



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ26198

23 September 2026

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 01 September 2026 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

For reference, you requested:

RFI 1: Please outline your current prison population and out of this total how many prisoners held in your estate are remand prisoners.

RFI 2: Please outline the numbers of remand prisoners in the years, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 also.

RFI 3: Out of this total please specify how many are male and how many are female.

RFI 4: Out of this total please specify how many have been offered work within the prison estate.

RFI 5: Out of the male and female total, please specify (if possible) how many share cells with non remand prisoners (convicted prisoners).

RFI 6: In the last five years please outline how many convicted prisoners have died via suicide and how many remand prisoners have died via suicide.

If, for any reason, my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions and redactions by reference to specific exemptions of the act.

I will also expect you to release all non-exempt material.

I reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to charge excessive fees.

I would prefer to receive this information electronically.

If you require any clarification I expect you to contact me to provide advice and assistance if you find any aspect of my FOI request problematic.

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

RFI 1 Response: A population snapshot taken on 01/09/2026 shows that there were **8,587** individuals in custody. Of these, **1,809** individuals were on remand.

RFI 2 & 3 Response:

Year	Average Male Remand	Average Female Remand	Average Total Remand
2021	1668	71	1739
2022	1769	80	1849
2023	1760	84	1844
2024	1732	93	1825
2025	1691	85	1776

RFI 4 Response: Unfortunately, under section 17(1) of FOISA, I must advise that SPS does not hold the information you have requested. Those in our care on remand do occasionally engage in work activities, but when offers have been made is not recorded.

RFI 5 Response: Throughout the prison estate, there are currently 356 remand/convicted people in our care who share a cell.

RFI 6 Response: The information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under section 25(1) of FOISA because it is otherwise accessible. Information relating to deaths in custody is routinely published by SPS and is available on our website via this link: [Death in custody | Scottish Prison Service](#)

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 HQ