



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ25157

30 July 2025

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 1 July 2025 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

For reference, you requested:

RFI 1: “The current breakdown (or closest available date) of expressed religious beliefs of the prison population. For example, X% are Buddhist, Y% are Muslim, Z% are Roman Catholic.”

RFI 2: “Break this down further by the ethnic background of each person. For example, of the X% who are Buddhist – Y% are White British, Z% are Black etc.”

RFI 3: “The number of Islamic prison chaplains employed by the SPS in each of the past 10 years.”

RFI 4: “Whether there were any reports of violence between prisoners in 2024 related to pressure to convert to another religion.”

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

RFI 1 & 2 Response: Please see table below:

	African	Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	Caribbean or Black	Mixed or Multiple	Other Ethnic Group	White	Total
Baptist					1	11	12
Buddhist		18			3	24	45
Christian	35	10	16	5	20	411	497
Church of England			2	1		47	50
Church of Scotland	1	1	2		1	1318	1323
Episcopalian						5	5
Hindu		9			2	5	16

Jehovah Witness	1		1			10	12
Jewish	2	6	2		5	252	267
Mormon						6	6
Muslim	51	121	26	16	68	200	482
No Affiliation	8	54	13	15	41	2826	2957
None		1	3	2		1106	1112
Other	1	7	4	2	17	188	219
Roman Catholic	4	7	1	1	20	1128	1161
Sikh		9				1	10
Total	103	243	70	42	178	7538	8174

RFI 3 Response: The Scottish Prison Service (SPS) currently have 4 Islamic Prison Chaplains employed at this time. This number has ranged between 4 and 5 being employed over the last 10 years in both part time and full-time roles.

RFI 4 Response: While we endeavour to provide information whenever possible, and we do hold the information that you have requested, in this instance the costs of locating, retrieving, and providing the information requested would exceed the upper cost limit set under section 12 of FOI(S)A.

To clarify, to provide a response to your request for information in relation to any reports of violence between prisoners in 2024 related to pressure to convert to another religion would require a manual check of all 2268 violent incident reports submitted during that period to determine if pressure to convert to another religion was a factor. A sample check was carried out, and this identified that it would take a minimum of 2-3 minutes to review each incident report. This was calculated and revealed that to review all incident reports would take approximately 95 hours, which at a cost of £15 per hour, totalled around £1425, which is over the £600 threshold set under FOI(S)A.

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

Operational Advisor
SPS Operations Directorate