



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ26233

07 October 2026

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 09 September 2026 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

For reference, you requested:

RFI 1: "How many life serving prisoners are over their tariff in custody."

RFI 2: "How many life serving prisoners have progressed to top end and top end to Castle Huntly."

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

RFI 1 Response: A total of 846 individuals in our care are serving life sentences (excluding life recall individuals), of whom 200 are beyond their Punishment Part Expiry Date (PPED).

For clarity, there are 154 life recall individuals in SPS custody. These individuals have previously been released following expiry of their punishment part and have subsequently returned to custody. As such, they have been excluded from the figures provided above.

RFI 2 Response: As your request did not specify a timeframe, SPS has interpreted your request as relating to the period from 1 January 2026 to 07 October 2026.

During this period, 30 life sentenced individuals, including life recall individuals, were transferred to the National Top End

During the same period, 8 life sentenced individuals, including life recall individuals, were transferred from the National Top End to the Open Estate.

Should you require information for a different period, you may submit a further request specifying the timeframe required.

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