

ST ANDREWS HSE



SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Prisons in Scotland

Report for 1977

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

EDINBURGH
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

Cmd. 7391

£1.75 net

91. A wide range of minor works was undertaken at all establishments, primarily by the works staff, to improve security, to conform with fire and safety requirements and, as part of a continuing programme, to make improvements to existing facilities and accommodation in all areas of institutions. Representative examples of the kind of projects completed during the year included: at Aberdeen, security measures to prevent access to roofs; at Barlinnie, installation of new heating in a cell block, dust extraction plant in the joiners' shop, new gas main and fire escape for the Hospital; at Castle Huntley, a new dental surgery; at Cornton Vale, installation of incinerator; at Dumfries, new laundry machinery; at Edinburgh, paint spray unit, new car park, dental treatment room; at Inverness, alterations to gate lodge, new telephone exchange; at Low Moss, three new vehicle gates; at Noranside, new boilers installed, greenhouse erected and field troughs provided for cattle; at Penninghame, installation of greenhouse heating; and at Perth, frontal security improvements.

Staff Quarters

92. During the year 28 new staff quarters were completed, 2 at Kirkintilloch for Low Moss, 3 at Perth, 6 at Peterhead and 17 at Shotts. Eighteen houses at Barlinnie (15 at Riddrie Knowes and 3 at Kilchoan Road), which had been rented from the local authority, were handed back. Excluding the remaining 12 local authority rented houses, the total number of staff quarters at the end of the year was 1,698.

93. The modernisation of 17 staff quarters at Polmont was started in June and work on 4 was completed by the end of the year. Electrical upgrading of 228 staff quarters was completed, comprising 38 at Barlinnie, 44 at Edinburgh, 54 at Perth, 39 at Peterhead and 53 at Polmont. A start was made on electrical upgrading of 73 staff quarters at Aberdeen, Friarton and Noranside.

Land Transactions

94. Apart from the purchase of two houses, there were no land transactions during the year.

CHAPTER SIX

Health and Hygiene

95. The general health of inmates and the state of hygiene in establishments continue to be very satisfactory and there was no outbreak of serious infection or contagious disease.

96. The number reporting sick again showed an appreciable increase on previous years. The figures for first attendances being 67,422 (63,855), of which 65,104 (61,619) were males and 2,318 (2,266) were females.

97. In the course of this decade, since 1970, the number of first sick attendances has increased by 36 per cent. The ratio of the common causes of morbidity has shown no particular change, the increase in numbers being a reflection of an increased turnover of inmates and expanding facilities for general medical,

psychiatric and nursing care. Medical and Dental facilities are readily available to all inmates and full advantage is taken of this service.

98. As in previous years, the main causes of morbidity are here recorded, with the corresponding figures for 1976 shown in brackets. These are first attendances for disorders affecting:

1. Respiratory System 10,960 (11,377). Of these the greatest number were the common cold, 6,437, and 2,574 cases of non-streptococcal sore throat. Influenza was recorded in 365 (906) cases and there was a corresponding slight drop in the number of cases of pneumonia and bronchitis.
2. Skin 7,062 (7,521).
3. Teeth 5,916 (5,860).
4. Stomach and Bowels 5,084 (4,580). Of these the greatest number, 4,050, were non-specific digestive disorders. Only 854 (746) cases of diarrhoeal disease were recorded and there were no cases of bacillary dysentery.
5. Nervous System: 3,770 (3,177). Of these 2,446 were diagnosed as suffering from nervous or personality disorder. 43 were diagnosed as Psychoses and 660 received treatment for epilepsy.
6. Infections Pediculosis 1,849 (2,226). Scabies 522 (677).
7. Eye 1,369 (1,394).
8. Ear 1,520 (1,347).

Institutional Hygiene and Dietary

99. Regular inspections demonstrated that a very high standard of cleanliness continued to be maintained in all establishments. Standards of personal hygiene and clothing were also maintained. This is reflected in the satisfactory control of infections and contagious diseases.

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

Other Illness

101. There continued to be a very large number of inmates discovered to be suffering from pediculosis or scabies. Of these, only 43 cases of pediculosis and 31 cases of scabies were thought to have commenced after admission. Early diagnosis and prompt, effective treatment are essential for the health of inmates and the hygiene of the institutions.

102. 71(81) cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were recorded during the year, all but one having commenced before admission. Two required hospitalisation, but the remainder continued their treatment and presented no infective risk to fellow inmates. Over the past five years the number of recorded cases of pulmonary tuberculosis has halved. This reflects the satisfactory treatment and control in the community, but the need for awareness and vigilance in closed, busy institutions remains. One case was diagnosed, during sentence, by mass radiography and was rapidly rendered non-infective by satisfactory treatment. All contacts were screened and no further cases discovered. Mass radiography units visit establishments regularly and this service is also available to staff.

103. Examination of every admission ensures the early diagnosis of Venereal Disease and during the year there was a slight fall in the numbers of recorded cases. 4 (6) cases of syphilis, 54 (76) cases of gonorrhoea and 92 (117) other forms of venereal disease. The visiting specialist in gynaecology and venereology continued to provide a valuable service in Cornton Vale, and it is worth recording that 3 patients with malignant conditions were identified during routine examinations.

104. Helminthiases continued to be common, 89 (91), but all but four were reported as being cured during their sentence.

105. 65 cases of diabetes were treated and only one required admission to NHS Hospital.

106. There were 194 patients suffering from ischaemic heart disease and 10 from cerebro-vascular disease and five of this group required periods of hospitalisation.

107. The generality of the problems of admissions is further shown by the recording of 174 fractures and 936 other injuries under treatment at time of admission.

Mental Health

108. Many persons admitted to penal institutions show disturbance of personality and behaviour and this is reflected in the large number of nervous conditions treated by the medical staff. The recorded number 2,446 (2,395), suffering from nervous and personality disorders showed a continuing increase, as did the number of recorded cases of psychoses, 43 (22). 15 (14) patients, 8 (8) males and 7 (6) females required admission to mental hospitals. Of these, 6 males required the special security of the State Hospital.

109. Many admissions were found to be suffering from alcoholism, although the number recorded in 1977 had again fallen, 649 (783) of whom 509 (638) were males and 140 (145) females. Forty-two of these unfortunate people required treatment for delirium tremens. The treatment of alcoholism, with its related physical ill health, is a valuable social service carried on in many establishments. Members of Alcoholics Anonymous and Councils on Alcoholism continued to provide much appreciated help.

110. The number of recorded cases of dependence on hard drugs has, fortunately, not continued to show the marked increase recorded in the previous year. There were 7 (21) males and 8 (11) females.

111. Only 16 inmates, 7 male and 9 female, were diagnosed as having dependence on other drugs such as amphetamine.

Mortality

112. During the year there were 8 deaths, all males, within Prison Service establishments. There were 3 deaths from natural causes, 2 following myocardial infarction and one following an epileptic seizure. Two accidental deaths occurred as a result of self-inflicted damage, one the result of glue sniffing and the other the result of overdosage of illegally obtained barbiturates. Three adult males

committed suicide. Two were convicted prisoners and one untried. All died as a result of self asphyxiation.

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

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

114. One convicted young offender died in NHS hospital where he was under treatment for bacterial endocarditis.

National Health Service Facilities

115. Close liaison exists between the Prison Service Medical Officers and their local District Hospitals. All specialist outpatient and inpatient facilities are readily available to inmates, when required. Wherever possible, treatment is carried out within Prison Hospitals, but more sophisticated investigation and treatment is provided by transfer to NHS hospital. During the year 267 (269) males and 26 (16) females were admitted to general hospitals.

116. Blood transfusion units visited most institutions during 1977. Inmates donated 4,119 pints of blood and staff a further 222 pints.

Medical Staff

117. General medical services continued to be provided by 3 full time medical officers and 22 part time medical practitioners who, with their practice colleagues, ensured continuous medical cover.

118. The Medical Officer to the open prison at Penninghame retired in 1977. He had been the Medical Officer since the opening of the Establishment and provided many years of valuable service.

119. Forensic Psychiatry services continue to be provided on a sessional basis shared between SHHD and NHS. With the commencement of such an appointment at Edinburgh Prison and Young Offenders Institution regular consultant psychiatric sessions are now provided at all the larger establishments.

Nursing Staff

120. The training of Officers to Enrolled Nurse standard continues at Glasgow Royal Infirmary School of Nursing. Ten officers commenced this course in 1977. During the year arrangements were made for Prison Officers to receive similar training at the North Lothian College of Nursing in Edinburgh and the first candidates were due to commence their training early in 1978.

Dental Care

121. The demand for dental treatment remained high, almost 6,000 first attendances on sick parades being requests to see the Dentist. During 1977 there were 13 dental practitioners providing services within establishments. Dental surgeries are provided in these establishments and during the year several were extensively modernised.

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			
	T.	M.	F.	Direct		In default of payment of fine		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Direct		In default of payment of fine		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
				M.	F.	M.	F.							M.	F.	M.	F.						
All crimes and offences	17,540	16,769	771	6,647	280	5,631	341	686	30	879			1,453	62	1,398	56	61	2	2			12	
Crimes	10,142	9,783	359	4,506	174	2,213	88	572	24	666			1,133	45	636	27	43	1	2			12	
Offences	7,398	6,986	412	2,141	106	3,418	253	114	6	213			320	17	762	29	18	1					
CLASS I: CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON																							
Total	1,655	1,626	29	906	15	193	5	54	4	105			265	4	90	1	4					9	
Murder	49	48	1	39	1								8									9	
Attempts to Murder, etc.	18	18	—	12									8										
Culpable homicide	33	32	1	24									1										
Assaults	1,228	1,211	17	642	8	166	2	46	3	84			198	4	72		3						
Cruel and unnatural treatment of children	11	6	5	4									1										
Incest	13	13	—	13																			
Unnatural crimes, including attempts	7	7	—	5									1										
Rape and other offences against females	94	94	—	58		3				1			30		2								
Bigamy	4	4	—	3		1																	
Other crimes against the person	198	193	5	106		22	3	8	1	19			21		16	1	1						
CLASS II: CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY WITH VIOLENCE																							
Total	3,421	3,378	43	1,516	16	366	5	340	7	361			518	11	253	3	22	1	1			1	
Housebreaking, etc.	3,101	3,067	34	1,330	12	363	4	321	6	342			441	8	247	3	21	1	1			1	
Robbery, and assaults with intent, etc.	315	306	9	181	4	3	1	19	1	19			77	3	6		1						
Other crimes against property with violence	5	5		5																			
CLASS III: CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY WITHOUT VIOLENCE																							
Total	4,291	4,024	267	1,925	136	1,124	69	171	12	195			317	28	273	22	17		1			1	
Theft	3,544	3,331	213	1,504	106	930	53	163	10	172			290	24	254	20	16		1			1	
Reset	198	188	10	106	3	46	4	6		8			10	2	11	1	1						
Breach of trust and embezzlement	39	34	5	27	4	6	1						1										
Fraud	477	440	37	279	22	141	11	2	1	3			10	2	5	1							
Post Office offences	7	7	—	5						2													
Other crimes against property without violence	26	24	2	4	1	1			1	10			6		3								
CLASS IV: MALICIOUS INJURIES TO PROPERTY																							
Total	34	32	2	21		6		1	1				3	1								1	
Fire-raising	29	27	2	18		5							3	1									
Malicious mischief	5	5	—	3		1		1	1														

46

CLASS V: FORGERY AND CRIMES AGAINST CURRENCY																
Total	30	26	4	18	3	6										
Forgery and uttering	11	8	3	5	2	2									1	
Coining and other crimes against currency	19	18	1	13	1	4									1	
CLASS VI: OTHER CRIMES NOT INCLUDED ABOVE																
Total	711	697	14	120	4	518	9	6		5	28	1	20			
Mobbing and rioting	18	17	1	4		1	1	4		1	6		1			
Perjury, bribery etc.	103	98	5	52	3	20	1			3	19	1	4			
Indecent exposure	15	15		5		9							1			
Habitual drunkenness	502	497	5	17		467	5				1		12			
Other crimes	73	70	3	42	1	21	2	2		1	2		2			
CLASS VII: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES																
Total	7,398	6,986	412	2,141	106	3,418	253	114	6	213	320	17	762	29	18	1
Aliens Acts, offences against	4	4		1		3										
Breach of the peace, etc.	4,294	4,045	249	1,306	85	1,900	125	44	4	91	155	10	541	24	8	1
Brothel-keeping	1		1	1		1										
Education Acts, offences against	48	47	1	15	1	32										
Explosives, etc., offences in relation to	5	5		4		1										
Fishery Laws, offences against	13	13		4		5										
Intoxicating Liquor Laws, offences against:																
Drunkenness	566	469	97	12	2	453	94									
Others	1	1				1										
Police Acts, Bye-Laws and Regulations, offences against	154	152	2	26		72	2	1		18	13		22			
Prevention of Crimes Acts, offences against	57	57		36		15					3		3			
Prostitution	19		19		3		13		1					2		
Railways, offences in relation to	11	11		1		8										
Revenue and Excise Laws, offences against	35	34	1	3	1	31										
Road Acts, etc., offences against:																
Taking a motor vehicle without the consent of the owner	389	387	2	138		57	1	42		59	53	1	30			8
Unfit in charge—drink or drugs	119	119		29		76		2			8		4			
Unfit in charge—blood-alcohol concentration above the prescribed limit	93	93		20		65				1	1		6			
Other motor vehicle offences	851	851		275		406		17		18	52		81			2
Vagrancy and Trespass Acts, offences against	255	245	10	114	1	99	6				11	2	21	1		
Weights and Measures Act, offences against	2	2		1									1			
Other miscellaneous offences	481	451	30	156	12	194	12	8	1	25	24	4	44	1		

47