

SPS Quarterly Public Information Page

**Prison by Numbers Quarter 3 (October -
December 2022)**

Unlocking Potential - Transforming Lives.

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1.0 Key Messages

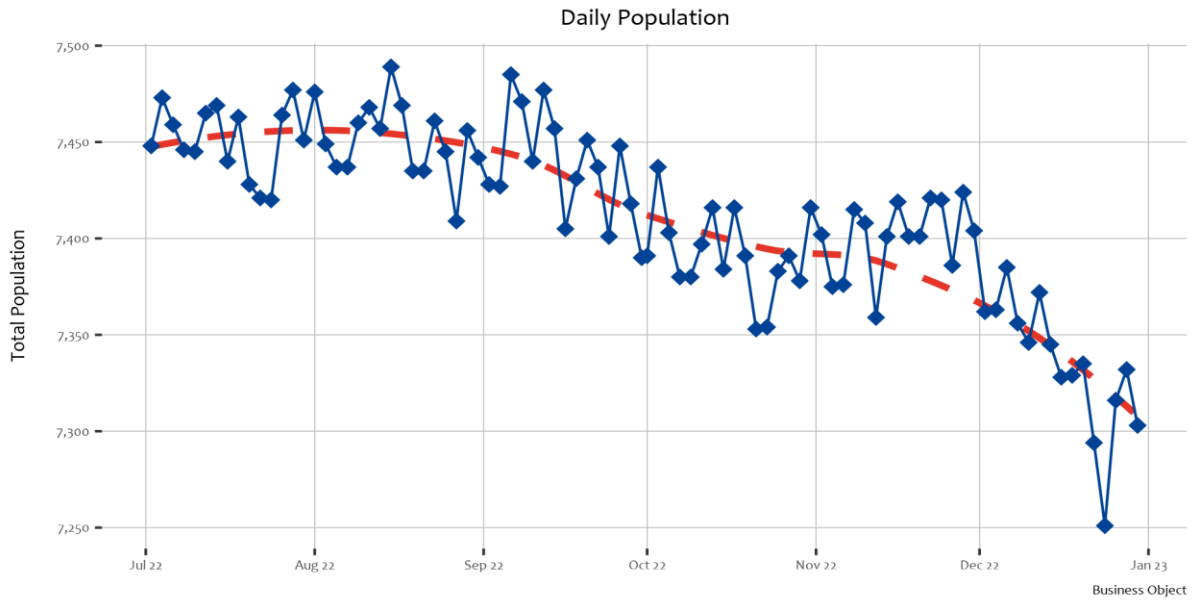
Key messages drawn from this quarterly report are as follows:

- The weekly average population reduced by 1.5% in Quarter 3 compared to the end of Quarter 2. Compared to the same period last year, the reduction was 2.4%.
- Almost six out of ten people in our care are required to be accommodated separately.
- The remand population decreased by 4.2% in Quarter 3.
- The long term population has continually increased for the last four quarters while life sentences and short term population has shown a decrease over the same period.
- The population of those with a history of sexual offending has continued to increase in Quarter 3.
- Single cell occupancy remained stable in Quarter 3 at around 70%.
- In reviewing the characteristics of those in our care in Quarter 3, the majority of the prisoner population were male (96.1%), heterosexual (92.3%), had a marital status of single (77.9%) and white (94.4%).
- The national rate of imprisonment in Scotland reached 0.1% at the end of December. Rates of imprisonment equal to or above the national rate were observed in 18 of 32 Local Authorities.
- COVID-19: The impact of Covid-19 on our prison population has continued to reduce in Quarter 3 compared to Quarter 2.

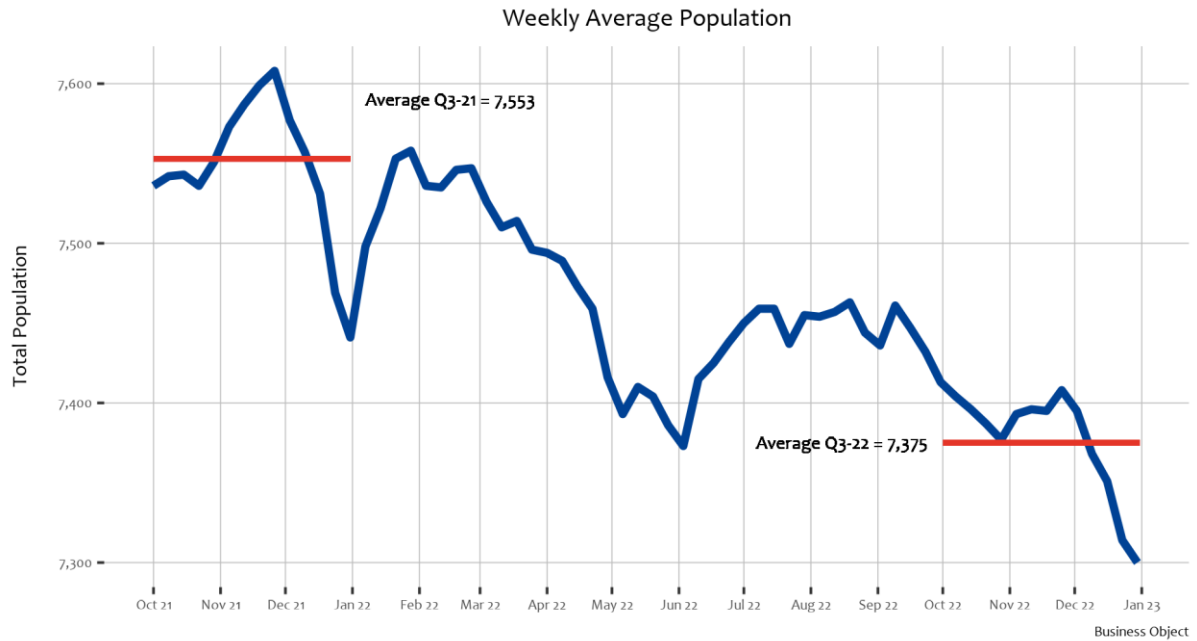
General Enquiries Email: gaolinfo@sps.pnn.gov.uk

2.0 Prison Population

The daily prison population fluctuated throughout Quarter 3, from 7,391 in the beginning of October to 7,303 at the end of December. The population in this Quarter peaked on October 3rd at 7,437. The lowest number was observed on December 24th, 7,251. Overall, the daily prison population was 1.2% lower at the end of Quarter 3 compared to the end of the previous Quarter.



In Quarter 3, the weekly average prison population reached the highest number at the end of November, reducing downwards throughout December. Compared to the last week of Quarter 2, the weekly average prison population reduced by 1.5% in Quarter 3. The graph below illustrates that the weekly average population in Quarter 3 has also reduced compared to the same period last year. The average prison population in Quarter 3/21 was 7,553 and in Quarter 3/22 was 7,375. This represents a reduction of 2.4% in Quarter 3/22 compared to Quarter 3/21.



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:

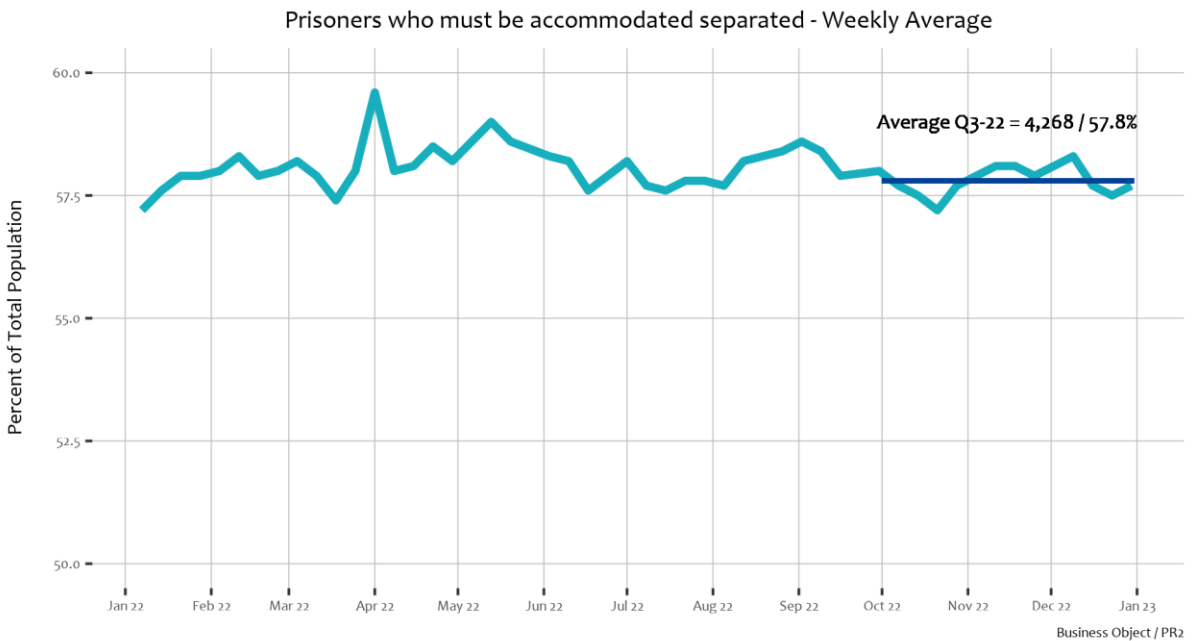
[Prison Population Report – Weekly time series](#)

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

3.0 Complexities of Population

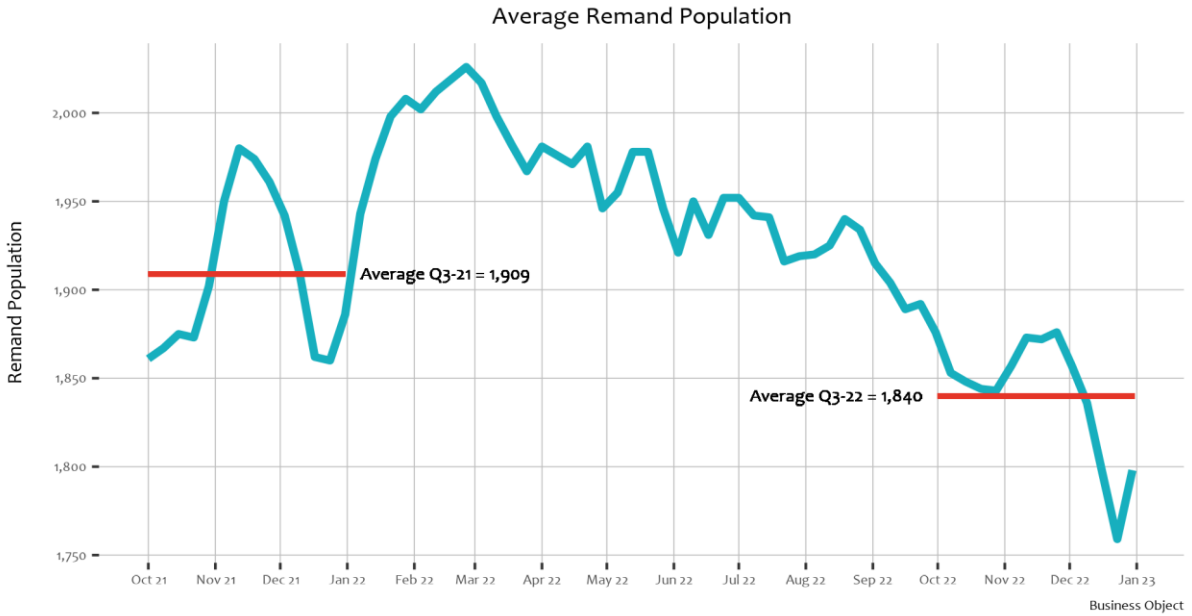
The rising overall population numbers are of concern in terms of ongoing management when we move close to population and design capacity; however also of note is the rising complexity of Scotland’s prison population. Many individuals need to be accommodated separately for a variety of reasons i.e. due 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 reduced at the end of December to 4,212 individuals, compared to 4,302 at the end of September. An average of around 57.8% of the prison population, or 4,268 individuals needed to be accommodated separately in Quarter 3, due to their legal status (convicted / untried), gender, offence type, protection status, health care needs or specific management issues.



4.0 Legal Status (Sentenced & Remand)

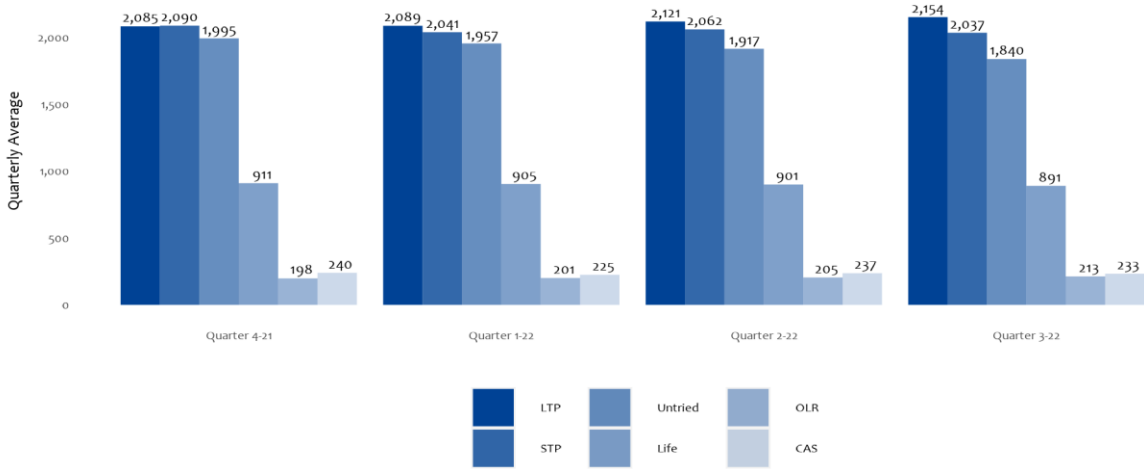
The remand population has reduced by 4.2% in Quarter 3, from 1,876 individuals at the end of September to 1,798 individuals at the end of December. Compared to the same period last year, the remand population reduced from an average of 1,909 in Q3-21 to an average of 1,840 in Q3-22, a decrease of 3.6%.



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 (LTP) has continually increased for the last four quarters, from 2,085 individuals in Quarter 4-21 to 2,154 in Quarter 3-22, an increase of 3.3% over the period. Life sentences and short term population (STP) have shown a decrease of 2.2% and 2.5% over the last four quarters, respectively. The order for longlife restriction (OLR) population has also continually increased quarter after quarter, from 198 individuals in Quarter 4-21 to 213 individuals in Quarter 3-22, an increase of 7.6%. Convicted awaiting sentence (CAS) decreased in Quarter 3-22.

Type of Sentence

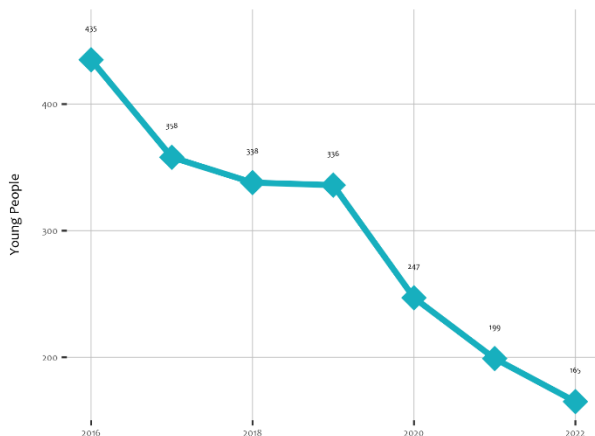


Business Object

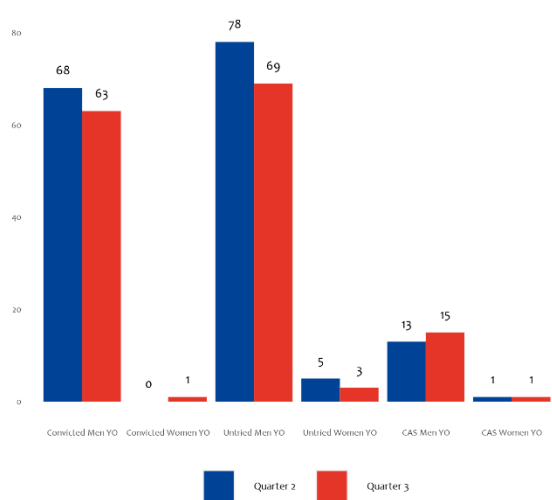
5.0 Young People in our Care

The number of Young People (YP) in custody remains low in comparison to 2016-2019 when the population exceeded 300. Between 2020 and 2022, the YP population reduced from 247 to 165 individuals. In Quarter 3, the untried male YP population decreased from 78 to 69 and the convicted male YP population reduced from 68 to 63. The other categories did not present noteworthy changes.

Annual Average Young People



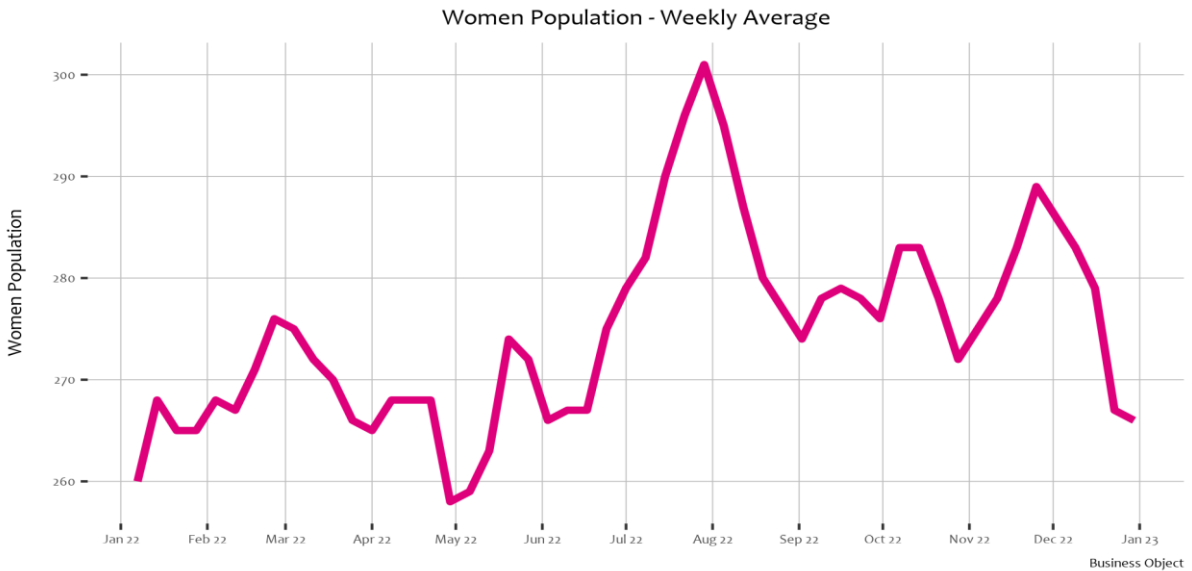
YP Population Q2/22 - Q3-22



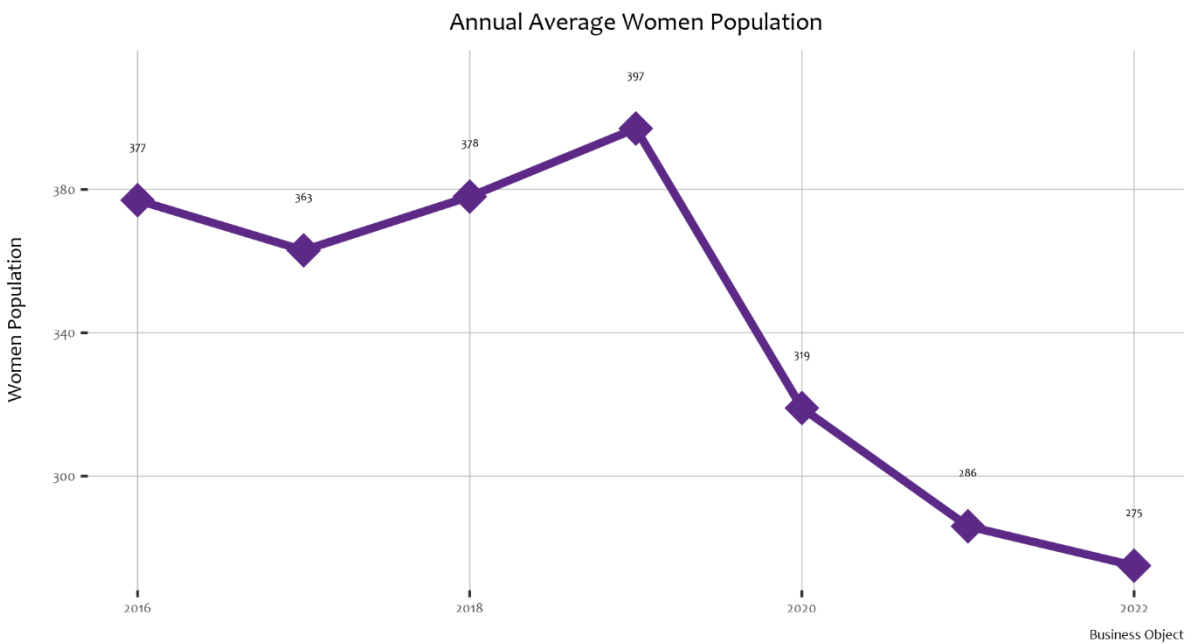
Business Object

6.0 Women in our Care

In Quarter 3, the weekly average women population reached the highest level at the end of November, then reduced continually until the end of December. Overall the weekly average women population decreased by 3.6% when comparing the end of Quarter 3 to the end of Quarter 2.



The average women’s population has been decreasing since 2019, reducing from an annual average of 397 to 286 in 2021, as observed below. On 31st December, the annual average women population decreased to 275.



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 7,302¹ people in our care on 31st December 2022.²

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 spectrum³ between man and woman. Gender-fluid is defined⁴ by “not having only one gender, or moving freely between genders”.

In Quarter 3, 7,019 people in our care were recorded as men and another 265 as women. Trans men and trans women comprised 0.04% and 0.16% of the prison population, respectively. Non-binary and gender-fluid comprised together 0.04% of the prison population.

¹ Data extracted from Prison Records on 31st December at 15:00.

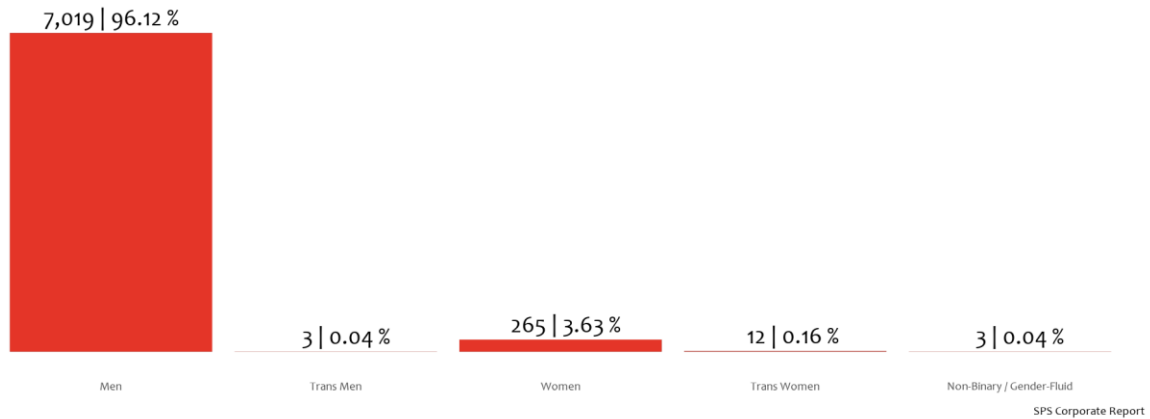
² The Public Information Page is a working document. The inclusion of data on protected characteristics is being kept under review to ensure the public scrutiny requirements are met whilst protecting the privacy of those in our care.

³ 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>

⁴ Cambridge Dictionary definition available on <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/gender-fluid>

Social Gender



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 3.

	Men`s Estate	Women`s Estate	Total
Trans Men	2	1	3
Trans Women	6	6	12
Total⁵	8	7	15

All trans people in our care were living in single cells as at the end of Quarter 3.

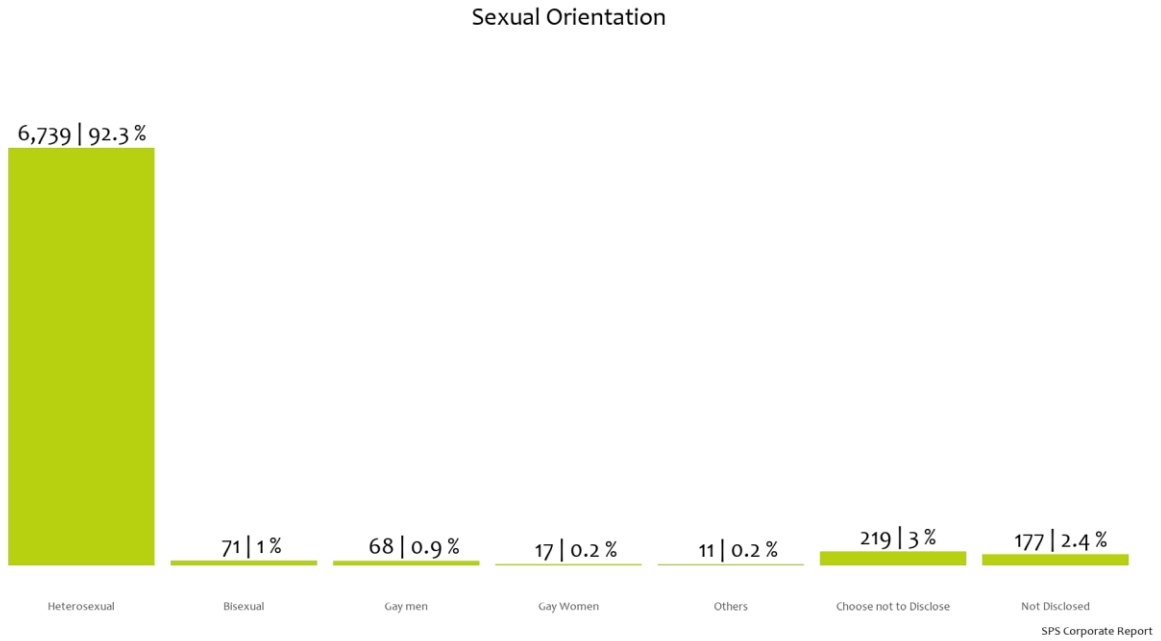
More information regarding our trans population in the previous quarters can be found on the links below:

- [Public Information Page Quarter 4/2021-2022;](#)
- [Public Information Page Quarter 1/2022-2023;](#)
- [Public Information Page Quarter 2/2022-2023;](#)

⁵ Prison Records – Business Object December 2022.

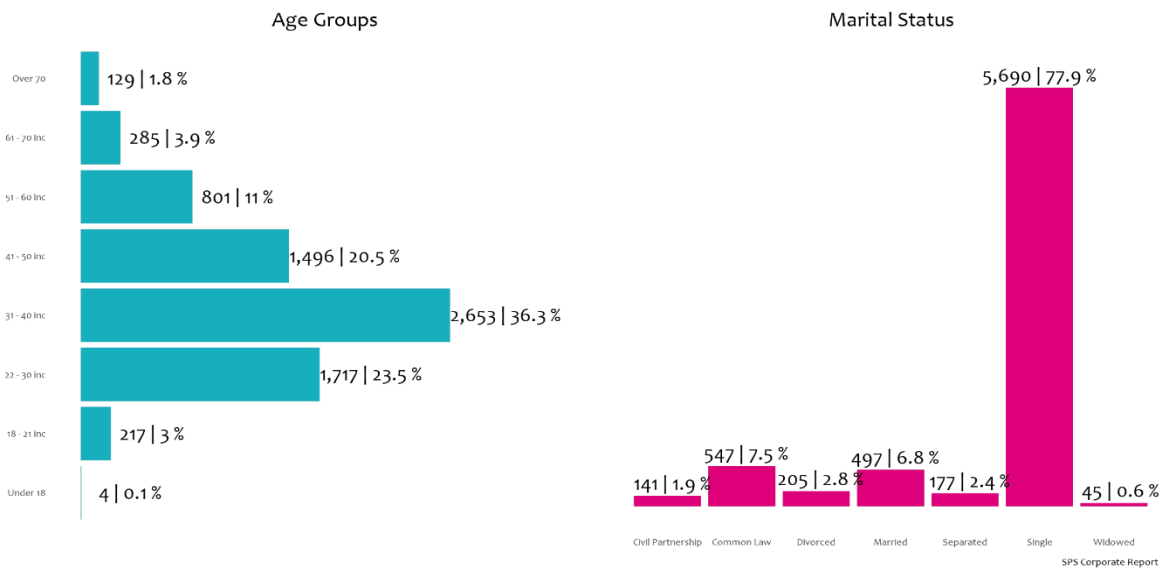
Sexual Orientation

The majority of the people in our care declared themselves as heterosexual, 92.3%. Bisexuals, gay men and gay women comprised 2.1%. Another 3% preferred not to disclose while a further 2.4% were not obtained. More details are illustrated in the chart below.



Age Group and Marital Status

The chart below illustrates the prison population in Quarter 3 by age group and marital status. The highest age group continues to be those aged between 31 and 40 years old (36.3%), while the lowest proportion is individuals under 18 years old (0.1%).



The vast majority of the people in our care reported themselves as single in Quarter 3, 77.9%. Another 7.5% and 6.8% reported as “cohabitation with a partner” and married, respectively.

Ethnicity Group

In Quarter 3, 94.4% 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 1.2% and 0.5%, respectively. More details can be observed in the chart below.



SPS Corporate Report

Disability

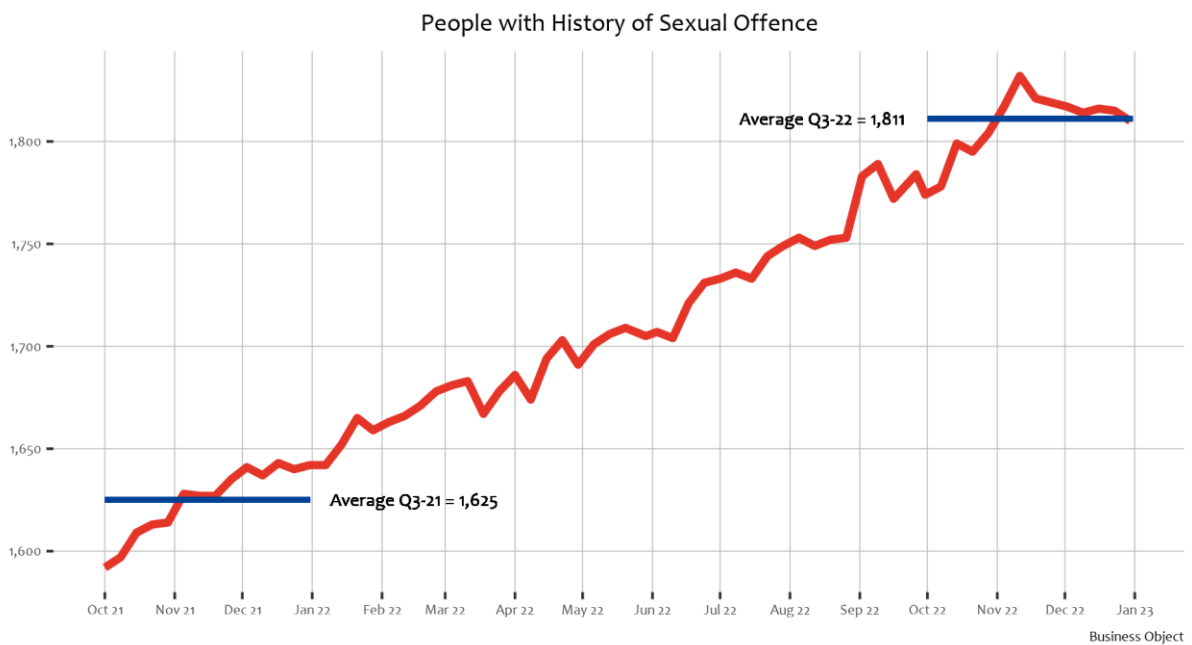
Ten percent of the people in our prisons have told us that they have a disability. Another 87.9% did not report any disability and 2.1% opted not to disclose.

Disability		
Yes	730	10%
No	6,422	87.9%
Opted not to Disclose	150	2.1%

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.⁶ 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.

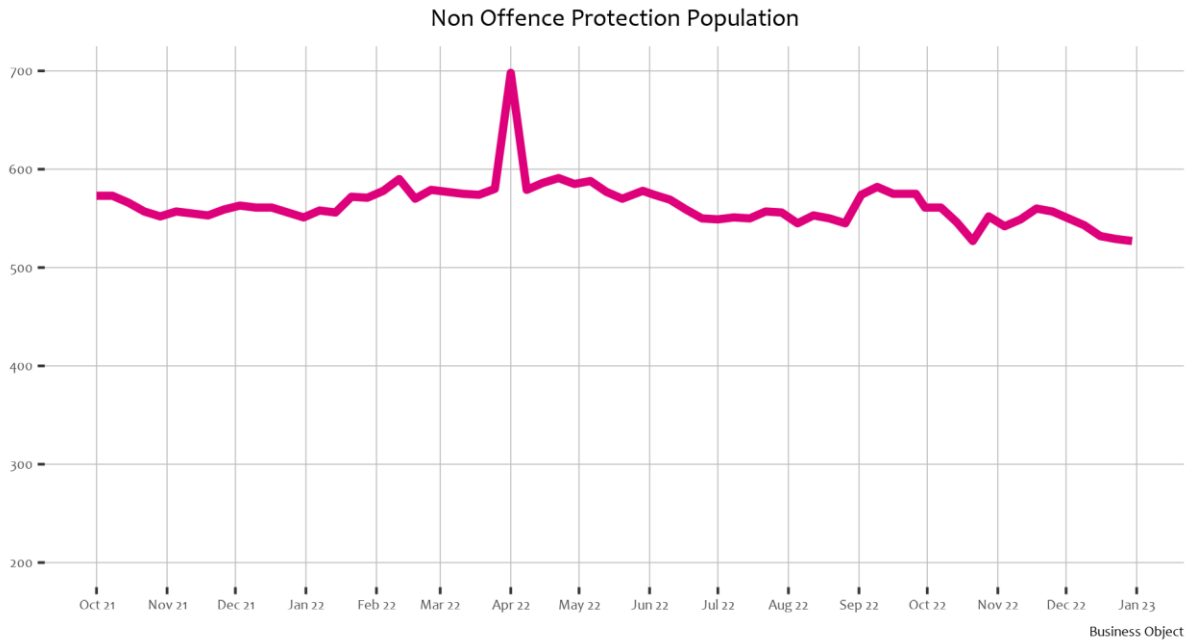
The population of those with a history of sexual offending in custody increased 2% in Quarter 3, compared to the end of Quarter 2. Between January and December, the number of those with a history of sexual offending increased by 10.2%, while the total prison population reduced by 1.9% in the same period. In average, the population of those with history of sexual offending in Quarter 3-22 increased by 11.4% compared to the same period last year.



⁶ There is no trans woman with a history of sexual offending residing in HMP Cornton Vale

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 3, the number of individuals within the NOP population reduced by 6.1% compared to Quarter 2.



9.0 Geography of Imprisonment in Scotland

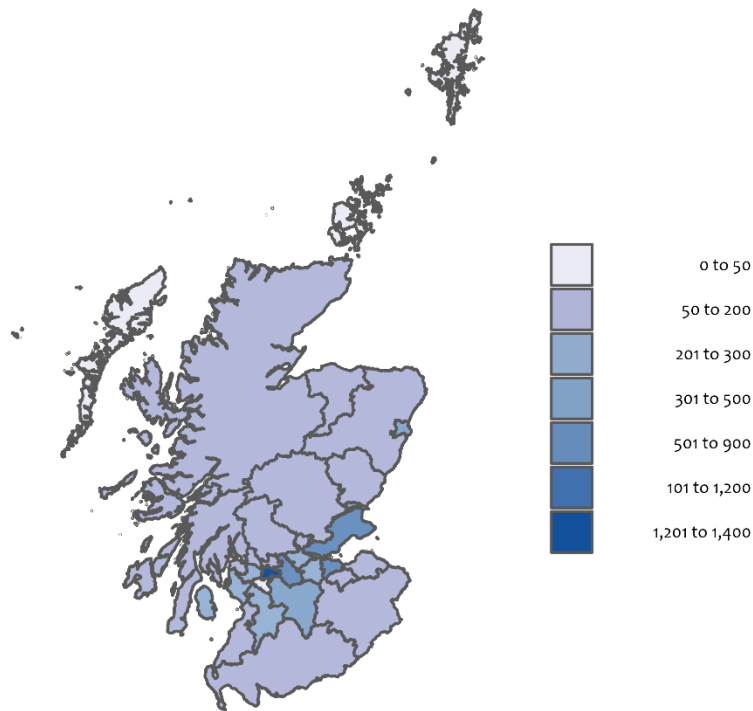
When considering the prisons population by Local Authority (LA), Glasgow City continued to have the largest number; 1,309 individuals in custody, comprising 17.8% of the total prison population at the end of Quarter 3. The City of Edinburgh has the second largest prison population, with 592 individuals, followed by North Lanarkshire, Fife and South Lanarkshire with 515, 505 and 437 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 0.3% 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 31st December 2022.

Number of People in Custody by Local Authority

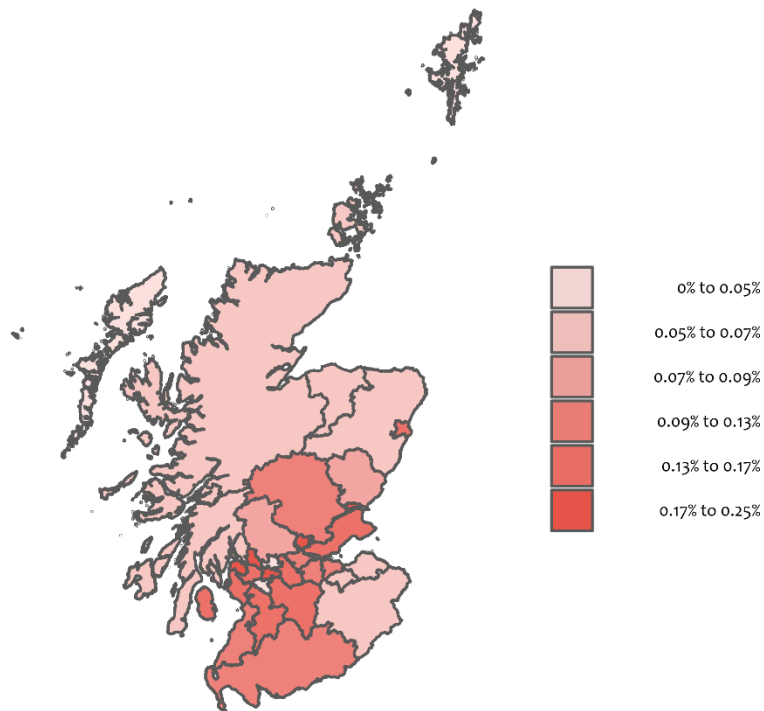


Business Object

The national rate of imprisonment in Scotland⁷ was 0.1% at the end of December. 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 31st December 2022.

Rate of Imprisonment by Local Authority



Business Object

⁷ 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 31st December, broken down by length of sentence per LA.

	Undetermined Sentence	Remand	Fine Defaulter Count	Less than 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 months to 2 Years	2 to 4 Years	Over 4 Years (including Life)	All
Aberdeen City	3	105	1	2	4	67	42	121	345
Aberdeenshire	3	44	0	0	5	27	16	74	169
Angus	2	34	0	1	1	10	13	34	95
Argyll And Bute	0	19	0	0	0	2	7	34	62
City Of Edinburgh	2	165	1	3	5	68	62	282	592
Clackmannanshire	1	18	0	1	5	29	13	35	102
Dumfries And Galloway	1	69	0	1	8	20	21	68	188
Dundee City	3	140	0	1	9	52	30	122	358
East Ayrshire	1	63	0	1	8	29	30	71	203
East Dunbartonshire	0	11	0	0	1	8	7	27	54
East Lothian	0	24	0	0	1	10	10	31	77
East Renfrewshire	0	11	0	0	1	9	0	13	34
Falkirk	2	58	0	1	7	37	28	76	209
Fife	5	106	1	1	8	89	73	220	505
Glasgow City	7	362	1	5	32	150	133	612	1309
Highland	1	46	0	2	3	33	14	77	176
Inverclyde	3	53	0	0	0	8	11	74	149
Midlothian	0	16	0	0	0	9	4	29	58
Moray	0	19	0	0	1	7	5	26	58
Na H-Eileanan Siar	1	5	0	0	0	2	1	3	0
North Ayrshire	1	61	0	0	9	34	25	87	220
North Lanarkshire	4	137	2	1	15	67	45	244	515
Orkney Islands	0	7	0	0	1	3	0	3	14
Outwith Scotland	14	92	2	2	9	33	36	140	328
Perth And Kinross	2	41	0	0	3	24	12	62	145
Renfrewshire	4	57	0	1	8	38	35	109	252
Scottish Borders	1	28	0	1	1	10	9	35	85
Shetland Islands	0	6	0	0	0	1	3	1	11
South Ayrshire	1	40	1	0	2	18	17	53	132
South Lanarkshire	2	119	1	0	13	69	41	188	437
Stirling	0	27	0	0	1	10	11	25	74
Unidentifiable Address	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	3	7
West Dunbartonshire	3	33	1	0	3	31	22	75	169
West Lothian	2	57	0	2	3	36	24	89	212
Not on Prison Records	0	3	0	0	0	2	2	4	11

10.0 Prison Estate & Configuration

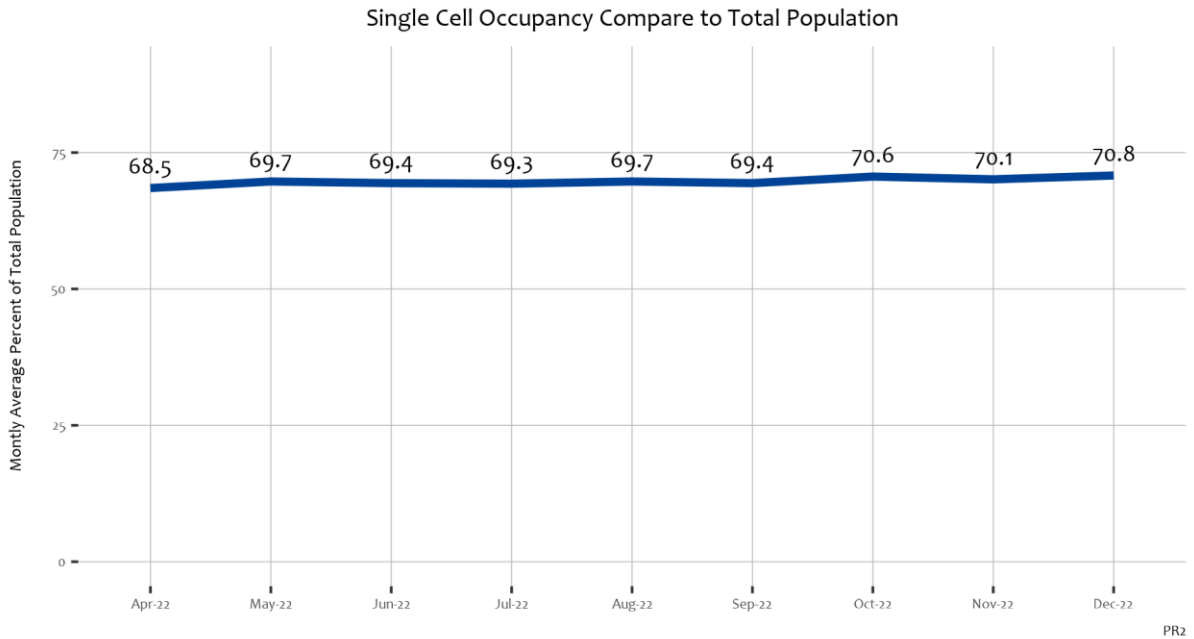
On 30th December 2022, three of the seventeen establishments were operating over the agreed Temporary Operating Capacity (TOC). Another two establishments were operating very close to TOC. In total there are 664 available spaces across the estate; however, this data in isolation does not provide an accurate 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 Castle Huntly, Cornton Vale and Polmont, all of which hold a specific category of prisoner.

The number of people accommodated in single cells reached its highest monthly average in October, 5,230 individuals, slightly reducing to 5,217 in December. The number of individuals in double cells has also reduced from an average of 2,150 individuals in October to 2,123 individuals in December.



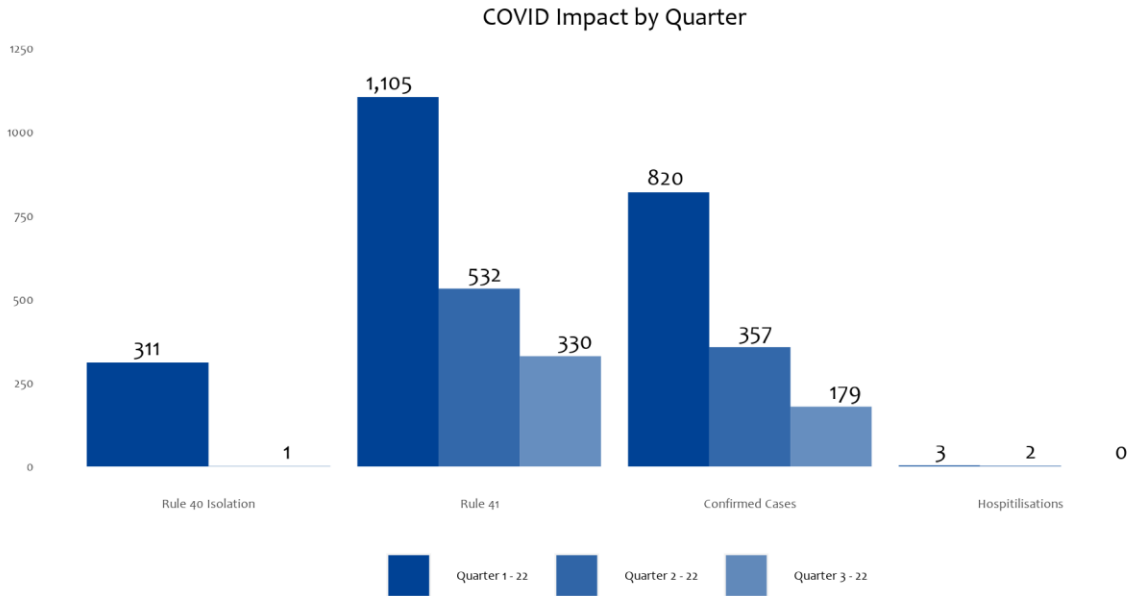
PR2

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. Therefore, SCO has remained limited to around 70% in Quarter 3, as can be observed in the chart below:



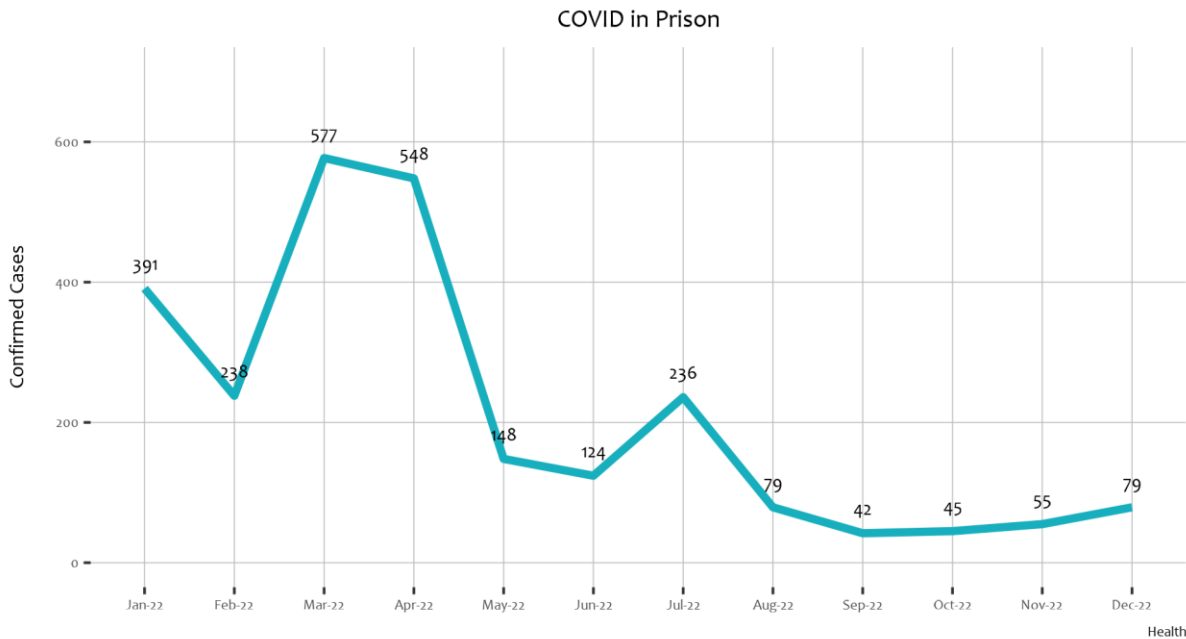
11.0 COVID-19

The impact of Covid-19 on our prison population has continued to reduce in Quarter 3 compared to Quarter 2, as presented below. There were 179 positive cases of Covid-19 in prison. This is a reduction of 49.9% compared to the 357 positive cases observed in the previous quarter. None of those positive cases required hospitalization in Quarter 3.



Health

The graph below illustrates the number of positive Covid-19 cases in each month between January and December 2022. The number reduced considerably from 577 cases in March to 42 cases in September and increased steadily throughout Quarter 3, reaching 79 cases in December.

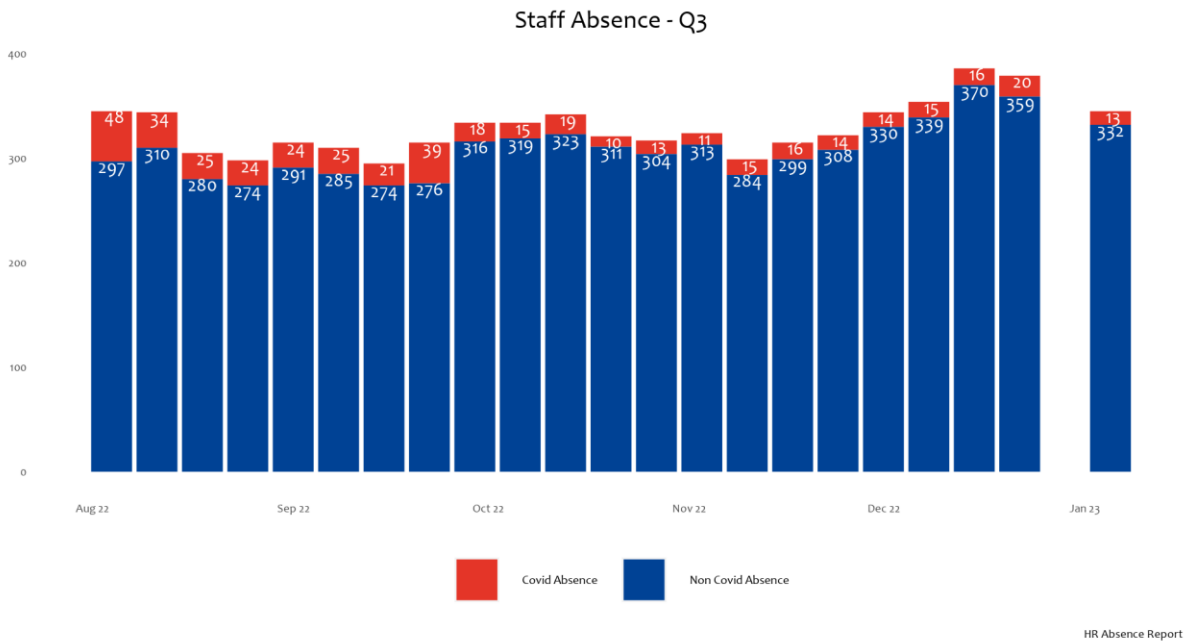


Health

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

12.0 Staff Absence

Weekly average staff absence reduced throughout October and November. From the last week of November until the end of December, staff absence increased, reaching a weekly average of 386 staff on the week commencing 12th December, then reduced to 379 staff on the following week⁸. Covid-19 related absences reduced in Quarter 3 compared to Quarter 2. As can be observed below, the highest Covid-19 related absence was observed at the end of December with 20 staff absent.



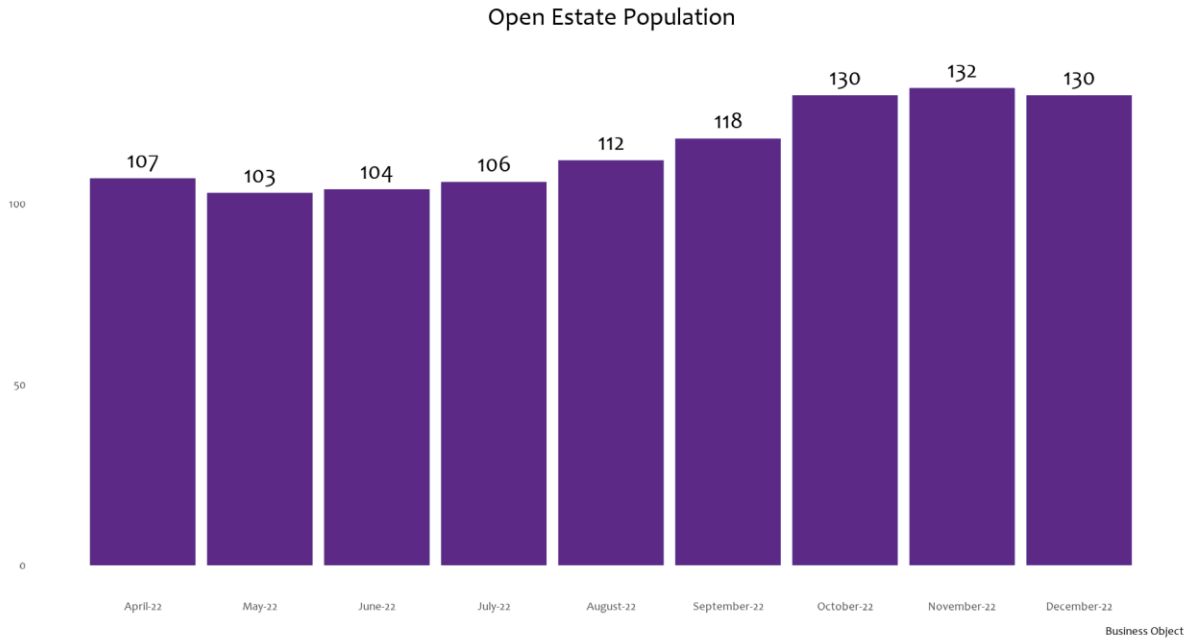
13.0 Open Estate

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

⁸ The date covering the last week of December were not provided.

Vale and Polmont are too low to publish and could lead those individuals to be identified through the data.

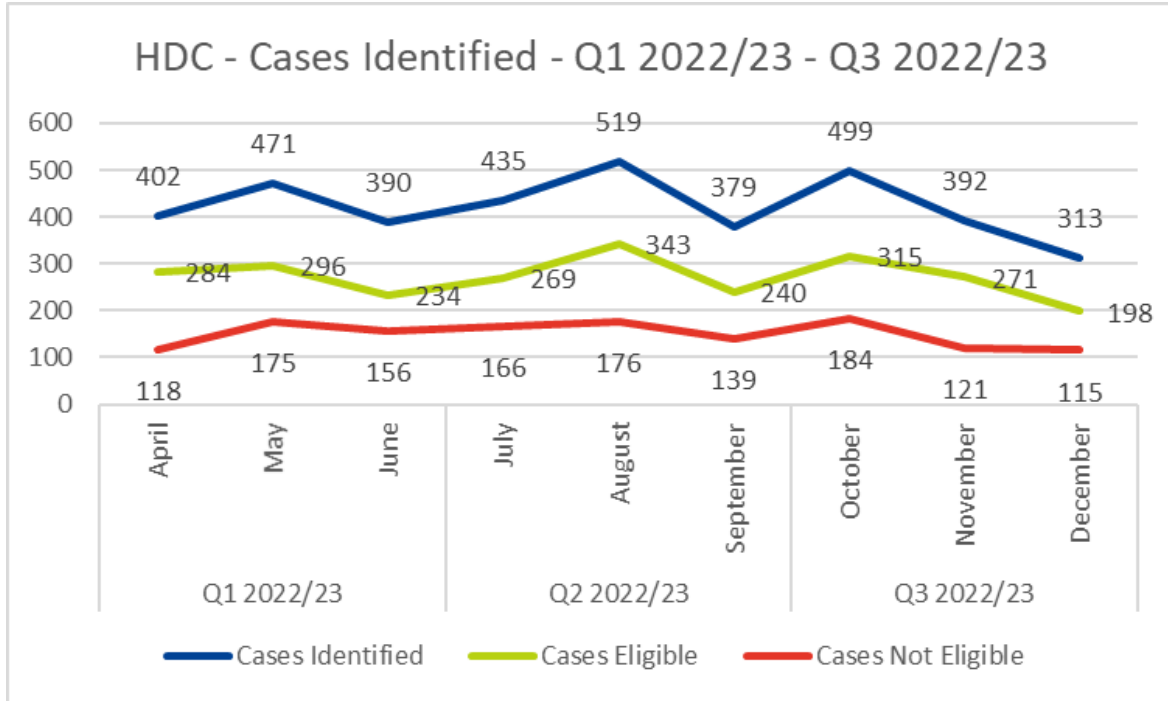
The population of the Open Estate increased in Quarter 3 compared to the previous Quarter. The monthly average of individuals housed in the Open Estate was 130, which comprised 45.6% of the spaces available. This is an increase of 10.2% compared to the 118 individuals in the Open Estate in September.



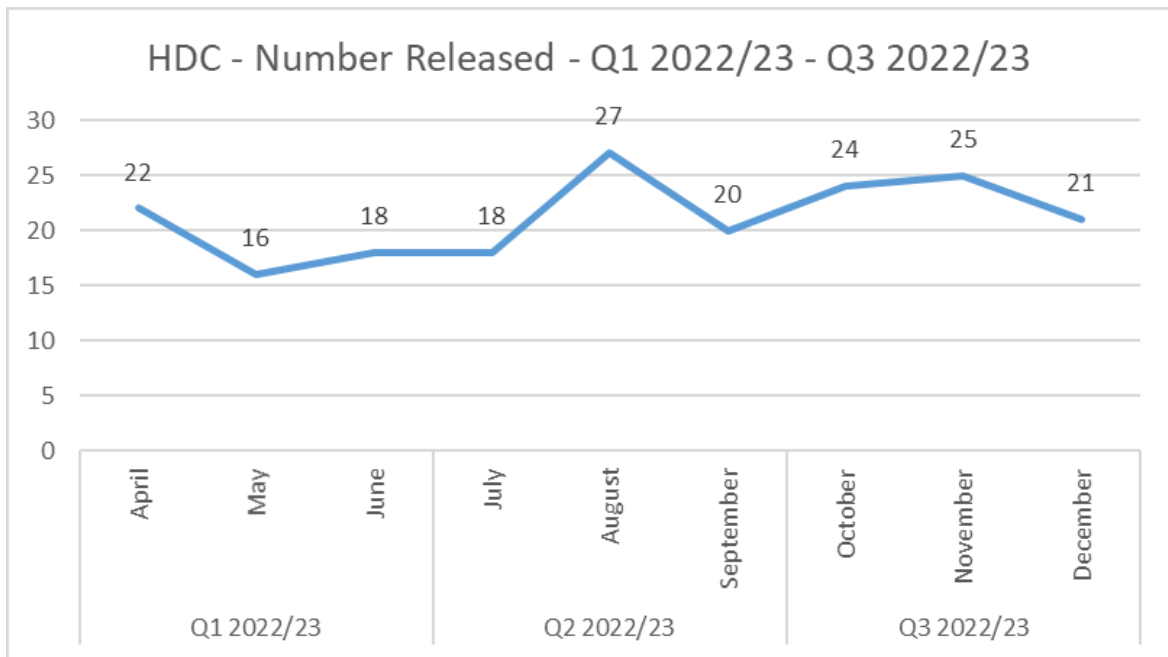
14.0 Home Detention Curfew

In Q3 2022/23 there were a total of 1,204 cases identified which met the basic standard criteria to apply for Home Detention Curfew (HDC). After further checks on those identified 35% (420) of the cases were not eligible which means that 65% (784) were eligible to apply for HDC and continued through the rest of the process.

The figures show that from Q2 2022/23 to Q4 2022/23 there has been a 3% increase in cases identified and an 18% increase in the cases which were not eligible and a decrease of 3% in cases which were eligible.



The total number of individuals who were released on HDC within Q3 2022/23 was 70, five more than Q2 2022/23.



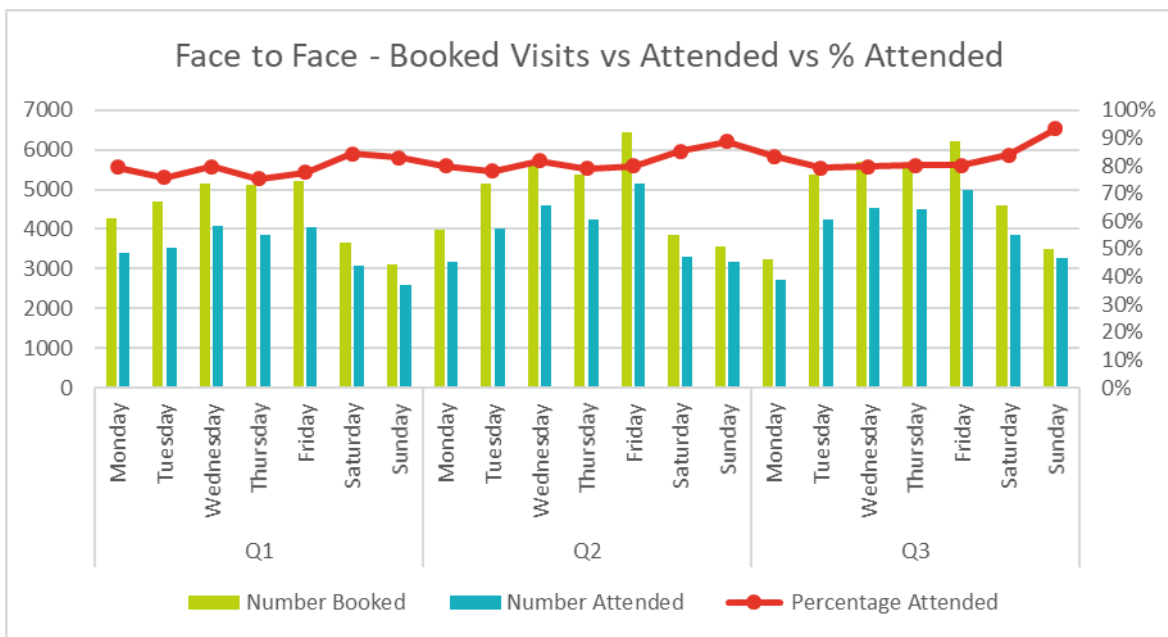
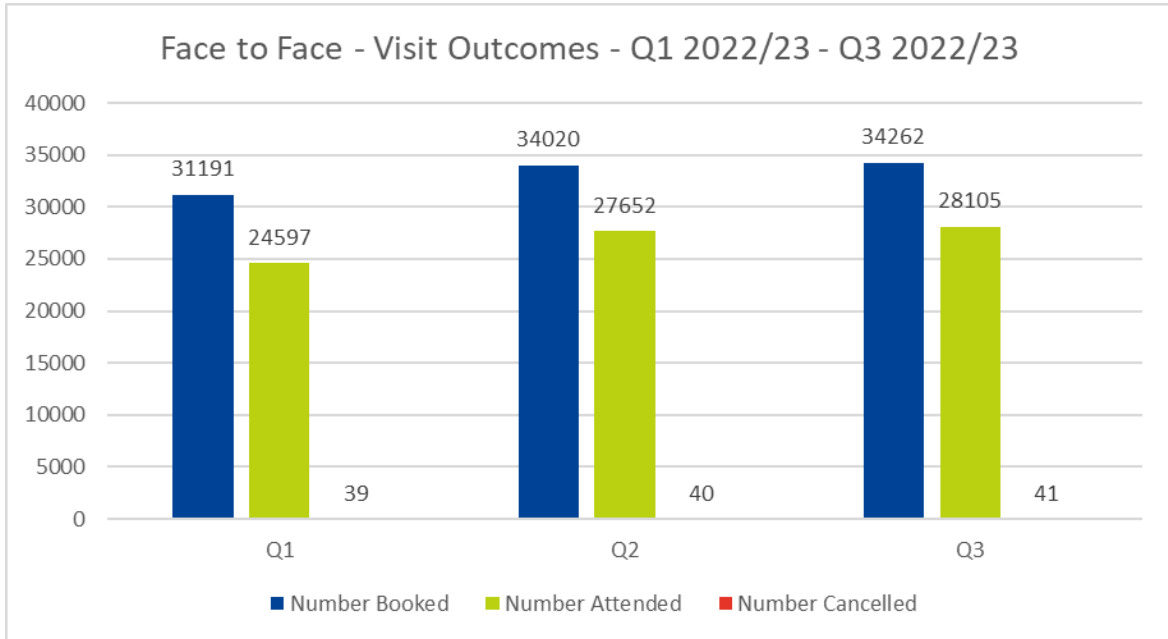
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⁹ SPS Business Objects Report 2016-22

15.0 Face to Face & Virtual Visits

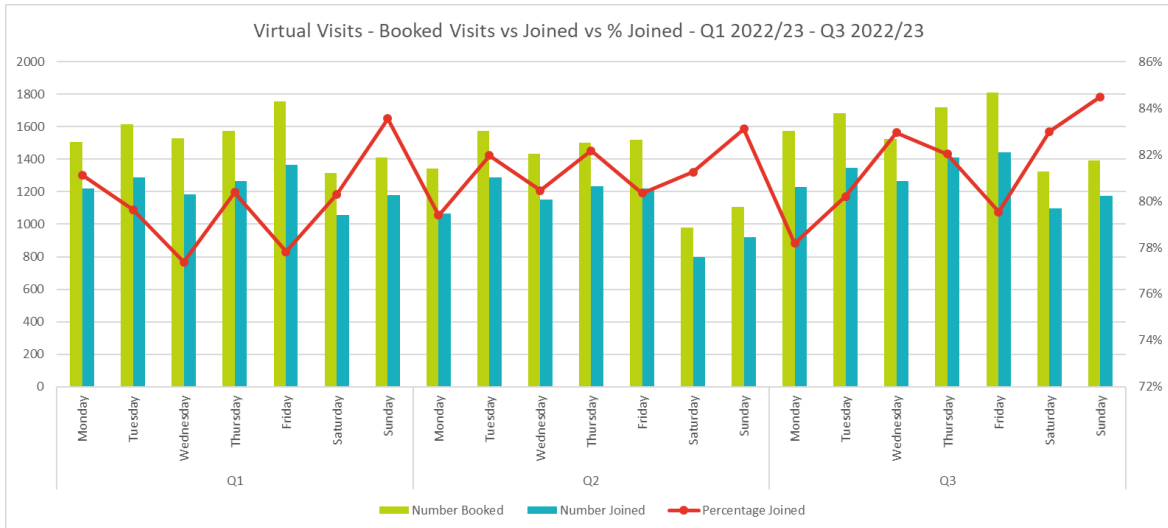
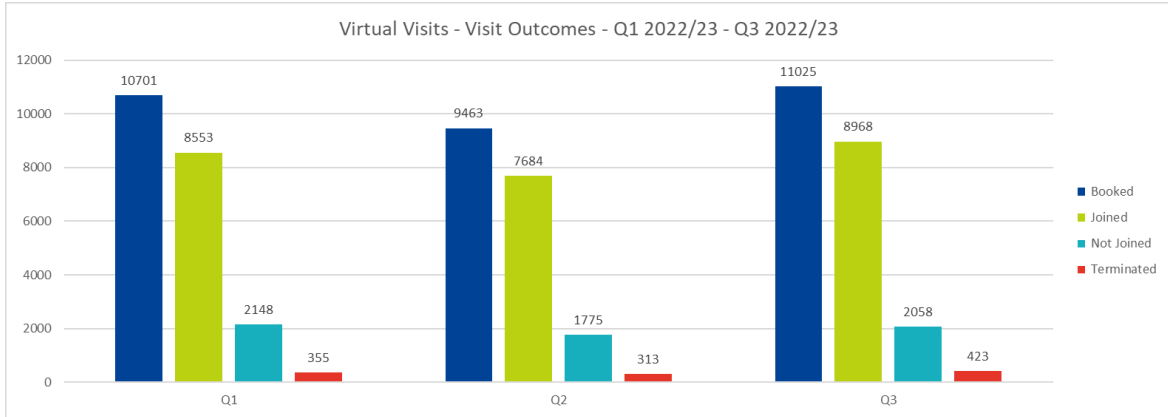
Face to Face

Last quarter, we said that we were reviewing our process for how we gather the stats for our Face to Face visits. In this new process, our figures are much more stable and they show that for Q3 2022/23 there were 34,262 visits booked with 28,105 visits attended. This shows an increase of 0.7% booked visits and 1.6% attended visits since Q2 2022/23



Virtual Visits

In Q3 2022/23 there were 11,025 booked visits and 7,684 joined visits, which is a decrease of 16.5% and 16.7% from Q2 2022/23 respectively. These figures also show that there has been no significant change for booked visits (11,015) and 3% increase for joined visits (8,591) compared to Q3 2021/22.



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](#)

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