

Subject: Information on WWI soldiers and suffragettes in Inverness Prison Registers

FOI reference: Fol/17/02175

Date received: 26 September 2017

Date responded: 06 November 2017

Information requested:

Access to the following closed prison records in connection with an exhibition on the impact of World War I on the Highlands:

Ref No	Title	Description	Date
HH12/93/3	Inverness Prison	Register of Sickness.	1888-1941
HH21/64/1	Inverness Prison	Index to Register of Criminal Prisoners (Females)	1923-1962
HH21/64/2	Inverness Prison	Index to Register of Criminal Prisoners (Males)	1933-1952

NRS telephoned on the 2 October to discuss the request and see if the scope could be narrowed down. We agreed that the interest related to WWI soldiers and suffragettes only, and that the requester did not wish to see all of the information within these records. NRS agreed to inspect the records to see if they contained any details about these classes of individuals and explained that under FOISA the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) is responsible for decisions on access to these records, and that if NRS identified any relevant information NRS would ask SPS if this could be released.

In a second telephone call on the 1 November it was highlighted to the requester that the prison register indexes (HH21/64/1-2) contain very little information – only prisoner name, age, height, where born and prison registration number. In addition, NRS advised the requester that we found details of one individual in the Register of Sickness (HH12/93/3) who was almost certainly a soldier. At the conclusion of the second conversation it was agreed that the details about this individual in the Register of Sickness (HH12/93/3) was the only information requested under FOISA.

NRS Response:

SPS has agreed to release the information about the soldier, Samuel Stewart. A transcription of the entry has been added below:

From Inverness Prison Register of Sickness (1888-1941) NRS ref: HH12/93/3

Current Number	432 152
Date	23 rd 19 th Sept [1918]

Name	<i>Samuel [L?]. F. Stewart</i>
Age	<i>18</i>
Disease	<i>Epilepsy from shell shock</i>
Whether contracted before or after entering Prison	<i>Before</i>
Probable Cause of the Disease	<i>shell shock</i>
Treatment	<i>Bromide mixture & Maltren</i>
Result	<i>was associated on Sept 28. was put in Hospital cell on 29 September</i>
Date of Recovery or Death	<i>Sentence expired on 11 Oct</i>
Number of Days off Work, or considered too ill to work	<i>22 days</i>
REMARKS	<i>Sent to Military Hospital Cameron Barracks on 11 Oct</i>