Emergency Release - Victim Notification Scheme

What information is a victim able to find out from the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) VNS Team about whether an offender currently serving a custodial sentence is going to be released early under Emergency Release. And how do I get that information?

SPS can only confirm the date an offender will be released from custody. We will know if an offender is going to be released early from 20 June 2024. On or after that date you can get up to date information on an offender's date of release as set out in the flowchart below.

Are you currently registered on the Victim Notification Scheme?

YES

NO (two options are available)

Where it is confirmed that an offender is to be released, SPS' VNS team will notify you of the offender's new release date information in advance of their release from custody.

Where a telephone number is held for you, we will contact you by telephone to advise of this information. If we are unable to reach you by telephone and hold an address for you, we will send you a letter ahead of the offender's release.

If you are not registered, you can still contact SPS' VNS Team either by telephone on 0131 330 3664 (Mon-Fri, 8am-3pm) or by email on SPSVictimNotificationScheme@prisons.gov. scot to ask for the release date information if an offender is being released. Please include your contact telephone number in the email.

SPS' VNS Team will then carry out the necessary eligibility checks with either Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service or Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service to confirm that you can receive the information.

Once confirmed, SPS will contact you by telephone to provide you with their release date.

If you are not registered, you can ask a named VSO (either Victim Support Scotland, ASSIST, Children 1st or Rape Crisis Scotland) to contact SPS' VNS Team to request on your behalf the release date information if an offender is being released.

SPS' VNS Team will then carry out the necessary eligibility checks with either Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service or Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal. Service to confirm the information can be provided.

Your VSO will then contact you to provide you with the offender's release date.

There are many organisations in Scotland that can offer you help and support. Contact details for many of those organisations can be found on the SPS website at the following link https://www.sps.gov.uk/victims-crime/victim-support

What information is a named victim support organisation (Victim Support Scotland, ASSIST, Children 1st and Rape Crisis Scotland) able to find out from SPS about whether an offender currently serving a custodial sentence is going to be released early under **Emergency Release. And how do they get that information?**

SPS can only confirm the date an offender will be released from custody. We will only know if an offender is going to be released early from 20 June 2024. On or after that date a VSO can get up to date information on an offender's date of release as set out in the flowchart below.

Is the VSO working to support and assist the victim, has the victim given their consent to the named VSO to request this information on their behalf? **YES** NO The named VSO should email <u>VSOenquiries@prisons.gov.scot</u> confirming that the victim has provided consent for the VSO to request this information from SPS. Please include in the email: the name of the victim, whether the victim

SPS' VNS team will then respond to the VSO by email (20 June onwards) when the information becomes available to provide the offender's release date.

is currently registered on the Victim Notification Scheme, the name of the offender, and (if known) the sentence length and the PF reference. SPS will be unable to provide the requested information.