

From : [REDACTED]  
To : [REDACTED]  
CC : [REDACTED]  
Date Sent : 07/11/2014 12:34:09  
Subject : [Re: FW: SCJS and Police Record Crime comparison papers](#)

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your helpful and constructive response. We'd be happy to review further drafts in due course, so that we can make a judgment about Code compliance ahead of publication.

All the best

[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Date: 07/11/2014 09:57  
Subject: FW: SCJS and Police Record Crime comparison papers

Hi [REDACTED],

Many thanks for your helpful notes on our work to bring the two sources together, i.e. the chapter and analytical paper, to address the two requirements concerning the relationship between police recorded crime (PRC) and the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS).

### **Purpose and overall approach**

Having reviewed your comments, previous UKSA comments which advised an analytical paper would be required, and considered where we are now in relation to likely publication date of PRC, we have assessed that the most appropriate way for us to address all views is to improve the draft chapter but also publish an analytical paper with the additional analytical detail (if time allows, alongside PRC, otherwise potentially following PRC publication).

You helpfully point out that we can improve user focus in our work. In the acquisitive crime example you have highlighted we will work on aiding user interpretation – for example, if you are interested in the likely range of such crime in the underlying population you should use SCJS (but note the small sample sizes and variation) and if you are interested in the amount of such crime the police are faced with you should use

PRC. We will also add more on the range of factors which influence trends in both series. For example, changes in survey sampling methodology, frequency of surveying etc, which may have affected SCJS estimates, and with respect to PRC note that potential changes in other societal factors, reporting and recording practice may affect results over time.

## **Overall tone and structure**

We are currently rewriting the chapter and analytical paper to incorporate your advice, aiming to make (at least the analytical paper) more concise, using a more positive tone to present a picture of crime in Scotland informed by both sources (maximising value and minimising risk of misinterpretation – so, as you have noted, some caveats will of course still be required, though we will reduce repetition of them). While the remainder of the PRC publication is also still being finalised, in addition to this chapter, SCJS will be highlighted up front in the PRC publication and likely in other places in too.

## **Content**

While I understand your views on this, in terms of the proposed additional statistical testing, we have concerns over the proposed methodology for assessing differences between PRC and SCRS, for example we're unsure how anyone could robustly estimate uncertainty around PRC. In addition, we have a small number of data points and we have small sample sizes of victims: the SCJS (of course happily) finds small numbers of victims of crime within the sample, so uncertainty in SCJS is already large, especially the comparable acquisitive and violent crime groups. We do not judge it appropriate to complete further statistical tests based on estimates which can generate such wide confidence intervals around results (for example, for violent crime the 2012/13 result is 236k +/- 40k, and therefore the confidence intervals around changes between survey sweeps will be substantially wider), especially where changes can be affected by small clusters of responses from one survey sweep to the next. We view that the two sources are perfectly valid, complementary sources, allowing broad comparisons between some crime groups.

Having read the section on reporting to the police again I agree that this could be clearer and we will consider adding possible influencing/explanatory factors into the narrative – we are working on this, however we are reluctant to speculate very much here as the underlying point is that these are two quite independent sources and could never be expected to marry up completely or even closely. We'll add the analysis by crime group back in to an annex, as before, with caveats highlighting the low sample sizes involved.

Other points:

- Agreed – we will note that the survey is biennial, not continuous.
- Comparisons to previous year / four-year trend – ok, we have generally tried to focus on the four-year trend, but I have spotted a few places where we comment on the changes from the previous year first. We will reverse this.



I attach a Word document that covers a summary of our review of the material grouped by the following areas: purpose, overall structure and tone, and content. I trust that this gives a steer to aid your further development work on this analysis.

All the best

[Redacted]

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

[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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