

Fact sheet: 15 years of FAI determinations for deaths in custody (2005-2019)

Summary statistics based on analysis of 196 FAIs published up to mid-February 2021, for people who died in custody between 2005 and 2019, inclusive. Tables produced in September 2021.

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Overall metrics

	All years	2005-07	2008-10	2011-13	2014-16	2017-19
Total deaths in custody*	359	61	56	68	76	98
FAIs published	196	29	30	23	50	64
% FAIs published	55%	48%	54%	34%	66%	65%
Average word count	4937	3780	4963	7895	5583	3954
Average time taken (days)**	720	545	708	695	990	603

*Data on deaths in prison custody taken from SPS published statistics

** In the most recent period, as of mid-Feb 2021 (when last data was downloaded), many FAIs had not been completed, and once they are, will increase average time to completion.

Time taken to complete FAIs

<i>Date of death to FAI publication (N=196)</i>	Cases	%
One year or less	46	23%
Two years to 3 years minus a day	71	36%
3 years or more	79	40%

Gender differences

	Women	Men
Deaths in prison	15	344
FAIs available	6	190
% FAIs published	40%	55%
Average time taken to complete (days)	1025	709
Average word count	4590	4966
Deaths determined to be self-inflicted	3	70
% FAIs involving self-inflicted death	50%	37%
FAIs making a finding	0	32
% FAIs making a finding	0	17%

Age differences

Age	Deaths	FAIs	%FAIs done	Avg Days	Findings	Fndngs%	Self-inflicted	%Self
Younger people (25 and <)	41	24	59%	891	9	38%	19	79%
Older people (50 and >)	127	73	57%	634	8	11%	4	5%
<i>All ages</i>	<i>359</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>720</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>38%</i>

Age	Deaths	FAIs	Family involvmt	%Family Involvmt
Younger people (25 and <)	41	24	17	71%
Older people (50 and >)	127	73	17	23%
<i>All ages</i>	<i>359</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>41%</i>

Remand v convicted differences

Legal status	Deaths	FAIs	%	Avg Days	Any findings	Fndngs %	Suicides	%Suicide
Remand	104	58	56%	771	14	24%	38	66%
Convicted	255	138	54%	699	18	13%	35	25%
<i>All</i>	<i>359</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>720</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>37%</i>

Differences by type of death: self, drugs or other

	Total Deaths	FAIs	%FAIed	AnyFinding	%AnyFinding	Average Days	Median Word count
Self	130	73	56%	17	23%	753	4572
Drugs	32	22	69%	6	27%	836	3432
Other / all else	197	101	51%	9	9%	668	1450
<i>All deaths</i>	<i>359</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>720</i>	<i>2458</i>

Prison differences

Prison	Deaths	FAIs	FAI%	Findings	Findings%	Family involvmt	Fam%
Aberdeen	3	3	100%	1	33%	2	67%
Addiewell	18	9	50%	1	11%	3	33%
Barlinnie	72	38	53%	4	11%	16	42%
Cornton Vale	11	3	27%	0	0%	2	67%
Dumfries	4	2	50%	2	100%	2	100%
Edinburgh	48	32	67%	3	9%	11	34%
Glenochil	33	17	52%	4	24%	2	12%
Grampian	10	9	90%	2	22%	2	22%
Greenock	16	8	50%	1	13%	2	25%
Inverness	7	6	86%	2	33%	4	67%
Kilmarnock	19	10	53%	3	30%	7	70%
Low Moss	14	8	57%	1	13%	4	50%
Open/Castle Huntly/Noranside	15	9	60%	1	11%	5	56%
Perth	37	19	51%	5	26%	10	53%
Peterhead	18	9	50%	0	0%	0	0%
Polmont	11	6	55%	2	33%	4	67%
Shotts	23	8	35%	0	0%	4	50%
<i>All prisons</i>	<i>359</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>41%</i>

Public v private prisons

Prison	Deaths	FAIs	FAI%	Findings	Fndngs %	Family involvmt	Fam%
<i>All prisons</i>	<i>359</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>41%</i>
Addiewell and Kilmarnock (private prisons)	37	19	51%	4	21%	10	53%
Public prisons (all else)	322	177	55%	28	16%	70	40%

Findings made: precaution, defect, other facts, recommendations

<i>Out of 196 FAIs:</i>	N	%	% cases no findings
Reasonable precaution	17	9%	91%
System defect	7	4%	96%
Other Fact	22	11%	89%
Recommendations	12	6%	94%
<i>Any finding (combined precaution, defect, fact, reco)</i>	32	16%	84%

Family involvement

	Family involved	%	No Family	%
Number of cases	81	41%	115	59%
Present at some or all of FAI	61	31%	135	69%
Legally represented	32	16%	164	84%
Gave evidence	34	17%	162	83%

Family involvement by type of death

	FAIs	FamInvlv	FamInv%
Self	73	42	58%
Drugs	22	13	59%
Other / all else	101	26	26%
<i>All deaths</i>	196	81	41%

Family involvement and probability of finding being made

	Cases	Findings made in	%
Family involved cases	81	21	27%
No family involvement cases	115	10	9%

Family involvement, FAI time and determination length

<i>Family role</i>	Cases	%	Time (Days)	Word count
Family represented	45	23%	941	9049
Family gives evidence	34	17%	825	9364
Family presence	61	31%	806	7616
Any family involvement	81	41%		
All cases	196	100%	720	4937

Statutory change in 2016: pre- and post-legislation characteristics

	2005-08	2011-14	2012-15	*2016-19
FAIs published	40	36	45	85
Time taken (average, days)	589	894	881	695
Word count (average)	4203	8593	7527	3814
FAIs making findings	6	12	10	10
Findings %	15%	33%	22%	12%

*2016-19 period is missing many FAIs, yet to be completed. Once these are done the average time for this period will increase. There will also be changes likely to word count and findings averages.

Family involvement pre- and post-2016

Period	FAIs	Family involvement	FamInvmt%
2005-08	40	20	50%
2012-15	45	25	56%
2016-19	85	23	27%

Distribution of FAIs and prisons by Sheriffdom

Sheriffdom	Cases	% FAIs	Prisons covered in FAIs
Lothian	41	21%	Addiewell, Edinburgh
Glasgow	47	24%	Barlinnie, Low Moss, Castle Huntly
Tayside	53	27%	Castle Huntly, Cornton Vale, Glenochil, Perth, Polmont
North Strathclyde	18	9%	Greenock, Kilmarnock
South Strathclyde	10	5%	Shotts, Dumfries
Grampian	27	14%	Aberdeen, Grampian, Inverness, Peterhead
<i>All areas N=196</i>	196	100%	

Differences by Sheriffdom: Findings

Sheriffdom	Cases	Cases with ANY findings	Findings rate
Lothian	41	4	10%
Glasgow	47	6	13%
Tayside	53	11	21%
North Strathclyde	18	4	22%
South Strathclyde	10	2	20%
Grampian	27	5	19%
<i>All areas</i>	196	32	16%

Differences by Sheriffdom: Time

Sheriffdom	Cases	Average days
Lothian	41	753
Glasgow	47	606
Tayside	53	811
North Strathclyde	18	867
South Strathclyde	10	628
Grampian	27	626
<i>All areas N=196</i>	196	720

Differences by Sheriffdom: Word count

Sheriffdom	Cases	Avg Wrđ Count
Lothian	41	4060
Glasgow	47	4819
Tayside	53	6703
North Strathclyde	18	5184
South Strathclyde	10	3496
Grampian	27	3335
<i>All areas N=196</i>	196	4960