

Subject: Access to closed Sheriff court and prison records from, 1945 held under reference numbers SC36/56/187, HH21/70/138 and HH21/70/78.

FOI reference: FOI/19/01603

Date received: 09 July 2019

Date responded: 08 August 2019

Information requested:

Access to closed Sheriff court and prison records from 1945 held under reference numbers SC36/56/187, HH21/70/138 and HH21/70/78.

NRS Response:

A sensitivity review has been undertaken on the Jury Trial Register for Glasgow Sheriff Court (NRS ref.: SC36/56/187 page 115) by the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS). The page concerning the entry requested is now open in full for public inspection.

We were also asked to carry out searches of SC37/50/19, which is the Jury Trial register for Hamilton Sheriff Court, and also of SC37/51/4, which is the Criminal Roll Book for Hamilton Sheriff Court. It would appear that the court action was transferred from Hamilton Sheriff Court to Glasgow for a Jury Trial hearing. This explains why nothing further was found in SC37/50/19 (Jury trial register for Hamilton Sheriff Court, as the case progressed through Glasgow Sheriff Court) or in SC37/51/4 (criminal roll book recording summary trials, not jury trials, for Hamilton Sheriff Court), which was referenced in the request.

As mentioned above (NRS ref.: SC36/56/187 page 115) is available in digital form at the National Records of Scotland.

This can be viewed in the Historical Search Room at General Register House, 2 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3YY. Further information is available on our website at: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/visit-us/historical-search-room>.

Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to provide information if it is already reasonably accessible by inspection or copying, even if a payment has to be made for it.

The admission register and index to prisoners for Barlinnie Prison (NRS ref.: HH21/70/78 and 138 respectively) and also the Liberation Book for Dumfries Prison (NRS ref.: HH21/52/4) have been reviewed by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS). The entries for John Robert Cocking have been released in full.

We have supplied the requested information as extracts from these prison records, as it appears in registers which contain, on the same page, many other people's

sensitive data and therefore an extract is more appropriate than a heavily redacted copy.

The following is an accurate transcription from the Barlinnie Prison register index concerning John Robert Cocking (NRS ref. HH21/70/138):

Registration No.: 3704
Name: Cocking, John Robert
Occupation: Salesman
Age: 48
Height: 5 foot 8 inches
Where born: Hinckley, Leicestershire

The following is an accurate transcription from the Barlinnie Prison register concerning John Robert Cocking (NRS ref. HH21/70/78):

Registration No. and Sex: 3704 M
Date of Admission: July 28 1945
Committing Magistrate or Court: Hamilton
Previous Imprisonments in any prison: [column struck through]
Name: John Robert Cocking
Age: 48
Height: 5 foot, 8 inches
Education: R
Where Born: Hinckley, Leicestershire
Nationality: E
Prisoner's Home: 73 New St. Stonehouse
Occupation: Salesman
Religion: Wesleyan Methodist
Health as reported by Medical Officer: Good [and 'T' written in red crayon in same column]
Offence: Bigamy
Particulars of Trial – Date: Aug 9, Court: Sh. S. 31, Where: Glasgow
Sentence if Convicted: 3 months
Liberated or Removed – Date: Aug 23, By whose authority: Dumfries Pr., To what place: [a tick] No
Remarks: 1 fd

Transcription from Liberation Book for Dumfries Prison concerning John Robert Cocking (NRS Ref.: HH21/52/4):

Date: Wednesday 10th October 1945

C/No: 175.45 John Robert Cocking ['1/' in blue crayon under name]

Sentence: 3 mths

Destination: Escort

Checked by: 7

Private Cash: £ 3.6.5 ½

Gratuity: [left blank]

Total: [tick]

Remarks: [left blank]