**Study Name: Prisons, Prison Officers and Prisoners’ Families**

**Depositor: Kirsty Deacon**

**Interview Schedule: Prison Officers**

This study sought to explore prison officers’ understanding of the Scottish Prison Service Family Strategy 2017-2022 and how they operationalise this document.

Semi-structured interviews took place with 10 prison officers across five prisons in Scotland. These prisons held male and female prisoners, young people, and those serving short, long and life sentences as well as the open estate. They all held roles where they worked in roles with, or related to, families of prisoners. These roles included Family Contact Officers (FCO), those working in Integrated Case Management (ICM), Offender Outcomes and Operations.

Interviews were conducted individually and took place by telephone or Teams given that they took place during the period of Covid 19 restrictions. The interviews were semi-structured and explored the following themes:

**Background Information**

1. Name
2. Role in the Scottish Prison Service
3. Length of service in current role, and in the SPS generally
4. Any other relevant roles as well as the current post

**Operational Prison Staff**

Indicative questions

1. Explore their knowledge and awareness of the Family Strategy.
2. How they are involved with aspects of the Family Strategy in their particular role and their experiences of this?
   1. Family strategy boards in each prison
   2. Regular contact with prisoners
   3. Regular contact with prisoners’ families
   4. E.g. Families’ involvement in induction processes, ICM meetings, family events
3. Their understanding of the purpose and role of families within the prison system
   1. Family members outside of prison only
   2. Instrumental / Rights
   3. How they define family in this context
4. What (if anything) has changed within their prison since the Family Strategy in 2017 was published and rolled out?
5. What more (if anything) do they think could be done to support families of prisoners, or prisoners in relation to their families?

All the interviews were recorded and transcribed in full before being coded for key themes.