

Cabinet Secretary for Justice
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Christine Grahame
Convener
Justice Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Dear Christine,

I am writing to you to advise you that tomorrow I will announce that I have agreed a proposal from the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) to relocate a number of women from HMP Cornton Vale to suitable accommodation within HMP Polmont.

This temporary measure will allow our preparations to commence on delivery of a new smaller (80 place) national prison on the site of the current Cornton Vale, due to be operational by 2020. The facilities at Polmont are in a separate wing from the young men and will provide improved accommodation for the women who move there from Cornton Vale. SPS expects to complete the movement over the summer.

The capacity is available in Polmont for the temporary transfer due to our success in reducing youth offending and re-offending.

Best wishes
Michael Matheson

MICHAEL MATHESON