

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ceartais  
Cabinet Secretary for Justice

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Joan McAlpine MSP  
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Dear Joan,

Further to your recent email, I can confirm that the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) has advised me that there are no plans to close HMP Dumfries. It is true that the facility does not currently figure in infrastructure investment plans at this time however as I am sure you will be aware, these plans are developed and prioritised by SPS on the basis of the most pressing needs for capital investment. I hope this will be of reassurance to your constituents with regard to the future role of HMP Dumfries within the SPS.

Can I also take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the staff at HMP Dumfries for the work they do on behalf of the people of Scotland. I am aware that they have to deal with a range of challenges in managing the prisoner groups in their care and I have been advised by the Chief Executive of SPS that they do this very professionally and with great skill.

Best wishes

**MICHAEL MATHESON**