



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ25224

9 September 2025

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 11 August 2025 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

For reference, you requested:

RFI 1: “The total number of individuals currently held in custody across all Scottish prisons.”

RFI 2: “The operational capacity of the Scottish prison estate, broken down by individual establishment.”

RFI 3: “The number of spaces currently available (i.e., unoccupied) across the estate, broken down by establishment.”

RFI 4: “Details of any confirmed plans to increase prison capacity in Scotland, including:

- Planned new establishments or extensions to existing prisons.
- The expected number of additional spaces.
- The projected timeline for completion.”

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

RFI 1 Response: At the time of your request there were 8,245 individuals held in SPS custody. For awareness, SPS publish information on the prison population provided as a weekly time series. This shows the population in custody broken down by custody type, gender and age, and can be found using the link provided below:
[Data, Research and Evidence | Scottish Prison Service](#)

RFI 2 Response: Please see table below:

Establishment	Design Capacity
HMP Addiewell	702
HMP Barlinnie	987
Bella Centre (CCU)	16
HMP Castle Huntly	184
HMP Dumfries	176
HMP Edinburgh	867
HMP Glenochil	668
HMP & YOI Grampian	552
HMP Greenock	224
HMP Inverness	93
HMP Kilmarnock	501

Lilias Centre (CCU)	24
HMP Low Moss	784
HMP Perth	631
HMP & YOI Polmont	758
HMP Shotts	538
HMP & YOI Stirling	100
Total	7805

RFI 3 Response: The number of available spaces in any prison is not a fixed state as there are several factors which directly impact upon capacity such as classification, risk groups, cell sharing risk assessments, cells out of use, people being held out of circulation, and people presenting operational risk/s etc. Therefore, it is not possible to provide a response to the information requested. A continual dynamic assessment, applied through the Governor in Charge along with the Senior Management Team and in consultation with the SPS Director Of Operations, is the applied process which determines capacity.

RFI 4 Response: Work is continuing on two major prison construction projects aimed at modernising the prison estate, improving rehabilitation outcomes, and increasing capacity.

HMP Highland is being built in Inverness to replace HMP Inverness. Scheduled for completion in 2026, it will have a capacity of 200 inmates, more than doubling the previous facility's capacity. HMP Glasgow is being built as a replacement for HMP Barlinnie. With a projected completion date of 2028, this new prison will accommodate 1,344 prisoners.

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