# Rehabilitation– Transcript

***How does prison help to rehabilitate offenders?***

**Colin McConnell, Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service**: One of the primary roles of the Scottish Prison Service is to find ways to try and encourage and help those who pass into our care from the courts not to come back.

Any given day in Scotland you’ll find about 7,800 people in our prisons and I think the significant challenge that faces our business far beyond that of keeping people in custody and keeping them safe, important though that is, is to find ways to unlock their potential, their capacity to change, to become more contributive citizens in Scotland, not to cause their communities harm so that when they go back to their community, they don’t commit further offences to come back.

How do we do that? Well, our staff are well trained. Our staff work with offenders on a day-to-day basis to help them take up educational opportunities, to help them to acquire skills.

But also to help them to adopt, I suppose, the behaviours that you and I would normally feel and find appropriate, in terms of getting out of bed in time in the morning, adopting a work ethic, keeping yourself clean and tidy is important, performing well at work is important, getting on with your neighbour is important.

All of those things that we socially consider to be necessary and appropriate, we try to model in prisons so that as people move through our care and move back to the community, they are more ready to, if you like, fit in and more appropriately to play their part as active members of that community and not to reoffend, therefore not find their way back into prison

[End of transcript]