



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ 26204

29 September 2026

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 04 September 2026 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

For reference, you requested:

RFI 1: The number of prison officer staff that are operationally available.

RFI 2: The number of prison officer staff that are currently signed off sick/on long term leave.

RFI 3: The number of prison officer staff that are on modified duties.

I would like this information as a snapshot at the end of each of the last five financial years (so on 31 March 2021, 31 March 2022, ..., 31 March 2026).

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

RFI 1 Response: The table below shows the total number of operational officers available by SPS as of 31 March for each year

Officers	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Available	3294	3358	3326	3616	3792	3809
Full Time Equivalent	3106.9	3168.3	3132.8	3417.7	3587.9	3599.8

RFI 2 Response: The table below shows the number of operational officers who were absent from work as of 31 March for each year. This includes absences due to sickness, special leave, parental leave, suspension, and staff temporarily undertaking non-frontline roles.

Officers	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Absent	242	379	260	206	308	305
Full Time Equivalent	228.5	358.7	246	195.6	282.9	282.3

RFI 3 Response: Unfortunately, under section 17(1) of FOISA, I must advise that SPS does not hold the information you have requested. SPS can provide the number of prison officers available for duty and those unavailable for operational duty. However, it is not currently able to centrally report the number of staff undertaking duties with reasonable adjustments or restricted duties. Functionality to record and report this information consistently across the estate is currently being developed.

This concludes our response to your request.

If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may ask us to carry out 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 carried out and should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 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