

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FLEXIBLE RELEASE



Information for Families

WHAT IS FLEXIBLE RELEASE ?

Scottish Law allows SPS the option to release those in our care up to two working days before their earliest date of liberation (EDL) where...

They have served a sentence of **more than 15 days**

And

It would improve their chances of getting the help they need from the community after being released.



Please note that there is no automatic right to be liberated early.

HOW TO REQUEST FLEXIBLE RELEASE

Your family member can make request to their:

Personal Officer

Links Centre Staff

Mentor / Through care worker

Any of the services who will be supporting them.

Public services /support organisations can make requests.



Requests will need to be supported by the organisation which will support them after release

WHY FLEXIBLE RELEASE

It takes away some of the barriers that your loved one may face upon release.

Helps public/support services provide the best level of support they can.

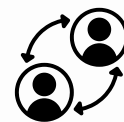
Give those being released the best chance.

Reduces the chance of re offending.

To make sure those being released make the best use of services available.

WHEN?.....

Up to 12 weeks before EDL, no later than 8 days before EDL.



Your family member will be expected to engage with SPS and agencies that are supporting them i.e. Housing, welfare, substance misuse, to provide evidence to support the request.

HOW ARE REQUESTS CONSIDERED

Requests must show clearly why a flexible release will improve a return to the community and address their needs.

Each request is considered on its own merit.

Any possible risk to public safety is considered.

Requests will only be granted where there is a sound reason that services could not be provided on the EDL.

Other arrangements could not provide the same benefits to meet their needs/resolve problems identified.

SPS WILL

Consider requests at a local level

Final approval will be made by Head of Operations & Public Protection at SPS head quarters

Make sure that your loved one and services supporting them are advised of progress and decision made.

Encourage services to work together to plan for your family member release to help settle you back into the community

EXAMPLES IN PRACTICE



Clear evidence that required support for specific health issues is not available on day of liberation, but can be evidenced 2 days prior.



Clear evidence that there is difficulty accessing suitable accommodation on EDL.



Clear evidence that there is access to an confirmed employment opportunity on the day of or up to 2 days before liberation, where the individual would be reporting unemployed on EDL.



Clear evidence that there could be a risk of harm to the individual i.e. domestic abuse on EDL. This could be reduced if liberated 1 or 2 days early.



Clear evidence that shows the distance to be travelled to their home address on the day of release would not allow sufficient time to access key services on EDL but this would be alleviated if released up to two days earlier.



Clear evidence that access to an addiction worker is not available due to day of liberation, but can be evidenced 2 days before liberation