

POLICY NOTE

THE DISCONTINUANCE OF CORNTON VALE PRISON (SCOTLAND) ORDER 2023

SSI 2023/132

1. The above instrument formally discontinues the prison of Cornton Vale and was made by the Scottish Ministers in exercise of the power conferred upon them by section 37(1) of the Prisons (Scotland) Act 1989. The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and comes into force on 6 June 2023. The discontinuance order is the formal legal act required to reflect that a prison has ceased to operate.

<p>Purpose of the instrument. The purpose of this instrument is to formally discontinue the prison of Cornton Vale.</p>
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Policy Objectives

2. In 2015, the then Cabinet Secretary for Justice announced plans for the future of the custodial estate for women. This included a new national prison for 80 women, which would replace HMP & YOI Cornton Vale prison.

3. HMP & YOI Stirling has been built on part of the HMP & YOI Cornton Vale site and is scheduled to open in May 2023, and it will become operational in June 2023. HMP & YOI Cornton Vale closed to prisoners in March 2023 and all prisoners were relocated to other SPS sites. Although the prison will already be closed to prisoners by the time this Order comes into force, this Order means that this property can no longer be used as a prison.

4. Staff from HMP & YOI Cornton Vale have been redeployed and will return to HMP & YOI Stirling this summer and there will be no compulsory redundancies following the closures of the prison.

Consultation

5. The Women's strategy Programme consulted widely with stakeholders including NHS, Local Authority and voluntary Third Sector partners and there has also been consultation with SPS National Trade Union Partners.

Impact Assessment

6. The replacement of HMP & YOI Cornton Vale with HMP & YOI Stirling is a component of the strategy for women in custody, which has been subject to an EHRIA.

Financial Effect

7. The operational budget of HMP & YOI Cornton Vale has been allocated to take account of the closure of the site in June 2023 and an Operational Budget has been allocated for HMP & YOI Stirling for the latter part of the current financial year with provision made for a full operational budget for the next financial year.

8. The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs confirms that no Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment is necessary, as the instrument has no financial effects on the Scottish Government, local government or on business.

Scottish Prison Service

April 2023