

SPS Quarterly Public Information Page

**Prison by Numbers Quarter 4 (January -
March 2023)**

Unlocking Potential - Transforming Lives.

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1.0 Key Messages

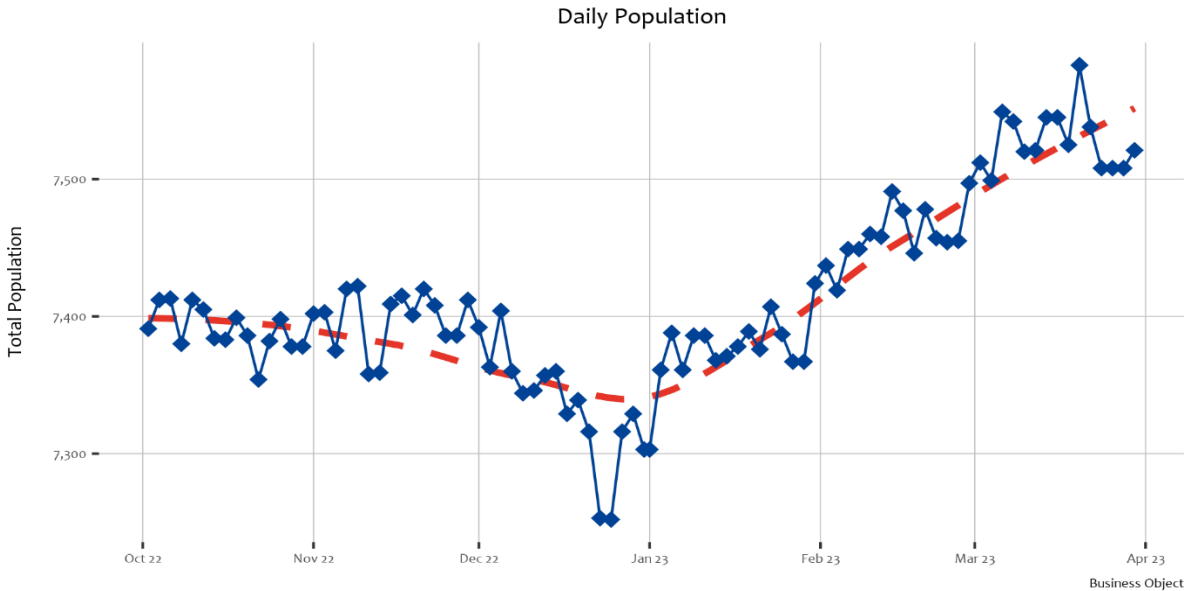
Key messages drawn from this quarterly report are as follows:

- The weekly average population increased by 3% in Quarter 4 22/23 compared to the end of Quarter 3 22/23. Compared to the same period last year, the prison population reduced by 0.9%.
- Almost six out of ten people in our care are required to be accommodated separately.
- The remand population increased by 4.5% in Quarter 4 22/23.
- The long-term population has continually increased for the last four quarters. Life sentences has shown a decrease over the same period.
- The population of those with a history of sexual offending has continued to increase in Quarter 4 22/23.
- Single cell occupancy remained stable in Quarter 4 22/23 at around 70%.
- In reviewing the characteristics of those in our care in Quarter 3, the majority of the prisoner population were male (96.04%), heterosexual (92.3%), had a marital status of single (77.6%) and white (94.6%).
- The national rate of imprisonment in Scotland remained at 0.1% at the end of March. Rates of imprisonment equal to or above the national rate were observed in 18 of 32 Local Authorities.
- 45.13% of those in our care come from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland.
- COVID-19: The impact of Covid-19 on our prison population has continued to reduce in Quarter 4 22/23 compared to the previous quarter.

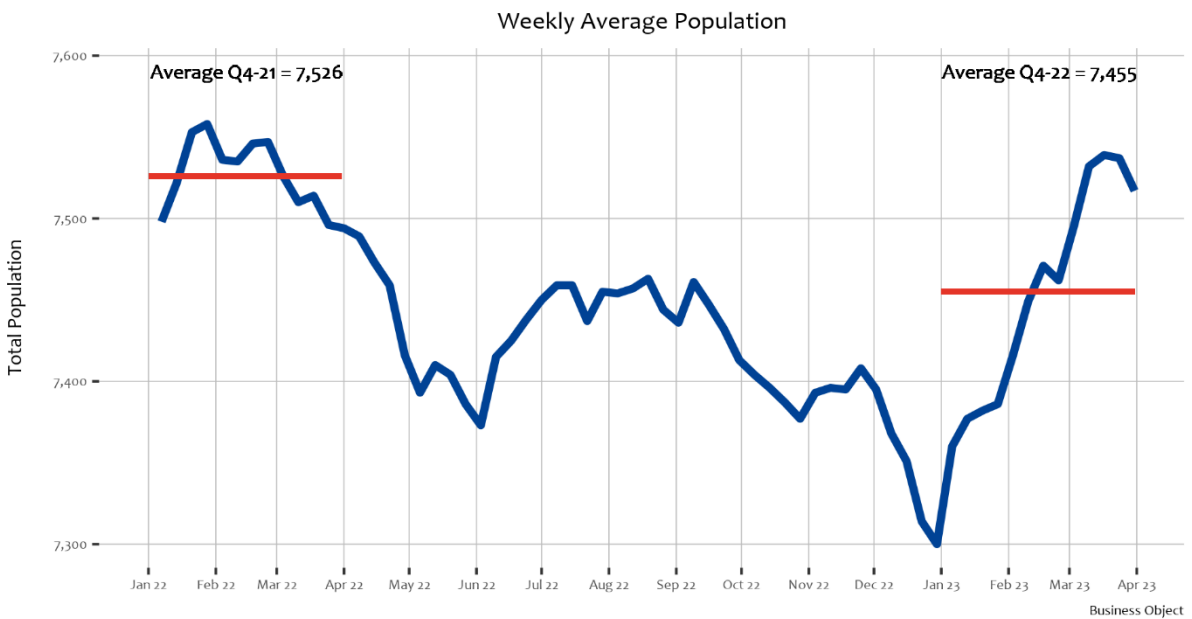
General Enquiries Email: gaolinfo@sps.pnn.gov.uk

2.0 Prison Population

The daily prison population increased throughout Q4 22/23, from 7,303 in the beginning of January to 7,508 at the end of March. The population in this Quarter peaked on March 20th at 7,583. Overall, the daily prison population was 2.8% higher at the end of Q4 22/23 compared to the end of the previous quarter.



In Q4 22/23, the weekly average prison population reached the highest number at the end of March. Compared to the last week of Q3 22/23, the weekly average prison population increased by 3% in Q4 22/23. The graph below illustrates that the weekly average population in Q4 22/23 has reduced compared to the same period last year. The average prison population in Q4 21/22 was 7,526 and in Q4 22/23 was 7,455. This represents a reduction of 0.9% in Q4 22/23 compared to Q4 21/22.



The SPS (Scottish Prison Service) 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:

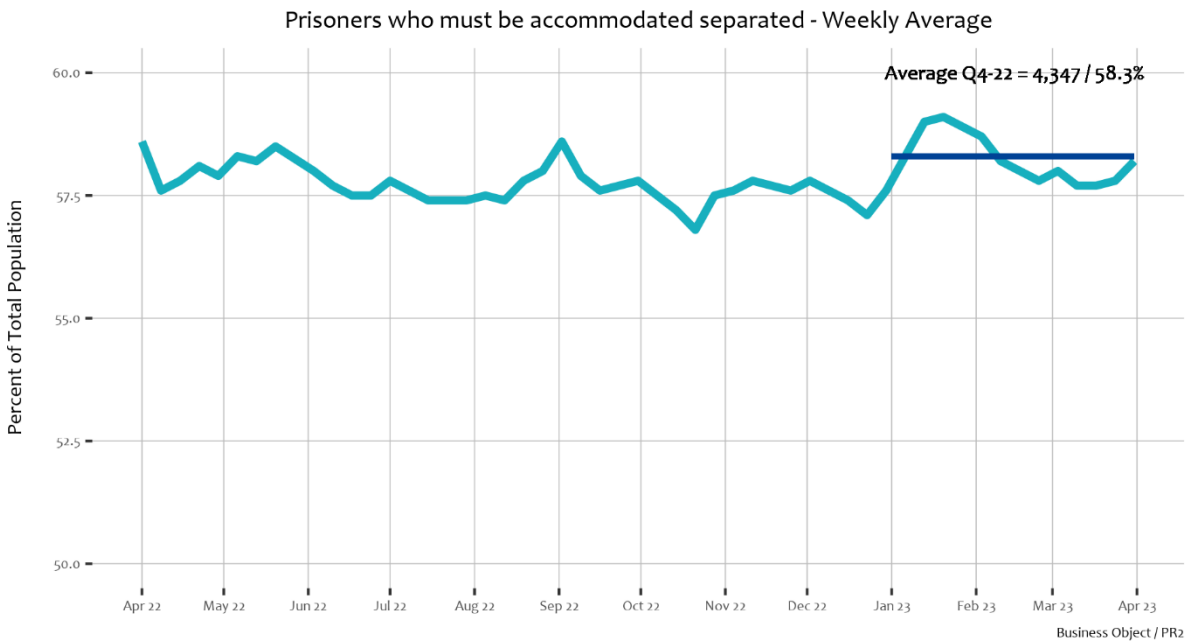
[Prison Population Report – Weekly time series](#)

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

3.0 Complexities of Population

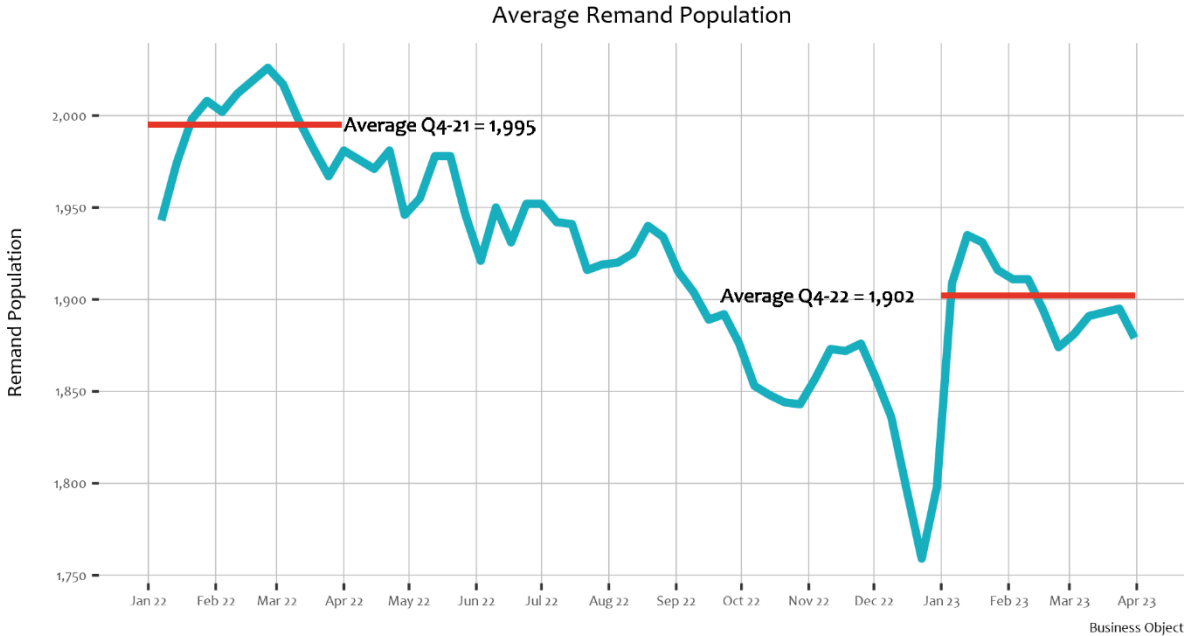
The rising overall population numbers are of concern in terms of ongoing management when we move close to population and design capacity; however also of note is the rising complexity of Scotland’s prison population. Many individuals need to be accommodated separately for a variety of reasons i.e., due 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 at the beginning of January and reduced throughout February and March. An average of around 58.3% of the prison population, or 4,347 individuals needed to be accommodated separately in Q4 22/23, 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)

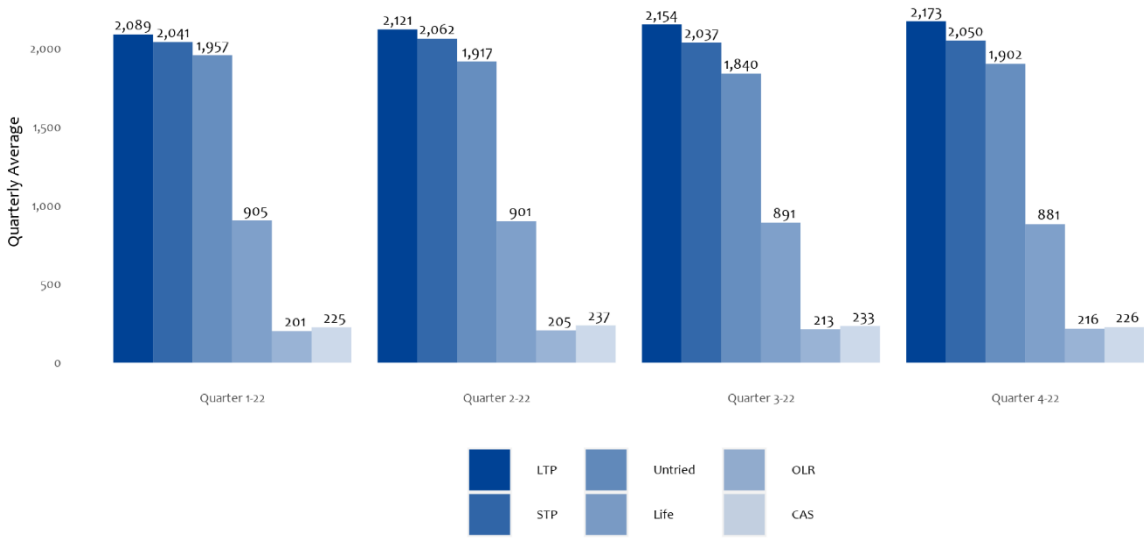
The remand population has increased by 4.5% in Q4 22/23, from 1,798 individuals at the end of December to 1,879 individuals at the end of March. Compared to the same period last year, the remand population reduced from an average of 1,995 in Q4 21/22 to an average of 1,902 in Q4 22/23, a decrease of 4.7%.



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 has continually increased for the last four quarters, from 2,089 individuals in Q1 22/23 to 2,173 in Q4 22/23, an increase of 4% over the period. Life sentences (not including OLRs) have shown a decrease of 2.7% over the last four quarters, while short term population increased by 0.4%. The OLR population has also continually increased quarter after quarter, from 201 individuals in Q1 22/23 to 216 individuals in Q4 22/23, an increase of 7.5%. Convicted awaiting sentence (CAS) continued to decrease in Q4 22/23.

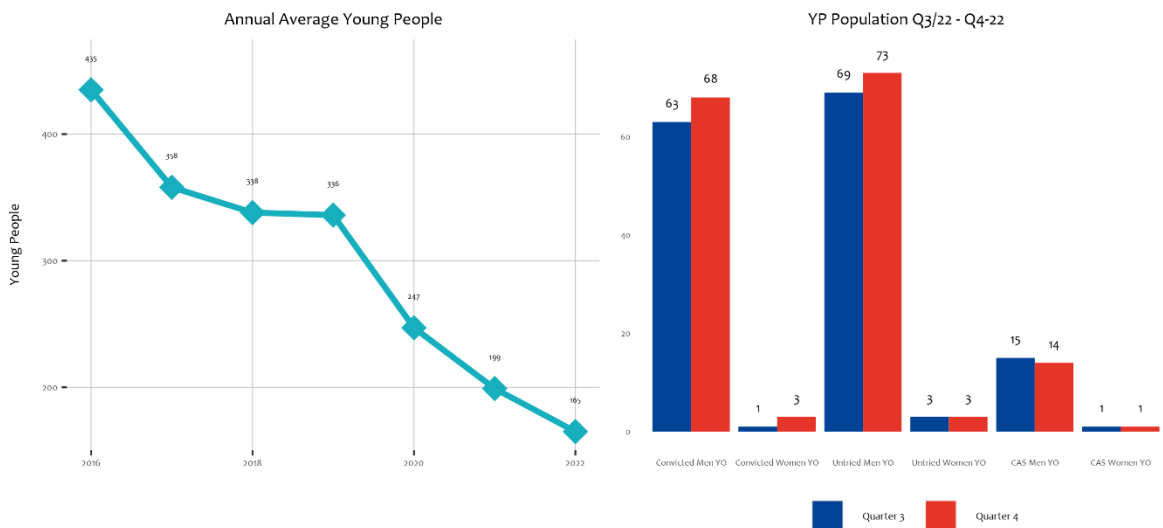
Type of Sentence



Business Object

5.0 Young People in our Care

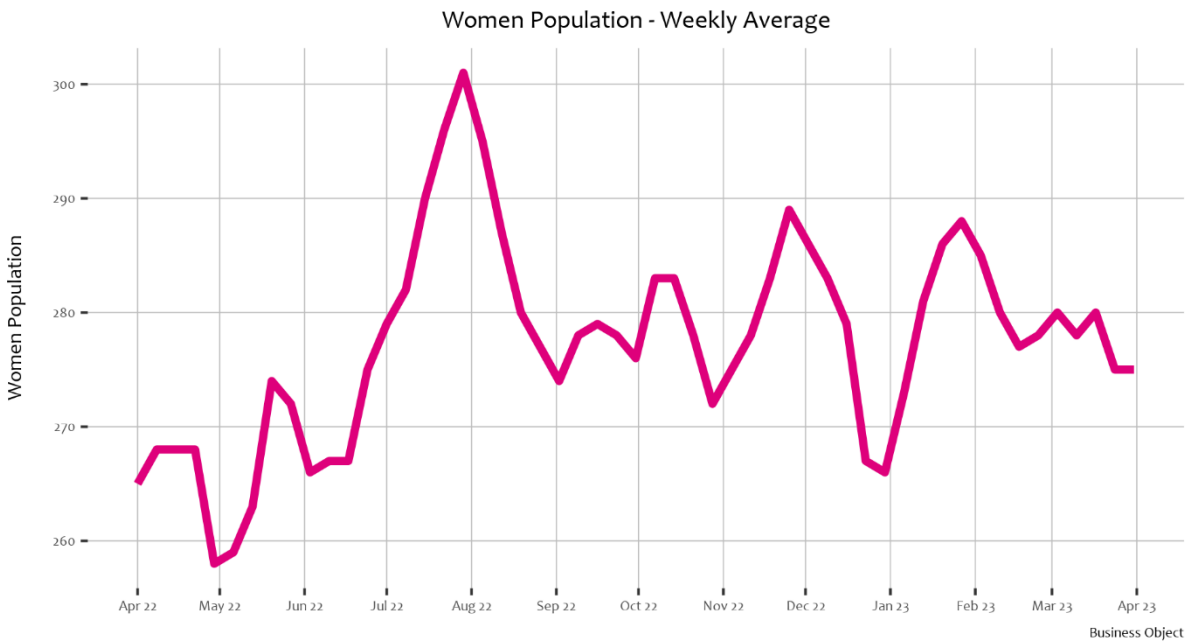
The number of Young People (YP) in custody remains low in comparison to 2016-2019 when the population exceeded 300. Between 2020 and 2022, the YP population reduced from 247 to 165 individuals. In Q4 22/23, the untried male YP population decreased from 69 to 73 and the convicted male YP population reduced from 63 to 68. The other categories did not present noteworthy changes.



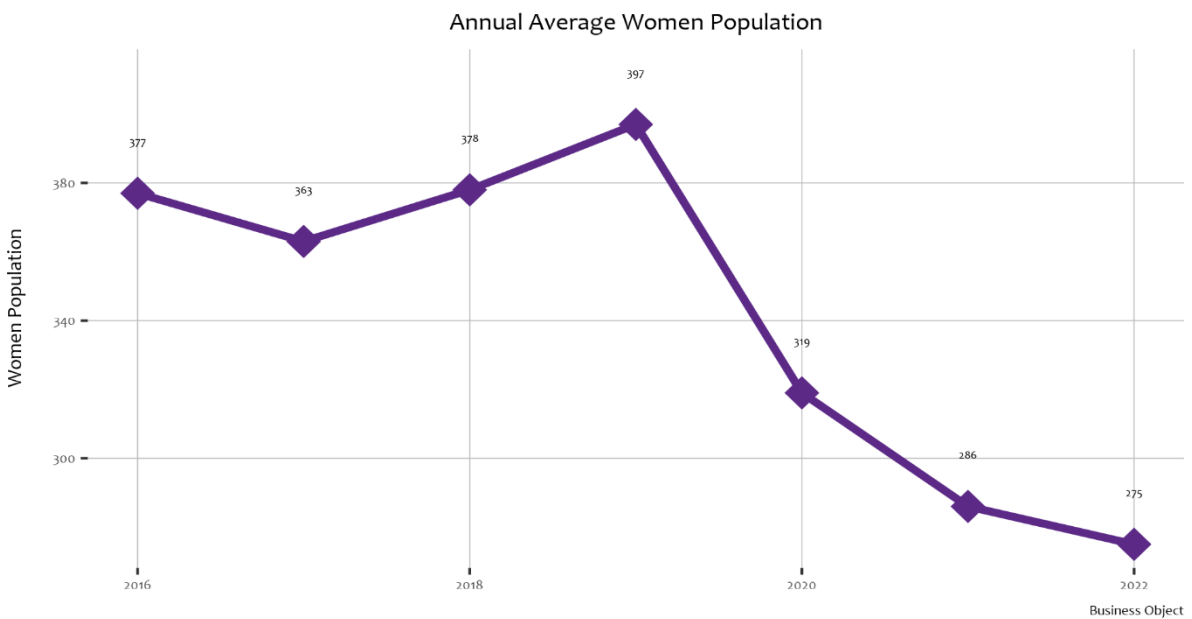
Business Object

6.0 Women in our Care

In Q4 22/23, the weekly average women population reached the highest level at the end of January, then reduced until the end of March. Overall, the weekly average women population increased by 3.4% at the end of Q4 22/23 compared to the end of Q3 22/23.



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 2022, 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 7,508 people in our care on 31st March 2023.¹

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 spectrum² between man and woman. Gender-fluid is defined³ by “not having only one gender or moving freely between genders.”

In Q4 22/23, 7,211 people in our care were recorded as men and another 273 as women. Trans men and trans women comprised 0.05% and 0.25% of the prison population, respectively. Non-binary/gender-fluid comprised together 0.01% of the prison population.

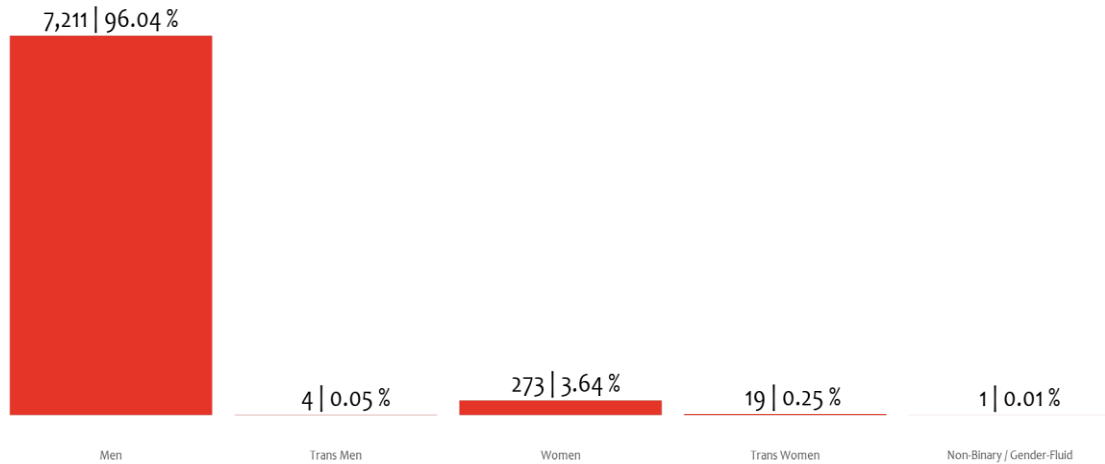
¹ The Public Information Page is a working document. The inclusion of data on protected characteristics is being kept under review to ensure the public scrutiny requirements are met whilst protecting the privacy of those in our care.

² 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>

³ Cambridge Dictionary definition available on <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/gender-fluid>

Social Gender



SPS Corporate Report

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 Q4 22/23.

	Men`s Estate	Women`s Estate	Total
Trans Men	1	3	4
Trans Women	12	7	19
Total⁴	13	10	23

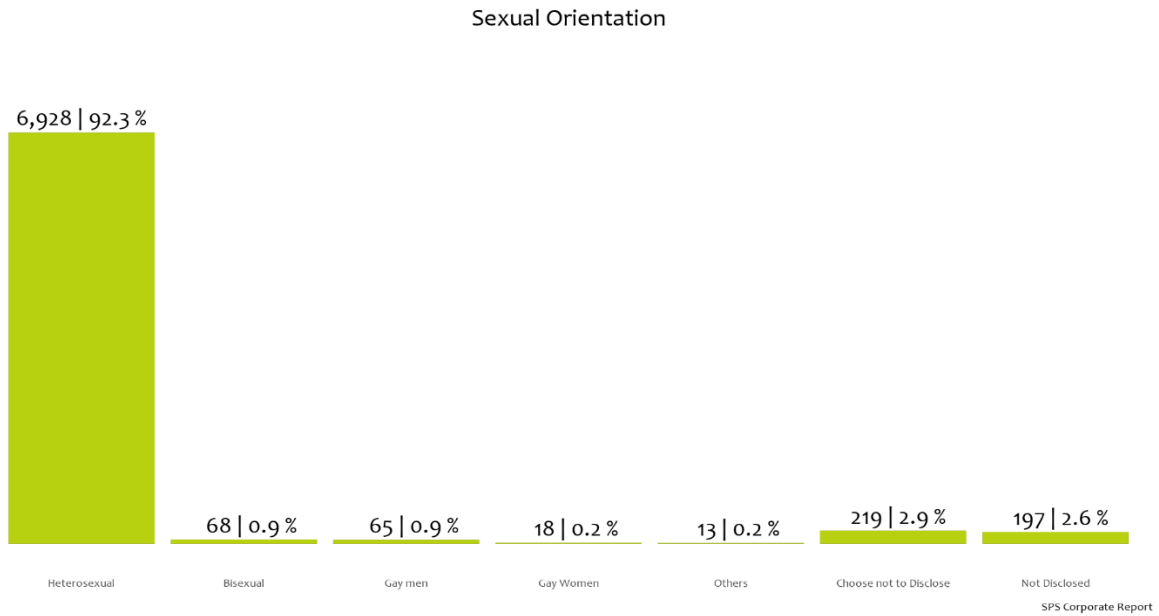
More information regarding our trans population in the previous quarters can be found on the links below:

- [Public Information Page Q4 21/22;](#)
- [Public Information Page Q1 22/23;](#)
- [Public Information Page Q2 22/23;](#)
- [Public Information Page Q3 22/23;](#)

⁴ Prison Records – Business Object March 2023.

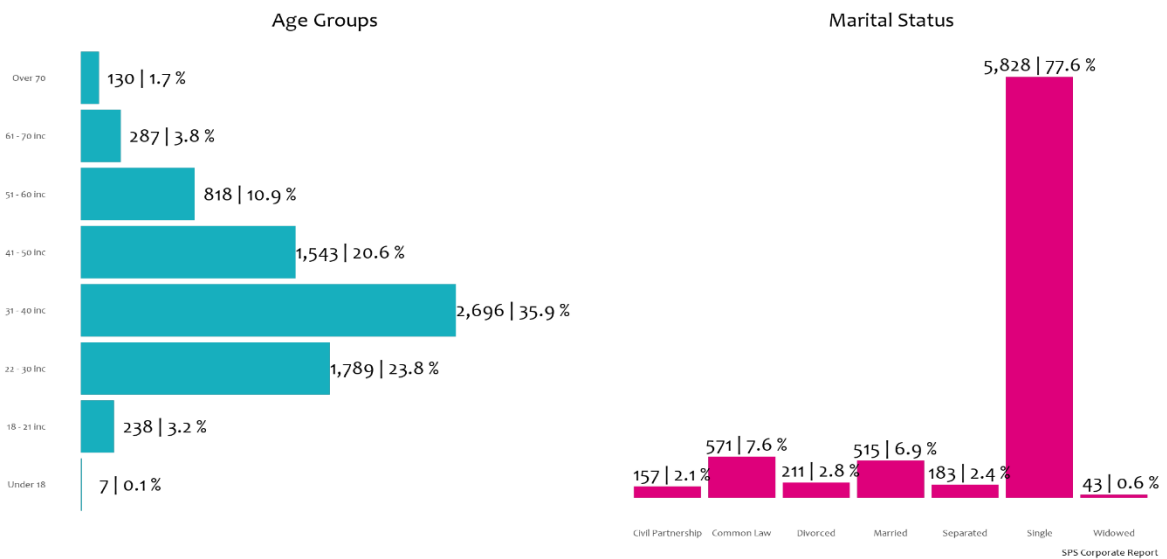
Sexual Orientation

Most of the people in our care declared themselves as heterosexual, 92.3%. Bisexuals, gay men and gay women comprised 2%. Another 2.9% preferred not to disclose while a further 2.6% were not obtained. More details are illustrated in the chart below.



Age Group and Marital Status

The chart below illustrates the prison population in Q4 22/23 by age group and marital status. The highest age group continues to be those aged between 31 and 40 years old (35.9%), while the lowest proportion is individuals under 18 years old (0.1%).



Most of the people in our care reported themselves as single in Q4 22/23, 77.6%. Another 7.6% and 6.9% reported as “Common Law (or cohabitation with a partner)” and married, respectively.

Ethnicity Group

In Q4 22/23, 94.6% of the prison population declared themselves as white. African comprised 1% while Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British comprised 1.9%. Those who declared themselves Caribbean or Black were 0.8%. Other Ethnic Group and Mixed or Multiple represented 1.3% and 0.5%, respectively. More details can be observed in the chart below.



SPS Corporate Report

Disability

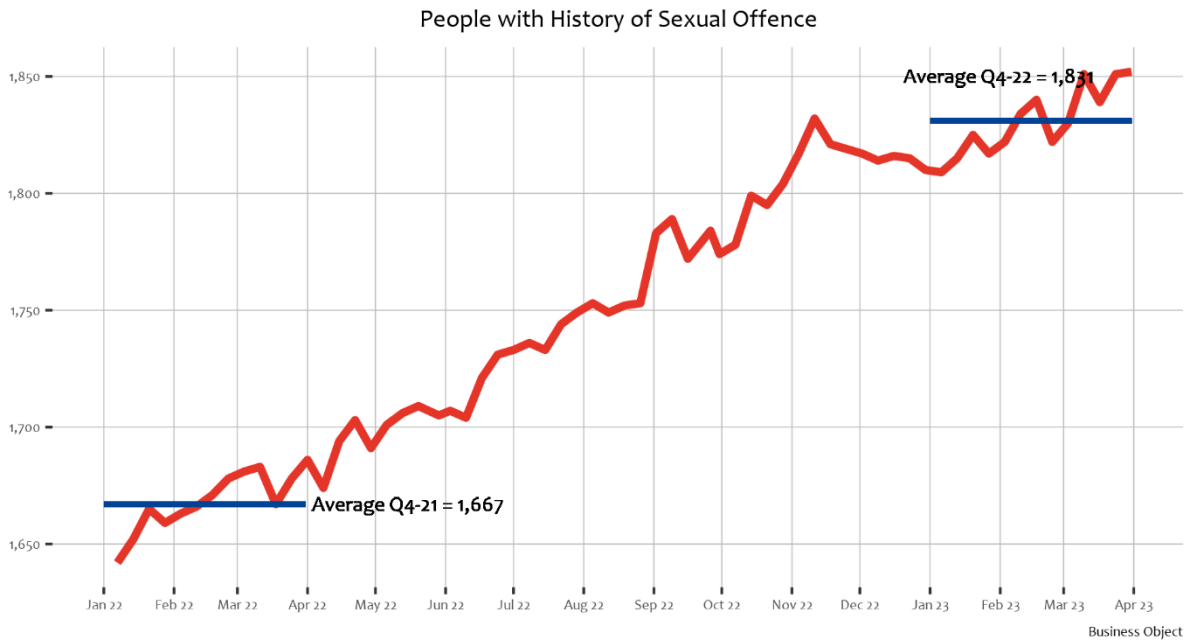
More than ten percent of the people in our prisons have told us that they have a disability. Another 87.7% did not report any disability and 2.2% opted not to disclose.

Disability		
Yes	757	10.1%
No	6,587	87.7%
Opted not to Disclose	164	2.2%

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 Vale⁵. 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.

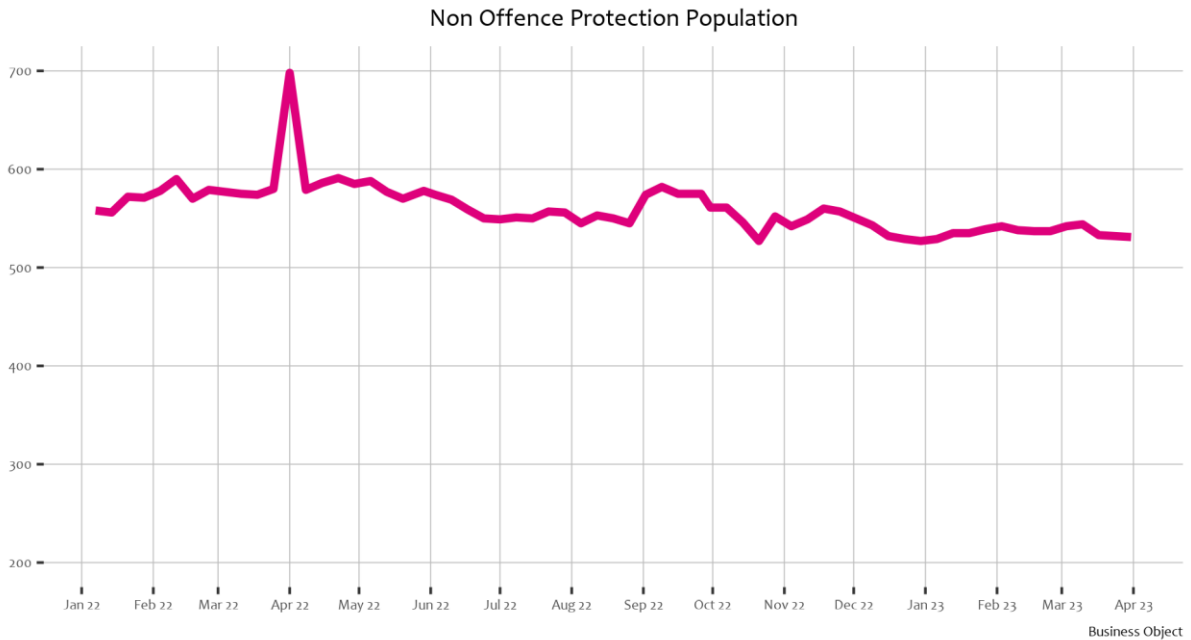
The population of those with a history of sexual offending in custody increased 2.3% in Q4 22/23, compared to the end of Q3 22/23. In average, the population of those with history of sexual offending in Q4 22/23 increased by 9.8% compared to the same period last year.



⁵ 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 Q4 22/23, the number of individuals within the NOP population remained stable compared to Q3 22/23.



9.0 Geography of Imprisonment in Scotland

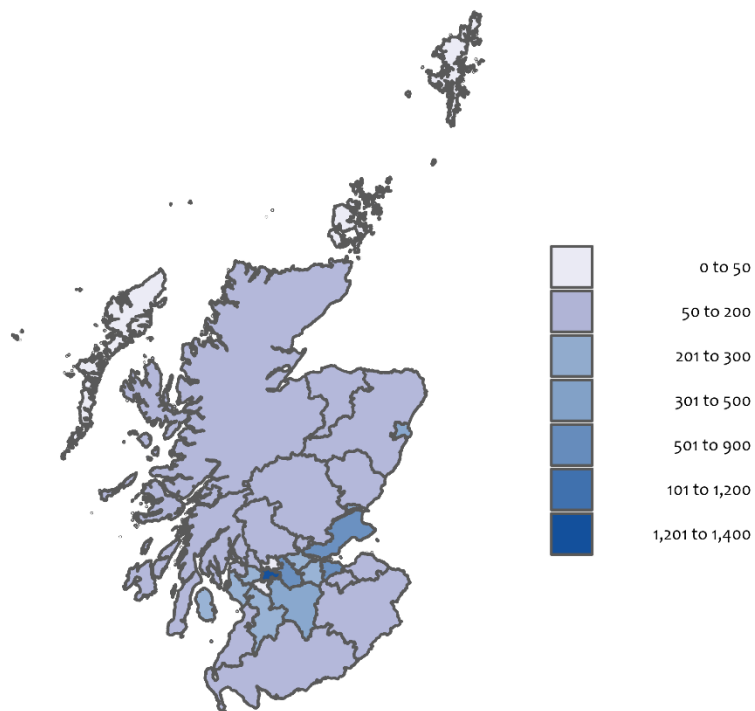
When considering the prisons population by Local Authority (LA), Glasgow City continued to have the largest number; 1,326 individuals in custody, comprising 17.3% of the total prison population at the end of Q4 22/23. The City of Edinburgh has the second largest prison population, with 603 individuals, followed by North Lanarkshire, Fife and South Lanarkshire with 533, 518, and 458 individuals, respectively.

Na H-Eileanan Siar, Shetland Islands and Orkney Island have the smallest number of individuals in custody. The three Local Authorities together comprise 0.1% of the total of residents in prison.

According to the Prisons` Records, 4.8% 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 March 2023.

Number of People in Custody by Local Authority

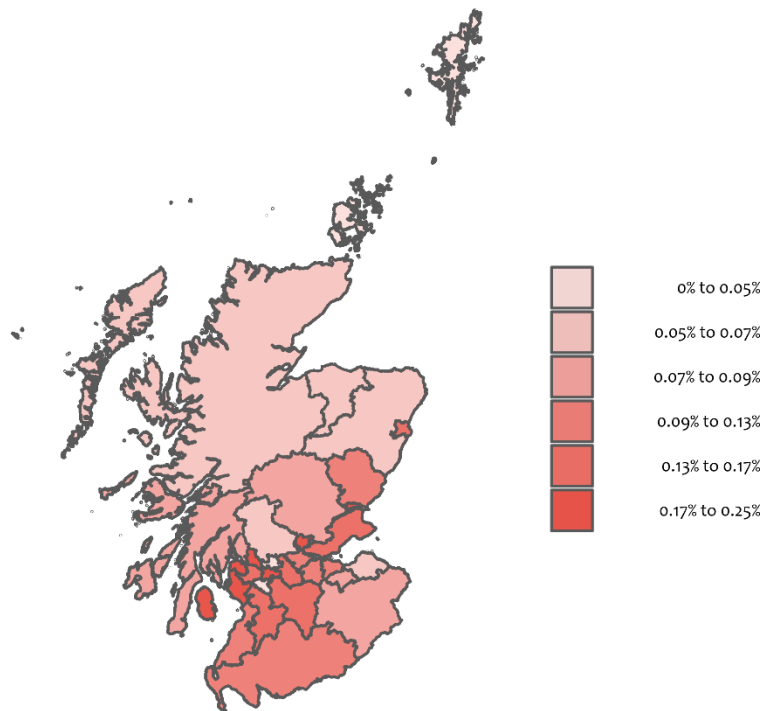


Business Object

The national rate of imprisonment in Scotland⁶ was 0.1% at the end of March. 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 March 2023.

Rate of Imprisonment by Local Authority



Business Object

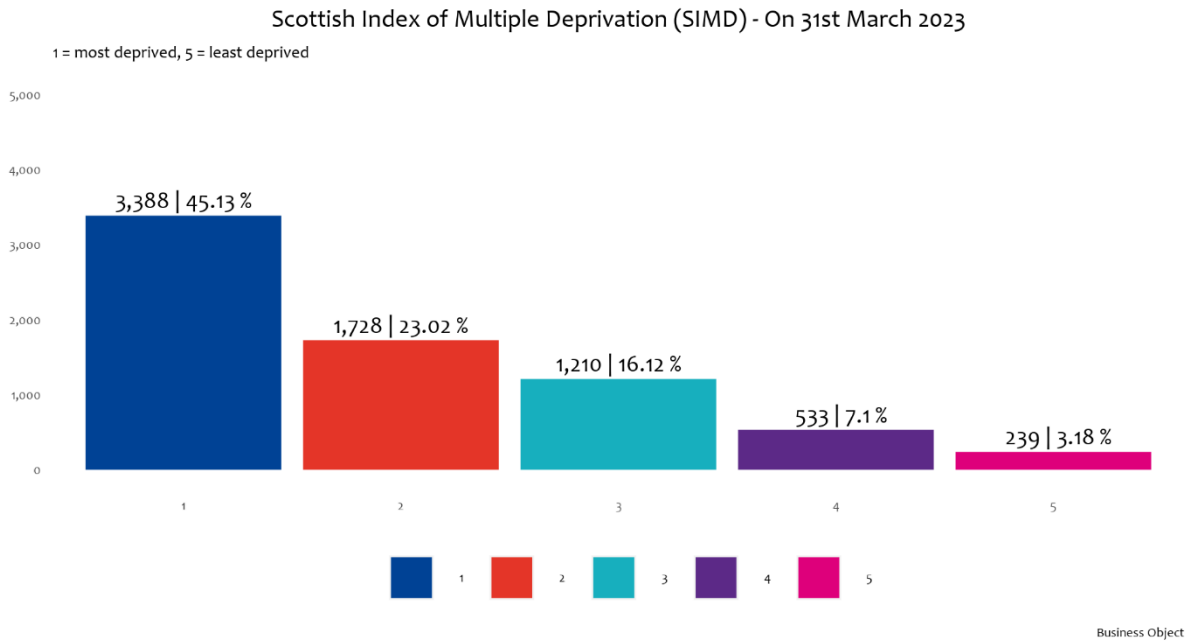
⁶ The Scottish population figures used to calculate the rate of imprisonment was obtained from [Mid-2020 Population Estimates Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/population-estimates-scotland)

The table below illustrates the total number of individuals in custody on 31st March, broken down by length of sentence per LA.

	Undetermined Sentence	Remand	Less than 3 months	3 months - Less than 6 months	6 months - Less than 1 Year	1 Year - less than 2 Years	2 Years - less than 4 Years	Over 4 Years (including Life)	All
Aberdeen City	4	104	5	7	11	49	45	122	347
Aberdeenshire	2	44	1	0	9	20	18	71	165
Angus	2	40	1	3	5	9	16	37	113
Argyll And Bute	0	17	0	2	4	6	5	33	67
City Of Edinburgh	6	171	2	9	15	55	71	274	603
Clackmannanshire	1	20	0	6	7	16	14	35	99
Dumfries And Galloway	4	61	3	7	7	13	19	66	180
Dundee City	2	138	5	12	16	28	35	124	360
East Ayrshire	1	71	2	9	9	18	30	71	211
East Dunbartonshire	0	12	1	2	3	4	5	22	49
East Lothian	0	19	1	1	2	9	12	31	75
East Renfrewshire	0	12	0	2	4	6	0	14	38
Falkirk	0	72	3	4	16	21	23	74	213
Fife	6	102	1	15	29	57	79	229	518
Glasgow City	6	346	11	34	59	122	121	627	1326
Highland	2	48	2	4	10	17	15	78	176
Inverclyde	2	49	1	8	6	5	15	74	160
Midlothian	0	22	0	3	2	4	7	34	72
Moray	1	29	0	2	4	4	5	26	71
Na H-Eileanan Siar	0	9	0	1	2	1	1	5	19
North Ayrshire	1	71	0	9	15	26	22	96	240
North Lanarkshire	5	152	3	19	21	40	50	243	533
Orkney Islands	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3	6
Outwith Scotland	20	109	1	6	5	25	46	148	360
Perth And Kinross	1	29	0	7	2	11	15	66	131
Renfrewshire	2	61	2	11	11	23	32	116	258
Scottish Borders	0	25	0	2	4	8	12	36	87
Shetland Islands	0	2	0	0	1	2	3	1	9
South Ayrshire	2	40	1	9	6	19	18	51	146
South Lanarkshire	7	135	3	17	20	41	39	196	458
Stirling	1	23	1	1	4	6	8	24	68
Unidentifiable Address	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	3	7
West Dunbartonshire	3	35	0	4	9	22	26	70	169
West Lothian	2	60	2	6	7	31	21	92	221
Not on Prison Records	0	3	0	0	2	0	2	3	10

Deprivation

The data extracted from the Prison Records on 31st March 2023 indicates that 45.13% of the prison population come from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland while 3.18% come from the least deprived areas⁷.

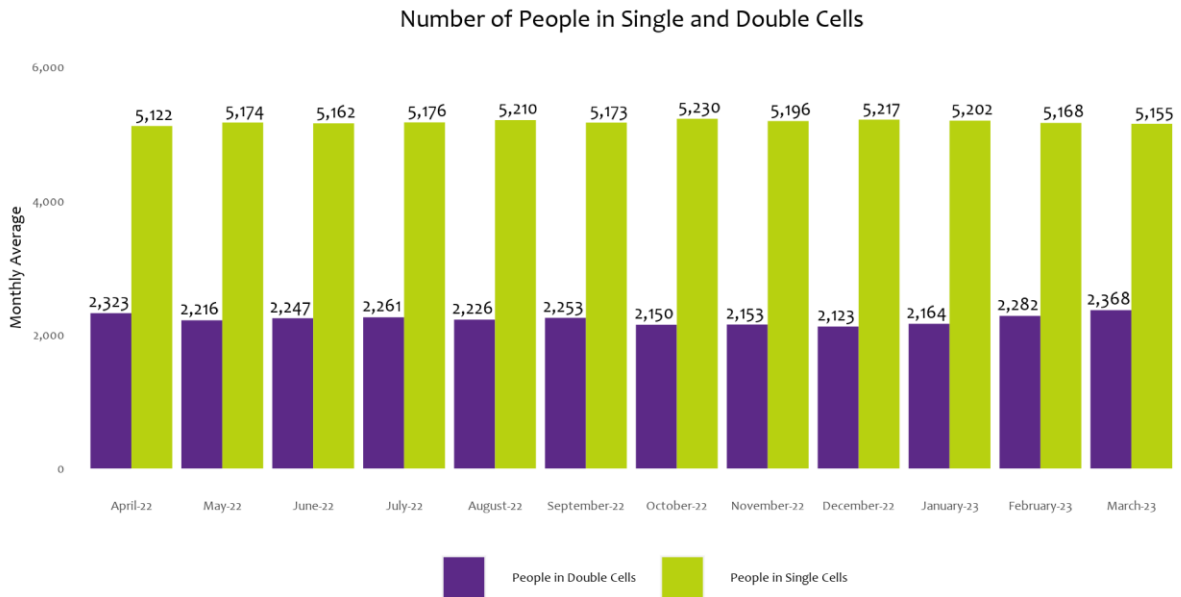


⁷ The Scottish Index Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a relative measure of deprivation across 6,976 small areas. SIMD ranks from most deprived (ranked 1) to least deprived (ranked 6,976). This Public Information Page linked SIMD Geographical Data to the postcode of those in our care and focused on the areas below 20% most deprived data zones in Scotland.

10.0 Prison Estate & Configuration

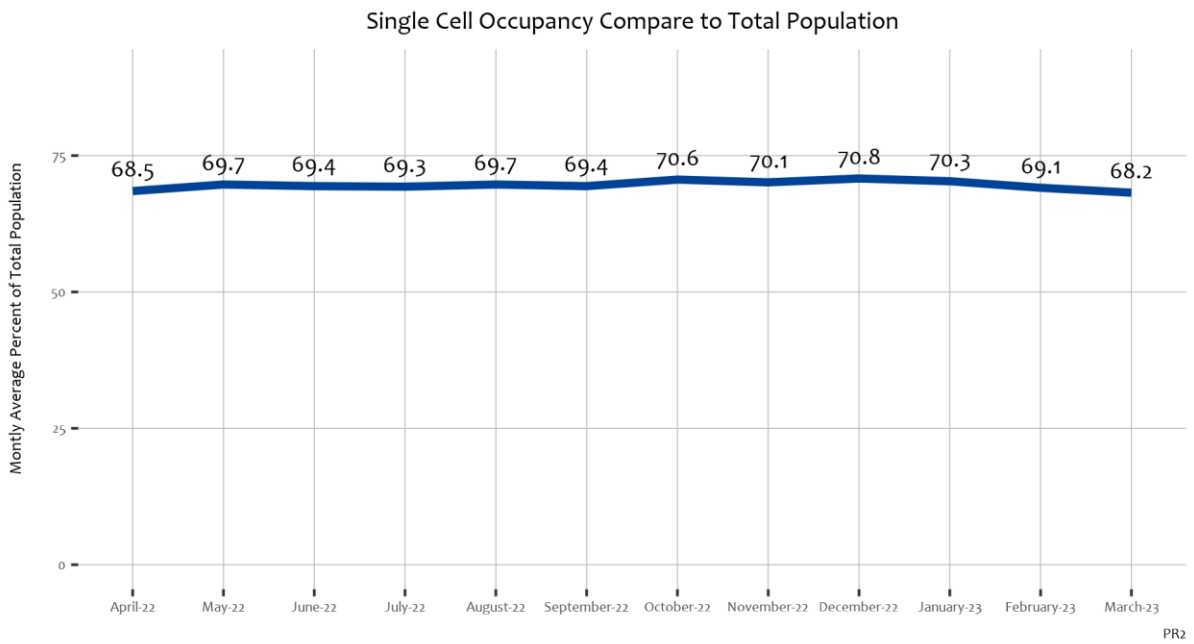
On 31st March 2023, only one establishment was operating over the agreed Temporary Operating Capacity (TOC). Another seven establishments were operating very close to TOC. In total there are 501 available spaces across the estate; however, this data in isolation does not provide an accurate picture. 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 and Polmont, both of which hold a specific category of prisoner.

The number of people accommodated in single cells reached its highest monthly average in January, 5,202 individuals, slightly reducing to 5,155 in March. The number of individuals in double cells has increased from an average of 2,164 individuals in January to 2,368 individuals in March.



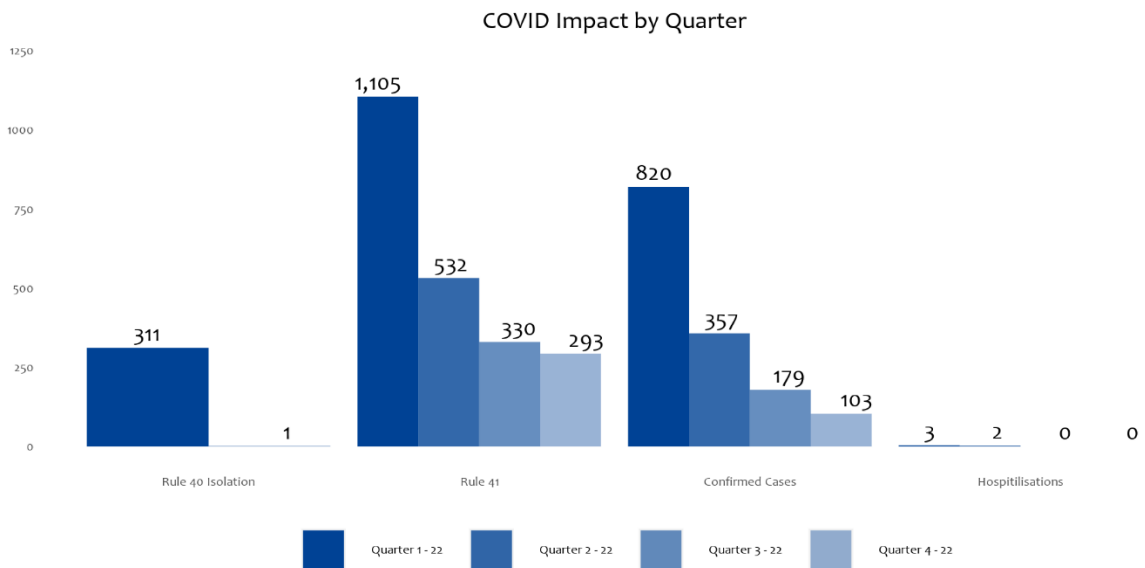
PR2

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 68-70% in Q4 22/23, as can be observed in the chart below:



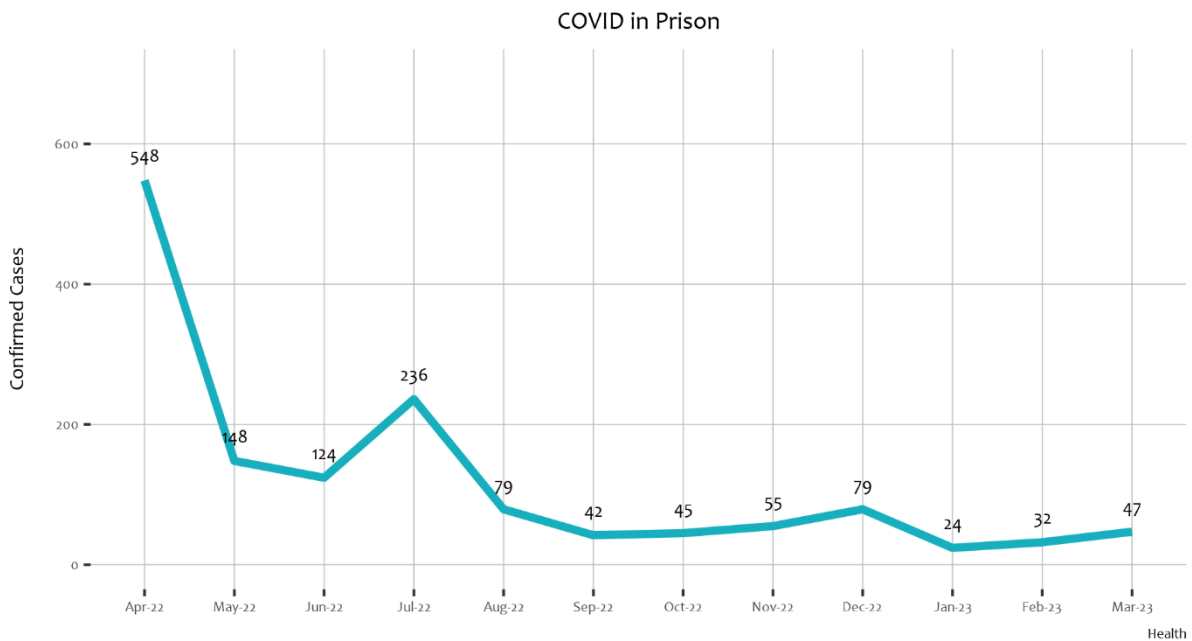
11.0 COVID-19

The impact of Covid-19 on our prison population has continued to reduce in Q4 22/23 compared to Q3 22/23. There were 103 positive cases of Covid-19 in prison. This is a reduction of 45.5% compared to the 179 positive cases observed in the previous quarter. None of those positive cases required hospitalization in Q4 22/23.



Health

The graph below illustrates the number of positive Covid-19 cases in each month between April-22 and March-23. The number reduced considerably, from 548 cases in April-22 to 24 cases in January-23 and increased steadily throughout Q4 22/23, reaching 47 cases in March-23.

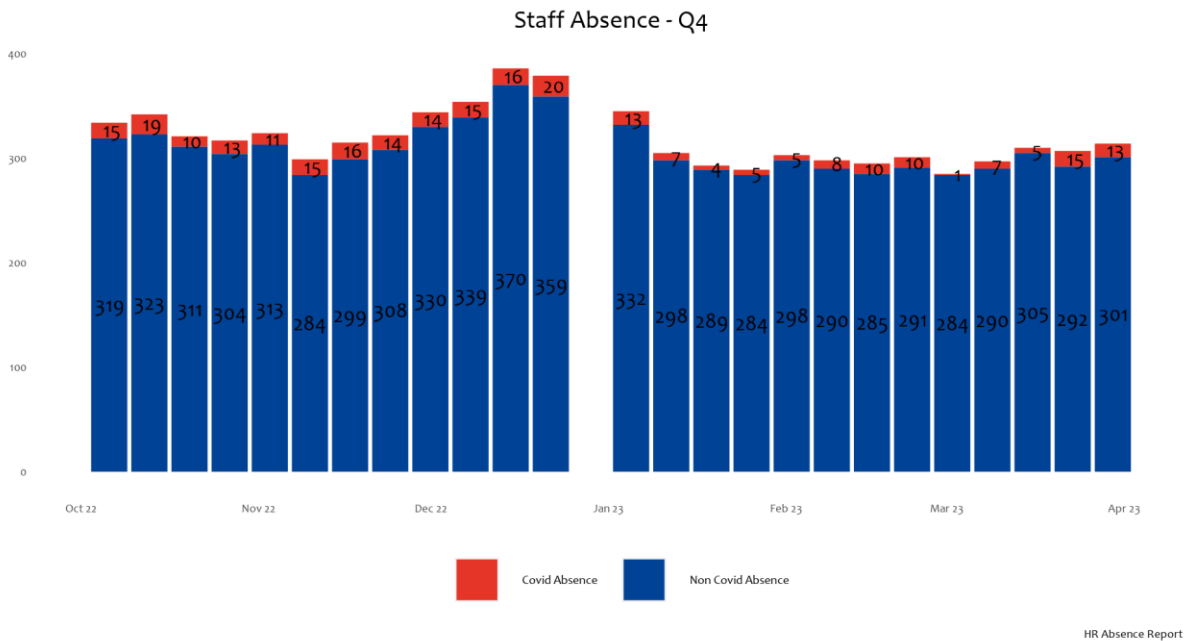


Health

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

12.0 Staff Absence

Staff absence reduced in January and maintained relatively stable throughout February and March. The highest number was observed in the first week of January, 345 staff. Covid-19 related absences reduced in Quarter 4 compared to Quarter 3. The quarterly Covid-19 related absence in Quarter 4 was 8 staff compared to 15 staff in Quarter 3.

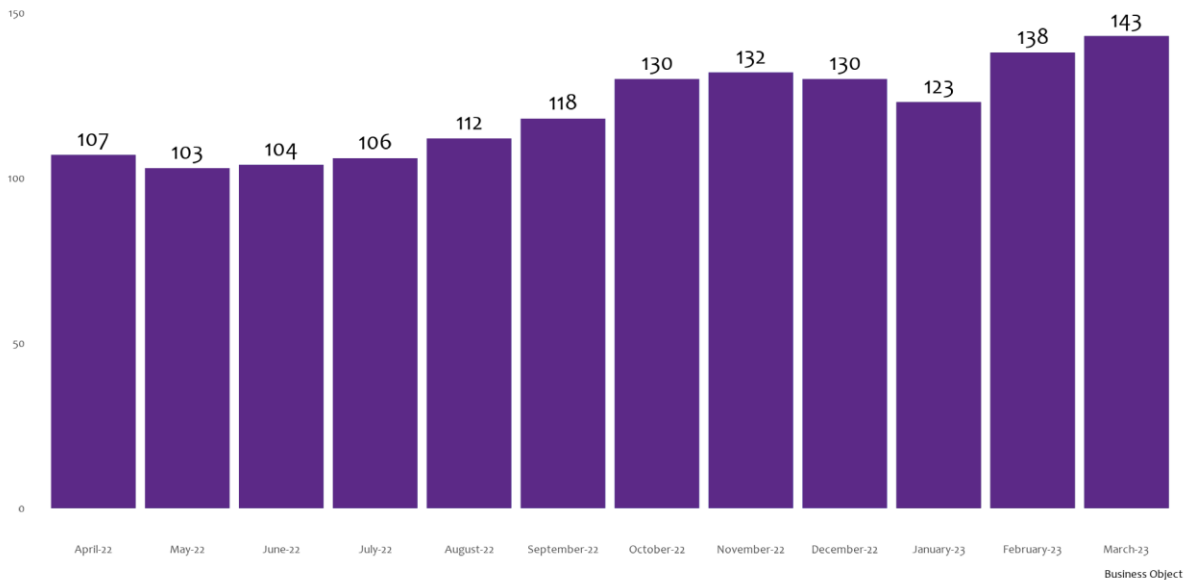


13.0 Open Estate

To progress to less secure conditions, an individual has to undergo case management and the level of risk for this decision must be agreed by the SPS and key partners. All convicted population can be eligible once the criteria is met. This process is managed for adult males via Castle Huntly, HMP&YOI Polmont for Young People and HMP&YOI Cornton Vale for the female estate.

The population of Castle Huntly (also known as the Open Estate) increased in Q4 22/23 compared to the previous quarter. The monthly average of individuals housed in Castle Huntly was 143 in March, which comprised 50.2% of the spaces available. This is an increase of 10% compared to the 130 individuals in Castle Huntly in December.

Open Estate Population



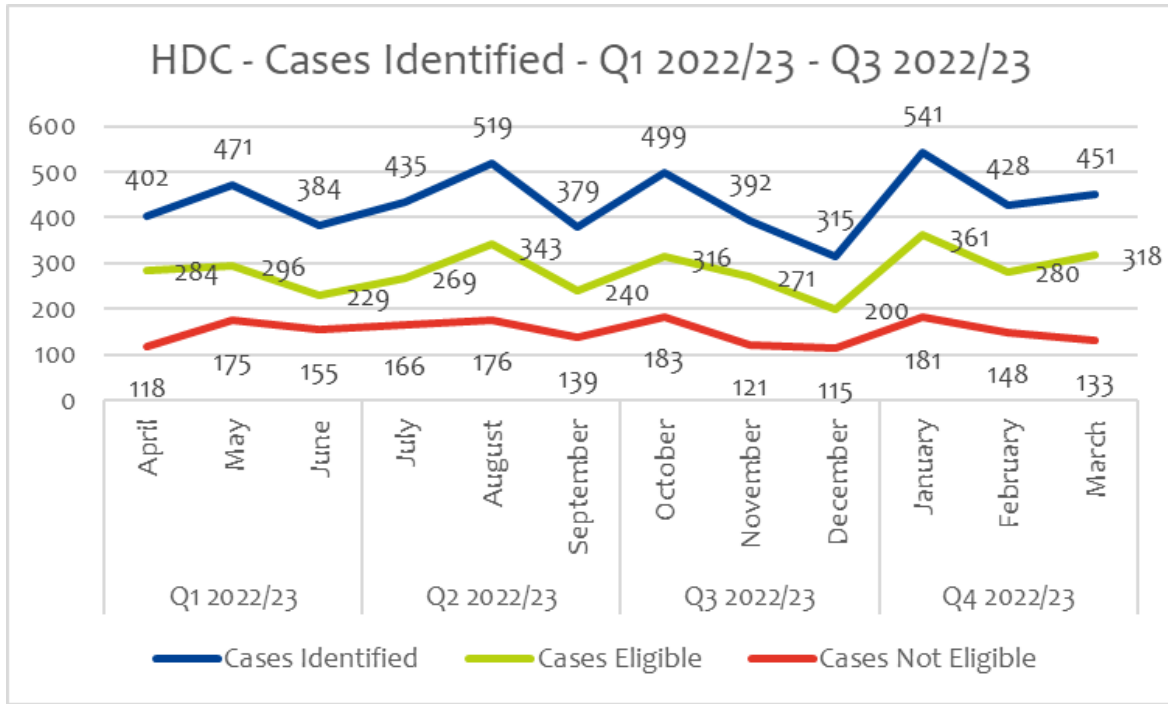
Identifying people held in less secure conditions within HMP&YOI Polmont and HMP&YOI Cornton Vale is complicated by the structure of management information held by SPS; work is underway to report upon these populations.

14.0 Home Detention Curfew

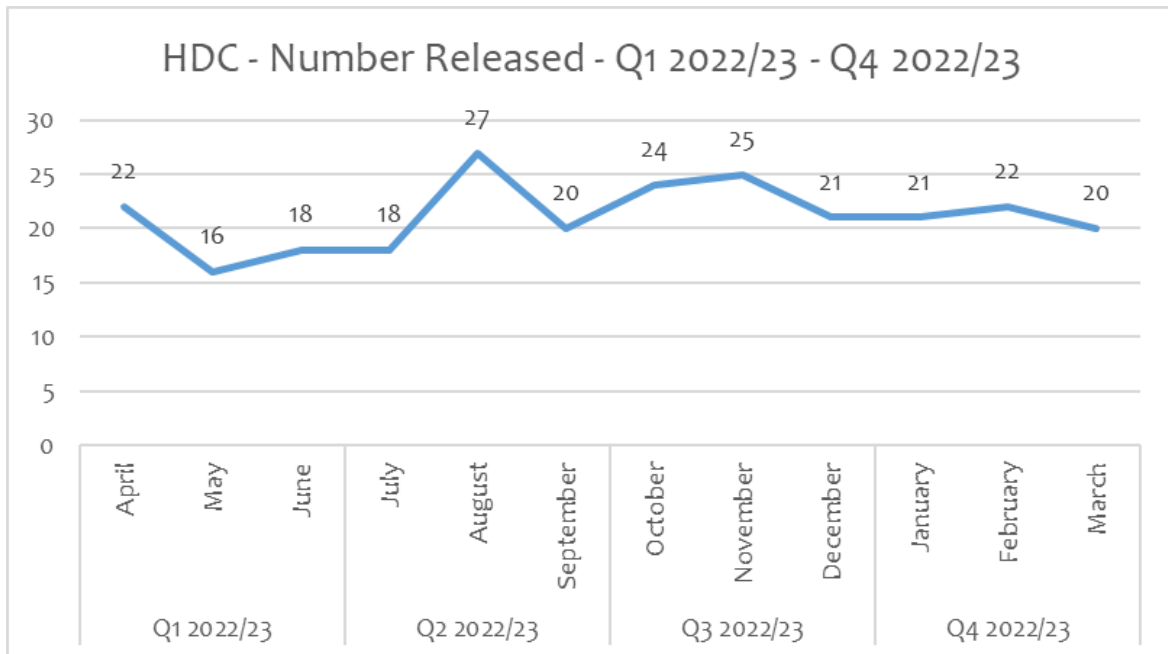
In Q4 22/23 there were a total of 1,420 cases identified which met the basic standard criteria to apply for Home Detention Curfew (HDC). After further checks on those identified 32% (462) of the cases were not eligible; 67% (959) were eligible to apply for HDC and continued through the rest of the process.

The figures show that from Q3 22/23 to Q4 22/23 there was a 17.7% increase in cases identified as meeting the criteria to apply for HDC (1,206 in Q3; 1,420 in Q4). There was an

10.2% increase in the cases which were not eligible (421 in Q3; 462 in Q4) and an increase of 21.8% in cases which were eligible (787 in Q3; 959 in Q4).



The total number of individuals who were released on HDC within Q4 22/23 was 63, seven less than Q3 22/23.



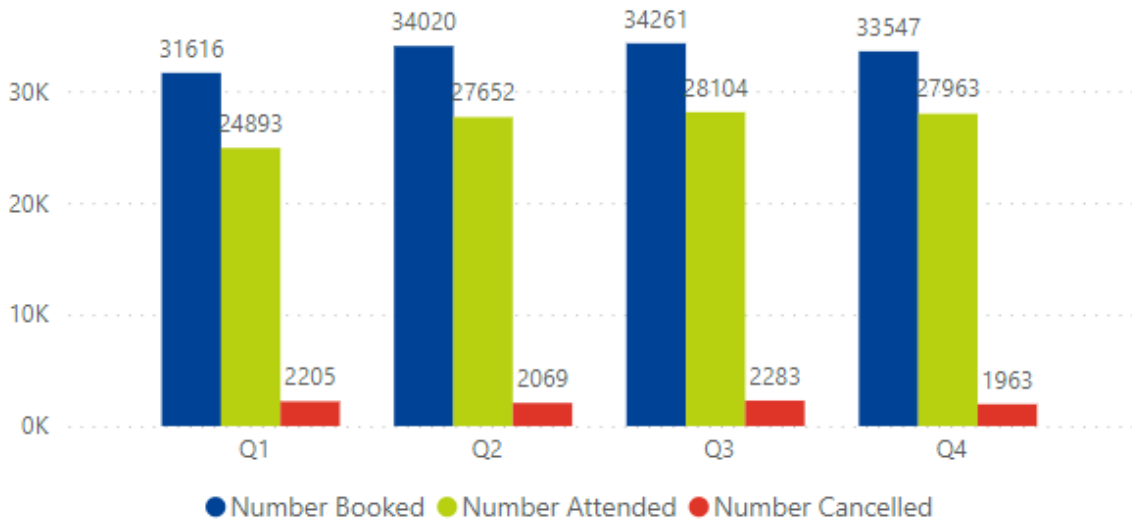
15.0 Face to Face & Virtual Visits

Face to Face

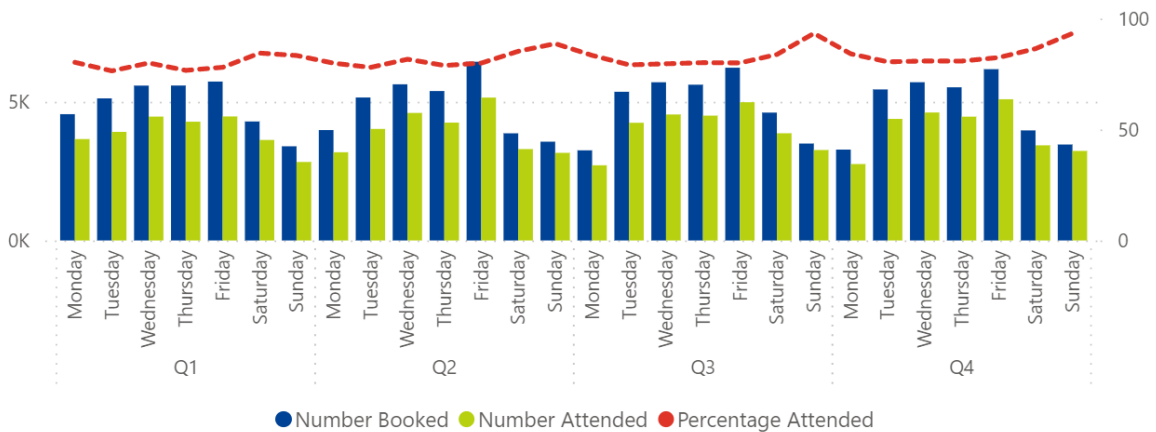
In the financial year 2022/23, 108,612 face to face visits were attended. With an average prison population of 7,409 across the year, face to face visits attended per prisoner is 14.66.

Compared to last quarter, there was a decrease of 2% in booked visits from 34,261 to 33,547 and a decrease of 0.5% in attended visits from 28,104 to 27,963. The figures remain relatively stable throughout the year though with a variance increase/decrease for booked visits sitting between 0.7 to 2% and attended visits between 0.5 to 1.6%.

Face to Face - Visit Outcomes - Q1 2022/23 - Q4 2022/23



Face to Face - Booked vs Joined vs % Joined - Q1 2022/23 - Q4 2022/23

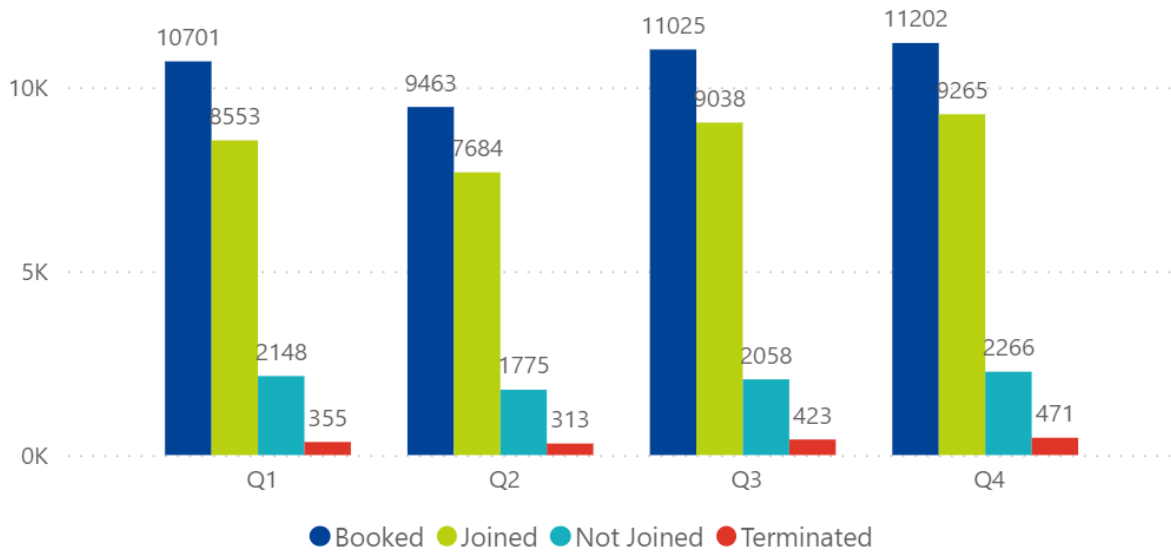


Virtual Visits

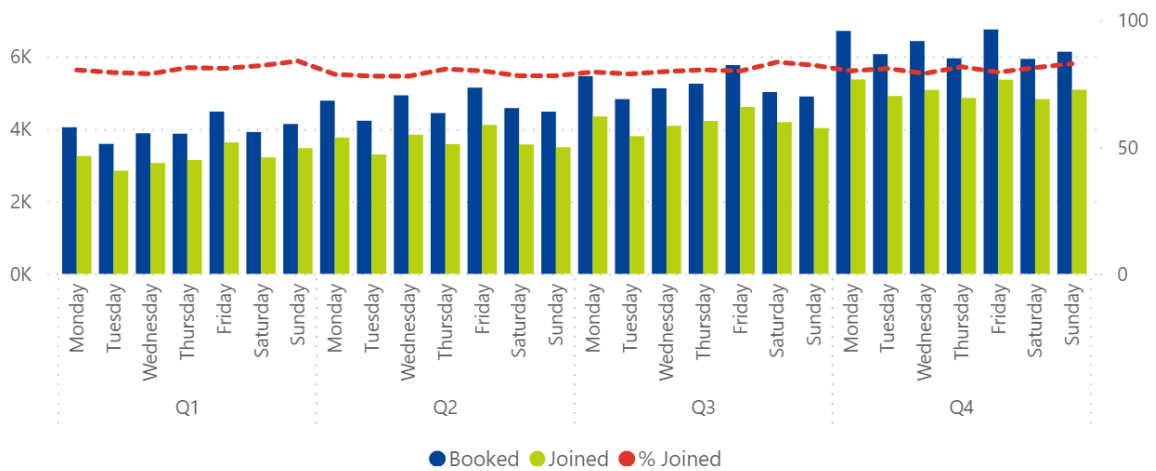
In the financial year 2022/23 there have been 34,840 virtual visits attended. With an average prison population of 7,409 across the year, virtual visits attended per prisoner is 4.84.

Compared to last quarter, the figures show an increase of 1.6% booked visits from 11,025 to 11,202 and an increase of 2.5% attended visits from 9,038 to 9,265. The figures over the year show that there was an 11% decrease for booked visits and a 10% decrease for attended visits in Q2. However, these figures have recovered by 16.5% and 17.6% respectively in Q3 and have risen slightly in Q4.

Virtual Visits - Visit Outcomes - Q1 2022/23 - Q4 2022/23



Virtual Visits - Booked vs Joined vs % Joined - Q1 2022/23 - Q4 2022/23



16.0 Additional Information and Useful Links

About this report

The Public Information Page (PIP) is a quarterly report published by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) to provide transparency about various metrics related to the running of prisons in Scotland. Data is extracted from SPS management information systems and compiled into the PIP report each quarter. Because this data comes from live systems and is extracted at various points throughout the year, it can differ from other similar data in the public domain, such as the Scottish Prison Population Statistics. The data compiled in this report is not subject to the same level of quality assurance as the official statistics, although every effort is made to ensure its accuracy before publication.

Other data sources

- **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. The 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 that highlights 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](#).

- **Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)**

The purpose of the SIMD is that it “identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across all of Scotland in a consistent way. It allows effective targeting of policies and funding where the aim is to wholly or partly tackle or take account of area concentrations of multiple deprivation. More information is available [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 \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)