



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Justice Committee

Mr Colin McConnell
Chief Executive
Scottish Prisons Service

All correspondence c/o:
Justice Committee Clerks
Room T2.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By e-mail

Tel: 0131 348 5195
Textphone: 0800 092 7100
justicecommittee@parliament.scot

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Dear Colin,

Fatal Accident Inquiries (FAI)

At yesterday's meeting, the Justice Committee discussed the written response from the Scottish Prison Service to the FAI on the death in custody of Mr Allan Marshall.

Members agreed to write to you ask why, given the findings of this FAI have been in the public domain since 9 August 2019, it will take until the end of this calendar year to cease the use of an Operational Debrief immediately after a death in custody? Furthermore why it will take until April 2020 to make changes to the organisational review of control & restraint techniques?

The Committee also noted the comments from Sheriff Liddle (specifically paragraphs 120 and 121¹) on some of the SPS's decisions not to share information the Sheriff requested at the outset of his inquiry.

Finally, members seek your assurance that the SPS will co-operate fully with inquiries of this nature in the future, including responding to any requests made for information on deaths in custody.

Best wishes,

Margaret Mitchell MSP
Convener, Justice Committee

¹<https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/docs/default-source/cos-general-docs/pdf-docs-for-opinions/2019fai35.pdf?sfvrsn=0>