

# SPS Quarterly Public Information Page

**Prison by Numbers Quarter 2 (July -  
September 2022)**

**Unlocking Potential - Transforming Lives.**

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## 1.0 Key Messages

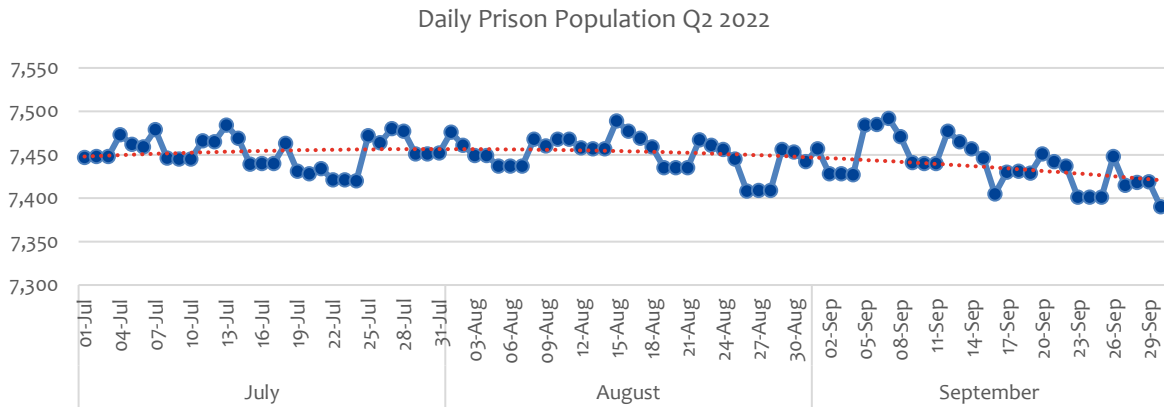
Key messages drawn from this quarterly report are as follows:

- The weekly average population reduced by 0.4% in Quarter 2 compared to Quarter 1. Compared to the same period last year, the reduction was 1.3%.
- Almost six out of ten people in our care are required to be accommodated separately.
- The remand population decreased by 4.1% in Quarter 2, although still comprised 25% of the total population at the end of September 2022.
- The convicted population increased by 0.6% in Quarter 2 compared to the previous Quarter.
- The population of those with a history of sexual offending has continued to increase in Quarter 2.
- Single cell occupancy remained stable in Quarter 2 at around 70%.
- In reviewing the characteristics of those in our care in Quarter 2, the majority of the prisoner population were male (95.9%), heterosexual (92.2%), had a marital status of single (78.1%) and white (94.6%).
- The national rate of imprisonment in Scotland reached 0.1% at the end of September. Rates of imprisonment equal to or above the national rate were observed in 14 of 32 Local Authorities.
- COVID-19: Changes to the testing pathway, as well as changes to contact tracing and the removal of the requirement to isolate positive cases, have substantially impacted the numbers of Covid-19 in prisons.

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

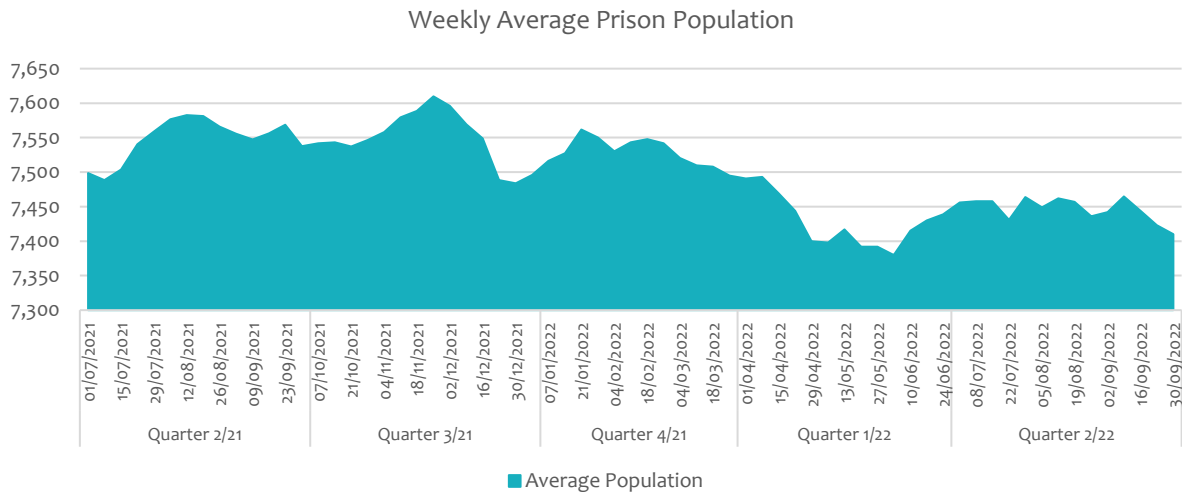
## 2.0 Prison Population

The daily prison population fluctuated throughout Quarter 2, from 7,447 in the beginning of July to 7,390 at the end of September. The population in this Quarter peaked on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7,492. Overall, the daily prison population was 1% lower at the end of Quarter 2 compared to the end of the previous Quarter.



1

In Quarter 2, the weekly average prison population reached the highest number in the second week of September, reducing downwards for the last three weeks of the Quarter. Compared to the last week of Quarter 1, the weekly average prison population reduced by 0.4% in Quarter 2. The graph below illustrates that the weekly average population in Quarter 2 has also reduced compared to the same period last year. The average prison population in Quarter 2/21 was 7,547 and in Quarter 2/22 was 7,477. This represents a reduction of 1.3% in Quarter 2/22 compared to Quarter 2/21.



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<sup>1</sup> SPS PR2 report Jul-Sep 2022

<sup>2</sup> SPS PR2 report Jul/21-Sep/22

The SPS 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](#)

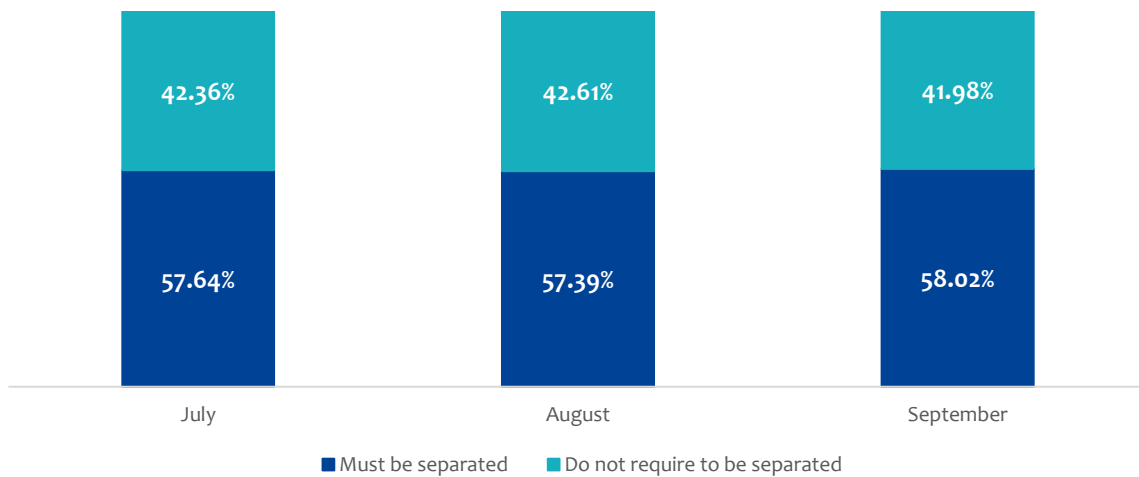
[Prison Population Report – Annual prison Population](#)

### 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 slightly in September to 4,303 individuals, compared to 4,285 in July and 4,276 in August. An average of around 58% of the prison population typically need to be accommodated separately, due to their legal status (convicted / untried), gender, offence type, protection status, health care needs or specific management issues.

Prisoners who must be accommodated separately - Monthly Average Q2/22

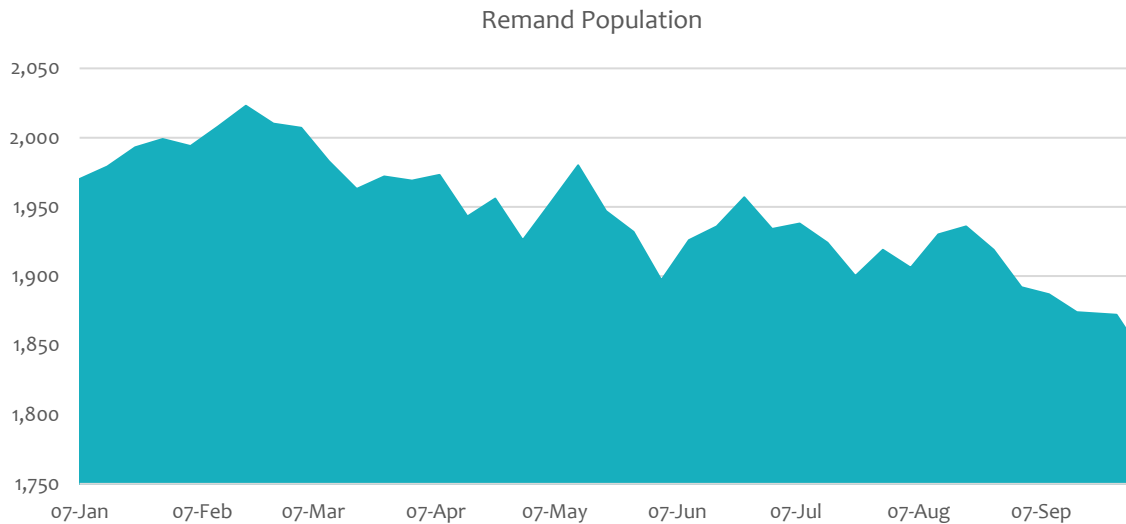


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<sup>3</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Report Jul-Sep 2022

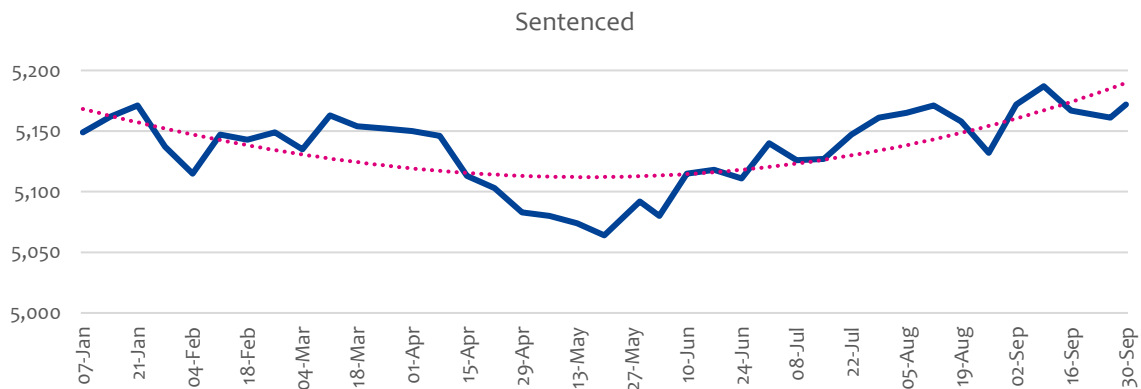
## 4.0 Legal Status (Sentenced & Remand)

The remand population by 4.1% in Quarter 2, from 1,934 individuals at the end of June 2022 to 1,855 individuals at the end of September 2022. Although the remand population has reduced over the last quarter, it continues to comprise around 25% of the total prison population. 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.



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The sentenced population has shown a decrease between the beginning of April and mid-May. Since then, the sentenced population increased steadily from June to September. Overall, the sentenced population increased by 0.6% in Quarter 2, driven by the increase on the long term population, especially those serving a sentence of 4 to 10 years.



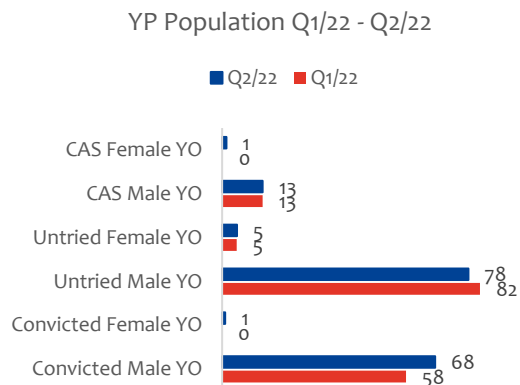
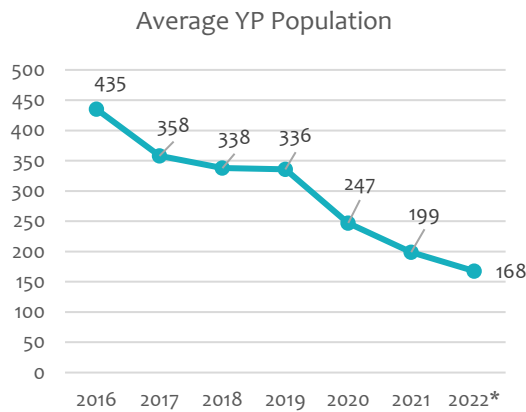
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<sup>4</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Sep 2022

<sup>5</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Sep 2022

## 5.0 Young People in our Care

The number of Young People (YP) in custody remains low in comparison to 2016-2019 when the population exceeded 300. In 2021, the YP average population reduced to 199. The average YP population in the first 9 months of 2022 has reduced to 168. When looking at the breakdown of the average YP population and compared with last Quarter. As can be seen, the untried male YP population decreased from 82 to 78 and the male YP convicted population increased from 58 to 68. The other categories did not present noteworthy changes.



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The table below provides a breakdown of the YP population, illustrating the variance in the population during Q2:

	Male YP Estate				Female YP Estate			
	July	August	September	% Variance by Q2 End	July	August	September	% Variance by Q2 End
Convicted	65	70	69	6.19%	0	0	1	0.00%
Remand	79	80	77	-2.79%	5	5	4	-20.00%
Convicted Awaiting Sentence (CAS)	12	14	13	4.92%	0	2	2	-
Prisoner Awaiting Deportation (PAD)	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
In Custody	156	163	158	1.54%	5	7	7	40.00%

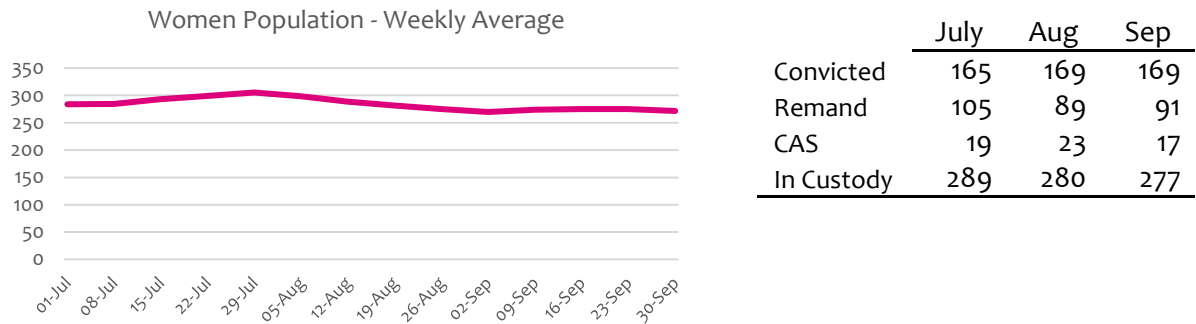
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<sup>6</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System - Business Objects & OD Population Management Jan-Sep 2022

<sup>7</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jul-Sep 2022

## 6.0 Women in our Care

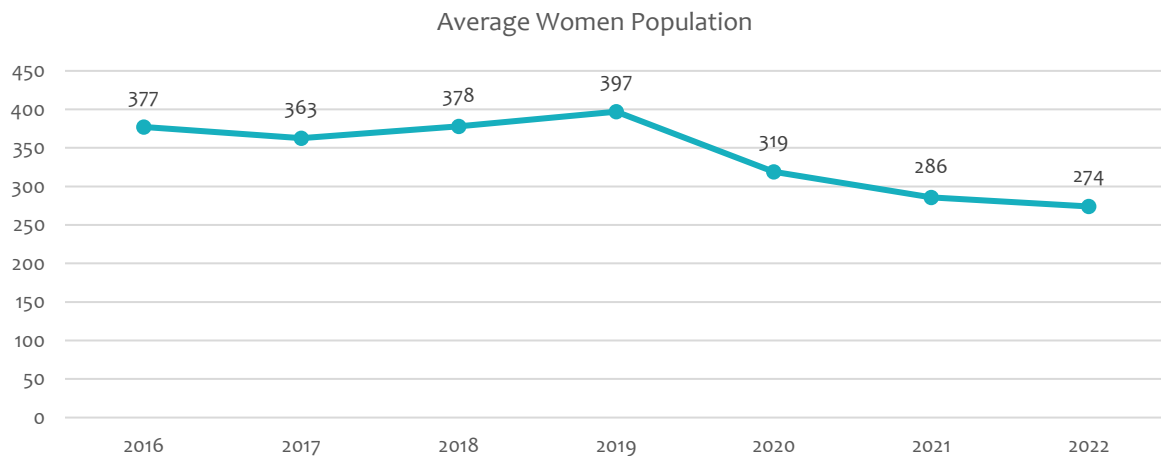
The weekly average women’s population reached the highest level at the end of July. The weekly average women’s population then reduced throughout August and increased slightly at the beginning of September. Overall the weekly average women’s population decreased by 4.2% in Quarter 2.



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When considering the breakdown of the women’s estate, those on remand comprised 33.9% of the women population at the end of September. The remand male population reached 25.2% of the total male population at 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 30<sup>th</sup> September, the annual average women’s population decreased to 274.



<sup>8</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jul-Sep 2022



## 7.0 Equality and Diversity

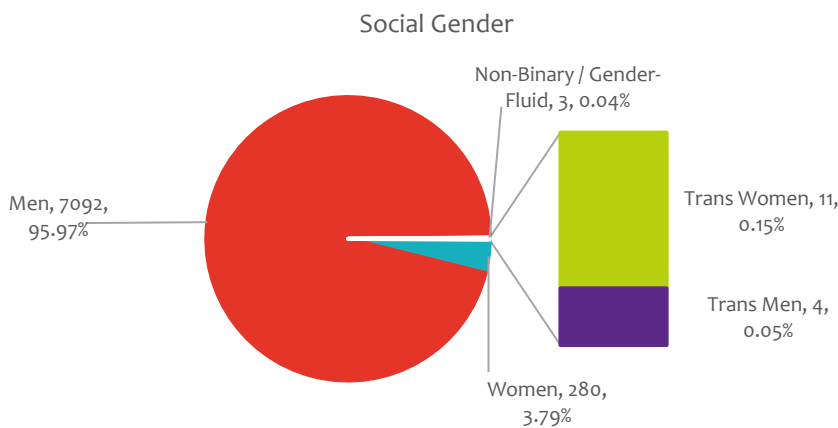
The Scottish Prison Service aims to provide accessible services to meet the needs of those in our care. This means an ongoing commitment to promote equal opportunities through policies and strategies to promote equality throughout all our establishments. The following data presents an overview of the diversity of the 7,390 people in our care on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.<sup>9</sup>

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

### Social Gender

SPS defines social 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 spectrum<sup>10</sup> between man and woman. Gender-fluid is defined<sup>11</sup> by “not having only one gender, or moving freely between genders”.

In Quarter 2, 7092 people in our care identified themselves as men and another 280 as women. Trans men and Trans women comprised 0.05% and 0.15% of the prison population, respectively. Non-binary and gender-fluid comprised together 0.04% of the prison population.



<sup>12</sup>

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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>

<sup>11</sup> Cambridge Dictionary definition available on <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/gender-fluid>

<sup>12</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Sep 2022

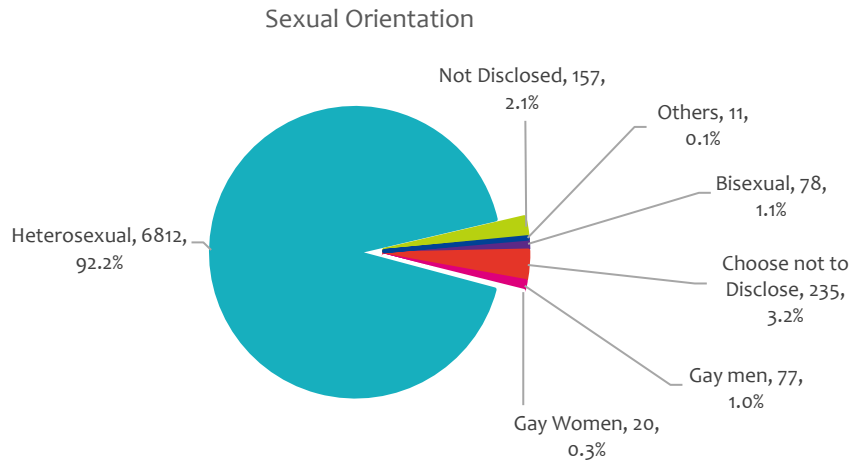
Men and women are housed in their respective estates. When someone is transitioning, the SPS takes a person-centred risk informed decision about the placement and management of that individual. For this reason, some individuals are located with their social gender and some are not. The table below illustrates the total number of Trans men and Trans women in our care and where they were residing at the end of Quarter 2.

	Men`s Estate	Women`s Estate	Total
<b>Trans Men</b>	1	3	4
<b>Trans Women</b>	6	5	11
<b>Total<sup>13</sup></b>	7	8	15

All Trans people in our care were living in single cells as at the end of Quarter 2.

**Sexual Orientation**

The majority of the people in our care declared themselves as heterosexual, 92.2%. Bisexuals, gay men and gay women comprised 2.4%. Another 3.2% preferred not to disclose while a further 2.1% were not obtained. More details are illustrated in the chart below.

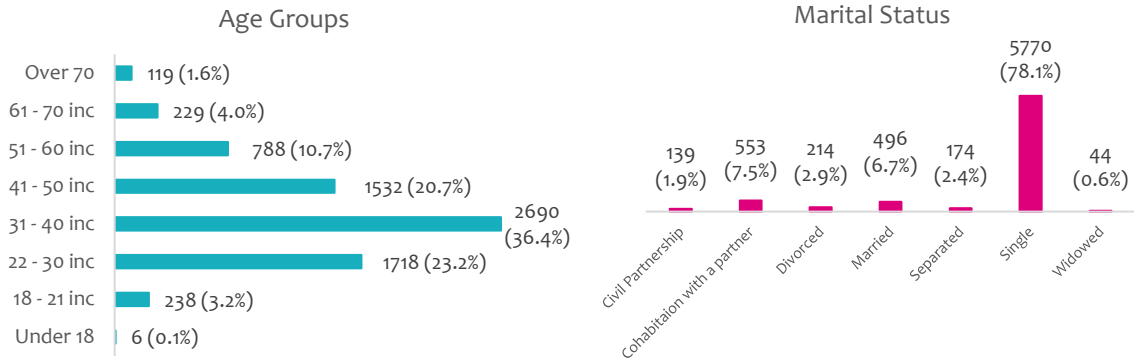


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<sup>14</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Sep 2022

### Age Group and Marital Status

The chart below illustrates the prison population in Quarter 2 by age group and marital status. The highest age group continues to be the individuals within 31 to 40 years old (36.4%), while the lowest age comprises the individuals under 18 years old (0.1%).

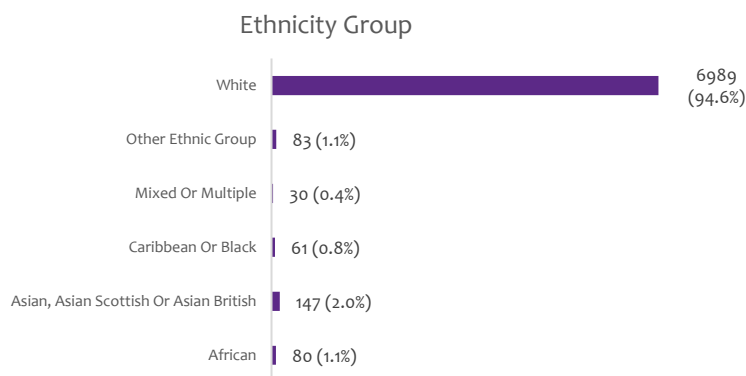


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The vast majority of the people in our care reported themselves as single in Quarter 2, 78.1%. Another 7.5% and 6.7% reported as “cohabitation with a partner” and married, respectively.

### Ethnicity Group

In Quarter 2, 94.6% of the prison population declared themselves as white. African comprised 1.1% while Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British comprised 2%. Those who declared themselves Caribbean or Black were 0.8%. Other Ethnic Group and Mixed or Multiple represented 1.1% and 0.4%, respectively. More details can be observed in the chart below.



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<sup>15</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Sep 2022

<sup>16</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Sep 2022

## Disability

Almost a tenth, 9.9%, of the people in our prisons have told us that they have a disability. Another 88.2% did not report any disability and 1.9% opted not to disclose.

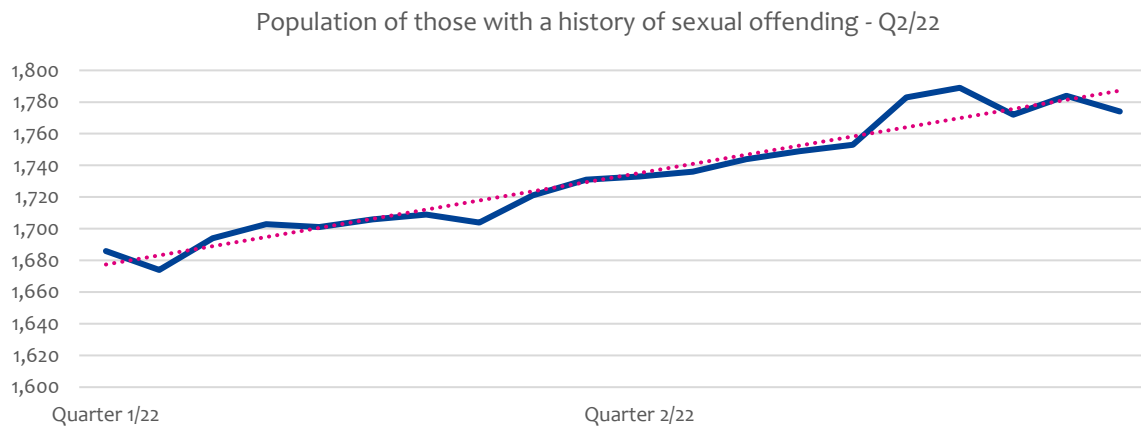
Disability		
Yes	728	9.9%
No	6,517	88.2%
Opted not to Disclose	145	1.9%

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## 8.0 Protection Populations

Across the estate, there are people with a history of sexual offending in each of Scotland’s 15 prisons, including Cornton Vale.<sup>18</sup> 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 has continued to increase. In Quarter 2, that population increased by 3.5% while in Quarter 1 the increase was 3.1%. Between January and September, the number of those with a history of sexual offending increased by 8.6%, while the total prison population reduced by 0.7% in the same period.



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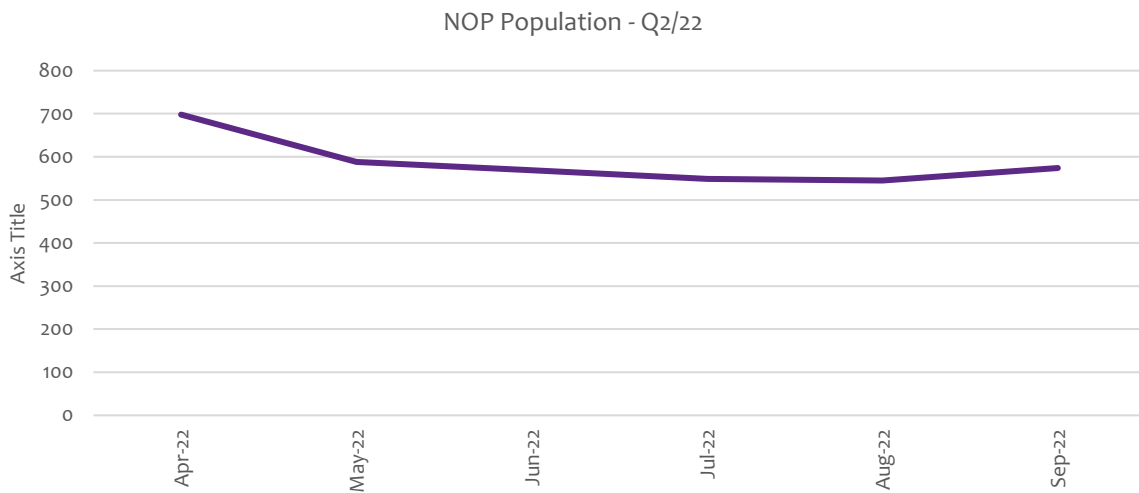
<sup>17</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Sep 2022

<sup>18</sup> There is no trans woman with a history of sexual offending residing in HMP Cornton Vale

<sup>19</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports April-Sep 2022

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 Quarter 2, the number of individuals within the NOP population reduced in July and August, increasing steadily throughout September. Overall, the NOP population increased by 2.2% in Quarter 2, compared to Quarter 1.



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<sup>20</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports April-Sep 2022

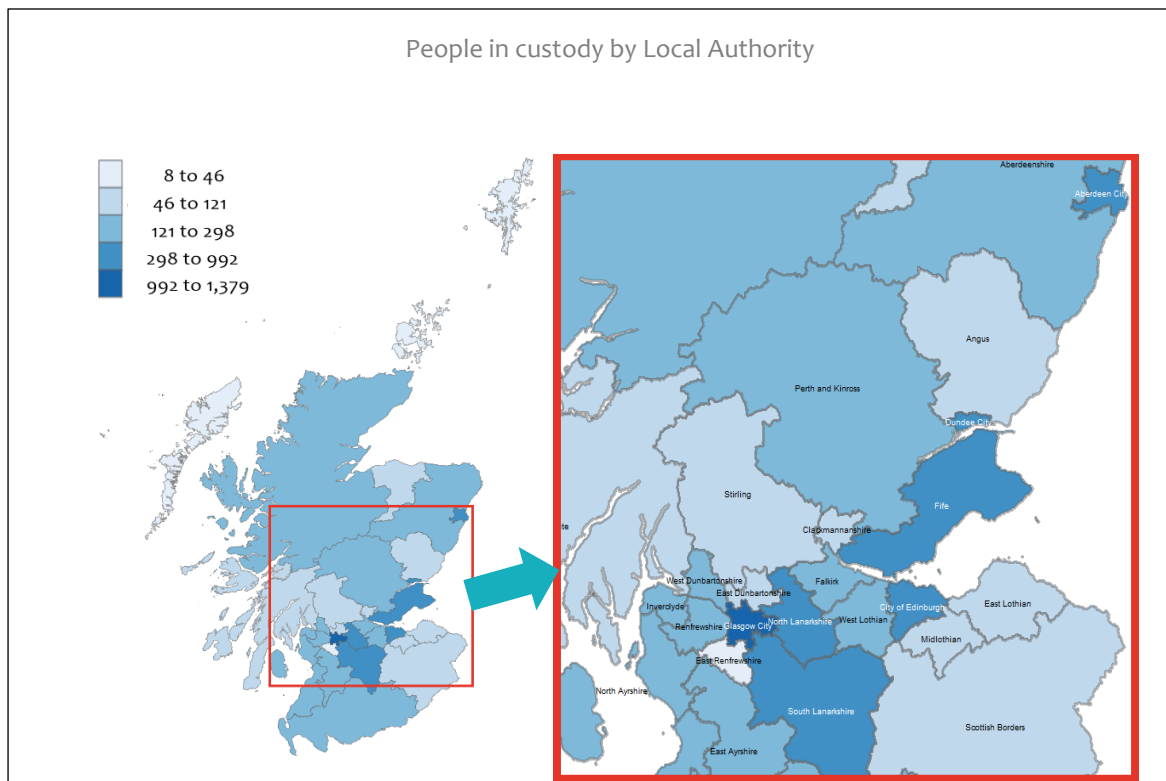
## 9.0 Geography of Imprisonment in Scotland

When considering the prisons population by Local Authority (LA), Glasgow City continued to have the largest number; 1,379 individuals in custody, comprising 18.5% of the total prison population at the end of Quarter 2. The City of Edinburgh has the second largest prison population, with 604 individuals, followed by North Lanarkshire, Fife and South Lanarkshire with 521, 511 and 439 individuals, respectively.

Shetland Islands, Na H-Eileanan Siar and Orkney Island have the smallest number of individuals in custody. The three Local Authorities together comprises 0.5% of the total of residents in prison.

According to the Prisons` Records, 4.5% 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 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

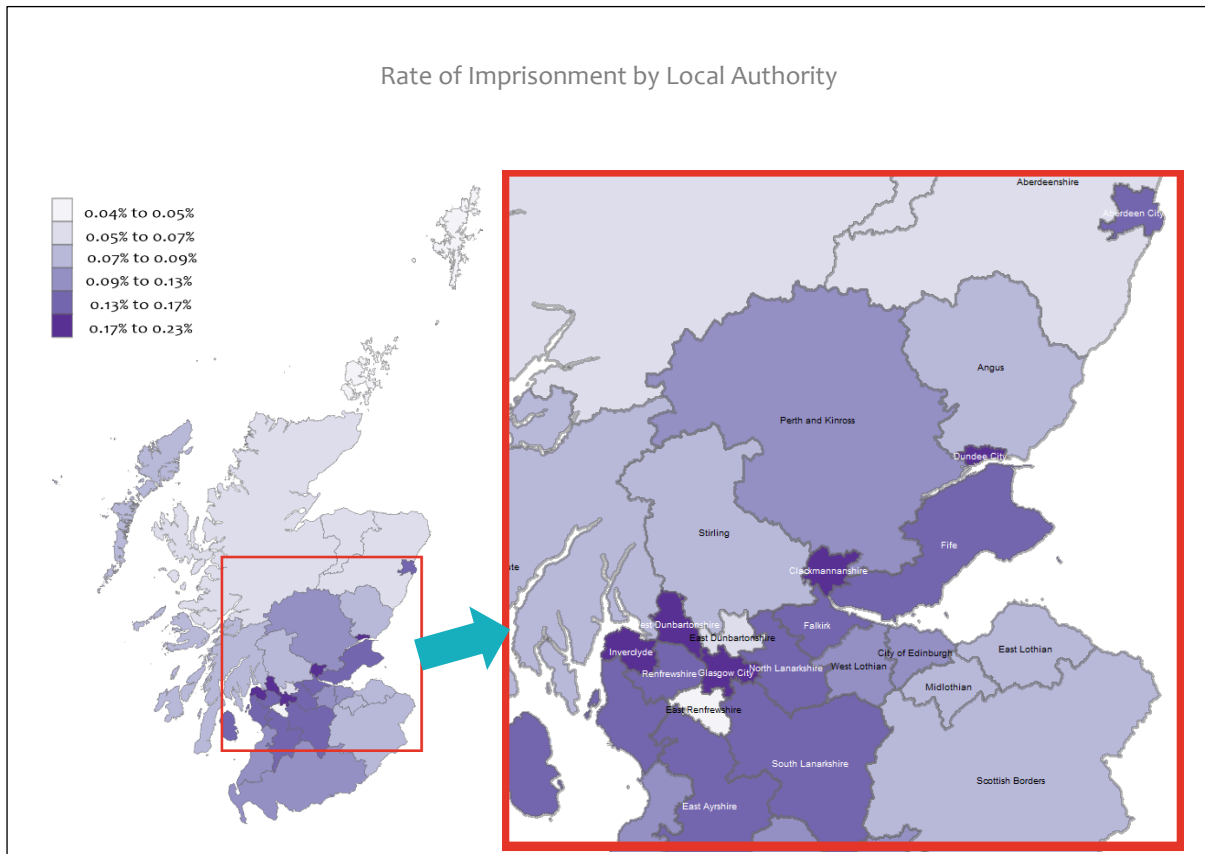


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<sup>21</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Sep 2022

The national rate of imprisonment in Scotland<sup>22</sup> was 0.1% at the end of September. Rates of imprisonment equal or above the national rate were observed in 14 of the 32 LAs.

The map below illustrates the rate of imprisonment by LA on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.



The table below illustrates the total number of individuals in custody on 30<sup>th</sup> September, broken down by length of sentence per LA.

<sup>22</sup> The Scottish population figures used to calculate the rate of imprisonment was obtained on [Mid-2020 Population Estimates Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/population-estimates-scotland)

	Undetermined Sentence	Remand	Less than 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 months to 1 Year	1 to 2 Years	2 to 4 Years	Over 4 Years (including Life)	All
Aberdeen City	2	100	2	8	16	47	48	119	342
Aberdeenshire	2	41	0	3	5	14	18	73	156
Angus	2	31	1	5	5	8	12	35	99
Argyll And Bute	1	18	0	0	4	0	6	32	61
City Of Edinburgh	8	172	5	12	14	45	60	288	604
Clackmannanshire	3	20	0	6	7	22	12	36	106
Dumfries And Galloway	1	44	0	5	16	13	24	70	173
Dundee City	2	112	1	11	18	31	35	126	336
East Ayrshire	2	63	3	8	11	20	32	69	208
East Dunbartonshire	0	14	1	0	3	7	5	26	56
East Lothian	0	24	0	2	5	5	12	31	79
East Renfrewshire	0	9	1	1	3	3	5	13	35
Falkirk	3	66	2	5	14	28	30	75	223
Fife	7	111	1	9	30	51	81	221	511
Glasgow City	7	412	9	28	55	113	132	623	1379
Highland	1	37	0	1	12	13	12	75	151
Inverclyde	1	46	0	0	5	3	13	71	139
Midlothian	0	28	0	1	0	5	4	29	67
Moray	0	19	0	1	4	6	5	25	60
Na H-Eileanan Siar	0	4	1	6	1	2	2	4	20
North Ayrshire	3	50	1	13	17	21	25	88	218
North Lanarkshire	4	142	4	11	22	45	49	244	521
Orkney Islands	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	3	8
Outwith Scotland	15	85	4	5	14	20	47	143	333
Perth And Kinross	2	48	1	3	3	10	18	63	148
Renfrewshire	2	76	0	4	9	20	33	115	259
Scottish Borders	0	33	0	1	4	4	11	32	85
Shetland Islands	0	3	0	1	0	1	3	1	9
South Ayrshire	1	49	0	7	5	9	14	51	136
South Lanarkshire	3	123	4	11	20	43	43	192	439
Stirling	0	24	0	2	6	15	12	23	82
Unidentifiable Address	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	6
West Dunbartonshire	3	28	0	6	11	14	24	79	165
West Lothian	2	75	1	3	15	19	23	88	226
Not on Prison Records	0	5	0	0	0	0	2	4	11

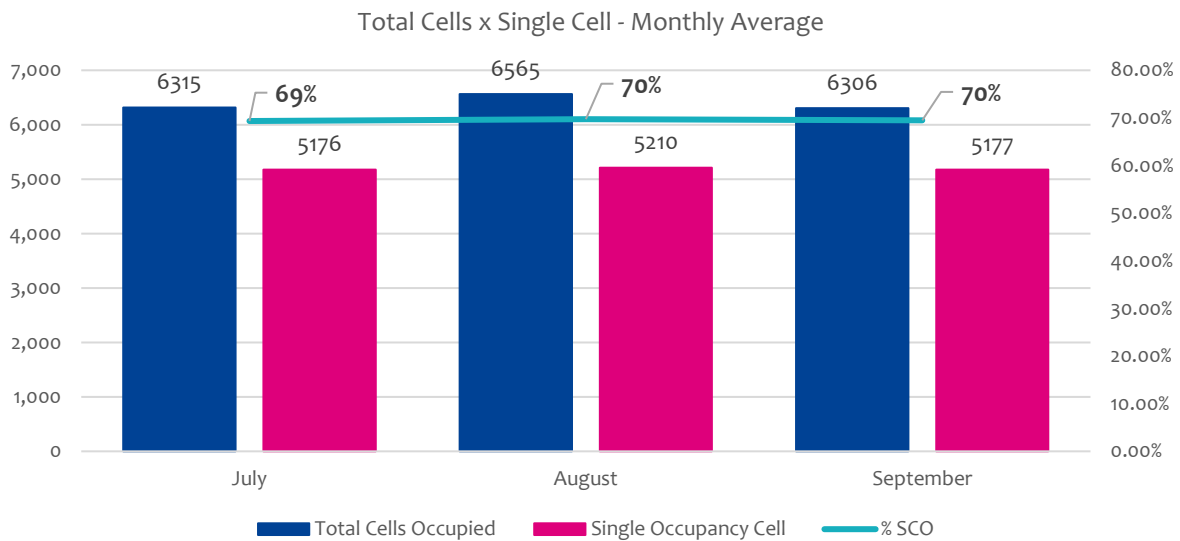


## 10.0 Prison Estate & Configuration

On 30th September 2022, two of the sixteen establishments were operating over the agreed Temporary Operating Capacity (TOC). Another four establishments were operating very close to TOC. In total there are 488 available 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 Castle Huntly, Cornton Vale and Polmont, all of which hold a specific category of prisoner.

In Quarter 2, the number of cells occupied increased from an average of 6,315 in July to 6,565 in August. In September, the number of cells occupied reduced to an average of 6,306. The number of single cells occupied continued to remain quite stable in Quarter 2, between 5,176 to 5,210 single cells, on average.

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. Therefore, SCO has remained limited to around 70% in Quarter 2, as it can be observed in the chart below:



<sup>23</sup>

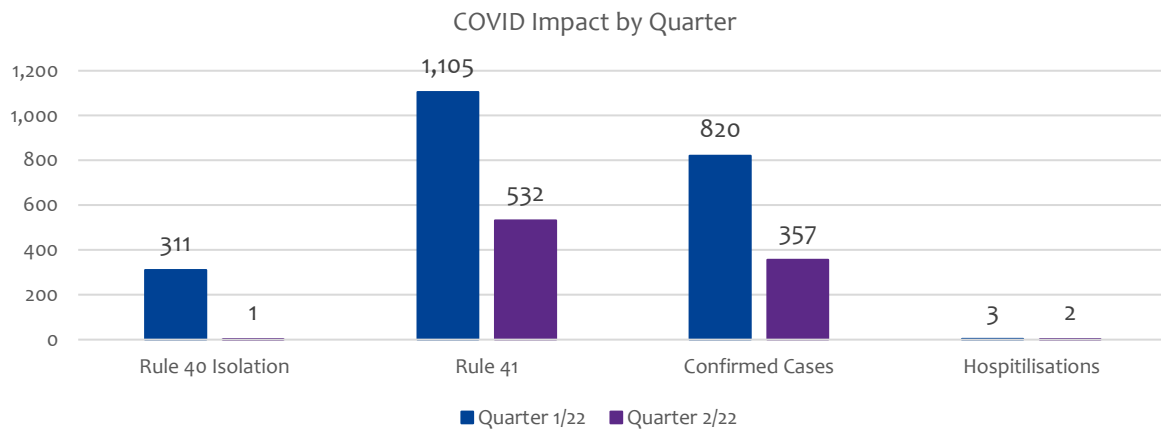
<sup>23</sup> SPS Operations Directorate Single Cell Occupancy & Business Objects Report Jul-Sep 2022

## 11.0 COVID-19

During late 2021, the SPS managed, agreed and implemented prison-specific guidance, including specific agreement on isolation, that were as consistent with the community as could be managed.

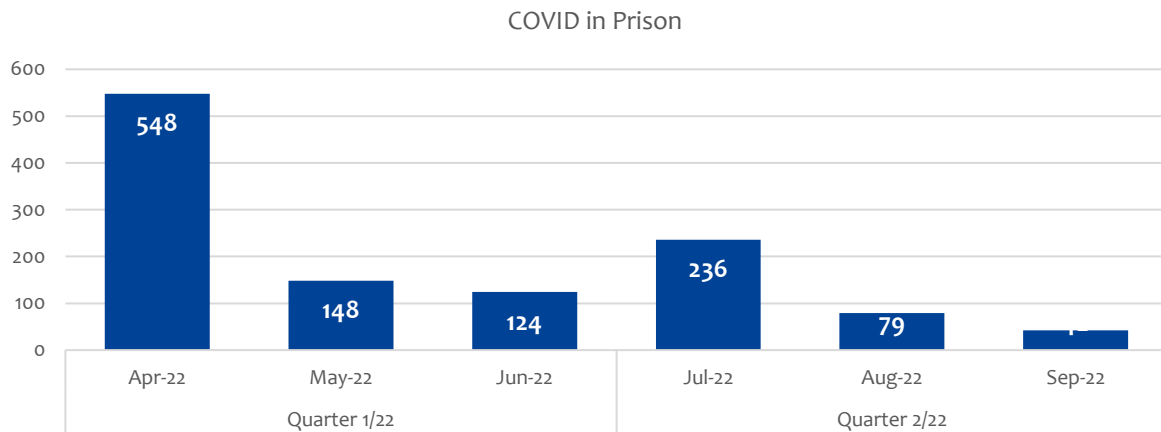
The impact of Covid-19 on our prison population has reduced in Quarter 2 compared to Quarter 1. Changes to the testing pathway, as well as changes on contact tracing and the removal of the requirement to isolate positive cases,<sup>24</sup> have substantially impacted the numbers – as presented below.

In Quarter 2, there were 357 positive cases of Covid-19 in prison. This is a reduction of 56.5% compare to the 820 positive cases observed in the previous quarter.



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The graph below illustrates the number of positive Covid-19 cases in each month in Quarters 1 and 2. In September, 42 positive cases were recorded compared with 236 in July.



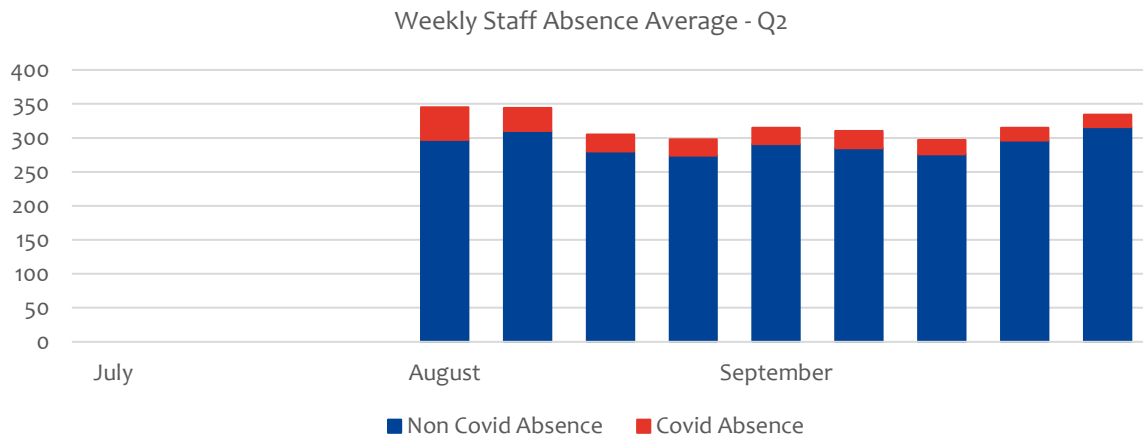
The SPS regularly reports on the impact of COVID on prisoners and staff. More reports can be found [here](#).

<sup>24</sup> Implemented on 25th July 2022 as per the Covid-19 Transition Plan.

<sup>25</sup> SPS Health April-Sep 2022

## 12.0 Staff Absence

Staff absence reduced from 7.5% of the workforce (or 345 staff in the first week of August) to 6.4% of the workforce (or 298 staff at the end of the same month). Staff absence increased steadily in the last 3 weeks of September, reaching 7.2% of the workforce - or 334 staff. Covid-19 related absences has reduced from 48 in the beginning of August to 18 at the end of September, which comprised 5.4% of the total sick absence and 0.4% of the workforce at the end of Quarter 2. <sup>26</sup>



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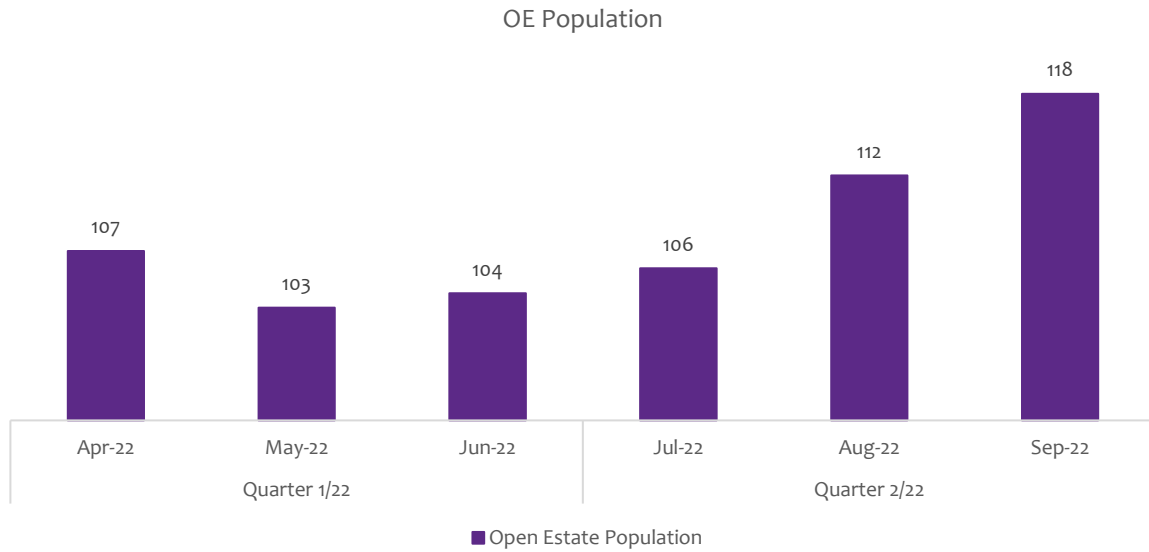
## 13.0 Open Estate

In order to progress to less secure conditions, an individual has to undergo case management and the level of risk for this decision has to be agreed by the SPS and key partners. All convicted population can be eligible once the criteria is met and is managed for adult males via Castle Huntly, HMP&YOI Polmont for Young People and HMP&YOI Cornton Vale for the female estate. The number of those in our care who are within the Open Estate, accessing home leave or have community access within HMP&YOIs Cornton Vale and Polmont are too low to publish and could lead those individuals to be identified through the data.

The population of the Open Estate has increased in Quarter 2 compared to the previous Quarter. The monthly average of individuals housed in the Open Estate in September was 118, which comprised 41.5% of the spaces available. This is an increase of 11.7% compared to the 106 individuals in the Open Estate in July.

<sup>26</sup> Please note: the HR team changed the way it captures absence data from August onwards because the approach they had adopted during the Covid-19 period was unsustainable in terms of resource requirements. Unfortunately, this means that data from August 2022 onwards is not comparable with data captured in previous months – and there is a gap for July in the Q2 period.

<sup>27</sup> SPS Human Resource Staff Absence Data Aug-Sep 2022



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## 14.0 Home Detention Curfew

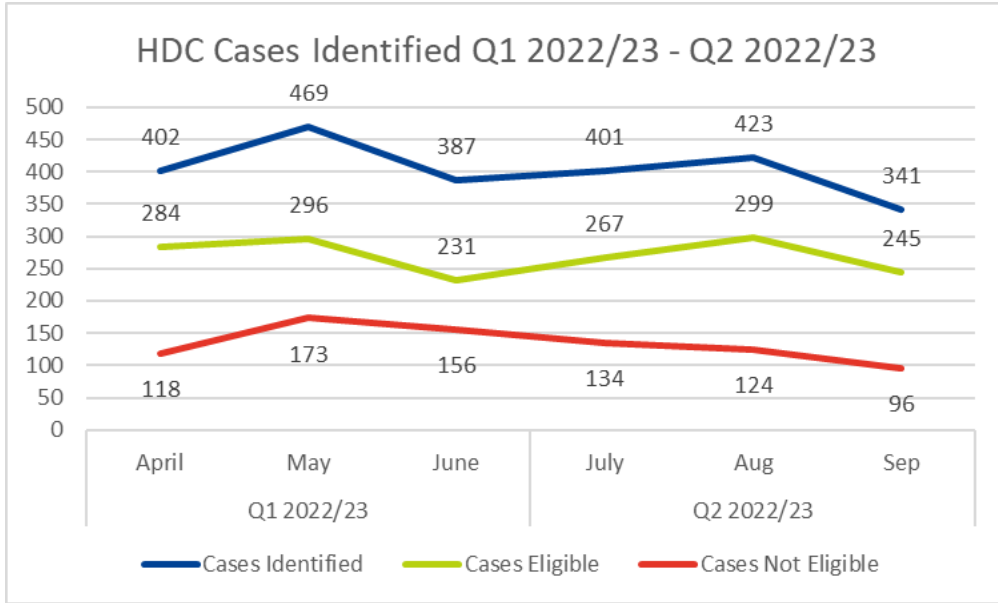
In Q2 2022/23 there were a total of 1,165 cases identified which met the basic standard criteria to apply for Home Detention Curfew (HDC). After further checks on those identified 30.4% (354) of the cases were not eligible which means that 69.6% (811) were eligible to apply for HDC and continued through the rest of the process.

These figures show that from Q1 2021/22 there has been a 7.4% decrease in cases identified from 1,258 to 1,165, no change in the number of cases eligible (811 in both quarters) and a 20.8% decrease in the number of cases which are not eligible from 447 to 354.

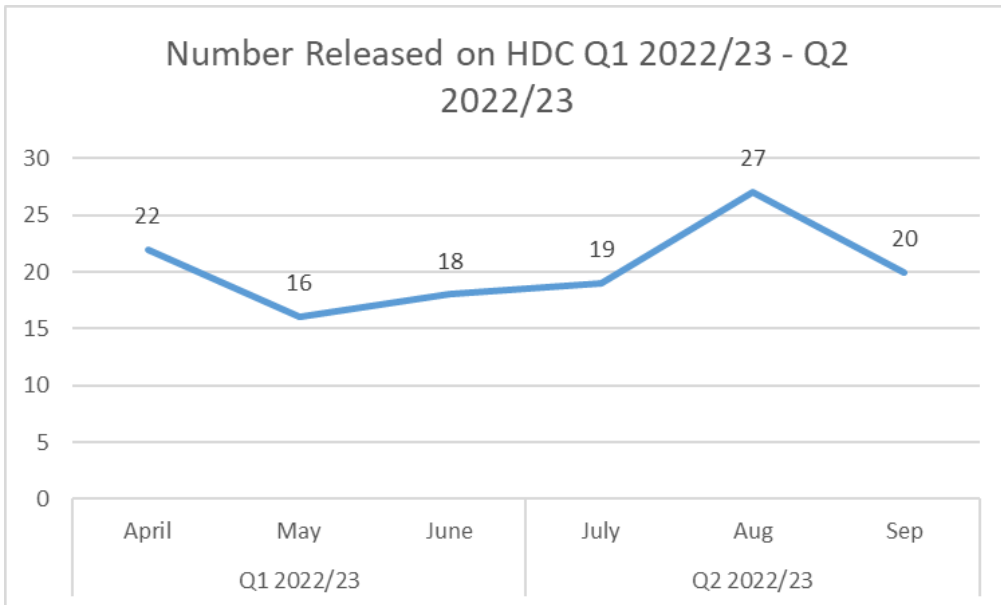
If we compare Q1 2022/23 with Q1 2021/22, there has been a 9.9% decrease in the number of cases identified from 1,397 to 1,258, a 20.2% decrease in the number of cases eligible from 1,017 to 811 and a 25.2% increase in the number of cases not eligible from 347 to 447.

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<sup>28</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports April-Sep 2022



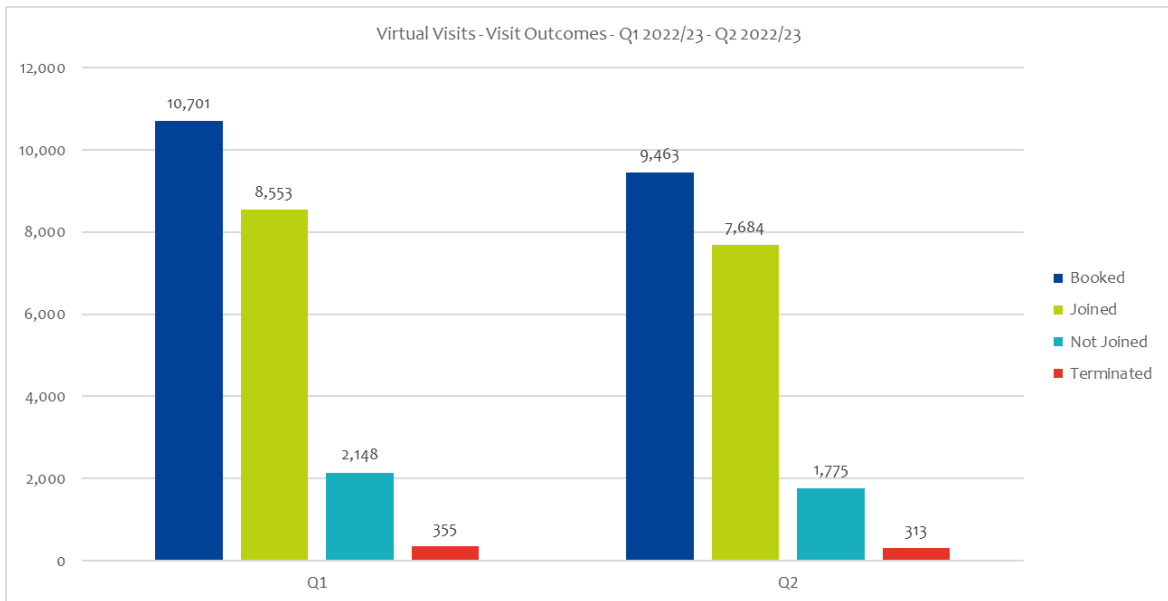
The total number of individuals who were released on HDC within Q2 2022/23 was 66, 10 more than Q1 2022/23.



## 15.0 Face to Face & Virtual Visits

We are currently reviewing our reporting process for Face-to-Face visits and will include this in the Q3 report with backdated information for Q2.

In Q2 2022/23, there were 9,463 booked visits and 7,684 joined visits, which is a decrease of 11.6% and 10.3% from Q1 2022/23 respectively. These figures also show decreases of 35.6% for booked visits (14,700) and 35.7% for joined visits (11,935) compared to Q1 2021/22, which was during the peak of COVID-19 with visitation restrictions in place.



## 16.0 Additional Information and Useful Links

- **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. 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](#)

- **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](#).

- [Freedom of Information Responses](#)

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

The Tableau is a data visualization tool showcases 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](#).

- **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 \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)