

FIFE AND FORTH VALLEY COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY	INFORMATION BULLETIN REPORT FOR INFORMATION
16 December 2011	NOT CONFIDENTIAL
SPS PRISONER TRENDS 2011-2012 - QUARTER 2	

1 RECOMMENDATION(S)

Fife and Forth Valley Community Justice Authority Board Members are asked to:

- 1.1 Note the contents of the Report.
- 1.2 Note that regular monitoring of the prison population continues.

2 CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 Prisoner numbers: In the second quarter of 2011/12 (July-September) there was an average of 734 prisoners from Fife & Forth Valley in the prison system in Scotland; 13 more than the equivalent period last year and 2 more than the previous quarter. The average national prisoner population is 4% (+317 prisoners) higher than the same period last year, at 8233 in Quarter 2 2011/12.
- 2.2 Local Authority breakdown: Based on the running total for the year (Q1 and Q2), the proportional breakdown of the CJA's prisoner population by Local Authority is: Clackmannanshire 11% (81 prisoners); Stirling 14% (104 prisoners); Falkirk 22% (163 prisoners) and Fife 52% (384 prisoners). This is not significantly different from the spread recorded last year.
- 2.3 Proportion held locally: In Q2, 40% (297 prisoners) of Fife & Forth Valley's prisoners were held within the CJA area at one of the three prisons in the area. This is very similar to the 41% (295 prisoners) recorded in quarter 2 last year and to the 40% (293 prisoners) recorded in quarter 1. The vast majority of these, 185 prisoners, were held at HMP Glenochil, 83 were held at HMYOI Polmont and 29 were held at HMP & YOI Cornton Vale.
- 2.4 Proportion of local prisoners in HMP Glenochil: In the second quarter of 2011/12 the average population of Glenochil was 747 prisoners, 13.5% (+89 prisoners) higher than the same period last year and 12 fewer than the previous period. The proportion who were from Fife & Forth Valley was 25% (185 prisoners), this compares with 24% (158 prisoners) recorded in the same period last year. That is, there is a similar proportion from Fife & Forth Valley, however the actual numbers have increased.

- 2.5 Sentence types: Of the 734 Fife & Forth Valley prisoners throughout Scotland:
- 22% (159 prisoners) were on remand-more than the same period last year (+12 prisoners), and a higher proportion (+2%).
 - 6% (44 prisoners) were serving sentences of less than 6 months-the same as the equivalent period last year.
 - 25% (184 prisoners) were serving sentences of between 6 months and less than 2 years-9 fewer (-2%) than the equivalent period last year.
 - 14% (105 prisoners) were serving sentences of between 2 years and less than 4 months-7 fewer (-1%) than the equivalent period last year.
 - 32% (238 prisoners) were serving sentences of 4 years or more-16 more (+2%) higher than the equivalent period last year.
 - Less than 3 prisoners were listed as fine defaulters or invalid.
- 2.6 Breakdown of remand population: In the second quarter of 2011/12 the remand population from Fife & Forth Valley was higher compared with the number recorded in the same period last year-159 prisoners this year, 147 prisoners last year. The national remand population also increased, by 11% (+164 prisoners), to 1616 remand prisoners, in comparing the same periods. As such, Fife & Forth Valley accounted for 10% of Scotland's remand population. Based on the running total for 2011/12 (i.e. Q1 and Q2), of the total remand prisoners from Fife & Forth Valley, 47% (70 prisoners) were from Fife, 26% (40 prisoners) were from Falkirk, 16% (24 prisoners) were from Stirling, and 11% (17 prisoners) were from Clackmannanshire.
- 2.7 Breakdown of Less than 6 months population: In the second quarter of 2011/12 the number of prisoners from Fife & Forth Valley serving sentences of less than 6 months was the same as the equivalent period last year-44 prisoners in both periods. The national trend showed an increase of 11%, to 476 prisoners. As such, Fife & Forth Valley accounted for just under 10% of Scotland's less than 6 months population. Based on the running total for 2011/12 (i.e. Q1 and Q2), 42% (18 prisoners) were from Fife, 32% (14 prisoners) were from Falkirk, 18% (8 prisoners) were from Stirling, and only 7% (3 prisoners) were from Clackmannanshire.
- 2.8 Breakdown of prisoners by age and gender: Of the 734 prisoners from Fife & Forth Valley, 88% (646 prisoners) were aged 21 and over, and 12% (87 prisoners) were aged under 21. In the same period last year Under 21s accounted for 15% (106 prisoners) of the CJAs prisoners, as such this year has seen a reduction. Of the 734 prisoners, 95% (699 prisoners) were male and 5% (34 prisoners) were female. The gender proportions are the same as last year.

2.9 Liberations: In the second quarter of 2011/12 there were a total of 558 liberations into Fife & Forth Valley, only 1 fewer than the previous period and 9 more than the same period last year. Fife & Forth Valley accounted for 11% of Scotland's 5024 liberations. Of the 558 liberations, 281 (50%) were to Fife, 114 (20%) were to Falkirk, 93 (17%) were to Stirling and 70 (12%) were to Clackmannanshire. Of the total 558 liberations, 246 (44%) were liberated from remand, an increase on the 239 (43%) liberations from remand in the same period last year. Further, 103 (18%) were liberated from sentences of less than 6 months, a reduction on the 114 (21%) liberations from such sentences in the same period last year.

3 CONSULTATION

3.1 None.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.


5 BACKGROUND PAPERS

5.1 CJA Analysis of SPS Prisoner Statistics, provided as an Appendix to this report.

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