



**HEADQUARTERS**  
One Lochside  
1 Lochside Avenue  
Edinburgh  
EH12 9DJ

**Our Ref:** HQ24100

21 August 2024

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 23 July 2024 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

For reference, you requested:

**RFI 1:** “How many children (under 18s) have been looked after by you in each month for the past three years. For example, x in March 2023, y in April 2023, and so on.”

**RFI 2:** “Under the same breakdown, please can you provide what location you held them in. For example, x at Polmont in March 2023, y at Polmont in April 2023, and so on.”

**RFI 3:** “Over the same three-year period, please can you tell me how many self-harm incidents there have been among the children looked after by you? Please include the location, when it happened, and a brief description of what the incident was.”

For clarification, the three-year period I am asking for is between July 2021 and July so far this year. If you do not have data for July 2024, June 2024 is acceptable.

We have now completed our search for the information you requested.

**RFI 1 Response:** Section 25 of FOI(S)A exempts information from disclosure where the requester can reasonably obtain the information without asking for it under FOI(S)A.

The information requested can be found at the link below:

[Data, Research and Evidence | Scottish Prison Service \(sps.gov.uk\)](https://www.sps.gov.uk/Data-Research-and-Evidence)

**RFI 2 Response:** Due to the way the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) Prisoner Records system records data, under section 17 of FOI(S)A I can advise that we do not hold this information for each month for the past three years. However, I can advise that from 1 July 2021 to the date of your request, young people under the age of 18 have been located in HMP & YOI Cornton Vale, HMP & YOI Grampian, HMP Inverness, HMP & YOI Polmont and HMP & YOI Stirling.

**RFI 3 Response:** During the same reporting period there have been 13 self-harm incidents involving young people under the age of 18.

These incidents occurred in HMP & YOI Cornton Vale, HMP & YOI Grampian and HMP & YOI Polmont.

The nature of these incidents were bruising, cuts, use of a ligature, overdose and attempted suicide.

Due to the low number of these incidents, the information above is presented in such a way as to provide you with the information requested while avoiding the risk of potentially identifying the individuals involved and contravening any of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the UK GDPR and in section 34(1) of the DPA 2018. The Scottish Prison Service seeks to be as open and transparent as possible, while also upholding our statutory obligation to protect the personal information of those in our care.

This concludes our response to your request.

If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may ask us to conduct an internal review, by writing to The Chief Executive, One Lochside, 1 Lochside Avenue, Edinburgh, EH12 9DJ. Your request should explain why you wish a review to be conducted and should be made within forty working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within twenty working days of receipt. If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Manager