**Recorded Crime:
Comparability of Police Scotland and Legacy Force Data**

**Justice Analytical Services
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Executive Summary

With the establishment of Police Scotland, a new IT system, Scottish Operational and Management Information System (ScOMIS), was developed. This collates crime reports from across the variety of systems used by the eight legacy police forces into one central information management system and supplies the Scottish Government with recorded crime data. Previously, the Scottish Government collected recorded crime data from the eight legacy police forces, who in turn had extracted the data from their own systems.

There were two aims to this technical report:

- To investigate the comparability of ScOMIS data and legacy force data; and

- Check the quality of recorded crime data supplied by the police.

This report should be read alongside the User Guide to Recorded Crime in Scotland and the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin, as these provide context and background information on recorded crime data.

To enable a full check of whether data extracted from ScOMIS were comparable with legacy force data, ScOMIS was populated with data for 2008-09 onwards. These data were then compared with the data previously submitted by the legacy forces. To be as thorough as possible, this was done at local authority level for all 470 crime codes over the five year period between 2008-09 and 2012-13. Any differences were then investigated by Police Scotland and rectified if appropriate.

The majority of differences between the data sources were due to the fact that a snapshot of historical data was being compared to a more up-to-date snapshot of data. There were two reasons why the recorded crime data may have changed in the time period between two snapshots:

- **Changes made as a result of on-going police investigation.** This includes the reclassification of crimes and offences and no criming, i.e. where it is determined by the police that no crime actually took place. It is not possible to know the extent to which differences between ScOMIS and previous data are due to these types of changes – this is explored further in Section 15 of the User Guide to Recorded Crime in Scotland.

- **Changes to crime codes.** A number of changes have been made to crime codes over the period 2008-09 to 2012-13, as well as changes to how particular incidents are recorded by the police. These changes do not affect the accuracy or comparability of recorded crime data previously published by the Scottish Government.

A number of specific issues with the data were identified:

- **Issues relating to ScOMIS.** Two issues were discovered with the way ScOMIS was extracting data from the legacy force systems. Both of these issues have since been rectified by Police Scotland.

- **Issues relating to legacy force data.** The issues identified with legacy forces' data collections include recording errors as well as specific data errors on a small number of crime codes. The majority of errors identified in this section will be corrected with the publication of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin. However, the overall comparability of Group 6 has been affected by these errors.

- **Changes in reporting practices.** There were a large number queries raised with Police Scotland regarding Group 7 offences. They related to both the comparability and the quality of the data. It was determined, that with the establishment of Police Scotland there has been a standardisation of the reporting practices for what data should and should not be included in data returns to the Scottish Government. These included offences recorded as a result of the Scottish Safety Camera Programme, offences arising from the DVLA issuing tickets, offences resulting from the Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme and offences recorded as a result of the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency. With the standardisation in reporting practices the overall comparability of Group 7 has been affected. This is true for comparing the data post and pre reform as well as when comparing the data pre reform.

In terms of comparability, the Scottish Government are satisfied that crime data, Groups 1 to 5, are comparable pre and post reform. This means there will be no break in the time series for this data.

However the overall comparability for offences data, Groups 6 and 7, has been affected by some of the issues relating to legacy force data and changes in recording practices. For Group 6, all crime codes are fully comparable from 2008-09 onwards and overall comparisons for Group 6 should only be made for 2008-09 onwards. There are greater comparability issues for Group 7 and overall comparisons for Group 7 should not be made prior to 2013-14. This is discussed fully in Section 7 of the main report.

Overall, the Scottish Government are confident that ScOMIS will provide data which are accurate and reliable for inclusion in the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin and future bulletins. With the inconsistencies in the data due to different reporting practices in the legacy forces, the Scottish Government will ensure that these are taken into account when disseminating recorded crime statistics and complete explanations will be provided in the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin of what is and what is not comparable.

1. Introduction and Conclusions

1.1 Background

This report presents the findings from a technical comparability exercise alongside an assessment of the quality of the recorded crime data supplied by the police. The Scottish Government publishes an annual Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin. This presents statistics on crimes and offences recorded and cleared up by the police in Scotland by crime group and by local authority. The data presented in the Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin series, alongside the findings of the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, are used by a variety of users from different sectors, including the public, private and academic sectors, for a range of reasons including monitoring trends, for policy, research and development, and for research purposes.

The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 changed policing in Scotland, replacing the previous eight police forces, the Scottish Police Services Authority and the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency from 1 April 2013. The Police Service of Scotland (referred to as Police Scotland throughout this report) is now responsible for operational policing in Scotland and is held to account by the Scottish Police Authority.

Previously, the Scottish Government collected recorded crime data for publishing in the Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin series from the eight legacy police forces, who in turn had extracted the data from their own systems. This process has changed with the establishment of Police Scotland. A new IT system, Scottish Operational and Management Information System (ScOMIS), has been developed within Police Scotland, which collates crime reports from across the variety of systems used by the eight legacy police forces into one central information management system. Recorded crime data are now supplied to the Scottish Government from this one central source.

It is of great importance to the Scottish Government and Police Scotland that the data presented in the Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin series are accurate and reliable. Therefore, the implementation of a new system such as ScOMIS needs to be accompanied with extensive data quality checking exercises. In particular, the Scottish Government needed to ascertain whether the data supplied by ScOMIS was comparable with the data previously supplied by the legacy forces.

This report should be read alongside the User Guide to Recorded Crime in Scotland and the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin, as these provide context and background information on recorded crime data.

1.2 Aims

There were two aims to this report:

- To investigate the comparability of ScOMIS data and legacy force data; and

- Check the quality of recorded crime data supplied by the police.

Prior to this, Police Scotland carried out a series of initial quality assurance checks in the development of SCOMIS, concentrating on whether data extracted from the legacy force systems and ScOMIS were consistent at Scotland and legacy police force levels. These initial checks carried out by Police Scotland identified no major issues in the way the system was extracting data. The work carried out by the Scottish Government is complementary to the data quality exercise undertaken by Police Scotland and looks in greater detail at the comparability and quality of data.

1.3   Conclusions

This report concludes that the ScOMIS system has proved itself to be a powerful tool in its ability to draw together management information from the wide variety of IT systems used by legacy police forces. The Scottish Government are satisfied that crime data, Groups 1 to 5, submitted by the police pre and post police reform are comparable. This in turn means that there will be no overall break in the time series for Groups 1 to 5.

The analysis did highlight a limited number of data issues and a number of inconsistencies in reporting practices among the eight legacy police forces for offences, Groups 6 and 7. The introduction of Police Scotland has removed these inconsistencies. However it does mean that the comparability of some offences has been lost over time. For Group 6, all crime codes are fully comparable from 2008-09 onwards. Therefore, overall comparisons for Group 6 should only be made for 2008-09 onwards. There are greater comparability issues for Group 7, resulting from the standardisation of reporting practices following the establishment of Police Scotland. As such overall comparisons for Group 7 should not be made prior to 2013-14. Further information on comparability are shown in Table 7.1 and Annex A.

Overall, the Scottish Government are confident that ScOMIS will provide data which are accurate and reliable for inclusion in the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin and future bulletins. With the inconsistencies in the data due to different reporting practices in the legacy forces, the Scottish Government will ensure that these are taken into account when disseminating recorded crime statistics and complete explanations will be provided in the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin of what is and what is not comparable.

The remainder of this report presents the methods and the findings of the analysis conducted to reach these conclusions. This includes discussion of:
- The implications of comparing crime data taken at two different points in time
- Issues relating to the new ScOMIS system
- Issues relating to legacy force data
- Changes in reporting practices
- The overall comparability of data collected pre and post reform.

2.   Methods

To enable a full check of whether ScOMIS was comparable with legacy force data, ScOMIS was populated with data for 2008-09 onwards. These data were then shared with the Scottish Government to allow it to carry out detailed analyses. To be as thorough as possible, this was done at local authority level for all 470 crime codes over this five year period between 2008-09 and 2012-13. For further information on crime codes please see Annex C.

The 2012-13 crime code set was used in the development of ScOMIS. Over the period between 2008-09 and 2012-13 there were a number of changes to the crime code set. A number of the legacy police forces were able to back convert their data for 2008-09 to 2011-12 to be consistent with the 2012-13 crime code set. These converted data were the data ScOMIS was populated with. These changes were not applied to the data held by the Scottish Government. As a result, in the analysis carried out, a number of adjustments were made to data held by the Scottish Government to ensure the crime code sets matched for each year as far as possible, so that a like for like comparison could be made.

The approach to the analysis by the Scottish Government was as follows:

- Each individual crime code for each of the 32 local authorities in each of the five years was considered.

- Data for crimes and offences recorded and cleared up from ScOMIS and from legacy force data currently held by the Scottish Government were compared.

- Numerical and percentage differences between the two datasets were calculated.

- Tolerance limits for the numerical and percentage differences were set individually for each of the seven crime and offence groups. The size of the tolerance limits were based on the size of the groups, i.e. for groups where more crimes or offences were recorded the limits were higher and vice versa.

- For each group any large scale differences were highlighted.

- A manual sense check for each crime and offence group was also additionally undertaken. This identified any areas of concern not previously identified by the checks based on the numerical and percentage differences.

- Queries raised were submitted to Police Scotland.

- Police Scotland investigated all queries and provided explanations to them all.

- Police Scotland revised ScOMIS where necessary.

- All queries raised with Police Scotland were resolved.

It is important to note that the queries raised with Police Scotland were where notable changes were identified. It is likely that a number of the issues raised will apply to other crime codes, local authorities or years. These issues were not identified if the differences were insufficiently large enough, bases on the tolerance limits set for the different crime and offence groups, to be identified as requiring further investigation.

To investigate the queries that were raised, Police Scotland used a snapshot of each legacy forces' data taken more recently, for the years 2008-09 to 2012-13, than the snapshots held by the Scottish Government (i.e. those that were submitted at the end of each relevant financial year). By using these more recent snapshots, it was possible for Police Scotland to investigate any issues with how ScOMIS was extracting the data from the legacy force systems, such as missing any data sources or double counting of data.

The following boxes describe crime data collection from the eight legacy forces and for 2013-14 onwards from Police Scotland.

Eight legacy police forces (prior to and including 2012-13)

Each legacy police force used a number of different systems to record crimes and offences. When the legacy forces submitted their data to the Scottish Government, the data were extracted from each of their systems and included in their returns. There were over 50 different systems used across the eight legacy forces. It is important to note that, data supplied to Scottish Government by legacy police forces were not revised after publication unless errors were identified. Published crime data are a snapshot of the number of crimes and offences recorded during the specified period taken at the end of the financial year.

Police Scotland (2013-14 onwards)

ScOMIS was developed for the implementation of Police Scotland on 1 April 2013. ScOMIS was designed to access each of the different legacy systems and extract data so that information could be accessed through one central system and will allow the reporting of Scotland level data. ScOMIS will be the source of data for the Recorded Crime statistical bulletin series for 2013-14 onwards.

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3.   Comparing data taken at different time points

Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletins are based on a snapshot of the number of crimes and offences recorded during the specified period. The data are not revised after publication unless errors in the previously published data are identified. ScOMIS, on the other hand, is a live system that updates crime records as police investigations proceed. Therefore, we would expect to see differences between the data in previous bulletins and the more up-to-date snapshot taken from ScOMIS to conduct this exercise.

3.1   Changes made as a result of police investigation

There are two types of changes that can occur to crime records during the course of a police investigation that would lead to changes being identified between the two data sources:

- **Reclassification of Crimes and Offences**
  During the course of investigations by the police the crime code a crime or offence was originally recorded under may be altered. For example from Attempted murder to Murder if the victim later died as a result of their injuries.

- **No Criming**
  The police record some crimes which are subsequently 'no crimed', i.e. where it is determined by the police that no crime actually took place. The Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) set out circumstances under which a crime report may be 'no crimed'. These include situations where, having been recorded, additional credible information becomes available that determines that no crime was committed or the crime was committed outside the jurisdiction of Police Scotland, such as in England. For further information please see the Section E of the SCRS. 'No crimes' relate to crimes already recorded and are therefore distinct from incident reports that are not recorded as crimes in the first place. Crime reports that are 'no crimed' are removed from police crime data.

Investigations by Police Scotland found that a high proportion of the queries raised were as a result of reclassifications or no-criming. It is not currently possible to quantify the extent to which differences between ScOMIS and previous data are due to these type of changes. Further information regarding this can be found in Section 15 of the User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland.

3.2   Changes in crime codes

In addition to reclassifications as a result of police investigation, a number of changes have been made to crime codes over the period 2008-09 to 2012-13, as well as changes to how particular types of incidents are recorded. During the investigation it became apparent that these changes had caused some of the differences identified between the data held by the Scottish Government and ScOMIS data. These changes were only made in legacy police force systems and after the data were submitted to the Scottish Government. As a result these changes will not affect the published data. These changes are:

- **Theft by opening a lockfast place and Fraud**
  On 1 April 2010, there was a reclassification of thefts from ATMs and fuel pumps which were moved from Theft by opening a lockfast place to Fraud. In ScOMIS, the change was applied to historical data, but was not applied to the data held by the Scottish Government resulting in differences between the two datasets.

- **Forgery and Fraud**
  On 1 April 2010, the crime of Forgery and uttering was moved from the Forgery crime code to the Fraud crime code. In ScOMIS, the change was applied to historical data, but was not applied to the data held by the Scottish Government resulting in differences between the two datasets.

- **Handling offensive weapons and drugs in prisons**
  In April 2011, offences of handling an offensive weapon and drug crimes in prison were reclassified from other miscellaneous offences to Handling an offensive weapon and Drug crime respectively. For 2011-12, it was not possible to disaggregate the crimes which took place in a prison but crime codes were introduced in 2012-13 to allow these crimes to be separately identified. Prior to 2011-12, these crimes were included in Prisons (Scotland) Act 1989, not elsewhere classified. However, some legacy police forces were able to subsequently reclassify these crimes using the new codes after the data was originally submitted to the Scottish Government

- **Common assault and Common assault of an emergency worker**
  The Emergency workers (Scotland) Act 2005 came into force on 9 May 2005, however, assaults against police officers continued to be recorded by some legacy police forces as common assault under the Police (Scotland) Act 1967, until 2009-10 when all legacy police forces started recording this consistently. After the data were submitted to the Scottish Government, some subsequent reclassification took place between Common assault and Common assault of an emergency worker in three of the legacy police forces: Grampian Police, Lothian and Borders Police and Tayside Police. This resulted in some differences in the data held by the Scottish Government and by ScOMIS for these two time crimes codes, with the ScOMIS data being higher for Common assault of an emergency worker and vice versa. The inconsistency of recording Common assault of an emergency worker between legacy police forces since its introduction was investigated by the Scottish Government in June 2010 and the resulting short paper can be accessed here: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/JusticeOccasional

4.   Issues relating to ScOMIS

Two specific issues were discovered with the way ScOMIS was extracting data from the legacy force systems. Both of these issues have since been rectified by Police Scotland. As these issues were identified and rectified prior to the publication of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin these issues will not affect data comparability.

4.1   Beat issues

Police Scotland divides Scotland into xxxx areas based on their location for policing purposes. These areas are referred to as beats. Beats form the building blocks used to aggregate data up to higher geographies, such as local authority, the level at which data are returned to the Scottish Government. ScOMIS uses geography reference tables to allocate the beats to these higher geographies. Data can then be aggregated to the level of geography required.

- In 2010, the legacy Grampian Police force amended their existing beat structure. The ScOMIS geography reference tables are based on the current beat structure. A small number of beats used prior to 2010 were not included in the geography reference tables used by ScOMIS. Hence when ScOMIS was aggregating data to higher geography levels for 2008-09 and 2009-10 the crimes and offences that were recorded in these beats were being omitted. This problem has since been corrected by Police Scotland by including the missing beats in the geography reference tables used by ScOMIS.

- The legacy Fife Constabulary historically used a beat of '0' when the exact location of the crime or offences was unknown. This recording practice was not made known when ScOMIS was being designed, so the '0' beat was not included in the geography reference tables. As a result crimes or offences that were recorded with a '0' beat were being omitted from ScOMIS. This problem has since been corrected by Police Scotland by including the missing '0' beat in the geography reference tables used by ScOMIS.

4.2   Double counting for Fixed Penalty Notices Relating to Anti-Social Behaviour

It was discovered that ScOMIS was double counting a portion of the crimes and offences for which Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) relating to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) were issued in the legacy Lothian and Borders Police force area. This affected the following crime codes in Groups 4 and 6:

Group 4: Fire-raising, vandalism etc.
- Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)
- Vandalism

Group 6: Miscellaneous Offences
- Breach of the peace
- Urinating etc.
- Drunk and incapable

- Disorderly on licensed premises
- Refusing to quit licensed premises
- Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (not elsewhere classified)
- Consumption of alcohol in designated places, byelaws prohibited

In the legacy Lothian and Borders Police force area, details of FPNs relating to ASB can in some circumstances be entered into two different systems. As there can be slight differences between some of the records entered into the two different systems, ScOMIS was initially unable to identify them as duplicates. This resulted in a partial double count of FPN relating to ASB in the SCOMIS data. The double counting has since been corrected by Police Scotland.

5. **Issues relating to legacy force data**

There were a number of issues identified with legacy forces' data collections which included recording errors as well as specific data errors for a small number of crime codes. The majority of errors identified in this section will be corrected with the publication of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin. Due to the points discussed in Section 4 it is not possible to accurately quantify the effect the issues relating to legacy force data have had on the data. The figures given in this section are the best approximate measure of the extent of the differences.

5.1 **Unstable recording dates in legacy Northern Constabulary**

During the development of ScOMIS, a problem was discovered in the legacy Northern Constabulary crime recording systems which affected the dates used to extract data. As the date field is required to identify which crimes were recorded in each financial year period, it is important to ensure the dates used are accurate.

When a crime was recorded in the legacy Northern Constabulary system, the date was manually entered. However, if changes were made to the crime record during the course of investigation, the date changed to reflect the date on which the amendment was made. This issue may have resulted in crimes moving between reporting periods. For example, a crime may have been recorded in 2009-10 and then updated in 2010-11. In the live system, this would have effectively changed the recorded date, meaning that some crimes returned to the Scottish Government may have been returned again in the next financial year period.

To rectify this problem, ScOMIS has been developed to obtain a system generated date of when the record was first entered onto the system and uses this as the recorded date. This results in a more stable and accurate date field in ScOMIS. Due to the nature of the systems involved, it is not possible to quantify the number of records affected by the unstable date or to correct any resulting double counting as a result of the same crime or offence been returned in more than one financial year. Following discussion with Police Scotland it was established that the number of records that would likely have been affected would be minimal and comparability would not be affected.

5.2 **Breach of the peace in legacy Tayside Police data**

Through the analysis undertaken by the Scottish Government it was discovered that the legacy Tayside Police force had been incorrectly returning the number of recorded offences of Breach of the peace since 2004-05. Only those offences that had been cleared up were included in the data return. As a result there was an undercount in the number of offences of Breach of the peace. The extent of this undercount ranged from 8% to 42% of the total number of recorded offences over the 10 year period for the legacy Tayside Police force area. This in turn artificially boosted the clear up rate for Breach of the peace to 100%. To resolve this issue, Police Scotland have extracted the actual number of recorded offences of Breach of the peace from the legacy Tayside Police force systems for 2004-05 to 2007-08. In addition to using data from ScOMIS for 2008-09 to 2012-13 this has rectified this error. This means that data published in previous Recorded Crime in Scotland

bulletins for 2004-05 to 2012-13 for Breach of the peace for the legacy Tayside Police force area will be revised with the publication of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin. The full breakdown of the differences between the two data sources across the 10 year period is given in Annex B.

5.3   Double counting in legacy Tayside Police data

Differences found between the Scottish Government data and data from ScOMIS led to the discovery that the legacy Tayside Police force had been returning data that were double counted for a number of crime codes in Group 6. The time period that the double counting occurred was not consistent for all crime codes involved. The following crime codes were affected by the double counting:

- Urinating etc. – over count ranged from 43% to 48% for 2010-11 to 2012-13
- Disorderly on licensed premises – over count was 57% for 2008-09
- Refusing to quit licensed premises – over count ranged from 34% to 57% for 2009-10 to 2012-13
- Consumption of alcohol in designated places, byelaws prohibited – over count ranged from 44% to 48% for 2010-11 to 2012-13
- Control of pollution prohibited – over count ranged from 62% to 78% for 2008-09 to 2012-13

After investigation, the origin of the double counting was found to be due to some of these offences being entered into more than one of the systems used by the legacy Tayside Police force. When they submitted their data returns to the Scottish Government, the data entered into both systems were included in the return. The double counting is absent from ScOMIS, as the system identifies and removes any duplicates.

For the offences of Urinating etc. and Consumption of alcohol in designated places, byelaws prohibited, the double counting was only for 2010-11 onwards. The extent of the over count due to the double counting ranged from 43% to 48% for Urinating etc. over the three period for the legacy Tayside Police force area. While for Consumption of alcohol in designated places, byelaws prohibited it ranged from 44% to 48%. By using ScOMIS data, the double counting for both of these crimes codes has been resolved. This means that data published in previous Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletins for 2010-11 to 2012-13 for both Urinating etc. and Consumption of alcohol in designated places, byelaws prohibited for the legacy Tayside Police force area will be revised with the publication of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin. The full breakdown of the differences between the two data sources for the period 2010-11 to 2012-13 is given in Annex B.

The offence of Refusing to quit licensed premises was introduced in 2009-10, as a result of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. Since introduction some of the offences recorded under this crime code were double counted. The extent of the over count due to the double counting ranged from 34% to 57% for Refusing to quit licensed premises over the four period for the legacy Tayside Police force area. By using ScOMIS data the double counting for this crime code has been resolved. This means that data published in previous Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletins for 2009-10 to 2012-13 for Refusing to quit licensed premises for the legacy Tayside Police force

area will be revised with the publication of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin. The full breakdown of the differences between the two data sources for the period 2009-10 to 2012-13 is given in Annex B.

The last year when there was double counting for Disorderly on licensed premises offences was 2008-09, the earliest year for which ScOMIS has been populated with data for. The extent of the over count due to the double counting in 2008-09 was 57% for the legacy Tayside Police force area. By using data from ScOMIS the double counting for this crime code for 2008-09 has been resolved. This means that data published in previous Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletins for 2008-09 for Disorderly on licensed premises for the legacy Tayside Police force area will be revised with the publication of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin. The full breakdown of the difference between the two data sources for 2008-09 is given in Annex B. At present it is not possible revise the data prior to 2008-09. Therefore, the data for this crime code are not comparable prior to 2008-09.

The double counting for Control of pollution offences started prior to 2008-09, the earliest year for which ScOMIS has been populated with data for. The extent of the over count due to the double counting ranged from 62% to 78% for Control of pollution offences over the five period for the legacy Tayside Police force area. By using data from ScOMIS the double counting for this crime code for 2008-09 onwards has been resolved. This means that data published in previous Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletins for 2008-09 to 2012-13 for Control of pollution for the legacy Tayside Police force area will be revised with the publication of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin. The full breakdown of the differences between the two data sources for the period 2008-09 to 2012-13 is given in Annex B. At present it is not possible revise the data prior to 2008-09. Therefore, the data for this crime codes are not comparable prior to 2008-09.

5.4 Double counting and a backlog in data entry in legacy Lothian and Borders Police data

The legacy Lothian and Borders Police force historically included unpaid tickets for some motor vehicle offences, and any cases which arose as a result of non-payment of these tickets in their data return. In addition there was a backlog in the legacy force for entering these offences on their system. This affected the following crime codes:

- Using motor vehicle without test certificate – differences ranged from an under count of 3% to an over count of 16%
- Driving without a licence (including under age) – differences ranged from an under count of 4% to an over count of 4%
- Failure to insure against third party risks – differences ranged from an under count of 3% to an over count of 10%
- Seat belt offences – differences ranged from an under count of 20% to an over count of 21%
- Mobile phone offences – differences ranged from an under count of 23% to an over count of 18%

There will be some double counting in the legacy force data. ScOMIS identifies and removes these duplicate records. By using data from ScOMIS the double counting for 2008-09 onwards has been resolved. The backlog in data entry was an operational issue in the legacy Lothian and Borders Police force which was resolved through a change in practice. The backlog in data entry is no longer an issue and does not affect data extracted from ScOMIS. Due to the combination of these issues there can be both an over and under count in the previously published data for these crime codes.

The data published in previous Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletins for 2008-09 to 2012-13 for these five crime codes for the legacy Lothian and Borders Police force area will be revised with the publication of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin. The full breakdown of the differences between the two data sources for the period 2008-09 to 2012-13 is given in Annex B. It is not possible revise this data prior to 2008-09, the earliest year for which ScOMIS has been populated with data for. Therefore, for these crime codes the data are currently only comparable from 2008-09 onwards.

5.5 Invalid data

There was an error relating to the submission of invalid data that affected a number of crime codes. The police can issue tickets for these types of offences that require a fine to be paid. The submission of these data are based on codes allocated to the incidents by the police. In some instances all allocated codes were returned when they should not have been but also some codes were omitted from legacy force data returns where they should have been included.

Two of the legacy forces included invalid data in their data returns to the Scottish Government for motor vehicle offences that the police can issue tickets for. The two legacy forces were Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary and Fife Constabulary. This affected the following crime codes, the full five period from 2008-09 to 2012-13 was affected unless otherwise stated:

Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary
- Using motor vehicle without test certificate – under count ranged from 4% to 139%
- Driving without a licence (including under age) certificate – differences ranged from an under count of 4% to an over count of 12%
- Failure to insure against third party risks – differences ranged from an under count of 2% to an over count of 3%
- Lighting offences, motor vehicle – the over count only affected two years, 79% in 2011-12 and 82% in 2012-13
- Construction and use regulations (other than lighting) – over count ranged from 56% to 76%
- Seat belt offences – over count ranged from 6% to 12%
- Mobile phone offences – under count ranged from 7% to 16%

Fife Constabulary
- Using motor vehicle without test certificate – under count ranged from 28% to 182%

- Driving without a licence (including under age) – over count ranged from 1% to 2% for 2008-09 to 2012-13, 2012-13 was not affected
- Failure to insure against third party risks – over count ranged from 1% to 7%
- Seat belt offences – over count ranged from 1% to 53%
- Mobile phone offences – over count ranged from 17% to 50% for 2008-09 to 2012-13, 2012-13 was not affected

For these crime codes, ScOMIS includes all the codes that should be included in the data return and omits those that should not be included. By using data from ScOMIS for 2008-09 onwards these errors has been rectified. The data published in previous Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletins for the relevant years for 2008-09 to 2012-13 for these crime codes for the legacy Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary and Fife Constabulary force areas will be revised with the publication of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin. The full breakdown of the differences between the two data sources for the relevant years is given in Annex B. It is not possible revise this data prior to 2008-09, the earliest year for which ScOMIS has been populated with data for. Therefore, for these crime codes the data are currently only comparable from 2008-09 onwards.

5.6   Missing data sources in legacy Lothian and Borders Police data

There were a number of queries raised relating to Group 6 crime codes for the legacy Lothian and Borders Police force. Through investigation, it became apparent that the data entered into certain systems used to recorded offences had been omitted from the data return from the legacy Lothian and Borders Police force. This affected the following crime codes in Groups 6:

- Litter offences – under count ranged from one offence to nine offences
- Bicycles, other offences – under count ranged from eight offences to 27 offences

For Litter offences the system was omitted from the legacy return from 2007-08 onwards. Due the missing system, no Litter offences were submitted for the period 2007-08 to 2012-13 for the legacy Lothian and Borders Police force area. This resulted in an undercount of offences ranging from one offence to nine offences for the period the period 2007-08 to 2012-13. ScOMIS extracts the data from the system that was previously omitted from the data returns. The data for Litter offences for 2008-09 to 2012-13 will be revised using data taken from ScOMIS. This means that data published in previous Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletins for 2008-09 to 2012-13 for Litter offences for the legacy Lothian and Borders Police force area will be revised with the publication of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin. The full breakdown of the differences between the two data sources for the period 2008-09 to 2012-13 is given in Annex B. It is not possible to revise the data for 2007-08. It should be noted that the number of offences recorded under this crime code are minimal, on average 5 per year between 2008-09 and 2012-13 in the legacy Lothian and Borders Police force area. As a result, this will not affect comparability.

For Bicycles, other offences the system was omitted from the legacy return for 2009-10 onwards. Offences recorded in a different system were included in the returns for the period 2009-10 to 2012-13 for the legacy Lothian and Borders Police

force area. This resulted in an undercount of offences ranging from eight offences to 27 offences. ScOMIS extracts the data from the system that was previously omitted from the data returns. The data for Bicycles, other offences for 2009-10 to 2012-13 will be revised using data taken from ScOMIS. This means that data published in previous Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletins for 2009-10 to 2012-13 for Bicycles, other offences for the legacy Lothian and Borders Police force area will be revised with the publication of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin. The full breakdown of the differences between the two data sources for the period 2009-10 to 2012-13 is given in Annex B. The data for Bicycles, other offences are now comparable.

5.7   Individual crime codes

Finally, five specific errors were identified in the Scottish Government data for five crimes codes:

- **Salmon and freshwater fisheries offences**
  The data submitted by the legacy Central Scotland Police for 2012-13 was discovered to be erroneous. The error affected all three local authorities in the legacy force area: Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling. This resulted in an over count of 87% in Salmon and freshwater fisheries offences for the legacy Central Scotland Police force in 2012-13.

- **Drunk and incapable**
  The data submitted by the legacy Tayside Police for 2009-10 was discovered to be erroneous. The error affected two of the three local authorities in the legacy force area: Angus and Perth and Kinross. This resulted in an over count of 42% in Drunk and incapable offences for the legacy Tayside Police force in 2009-10.

- **Data Protection Act offences**
  The data submitted by the legacy Lothian and Borders Police for 2012-13 was discovered to be erroneous. The error affected one of the local authorities in the legacy force area: East Lothian. This resulted in an under count of nine Data Protection Act offences for the legacy Lothian and Borders Police force in 2012-13.

- **Failing to provide information to identify driver of motor vehicle**
  The data submitted by the legacy Lothian and Borders Police for 2009-10 was discovered to be erroneous. The error affected one of the local authorities in the legacy force area: Edinburgh City. This resulted in an over count of 74% in Failing to provide information to identify driver of motor vehicle offences for the legacy Lothian and Borders Police force in 2009-10.

- **Insure against third party risks, other offences**
  The data submitted by the legacy Tayside Police for 2008-09 was discovered to be erroneous. The error affected one of the local authorities in the legacy force area: Perth and Kinross. This resulted in an over count of 98% in Insure against third party risks, other offences for the legacy Tayside Police force in 2008-09.

These errors have now been rectified using data extracted from ScOMIS. This means that data published in previous Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletins for these specific crime codes for the relevant years and legacy force areas will be revised with the publication of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin. The full breakdown of the differences between the two data sources for the relevant years is given in Annex B.

6.   Changes in reporting practices

There were a large number queries raised with Police Scotland regarding Group 7 offences. They related to both the comparability and the quality of the data. It was determined, that with the establishment of Police Scotland there has been a standardisation of the reporting practices for what data should and should not be included in data returns to the Scottish Government. Due to the points discussed in Section 4 it is not possible to accurately quantity the effect the changes in reporting practices have had on the data. The figures given in this section are the best approximate measure of the extent of the differences.

6.1   Scottish Safety Camera Programme

The Scottish Safety Camera Programme aims to reduce the number of casualties on Scotland's roads. This is through a combination of fixed, mobile and red light camera sites located across Scotland. The Programme is delivered by eight local partnerships. Through the analysis undertaken by the Scottish Government it became clear that offences recorded as a result of the Scottish Safety Camera Programme had been included by seven of the legacy police forces prior to police reform, the exception being Strathclyde Police. The different reporting practices for the legacy Strathclyde Police force was from 2007-08 onwards. Prior to this all of the eight legacy police forces had included data from the Programme in their data returns.

Following the establishment of Police Scotland and during the design phase of ScOMIS, Police Scotland took the decision not to include data from the Scottish Safety Camera Programme in ScOMIS. The rationale behind this decision being that no police resources were used in the recording of an offence by the Programme. Police Scotland wanted ScOMIS to report on the volume of crimes and offences with which the police are faced and directly deal with.

The crime codes that are affected by the original omission of data by the legacy Strathclyde Police force are:

- Speeding in restricted areas – differences between legacy force data and ScOMIS data ranged from 44% to 48%
- Other speeding offences – differences between legacy force data and ScOMIS data ranged from 49% to 58%
- Driver's neglect of traffic directions (not pedestrian crossing) – differences between legacy force data and ScOMIS data ranged from 10% to 23%
- Driver's contravention of pedestrian crossing regulations – differences between legacy force data and ScOMIS data ranged from 2% to 4%
- Motorway traffic offences – differences between legacy force data and ScOMIS data ranged from 54% to 59%

The data the Scottish Government holds and ScOMIS data are not comparable. In addition, the data held by the Scottish Government are not comparable due to the inconsistencies in reporting practice. The data prior to 2007-08 are comparable but from this year onwards they are not. It is not possible to disaggregate the offences recorded as a result of the Scottish Safety Camera Programme from the data for

these five crime codes for 2007-08 to 2012-13 for the seven legacy police forces that included it. Therefore, the data for these five crime codes for 2013-14 are neither comparable with the data prior to 2007-08 nor with the data for the period 2007-08 to 2012-13. Further details regarding the effect of the removal of this source of data are given in Annex B. The Scottish Government are still investigating how to resolve these comparability issues and whether data from the Scottish Safety Camera Programme should be included or not. As a result the data for these crime codes prior to 2013-14 will not be included in the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin.

6.2   Tickets issued by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) can issue tickets that are recorded as offences under the crime code Vehicle excise licence offences. Similar to offences recorded as a result of the Scottish Safety Camera Programme there were different reporting practices prior to police reform. The following legacy police forces included offences arising from the DVLA issuing tickets:

- Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary
- Grampian Police
- Lothian and Borders Police
- Tayside Police

In line with the decision taken regarding data from the Scottish Safety Camera Programme, Police Scotland took the decision not to include such offences in ScOMIS. It is not possible to disaggregate the offences recorded as a result of tickets issued by the DVLA from the data for this crime code, prior to 2013-14, for the four legacy police forces that included it. The differences between legacy force data and ScOMIS data ranged from 36% to 47%. Therefore, the data for Vehicle excise licence offences held by the Scottish Government are neither comparable prior to 2013-14 nor with the data for 2013-14 from ScOMIS. Further details regarding the effect of the removal of this source of data are given in Annex B. The Scottish Government are still investigating how to resolve these comparability issues and whether offences resulting from the DVLA issuing tickets should be included or not. As a result the data for these crime codes prior to 2013-14 will not be included in the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin.

6.3   Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme

The Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme (VDRS) applies to passenger cars, motorcycles and mopeds, and small goods vehicles. It also applies to any trailer or caravan being towed by a vehicle covered by the scheme. The VDRS applies to minor defects only, such as cracked light lenses, blown bulbs, worn tyres, illegal number plates etc. Offences resulting from the VDRS can be recorded under the following crime codes:

- Registration or identification mark offences (not lighting) – differences between legacy force data and ScOMIS data ranged from 9% to 20%
- Lighting offences, motor vehicle – differences between legacy force data and ScOMIS data ranged from 11% to 29%

- Construction and use regulations (other than lighting) – differences between legacy force data and ScOMIS data ranged from 8% to 17%

The following legacy police forces included offences as a result of the VDRS:

- Fife Constabulary
- Grampian Police
- Lothian and Borders Police
- Tayside Police

In line with the decisions taken regarding data from the Scottish Safety Camera Programme and DVLA issued tickets, Police Scotland took the decision not to include VDRS offences in ScOMIS. It is not possible to disaggregate the offences recorded as a result of the VDRS from the data for these crime codes, prior to 2013-14, for the four legacy police forces that included it. Therefore, the data for these crime codes held by the Scottish Government are neither comparable prior to 2013-14 nor with the data for 2013-14 from ScOMIS. Further details regarding the effect of the removal of this source of data are given in Annex B. The Scottish Government are still investigating how to resolve these comparability issues and whether data from the VDRS should be included or not. As a result the data for these crime codes prior to 2013-14 will not be included in the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin.

6.4 Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency

The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) replaced the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) in April 2014. The DVSA set standards for driving and motorcycling, and makes sure drivers, vehicle operators and MOT garages understand and follow roadworthiness standards. Following investigation it was discovered that until 2009-10 the legacy Lothian and Borders Police force were including offences as a result of actions by the then VOSA in their data returns for the crime code Motor vehicle records of work (e.g. Tachograph) offences. The differences between the legacy Lothian and Borders Police force data and ScOMIS data was 96% in 2008-09 and 87% in 2009-10. It is not possible to disaggregate the offences recorded as a result of the then VOSA from the data for this crime code for prior to 2010-11. For this crime code the data held by the Scottish Government are not comparable prior to 2010-11. The crime code is comparable from 2010-11 onwards. Further details regarding the effect of the removal of this source of data are given in Annex B. The Scottish Government are still investigating how to resolve this comparability issue. As a result the data for these crime codes prior to 2010-11 will not be included in the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin.

7. Overall comparability

Following the analysis carried out by the Scottish Government, it was found that there were no issues regarding comparability for Groups 1 to 5, referred to as crimes. However, it was found that a number of crime codes in Groups 6 and 7, referred to as offences, are non-comparable.

For Group 6, all crime codes are fully comparable from 2008-09 onwards, with only two crime codes being non-comparable prior to 2008-09. Therefore, overall comparison for Group 6 should only be made for 2008-09 onwards. Comparisons for the Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct and Other miscellaneous offences categories in Group 6 should also only be made for 2008-09 onwards. The comparability of the remaining three categories in Group 6, Common assault, Breach of the peace etc. and Urinating etc., are not affected.

Due to the standardisation of reporting practices following the establishment of Police Scotland, there are greater comparability issues for Group 7. There are no comparability issues for two of the categories in Group 7: Dangerous and careless driving and Driving under the influence. For the other categories in Group 7 comparisons should only be made for the following time periods:

2008-09 onwards
- Seat belt offences
- Mobile phone offences

2013-14 onwards
- Speeding
- Unlawful use of vehicle
- Vehicle defect offences
- Other motor vehicle offences

The overall comparability for Groups 6 and 7, as well as the categories within these groups, are shown in Table 7.1. The individual crimes code that are non-comparable and the time periods for which they are non-comparable are shown in Annex A.

Table 7.1: Comparability of offences

Offence group	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Miscellaneous offences	Non-Comparable				Comparable					
Common assault	Comparable									
Breach of the peace etc.	Comparable									
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	Non-Comparable				Comparable					
Urinating etc.	Comparable									
Other	Non-Comparable			Comparable						
Motor vehicle offences	Non-Comparable									
Dangerous and careless driving	Comparable									
Driving under the influence	Comparable									
Speeding	Non-Comparable									
Unlawful use of vehicle	Non-Comparable									
Vehicle defect offences	Non-Comparable									
Seat belt offences	Non-Comparable			Comparable						
Mobile phone offences	Non-Comparable			Comparable						
Other	Non-Comparable									

Annex A: Non-comparable crime codes

The following crimes codes in Groups 6 and 7 were found to be non-comparable as a result of the analysis carried out by the Scottish Government:

Top 35 Category	Crime Code
Group 6: Miscellaneous Offences	
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct -	• Disorderly on licensed premises – prior to 2008-09
Other -	• Control of pollution – prior to 2008-09
Group 7: Motor Vehicle Offences	
Speeding -	• Speeding in restricted areas – prior to 2013-14 • Other speeding offences – prior to 2013-14
Unlawful use of vehicle -	• Vehicle excise licence offences – prior to 2013-14 • Registration or identification mark offences (not lighting) – prior to 2013-14 • Using motor vehicle without test certificate – prior to 2008-09 • Driving without a licence (including under age) – prior to 2008-09 • Failure to insure against third party risks – prior to 2008-09
Vehicle defect offences -	• Lighting offences, motor vehicle – prior to 2013-14 • Construction and use regulations (other than lighting) – prior to 2013-14
Mobile phone offences - Seat belt offences -	• Mobile phone offences – prior to 2008-09 • Seat belt offences – prior to 2008-09
Other -	• Driver's neglect of traffic directions (not pedestrian crossing) – prior to 2013-14 • Driver's contravention of pedestrian crossing regulations – prior to 2013-14 • Motorway traffic offences – prior to 2013-14 • Motor vehicle records of work (e.g. Tachograph) offences – prior to 2010-11

Annex B: Details of differences

As a consequence of the points discussed in Section 4 it is not possible to accurately quantify the effect of the issues relating to legacy force data or the changes in reporting practices have had on the data. The figures given in the tables in this section are the best approximate measure of the extent of the differences.

Issues relating to legacy force data

The extent of the revisions due to issues relating to legacy force data are as follows:

Table B1: Breach of the peace in legacy Tayside Police data

Data Source	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Original legacy force data	6,496	6,850	6,700	5,897	5,572	5,120	4,795	3,408	2,672
Revised legacy force data and ScOMIS	8,348	8,635	8,364	7,802	7,701	7,284	6,708	3,801	2,898
Difference	1,852	1,785	1,664	1,905	2,129	2,164	1,913	393	226
Percentage difference	29%	26%	25%	32%	38%	42%	40%	12%	8%

Table B2: Double counting in legacy Tayside Police data

Data Source	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Urinating etc.					
Legacy force data			1,034	979	784
ScOMIS			593	511	411
Difference			-441	-468	-373
Percentage difference			-43%	-48%	-48%
Disorderly on licensed premises					
Legacy force data	56				
ScOMIS	24				
Difference	-32				
Percentage difference	-57%				
Refusing to quit licensed premises					
Legacy force data		30	38	78	62
ScOMIS		13	25	41	36
Difference		-17	-13	-37	-26
Percentage difference		-57%	-34%	-47%	-42%
Consumption of alcohol in designated places, byelaws prohibited					
Legacy force data			290	245	84
ScOMIS			163	127	47
Difference			-127	-118	-37
Percentage difference			-44%	-48%	-44%
Control of pollution					
Legacy force data	104	95	138	80	76
ScOMIS	31	36	32	29	17
Difference	-73	-59	-106	-51	-59
Percentage difference	-70%	-62%	-77%	-64%	-78%

Table B3: Double counting and a backlog in data entry in legacy Lothian and Borders Police data

Data Source	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Using a motor vehicle without a test certificate					
Legacy force data	1,631	1,871	2,246	2,159	1,947
ScOMIS	1,673	1,844	1,919	1,811	1,632
Difference	42	-27	-327	-348	-315
Percentage difference	3%	-1%	-15%	-16%	-16%
Driving without a license (including under age)					
Legacy force data	1,761	1,526	1,283	1,180	1,129
ScOMIS	1,838	1,474	1,302	1,216	1,081
Difference	77	-52	19	36	-48
Percentage difference	4%	-3%	1%	3%	-4%
Failure to insure against third party risks					
Legacy force data	3,632	3,409	3,364	3,097	3,140
ScOMIS	3,727	3,247	3,202	2,871	2,814
Difference	95	-162	-162	-226	-326
Percentage difference	3%	-5%	-5%	-7%	-10%
Seat belt offences					
Legacy force data	2,862	3,836	4,954	3,696	2,906
ScOMIS	3,432	3,689	3,971	2,954	2,307
Difference	570	-147	-983	-742	-599
Percentage difference	20%	-4%	-20%	-20%	-21%
Mobile phone offences					
Legacy force data	2,742	3,701	5,183	4,070	2,951
ScOMIS	3,369	3,590	4,310	3,421	2,418
Difference	627	-111	-873	-649	-533
Percentage difference	23%	-3%	-17%	-16%	-18%

Table B4: Invalid data, Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary

Data Source	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Using a motor vehicle without a test certificate					
Legacy force data	314	401	491	421	432
ScOMIS	751	658	513	499	572
Difference	437	257	22	78	140
Percentage difference	139%	64%	4%	19%	32%
Driving without a license (including under age)					
Legacy force data	490	363	356	313	246
ScOMIS	453	346	315	308	255
Difference	-37	-17	-41	-5	9
Percentage difference	-8%	-5%	-12%	-2%	4%
Failure to insure against third party risks					
Legacy force data	815	693	717	591	571
ScOMIS	805	691	693	601	575
Difference	-10	-2	-24	10	4
Percentage difference	-1%	0%	-3%	2%	1%
Lighting offences, motor vehicle					
Legacy force data				560	653
ScOMIS				120	117
Difference				-440	-536
Percentage difference				-79%	-82%
Construction and use regulations (other than lighting)					
Legacy force data	572	704	984	1,142	1,229
ScOMIS	249	281	244	289	294
Difference	-323	-423	-740	-853	-935
Percentage difference	-56%	-60%	-75%	-75%	-76%
Seat belt offences					
Legacy force data	864	967	1,356	919	806
ScOMIS	809	851	1,228	862	751
Difference	-55	-116	-128	-57	-55
Percentage difference	-6%	-12%	-9%	-6%	-7%
Mobile phone offences					
Legacy force data	665	554	735	669	756
ScOMIS	732	608	786	774	807
Difference	67	54	51	105	51
Percentage difference	10%	10%	7%	16%	7%

Table B5: Invalid data, Fife Constabulary

Data Source	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Using a motor vehicle without a test certificate					
Legacy force data	977	781	621	574	583
ScOMIS	1,246	1,256	1,356	1,617	1,567
Difference	269	475	735	1,043	984
Percentage difference	28%	61%	118%	182%	169%
Driving without a license (including under age)					
Legacy force data	766	615	421	473	
ScOMIS	760	608	413	467	
Difference	-6	-7	-8	-6	
Percentage difference	-1%	-1%	-2%	-1%	
Failure to insure against third party risks					
Legacy force data	2,011	1,506	1,112	1,172	987
ScOMIS	1,924	1,412	1,034	1,089	976
Difference	-87	-94	-78	-83	-11
Percentage difference	-4%	-6%	-7%	-7%	-1%
Seat belt offences					
Legacy force data	2,521	2,877	1,902	1,922	1,546
ScOMIS	1,178	2,184	1,405	1,505	1,538
Difference	-1,343	-693	-497	-417	-8
Percentage difference	-53%	-24%	-26%	-22%	-1%
Mobile phone offences					
Legacy force data	1,061	911	773	911	
ScOMIS	528	704	614	752	
Difference	-533	-207	-159	-159	
Percentage difference	-50%	-23%	-21%	-17%	

Table B6: Missing data sources in legacy Lothian and Borders Police data

Data Source	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Litter offences					
Legacy force data	0	0	0	0	0
ScOMIS	9	6	5	5	1
Difference	9	6	5	5	1
Percentage difference	-	-	-	-	-
Bicycles, other offences					
Legacy force data		6	2	9	3
ScOMIS		14	20	19	30
Difference		8	18	10	27
Percentage difference		133%	900%	111%	900%

Table B7: Individual crime codes

Data Source	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Legacy Central Scotland Police					
Salmon and freshwater fisheries offences					
Legacy force data					145
ScOMIS					19
Difference					-126
Percentage difference					-87%
Legacy Lothian and Borders Police					
Data protection act offences					
Legacy force data					2
ScOMIS					11
Difference					9
Percentage difference					450%
Failing to provide information to identify driver of motor vehicle					
Legacy force data		519			
ScOMIS		136			
Difference		-383			
Percentage difference		-74%			
Legacy Tayside Police					
Drunk and incapable					
Legacy force data		541			
ScOMIS		314			
Difference		-227			
Percentage difference		-42%			
Insure against third party risks, other offences					
Legacy force data	95				
ScOMIS	2				
Difference	-93				
Percentage difference	-98%				

Changes in reporting practices

The extent of differences between legacy force data and ScOMIS as the result of changes in reporting practices are as follows:

Table B8: Scottish Safety Camera Programme, Scotland

Data Source	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Speeding in restricetd areas					
Legacy force data	52,146	50,788	50,890	53,068	62,188
ScOMIS	28,729	26,874	28,118	29,565	32,066
Difference	-23,417	-23,914	-22,772	-23,503	-30,122
Percentage difference	-45%	-47%	-45%	-44%	-48%
Other speeding offences					
Legacy force data	65,110	62,735	63,239	72,153	66,748
ScOMIS	27,383	27,889	27,620	34,650	34,335
Difference	-37,727	-34,846	-35,619	-37,503	-32,413
Percentage difference	-58%	-56%	-56%	-52%	-49%
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (not pedestrian crossing)					
Legacy force data	26,995	31,281	34,195	31,786	34,404
ScOMIS	20,737	25,242	30,301	28,020	31,073
Difference	-6,258	-6,039	-3,894	-3,766	-3,331
Percentage difference	-23%	-19%	-11%	-12%	-10%
Drivers contravention of pedestrain crossing regulations					
Legacy force data	3,499	4,137	3,944	4,317	4,537
ScOMIS	3,342	4,026	3,849	4,134	4,447
Difference	-157	-111	-95	-183	-90
Percentage difference	-4%	-3%	-2%	-4%	-2%
Motorway traffic offences					
Legacy force data	861	703	709	924	1,004
ScOMIS	354	299	302	427	412
Difference	-507	-404	-407	-497	-592
Percentage difference	-59%	-57%	-57%	-54%	-59%

Table B9: Tickets issued by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Vehicle excise license offences, Scotland

Data Source	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Legacy force data	15,654	14,688	11,673	12,710	11,812
ScOMIS	8,976	7,920	6,234	7,536	7,521
Difference	-6,678	-6,768	-5,439	-5,174	-4,291
Percentage difference	-43%	-46%	-47%	-41%	-36%

Table B10: Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme, Scotland

Data Source	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Registration or identification mark offences (not lighting)					
Legacy force data	5,222	5,397	4,520	3,879	3,375
ScOMIS	4,167	4,347	4,110	3,509	3,031
Difference	-1,055	-1,050	-410	-370	-344
Percentage difference	-20%	-19%	-9%	-10%	-10%
Lighting offences, motor vehicle					
Legacy force data	11,638	12,791	8,910	10,560	11,470
ScOMIS	8,404	9,135	7,901	8,835	9,683
Difference	-3,234	-3,656	-1,009	-1,725	-1,787
Percentage difference	-28%	-29%	-11%	-16%	-16%
Construction and use regulations (other than lighting)					
Legacy force data	13,965	13,875	13,011	13,534	12,819
ScOMIS	11,593	11,749	11,930	11,798	11,298
Difference	-2,372	-2,126	-1,081	-1,736	-1,521
Percentage difference	-17%	-15%	-8%	-13%	-12%

Table B11: Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency, Motor vehicle records of work (e.g. Tachograph) offences, legacy Lothian and Borders Police

Data Source	2008-09	2009-10
Legacy force data	3,113	2,133
ScOMIS	113	281
Difference	-3,000	-1,852
Percentage difference	-96%	-87%

Annex C: Classification of crimes and offences

Shown below are the seven crime and offence groups split into the 35 crime and offence categories, referred to as the top 35 categories, that are used in the presentation of recorded crime data. The main types of crimes and offences that each top 35 category consists of are also shown. A full list of all the crime codes, around 470, used by the Scottish Government to classify crimes and offences can be accessed in Excel format here: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/Classification

The crime codes in Groups 6 and 7 which are non-comparable have also been highlighted in the Excel file.

Crimes

Group 1: Non-Sexual Crimes Of Violence (Also referred to as **Crimes of Violence**)

Homicide etc. -

Includes:
- Murder
- Culpable homicide
  - Culpable homicide (common law)
  - Causing death by dangerous driving
  - Causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs
  - Causing death by careless driving
  - Illegal driver involved in fatal accident
  - Corporate homicide

Attempted murder and serious assault -

Includes:
- Attempted murder
- Serious assault

An assault is classified as **serious** if the victim sustained an injury resulting in detention in hospital as an in-patient or any of the following injuries whether or not he/she was detained in hospital: fractures, internal injuries, severe concussion, lacerations requiring sutures which may lead to impairment or disfigurement or any other injury which may lead to impairment or disfigurement.

Robbery -

Robbery and assault with intent to rob

Other -	Includes: • Threats and extortion • Cruel and unnatural treatment of children • Abortion • Concealment of pregnancy • Possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, commit crime etc. • Abduction • Ill treatment of mental patients • Drugging
Group 2: Sexual Crimes	Prior to 2013-14 this group was known as **Sexual offences**, as this corresponds to the name of the legislation implemented on 1 December 2010 covering these crimes. This led to some confusion as to whether this group was being included in crimes or offences. To emphasise that these are crimes, as they always have been, this group has been renamed **Sexual crimes**. The corresponding name changes have been made to the other crime categories in this group.
Rape and attempted rape -	Includes: • Rape • Attempted rape
Sexual assault -	Includes: • Contact sexual assault (13-15 year old or adult 16+) • Sexually coercive conduct (13-15 year old or adult 16+) • Sexual crimes against children under 13 years • Lewd and libidinous practices
Crimes associated with prostitution -	Includes: • Crimes relating to prostitution • Soliciting services of person engaged in prostitution • Brothel keeping • Immoral traffic • Procuration
Other -	Includes: • Other sexually coercive conduct • Other sexual crimes involving 13-15 year old children

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- Taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children
- Incest
- Unnatural crimes
- Public indecency
- Sexual exposure
- Other sexual crimes

Group 3: Crimes Involving Dishonesty	(Also referred to as **Dishonesty**)
Housebreaking -	Includes: • Theft by Housebreaking domestic property (dwelling and non-dwelling) • Theft by Housebreaking other property • Housebreaking with intent to steal domestic property (dwelling and non-dwelling) • Housebreaking with intent to steal other property • Attempted Housebreaking with intent to enter and steal domestic property (dwelling and non-dwelling) • Attempted Housebreaking with intent to enter and steal other property
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP) -	• Theft by opening lockfast places (excluding motor vehicle) • OLP (excluding motor vehicle) with intent to steal • Attempted OLP excluding motor vehicle with intent to steal
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP -	Includes : • Theft by OLP from a motor vehicle • OLP with intent to steal from a motor vehicle • Attempted OLP with intent to steal from a motor vehicle
Theft of motor vehicle -	• Theft of a motor vehicle and contents • Attempted theft of a motor vehicle
Shoplifting -	Shoplifting
Other theft -	Includes : • Theft of pedal cycles • Theft from a motor vehicle not elsewhere

classified

Fraud -	Includes: • Common law fraud • Statutory fraud • Forgery and uttering (excluding currency crimes)
Other crimes of dishonesty -	Includes: • Forgery (other) • Reset • Embezzlement • Corruption

Group 4: Fire-Raising, Vandalism Etc.

Fire-raising -	Includes: • Fire-raising • Muirburn
Vandalism, etc. -	Includes: • Malicious mischief • Vandalism • Culpable and Reckless conduct (not with firearms) • Reckless conduct with firearms

Group 5: Other Crimes

Crimes against public justice -	Includes: • Perjury • Resisting arrest • Bail offences other than absconding or re-offending • Wasting police time
Handling offensive weapons -	Includes: • Possession of an offensive weapon • Restriction of offensive weapons • Having in a public place an article with a blade or point • Having in prison an article with a blade or point • Possession of a firearm in a prison • Possession of an offensive weapon (not elsewhere specified) in a prison

Drugs -	Includes: • Importation of drugs • Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs • Possession and supply of controlled drugs • Related money laundering offences • Bringing drugs into prison
Other -	Includes: • Treason • Conspiracy • Explosives offences • Wrecking, piracy and hijacking • Crimes against public order

Offences

Group 6: Miscellaneous Offences

Common assault -	Includes: • Common assault • Common assault of an emergency worker
Breach of the peace etc. -	Includes: • Breach of the peace • Threatening or abusive behaviour • Offence of stalking • Offensive behaviour at football (Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act 2012) • Threatening communications (Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act 2012)
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct -	Includes: • Drunk and disorderly • Drunk and incapable • Drunk in charge of a child • Drunk and attempting to enter licensed premises • Drunk or drinking in unlicensed premises • Disorderly on licensed premises • Drunk and attempting to enter a sports ground • Refusing to quit licensed premises • Consumption of alcohol in designated places, byelaws prohibited

Urinating etc.	Urinating/defecating
Other -	Includes:

- Racially aggravated harassment
- Racially aggravated conduct
- False/Hoax calls
- Offences involving children
- Offences involving animals/plants
- Offences against local legislation
- Offences against liquor licensing laws
- Labour laws
- Naval military and air force laws
- Offences against environmental legislation
- Consumer protection acts

Group 7: Motor Vehicle Offences

Dangerous and careless driving -	Includes:

- Dangerous driving offences
- Driving carelessly

Driving under the influence -	Includes:

- Driving or in charge of motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs
- Blood alcohol content above limit
- Failing to provide breath, blood or urine specimens

Speeding -	Includes:

- Speeding in restricted areas
- Other speeding offences

Unlawful use of vehicle -	Includes:

- Driving while disqualified
- Driving without a licence
- Driving without insurance
- Driving without a test certificate
- Vehicle tax and registration and identification offences

Vehicle defect offences -	Includes:

- Construction and use regulations (other than lighting)
- Lighting offences

Mobile phone offences -	Mobile phone offences

Seat belt offences -   Seat belt offences

Other -   Includes:
- Driver's neglect of traffic directions (not pedestrian crossing)
- Driver's contravention of pedestrian crossing regulations
- Motorway traffic offences
- Motor vehicle records of work (e.g. tachograph) offences
- Accident offences
- Parking offences

Seat belt offences