

SPS Quarterly Public Information Page

**Prison by Numbers Quarter 2 (July-
September 2021)**

Unlocking Potential - Transforming Lives.

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1.0 Key Messages & Contact Information

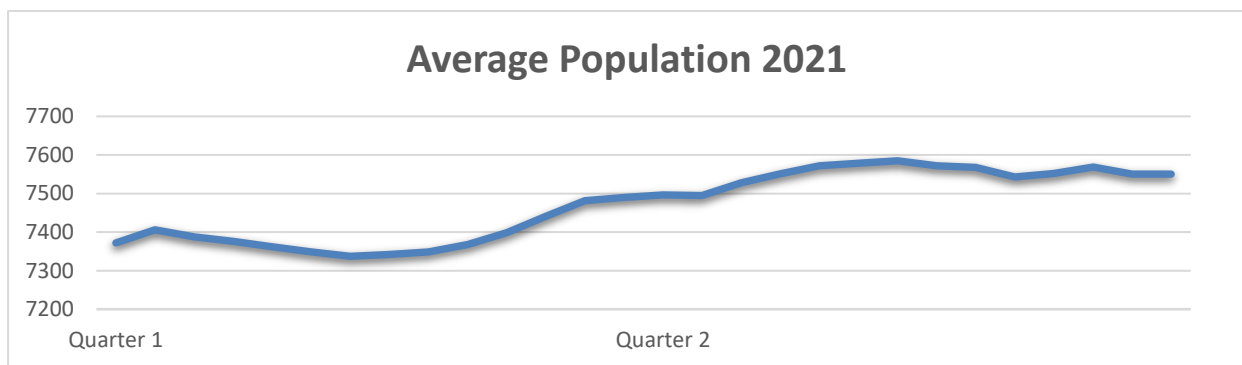
Key messages drawn from this quarterly report are as follows:

- 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 **27.5%** of the total population and Remand within Young Person and Women's estate are higher still, at **47%** and **32.8%** respectively
- The population for those in our custody who have a history of sexual offending continues to rise, growth rate of **1.3%** during Quarter 2
- COVID-19 continues to present challenges to on-going management of the prison estate, cases remain low in our staff group however we have seen a notable increase in the latter part of Q2 in our prisoner population. The SPS Continue to respond the ongoing management of the pandemic in our prisons aligned to Scottish Government guidelines

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

2.0 Average Weekly Population

The population during quarter 2 has seen a period of sustained growth followed by a current period of stability. Overall growth rate of the average population of **2.4%** since the start of Q1 and **0.8%** growth during Q2

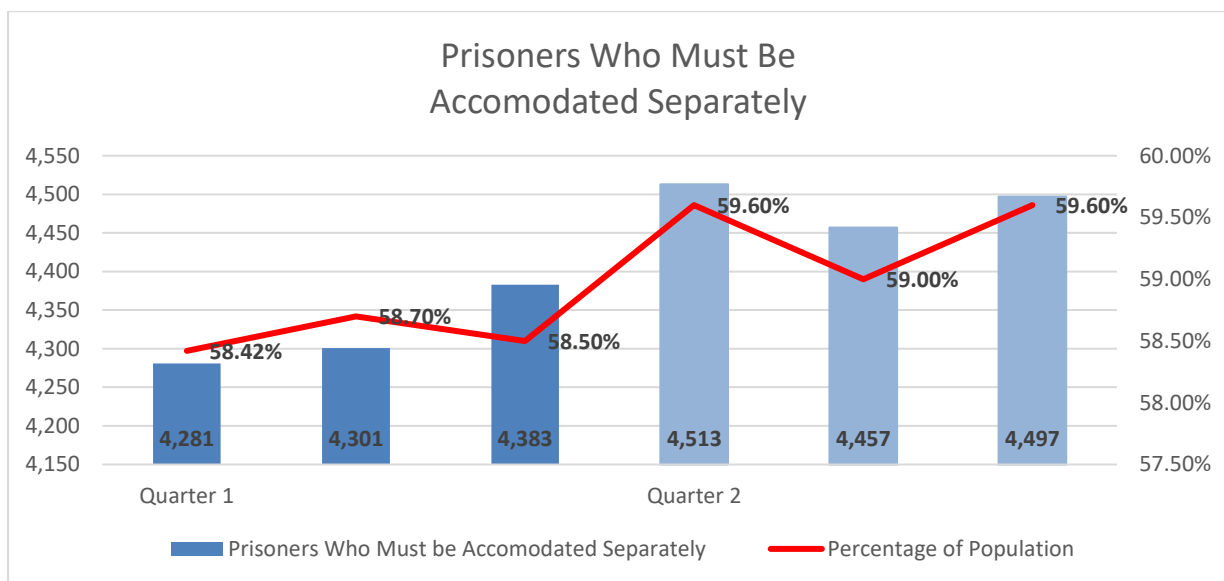


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¹ SPS Business Objects report April-Sep 2021

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. In Quarter 2 those in our care that require to be accommodated separately peaked in July by September this had dropped slightly, however continues to assume 59.6% of the population, an increase of 1.1% since the end of Quarter 1.

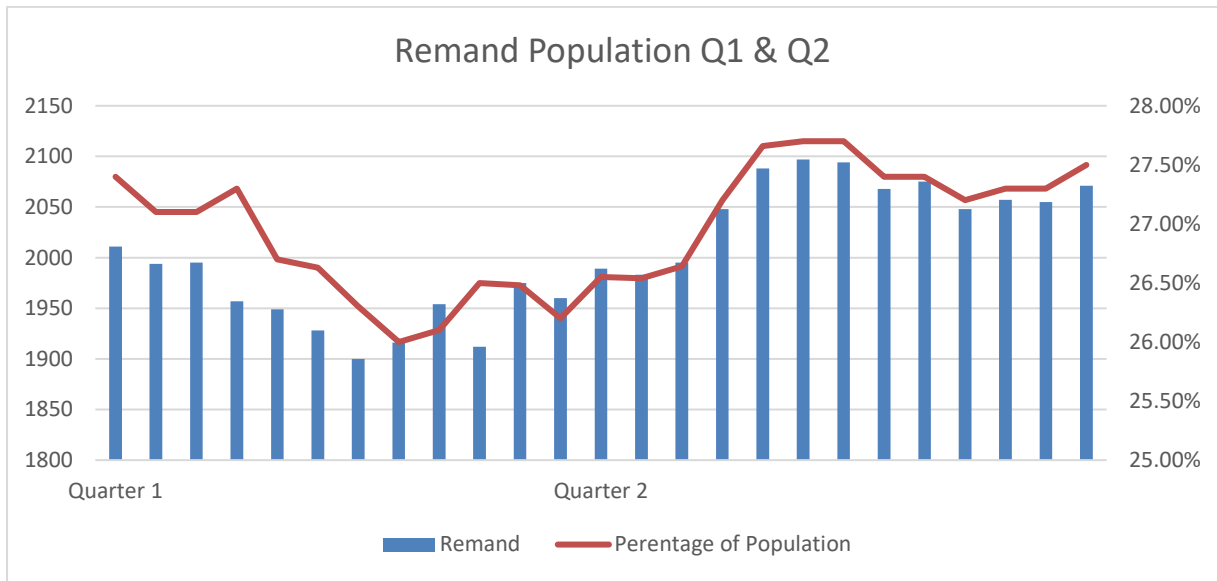


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4.0 Legal Status (Convicted & Remand)

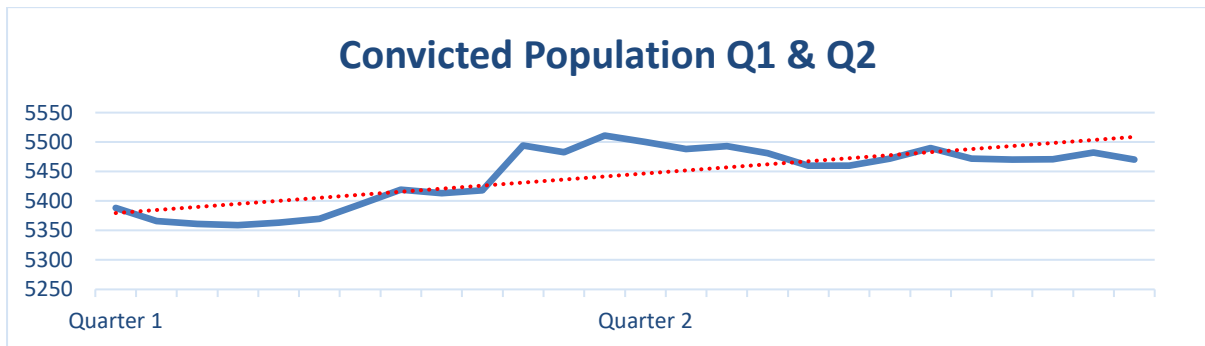
As the population increases during Quarter, the breakdown of the population reveals a steady increase in the population that is Untired and on Remand. By Quarter 1 end the remand population stood at 1,960 rising to 2,071 by the end of Quarter 2, a rise of 5.6%. When considering the proportion that the Remand Population assumes of the total population this rises from 26.2% at the end of Q1 to 27.5% by the end of Q2:

² SPS Prisoner Records System – Operations Directorate Population Reports April-September 2021



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When exploring the convicted population, we can see a period of sustained increase during Q1 however Q2 sees a slight decline in the population, but is overall relatively stable (5,500 recorded in July week 1, and week 4 September ending 5,470):



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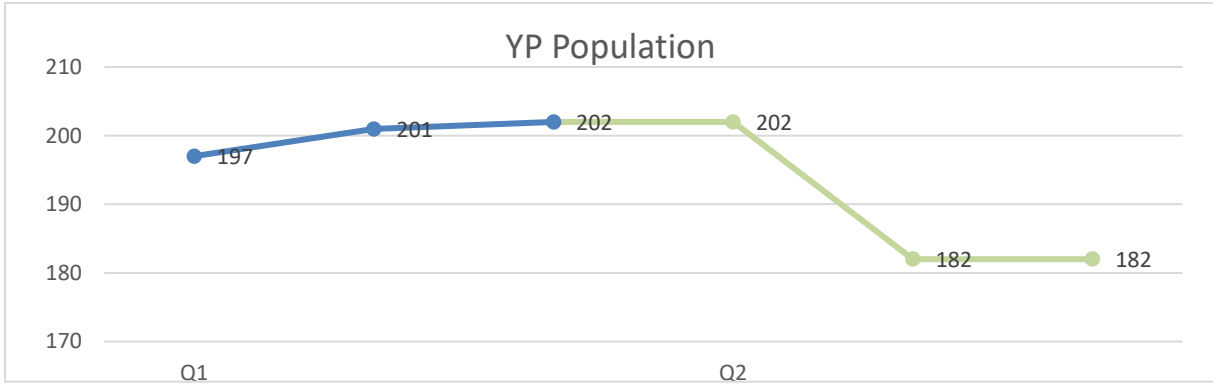
5.0 Young People in our Care

The average number of Young People (YP) in custody has declined significantly since 2016 however during Quarter 1 there was a slight increase in this population overall and within Remand

³ SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report April-September 2021

⁴ SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report April-September 2021

and Convicted Awaiting Sentencing (CAS). In Quarter 2 there is a decline in the YP population, this is most notable in the male estate and within the remand and CAS population. The data would suggest that the rise in the convicted YP population is directly attributable to the decrease in the untried population. Remand within the YP population remains disproportionate to that of adult population; at the end of Q2 YP assumes 47% of the total population.

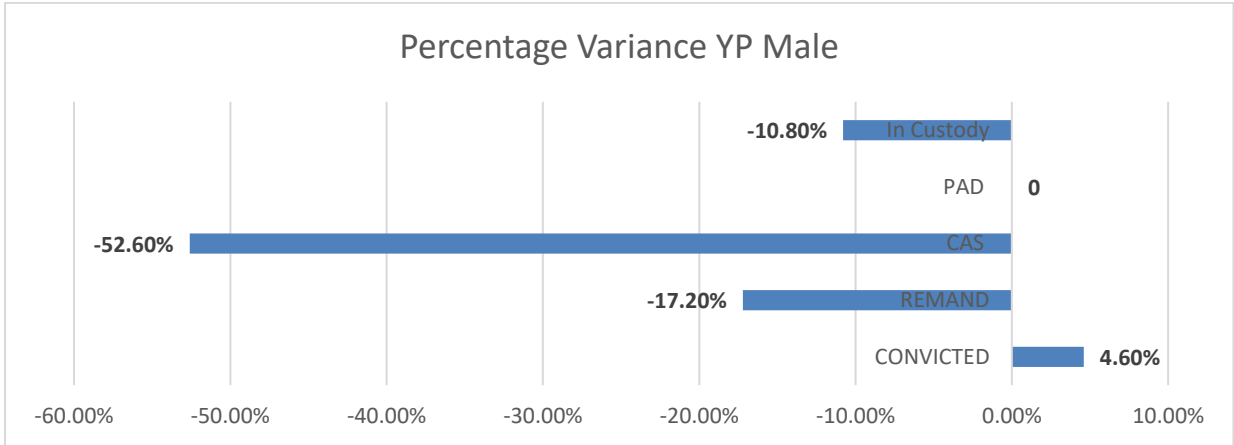


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The chart below provides a breakdown of the YP population illustrating the variance in the population in Q1 & Q2:

	Male YP Estate				Female YP Estate			
	July	Aug	Sep	Percentage Variance by Q1 End	July	Aug	Sep	Percentage Variance by Q2 end
CONVICTED	87	83	91	4.60%	4	4	5	25%
REMAND	87	74	72	-17.20%	4	4	4	0
CAS	19	16	9	-52.60%	1	1	1	0
PAD (Prisoner Awaiting Deportation)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In Custody	193	173	172	-10.80%	9	9	10	11.1%

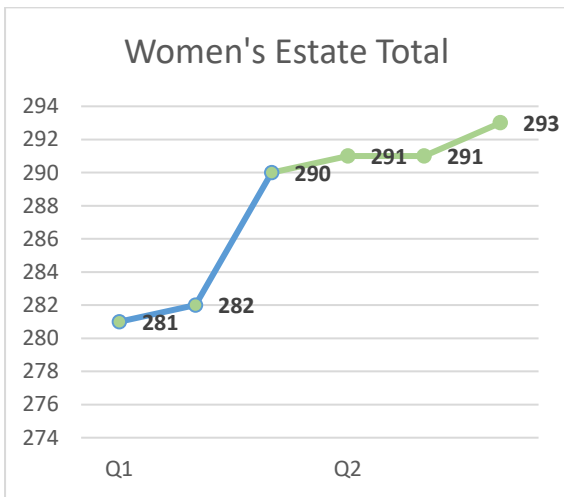
⁵ SPS Prisoner Records System Business Objects & OD Population Management April-Sep 2021



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6.0 Women in our Care

The average female population remains stable at **290** however when considering the end of month figures across Q1 and Q2 we can see a steady increase. The table illustrates the fluctuations month on month during Quarter 2 by legal status. Average untried females during Quarter 2 is **32.3%** (Remand and CAS):



	July	August	September
CONVICTED	197	200	197
REMAND	78	72	80
CAS	16	19	16
PAD	0	0	0
In Custody	291	291	293

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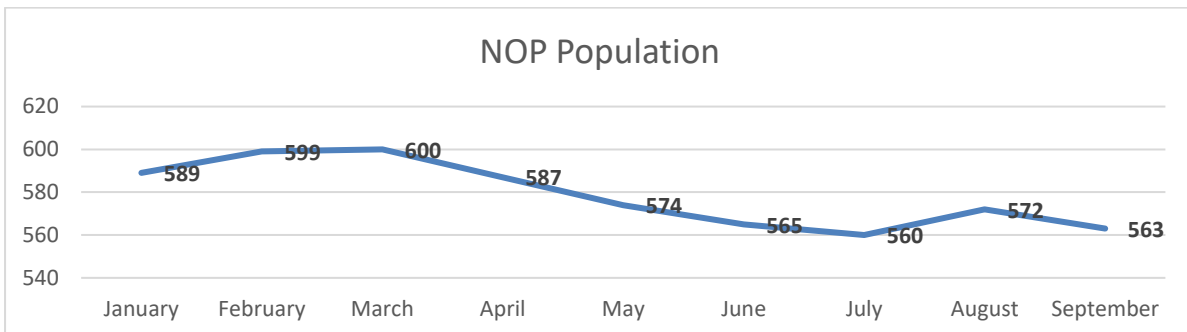
⁶ SPS Prisoner Records System Business Objects & OD Population Management April-Sep 2021

⁷ SPS Prisoner Records System Business Objects & OD Population Management April-Sep

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

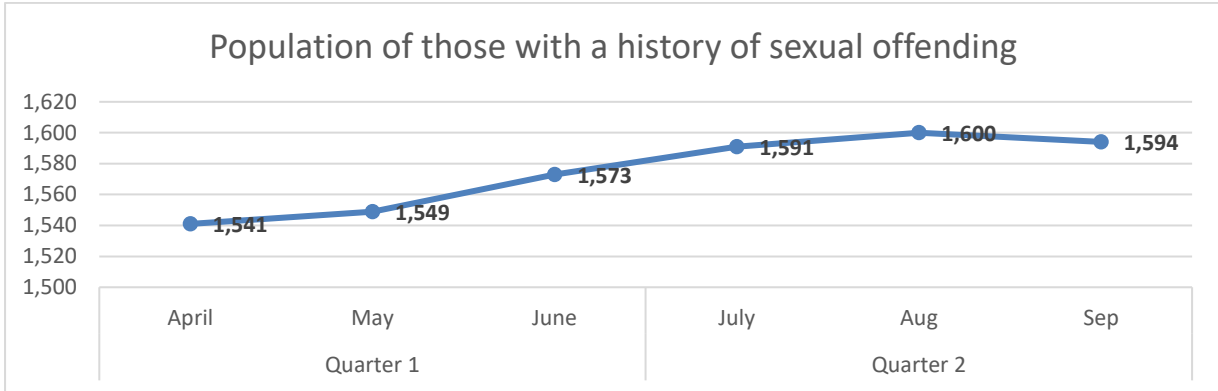
Across the estate there are prisoners held on historic sexual offending charges in each of the 15 prisons including Cornton Vale. This illustrates the extent of the accommodation issues in terms of this prisoner group, where there is a need to accommodate them across all establishments and for a variety of reasons. This impacts on the operational running of each prison in order to keep this category separate from the mainstream population whilst providing the same opportunities those held as Non-Offence Protections (NOP) also require to be located and managed separately, these individuals are identified as those prisoners who are considered to be at risk should the mix with mainstream prisoners. There are a number of factors which contribute to this such as previous charges, current charges which have received negative media attention which could endanger the individuals, those previously employed in Police or Prison service 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 impacts negatively on the operational running of the prison as such factors and prisoners need to be not only accommodated but managed separately depending on the severity of need for protection status.

The reduction in the Non-Offence protection population slowed during Q2 a decrease of **0.3%**⁸:



The population comprising of those with a history of sexual offending in our custody saw an overall increase in Q2 of **1.3%** and growth of **3.4%** since Q1 commenced:

⁸ SPS Prisoner Records System Business Objects & OD Population Management Jan-Sep



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8.0 Geography of Population

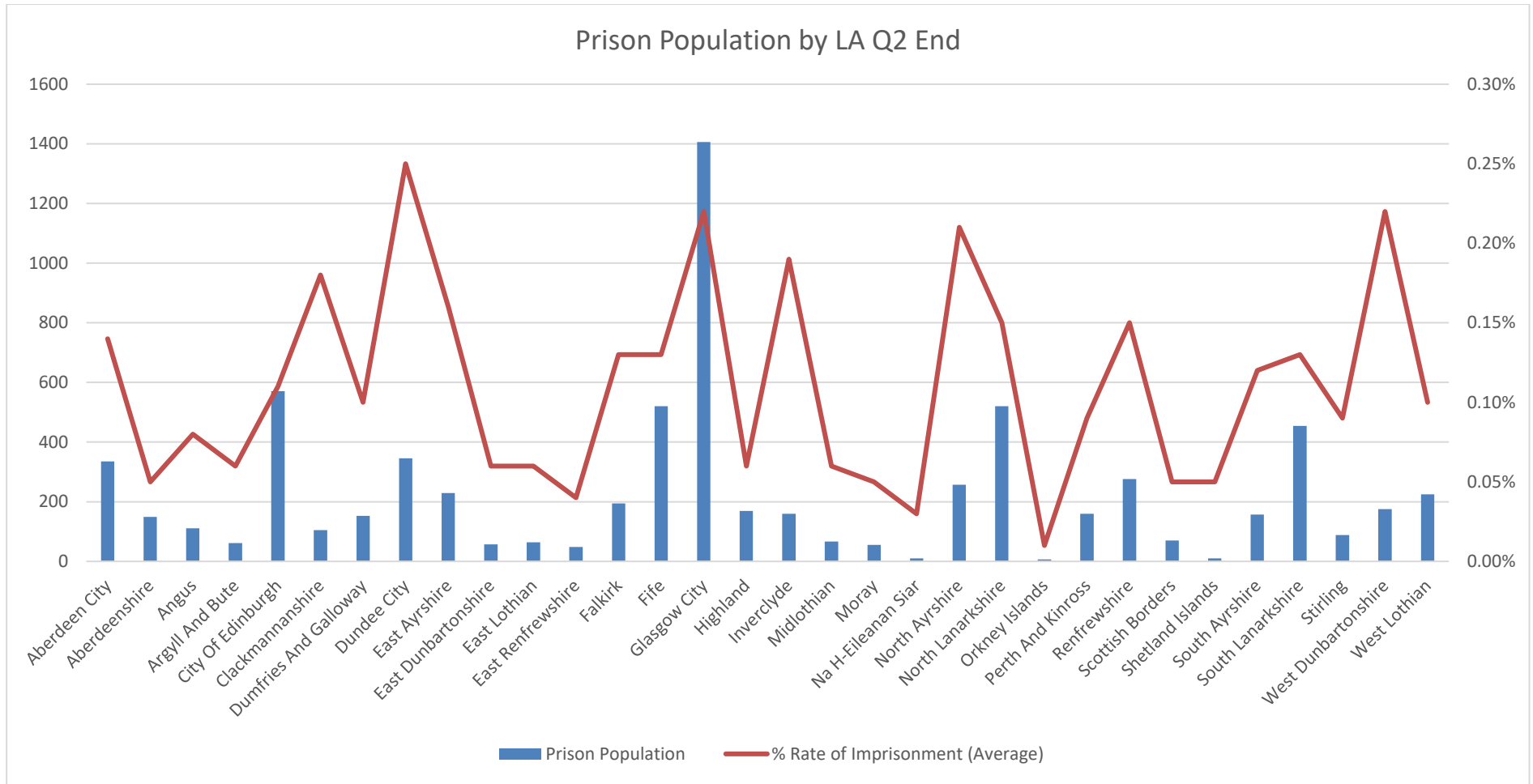
When considering the population by Local Authority and legal status, it would be expected that the largest local authority populations occupy the largest prison population however this is not the case when considering the 7 largest prison populations we can see that Dundee City has the highest rate of imprisonment than any other local Authority and this is disproportionate to the size of their population¹⁰.

	July		Aug		Sep		Population in Custody by Local Authority	Rank by Population Size
	Convicted	Untried	Convicted	Untried	Convicted	Untried		
Glasgow City	1049	390	1047	386	1022	384	0.22%	1st
North Lanarkshire	384	160	379	159	378	142	0.15%	4th
City Of Edinburgh	438	141	435	154	425	146	0.11%	2nd
Fife	408	127	400	128	394	126	0.14%	3rd
South Lanarkshire	320	121	322	112	324	130	0.14%	5th
Dundee City	255	105	250	91	243	103	0.23%	13th
Aberdeen City	243	101	233	104	234	101	0.14%	8th

The following graph illustrates the total population broken down by known local authority (LA). 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 (taken as an average). 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. The graph below provides the total number of prisoners in custody from each local authority. The line graph in red illustrates the rate of imprisonment by considering the population total of each LA considered against those in custody. These figures were taken on 30 September 2021:

⁹ SPS Prisoner Records System Business Objects & OD Population Management April-Sep

¹⁰ Statista.com Population statistics & Business Objects July-Sep



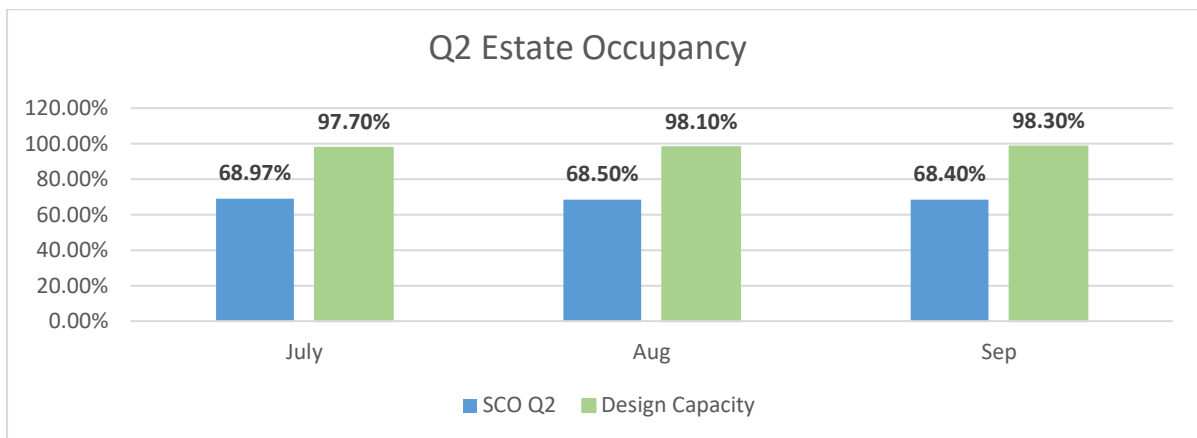
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¹¹ Population at 30 September 2021 SPS Prisoner Records System Business Objects

9.0 Prison Estate & Configuration

On 30 September 2021 **eight** of the **fifteen** establishments were operating over design capacity. Overall there were an available **184** spaces, 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 the Open estate, Cornton Vale and Polmont all of which hold a specific category of prisoner. Greenock prison has many cells out of commission due to deterioration of the buildings, so numbers are also lower there and spaces cannot be filled. As the population increases the pressure on individual establishments grows, this can impact on, good order, operational running and health and safety for both staff and prisoners especially given the current global pandemic. Current Single Cell Occupancy (SCO) figures illustrate the impact the rising population is having on the ability to provide individual prisoners with single cells.

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:



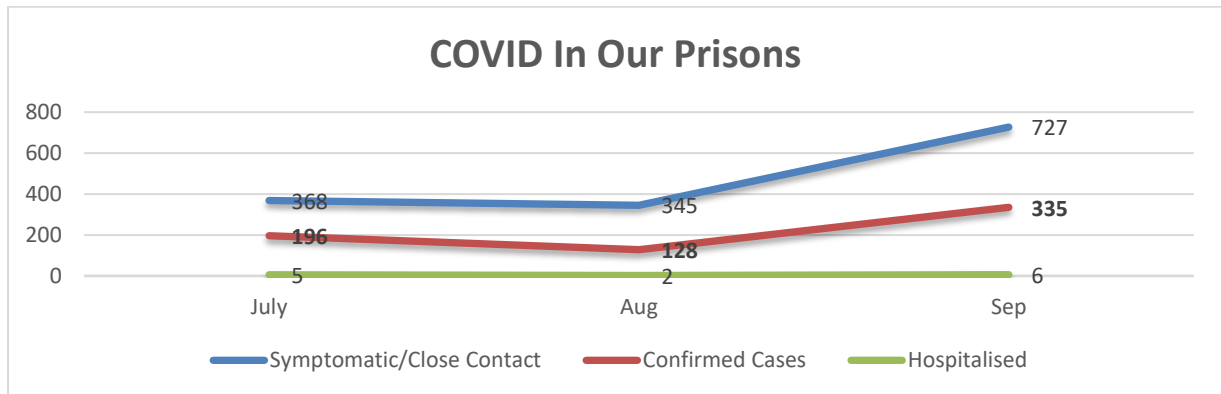
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10.0 COVID-19

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

¹² SPS Operations Directorate Single Cell Occupancy & Business Objects Report July-September2021

graph illustrates total COVID-19 isolation: individuals who are symptomatic or identified as close contact held on Rule 41 awaiting test results, confirmed cases and hospitalisations of confirmed COVID-19 cases each month during Q2. The graph below illustrates a rise in the presence of COVID in our prisons:



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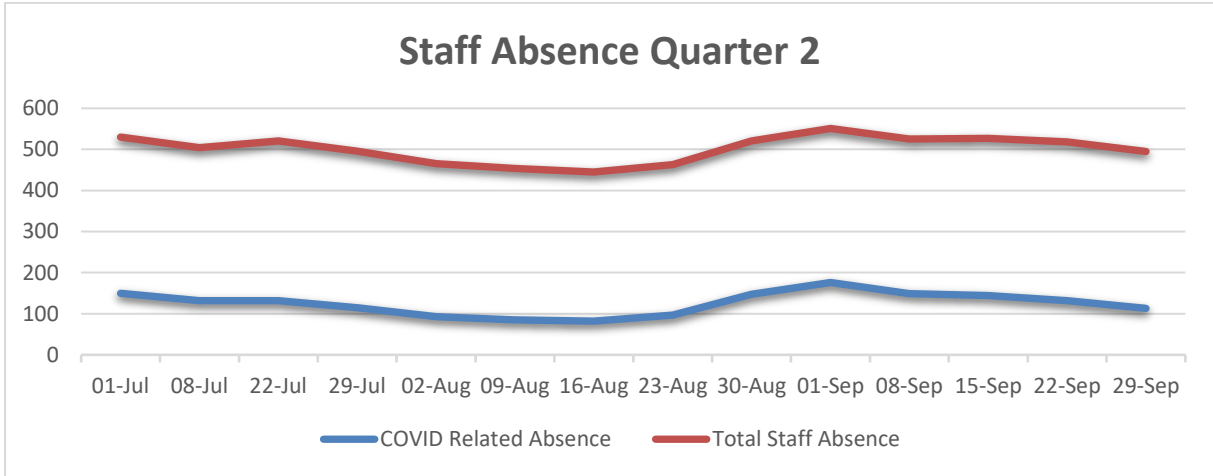
COVID isolation figures will continue to fluctuate within the establishments as we continue to minimise the risk of transmission within our prisons. Prisoners will be held in Rule 41 COVID isolation for a number of reasons, those who are symptomatic, those in contact with confirmed or symptomatic case, 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 potential re-introduction of the Tier system nationally or the return to national lockdown. As restrictions in society lifted during Q2 measures compliant with Scottish Government and Public Health Guidance continue to be communicated to our prisons ensuring that we comply with national guidance, safety and infection control measures. Incident Management Team protocols are implemented as and when outbreaks occur.

11.0 Staff Absence

Staff absence has significantly reduced compared to the start of the pandemic which saw 1,050¹⁴ 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 moderate fluctuations in both overall staff absence and COVID-19 related absence:

¹³ SPS Health –July-September 2021

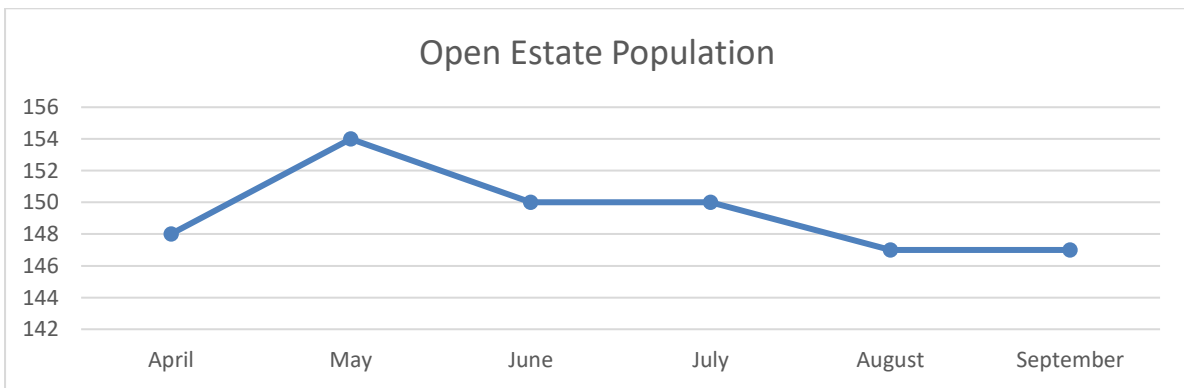
¹⁴ SPS Human Resource Staff Absence Data 01 April 2020



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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 individuals¹⁶. 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 in terms of YPs in HMP & YOI Polmont there is one individual accessing home leave and two others on community work placement. The graph shows moderate fluctuations in the adult male estate OE at Castle Huntly during quarter one and illustrates an overall downward trajectory which has stabilised over the last 2 months of Q2¹⁷:



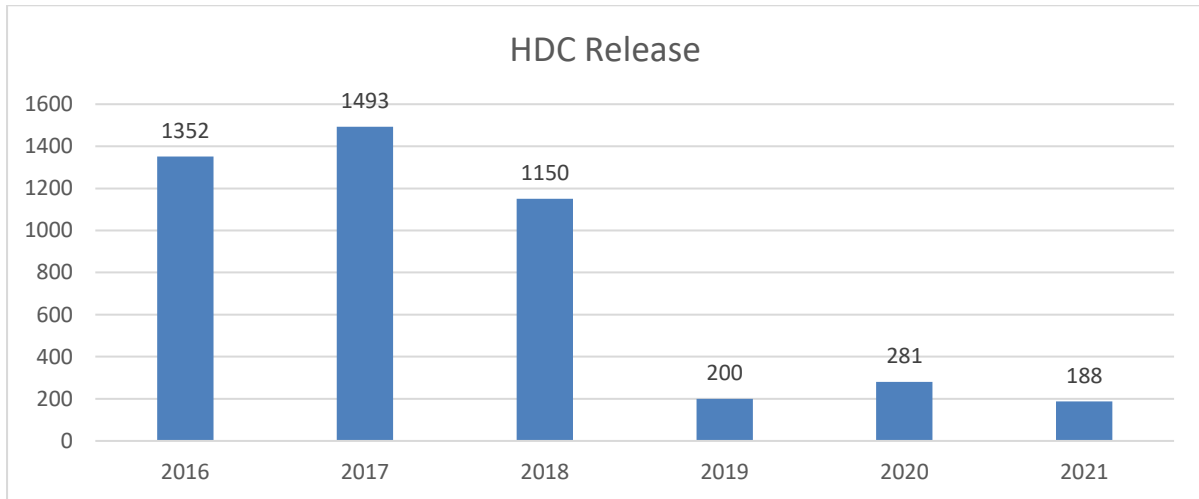
¹⁵ SPS Human Resource Staff Absence Data July- September 2021

¹⁶ SPS Prisoner Records System 30 September 2021

¹⁷ SPS Prisoner Records System Business Objects Report Taken on last day of each month April-September 2021

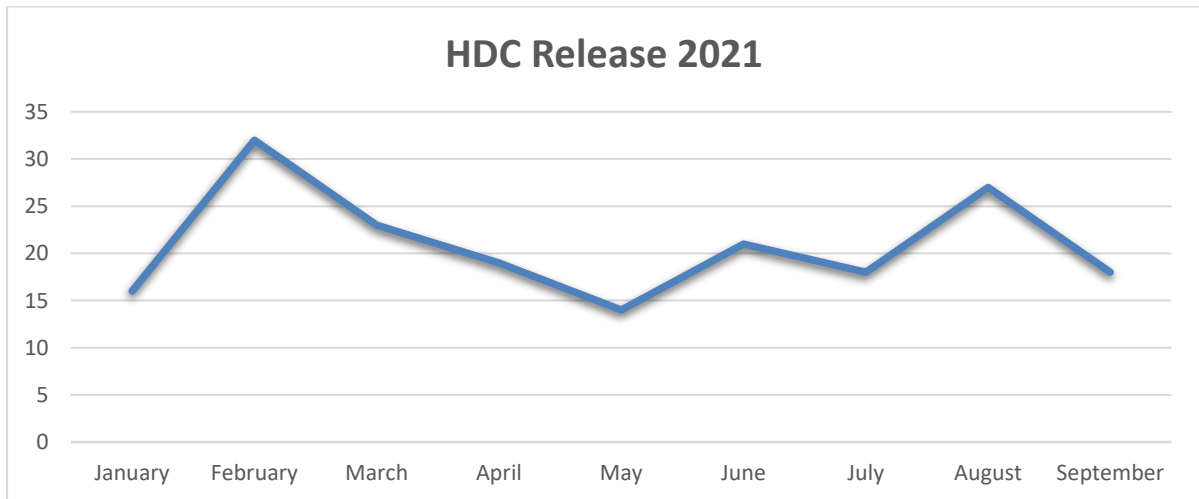
13.0 Home Detention Curfew (HDC)

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. 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 ensured the optimised use of HDC release. To date 2021 HDC release has reached **67%** of 2020 totals:



¹⁸

The graph illustrates monthly HDC release during 2021:



¹⁹

¹⁸ SPS Business Objects Report 2016-2021

¹⁹ SPS Prisoner Records System Business Objects Report Jan-September 2021

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+Chief+Executive+November+20196757_3194.pdf
- [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)
- <http://www.sps.gov.uk/Corporate/Publications/Publication-6756.aspx>
- [Population of Scotland 2020, by region | Statista](https://www.statista.com/statistics/1000000/population-scotland-2020/)