



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ26159

28 August 2026

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 7 August 2026 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

For reference, you requested:

RFI 1: "Please can you provide a statistical breakdown of the number of illegal, illicit and prohibited items confiscated and seized by officers and staff across the SPS estate in the past three years?"

Please can this be provided in a breakdown by type of items confiscated (i.e weapons, mobile phones, drugs) and which prison it was seized in?

If there are general categories used by SPS to refer to different types of prohibited items, I am happy for the information to be provided by these breakdowns to be used if it helps with the response."

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

RFI 1 Response: Due to the way data is recorded on our records system, data relating to the *number* of illegal, illicit and prohibited items would require a manual examination and interpretation of individual PR2 records. This would involve creating new information, rather than retrieving recorded information held by SPS. FOISA does not require public authorities to undertake such manual investigative analysis or to create new information in order to respond to a request. Accordingly, in terms of section 17(1) of FOISA, SPS does not hold the information requested.

However, in terms of section 15 of FOISA – to advise and assist, we have provided a breakdown of the number of instances item(s) were recovered by prison officers across the estate. Please note that in one instance there may be multiple items recovered.

Data is provided on the following pages.

Weapons

This is data between 1 August 2023 – 1 August 2026

Establishment	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
Addiewell	7	64	39	24	134
Barlinnie	3	23	12	39	77
Dumfries	1	4	2	2	9
Edinburgh	33	102	86	69	290
Glenochil		49	30	28	107
Grampian	1	33	36	18	88
Greenock	2	6	11	7	26
Inverness	10	4	4	7	25
Kilmarnock	20	53	61	29	163
Low Moss	12	112	118	69	311
Perth	27	73	56	33	189
Polmont	21	60	65	34	180
Shotts	27	93	131	67	318
Stirling			1		1
Grand Total	164	676	652	426	1,918

Mobile Phones

This is data between 1 August 2023 – 1 August 2026 and includes both handsets, sim cards, chargers and any other mobile telephone paraphernalia.

Establishment	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
Addiewell	61	123	76	43	303
Barlinnie	134	134	104	55	427
Bella				1	1
Dumfries	22	7	14	2	45
Edinburgh	131	281	226	139	777
Glenochil	52	73	76	29	230
Grampian	74	60	29	4	167
Greenock	15	20	11	18	64
Inverness	17	17	2	1	37
Kilmarnock	23	18	16	18	75
Lilias			1		1
Low Moss	97	175	71	63	406
Open Estate		3	4	4	11
Perth	261	186	48	16	511
Polmont	51	76	44	24	195
Shotts	148	253	281	135	817
Stirling		1	1	1	3
Grand Total	1,086	1,427	1,004	553	4,070

Tobacco

This is data between 1 August 2023 – 1 August 2026 and includes tobacco and tobacco paraphernalia.

Establishment	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
Addiewell		23	9	2	34
Barlinnie	3	6	3	1	13
Dumfries	1	5	6	1	13
Edinburgh	52	63	117	22	254
Glenochil	2	3			5
Grampian	3	21	2	2	28
Greenock			1	3	4
Inverness	4	6	2	1	13
Kilmarnock	6	12	14	1	33
Low Moss	7	9	8	3	27
Open Estate		1	1	4	6
Perth	5	9	3	1	18
Polmont		3	10	2	15
Shotts	11	2	20	4	37
Stirling			1	1	2
Grand Total	94	163	197	48	502

Illicit Substances

This is data between 1 August 2023 – 1 August 2026 and includes recoveries both in prison and preventatively.

Establishment	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
Addiewell	142	461	457	310	1,370
Barlinnie	126	188	134	97	545
Bella			1	1	2
Dumfries	16	99	111	30	256
Edinburgh	175	309	236	199	919
Glenochil	71	198	402	208	879
Grampian	112	289	143	54	598
Greenock	21	60	64	35	180
Inverness	51	114	49	20	234
Kilmarnock	309	430	385	164	1,288
Lilias			1	1	2
Low Moss	127	372	253	131	883
Open Estate	18	48	29	13	108
Perth	104	229	248	148	729
Polmont	139	410	272	116	937
Shotts	169	459	549	298	1,475
Stirling	11	14	11	16	52
Grand Total	1,591	3,680	3,345	1,841	10,457

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 Adviser