EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE DISCONTINUANCE OF LOW MOSS PRISON (SCOTLAND) ORDER 2007 (SSI 2007/322)

The above instrument formally discontinues the prison at Low Moss 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 2 July 2007. The discontinuance order is the formal legal act required to reflect that the prison has ceased to operate for the time being.

The Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Amendment Rules (SSI 2007 No.190) made provision (amongst other things) for the discontinuation of the Visiting Committee of the prison.

Policy Objectives

It has been recognised for some time that the accommodation for prisoners and the working conditions for staff at Low Moss were not the sort of conditions fit for the 21st century. The accommodation that consisted of wooden huts dating from the Second World War was a fire risk and the physical security of the prison was poor.

The Prison closed on 28 May 2007 in line with the Scottish Prison Service's decision announced in February 2007. The prisoners held at Low Moss have been transferred to other establishments.

Consultation

There was consultation with SPS National Trade Union Partners. Staff from Low Moss have been redeployed and there will be no compulsory redundancies following the closure of the prison.

Financial Effect

Budgets have been reallocated to those establishments absorbing the prisoners. The site has been retained for a new prison.

Scottish Prison Service
June 2007