



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ26007

1 May 2026

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 3 April 2026 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

For reference, you requested: "Please provide data relating to compensation payments made to individuals in custody within the Scottish Prison Service over the last ten financial years (or, if this exceeds cost limits, the last five financial years).

Specifically, I would like:

RFI 1: "The total number of compensation payments made to prisoners, broken down by financial year."

RFI 2: "The total monetary value of these payments, broken down by financial year."

RFI 3: "A breakdown of the number of payments and total value by category/reason, including but not limited to:

- Injuries sustained while in custody (including assaults by other prisoners) and any details on injuries and how they were sustained
- Injuries involving staff
- Claims relating to conditions of detention
- Mental health impacts attributed to incarceration
- Loss, damage or theft of personal property
- Clinical/medical negligence"

RFI 4: "Where recorded, the highest single compensation payment made in each financial year."

RFI 5: "Copies of any internal guidance, policies or frameworks used to assess and award compensation to prisoners."

RFI 6: "Details of how many claims were received in total (whether successful or not), broken down by financial year."

We have now completed our search for the information you requested. Please note, there is no information available for the financial years prior to 2018/19.

RFI 1 Response: Please see table below:

Financial Year	Total Number of Compensation Payments to Individuals in Our Care by SPS*
2018/19	161
2019/20	187
2020/21	148
2021/22	143
2022/23	149
2023/24	160
2024/25	148
2025/26	168

*Please note this does not include payments made via the Redress Scheme.

RFI 2 Response: Please see table below:

Financial Year	Total Monetary Value These Payments
2018/19	£337,066.91
2019/20	£53,449.86
2020/21	£23,766.98
2021/22	£64,008.99
2022/23	£22,891.41
2023/24	£16,661.37
2024/25	£119,349.07
2025/26	£85,318.82

RFI 3 Response: Whilst the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) seeks to provide information where possible, under section 12 of FOI(S)A a public authority is not required to comply with a request where it estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the £600 statutory cost limit.

In this instance, SPS would be required to interrogate information relating to over 900 individual claims in order to extract the detail requested. We estimate that the cost of locating, retrieving and providing this information would exceed the cost limit and, accordingly, this information is refused under section 12 of FOI(S)A.

RFI 4 Response: The information requested is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of FOI(S)A, as it constitutes personal data. Disclosure of the highest single compensation payment made in each financial year could, when combined with other information, lead to the identification of an individual. As such, disclosure would contravene the data protection principles set out in Article 5(1) of the UK GDPR and section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

RFI 5 Response: Under section 17(1) of FOI(S)A, I can advise that the SPS does not hold the information requested.

RFI 6 Response: The information requested is refused under section 12 of FOI(S)A for the reasons set out in the response to RFI 3 above.

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