

ST. ANDREWS HSE



SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

# Prisons in Scotland

*Report for 1981*

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by Command of Her Majesty  
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HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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their families. These included Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, Citizens Advice Bureaux, Marriage Guidance Councils, the Scottish Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, the Salvation Army, local churches and prison visitors.

78. The Prison Visitors Scheme continued to operate at various establishments and these included Aberdeen, Cornton Vale, Dungavel, Edinburgh, Penninghame and Perth. Approximately 70 people acted as prison visitors during the year and all the establishments who operate the scheme are actively involved in seeking additional people who are prepared to become prison visitors.

79. The Scottish Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders continued to provide bus services to a number of establishments viz: Castle Huntly, Dungavel, Glenochil, Noranside, Penninghame and Polmont. This simplified travel arrangements for visitors, mainly from the Glasgow area; is a most useful service and enables some inmates to receive visits which they might otherwise not receive. SACRO is also involved in the running of the Visitor Centre at Perth Prison and along with other organisations such as the Cyrenians and the Barony Housing Association assisted in finding homeless inmates accommodation upon release.

80. The Women's Royal Voluntary Service continued to provide canteen facilities for inmates and their families during visiting time and these together with toy library facilities provided by Network at some establishments greatly enhanced the atmosphere within the visit areas. Groups involved in assisting inmates with drink related problems also continued to provide invaluable services and in 16 of the establishments, sponsors from Alcoholics Anonymous visited inmates. Support was also received from the Edinburgh and Glasgow Council for Alcoholism.

## CHAPTER THREE

### Health and Hygiene

#### General

81. The general health of inmates has remained satisfactory and there has been no marked disease prevalence nor change in the pattern of morbidity.

82. The overall measurement of medical attention, year by year, is reflected in the number of first attendances on sick parades and is shown in the following table:—

Year	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Number of First Attendances	53,739	54,014	63,885	67,422	80,979	71,935	75,493	72,969

83. In the paragraphs which follow the figures in brackets are those for 1980.

84. There were 72,969 (75,493) first attendances and of these 70,245 were male patients and 2,724 were females. The most common reasons for seeking medical attention were disorders affecting:—

1. Respiratory System: 11,745 (15,227). The satisfactory drop in the number presenting with respiratory problems was due to fewer common colds, 7,825 (10,075) and a marked decline in the number of cases of influenza 187 (514). Chronic bronchitis, 595 (549) remains a common cause of serious disability and no doubt, as elsewhere, has a strong link with smoking.
2. Skin: 7,016 (7,427), of which, 1,566 (1,748) were said to be of infective origin. The limitation of infective and contagious skin disease remains a satisfactory indication of the degree of personal hygiene which is maintained in all establishments.
3. Teeth: 6,914 (7,015) inmates received treatment for dental complaints.
4. Stomach and Bowels: 4,497 (4,860). The greatest number in this category of complaints were the usual, common digestive disorders. It is most satisfactory that the incidence of diarrhoeal disease in closed establishments remains so very small, 696 (943). Only 3 cases of Salmonella infection were diagnosed during the year. There were 144 patients under treatment for peptic ulcer and 31 cases of acute appendicitis were treated surgically in NHS Hospitals.
5. Nervous System: 3,180 (3,471). Of these 2,509, 2,186 males and 323 females were diagnosed as suffering from neuroses and personality disorders; 27, 10 male and 17 female, suffered from psychoses. During the year 583 males and 61 females received treatment for epilepsy.
6. Infestations: Pediculosis 854 (1,119) and scabies 475 (495). Only 20 cases of pediculosis and 17 cases of scabies were thought to have commenced after imprisonment and this is another satisfactory indication of establishment hygiene.

#### Injuries

85. Injuries, of various type, degree and causation, are a common cause of attendance in Prison Hospitals. A total of 6,430 were recorded during the year, but many were of a minor nature and 1,261 had been sustained before admission.

86. 226 fractures were treated, 157 having been sustained before admission. Burns and scalds were recorded in 417 cases, 61 having occurred before admission.

87. 573 (481) inmates received treatment for injuries inflicted by other persons. Most of these were of a minor nature, but 7 required NHS Hospital treatment.

88. 309 (275) were treated for self-inflicted injuries, some of which were with possible suicide attempt. Seventeen required NHS hospitalisation; 4 died in establishments, 3 as a result of self-strangulation and one as a result of solvent inhalation.

89. All accidents and injuries are carefully recorded and investigated and where necessary appropriate action is taken by Health and Safety Advisers.

#### Other Significant Illness

90. There was a significant increase in the number of inmates receiving treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis whilst in penal establishments. 68 (55),

62 male and 6 female, were treated during their sentence. Four cases were first diagnosed after admission and 2 of these required transfer to a NHS Hospital. Four inmates were treated for other forms of tuberculosis.

91. The need for vigilance in the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis obviously remains and the prison medical staff are assisted by the periodic visits of mass radiography mobile units whose facilities are then available to inmates and staff.

92. The installation of X-Ray equipment in Barlinnie Prison Hospital will be an important addition to the medical screening procedures for the many admissions to that Prison who are considered to be at possible medical risk.

93. All inmates are examined routinely soon after admission by nursing and medical staff and the detection of sexually transmitted diseases is obviously an important part of this screening programme. 40 (54) cases of gonorrhoea, 27 (45) males and 13 (9) females were diagnosed. There were 111 (120) cases, 12 male and 99 female, of other sexually transmitted disease.

94. There was also a significant number of cases of syphilis, there being 6 (0) males and 1 (1) female, all of whom were satisfactorily treated within penal establishments with the co-operation of NHS special clinics.

95. 27, 26 male and 1 female, inmates suffered from infective jaundice; 21 of these illnesses had commenced prior to admission and 2 required isolation and treatment within a NHS Hospital.

96. The large reservoir of hepatitis infectivity in the world is now appreciated and medical, dental and nursing staff in penal institutions are aware of the special risk categories which come under their care.

97. As in the general community, cardiovascular disease is a most important cause of ill health. 185 inmates suffered from ischaemic heart disease and 11 from cerebro vascular problems. Six required admission to NHS Hospitals.

#### **Barlinnie Prison Hospital**

98. Upgrading and renovation of this Prison Hospital has been completed to a very satisfactory standard.

99. A static X-Ray machine has now been installed and, with the appointment of a consultant radiologist and a radiographer on a sessional basis, it will be possible to further improve medical care and also to reduce the burden of visits to local NHS Hospitals.

#### **National Health Service Facilities**

100. An excellent liaison with local NHS Hospitals exists in all areas and all NHS facilities are readily available for the care of inmates when required.

101. During the year 211 male and 29 female prisoners were transferred to NHS General Hospitals.

#### **Institutional Hygiene and Dietary**

102. 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 is reflected in the satisfactory control of infectious and contagious disease.

103. Washing and toilet facilities have been upgraded to a very satisfactory level in many of the older buildings and this important building work continues where necessary.

104. Throughout the Service the quality of diet and cooking is excellent and very satisfactory medical diets are provided when required. Kitchens are well maintained and this is another area where excellent renovation has been completed or is continuing.

#### **Mental Health**

105. Psychiatric services are provided by 16 NHS Consultant Psychiatrists who provide a total of 48 sessions to the Scottish Prison Service, ensuring that every establishment has adequate specialist care.

106. Nervous disabilities account for a large number of sick attendances. The greatest number of these are suffering from neuroses and personality disorders, a group which requires a great deal of medical and nursing attention. Psychiatric illnesses are also recorded. No inmate suffering from mental illness and requiring special treatment is denied transfer to a mental hospital and, over the year, 4 convicted male patients were transferred to the State Hospital and 10 patients, 7 male and 3 female, were transferred to District Mental Hospitals.

107. Clinical psychology services are also provided on a sessional basis shared with the NHS. During the year 5 psychologists were in post. This is a valuable service and efforts are made to recruit psychologists with an interest in forensic work.

108. Alcoholism continues to figure largely as a cause of ill health and yet again there is an increase in the number of inmates so diagnosed, there being 1,085 (921), 892 (752) males and 193 (165) females. 55 male patients and 42 female patients required treatment for delirium tremens.

109. The Prison Service does provide a useful service in the treatment of the alcoholic offender. There is, of course, the enforced period of abstinence when any withdrawal or other problems are treated. A balanced diet and prison routine usually produce a rapid improvement in general health. In addition to symptomatic treatment positive efforts are made to help the long-term problem.

110. At Low Moss Prison a special alcoholism unit for short-term prisoners has operated since 1971 and now treats groups of up to 22 inmates during their sentence. It is receiving enthusiastic support from prison staff and outside agencies.

111. At other establishments pre-release classes try to give help and advice to those with alcohol problems. At all establishments the continuing help of regular volunteer visitors from Alcoholics Anonymous is greatly valued.

112. The increasing misuse of drugs throughout the country is well publicised

and prison medical officers are reporting an increase in the number of admissions who have been abusing drugs. There has, this year, been a marked increase in the number of inmates recorded as being dependent on hard drugs such as heroin, 86 (18) of which 51 (6) were male and 35 (12) female. There has, conversely been a slight fall in the number of cases recorded as being dependent on other drugs, 35 (51), 7 (25) male and 28 (26) female.

113. Fortunately, most of these patients are not seriously addicted and, after admission, are quickly weaned from all drugs. To this extent their custodial period is certainly beneficial, but many will return to drug abuse after release.

#### Mortality

114. During the year there were 4 deaths within establishments. One Borstal boy committed suicide by hanging and 2 convicted males committed suicide by hanging. One male young offender died as a result of solvent inhalation.

115. Despite the number of inmates who require attention for neuroses and behavioural disorders, the number of deaths by suicide is very small and this reflects great credit on the caring attention of staff.

116. The number of deaths by suicide over the past 10 years is:—

1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
2	3	2	1	4	3	4	3	1	3

117. The most common cause of suicide in penal establishments is by self-strangulation although in previous years there have been 3 fatalities as the result of jumping from upper galleries. There have been such incidents this year, but with no fatalities and any injuries were successfully treated. Safety nets have been installed in certain halls where it is thought special categories might be at risk.

118. Two inmates died shortly after transfer to NHS Hospitals; one convicted male as the result of myocardial infraction and one convicted female suffering from cirrhosis of the liver.

#### Dental Services

119. Dental services are provided by 12 visiting dentists and are available to all inmates either within our own well equipped surgeries or on escort to a local dental practitioner.

120. The total number of inmates receiving dental treatment in recent years is as follows:—

1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
5,860	5,916	7,395	6,327	7,015	6,914

#### Nursing Staff

121. Eighty-two Male Nursing Officers were in post at the end of the year and 6 female nursing staff at Cornton Vale.

122. Prison Nursing Officers continue to be trained to Enrolled Nurse qualification at Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen Schools of Nursing. Five Officers successfully completed their Course during the year and three started their training, two of these being female Officers.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### Accommodation and Security

#### General

123. Plans for the development of Shotts Prison to the Phase II stage at an estimated cost of £7.3m were announced in December. Additional places for 468 inmates will be provided in 4 accommodation blocks. The project will also include a new kitchen and dining areas, games hall, education block, chapel and the filling out of existing worksheds. Construction is scheduled to begin in 1983-84 with completion in 1986.

124. Expenditure on prison building again showed a marked increase over the level of the previous year but failed to reach the planned target due to a combination of exceptional factors. Expected increases in tender prices for which a revaluation allowance was made did not materialise and indeed, because of the recession in the construction industry, it would seem that contractors submitted very low tenders simply to maintain their work forces in employment. Some slippage developed due to a shortfall in professional planning resources and the need for extended Ministerial consultations while several major projects were delayed by the exceptionally severe winter weather and by the effects of the Civil Service industrial action.

#### Major Works

125. At the end of the year tenders were being invited for the next phase of redevelopment of Greenock Prison at an estimated cost of £1.1m. The work comprises the provision of accommodation for dining, association and visits, a modernised kitchen, a new workshed and classrooms. The programme envisages the completion of this phase by March 1983 and of the final phase, involving upgrading of the smaller accommodation block and the building of a second workshed, by the end of 1984.

126. At Polmont Borstal Institution the redevelopment programme begun in 1975 entered the next stage with construction beginning on the provision, at a cost of £0.8m, of a new administration block with gate office, visits accommodation and hospital. Completion is scheduled for the end of 1982. Subsequent developments planned include a new kitchen, dining halls, a punishment block and a chapel.

127. The rehabilitation programme for Peterhead Prison which entails expenditure of approximately £1m over 3 years to improve conditions for inmates and staff has achieved significant improvements to standards in a number of areas. One hall has been refurbished and fitted with new toilet facilities and showers and similar upgrading is being undertaken in a second hall; the main workshop has been modernised and fitted with a new heating

APPENDIX No. 6

RECEPTIONS BY CRIME/OFFENCE AND TYPE OF CUSTODY

1981

Number

46

CRIME/OFFENCE	Sentenced to							Other
	Prison		Young Offenders Institution		Borstal	Detention Centre	Recall <sup>1</sup>	
	Directly	In default of fine	Directly	In default of fine				
1. Non-sexual crimes of violence against the person	822	159	229	42	69	67	1	—
2. Crimes involving indecency	135	51	23	6	6	5	—	—
3. Crimes involving dishonesty	3,317	1,713	726	469	343	496	25	—
4. Fire-raising, malicious and reckless conduct	113	107	25	37	11	22	—	—
5. Other crimes	183	123	35	27	9	17	—	—
Total crimes	4,570	2,153	1,038	581	438	607	26	—
6. Miscellaneous offences	1,357	2,788	101	401	39	94	3	1
7. Motor vehicle offences	384	695	82	138	13	28	2	—
Total offences	1,741	3,483	183	539	52	122	5	1
Total crimes and offences <sup>2</sup>	6,311	5,636	1,221	1,120	490	729	31	1
<b>Crimes:</b>								
Murder	17	—	13	—	—	—	—	—
Attempted murder	17	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Culpable homicide	24	1	13	—	—	—	—	—
Serious assault	620	143	169	37	60	48	1	—
Offensive weapons	8	4	—	—	—	2	—	—
Robbery	123	8	33	—	9	16	—	—
Other group 1 crimes	13	3	—	2	—	1	—	—
Sexual assault	37	1	14	—	2	2	—	—
Lewd and libidinous practices	49	12	5	2	2	—	—	—
Prostitution	34	38	1	3	—	—	—	—
Other group 2 crimes	15	—	3	1	2	3	—	—
Housebreaking	1,252	345	393	136	206	278	14	—
Theft by opening lockfast places	180	98	42	32	10	40	3	—
Prevention of crimes	98	57	16	13	3	10	—	—
Theft	1,389	1,009	238	263	116	157	8	—
Reset	133	73	19	12	6	3	—	—
Fraud	214	119	15	8	1	5	—	—
Other group 3 crimes	51	12	3	5	1	3	—	—
Fire-raising	25	—	9	—	5	6	—	—
Malicious and reckless conduct	88	107	16	37	6	16	—	—
Public order crimes	5	—	4	1	2	2	—	—
Public justice crimes	59	38	8	7	1	10	—	—
Contempt of court and bail offences	74	56	21	16	6	5	—	—
Drugs	32	26	—	2	—	—	—	—
Other group 5 crimes	13	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
<b>Offences:</b>								
Petty assault	189	264	28	56	6	30	1	1
Breach of the peace	998	1,631	62	300	29	63	2	—
Children and Young Persons Acts	—	37	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fisheries	10	6	—	1	—	—	—	—
Drunkenness	40	614	—	—	—	—	—	—
Police Acts	66	121	9	31	4	—	—	—
Trespass Act	3	17	—	2	—	—	—	—
Supplementary Benefit Act	25	40	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other group 6 offences	26	58	2	6	—	1	—	—
Reckless and careless driving	13	46	3	14	1	—	—	—
Drunk driving	72	187	5	10	—	—	—	—
Driving while disqualified	269	118	65	40	9	28	1	—
Driving without licence	1	31	—	17	—	—	1	—
Driving without insurance	19	218	6	35	1	—	—	—
Other group 7 offences	10	95	3	22	2	—	—	—

<sup>1</sup> Recall to young offenders institution and borstal on reconviction only.  
<sup>2</sup> Including one person sentenced to imprisonment in default of a compensation order.