



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Public Audit Committee

Neil Rennick  
Director-General Education and Justice  
Scottish Government

**2 June 2025**

Dear Mr Rennick

### **The 2022/23 audit of the Scottish Prison Service**

Thank you for your letter of 31 March 2025, in which you provided the Public Audit Committee with an update on the progress of specific recommendations from its report on the 2022/23 audit of the Scottish Prison Service (SPS).

The Committee considered the update at its meeting on 7 May 2025 and agreed to write to you to seek the following information.

The Committee notes that in the update you have provided information in relation to the development of the new prisoner transport contract. Your update confirms that a retendering process is now underway and that the contract will be a strategic partnership with a service provider and that the retender will introduce a new commercial model. In its report, the Committee welcomed confirmation from the Chief Executive of SPS that consideration would be given to using a public sector model to deliver future prisoner transport services, as part of the planning process for the new contract.

**The Committee asks for further information on the consideration that was given to delivering prisoner transport services via a public sector model and on the value for money assessment undertaken to determine that a new commercial model of delivery was the best approach.**

The Committee would appreciate a response by **30 June 2025**.

Yours sincerely,

**Richard Leonard MSP**

**Convener**

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Email [publicaudit.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:publicaudit.committee@parliament.scot). We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.