



**HEADQUARTERS**  
 One Lochside  
 1 Lochside Avenue  
 Edinburgh  
 EH12 9DJ

**Our Ref:** HQ24003

1 May 2024

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 3 April 2024 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

For reference, you requested:

**RFI 1:** "How much money has been spent on mobile phones/landline phones for prisoners in 2021, 2022, 2023 with a breakdown of what the money was spent on?"

**RFI 2:** "What is the estimated cost of running HMP Kilmarnock and how much was spent on the handover?"

**RFI 3:** "How many prisons have body worn cameras, how many do each prison have, and all discussions/correspondence surrounding the roll-out of body worn cameras, including analysis of how much it cost, and a cost/benefit analysis of it? Between November 1 2023 and the date of this FOI."

**RFI 4:** "All briefings, correspondence sent and received, notes/minutes from meetings, regarding the removal of mobile phones from prisoners, between April 1 2023 and December 1 2023?"

**RFI 5:** "How many prisoners have been released due to emergency Covid powers, and how many reoffended?"

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

**RFI 1 Response:** Please see table below detailing mobile/landline phone costs:

	Maintenance	Repairs	Total
2021	£ 333,370.67	£ 19,381.88	£ 352,752.55
2022	£ 331,192.69	£ 17,680.48	£ 348,873.17
2023	£ 328,002.47	£ 5,902.60	£333,905.07

**RFI 2 Response:** The anticipated spend on the HMP Kilmarnock transition project for 2023/24 is £1.5m. Final running costs in 2024/25, will depend on a variety of factors including the date of the harmonisation of the existing staff group to SPS terms and conditions and overall cost of operations but are currently estimated to be around £18.6m in 2024/25.

**RFI 3 Response:** There are currently 3 SPS prisons implementing a proof-of-concept test with body worn cameras which commenced on 15 April 2024. These are HMP Barlinnie, HMP Low Moss and HMP Perth. This test will run for 6 months and will be evaluated by Blake Stevenson research agency. Each of the 3 Prisons have been issued with 25 cameras for the duration of the trial. The costs for the 6 months period are £24,955 which includes the supply, installation, cloud storage and training.

While we do endeavour to provide information whenever possible, and we do hold some of the information requested, in this instance some of the information requested is exempt under section 30(b)(ii) and 35 (1)(f) of FOI(S)A.

The 30(b)(ii) exemption provides that information is exempt if disclosure would, or would be likely to, inhibit substantially the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation. As this proof-of-concept test is an ongoing trial of body worn cameras which requires ongoing discussion and deliberation, it is assessed that this exemption is applicable in this instance.

Section 30(b)(ii) of FOI(S)A is subject to the public interest test. FOI(S)A does not define the public interest test, however it is described as something that is “in the interest of the public”, and not merely something that is “of interest to the public.” In this instance it is assessed that the public interest is best served in ensuring that SPS officials have a safe space in which they can share views and opinions on significant operational matters for the organisation, and not disclosing information that might jeopardise that.

The 35(1)(f) exemption provides that information is exempt if disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice substantially the maintenance of security and good order in prisons or in other institutions where persons are lawfully detained. As this proof-of-concept test is an ongoing trial of body worn cameras with the aim of maintaining the security and good order in prisons, it is assessed that this exemption is applicable in this instance.

Section 35(1)(f) of FOI(S)A is subject to the public interest test. FOI(S)A does not define the public interest test, however it is described as something that is “in the interest of the public”, and not merely something that is “of interest to the public.” In this instance it is assessed that the public interest is best served in ensuring the appropriate and effective management of operational systems within the prison, and not disclosing information that might jeopardise that.

**RFI 4 Response:** While we endeavour to provide information whenever possible, and we do hold some of the information that you have requested, in this instance the costs of locating, retrieving, and providing the information requested would exceed the upper cost limit set under section 12 of FOI(S)A. To clarify, to provide a response to your request for information in relation to the removal of mobile phones from prisoners would require the review of all emails and correspondence within scope of your request of at least 70 SPS colleagues. A sample search was carried out, and this identified that it would take an average of 55 minutes for each colleague to search for any relevant information. This was calculated and revealed that those searches would take more than 64 hours, which at a cost of £15 per hour, totalled £960, which is over the £600 threshold.

**RFI 5 Response:** 348 individuals were released under the emergency Covid powers. As of 11 April 2024, 250 had returned to custody at some point. We don't hold the information on the total who have reoffended since release (e.g. any individuals who may have committed a crime but not received a custodial sentence for it).

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