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NEW NICK JOB Ex-boss of HMP Addiewell Ian Whitehead lands top job at Scottish Prison Service months after quitting scandal hit jail

THE former boss of a scandal-hit private jail has landed a top job with the Scottish Prison Service. Ian Whitehead will become divisional head of operations — a role that was never advertised — just months after he quit as governor of HMP Addiewell. Insiders hit out at his appointment, which follows a host of controversies at the nick in West Lothian. A source said: “It’s baffling — staff couldn’t believe it when we were told. Escaped Scots killer Steven Ross allegedly used blade during jail breakout that left two guards locked in own van. “Serious questions need to be asked about why this was never advertised and given to him. “When he was at Addiewell there was scandal after scandal and while these problems cannot be blamed on him, it does make this move surprising.” Tory MSP Liam Kerr added: “The public expect the SPS to be fully transparent when it comes to hiring top personnel.” Mr Whitehead left Addiewell, managed by Sodexo, last year to work on a ‘special project’. He resigned in November and it’s understood he was ‘matched’ to the job when he applied to return to the civil service. Issues at the jail include five rookie guards resigning after allegedly failing cocaine tests. The Scottish Prison Service said: “We don’t comment on individuals.” We also told how sources at Addiewell claimed manager Gary Chambers, 38, quit after an argument with bosses after returning to work following a terrifying murder bid. He was shot at twice on his driveway in Bearsden, near Glasgow, as he left for work in June. We revealed two guards at the prison were suspended when a con was attacked in his cell after they forgot to lock his door. And in April last year three warders had their homes raided by cops probing a jail “drug-making factory”.