

State of South Carolina  
Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services

HENRY McMASTER  
Governor



JERRY B. ADGER  
Director

2221 DEVINE STREET, SUITE 600  
POST OFFICE BOX 50666  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29250  
Telephone: (803) 734-9220  
Facsimile: (803) 734-9440  
[www.state.sc.us/ppp](http://www.state.sc.us/ppp)

April 22, 2019

The Honorable Edward R. Tallon, Sr.  
Subcommittee Chair  
Legislative Oversight Committee  
Post Office Box 11867  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

RE: Data from SCDC, data from other entities, and sentencing sheets

Dear Representative Tallon:

In reference to your letter dated March 27, 2019, please find the Agency's responses below.

- 1) Explain how the agency caught errors in inmate release dates from SCDC.

In January, 2019 during upgrades and enhancement testing to the Department's Parole Information Center (PIC), we began to correct the functionality of the new PIC to allow the Release Coordinators to complete needed tasks. In reviewing these procedures, we noticed that some inmates were listed on the Community Supervision (CSP) Rosters that should not be there. This problem raised questions about the possibility of inmates who could be missing that should be on the roster. Our Director of Examinations and staff began comparing information regarding inmates previously declared to be classified as a Subsequent Violent Offender (SVO) and/or No Parole (NP). These listings were used to determine if inmates who definitively were previously declared NP were accurately being pulled into the CSP Roster. The review of these inmates' records made apparent that their sentence structures had not been changed to reflect the No-Parole status and ultimately needing to be released after serving 85% of their sentence. The first step was to initiate a process to question our internal procedures in order to identify where the breakdown had occurred. Once a significant problem was identified, a review of certain records to identify inmates whose sentences were impacted was conducted. A review of all inmates identified

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were again reviewed by the General Counsel's office for accuracy and sent to SCDC for comparison.

- 2) Explain any audits the agency regularly performs on information it obtains from SCDC.

While there is no official process for audits, as a part of the Investigations and Examinations Processes, the Agency's staff regularly reviews records of every inmate who has an initial parole eligibility date (as calculated by SCDC) and who have been scheduled for a parole hearing. This review begins approximately four to six months prior to the scheduled hearing date and continues until the end of the hearing process. During this pre-parole process, it is determined by reviewing the complete record of the inmate whether or not the inmate is in fact parole eligible.

- 3) In the last three years, what, if any, other errors has PPP found in data from SCDC.

The Office of General Counsel and the Office of Investigations and Examinations often encounter problems with data received or stored in SCDC database. For example some repeated issues include: discrepancies between the offense and the CDR code on the sentence sheet, County Codes, Sentence Structures, the failure to properly document Subsequent Violent Offender and No Parole status, and failure to accurately calculate parole status.

- 4) Provide a list of each item of information PPP obtains from other entities about an inmate to perform the agency's functions, along with the following for each item:

- a) Type of information: sentencing documents, warrants, incident reports, medical records, inmate disciplinary records, Victim Impact Statements, & Official Statements
- b) How PPP requests the information: telephone, e-mail, & automatic downloads
- c) Source of information: SCDC, Clerks of Court, Sheriffs, Judges, & Solicitors
- d) Format in which the information is received: e-mail, fax, telephone, Parole Information Center (PIC), & In-Person
- e) What PPP does with the information to make it usable for PPP operations: generate reports from PIC, & copy information for file
- f) Average amount of PPP personnel time required from requesting information to having it in the format and location needed for PPP operations: This information is not available at this time.

- 5) What suggestions, if any, does PPP have for updating sentencing sheets or the sentencing sheet process: No recommended changes at this time to the sentencing sheets.

Sincerely,



Jerry B. Adger  
Director

JBA/dn