



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ23265

14 February 2024

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 17 January 2024 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

For reference, you requested.

RFI 1: *“Please provide details of how many deaths have occurred and the cause of these deaths SPS prisons has been involved in over the past five years.”*

RFI 2: *“Please breakdown the information details of incidents; breakdown of locations; and the outcomes - i.e was there drugs involved, natural causes. If passed to the police, please provide date of report and address the report was made.”*

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

RFI 1 Response: The Scottish Prison Service (SPS) records all deaths in custody in calendar years and publishes this information on SPS’ external website. This information is available for the previous ten years and is updated on a quarterly basis by SPS: <https://www.sps.gov.uk/Corporate/Information/PrisonerDeaths.aspx> . It should be noted that figures for 2023 Quarter 4 are not published on current SPS website. These figures will be published on the new SPS website when this is launched in the coming weeks.

The SPS publishes the ‘medical certificate cause of death’ (MCCD) issued for an individual to avoid any delay in waiting until the cause of death is determined at a Fatal Accident Inquiry (FAI). This MCCD information is provided on the website for all deaths in SPS custody from January 2019. However, SPS is only able to confirm the cause of death once a Fatal Accident Inquiry (FAI) has concluded.

All deaths in prisons are subject to a Fatal Accident Inquiry and the findings of FAIs are published on the Scottish Courts website.

RFI 2 Response: As advised above SPS publishes all deaths in custody on the SPS website on a quarterly basis and this includes prison establishment and the Medical Certificate Cause of Death.

Police Scotland are notified of all deaths in custody as a matter of course by the prison establishment by contacting 101.

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