



# The length of short term detentions in Scotland

A short term detention certificate (STDC) can last up to 28 days. This has not changed for 40 years.

We looked at STDCs that started and ended between 2006 and 2018 to find out how long they actually last, how and when they end, and what might affect how they end.

## How the detention ended



39% **revoked**      22% **lapsed**      39% **extended**



STDCs can be stopped before 28 days (“revoked”), or they can simply end on the 28th day (“lapsed”), or progress to a newer, longer detention (“extended”).

There were 62% fewer lapsed STDCs in 2018, compared to 2006.



## What creates differences in STDCs?



Across the eight hospitals with the most STDCs, there were big differences in:

- the chance a STDC would lapse;
- the chance a STDC would be extended;
- the average length of an order.

Women’s STDCs were more likely to lapse.



Older individuals’s STDCs were more likely to be extended.



Men’s STDCs were more likely to be extended.



## When do STDCs start and finish?

All STDCs were more likely to start on a Friday.

STDCs were more likely to be revoked on a Monday.

Very few orders were revoked at the weekend.



## Length of STDCs

STDCs that were revoked were, on average, 14 days long (typically 7–21 days).

STDCs were 10% shorter in 2018, compared to 2006.

