

SPSO decision report

Case: 201202272, Scottish Prison Service
Sector: Scottish Government and devolved administration
Subject: behaviour related programmes (including access to)
Outcome: not upheld, no recommendations

Summary

Mr C, who is a prisoner, complained about a delay in getting onto a behaviour-related course which he had been identified as needing. He was concerned that the delay could hold up his progression to more open prison conditions.

From previous complaints, we were aware that since a new type of assessment for courses had been introduced throughout the Scottish Prison Service, there was a backlog of people waiting for courses. This assessment was intended to benefit prisoners longer term but, in the meantime, the sudden high demand for courses had created a backlog. We were satisfied that the prison were doing what they could to prioritise places fairly and improve the situation. Therefore, although there was a delay in Mr C's case, we did not consider that the prison had acted unreasonably in relation to him.