
DIRECTIONS

The Scottish Prison Rules (Religious Observance) Direction 2025

Made - - - - 23 December 2024

Coming into force - - 1st January 2025

The Scottish Ministers make the following Direction in exercise of the powers conferred by section 39 of the Prisons (Scotland) Act 1989(1) and rules 83 and 156 of the Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules 2011(2) and all other powers enabling them to do so.

Citation and commencement

1. This Direction may be cited as the Scottish Prison Rules (Religious Observance) Direction 2025 and comes into force on 1 January 2025.

Recognised days of religious observance

2. For the purpose of rule 83(3)(b) of the Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules 2011—

- (a) the recognised days of religious observance for each religion specified in column 1 of the Schedule are described in column 2 of the Schedule; and
- (b) the dates on which those days fall in 2025 are specified in column 3 of the Schedule.

This Direction consisting of this page and the Schedule annexed is subscribed as follows—

It is signed for and on behalf of the Scottish Prison Service, an executive agency of the Scottish Ministers, at Edinburgh on 23 December 2024 by Teresa Medhurst, Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service before this witness, Dawn Hay, Legal Services Officer, at One Lochside, Lochside Avenue, Edinburgh.

For the Scottish Prison Service: Teresa Medhurst

Witness: Dawn Hay

(1) 1989 c.45; section 39 was amended by the Prisoners and Criminal Proceedings (Scotland) Act 1993 (c.9), section 24 and 25, Schedule 5, paragraph 6(6)(b) and Schedule 7, paragraph 1; by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (c.33), section 116(4); by the Criminal Procedure (Consequential Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1995 (c.40), Schedule 4, paragraph 75(4)(a); by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (c. 37), Schedule 8, paragraph 71 and Schedule 10, paragraph 1; the Management of Offenders (Scotland) 2019 (asp 14), section 55(2); and by the Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Act 2021, Schedule 13(7), paragraph 51(2). The functions of the Secretary of State, insofar as exercisable within devolved competence, were transferred to the Scottish Ministers by virtue of section 53 of the Scotland Act 1998 (c.46).

(2) S.S.I. 2011/331 (as amended).

SCHEDULE

<i>(1)</i> Religion	<i>(2)</i> Recognised day of religious observance	<i>(3)</i> Date in 2025
Baha'i	Naw Ruz (Baha'i New Year)	20 March
	First Day of Ridvan	20 April
	Ninth Day of Ridvan	28 April
	Twelfth Day of Ridvan	1 May
	Declaration of the Bab	23 May
	Ascension of Baha'u'llah	28 May
	Martyrdom of the Bab	9 July
	Birthday of the Bab	22 October
	Birthday of Baha'u'llah	23 October
Buddhist	Buddha Day	11 May
	Dhamma Day	10 July
	Sangha Day	7 October
Christian	Good Friday	18 April
	Easter Day	20 April
	Christmas Day	25 December
Hindu	Maha Shivaratri (day of fasting)	26 February
	Holi (festival of colours)	13 March
	Shri Ram Navami	6 April
	Rahkee/Raksha Bandhan	9 August
	Shri Krishna Janmashtami	16 August
	Diwali	20 October
Jain	Mahavir Janma Kalyanak	10 April
	Rakhee/Raksha Bandhan	9 August
	Samvatsary	27 August
	Lord Mahavir's Nirvan (Diwali)	20 October
	New Year Day	22 October
Jehovah's Witness	Memorial of Christ's Death	12 April

<i>(1)</i> Religion	<i>(2)</i> Recognised day of religious observance	<i>(3)</i> Date in 2025
Jewish	Passover (Pesach)	12 April – 14 April (Sunset) (Nightfall)
		18 April – 20 April (Sunset) (Nightfall)
	Pentecost (Shavuot)	1 June – 3 June (Sunset) (Nightfall)
	New Year (Rosh Hashanah)	22 September – 24 September (Sunset) (Nightfall)
	Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)	1 October – 2 October (Sunset) (Nightfall)
	Tabernacles (Sukkot)	6 October – 8 October (Sunset) (Nightfall)
	Rejoicing of the Law	13 October – 15 October (Sunset) (Nightfall)
Muslim	Eid-Al-Fitr*	30 March
	Eid-Al-Adha*	6 June
	Yaum Ashura*	5 July
	Mawlid-Al-Nabi*	2 September
Orthodox Christian	Christmas Day	7 January
	Great Friday	18 April
	Easter Day/Pascha	20 April
	Dormition of the Theotokos	15 August
Pagan	Imbolc	1 February
	Ostara – Spring Equinox	20 March
	Beltane	1 May
	Litha – Midsummer – Summer Solstice	21 June
	Lammas or Lughnasadh	1 August
	Mabon – Autumn Equinox	22 September
	Samhain	31 October
Yule – Winter Equinox	21 December	

* Please note, as these dates are based on the lunar calendar, they may vary by a day depending on sighting of the moon.

<i>(1)</i> Religion	<i>(2)</i> Recognised day of religious observance	<i>(3)</i> Date in 2025
Quaker	Quaker Week	28 September – 5 October
	World Quaker Day	5 October
Rastafarian	Ethiopian Christmas Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ	7 January
	The victorious return in 1941 of His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie 1 to the Throne in Ethiopia after time in exile in Britain	5 May
	The Earthday/Birthday of HIM Haile Selassie 1. Marked as a day of celebration prayer reading and spiritual gatherings	23 July
	The anniversary of the Coronation of HIM Haile Selassie 1 and HIM Empress Menen	2 November
Sikh	The Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh	5 January
	Baisakhi/Vaisakhi	14 April
	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev	16 June
	Bandi Chor (Diwali)	20 October
	The birthday of Guru Nanak	5 November
	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur	24 November
Zoroastrian	Jamsheedi NoRuz	21 March
	Khordad Sal	26 March
	Shenshai Navroze	15 August
	Khordad Sal	20 August