



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ25536

15 April 2026

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 17 March 2026 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

For reference, you requested:

RFI 1: "I wonder if you would be able to provide me with the number of women serving mandatory life sentences within the current prison population?"

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

RFI 1 Response: Based on information extracted from SPS records on 6 April 2026, there were 44 women serving mandatory life sentences within the Scottish prison population.

In addition, there were fewer than five women recalled to custody while subject to a mandatory life sentence at that time.

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