

From: [REDACTED]
To: Ed Humpherson/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: 19/02/2014 08:54
Subject: FW: Crime statistics re-assessment

Dear Ed

Crime statistics re-assessment

I wondered whether we could have a conversation about this planned re-assessment.

I understand your desire to look at this, though doing so now is tricky if you want to really understand what is going on. When we talked a few weeks back, I mentioned that we were working with Police Scotland to not only set them up as a producer of official statistics, but also to work through our different approaches to processing and estimation of recorded crime data (as they try and bring together the IT systems from the previously separate police forces). This is a very much live and stretching process. As such, I'm not sure we will be able to give an understanding of the full picture of exactly how this is going to work going forwards, as we are refining this over 2014. The team would be really happy to dedicate time to a re-assessment as soon as this is sorted out.

I know you are particularly interested in the recording of the data in the system itself. I'm sure colleagues would be happy to talk through this part of the statistics production chain now: There was a recent audit report specifically on this that I'm sure will give reassurance.

If you were able to call, that would be really helpful.

Roger

Roger Halliday
Chief Statistician, Scottish Government, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 February 2014 09:38
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] Edge N (Nicola); Halliday R (Roger)
Subject: Re: Crime statistics re-assessment

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your reply. I do understand the pressures that you're under, but we have to press on with the re-assessment now. Acknowledging the pressures on your time, I am keen to find the most efficient way to conduct this re-assessment to minimise the impact on your team's work, and there are several alternative models that I think we can consider. I suggest that having that discussion be one of the main subjects of the initial meeting.

All the best

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Assessment Programme Manager
Monitoring & Assessment
UK Statistics Authority

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
Date: 11/02/2014 17:57
Subject: RE: Crime statistics re-assessment

Dear [REDACTED],

Thanks for your email. I do feel that commencing a re-assessment of "Recorded Crime in Scotland" at this time seriously jeopardises the successful timely delivery of the next publication (the first covering Police Scotland). As we discussed, Scotland is currently in the midst of the largest police service reorganisation in a generation. This is stretching our limited analytical resources fully. The creation of Police Scotland requires changes to our publication formats. It has also allowed for the introduction of new data collation solutions to produce Scotland level figures. Whereas this improves efficiencies and reduces data supplier burden, it also produces current pressures on our statisticians to quality assure these collation practices. At present, we are heavily involved in this time consuming work.

We are considering the learning for Scotland from the UKSA's recommendations in "Crime Statistics in English and Wales". However, I think it useful to note that the context around police crime statistics is different in Scotland reflecting its fully devolved nature. Paragraph 1.2.3 of "Crime Statistics in England and Wales" sets out the English and Welsh context which I am happy to report does not extend to Scotland. There is not a critical HMIC report on recorded crime in Scotland, in fact the latest review by HMICS (Dec 2013) is positive. There is also not a similar disparity between the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) and Scottish police crime data, as was discovered by ONS in their English and Welsh equivalents.

I do understand the UKSA interest in police data at this time, however I do feel that a full re-assessment exercise at this time would seriously jeopardise the successful delivery of our next publication. As we discussed, a 2015 re-assessment after the referendum

and on the publication featuring Police Scotland data would be more helpful. I would be happy to discuss our on-going work with the UKSA to demonstrate that, during this time of institutional transition, our analytical resources are fully focussed on the delivery of high quality statistics.

Yours,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Head of Safer Communities Analysis
The Scottish Government

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 06 February 2014 17:19

To: [Redacted]

Cc: Halliday R (Roger); [Redacted] [Redacted]

Subject: Re: Crime statistics re-assessment

Dear [Redacted]

It was good to chat earlier. I relayed the content of our conversation, and we have discussed here within the team, including with Ed Humpherson the new Head of Assessment.

Ultimately this re-assessment is important as police recorded crime statistics are the subject of current concern, and the expectation is that the Authority should respond more quickly to these kind of issues. The upshot of this is that we wish to start the re-assessment as soon as we can. I realise that this won't be the news you want to hear, but I hope that by making a quick start we can at least make most use of the relatively quiet period that you suggested you had at the start of each year. I think it would be helpful to try to meet as soon as we can to discuss dates and to identify whether there would be ways to collect the relevant evidence from you that would be more efficient, or mesh better with your other commitments than simply commissioning a new WEFA from you.

[Redacted] will be leading on the assessment from our side. I suggest that [Redacted] make contact with you straight away to establish the re-assessment.

All the best

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Assessment Programme Manager
Monitoring & Assessment
UK Statistics Authority

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted], [Redacted], Sandy Stewart/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS

Date: 04/02/2014 16:39
Subject: RE: Crime statistics re-assessment

Afternoon [REDACTED]

Hope this email finds you well. I believe that I have 2 dates to confirm with you: (i) for the re-assessment of "Recorded Crime in Scotland" and (ii) a continuous compliance check on the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey. I have noted suitable timings for these tasks below.

- "Recorded Crime in Scotland" – re-assessment – a suitable timing would be in 2015. As you are no doubt aware, Scotland has recently changed from having 8 police forces to have a single national police force. A re-assessment in 2015 would allow the first year of the transition process to have passed.
- Scottish Crime and Justice Survey – continuous compliance check – suitable timing would be post-September 2014.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Head of Safer Communities Analysis
The Scottish Government

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 31 January 2014 14:32

To: Halliday R (Roger)

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Crime statistics re-assessment

Thanks Roger

That timing will be fine.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Monitoring & Assessment
UK Statistics Authority

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: 31/01/2014 14:28
Subject: RE: Crime statistics re-assessment

[REDACTED]

Sorry for not coming back on this sooner. You probably know that we are in the middle of the transition from 8 police forces into Police Scotland. I think the most productive reassessment would be following that change. My justice statistics colleagues are just working through key dates with Police Scotland colleagues and will come back to you on this early next week.

I hope this is OK. [REDACTED] – can you reply to [REDACTED] directly please.

Roger

Roger Halliday
Chief Statistician, Scottish Government, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 January 2014 09:35
To: Halliday R (Roger)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Crime statistics re-assessment

Dear Roger

I understand that when you met Richard and [REDACTED] before Christmas the issue of a possible re-assessment of crime statistics for Scotland was raised. Please would you let me know when would be suitable timings from your perspective for this assessment to go ahead, so that we can schedule it in?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Monitoring & Assessment
UK Statistics Authority

[REDACTED]

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