

SPS Quarterly Public Information Page

**Prison by Numbers Quarter 2 (July -
September 2023)**

Unlocking Potential - Transforming Lives.

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1.0 Key Messages

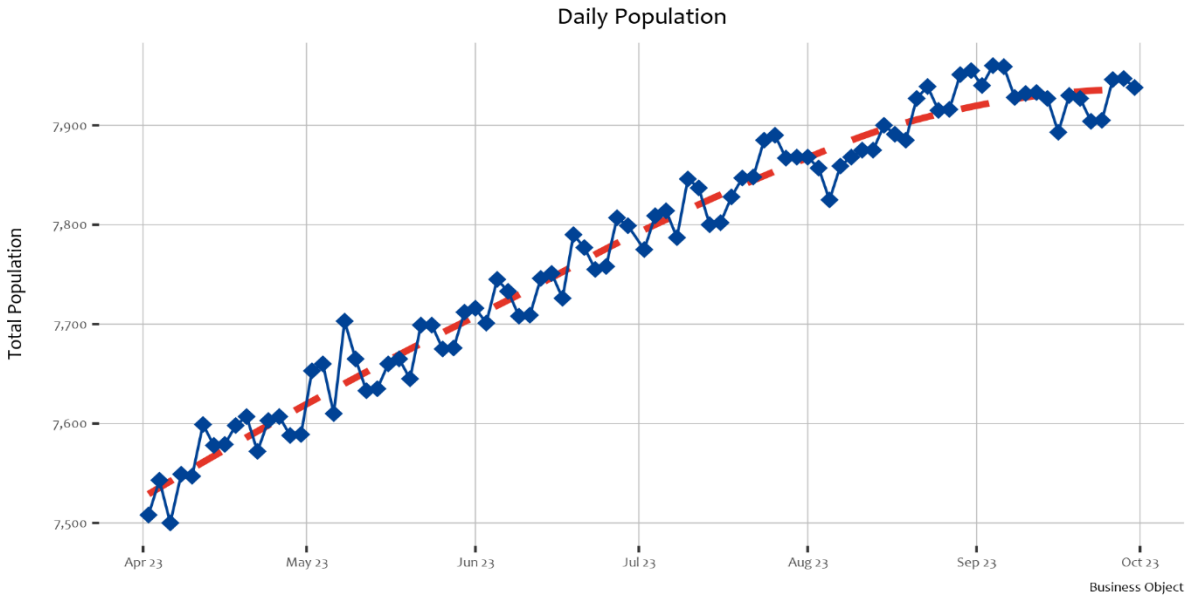
Key messages drawn from this quarterly report are as follows:

- The weekly average population increased by 1.9% in Quarter 2 23/24 compared to the end of the previous quarter. Compared to the same period last year, the prison population increased by 5.9%.
- The remand population decreased by 2.8% in Quarter 2 23/24.
- The long-term population continued to increase while life sentences showed another decrease.
- The women's prison population reduced by 4% between the first week of July and last week of September.
- The population of those with a history of sexual offending has continued to increase in Quarter 2 23/24.
- Single cell occupancy continued to decrease in Q2 23/24.
- In reviewing the characteristics of those in our care in Q2 23/24, the majority of the prison population were male (96%), heterosexual (91%), had a marital status of single (78%) and were white (94%).
- The national rate of imprisonment in Scotland increased to 0.2% at the end of September. Rates of imprisonment equal to or above the national rate were observed in 11 of 32 Local Authorities.
- 44% of those in our care come from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland.

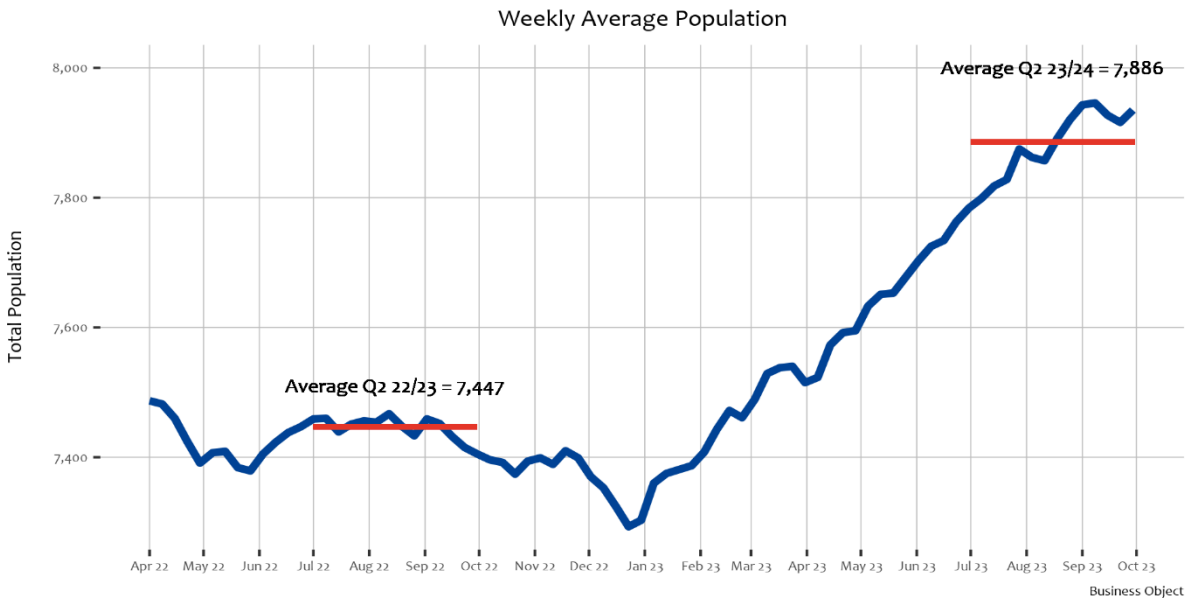
General Enquiries Email: SPSDataAnalysis@prison.gov.scot

2.0 Prison Population

The daily prison population increased throughout Q2 23/24, from 7,775 in the beginning of July to 7,938 at the end of September. The population peaked on August 28th at 7,966. Overall, the daily prison population increased by 2.1% in Q2 23/24 compared to the 3.6% increase observed in the previous quarter.



The weekly average prison population increased by 1.9% in Q2 23/24 compared to the last week of Q1 23/24. The graph below illustrates that the weekly average population in Q2 23/24 increased compared to the same period last year. The average prison population in Q2 22/23 was 7,447 and in Q2 23/24 was 7,886. This represents an increase of 5.9% in Q2 23/24 compared to Q2 22/23.



The SPS (Scottish Prison Service) publishes Prison Population Reports illustrating the population in custody broken down by custody type, gender, and age, as well as the population on Home Detention Curfew by gender. The Prison Population Reports can be found on the links below:

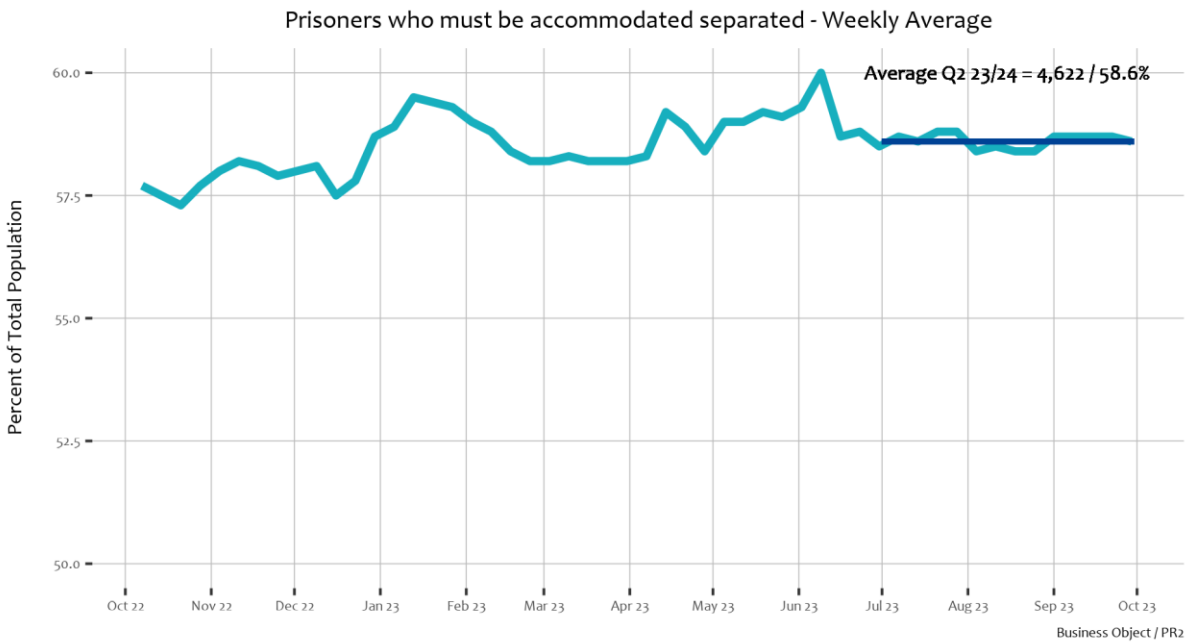
[Prison Population Report – Weekly time series](#)

[Prison Population Report – Annual prison Population](#)

3.0 Complexities of Population

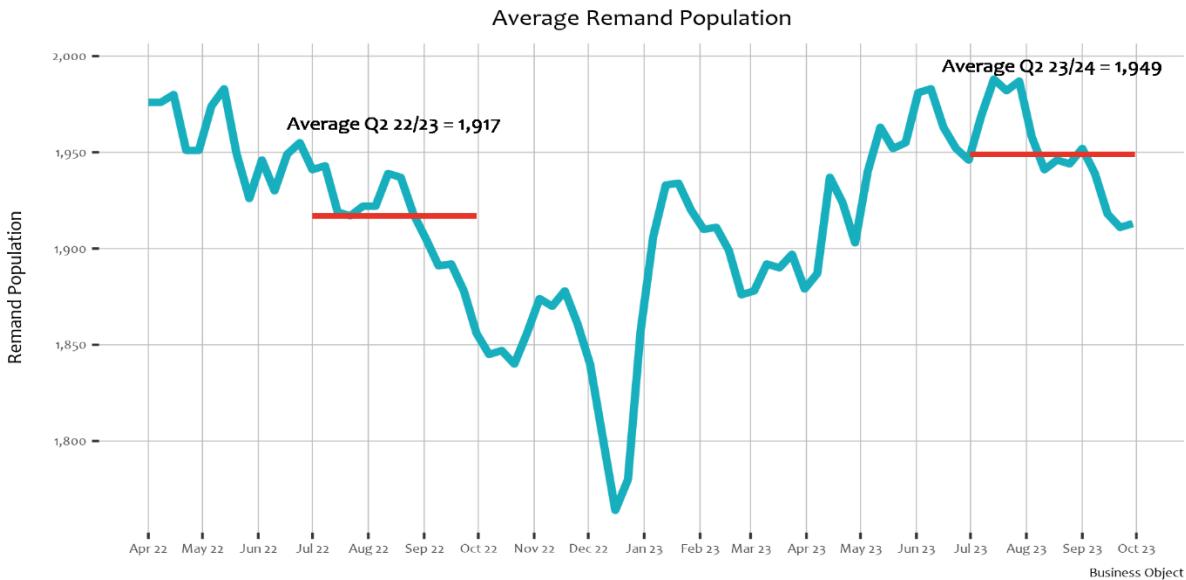
The rising overall population numbers are of concern in terms of ongoing management when we move close to population and design capacity; however also of note is the rising complexity of Scotland’s prison population. Many individuals need to be accommodated separately for a variety of reasons i.e., due to people’s legal status, gender, offence type, protection status, and/or health care needs, as well as residents with individual management needs.

The number of those in our care who must be accommodated separately remained stable throughout Q2 23/23. An average of around 58.6% of the prison population, or 4,622 individuals needed to be accommodated separately in Q2 23/24, due to their legal status (convicted / untried), gender, offence type, protections status, health care needs or specific management issues.



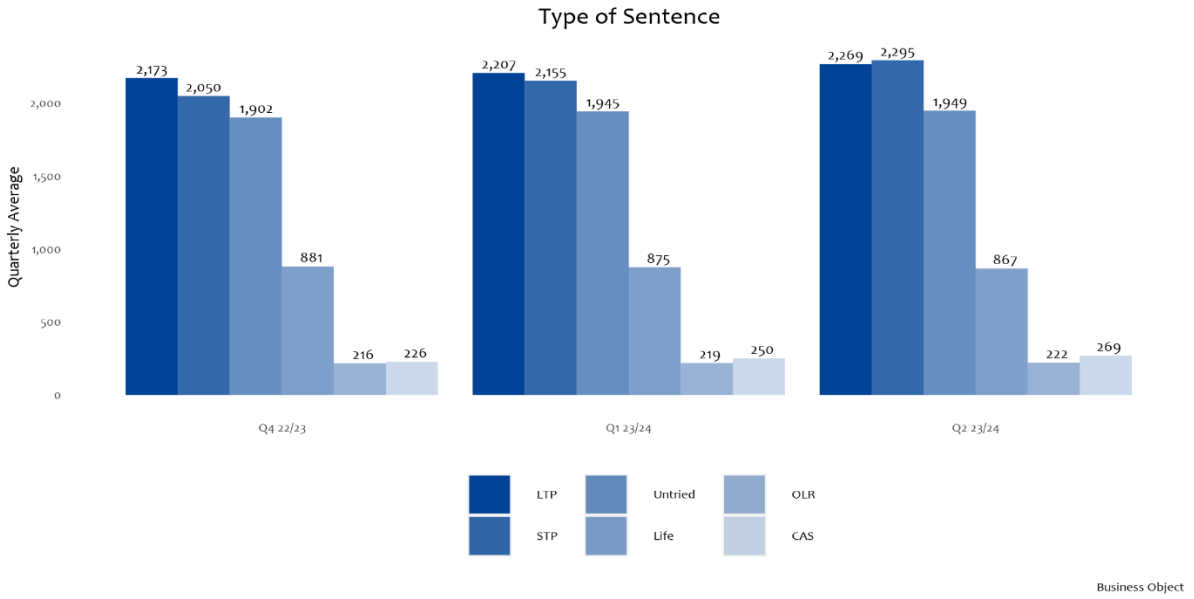
4.0 Legal Status (Sentenced & Remand)

The remand population decreased by 2.8% in Q2 23/24, from 1,969 individuals at the beginning of the quarter to 1,913 individuals at the end of September. Compared to the same period last year, the remand population increased from an average of 1,917 in Q2 22/23 to an average of 1,949 in Q2 23/24, an increase of 1.7%.



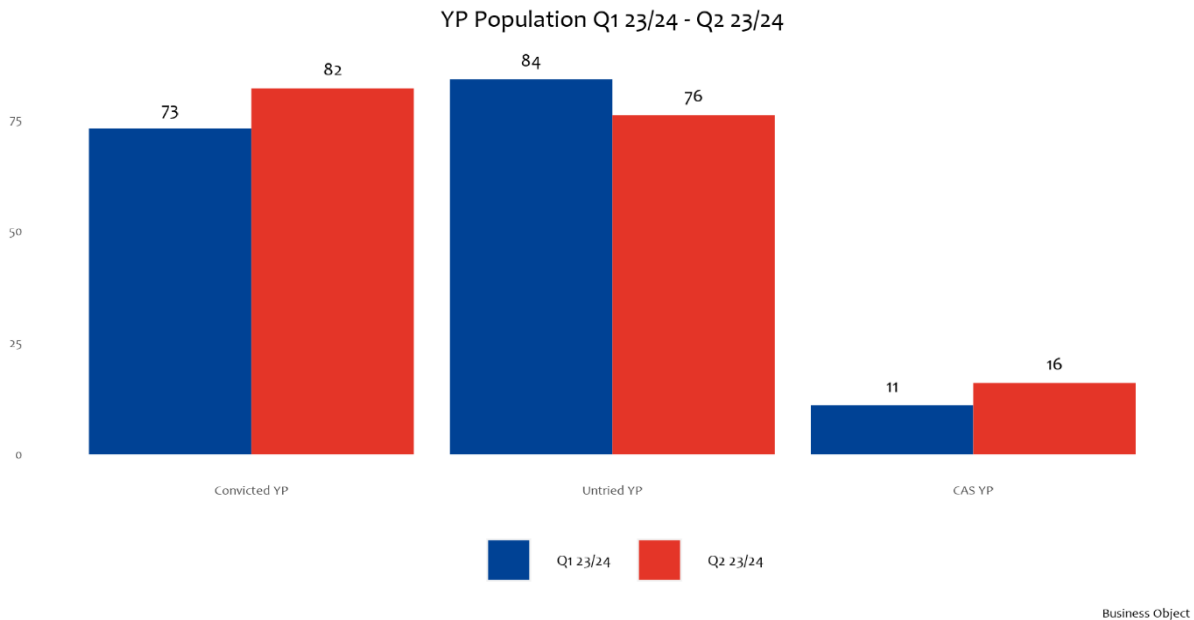
The number of those on remand remains high compared to the pre-pandemic period. In Quarter 2 23/24, the remand population accounted for 24.7% of the total prison population. High numbers of individuals on remand can create management issues for establishments, such as people having to move to convicted halls early; and long periods on remand mean that individuals spend longer without access to the full regime.

The long-term population increased by 2.8% in Q2 23/24 compared to the previous quarter. Life sentences (not including OLRs) continued to decrease in Q2 23/24. The short-term population increased by 8.5% in Q2 23/24 compared to the previous quarter, surpassing LTPs and becoming the biggest group of prisoners.



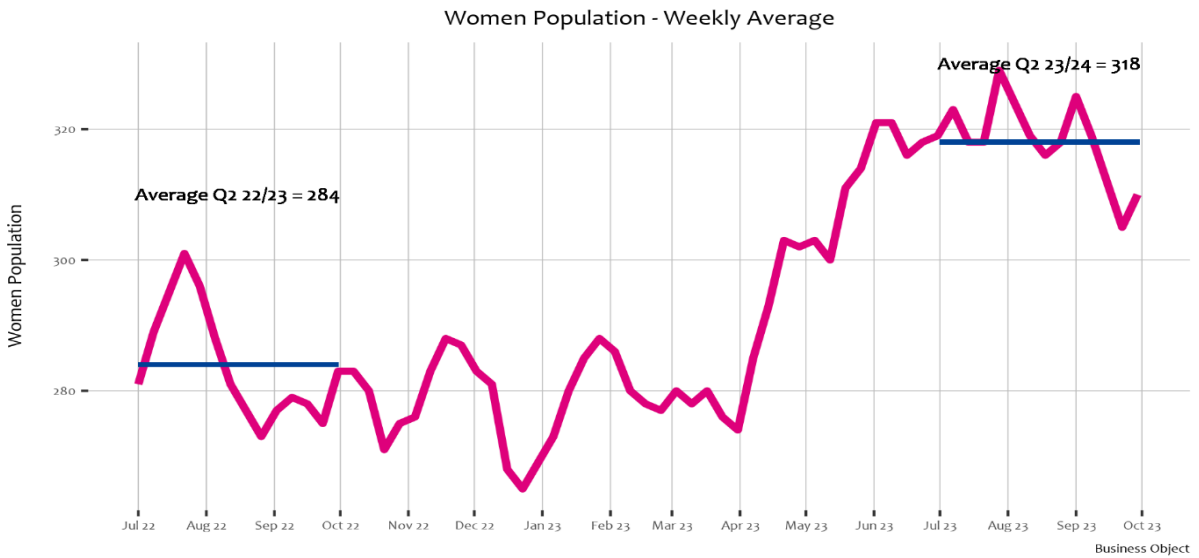
5.0 Young People in our Care

The quarterly average population of Young People (YP) increased from 168 in Q1 23/24 to 174 in Q2 23/24. As observed below, convicted YP and CAS YP increased in Q2 23/24 while untried YP reduced in the same period.



6.0 Women in our Care

The weekly average women’s population fluctuated in Q2 23/24 but overall reduced by 4% between the first week of July and last week of September. Compared to the same period last year, the quarterly average population of women increased from 284 in Q2 22/23 to 318 in Q2 23/24, an increase of 12%. In the same period, the male population increased by 5.8%.



7.0 Equality and Diversity

The Scottish Prison Service aims to provide accessible services to meet the needs of those in our care. This means an ongoing commitment to promote equal opportunities through policies and strategies to promote equality throughout all our establishments. The following data presents an overview of the diversity of the 7,938 people in our care on 29th September 2023.¹

Information regarding religious affiliation is not robust enough to publish at this stage. Further Equality and Diversity reports are available [here](#).

Affirmed Gender

SPS defines affirmed gender as the gender in which a person lives their day-to-day life. It may differ from the gender assigned at birth, which is the gender a person was originally registered as on their birth certificate. Non-binary individuals identify themselves as having no gender or as being on a gender spectrum² between man and woman. Gender-fluid is defined³ by “not having only one gender or moving freely between genders.”

In Q2 23/24, 96% of the people in our care were recorded as men and another 4% as women. Trans men, trans women and non-binary/gender-fluid combined accounted for less than 1% of the total population. In total, there were 22 trans people in custody at the end of Q2 23/24.

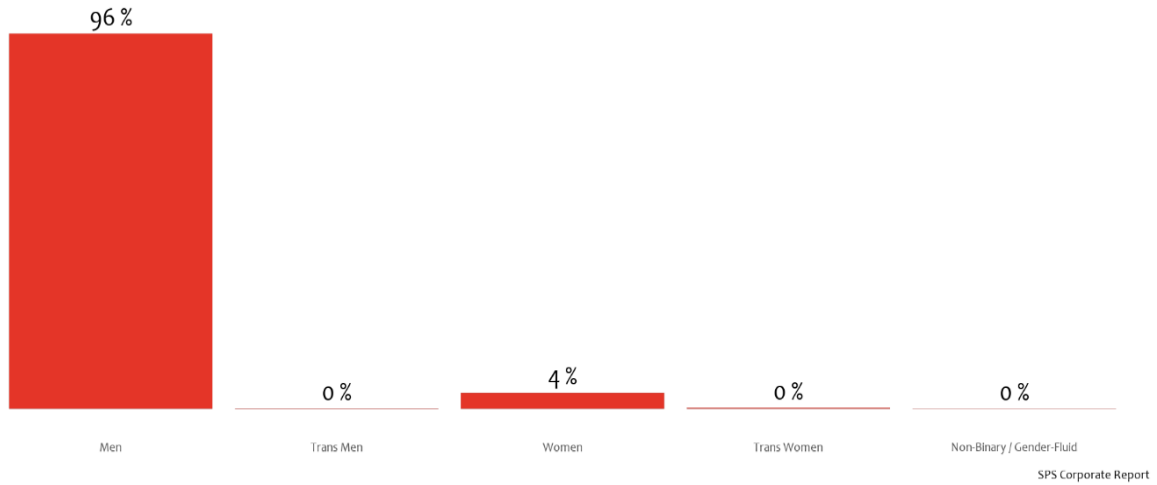
¹ The Public Information Page is a working document. The inclusion of data on protected characteristics is being kept under review to ensure the public scrutiny requirements are met whilst protecting the privacy of those in our care.

² Available on

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/articles/whatisthedifferencebetweensexandgender/2019-02-21#:~:text=The%20UK%20government%20defines%20gender,they%20were%20assigned%20at%20birth>

³ Cambridge Dictionary definition available on <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/gender-fluid>

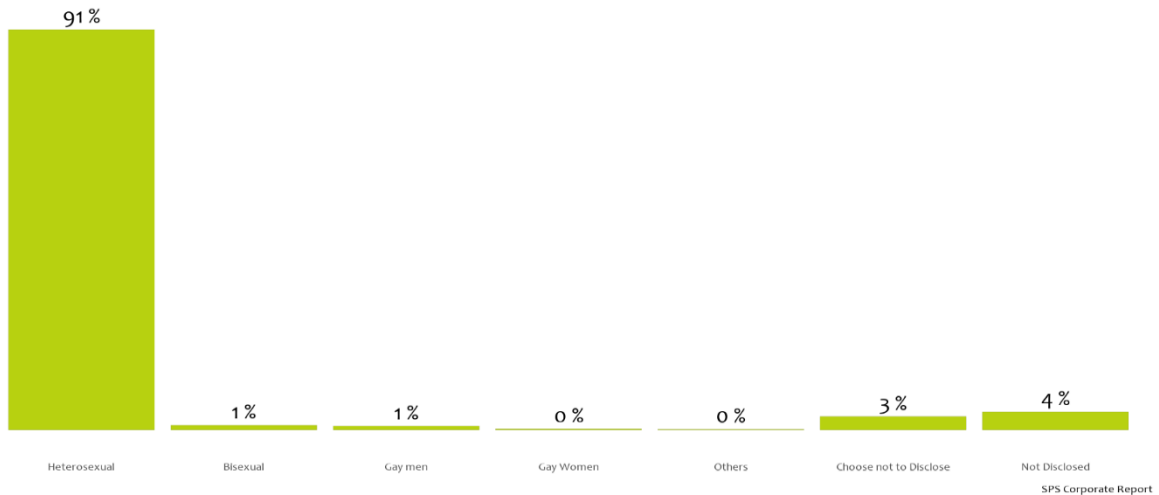
Social Gender



Sexual Orientation

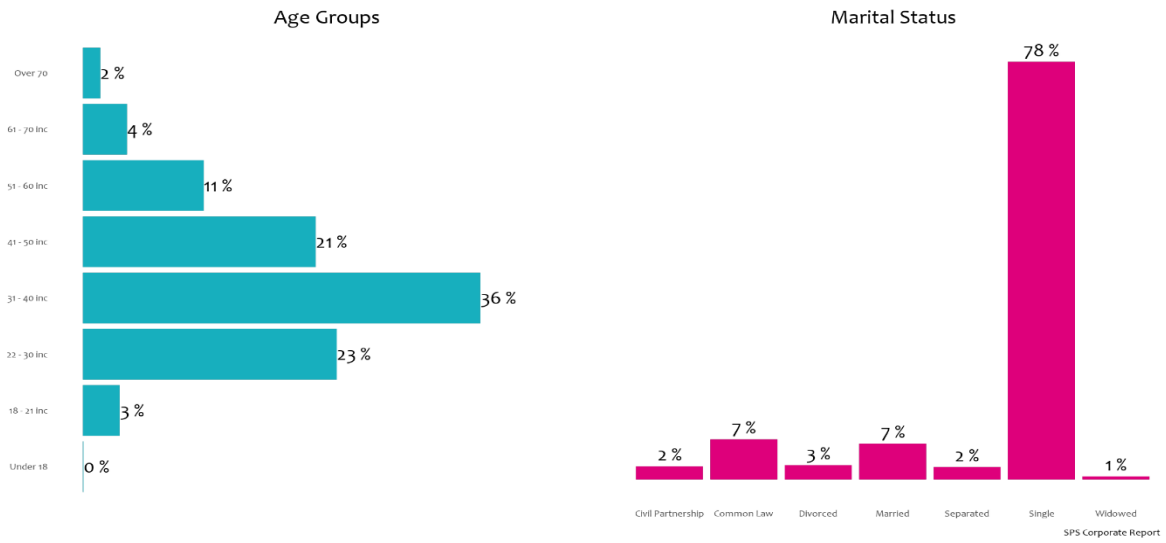
Most of the people in our care declared themselves as heterosexual, 91%. Bisexuals, gay men and gay women comprised 2%. Another 3% preferred not to disclose while a further 4% were not obtained. More details are illustrated in the chart below.

Sexual Orientation



Age Group and Marital Status

The chart below illustrates the prison population in Q2 23/24 by age group and marital status. The highest age group continues to be those aged between 31 and 40 years old (36%), while the lowest proportion is individuals under 18 years old, with less than 1%.



Most of the people in our care reported themselves as single in Q2 23/24, 78%. Another 7% reported as “Common Law (or cohabitation with a partner)” and married, each.

Ethnic Group

In Q2 23/24, 94% of the prison population declared themselves as white. African people comprised 1% while Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British people comprised 2%. Those who declared themselves Caribbean or Black were 1%. Those who declared themselves as Other Ethnic Group and Mixed or Multiple represented 1% each. More details can be observed in the chart below.



Disability

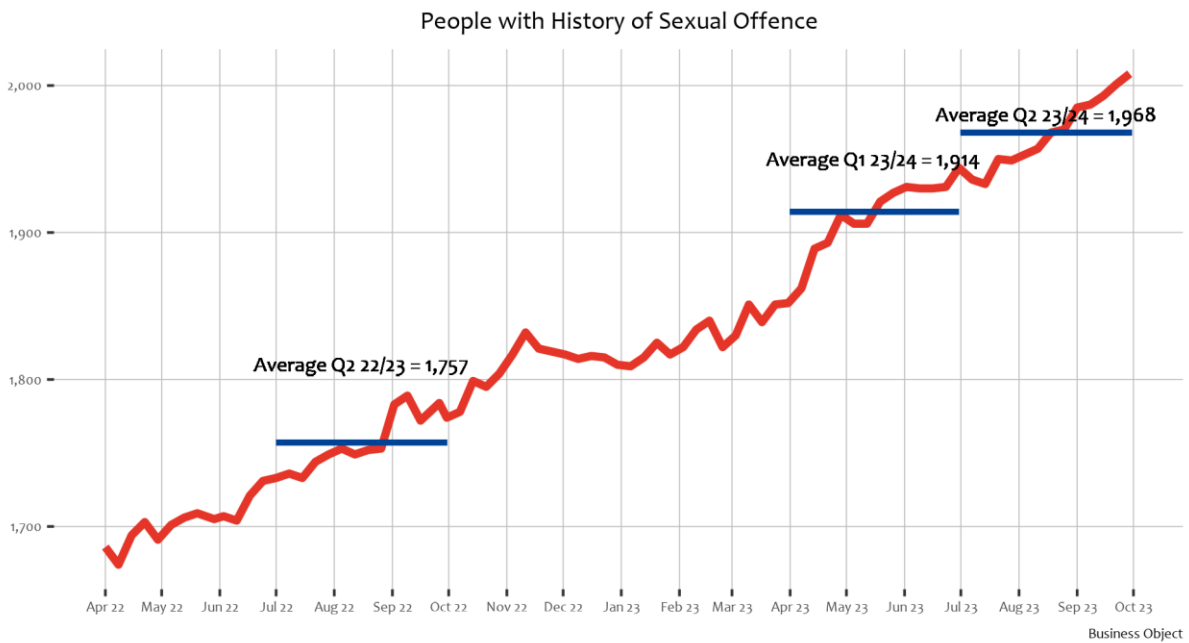
Ten percent of the people in our prisons have told us that they have a disability. Another 88% did not report any disability and 2% opted not to disclose.

Disability	
Yes	10%
No	88%
Choose not to Disclose	2%

8.0 Protection Populations

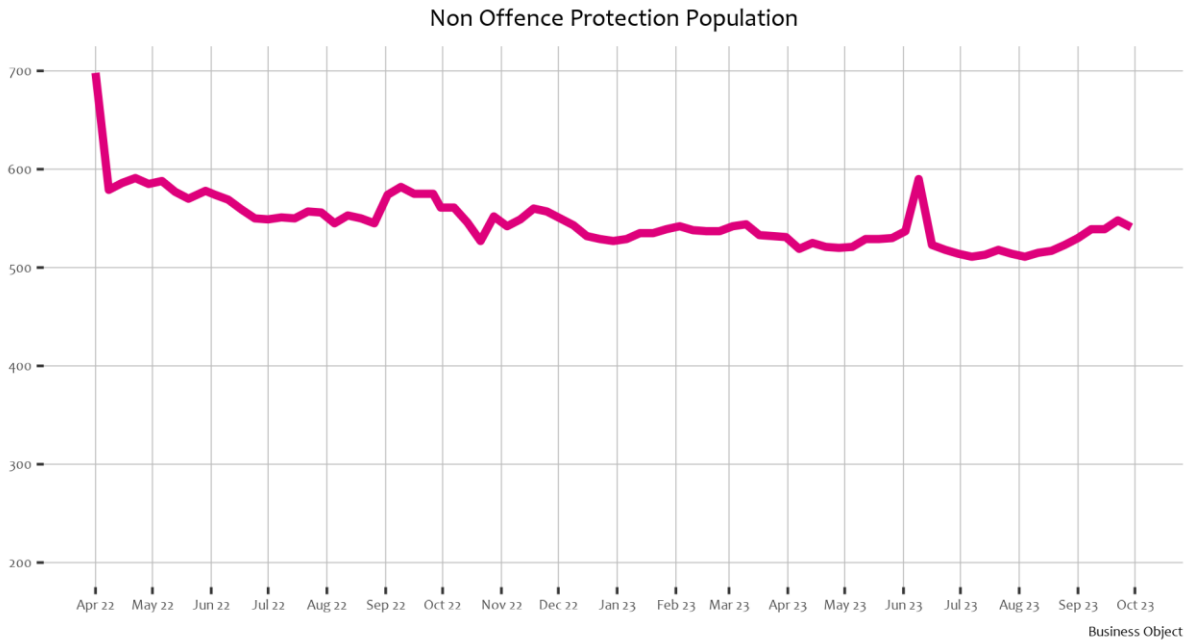
Across the estate there are people with a history of sexual offending in each of Scotland's prisons, including HMP Stirling. This illustrates the extent of the accommodation issues in terms of this prisoner group, where there is a need to accommodate them across all establishments and for a variety of reasons. This impacts on the operational running of each prison as this category of prisoner must be separate from the mainstream population.

The population of those with a history of sexual offending in custody increased by 3.3% in Q2 23/24, compared to the end of the previous quarter. In average, the population of those with history of sexual offending in Q2 22/23 increased by 12% compared to the same period last year.



Non-Offence Protections (NOPs) also need to be located and managed separately from mainstream prisoners due to being identified as those who are considered at risk should they associate together. There are a number of factors which contribute to this such as previous or current charges which have received negative media attention and could endanger the individuals, those previously employed in the Police or Prison services or those who have generated enemies and/or debts to an extent that there may be a risk to the individual should they be allocated into a mainstream residential area. This negatively impacts the operational running of the prison because NOP prisoners sometimes need to be accommodated *and* managed separately, depending on the severity of need for protection status.

The number of individuals within the NOP population increased by 5.3% in Q2 23/24 compared to the end of the previous quarter.



9.0 Geography of Imprisonment in Scotland

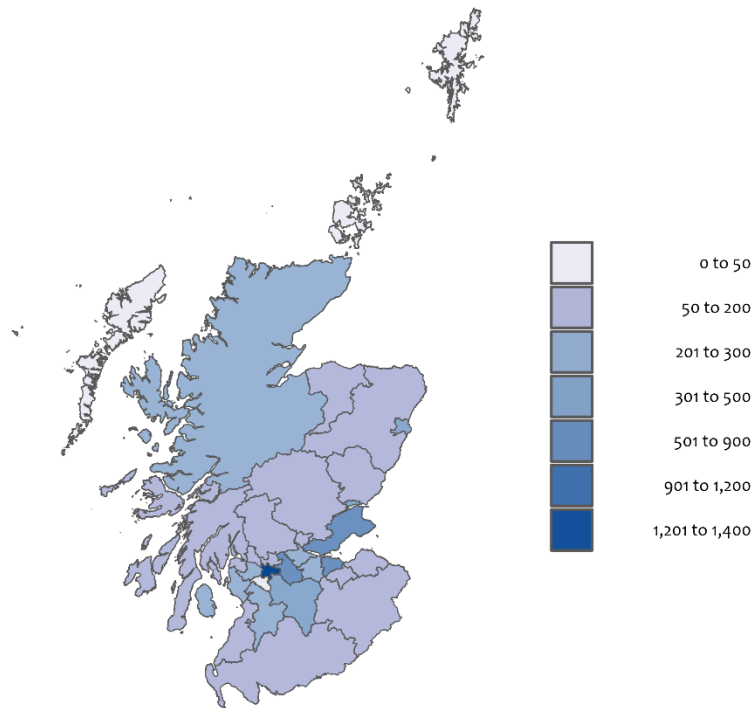
When considering the prison population by Local Authority (LA), Glasgow City continued to have the largest number; 1,405 individuals in custody, comprising 17.7% of the total prison population at the end of Q2 23/24. The City of Edinburgh has the second largest prison population, with 596 individuals, followed by North Lanarkshire and Fife with 549 and 529 individuals, respectively.

Na H-Eileanan Siar, Shetland Islands and Orkney Island have the smallest number of individuals in custody. The three Local Authorities together comprise 0.5% of the total of residents in prison.

According to the Prisons` Records, 4.8% of the people in our care recorded an address outwith Scotland, therefore they are not associated with any LA. Another 0.2% do not have an identifiable address or do not have any address recorded in our system.

The map below illustrates the number of people in custody by LA on 29th September 2023.

Number of People in Custody by Local Authority

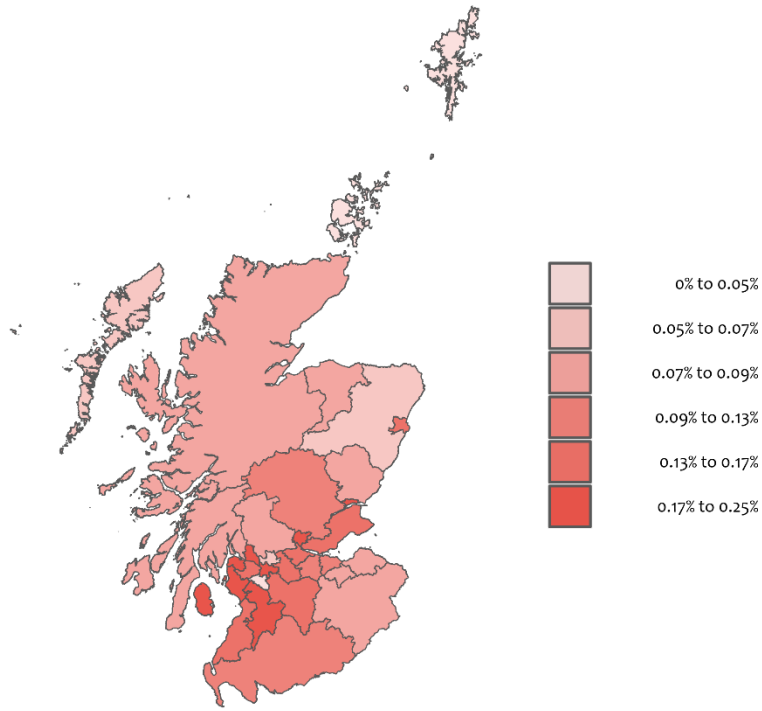


Business Object

The national rate of imprisonment in Scotland⁴ was 0.2% at the end of September. Rates of imprisonment equal or above the national rate were observed in 11 of the 32 LAs.

The map below illustrates the rate of imprisonment by LA on 29th September 2023.

Rate of Imprisonment by Local Authority



Business Object

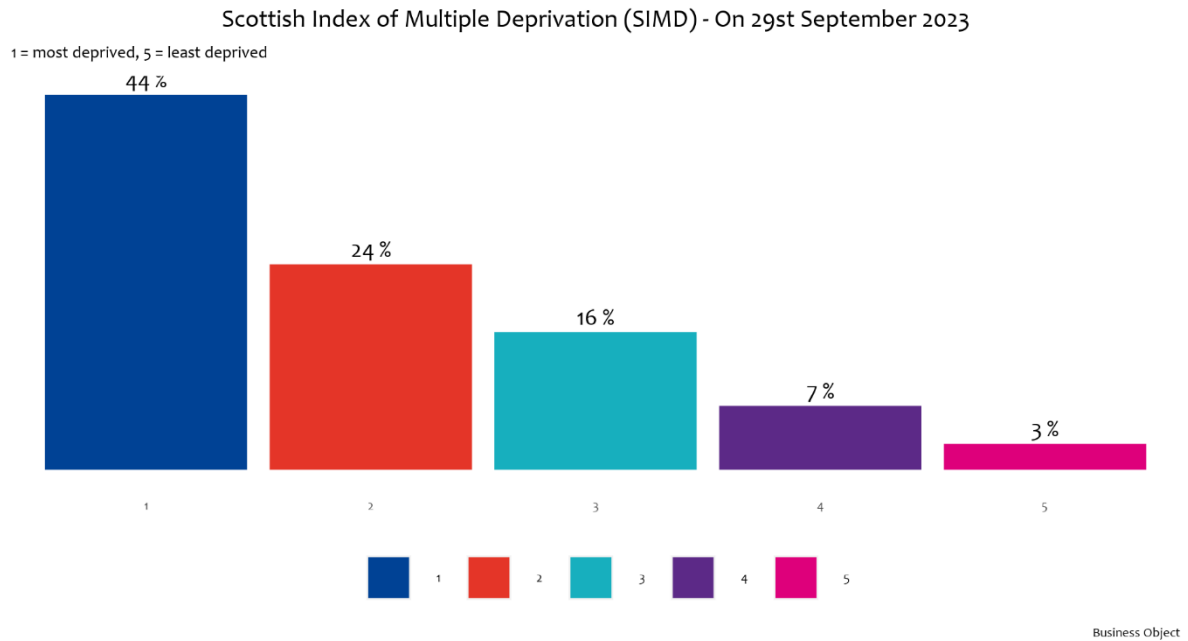
⁴ The Scottish population figures used to calculate the rate of imprisonment was obtained from [Mid-2020 Population Estimates Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/population-estimates-scotland)

The table below illustrates the total number of individuals in custody on 29th September 2023, broken down by length of sentence per LA.

	Remand + Undetermined Sentence	Short Term Prisoners - Less than 4 years	Long Term Prisoners - Over 4 Years (including Life)
Aberdeen City	96	131	124
Aberdeenshire	51	47	76
Angus	30	32	43
Argyll And Bute	27	10	38
City Of Edinburgh	153	166	277
Clackmannanshire	25	36	32
Dumfries And Galloway	70	58	65
Dundee City	125	117	131
East Ayrshire	74	83	74
East Dunbartonshire	12	26	23
East Lothian	22	36	34
East Renfrewshire	14	10	14
Falkirk	65	79	81
Fife	128	168	233
Glasgow City	409	375	621
Highland	65	61	82
Inverclyde	41	48	73
Midlothian	35	16	31
Moray	29	23	31
Na H-Eileanan Siar	5	7	5
North Ayrshire	68	80	90
North Lanarkshire	152	149	248
Orkney Islands	<5	0	7
Outwith Scotland	138	87	159
Perth And Kinross	49	43	70
Renfrewshire	80	84	129
Scottish Borders	24	28	40
Shetland Islands	<5	7	<5
South Ayrshire	56	52	52
South Lanarkshire	126	141	203
Stirling	21	35	30
Unidentifiable Address	7	<5	<5
West Dunbartonshire	36	57	70
West Lothian	50	57	101
Not on Prison Records	<5	0	<5

Deprivation

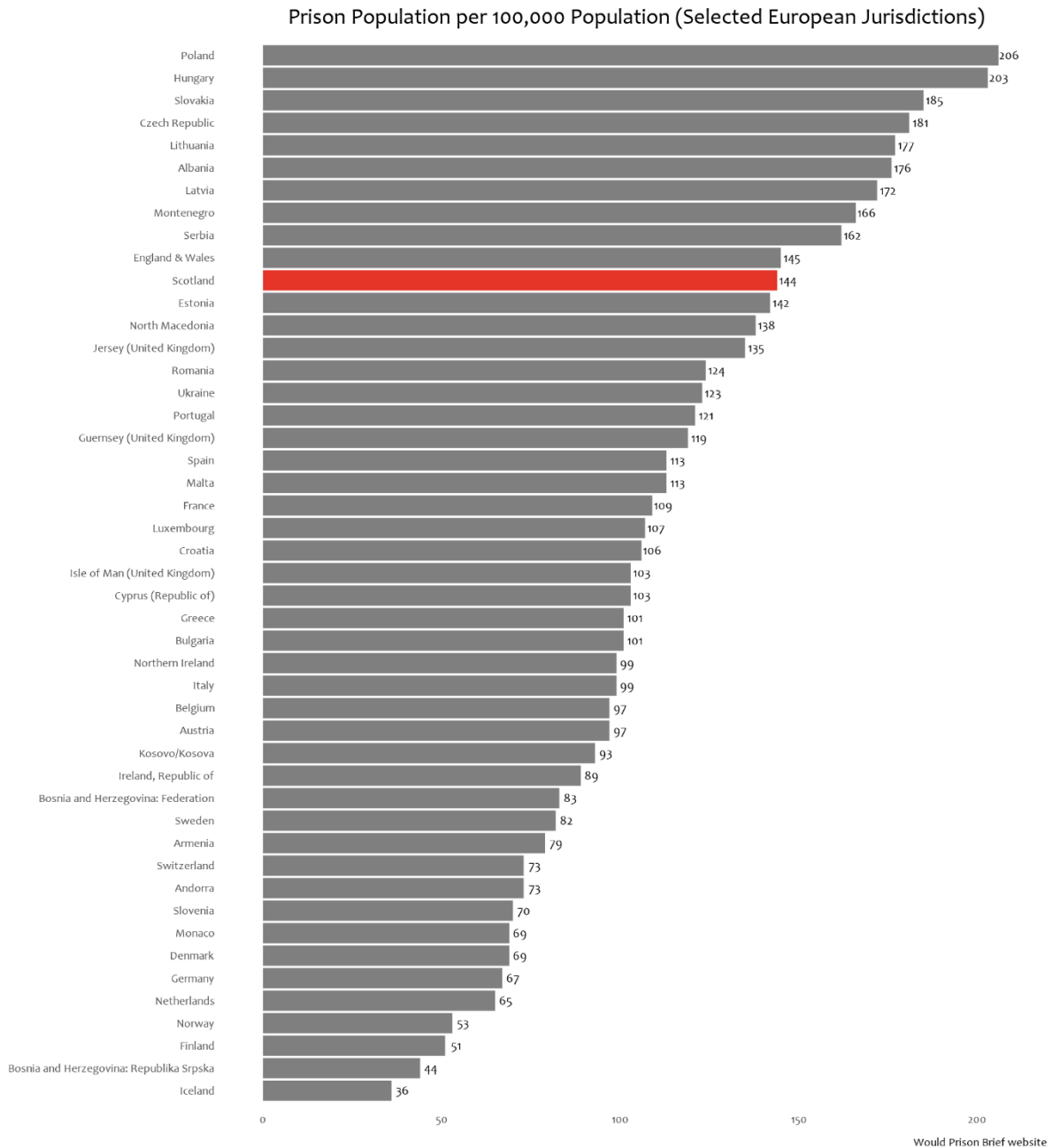
The data extracted from the Prison Records on 29th September 2023 indicates that 44% of the prison population come from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland while 3% come from the least deprived areas⁵.



⁵ The Scottish Index Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a relative measure of deprivation across 6,976 small areas. SIMD ranks from most deprived (ranked 1) to least deprived (ranked 6,976). This Public Information Page linked SIMD Geographical Data to the postcode of those in our care and focused on the areas below 20% most deprived data zones in Scotland.

10.0 International Comparisons

The figure below shows the prison population per 100,000 people for a selection of European countries⁶. Scotland has a rate of 144 prisoners for every 100,000 people.

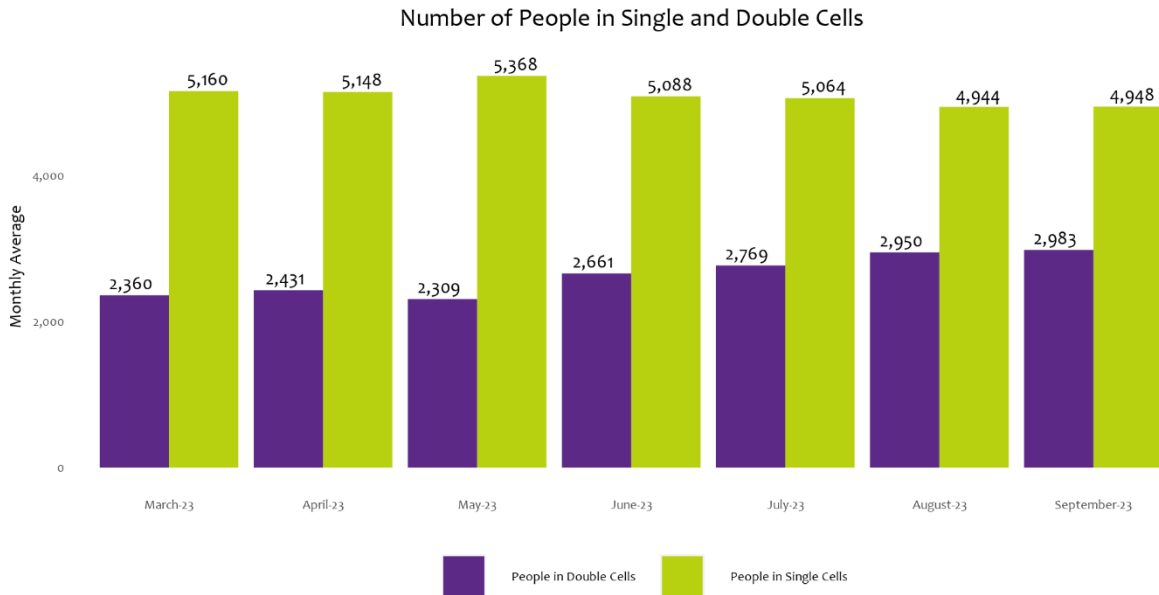


⁶ [World Prison Brief](#), accessed in September 2023.

11.0 Prison Estate & Configuration

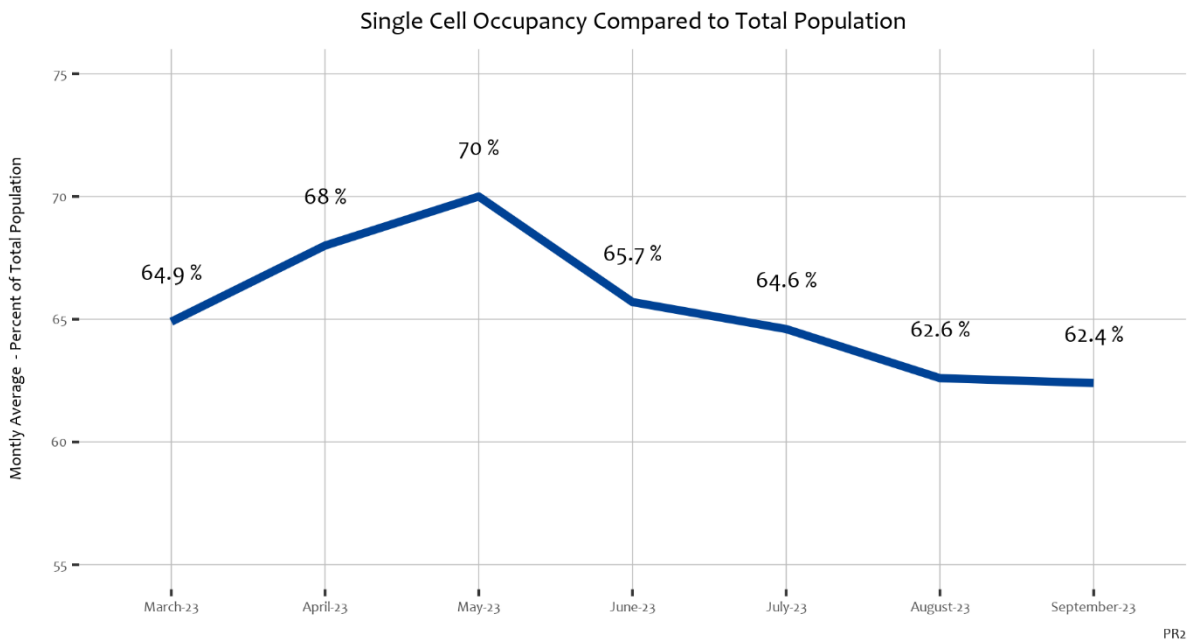
On 29th September 2023, eight establishments were operating over the agreed Temporary Operating Capacity (TOC). Another four establishments were operating very close to TOC. In total there were 118 available spaces across the estate; however, this data in isolation does not provide an accurate picture. Many of the spaces are within specific category establishments, therefore the population cannot be dispersed evenly across the estate. The available spaces lie predominantly within the women’s estate, Castle Huntly and Polmont, all of which can hold a specific category of prisoner.

In Q2 23/24, the monthly average number of people accommodated in single cells reduced from 5,064 in July to 4,948 in September. Between March and September, the average number of people accommodated in single cells reduced by 4.1%. In the opposite direction, the number of people accommodated in double cells increased by 26.4% in the same period.



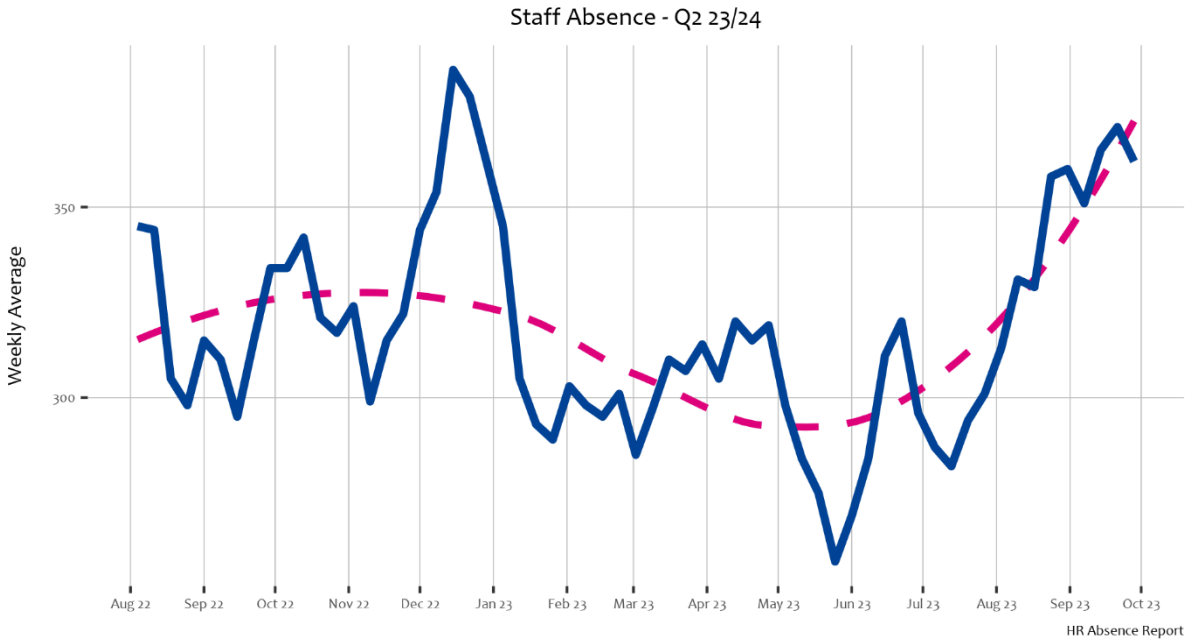
PR2

Current Single Cell Occupancy (SCO) figures illustrate the impact that the rising and increasingly complex population is having on the ability to provide individuals with single cells. In the short term, SPS is unable to increase the capacity to offer individuals single cells, as this would require building new establishments or re-designing existing ones. As a result of the fast increase of the prison population in Q2 23/24, SCO reduced from 70% in May to 62.4% in September.



12.0 Staff Absence

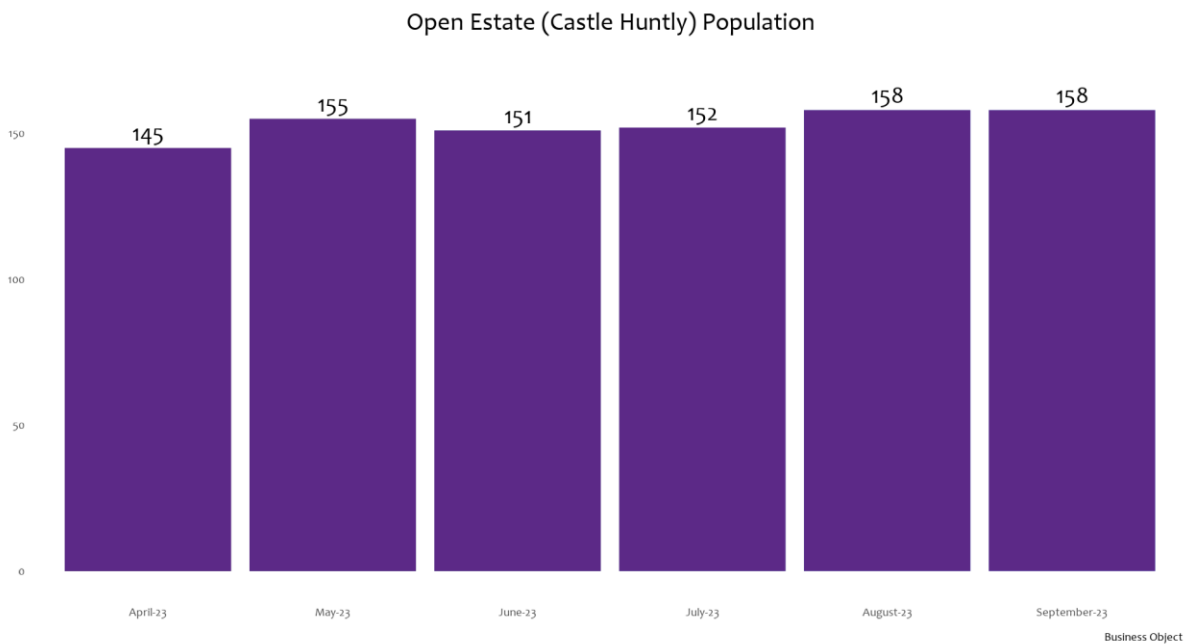
Staff absence increased throughout Q2 23/24. The highest number was observed near the end of September, when 371 staff were absent.



13.0 Open Estate

To progress to less secure conditions, an individual has to undergo case management and the level of risk for this decision must be agreed by the SPS and key partners. All convicted population can be eligible once the criteria is met. This process is managed for adult males via Castle Huntly, HMP&YOI Polmont for Young People and HMP Stirling for the female estate.

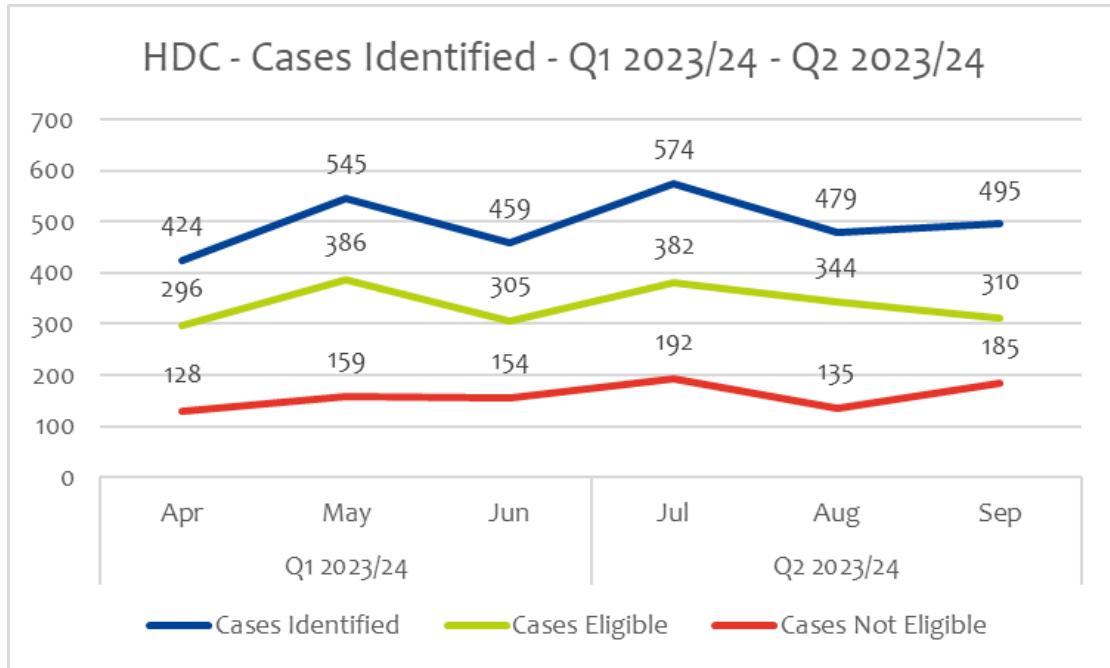
The population of Castle Huntly (also known as the Open Estate) increased in Q2 23/24 compared to the previous quarter. The monthly average of individuals housed in Castle Huntly increased from 152 in July to 158 in August and September.



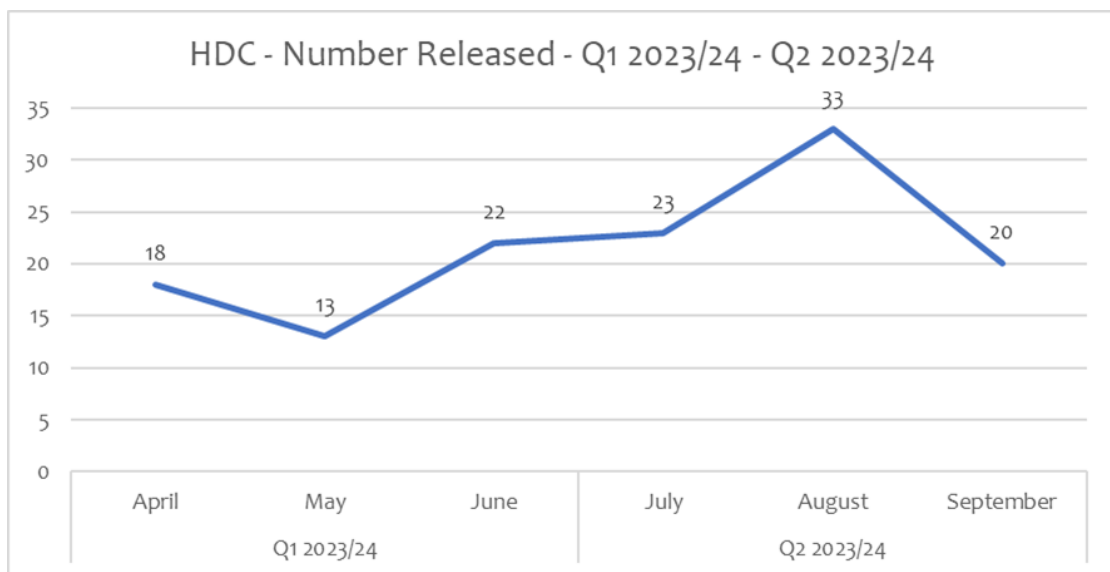
Identifying people held in less secure conditions within HMP&YOI Polmont and HMP Stirling is complicated by the structure of management information held by SPS; work is underway to report upon these populations.

14.0 Home Detention Curfew (HDC)

When comparing HDC Figures for Q1 2023/24 with Q2 2023/24, we can see that the total number of cases that were identified has increased by 8.4% from 1,428 to 1,548. This can be broken down to a 5% increase in the number of cases which are eligible from 987 to 1,036 and an increase of 16% in the number of cases which are not eligible from 441 to 512.



In Q2 2023/24 there was a total number of 76 individuals released on HDC. This is a 43.3% increase (23 individuals) from Q1 2023/24 which was a total of 53.

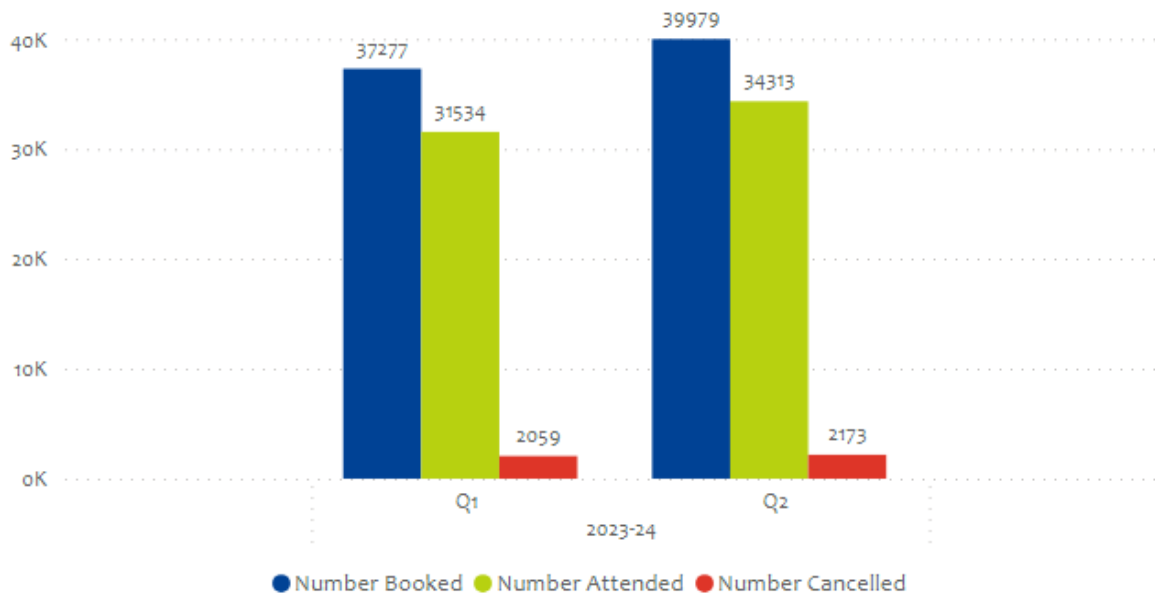


15.0 Face to Face & Virtual Visits

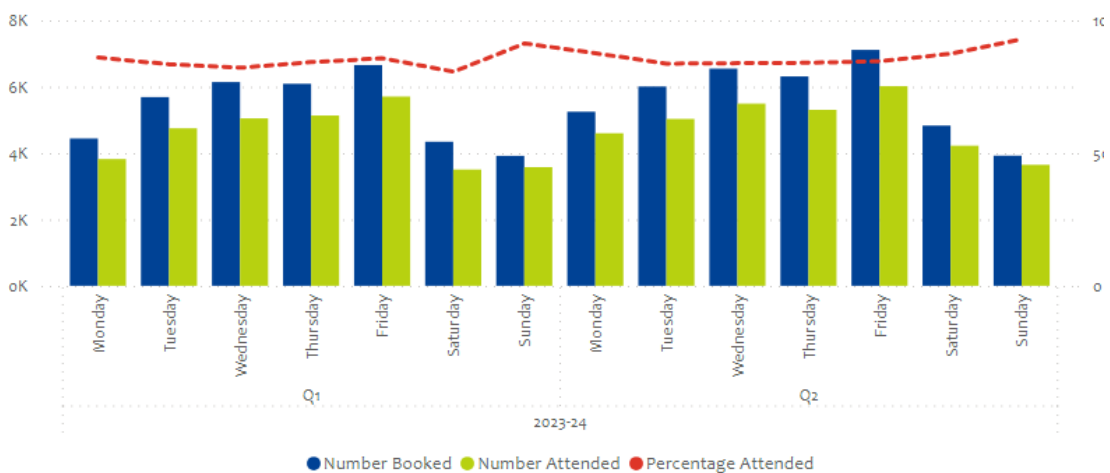
Face to Face

Compared to Q1 2023/24 figures, Q2 2023/24 showed an increase of 7.2% in booked face to face visits from 37,277 to 39,979, a 8.1% increase in attended visits from 31,534 to 34,313 and an increase of 5.5% cancelled visits from 2,059 to 2,173.

Face to Face - Visit Outcomes - Q1 2023/24 - Q2 2023/24



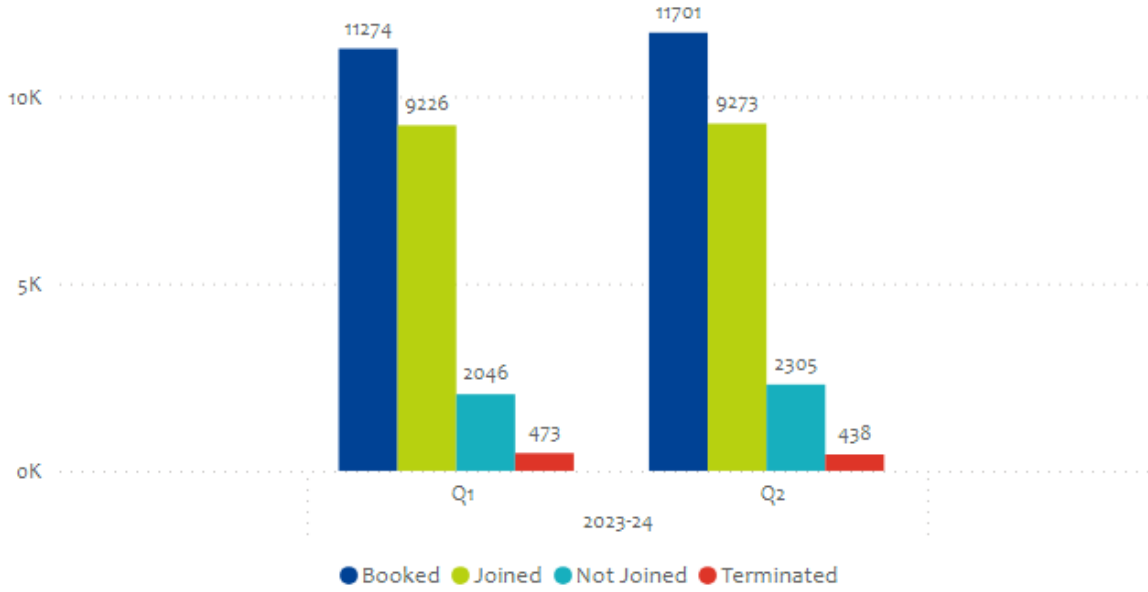
Face to Face - Booked vs Joined vs % Joined - Q1 2023/24 - Q2 2023/24



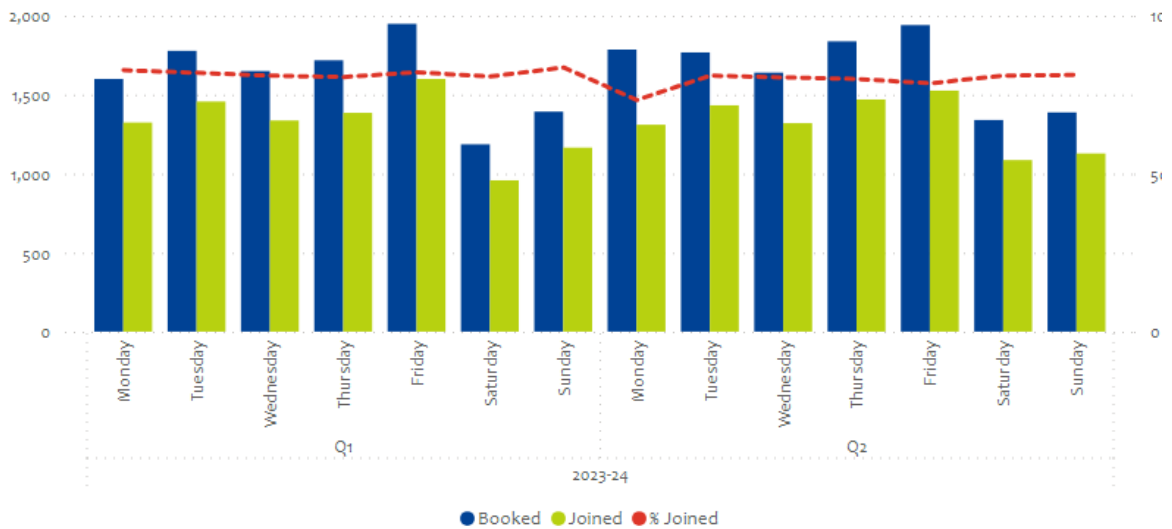
Virtual Visits

Compared to Q1 2023/24 figures, Q2 2023/24 showed an increase of 3.78% in booked visits from 11,274 to 11,701, a 0.5% increase in joined visits from 9,226 to 9,273 and a decrease of 7.4% terminated visits from 473 to 438.

Virtual Visits - Visit Outcomes - Q1 2023/23 - Q2 2023/24



Virtual Visits - Booked vs Joined vs % Joined - Q1 2024/23 - Q2 2023/24



16.0 Additional Information and Useful Links

About this report

The Public Information Page (PIP) is a quarterly report published by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) to provide transparency about various metrics related to the running of prisons in Scotland. Data is extracted from SPS management information systems and compiled into the PIP report each quarter. Because this data comes from live systems and is extracted at various points throughout the year, it can differ from other similar data in the public domain, such as the Scottish Prison Population Statistics. The data compiled in this report is not subject to the same level of quality assurance as the official statistics, although every effort is made to ensure its accuracy before publication.

We seek to be as open and transparent as possible, while also upholding our statutory obligation to ensure those in our care have their personal information protected. We have improved the way in which we collate and present data on our transgender population and, following advice from information governance experts, will only provide information on the total number of transgender people in our care. We have also applied disclosure control throughout the report where small numbers might mean that individuals could be identified.

Other data sources

- **Parliamentary Questions**

A full list of Parliamentary Questions answered in the Scottish Parliament on the subject of prisons is available from the Scottish Parliament website [here](#).

- **Corporate Plan**

The Corporate Plan identifies a set of strategic themes and outcomes, which defines and shapes SPS priorities over the duration of that Plan. This is currently on the SPS website [here](#).

- **Prisons Plan**

COVID19 has necessitated a change in planning arrangements. The SPS Delivery Plan can be found [here](#).

- **SPS Annual Report and Accounts**

The purpose of the Annual Report and Accounts is to provide an overview of the Scottish Prison Service, its purpose and activities. It also includes information on key risk and issues for the organisation as well as a high-level summary of performance. The most recent Report is available [here](#).

- **Drivers of the prison population: crime and convictions statistics.**

The drivers of the prison population are the number of people committing crimes, the numbers convicted, and the number given custodial sentences each year. The latest statistics from Scottish Government and the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service are provided below:

[Criminal Proceedings in Scotland, 2019-20](#)

[Criminal Proceedings in Scotland, 2020-21](#)

[Criminal Proceedings in Scotland, 2021-22](#)

[Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2020-21](#)

[Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2021-22](#)

[Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2022-23](#)

- **Prisons research and surveys**

SPS undertakes a range of research and evaluations of prison and related services. These reports will be uploaded at the time the reports are ready for publication. More information can be found [here](#).

- **Scottish Prison Population Statistics**

Data on Scottish prison population levels and characteristics, receptions to/liberations from prison. The last publication is available [here](#).

- **Coronavirus (COVID-19): Justice Analytical Services data report**

Monthly data report on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the Justice System in Scotland, including information from Police Scotland, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, courts and prisons. All publications are available [here](#).

- [Freedom of Information Responses](#)

- **Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services Criminal Disposals Dashboard**

The interactive dashboard contains information on charge level disposals from Scottish criminal courts. The data included in the dashboard is provided by the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Services (SCTS). For more information, please click [here](#).

- **Sex, gender identity, trans status – data collection and publication: guidance**

Guidance for public bodies on the data collection of data on sex and gender is available [here](#).

- **Tableau – Scotland’s Justice Statistics and Trends**

The Tableau is a data visualization tool that highlights publicly available data in a way that supports understanding of the community justice landscape at a local authority area level. More information can be obtained [here](#).

- **Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)**

The purpose of the SIMD is that it “identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across all of Scotland in a consistent way. It allows effective targeting of policies and funding where the aim is to wholly or partly tackle or take account of area concentrations of multiple deprivation. More information is available [here](#).

- **The World Prison Brief**

The World Prison Brief is an online database providing free access to information on prison systems around the world. It supports evidence-based development of prison policy and practice globally. For more information click [here](#).

- [Population of Scotland 2020, by region | Statista](#)
- [Mid-2020 Population Estimates Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)