

From: Roger [REDACTED]
To: Sandy Stewart/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 03/04/2014 10:58
Subject: RE: Recorded Crime Assessment: Follow-up Questions

Hi Sandy

Recorded Crime Assessment: Follow-up Questions

Sorry for not coming back on this sooner – I was out of the office earlier this week.

Like you say, it was really useful to talk through this on Friday. I wanted to check my understanding of what you are planning and make a plea to help us focus our time on the issues most important to you.

As I talked to Ed about, we want to avoid any hint that reassessment activity has come in the way of robust recorded crime figures being published and used in decision making in June. We agreed a two stage process for this exercise, with our time focussing on getting you the key information for the May committee, with most of our input happening after we publish. To achieve the objective above and deliver a timely view on these statistics, it is important justice statistics colleagues are not significantly diverted from the quality assurance exercise on collation procedures employed by Police Scotland.

Seeing the detailed list of questions you sent through was helpful in giving an overall steer about direction (I have shared these with [REDACTED]). However, this is simply too big a list for us to answer without diverting our time from production of the June statistics. I'd suggest [REDACTED] talks to [REDACTED] about what from this long list is most important to answer in May and what can wait. I suppose I'm concerned about decisions about these statistics being taken on partial evidence. I am keen that we help as best we can, **we just need some support from you about how we focus the limited contribution we can make between now and May.**

I also wanted to make sure we are clear about how you actually want this to work. This has clearly been a source of tension in this process. We need this so we can talk to colleagues about what the reassessment is and is not. What I took from our conversation on Friday and [REDACTED] note is that there will be a proposal to the May assessment committee taking a balanced view of the following evidence

- the HMICS audit report on recorded crime data entry in Scotland
- the analysis of recorded crime vrs the crime and justice survey we have already shared (bringing in extra data in to supplement this)
- an e-mail survey of users that you will run (I saw that [REDACTED] launched this yesterday)
- a desk assessment by [REDACTED] of our previous "written evidence for assessment" document

Given this will be a partial picture of the evidence base, the May assessment committee would then make a conditional designation. Like I said, this is my understanding of the process – **have I understood this right?**

As you know statistics publications often get quite hectic in the 2-3 weeks ahead of publication. I noticed that the next COS is on 29th May, which suggested to me that the May assessment committee would meet the same day. This suggests that a draft report would be put to the committee a week beforehand and that the report would need to be finalised in mid-May. To make sure we plan time to comment on the draft report, it is quite important that we know the timing of when we'll get this and have adequate time to do so. **Can [REDACTED] share the plan with [REDACTED] and make sure we have a couple of weeks to work through the draft report with you.**

I'm then trying to work out what would be left to do following that before the **July assessment committee**. I assume this would be us jointly developing evidence to fill key gaps (following our recorded crime publication) and you would present a final report to the July assessment committee. Again, this the contribution from the justice statistics team will be limited in June/July because of their annual leave commitments. Apart from answering questions we haven't got time to ahead of May, I'm not sure what else there would be. It would be helpful to know plans for the June/July period – **it would help if [REDACTED] could share a project plan with [REDACTED] so we could best target our resources at each stage by planning alongside you.**

I talked to [REDACTED] about providing you with a list of stakeholders. This is something he was going to action, but then saw that [REDACTED] had written out to all ScotStat users and assumed you now have what you needed. I've asked him to talk to [REDACTED] to check this.

It would be helpful if you could confirm my understanding of the specification of the work, and to encourage [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to meet (as I have done). It is worth noting that while I'm trying to help us both best get what we need from this, I'm struggling to see how this is the two stage process I agreed with Ed and am a little frustrated about this. I think getting [REDACTED] to talk to [REDACTED] about what are the most important issues where we can contribute can only help us both.

I'm around today and tomorrow if you want to talk to me about this, but then off for two weeks until 22nd April.

Roger

Roger Halliday
Chief Statistician, Scottish Government, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Sandy Stewart [[mailto:sandy.stewart@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:sandy.stewart@[REDACTED])]
Sent: 01 April 2014 16:55
To: Halliday R (Roger)
Subject: Fw: Recorded Crime Assessment: Follow-up Questions

Hi Roger

It was good to catch up with you on Friday.

Did you find an opportunity to have a word with your crime stats colleagues?

I attach a copy of an email [REDACTED] sent to [REDACTED] on Friday. We are very keen to work closely with [REDACTED] and others on this exercise. I think the light touch approach, as we discussed, will work, but this does require us to work collaboratively and quickly.

I wonder if you could give them a gentle prompt. We are expecting to have a meeting tomorrow or Thursday. We are having some serious concerns about their lack of engagement.

I hope you can help in this matter. Many thanks.

Sandy

[Sandy Stewart](#) | Head of Edinburgh Office | UK Statistics Authority | [REDACTED]

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----- Forwarded by Sandy Stewart/NEWPORT/ONS on 01/04/2014 16:32 -----

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED], Sandy Stewart/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 28/03/2014 18:18
Subject: Recorded Crime Assessment: Follow-up Questions

[REDACTED],
Further to my email of 25 March, I am keen to schedule in the meeting that we agreed would take place the week commencing 31 March. Can you provide some times that suit your team and we can agree that early on Monday?

At our last meeting you noted that your resources were limited, and we agreed that we would undertake a review of ongoing Code compliance for these statistics, and would then advise you of any queries that arose from this. This was in order to enable your team to continue with your current quality assurance work.

I attach the resulting document which contains a number of our initial questions based on published evidence. This is not a complete review, just our emerging thoughts at this early stage on where we cannot find published evidence to answer our questions. We would be happy to take answers to these questions in whatever way you find most convenient, be it verbally in the meeting, or from documents that you have to hand to send to us, or links to published documents that we have missed.

You said that you are content with this approach and are not keen to complete a wefa, and that you have a copy of your original wefa for Assessment Report 2. However, for your information I attach a link to the current wefa, so that you are aware of the structure if you decide that you would prefer to complete it, or if it sparks any further thoughts on evidence that you could supply to us as part of the assessment.

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/guidance-about-assessment/output-related->

[evidence-for-assessment.doc](#)

One final thought, at our meeting of 20 March, you undertook to send us your user list to feed into our user consultation, I would be grateful if you could send that through.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | Monitoring & Assessment Team | UK Statistics Authority | [Redacted]

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