

# SPS Quarterly Public Information Page

**Prison by Numbers Quarter 1 (April - June  
2022)**

**Unlocking Potential - Transforming Lives.**

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## 1.0 Key Messages

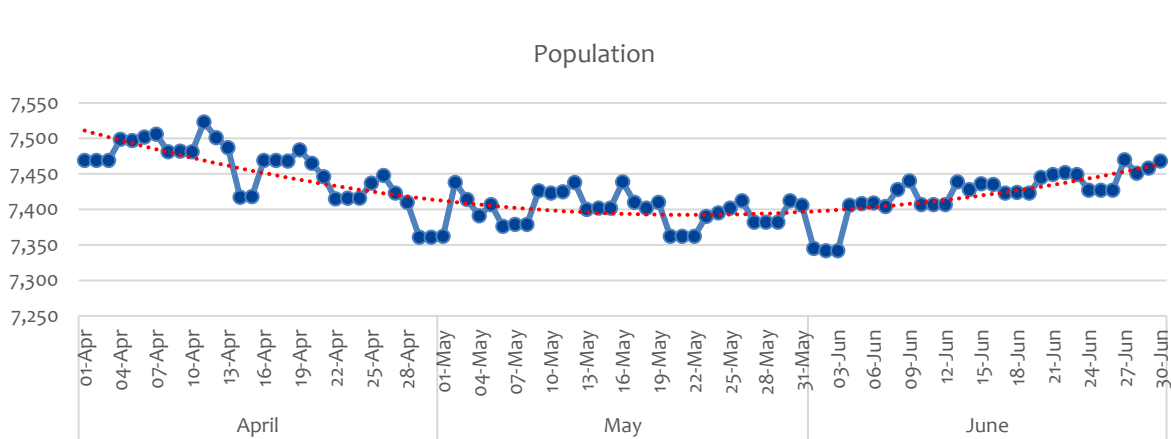
Key messages drawn from this quarterly report are as follows:

- The weekly average population reduced by 0.47% in Quarter 1 compared to the end of the previous Quarter.
- The number of those in our care who must be accommodated separately reached 60.48% in June.
- The remand population decreased by 1.78% in Quarter 1, although still comprised 25.97% of the total population at the end June.
- The convicted population increased 0.22% in Quarter 1 compare to the previous Quarter.
- The Young People population continued to decrease while the Female population increased by 1.71% in Quarter 1.
- In reviewing the characteristics of those in our care in Quarter 1, the majority of the prisoner population were male (96.10%), heterosexual (92.35%), had a marital status of single (78.71%) and white (94.75%).
- The national rate of imprisonment in Scotland reached 0.14% at the end of June. Rates of imprisonment equal to or above the national rate were observed in 13 of 32 Local Authorities.
- COVID-19 continues to present challenges to ongoing management of the prison estate. There were 820 positive cases with 3 individuals transferred to hospital in this Quarter. The SPS continue to respond to the ongoing management of the pandemic in our prisons in accordance with Scottish Government guidelines.

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

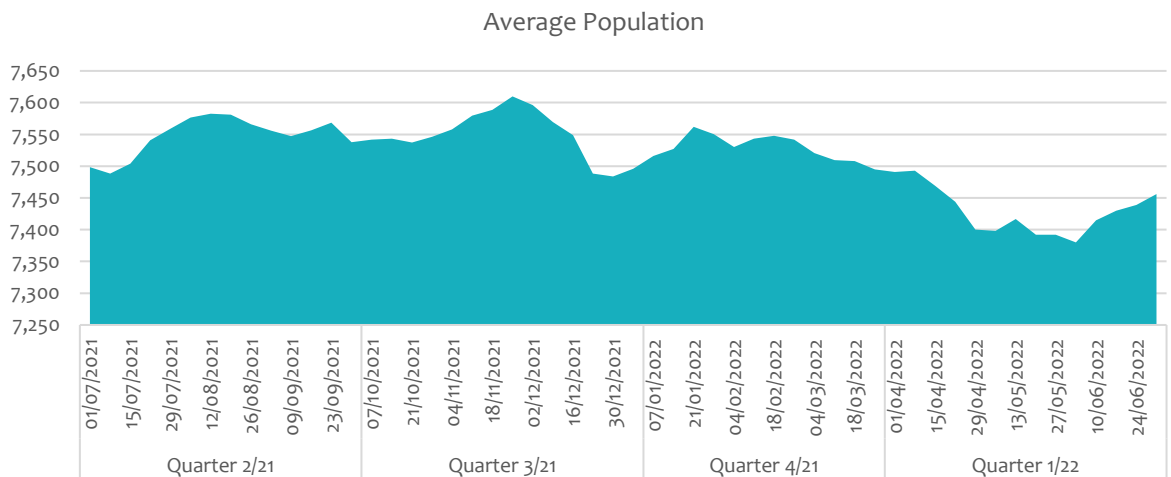
## 2.0 Prison Population

The daily prison population fluctuated throughout Quarter 1, from 7,469 in the beginning of April to 7,468 at the end of June. The highest number observed occurred on April 11<sup>th</sup> was 7,523. Overall, the daily prison population was only reduced by 0.01% in Quarter 1 compared to the end of the previous Quarter.



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When considering the weekly average prison population, the reduction observed throughout Quarter 1 proved to be slightly different from what was observed for the daily prison population. The first week of the Quarter started with an average prison population of 7,491 individuals. The weekly average population reduced to the lowest level of the Quarter in the beginning of June, 7,380, increasing steadily until the end of the month, when it reached 7,456 individuals. Overall, the weekly average population reduced by 0.47% in Quarter 1 compared to the end of the previous Quarter.



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<sup>1</sup> SPS Business Objects report April-Jun 2022

<sup>2</sup> SPS Business Objects report Jul/21-Jun/22

The SPS publishes Prison Population Reports illustrating the population in custody broken down by custody type, gender and age, as well as the population on Home Detention Curfew by gender. The Prison Population Reports can be found on the links below:

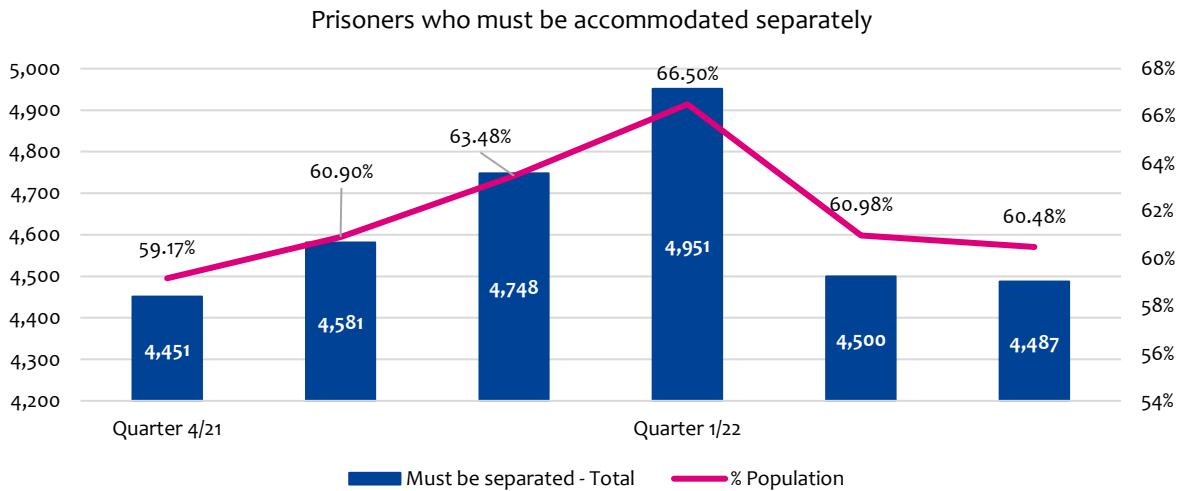
[Prison Population Report – Weekly time series](#)

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

### 3.0 Complexities of Population

The rising overall population numbers are of concern in terms of ongoing management when we move close to population and design capacity; however also of note is the rising complexity of Scotland’s prison population because 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 peaked in April, accounting for 66.50% of the prison population. That proportion reduced to 60.98% in May, followed by 60.48% in June. The decreasing tendency observed in the last two months of Quarter 1 was mainly driven by the slight reduction of the remand population, as well as the reduction those kept separate for medical reasons. The graph below illustrates the total number, as well as the proportion of those in our care who need to be accommodated separately<sup>3</sup> due legal status (convicted / untried), gender, offence type, protection status, health care and specific management issues.



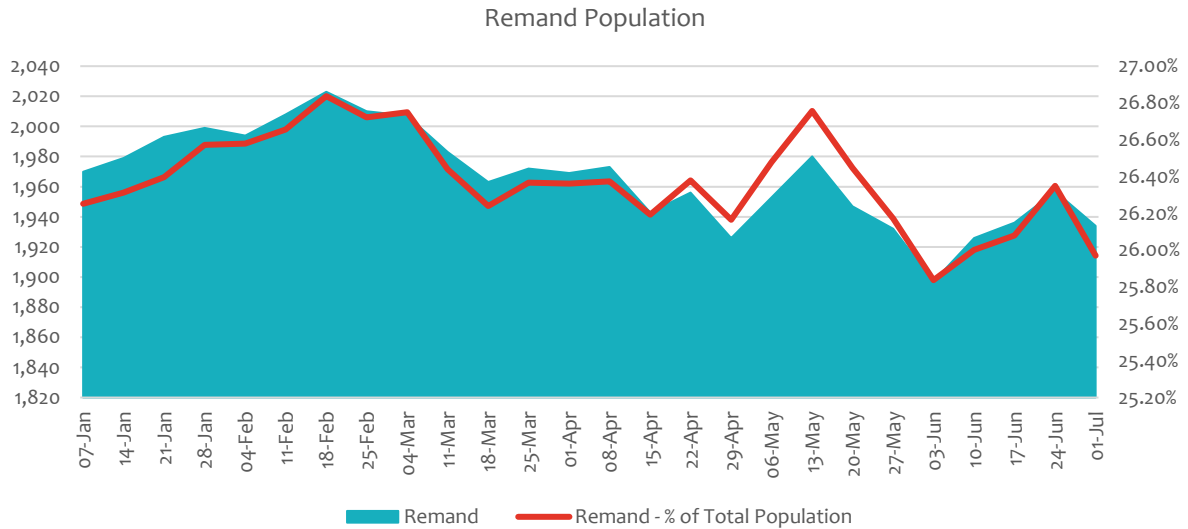
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<sup>3</sup> The remand population and those with history of sexual offending comprised the vast majority of the individuals who need to be accommodated separately

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

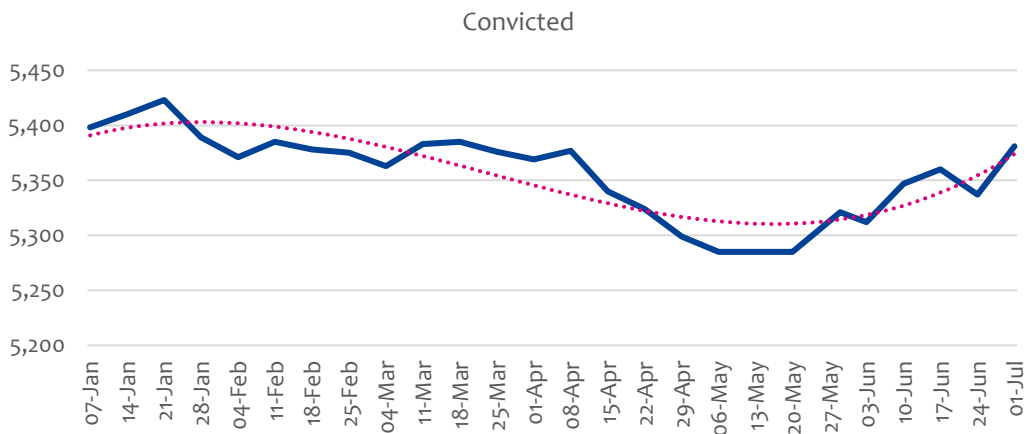
## 4.0 Legal Status (Convicted & Remand)

The remand population decreased during April and started increasing in May, reaching 1,980 individuals in mid-May, the highest number observed in Quarter 1. The remand population reached the lowest level in the beginning of June, 1,897 individuals and finished Quarter 1 with 1,934 individuals. Overall, the remand population decreased by 1.78% in Quarter 1, although they still comprised 25.97% of the total population at the end of June. The number of those on remand remains high compared to the pre-pandemic period. High numbers of individuals on remand can create management issues for establishments, such as people having to move to convicted halls early; and long periods on remand mean that individuals spend longer without access to the full regime.



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The convicted population has shown a decrease between the beginning of April and mid-May, driven by the reduction on the short-term population, especially those serving a sentence of 1 to 2 years. By the end of June, the short-term population started increasing again, driven by the increase of the number of individuals serving a 0 to 12 months sentence, bringing the total convicted population to an overall 0.22% increase in Quarter 1 compared to the previous Quarter.



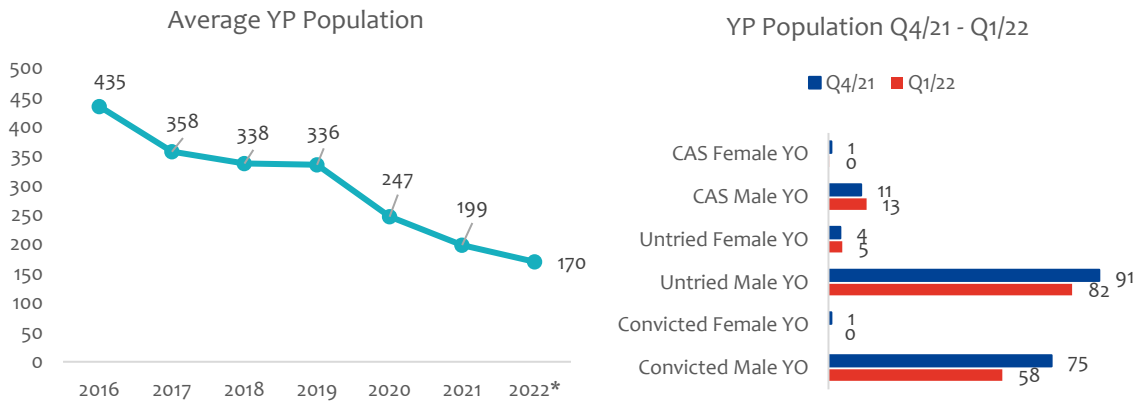
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<sup>5</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Jun 2022

<sup>6</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Jun 2022

## 5.0 Young People in our Care

The number of Young People (YP) in custody remains low in comparison to 2016-2019 when the population exceeded 300. In 2021 the YP average population reduced to 199 people. The average YP population in the first Quarter of 2022 has reduced to 170 people. When looking at the breakdown of the average YP population and compared with last Quarter, it is possible to see that the untried male YP population decreased from 91 to 82 and the male YP convicted population decreased from 75 to 58. The other categories did not present significant changes.



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The table below provides a breakdown of the YP population, illustrating the variance in the population during Q1:

	Male YP Estate				Female YP Estate			
	April	May	June	% Variance by Q1 End	April	May	June	% Variance by Q1 End
Convicted	61	56	59	-3.29%	0	0	0	0.00%
Remand	84	83	79	-6.41%	4	5	5	23.81%
Convicted Awaiting Sentence (CAS)	9	15	14	63.64%	1	0	0	-100.00%
Prisoner Awaiting Deportation (PAD)	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
In Custody	154	154	152	-1.17%	5	5	5	0.00%

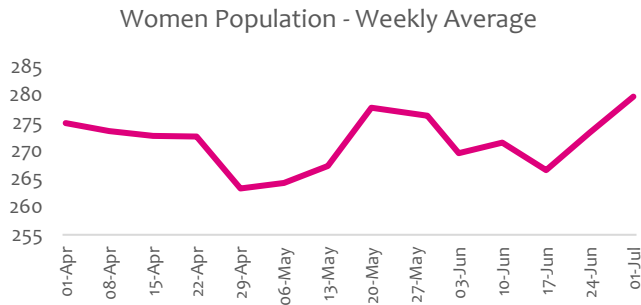
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<sup>7</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System - Business Objects & OD Population Management Jan-Jun 2022

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

## 6.0 Women in our Care

The weekly average women population reduced during April, reaching the lowest level of Quarter 1 at the end of the month. It fluctuated throughout May and June, steadily increasing until the end of the Quarter 1. In general, the weekly average women population increased by 1.71% compared to the end of the previous Quarter.

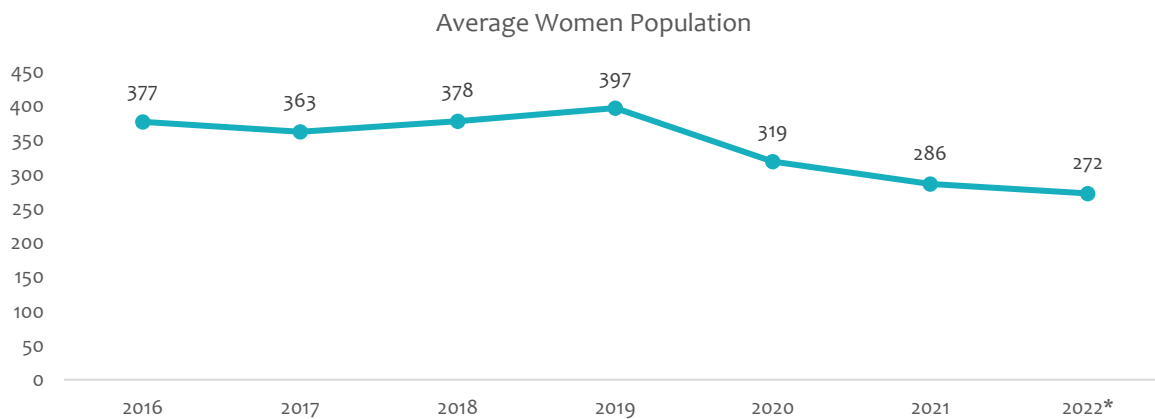


	April	May	June
Convicted	173	174	165
Remand	72	82	93
CAS	19	12	12
In Custody	264	268	271

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When considering the breakdown of the women’s estate, those on remand comprised 34.03% of the women population at the end of June. The remand male population reached 25.63% of the total male population at the same period.

The women’s population has been decreasing since 2019, reducing from an annual average of 397 to 286 in 2021, as observed below. At this time, it appears that this trend is continuing. The drop in the women’s population has significant implications for the management of this population, as we transition from acute short-term women to a longer term population with more community access.



<sup>9</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports April-Jun 2022



## 7.0 Equality and Diversity

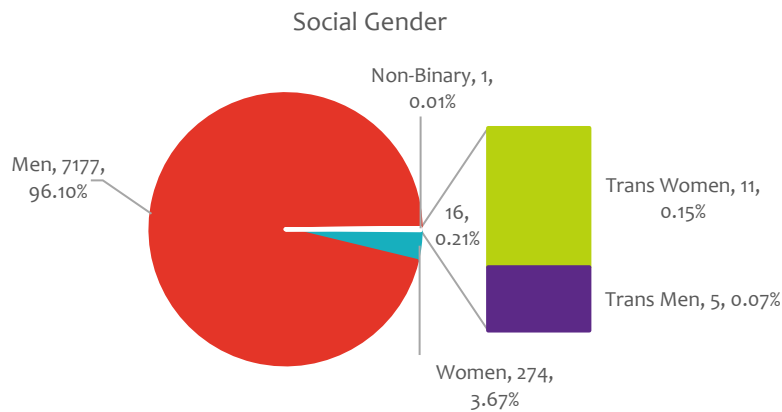
The Scottish Prison Service aims to provide accessible services to meet the needs of those in our care. This means an ongoing commitment to promote equal opportunities through policies and strategies to promote equality throughout all our establishments. The following data presents an overview of the diversity of the 7,468 residents in custody on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.<sup>10</sup>

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 spectrum<sup>11</sup> between man and woman.

In Quarter 1, 7,177 individuals in our care identified themselves as men and another 274 as women. Trans men and trans women comprised 0.07% and 0.15% of the prison population, respectively. Only 0.01% identified themselves as non-binary.



<sup>12</sup>

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.

<sup>10</sup> The Public Information Page is a working document. The inclusion of data on protected characteristics is being kept under review to ensure the public scrutiny requirements are met whilst protecting the privacy of those in our care.

<sup>11</sup> Available on

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/articles/whatisthedifferencebetweensexandgender/2019-02-21#:~:text=The%20UK%20government%20defines%20gender,they%20were%20assigned%20at%20birth>

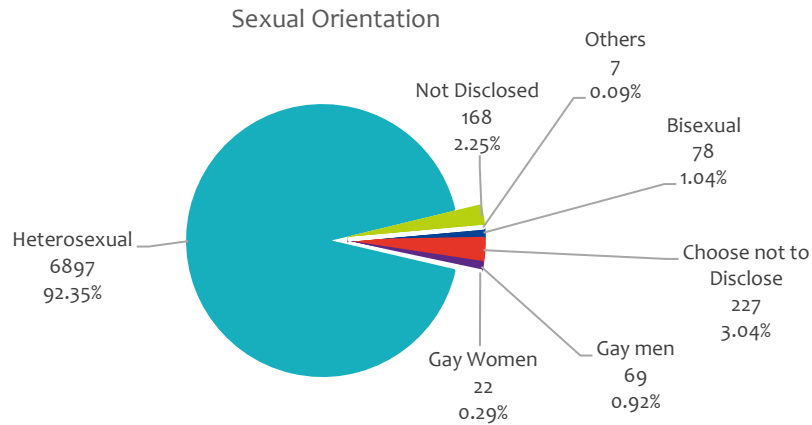
<sup>12</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jun 2022

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 1.

	<b>Men`s Estate</b>		<b>Women`s Estate</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<i>Single cell</i>	<i>Double cell</i>	<i>Single cell</i>	<i>Double cell</i>	
<b>Trans Men</b>	1	0	4	0	5
<b>Trans Women</b>	5	1	5	0	11
<b>Total</b>	6	1	9	0	16

### Sexual Orientation

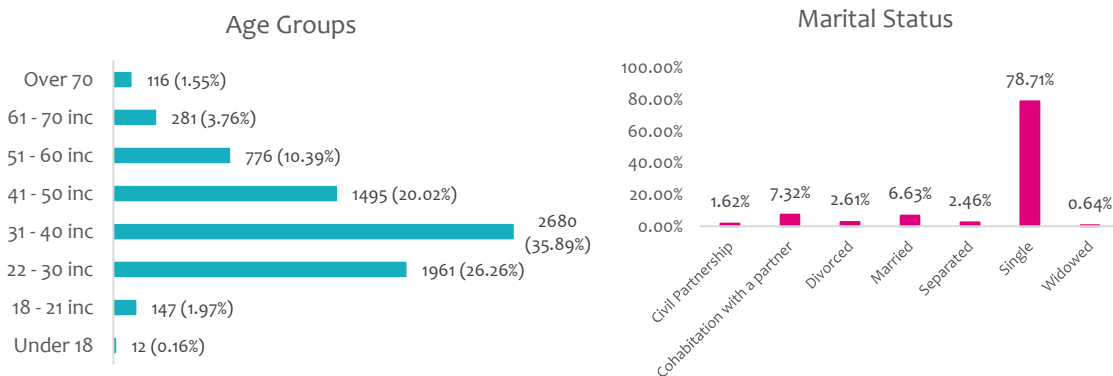
The vast majority of the people in our care declared themselves as heterosexual, 92.35%. Bisexuals, gay men and gay women comprised 2.26%. Another 3.04% preferred not to disclose while a further 2.25% were not obtained. More details are illustrated in the chart below.



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### Age Group and Marital Status

The chart below illustrates the prison population in Quarter 1 by age group and marital status. The highest age group are the individuals within 31 and 40 years old (35.89%), while the lowest age group comprises the individuals under 18 years old (0.16%).



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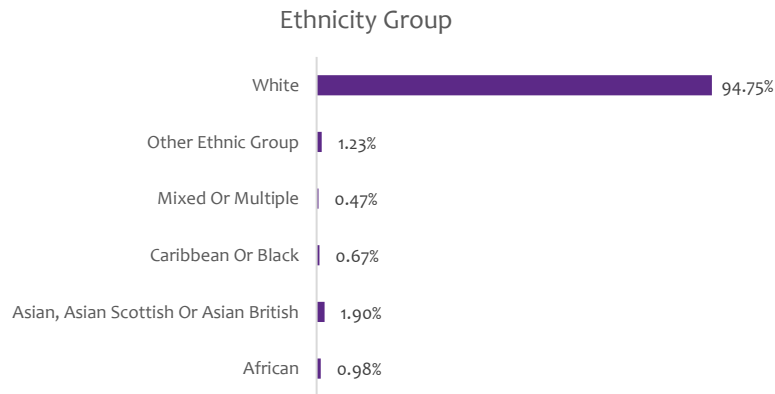
The vast majority of the individuals in our care reported themselves as single in Quarter 1, 78.71%. Another 7.32% and 6.63% reported as “cohabitation with a partner” and married, respectively.

<sup>13</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Jun 2022

<sup>14</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Jun 2022

### Ethnicity Group

In Quarter 1, 94.75% of the prison population declared themselves as white. Africans comprised 0.98% while Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British comprised 1.90%. Those who declared themselves Caribbean or Black were 0.67%. Other Ethnic Group and Mixed or Multiple represented 1.23% and 0.47%, respectively. More details can be observed on the chart below.



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### Disability

Almost a tenth, 9.57%, of residents in our prisons have told us that they have a disability. Another 88.55% did not report any disability and 1.87% opted not to disclose.

Disability		
Yes	715	9.57%
No	6,613	88.55%
Opted not to Disclose	140	1.87%

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## 8.0 Protection Populations

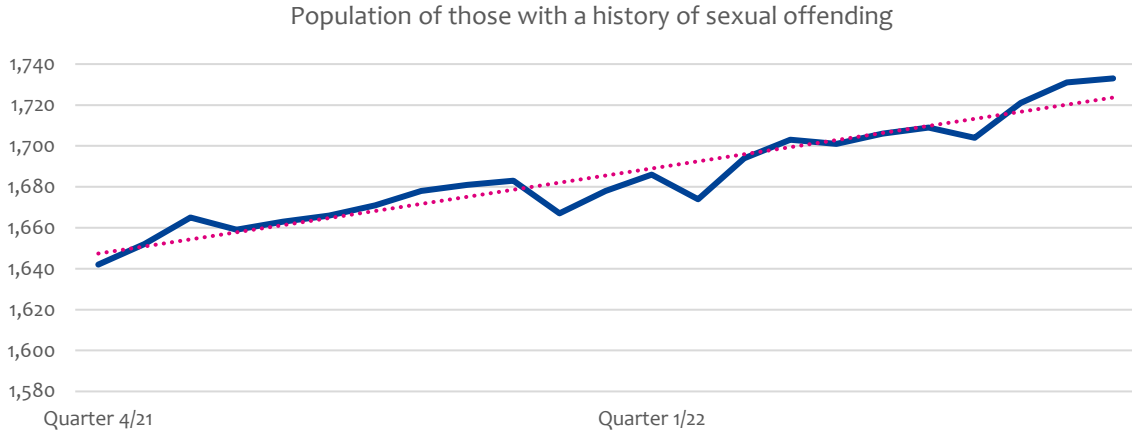
Across the estate there are people with a history of sexual offending in each of Scotland’s 15 prisons, including Cornton Vale.<sup>17</sup> This illustrates the extent of the accommodation issues in terms of this prisoner group, where there is a need to accommodate them across all establishments and for a variety of reasons. This impacts on the operational running of each prison as this category of prisoner must be separate from the mainstream population.

<sup>15</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Jun 2022

<sup>16</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Jun 2022

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

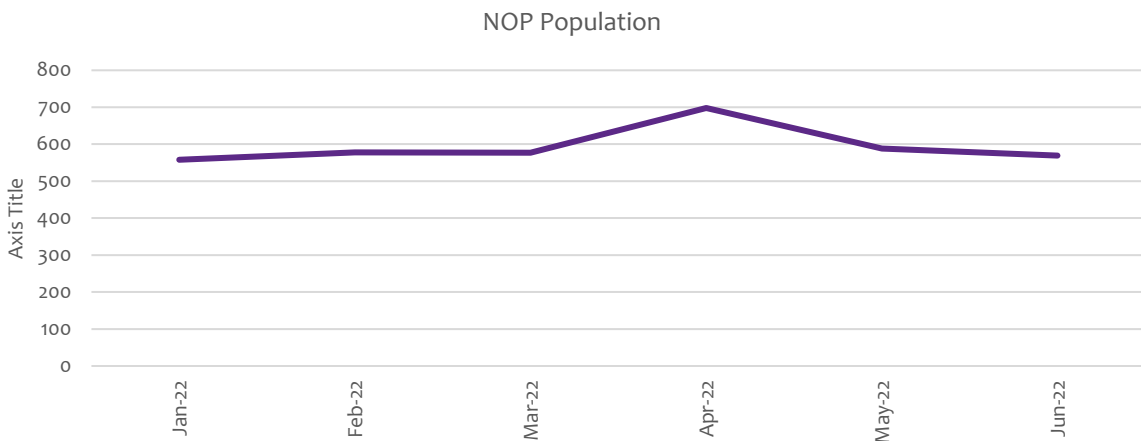
The population of those with a history of sexual offending in custody increased 3.13% in Quarter 1, compared to the previous Quarter. Between January and June, that population increased continuously and linearly by 5.68%, while the total prison population reduced by 0.76% in the same period.



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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 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 1, the number of individuals within the NOP population peaked in the last week of April and reduced since then, reaching the same level observed in January and February.



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<sup>18</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Jun 2022

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

## 9.0 Geography of Imprisonment in Scotland

When considering the prisons population by Local Authority (LA), Glasgow City has the largest number; 1,413 individuals in custody, comprising 18.92% of the total prison's population. The City of Edinburgh has the second largest prison population, with 580 individuals, followed by North Lanarkshire, Fife and South Lanarkshire with 527, 528 and 442 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 0.42% of the total of residents in prison.

According to the Prisons` Records, 4.18% of the individuals in our care recorded an address outwith Scotland, therefore they are not associated with any LA. Another 0.27% do not have an identifiable address or do not have any address recorded in our system.

The national rate of imprisonment in Scotland<sup>20</sup> reached 0.14% at the end of June. Rates of imprisonment equal or above the national rate were observed in 13 of the 32 LAs. The maps below illustrates the number of people in custody and the rate of imprisonment by LA on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

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<sup>20</sup> The Scottish population figures used to calculate the rate of imprisonment was obtained on [Mid-2020 Population Estimates Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)

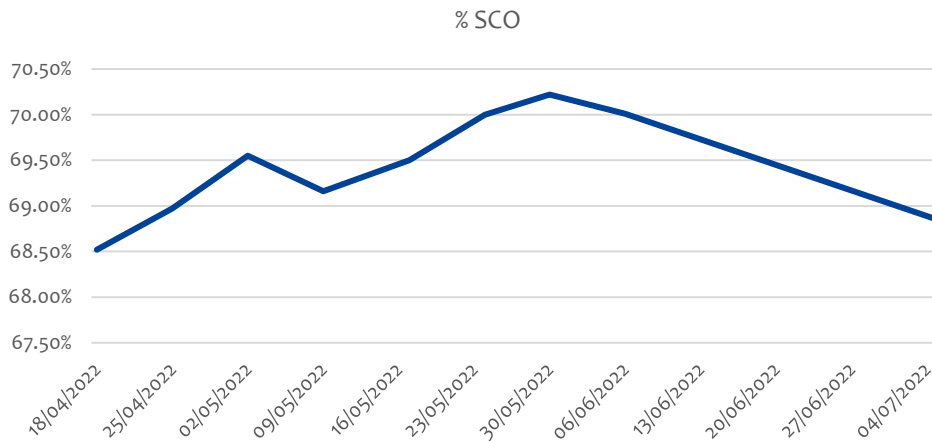


## 10.0 Prison Estate & Configuration

On 30th June 2022, three of the fifteen establishments were operating over the agreed Temporary Operating Capacity (TOC). Another eight establishments were operating very close to TOC. In total there are 557 available spaces, however, this data in isolation does not provide an accurate picture; many of the spaces are within specific category establishments therefore the population cannot be dispersed evenly across the estate. The available spaces lie predominantly within Castle Huntly, Cornton Vale and Polmont, all of which hold a specific category of prisoner.

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.

The single cell occupancy has varied between 68.52% and 70.22% in Quarter 1. This is slightly higher than the levels observed in the previous Quarter when it varied between 67% and 68.50%. However it is still below the levels observed in the same period last year, when the SCO reached almost 72%. The chart below details SCO against design capacity (which differs to that of the TOC).



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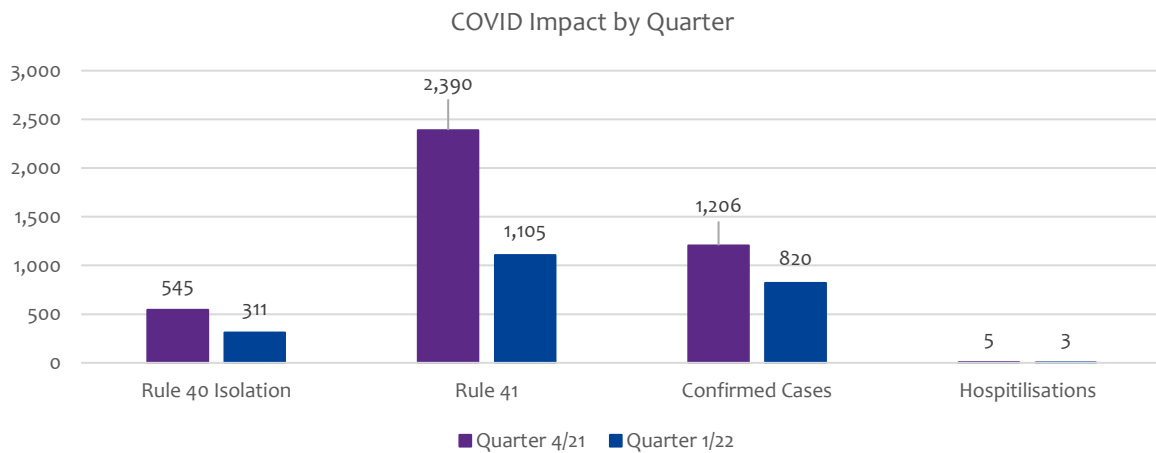
<sup>22</sup> SPS Operations Directorate Single Cell Occupancy & Business Objects Report April-Jun 2022



## 11.0 COVID-19

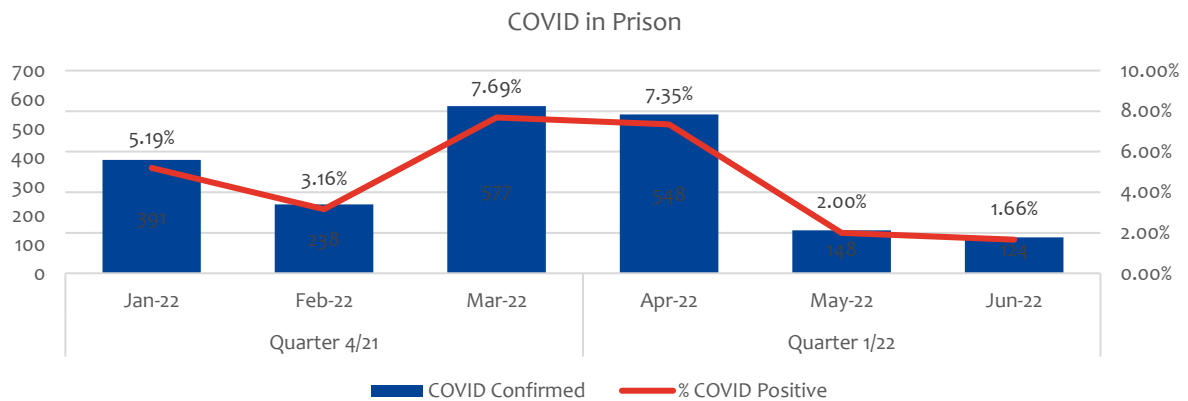
During late 2021, the SPS managed, agreed and implemented prison-specific guidance, including specific agreement on isolation, that were as consistent with the community as could be managed. As the Scottish Government has moved to cautiously relax regulations and protections during Q1, SPS has been collaborating 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 implemented across establishments as the number of individuals on Rule 40 (isolation for close contacts) reduced by 42.94% in Quarter 1. There were 820 positive cases. This is a reduction of 32.01% compared to the 1,206 positive cases observed in the previous quarter. The graph below illustrates the impact of Covid-19 in Quarter 4/21 and Quarter 1/22.



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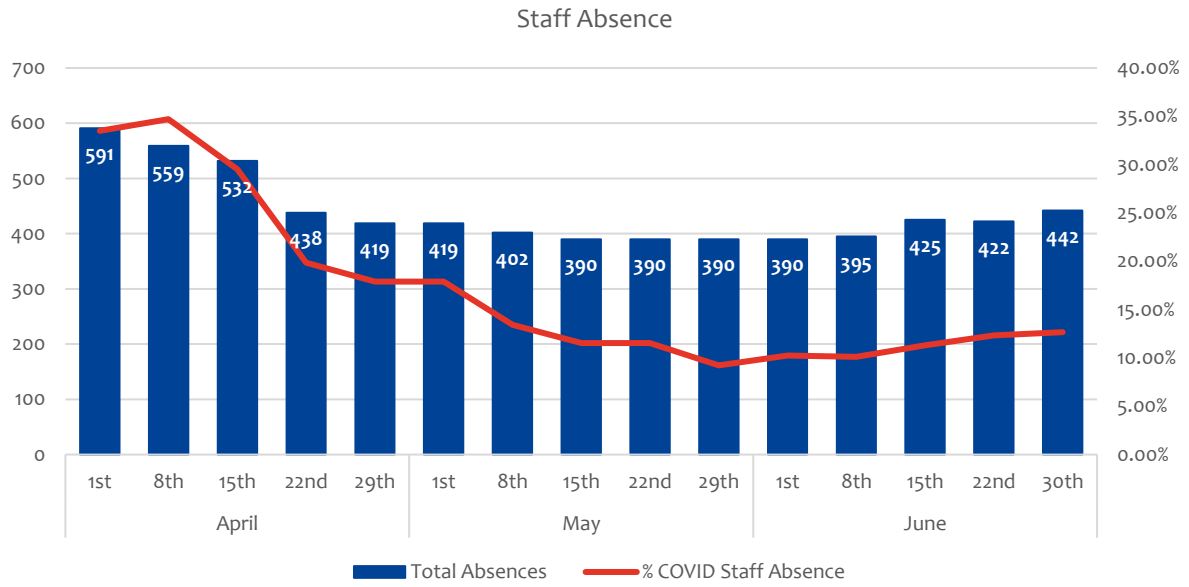
In Quarter 1, the number of positive cases reached its highest level in April with 548 confirmed cases. In May, the number significantly reduced to 148 cases, followed by another reduction in June.



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 by 34% between April 1<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>, increasing steadily through the end of the month. The graph below illustrates the overall staff absence and compares the percentage to Covid-19 related absences. In April, 29.08% of the staff absence was due to Covid-19. That proportion reduced to the lowest level at the end of May, 9.23%. At the end of Quarter 1, the volume of staff absent with Covid-19 accounted for 12.67%.



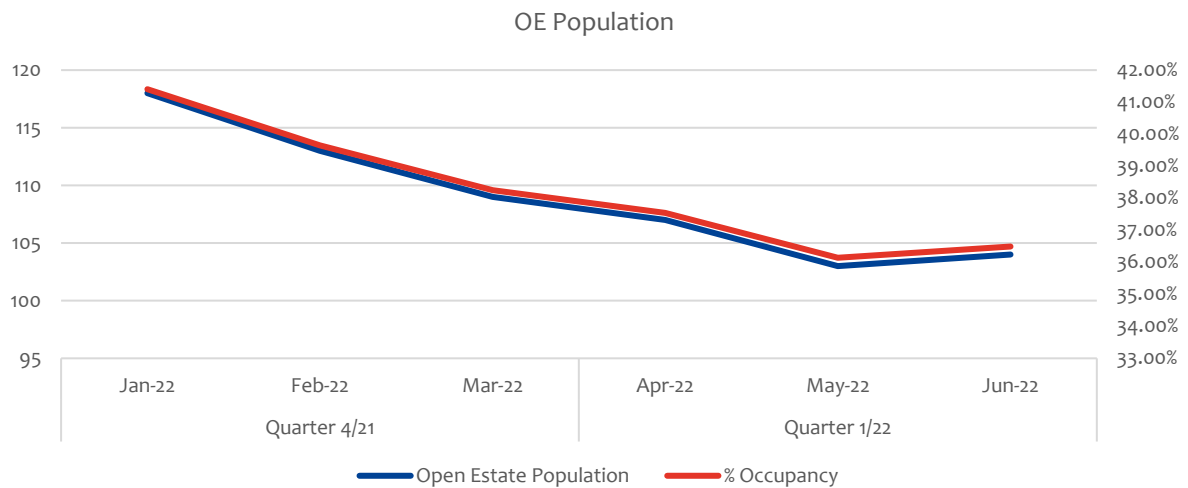
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<sup>24</sup> SPS Human Resource Staff Absence Data April-Jun 2022

## 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 continued to decrease in Quarter 1 compared to the previous Quarter. The monthly average of individuals housed at the Open Estate in March was 109 and it dropped to 104 individuals in June.



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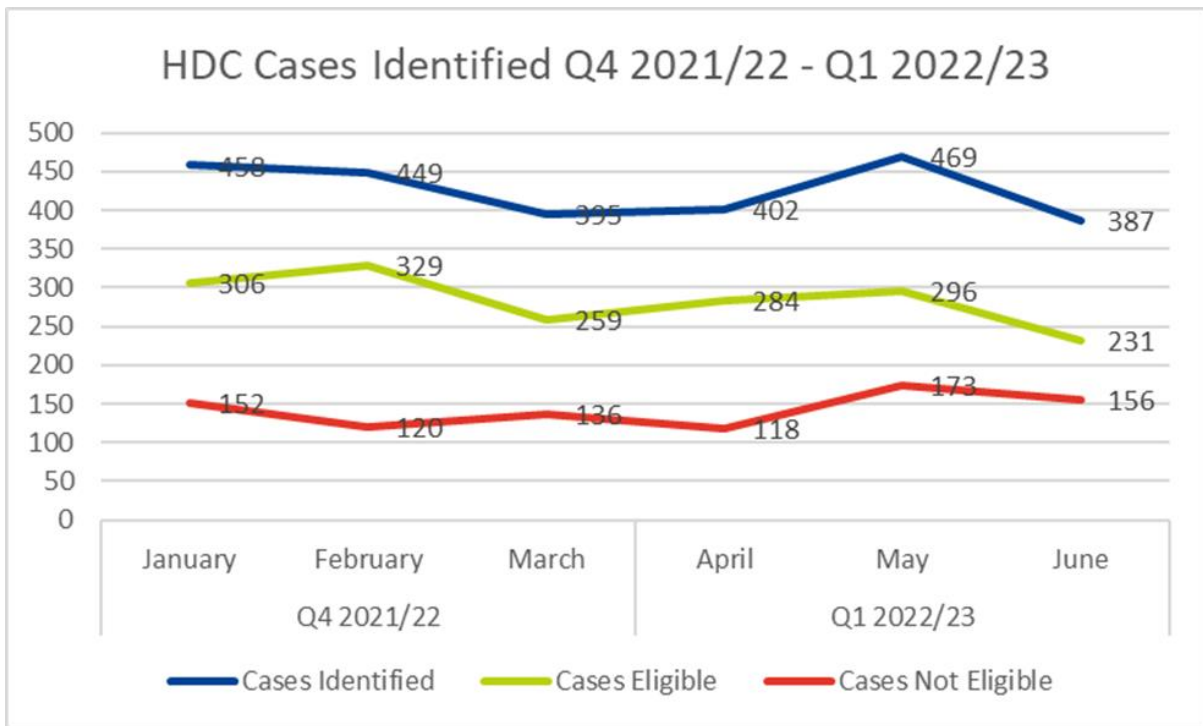
<sup>25</sup> SPS Prisoner Records System – Business Objects Report Reports Jan-Jun 2022

## 14.0 Home Detention Curfew

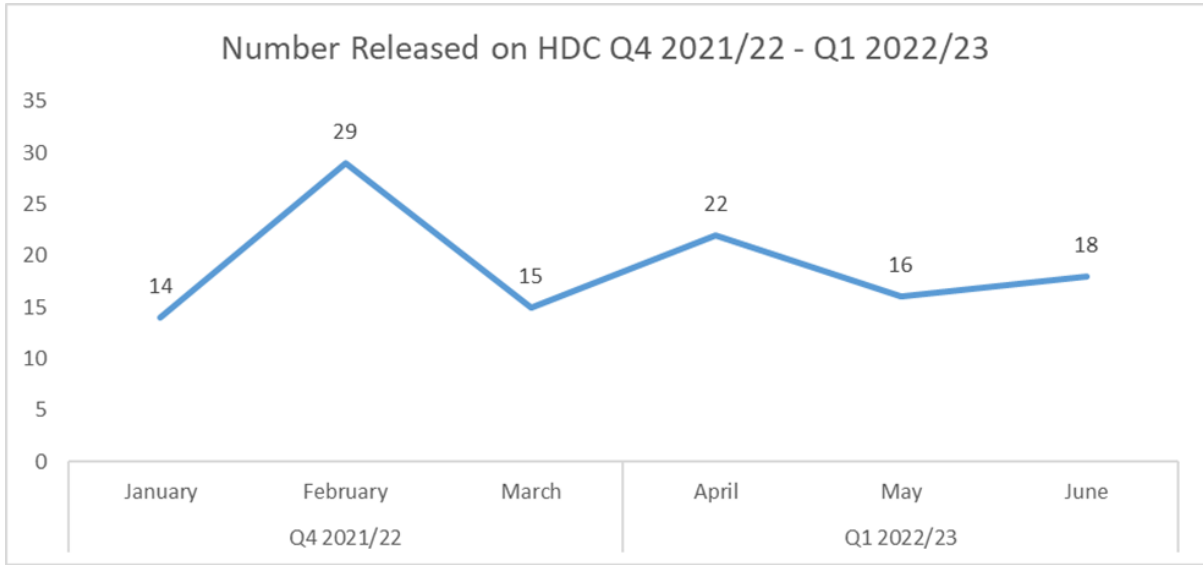
In Q1 2022/23 there were a total of 1,258 cases identified which meet the basic standard criteria to apply for Home Detention Curfew (HDC). After further checks on those identified, 35.5% (447) of the cases were not eligible which means that 64.5% (811) were eligible to apply for HDC.

These figures show that since Q4 2021/22 there has been: a 3.4% decrease in cases identified from 1,302 to 1,258; a 9.3% decrease in the number of cases eligible from 894 to 811; and, a 9.5% increase in the number of cases which were not eligible from 408 to 447.

If we compare Q1 2022/23 with Q1 2021/22 we can see that there has been: a 9.9% decrease in the number of cases identified from 1,397 to 1,258; a 20.2% decrease in the number of cases eligible from 1,017 to 811; and, a 25.2% increase in the number of cases not eligible from 346 to 447.



The total number of individuals who were released on HDC within Q1 2022/23 was 56 which is two less than Q4 2021/22 and four more than Q1 2021/22.

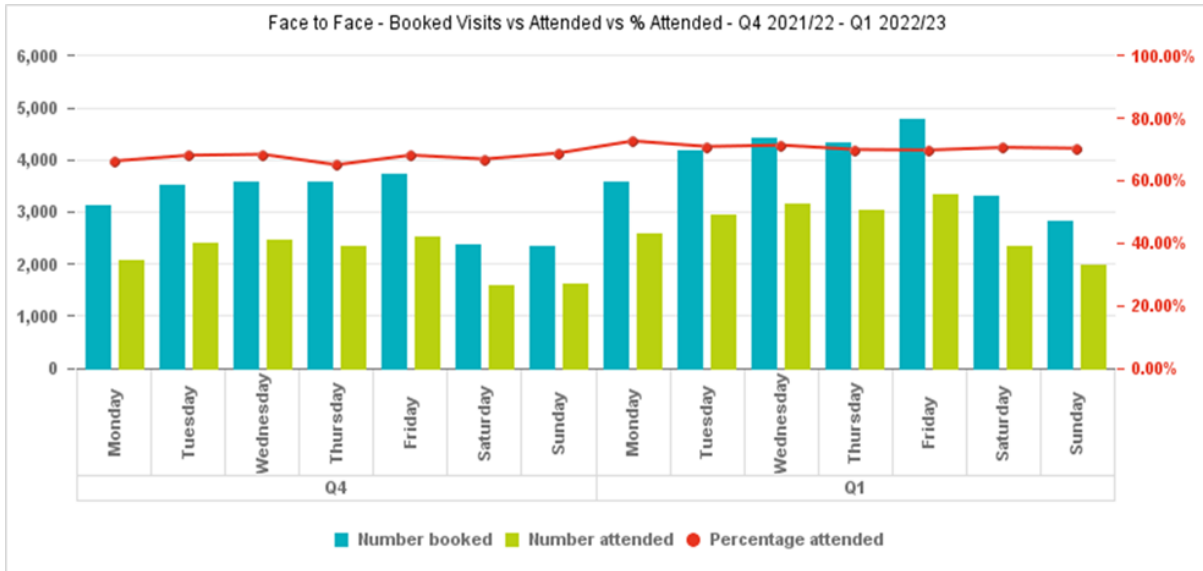


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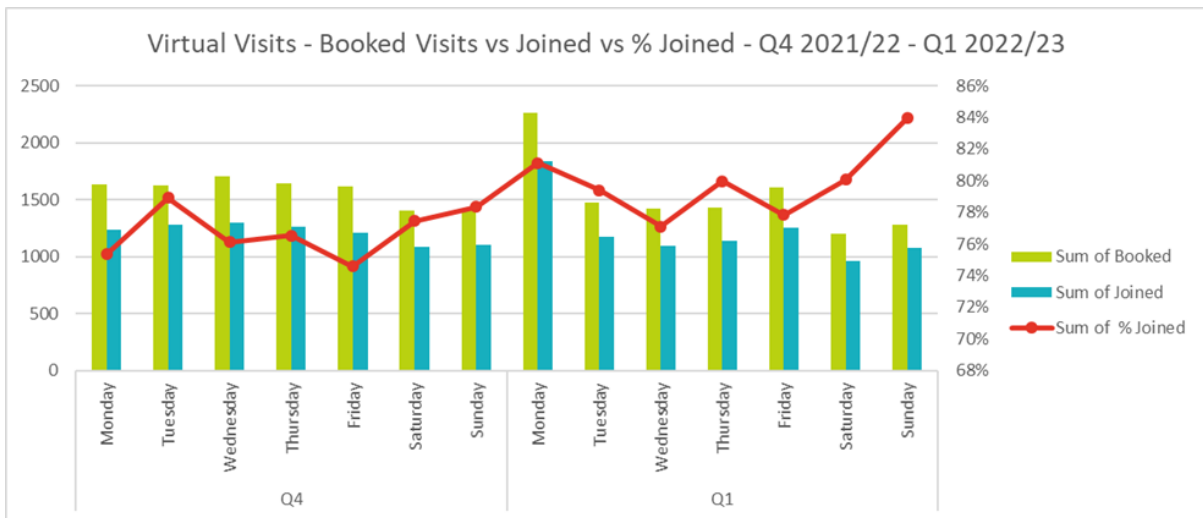
<sup>26</sup> SPS Business Objects Report 2016-22

## 15.0 Face to Face & Virtual Visits

The number of Face to Face visits has continued to increase. Q1 2022/23 shows an increase of 23% for booked visits (from 22,254 to 27,376) and an increase of 29% attended visits (from 14,964 to 19,342). Comparing Q1 2021/22 figures - which was during the peak of COVID-19 with visit restrictions in place - with the Q1 2022/23 figures, there has been an increase in booked visits from 654 to 27,376 and an increase in attended visits from just three to 19,342.



Despite the increasing number of Face to Face Visits being booked, Virtual Visits remain popular. In Q1 2022/23 there were 11,045 booked visits and 8,543 joined visits, which is an increase of 3.2% and 0.8% from Q4 2021/22 respectively. Comparing Q1 2022/23 with Q1 2021/22, there has been decreases of 27.2% booked visits (14,700) and 28.4% joined visits (11,935) - however, Q1 2021/22 was during the peak of COVID-19 where Face to Face visitation restrictions were in place.



## 16.0 Additional Information and Useful Links

- **Parliamentary Questions**

A full list of Parliamentary Questions answered in the Scottish Parliament on the subject of prisons is available from the Scottish Parliament website [here](#).

- **Corporate Plan**

The Corporate Plan identifies a set of strategic themes and outcomes, which defines and shapes SPS priorities over the duration of that Plan. This is currently on the SPS website [here](#).

- **Prisons Plan**

COVID19 has necessitated a change in planning arrangements. SPS Delivery Plan can be found [here](#).

- **SPS Annual Report and Accounts**

The purpose of the Annual Report and Accounts is to provide an overview of the Scottish Prison Service, its purpose and activities. It also includes information on key risk and issues for the organisation as well as a high-level summary of performance. The most recent Report is available [here](#).

- **Drivers of the prison population: crime and convictions statistics.**

The drivers of the prison population are the number of people committing crimes, the numbers convicted and the number given custodial sentences each year. The latest statistics from Scottish Government and the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service are provided below:

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

[Criminal Proceeding in Scotland, 2019-20](#)

[Criminal Proceeding in Scotland, 2020-21](#)

[Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2018-19](#)

[Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2020-21](#)

[Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2021-22](#)

- **Scotland's Prison Survey**

The survey is currently conducted once every two years across each of Scotland's 15 prisons and is currently subject to review. The Survey offers a unique insight into life in Scottish prisons, based on service user experience. The most recent survey can be found [here](#).

- **Prisons research**

SPS undertakes a range of research and evaluations of prison and related services. These reports will be uploaded at the time the reports are ready for publication. More information can be found [here](#).

- **Scottish Prison Population Statistics**

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

- [Freedom of Information Responses](#)

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

The Tableau is a data visualization tool showcases publicly available data in a way that supports understanding of the community justice landscape at a local authority area level. More information can be obtained [here](#).

- **The World Prison Brief**

The World Prison Brief is an online database providing free access to information on prison systems around the world. It supports evidence-based development of prison policy and practice globally. For more information click [here](#).

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