

## Req 10/11

Initially, we had considered bringing addressing both requirements 10 and 11 in a standalone paper and had developed a draft 'ad-hoc' publication. However, in correspondence with the UKSA, it was not felt that this approach would adequately address both requirements,

*'We consider that introducing a third analytical publication does not effectively address the wider point that presenting and using these two sets of statistics together would lead to a richer understanding about the extent and nature of crime in Scotland than either of the sets of statistics alone can yield.'* (UKSA, email 11<sup>th</sup> September)

In light of these helpful comments, we have continued to develop two separate approaches to address these requirements.

### Requirement 10:

- a) Publish the analysis comparing the police recorded crime in Scotland statistics and the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, and any other relevant sets of statistics***
- b) Include a clear explanation about how this analysis could assess the scale of the difference between crimes recorded by the police and that experienced by the population resident in households, and the resulting impact on how users should interpret crime statistics***

To address the above requirement, we have continued to work on a standalone analytical paper (draft attached). The assessment team made a series of comments on an initial draft of this paper earlier in the year. Since. this paper has undergone changes to address these comments:

#### 3.1 *The Assessment team considers that this document is a starting point but it needs:*

- *an improved explanation for users about the quality of both sources. I have added in a section on ensuring quality in both sources. This is in keeping with a similar section in the ONS comparable paper*

Annex A: Ensuring Quality in Crime Statistics in the paper specifically addresses this requirement.

- *clear information about the external scrutiny of the police recorded crime statistics and about the response rate for the SCJS.*

Information on the external scrutiny of the police recorded crime is covered in Annex A.

- *information about the added value that can be achieved by analysing the two separate sets of statistics together*

Improved commentary has addressed this requirement. The introduction has been expanded to provide a clear overview of *why* we need two sources of crime (Chapter 1 & 3). Clearer information on the differences between the two sources, the strengths and weaknesses, and what is covered by each (Chapter 3). A more robust commentary around the analysis in Chapter 4 has helped demonstrate what can be gained in analysing the comparable crime group.

- *to be more accessible to a wider range of users with improved use of charts and language.*

The charts and tables in the paper have been improved to present the information more clearly. Tables 3.1 and 3.2 have been included to allow users to more quickly make broad

comparisons between the two sources. The language has been simplified to be more accessible to a wider range of users, particularly non-expert users. The report has followed best practice guidance to clearly report on uncertainty in estimates.

It is hoped that the improvements made to this paper will help users appreciate the differences between the two sources and understand which source is appropriate for different purposes.

We are planning to publish this paper in autumn 2014. However, we recognise the importance of the analysis in this paper in helping users to better understand the differences between the two sources. As such, going forward, we plan to include the analysis in this paper in the biennial SCJS main publication.

#### **Requirement 11:**

***Bring the analysis and commentary of the two main sources of crime statistics together into a single published report (para 3.21).***

To address this requirement, we have developed a chapter to be included in the annual recorded crime publication. This chapter brings together high level recorded crime figures (2013/14) with the latest results of the SCJS (2012/13) to present a fuller picture of crime in Scotland. As well as bringing together these high-level results, this chapter considers how comparisons can be made between the two sources, presenting an overview of the analysis undertaken on the comparable crime subset.

Initially, we were concerned that the differences in the timings of the data collections would present a challenge to presenting statistics from the two sources together. The UKSA commented on this concern, stating,

*‘Although we acknowledge the different timings of data collections of the survey and police recorded crime data, it isn’t clear why this is perceived as a barrier. The intention of the Requirement was not to hold the publication of either set of statistics up, but acknowledges that a richer picture can be painted about crime in Scotland by drawing together information from both sources of crime statistics’*

A concern would be that users find the introduction of another source covering a different time period confusing, particularly when we revert to the comparable crime analysis which uses 2012/13 recorded crime data. To address this we have ensured that the analysis is embedded in a robust commentary that works to alleviate confusion.