



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ23328

3 April 2024

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 5 March 2024 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

For reference, you requested:

RFI 1: "I would like to see a list of books/publications banned from Scottish Prison Service jails at the time of writing.

I would like the information to be broken down by institution with a list of the titles and, if it exists, the reasons the titles are banned.

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

RFI 1 Response: Under section 17 of FOI(S)A I can advise that this information is not held by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS).

The SPS does not have a list of banned books, publications, or periodicals. All literature requested is assessed on an individual basis. The Governor of each establishment will decide what is allowed into their establishment. The prison rules state the following:

Part 8 – Communications

Prisoners' Correspondence and Other Communications

Current affairs

53.(1) Subject to paragraph (2), every prisoner may be kept informed of current affairs by means of:

- (a) books, newspapers, periodicals, or a radio: and
- (b) any other medium the Governor may allow.

(2) The Governor may restrict, or impose conditions as to, the exercise of the entitlement referred to in paragraph (1) where the Governor considers it is necessary in order to:

- (a) protect the prisoner from self-injury: or
- (b) prevent the prisoner from injuring others."

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 Manager