

**PENROSE INQUIRY – C1 – REQUEST TO SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT –
SHHD - PRISON MEDICAL SERVICE – DRUG USE – NOTE BY EM**

The Inquiry has recovered Annual Reports, “Prisons in Scotland”, by the Secretary of State for Scotland to Parliament for the years 1975 to 1984. The Inquiry has also recovered Annual Reports of Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland for the years 1981 to 1984. The enclosed Note (A36422) contains relevant extracts from these Reports together with Court Book references.

The following queries arise in respect of the period 1975 to 1984:

1. Who would be the most appropriate witness to speak to these Reports and, in particular, the extracts in the enclosed Note (possibly a former Director or Deputy Director of the Scottish Prison Service and/or the Secretary, or a similarly senior official, of the SHHD)?
2. Which officer/part of the SHHD was responsible for the prison medical service?
3. The Annual Reports by the Secretary of State contain information on the number of prisoners reported/recorded as dependent on hard drugs. How was that information obtained e.g. were all inmates medically examined on admission? Did the numbers reported/recorded as dependent on hard drugs only include those with drug dependence on admission or did such numbers also include all prisoners with a history of drug use at any time (see, for example, the distinction made in paragraph 86 of the 1980 Annual Report)?
4. To whom was information relating to the health of prisoners and, in particular, the incidence of drug use, communicated by the prison medical service and/or by the Scottish Prison Service? Was such information communicated to the Chief Medical Officer, or to officials below him and/or to the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service?
5. It appears that Barlinnie Prison had three full-time prison medical officers but that other penal establishments had part-time prison medical officers (see, for example, paragraphs 113 and 114 of the 1976 Annual Report (PEN.012.0608) and paragraph 79 of the 1982 “Prisons in Scotland” Annual Report (PEN.012.0697)). Is that understanding correct and, if so, was there always a

part-time prison medical officer present at each penal establishment or was a prison medical officer only in attendance when required? Were prison medical officers always present during blood donor sessions?

6. What, if any, steps were taken by those in the prison medical service and/or by the Scottish Prison Service to prevent those prisoners who were dependent on drugs or had a history of drug abuse from attending blood donor sessions in penal establishments?
7. The Annual Reports by the Secretary of State for 1975 to 1980 include reference to the collection of blood from penal establishments. The Reports from 1981 to 1984 make no such reference. Why did the Annual Reports from 1981 to 1984 not make reference to the collection of blood from penal establishments?