

From : [REDACTED]
To : [REDACTED]
CC : [REDACTED], Nicola [REDACTED],
Roger.Halliday [REDACTED], Ed Humpherson/LONDON/ONS, Richard
Lau/LONDON/ONS
Date Sent : 14/02/2014 15:44:23
Subject : [Re: Crime statistics re-assessment](#)
Dear [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email, and for making the time to chat over your team's current workload in a little more detail earlier this afternoon.

As we discussed, the Authority is wanting to respond more quickly to potential issues that are arising, and the Board has directed us to conduct this assessment promptly. So I think that the issue is to decide how we fulfil this mandate in a way that minimises, as far as possible, the burden on you and your team.

When we spoke I confirmed that we wouldn't be looking back at old structures, processes and reports, but that the re-assessment would be entirely focused on how the Scottish Government is complying with the Code in relation to the new arrangements. For example this would cover how users were being engaged with in relation to any changes arising from the single police force, your quality processes in relation to the new data, and (in time) changes to the presentation of the statistics. Although the standard assessment process is designed to be low-input from the statistical team anyway, we'd look to see how we could collect the relevant evidence in as flexible way as we could to help you (for example by referring to existing documentation). We could also consider other models, such as whether we might be able to phase the re-assessment (as we did for the Census, for example). On several occasions we have worked in parallel with statistical teams during the development of statistics. This has worked well, and been received positively since our immediate feedback has helped to further enhance the developments towards Code compliance.

All the best

[REDACTED]

Assessment Programme Manager
Monitoring & Assessment
UK Statistics Authority

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Nicola.Edge [REDACTED], Roger.Halliday [REDACTED],
[REDACTED]
Date: 14/02/2014 10:57
Subject: RE: Crime statistics re-assessment

Morning [REDACTED],

Thank you for your reply. I am afraid that I am not clear as to why "we have to press on with the re-assessment now". It strikes me that the very different context in Scotland

should be a key factor in considering whether this is the best time for a Scottish re-assessment. As my previous email set out, this is a particularly different time for policing in Scotland (with a major restructuring of the police service on-going, the creation of new formats for our publications to reflect these structural changes, and a national referendum). An assessment at this time would be looking back at the old policing structures, processes and statistical reports in Scotland, rather than considering the new structures, processes and reports that are currently being developed.

I fully understand the concern arising from the context around police crime statistics in England and Wales (as detailed in the UKSA assessment report), however this context does not apply in Scotland (as shown in my previous email). So I would not agree that a general concern about policing statistics in England and Wales is in itself a rationale for pursuing a re-assessment of Scottish statistics. I am very concerned that a re-assessment at this time greatly risks the delay of this publication. Any such delay would mean that the first year of crime statistics from Police Scotland would not be published until after the referendum. As you can imagine, this is a situation that would best be avoided.

I would kindly ask for a re-consideration of the “need to press on” taking into account the very different Scottish context.

Thanks for your continued engagement.

Yours,

[Redacted signature block]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 14 February 2014 09:38
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]; Edge N (Nicola); Halliday R (Roger)
Subject: Re: Crime statistics re-assessment

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your reply. I do understand the pressures that you're under, but we have to press on with the re-assessment now. Acknowledging the pressures on your time, I am keen to find the most efficient way to conduct this re-assessment to minimise the impact on your team's work, and there are several alternative models that I think we can consider. I suggest that having that discussion be one of the main subjects of the initial meeting.

All the best

[Redacted signature block]

Assessment Programme Manager
Monitoring & Assessment
UK Statistics Authority

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Roger.Halliday](#), [REDACTED], [REDACTED],
[Nicola.Edge](#), [REDACTED]
Date: 11/02/2014 17:57
Subject: RE: Crime statistics re-assessment

Dear [REDACTED],

Thanks for your email. I do feel that commencing a re-assessment of “Recorded Crime in Scotland” at this time seriously jeopardises the successful timely delivery of the next publication (the first covering Police Scotland). As we discussed, Scotland is currently in the midst of the largest police service reorganisation in a generation. This is stretching our limited analytical resources fully. The creation of Police Scotland requires changes to our publication formats. It has also allowed for the introduction of new data collation solutions to produce Scotland level figures. Whereas this improves efficiencies and reduces data supplier burden, it also produces current pressures on our statisticians to quality assure these collation practices. At present, we are heavily involved in this time consuming work.

We are considering the learning for Scotland from the UKSA’s recommendations in “Crime Statistics in English and Wales”. However, I think it useful to note that the context around police crime statistics is different in Scotland reflecting its fully devolved nature. Paragraph 1.2.3 of “Crime Statistics in England and Wales” sets out the English and Welsh context which I am happy to report does not extend to Scotland. There is not a critical HMIC report on recorded crime in Scotland, in fact the latest review by HMICS (Dec 2013) is positive. There is also not a similar disparity between the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) and Scottish police crime data, as was discovered by ONS in their English and Welsh equivalents.

I do understand the UKSA interest in police data at this time, however I do feel that a full re-assessment exercise at this time would seriously jeopardise the successful delivery of our next publication. As we discussed, a 2015 re-assessment after the referendum and on the publication featuring Police Scotland data would be more helpful. I would be happy to discuss our on-going work with the UKSA to demonstrate that, during this time of institutional transition, our analytical resources are fully focussed on the delivery of high quality statistics.

Yours,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 06 February 2014 17:19
To: [Redacted]
Cc: Halliday R (Roger); [Redacted]
Subject: Re: Crime statistics re-assessment

Dear [Redacted]

It was good to chat earlier. I relayed the content of our conversation, and we have discussed here within the team, including with Ed Humpherson the new Head of Assessment.

Ultimately this re-assessment is important as police recorded crime statistics are the subject of current concern, and the expectation is that the Authority should respond more quickly to these kind of issues. The upshot of this is that we wish to start the re-assessment as soon as we can. I realise that this won't be the news you want to hear, but I hope that by making a quick start we can at least make most use of the relatively quiet period that you suggested you had at the start of each year. I think it would be helpful to try to meet as soon as we can to discuss dates and to identify whether there would be ways to collect the relevant evidence from you that would be more efficient, or mesh better with your other commitments than simply commissioning a new WEFA from you.

[Redacted] will be leading on the assessment from our side. I suggest that [Redacted] make contact with you straight away to establish the re-assessment.

All the best

[Redacted]

Assessment Programme Manager
Monitoring & Assessment
UK Statistics Authority

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Cc: Roger.Halliday; Sandy Stewart/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 04/02/2014 16:39
Subject: RE: Crime statistics re-assessment

Afternoon [REDACTED]

Hope this email finds you well. I believe that I have 2 dates to confirm with you: (i) for the re-assessment of "Recorded Crime in Scotland" and (ii) a continuous compliance check on the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey. I have noted suitable timings for these tasks below.

- "Recorded Crime in Scotland" – re-assessment – a suitable timing would be in 2015. As you are no doubt aware, Scotland has recently changed from having 8 police forces to have a single national police force. A re-assessment in 2015 would allow the first year of the transition process to have passed.
- Scottish Crime and Justice Survey – continuous compliance check – suitable timing would be post-September 2014.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 January 2014 14:32
To: Halliday R (Roger)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Crime statistics re-assessment

Thanks Roger

That timing will be fine.

[REDACTED]

Monitoring & Assessment
UK Statistics Authority

[REDACTED]

From: Roger.Halliday
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Date: 31/01/2014 14:28
Subject: RE: Crime statistics re-assessment

[REDACTED]

Sorry for not coming back on this sooner. You probably know that we are in the middle of the transition from 8 police forces into Police Scotland. I think the most productive reassessment would be following that change. My justice statistics colleagues are just working through key dates with Police Scotland colleagues and will come back to you on this early next week.

I hope this is OK. [REDACTED] – can you reply to Mark directly please.

Roger

Roger Halliday
Chief Statistician, Scottish Government, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 January 2014 09:35
To: Halliday R (Roger)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Crime statistics re-assessment

Dear Roger

I understand that when you met Richard and Sandy before Christmas the issue of a possible re-assessment of crime statistics for Scotland was raised. Please would you let me know when would be suitable timings from your perspective for this assessment to go ahead, so that we can schedule it in?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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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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