

SPS Quarterly Public Information Page

**Prison by Numbers Quarter 4 (January-
March 2022)**

Unlocking Potential - Transforming Lives.

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1.0 Key Messages

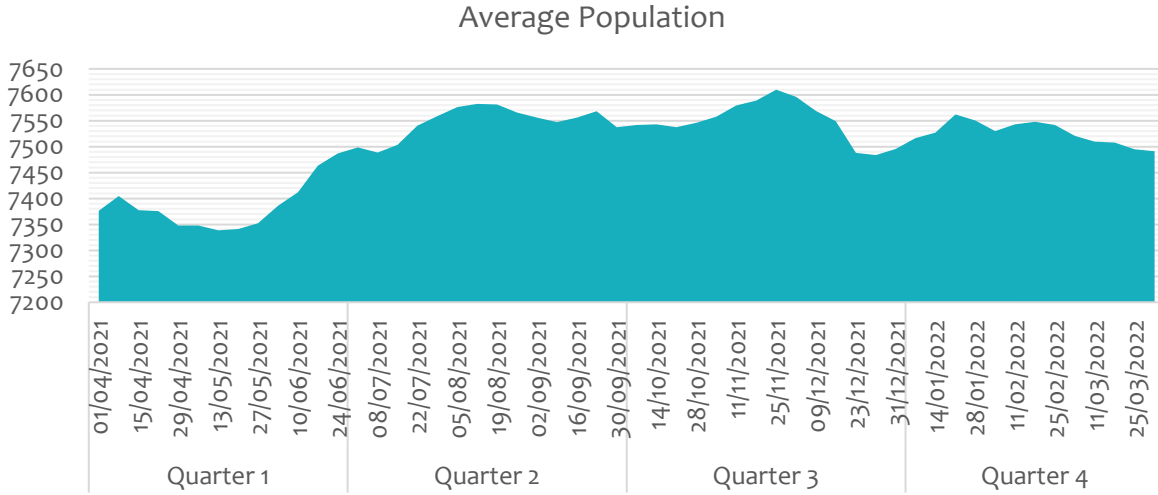
Key messages drawn from this quarterly report are as follows:

- The prison population increased by 0.69% in Quarter 4, compared to the end of Quarter 3.
- The complexities of our growing population and configuration of our estate continue to place pressure on our prisons.
- The remand population comprised, in average 26.50% of the total population in Quarter 4.
- In reviewing the characteristics of those in our care in quarter 4, the vast majority of the prisoner population were male (95.28%), heterosexual (92.58), had a marital status of single (79.18%) and white (94.60%).
- The population for those in our custody who have a history of sexual offending continues to rise; the growth rate in Quarter 4 was 2.19%, compared to the end of Quarter 3.
- COVID-19 continues to present challenges to ongoing management of the prison estate. There were 1,206 positive cases in Q4, the highest number in the 21/22 financial year, and an increase of 28.57% from Q3. However, the need for hospitalisations reduced to five cases. 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

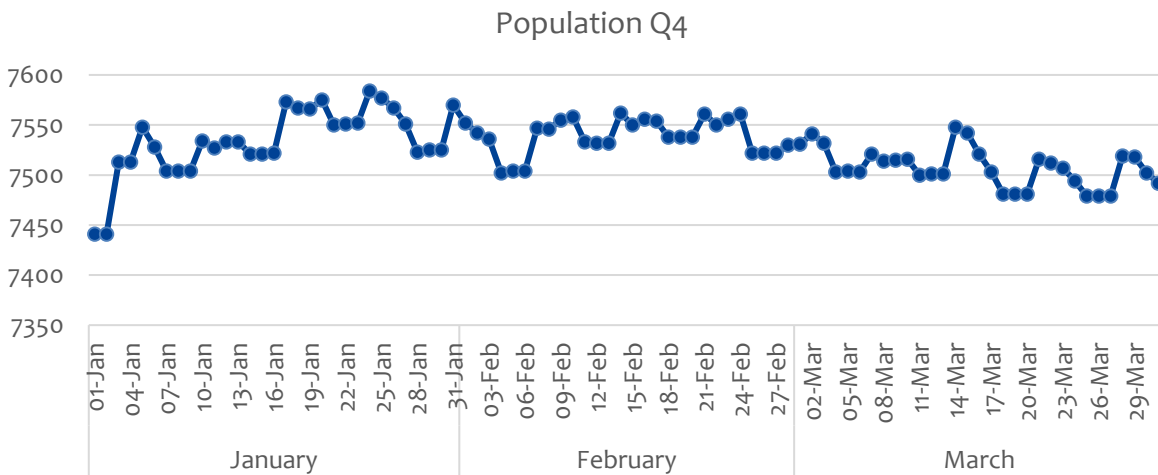
The population's average level at the end of the 21/22 financial year was higher than the level observed at the beginning of Quarter 1 of the same year. In general, there was an increase of 1.61%, not considering the fluctuations throughout the year.



1

Daily population figures in Q4

The population increased from 7,441 in the beginning of January to 7,562 by the end of month. During February and March, the population gradually reduced, but overall, in Quarter 4 the population increased by 0.69%.



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¹ SPS Business Objects report Jan/21-Mar/22

² SPS Business Objects report Jan/21-Mar/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 complexities of Scotland’s prison population, many of whom 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 has continued to increase month on month in Quarter 4 compared with Quarter 3. The proportion reached 65.28%, which represents a rise of 8% since the first week of January. The graph below illustrates the total number, as well as the proportion of those in our care who need to be accommodated separately³.



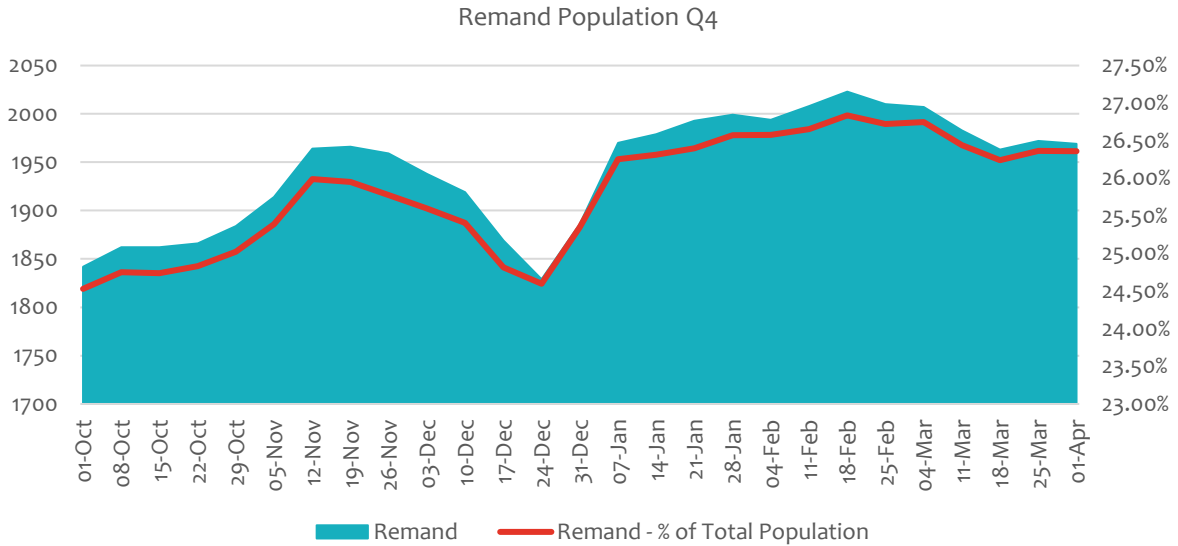
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³ The remand population and those with history of sexual offending comprised the vast majority of the individuals who need to be accommodated separately

⁴ SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports April/21-Mar/22

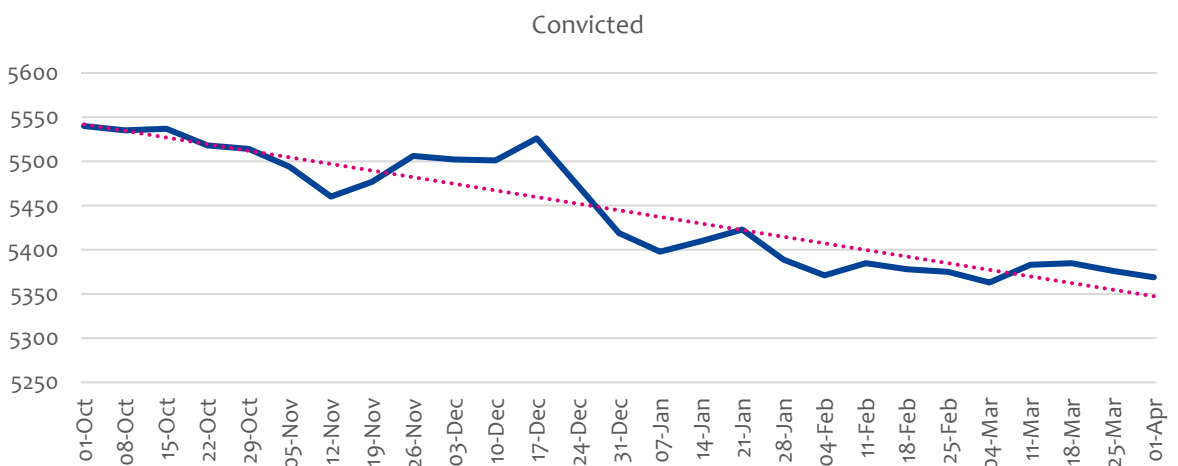
4.0 Legal Status (Convicted & Remand)

The remand population increased during January and mid-February before beginning to reduce. Overall, the remand population increased by 4.40% in Quarter 4. The remand population comprised, in average 26.50% of the total population in Quarter 4. The number of those on remand remains high. High numbers of individuals on remand can create pressures on prison system capacity and 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 convicted population has shown a decrease in the last two quarters as observed in the graph below. The average convicted population in Quarter 3 was 5,500 against 5,385 individuals in Quarter 4. The convicted population, in Quarter 4, reached the highest number at the end of January (5,423). Overall, the convicted population reduced by 0.92% in Quarter 4 compared with the end of Quarter 3.



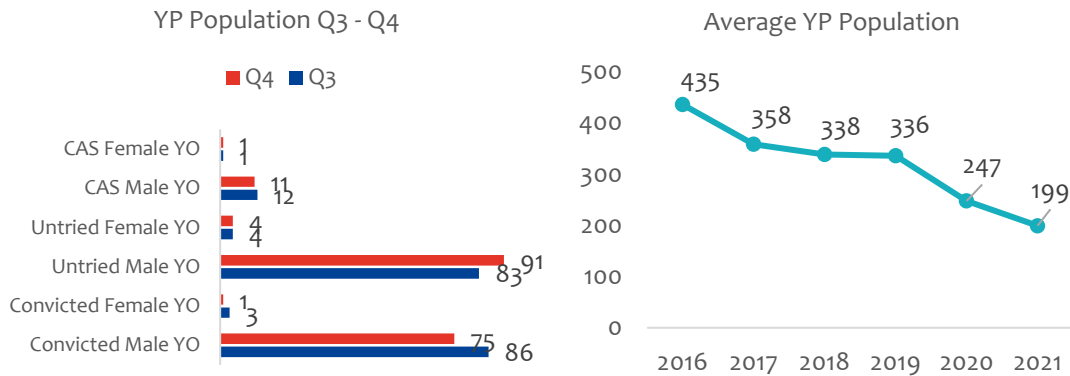
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⁵ SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Oct/21-Mar/22

⁶ SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Oct/21-Mar/22

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 residents. By the end of Quarter 4, the average for the period had decreased to 179. When we look at the breakdown of the average YP population and compare it with last Quarter, it is possible to see that the untried male YP population increased from 83 to 91 and the male YP convicted population decreased from 86 to 75. The other categories did not present significant changes.



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The chart below provides a breakdown of the YP population, illustrating the variance in the population during Q4:

	Male YP Estate				Female YP Estate			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	% Variance by Q4 End	Jan	Feb	Mar	% Variance by Q4 End
Convicted	80	76	69	-13.75%	2	2	1	-50.00%
Remand	100	91	83	-17.00%	4	4	3	-25.00%
Convicted Awaiting Sentence (CAS)	11	12	8	-27.27%	1	0	1	0.00%
Prisoner Awaiting Deportation (PAD)	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
In Custody	191	179	160	-16.23%	7	6	5	-28.57%

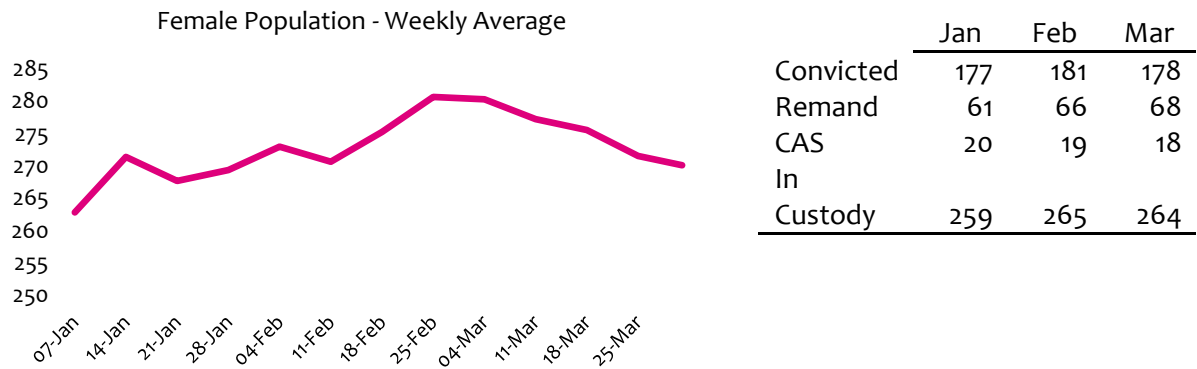
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⁷ SPS Prisoner Records System - Business Objects & OD Population Management Oct/21-Mar/22

⁸ SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Mar 2022

6.0 Women in our Care

Since 1st January 2022, the female population increased until the end of February when it reached 281. The weekly average started decreasing again in March, however, overall the female population increased by 2.78% in Quarter 4.



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When considering the breakdown of the women’s estate, those on remand remain similar proportionately to that of the male population. Women in our care on remand increased from 23.69% of the total female population in January to 25.85% in March. The remand male population reached 26.85% of the total male population at the end of March.

⁹ SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Mar 2022

7.0 Equality and Diversity

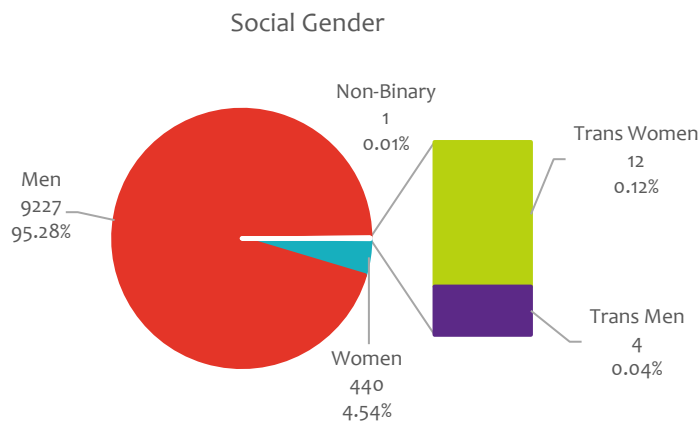
The Scottish Prison Service aims to provide accessible services to meet the needs of those in our care. This means an ongoing commitment to promote equal opportunities through policies and strategies to promote equality throughout all our establishments. The following data presents an overview of the diversity of the 9,684 residents that have been in custody between January 1st and March 31st 2022.¹⁰

Information regarding prisoners’ 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 spectrum¹¹ between man and woman.

In Quarter 4, 9,227 individuals in our care identified themselves as men and another 440 as women. Trans men and trans women comprised 0.12% and 0.04% of the prison population, respectively. Only 0.01% identified themselves as non-binary.



¹²

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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>

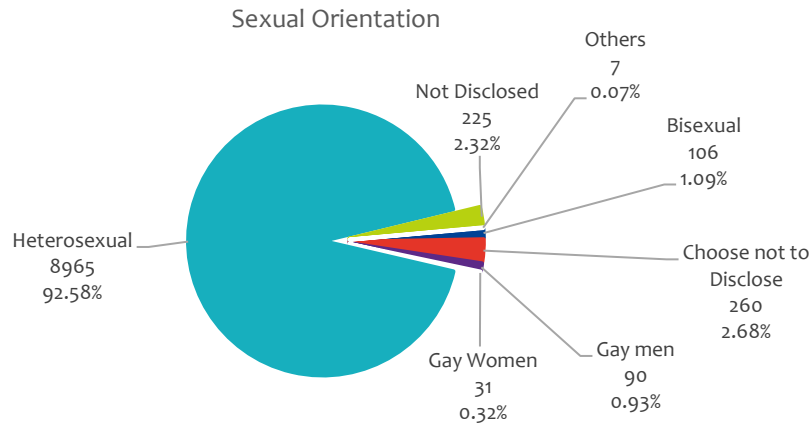
¹² SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Mar 2022

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 in Quarter 4.

	Men`s Estate	Women`s Estate	Total
Trans Men	1	3	4
Trans Women	6	6	12
Total	7	9	16

Sexual Orientation

The vast majority of the people in our care declared themselves as heterosexual, 92.58%. Bisexuals, gay men and gay women comprised 2.42%. Another 2.68% preferred not to disclose while a further 2.32% was not obtained. More details are illustrated in the chart below.

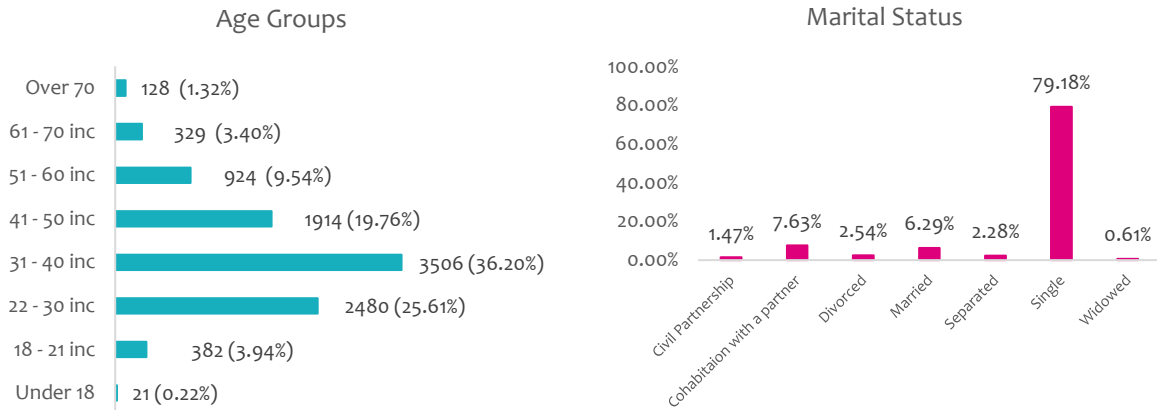


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¹³ SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Mar 2022

Age Group and Marital Status

The chart below illustrates the prison population in Quarter 4 by age groups and marital status. The highest age group are the individuals within 31 and 40 years old, 36.20%, while the lowest age group comprises the individuals under 18 years old, 0.22%.

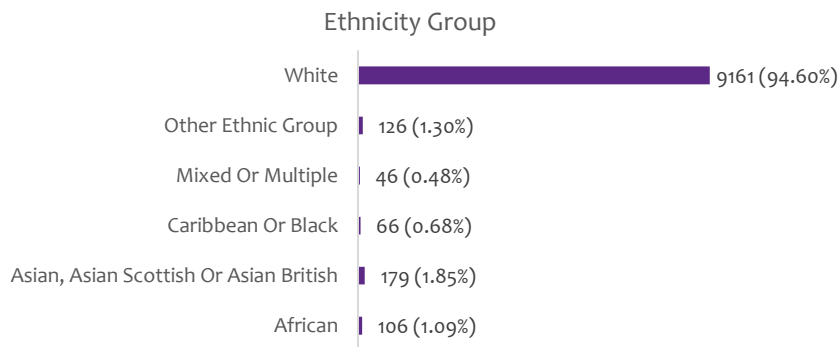


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The vast majority of the individuals in our care reported themselves as single in Quarter 4, 79.18%. Another 7.63% and 6.29% reported as “cohabitation with a partner” and married, respectively.

Ethnicity Group

In Quarter 4, 94.60% of the prison population declared themselves as white. Africans comprised 1.09% while Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British comprised 1.85%. Those who declared themselves Caribbean or Black were 0.68%. Other Ethnic Group and Mixed or Multiple represented 1.30% and 0.48%, respectively. More details can be observed on the chart below.



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¹⁴ SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Mar 2022

¹⁵ SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Mar 2022

Disability

Almost a tenth, 9.36%, of residents in our prisons have told us that they have a disability. Another 88.90% did not report any disability and 1.75% opted not to disclose.

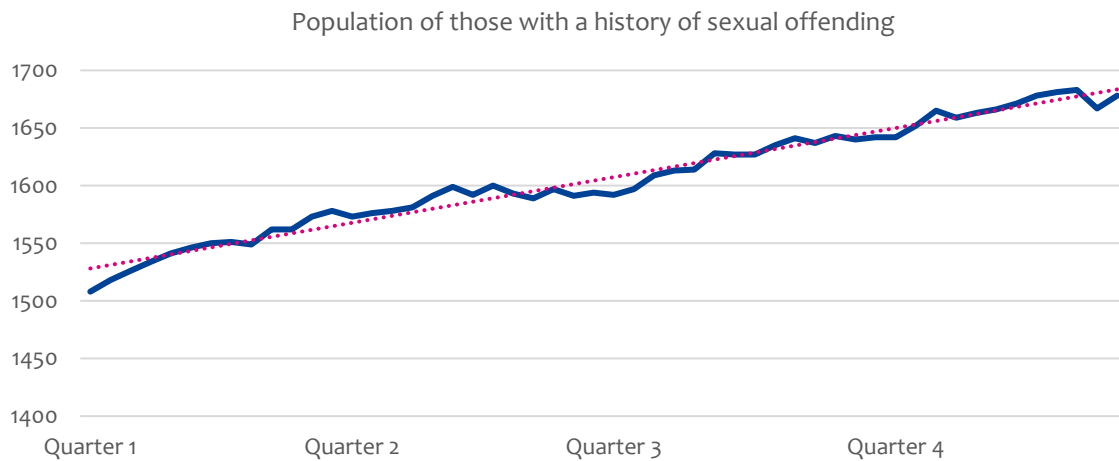
Disability		
Yes	906	9.36%
No	8609	88.90%
Opted not to Disclose	169	1.75%

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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 Vale¹⁷. 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 separate from the mainstream population.

The population of those with a history of sexual offending in custody increased 2.19% in Quarter 4, compared to Quarter 3. In the 2021/22 financial year, that population increased continuously and linearly. While the total prison population increased 1.61% within the last 4 quarters, the number of those with a history of sexual offending increased by 11.27%.



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Non-Offence Protections (NOP’s) also need to be located and managed separately from mainstream prisoners due to being identified as those who are considered at risk should they

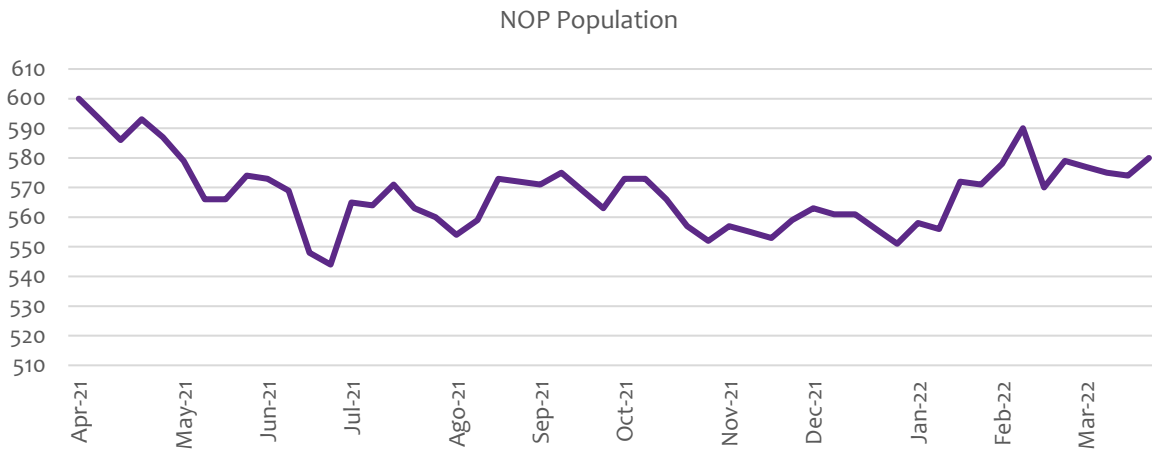
¹⁶ SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Mar 2022

¹⁷ There is no trans woman with a history of sexual offending residing in HMP Cornton Vale

¹⁸ SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports April/21-Mar/22

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.

At the end of Quarter 4, the number of individuals within the NOP population increased by 3.94% compared to the previous Quarter. In the 2021/22 financial year, the NOP population decreased by 3.33%, not considering the fluctuations throughout the year.



¹⁹

¹⁹ SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports April/21-Mar/22

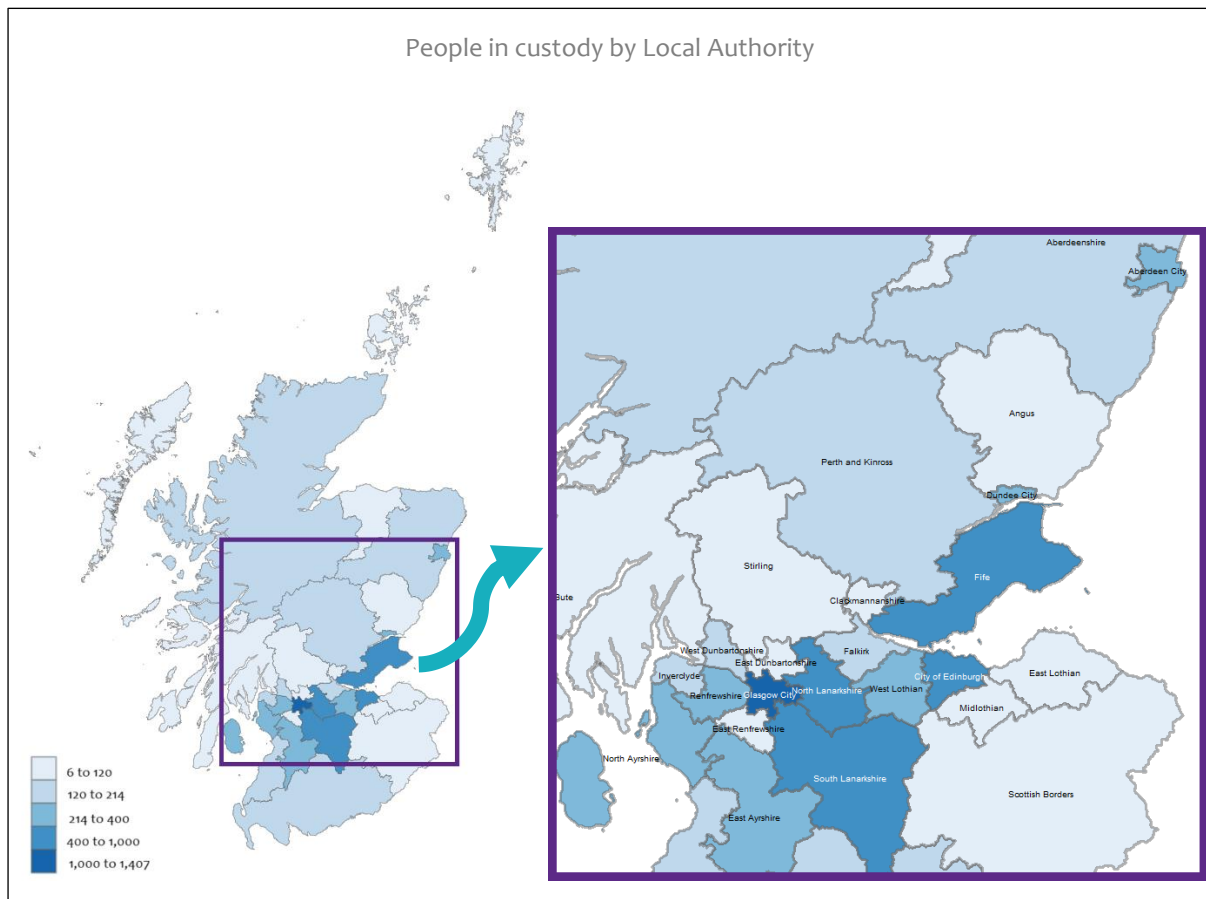
9.0 Geography of Imprisonment in Scotland

When considering the prisons population by Local Authority (LA), Glasgow City has the largest number, 1,407 individuals in custody, comprising 18.68% of the total prisons` population. The City of Edinburgh has the second largest prisons` population, with 592 individual, followed by North Lanarkshire, Fife and South Lanarkshire with 522, 521 and 448 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 1.32% of the total of residents in prison.

According to the Prisons` Records, 4.42% of the individuals in our care recorded an address outwith Scotland, therefore they are not associated with any LA. Another 0.23% do not have an identifiable address or do not have any address recorded in our system.

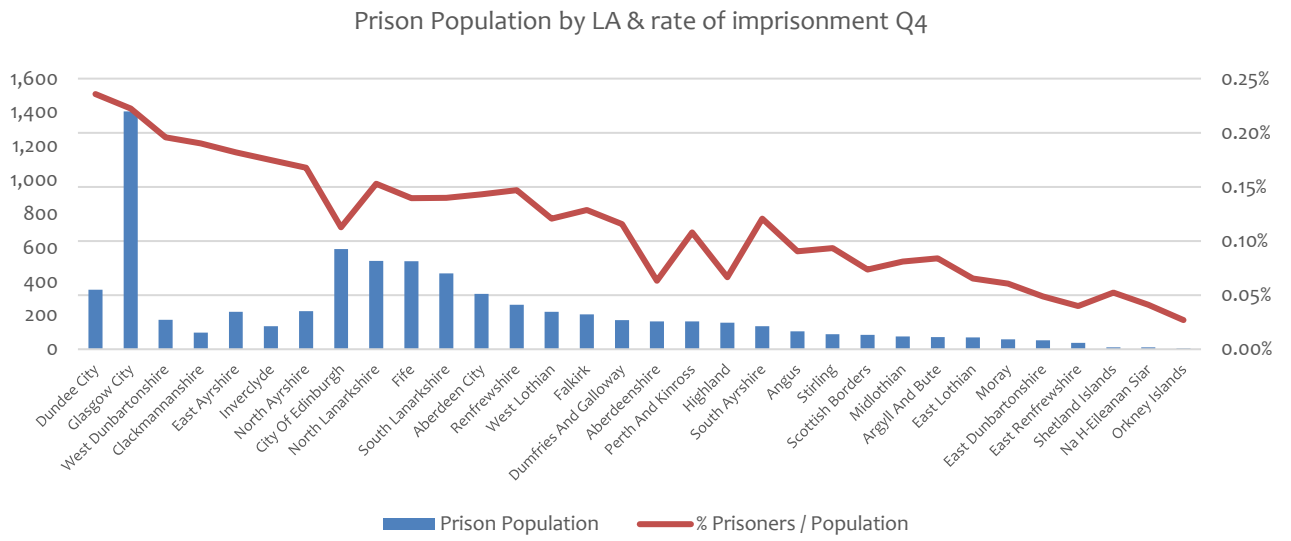
The map below illustrates the number of people in custody by LA on 31st March 2022.



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²⁰ SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Mar 2022

The graph below compares the number of individuals in custody to the rate of imprisonment at the end of Quarter 4.²¹



²¹ Scottish population figures available on [Mid-2020 Population Estimates Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrs.scot.nhs.uk\)](https://nrs.scot.nhs.uk/mid-2020-population-estimates-scotland/)

10.0 Prison Estate & Configuration

On 31st March 2022, two 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 **527** 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.

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.

Single cell occupancy remained at the same level observed in Quarter 3. In the last Quarter, it varied between 67% and 68.50%. The highest level observed in 21/22 financial year was in Quarter 1 when SCO reached almost 72%. The chart below details SCO against design capacity (which differs to that of the TOC).



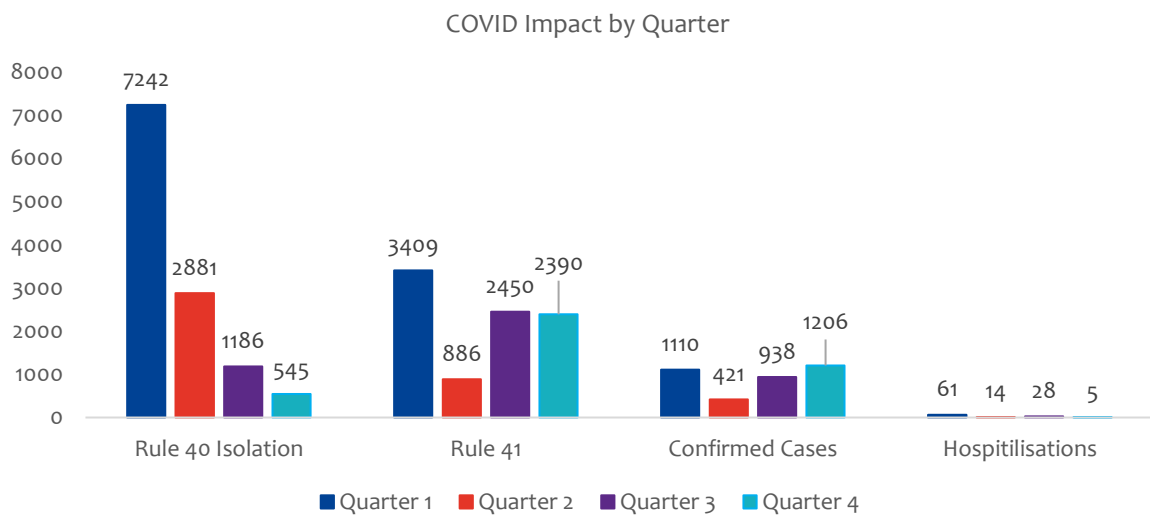
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²² SPS Operations Directorate Single Cell Occupancy & Business Objects Report Jan-Mar 2021

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. As the Scottish Government has moved to cautiously relax regulations and protections during Q4, SPS has been collaborating on a Transition Plan to be considered by the National Covid-19 Response Group (NCRG) and agreed for implementation. This will take cognisance of the reviewed public health guidance that is due to be published.

Recent changes to isolation guidance were clearly observed across establishments as the number of individuals on Rule 40 (isolation) reduced by 54.05% in Quarter 4. There were 1,206 positive cases, the highest number of the 21/22 financial year and an increase of 28.57% in Quarter 4 compared to Quarter 3. Although there was a rise in cases, the need for hospitalisations reduced to five cases in Quarter 4. The graph below illustrates the impact of Covid-19 in the last financial year.



²³

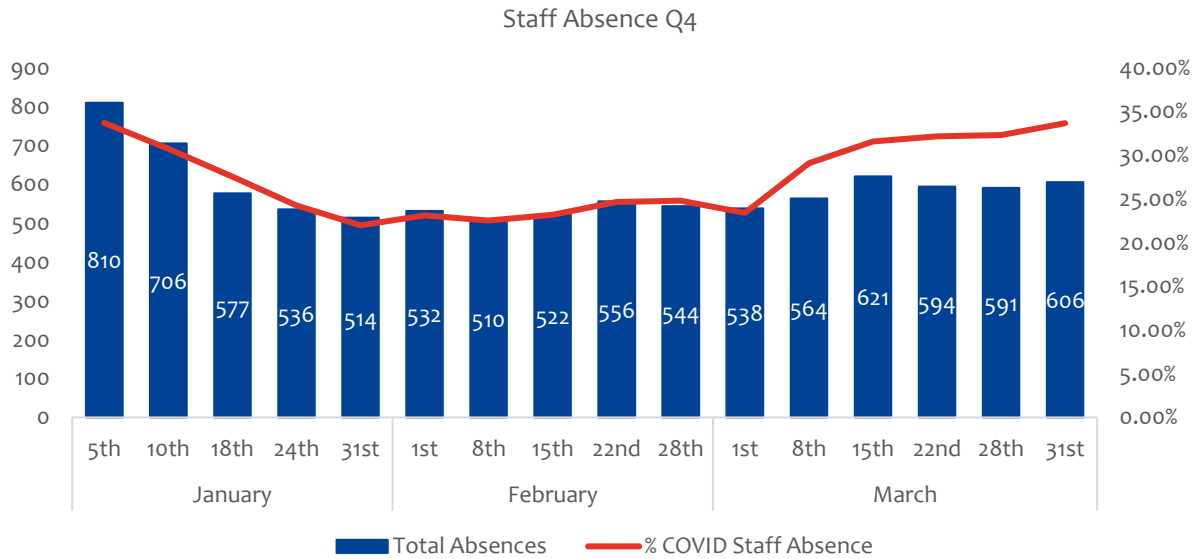
The SPS regularly reports on the impact of COVID on prisoners and staff. More reports can be found [here](#).

²³ SPS Health –April/21-Mar/21

12.0 Staff Absence

Staff absence has significantly reduced compared to the start of the pandemic, which saw 1,050 staff absent from work.²⁴ The year started with the highest level of staff absence of Quarter 4, in keeping with an increasing trend of absence throughout Q3 through to December. Staff absence reduced considerably by the end of January, remained stable in February and at the beginning of March. Staff absence slightly increased by the end of Q4.

The graph below illustrates the overall staff absence and compares the percentage to Covid-19 related absences. In the first two months of the Quarter, the number of staff absence and percentage of Covid-19 related absence are directly correlated, however in March there was an observed increase in the volume of staff absent with Covid-19, reaching 33.66% of total staff absence.



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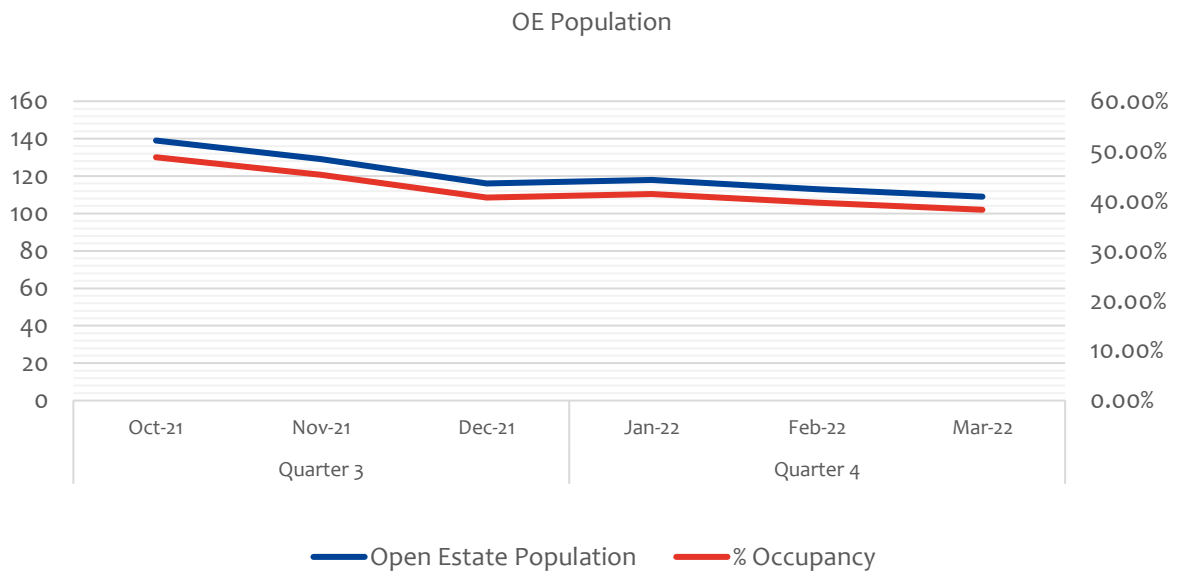
²⁴ SPS Human Resource Staff Absence Data 01 April 2020

²⁵ SPS Human Resource Staff Absence Data Jan-Mar 2022

13.0 Open Estate

In order for a prisoner 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 prisoners 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 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 the Open Estate remained stable in Quarter 4 when comparing with the end of Quarter 3. The monthly average of individuals housed at the Open Estate in October 21 was 139 residents. By the end of Q4, there was a reduction to 109.



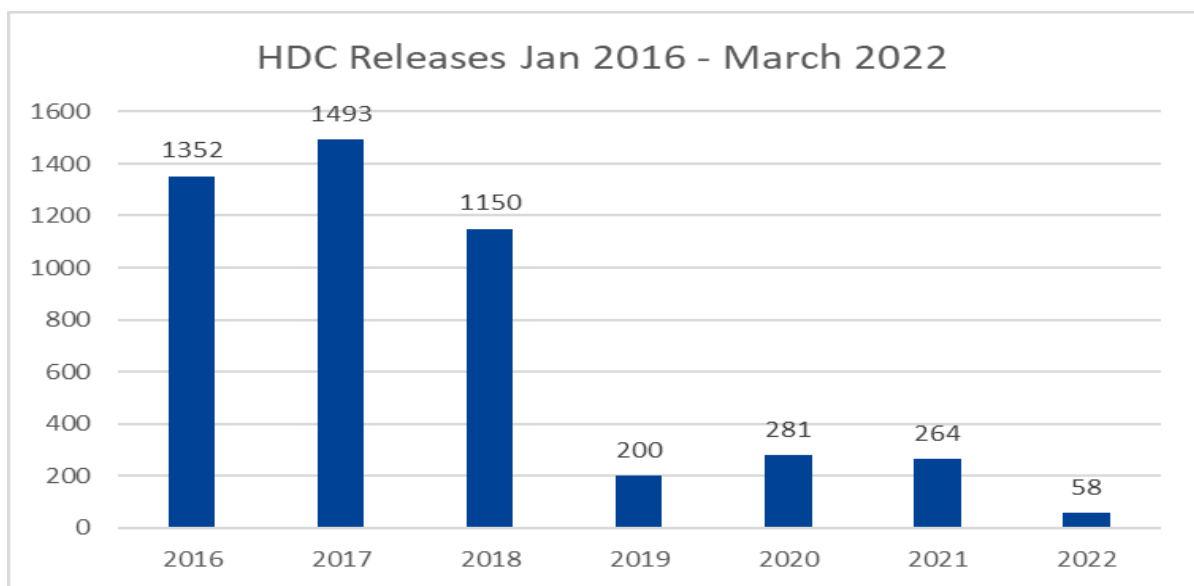
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²⁶ SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Mar 2022

14.0 Home Detention Curfew

The Home Detention Curfew (HDC) assessment framework came into effect in December 2019. This framework was revised again - with the removal of the presumptions against HDC, and the inclusion of those individuals on Medium supervision level - and came into effect 13 April 2020. The graph below shows the total number of HDC releases year on year from January to December, with the exception of the year 2022 which shows January to March.

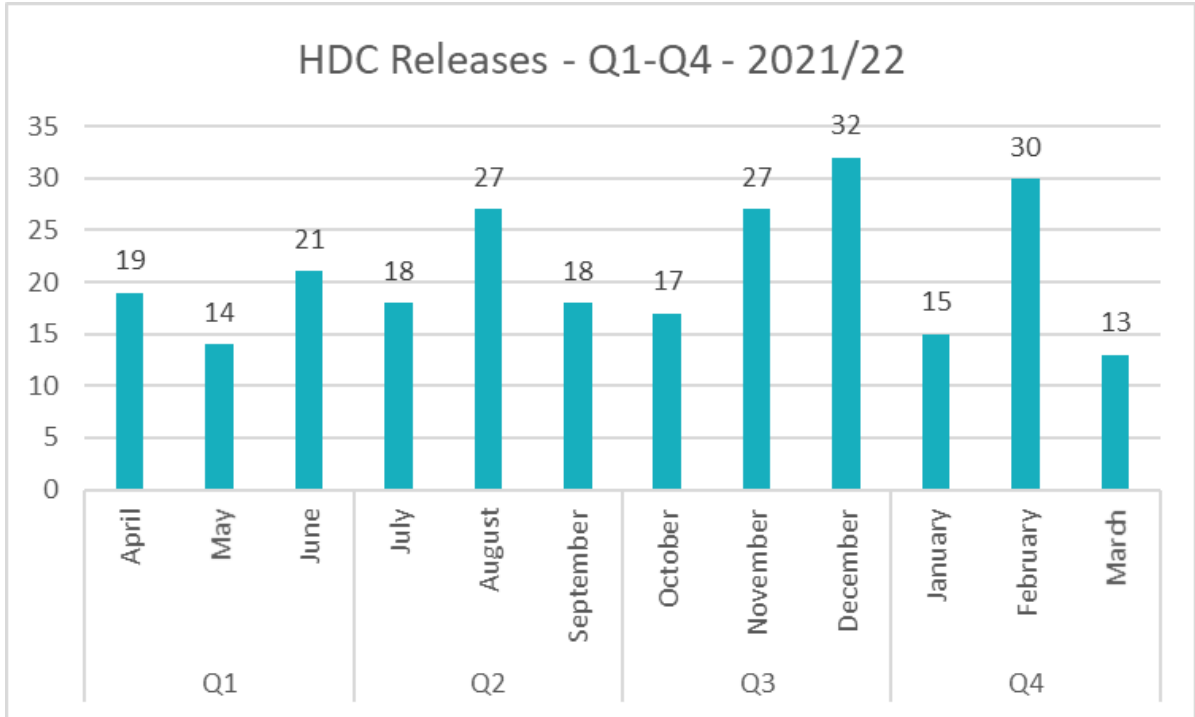
The figures in the graph show that from 2019 to 2020, there was an increase of 40% in HDC releases. The figures from 2020 to 2021 shows a decrease of 6%. There were 58 releases in the first 3 months of the 2022/23 financial year, compared with 71 releases for the same period in 2021/22.



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The graph below illustrates the monthly releases for HDC throughout the 2021/22 financial year. 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.

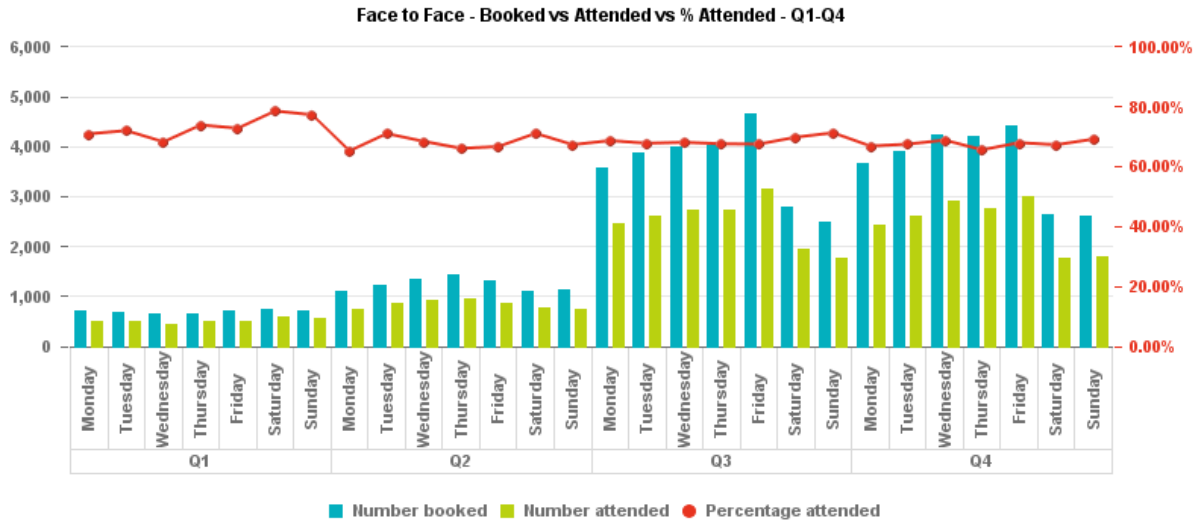
²⁷ SPS Business Objects Reports 2016-2022



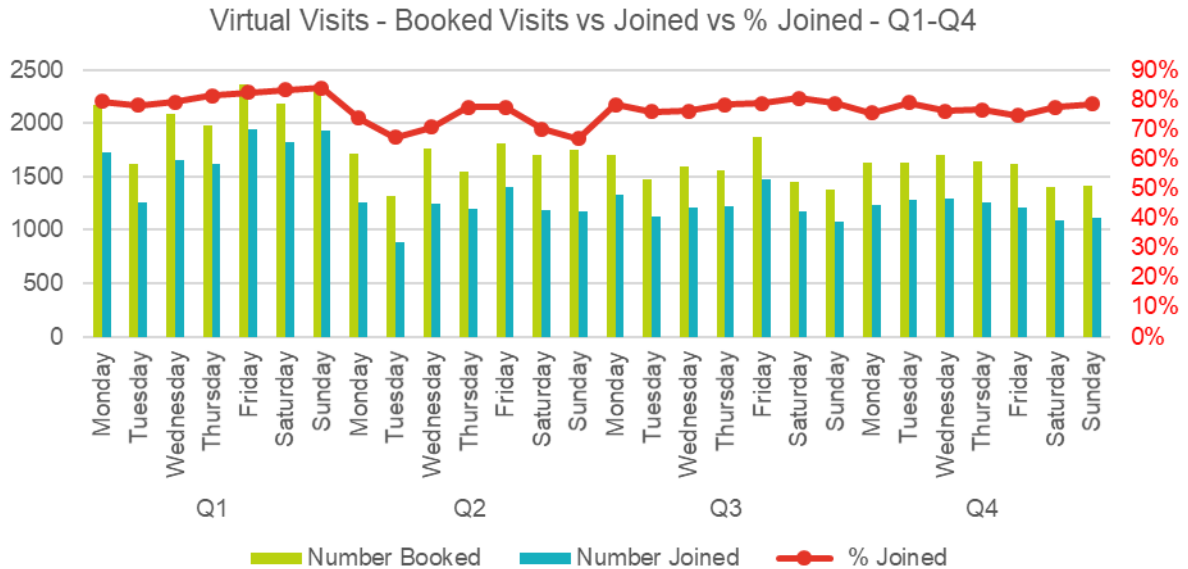
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15.0 Face to Face & Virtual Visits

The number of Face to Face visits increased significantly at the beginning of Q3 as COVID restrictions were eased across establishments, and these higher numbers have continued quite consistently during Q4.



At the same time, Virtual Visits have continued to be a well used alternative. As shown in the graph below, the number of Virtual Visits booked and joined have remained stable through Q3 and into Q4 even with fewer 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 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, 2017-18](#)

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

[Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2017-18](#)

[Recorded Crime in Scotland, 201-19](#)

- **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**

The Scottish Government produces an experimental prison population statistics with information about legal statuses, sentences and offences. The last publication is available [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](#).

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