



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ26084

17 July 2026

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 19 June 2026 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

For reference, you requested:

RFI 1: "Expenditure on translation and interpretation services.

The total amount spent by the Scottish Prison Service on translation and interpretation services (including any contracts with external providers for language support, document translation, or interpreting for prisoners) for each of the following financial years:

- 2020/21
- 2021/22
- 2022/23
- 2023/24
- 2024/25 (or the most recent year for which figures are available).

If a breakdown is held (e.g. by individual prison, by type of service, or by provider), please provide it."

RFI 2: "Prison population snapshot (most recent date available) .

As at the most recent date for which data is held (please state the exact date):

- a. Total number of prisoners in SPS custody.
- b. Number of foreign national prisoners (defined as prisoners who do not hold British citizenship).
- c. Number of prisoners recorded as asylum seekers (or whose immigration status is recorded as asylum seeker / pending asylum claim / asylum-related)."

RFI 3: "Nationality breakdown

A full breakdown of the prison population by nationality (number of prisoners for each nationality recorded), as at the most recent date available.

If a full list would be too voluminous, please provide the top 20 nationalities by number of prisoners plus a total for all remaining nationalities.”

RFI 4: “Ethnicity breakdown for British prisoners

For prisoners recorded as British citizens / UK nationals (or “British” / “Scottish” / “English” etc. in your records), please provide a breakdown by ethnicity using the standard ethnic categories held by SPS (e.g. White Scottish, White Other British, White Other, Mixed, Asian, Black, Other, etc.).

Please provide this as at the most recent date available, with numbers and/or percentages.”

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

RFI 1 Response: Please see HQ26084 Annex A included with this response.

RFI 2 Response: The information below is based on the SPS population on the date of your request.

- a. 8543 individuals in SPS custody.
- b. 775 foreign national individuals, which is 9% of the total population.
- c. Under section 17 of FOISA I can advise that we do not hold this information. The SPS does not hold data on whether a prisoner has an asylum seeker status.

RFI 3 Response: Please see table below:

Nationality	Total
British	7768
Vietnamese	148
Polish	96
Albanian	84
Romanian	52
Irish	27
Sudanese	22
Iranian	21
Pakistani	20
Chinese	17
Lithuanian	17
Nigerian	16
Syrian	15
Indian	14
Iraqi	13
Italian	13
Afghan	12
Latvian	11
Turkish	10
Algerian	9

Slovakian	9
Greek	8
Gambian	7
Portuguese	7
Zimbabwean	7
Eritrean	6
Ghanaian	6
Jamaican	6
Somalian	6
American	5
German	5
Canadian	<5
Undetermined	<5
Bangladeshi	<5
Bulgarian	<5
Czech	<5
Dutch	<5
French	<5
Hungarian	<5
Libyan	<5
Malaysian	<5
Morroccan	<5
Ukrainian	<5
Australian	<5
Batswana	<5
Brazilian	<5
Cuban	<5
Egyptian	<5
Estonian	<5
Fijian	<5
Georgian	<5
Other Asian	<5
Palestinian	<5
Spanish	<5
Thai	<5
Tunisian	<5
Angolan	<5
Chadian	<5
Chilean	<5
Colombian	<5
Congolese	<5
Danish	<5
Ecuadorian	<5
Indonesian	<5

Japanese	<5
Mexican	<5
Namibian	<5
Nepalese	<5
Other African	<5
Russian	<5
Saint Lucian	<5
Salvadoran	<5
Senegalese	<5
Sierra Leonean	<5
South African	<5
Sri Lankan	<5
Swedish	<5
Zambian	<5

Please note, we do endeavour to provide information wherever possible, and we do hold the information requested, however disclosing specific numbers where the instances are less than five, may lead to the subsequent identification of the individuals concerned. It is for this reason an exemption under Section 38(1)(b) (personal information) of FOISA has been applied to information requested and we are providing this information as less than five (<5).

RFI 4 Response: Please see table below:

Ethnicity	Total
White	7505
Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	113
Caribbean Or Black	56
Mixed Or Multiple	36
African	35
Other Ethnic Group	23

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

SPS Headquarters

Spend on Translation and Interpretation Services 2020 - 21 to 2025 - 26 (£)							
Establishment	2020 - 21	2021 - 22	2022 - 23	2023 - 24	2024 - 25	2025 - 26	Grand Total
HMP Barlinnie	9,275	13,097	10,115	12,784	14,030	11,176	70,477
HMP & YOI Cornton Vale*	1,051	189	331	-	-	-	1,572
HMP Dumfries	262	424	1,043	10,011	5,445	4,477	21,663
HMP Edinburgh	15,259	14,276	12,856	26,518	20,493	19,731	109,134
HMP Greenock	317	-	91	27	630	483	1,549
HMP Glenochil	4,660	3,317	9,644	6,153	21,961	9,138	54,873
HMP & YOI Grampian	1,239	854	2,521	5,303	11,283	14,223	35,423
SPS Headquarters	937	34	2,818	836	1,607	312	6,544
HMP Inverness	415	288	152	150	142	332	1,478
HMP Kilmarnock	-	-	-	-	-	12,650	12,650
HMP Low Moss	1,025	713	5,497	7,740	4,024	10,679	29,678
HMP & YOI Polmont	1,890	3,225	1,097	10,964	6,304	3,591	27,070
HMP Perth	325	222	401	400	1,033	2,825	5,206
HMP Shotts	2,708	2,320	4,978	3,281	6,196	11,807	31,290
SPS College	-	77	-	-	-	-	77
HMP & YOI Stirling	-	-	-	119	2,284	5,707	8,110
Grand Total	39,364	39,037	51,543	84,287	95,433	107,130	416,794

*(now replaced by HMP & YOI Stirling)