

Scottish Government submission of 21 March 2022

PE1900/E: Access to prescribed medication for detainees in police custody

I refer to your letter of 24 November 2021 on the Committee's questions on a register of prescribed medications in police custody.

I can confirm that while local prescribers will maintain records locally there is currently no national requirement to do so in any particular format or to collect that information centrally. As the Committee has highlighted, this means it is currently not possible to ascertain centrally how many requests for prescribed medications are received, the nature of these requests or the proportion of requests which are granted.

Without a national register as envisioned by the Committee there is no central monitoring of the provision of prescribed medication in custody.

The Committee's question has identified an evidence gap and as a result the Scottish Government will consult with stakeholders in Justice and health to establish the best method of filling that evidence gap. We will report to Committee when an appropriate information gathering process has been put in place.