

Recorded Crime in Scotland 2013-14

Recorded Crime in Scotland 2013-14 – publication date

On 30 October 2014, a ScotStat notice informed users that results from the forthcoming HMICS Audit report were to be incorporated within the “Recorded Crime in Scotland” bulletin, in order to clearly describe the data published. The notice went on to state that upon publication of the HMICS Crime Audit findings; an assessment was to be made on the time needed to incorporate these findings into the “Recorded Crime in Scotland” bulletin and that an exact publication date for “Recorded Crime in Scotland 2013-14” was to be announced following this exercise.

The purpose of this notice is twofold. Firstly, it is to update users of these statistics that “Recorded Crime in Scotland 2013-14” will be published on Tuesday 25 November 2014.

Secondly, it is to inform users of these statistics that Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) published ‘Crime Audit 2014’ (<http://www.hmics.org/publications/hmics-crime-audit-2014>) on Wednesday 12 November 2014.

The Scottish Government’s Chief Statistician said:

“We have been improving the presentation of the statistics to help users better understand crime trends. As with all official statistics, this is an on-going process. We have engaged with a wider range of users of crime statistics in Scotland (such as our user event in early October) and continue to draw on user views for their information needs, and their communication preferences. As a result, the presentation now contains new analysis across local authorities and crime types.

“HMICS have conducted and published a thorough audit of police recorded crime data. This found no systemic data quality issues around the recording of crimes and offences. As we remain committed to continuous improvement in the recording of crime and offences, we are considering the implications of its findings for the analysis, quality assurance, production and communication of the statistics, and will work with our partners to address areas for improvement.

“I have decided to publish 2013-14 recorded crime statistics on Tuesday 25th November. This will make these official statistics accessible to our users and build on the suite of management information already published by Police Scotland. I am confident that the report we publish will contain high quality statistical analysis and be presented in a way consistent with what many of our users tell us they want. Publishing at this time means that we can begin the important process of seeking user feedback on the new-look bulletin and its supporting reports as part of our plans for continuous improvement and engagement around the presentation of these statistics.

“The UK Statistics Authority assessment on recorded crime was helpful in identifying areas for improvement within this publication. As with all reports from the UK Statistics Authority there were a number of issues for us to work through, and we

have been taking steps to address them. This will be evident as the 2013-14 recorded crime statistics will be accompanied by a suite of companion reports, including a new user guide and detailed technical report. We are expecting the Statistics Authority to consider our response to the assessment report in early 2015.”