

SPS Quarterly Public Information Page

**Prison by Numbers Quarter 3 (October-
December 2021)**

Unlocking Potential - Transforming Lives.

Contents

1.0	Key Messages	3
2.0	Average Weekly Population	4
3.0	Complexities of Population	5
4.0	Legal Status (Convicted & Remand)	6
5.0	Young People in our Care	7
6.0	Women in our Care	8
7.0	Protection Populations.....	9
8.0	Geography of Population	10
9.0	Prison Estate & Configuration.....	12
10.0	COVID-19.....	13
11.0	Staff Absence	14
12.0	Open Estate	15
13.0	Home Detention Curfew (HDC).....	15
14.0	Face to Face & Virtual Visits	17
15.0	Useful Links	18

1.0 Key Messages

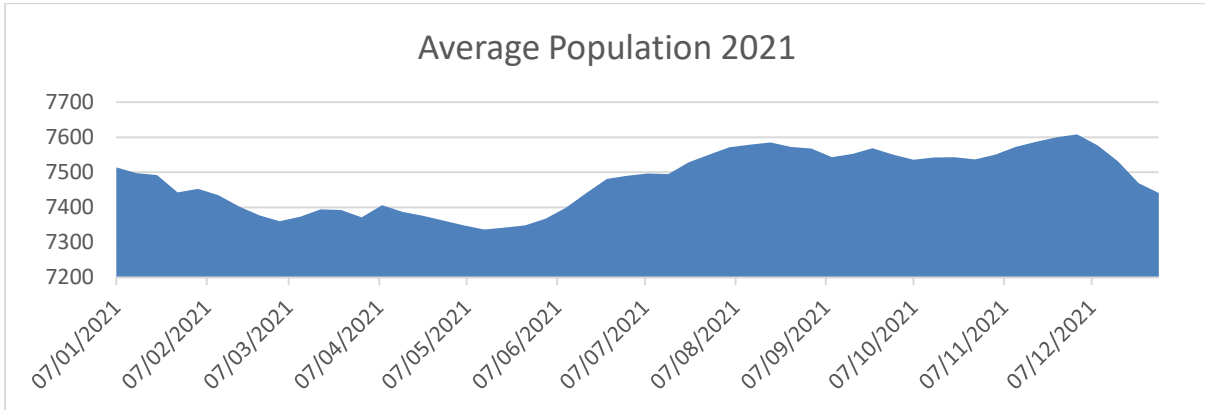
Key messages drawn from this quarterly report are as follows:

- Population continued to increase during Q3 with a decrease of 2.2% during December aligned to seasonal fluctuations
- 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 **28.77%** of the total population
- The population for those in our custody who have a history of sexual offending continues to rise, growth rate of **3.7%** during Quarter 3
- Staff absence saw an increase of **63%** during Q3 as a direct result of the presence of the Omicron variant in general society and aligned to change in self-isolation regulations
- COVID-19 continues to present challenges to ongoing management of the prison estate. Cases remain low in our staff group however we have seen a notable increase in the latter part of Q3 in our prisoner population. The SPS continue to respond the ongoing management of the pandemic in our prisons in accordance with Scottish Government guidelines

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

2.0 Average Weekly Population

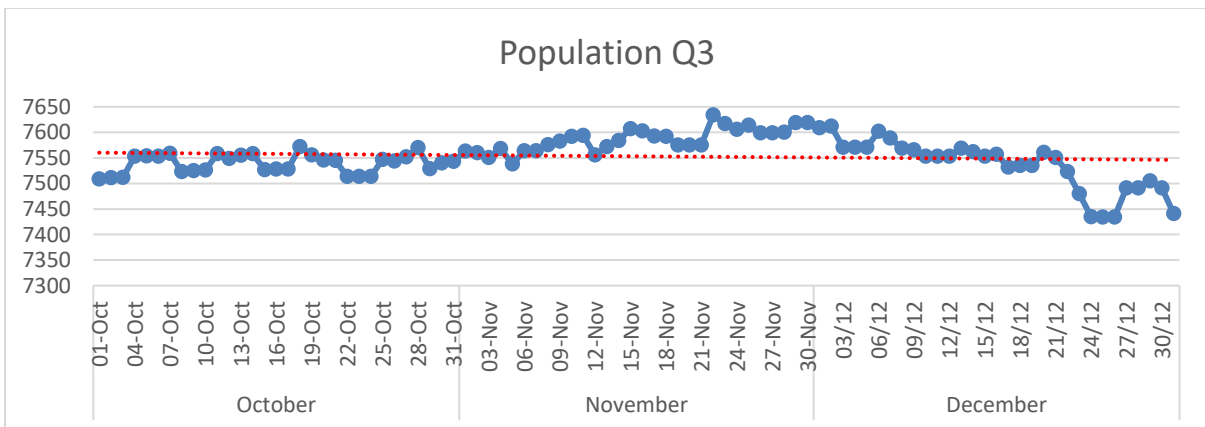
The graph below illustrates the upturn in the average population since mid-May. The weekly average figures best illustrate a drop in the population followed by a sustained period of recovery with only moderate seasonal fluctuations in December. If we consider the rise in the average population during the upturn mid-May until the end of August, we can see an overall rise of **3.2%** in November. By December this had decreased to an overall rise of **1.4%**:



1

Daily population figures in Q3

The population exceeded 7,600 during November, which was the highest population since pre-pandemic. During Q3, the population saw a steady increase Oct to Nov, and then a decrease during December, in line with seasonal fluctuations i.e. reduced courts and increased liberations due to the bank holiday period.



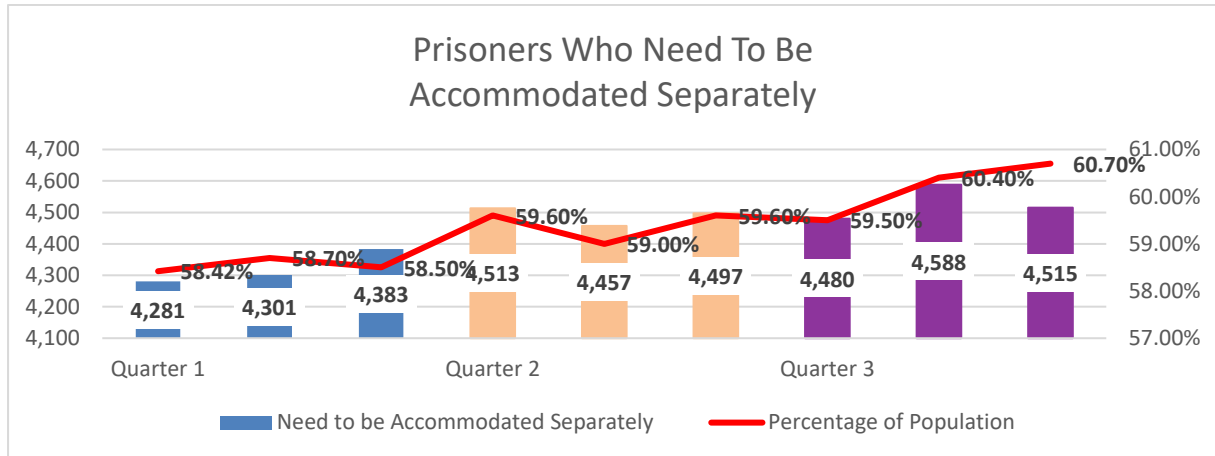
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¹ SPS Business Objects report Jan-Dec 2021

² SPS Business Objects report Oct-Dec 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 need 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. Whilst the population declined during late November-December, the proportion of those in our care that need to be accommodated separately has continued to increase month on month. When comparing each quarter, we can see that Q3 differs in that the percentage of the population who need to be accommodated separately has steadily increased. An increase of **2.28%** since Q1 commenced:

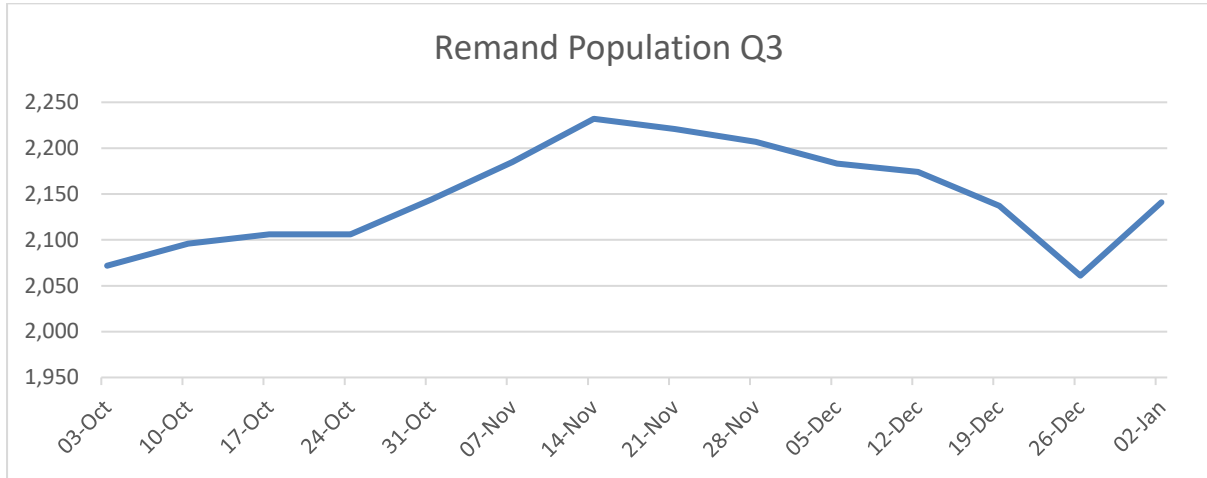


3

³ SPS Prisoner Records System – Operations Directorate Population Reports April-Dec 2021

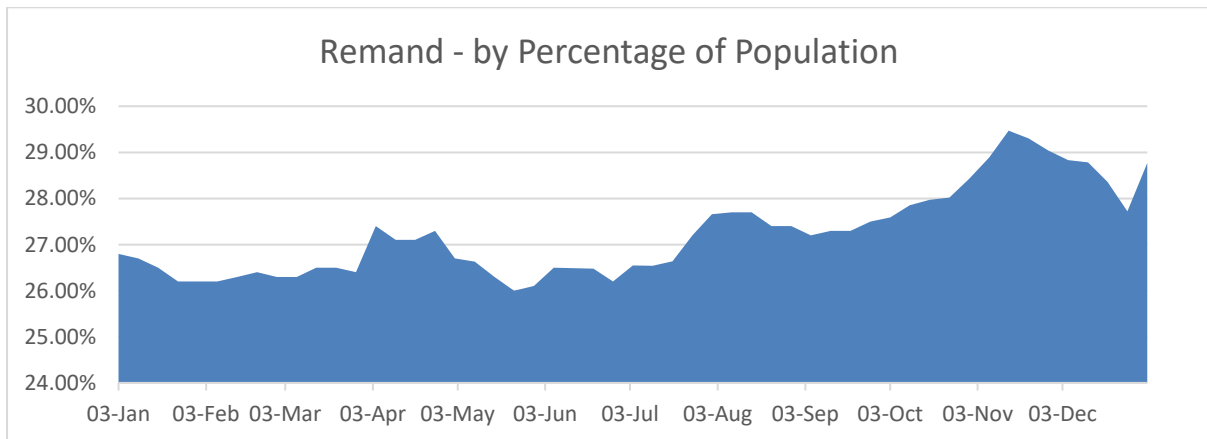
4.0 Legal Status (Convicted & Remand)

Remand has steadily increased during the first part of Q3 however from mid-Nov through to December, Remand totals decreased by **6.6%**. The Remand population saw a recovery in the last week of Q3 (an increase of **0.8%**), which was double that seen in 2020:



4

The graph below illustrates that the proportion of the population made up of individuals on Remand fluctuated throughout the year. Following an increase in April, there was a period of relative stability, however it began to increase again in the Autumn. By month-end in December, the Remand population accounted for **28.77%** of the total population:

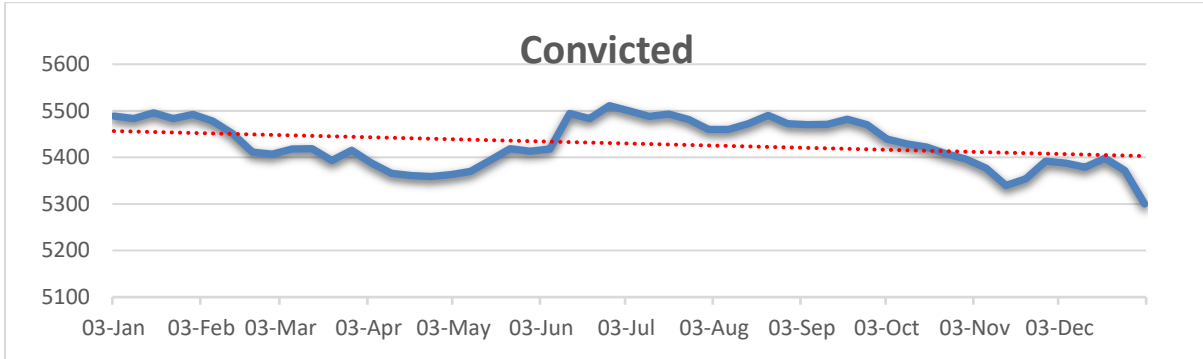


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⁴ SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Oct-Dec 2021

⁵ SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Jan-Dec 2021

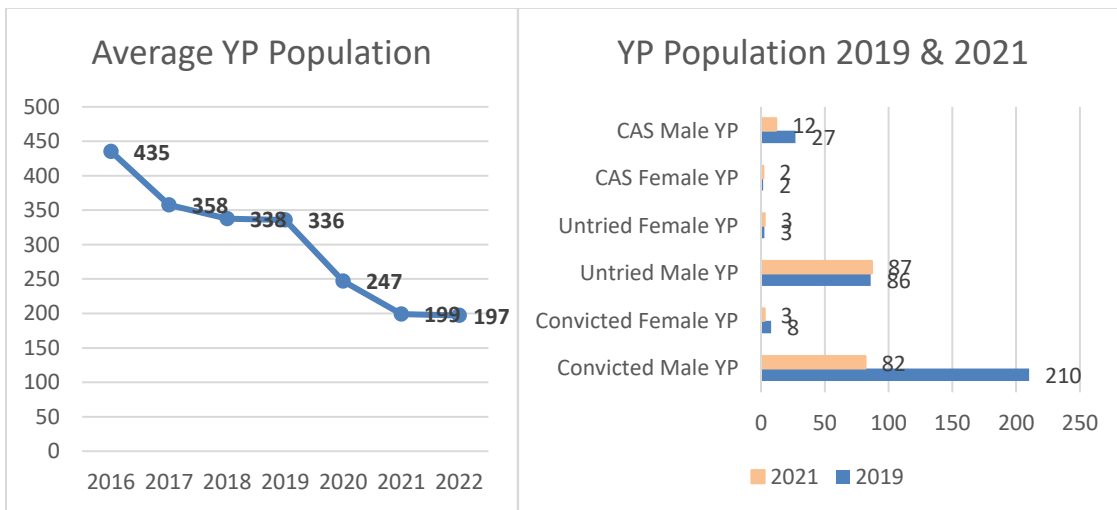
The convicted population has shown a decrease this month. The graph below shows the population peaked on 4 July (totalling 5,500); thereafter it remained relatively stable before starting to decline once again. The population by 31 Dec had declined to 5,300. An overall decrease of **3.6%** since the peak in July. During December the convicted population decreased by **1.6%**:



6

5.0 Young People in our Care

The average number of Young People (YP) in custody has declined, from 435 in 2016 to 197 at the end of 2021. When we look at the breakdown of the average YP population and compare 2021 with pre-COVID averages (2019), we can see a decline in most categories; Untried Female YP and Convicted Awaiting Sentencing (CAS) Female YP have remained quite stable, as well as Untried Male YP. The Convicted Male YP population has a substantial decrease of 61%, similar to that of the Convicted Female YP population where there has been a decrease of 62.5% (although the numbers for females are very small):



7

⁶ SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Jan-Dec 2021

⁷ SPS Prisoner Records System Business Objects & OD Population Management Oct-Dec 2021

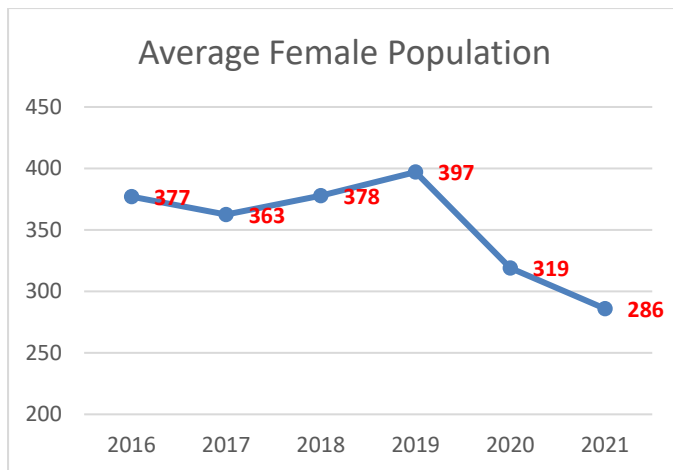
The chart below provides a breakdown of the YP population illustrating the variance in the population during Q3:

	Male YP Estate				Female YP Estate			
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Percentage Variance by Q3 End	Oct	Nov	Dec	Percentage Variance by Q3 end
CONVICTED	89	85	82	-7.8%	3	2	3	0%
REMAND	77	90	87	12.98%	5	3	3	-40%
CAS	9	17	12	33.33%	1	1	2	100%
PAD (Prisoner Awaiting Deportation)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In Custody	175	192	181	3.4%	9	6	8	11.1%

8

6.0 Women in our Care

The female population continued to decline this quarter, as it has done year on year since 2019. The year ended with the average female population for 2021 dropping to **286**, a decline of **10.3%** since 2020.



	Oct	Nov	Dec
CONVICTED	183	194	183
REMAND	66	63	49
CAS	17	18	20
PAD	0	0	0
In Custody	266	275	252

9

When considering the breakdown of the women’s estate, those on remand remains greater proportionately to that of the male population. Women in our care on remand assumes approximately **29.1%** of the total female population, compared with **27.7%** of male prison population.

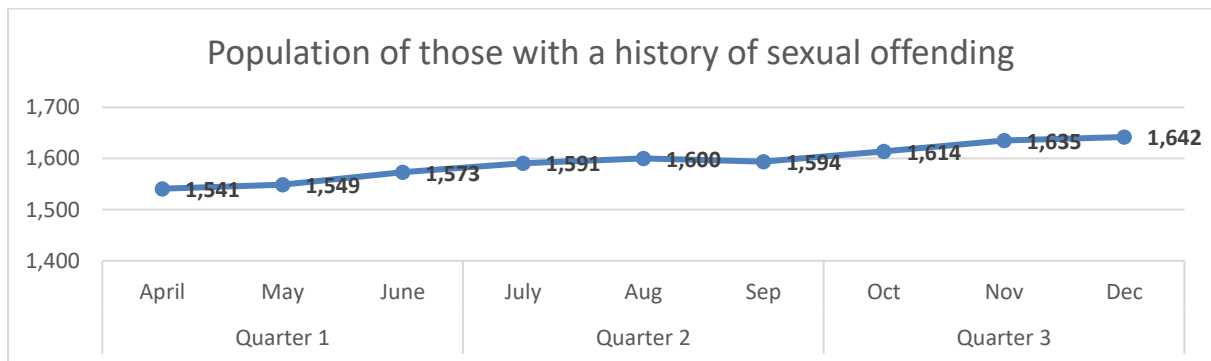
⁸ SPS Operations Directorate Population Management Report Oct-Dec 2021

⁹ SPS Prisoner Records System Business Objects & OD Population Management Oct-Dec 2021

7.0 Protection Populations

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 as this category must be separated from the mainstream population.

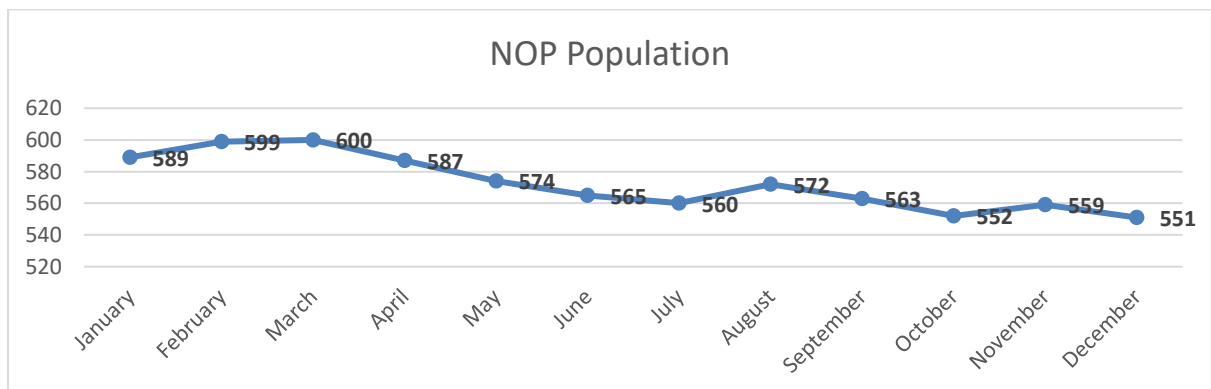
The population comprising of those with a history of sexual offending in our custody saw an overall increase in Q3 of **3.7%** and growth of **6.5%** since Q1 commenced:



10

Non-Offence Protections (NOP) also need to be located and managed separately due to being identified as prisoners who are considered to be at risk should they mix with mainstream prisoners. 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 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 because NOP prisoners sometimes need to be accommodated *and* managed separately, depending on the severity of need for protection status.

The end of Q3 saw a decrease of **2.2%** in the number of individuals within the NOP population compared with the end of Q2. This is an overall decrease of **6.5%** since the beginning of Q1:



¹⁰ SPS Prisoner Records System Business Objects & OD Population Management April-Dec

8.0 Geography of Population

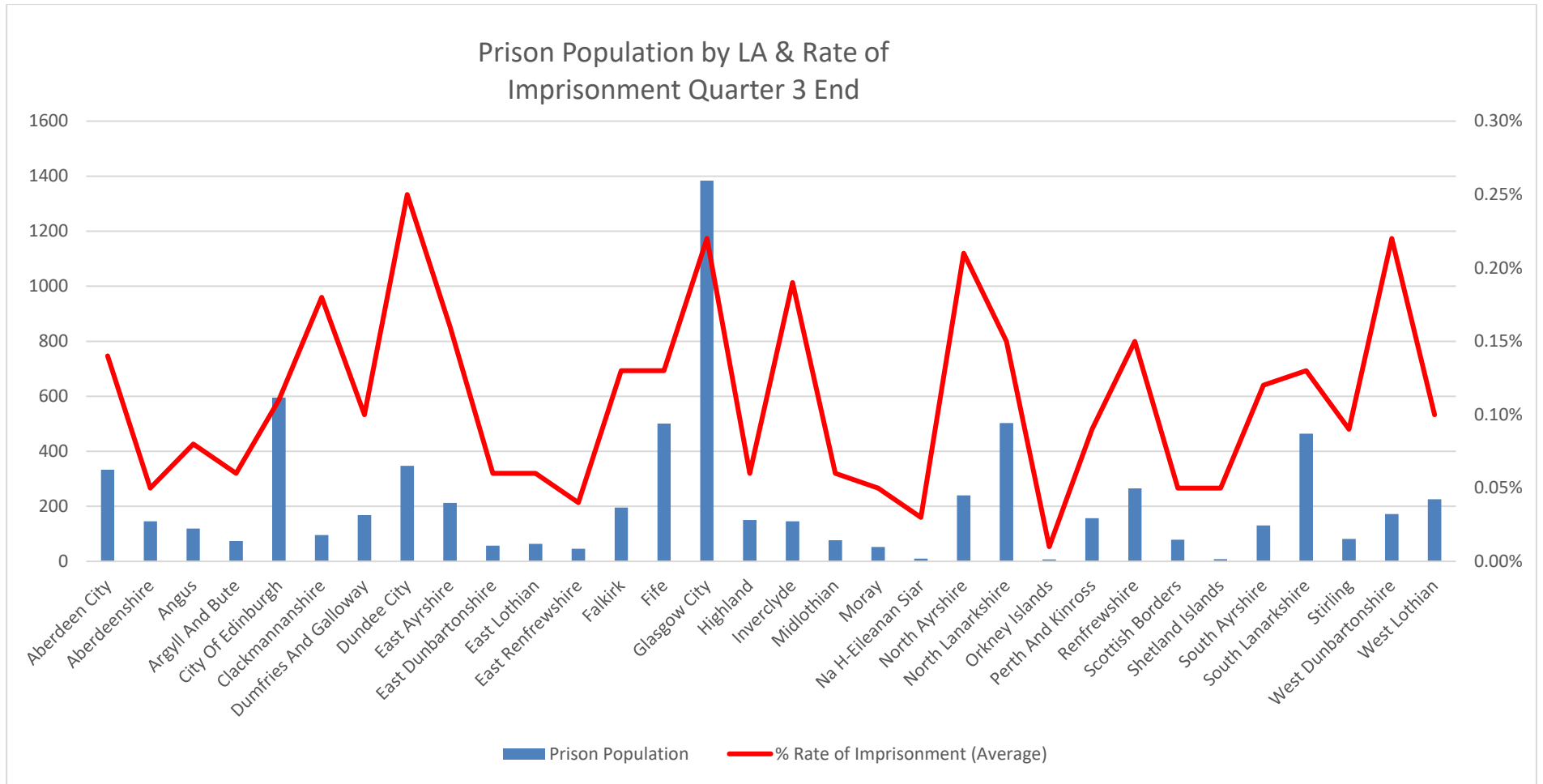
When considering the population by Local Authority (LA) and legal status, it would be expected that the largest local authority populations occupy the largest prison population, however this is not the case. The table below shows the 7 largest prison populations, as you can see there is significant variance in terms of rank by pop size.

	OCT		NOV		DEC		Population in Custody by Local Authority	Rank by Population Size
	Convicted	Untried	Convicted	Untried	Convicted	Untried		
Glasgow City	1049	390	1010	407	1000	384	0.22%	1st
North Lanarkshire	384	160	420	163	428	16	0.15%	4th
City of Edinburgh	438	141	352	160	351	152	0.11%	2nd
Fife	408	127	398	120	391	110	0.14%	3rd
South Lanarkshire	320	121	314	160	306	158	0.14%	5th
Dundee City	255	105	242	116	227	120	0.23%	13th
Aberdeen City	243	101	240	91	235	98	0.14%	8th

¹¹

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 imprisonment 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 31 December 2021:

¹¹ Statista.com Population statistics & Business Objects Oct-Dec

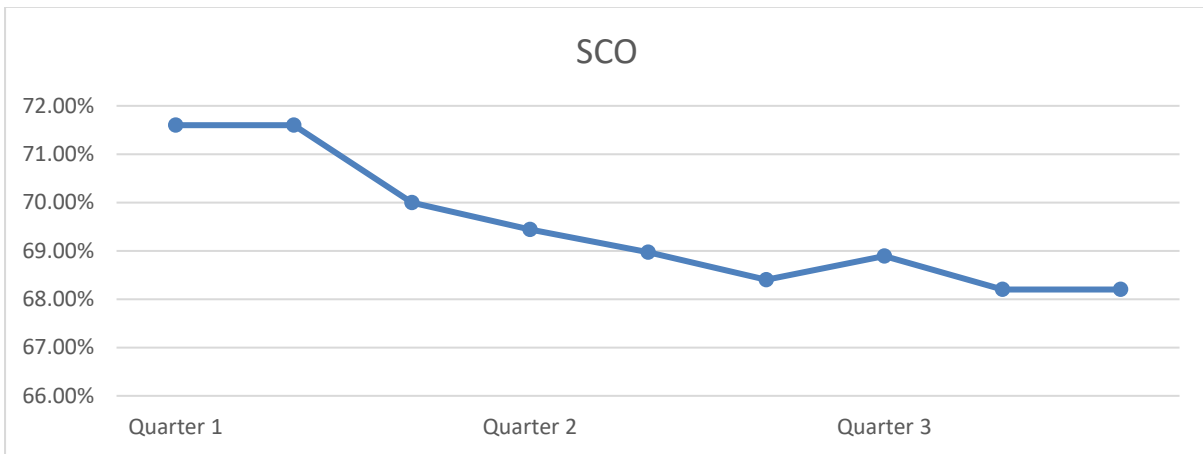


12

¹² Population at 30 September 2021 SPS Prisoner Records System Business Objects

9.0 Prison Estate & Configuration

On 31 December 2021 only **one** of the **fifteen** establishments were operating over the agreed Temporary Operating Capacity (TOC). This is due to a recent revision of the TOC numbers thus increasing the spaces available in each establishment and across the estate. In total there are **578** 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 the Castle Huntly, 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 and as such the population there is lower and spaces cannot be filled. As the population increases and 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 that the rising population is having on the ability to provide individuals with single cells. The chart below details SCO against design capacity (which differs to that of the TOC):

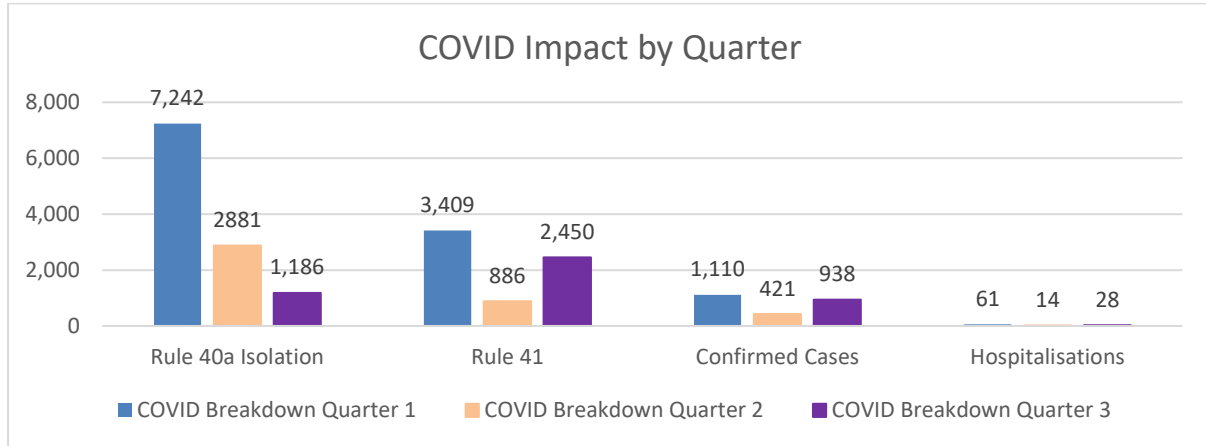


13

¹³ SPS Operations Directorate Single Cell Occupancy & Business Objects Report Oct-Dec 2021

10.0 COVID-19

The graph below illustrates the impact of COVID in our prisons across Quarter 1 to 3. We can see a high level of all cases from isolation through to hospitalisation in Q1, then a drop in Q2 followed by a rise in Q3 directly attributable to the presence of the Omicron variant:

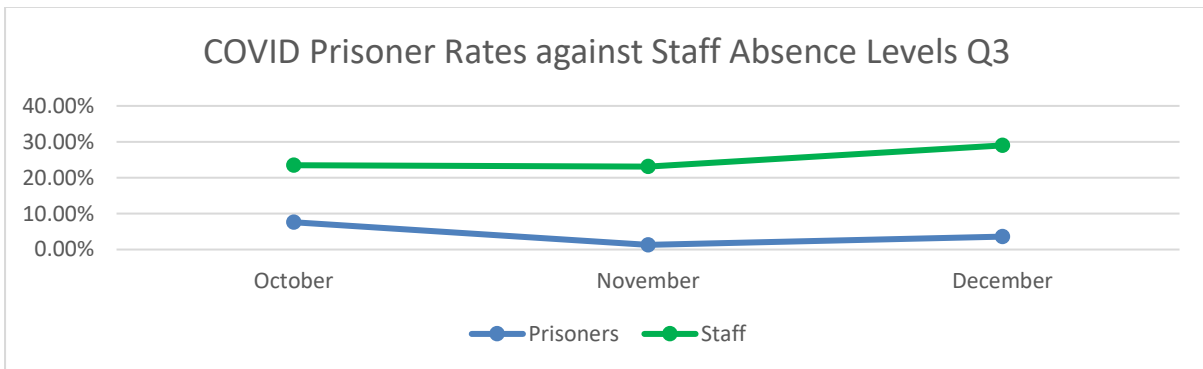
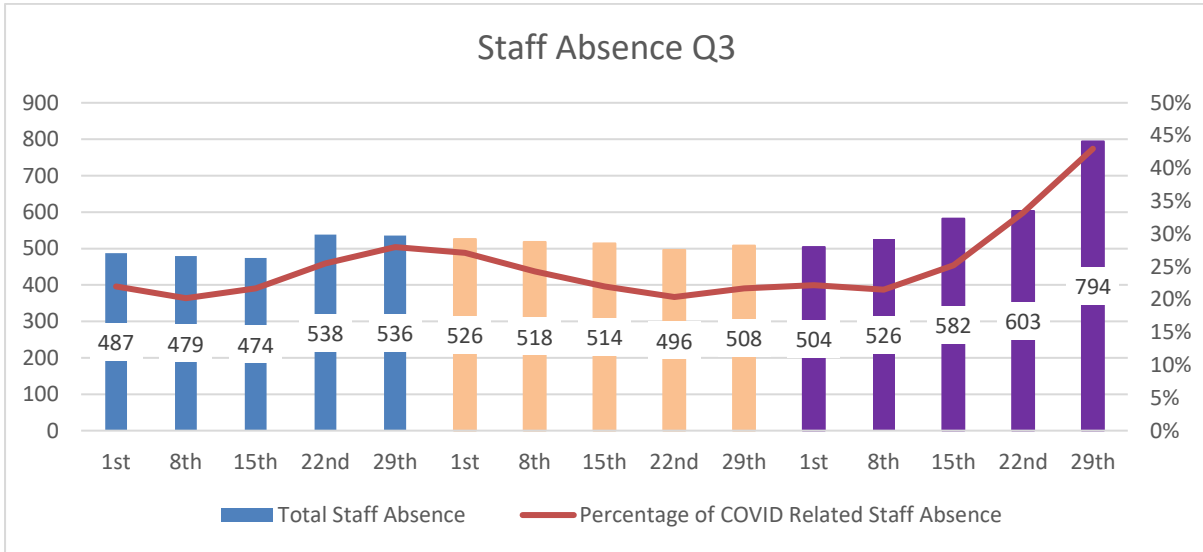


14

COVID isolation figures will continue to fluctuate within the establishments as we continue to minimise the risk of transmission within our prisons. 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. This ensures 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 1,050 staff absent from work.¹⁵ Fluctuations correlate directly with rise in COVID related absence (either symptomatic, confirmed case or close contact isolation), which would suggest that staff absence is stable. The graph illustrates the overall staff absence and compares the percentage which relates to COVID related absence. During Quarter 3 staff absence related to COVID remains stable until the latter half of December. This correlates directly with the change in isolation regulations as a result of the presence of the Omicron variant:



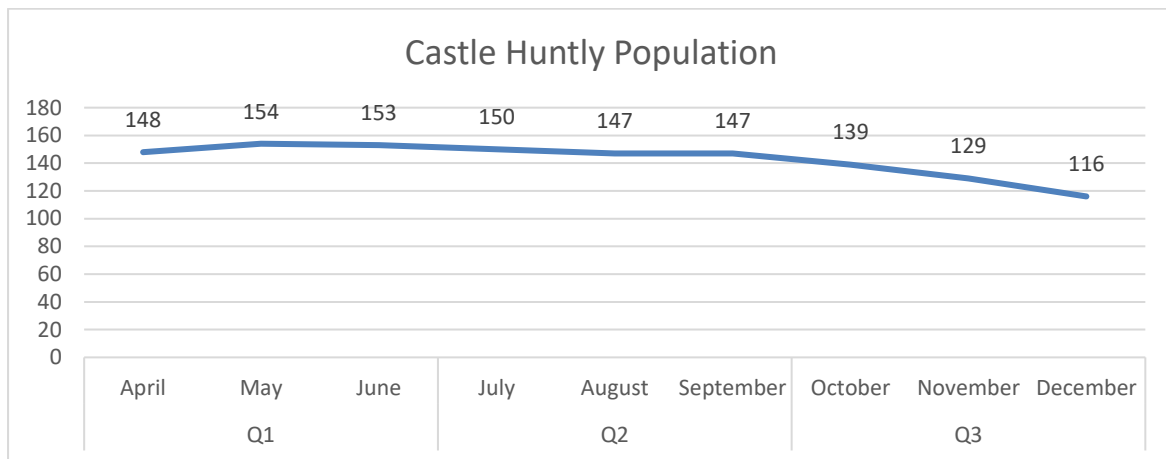
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¹⁵ SPS Human Resource Staff Absence Data 01 April 2020

¹⁶ SPS Human Resource Staff Absence Data Oct-Dec 2021

12.0 Open Estate

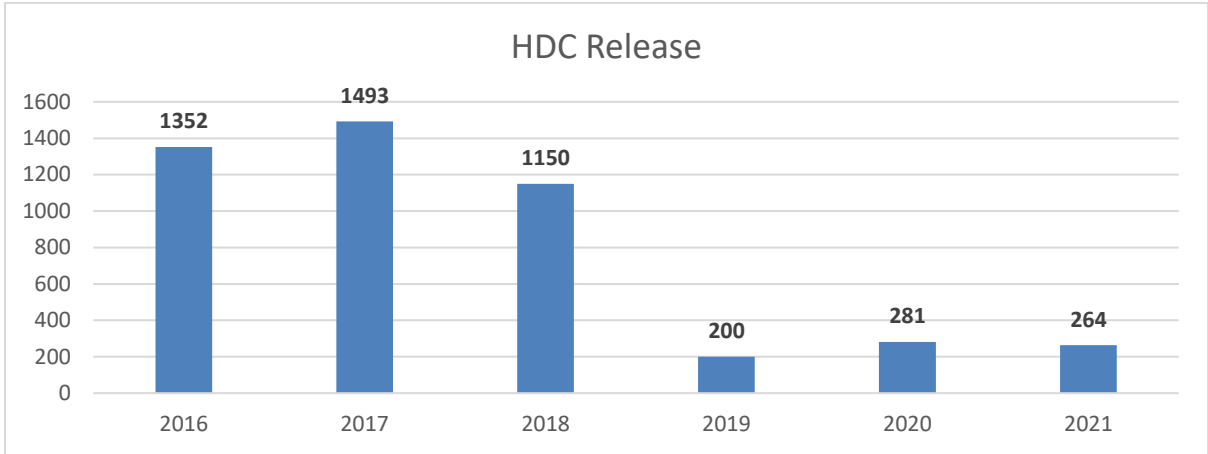
Progression to the Open Estate is a risk managed process and is available to all categories of prisoner once the criteria is met and is managed via Castle Huntly, HMP&YOI Polmont for Young People and HMP&YOI Cornton Vale for the female estate. The number of individuals who are within the Open Estate, 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 Castle Huntly shows a continued decline when comparing end of Q2 figures with end of Q3 figures. Population totals were taken on the last day of each month over this period and show a decrease overall of **21%**, although the number of spaces available also fell during this period. Castle Huntly was operating at **63%** capacity by the end of Q3: ¹⁷



13.0 Home Detention Curfew (HDC)

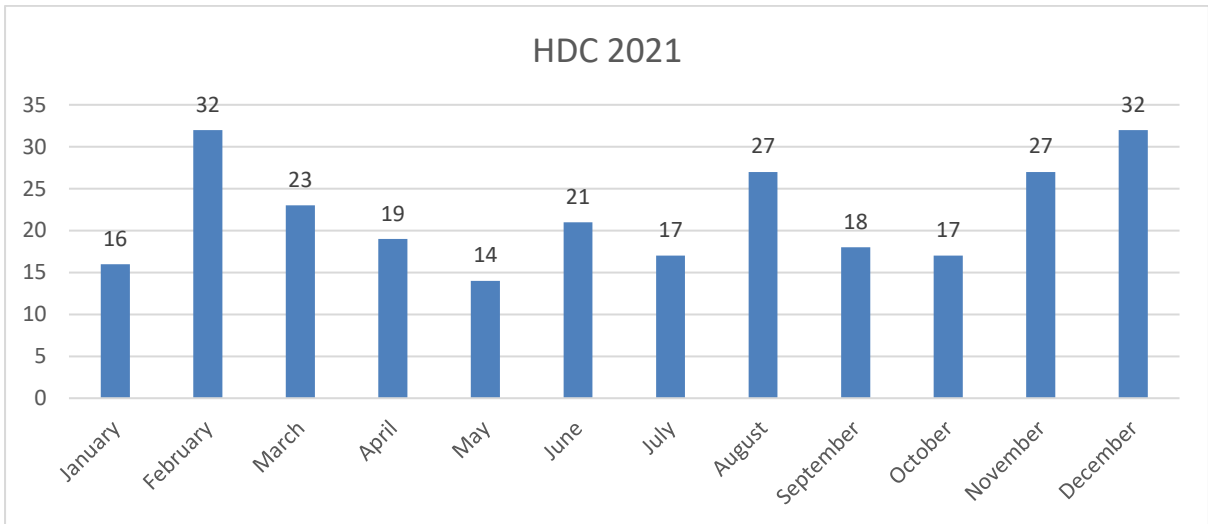
The Home Detention Curfew (HDC) assessment framework was revised in 2018 and came in to effect in December 2019. The revised framework, with the removal of the presumptions against HDC and the inclusion of those individuals on Medium supervision level, came in to effect 13 April 2020. Since the revision of HDC in 2018, the number released under HDC has significantly dropped this was due to a change in criteria within the new assessment framework. However, the new assessment framework that came into effect in April 2020 would see these numbers begin to rise. From the graph we can see that HDC for 2020 increased 40% compared with the figures for 2019 and the year ended with a total of 281 granted HDC. The HDC Optimisation Project is now complete and the revised process is considered to be a success. The HDC hub continues to have oversight of the HDC cases across the estate and continues to track and scrutinise as required. In 2021, 264 individuals were granted HDC, a reduction of 6.04% compare to the previous year:

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



18

This graph illustrates the monthly releases for HDC. The number of releases fluctuates month on month which can be due to a number of reasons e.g. a decrease in the number of individuals identified as meeting the criteria for HDC, an increase in the number of individuals who are eligible, complex cases or an increase in those not being granted HDC following the various risk assessments.



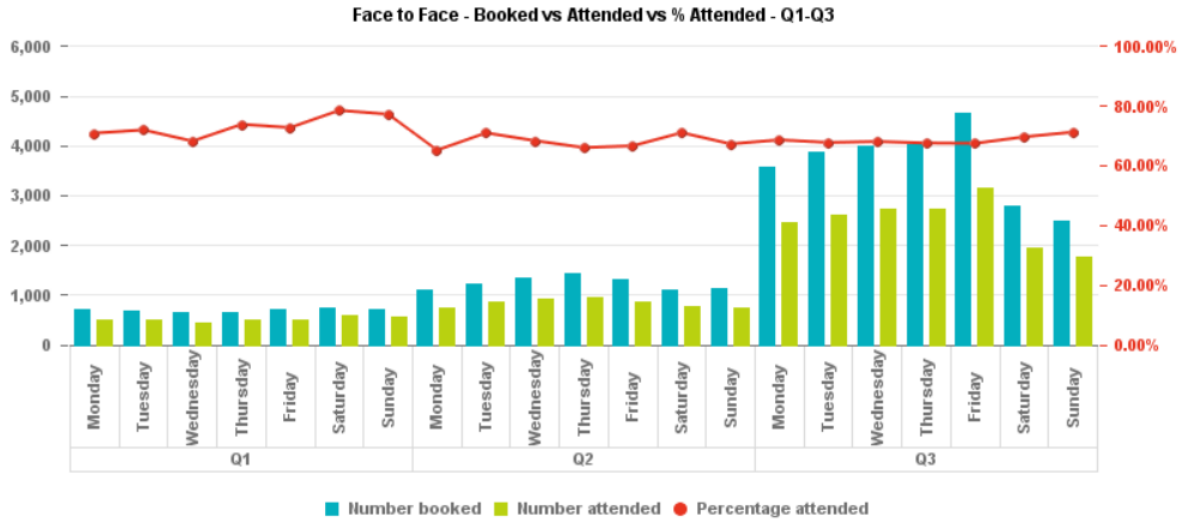
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¹⁸ SPS Business Objects Reports 2016-2021

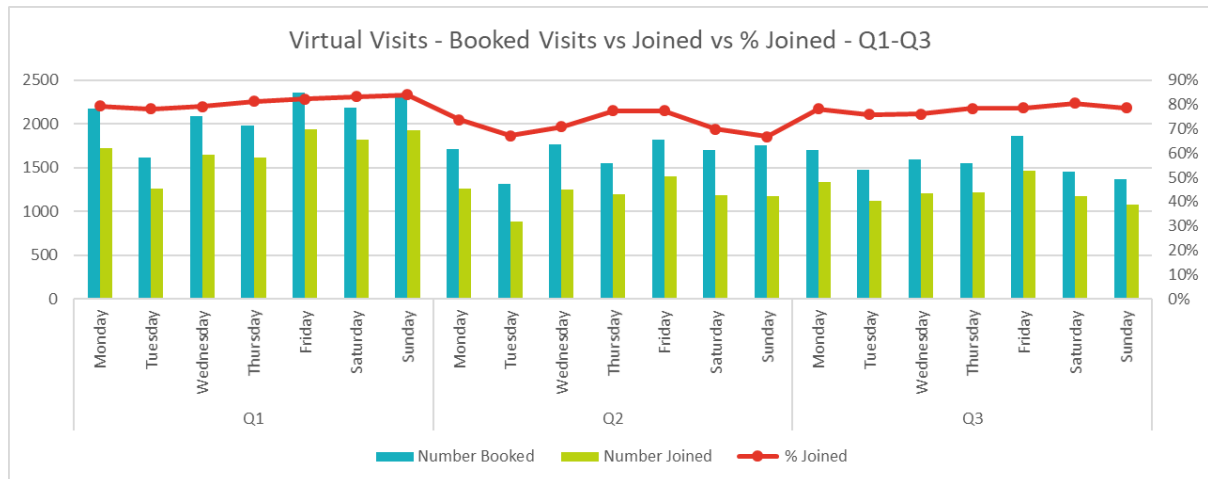
¹⁹ SPS Business Objects Report Jan-Dec 2021

14.0 Face to Face & Virtual Visits

Face to Face visits have increased in Q3 with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in Scotland. Q2 showed an increase of 76% total booked visits with a 63% increase in total visits attended. Whereas, Q3 shows an increase of 194% total booked visits with a 196% increase in total visits attended.



Although COVID-19 restrictions in Scotland were eased, the Q3 figures show that Virtual Visits are still popular. Q2 only showed a 27% decrease in total booked visits with a 43% decrease in total visits attended. Whereas, Q3 shows a 5% decrease in total booked visits with a 2% increase in total visits attended.



15.0 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/)