Collation and publication of quarterly crime data

Draft structure of bulletin

Short Introduction.

Main Points drawing out some of the statistics (only a few, the annual bulletin will be more detailed)

Tables including:

Scotland level tables:
Crimes Recorded by the police
Offences recorded by the police
Clear up rates for the above

Lower level geographies

Crime and offences (group totals?) by police force Crime and offences (group totals?) by local authority

Notes on the statistics included in the bulletin (including collection and recording issues)

Definitions (of crimes and offences etc)

Publication

- Timescales for receiving the quarterly returns from data providers, processing, checking and disseminating data will need to be tightened up.
- The Annual statistical bulletin for 2009-10 is scheduled for publication on 7th September 2010. It is likely that the first publication of quarterly data will be at the end of September.
- The estimated schedule for publication of quarterly data is as follows:

Quarter 1 (April – June)

Deadline for data submission from forces
 Queries out to forces for QA
 Queries returned from QA
 Publication
 End July
 Mid August
 End August
 End September

Quarter 2 (July - September)

Deadline for data submission from forces
 Queries out to forces for QA
 Queries returned from QA
 Publication
 End October
 Mid November
 End November
 End December??

Quarter 3 (October - December)

Deadline for data submission from forces
 Queries out to forces for QA
 Queries returned from QA
 Publication
 End January
 End February
 End March

Quarter 4 (January - March)

Deadline for data submission from forces
 Queries out to forces for QA
 Queries returned from QA
 End April
 End May

o Publication of Annual Bulletin End July ??? (see note below)

- Note that this timetable means publication of the annual bulletin could theoretically be earlier than normal. As the QA of data will be done throughout the year instead of all at once, this should result in less time spend carrying out checks on the data. However, extra time has been factored in to allow the publication since this is a more lengthy bulletin. However, this is dependant on parliamentary recess since we don't generally publish statistical bulletins during recess, and recorded crime is something the minister is likely to want to comment on.
- The schedule above makes use of the current deadlines for data submission from police forces. It will be necessary to ensure that the data providers will be able to meet the deadlines for the QA stage of the publications. Again, regular checks on the data may mean less time spent at the end of the financial year.

Additional information

- Consultation with policy will help clarify the need for the specific tables which
 may be included in the short quarterly bulletins. This will help ensure that the
 publication produced meets policy needs.
- Three quarterly bulletins would be produced with an annual bulletin containing full financial year data being produced once a year.
- Quarterly bulletins will contain aggregated quarters (Q1, Q1+Q2, Q1+Q2+Q3 and the full financial year).
- Any time series analysis for the quarterly bulletins will have to be carefully managed to ensure the data cannot be easily misinterpreted. Like for like quarters may be compared
- Police force commentary will only appear in the annual bulletin (subject to suggestions made by UK statistics authority)