



SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

# Prisons in Scotland

*Report for 1978*

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland  
by Command of Her Majesty  
December 1979*

EDINBURGH  
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

Cmd. 7749

£3.25 net

92. The modernisation of the remaining 13 staff quarters out of a total of 17 at Polmont was completed. Electrical upgrading of 73 staff quarters at Aberdeen, Friarton and Noranside and the installation of central heating in 25 senior staff quarters at Barlinnie, Dumfries and Edinburgh was carried out.

#### Land Transactions

93. Land holdings were decreased by the sale of 14,306 hectares at West-quarter near Falkirk. Apart from the purchase of 3 new houses no other land was acquired.

## CHAPTER SIX

### Health and Hygiene

94. The total number of inmates reporting sick has again shown an appreciable increase over preceding years. The number of those first attendances was 80,979 (67,422) of which 78,807 (65,104) were males and 2,172 (2,318) were females.

95. The general health of inmates has remained satisfactory and there has been no marked disease prevalence, the increased number of first attendances being a reflection of the excellent facilities available and the demands made on these services.

96. Many attendances are for minor complaints of an unspecified nature, but main causes of morbidity were diseases affecting:

1. Respiratory System: . . . . . 14,663 (10,960). Of these the greatest number suffered common cold, 9,204 (6,437) or non streptococcal sore throat 3,023 (2,574). Influenza was recorded in 581 (365) cases. There was a corresponding increase in the number of cases of pneumonia and bronchitis.
2. Teeth: . . . . . 7,395 (5,916).
3. Skin: . . . . . 7,273 (7,062) of which only 2,092 were said to be of infective origin.
4. Stomach & Bowels: . . . . . 5,155 (5,084). Of these the greatest number, 3,996 (4,050) were non specific digestive disorders. Only 998 (854) cases of diarrhoeal disease were recorded. 4 cases of Salmonella Agona infection were diagnosed. This minor outbreak was quickly controlled and there were no complications.
5. Nervous System: . . . . . 2,872 (3,770). Of these 2,223 were suffering from neuroses and personality disorders. Only 10 were diagnosed as suffering from psychoses and 12 were classified as suffering from mental deficiency. 627 received treatment for epilepsy. Pediculosis 1,693 (1,849). Scabies 558 (522). The incidence of nit infestation in new admissions is now considerably less. This is in keeping with the impression in the community that the pandemic of the past few years is coming under control.
7. Eye: . . . . . 1,322 (1,369).
8. Ear: . . . . . 1,467 (1,520).

#### Other Illness

97. 71(71) inmates were treated for pulmonary tuberculosis during the year. All but two of these had been diagnosed before imprisonment. Only five required to be transferred to NHS hospitals for further treatment. Mass radiography units visit Institutions at intervals and 3,880 inmates were so screened

during the year. These spot X-ray checks are a valuable addition to the prevention of infection in busy institutions. The hospital laundry service at HM Prison, Shotts, is now operational and all staff and inmates are offered chest X-rays. This is in keeping with NHS practice.

Ischaemic heart disease, hypertensive disease and cerebrovascular problems are, as in all medical practice, common. 229 inmates received treatment for these cardiovascular disorders and required transfer to NHS hospitals.

98. Three inmates died suddenly in prison as a result of myocardial infarction. Two other inmates, suffering myocardial infarction, died shortly after transfer to NHS hospital.

99. The generality of conditions diagnosed and treated is demonstrated by the cases of chicken pox, measles, acute appendicitis, one case of malaria and one case of Q Fever. The source of Q Fever was traced to an infected cow and all milk from that source is now pasteurised.

100. A large number, 1,048, were received into institutions with injuries received before imprisonment and many, 218, were fractures. Only 60 injuries involving fractures occurred after admission.

101. The planned installation of X-ray equipment in Barlinnie Prison hospital will be of great value in the investigation and care of these and many other conditions.

#### **Mental Health**

102. Many inmates suffer from nervous conditions and are treated by the medical staff and the visiting psychiatrists. Consultant Psychiatrists, who hold joint appointments shared by NHS and prisons, regularly visit all the larger establishments. Patients are referred by the Medical Officer, the Governor, Social Workers and by individual staff members via the Governor. Case conferences are held with a view to co-ordinating treatment. Many inmates are seen by the visiting psychiatrist for the purpose of reports for the Parole Board.

103. Alcoholism, as one would expect, is commonly diagnosed in admissions to prison. This year there were 724 (649) such people, of whom 584 (509) were male and 140 (140) female. 49 of these, 16 males and 33 females, required treatment for delirium tremens. Many others would receive treatment for withdrawal symptoms. There is no doubt that prison staff, medical and discipline, provide a sympathetic and often life saving service to many of these unfortunate people. Members of Alcoholics Anonymous and the Councils on Alcoholism also proffer continuing support.

104. Epilepsy was recorded in 627 cases. Enuresis was reported in 270 admissions. There were 12 cases of mental deficiency. All such cases require and receive a great deal of care from all members of staff.

105. Dependence on hard drugs such as heroin was recorded in 19 cases, 11 males and 8 females. Dependence on other drugs was recorded in 23 cases. 22 male and 1 female.

106. 10 patients, 7 males and 3 female, required admission to mental hospitals. Of these 2 males required the special security of the State Hospital.

**Dental Care**

107. A large number of inmates, 7,395 (5,916) requested dental treatment. The increasing number is the result of the excellent facilities available.

108. Many inmates are made dentally fit for the first time in many years and this is a particularly important service in the young peoples establishments.

**Hygiene**

109. Frequent inspections reveal a high standard of cleanliness in all establishments. Personal hygiene and clothing standards are carefully maintained.

110. The quality and quantity of food are very satisfactory and special diets are provided when necessary, eg 60 diabetic patients were treated during the year.

**National Health Service Facilities**

111. General medical services are conducted on general practitioner lines. With this we depend upon and receive all the facilities of the NHS. As far as possible, patients are treated within prison hospitals, but transfer to NHS hospital is essential for more sophisticated investigation or treatment. In few cases does transfer to an outside hospital present difficulties.

112. During the year 198 (267) males and 41 (26) females were admitted to general hospitals.

113. It is recorded that inmates donated 3,903 pints of blood and staff 229 pints during the periodic visits by the Blood Transfusion Service Mobile Units.

**Mortality**

114. During the year there were 8 deaths, all males within prisons. 4 of these deaths were the result of natural causes. 4 adult males committed suicide. Two died as a result of self strangulation, one died of multiple fractures after jumping over an upper gallery and the fourth died after self inflicted wounds to his neck and wrists. These latter two methods of suicide are extremely rare, but, like self strangulation, quite unpredictable.

115. During the past decade the number of deaths by suicide has remained low. All have been male inmates.

1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
1	2	0	3	2	3	2	1	4	3	4

**Medical and Nursing Staff**

116. General Medical Services are provided by 3 full-time Medical Officers and 23 part-time Medical Officers all of whom are local general practitioners.

117. Psychiatric Services, within institutions, are provided by 15 visiting Consultant Psychiatrists.

118. The training of officers to Enrolled Nurse standard continues at NHS Schools of Nursing in Glasgow and Edinburgh. 9 officers commenced this course in 1978, 9 were still under training and 13 officers successfully completed this course.

119. 17 nursing officers attended refresher courses in local NHS hospitals during the year.

APPENDIX No. 8

CONVICTED PRISONERS AND INMATES—Offences and Sentences of Admissions

OFFENCES	Total Receptions (Convicted)			Sentenced to—																	
				Imprisonment				Borstal Training	Detention in a Detention Centre		Young Offenders Institution				Recall from Borstal Supervision		Recall to Young Offenders Institution		Other		
	Direct		In default of payment of fine		Direct		In default of payment of fine														
	T.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
All crimes and offences . . . . .	17,574	16,753	821	6,869	321	5,439	336	667	39	919	—	1,492	51	1,305	71	53	3	3	—	6	—
Crimes . . . . .	10,234	9,833	401	4,608	189	2,133	110	533	29	700	—	1,153	37	657	33	40	3	3	—	6	—
Offences . . . . .	7,340	6,920	420	2,261	132	3,306	226	134	10	219	—	339	14	648	38	13	—	—	—	—	—
<b>CLASS I: CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON</b>																					
Total . . . . .	1,722	1,685	37	902	22	245	4	72	3	110	—	269	5	76	2	4	1	1	—	6	—
Murder . . . . .	38	36	2	30	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attempts to Murder, etc. . . . .	28	27	1	15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Culpable homicide . . . . .	24	19	5	14	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assaults . . . . .	1,354	1,333	21	681	10	213	4	61	3	96	—	212	2	65	1	4	1	1	—	—	—
Cruel and unnatural treatment of children . . . . .	17	11	6	9	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Incest . . . . .	12	12	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unnatural crimes, including attempts . . . . .	6	6	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape and other offences against females . . . . .	84	84	—	56	—	3	—	3	—	2	—	18	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bigamy . . . . .	5	5	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other crimes against the person . . . . .	154	152	2	82	1	21	—	8	—	11	—	21	1	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>CLASS II: CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY WITH VIOLENCE</b>																					
Total . . . . .	3,496	3,449	47	1,540	22	445	8	292	8	379	—	532	6	238	3	23	—	—	—	—	—
Housebreaking, etc. . . . .	3,188	3,148	40	1,365	18	433	7	271	7	353	—	472	5	231	3	23	—	—	—	—	—
Robbery, and assaults with intent, etc. . . . .	306	299	7	174	4	11	1	21	1	26	—	60	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other crimes against property with violence . . . . .	2	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>CLASS III: CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY WITHOUT VIOLENCE</b>																					
Total . . . . .	4,521	4,223	298	2,001	134	1,206	92	156	18	203	—	323	26	319	26	13	2	2	—	—	—
Theft . . . . .	3,662	3,419	243	1,542	107	945	76	149	16	189	—	292	21	288	21	12	2	2	—	—	—
Reset . . . . .	246	234	12	126	4	81	4	3	1	5	—	9	2	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Breach of trust and embezzlement . . . . .	37	31	6	27	5	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fraud . . . . .	537	501	36	297	18	172	10	3	1	3	—	9	3	17	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post Office offences . . . . .	13	12	1	7	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other crimes against property without violence . . . . .	26	26	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	6	—	12	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
<b>CLASS IV: MALICIOUS INJURIES TO PROPERTY</b>																					
Total . . . . .	35	34	1	16	1	3	—	7	—	1	—	4	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fire-raising . . . . .	27	27	—	14	—	2	—	5	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malicious mischief . . . . .	8	7	1	2	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

46

CLASS V: FORGERY AND CRIMES AGAINST CURRENCY																				
Total	31	23	8	12	5	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forgery and uttering	11	8	3	2	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coining and other crimes against currency	20	15	5	10	3	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
CLASS VI: OTHER CRIMES NOT INCLUDED ABOVE																				
Total	429	419	10	137	5	225	4	6	—	7	—	25	—	19	1	—	—	—	—	—
Mobbing and rioting	38	35	3	14	1	3	1	1	—	3	—	10	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
Perjury, bribery etc.	105	102	3	62	2	16	1	4	—	4	—	9	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Indecent exposure	26	26	—	16	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other crimes	260	256	4	45	2	198	2	1	—	—	—	4	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
CLASS VII: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES																				
Total	7,340	6,920	420	2,261	132	3,306	226	134	10	219	—	339	14	648	38	13	—	—	—	—
Aliens Acts, offences against	2	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Breach of the peace, etc.	4,296	4,032	264	1,510	99	1,714	118	64	8	113	—	185	9	438	30	8	—	—	—	—
Brothel-keeping	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Education Acts, offences against	38	37	1	7	—	30	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Explosives, etc., offences in relation to	9	9	—	3	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fishery Laws, offences against	13	13	—	8	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Game Laws, offences against	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intoxicating Liquor Laws, offences against:																				
Drunkenness	679	599	80	27	7	559	70	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	3	—	—	—	—	—
Others	5	4	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merchant Shipping Acts, offences against	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Naval, Military and Air Force Laws, offences against	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Police Acts, Bye-Laws and Regulations, offences against	89	89	—	15	—	50	—	1	—	8	—	5	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prevention of Crimes Acts, offences against	45	45	—	12	—	29	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prostitution	21	—	21	—	5	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Railways, offences in relation to	20	20	—	2	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Revenue and Excise Laws, offences against	20	19	1	2	—	16	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Road Acts, etc., offences against:																				
Taking a motor vehicle without the consent of the owner	303	303	—	78	—	62	—	37	—	61	—	39	—	23	—	3	—	—	—	—
Unfit in charge—drink or drugs	95	95	—	25	—	63	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unfit in charge—blood-alcohol concentration above the prescribed limit	103	103	—	27	—	67	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other motor vehicle offences	991	990	1	312	—	451	1	29	—	17	—	76	—	104	—	1	—	—	—	—
Vagrancy and Trespass Acts, offences against	153	149	4	62	2	67	2	—	—	2	—	8	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weights and Measures Act, offences against	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other miscellaneous offences	453	407	46	168	18	170	18	2	2	16	—	21	4	30	4	—	—	—	—	—