

Our Ref: HQ25512

25 March 2026

Dear

Thank you for your FOI request dated 26 February 2026 under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A). Your request was for:

RFI1: "The numbers of drones found in prisons EACH month from March 2025 until now (1 March, 2026)."

RFI2: "The contents of the drones. Please give as much detail as possible in terms of types of drugs (confirmed by testing), mobile phones, types of weapons etc."

RFI3: "Please can you provide any information you may have, showing the value of the contents in EACH of the drone seizures."

RFI4: "Please can you also provide details of how many drones have been captured/seized by SPS staff as a result of steps taken by the SPS to capture or deter drones."

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

RFI1 & 2 Response: Please see list of each incident of a drone sighting or recovery from a drone that occurred from 1 March 2025 to 9 March 2026 which includes detail of any contents recovered in Annex A included with this response.

RFI3 Response: The Scottish Prison Service (SPS) is not an investigatory or forensic body and therefore does not test, analyse, or formally confirm the substances recovered in drone-related incidents. All suspected controlled substances seized within the prison estate are passed to Police Scotland for investigation, testing, and evidential purposes. As a result, under section 17(1) of FOI(S)A I can advise that SPS does not hold confirmed valuations of the suspected substances recovered from drone seizures.

RFI4 Response: Under section 17(1) of FOI(S)A I can advise that the SPS does not hold recorded information that would allow us to determine or quantify whether a specific drone seizure occurred as a direct result of any particular counter-drone measure.

Establishments employ a range of local security measures and operational practices that operate in combination with general staff vigilance and routine security activity, and it is not possible to attribute any single drone interception to one specific step or intervention. In addition, for operational security reasons SPS does not provide detailed information about security measures or their impacts.

As a result, SPS is unable to provide the specific information requested as it is not held in a recorded format.

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
Scottish Prison Service Headquarters

Annex A

2025

Month	Establishment	Drone Recovered ?	Contents Recovered ?	Contents
March	HMP Addiewell	No	No	N/A
March	HMP Barlinnie	No	Yes	Mobile phones, yellow powder, SIM Cards, charging cables, yellow tablets, needles, syringes, tablets
March	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
March	HMP Addiewell	No	Yes	Brown powder, tablets, white powder, mobile phones, SIM cards and syringes
March	HMP Open Estate	No	No	N/A
March	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
March	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
April	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
April	HMP Kilmarnock	No	No	N/A
April	HMP Shotts	No	No	N/A
April	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
April	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Shotts	No	Yes	Mobile phones, cigarettes and lighters
May	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Glenochil	No	Yes	Unknown
May	HMP Barlinnie	Yes	Yes	Unknown – provided to Police Scotland
May	HMP Kilmarnock	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
June	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
June	HMP Kilmarnock	No	No	N/A
June	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
June	HMP Addiewell	No	Yes	Powder, resin and unknown substance
June	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
June	HMP Inverness	No	No	N/A
July	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
July	HMP Kilmarnock	No	No	N/A
July	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A

July	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
July	HMP Edinburgh	No	Yes	Vials of liquid, tablets, powder, syringes, needles, plastic spray bottles containing unknown liquid, pre-filled KwikPens
August	HMP Shotts	No	Yes	Mobile phones, charging cable, SIM cards, green substance, white substance and SIM Card remover pins
August	HMP Kilmarnock	No	No	N/A
August	HMP Kilmarnock	No	No	N/A
August	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
August	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
August	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
August	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
September	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
September	HMP Barlinnie	Yes	Yes	Unknown – provided to Police Scotland
September	HMP Glenochil	Yes	Yes	Tablets, needles, vials, syringes, WiFi boxes and chargers, pink substance, cable adaptors
September	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
September	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
October	HMP Stirling	No	No	N/A
October	HMP Glenochil	No	No	N/A
October	HMP Shotts	No	Yes	Mobile phones, charging cables, SIM Cards, powder, tobacco, substances
October	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
October	HMP Addiewell	No	No	N/A
October	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
October	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
October	HMP Edinburgh	Yes	Yes	Mobile phones, pink powder, unknown substance, SIM cards and cable adaptors
October	HMP Barlinnie	No	Yes	Unknown – provided to Police Scotland
October	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
November	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
November	HMP Shotts	No	No	N/A
November	HMP Barlinnie	No	Yes	Recovered by Police Scotland
November	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
November	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
November	HMP Glenochil	No	No	N/A
December	HMP Polmont	No	No	N/A

Annex A

December	HMP Perth	Yes	Yes	Metal tool with screwdriver parts, mobile phones, SIM cards, powder and charging cables
December	HMP Kilmarnock	No	No	N/A

2026

Month	Establishment	Drone Recovered ?	Contents Recovered ?	Contents
January	HMP Glenochil	No	Yes	White powder, pink powder, brown substance and sticky substance
January	HMP Barlinnie	Yes	Yes	Resin, wax substance, white powder, beige paste, capsules, mobile phones, charging cables, allen keys and SIM cards
January	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
January	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
January	HMP Inverness	No	No	N/A
February	HMP Inverness	No	No	N/A
February	HMP Barlinnie	Yes	Yes	Unknown – provided to Police Scotland
February	HMP Glenochil	No	No	N/A
February	HMP Inverness	No	No	N/A