

SPS Quarterly Public Information Page

**Prison by Numbers Quarter 4 (January -
March 2024)**

Unlocking Potential - Transforming Lives.

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 1.0 Key Messages | 3 |
| 2.0 Prison Population | 4 |
| 3.0 Complexities of Population | 6 |
| 4.0 Legal Status (Sentenced & Remand)..... | 7 |
| 5.0 Young People in our Care | 8 |
| 6.0 Women in our Care | 8 |
| 7.0 Equality and Diversity | 9 |
| 8.0 Protection Populations..... | 13 |
| 9.0 Geography of Imprisonment in Scotland | 15 |
| 10.0International Comparisons..... | 19 |
| 11.0Prison Estate & Configuration | 20 |
| 12.0Staffing Levels | 22 |
| 13.0Open Estate..... | 24 |
| 14.0Home Detention Curfew (HDC) | 25 |
| 15.0Face to Face & Virtual Visits | 26 |
| 16.0Additional Information and Useful Links | 28 |

1.0 Key Messages

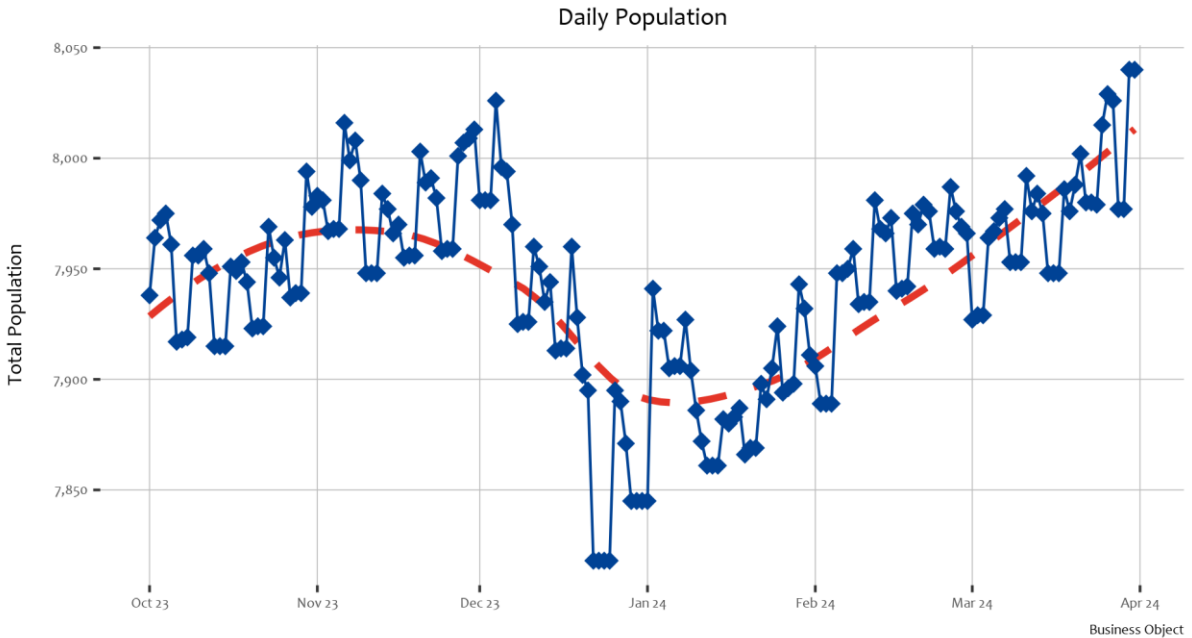
Key messages drawn from this quarterly report are as follows:

- The weekly average population decreased by 2% in Quarter 4 23/24 compared to the end of the previous quarter. Compared to the same period last year, the prison population increased by 6%.
- The remand population rose by 3.2% in Quarter 4 23/24.
- The long-term and short-term population continued to increase.
- The women's prison population reduced by 2.2% between the first week of January and last week of March.
- The population of those with a history of sexual offending has continued to increase in Quarter 4 23/24.
- Single cell occupancy increased in Q4 23/24 compared to Q3 23/24.
- In reviewing the characteristics of those in our care in Q4 23/24, the majority of the prison population were male (96%), heterosexual (89%), 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 March. Rates of imprisonment equal to or above the national rate were observed in 11 of 32 Local Authorities.
- 43% of those in our care come from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland.

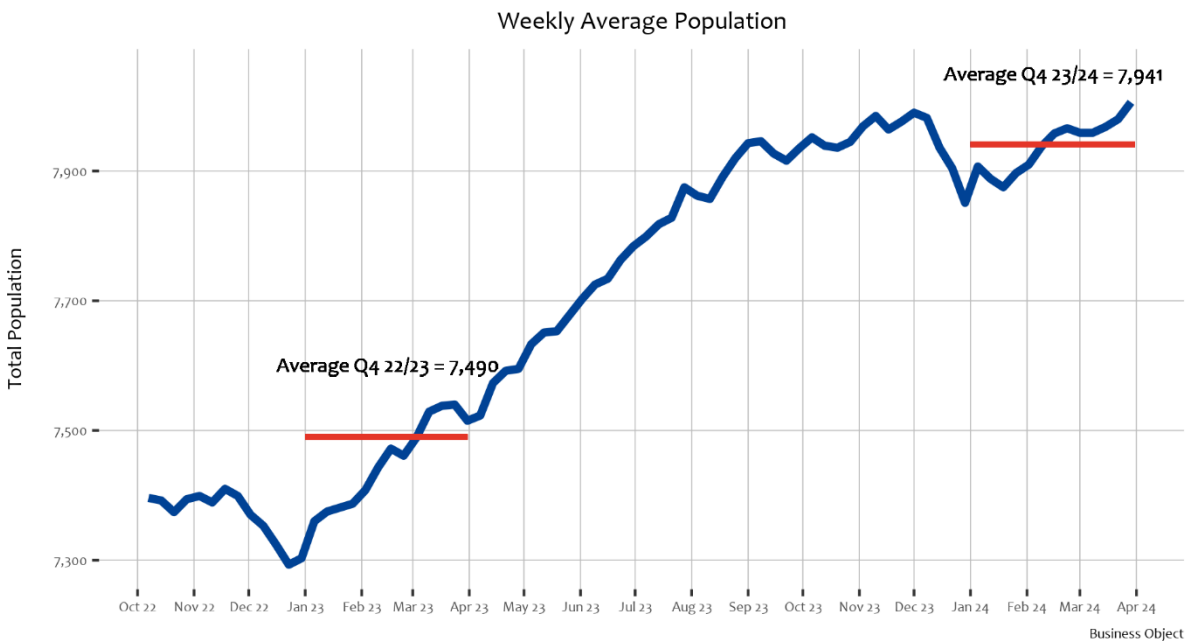
General Enquiries Email: SPSDataAnalysis@prisons.gov.scot

2.0 Prison Population

The daily prison population increased throughout Q4 23/24, from 7,845 on 1st January to 8,040 on 31st March. Overall, the daily prison population increased by 2.5% at the end of Q4 23/24 compared to the end of the previous quarter.



The weekly average prison increased by 2% in Q4 23/24 compared to the last week of Q3 23/24. The graph below illustrates that the weekly average population in Q3 23/24 increased compared to the same period last year. The average prison population in Q4 22/23 was 7,490 and in Q4 23/24 was 7,941. This represents an increase of 6% in Q4 23/24 compared to Q4 22/23.



The Scottish Prison Service (SPS) 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:

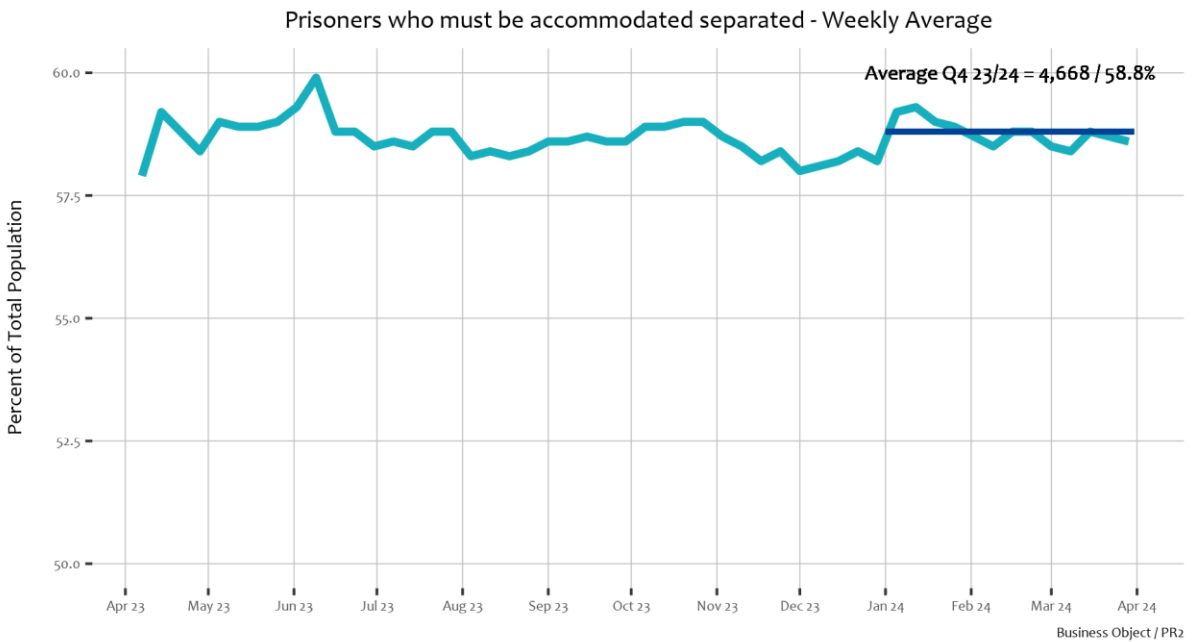
[Prison Population Report – Weekly time series](#)

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

3.0 Complexities of Population

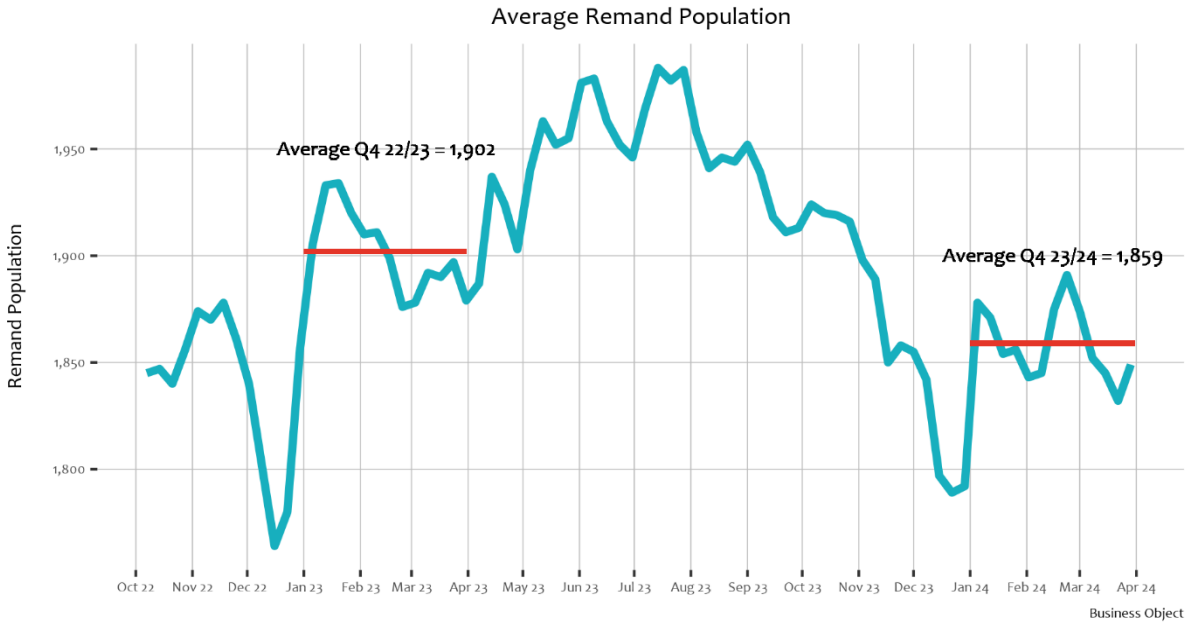
The rising overall population numbers are of concern in terms of ongoing management when we move close to population and design capacity; however also of note is the rising complexity of Scotland’s prison population. Many individuals need to be accommodated separately for a variety of reasons i.e., due 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 slightly reduced throughout Q4 23/24. An average of around 58.8% of the prison population, or 4,668 individuals needed to be accommodated separately in Q4 23/24, due to their legal status (convicted / untried), gender, offence type, protection status, health care needs or specific management issues.



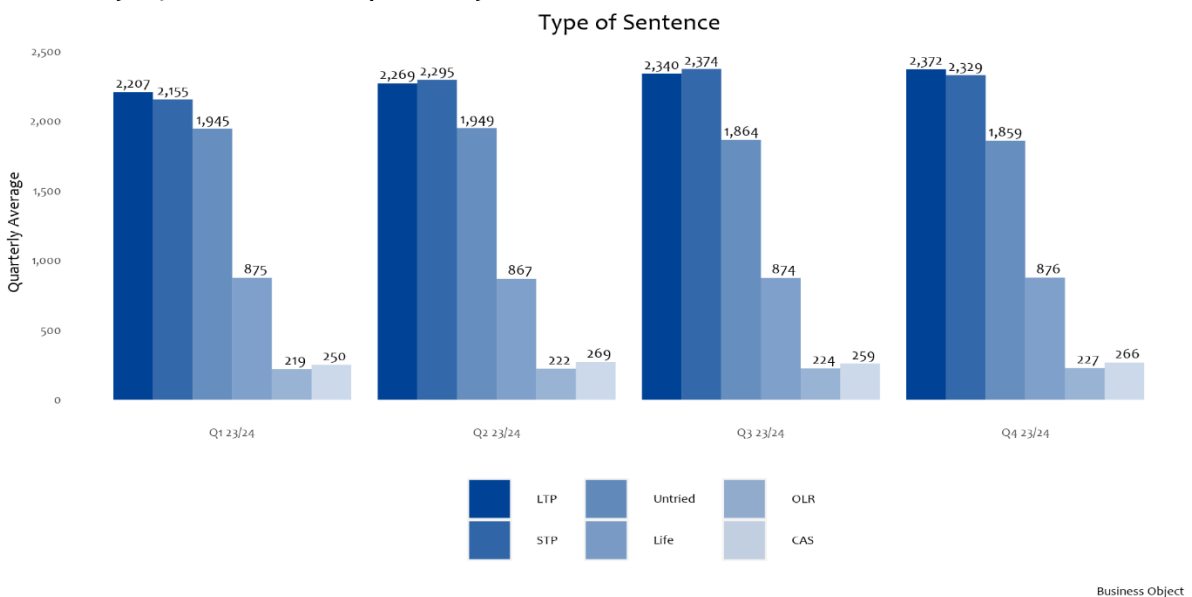
4.0 Legal Status (Sentenced & Remand)

The remand population increased by 3.2% in the last week of Q4 23/24 compared to the last week of the previous quarter. Compared to the same period last year, the remand population decreased from an average of 1,902 in Q4 22/23 to an average of 1,859 in Q4 23/24, a decrease of 2.3%.



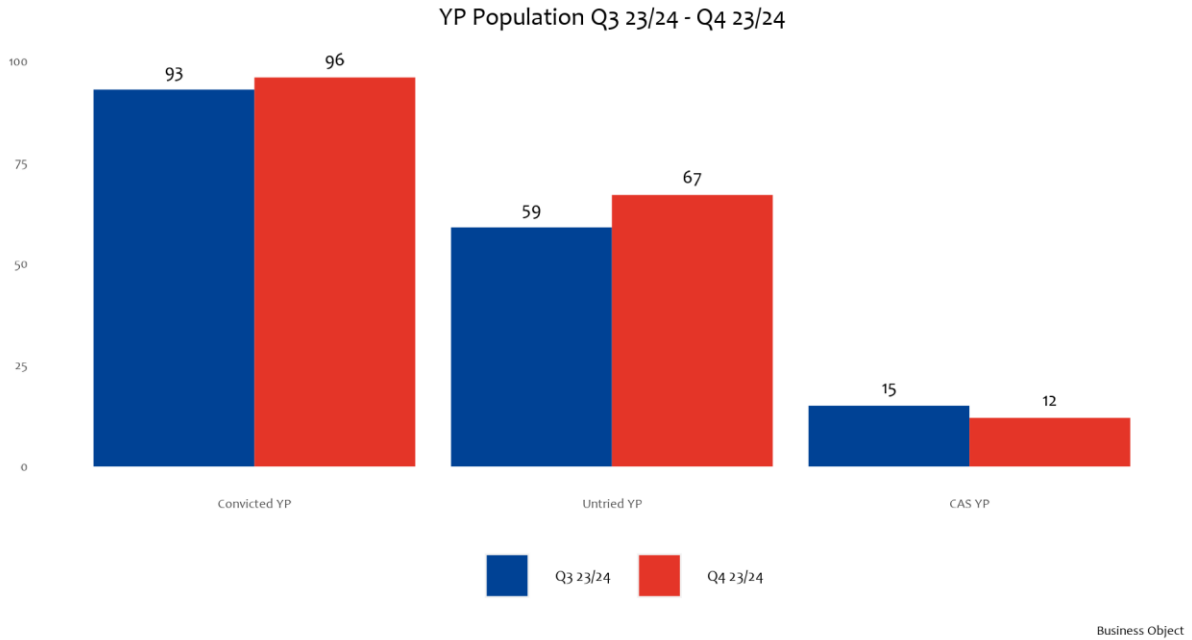
The number of those on remand remains high compared to the pre-pandemic period. In Quarter 4 23/24, the remand population accounted for 23.4% of the total prison population. High numbers of individuals on remand can create management issues for establishments, such as people having to move to convicted halls early; and long periods on remand mean that individuals spend longer without access to the full regime.

The long-term population increased by 1.4% in Q4 23/24 compared to the previous quarter. The short-term population and Life sentences (including OLRs) decreased in the same period, by 1.9% and 0.5%, respectively.



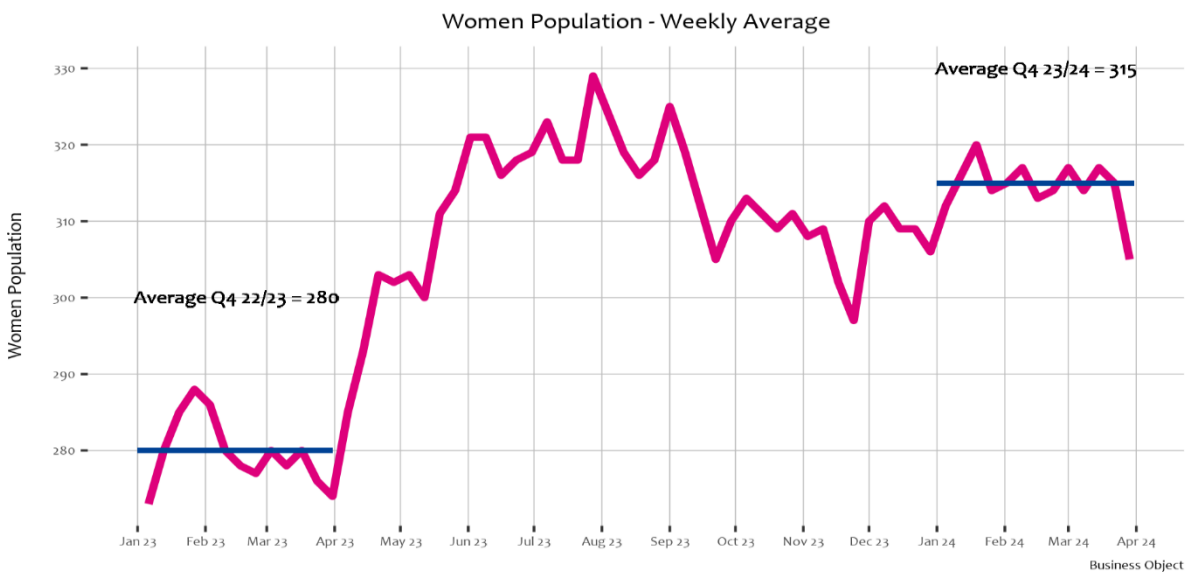
5.0 Young People in our Care

The quarterly average population of Young People (YP) increased from 167 in Q3 23/24 to 175 in Q4 23/24. As observed below, convicted and untried YP increased in Q4 23/24 while CAS YP reduced in the same period.



6.0 Women in our Care

The weekly average women’s population fluctuated in January and February, then decreased in the last two weeks of March. Overall, this reduced by 2.2% between the first week of January and last week of March. Compared to the same period last year, the quarterly average women population increased from 280 in Q4 22/23 to 315 in Q4 23/24, an increase of 12.5%. In the same period, the male population increased by 6.2%.



7.0 Equality and Diversity

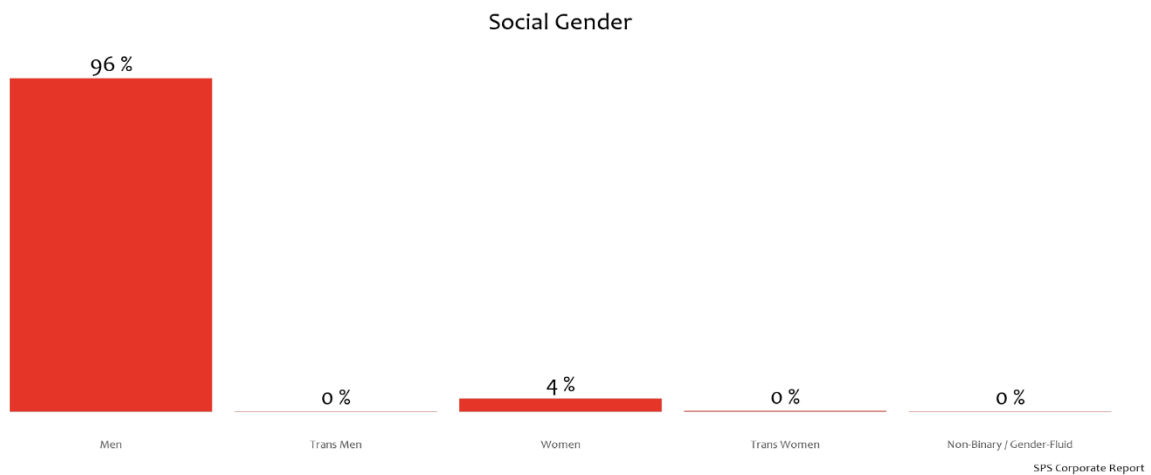
The Scottish Prison Service aims to provide accessible services to meet the needs of those in our care. This means an ongoing commitment to promote equal opportunities through policies and strategies to promote equality throughout all our establishments. The following data presents an overview of the diversity of the 8,040 people in our care on 31st March 2024.¹

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 Q4 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 18 trans people in custody at the end of Q4 23/24.



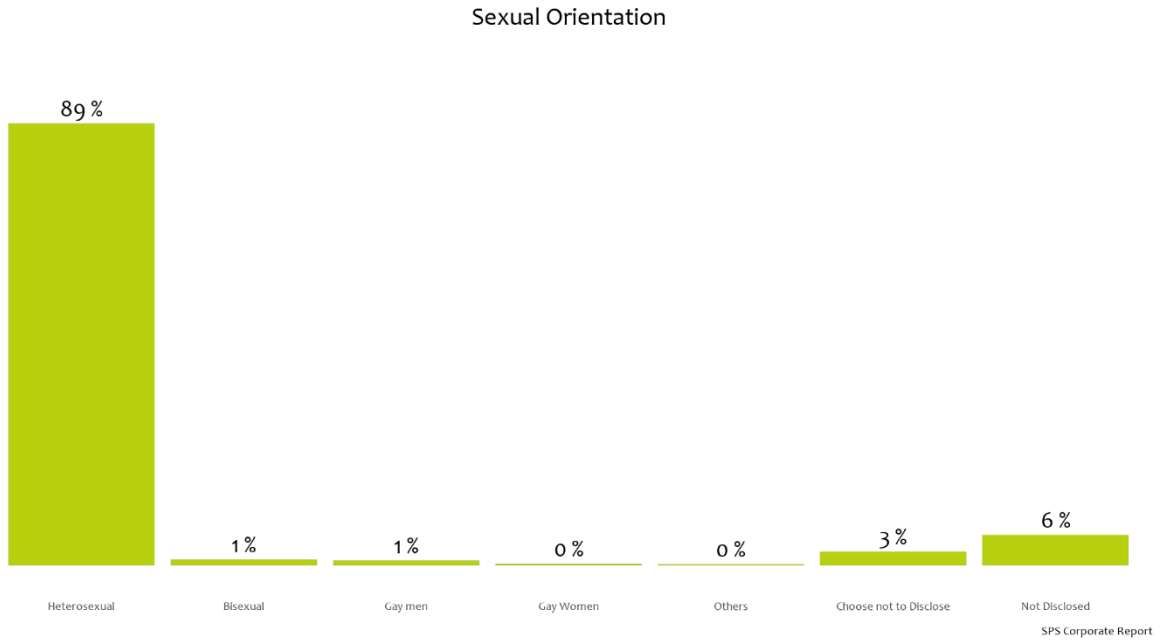
¹ The Public Information Page is a working document. The inclusion of data on protected characteristics is being kept under review to ensure the public scrutiny requirements are met whilst protecting the privacy of those in our care.

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>

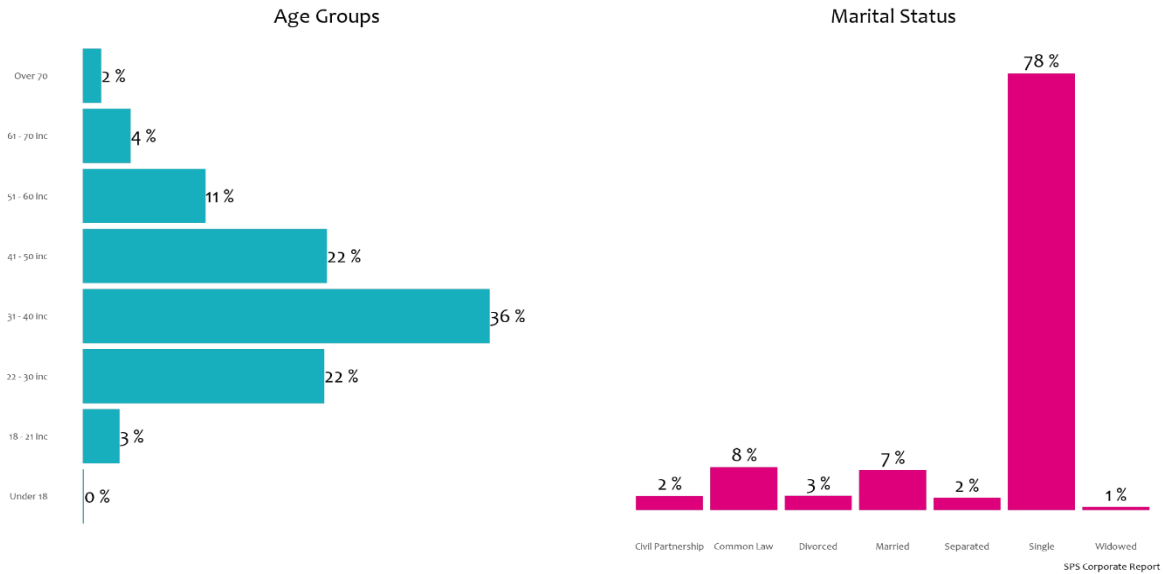
Sexual Orientation

Most of the people in our care declared themselves as heterosexual, 89%. Bisexuals, gay men and gay women comprised 1%. Another 3% preferred not to disclose while a further 6% were not obtained. More details are illustrated in the chart below.



Age Group and Marital Status

The chart below illustrates the prison population in Q4 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 Q4 23/24, 78%. Another 8% reported as “Common Law (or cohabitation with a partner)”.

Ethnic Group

In Q4 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 2% and 1%, respectively. More details can be observed in the chart below.



Disability

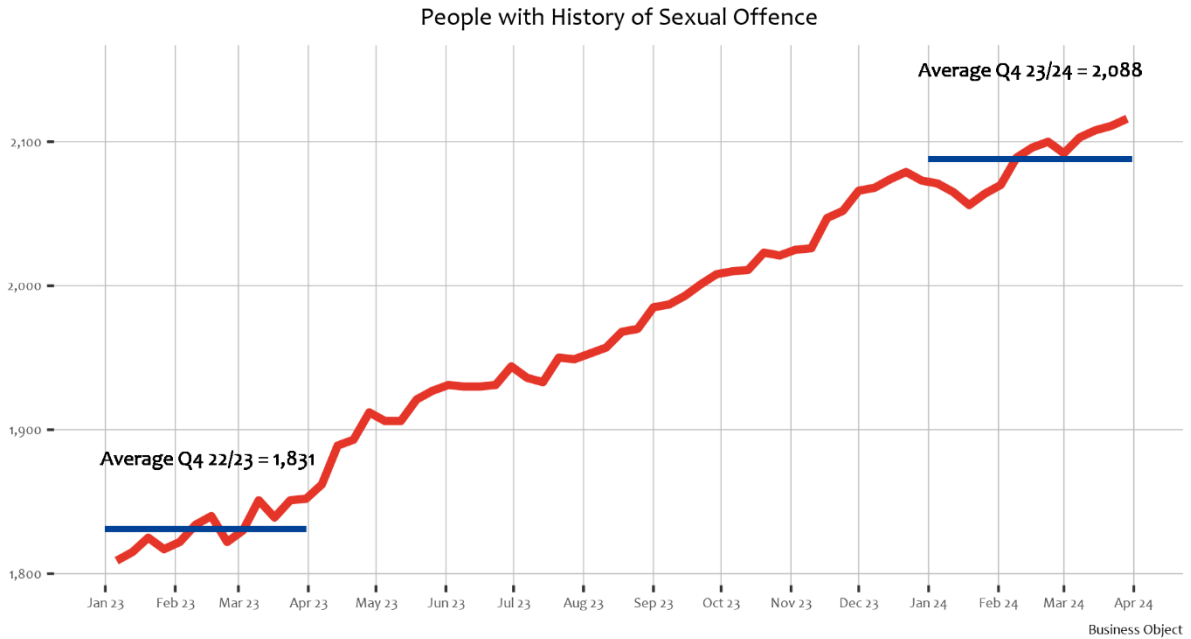
Ten percent of the people in our prisons have told us that they have a disability. Another 88% did not report any disability and 2% opted not to disclose.

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

8.0 Protection Populations

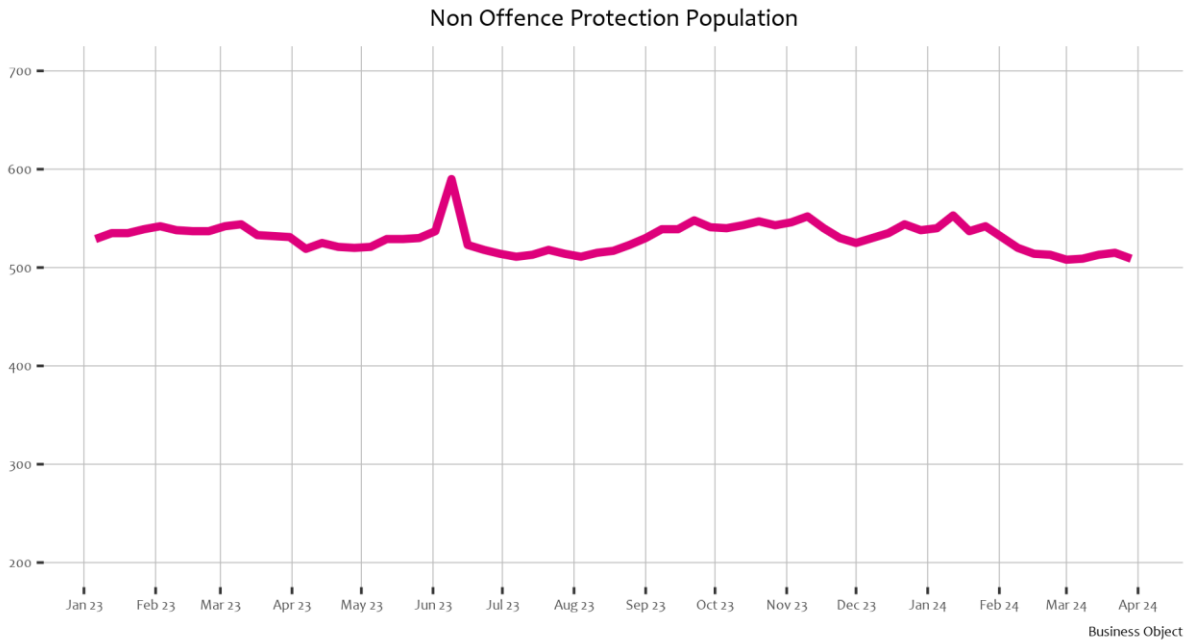
There are people with a history of sexual offending in each of Scotland’s prisons. This graph illustrates the extent of the accommodation issues in terms of this prisoner group, which impacts on the operational running of each prison, as this category of prisoner must be separate from the mainstream population.

The population of those with a history of sexual offending in custody increased by 2.2% in Q4 23/24, compared to the previous quarter. In average, the population of those with history of sexual offending in Q4 23/24 increased by 14% 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 decreased from a quarterly average of 539 in Q3 23-24 to an average of 523 in Q4 23/24.



9.0 Geography of Imprisonment in Scotland

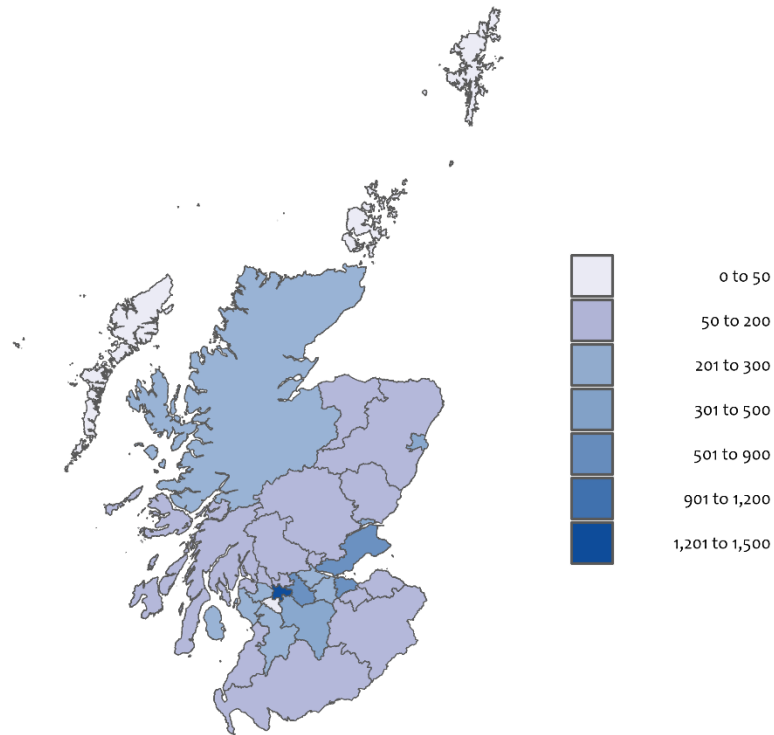
When considering the prisons population by Local Authority (LA), Glasgow City continued to have the largest number; 1,418 individuals in custody, comprising 17.6% of the total prison population at the end of Q4 23/24. The City of Edinburgh has the second largest prison population, with 620 individuals, followed by North Lanarkshire and Fife with 562 and 509 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 0.6% of the total of residents in prison.

According to the Prisons` Records, 4.7% of the people in our care recorded an address outwith Scotland, therefore they are not associated with any LA. Another 0.1% 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 31st March 2024.

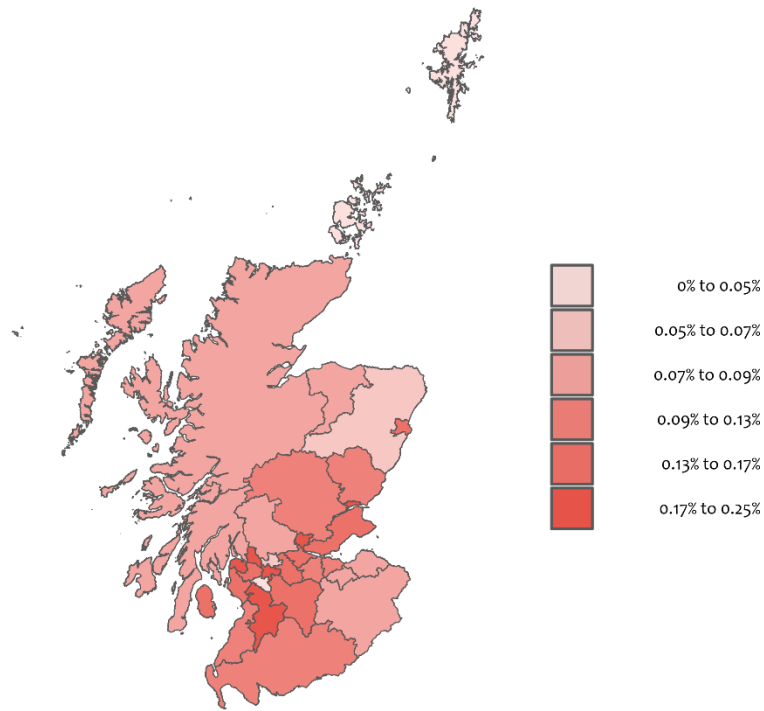
Number of People in Custody by Local Authority



The national rate of imprisonment in Scotland⁴ was 0.2% at the end of March. 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 31st March 2024.

Rate of Imprisonment by Local Authority



Prison Records

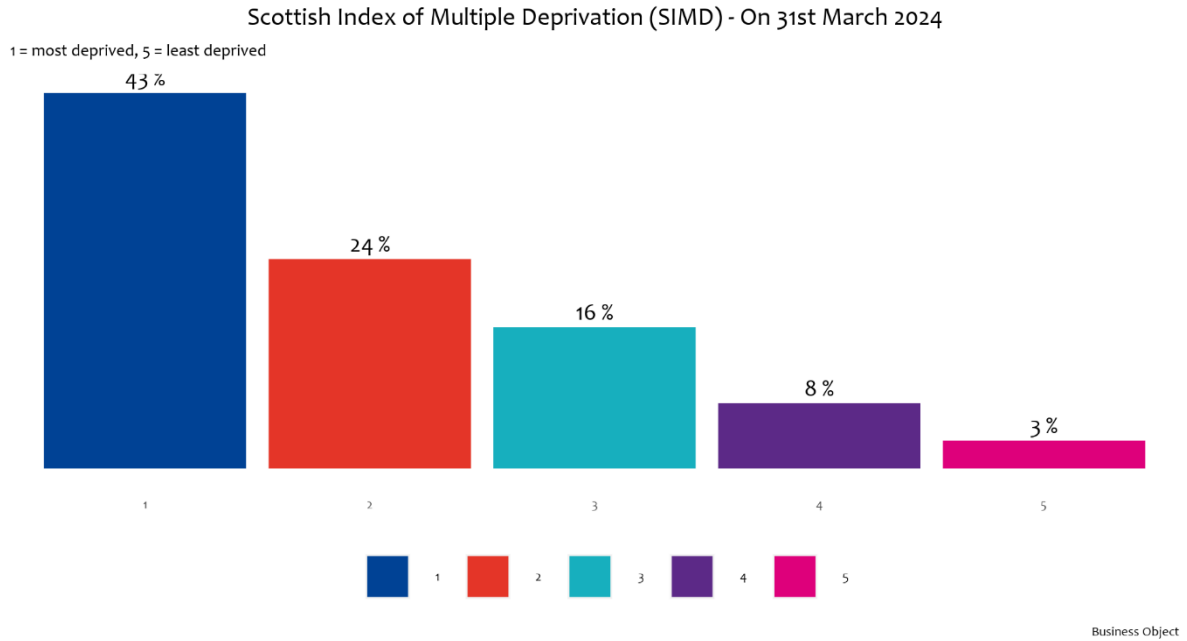
⁴ The Scottish population figures used to calculate the rate of imprisonment was obtained from [Scotland's Census 2022](#)

The table below illustrates the total number of individuals in custody on 31st March 2024, 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 | 105 | 129 | 130 |
| Aberdeenshire | 47 | 60 | 78 |
| Angus | 28 | 34 | 49 |
| Argyll And Bute | 19 | 21 | 36 |
| City Of Edinburgh | 177 | 165 | 278 |
| Clackmannanshire | 23 | 50 | 31 |
| Dumfries And Galloway | 64 | 47 | 67 |
| Dundee City | 130 | 106 | 131 |
| East Ayrshire | 67 | 90 | 72 |
| East Dunbartonshire | 17 | 19 | 24 |
| East Lothian | 27 | 30 | 35 |
| East Renfrewshire | 11 | 16 | 15 |
| Falkirk | 68 | 94 | 85 |
| Fife | 92 | 176 | 241 |
| Glasgow City | 411 | 366 | 641 |
| Highland | 70 | 63 | 90 |
| Inverclyde | 51 | 42 | 69 |
| Midlothian | 21 | 29 | 39 |
| Moray | 28 | 21 | 38 |
| Na H-Eileanan Siar | 9 | 8 | 5 |
| North Ayrshire | 69 | 72 | 84 |
| North Lanarkshire | 156 | 150 | 256 |
| Orkney Islands | 0 | <5 | 6 |
| Outwith Scotland | 137 | 68 | 170 |
| Perth And Kinross | 46 | 33 | 71 |
| Renfrewshire | 63 | 98 | 139 |
| Scottish Borders | 28 | 30 | 44 |
| Shetland Islands | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| South Ayrshire | 54 | 41 | 54 |
| South Lanarkshire | 112 | 144 | 205 |
| Stirling | 27 | 30 | 29 |
| Unidentifiable Address | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| West Dunbartonshire | 55 | 58 | 77 |
| West Lothian | 45 | 70 | 107 |
| Not on Prison Records | <5 | <5 | <5 |

Deprivation

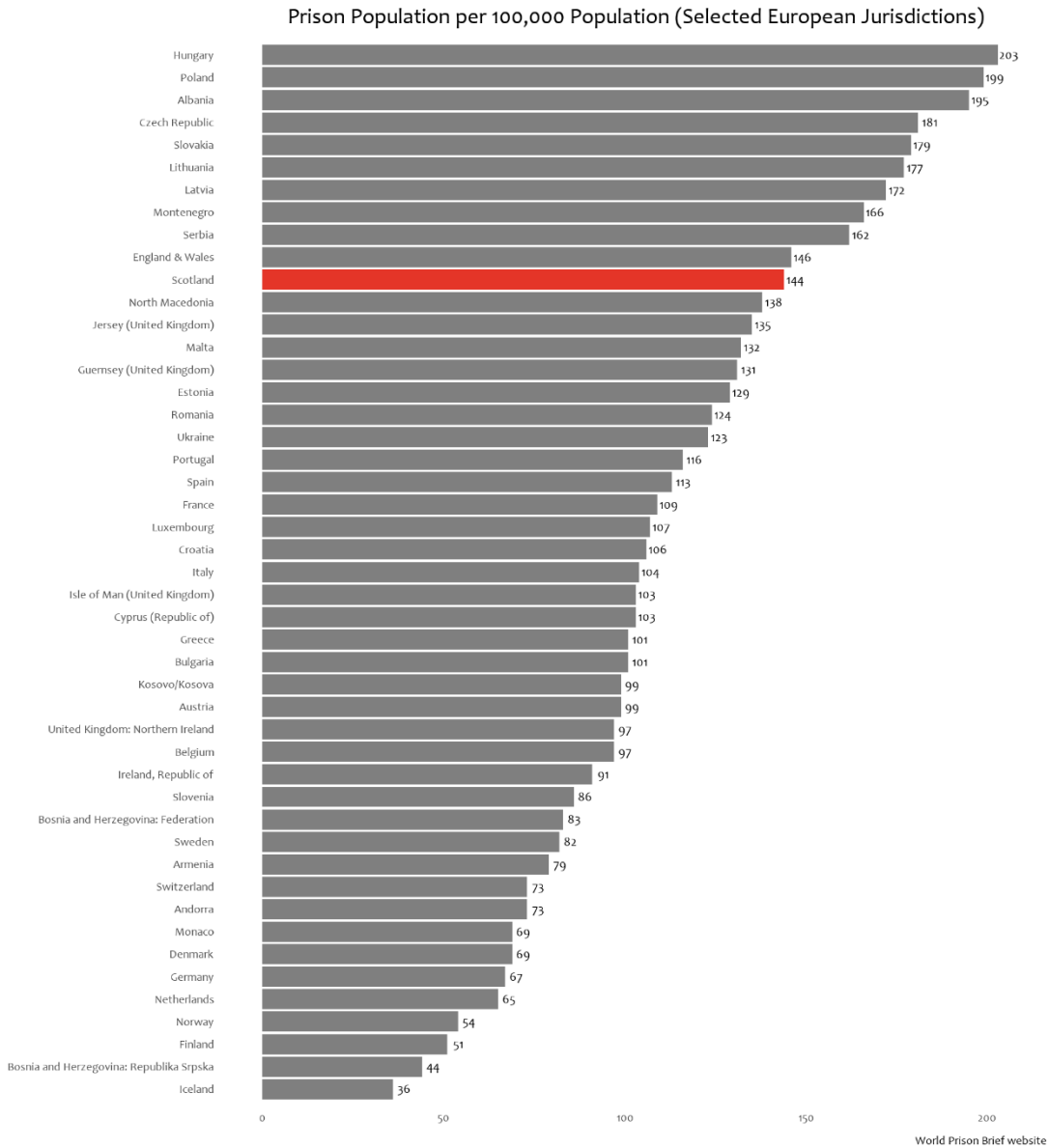
The data extracted from the Prison Records on 31st March 2024 indicates that 43% of the prison population come from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland while 3% come from the least deprived areas⁵.



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.

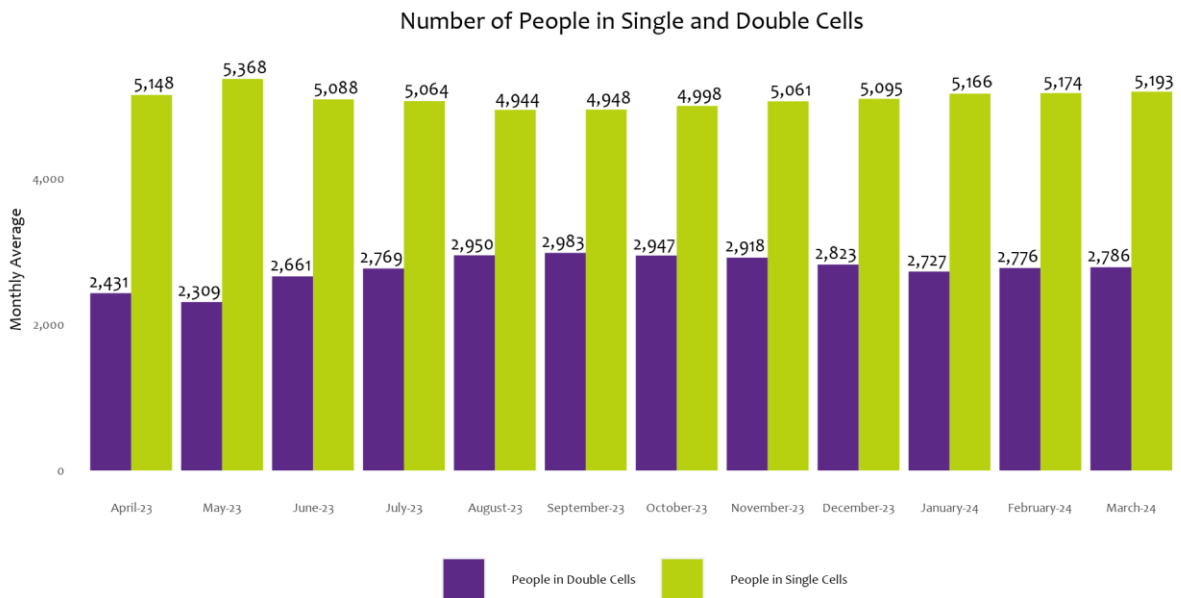


⁶ [World Prison Brief](#), accessed in March 2024.

11.0 Prison Estate & Configuration

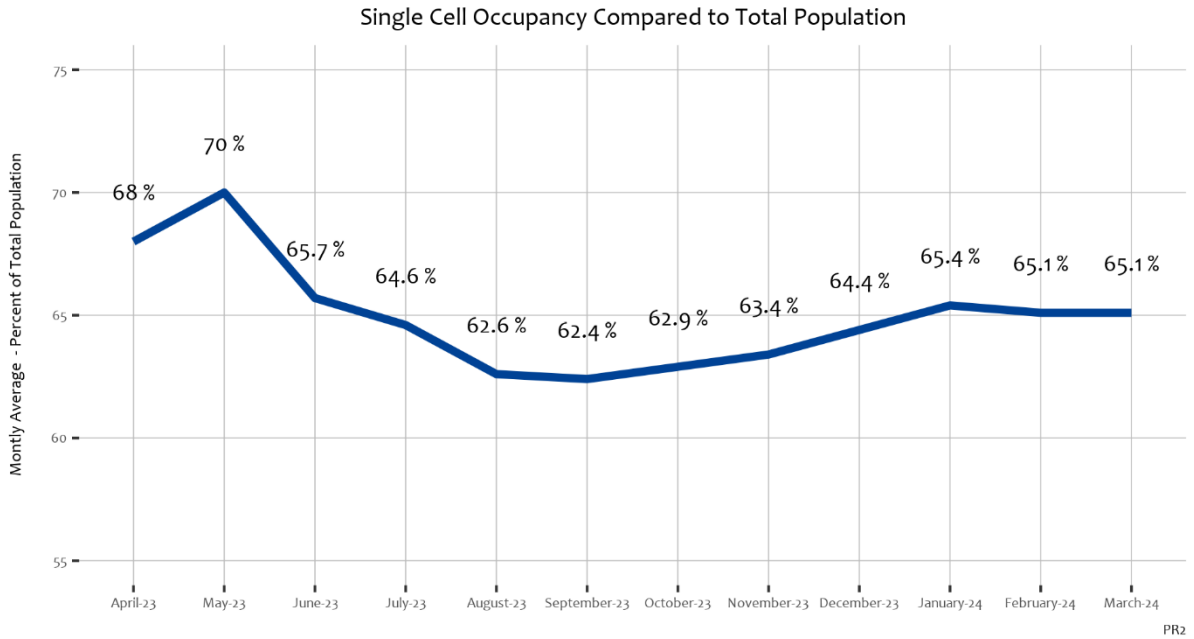
At the end of March 2024, six establishments were operating over the agreed Temporary Operating Capacity (TOC). Another seven establishments were operating very close to TOC. In total there were 23 available spaces across the estate. The available spaces lie predominantly within the women’s estate and Castle Huntly, each of which hold a specific category of prisoner.

In Q3 23/24, the monthly average number of people accommodated in single cells increased from 5,166 individuals in January to 5,193 in March. Between April-23 and March-24, the average number of people accommodated in single cells reduced by 0.9%. In the same period, the average number of people accommodated in double cells increased by 14.6%.



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. In Q4 23/24, SCO decreased from 65.4% in October to 65.1% in March.



12.0 Staffing Levels

SPS currently has 4,948 employees (4,675.4 full-time equivalent (FTE)), as of the 31st March 2024, this is an increase from 31st December 2023 (4,638 employees, 4,355.6 FTE). HMP Kilmarnock returned to public sector ownership in March 2024, which has contributed to the increase of employee headcount and FTE.

Turnover

Turnover is a focus for SPS with the priority being having a better understanding as to why employees leave. In quarter 4 2023/2024, there were 90 employees who left SPS which is less than Quarter 3 97 leavers. Interestingly this is of a similar level for the same period in 2022/2023. The top four leaving reasons in Q4 were Job Opportunity, Retired-Normal Retiral Age, Personal Reasons and Capability Health, they equate to 63.33% of Q4 leavers.

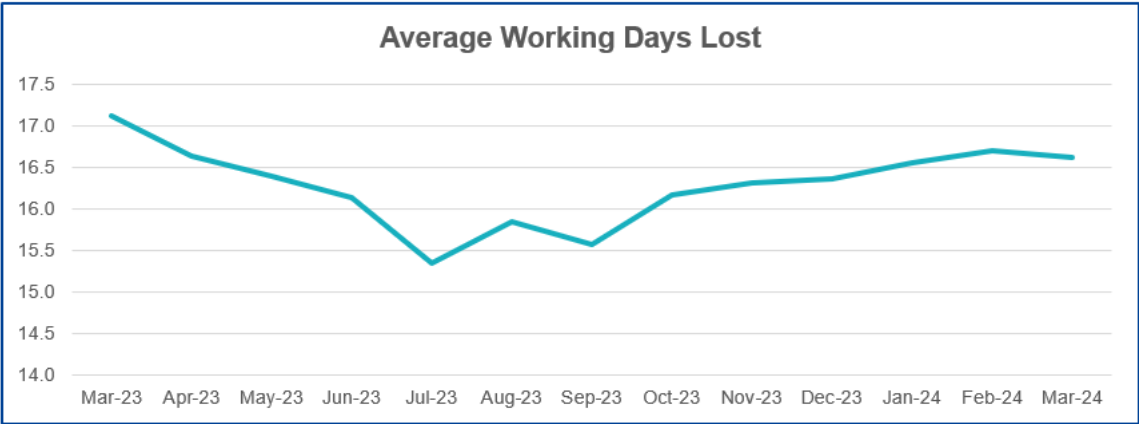


Absence

Staff absence is one of the main priorities for SPS. The sickness absence levels have slightly decreased from 17.1 Average Working Days Lost (AWDL) in March 2023 to 16.6 Average Working Days Lost (AWDL) in March 2024, however this is a slight increase from 16.4 AWDL in December 2023. The Average working days lost are the number of FTE days lost to sickness absence by SPS employees within a 12-month rolling period.

The calculation for this is:

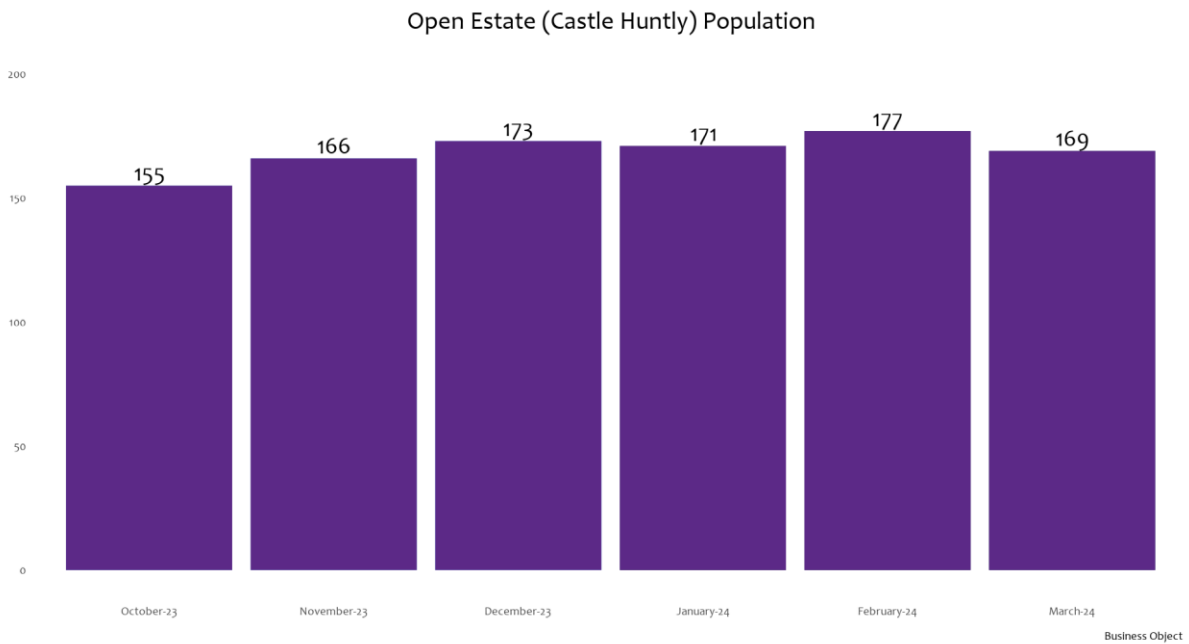
$$AWDL = \frac{\text{Total number of working days lost to absence}}{\text{Total FTE for all SPS employees}}$$



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 from an average of 171 in January to 177 in February, then reducing to 169 in March.



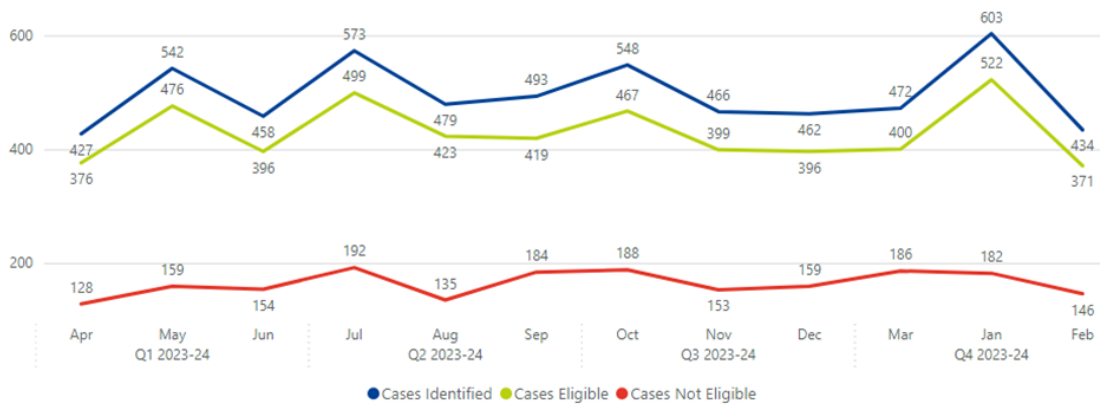
Identifying people held in less secure conditions within HMP&YOI Polmont and HMP Stirling is complicated by the structure of management information held by SPS; work is underway to report upon these populations.

14.0 Home Detention Curfew (HDC)

There has been a HDC data migration from an older system to a newer system in the last two months and during this time there has been some data cleanup meaning that some data presented below may be different from previous publications.

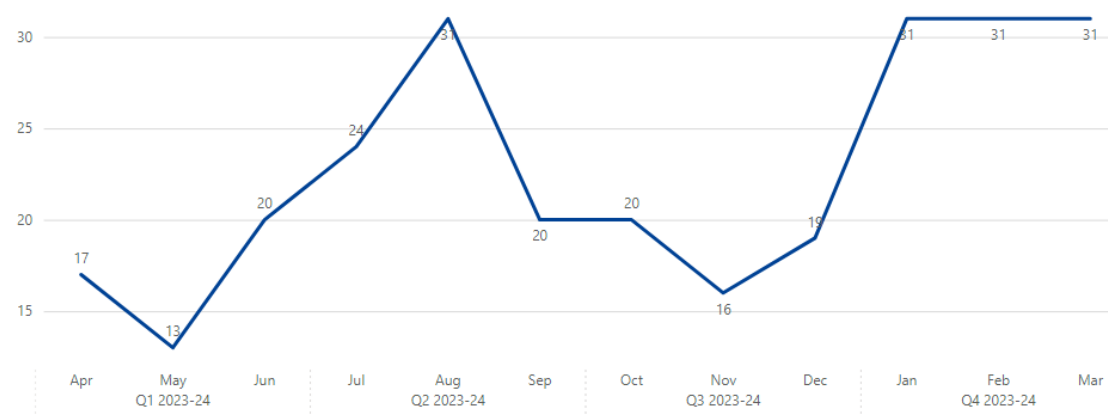
When comparing HDC figures for Q4 2023/24 with Q3 2023/24, we can see that the total number of cases that were identified has increased by 2.2% from 1,476 to 1,509. This can be broken down to a 2.5% increase in the number of cases which are eligible from 1,262 to 1,293, and an increase of 2.8% in the number of cases which are not eligible from 500 to 514.

HDC - Cases Identified - Q1 2023/24 - Q4 2023-24



In Q4 2023/24 there was a total number of 93 individuals released on HDC. This is a 66% increase (37 individuals) from Q3 2023/24 which was a total of 56.

HDC - Number Released - Q1 2023/24 - Q4 2023/24

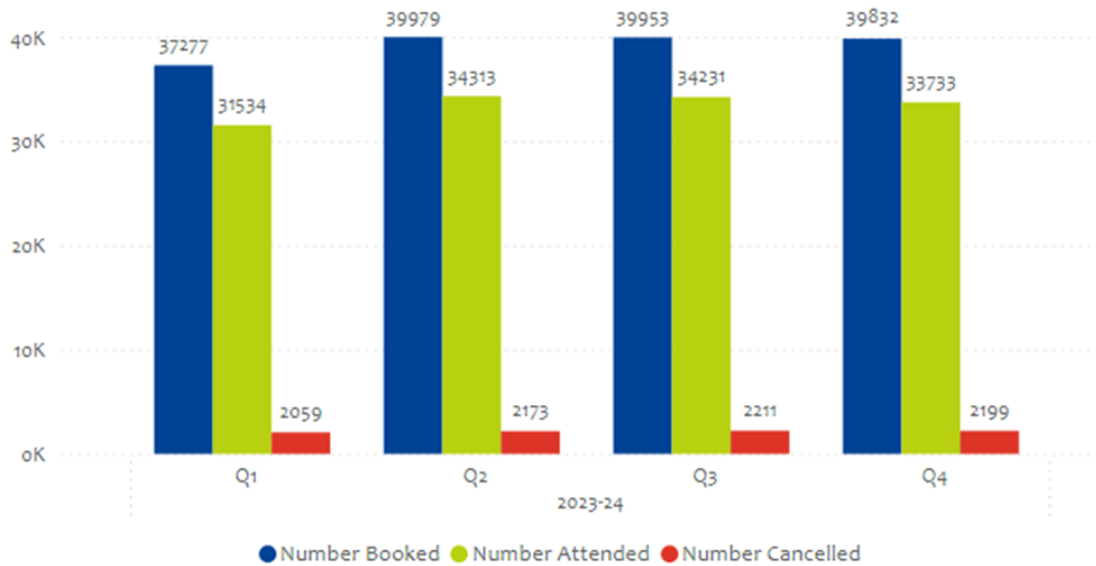


15.0 Face to Face & Virtual Visits

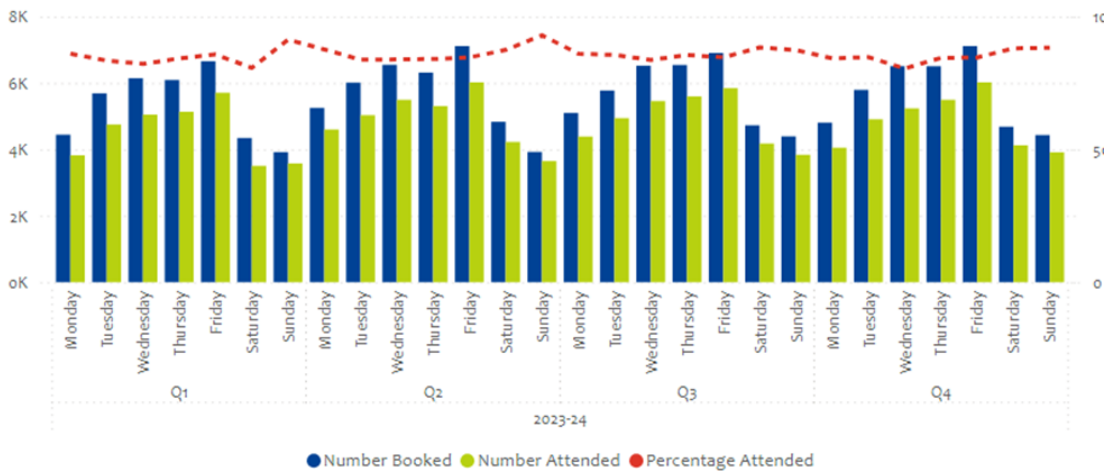
Face to Face

Face to Face visit numbers have been broadly stable through quarters 2, 3 and 4, with just under 40,000 booked each quarter, of which around 85% were then attended.

Face to Face - Visit Outcomes - Q1 2023/24 - Q4 2023/24



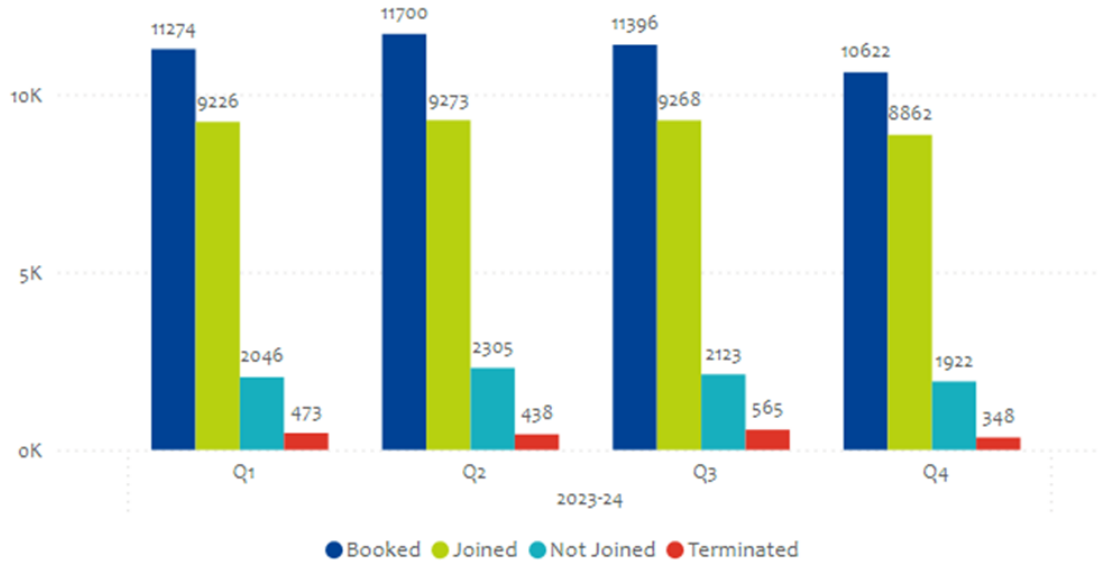
Face to Face - Booked vs Joined vs % Joined - Q1 2023/24 - Q4 2023/24



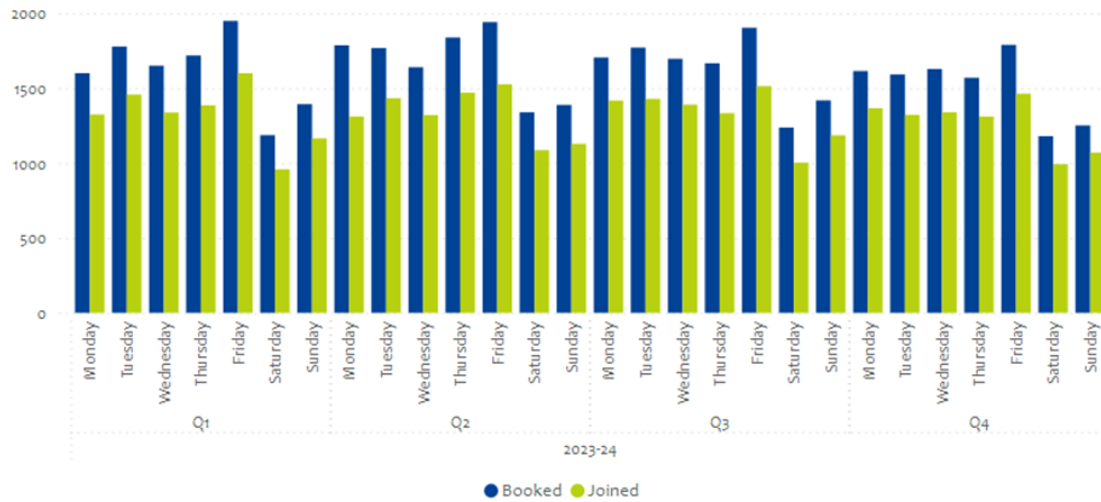
Virtual Visits

The number of Virtual Visits were consistent across the first three quarters of the year but decreased slightly in Q4 i.e. a decrease of 6.8% in booked visits from 11,396 to 10,622, a 4.4% decrease in joined visits from 9,268 to 8,862.

Virtual Visits - Visit Outcomes - Q1 2023/23 - Q4 2023/24



Virtual Visits - Booked vs Joined vs % Joined - Q1 2024/23 - Q4 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, 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](#).

- [Scotland`s Census 2022 – Rounded population estimates](#)
- [Mid-2020 Population Estimates Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)