

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

EARLY RELEASE

You may already know that some of those in our care serving short term sentences will now be released earlier than usual.

This is because of a new law that was set by the Scottish Government.

If your loved ones sentence is less than 4 years they could be released after serving 40 percent of it.

This will start in February.

Not all short term prisoners will be released early.

Around 350 people will be released early in February and March.

People will be released in groups on certain dates.

We are making sure that support is in place for your loved ones when they get out.

We know you may have questions about this and we have tried to answer some of these below.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



What is happening?

Some of those in our care serving less than 4 years will now be released earlier than half way through their sentence. This is because of a new law.



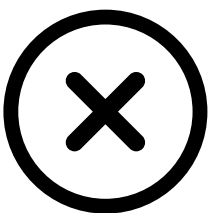
Why is this happening?

To help lower the number of people living in our prisons, so we can keep everybody safe.



Who will be released early?

Around 350 convicted people in our care serving less than 4 years.



Who will not be released early?

Those in prison for:

- Sex offences
- Domestic abuse offences
- Any offence with a domestic abuse aggravation



When will people be released early?

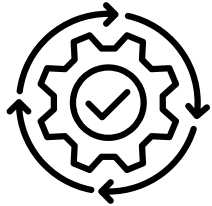
The early releases will happen in February and March.



How will my loved one know their new release date?

They will get a letter from prison staff.

It will tell your loved one if their date has changed.



How will early releases work ?

People will be released in small groups over 6 weeks in February and March.

They will be released on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.



What if their new date has already passed ?

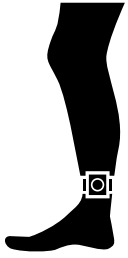
The new law says they will be released with a group in February or March.



What if my loved one has a remand warrant too?

Their status will change from convicted to remand.

This is the same as what happens normally.



What if my loved one is on Home Detention Curfew (HDC) by then?

The release date will be changed if this affects them.

They will be told before they are released or when they are on Home Detention Curfew.



What help will my loved one get when they are released?

An officer will help your loved one to make sure they have support in place.

They will speak with your loved one about benefits, housing or any other support they may need.

They can help your loved one contact you about what is happening.

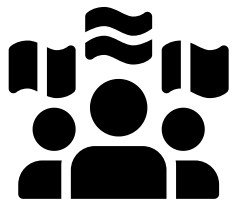
We will give your loved one a pack with information about people and places in their community that can help them.



What if my loved one was not sentenced in Scotland ?

Their release date will most likely stay the same.

If their date has changed we will let your loved one know.



My loved one is a foreign national will this affect them ?

If their sentence means they are included we will tell Immigration that their release date has changed.

It is up to them to decide if your loved one will be kept longer.



What if i am worried about someone being released early ?

There are organisations that can support and help you on our website ([Support for you](#)).

You can contact our Victim Notification Scheme staff [here](#).