



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ26136

21 August 2026

Dear

Thank you for your request received by us on 23 July 2026 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

For reference, you requested:

Information relating to compensation claims made by prisoners against the Scottish Prison Service for each of the financial years: 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26.

For each financial year, please provide:

RFI 1: “The total amount paid to prisoners in compensation, damages, settlements, ex gratia payments, or other payments arising from complaints or legal claims.”

RFI 2: “The total number of individual payments or claims resulting in a payment.”

RFI 3: “A breakdown of the total amount and number of payments by the reason for the claim or payment, using the categories held in your records. For example, this may include:

- human rights claims;
- cell or prison conditions;
- healthcare or medical treatment;
- personal injury;
- loss of or damage to prisoners’ property; and
- any other recorded categories.”

RFI 4: “The value of the highest single payment made to a prisoner in each financial year and the general reason/category for that payment.”

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

RF1 Response: Please see table below for the information requested:

Financial Year	Total Amount of Compensation Payments to Prisoners by SPS*
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

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

RF2 Response: Please see table below for the information requested:

Financial Year	Total Number of Compensation Payments to Prisoners by SPS*
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 3 Response: Whilst the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) endeavour to provide information whenever possible, under section 12 of FOISA public authorities are not required to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the upper cost limit.

In this instance, as we would need to interrogate information held relating to all prisoner compensation claims to extract the detail you require, the costs of locating, retrieving and providing that information would exceed the upper cost limit of £600 which is currently set by Regulations made under Section 12 of FOISA.

RFI 4 Response: We do endeavour to provide information whenever possible. However, in this instance an exemption under section 38(1)(b) (personal information) of FOISA applies to the information requested. Personal data is exempt from disclosure if disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the UK GDPR and in section 34(1) of the DPA 2018.

The SPS seeks to be as open and transparent as possible, while also upholding our statutory obligation to protect the personal information of those in our care. The information you have requested relates to an individual and providing the information requested could, together with other available information, lead to their inadvertent identification.

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 40 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