



HEADQUARTERS  
One Lochside  
1 Lochside Avenue  
EDINBURGH  
EH12 9HW

Our Ref: HQ23280

27 February 2024

Dear

Thank you for your FOI request dated 29 January 2024 under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Your request was for:-

I would like the annual data for the period Feb 2020- Feb 2024 on the following:

**RFI 1:** The numbers of drones found in prisons each year and in which prisons.

**RFI 2:** The contents of the drones and suggested value

**RFI 3:** What is the largest 'haul' the prison has recovered (value and amount of contents)

**RFI 4:** How many drones were intercepted and the contents taken and how many were successful e.g. drones were intercepted but their contents had already been taken by the prisoner?

**RFI 5:** What is done with the drones afterwards.

**RFI 6:** How many prisoners have been connected with these drones and are they individuals or organised crime gangs.

**RFI 7:** And what is done if a prisoner is suspected of being involved?

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

#### RFI 1 Response:

The below data includes the number of confirmed sightings and recoveries within a Scottish Prison from 1 January 2020 – 31 January 2024. In all instances the drone was visually detected either during regular perimeter checks by staff or by CCTV.

#### 2020

Month	Establishment	Drone Recovered	Contents Recovered	Contents
February	HMP Glenochil	No	No	N/A
February	HMP Glenochil	No	No	N/A
April	HMP Low Moss	No	No	N/A
April	HMP & YOI Polmont	Yes	Yes	PCD
November	HMP & YOI Polmont	No	No	N/A
November	HMP Perth	Yes	Yes	Drugs and PCDs

## 2021

Month	Establishment	Drone Recovered	Contents Recovered	Contents
June	HMP Barlinnie	Yes	Yes	Drugs and PCDs
June	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
July	HMP Addiewell	No	Yes	PCDs, Weapon and Drugs
September	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
September	HMP Inverness	Yes	Yes	Drugs and PCDs
November	HMP Edinburgh	Yes	Yes	Drugs and PCDs
June	HMP Barlinnie	Yes	Yes	Drugs and PCDs

## 2022

Month	Establishment	Drone Recovered	Contents Recovered	Contents
May	HMP Shotts	No	No	N/A
August	HMP Glenochil	Yes	Yes	Drugs
September	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
October	HMP Edinburgh	Yes	Yes	Passed to Police Scotland
November	HMP Edinburgh	Yes	Yes	Drugs and PCDs
December	HMP Edinburgh	Yes	No	N/A
December	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A

## 2023

Month	Establishment	Drone Recovered	Contents Recovered	Contents
January	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
February	HMP Edinburgh	No	Yes	Drugs and PCDs
February	HMP Edinburgh	No	Yes	Drugs
February	HMP Perth	No	Yes	PCDs
February	HMP Perth	No	Yes	Drugs and PCDs
February	HMP Perth	No	No	N/A
March	HMP Perth	Yes	No	N/A
March	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
March	HMP Perth	Yes	No	N/A
March	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
March	HMP Edinburgh	Yes	Yes	Drugs and PCDs
March	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
March	HMP Barlinnie	Yes	No	N/A
April	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
April	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
April	HMP Inverness	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Perth	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Perth	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Low Moss	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Edinburgh	No	Yes	Drugs and PCDs
May	HMP Glenochil	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Perth	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
May	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
June	HMP Edinburgh	No	Yes	Drugs

June	HMP Edinburgh	No	Yes	Drugs
June	HMP Perth	No	No	N/A
June	HMP Perth	No	No	N/A
July	HMP Perth	Yes	Yes	Drugs and PCDs
July	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
July	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
July	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
July	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
July	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
July	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
July	HMP Edinburgh	Yes	No	N/A
August	HMP Barlinnie	No	Yes	Drugs and PCDs
August	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
August	HMP Low Moss	No	No	N/A
August	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
August	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
August	HMP Edinburgh	No	Yes	Drugs and PCDs
August	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
August	HMP Barlinnie	No	Yes	Drugs, PCDs and Weapon
August	HMP Low Moss	No	No	N/A
August	HMP Edinburgh	Yes	Yes	Drugs, PCDs and Weapon
September	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
September	HMP Low Moss	No	No	N/A
September	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
September	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
September	HMP Low Moss	No	No	N/A
October	HMP Low Moss	No	No	N/A
October	HMP Glenochil	No	No	N/A
October	HMP Barlinnie	No	No	N/A
October	HMP Barlinnie	No	Yes	Passed to Police Scotland
October	HMP Greenock	No	Yes	Drugs and PCDs
November	Lilias Centre	No	No	N/A
November	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
November	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
December	HMP Glenochil	No	No	N/A
December	HMP Perth	No	No	N/A
December	HMP Perth	No	No	N/A
December	HMP Edinburgh	Yes	Yes	Drugs and PCDs
December	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A

**2024**

Month	Establishment	Drone Recovered	Contents Recovered	Contents
January	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
January	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
January	HMP Edinburgh	Yes	Yes	Drugs and PCDs
January	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
January	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A
January	HMP Edinburgh	Yes	Yes	Drugs and PCDs
January	HMP Edinburgh	No	No	N/A

**RFI 2 Response:** Please see table above for contents.

With regards to suggested value, under section 17 of FOI(S)A I can advise that we do not hold this information.

**RFI 3 Response:** Please see table above for contents.

With regards to suggested value, under section 17 of FOI(S)A I can advise that we do not hold this information.

**RFI 4 Response:** Please see table above for contents.

However, under section 17 of FOI(S)A I can advise that we do not hold this information, as we cannot know if a drone found with no contents ever had any contents.

**RFI 5 Response:** All drone recoveries are reported to Police Scotland.

**RFI 6 Response:** In this instance section 35(1)(a) of FOI(S)A applies. Section 35(1)(a) applies to information relating to the prevention or detection of crime. The term “prevention or detection of crime” is wide ranging. It encompasses actions taken to anticipate and prevent crime, or to establish the identity and secure prosecution of people suspected of being responsible for committing a crime. This could mean activities in relation to a specific crime or wider strategies for crime reduction and detection.

While application of this exemption is subject to the public interest test, it is felt the public interest is best served in the reduction and detection of crime, and not disclosing material that may be of interest to the public but may jeopardise that.

**RFI 7 Response:** In this instance section 35(1)(a) of FOI(S)A applies. Section 35(1)(a) applies to information relating to the prevention or detection of crime. The term “prevention or detection of crime” is wide ranging. It encompasses actions taken to anticipate and prevent crime, or to establish the identity and secure prosecution of people suspected of being responsible for committing a crime. This could mean activities in relation to a specific crime or wider strategies for crime reduction and detection.

While application of this exemption is subject to the public interest test, it is felt the public interest is best served in the reduction and detection of crime, and not disclosing material that may be of interest to the public but may jeopardise that.

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