

From: Ed Humpherson/LONDON/ONS
To: Roger.Halliday [REDACTED]
Date: 04/04/2014 16:20
Subject: Fw: Assessment - Recorded Crime statistics

Roger

Thanks for the earlier conversation. When I spoke to my team, I discussed what to prioritise in the two-week interregnum between today and our meeting when you're back.

They felt that, instead of highlighting some priority areas, it would be better to ask [REDACTED] to answer the questions that he can most easily respond to. And some of them will be really very straightforward: yes or no - a quick phone call ought to do it; these are not in principle difficult questions. There are of course more in-depth questions in there too, but the brief to [REDACTED] is "help us by at least answering those questions that you can give an immediate response to".

My team have set out for me below the questions that producers typically find easiest to reply to (although this is their judgement - there may be some difficult ones here and others not listed below may be easier). And at the bottom of the email, we've included the whole list including in bold the typically easier ones.

I hope this helps. Could you give me contact details so we can set up the meeting on your return?

Ed

1. Can SG provide an extract of the ScotStat user list for the Crime and Justice group?
3. When will the statistics plan for 2014-15 be published and will users be consulted on it?
4. Are there plans to produce the Police Recorded Crime publication more frequently in future? Is there user demand for this?
5. Can we have information about the most recent updates circulated to ScotStat members (and evidence) about any planned changes?
7. How long do SG plan to allow users to feed back when SG consult in April? What will SG do if many users are opposed to the proposals in the consultation?
8. Do SG receive queries about the statistics, is a log kept?
9. How are changes in methodology or classifications announced to users?
12. Is there any documentation available to explain the roles and responsibilities of SG and Police Scotland in the production of the statistics?
13. Are you satisfied that all those involved in the production of the statistics are not subject to political pressures that might influence the production of the statistics?
19. How have you noted comparability between crime statistics producers in England and Wales and Northern Ireland?
20. Will the Technical Report include information about the quality of the statistics, such as the strengths and limitations of the stats, the caveats related to the fact the data source is live etc?
21. Do SG plan to get Police Scotland's approval for the technical report? Will they incorporate Police Scotland comments into the Technical Report?
23. Have SG statisticians had input into the development of SCOMIS?
26. Do you have plans for publishing supporting tables in non proprietary formats (for example other than Excel)?
27. When will SG confirm the June 2014 publication date to users? How likely is the risk of non-publication by June, based on the response for Police Scotland on the queries and therefore the outcome of the QA exercise?
28. Can we request a copy of your pre-release access list?

29. When do SG plan to update the Statement of Admin sources to reflect the change to the collection of Recorded Crime data?

Ed Humpherson
Head of Assessment
UK Statistics Authority



Full list of Follow up questions:

Principle 1: Meeting User Needs

1. **Can SG provide an extract of the ScotStat user list for the Crime and Justice group?**
2. Do you have more detailed documentation on who your users are and what they use the data for?
3. **When will the statistics plan for 2014-15 be published and will users be consulted on it?**
4. **Are there plans to produce the Police Recorded Crime publication more frequently in future? Is there user demand for this?**
5. **Can we have information about the most recent updates circulated to ScotStat members (and evidence) about any planned changes?**
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?
7. **How long do SG plan to allow users to feed back when SG consult in April? What will SG do if many users are opposed to the proposals in the consultation?**
8. **Do SG receive queries about the statistics, is a log kept?**

Principle 2: Impartiality and objectivity

9. **How are changes in methodology or classifications announced to users?**
10. For how long may police forces make amendments to crime records after they have been submitted to SG? Is the change flagged on the next set of data that SG receives from Police Scotland?

Principle 3: Integrity

11. Has there been any external critical questioning of the police recorded crime statistics, by the Scottish Parliament, media, academia or members of the public. How have SG statisticians responded to this?
12. **Is there any documentation available to explain the roles and responsibilities of SG and Police Scotland in the production of the statistics?**
13. **Are you satisfied that all those involved in the production of the statistics are not subject to political pressures that might influence the production of the statistics?**

Principle 4: Sound methods and assured quality

14. Who is responsible for defining policies, procedures and training requirements for crime recording? Is this the responsibility of SG Statisticians, Police Scotland or others?
15. SPA publish performance data in its report to the SPA board. The Audit Scotland report (November 2013) noted in paragraph 114 that "the Scottish Government is concerned that information in performance reports to the Boards may not be consistent with information published in its statistical bulletin. As a result, performance report to the SPA Board is now more selective and has less trend and comparative information than those presented previously to joint boards and police authorities". Can you tell us about the dialogue you have had with SPA and/or Police Scotland about these reports. What changes have been made to these reports compared with previous years? (we would be happy to review documents if they are to hand)
16. We understand that you are carrying out QA of the data with Police Scotland. Beyond this QA how do you satisfy yourselves with the quality of the data?
17. Do Police Scotland audit the underlying police recorded crime data? If so, do you have access to the audit reports as part of your quality assurance process?
18. Are Police Scotland responsible for recording all fraud crime or are there any other sources? Is Action Fraud operational in Scotland?
19. **How have you noted comparability between crime statistics producers in England and Wales and Northern Ireland?**
20. **Will the Technical Report include information about the quality of the statistics, such as the strengths and limitations of the stats, the caveats related to the fact the data source is live etc?**
21. **Do SG plan to get Police Scotland's approval for the technical report? Will they incorporate Police Scotland comments into the Technical Report?**
22. Can we see a draft contents list for the technical report

Principle 6: Proportionate burden

23. **Have SG statisticians had input into the development of SCOMIS?**
24. Have there been any difficulties in rolling out SCOMIS or in developing the central database to collate the data from the different sources?

Principle 7: Resources

25. Do you think that the police recorded crime statistics are sufficiently resourced in SG?

Principle 8: Frankness and accessibility

26. **Do you have plans for publishing supporting tables in non proprietary formats (for example other than Excel)?**

Protocols 1-3

27. **When will SG confirm the June 2014 publication date to users? How likely is the risk of non-publication by June, based on the response for Police Scotland on the queries and therefore the outcome of the QA exercise?**
28. **Can we request a copy of your pre-release access list?**
29. **When do SG plan to update the Statement of Admin sources to reflect the change to the collection of Recorded Crime data?**

----- Forwarded by Ed Humpherson/LONDON/ONS on 04/04/2014 15:55 -----

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Ed Humpherson/LONDON/ONS@ONS, Roger.Halliday [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Sandy Stewart/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED]
Date: 04/04/2014 15:52
Subject: Assessment - Recorded Crime statistics

[REDACTED],

Following Ed and Roger's conversation today about the recorded crime in Scotland assessment, I understand we will all be meeting in a few weeks.

We just discussed with Ed. In order to keep momentum in advance of that meeting, we would like you to take another look at the list of questions that we sent to you, and provide answers to those questions that you can answer now. I've attached the document again for your reference. As I said in my previous email we are happy to take answers in whatever way you find easiest, be that in a meeting, by you sending us links to published documents or sending us copies of locally held documents. Many of the questions require a simple yes/no or a link to documents, and we really need you to offer your answers to those.

There are a small number that you may prefer to discuss and I am happy to meet or discuss them over the phone, especially to identify whether any would be too onerous to expect a response over the next fortnight. If any are unclear please do let me know as soon as possible as it would be good to have your response early next week.

I would also be grateful if you could send over the contact details (name and email address is fine) for your key stakeholders as agreed when we met.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,
[REDACTED].



Questions for Scottish Government following initial review of evidence 04.04.14.docx

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

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