

Follow-up questions for Scottish Government Police Recorded Crime Team

from a review of available evidence

SG response (questions 3, 5, 8 and 26)

Principle 1: Meeting User Needs

Question 3

When will the statistics plan for 2014-15 be published and will users be consulted on it?

Response:

The *Justice Analytical Services Analytical Programme 2013-14* is published on the Crime and Justice section of the Scottish Government website and is available via the following link:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/JASAP11-12>

The statistical work is incorporated within this overall analytical work programme for Justice Analytical Services.

Analytical planning to develop a programme for a given financial year, follows a structured process of engagement with policy stakeholders which is designed to link our analysis more closely to current policy priorities and to the delivery of outcomes. This process begins with high-level discussions with senior policy colleagues over the key analytical questions that need to be addressed to enable effective policy formulation to deliver outcomes. The forward programme of priority projects for 2013/14 was agreed with senior policy colleagues and approved by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice at the end of June 2013.

Within the ScotStat Consultation page of the Crime and Justice section, there is a section on **Planning** which also provides a link to the latest Justice Analytical Services Programme. The link to the ScotStat Consultation page is attached here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime>

Users are invited to provide comments about our work throughout the year and these comments will be taken forward as part of the consideration of the next analytical plan. A feedback form is provided on the website to invite users to contact us. Furthermore, as part of our general engagement with users throughout the year, we will actively seek their comments on our plans.

A publication date for the analytical programme for 2014-15 has yet to be confirmed.

Question 5

Can we have information about the most recent updates circulated to ScotStat members (and evidence) about any planned changes?

Response:

ScotStat Crime and Justice Committee

An agenda item (item 9), and a paper, on *Requirements for sub-Scotland Analysis of Justice Data* were included at the meeting of the Committee in May 2013. A link to the agenda is here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/meetings/AgendaCJMay2013>

and a link to the paper (Paper (13)2.4) is here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/meetings/subScotanalyreq>

The paper stated that crime and policing data had previously been published primarily by police force area, although also by local authority where data have been available at that level.

With respect to crime data (which includes police recorded crime), the paper states that “the format and content of statistical bulletins on crime statistics (relating to 2012-13) due to be published in 2013 will remain unchanged from those published the previous year. However the presentation of statistics based on data for 2013-14 onwards is currently under review, primarily in relation to the level(s) of geography at which the statistics will be reported in the future.”

As stated in the paper, plans have not yet been finalised

The focus of the discussion of this paper at the meeting was on “what do people want; what are the most useful things to develop; what do you use; how should we be prioritising our work”. The Scottish Government (SG) asked for further thoughts and comments on uses, or future uses, to be submitted to Justice Analytical Services (JAS).

User consultation:

In early April 2014, JAS undertook a user consultation on the ‘Recorded Crime in Scotland’ bulletin. We informed users that their responses to this consultation will be used to inform our decision making on changes being made to the ‘Recorded Crime in Scotland’ bulletin as a result of police reform. The bulletin scheduled to be published in June 2014 will be the first bulletin published following the establishment of the Police Service of Scotland.

- A link to the User Consultation on the **Crime and Justice Statistics Stakeholders Consultations page** on the SG website is available here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/StakeCon>

- An email was sent to ScotStat users inviting them to complete the User Consultation, on 4 April 2014. A copy of the email is attached here:



Latest news from
ScotStat.msg

- The Consultation link was **re-tweeted by ScotStat** on 10 April 2014, as follows: 'We would like feedback on the Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin. Share your views by completing the questionnaire <https://response.questback.com/scottishgovernment/recordedcrime/>'

The re-tweet (on 10 April) can be viewed here:
<https://twitter.com/ScotStat>

- A link to the User Consultation on the **Crime and Justice Statistics home page** of the SG website is available here:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice?utm_source=website&utm_medium=navigation&utm_campaign=statistics-topics

Question 8

Do SG receive queries about the statistics, is a log kept?

Response:

JAS keep an ad hoc tracker in which most of our requests are registered. The answers to all requests are filed in our electronic filing system making it easy to find past requests and ensuring we deliver consistent responses to enquirers.

Parliamentary Questions, MACCS cases (Ministerial Correspondence) and Freedom of Information requests are kept on the corporate IT systems specifically for these types of requests.

The queries held on the ad hoc tracker and on the various corporate IT systems are used to inform JAS about potential changes to our publication. For example, if numerous people requested a specific breakdown of information, then we would consider adding such information to the publication.

For example, in the most recent 'Recorded Crime in Scotland' publication (June 2013), we had added a new table (Table A6) which provides figures on "Crimes of Handling an offensive weapon recorded by the police, 2003-04 to 2012-13". Table A6 can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/06/9697/6#tablea6>

Following the implementation of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 on 1 December 2010, an additional table (Table A3) was included in the 'Recorded Crime in Scotland' bulletin published in September 2011, to provide figures on "Further

breakdown of crimes of indecency recorded by the police, 2009-10 to 2010-11". Table A3 can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/09/02120241/21>

The proposal, in the forthcoming 'Recorded Crime in Scotland' publication (in June 2014), to create web tables which will provide information at local authority level for the last ten years, was informed by requests from users for trend information on various topics, at local authority level.

Principle 8: Frankness and accessibility

Question 26

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

Response:

The 2009 consultation of users of recorded crime statistics highlighted that 80% of respondents make use to the Excel tables produced alongside the statistical bulletin. However, consideration is being given to the suitability of the data for use in open data tables (perhaps in csv format). The current on-going consultation (April 2014) also asks users questions about how they make use of the data so this may help up to gain an understanding about what other formats users would find useful. Tables are also available in PDF and HTML.

Data is made available via Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS). There are 46 indicators under "crimes and offences recorded by the police". All of these indicators can be downloaded as csv. A link to the SNS website is available here: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/sns?utm_source=website&utm_medium=navigation&utm_campaign=statistics-evaluation-tools

To increase awareness about what data we have, and make it easier to discover and access, a new template is to be completed and included in every Scottish Government Statistical Bulletin, Social Research Findings, or other analytical publication that includes statistical or summary information about numerical data. Hence it is now part of the standard back page. It includes the option that data "are available in more detail through Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics "

A new template will be completed and included in the back page of the forthcoming *Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14* statistical bulletin. We would propose to direct users to SNS, in this publication.