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Teresa Medhurst
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By email justicecommittee@parliament.scot

15 May 2020

Dear Ms Mitchell

Prison Releases

Thank you for your letter of 13 May 2020.

The Scottish Prison Service (SPS) was already planning to publish data on early release following the completion of each tranche. Tranche 1 finishes at close of business on Monday 18 May 2020, thereafter information will be available on the 'Publication of Data' section of the dedicated COVID-19 Information Hub contained on our website (the link to this page on our website is undernoted).

The published data will be broken down by establishment and by local authority area. It will also include information on the number of Governors' Veto's applied.

I note that your letter makes reference to single cell occupancy targets, however these targets do not exist. SPS endeavours to accommodate those in our care in single cells where possible, but some individuals do have a preference to share cells. The provision of single cell accommodation is also dependent on regime and population type.

A number of establishments are already providing single cell occupancy including HMPs' Castle Huntly, Greenock and Shotts as well as HMP&YOIs' Cornton Vale, Grampian and Polmont. This is, again, dependent on regime and population type.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Teresa Medhurst'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

TERESA MEDHURST
Interim Chief Executive, SPS

Note referred to

SPS COVID-19 Information Hub

<https://www.sps.gov.uk/Corporate/Information/covid19/covid-19-information-hub.aspx>