

National Top End (NTE)

What is the National Top End?

National Top End (NTE) allows those in custody serving life sentences, and in some cases long-term sentences, to take part in Special Escorted Leave (SEL) and community work placements.

SELs: These are the first steps in helping your loved one reintegrate into the community, providing support for their progression.

Community Work Placements: These offer evidence of your loved one's ability to work in the community and follow license conditions.

Which establishments have a National Top End?



HMP Barlinnie (for men)

HMP Greenock (for men)

The Bella Centre, Dundee (for women)

The Lillas Centre, Glasgow (for women)

National Top End

Who is eligible to be considered for the National Top End?

Those in custody who:

- Have a **low** supervision status
- Have no outstanding criminal charges
- Have no Orderly Room award greater than a caution in the last three months
- Integrated Case Management (ICM) can evidence no identified risks/needs that could not be managed at NTE
- Can evidence no drug taking within last three months (one negative test)
- Are able to meet the criteria for progression as per the SPS Management Rule



Absconder/Escapee

There is a presumption against an absconder/escapee going to NTE, unless there are compelling supportive reasons to evidence the need. A panel of senior SPS managers will consider the application.

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Who makes the decision?

Establishments have a multi-disciplinary Risk Management Team (RMT) who consider all relevant information in reaching a decision about your loved one's suitability for increased freedoms. They will collectively agree a Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP).

An RMT considers important information to make a decision about progressing your loved one to NTE including :

- Trial Judge Reports
- Social Enquiry Reports
- ICM case conference minutes
- Risk Management Group minutes
- Formal Risk Assessments
- Parole recommendations
- Mental Health Assessments
- Addiction Assessments
- Misconduct and security information
- Home Background Report requested from the home address Social Work Team.

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What else is considered?

The Risk Management Team will carefully assess risks and issues that may be presented in the community, including but not limited to, the following:

- Your loved ones safety
- Domestic abuse concerns
- Child protection concerns
- Addiction and substance use
- Index offence factors
- Previous offending history
- Victims
- Community concerns
- Media coverage and risk to your loved one

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How could going to NTE help your loved one?

- **Increased Responsibility:** SELs and community work give your loved one more responsibility and opportunities to be tested.
- **Better Preparation:** These experiences help your loved one get ready for transfer to the Open Estate (Castle Huntly or Community Custody Units (CCUs)).
- **Work Placements:** Your loved one may have the opportunity for work placements and to progress to Open Estate or Community Custody Units (CCUs).
- **Reduced Re-offending:** It helps reduce the risk of re-offending and prepare your loved one for reintegration into the community.

What is on offer at NTE?

- Special Escorted Leave (SEL)
- Community work placements
- Unescorted Day Release (UDR)
- Enhanced visit opportunities
- Certified education courses
- Support from external agencies
- Vocational courses
- Physical education and other approved activities

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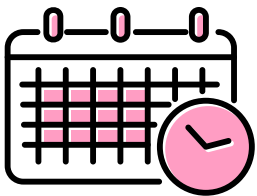
What happens once my loved one is at the National Top End?



Once approved and transferred to NTE, they will be allocated a Personal Officer and given an induction, and their individual management plan.



They may be seen by other support services such as addictions, health, social work and work allocation.



The establishment will make an assessment to determine the frequency and numbers of SELs.



During community access, if further risks are identified then the assessment period may be prolonged. This is to ensure actions are put in place to help your loved one manage any issues that come up in the community.

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What is a First Grant Temporary Release (FGTR)?

An FGTR allows life-sentenced prisoners to access the community for work placements or periods of home leave. It is not available to those serving an Order for Lifelong Restriction (OLR) or Imprisonment for Public Protection sentence.

Applications for FGTR require a full review of your loved ones case, including:

- The original offence (Index Offence)
- Past offending history
- Behaviour in custody
- Risk assessment regarding community access.

The RMT must recommend FGTR or transfer to the Open Estate before an application can be made. This process may take time.

If the work placement goes well and all conditions are met, your loved one may be considered for Unescorted Day Release (UDR).

No community placement will be approved unless the Governor receives consent from Scottish Ministers.

What if my loved one has no address to go to?

If your loved one doesn't have an address to go to, they can still be considered for NTE as SELs can be to places of interest.