

# Summary of Scottish Government Briefing Paper

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This consultation is about the proposed custodial solution for women and relates to any woman who is sent to custody by the courts. There will be no change to the actual sentence a person can get at court. However, when a woman is sent to custody, there will be different environments where she will serve her sentence. The proposal is that a three-tier system operates:

National  
establishment

Three regional  
establishments

Number of community based  
facilities (15-30 women)

All the facilities will be designed for women in keeping with the recommendations of the Commission for Women Offenders. Irrespective of what or where they are, the custodial estates will be run by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS). A multi-agency approach will be taken in all of these facilities, and a multi-agency assessment will help inform SPS decision as to where a woman should be placed.

## **A. Ethos**

The community-based centres will vary in size, but they will not exceed 30 women. The centres will be configured in a domestic style; women will be allowed to learn and develop life skills such as budgeting, cooking, etc., and they will also receive support and treatment to address issues.

## **B. Multi-disciplinary team structure**

All facilities will have a multi-disciplinary team which would include SPS, NHS, third party agencies, etc.

## **C. Security Regime**

A different approach will be taken towards security based on the fact that women do not have a history of absconding etc. In relation to the community-based centres, this may involve women being able to leave the centre to attend training, medical appointments, shopping etc. Further discussion is required regarding sanctions when women do not comply with the rules/boundaries.