



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ25346

19 December 2025

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 4 November 2025 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

Please may I take this opportunity to apologise for the delay in providing you with this response.

For reference, you requested: Can you please provide me with information on accidental releases from prisons in Scotland over the last 10 financial years.

RFI 1: “I am looking to establish how many prisoners were returned to custody after being accidentally released in each financial year between April 2015 and present day.”

RFI 2: “Please detail how long each released prisoner was at liberty for.”

RFI 3: “Please also detail how many prisoners who were accidentally released had been convicted of violent or sexual offences.”

RFI 4: “Please can you also provide a breakdown of which prisons these prisoners were liberated from accidentally, per year.”

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

RFI 1 Response: Please see table below:

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
8	3	4	5	3	3	5	8	6	5	5

RFI 2 Response: Please see table below:

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
1 Day	4 Days	1 Day	1 Day	8 Days	17 Days	3 Days	1 Day	1 Day	1 Day	3 Days
2 Days	4 Days	3 Days	6 Days	14 Days	79 days	3 Days	1 Day	3 Days	1 Day	4 Days
8 Days	6 Days	3 Days	6 Days	162 Days	82 Days	3 Days	1 Day	5 days	12 Days	8 Days
12 Days		6 Days	29 Days			7 Days	4 Days	86 Days	18 Days	108 Days
13 Days			39 Days			158 Days	6 Days	211 Days	32 Days	120 days
18 Days							10 Days	367 Days		
28 Days							42 Days			
29 Days							161 Days			

RFI 3 Response: Of those liberated in error, 13 had a non-sexual crime of violence conviction and none had a sexual crime conviction.

RFI 4 Response: Please see table below:

Establishment	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
HMP Addiewell	3		1		1	2	1	1		1	
HMP Barlinnie				1	1		2	3	1	1	2
HMP Edinburgh	2	1						2			1
HMP Glenochil								1			
HMP & YOI Grampian	1			1						1	
HMP Greenock			1								
HMP Inverness	1								1		
HMP Kilmarnock		1	1		1					1	
HMP Low Moss		1		2		1	2		1		
HMP Perth				1				1	1		
HMP & YOI Polmont	1		1							1	1
HMP & YOI Stirling									2		1

* The figures provided are up to 5 December 2025.

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