

From : [REDACTED]  
To : [REDACTED]  
CC : [REDACTED], Nicola.Edge [REDACTED],  
Roger.Halliday [REDACTED], Sandy Stewart/NEWPORT/ONS, [REDACTED]  
Date Sent : 07/05/2014 13:53:05  
Subject : Re: Assessment - Recorded Crime - review of commentary  
[REDACTED]

Many thanks for your recent emails, I was out of the office last week but I see that you were in contact with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

I understand that you have had a conversation with [REDACTED] about the commentary that you are drafting for the next report and that she has provided some high level pointers of good practice. There is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow to discuss this in more detail but I don't think that we should proceed with the meeting at this stage. Our assessment will review the commentary against the Authority's Standards for Statistical Reports (<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/news/statement---standards-for-statistical-reports.pdf>), and we advise you to consider all of the points within that statement as you review your commentary. There is also a wide range of additional helpful material available on one of the good practice pages of the GSS website (<https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/statistics/presentation-and-dissemination/>). Further advice is also available from the National Statistician's Office. If you contact [REDACTED] in the first instance he will be able to direct you to the best source. Also, the Office of the Chief Statistician in the Scottish Government should be able to provide advice for the Assessment.

We have in the past made comments on drafts of supporting documentation as they are prepared, and in light of this I'll review the document you sent through outlining your plans to do some work looking at the SCJS and recorded crime statistics.

Thank you for also setting up a meeting with your policy colleagues tomorrow. We are interested in their views as a specific group of users of these statistics. We will be asking the standard questions that we ask of all users such as how they are consulted as users, their views on the commentary etc. They may feel that these are topics that they could be more comfortable speaking about without the statisticians present.

There are some outstanding questions from our original list, and also some further questions that have arisen (see attachment for both). It would be easier for us to discuss these face to face. In this case I propose that tomorrow we schedule the morning as:

- 11-12 UKSA and SG Policy (meeting to gather user views)
- 12 -12.30 UKSA and SG statisticians (meeting to discuss the statistics)

Best wishes,  
[REDACTED].



SG crime statistics - Questions as at 07.05.14.docx

[REDACTED] | Monitoring & Assessment Team | UK Statistics Authority | [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]  
Nicola.Edge [REDACTED], Roger.Halliday [REDACTED], Sandy  
Stewart/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED]  
Date: 01/05/2014 16:40  
Subject: RE: Assessment - Recorded Crime - review of commentary

Hi [REDACTED]

Further to my recent email, this is to let you know that [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] in Police Division, will also be joining us for the meeting at  
11 am next Thursday.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Safer Communities Analytical Unit  
Justice Analytical Services  
Scottish Government  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 30 April 2014 13:52  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Edge N (Nicola); Halliday R (Roger); 'Sandy Stewart'; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Assessment - Recorded Crime - review of commentary

Hi [REDACTED]

I can confirm that both meetings will be held on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May** in [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], as follows:

**09.30 – 11.00** - meeting to discuss commentary

**11.00 – 12.30** – meeting with policy colleagues from Police Division

A tele-conferencing facility will be available. [REDACTED] – could you let me know which  
number we should contact you on, please?

Upon your arrival at [REDACTED], Reception staff have been advised to contact  
me on [REDACTED].

For information, [REDACTED], Police Division and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], Police Division will be attending the meeting at 11 am.

Please let me know if you have any queries.

Look forward to seeing you on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Safer Communities Analytical Unit  
Justice Analytical Services  
Scottish Government  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 30 April 2014 12:19  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Edge N (Nicola); Halliday R (Roger); Sandy Stewart; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Assessment - Recorded Crime - review of commentary

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email.

Yes, it was very helpful to speak with [REDACTED] earlier this morning to discuss some of the main issues on the commentary.

I'll contact our policy colleagues with a view to setting up both meetings on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May but I will email you separately with details of dates and times.

For information, our policy colleagues in Police Division are based in [REDACTED] and I would aim to arrange the meetings in that building. I note that [REDACTED] will dial in to both meetings.

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
Safer Communities Analytical Unit  
Justice Analytical Services  
Scottish Government  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 30 April 2014 11:56  
**To:** [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]; Edge N (Nicola); Halliday R (Roger); Sandy Stewart; [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: Assessment - Recorded Crime - review of commentary

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for this, and for the other emails you sent today and yesterday. They are really useful.

I believe you spoke to [REDACTED] earlier this morning and she was able to highlight a few of the main issues on the commentary. Myself and [REDACTED] will be happy to meet up with you next week to go through these in more detail. And [REDACTED] will dial in if possible. We're all free all day Thursday (8th May) if that suits.

You also mentioned setting up a meeting with the policy team. That would be great if you could set that up, preferably also for the 8th May if that's possible. If not then we are also free Friday afternoon (9th May) and possible Tuesday morning (6th May).

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Monitoring & Assessment Team | UK Statistics Authority | [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED], Sandy Stewart/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,  
[Roger.Halliday](mailto:Roger.Halliday@ons.gov.uk), [Nicola.Edge](mailto:Nicola.Edge@ons.gov.uk), [REDACTED]  
Date: 29/04/2014 19:27  
Subject: Assessment - Recorded Crime - review of commentary

Hi [REDACTED]

I understand from the meeting between the Scottish Government and the UK Statistics Authority on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April, that the UK Statistics Authority has concerns with the commentary provided in the *Recorded Crime in Scotland* statistical bulletin.

As we have mentioned at earlier meetings, we are reviewing the format and content of the next publication. Some areas which we are reviewing include the following:

- Police reform and the establishment of Police Scotland means that we will no longer be providing commentary at police force area level but will instead be providing commentary on each of the crime groups, with references to local authority statistics. The focus on local authority level data means that we propose to make available web tables at local authority level, covering a ten year period.

We can provide you with a document showing the proposed new structure

and summary of content of the forthcoming publication. We can also provide a file which shows the format and content of the local authority web tables (based on ten years of data up to, and including, 2012-13, by way of an example).

- As you are aware, the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) has moved to a biennial design. The most recent findings (for 2012-13) were published in March 2014 and we are proposing to include more detailed information on the SCJS and the comparisons with police recorded crime, in the next publication. We can provide you with an overview of the content of this section of the report.
- From the second half of last year, we have also been working with four nations crime statistics producer colleagues and have been engaged in activity relating to the comparability of crime and justice statistics, leading to a publication by ONS earlier this year. We have also been working with colleagues from ONS on the text contained within their quarterly crime statistics publication, relating to the comparability of police recorded crime statistics. We will include a corresponding section on the comparability of crime statistics in our next publication.

It would be helpful if myself and [REDACTED] could meet with you to review the publication and discuss the areas of concern and consider whether the work we are currently undertaking is focussed in the appropriate areas, with the overall aim being for us to address any areas of concern in advance of the next publication and to incorporate any relevant additional material in the publication, as required.

**I appreciate that this is short notice, but would it be convenient to meet with you to-morrow afternoon (Wed 29<sup>th</sup> April)?** [REDACTED] and I would be happy to come to your office in Edinburgh. Alternatively, we could discuss some of these topics by phone. .

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Safer Communities Analytical Unit  
Justice Analytical Services  
Scottish Government  
[REDACTED]

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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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