

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED



**SCOTTISH CRIME
RECORDING STANDARD
ANNUAL COMPLIANCE
AUDIT 2012**

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INTRODUCTION

In April 2004 the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) was introduced throughout Scotland.

The application of the SCRS is supported by the Scottish Government Justice Directorate Counting Rules for Crime where crimes and offences are grouped under recognised categories for statistical purposes as defined by the Scottish Government.

Tackling crime and the causes of crime are key priorities for all Scottish Forces. Ethical recording of crime is integral to modern policing and it is vitally important that Forces' crime recording and disposal practices are capable of withstanding rigorous scrutiny.

Accurate recording of crime assists analysis of crime patterns, trends and fluctuations and supports the National Intelligence Model. Accurate crime data illustrates to the Service, Local Government and the public at large how Forces are performing and identifies areas, if any, which require greater resourcing.

The aim of the SCRS is:

- To provide a more victim orientated approach that serves the needs of our communities, and ensures uniformity in crime recording practices throughout Scotland.

The following principles apply:

- All reports of incidents, whether crime related or not will result in the creation of an incident report which is auditable.
- Following initial registration, an incident will be recorded as a crime in all cases if:
 - (a) the circumstances amount to a crime defined by Scots Law or an offence under statute
 - and
 - (b) there is no evidence to the contrary
- Once recorded, a crime will remain recorded unless there is credible evidence to disprove that a crime had occurred

PURPOSE AND METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the audit is to demonstrate compliance with the SCRS and the Scottish Government Crime Counting Rules which support it.

The annual audit of compliance with the SCRS was conducted by Scottish Forces between September and December 2012.

Each of the 8 Scottish Police Forces and British Transport Police conducted an audit of their own crime and incident recording systems in accordance with the terms set out in the document 'ACPOS Audit Methodology for Reviewing the Quality of Crime Data Recorded by Scottish Police Forces' (Audit Methodology) which was originally published in 2005. The audit was conducted on version 6.4 of the Audit Methodology from September 2011. Results were forwarded to the ACPOS Scottish Crime Registrars' Audit Sub Group (SCR Audit Sub Group) for discussion and sharing of best practice.

Due to the differences in crime and incident recording systems across Scotland, some Forces found it necessary to tailor the Audit Methodology slightly to accommodate the limitations of their recording systems.

Tests 1 and Test 2 from the Audit Methodology are used in the Annual Compliance Audit. These two tests are designed to prove the audit trail from the recording of an initial crime related incident through to the recording of a crime. Correct application of counting rules and crime classifications are also taken into account.

The audit period was selected by the SCR Audit Sub Group. Data samples were obtained from incident records created during the seven day period between 13 and 19 August 2012. The starting date and time of the audit was 1200 hrs. on 13 August 2012. Sample sizes selected for audit ensured working to a 95% confidence level with a confidence interval of $\pm 3\%$, that the samples audited were statistically representative of all records of this type recorded during the audit period.

Compliance rates of 95% must be achieved in Test 1 and Test 2 to prove compliance with the standard:

Test 1- Crime Related Incidents closed correctly

- That crime related incidents closed as non-crimes are confirmed as being non crime related and the incident is clearly updated with a satisfactory narrative that eliminates any inference of criminality and fully justifies a non-crime disposal.
- Where incidents are identified as being crime related, the corresponding crime records are located. These records are then carried forward to form the sample for Test 2.
- For Scottish Forces using STORM MA as their command and control incident system data was selected from the following initial call types:

CR-60	Wildlife Crime
CR-61	Abduction/Extortion
CR-62	Sexual Offence
CR-63	Robbery
CR-64	Theft by Shoplifting
CR-65	Vehicle Crime
CR-66	Bogus Caller
CR-67	Housebreaking
CR-68	Crime in Progress
CR-69	Suspect Persons
CR-71	Assault
CR-78	Damage
CR-79	Other Dishonesty
ASB-58	Hate Crime
PW-40	Domestic Incident
PW-76	Child Protection

Where the incident recording system being audited was not STORM MA, initial call types similar to those listed were used.

Test 2 – Application of Scottish Government Counting Rules on recorded crimes in respect of the counting and classification of crimes

- Where an incident from Test 1 is identified as being crime related the corresponding crime record has been counted and classified correctly.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

A summary of the audit results from all Scottish Forces is shown in the table below.

Force	Compliance Rates for 2011 and 2012 Audits			
	Test 1		Test 2	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
Central Scotland	99.34%	98.40%	99.03%	99.45%
Dumfries & Galloway	97.36%	98.42%	100.00%	98.40%
Fife	95.73%	93.99%	99.06%	96.28%
Grampian	95.44%	97.20%	95.42%	93.01%
Lothian & Borders	93.90%	98.13%	98.75%	98.39%
Northern	98.87%	98.34%	93.51%	91.03%
Strathclyde	95.94%	95.31%	99.27%	97.63%
Tayside	84.42%	96.42%	99.72%	99.18%
British Transport Police	90.91%	98.28%	97.56%	97.22%
Scotland Overall	95.73%	97.02%	97.88%	96.13%

This is the fifth annual audit conducted by all Scottish Forces since the introduction of the SCRS in 2004.

Audit results from 2011 and 2012 for Scotland overall show compliance rates in excess of the pass rate of 95% in each of the tests. A more comprehensive breakdown of the audit results from each Force is shown in Appendix "A".

Some forces experienced difficulty in selecting their audit samples, as data is held on more than one system. Local adjustments were therefore required to be made to ensure the samples selected were as close as possible to those recommended within the Audit Methodology.

In their 2007 thematic inspection report 'A review of how the Scottish Crime Recording Standard has developed within the Police service in Scotland', Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMICS) recommended cross-scrutiny of Force audits as a means of ensuring a consistent approach.

The 2012 audit was subject to cross-scrutiny between Forces in accordance with guidelines within the Audit Methodology. These audits highlighted the benefits to be gained from cross-scrutiny and consideration will be given by the SCR Audit Sub Group to continue a similar process during 2013.

CONCLUSIONS

The use of different technology systems for recording incidents and crimes across Scotland is currently unavoidable and prevents strict adherence to the SCRS in some Forces. This can only be resolved if all Forces use common systems in a consistent manner.

Overall Scottish compliance rates of 97.02% in Test 1 and 96.13% in Test 2 show Scottish Forces to have exceeded the required ACPOS compliance rate of 95%. The 2012 result in Test 1 shows an increase in compliance from 2011 while an overall fall in compliance was recorded in Test 2. Areas of non-compliance highlighted by these audits are being addressed by Forces.

The Audit Methodology is under constant review by the SCR Audit Sub Group and will be reviewed during 2013.

Appendix "A" – Breakdown Of Audit Results Per Force

SCRS Audit Results										
Scottish Crime Recording Standard - Annual Audit 2012	Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Northern	Strathclyde	Tayside	British Transport Police	Scottish Total
Test 1 - Incidents Recorded Correctly										
Total number of crime related incidents recorded during 7 day period	576	759	556	458	1619	1737	3777	688	61	10231
Sample of crime related incidents required to be audited (95% confidence interval (+/-3%))	374	444	366	321	643	661	875	419	58	4161
Required sample as a % of all crime related incidents during audit period	64.93%	58.50%	65.83%	70.09%	39.72%	38.05%	23.17%	60.90%	95.08%	40.67%
Number of incidents audited which confirm crime has occurred where relevant crime record traced (SCRS compliant)	161	136	152	211	372	413	498	245	35	2223
Number of incidents audited which correctly identify that no crime has occurred (SCRS compliant)	207	301	192	101	259	237	336	159	22	1814
Number of incidents audited where it is unclear whether crime has occurred or not, or are in clear breach of SCRS (SCRS non-compliant)	5	2	22	8	3	0	28	13	1	82
Number of incidents audited which infer crime has occurred where relevant crime record not traced (SCRS non-compliant)	1	4	0	1	9	11	13	2	0	41
Total number of audited incidents which comply with SCRS	368	437	344	312	631	650	834	404	57	4037
Total number of audited incidents which do not comply with SCRS	6	6	22	9	12	11	41	15	1	123
Compliance Rate Test 1	98.40%	98.42%	93.99%	97.20%	98.13%	98.34%	95.31%	96.42%	98.28%	97.02%
Test 2 - Crimes Recorded Correctly										
Compliant incidents carried forward from Test 1	161	136	152	211	372	413	498	245	35	2223
Total number of crimes audited	181	188	188	272	372	535	591	245	36	2608
Number of Counting Rule errors found	1	2	5	6	1	39	6	1	0	61
Number of Crime Classification errors found	0	1	2	13	5	9	8	1	1	40
Total number of errors found	1	3	7	19	6	48	14	2	1	101
Total number of crimes recorded correctly	180	185	181	253	366	487	577	243	35	2507
Compliance Rate Test 2	99.45%	98.40%	96.28%	93.01%	98.39%	91.03%	97.63%	99.18%	97.22%	96.13%

Decisions were made by Northern Constabulary and Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary to audit a higher percentage of incidents than that required by Audit Methodology. Neither of these Forces currently use STORM MA as their Command and Control system.