

Our Ref: **FOI HQ16149**

Dear [REDACTED]

27th October 2016

Thank you for your request dated 29th September 2016 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) for:

1. Data on each time a drone was reported being used in or around a Scottish prison in the last three years.
2. The date its use was reported, at which prison and a brief summary of what happened during the incident.
3. If the drone - or anything the drone was carrying - was recovered please provide a list of its cargo.
4. State if any action was taken by the prison as a result of the reported use of a drone.

We have now completed our search for the information you request, and a copy is enclosed.

In response to questions 1 – 3 between the period 1st April 2016 and 3rd October 2016 the SPS has 5 recorded incidents where by an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) has been seen in the vicinity and/or, close to an SPS establishment. It is believed that the UAV's were used as a means of introducing commodities to our prisons.

1. An incident was reported by Police Scotland on 26th April 2016 that packages containing contraband suspected for introduction to HMP Perth were recovered in a residential garden at Dundee Road, Perth, having fallen from a UAV. The following contraband was recovered:

- 1 x iPhone 5
- 4 x Zanco Fly Miniature mobile phones
- 4 x Sim cards (2 Vodafone and 2 Lycamobile)
- 2 x USB Cables
- 2 x Super Glue tubes
- Small Phillips screwdriver
- 2 x packages of Diamorphine total weight 63.6g
- Package of compressed herbal Cannabis weighing 20.1g

2. HMP Perth report that on the 10th May 2016 a nightshift outside patrol officer heard a UAV in the prison grounds. The UAV was above the roof line and it had a package attached to the underside by a line about 20 feet long. The UAV headed away from the establishment and no recovery was made of the UAV or its contents.

3. On the 18th May 2016 at HMP Inverness an officer was carrying out external patrol duties, a noise was heard coming from the vicinity of one of the residential halls. On arrival at the hall he discovered an active UAV with a clear plastic bag attached. The UAV and its contents were retrieved:

- 3 x kinder egg cases (2 x yellow, 1 x orange)
- 1 x amber leaf cigarette packet attached to a white cylinder container with black tape.

4. On the 9th July 2016 a UAV was found on an external path close by to HMP Polmont. The UAV measured 6 inches by 6 inches, no articles were attached to the UAV. The UAV was recovered and the incident was reported to Police Scotland.

5. On the 9th August 2016 at HMP Dumfries an officer was on outside patrol when he noticed a small UAV flying over the prison gardens. The UAV seemed to be flying close to the residential halls before disappearing out of sight.

In response to question 4: All of the above incidents were reported to Police Scotland for further investigation.

If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review, by writing to The Chief Executive, Calton House, 5 Redheughs Rigg, Edinburgh, EH12 9HW. Your request should explain why you wish a review to be carried out, and should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 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

Tom Fox
Head of Corporate Affairs