



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ25377

23 December 2025

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 24 November 2025 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

For reference, you requested: Under Freedom of Information can you please provide the following figures over the last three financial years?

RFI 1: "The average cost per prisoner place in Scotland in a male estate (per annum)?"

RFI 2: "The average cost per prisoner place in Scotland in a female estate (per annum)?"

RFI 3: "The average cost per prisoner place in protective custody in a male estate?"

RFI 4: "The average cost per prisoner place in protective custody in a male estate?"

Can I please have a breakdown per prison please for the following:

RFI 5: "How many male prisoners in Scotland were housed in protective custody in 2025?"

RFI 6: "How many female prisoners in Scotland were housed in protective custody in 2025?"

RFI 7: "How many trans women prisoners in Scotland were housed in protective custody in 2025?"

RFI 8: "How many trans male prisoners in Scotland were housed in protective custody in 2025?"

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

RFI 1 – 4 Response: Under section 17 of FOISA, I can advise that the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) does not hold the information requested. We do not have separate average annual figures for different population groups.

In accordance with section 15 of FOISA, and to be helpful, the SPS Annual Report and Accounts 2024–25 provides the following information for the whole estate:

- The annual average cost per individual place, excluding capital charges, exceptional payments and the cost of the Court Custody and Prisoner Escort contract, in 2024–

25 was £52,260 (2023–24: £47,140).

- On a resource accounting basis (including depreciation and impairment charges), the cost in 2024–25 was £58,627 (2023–24: £54,992).
- Including exceptional payments, the cost in 2024–25 was £52,243 (2023–24: £47,221). Exceptional payments include charges/release of provisions for compensation and related costs.

RFI 5 – 8 Response: Under section 17 of FOISA, I can advise that this information is not held by SPS. The SPS does not routinely use the term “protective custody” in its operational practice, and this terminology is not commonly applied within our prison estate. Additionally, we do not record accommodation under this category.

As such, we are unable to provide figures for the number of male, female, or transgender individuals in our care housed in “protective custody” in 2025 because this information is not held by SPS.

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