

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** 23 February 2018 10:38  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** FW: Convention of the Highlands and Islands - Hot Issues Request: 1.3.18  
**Importance:** High

Morning

We have been asked again to contribute a short paragraph on HMP Highland for briefing that Ministers will receive ahead of the next Convention of the Highlands and Islands (CoHI) to be held on Monday 12 March 2018. Briefing should focus on the current stage of the HMP Highland project and some background, we know we cannot flag future budgets just yet but we can mention budget allocations for 2018/19.

Grateful if you could provide us with a brief update **by Wed 28 Feb?**

I have attached the previous briefing you provided in October 2018.



HMP Inverness -  
Highland - 19 ...

Many thanks in advance

Prison Policy Team, Community Justice Division  
GWR | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T:

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** 22 February 2018 14:11  
**To:** Directors (SST)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Convention of the Highlands and Islands - Hot Issues Request  
**Importance:** High

Hi All

## Purpose

1. To request hot issue briefing for Ministers attending the next Convention of the Highlands and Islands (CoHI) to be held on Monday 12 March 2018 in Millport. The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills has agreed the agenda as :

- Housing – Government housing supply policy beyond 2021
- Digital: Progressing the R100 and the Scottish 4G Infill Programmes'
- GFG Alliance's Lochaber Economic Development - A "Team Scotland" approach
- Air Traffic Control Modernisation, long term sustainability of Highlands and Islands Air Service
- Written update on key items;
  - Scotland's Place in Europe – Common Frameworks after withdrawal
  - Update of the work of the CoHI Senior Officer's Group
  - Enterprise and Skill Review Strategic Board

The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills will be chairing the meeting and the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, the Minister for Transport and the Islands, and the Minister for Local Government and Housing will also be in attendance.

### The following is required:

- Briefing on hot issues of relevance to the Highlands and Islands including any lines to take.

Please also advise if you have a **Nil** return.

### Priority

2. Deadline for hot issues briefing contribution – **on Friday 2 March**

### Background to hot issues request

3. Ministers have been critical in the past of the amount of information provided, therefore, I must stress that officers should limit “**hot issues**” to those which you perceive to be of **the highest importance which Ministers will absolutely need to be aware of** to inform attendance at CoHI. Briefing should be restricted to a **maximum of 1 paragraph** .

Many Thanks  
Regards

## **HMP INVERNESS**

The key 'hot topics' from a local perspective:

### **Operational**

During the week ending 8 September 2017, the population of HMP Inverness increased to 137 individuals. This meant that the prison was holding 44 individuals above the establishment design capacity and 39 over agreed place provision. The ability to reduce the population through transferring individuals to other prisons was negated by the large numbers of individuals being committed to custody. In total 40 prisoners were moved during the course of the following week.

Capacity issues ensure that local male prisoners are routinely displaced across the SPS estate. This further restricts family contact for those families who may already travel considerable distances to visit HMP Inverness.

