

Pam Davies | Head of National Statistician's Office | Statistics House, Tredegar Park, Newport. NP10 8XG

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From: Roger.Halliday [REDACTED]
To: Pam Davies, [REDACTED]
Date: 07/07/2014 10:05
Subject: RE: Assessment report

Hi Pam

Thanks for the update and for your help. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I'm worried about the level of assurance required in this case and the fact that (even with the England and Wales report taking a different look at admin data) that this depth of reassurance wasn't signalled before the assessment started. I wanted to put these concerns on the record, following the meeting with Richard Laux last week, so have drafted the attached.

I know senior officials here are puzzled by this report and my Perm Sec is keen to see what could be done to resolve this. Who do you think it would be best within UKSA for him to speak to about it – Andrew Dilnot? Or is there a better way of handling you'd suggest. I'm around today if you were able to feed back after your meeting with John this morning.

Roger

Roger Halliday
Chief Statistician & Head of Performance, Scottish Government, [REDACTED]

From: Pam Davies [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 July 2014 16:30
To: Halliday R (Roger)
Subject: Assessment report

Hi Roger

I hope that you are well. [REDACTED]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

I hope that you have a good weekend.

Pam

Pam Davies | Head of National Statistician's Office | Statistics House, Tredegar Park, Newport. NP10 8XG

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Tha am post-d seo (agus faidhle neo ceanglan còmhla ris) dhan neach neo luchd-ainmichte a-mhàin. Chan eil e ceadaichte a chleachdadh ann an dòigh sam bith, a' toirt a-steach còraichean, foillseachadh neo sgaoileadh, gun chead. Ma 's e is gun d'fhuair sibh seo le gun fhiosd', bu choir cur às dhan phost-d agus lethbhreac sam bith air an t-siostam agaibh, leig fios chun neach a sgaoil am post-d gun dàil.

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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----- Message from Unknown on Unknown -----

To: <Richard.LAUX [REDACTED]
<national.statistician [REDACTED]>

cc: < [REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: Draft Assessment Report - Recorded Crime in Scotland

Richard

[Draft Assessment Report - Recorded Crime in Scotland](#)

Thanks for the chance to discuss your draft report earlier on Tuesday. While I hope you saw [REDACTED] suggestions around accuracy of report's content, I promised to follow

up our meeting with my personal views on the re-assessment process and de-designation decision.

On the process, my initial understanding was that this was to seek reassurance that the quality concerns found for England and Wales statistics were not replicated in Scotland. These were a disquiet among users about quality of the underlying data, a lack of assurance around recording practices, and a differing trend between the survey and administrative data, linked to the use of the recorded crime figures in police performance management. We agreed that you would seek reassurance from our users, and that I would ensure we delivered evidence on the other two reasons.

We have now given good evidence on the comparison between survey and admin data, you found few concerns from users, and, while the planned HMICS audit will be more comprehensive, the 2013 HMICS audit, combined with other long-standing assurance processes, suggests little evidence that there are flaws in recording or quality assurance practices. In fact, the report does not provide any evidence of significant or systematic problems with the quality of the recording of the data. To avoid any confusion from our users, this finding should be very clearly communicated in the report.

We got our final designation letter last July for other official statistics products based on the recorded crime data (homicide, domestic abuse, firearms). How UKSA considers data from administrative systems in its assessment work has clearly moved on since then. While this policy is still under development by the UKSA, it seems unreasonable to apply an approach to assessment that has not yet been decided or communicated.

Taking these issues together, I want to challenge the proposal on de-designation. I believe that we're at a point now where we can be fairly confident about the quality of recording and data management practices. Once we have the HMICS audit and your policy on taking statistics from administrative data is published, I'd be much more comfortable about accepting the decision of the assessment committee at that stage.

As I mentioned when we met, I am concerned about how my users would view a decision to de-designate these statistics at this time. Ed has explained to me that the situation in Scotland is different from that in England and Wales. This came up at our meeting too. I believe that as currently worded, the report would send a clear message that there isn't a difference, and also that the Scottish statistics and data could not be trusted. Whilst I recognise that a foreword from Ed may go some way to achieving this,

I think it is critical that para 1.2.6 should be re-written with this need for clarity of message in mind.

Finally, I feel that the criticism that we have done little to improve the quality of the statistics since the original assessment in 2009 is unjustified. We have delivered on the requirements of this previous assessment. [REDACTED] has given a lot of detail on what we have done to improve the data management, engagement with users and products, so I won't repeat those issues here. I would now ask you to reconsider the evidence you now have and the conclusions you can draw from this.

I would be helpful if you could let me know what you think about the concerns and issues I have raised here.

Best wishes,

Roger

Roger Halliday

Chief Statistician & Head of Performance, Scottish Government, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 June 2014 19:16
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: National Statistician; [REDACTED]; Halliday R (Roger); [REDACTED]
Subject: Draft Assessment Report - Recorded Crime in Scotland

[REDACTED]

Attached is our draft Assessment report *Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland*. I would be grateful if you could review this document for a factual check and advise us of any factual inaccuracies. You will see as you go through the report that we have a handful of questions that require some minor clarifications. Please note that this report is still in draft.

I have copied this draft to the National Statistician's Office and they will be in contact with you to discuss the report. I have also copied in Roger Halliday, the Chief Statistician in the Scottish Government.

Please send us comments by the close of play on **Wednesday 2 July 2014**.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in contact with either myself, [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Kind Regards,



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