

ST ANDREWS HSE



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SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Prisons in Scotland

Report for 1976

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland
by Command of Her Majesty
June 1978*

EDINBURGH
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

Cmd. 7162

£1.75 net

Land Transactions

87. The disposal of prison farmland at Peterhead and the sale of a site for an electricity substation at Glenochil (Branshill) were partly offset by the acquisition of additional land at Dungavel and Shotts and the addition of the sites of 10 houses purchased. The net result of these transactions was a decrease of 14.41 hectares in the prison estate.

CHAPTER SIX

Health and Hygiene

88. The general health of inmates continued to be very satisfactory and there was no serious outbreak of infectious or contagious disease.

89. During the first quarter of 1976 there was a minor epidemic of influenza, which affected all institutions but was most prevalent in the under-21 establishments. The infection was of a mild form and, apart from increasing the medical and nursing workload, there were no serious consequences.

90. One Borstal Institution had a minor outbreak of chickenpox, but there were no complications.

91. The number of inmates reporting sick showed an increase of just over 11 per cent on the previous year. The number of first attendances (1975 figures in brackets) was 63,885 (54,014) of which 61,619 (53,739) were male and 2,266 (2,073) were female.

92. The classifications which, as in previous years, have continued to be the main causes of morbidity and first medical attendances were disorders affecting:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Respiratory System | . 11,377 (8,620): of these 9,242 were treated for common cold or non streptococcal sore throat. There were 906 (178) cases of influenza, 53 (47) cases of acute bronchitis or pneumonia and 560 (413) patients requiring treatment for chronic bronchitis, emphysema or asthma. |
| 2. Skin | . 7,521 (6,888): of which less than a third (2,269) were due to skin infections. |
| 3. Teeth | . 5,860 (6,284). |
| 4. Stomach and Bowels | . 4,580 (4,057): of these 746 (944) were due to diarrhoeal diseases. No cases of bacillary dysentery were recorded. |
| 5. Nervous System | . 3,177 (2,996): of these 748 (824) received treatment for epilepsy; eight of these were diagnosed for the first time during sentence. Psychoses were diagnosed in 22 (17) cases and mental deficiency in 12 (5). 2,395 (1,937) inmates were recorded as suffering from neuroses and personality disorders. |
| 6. Pediculosis | . 2,226 (2,201) of which only 68 cases, all male, were recorded as having commenced after admission. |
| 7. Eye | . 1,394 (1,186). |
| 8. Ear | . 1,347 (1,290). |

Institutional Hygiene and Dietary

93. Frequent regular inspections revealed a very high standard of cleanliness in all establishments. It was also noted that personal hygiene and clothing

standards were carefully maintained. This strict adherence to hygiene discipline was reflected in the satisfactory control of infectious and contagious disease.

94. Despite increasing numbers requiring medical attention, the number suffering from diarrhoeal diseases showed a satisfactory decline and the incidence of infective skin conditions had also, again, declined.

95. A very large number of admissions to establishments were found to be suffering from pediculosis (2,226) and scabies (677). It is to the credit of staff that only 68 cases of pediculosis appeared to have commenced after imprisonment.

96. The quantity, quality and dietary value of food remained satisfactory. Medical and special diets were provided whenever necessary.

Other Illness

97. 81 (76) cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were recorded during the year. All but one of these cases had commenced before imprisonment. Appropriate treatment was continued and none required admission to outside hospitals.

98. Regular mass radiography is still of great importance and the units continued to visit establishments. During these visits the service was also available to staff.

99. The incidence of venereal disease diagnosed on admission necessitated careful vigilance. Syphilis was recorded in 6 cases, 4 male and 2 female. Gonorrhoea was diagnosed in 76 cases, and other forms of venereal diseases on 117 occasions. The careful examination of every inmate on admission facilitates early diagnosis and treatment.

100. At Cornton Vale Female Institution a regular clinic was held by a visiting Specialist in Gynaecology and Venereology. This is a most valuable service.

101. There was a marked increase in the recorded cases of infective jaundice, 14 (6). Of these, 10 had commenced the illness before imprisonment and four required to be treated in NHS Hospitals. This incidence of infective jaundice appeared to have no special significance, as the cases occurred in nine separate institutions at different times of the year.

102. Helminthiasis was still a common complaint and there were 91 recorded cases. All were reported as having been successfully treated.

Mental Health

103. Understandably, nervous disabilities remained a common cause of attendance on sick parades. 22 patients required treatment for psychoses, but the greater number were classified as neuroses and personality disorders.

104. 14 (15) convicted patients, 8 (14) males and 6 (1) female, required admission to mental hospitals. Of these, 5 males and 1 female required admission to the State Hospital, Carstairs.

105. The number of recorded cases of dependence on hard drugs showed an increase, 21 (5) males and 11 (0) females. All but one were adult inmates. The numbers recorded in previous years were: 1970—16 cases; 1971—16 cases; 1972—12 cases; 1973—6 cases; 1974—6 cases; 1975—5 cases.

106. Alcoholism was again recorded in a considerable number of inmates, 783 (868). Morbidity in this group is high and 50 required treatment for delirium tremens.

107. All recorded cases of alcoholism were adult inmates, but it is known that this is also a problem of young people and the help and counselling of members of Alcoholics Anonymous and the Councils on Alcoholism are received and appreciated in all establishments.

Mortality

108. During the year there were 5 deaths, all males, within prison. One untried prisoner died as a result of myocardial infarction. Four adult prisoners committed suicide. Two were untried and two were convicted. All died as a result of self-strangulation by hanging.

109. Despite the increasing number of inmates who require attention for neuroses and personality disorders, the number of deaths by suicide has remained small:

1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
1	1	2	0	3	2	3	2	1	4

110. One convicted male prisoner, suffering from myocardial infarction, was found to be dead on arrival at NHS Hospital. One convicted male prisoner died in a NHS Hospital as a result of malignant disease and an untried male prisoner died in a NHS Hospital following a cerebral haemorrhage.

National Health Service Facilities

111. The full facilities of the National Health Service continued to be available to patients referred to local hospitals by the Prisons and Borstals medical staff. These facilities and the co-operation of the Hospital Staff are greatly appreciated. During the year 269 males and 16 females were admitted to general hospitals.

112. Mobile Blood Transfusion Units make regular visits to most institutions and again, in 1976, met with a very gratifying response. Inmates contributed 4,644 pints of blood and staff contributed a further 259 pints.

Medical Staff

113. Three full-time medical officers were in post at HM Prison, Barlinnie and were assisted by four part-time medical officers.

114. The general medical services for the other establishments were provided by 17 part-time medical officers who, in conjunction with their partners, provided routine and emergency medical cover.

115. The Medical Officer at Edinburgh Prison and Young Offenders Institution and the Medical Officer to Friarton Young Offenders Institution retired in 1976, both having provided many years of valuable service. In each establishment the vacancy was filled by a general practitioner member of a local medical practice.

116. Forensic psychiatric services were provided within establishments by a total of 15 visiting psychiatrists on a part-time sessional basis. These appointments were shared between staff of the Scottish Home and Health Department and of the NHS.

117. Psychologist services were also provided on a sessional basis, shared by Prisons Division and the National Health Service. During 1976, 6 psychologists were visiting establishments.

Nursing Staff

118. The training of Nurse Officers continued at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary School of Nursing. This course lasts for 18 months and the trainees receive excellent theoretical and practical instruction. 9 Prison Officers commenced this training during the year and at the end of 1976 there were 12 officers on the course. There are now three starting dates in the year for the nursing course. It is hoped to start officers on each date and ensure regular availability of trained staff.

Dental Care

119. The demand and necessity for dental treatment remained high. Treatment was provided by local National Health Service dental practitioners. There were, during 1976, 12 dental practitioners visiting establishments and working in dental surgeries provided by the Prison Service. In those establishments with no dental surgery, patients were seen in the dentist's private surgery and we are grateful for the attention and co-operation which is provided.

Prison Medical Officers' Conference

120. This Conference was held in North Berwick in October 1976. The multi-disciplinary context of this meeting was reflected in the papers that were given by the Controller of Prison Administration, a Consultant Dermatologist, a Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, a Psychologist and by Prison Medical Officers.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Welfare and Preparation for Release

General Welfare

121. Again the Department wishes to express appreciation of the voluntary services to inmates provided by various organisations such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Marriage Guidance Councils, the Salvation Army, the Scottish Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, the Society of Friends and The Women's Royal Voluntary Service.

122. Prison Visitors Schemes continued to operate very successfully at a number of establishments; approximately 80 prison visitors visited inmates and on occasion acted as escorts for prisoners granted special leave. At the end of the year there were plans for the Prison Visitors Scheme to be reintroduced at

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	
				Without option of fine		In default of payment of fine		M.	F.	M.	F.	Without option of fine		In default of payment of fine		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	T.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.					M.	F.	M.	F.						
All crimes and offences	18,106	17,197	909	6,645	316	5,936	378	772	38	837	—	1,556	83	1,377	90	52	2	4	—	18	2
Crimes	9,664	9,318	346	4,325	171	1,870	69	623	27	652	—	1,174	48	620	28	36	1	3	—	15	2
Offences	8,442	7,879	563	2,320	145	4,066	309	149	11	185	—	382	35	757	62	16	1	1	—	3	—
CLASS I: CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON																					
Total	1,733	1,686	47	860	28	231	5	85	4	122	—	309	7	68	1	—	—	—	—	11	2
Murder	41	41	—	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—
Attempts to Murder, etc.	15	15	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Culpable homicide	27	23	4	16	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assaults	1,354	1,318	36	660	22	186	2	72	3	97	—	259	6	44	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Cruel and unnatural treatment of children	14	9	5	7	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Incest	3	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unnatural crimes, including attempts	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape and other offences against females	88	87	1	52	1	8	—	4	—	2	—	16	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Bigamy	2	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other crimes against the person	187	186	1	78	—	34	—	9	1	23	—	22	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
CLASS II: CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY WITH VIOLENCE																					
Total	3,265	3,235	30	1,434	9	368	1	344	6	305	—	523	13	240	1	19	—	—	—	2	—
Housebreaking, etc.	3,014	2,989	25	1,282	6	362	1	331	5	290	—	468	13	235	—	19	—	—	—	2	—
Robbery, and assaults with intent, etc.	244	240	4	151	3	6	—	13	1	14	—	51	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other crimes against property with violence	7	6	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
CLASS III: CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY WITHOUT VIOLENCE																					
Total	4,238	3,980	258	1,878	127	1,065	60	185	17	215	—	320	28	298	25	16	1	2	—	1	—
Theft	3,432	3,218	214	1,419	105	854	47	172	14	197	—	291	24	268	23	14	1	2	—	1	—
Reset	197	195	2	109	1	41	1	8	—	9	—	12	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Breach of trust and embezzlement	47	46	1	41	1	4	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fraud	536	495	41	295	20	163	12	4	3	3	—	16	4	14	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post Office offences	12	12	—	9	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other crimes against property without violence	14	14	—	5	—	1	—	1	—	4	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
CLASS IV: MALICIOUS INJURIES TO PROPERTY																					
Total	44	42	2	20	2	8	—	3	—	2	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Fire-raising	32	30	2	18	2	2	—	2	—	2	—	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Malicious mischief	12	12	—	2	—	6	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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CLASS V: FORGERY AND CRIMES AGAINST CURRENCY																				
Total	24	21	3	13	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1					
Forgery and uttering	11	9	2	6	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1					
Coining and other crimes against currency	13	12	1	7	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1					
CLASS VI: OTHER CRIMES NOT INCLUDED ABOVE																				
Total	360	354	6	120	2	192	3	6	—	8	—	18	—	9	1					
Mobbing and rioting	30	30	—	15	—	5	—	—	—	3	—	4	—	3	—					
Perjury, bribery, etc.	85	83	2	49	—	12	1	4	—	4	—	11	—	3	—					
Indecent exposure	23	23	—	12	—	7	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—					
Other crimes	222	218	4	44	2	168	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	1					
CLASS VII: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES																				
Total	8,442	7,879	563	2,320	145	4,066	309	149	11	185	—	382	35	757	62	16	1	1	—	3
Aliens Acts, offences against	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Breach of the peace, etc.	4,573	4,260	313	1,406	91	1,988	143	75	9	86	—	184	29	517	40	2	1	—	—	2
Brothel-keeping	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Education Acts, offences against	14	14	—	4	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Explosives, etc., offences in relation to	14	14	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fishery Laws, offences against	12	12	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Game Laws, offences against	4	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intoxicating Liquor Laws, offences against:																				
Drunkenness	1,128	971	157	31	23	919	122	—	—	—	—	—	1	21	11	—	—	—	—	—
Others	8	8	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merchant Shipping Acts, offences against	6	1	5	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Naval, Military and Air Force Laws, offences against	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Police Acts, Bye-Laws and Regulations, offences against	216	207	9	35	—	117	3	1	—	7	—	13	1	33	5	1	—	—	—	—
Prevention of Crimes Acts offences against	48	46	2	25	2	17	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prostitution	24	—	24	—	8	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Railways offences in relation to	9	9	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Revenue and Excise Laws, offences against	29	29	—	2	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Road Acts etc., offences against:																				
Taking a motor vehicle without the consent of the owner	311	311	—	85	—	51	—	34	—	54	—	63	—	19	—	5	—	—	—	—
Unfit in charge—drinks or drugs	146	146	—	34	—	101	—	1	—	—	—	6	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unfit in charge—blood-alcohol concentration above the prescribed limit	128	128	—	30	—	88	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other motor vehicle offences	953	945	8	321	2	397	—	29	—	15	—	80	—	97	—	6	—	—	—	1
Vagrancy and Trespass Acts, offences against	210	199	11	74	3	104	6	—	3	—	7	1	10	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other miscellaneous offences	604	570	34	252	16	231	10	8	2	19	—	19	3	40	3	1	—	—	—	—