

Information for families and loved ones.

Emergency Release.

UPDATE – 14 June 2024

As you may be aware the Scottish prison population has risen rapidly in recent weeks. In response to this the Scottish Government has considered a range of measures designed to safeguard the community, those in our care and SPS staff.

MSPs have now voted in support of an Emergency Release Programme.

Who could be released?

- Convicted individuals.
- Those serving under four years and are 180 days away from release. Who will not be released early?
- Individuals on remand.
- Individuals sentenced to Life or Order of Lifelong Restriction.
- Terrorists
- Those serving Extended sentences or who have Supervised Release Orders. • Sex offenders.
- Those subject to extradition or removal from the UK.
- Those with convictions under the Abusive Behaviour and sexual harm (Scotland) Act 2016, Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 or Domestic Abuse (protection) (Scotland) Act 2021.
- Individuals subject to a non-harassment order imposed under section 234A of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 or the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

Will everyone who could be released, be released?

No. Governors will have a veto and can stop someone being released if they pose an immediate risk to an individual or groups in the community.

Can they appeal the decision?

No.

Who will tell my loved one if they will be released?

The hall manager of the establishment your loved one is in, will tell them if they are eligible for release and if their release has been vetoed or not.

When will these releases take place?

The releases would be spread out across four weeks, with the first taking place on 26 and 27 June. Your loved one will be provided with more information in due course.

What support will be in place for individuals being released early?

Those in our care will be provided with an opportunity to access throughcare support either by Social Work on a voluntary basis or external agencies such as:

[The Wise Group](#)

[Shine Mentoring](#)

Establishments will work closely with community partners to plan for your loved one's release, including housing and benefits etc.

If you are worried about an individual being released.

We understand you may have concerns about the release of an individual from custody, there are organisations available that can support and guide you and your family further information here: [Support for you](#).