



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ24132

23 September 2024

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 26 August 2024 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

For reference, you requested: In terms of the mobile phones provided to prisoners during the Covid-19 pandemic what was:

RFI 1: “The cost per phone given to prisoners?”

RFI 2: “The total cost or average cost for the running an individual phone?”

RFI 3: “The total number of phones, given during the pandemic, that still need to be recovered?”

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

RFI 1 Response: The cost per phone was £18.50.

RFI 2 Response: The subscription per mobile phone was £4.95.

RFI 3 Response: At the time when prison-issued mobile phones were decommissioned in August 2023, following the introduction of in-cell telephony, there were 5,280 prison issued mobile phones in use by people in our care. Of those 5,280 mobile phones, 4,529 were returned within an agreed period by September 2023, and the remainder were then considered illicit.

Since September 2023, efforts have been ongoing to recover all and any illicit handsets, including those which had previously been issued by SPS. We do not have a current figure of the number of prison-issued handsets recovered during this period, therefore under section 17 of FOI(S)A I can advise that this is information not held.

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