



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ26171

14 September 2026

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 17 August 2026 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

For reference, you requested:

RFI 1: The number of foreign nationals in the prison system as of 22 May 2026.

RFI 2: A breakdown of the number of foreign nationals from point 1, by nationality.

RFI 3: A breakdown of the number of foreign nationals from point 1 by the offence for which they have been convicted, using whatever offence classification the Scottish Prison Service already holds (for example main offence type or crime group). Where a person is untried or on remand, please record them under a separate category rather than omitting them.

I have specified 22 May 2026 so that the figures are directly comparable with those previously released under HQ25080. If a snapshot for that date is not readily available, I would be content to receive the figures for the nearest available date, provided the date used is stated.

On RFI 3, I am asking only for the aggregate position across all foreign nationals, not a cross-tabulation of nationality against offence, as I appreciate the latter would produce many very small cells. If the offence classification you hold is more granular than crime group, the more detailed version would be welcome, but the broader categories are sufficient if that is simpler to extract.

I note that in the previous response an exemption under section 38(1)(b) was applied to cells where the count was fewer than five. If you intend to apply the same approach, I would be grateful if you could confirm the total number of categories falling into that group and the aggregate number of prisoners they account for, as that aggregate figure should not itself permit identification of any individual.

RFI 1 Response: On 22 May 2026, the Scottish Prison Service had 776 foreign nationals in our care.

RFI 2 Response: Please see table below:

Prisoner Nationality	22/05/2026
Vietnamese	145
Polish	94
Albanian	83
Romanian	55
Irish	30
Chinese	21
Iranian	21
Sudanese	21
Pakistani	20
Lithuanian	19
Nigerian	18
Syrian	15
Indian	14
Italian	14
Latvian	13
Iraqi	11
Afghan	10
Slovakian	9
Turkish	9
Algerian	8
Greek	8
Zimbabwean	8
Ghanaian	6
Jamaican	6
Somalian	6
Canadian	5
Eritrean	5
Gambian	5
German	5
Portuguese	5
Bulgarian	<5
Hungarian	<5
American	<5
Bangladeshi	<5
Czech	<5
Dutch	<5
Libyan	<5
Malaysian	<5
Moroccan	<5
Other Asian	<5
Spanish	<5
Ukrainian	<5
Batswana	<5
Brazilian	<5
Cuban	<5
Egyptian	<5

Estonian	<5
French	<5
Georgian	<5
Other African	<5
Sierra Leonean	<5
Sri Lankan	<5
Thai	<5
Tunisian	<5
Angolan	<5
Australian	<5
Chadian	<5
Chilean	<5
Congolese	<5
Danish	<5
Ecuadorian	<5
Emirati	<5
Fijian	<5
Indonesian	<5
Israeli	<5
Japanese	<5
Mexican	<5
Namibian	<5
Nepalese	<5
Norwegian	<5
Palestinian	<5
Russian	<5
Saint Lucian	<5
Salvadoran	<5
Senegalese	<5
South African	<5
Swedish	<5
Undetermined	<5
Zambian	<5

We do endeavour to provide information wherever possible, however disclosing specific numbers where the instances are less than five, may lead to the subsequent identification of the individuals concerned. Therefore, an exemption under Section 38(1)(b) (personal information) of FOISA has been applied to some of information requested.

RFI 3: Unfortunately, it is not possible to retrospectively retrieve historical information with regards to Index Offences.

Our records system captures daily population data for statistical and management reporting purposes. This data is held in aggregated form and is not retained in a way that allows SPS to retrospectively identify which individual prisoners were in custody on specific historical dates. Our records system does not preserve individual-level population records for past dates and determining this information would require manual examination of individual records, resulting in the creation of new information. FOISA does not require public authorities to undertake such manual investigative analysis or to create new information to respond to a request. Accordingly, in terms of section 17(1) of FOISA, SPS does not hold the information requested.

In accordance with section 15 of FOISA, to advise and assist, we have provided the table below showing a breakdown of Index Offences as of 10 September 2026.

Foreign Nationals - Index Offence	Convicted	Remand
Sexual crimes	166	57
Crimes against society	85	162
Non-sexual crimes of violence	127	42
Miscellaneous offences / Antisocial offences / Damage and reckless behaviour / Road traffic offences	19	29
(Missing) offence classification	6	11
Other Jurisdiction Charge	9	0
Crimes of dishonesty	7	6
Other - not classified	0	5

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 Operational Adviser