Follow-up questions for Scottish Government Police Recorded Crime Team

from a review of available evidence

SG response to questions 6, 22, 23 and 24

Principle 1: Meeting User Needs

Question 6

When you met with users at recent meetings, was anything about the content or presentation of the next release agreed, for example to present statistics by Local Authority? Was there any opposition to your proposals?

Response:

The main purpose was to consult with users about the geographic breakdowns provided in the publication which would need to be reviewed following the establishment of a single police service in Scotland. There were no agreements made during these discussions with regard to the content and presentation of the next release. There was no opposition to our proposals. Indeed there was a view from users that they would wish for the statistics to continue to be presented at local authority level.

Survey of the Crime and Justice Statistics section of the Scottish Government website

In March 2012, Justice Analytical Services published a report summarising the findings from a survey of the Crime and Justice Statistics section of the Scottish Government website. The report can be accessed here:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/jaswebsurvey

One of the suggestions of possible new information to go on the website, in relation to recorded crime, was a breakdown of some information to local authority level instead of police force area.

Scottish Government Crime and Justice Statistics User Day

A Scottish Government Crime and Justice Statistics User Day took place on Monday 5 March 2012.

The agenda for the User Day is available here:
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/JASstatsuserday

Police and Fire Reform - implications for data and analysis was included as a Workshop session at the User Day. The presentation is available here:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/invite/Session1

The presentation informed users about a number of aspects of police reform, including the structure of the service going forward. It noted that the introduction of a single police service will affect the statistical products JAS produces and that JAS would be consulting with users.

Principle 4: Sound methods and assured quality

Question 22

Can we see a draft contents list for the technical report?

Response:

The draft contents list of the Technical Report is provided below. Please note that the list it is still subject to final confirmation.

RECORDED CRIME IN SCOTLAND

TECHNICAL REPORT

DRAFT CONTENTS PAGE

Contents

Principle 6: Proportionate burden

Question 23

Have SG statisticians had input into the development of SCOMIS?

Response:

The project to develop the ScOMIS system was established in October 2012. The project requirements were determined by legacy police forces/Police Scotland and were resourced by personnel within the legacy police force structure/Police Scotland. The ScOMIS system was initially designed to extract data from over 50 data sources and crime data was only one category, in a number of categories of data, included in the ScOMIS system. The project team included a team of systems testing specialists who developed a test plan and protocol that was used to verify the data in ScOMIS following the loading of source data from each legacy force.

Although SG statisticians did not have input into the original development of ScOMIS, they have been involved in developments following the establishment of the system. It was essential that the SG assessed whether data extracted from the ScOMIS system for 2013-14 onwards were comparable with the existing time series and established whether any differences existed and, if so, the nature of any such differences.

For this reason, a quality assurance exercise was undertaken by SG statisticians in conjunction with police analysts from Police Scotland. A technical report, which is due to be published alongside the next recorded crime statistical bulletin, will detail the quality assurance work which has been carried out for each separate crime group. This work will, in turn, feed into decisions made about the comparability of ScOMIS data with data supplied previously by legacy police forces. Data for five years prior to the establishment of Police Scotland has been scrutinised.

Question 24

Have there been any difficulties in rolling out SCOMIS or in developing the central database to collate the data from the different sources?

Response:

This is primarily a matter for Police Scotland.

However, as stated in the response to Question 23, the project team included a team of systems testing specialists who developed a test plan and protocol that was used to verify the data in ScOMIS following the loading of source data from each legacy force.

Some issues were identified during the variable mapping/system testing processes. However during the subsequent quality assurance exercise undertaken by the SG, some further data issues were identified. The SG has worked with Police Scotland to successfully resolve these and to ensure that the data provided to the SG for 2013-14 reflect these corrections/amendments.