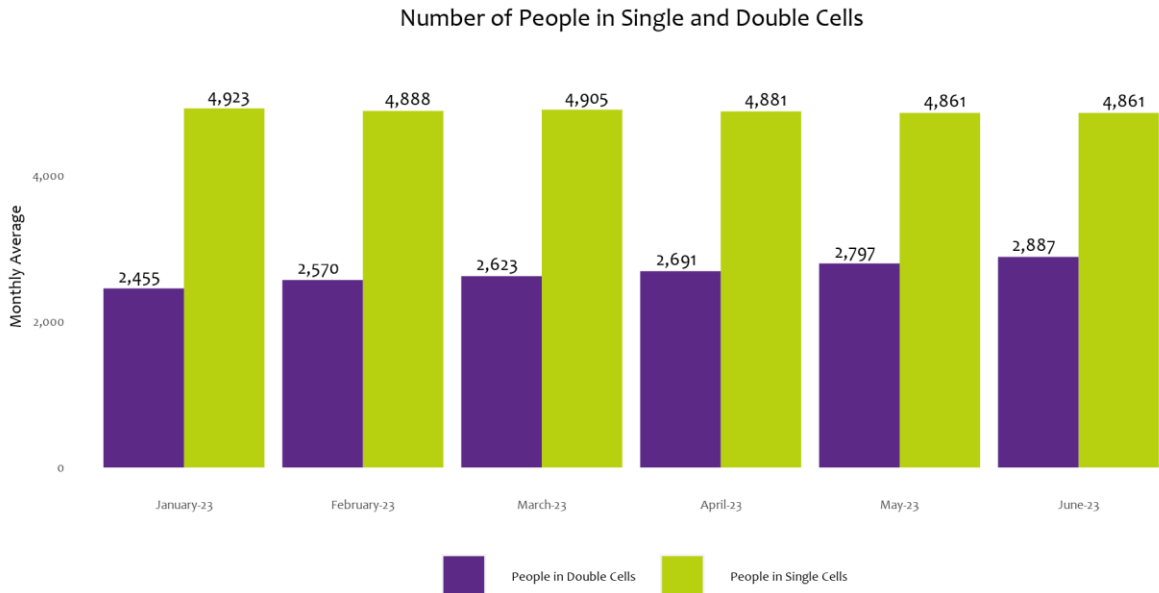


⁶ [World Prison Brief](#), accessed in September 2023.

11.0 Prison Estate & Configuration

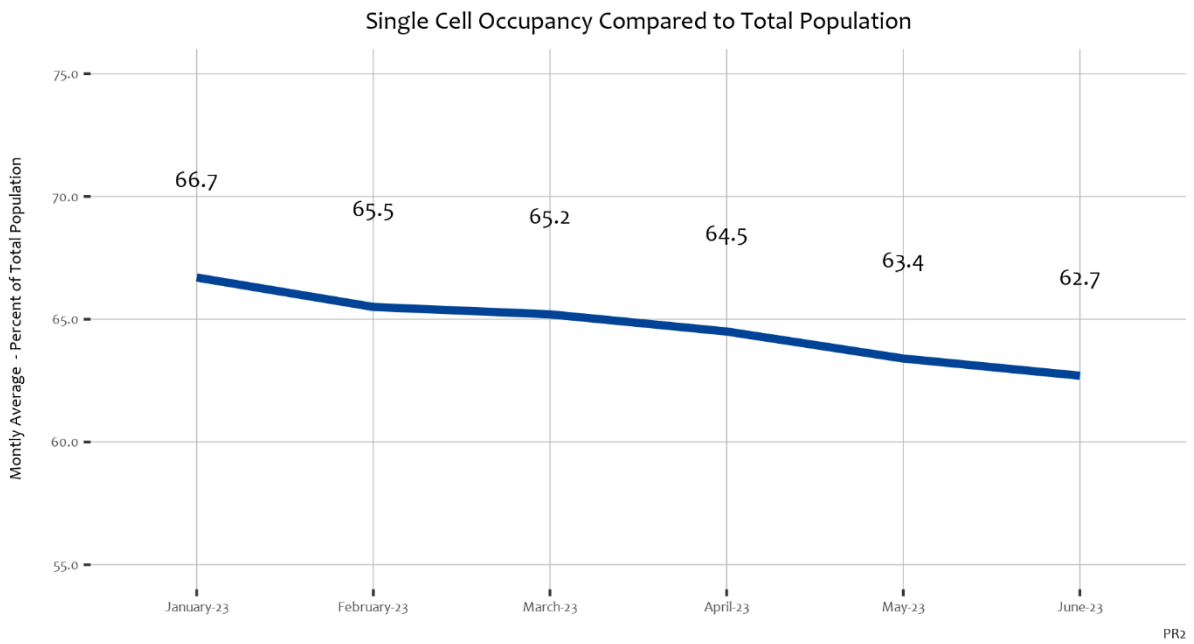
On 30th June 2023, eight establishments were operating over the agreed Temporary Operating Capacity (TOC). Another four establishments were operating very close to TOC. In total there are 234 available spaces across the estate; however, this data in isolation does not provide an accurate picture. Many of the spaces are within specific category establishments, therefore the population cannot be dispersed evenly across the estate. The available spaces lie predominantly within women state, Castle Huntly and Polmont, holding a specific category of prisoner.

In Q1 23/24, the number of people accommodated in single cells reached its highest monthly average in April, 4,881 individuals, reducing to 4,861 in May and June. Between January and June, the average number of people accommodated in single cells reduced by 1.3%. In the opposite direction, the number of people accommodated in double cells increased by 17.6%.



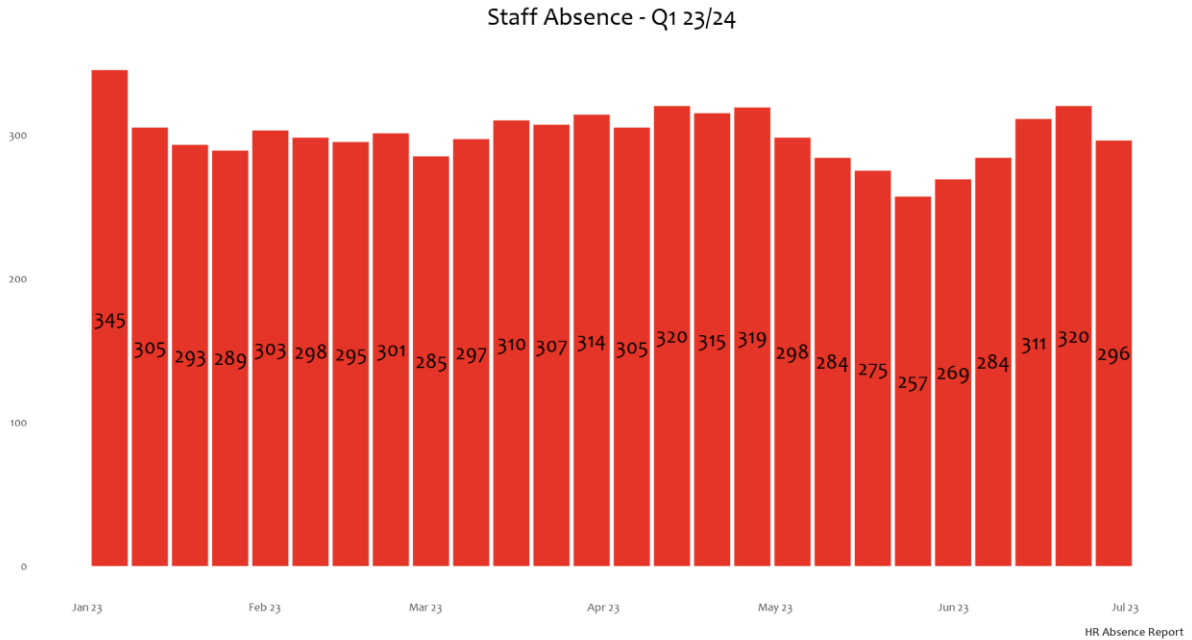
PR2

Current Single Cell Occupancy (SCO) figures illustrate the impact that the rising and increasingly complex population is having on the ability to provide individuals with single cells. In the short term, SPS is unable to increase the capacity to offer individuals single cells, as this would require building new establishments or re-designing existing ones. As a result of the fast increase of the prison population in Q1 23/24, SCO reduced from 65.2% in March to 62.7% in June:



12.0 Staff Absence

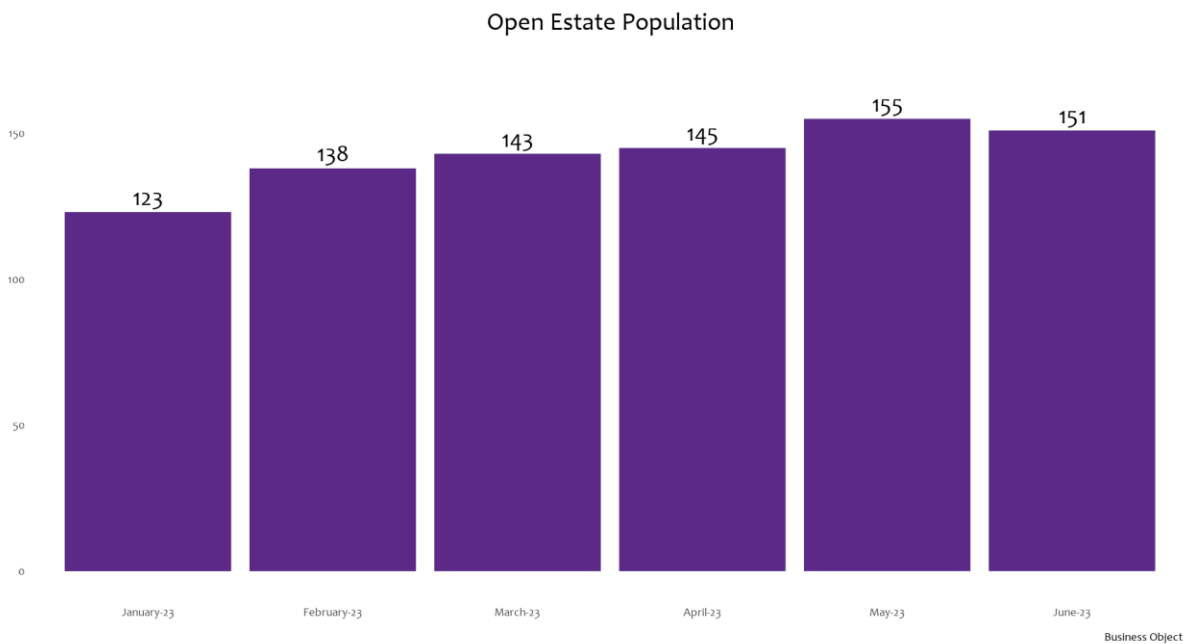
Staff absence remained stable in April, reduced throughout May, and increased again in June. The highest number was observed near the end of June, when 320 staff were absent.



13.0 Open Estate

To progress to less secure conditions, an individual has to undergo case management and the level of risk for this decision must be agreed by the SPS and key partners. All convicted population can be eligible once the criteria is met. This process is managed for adult males via Castle Huntly, HMP&YOI Polmont for Young People and HMP Stirling for the female estate.

The population of Castle Huntly (also known as the Open Estate) increased in Q1 23/24 compared to the previous quarter. The monthly average of individuals housed in Castle Huntly reached the highest of 155 in May, reducing to 151 in June.

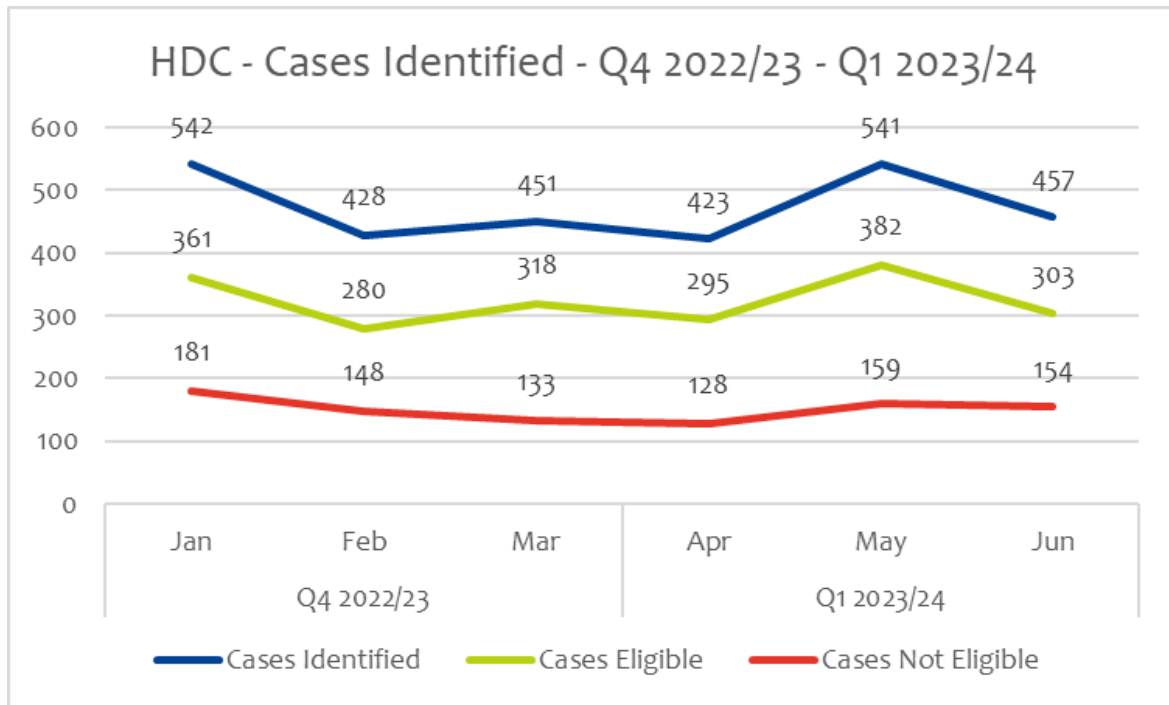


Identifying people held in less secure conditions within HMP&YOI Polmont and HMP Stirling is complicated by the structure of management information held by SPS; work is underway to report upon these populations.

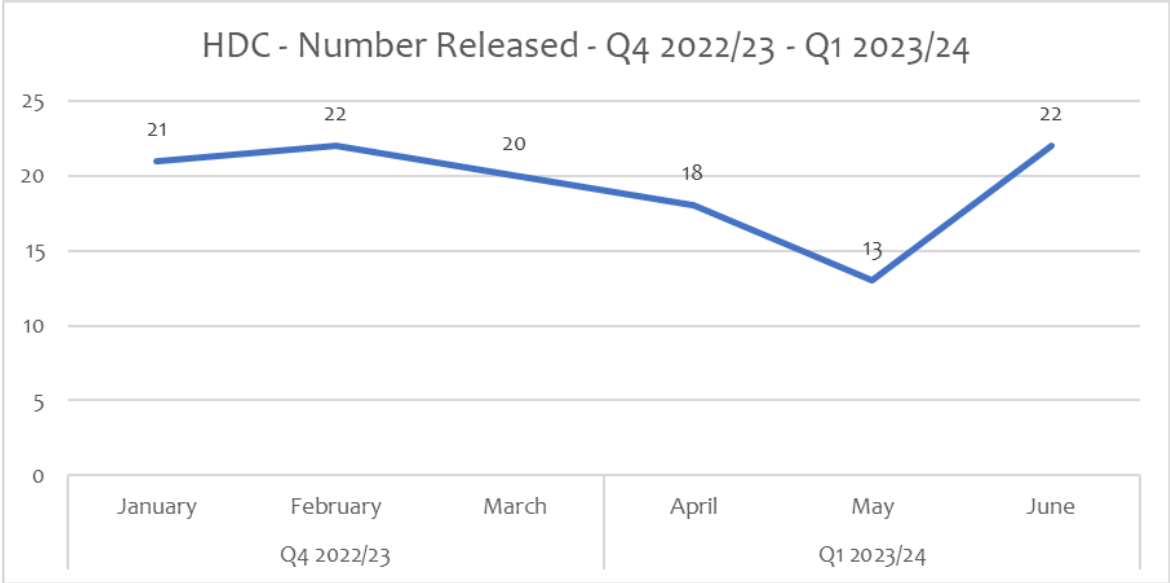
14.0 Home Detention Curfew (HDC)

When comparing Q1 2023/24 with Q4 2022/23 the total number of cases that were identified for HDC has not changed, staying at 1,421 although there is variation from month to month. There was a 2% increase in the number of cases which were eligible, from 959 to 980, and a 4.5% decrease in the number of cases which were not eligible from 462 to 441.

Comparing these figures with Q1 2022/23: the total number of cases that were identified has increased by 12.5% from 1,263; the number of cases which were eligible has increased by 20% from 814; the number of cases which were not eligible has decreased by 1.7% from 449.



In Q1 2023/24 there were 53 individuals released on HDC in total. This is a 15.8% decrease (10 individuals) from Q4 2022/23 which was a total of 63 and a 5.3% decrease (3 individuals) compared to Q1 2022/23 which was a total of 56.

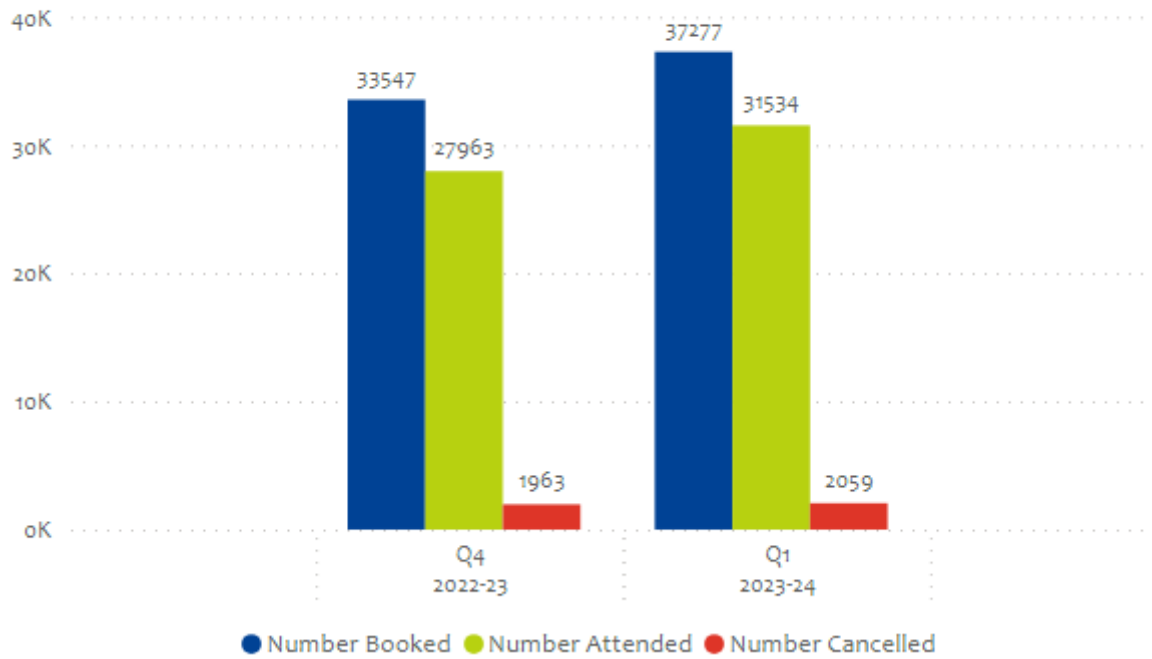


15.0 Face to Face & Virtual Visits

Face to Face

Compared to Q4 2022/23 figures, Q1 2023/24 shows an increase of 11% in booked face to face visits from 33,457 to 37,277, a 12% increase in attended visits from 27,963 to 31,534 and an increase of 4.9% cancelled visits from 1,963 to 2,059. Comparing Q1 2023/24 to Q1 2022/23 these figures also show an increase of 17.9% in booked visits from 31,616, a 27.7% increase in attended visits from 24,893 and a 6.6% decrease in cancelled visits from 2,205.

Face to Face - Visit Outcomes - Q4 2022/23 - Q1 2023/24



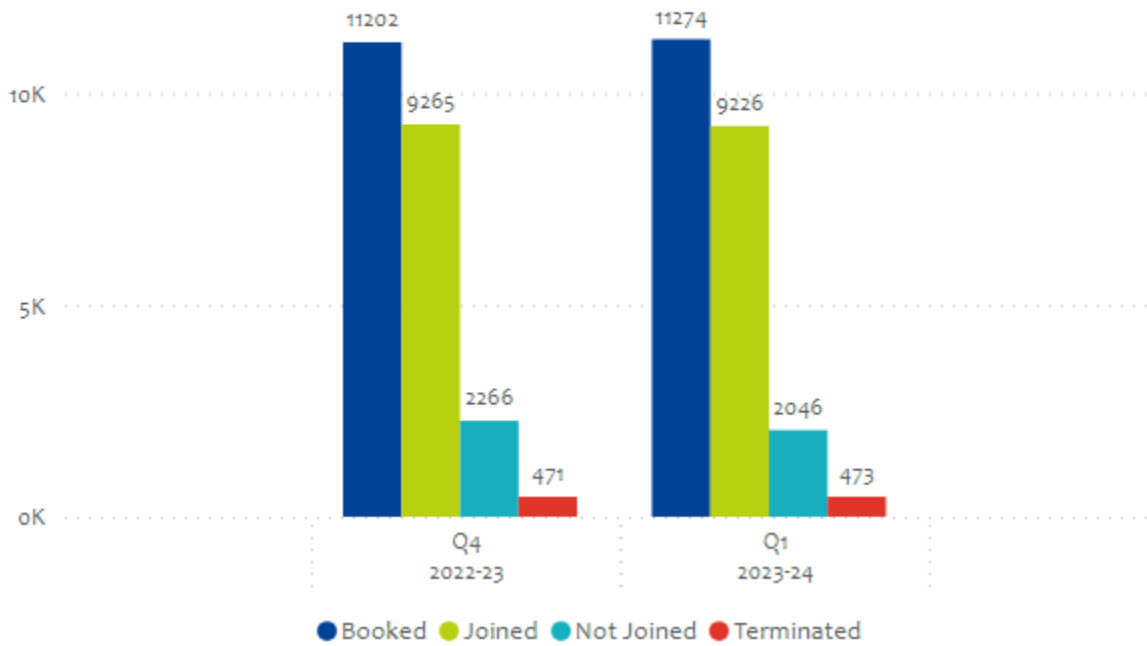
Face to Face - Booked vs Joined vs % Joined - Q4 2022/23 - Q1 2023/24



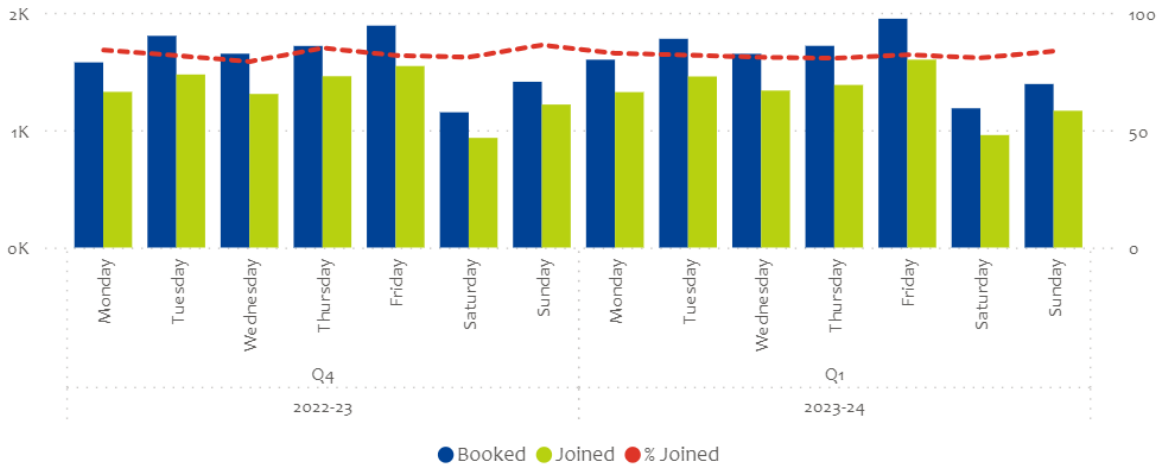
Virtual Visits

Compared to Q4 2022/23 figures, Q1 2023/24 shows an increase of 0.6% in booked visits from 11,202 to 11,274, a 0.4% decrease in joined visits from 9,265 to 9,226 and an increase of 0.4% terminated visits from 471 to 473. Comparing Q1 2023/24 to Q1 2022/23 these figures also show an increase of 5% in booked visits from 10,701, a 7.8% increase in joined visits from 8,553 and a 33% increase in terminated visits from 355.

Virtual Visits - Visit Outcomes - Q4 2022/23 - Q1 2023/24



Virtual Visits - Booked vs Joined vs % Joined - Q4 2022/23 - Q1 2023/24



16.0 Additional Information and Useful Links

About this report

The Public Information Page (PIP) is a quarterly report published by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) to provide transparency about various metrics related to the running of prisons in Scotland. Data is extracted from SPS management information systems and compiled into the PIP report each quarter. Because this data comes from live systems and is extracted at various points throughout the year, it can differ from other similar data in the public domain, such as the Scottish Prison Population Statistics. The data compiled in this report is not subject to the same level of quality assurance as the official statistics, although every effort is made to ensure its accuracy before publication.

We seek to be as open and transparent as possible, while also upholding our statutory obligation to ensure those in our care have their personal information protected. We have improved the way in which we collate and present data on our transgender population and, following advice from information governance experts, will only provide information on the total number of transgender people in our care. We have also applied disclosure control throughout the report where small numbers might mean that individuals could be identified.

Other data sources

- **Parliamentary Questions**

A full list of Parliamentary Questions answered in the Scottish Parliament on the subject of prisons is available from the Scottish Parliament website [here](#).

- **Corporate Plan**

The Corporate Plan identifies a set of strategic themes and outcomes, which defines and shapes SPS priorities over the duration of that Plan. This is currently on the SPS website [here](#).

- **Prisons Plan**

COVID19 has necessitated a change in planning arrangements. The SPS Delivery Plan can be found [here](#).

- **SPS Annual Report and Accounts**

The purpose of the Annual Report and Accounts is to provide an overview of the Scottish Prison Service, its purpose and activities. It also includes information on key risk and issues

for the organisation as well as a high-level summary of performance. The most recent Report is available [here](#).

- **Drivers of the prison population: crime and convictions statistics.**

The drivers of the prison population are the number of people committing crimes, the numbers convicted, and the number given custodial sentences each year. The latest statistics from Scottish Government and the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service are provided below:

[Criminal Proceeding in Scotland, 2018-19](#)

[Criminal Proceeding in Scotland, 2019-20](#)

[Criminal Proceeding in Scotland, 2020-21](#)

[Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2018-19](#)

[Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2020-21](#)

[Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2021-22](#)

[Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2022-23](#)

- **Scotland's Prison Survey**

The survey is currently conducted once every two years across each of Scotland's 15 prisons and is currently subject to review. The Survey offers a unique insight into life in Scottish prisons, based on service user experience. The most recent survey can be found [here](#).

- **Prisons research**

SPS undertakes a range of research and evaluations of prison and related services. These reports will be uploaded at the time the reports are ready for publication. More information can be found [here](#).

- **Scottish Prison Population Statistics**

Data on Scottish prison population levels and characteristics, receptions to/liberations from prison. The last publication is available [here](#).

- **Coronavirus (COVID-19): Justice Analytical Services data report**

Monthly data report on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the Justice System in Scotland, including information from Police Scotland, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, courts and prisons. All publications are available [here](#).

- **Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scottish Prison Service**

The SPS regularly reports on the impact of COVID on prisoners and staff. For more information, click [here](#).

- [Freedom of Information Responses](#)

- **Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services Criminal Disposals Dashboard**

The interactive dashboard contains information on charge level disposals from Scottish criminal courts. The data included in the dashboard is provided by the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Services (SCTS). For more information, please click [here](#).

- **Tableau – Scotland’s Justice Statistics and Trends**

The Tableau is a data visualization tool that highlights publicly available data in a way that supports understanding of the community justice landscape at a local authority area level. More information can be obtained [here](#).

- **Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)**

The purpose of the SIMD is that it “identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across all of Scotland in a consistent way. It allows effective targeting of policies and funding where the aim is to wholly or partly tackle or take account of area concentrations of multiple deprivation. More information is available [here](#).

- **The World Prison Brief**

The World Prison Brief is an online database providing free access to information on prison systems around the world. It supports evidence-based development of prison policy and practice globally. For more information click [here](#).

- [Population of Scotland 2020, by region | Statista](#)
- [Mid-2020 Population Estimates Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)