

SPS Quarterly Public Information Page

**Prison by Numbers Quarter 3 (October -
December 2023)**

Unlocking Potential - Transforming Lives.

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1.0 Key Messages

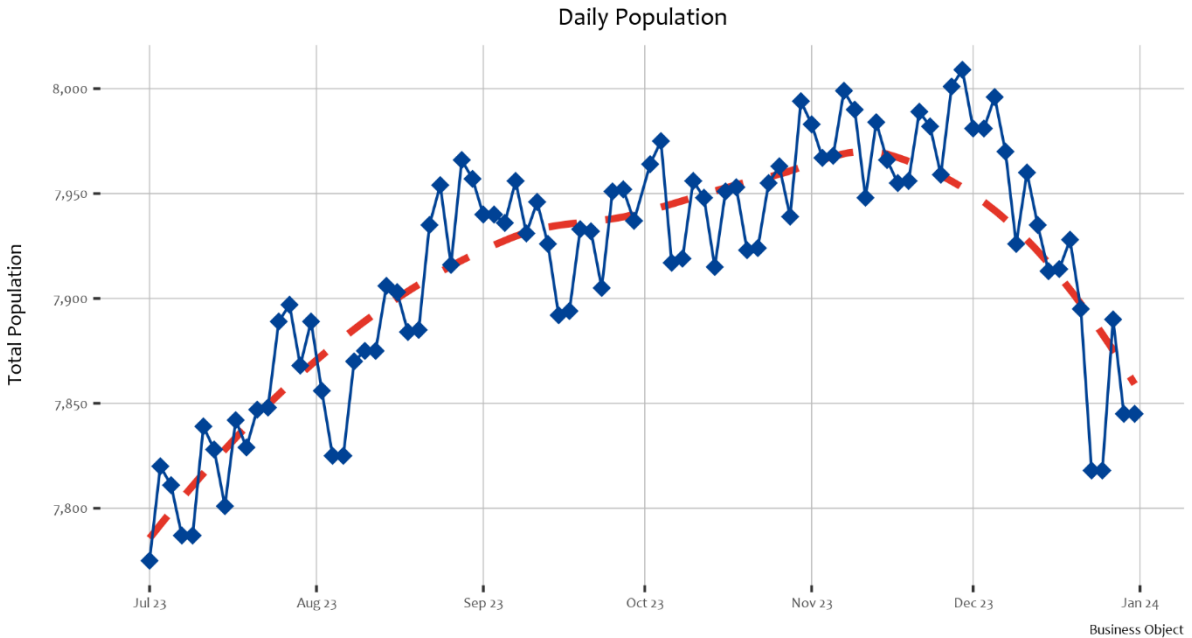
Key messages drawn from this quarterly report are as follows:

- The weekly average population decreased by 1.1% in Quarter 3 23/24 compared to the end of the previous quarter. Compared to the same period last year, the prison population increased by 7.7%.
- The remand population decreased by 6.9% in Quarter 3 23/24.
- The long-term and short-term population continued to increase.
- The women's prison population reduced by 2.2% between the first week of October and last week of December.
- The population of those with a history of sexual offending has continued to increase in Quarter 3 23/24.
- Single cell occupancy increased in Q3 23/24 compared to Q2 23/24.
- In reviewing the characteristics of those in our care in Q3 23/24, the majority of the prison population were male (96%), heterosexual (90%), had a marital status of single (77%) and were white (94%).
- The national rate of imprisonment in Scotland decreased to 0.1% at the end of December. Rates of imprisonment equal to or above the national rate were observed in 13 of 32 Local Authorities.
- 43% of those in our care come from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland.

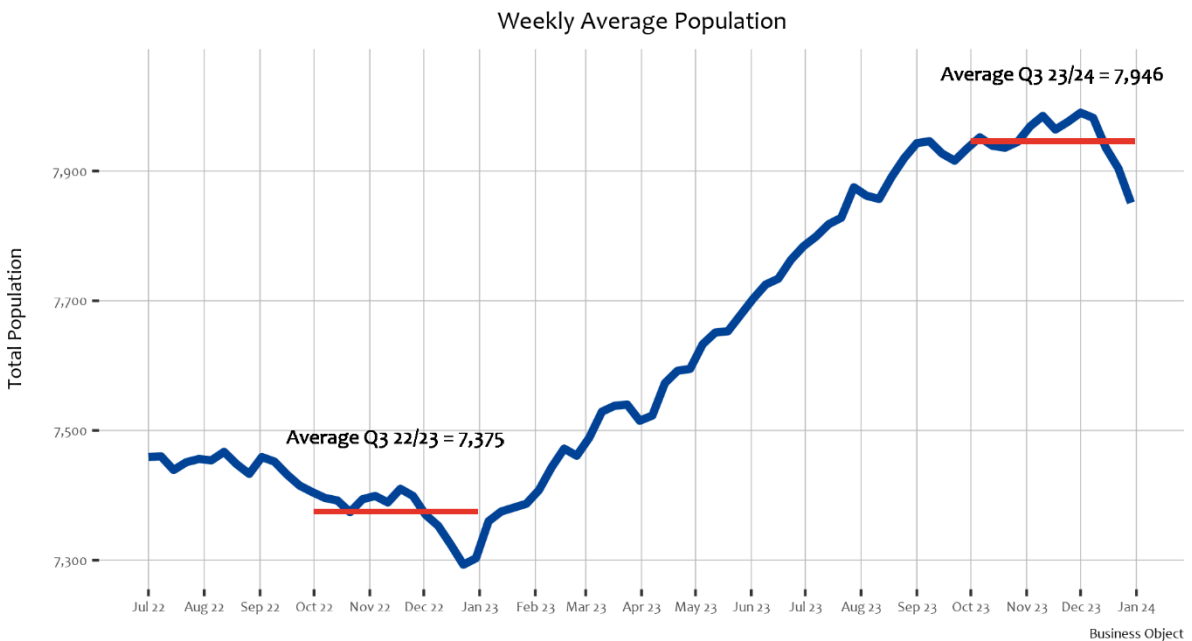
General Enquiries Email: SPSDataAnalysis@prison.gov.scot

2.0 Prison Population

The daily prison population increased in October and November, reducing fast in December. The population peaked on December 4th at 8,026. Overall, the daily prison population decreased by 1.2% at the end of Q3 23/24 compared to the previous quarter.



The weekly average prison population decreased by 1.1% in Q3 23/24 compared to the last week of Q2 23/24. The graph below illustrates that the weekly average population in Q3 23/24 increased compared to the same period last year. The average prison population in Q3 22/23 was 7,375 and in Q3 23/24 was 7,946. This represents an increase of 7.7% in Q3 23/24 compared to Q3 22/23.



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:

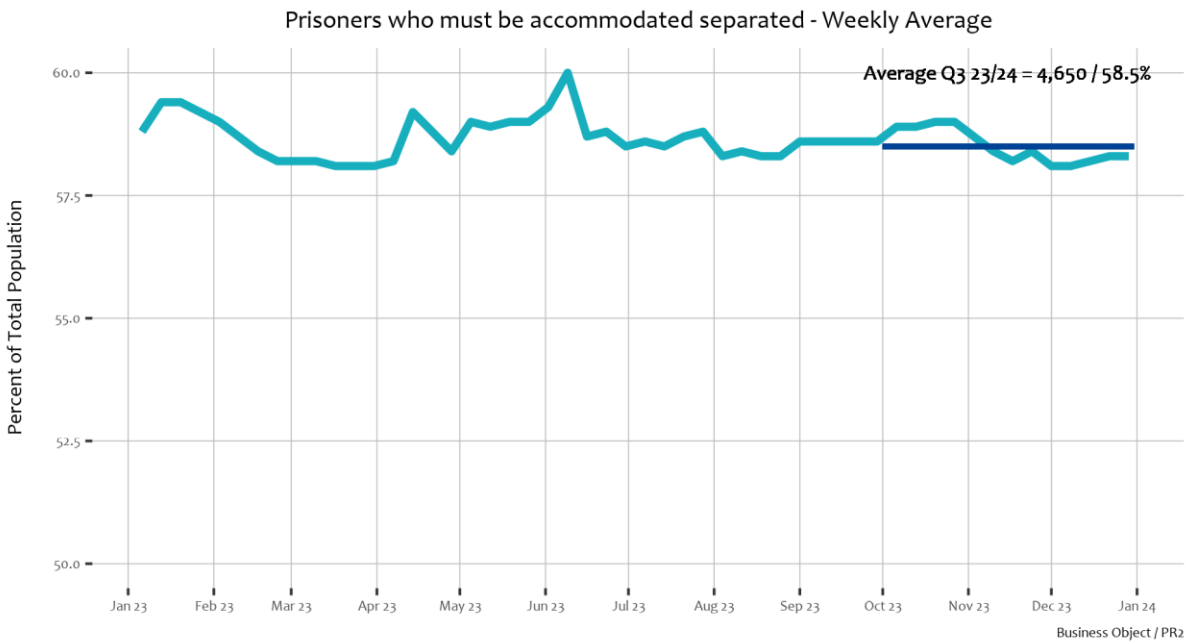
[Prison Population Report – Weekly time series](#)

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

3.0 Complexities of Population

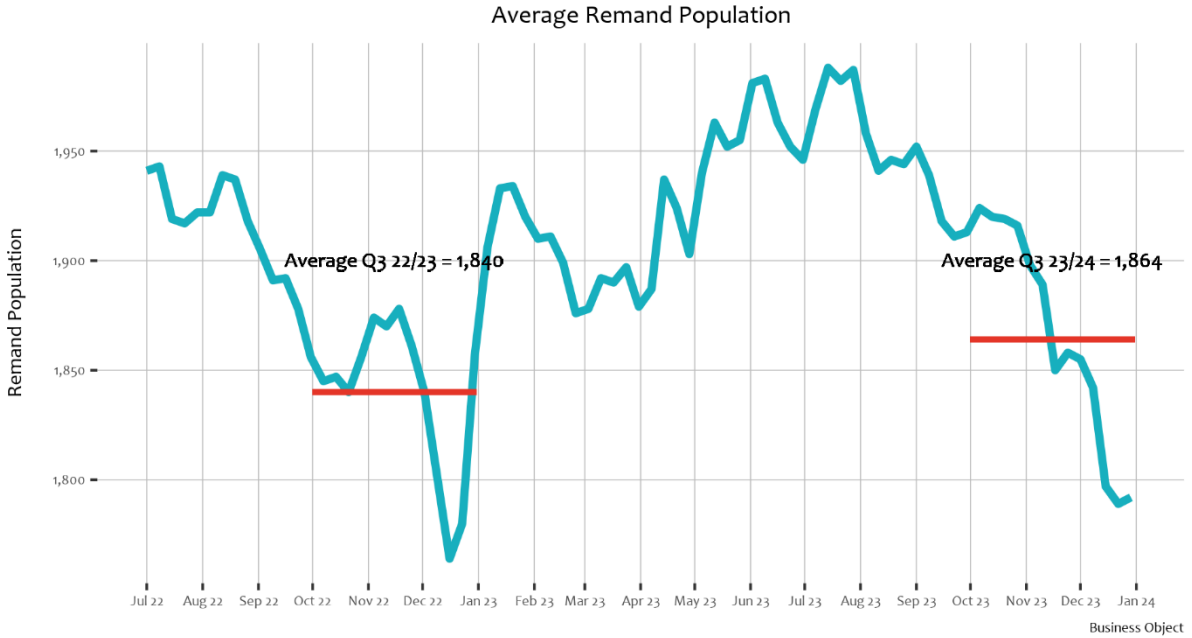
The rising overall population numbers are of concern in terms of ongoing management when we move close to population and design capacity; however also of note is the rising complexity of Scotland’s prison population. Many individuals need to be accommodated separately for a variety of reasons i.e., due 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 slightly reduced throughout Q3 23/24. An average of 58.5% of the prison population, or 4,650 individuals needed to be accommodated separately in Q3 23/24.



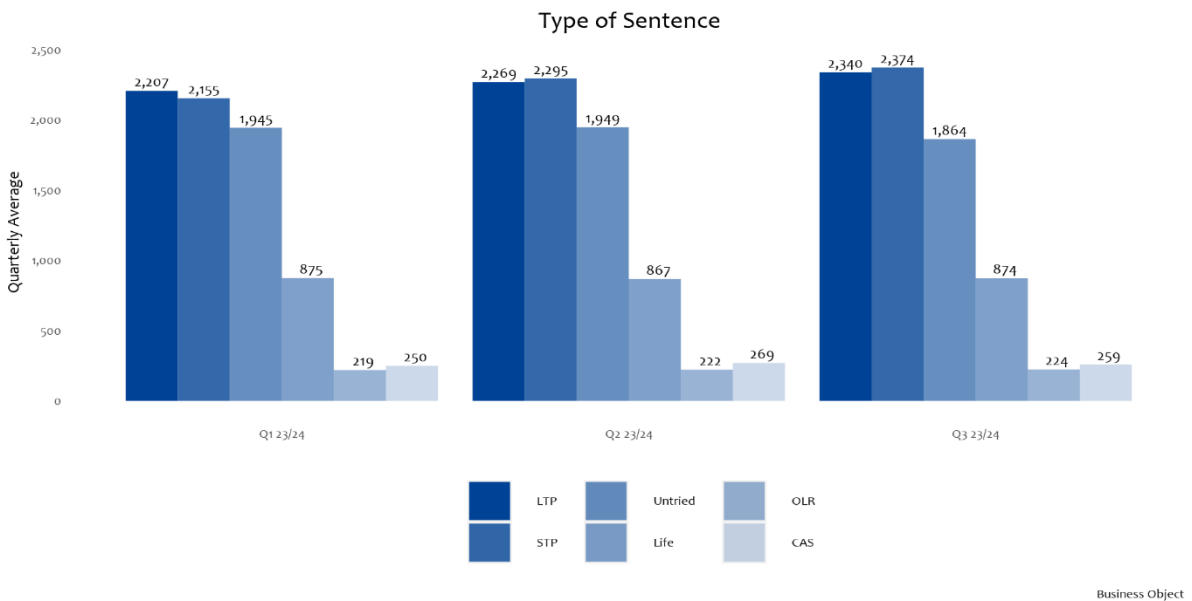
4.0 Legal Status (Sentenced & Remand)

The remand population decreased by 6.9% in Q3 23/24, from 1,924 individuals at the beginning of the quarter to 1,792 individuals at the end of December. Compared to the same period last year, the remand population increased from an average of 1,840 in Q3 22/23 to an average of 1,864 in Q3 23/24, an increase of 1.3%.



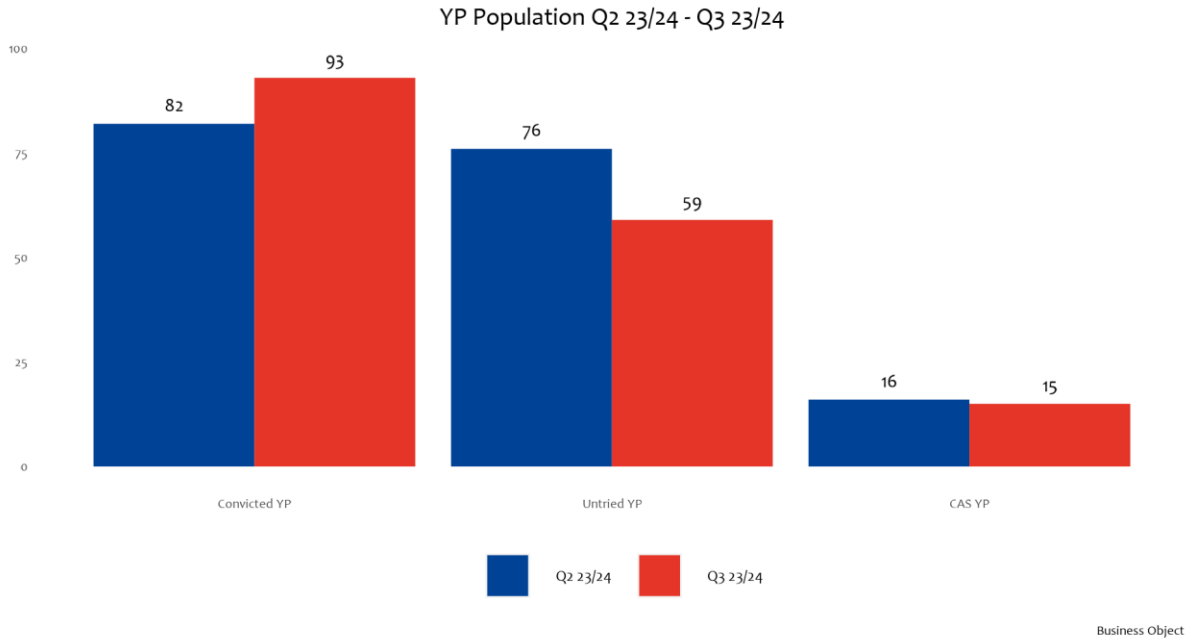
The number of those on remand remains high compared to the pre-pandemic period. In Quarter 3 23/24, the remand population accounted for 23.5% of the total prison population. High numbers of individuals on remand can create management issues for establishments, such as people having to move to convicted halls early; and long periods on remand mean that individuals spend longer without access to the full regime.

The long-term population increased by 3.1% in Q3 23/24 compared to the previous quarter while Life sentences (including OLRs) increased 0.8% in the same period. The short-term population increased by 3.4% in Q3 23/24 compared to the previous quarter.



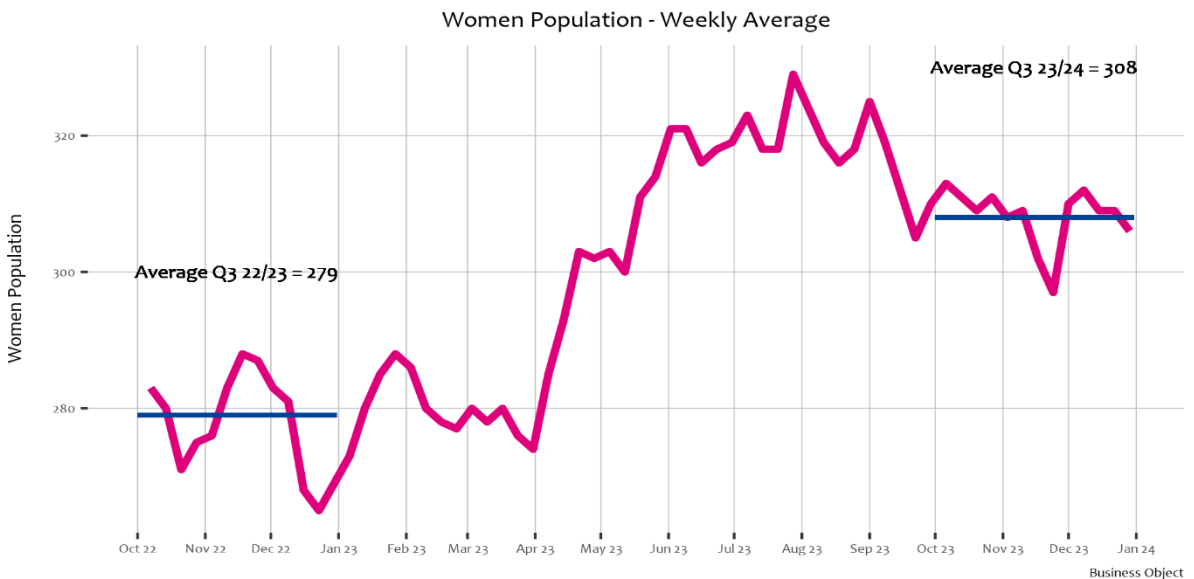
5.0 Young People in our Care

The quarterly average population of Young People (YP) decreased from 174 in Q2 23/24 to 167 in Q3 23/24. As observed below, convicted YP increased in Q3 23/24 while untried YP and CAS YP reduced in the same period.



6.0 Women in our Care

The weekly average women’s population fluctuated in Q3 23/24 but overall reduced by 2.2% between the first week of October and last week of December. Compared to the same period last year, the quarterly average female population increased from 279 in Q3 22/23 to 308 in Q3 23/24, an increase of 10.4%. In the same period, the male population increased by 7.7%.



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 7,922 people in our care on 3rd January 2024.¹

Information regarding religious affiliation is not robust enough to publish at this stage. Further Equality and Diversity reports are available [here](#).

Affirmed Gender

SPS defines affirmed 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 Q3 23/24, 96% of the people in our care were recorded as men and another 4% as women. Trans men, trans women and non-binary/gender-fluid combined accounted for less than 1% of the total population. In total, there were 21 trans people in custody at the end of Q3 23/24.

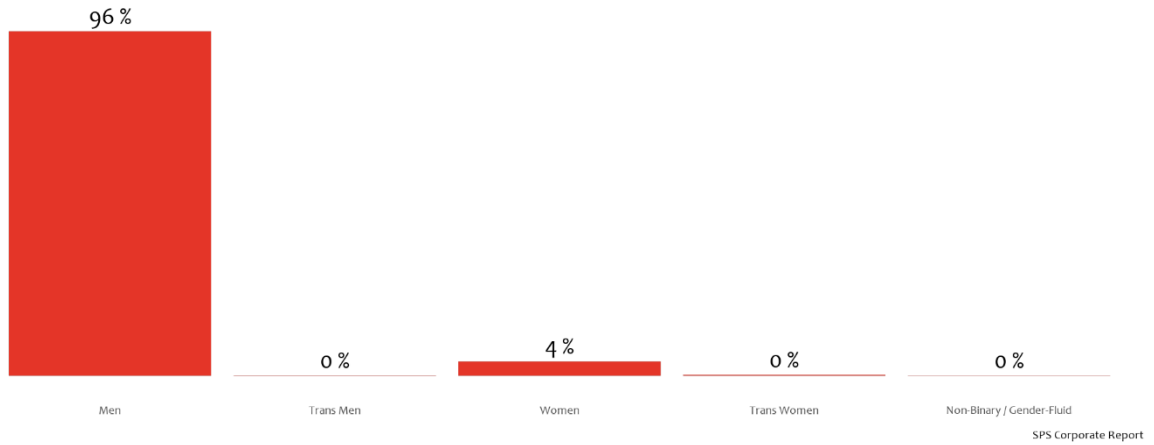
¹ The Public Information Page is a working document. The inclusion of data on protected characteristics is being kept under review to ensure the public scrutiny requirements are met whilst protecting the privacy of those in our care.

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>

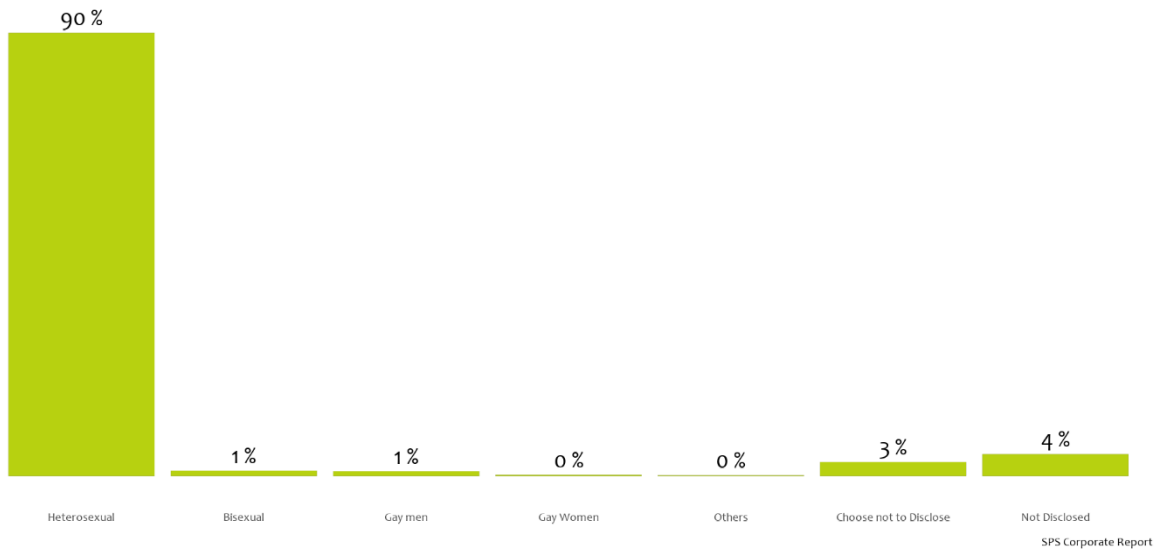
Social Gender



Sexual Orientation

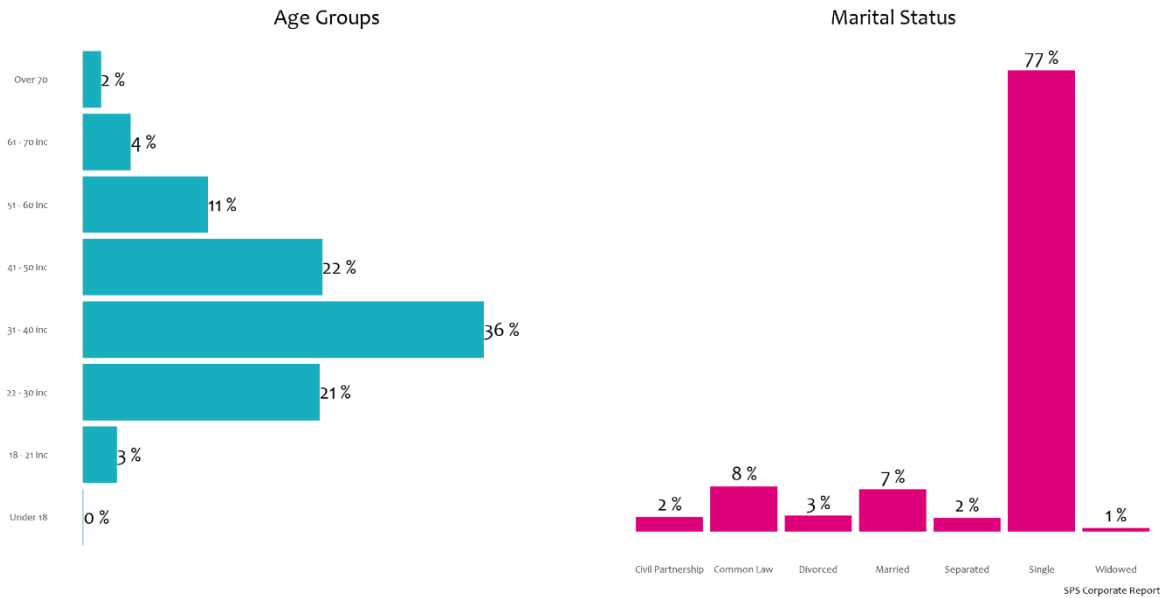
Most of the people in our care declared themselves as heterosexual, 90%. Bisexuals, gay men and gay women comprised 2%. Another 3% preferred not to disclose while a further 4% were not obtained. More details are illustrated in the chart below.

Sexual Orientation



Age Group and Marital Status

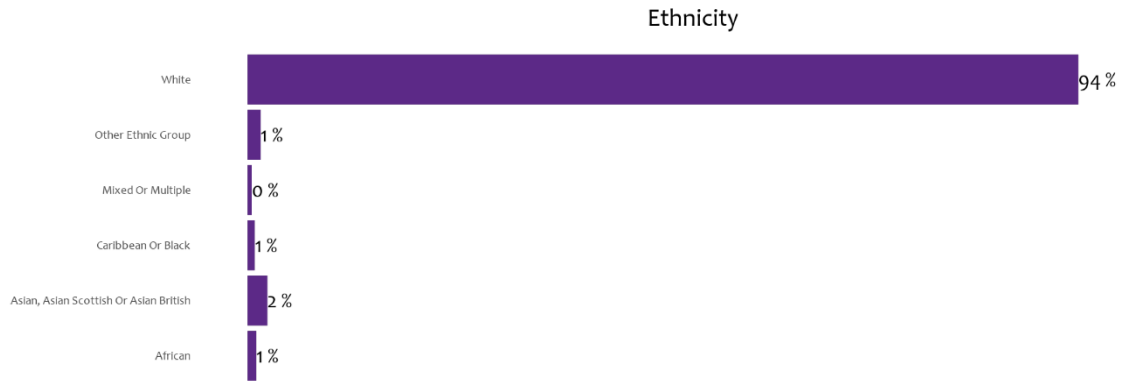
The chart below illustrates the prison population in Q3 23/24 by age group and marital status. The highest age group continues to be those aged between 31 and 40 years old (36%), while the lowest proportion is individuals under 18 years old, with less than 1%.



Most of the people in our care reported themselves as single in Q3 23/24, 77%. Another 8% reported as “Common Law (or cohabitation with a partner)”.

Ethnic Group

In Q3 23/24, 94% of the prison population declared themselves as white. African people comprised 1% while Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British people comprised 2%. Those who declared themselves Caribbean or Black were 1%. Those who declared themselves as Other Ethnic Group and African represented 1% each. More details can be observed in the chart below.



SPS Corporate Report

Disability

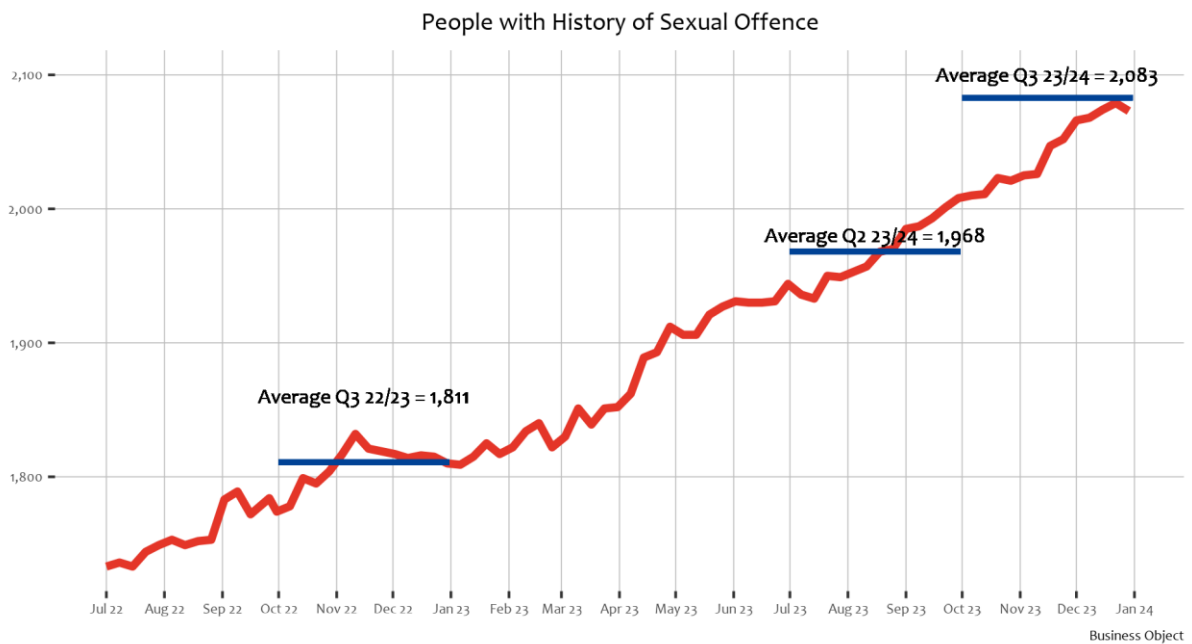
Ten percent of the people in our prisons have told us that they have a disability. Another 88% did not report any disability and 2% opted not to disclose.

Disability	
Yes	10%
No	88%
Choose not to Disclose	2%

8.0 Protection Populations

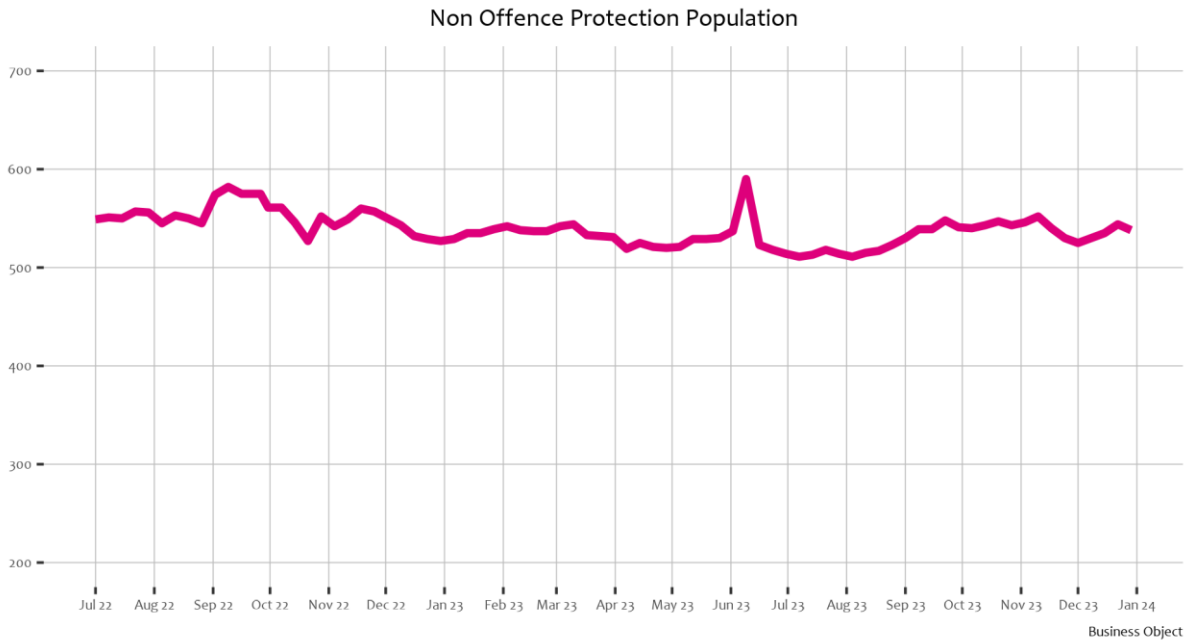
Across the estate there are people with a history of sexual offending in each of Scotland’s prisons, including HMP Stirling. This illustrates the extent of the accommodation issues in terms of this prisoner group, where there is a need to accommodate them across all establishments and for a variety of 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 by 5.8% in Q3 23/24, compared to the previous quarter. In average, the population of those with history of sexual offending in Q3 22/23 increased by 15% compared to the same period last year.



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.

The number of individuals within the NOP population increased from a quarterly average of 525 in Q2 23-24 to an average of 539 in Q3 23/24.



9.0 Geography of Imprisonment in Scotland

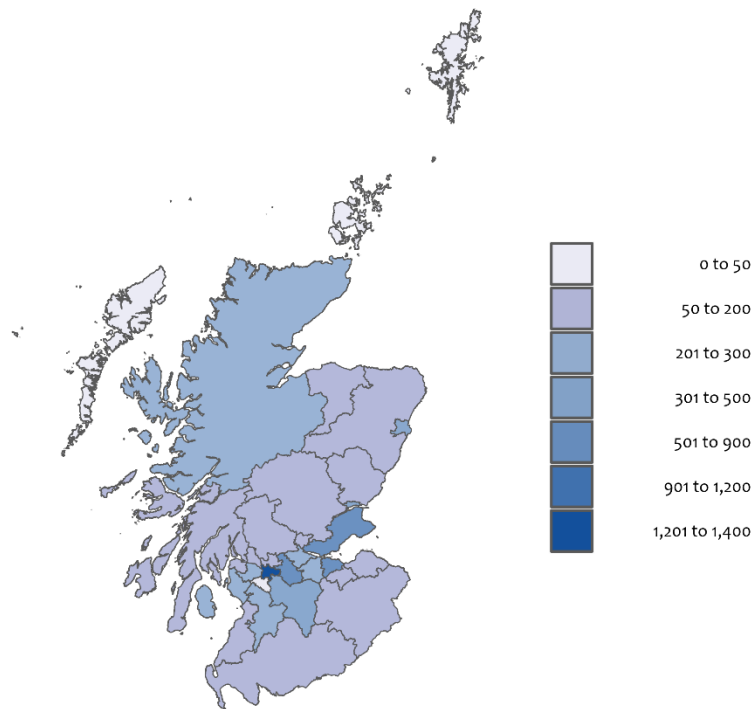
When considering the prisons population by Local Authority (LA), Glasgow City continued to have the largest number; 1,361 individuals in custody, comprising 17.4% of the total prison population at the end of Q3 23/24. The City of Edinburgh has the second largest prison population, with 605 individuals, followed by North Lanarkshire and Fife with 554 and 514 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 0.5% of the total of residents in prison.

According to the Prisons` Records, 4.7% 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 2023.

Number of People in Custody by Local Authority

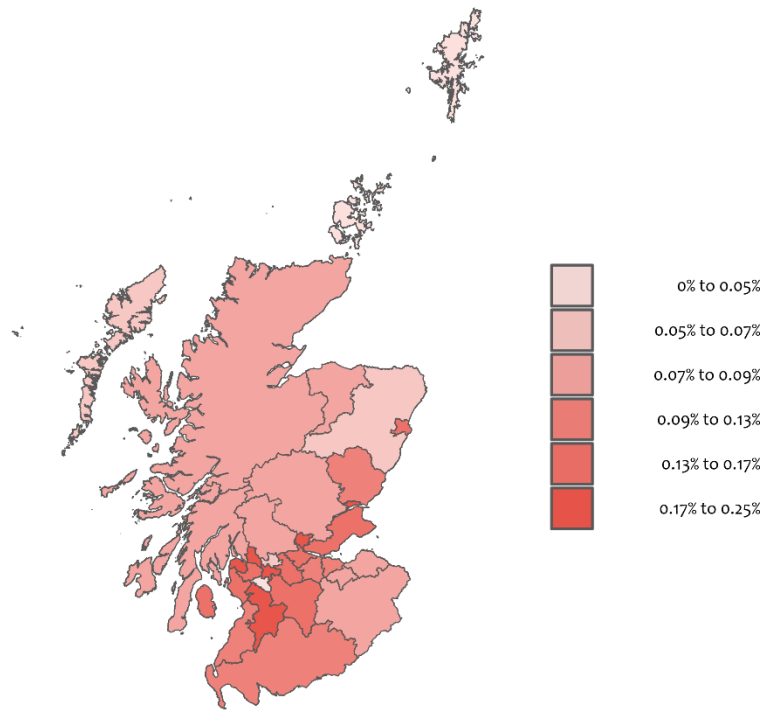


Business Object

The national rate of imprisonment in Scotland⁴ was 0.1% at the end of December. Rates of imprisonment equal or above the national rate were observed in 13 of the 32 LAs.

The map below illustrates the rate of imprisonment by LA on 31st December 2023.

Rate of Imprisonment by Local Authority



Business Object

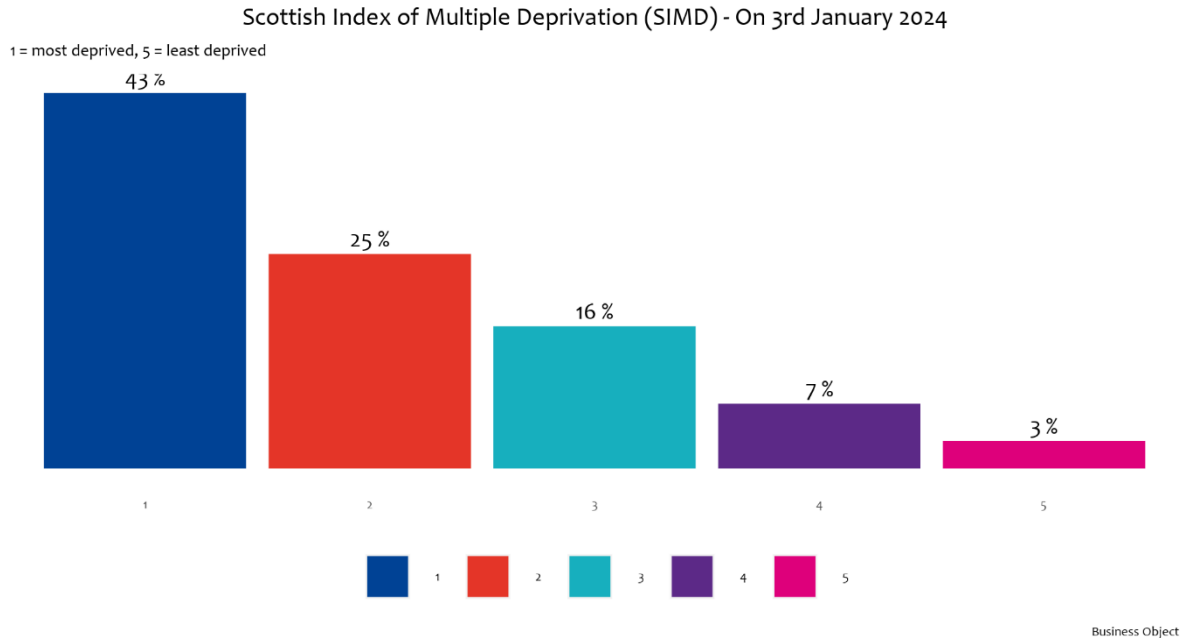
⁴ The Scottish population figures used to calculate the rate of imprisonment was obtained from [Scotland's Census 2022](#)

The table below illustrates the total number of individuals in custody on 31st December 2023, broken down by length of sentence per LA.

	Remand + Undetermined Sentence	Short Term Prisoners - Less than 4 years	Long Term Prisoners - Over 4 Years (including Life)
Aberdeen City	89	125	122
Aberdeenshire	39	63	80
Angus	43	31	48
Argyll And Bute	23	13	36
City Of Edinburgh	163	165	277
Clackmannanshire	24	42	33
Dumfries And Galloway	61	45	67
Dundee City	117	119	133
East Ayrshire	71	87	69
East Dunbartonshire	17	21	24
East Lothian	23	35	32
East Renfrewshire	12	13	16
Falkirk	68	92	86
Fife	101	170	243
Glasgow City	369	357	635
Highland	68	60	86
Inverclyde	40	42	72
Midlothian	28	25	35
Moray	28	20	35
Na H-Eileanan Siar	6	<5	7
North Ayrshire	65	75	85
North Lanarkshire	152	149	253
Orkney Islands	0	<5	6
Outwith Scotland	131	70	165
Perth And Kinross	37	34	70
Renfrewshire	58	90	138
Scottish Borders	22	33	42
Shetland Islands	<5	6	<5
South Ayrshire	50	45	51
South Lanarkshire	118	148	203
Stirling	19	29	31
Unidentifiable Address	<5	<5	<5
West Dunbartonshire	50	50	76
West Lothian	56	60	105
Not on Prison Records	<5	0	5

Deprivation

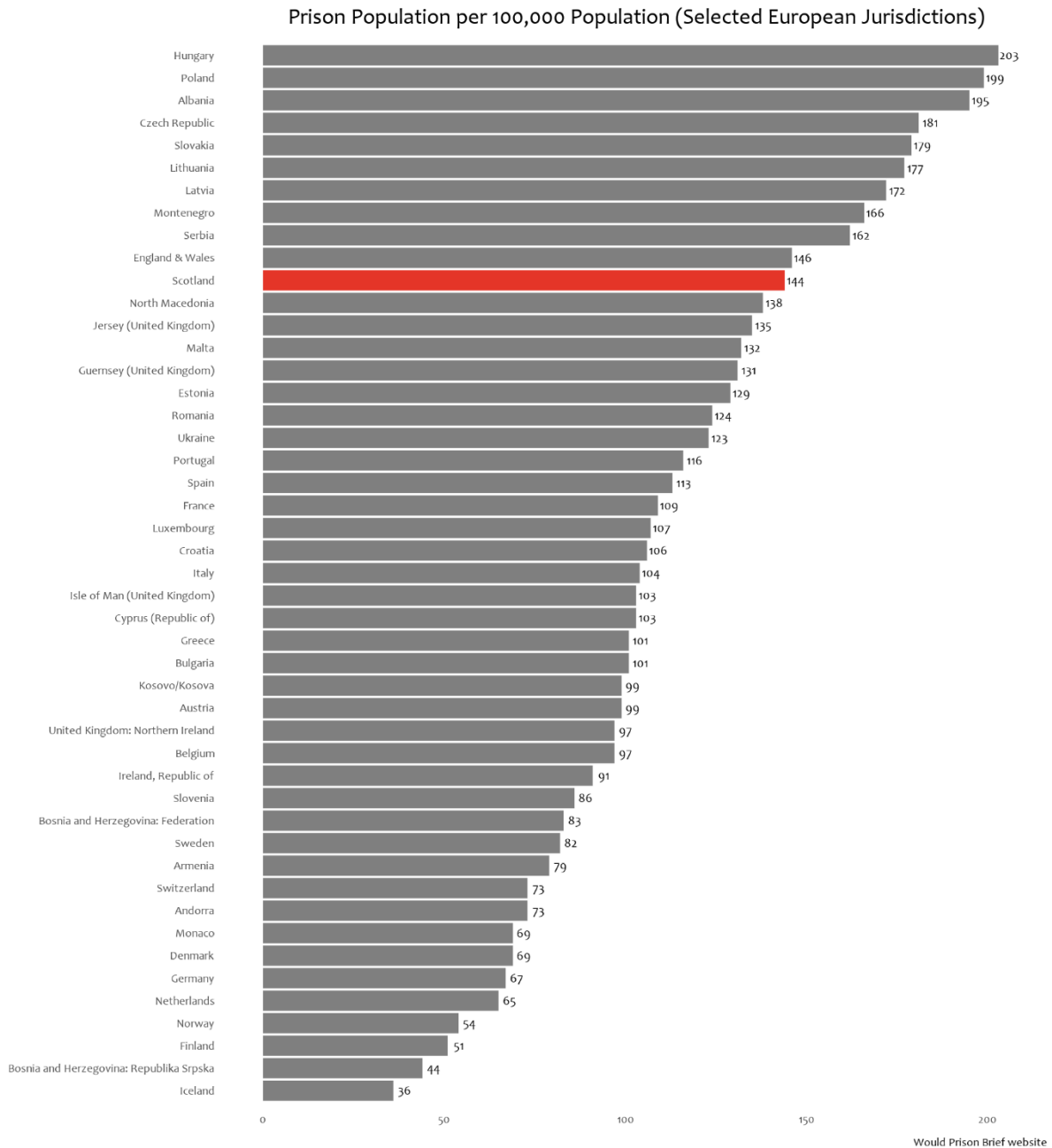
The data extracted from the Prison Records on 3rd January 2024 indicates that 43% of the prison population come from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland while 3% come from the least deprived areas⁵.



⁵ 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 International Comparisons

The figure below shows the prison population per 100,000 people for a selection of European countries⁶. Scotland has a rate of 144 prisoners for every 100,000 people.

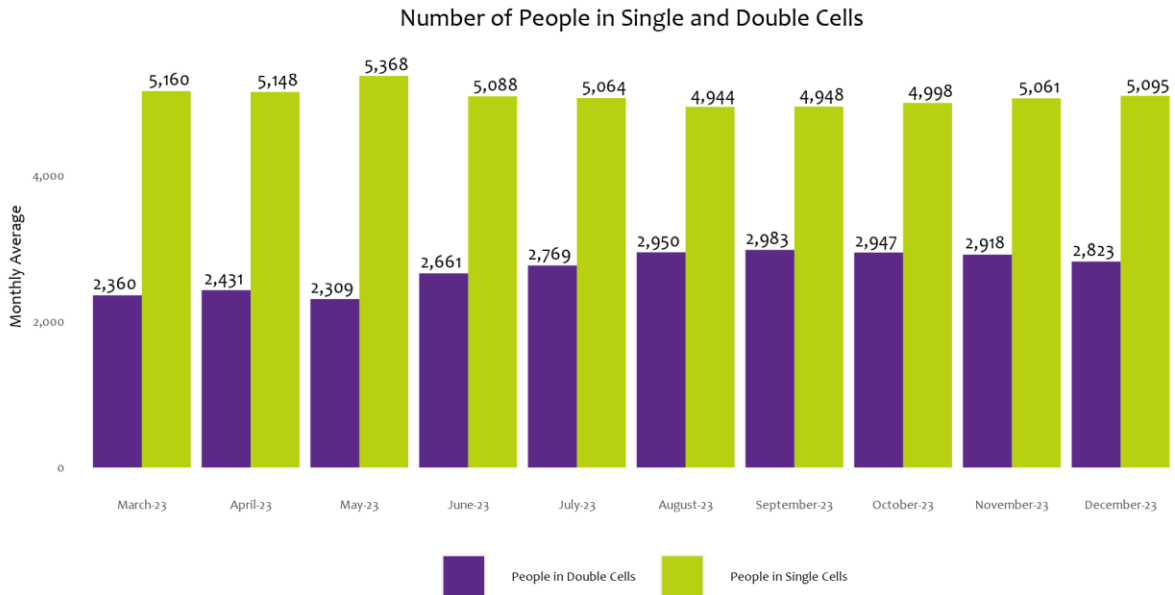


⁶ [World Prison Brief](#), accessed in March 2024.

11.0 Prison Estate & Configuration

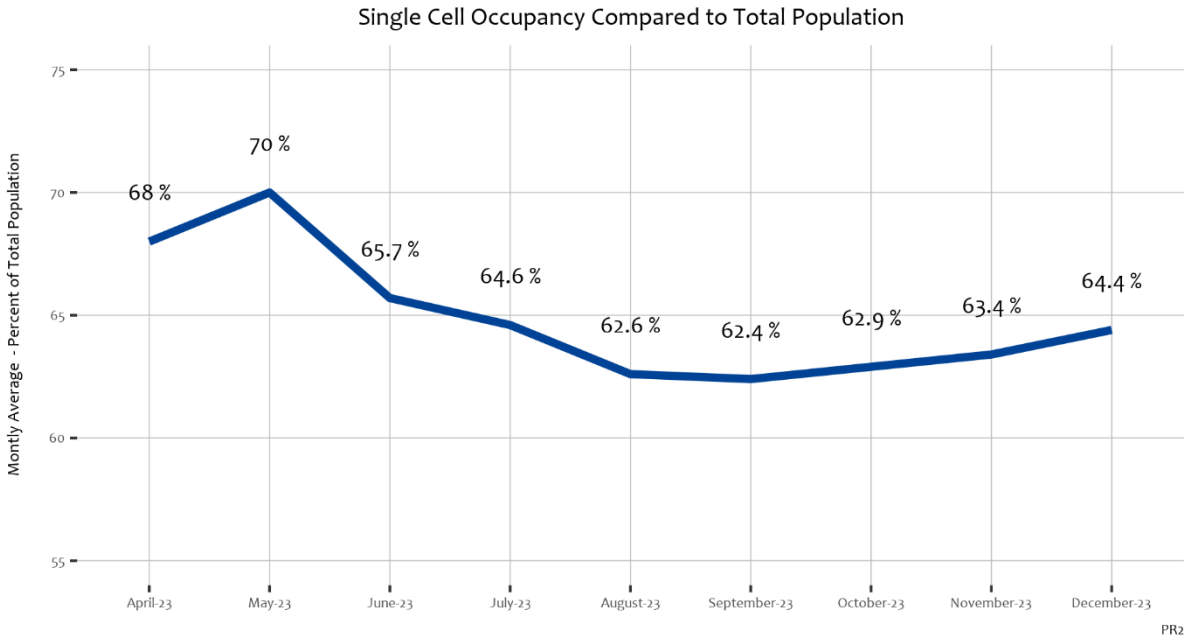
Near the end of December 2023, six establishments were operating over the agreed Temporary Operating Capacity (TOC). Another six establishments were operating very close to TOC. In total there were 108 available spaces across the estate; however, this data in isolation does not provide an accurate picture. 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 the women’s estate, Castle Huntly and Polmont, each of which hold a specific category of prisoner.

In Q3 23/24, the monthly average number of people accommodated in single cells increased from 4,998 individuals in October to 5,095 in December. Between March and December, the average number of people accommodated in single cells reduced by 1.3%. In the opposite direction, the number of people accommodated in double cells increased by 19.6% in the same period.



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. As a result of the fast increase of the prison population in the first two quarter of 2023/24, SCO reduced from 70% in May to 62.4% in September. In Q3 23/24, SCO increased from 62.9% in October to 64.4% in December.



12.0 Staffing Levels

SPS currently has 4,638 employees (4,355.6 full-time equivalent (FTE)), as of the 31st December 2023. This is an increase from 30th September 2023 (4,619 employees, 4,344.6 FTE). Over the upcoming months, our Workforce Planning team along with our Learning and Development function are reviewing the recruitment and training activity for 2024/2025 to maintain staffing levels. SPS are currently recruiting various Operational Roles across the SPS estate.

Turnover

Turnover is a focus for SPS with the priority being having a better understanding as to why employees leave. In Q3 23-24, there were 97 employees who left SPS which is more than Q2 23-24 when there were 92 leavers. This is similar to the same period last year. The top four leaving reasons were Job Opportunity, Personal Reasons, Retired-Normal Retiral Age and Capability Health. These reasons equated to 75.3% of leavers in Q3 23-24.



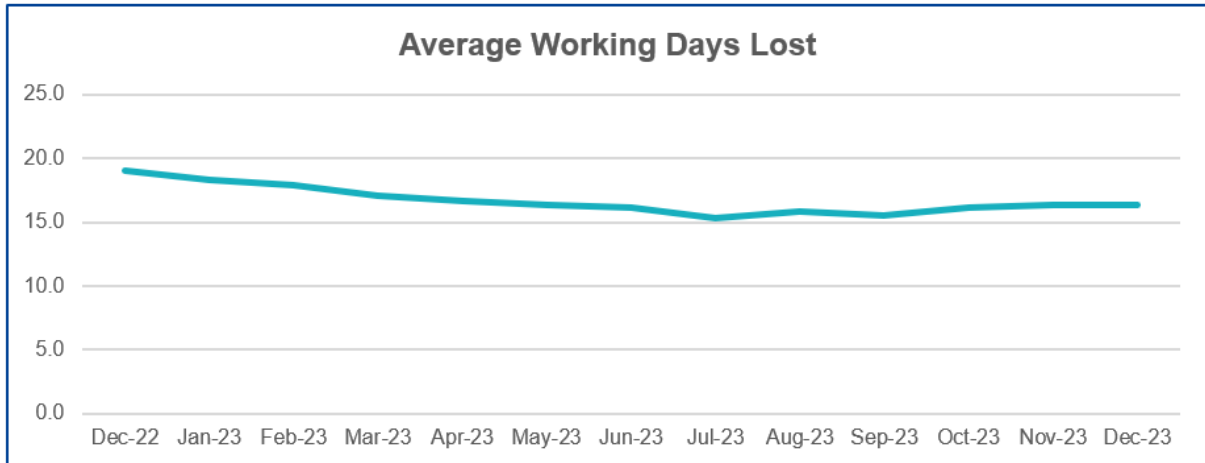
Absence

Staff absence is one of the main priorities for SPS. The sickness absence levels have dropped from 19.1 Average Working Days Lost (AWDL) in December 2022 to 16.4 Average Working Days Lost (AWDL) in December 2023. The *Average working days lost* are the number of FTE days lost to sickness absence by SPS employees within a 12-month rolling period.

The calculation for this is:

$$\text{AWDL} = \frac{\text{Total number of working days lost to absence}}{\text{Total FTE for all SPS employees}}$$

Throughout Q3 23-24, absence has slightly increased, with December having the highest levels of absence⁷.

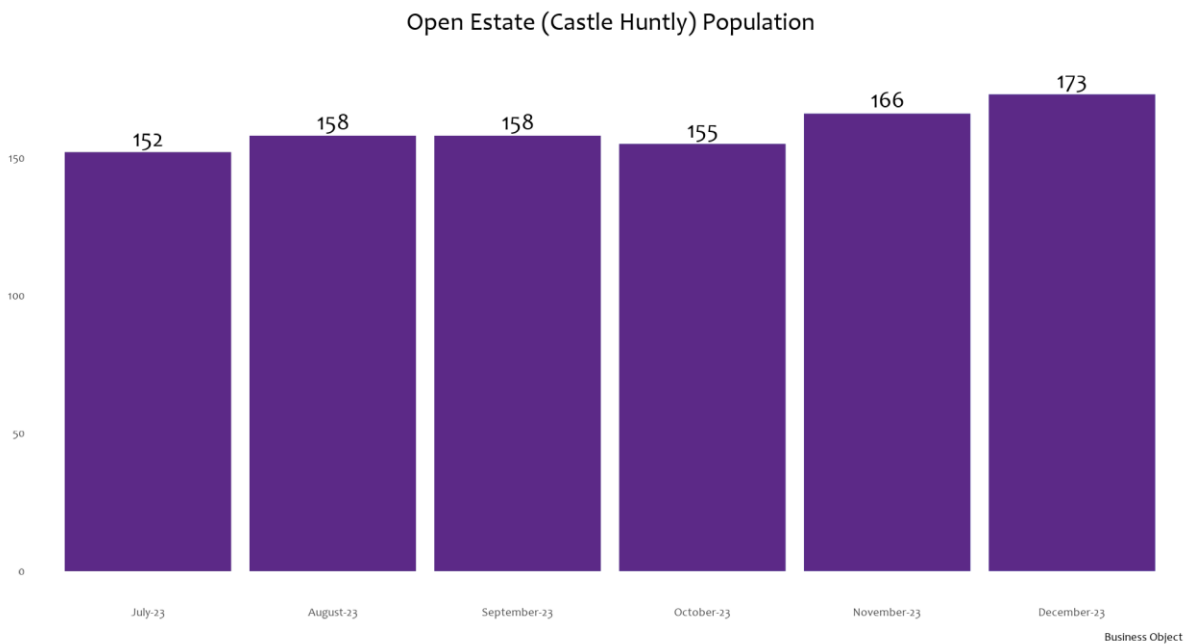


⁷ We have changed our reporting matrix for the Public Information Page from the number of sickness episodes per week to the average working days lost to better align to our Cabinet Office reporting requirements.

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 Stirling for the female estate.

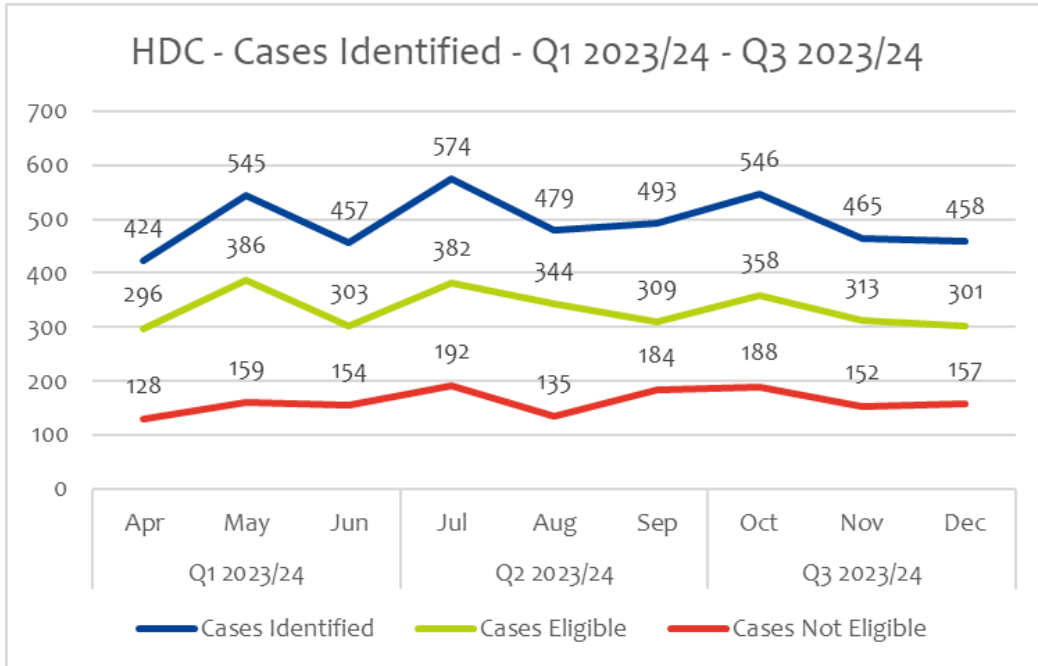
The population of Castle Huntly (also known as the Open Estate) increased in Q3 23/24 compared to the previous quarter. The monthly average of individuals housed in Castle Huntly increased from 155 in October to 173 in December.



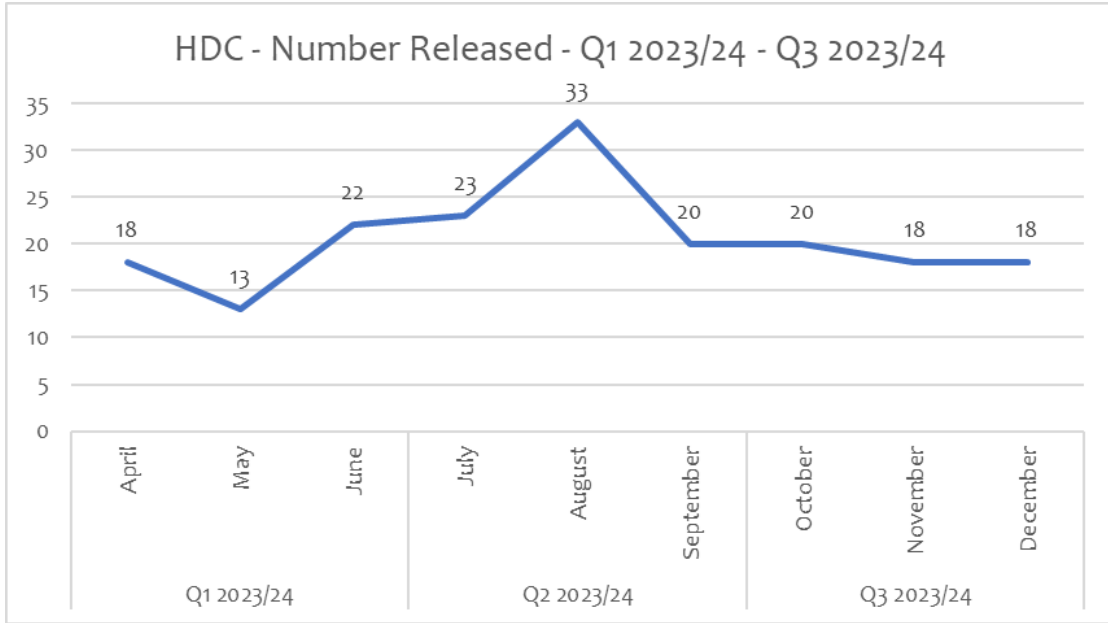
Identifying people held in less secure conditions within HMP&YOI Polmont and HMP Stirling is complicated by the structure of management information held by SPS; work is underway to report upon these populations.

14.0 Home Detention Curfew (HDC)

When comparing HDC Figures for Q2 2023/24 with Q3 2023/24, we can see that the total number of cases that were identified has decreased by 5% from 1,546 to 1,469. This can be broken down to a 6% decrease in the number of cases which are eligible from 1,035 to 972 and a decrease of 3% in the number of cases which are not eligible from 511 to 497.



In Q3 2023/24 there was a total number of 56 individuals released on HDC. This is a 26.3% decrease (20 individuals) from Q2 2023/24 which was a total of 76.

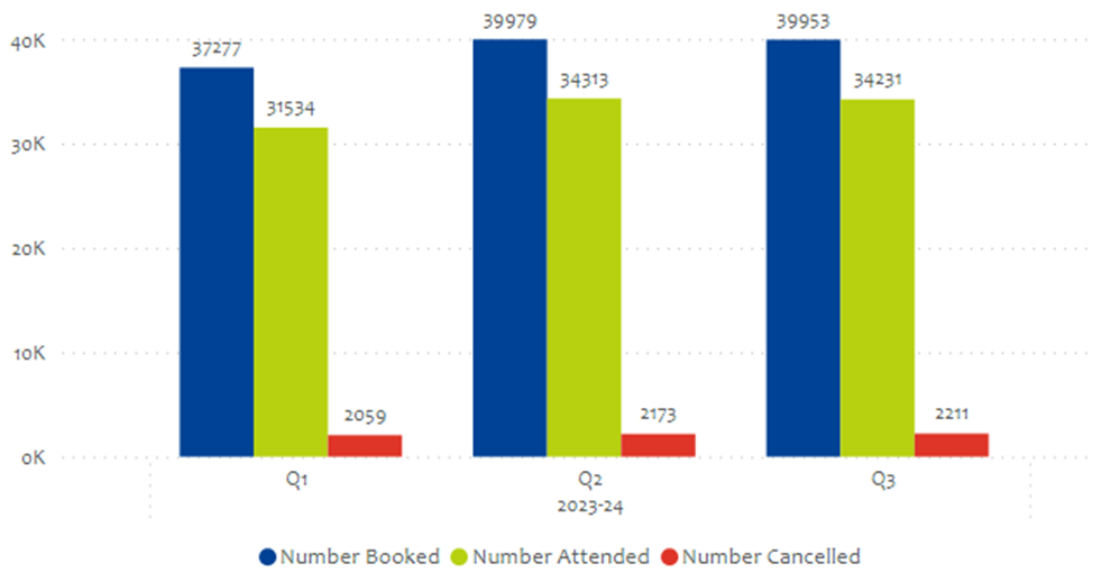


15.0 Face to Face & Virtual Visits

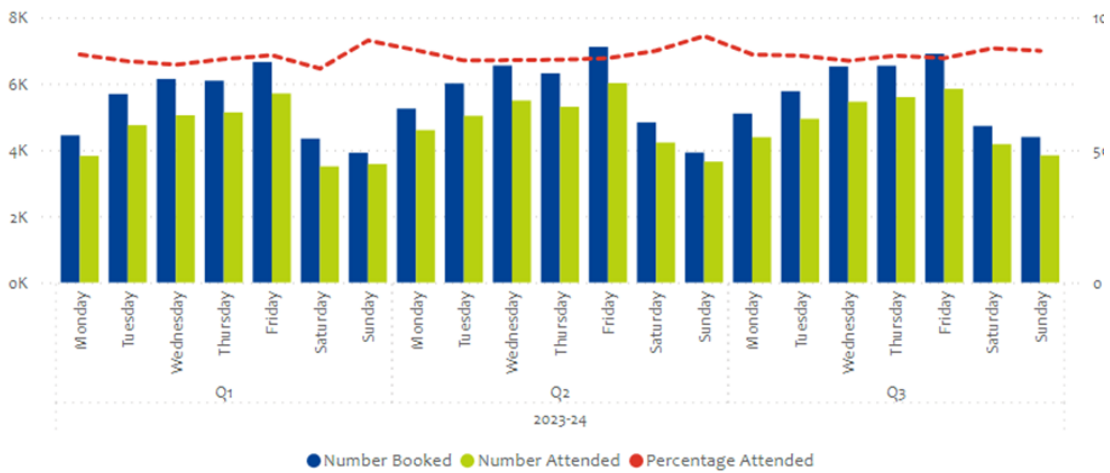
Face to Face

Compared to Q2 2023/24 figures, Q3 2023/24 shows that Face to Face visits remained stable with a decrease of only 0.06% in booked visits from 39,979 to 39,953, a 0.2% decrease in attended visits from 34,313 to 34,231 and an increase of 1.7% cancelled visits from 2,173 to 2,211.

Face to Face - Visit Outcomes - Q1 2023/24 - Q3 2023/24



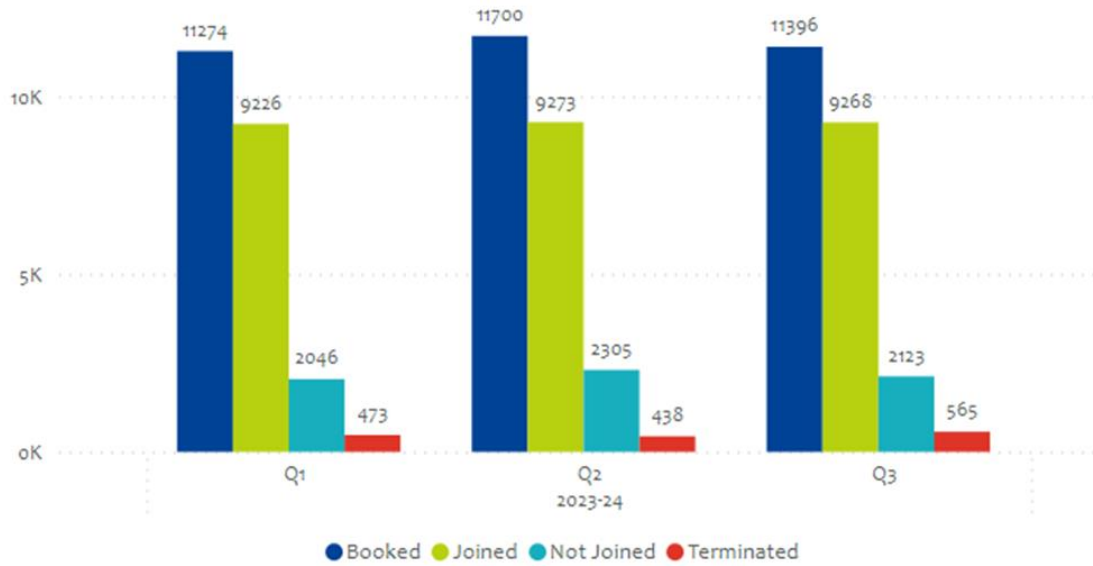
Face to Face - Booked vs Joined vs % Joined - Q1 2023/24 - Q3 2023/24



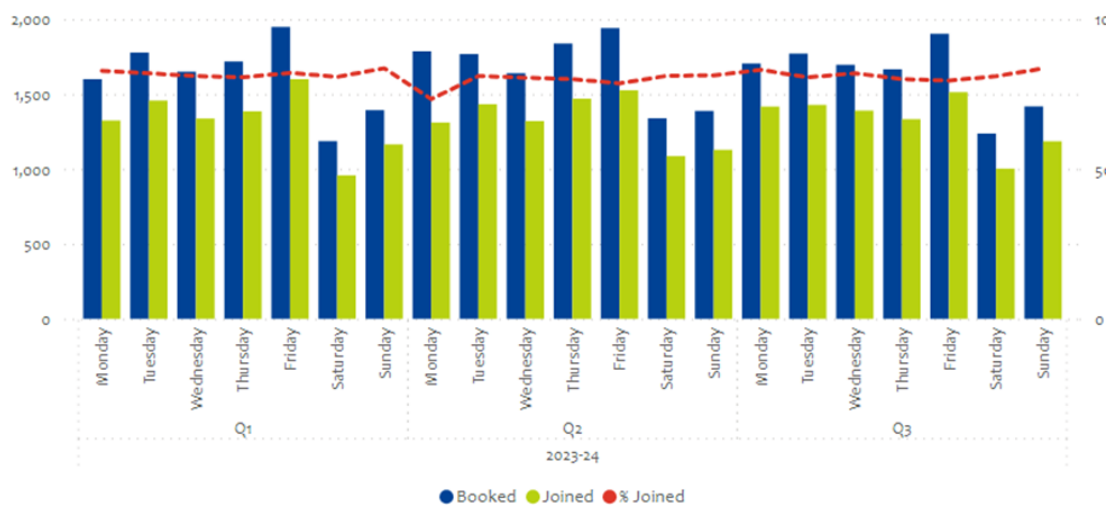
Virtual Visits

Compared to Q2 2023/24 figures, Q4 2023/24 shows that Virtual Visits have also remained stable with a decrease of 2.6% in booked visits from 11,701 to 11,396, a 0.05% decrease in joined visits from 9,273 to 9,268 and an increase of 29% terminated visits from 438 to 565.

Virtual Visits - Visit Outcomes - Q1 2023/23 - Q3 2023/24



Virtual Visits - Booked vs Joined vs % Joined - Q1 2024/23 - Q3 2023/24



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.

We seek to be as open and transparent as possible, while also upholding our statutory obligation to ensure those in our care have their personal information protected. We have improved the way in which we collate and present data on our transgender population and, following advice from information governance experts, will only provide information on the total number of transgender people in our care. We have also applied disclosure control throughout the report where small numbers might mean that individuals could be identified.

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 Proceedings in Scotland, 2019-20](#)

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

[Criminal Proceedings in Scotland, 2021-22](#)

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

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

[Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2022-23](#)

- **Prisons research and surveys**

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](#).

- **Sex, gender identity, trans status – data collection and publication: guidance**

Guidance for public bodies on the data collection of data on sex and gender, available [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](#).

- [Scotland’s Census 2022 – Rounded population estimates](#)
- [Mid-2020 Population Estimates Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)