



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Justice Committee

Teresa Medhurst
Interim Chief Executive
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Dear Ms Medhurst,

Prison releases

I write following a meeting of the Justice Committee where it was agreed that we should write to the Scottish Prison Service and ask what plans SPS has to publish statistics on early prison releases on a regular basis.

Members were keen that a transparent regime is put in place whereby figures for release by tranche (total numbers also broken down by prison) were published and also figures published for the numbers of requests declined by a prison governor as allowed for under the new legislation (again also in absolute terms and by prison).

These figures will enable the Committee and others to assess the effectiveness of the new regime, consistency of approach and whether the various targets are being achieved (such as single cell occupancy targets).

I look forward to your response.

Best wishes,

Margaret Mitchell MSP
Convener
Justice Committee