



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ25345

2 December 2025

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 4 November 2025 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) for:

For reference, you requested.

RFI 1: The number of absconded prisoners under the care of SPS between 2019 and 2024 with a breakdown of each year.

RFI 2: I would also like to know from the number that absconded how many were traced and returned to the care of SPS.

We have now completed our search for the information you requested which has been provided.

RFI 1 Response: We do endeavour to provide information wherever possible, and we do hold the information requested, however disclosing specific numbers where the instances are less than five, may lead to the subsequent identification of the individuals concerned. It is for this reason an exemption under Section 38(1) (b) (personal information) of FOISA has been applied to information requested and we are providing this information as less than five (<5).

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
< 5	< 5	< 5	<5	< 5	0

RFI 2 Response: All individuals that absconded were traced and returned to the Scottish Prison Services custody.

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