



HEADQUARTERS

One Lochside
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EH12 9DJ



Our Ref: HQ26067

14 August 2026

Dear 

Thank you for your request dated 02 July 2026 for an internal review of our response to FOI(S)A reference HQ26067.

As someone who was not involved in the response to your initial request, I have been asked to review how it was handled.

I note from your request for review that it is the following points that you are not satisfied with:

1. "RFI responses 2 and 3 shows an increase in the number of people completing MF2C by a factor greater than 4 between the years April 2024 – March 2025 and April 2025 and March 2026 with most of these being at Barlinnie. However RFI responses 4-7 do nothing to explain this, furthermore they seem to contradict the numbers provided in response 2 and 3. My RFI 7 specifically asks "What is the maximum capacity for completion of MF2C at each establishment per year?" to which the response references RFI 5's response (which is based on a different question). Taking RFI Responses 4 and 5 into account and assuming a guaranteed maximum course completion time of 6 months and that two courses are run back-to-back with no report writing inbetween at Barlinnie the maximum completion per year would be 16 but RFI 1 response says it is 85 (at least). With this in mind can you please answer the following:
 - a) Are multiple courses, delivering MF2C, run simultaneously at Barlinnie (or any other establishment)?
 - b) If yes to 'a' how many courses delivering MF2C can be ran simultaneously at each establishment? And please answer my RFI 7 with this information in mind.
 - c) If no to 'a' please explain how such a large number of MF2C completions occurred in Barlinnie from April 2025 to March 2026 (10.5 times that of Edinburgh)."

2. "RFI response 11 I believe my question might not have been clear enough. Hopefully this will clarify. Say an individual (Person A) is 100th on the NWL (the number is illustrative only) and another person (Person B) who had been on the NWL for MF2C is recalled without having completed MF2C in the community and Person B's critical date is earlier than Person A's, then my understanding is that Person B would be placed on the NWL ahead of Person A and Person A's new position would be 101.

Another factor that I believe may affect a person's position on the NWL are:

- The subject completing or refusing to engage with the OBP (MF2C in this case)
- The subject being released prior to completing the OBP
- Other individuals ahead (lower in position on NWL) of the subject completing or refusing to engage with the OBP
- Other individuals ahead of the subject being released without starting the OBP

With the above in mind please answer the following:

- a) Are the examples correct and could affect a person's position on the NWL?
 - b) Are there any other factors that could affect a person's position on the NWL (such as Risk level etc)? If so what are they?"
3. "RFI 16 response contains the following "...what steps they have taken in custody to reduce that risk", with regard to this please answer the following:
- a) Other than OBPs what steps could an individual take within the constraints of their in custody regime that would reduce 'that risk' – specifically if the subject is not an addict, did not drink or gamble? If this differs by establishment please specify for each one."
4. "RFI 18 response of the 241 individuals on the wait list for GPA in Barlinnie how many are LTP/STP/Other?"

Original Request:

RFI 1: "

- a) *Has the treatment programme been SAPOR accredited?*
- b) *If so when was the accreditation achieved and how many people completed it before it received its accreditation.*
- c) *If no, when is it due to be presented for accreditation"*

RFI 2: *"How many people completed MF2C between April 2025 and March 2026 (inclusive). Please provide a breakdown by establishment."*

RFI 3: *"How many people have completed MF2C in total from its roll out to March 2026."*

RFI 4: *"How long does it take to deliver MF2C in custody? If this differs by establishment, please answer for each establishment."*

RFI 5: "How many places are available for MF2C at each establishment at any given time?"

RFI 6: "Under what circumstances would MF2C be delivered to a group smaller than the numbers provided in answer to question 5."

RFI 7: "What is the maximum capacity for completion of MF2C at each establishment per year."

RFI 8: "Since MF2C doesn't necessarily focus on index offence is there an update to the 'Governor's and Managers Advice' (GMA) 11A/2013 in relation to "The Management of Prisoners who deny their index offence (or part thereof)" issued on 07/03/2013?"

RFI 9: "How many prisoners have reached their critical date (PQD) and are still on the waiting list for MF2C? Please specify for each establishment."

RFI 10: "Of those on the wait list for MF2C how many are expected to start it before their PQD? Please specify for each establishment."

RFI 11: "What factors can affect a prisoners position on the National wait list for programmes? Please state all factors explicitly. The people responsible for managing the NWL have to know this information in order to appropriately manage the list."

RFI 12: "Is it the case at HMP Barlinnie (or any other establishment) that a person on the NWL may be removed from the NWL if they are within a specific number of months from their EDL. If so for which establishment and at what point are they removed from the NWL?"

RFI 13: "What are SPS's procedure for a LTP to request transfer from HMP Barlinnie (a short term prison) to a long term prison?"

RFI 14: "What are SPS's policies for keeping a LTP at HMP Barlinnie longer than short term (i.e. long term 4 years)?"

RFI 15: "If an application to the Open Estate is submitted and both Social Workers do not recommend it, will the application still progress to the RMT? If this differs across establishments please specify by establishment."

RFI 16: "

- a) Can a prisoner still progress to Open Estate while still on the wait list for a programme (i.e. MF2C, SCP etc)?
- b) Can a prisoner at Open Estate complete MF2C in the community?"

RFI 17: "What is the process for prisoners to progress their sentence when they are being held up by:

- a) Lack of GPA completions? or
- b) Lack of available spaces on programmes?"

RFI 18: *"How many prisoners are currently awaiting a GPA in HMP Barlinnie?"*

RFI 19: *"Of those awaiting GPAs at HMP Barlinnie how many are:*

- a) *Non-protection?*
- b) *Offence protection? or*
- c) *Non-offence protection?"*

RFI 20: *"Has HMP Barlinnie stopped providing GPAs? If so:*

- a) *For what reason? and*
- b) *When do they expect GPAs to resume?"*

RFI 21: *"How many prisoners have reached their critical date (PQD) and have not had their GOA completed? Please break down for each establishment."*

RFI 22: *"Is it the case that if a prisoner is appealing their conviction and/or sentence they cannot be given a GPA? If this differs by establishment please specify for each one."*

RFI 23: *"Related to question 20. Has HMP Barlinnie stopped providing GPAs for any of the following categories of prisoners*

- a) *Non-protection?*
- b) *Offence protection? or*
- c) *Non-offence protection?*

If so for what reason? And when do they expect GPAs to resume?"

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

Original Response Provided:

RFI 1 Response:

- a) We have interpreted this question to be in relation to the Moving Forward 2 Change (MF2C) programme. The MF2C programme is not currently accredited.
- b) Please see the response to RFI 1a.
- c) The Moving Forward 2 Change (MF2C) programme will be submitted to the Scottish Advisory Panel on Offending Reduction (SAPOR) in 2026.

RFI 2 Response: The programme completion figures for the Moving Forward 2 Change for 01 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 broken down by establishment are listed below.

Establishment	Total MF2C Completions
HMP Barlinnie	85
HMP Edinburgh	8

RFI 3 Response: The programme completion figures for the Moving Forward 2 Change for the last 3 years are listed below. Please note that the information is recorded by financial year i.e. 01 April – 31 March.

Year	Total MF2C Completions
01 April 2025 – 31 March 2026	93
01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025	23
01 April 2023 – 31 March 2024	3

RFI 4 Response: It is estimated that participation will take 6 months on average in a group setting although this will fluctuate depending on the needs of the individual and various factors and may be subject to change.

RFI 5 Response: The maximum capacity is 8 group members at any one time.

RFI 6 Response: The group size can typically range between 4-8 group members.

RFI 7 Response: Please see the response to RFI 5.

RFI 8 Response: The Governors & Managers Advice (GMA) 11A/2013 in relation to 'Management of prisoners who deny their index offence (or part thereof)', issued on 7 March 2013, details the current process for accessing Offender Behaviour Programmes for those individuals who deny their index offence (or part thereof). There is no update to this GMA.

RFI 9 Response: Please note the Offender Behaviour Programme Waiting Lists are dynamic. As at 05 June 2026 the number of individuals waiting to access MF2C who are past their PQD date is as follows.

Establishment	Number of Individuals on the MF2C Waiting List past their PQD date
Addiewell	6
Barlinnie	27
Dumfries	8
Edinburgh	7
Glenochil	31
Grampian	3
Low Moss	7
Perth	2
Polmont	3

RFI 10 Response: Under section 17 of FOI(S)A I can advise that this information is not held by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS). This is dependent on places becoming available to undertake MF2C for those waiting to access the programme.

RFI 11 Response: An individual's position on the National Waiting List for programmes is affected by their critical dates.

RFI 12 Response: We have interpreted this question to be in relation to the Moving Forward 2 Change (MF2C) programme. If an individual is on the NWL for MF2C and they are less than 6 months to their earliest date of liberation (EDL) they would be

removed from the waiting list. As this is a national waiting list it is the same process across all SPS establishments.

RFI 13 Response: An individual who wishes to transfer establishments should complete a transfer request form and hand it to the hall staff who will then forward it to the population manager. The individual should speak to their Personal Officer to obtain the form.

RFI 14 Response: HMP Barlinnie will endeavour to move all long-term prisoners to establishments that cater for long term prisoners. However, the pressure of the population numbers and security issues often make it difficult to find appropriate establishments to move long term prisoners onto from HMP Barlinnie.

RFI 15 Response: This information is not held in a recordable format. To be helpful however we can advise that information in relation to this is contained in the Risk Management, Progression and Temporary Release Guidance 2018 which will be available to access from your prison library. Each case is considered on its own merits and this guidance details criteria to be taken into account when considering an individual for progression and the information that RMT's consider before deciding whether or not an individual is suitable for progression.

RFI 16 Response:

- a) Progression to less secure conditions at National Top End or the Open Estate at Castle Huntly is not an automatic entitlement. A prisoner can only be considered for progression if they meet the 'standard criteria for progression' and a Risk Management Team (RMT) consider that their risk can be managed in less secure conditions. Whilst Offending Behaviour Programmes (OBPs) are not and should not be the only means of demonstrable risk reduction during a person's progression journey, each case should be treated on its individual merits. The decision to progress an individual to less secure conditions without undertaking an OBP will therefore depend on the risk they present and what steps they have taken in custody to reduce that risk.
- b) MF2C can be undertaken in the community although this will depend on the Local Authority.

RFI 17 Response: Please refer to response to RFI 16a

RFI 18 Response: As at 09 June 2026 there are currently 241 individuals on the waiting list for a GPA in HMP Barlinnie.

RFI 19 Response: Of the individuals awaiting a GPA at HMP Barlinnie 78 are Mainstream and 163 are Protection.

Under section 17 of FOI(S)A I can advise that this information is not held by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS). SPS do not hold the breakdown of Offence and Non Offence Protection individuals awaiting a GPA at HMP Barlinnie.

RFI 20 Response:

- a) HMP Barlinnie are currently not undertaking new GPAs at the current time to allow time for completed GPAs to be considered at PCMB. Undertaking new GPAs at the current time would mean that by the time they were considered at PCMB the information would not be current.
- b) Under section 17 of FOI(S)A I can advise that this information is not held by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS). It is not known when new GPAs will be undertaken at HMP Barlinnie.

RFI 21 Response: Please see below the number of individuals past their PQD date who have not had their GPA completed as at 10 June 2026.

Establishment	Number of Individuals past their PQD date who have not had their GPA Completed
Addiewell	11
Barlinnie	143
Castle Huntly	0
Dumfries	2
Edinburgh	25
Glenochil	112
Grampian	20
Greenock	4
Inverness	0
Kilmarnock	3
Low Moss	109
Perth	6
Polmont	2
Shotts	19
Stirling	0
TOTAL	456

RFI 22 Response: There are some common areas to consider if it is appropriate to proceed with a GPA. If an individual is appealing their sentence this should not have an impact on the context of their offending or the individual's ability to discuss this within a GPA. If an individual is appealing their conviction, this may mean that they are unable to discuss the relevant offence(s). A GPA may still go ahead if the additional information is deemed sufficient enough to make an informed decision at the PCMB.

RFI 23 Response: Please see the response to RFI 20.

Review Response: Having carried out a review of the points you were dissatisfied with, I can provide you with the revised information below:

RFI 2 Review Response: Please note that the figure originally provided for Barlinnie for MF2C (85) was incorrect due to a typographical error in our response to HQ26067. The correct figure for Barlinnie for MF2C is 4, and this has been reflected in the revised figures below.

The programme completion figures for the Moving Forward 2 Change for 01 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 broken down by establishment are listed below.

Establishment	Total MF2C Completions
HMP Barlinnie	4
HMP Edinburgh	8

RFI 7 Review Response: The maximum number of places available per establishment is dynamic due to the rolling delivery nature of the programmes. Only one group at each establishment is currently run at any one time.

RFI 11 Review Response: I can confirm that what you have stated is correct and does affect an individual's position on the National Waiting List. I can also confirm that risk level is not a consideration for place on NWL. Risk level affects completion of the Generic Programme Assessment (GPA) and which type of intervention the individual is required to undertake.

RFI 16 Review Response: I can advise that this is a request for new information and under FOI(S)A we would normally ask you to submit a new request, however to be helpful we have provided a response below.

Progression to less secure conditions or community access is based on a full assessment of risk, needs, and strengths. While Offending Behaviour Programmes can be an effective way to demonstrate risk reduction, they are not the only option. Each case is considered on its individual merits.

You can reduce your risk and support your progression by focusing on the following areas:

1. Engage in Risk Assessment and Planning
 - Take part in risk assessments and demonstrate understanding of your identified risk factors.
 - Work with staff to create and follow a realistic risk/case management plan.
2. Build Strengths and Protective Factors
 - Develop positive relationships and social supports.
 - Engage in education, vocational training, or purposeful work.
 - Participate in activities that promote resilience, wellbeing, and connectedness.
3. Address Dynamic Risk Factors
 - Identify and manage personal triggers linked to offending behaviour.
 - Show evidence of improved coping strategies and emotional regulation.

4. Demonstrate Citizenship and Responsibility
 - Use your time in custody productively.
 - Take ownership of your reintegration plan, including housing, employment, and community support.
5. Show Desistance-Oriented Behaviour
 - Maintain a positive record and avoid disciplinary issues.
 - Engage with interventions or supports relevant to your needs (e.g., mental health or substance misuse services).
6. Communicate Your Progress
 - Make representations to Risk Management Team (RMT) meetings and ICM Case Conferences.
 - Provide clear evidence of steps you have taken to reduce risk and prepare for release

Progression decisions aim to reduce reoffending, protect the public, and achieve positive outcomes for you. Demonstrating responsibility, engagement, and a commitment to change is therefore essential.

RFI 18 Review Response: I can advise that this is a request for new information and under FOI(S)A we would normally ask you to submit a new request, however to be helpful we have provided a response below.

As at 09 June 2026 there are currently 241 individuals on the waiting list for a GPA in HMP Barlinnie. All 241 individuals are Long Term Prisoners.

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

John Fleming

John Fleming
SPS Operational Adviser