

No.	Requirement	Assessment Team feedback
2	Publish more detailed information about the uses, users, and users' views of the police recorded crime statistics	<p>We recognise that you have included a section in the Guide specifically related to users and uses. We would encourage you to make this section more prominent, by introducing it earlier (as it is currently section 19 of 21); given the purpose of the document. We have some more specific observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More specific information should be included on who the actual users are and what they are using the data for, what decisions do the statistics inform, and what are the potential uses of the data. You have included a lot of information about the Scottish Government's uses of the statistics, but by contrast, there is limited information on uses outside SG. Could feedback from your recent user event inform this? • Who are the 'Justice Board' – it is referenced in section 19, but it is not clear who they are? • Section 20 of the Guide presents the results of some consultations; it is unclear if these also include the actions that SG planned to undertake in response to the user feedback. • You could include a reference to the Scottish Government's recent User Event and a summary of the discussions, reasons for holding the event etc; as well as a link to published information about the event.
4	<p>a) Inform users about the ongoing work with Police Scotland and the SPA to develop a consistent publication plan</p> <p>b) Consult more widely about users' need for more frequent statistics</p> <p>c) Publish the results</p>	<p>The Guide could be used to address part of this Requirement, but you may be intending to do this with another of your planned documents. We have provided feedback in relation to the type of information that you could include, to enhance transparency about the different organisations (this feedback also relates to Requirement 7):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is unclear whether the ongoing work with Police Scotland and the SPA was presented/discussed at the recent User Event. Section 4.1 of the Guide could be expanded to include more information about when Police Scotland publishes its own MI, when they submit this data to the SPA; and the relationship between the Police Scotland MI and the SG statistics. • In some cases Police Scotland, SPA and SG will be essentially publishing information from the same source but at different times and in different formats, with different levels of quality assurance carried out on it. The User Guide does not include information about this, to provide guidance to users on which source is most appropriate for their intended use.
6	Provide more information to users about the nature and extent of changes made to police crime records (para 3.9).	<p>The Guide presents helpful information about the extent and nature of changes made to police recorded crime data, and the reasons why Scottish Government has been unable to quantify the extent of changes in the past. It is helpful for users to know that you will be reconsidering this in light of the new IT systems that are being implemented in Police Scotland.</p>
7	Publish information about the roles and responsibilities of the organisations involved in the production and publication of police recorded crime statistics (para 3.10).	<p>We can see that Section 3 includes broad descriptions about the roles of Police Scotland, the SPA, HMICS etc, but the descriptions are quite brief in places. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You could say more about their roles in the production of SG's statistics - for example, how Police Scotland aggregate the data, how often do they submit data to SG, how do they QA their own data, how is their 'analysis' team structured etc. Some of these questions may be answered by the Technical Report or

		<p>‘Framework of assurance’ documentation, but if they don’t, they should, and elements of this could be reflected here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information about the roles of the Crime Registrars is very brief – again, you may plan to cover this in other pieces of documentation, but it feels appropriate to include further information here. We would expect this to include information about how the Crime Registrars are scrutinised, and by whom. • It was fairly unclear in the Guide how these organisations are linked to each other, and what their remits are. Perhaps a diagram (with supporting text) would help to serve this purpose? • As an overall comment, there seemed to be some duplication across sections 3 and 4 of the Guide, so you could consider combining the sections and removing duplication, and improve the cross referencing to other related sections of the Guide, as well as to links of relevant published information.
9	<p>a) Publish the proposed <i>Technical Report</i> as soon as it is finalised, ensuring that the language and content of this report is accessible to non-expert users</p> <p>b) Publish detailed information about the methods used to compile the statistics alongside each release of <i>Recorded Crime in Scotland</i> (para 3.18).</p>	<p>We were unsure whether you intended that the Guide addressed Requirement 9. For part b) of this Requirement, you have included some detail about the methods used to produce the statistics. But these seem to be described under different sections, so the information is not as coherent as it could be, in a way that helps users’ understanding of how the statistics are compiled. You may be planning to meet this Requirement in its entirety in the Technical Report. But it is worth considering the clarity of how information on methods is presented in the Guide.</p>
12	<p>Publish information for users, alongside the police recorded crime statistics, about how it assures itself of their quality, including its assessment of any risk and potential source of error associated with the use of the underlying administrative data source (para 3.23).</p>	<p>You have included information primarily in Section 9 of the Guide to help address this Requirement. Overall, the related information in the Guide is a little confusing as different elements of quality are addressed throughout the document, they could be brought together into section 9 or more clearly signposted from it.</p> <p>In addition, the level of detail about the assurance mechanism is quite broad, and not supported by evidence in the way the text is currently presented. The ‘Framework of Assurance’ document should provide further detail, but this could also be reflected in the Guide.</p> <p>Specific examples of the lack of detail includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Government checks “data across legacy police force areas to ensure consistency and confirming local differences; and comparing figures year on year, investigating where substantial differences appear.” It would be useful to describe what SG consider as substantial? • “Once the Police are happy that the final resulting data are an accurate reflection of police activity within each financial year period, then the data is signed off and considered ready for publication”. What is meant by this? How do they ‘sign off’ the data? • “In addition to the rigorous quality assurance work that is already undertaken, JAS can now quality assure the individual quarters.” It would be helpful to explain what you mean by ‘rigorous’, the Guide doesn’t contain information about the detail of the QA process • “A wide range of mechanisms are employed to ensure the robustness of police recorded crime data” – will these mechanisms be described in the ‘Framework of Assurance’ document or Technical Report? For example, does Scottish Government use the various audits, along with their own QA, to make a decision on whether the data is fit for purpose? What

		<p>would happen if they didn't feel they had sufficient confidence in the data?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are SG reassured that 'no criming' is carried out consistently throughout Scotland and is not being used to reduce the number of crimes in certain areas? Again, you may plan to cover this in other documentation. • The Guide will need to include reference to the forthcoming HMICS results once available. • This section does not include a reference to the 'Framework of Assurance' document yet, but we recognise that this is a draft. • There doesn't appear to be a reference to potential sources of bias and error.
13	<p>a) Keep users informed about the progress of the HMICS audit</p> <p>b) Publish demonstrable evidence that the findings from the forthcoming HMICS audit have been integrated into the compilation of the statistics presented in <i>Recorded Crime in Scotland</i></p> <p>c) Update published quality information for police recorded crime statistics in the light of the findings of the forthcoming HMICS audit, making it clear how the outputs from the audit inform the Scottish Government's understanding of the quality of the statistics</p> <p>d) Consider whether statistics based on police recorded crime data can be produced to a level of quality that meets users' needs</p>	<p>We feel that we cannot provide an informed judgement of the evidence in the User Guide at this point, as it does not yet include much information about the recent HMICS audit. We would need to see an updated version of the User Guide, along with the 'Framework of Assurance', the Technical Report and a draft of the forthcoming statistical report.</p>
14	<p>More clearly document the relationship between different sources of crime statistics across the criminal justice system in Scotland (para 3.27).</p>	<p>We consider that section 17 contains helpful information about the range of related statistics across the criminal justice system which helps to provide a better context for users who are interested in this topic; you could also consider adding information about the coherence between Scottish Government's statistics and the Police Scotland MI or the SPA Performance data – this may be information that is more appropriate in another section of the Guide.</p>
15	<p>Provide information to users about the comparability of the police recorded crime statistics with those published in the other administrations of the UK (para 3.28).</p>	<p>Section 18 presents helpful information to users about related statistics across the UK. We felt that a bit more information could be provided to explain the nature of differences between the Scottish Crime Recording Standards and the National Crime Recording Standards, and the potential impact of the differences on police recorded crimes?</p>
17	<p>Improve the commentary for police recorded crime statistics by:</p> <p>a) Clarifying the strengths and limitations of the statistics</p> <p>b) Provide further explanatory information about the context</p> <p>As part of meeting this</p>	<p>We recognise that the Guide includes some explanation of the impact of changes to crime and offences classifications on the data and how the data should be interpreted, particularly the history of changes in Section 11. In order to make a fuller judgement about whether this Requirement has been met, we would need to see a draft of the next publication of <i>Recorded Crime in Scotland</i>.</p>

requirement the Scottish Government should consider the points detailed in annex 1 and annex 2 (para 3.33).	
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