

CRIME AND JUSTICE

RECORDED CRIME IN SCOTLAND, 2014-15

This bulletin presents statistics on crimes and offences recorded and cleared up by the police in 2014-15. Statistics on crimes and offences recorded by the police provide a measure of the volume of criminal activity with which the police are faced. Crimes recorded by the police do not reveal the incidence of all crime committed since not all crimes are reported to the police. Clear up rates measure the percentage of recorded crimes that have been cleared up. For a definition of crimes recorded and clear up rates, refer to [Annex 1](#).

Key Points from Recorded Crime in Scotland

Between 2013-14 and 2014-15:

Crimes recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 5% from 270,397 to 256,350. This is the lowest level of recorded crime since 1974.

- Non-sexual crimes of violence decreased by 6% from 6,785 to 6,357. These crimes have been on a downwards trend since 2002-03, following a long period of increase.
- Sexual crimes increased by 11% from 8,604 to 9,557. The recording of these crimes is at the highest level seen since 1971, the first year for which comparable crime groups are available.
- Crimes of dishonesty decreased by 8% from 137,324 to 126,857. These crimes have been on a downwards trend since they peaked in 1991.
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. decreased by 4% from 54,418 to 52,091. These crimes have been decreasing sharply since they peaked in 2006-07.
- Other crimes decreased by 3% from 63,266 to 61,488. This decrease has largely been driven by a decrease of 11% in Crimes against public justice.

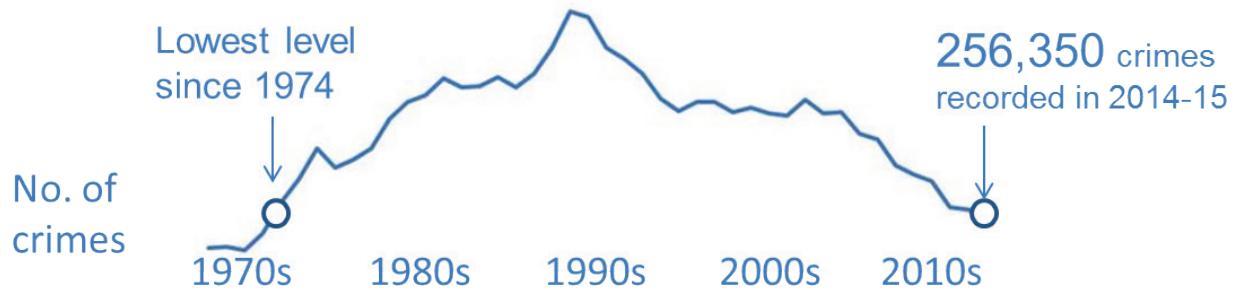
The clear up rate for all recorded crimes decreased by 1.1 percentage points from 51.5% to 50.4%.

Offences recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 24% from 501,281 to 379,498.

- Miscellaneous offences decreased by 11% from 207,190 to 183,513.
- Motor vehicle offences decreased by 33% from 294,091 to 195,985.

Recorded Crime in Scotland 2014-15

Crime DOWN 5%



Many types of recorded crime have fallen, though Sexual crime has increased



Sexual crimes (+11%)

Crimes of violence (-6%)

Crimes of dishonesty (-8%)

Fire-raising, vandalism etc. (-4%)

Other crimes (-3%)



The rate of crimes cleared up has decreased from last year



50.4% of crimes cleared up

1.1% lower than last year

3rd highest rate since 1976

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1. Structure of Bulletin

- 1.1. This bulletin presents Official Statistics on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland and the number cleared up. Some change has been made to the structure of this bulletin since the previous publication, to help users review the range of information presented for each of the Crime and Offence groups.
- 1.2. [Key Points](#) on Recorded Crime in Scotland are shown on pages 1 and 2.
- 1.3. [Chapter 2](#) provides a summary of the background to Recorded Crime in Scotland, including a list of the seven groups that crimes and offences are separated into for statistical purposes. Summary information on the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey is also provided.
- 1.4. [Chapter 3](#) presents the latest statistics for total recorded crime in Scotland, before splitting this into a dedicated section for each of the five crime groups. The same format is then used to present statistics for the total number of recorded offences in Scotland, and the two associated offence groups. These sections provide information in the following segments:
 - **The number of crimes/offences recorded** – which includes further detail on what each crime/offence group comprises, changes over time and analysis at the local authority level.
 - **Data Considerations** – which includes information on any changes to the process which underpins the collection of recorded crime/offence data and their impact on interpretation of the statistics. Where relevant this section also includes feedback supplied by Police Scotland on possible reasons for changes in the number of crimes/offences recorded over the year.
 - **Data Validation** – which where relevant includes information on the auditing of crime recording practices by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS).
 - **Data Comparisons** – which includes detail on other sources of related statistics, which may allow the user of police recorded crime/offence statistics to view the data in a wider context.
- 1.5. Throughout this bulletin frequent use is made of the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) – a complementary measure of crime. This ensures a fuller and more comprehensive picture of crime in Scotland can be presented. Where appropriate, dedicated information is provided within the Data Comparisons segment for each of the crime/offence groups (in a summary shaded box). Where comparisons are made between SCJS and police recorded crime these are mostly made since 2008-09, following changes to the current SCJS survey design and the increased sample size.

In addition to this, [Chapter 4](#) presents a topic report on ‘Putting Recorded Crime in Context – A comparison with the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey’.

- 1.6. [Chapter 5](#) presents information on Recorded Crime in Scotland through a series of tables. Please note that Tables 5-8 can be accessed at local authority level online via the following link:
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/RecCrime>.
- 1.7. [Chapter 6](#) includes a series of Annexes, which provide further information on the process of recording crimes and offences in Scotland. These include:
 - Data sources and definitions;
 - The quality of the statistics;
 - The auditing of the data by HMICS;
 - Stakeholder consultation on recorded crime statistics;
 - Comparisons with England & Wales and Northern Ireland;
 - Users of the statistics;
 - Future considerations; and
 - Other Notes (including contact details for further analysis).
- 1.8. [Chapter 7](#) contains a classification list of crimes and offences, showing how these are amalgamated together to produce the seven crime and offence groups covered in this bulletin.

2. Background

- 2.1. Statistics on recorded crimes and offences inform the Scottish Government's Strategy for Justice in Scotland, and National Outcome 9 – 'we live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger'.
- 2.2. These statistics are also used by a wide range of stakeholders. Further information on users and uses of the statistics is available in [Annex 6](#) of this bulletin as well as in the User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland, available via the following link:
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/UserGuide>.
- 2.3. The 'Recorded Crime in Scotland' annual statistical bulletin forms part of a series of bulletins produced by the Scottish Government on the criminal justice system, which can be found at
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Publications>.
- 2.4. The term "crime" is generally used for the more serious criminal acts; the less serious are termed "offences". The distinction is made only for statistical reporting purposes and has no impact on how the police investigate reports of criminal activity. The "seriousness" of the offence is generally related to the maximum sentence that can be imposed. This distinction has been consistently used in the Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletins since publication began in 1983 and, prior to this, in the Criminal statistics publication dating back to the 1920s.

A further distinction, although not absolute, is that the numbers of offences recorded by the police generally tends to be affected more by police activity and operational decisions than the numbers of crimes.

Crimes relate to Groups 1 to 5:	Offences relate to Groups 6 to 7:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-sexual crimes of violence,	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Miscellaneous offences, and
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexual crimes,	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motor vehicle offences.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crimes of dishonesty,	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire-raising, vandalism etc., and	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other crimes.	

For further information on crime and offence groups, see [Chapter 7](#).

- 2.5. In general, this statistical bulletin covers the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, the entirety of which is subject to the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) introduced in 2004-05. The SCRS has helped maintain a consistent approach to recording crime. The SCRS manual is published by Police Scotland in the 'Our Performance' section

of their website under Related Documents and can be accessed here:
<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/>.

- 2.6. Crimes are presented in this bulletin against the year in which they are recorded by the police. Not all crimes are reported to, and recorded by, the police immediately following their occurrence. As such each year's figures on police recorded crime will include a proportion of crimes committed in earlier years. The current basis on which we receive the data means we are generally unable to identify crimes committed in earlier years.
- 2.7. The Police Service of Scotland (referred to throughout this report as Police Scotland) is responsible for operational policing in Scotland and is held to account by the Scottish Police Authority. The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 changed the policing landscape in Scotland, replacing the previous eight police forces, the Scottish Police Services Authority and the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency from 1 April 2013. The statistics set out in this bulletin cover the second year following the establishment of Police Scotland.
- 2.8. The [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey \(SCJS\) 2012-13](#) provides a complementary measure of crime to police recorded crime statistics. The survey provides information on the criminal justice system, people's experience of civil justice problems and people's perception of crime.

The SCJS also provides an estimate of the proportion of crimes not reported to the police. In 2012-13, it was estimated that 39% of crimes, as defined by the SCJS, were reported to the police.

The survey also provides estimates of progress for two national indicators in the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework, namely:

- Improve people's perceptions about the crime rate in their area; and
- Reduce crime victimisation rates.

Further information on the National Performance Framework can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms>.

Additional coverage on the SCJS is featured in the Data Comparisons segments throughout the bulletin, located toward the end of each crime or offence group section. A more detailed analysis on the comparisons between recorded crime and the SCJS is provided in [Chapter 4](#).

- 2.9. There have been no major legislative changes throughout 2014-15 which impact on the comparability of the statistics.

Past legislative changes, and changes to classifications can be found in the User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland, available

at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/UserGuide>.

- 2.10. The [UK Statistics Authority](#) (UKSA) published an assessment report on Recorded Crime in Scotland on 31 July 2014. The report states that UKSA "cannot at present confer National Statistics status on these statistics", whilst also recognising that the UKSA "have been impressed with features of the institutional framework in Scotland" and noting that "Police Scotland is surrounded by a strong framework of inspection and regulation, including a National Crime Registrar, the Scottish Police Authority, and HMICS".

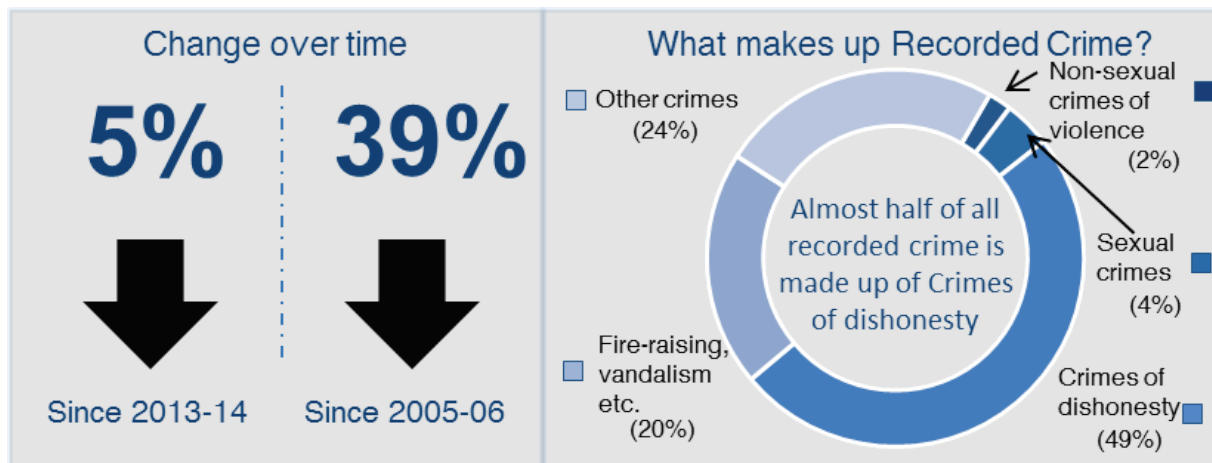
As a result of this, the 2013-14 and 2014-15 statistical bulletins on Recorded Crime in Scotland have both been published as Official Statistics. UKSA assessment reports point to improvements statistics producers can make and the Scottish Government continues to action these requirements. The full assessment report can be accessed here: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-288---statistics-on-recorded-crime-in-scotland.pdf>

The Scottish Government has taken forward a number of actions to improve the information provided to users and to aid their understanding and interpretation of the statistics. More details are included on the strengths, limitations and quality of the statistics, the quality assurance processes that support this and how the results of audits by HMICS are taken account of in producing recorded crime statistics. An assessment of any risk and potential sources of error associated with the use of the underlying administrative data source has also been provided to users.

The Scottish Government has produced a [User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland](#) as part of a suite of documents, alongside the [Framework of Assurance](#) and the [Recorded Crime: Comparability of Police Scotland and Legacy Force Data](#) report. These accompanying documents are intended to support and inform users about police recorded crime statistics in Scotland.

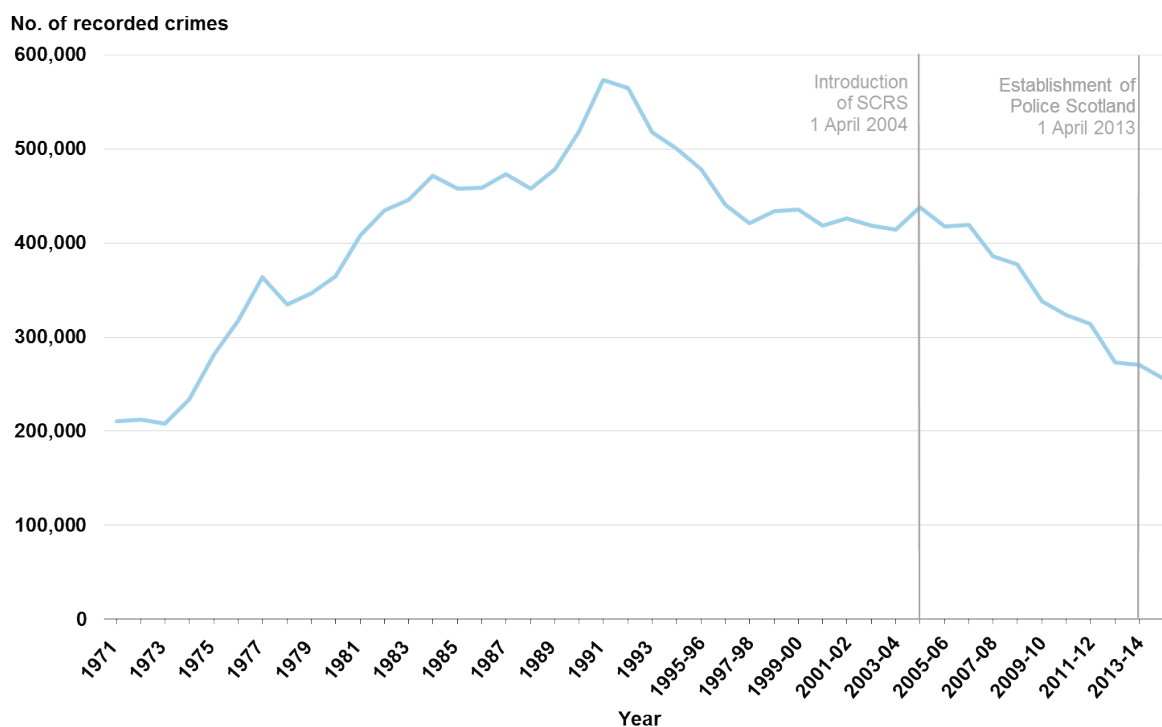
3. Main Findings: Recorded Crimes and Offences in Scotland

Total Recorded Crime



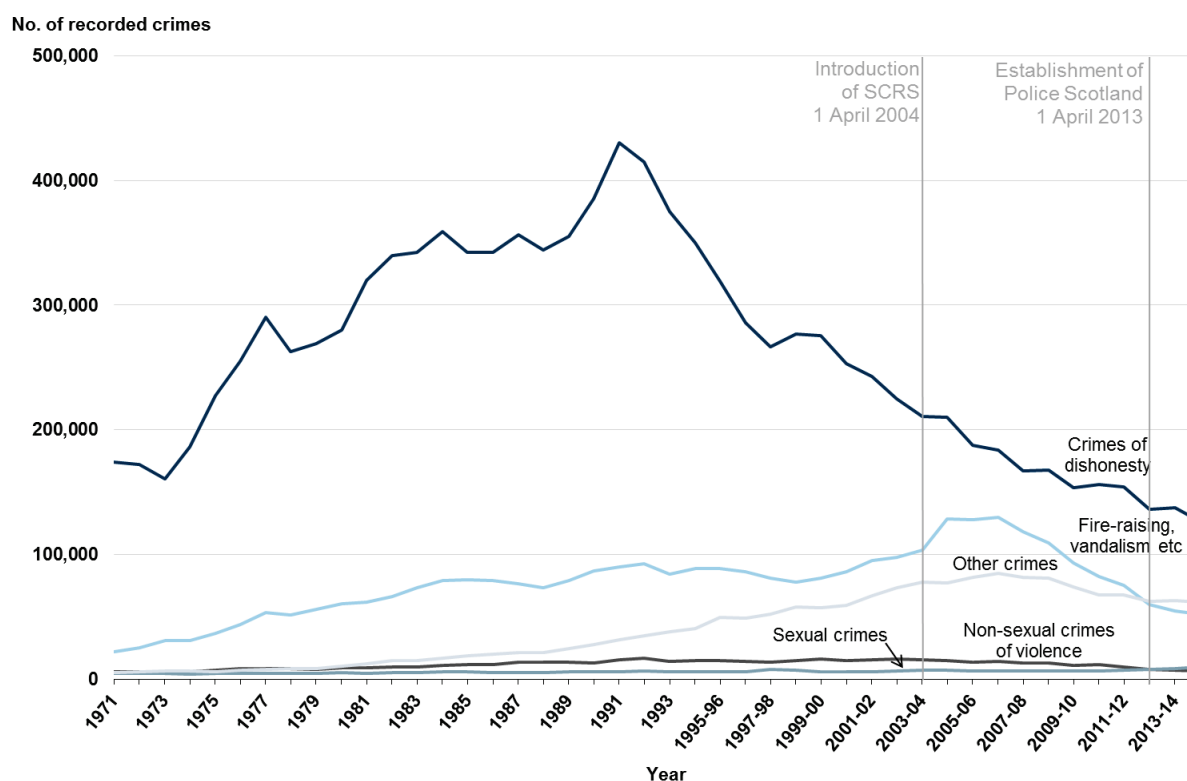
Recorded crime is at its lowest level since 1974. The total number of crimes recorded by the police in Scotland in 2014-15 was 256,350. This is 5% lower than the level recorded in 2013-14 ([Chart 1](#) and [Table 5](#)). Other than a slight increase in 2006-07, crime has been on a downward trend in Scotland since 2005-06, having decreased overall by 39%. This continues a steadily decreasing trend in recorded crime in Scotland over the last 24 years, from a peak in 1991 when crime reached a record high of 572,921.

Chart 1: Total crimes recorded by the police, 1971 to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2014-15



[Chart 2](#) shows the number of recorded crimes in each of the five crime groups since 1971 and gives an indication of the scale of each crime group. At 49%, Crimes of dishonesty account for almost half of all recorded crime in 2014-15. This was followed by Other crimes (24%), Fire-raising, vandalism etc. (20%), Sexual crimes (4%) and Non-sexual crimes of violence (2%). These individual groups will be discussed in more detail in the sections which follow.

Chart 2: Crimes recorded by the police by crime group, 1971 to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2014-15



Local Authority analysis:

The overall decrease in recorded crime was reflected in 23 of the 32 local authority areas, with four experiencing an increase and five with very little change from the previous year. Year on year figures can vary across local authorities, however the long term trend is broadly the same across Scotland. [Chart 4](#) shows that since 2005-06, all local authorities are showing a decrease in recorded crime, varying from 27% in East Ayrshire to 61% in Eilean Siar.

The largest fall in recorded crime in 2014-15 was in Moray (18%) where 55% of the decrease was accounted for by decreases in Other theft and Vandalism etc. In Aberdeenshire and Highland, the overall decrease was 17%. In Aberdeenshire, 84% of the decrease was accounted for by reductions in Other theft, Housebreaking and Vandalism etc. In Highland, Other theft, Vandalism etc. and Shoplifting accounted for 71% of the overall decrease.

The largest numerical decrease was in Glasgow City, falling by over 3,000 crimes from 50,823 in 2013-14 to 47,758 in 2014-15. Glasgow City, which

includes 11% of Scotland's population¹, continues to account for 19% of all recorded crime in Scotland.

Four local authorities had an increase in recorded crime: Stirling (9%), East Ayrshire (4%), East Renfrewshire (3%) and Midlothian (3%). In Stirling, 71% of the increase was accounted for by Other theft and Housebreaking. In East Ayrshire, the increase was driven by increases in Drugs and Shoplifting. In East Renfrewshire, the increase was accounted for by an increase in Drugs crimes, while in Midlothian the increase was due to an increase in Other theft and Vandalism etc.

Five local authority areas (Perth & Kinross, the City of Edinburgh, Clackmannanshire, the Shetland Islands and Inverclyde) saw very little change in recorded crime between 2013-14 and 2014-15 ([Chart 3](#)).

Further explanation of these trends is set out in the following sections for each crime group. Please note that further local authority level data for Tables 5-8 can be accessed online via the following link: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/RecCrime>.

¹ Population estimates are as at mid-year 2014 from the National Records of Scotland (<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates>).

Chart 3: Change in total recorded crime between 2013-14 and 2014-15, by local authority area

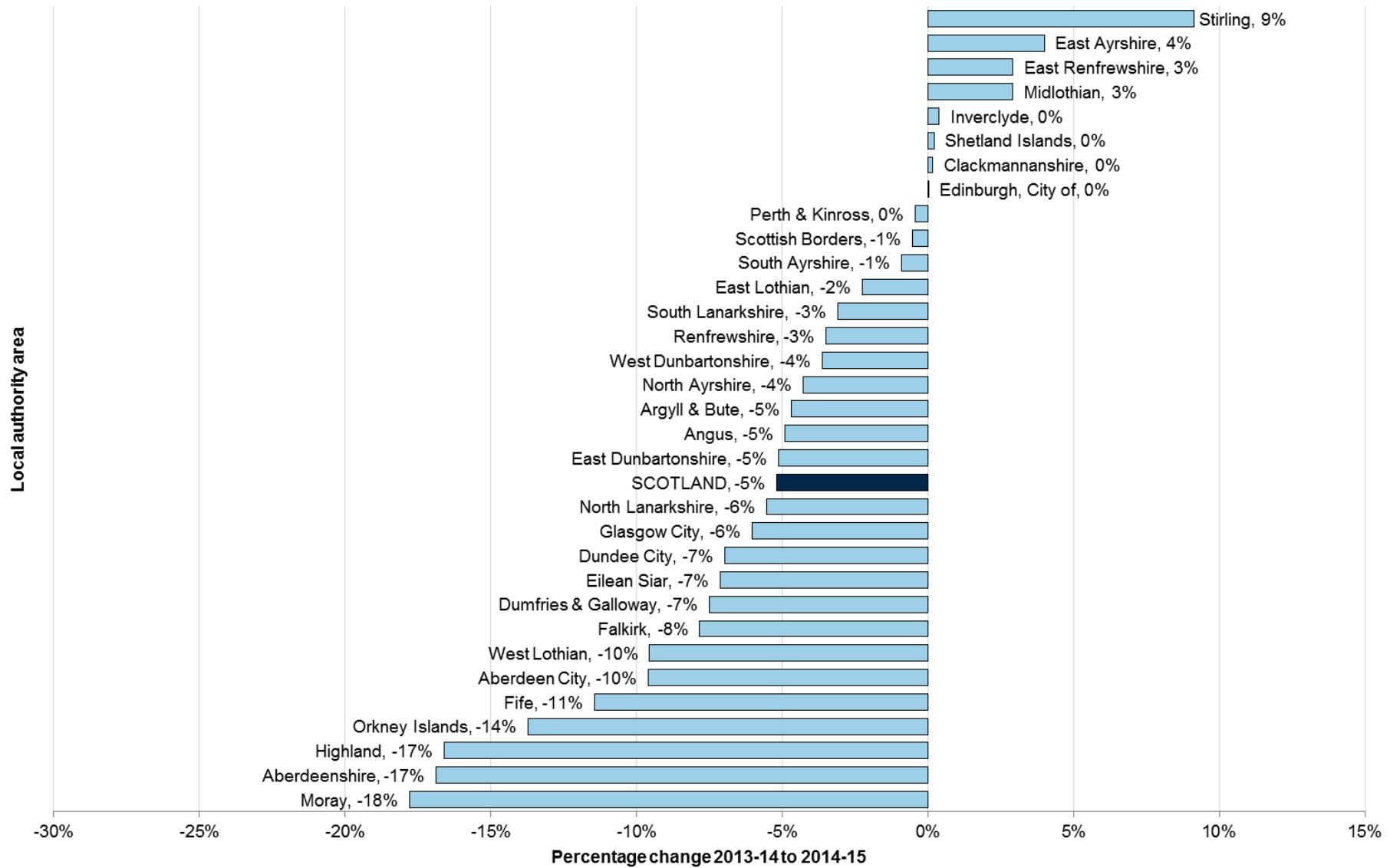
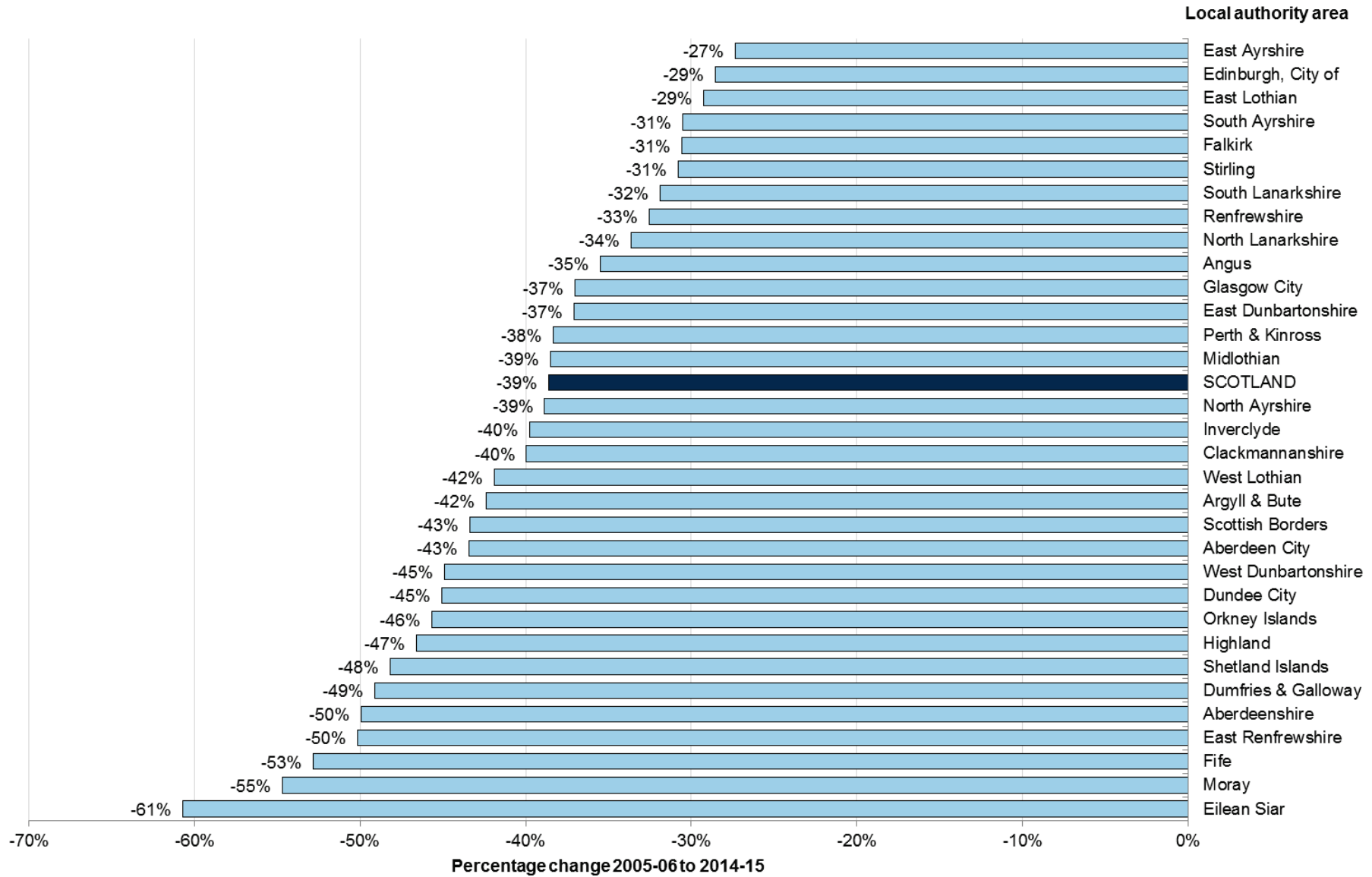


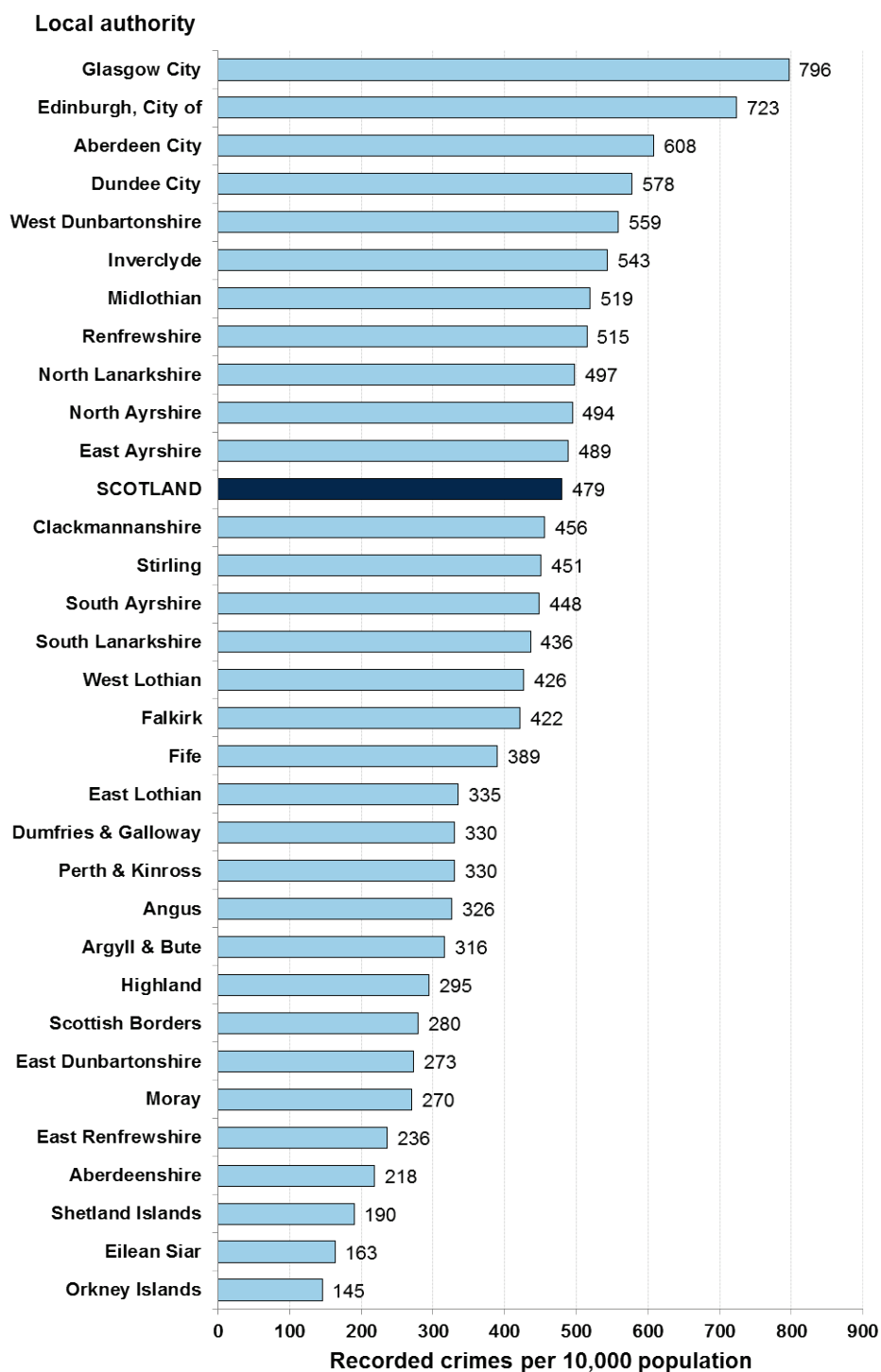
Chart 4: Change in total recorded crime between 2005-06 and 2014-15, by local authority area



Crime rate per 10,000 population

There were 479 recorded crimes per 10,000 population in 2014-15, with urban areas recording the highest rates; Glasgow City (796 per 10,000 population), the City of Edinburgh (723 per 10,000 population), Aberdeen City (608 per 10,000 population) and Dundee City (578 per 10,000 population) ([Table 11](#)).

Chart 5: Total number of recorded crimes per 10,000 population¹ in 2014-15

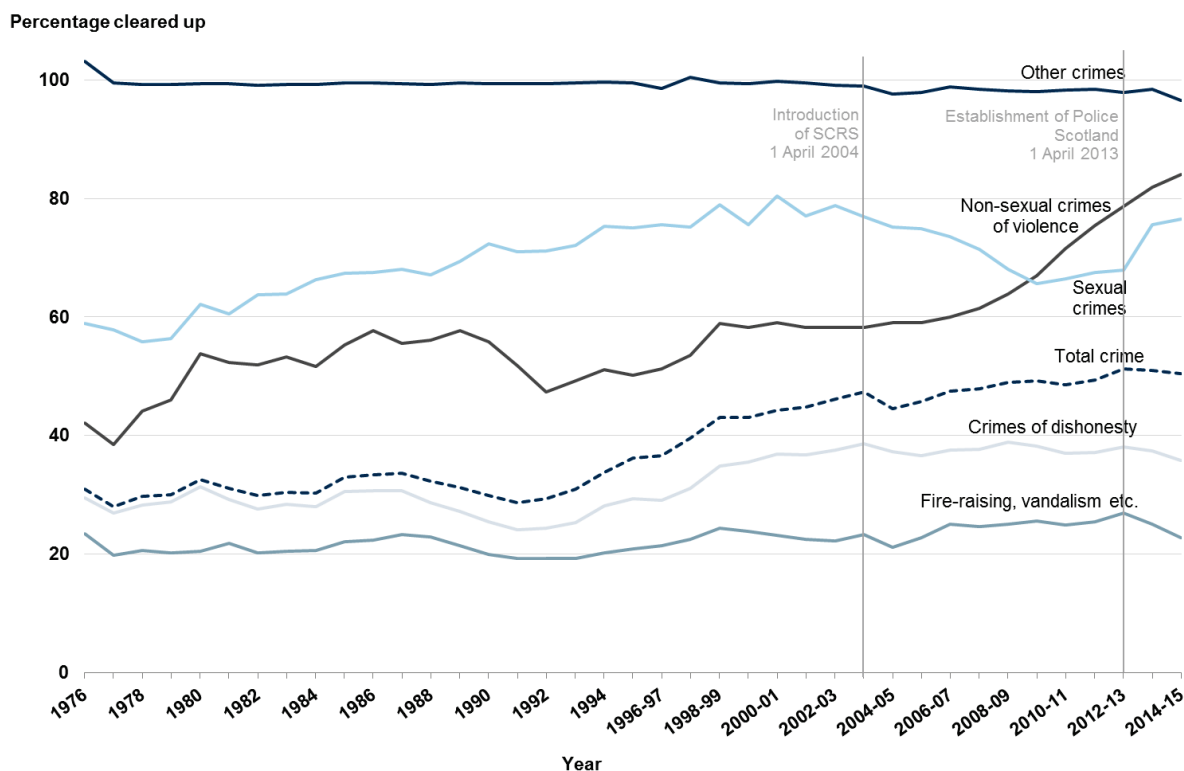


1. Population estimates are as at mid-year 2014 from the National Records of Scotland (<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates>)

Clear up rates

The clear up rate for total recorded crimes decreased by 1.1 percentage points from 51.5% in 2013-14 to 50.4% in 2014-15. Clear up rates remain higher than for most of the period since 2005-06 ([Table 7](#)).

Chart 6: Clear up rates for crimes recorded by the police by crime group, 1976¹ to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2014-15



1. Comparable clear up rates for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1976.

DATA CONSIDERATIONS

Official Statistics on total recorded crime are based on data which Police Scotland extract from their IT system (called the Scottish Operational and Management Information System (ScOMIS)) and submit to the Scottish Government. Prior to 2013-14 and the establishment of Police Scotland, the Scottish Government collected recorded crime data from the eight legacy forces, who in turn extracted the data from their own systems.

Despite the change in method of collection, the data presented in this section on total recorded crime (which comprises of Crime Groups 1 to 5) remains comparable both before and after 1st April 2013. The Scottish Government produced a Technical Report in 2014 which detailed the quality assurance work it carried out in reaching this conclusion: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/TechnicalReport>.

On 1 April 2004, the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) was introduced to help maintain a victim orientated approach to crime recording. It was anticipated that this might increase the number of minor crimes recorded such as vandalism and minor thefts. It can be seen from [Chart 1](#) that this did

cause a slight increase in 2004-05 as expected, but that the downwards trend returned following this change to recording practice.

DATA VALIDATION

HMICS Crime Audit 2014: Background

This bulletin reports on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland. On 12 November 2014, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) published Crime Audit 2014, which assessed the extent to which police recording practices complied with the Scottish Crime Recording Standard and the Scottish Government's Counting Rules:

<http://www.hmics.org/publications/hmics-crime-audit-2014>.

This was the largest crime recording audit undertaken by HMICS. It audited incidents reported between 1 April 2013 and 30 June 2014, and was the first crime audit in which a timeliness test was applied. When carrying out their audit of recorded crime accuracy, HMICS took into account areas identified as weak in previous audits, areas of high risk or emerging concern, and national and local policing priorities. HMICS audited records in six categories, four of which related to specific crime types:

- Sexual crime
- Violent crime
- Housebreaking
- Hate crime
- Non-crime related incidents
- No-crimes

HMICS Crime Audit 2014: National Results

The Audit found no systemic data quality issues around the recording of crimes and offences. The report found that 'the quality of most incident and crime recording decisions by Police Scotland is good. 92% of incidents were closed correctly² and 94% of crime was counted and classified correctly'.

The report also showed that 94% of the almost 1,000 cases which were initially thought to be a crime but were later re-designated as not being a crime following additional investigation, were found to have been no-crimes correctly.

The audit identified that there were some incident records which had not been closed correctly for various reasons. However, the technical errors found by HMICS in its examination of non-crime related incidents would not necessarily result in the under-recording of crime. Furthermore, it was not possible to determine the exact number of incident records which should have indicated

² Correct closure means either that (a) the incident was closed as non-crime related and contained sufficient information to dispel any inference of criminality; or (b) the incident indicated a crime had occurred and a crime record was traced

that a crime had occurred, as many were closed with insufficient information from which to make such a judgment.

HMICS Crime Audit 2014: Divisional Results

The Audit report states that ‘a few divisions performed very well, achieving high compliance rates in all or most areas’. However, the report goes on to state that ‘conversely, a few divisions performed poorly’.

Divisional compliance rates for Test 1 (whether an incident was closed correctly) ranged from 83% to 99% and for Test 2 (whether a crime was counted and classified correctly) from 88% to 98%.

The Test 1 compliance rate was 90% or below for four of the 14 divisions, namely Edinburgh, Ayrshire, Argyll and West Dunbartonshire, and Renfrewshire and Inverclyde. Furthermore, the no-crime compliance rate was below 90% for the last three of these divisions. The lowest Test 2 compliance rate was for Ayrshire at 88%.

Readers should be aware of these factors when considering information relating to these four divisions. The following table shows the local authorities within these divisions:

Division	Local authorities
Edinburgh	City of Edinburgh
Ayrshire	East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire
Argyll and West Dunbartonshire	Argyll & Bute and West Dunbartonshire
Renfrewshire and Inverclyde	Renfrewshire and Inverclyde

HMICS Crime Audit 2014: Conclusion for the Official Statistics

Overall this audit demonstrates that users of crime statistics can have confidence that crimes are being classified and counted correctly.

As outlined above, users should be aware that crime statistics for some local authorities will be based on police divisions with lower compliance than the national average. Furthermore, as the audit is based on a sample survey of incident and crime records (rather than all records), the true value may differ slightly from the results in the audit. This is because sampling in this way is always subject to a range of quantifiable and non-quantifiable error. Further information on this is provided within the Appendix of the Audit report.

Further details from this audit in relation to compliance rates for specific crime types and divisional information are provided within the relevant sections of this bulletin as well as in [Annex 3](#).

DATA COMPARISONS

In addition to the information on police recorded crime, crime in Scotland is also measured by the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS), a national survey with adults (aged 16 and over) living in private households which asks respondents about their experiences of crime.³ A comparison of the two sources is provided below.

Comparison with recorded crime (comparable crime subset):

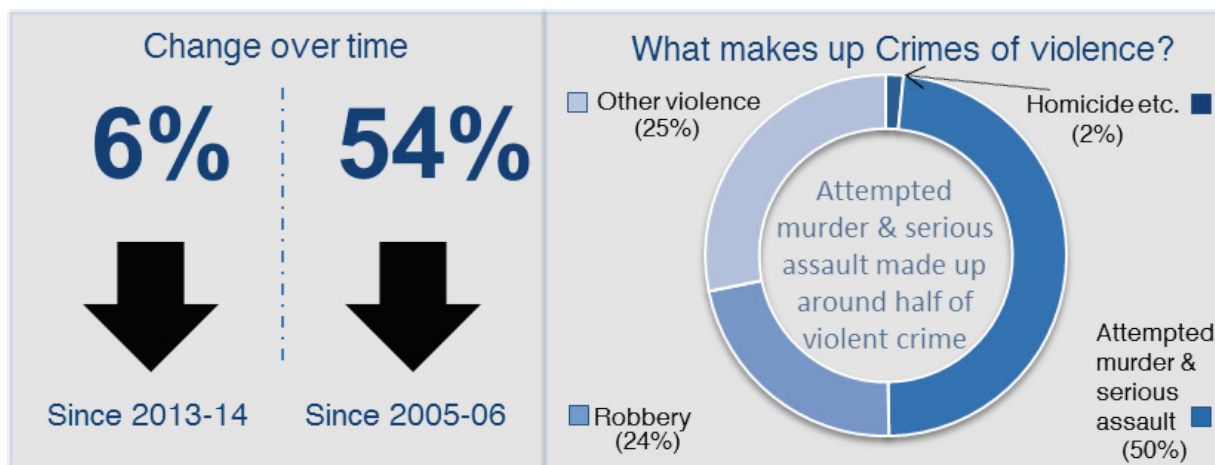
Of the 815,000 crimes estimated by the 2012-13 SCJS, just under two-thirds (527,000) can be compared with police recorded crimes. Further detail on the comparable crime set is available in [Section 4.3](#) and in [Annex 5 of the 2012-13 SCJS](#).

Both recorded crime figures and SCJS estimates show downward trends in the extent of comparable crime between 2008-09 and 2012-13 (-33% and -28% respectively). The reduction in estimates across all sweeps of the SCJS, from 731,000 in 2008-09 to 527,000 in 2012-13, is a statistically significant change. However, the short-term change in SCJS comparable crime between 2010-11 and 2012-13 is not a statistically significant change (at the 95% confidence level).

At this stage, it is difficult to identify trends in the relationship between recorded crime and SCJS estimates using only four sweeps of comparable data and we do not have enough evidence to make confident assertions about longer-term trends in SCJS estimates in the comparable crime subset prior to 2008-09. It is likely that greater certainty in trends will emerge over longer timescales, and therefore continuing this analysis in future years will help to assess whether some of the short term changes reported here mark the beginning of a consistent pattern. Comparisons between police recorded crime data and SCJS estimates will be updated within the 2014-15 SCJS publication, scheduled for the first quarter of 2016.

³ However, it should also be noted that bringing the two sources together in this way highlights that the SCJS and police recorded crime cover different populations and different timescales, and the SCJS does not cover the entire range of crimes and offences that the police are faced with.

Group 1 – Non-sexual Crimes of Violence

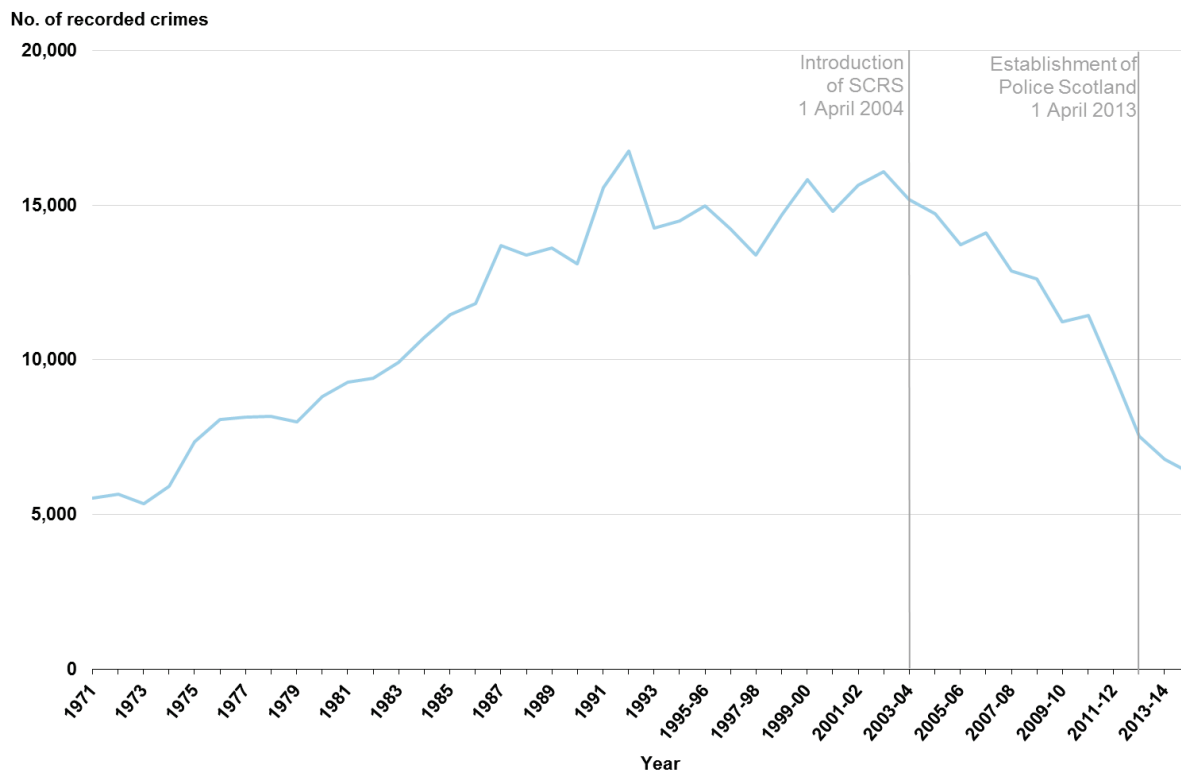


Number of Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded in 2014-15:

Non-sexual crimes of violence account for 2% of all crimes recorded in Scotland in 2014-15. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, the number of Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 6%, from 6,785 to 6,357.

[Chart 7](#) below shows the number of Non-sexual crimes of violence from 1971 onwards. Levels of violent crime increased for a long period, before entering a downward trend in 2002-03, having decreased by 60% since that time. These crimes are at their lowest level since 1974.

Chart 7: Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded by the police, 1971¹ to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2014-15

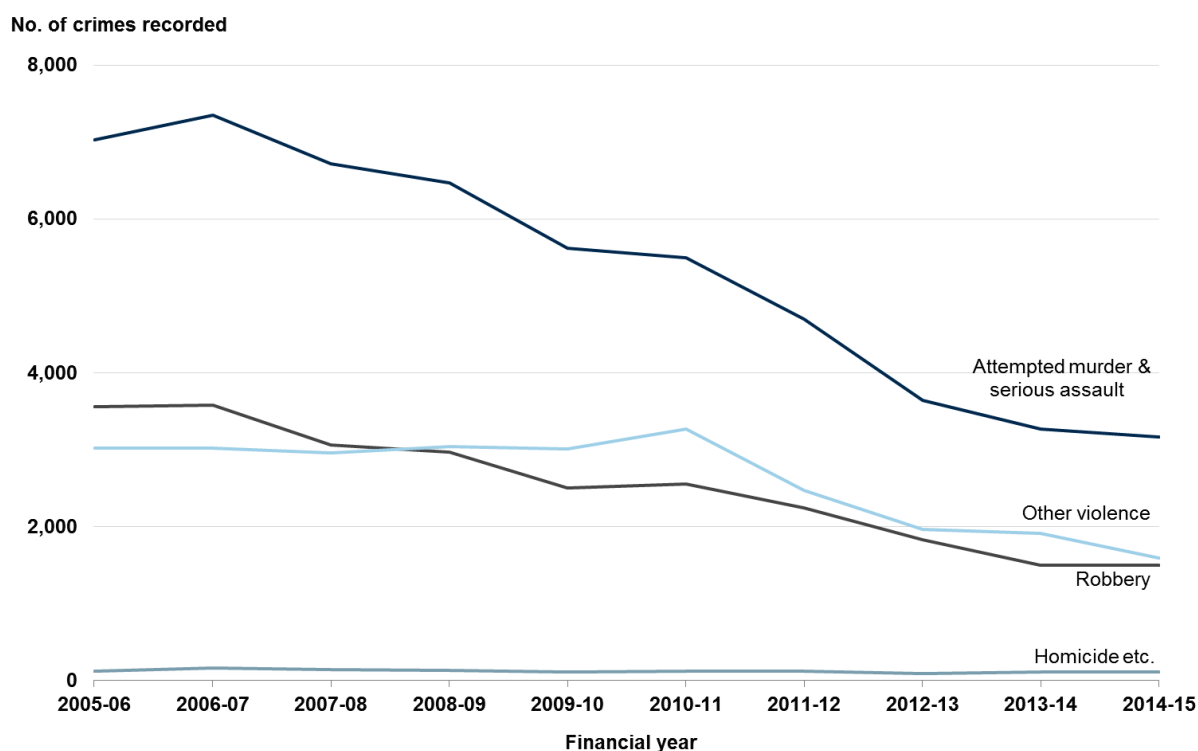


1. Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

In 2014-15, the rate of recorded Non-sexual crimes of violence for Scotland decreased to 12 crimes per 10,000 population, compared to 13 per 10,000 population for 2013-14. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Glasgow City (23 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in Eilean Siar, the Orkney Islands and the Shetland Islands (4 per 10,000 population).

[Chart 8](#) shows the four categories within Non-sexual crimes of violence over the last ten years, and gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category. The proportions of all categories across the group have remained fairly steady over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, despite their decreasing levels. Attempted murder and serious assault made up around one half of all Non-sexual crimes of violence, with Robbery and Other violence being around one quarter each, and Homicide etc. contributing a very small proportion to the total.

Chart 8: Non-sexual crimes of violence in Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15



Attempted murder & serious assault:

Attempted murder & serious assault is the largest category in Group 1, accounting for around half of all Non-sexual crimes of violence. Over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, this category has seen a large decrease of 55%, and has decreased by 3% from 3,268 in 2013-14 to 3,166 in 2014-15.

All local authorities have recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period, with the exception of East Lothian which has increased by 6%. The national decrease in 2014-15 was reflected in a minority of local authority areas, with 16 areas showing an increase ranging from 2% in West Dunbartonshire to 67% in Moray. The overall decrease from the previous year

was driven by a 10% decrease in Glasgow City, which accounts for around one quarter of crimes in this category.

For the definition of Serious assault and the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault please see [Paragraph 6.9](#) within Annex 1.

Robbery:

Robbery accounts for around one quarter of Non-sexual crimes of violence. Over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, this crime has seen a large decrease of 58%. Levels remained practically unchanged between 2013-14 and 2014-15, decreasing by just 2 crimes to 1,497.

Three quarters of all local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Of those that increased, all changes were based on small numbers with only one change of greater than 5 crimes. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, as many local authorities showed a decrease as showed an increase.

Homicide etc.:

As well as Murder and Culpable homicide (common law), the Homicide etc. category included in this bulletin contains the crimes of:

- Causing death by dangerous driving;
- Causing death by careless driving when under influence of drink or drugs;
- Causing death by careless driving;
- Illegal driver involved in fatal accident; and
- Corporate homicide.

Homicide etc. accounts for under 2% of Non-sexual crimes of violence. This category has fluctuated over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15. During the latest year, it decreased by 1% from 106 in 2013-14 to 105 in 2014-15.

Over the ten year period covering 2005-06 to 2014-15, there has been a 50% decrease in Homicide etc. in Glasgow City. As such, the proportion of all crimes of Homicide etc. that take place within Glasgow has fallen from 26% in 2005-06 to 15% in 2014-15. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, almost two thirds (63%) of local authorities showed either a decrease or very little change in the level of Homicide etc.

Other violence:

The Other violence category includes crimes such as Cruel and unnatural treatment of children, Threats and extortion, and Abduction, which together account for more than 90% of the crimes within this category. More detail is provided in [Chapter 7](#).

Crimes recorded as Other violence account for one quarter of Non-sexual crimes of violence. These crimes are at the lowest level since 1988. Over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, this category has seen a large decrease of 47%, and has decreased by 17% from 1,912 in 2013-14 to 1,589 in 2014-15. The decrease from the previous year was mainly driven by a reduction in the volume of crimes of Cruel and unnatural treatment of children and Threats and extortion.

Additional information provided by Police Scotland relating to recording practices for crimes of Cruel and unnatural treatment of children is available in the [‘Data Considerations’](#) section below.

Over the ten year period, the majority (26) of local authorities recorded a decrease in this category. This trend continued between 2013-14 and 2014-15 with almost three quarters (23) of local authorities showing a decrease.

Clear up rates for Non-sexual crimes of violence in 2014-15:

The clear up rate for Non-sexual crimes of violence increased by 2.2 percentage points from 81.9% in 2013-14 to 84.1% in 2014-15, continuing a longer term trend. The clear up rate for Group 1 crimes ranged from 112.7% in Argyll & Bute to 66.4% in Inverclyde.

Clear up rates in each of the four categories in this crime group have also increased, with the largest increase in the clear up rate noted in Homicide etc., which increased from 101.9% to 107.6%.

Rates of over 100% can occur when crimes are cleared up in a different reporting period to the year in which they were recorded.

DATA VALIDATION

HMICS Crime Audit 2014

It should be noted that in the [HMICS audit report](#), violent crime includes Common assault (the figures for which are included in this bulletin under Group 6 – Miscellaneous offences). Further information on this audit, including definitions of terminology and tests used, can be found in [Annex 3](#).

Of the 1,766 crimes examined in the audit that resulted from violent incidents, 94% were counted and classified correctly.

The audit found that a number of crimes had been under-counted (38) or over-counted (31). Most of the under-counted crimes were for common assault; most of the over-counted crimes related to common assault or threatening and abusive behaviour.

A number of crimes (38) were classified incorrectly. The majority of these fell into three categories:

- common assault which should have been serious assault (14);
- serious assault which should have been attempted murder (7);

- thefts, or assaults and thefts, which should have been robberies (10).

The HMICS audit report notes that the 'classification of serious assault continues to be a challenge'. As noted in the report, a review is currently underway by Police Scotland, in conjunction with the Scottish Government and other criminal justice partners, on the definition of serious assault.

Of the 2,238 violent incidents⁴ examined in the audit, 92% were closed correctly.

Almost half of the incidents which failed Test 1 involved a report of violence (usually a common assault) where the complainer was uncooperative. Around a third of the Test 1 fails involved a lack of information or update on the incident record to dispel the initial report of criminality.

DATA COMPARISONS

This segment includes information that should be considered to widen contextual understanding of the data provided on Group 1 - Non-sexual crimes of violence. Detail is provided both on a separate bulletin on Homicide, as well as analysis from the SCJS to provide a complementary outlook on violent crime in Scotland.

Homicide

A separate Homicide in Scotland bulletin is produced by the Scottish Government that contains more detailed information on the crimes of Murder and Culpable homicide (common law). The data contained within the Homicide bulletin will differ from the data presented here for the following reasons:

- The Homicide in Scotland bulletin does not cover all of the crimes included within the Homicide etc. category per this bulletin (as detailed above), such as Causing death by dangerous driving and Corporate homicide.
- The data in the Homicide in Scotland bulletin are collected from the police separately to the data presented in this bulletin and are collected on an individual case basis. This allows characteristics of victims and accused, such as age and gender, as well as the circumstances of the homicide, to be collected and then included in the bulletin.
- The data are extracted from police recording systems at different time points, which may result in reclassification of crimes, such as attempted murder to murder, not being revised in the collections for this bulletin, but are reflected in the Homicide in Scotland bulletin.

⁴ Incidents consist of all reports to the police, whether a crime is recorded or not.

We therefore recommend that users interested in Homicide statistics should refer directly to the Homicide in Scotland bulletin series, which can be accessed at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubHomicide>.

The next Homicide in Scotland statistical bulletin will contain data for 2014-15 and is scheduled to be published on 29 September 2015.

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)

In addition to the information on police recorded crime, crime in Scotland is also measured by the SCJS, a national survey with adults (aged 16 and over) living in private households which asks respondents about their experiences of crime.

It should be noted that violent crime as defined by the SCJS is not directly comparable with non-sexual crimes of violence recorded by the Police. Non-sexual crimes of violence (as used in police recorded crime) includes homicide, whilst common assaults (which make up the majority of SCJS violent crime) are included in this bulletin under Group 6 - Miscellaneous Offences. A more detailed examination of comparisons between the SCJS and recorded crime is made within Chapter 4.

Key points from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey:

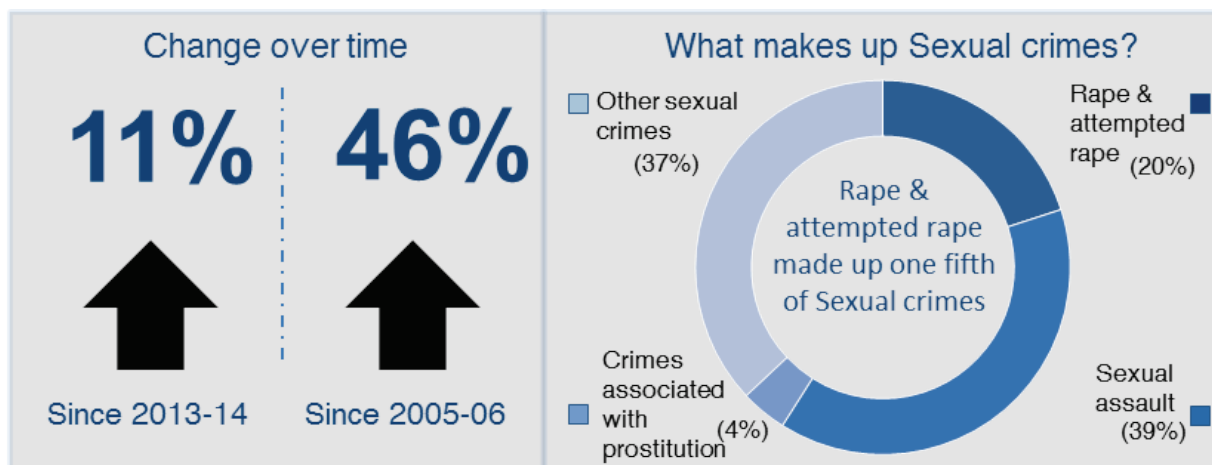
Of the 815,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2012-13, 236,000 (29%) were violent crimes. It is estimated that around 3% of adults in Scotland were a victim of violent crime in 2012-13.

In 2012-13, minor assaults made up the majority of SCJS violent crime (23%), followed by attempted assault (3%), serious assault (2%) and robbery (1%).

Further detail on the comparable crime set is available in [Section 4.3](#). As outlined there and in [Annex 5 of the 2012-13 SCJS](#), violent crime in the SCJS includes attempted assault, serious assault, minor assault and robbery, crimes which are included in Group 1 (Non-sexual crimes of violence) and Group 6 (Miscellaneous offences) in police recorded crime figures.

As outlined in [Section 4.3](#), between 2008-09 and 2012-13, recorded violent crime figures in the comparable category decreased by 20%, while, for the same period, the SCJS estimates of violent crime decreased by 25%, a statistically significant change in the SCJS results. As indicated by [Table 3](#), the SCJS is often better able to detect changes in survey estimates with greater certainty over longer timescales, particularly where the prevalence of crime is low, i.e. in part due to the small numbers of victims identified in the survey (343 for violent crime in 2012-13).

Group 2 – Sexual Crimes

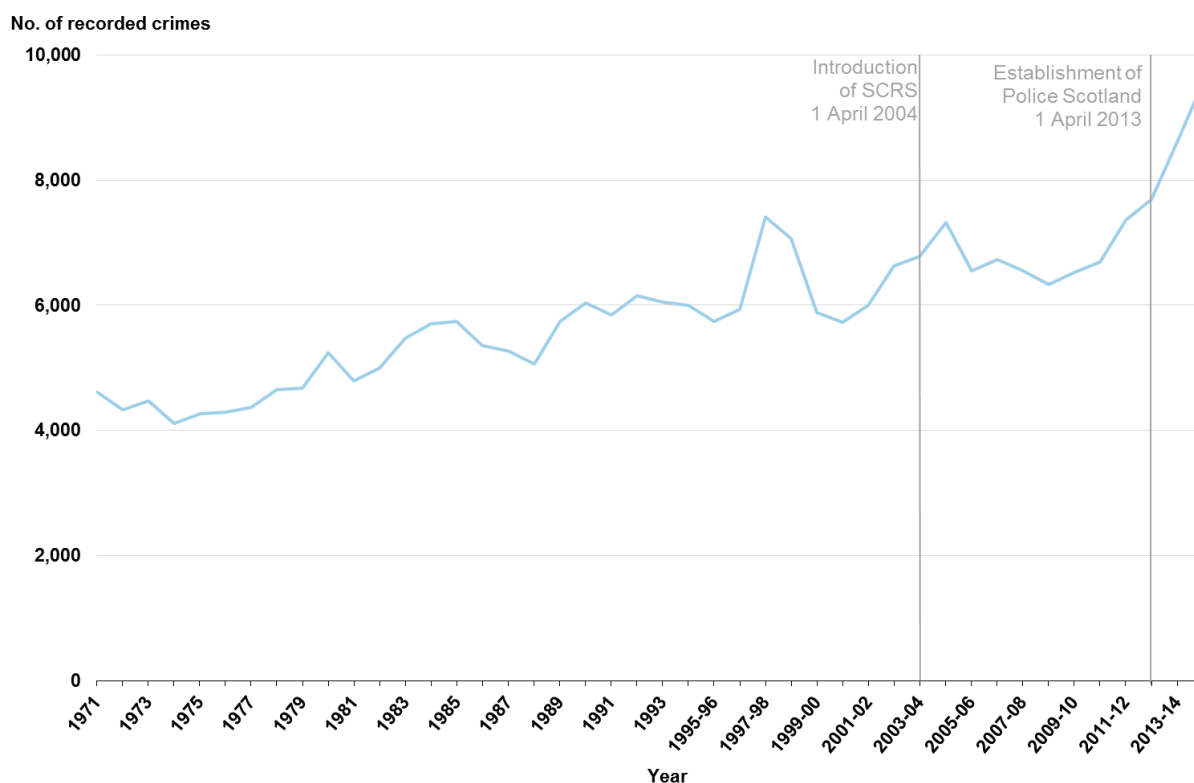


Number of Sexual crimes recorded in 2014-15:

Sexual crimes account for 4% of all crimes recorded in Scotland in 2014-15. The number of Sexual crimes recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 11% from 8,604 in 2013-14 to 9,557 in 2014-15.

[Chart 9](#) below shows the number of Sexual crimes from 1971 onwards. Sexual crimes have been on a long-term upward trend since 1974, and have increased each consecutive year since 2008-09. Sexual crimes are at the highest level since 1971, the first year for which comparable crime groups are available.

Chart 9: Sexual crimes recorded by the police, 1971¹ to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2014-15



1. Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

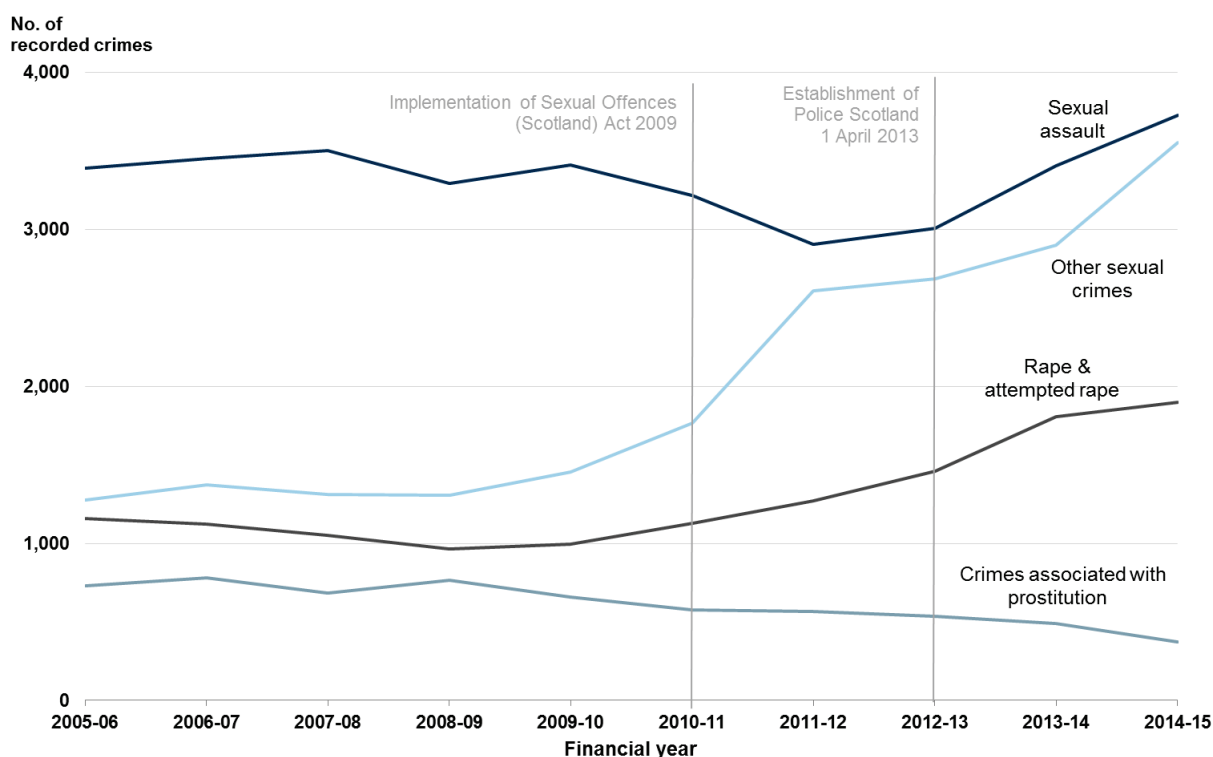
In 2014-15, the rate for Scotland of recorded Sexual crimes increased to 18 crimes per 10,000 population, compared to 16 per 10,000 population for 2013-14. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Dundee City (37 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in East Renfrewshire (6 per 10,000 population).

Whilst the specific age of the victim cannot generally be determined from the data supplied by Police Scotland, many of the sexual offence crime codes used by the Police to record crime make it clear when the victim was aged under 18 (for example, Sexual assault of older male child (13-15 years)). By adding up all those crime codes, we know that at least 32% of the 9,557 sexual offences recorded in 2014-15 by the police related to a victim under the age of 18.

[Chart 10](#) below shows the four categories within Sexual crimes over the last ten years, and gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category. The proportions of the Sexual assault and Other sexual crimes categories have changed markedly over time, almost converging after 2010, which coincides with the implementation of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009. Information on the impact of this Act is available under Data Considerations below. The proportion of Rape and attempted rape has remained fairly constant over time, whereas that of Crimes associated with prostitution has fallen.

[Tables A2](#) and [A3](#) contain more detailed breakdowns for Sexual crimes.

Chart 10: Sexual crimes in Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15



Sexual assault:

Sexual assault is the largest category in Group 2, accounting for 39% of Sexual crimes in 2014-15. This category has seen an increase of 10% over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, and has increased by 9% from 3,405 in 2013-14 to 3,727 in 2014-15. This category has been on an upward trend since 2011-12, having increased by 28% since that time.

This trend is not seen across the whole of Scotland, as just over half (17) of local authorities have recorded an increase in this category over the ten year period. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, a similar number (19) of local authority areas showed an increase in Sexual assault. Notably, South Lanarkshire increased by 67% from 90 crimes in 2013-14 to 167 in 2014-15. While this local authority accounts for only 4% of the crimes in this category, this increase is the equivalent of almost a quarter (24%) of the overall change in Sexual assault and 8% of the overall change in Sexual crimes as a whole.

One of the main drivers behind the increase in Sexual assault between 2013-14 and 2014-15 was an increase in crimes of Sexual assault of a female (16+), accounting for 31% of all crimes within this category.

Rape & attempted rape:

It should be noted that due to the implementation of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009, comparisons with data prior to 2010-11 should be treated with caution. Additional information relating to the implementation of this legislation is available in the [‘Data Considerations’](#) section below.

Rape & attempted rape accounts for 20% of Sexual crimes. These crimes have increased by 68% between 2010-11 and 2014-15, and have increased by 5% from 1,808 in 2013-14 to 1,901 in 2014-15.

Almost all local authority areas recorded an increase in this category over the five year period from 2010-11 to 2014-15, with only the Shetland Islands and East Dunbartonshire showing a decrease over this time (both based on small numbers). This trend continued between 2013-14 and 2014-15 with the majority (19) of local authorities showing an increase from the previous year.

Crimes associated with prostitution:

Crimes associated with prostitution account for less than 4% of Sexual crimes. Over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, these crimes have seen a large decrease of 49%, and have decreased by 24% from 490 in 2013-14 to 374 in 2014-15.

Almost all crimes within this category (97%) are recorded in the city based local authority areas covering Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee. All four of these recorded a decrease over the ten year period. This trend continued between 2013-14 and 2014-15, with the exception of Dundee which saw an increase of 127% from 15 in 2013-14 to 34 in 2014-15.

Other sexual crimes:

The Other sexual crimes category includes crimes such as Other sexually coercive conduct, Other sexual crimes involving 13-15 year old children, Taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children, Incest, Illegal homosexual acts, Indecent exposure and Other sexual crimes.

As with Rape & attempted rape, it should be noted that due to the implementation of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009, comparisons with data prior to 2010-11 should be treated with caution. Additional information relating to the implementation of this legislation is available in the '[Data Considerations](#)' section below. As of 2014-15, a new crime code for Possession of extreme pornography was introduced and included in the Other sexual crimes category. Previously these crimes would have been classified as offences of Handling obscene material within Group 6 – Miscellaneous offences, under the Other miscellaneous offences category. The overall impact of this change on the Other sexual crimes category is very small, with Possession of extreme pornography accounting for 0.7% of Other sexual crimes and 0.3% of total Group 2 Sexual crimes in 2014-15.

Other sexual crimes account for over one third (37%) of Sexual crimes. This category has been on an upward trend since 2010-11, having increased by 101% within that time, and increased by 23% between 2013-14 and 2014-15.

All local authority areas recorded an increase in this category over the five year period from 2010-11 to 2014-15, ranging from 11% in North Ayrshire to 545% in Angus, with more than half of local authorities (17) showing an increase of at least 100%. This trend continued between 2013-14 and 2014-15 with the majority (25) of local authorities showing an increase from the previous year.

Clear up rates for Sexual crimes in 2014-15:

The clear up rate for Sexual crimes increased by 0.9 percentage points in 2014-15 from 75.6% to 76.5%, continuing the upward trend since 2009-10. This rate ranged from 96.7% in the Shetland Islands to 62.0% in Midlothian.

Clear up rates have also increased in all categories of Sexual crimes, except for Other sexual crimes which decreased from 79.4% to 75.5%.

DATA CONSIDERATIONS

Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009

The implementation of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 on 1 December 2010, resulted in a redistribution of Group 2 crimes among the subcategories. Comparisons over time of the breakdown of Sexual crimes should therefore be treated with caution. However, no new crimes were introduced as a result of the legislation and consequently we do not consider there to be a break in the time series.

The Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 widened the definition of Rape and therefore comparisons of the category Rape & attempted rape with data prior to 2010-11 should be treated with caution.

There are a number of crimes such as Indecent communication and Voyeurism which may have been recorded as Breach of the peace prior to the implementation of the Act, and which therefore would not have shown up as sexual crimes before December 2010. This coincides with the increase in Other sexual crimes in 2011-12. Therefore, comparisons of the category Other sexual crimes with data prior to 2010-11 should be treated with caution.

Historic reporting

In [Table A3](#), we can see that in 2014-15, 1,014 crimes of Lewd and Libidinous practices were recorded. These crimes will all relate to offences which occurred prior to the implementation of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 on 1 December 2010, as the act replaced Lewd and Libidinous practices with specific sexual assault crimes. As a result, we know that these are historic offences. Similarly, there were 347 crimes of Sexual assault committed prior to 1 December 2010. There will be other Sexual crimes recorded in 2014-15, which occurred in previous years but after the introduction of the Act; however, it is not possible to identify these separately to give a full picture of historic reporting.

Police Scotland have advised that there are a number of contributory factors that may explain the rise in Sexual crimes.

- Increases in recorded crimes may be the result of increased reporting, including that of historic crimes. Victims may have been encouraged to come forward and report such crimes to the police, following increased media attention on high profile cases and police investigations such as the Metropolitan Police's Operation Yewtree and Operation Hydrant (the co-ordination of several child sexual abuse investigations across the UK).
- Some investigations can be large-scale involving numerous victims/offenders, and the proactive nature of enquiries can lead to additional victims/offenders being identified.
- Police Scotland release press statements following successful operations or prosecutions, which often request that the public come forward if they have been involved in similar issues in the past. There may be an element of self-perpetuation of this trend with these press releases.
- Domestic abuse is a priority for Police Scotland, where in-depth investigations may lead to the identification of additional crimes / victims.
- An increase in non-contact offences, such as children being sent indecent images and / or communications due to increased access to social media, mobile phone applications, etc. (e.g. Whatsapp, Snapchat). Police proactivity in such cases, following an initial allegation, can lead to the identification of further victims through subsequent forensic computing work.

DATA VALIDATION

HMICS Crime Audit 2014

As previously mentioned, HMICS tested the accuracy of crime recording through auditing a sample of records recorded between 1 April 2013 and 30 June 2014 for sexual crimes. Further information on this [audit](#), including definitions of terminology and tests used, can be found in [Annex 3](#).

Of the 897 crimes examined in the audit that resulted from sexual incidents, 93% were counted and classified correctly.

The audit found that 34 crimes had been under-counted and 17 crimes had been over-counted.

Only 12 classification errors (out of 897 crimes examined) were made.

Several of the counting and classification errors related to the introduction of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 which came into force on 1 December 2010.

The thorough scrutiny of reports of rape within divisions and by the National Rape Review Team tends to ensure consistent and accurate recording.

Of the 1,200 sexual incidents⁵ audited, 89% were closed correctly. Incorrect closure in the majority of incidents was due to insufficient information from which to make a judgement as to whether or not a crime had actually occurred. A third of these incidents have been referred to a specialist investigation unit. HMICS received assurances that investigations were on-going in these instances and a crime may be recorded at a later date, and noted that specialist investigation units should bear in mind that the Counting Rules require that crimes should be recorded as soon as practicable.

DATA COMPARISONS

This segment includes information that should be considered to widen contextual understanding of the data provided on Group 2 - Sexual crimes. Detail is provided on limited comparisons with recorded crime in England & Wales and Northern Ireland. Further detail on the type of information available from the SCJS on sexual crime is also included.

Comparisons with England & Wales and Northern Ireland

While recorded crime in Scotland is not directly comparable with England & Wales or Northern Ireland due to differences in legislation and counting rules, the overall trend for sexual crimes is very similar across the UK.

Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, sexual crimes in England & Wales increased by 37% compared with 11% in Scotland and 22% in Northern Ireland. In the five years from 2010-11 to 2014-15, sexual crimes in England & Wales increased by 64% compared with 43% in Scotland and 42% in Northern Ireland.

⁵ Incidents consist of all reports to the police, whether a crime is recorded or not.

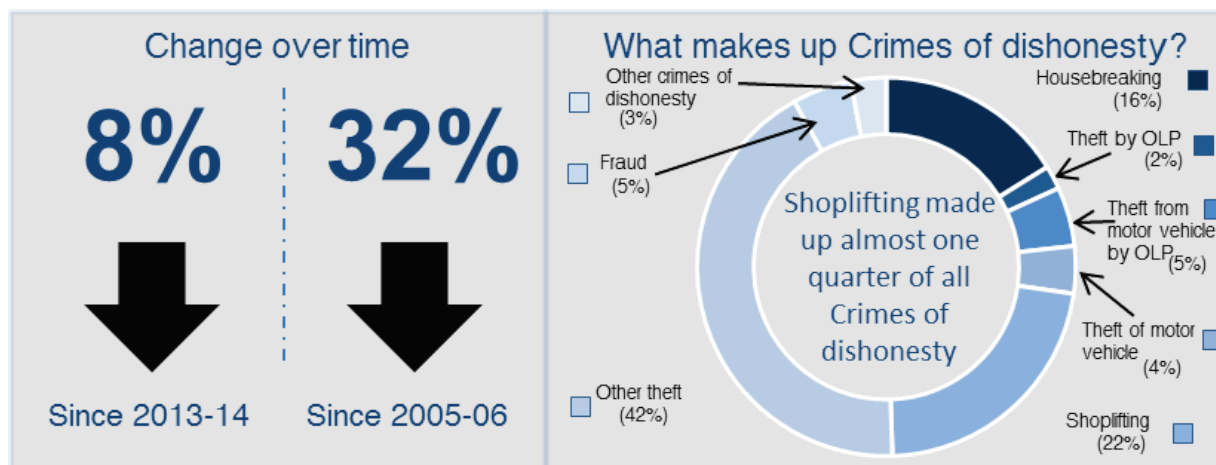
England & Wales detail in their report that the increase in recent years is thought to reflect a greater willingness of victims to come forward to report such crimes, and that it may also reflect changes in recording rather than actual victimisation. Northern Ireland suggest in their report that it may in part be due to clarification received from the Home Office in relation to the issue of consent, thus leading to improved recording of these offences.

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)

In addition to the information on police recorded crime, crime in Scotland is also measured by the SCJS, a national survey with adults (aged 16 and over) living in private households which asks respondents about their experiences of crime.

Detailed information on the victims of sexual crime is not collected in the main SCJS survey. Information on sensitive topics is collected through a number of additional self-completion sections. Some of these sections include information on sexual crime; for example, the [self-completion elements of the 2012-13 SCJS](#) included questions on Sexual victimisation & stalking and Partner abuse.

Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty

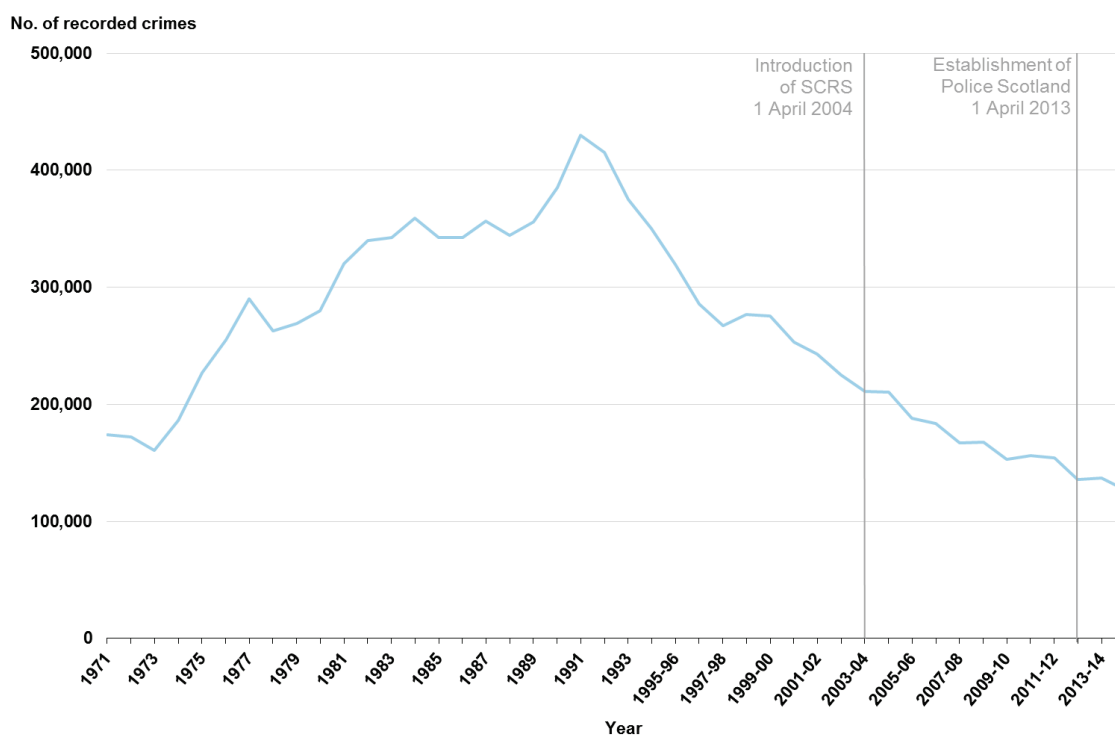


Number of Crimes of dishonesty recorded in 2014-15:

Crimes of dishonesty account for almost half (49%) of all crime recorded in Scotland in 2014-15. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, the number of Crimes of dishonesty recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 8%, from 137,324 to 126,857.

[Chart 11](#) below shows the number of Crimes of dishonesty from 1971 onwards. Levels of Crimes of dishonesty increased for a long period, but have been on a generally downward trend since they peaked in 1991, having decreased by 71% since that time. These crimes are now at the lowest level since 1971, the first year for which comparable crime groups are available.

Chart 11: Crimes of dishonesty recorded by the police, 1971¹ to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2014-15

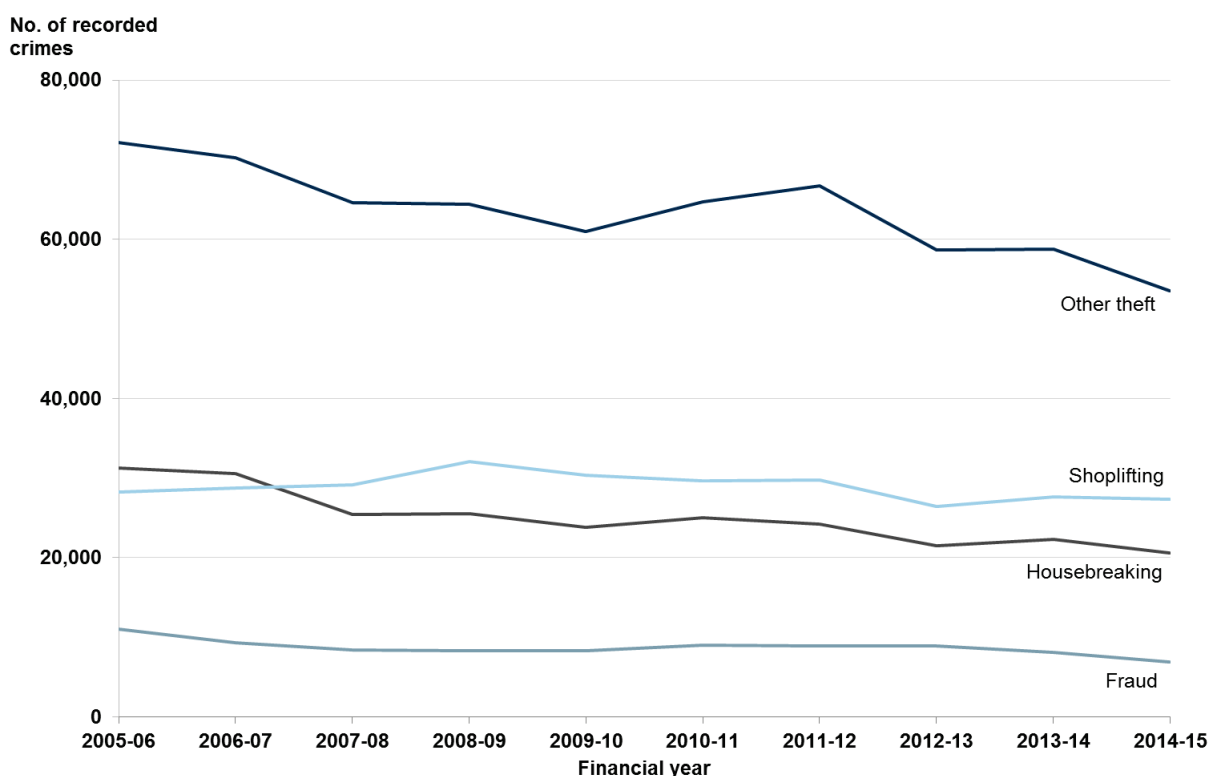


1. Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

The national rate for Scotland of recorded Crimes of dishonesty decreased from 258 per 10,000 population in 2013-14 to 237 crimes per 10,000 population in 2014-15. Rates varied significantly by local authority area, with the highest rate in 2014-15 seen in the City of Edinburgh (456 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in the Orkney Islands (44 per 10,000 population).

[Chart 12](#) shows the four largest categories within Crimes of dishonesty over the last ten years, and gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category. Although the level of all four of these categories have decreased over time, the proportions of Shoplifting and Other theft have increased over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, while the others remained relatively steady throughout. Other theft has consistently been the biggest contributor to Crimes of dishonesty. While not displayed in Chart 12, the proportions of Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP), Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP and Theft of a motor vehicle have decreased over the ten years from 2005-06 to 2014-15 ([Table 5](#)).

Chart 12: Crimes of dishonesty (showing four largest categories) in Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15



Other theft:

Other theft includes Theft of pedal cycles and other thefts which are not classified elsewhere.

This category is the largest in Crimes of dishonesty, and accounts for 42% of these crimes. Over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, Other theft has seen a decrease of 26%, and has decreased by 9% from 58,794 in 2013-14 to 53,539 in 2014-15.

All but four local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. This trend continued between 2013-14 and 2014-15 with all but six local authorities showing a decrease from the previous year.

Shoplifting:

Shoplifting accounts for a fifth (22%) of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, Shoplifting has seen a decrease of 3%, and has decreased by 1% from 27,693 in 2013-14 to 27,364 in 2014-15. However this is the only category in Crimes of dishonesty not to show a clear downward trend, having remained comparatively stable over the ten year period.

There was wide variation in the change across the 32 local authorities over the ten year period, with over half (19) showing a decrease in Shoplifting. This variation is also reflected between 2013-14 and 2014-15 with less than half (14) of Scotland's local authorities recording a decrease.

Housebreaking:

Housebreaking accounts for 16% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, this crime has seen a decrease of 34%, and has decreased by 7% from 22,272 in 2013-14 to 20,607 in 2014-15. [Table A4](#) shows that this has been driven by a decrease of 11% in housebreaking of domestic dwellings.

All but four local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Notably, after showing a generally downward trend for most of the ten year period, the City of Edinburgh has recorded an increase for two consecutive years, having increased by 67% since 2012-13 and 21% since 2013-14. The City of Edinburgh, which includes 9% of Scotland's population⁶, accounts for almost a quarter (24%) of crimes within this category. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, almost two thirds (21) of local authorities showed a decrease.

Additional information provided by Police Scotland relating to Housebreaking is available in the '[Data Considerations](#)' section below.

Fraud:

Crimes of Fraud account for 5% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, this category has fluctuated but overall has seen a decrease of 38%, and has decreased by 15% between 2013-14 and 2014-15.

All but three local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. This trend continued between 2013-14 and 2014-15, with all but seven local authorities showing a decrease.

⁶ Population estimates are as at mid-year 2014 from the National Records of Scotland (<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates>)

Theft from a motor vehicle by opening a lockfast place (OLP):

Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP accounts for 5% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, this crime has seen a large decrease of 65%, and has decreased by 6% from 6,189 in 2013-14 to 5,816 in 2014-15.

All but one local authority area recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, over two thirds (22) of local authorities showed a decrease. The largest increase was seen in East Dunbartonshire (88%), although this is mainly due to a very low figure in 2013-14, with the figure for 2014-15 remaining well below other years in the ten year period.

Theft of a motor vehicle:

Theft of a motor vehicle accounts for 4% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, this crime has seen a large decrease of 61%, having been on a generally downward trend since 2006-07, and has decreased by 9% from 5,976 in 2013-14 to 5,423 in 2014-15.

All local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, three quarters (24) of all local authorities showed a decrease. Of those that increased, the largest was found in Stirling (57%), although this is mainly due to a low figure in 2013-14, with 2014-15 being more in line with data prior to that reporting year.

Additional information provided by Police Scotland relating to vehicle theft is available in the '[Data Considerations](#)' section below.

Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP):

Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP) accounts for 2% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, this crime has seen a large decrease of 65%, and has decreased by 11% from 3,218 in 2013-14 to 2,879 in 2014-15.

With the exception of Argyll & Bute, all local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Argyll & Bute has been on a downward trend since 2008-09, but has increased for two consecutive years with a 100% increase between 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Additional information provided by Police Scotland relating to Theft by opening a lockfast place in Argyll & Bute is available in the '[Data Considerations](#)' section below.

Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, almost two thirds (21) of local authorities showed either a decrease or very little change from the previous year.

Other crimes of dishonesty:

Other crimes of dishonesty includes Reset, Corruption, Embezzlement and other crimes of forgery which are not classified elsewhere.

Other crimes of dishonesty account for 3% of total Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, this crime has seen a decrease of 31%, and has decreased by 15% from 5,094 in 2013-14 to 4,316 in 2014-15.

All but five local authority areas either recorded a decrease or very little change in this category over the ten year period. This trend continued between 2013-14 and 2014-15, as over two thirds (22) of local authorities showed a decrease or very little change from the previous year.

Clear up rates for Crimes of dishonesty in 2014-15:

The clear up rate for Crimes of dishonesty decreased by 1.6 percentage points in 2014-15, from 37.4% to 35.8%. The clear up rate for these crimes has fluctuated slightly year to year, and is currently at the lowest level seen in the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15. The clear up rate for Crimes of dishonesty ranged from 74.6% in the Shetland Islands to 25.4% in the City of Edinburgh.

Clear up rates in almost all categories in this crime group have also decreased, with only Housebreaking seeing an increase, from 23.2% in 2013-14 to 25.0% in 2014-15.

DATA CONSIDERATIONS

Police Scotland advised that operations such as the high profile Operation RAC, Operation Ruby in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire & Moray Divisions and Operation TUSKER in Fife Division are thought to have contributed to the overall drop in Crimes of dishonesty. Operation RAC involved investigative resources dedicated to reducing and responding to Housebreaking. Operation Ruby targeted offenders of vehicle theft, which often involved those who entered insecure dwellings as part of the crime. Operation TUSKER targeted seasonal crimes through raising awareness amongst local communities around personal security in warmer weather (e.g. open windows, etc.).

Police Scotland have also advised that operations such as these have resulted in repeat offenders receiving custodial sentences, which may have led to fewer crimes being committed.

As part of the production of this Bulletin, Police Scotland have fed back that a single report in Argyll & Bute resulted in 31 separate recorded crimes of Theft by opening a lockfast place. This was in relation to repeated thefts at the same location.

DATA VALIDATION

HMICS Crime Audit 2014

The [2014 Crime Audit](#) carried out by HMICS included a specific focus on housebreaking. Of the 1,341 crimes examined in the audit that resulted from housebreaking incidents, 95% were counted and classified correctly.

The audit report stated that this 'good Test 2 compliance rate reflects the fact that housebreaking incidents appear to be scrutinised carefully by crime management units and are therefore more likely to be accurate'.

Most Test 2 errors related to the classification of the crime, and most of these related to whether the security of the building had been overcome (see page 24 of the HMICS report for further information).

Of the 1,664 incidents⁷ examined, 94% were closed correctly. Around half of the incidents which failed Test 1 did so because the incident record had not been updated with the results of the enquiry and the initial inference of criminality had not been dispelled. Around a quarter of Test 1 fails were thought to be crimes where the incident had not been followed up or the complainers had become uncooperative. Other Test 1 errors included incidents where the items stolen were deemed to be of no monetary value and therefore did not merit a crime report and where the owner of the property broken into was reporting the break-in 'for information only'.

Non-crime related incidents

Non-crime related incidents are those incidents reported to the police which never result in a crime report. Because there are no crime reports, this category can only be assessed against Test 1. Of the 1,254 such incidents examined, 87% were closed correctly. These incidents related to areas of inquiry that spanned all of the crime groups, but the Audit highlighted two areas specific to Crimes of dishonesty.

Several of the incidents where a crime had clearly been committed but no crime record was found related to shoplifting. Often the goods stolen were of low value and officers elected not to record a crime, often because it was unlikely the offender would have been prosecuted. However, the decision to record a crime is distinct from the decision to prosecute. In these cases, HMICS viewed that a crime should still have been recorded.

Other incidents where a crime had clearly been committed but no crime record was found related to fraud. It seemed that some officers were uncertain how to respond to fraud allegations, particularly in relation to online fraud. The issue of fraud and cybercrime is one that HMICS has said they will consider more broadly in future. While the statistics in this bulletin show that crime is falling, there is a fear that some crime is being displaced and is now taking place online where it can be more challenging to identify, record and investigate.

⁷ Incidents consist of all reports to the police, whether a crime is recorded or not.

HMICS have stated that it will consider this type of crime further when setting their scrutiny programme in future.

Further information on this audit, including definitions of terminology and tests used, can be found in [Annex 3](#).

DATA COMPARISONS

In addition to information on police recorded Crimes of dishonesty, the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) provides a complimentary outlook on some Crimes of dishonesty through asking respondents about their experiences of property crime.

A more detailed examination of comparisons between the SCJS and recorded crime is made within [Chapter 4](#).

Key points from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey:

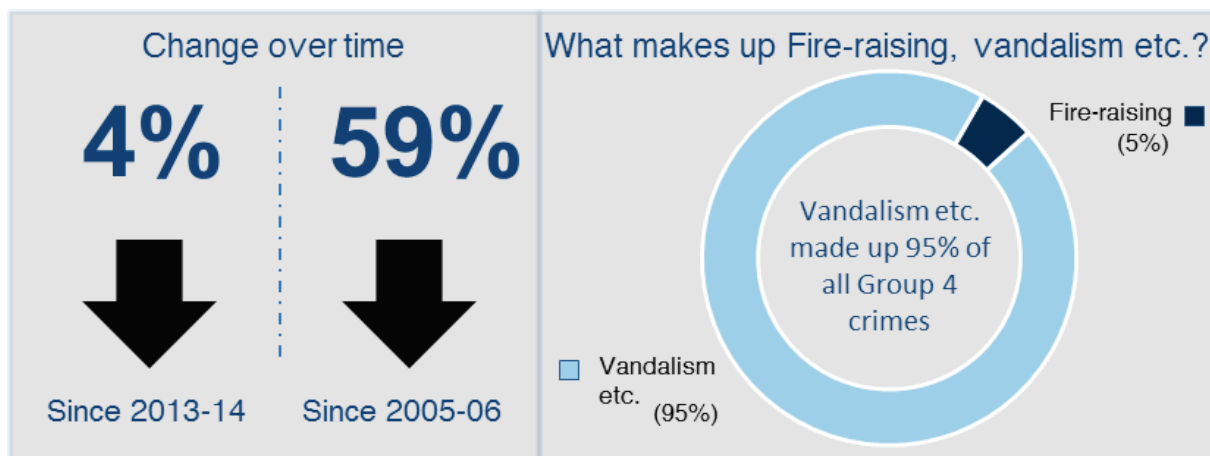
Of the 815,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2012-13, 579,000 (71%) were property crimes. It is estimated that around 15% of adults in Scotland were a victim of property crime in 2012-13.

In 2012-13, vandalism accounted for 27% of property crime, followed by other household theft (including bicycle theft, 21%), personal theft (excluding robbery, 13%), all motor vehicle theft related incidents (6%) and housebreaking (4%).

Further detail on the comparable crime set is available in [Section 4.3](#). As outlined there and in [Annex 5 of the 2012-13 SCJS](#), the comparable acquisitive crime group in the SCJS includes theft or damage to personal or household property (including vehicles) which are included in a number of recorded crime groups, including Group 3 (Crimes of dishonesty) and Group 7 (Motor vehicle offences).

As presented in [Section 4.3](#), results show that recorded acquisitive crime decreased by 21% between 2008-09 and 2012-13; however, the SCJS estimates of acquisitive crime showed no statistically significant change between 2008-09 and 2012-13 (the apparent change from 64,000 to 73,000 is not statistically significant). Survey estimates on the comparable crime subgroups are based on small base sizes of respondents (272 for acquisitive crime in 2012-13) and as a consequence, there is less certainty around estimates.

Group 4 – Fire-raising, Vandalism etc.

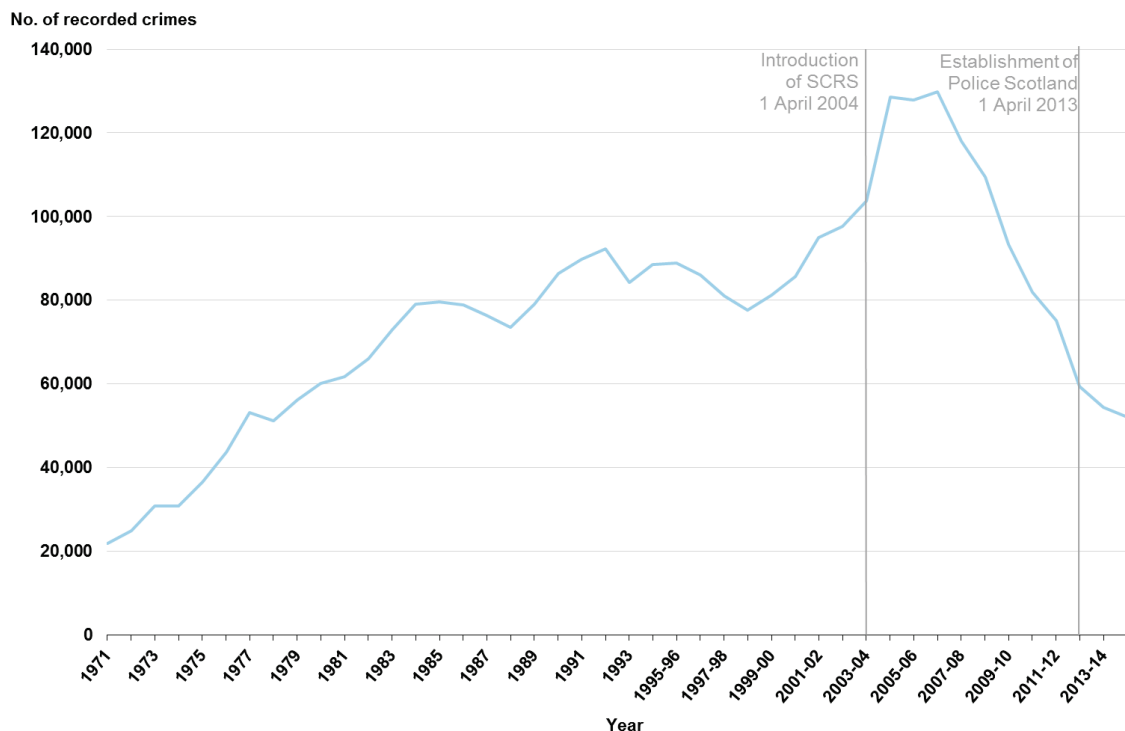


Number of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. recorded in 2014-15:

Fire-raising, vandalism etc. accounts for one fifth (20%) of all crime recorded in Scotland in 2014-15. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, the number of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 4%, from 54,418 to 52,091.

[Chart 13](#) below shows the number of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. from 1971 onwards. Levels of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. increased for a long period, but have been on a sharp downward trend since they peaked in 2006-07, having decreased by 60% since that time. These crimes are now at the lowest level since 1978.

Chart 13: Crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. recorded by the police, 1971¹ to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2014-15



1. Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

In 2014-15, the rate for Scotland of recorded crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. decreased to 97 crimes per 10,000 population, compared to 102 per 10,000 population for 2013-14. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Glasgow City (140 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in Eilean Siar (39 per 10,000 population).

Due to the difference in scale of recorded crimes of Vandalism etc. and Fire-raising, [Charts 14](#) and [15](#) show these two categories separately to highlight better the similar downward trends they have followed over the last ten years.

Chart 14: Fire-raising in Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15

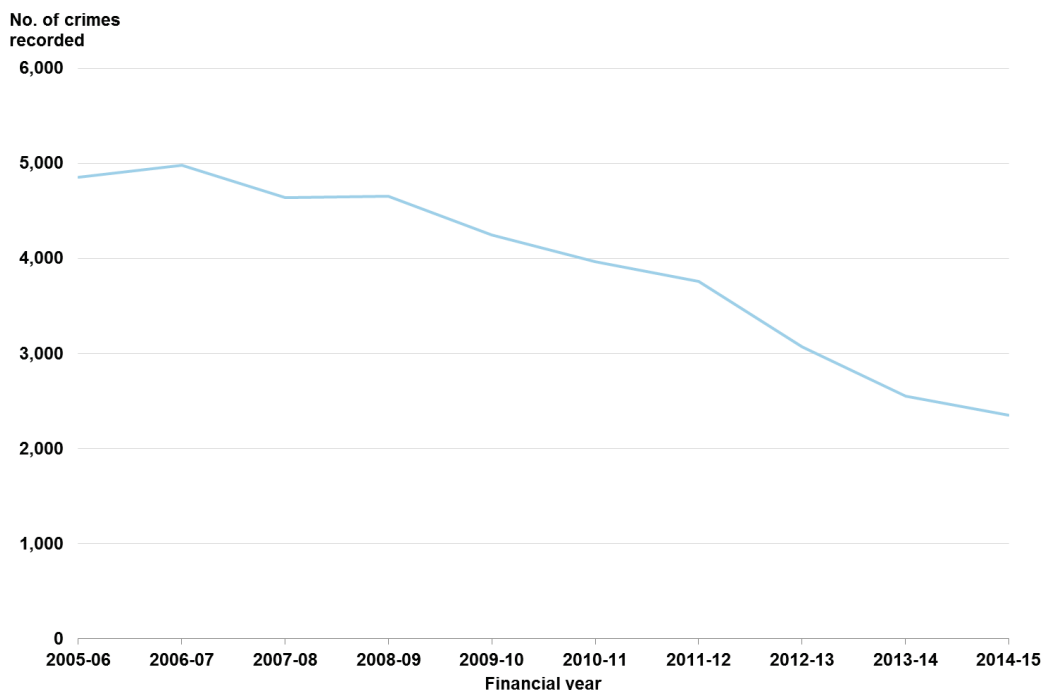
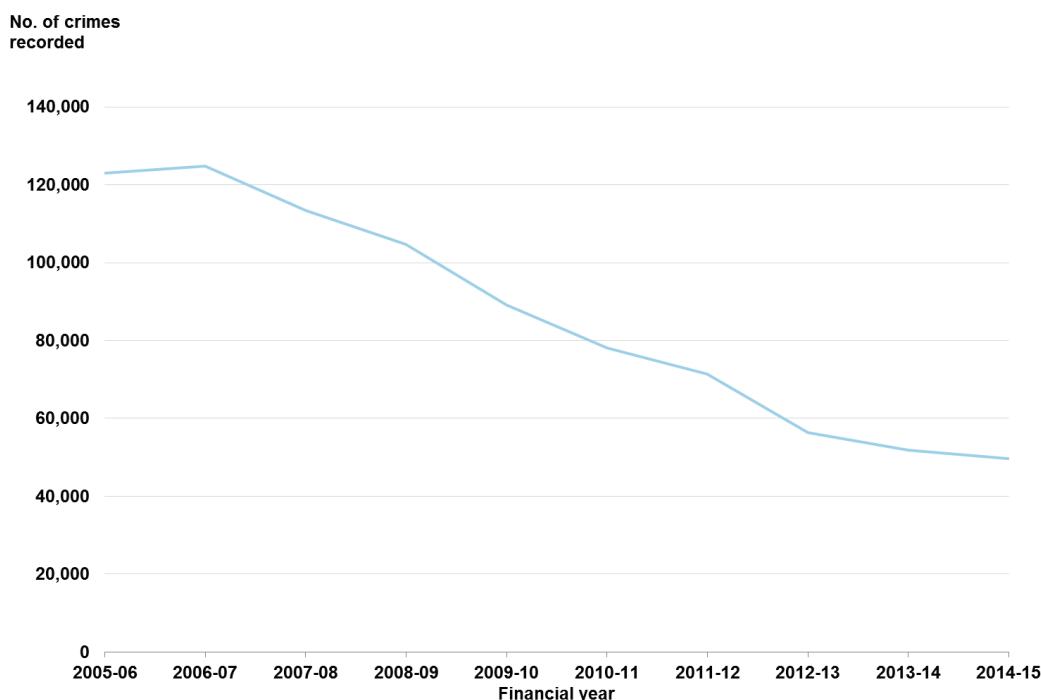


Chart 15: Vandalism etc. in Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15



Vandalism etc.:

Vandalism etc. makes up over 95% of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. Over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, this crime has seen a large decrease of 60%, and has decreased by 4% from 51,869 in 2013-14 to 49,740 in 2014-15.

All local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period, ranging from 47% in Stirling to 74% in East Dunbartonshire. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, more than three quarters (26) of local authorities showed a decrease or very little change from the previous year.

Fire-raising:

Fire-raising accounts for less than 5% of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. Over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, this crime has seen a large decrease of 52%, and has decreased by 8% from 2,549 in 2013-14 to 2,351 in 2014-15.

All local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period, ranging from 12% in Stirling to 83% in the Shetland Islands. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, more than two thirds (23) of local authorities showed a decrease or very little change from the previous year.

Clear up rates for Fire-raising, vandalism etc. in 2014-15:

The clear up rate for Fire-raising, vandalism etc. decreased by 2.3 percentage points in 2014-15 from 25.1% to 22.8%. Crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. consistently have the lowest clear up rate of the five crime groups. The 2014-15 clear up rate for Fire-raising, vandalism etc. ranged from 60.6% in the Shetland Islands to 13.6% in East Renfrewshire.

DATA COMPARISONS

This segment includes information that should be considered to widen contextual understanding of the data provided on Group 4 – Fire-raising, vandalism etc. Detail is provided on the number of fires which are attended to by the Scottish Fire and Rescue service, as well as analysis from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) to provide a complementary outlook on vandalism in Scotland.

Fire and Rescue Statistics Scotland

As highlighted above, there has been a 52% reduction in the number of fire-raising crimes recorded by the police between 2005-06 and 2014-15, from 4,856 to 2,351. Another source of statistics on fire in Scotland is an annual publication covering the number of fires attended by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). The latest figures (for 2013-14) are available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2014/12/2384/0>.

It is not possible to make direct comparisons between the two sources, as many fires are caused accidentally rather than as a result of a crime, and the police are not called to all deliberate fires. Furthermore, not all police recorded

crimes of fire-raising may result in the attendance of the SFRS (for example, the fire may have ended before the police attended). However as these sources both relate to how Scotland's emergency services respond to fire, it would be anticipated that both should show similar trends over time.

A total of 27,979 fires were attended by the SFRS in 2013-14, of which over 16,000 were started deliberately. This represents a 42% reduction in the total number of fires attended since 2005-06 and a 30% reduction in the number of deliberate fires since 2009-10 (the first year for which comparable data are available). This comparison confirms that the significant reduction in police recorded crimes of fire-raising over the past 10 years has also been broadly reflected in statistics for the SFRS.

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)

In addition to the information on police recorded crime, the SCJS provides a complimentary outlook through asking respondents about their experiences of vandalism in Scotland.

A more detailed examination of comparisons between the SCJS and recorded crime is made within [Chapter 4](#).

Key points from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey:

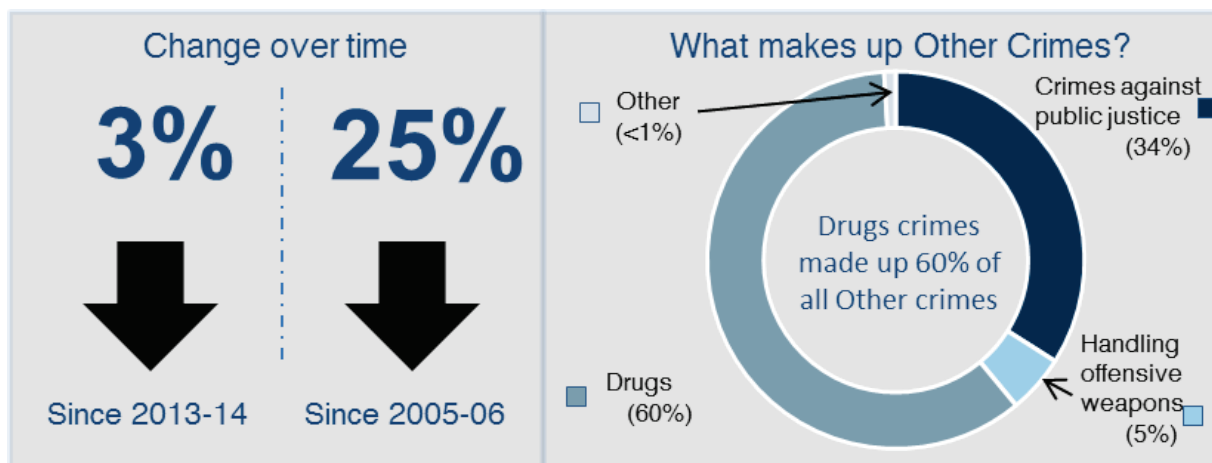
As stated earlier, of the 815,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2012-13, 579,000 (71%) were property crimes and it is estimated that around 15% of adults in Scotland were a victim of property crime in 2012-13.

In 2012-13, vandalism accounted for 27% of property crime, followed by other household theft (including bicycle theft, 21%), personal theft (excluding robbery, 13%), all motor vehicle theft related incidents (6%) and housebreaking (4%).

Further detail on the comparable crime group is available in [Section 4.3](#) and in [Annex 5 of the 2012-13 SCJS](#). Vandalism is included in recorded crime figures within Group 4 (Fire-raising, vandalism etc).

As shown in [Section 4.3](#), between 2008-09 and 2012-13, recorded vandalism figures fell by 46%, while SCJS estimates decreased significantly by 37%. Compared to the violent crime and acquisitive crime groups, vandalism estimates are based on larger samples of respondents (760 in the 2012-13 survey), leading to greater certainty around changes in the short and medium term.

Group 5 – Other Crimes

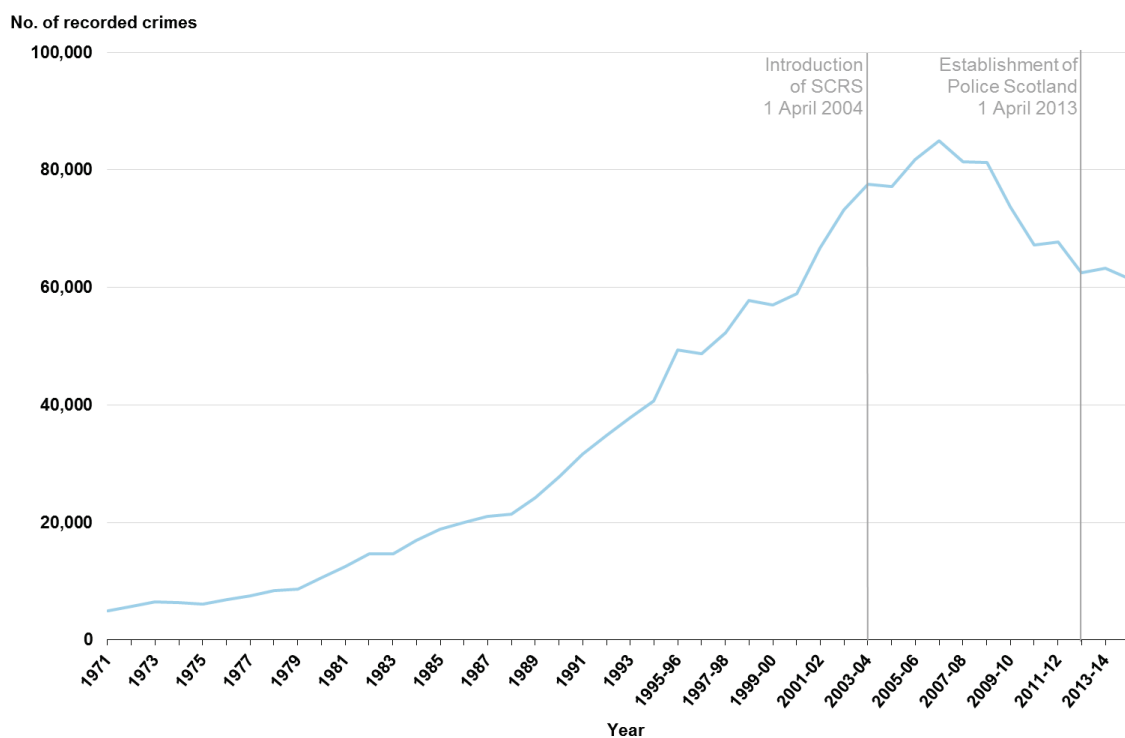


Number of Other crimes recorded in 2014-15:

Other crimes account for almost one quarter (24%) of all crimes recorded in Scotland in 2014-15. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, the number of Other crimes recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 3%, from 63,266 to 61,488. This was largely driven by a decrease of 11% in Crimes against public justice.

[Chart 16](#) below shows the number of Other crimes from 1971 onwards. Levels of these crimes increased for a long period, but has been on a generally downward trend since they peaked in 2006-07, having decreased by 28% since that time. These crimes are now at the lowest level since 2000-01.

Chart 16: Other crimes recorded by the police, 1971¹ to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2014-15

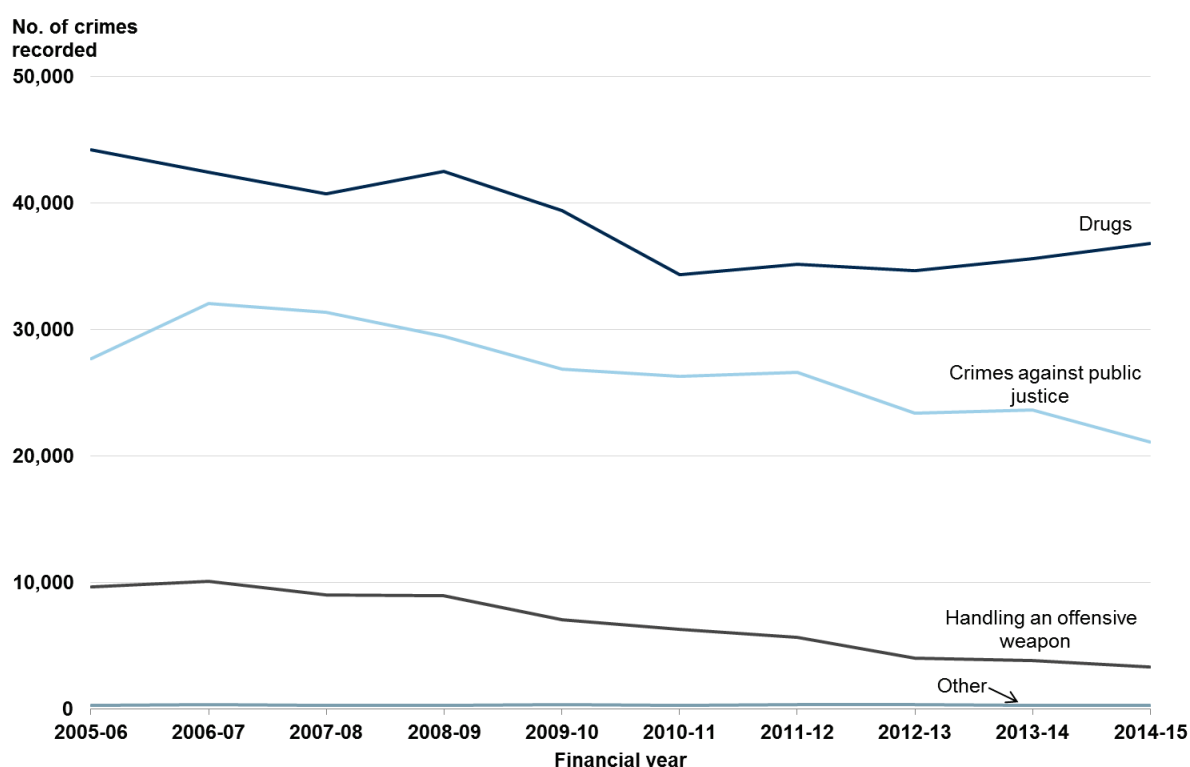


1. Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

In 2014-15, the rate for Scotland of recorded Other crimes decreased to 115 crimes per 10,000 population, compared to 119 per 10,000 population for 2013-14. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Glasgow City (233 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in the Orkney Islands and Eilean Siar (37 per 10,000 population).

[Chart 17](#) shows the four categories within Other crimes over the last ten years, and gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category. The proportion of Drugs crimes have increased over the ten year period from 54% in 2005-06 to 60% in 2014-15, while that of Handling offensive weapons has decreased (from 12% in 2005-06 to 5% in 2014-15), with the others remaining relatively steady throughout. Drugs crimes has consistently been the biggest contributor to Other crimes.

Chart 17: Other crimes in Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15



Drugs:

Drug crimes is the largest category in Group 5, accounting for 60% of Other crimes in 2014-15. This category has seen a decrease of 17% over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, but has increased by 3% from 35,616 in 2013-14 to 36,836 in 2014-15. These crimes have increased for two consecutive years, and are now at the highest level since 2009-10.

Over the ten year period, all but five local authorities recorded a decrease in this category. This trend was not continued between 2013-14 and 2014-15 with less than half (14) of local authorities showing a decrease or very little change from the previous year. Notably, levels in Renfrewshire have increased by 77% over the ten year period, and has shown an upward trend since 2011-12, having increased by 30% from 1,557 in 2013-14 to 2,021 in 2014-15. While this

local authority accounts for 5% of the crimes in this category, this increase is the equivalent of 38% of the overall change in Drug crimes.

Additional information provided by Police Scotland relating to Drug crimes in Renfrewshire is available in the '[Data Considerations](#)' section below.

Crimes against public justice:

Crimes against public justice includes Bail offences, Resisting arrest and wasting police time.

Crimes against public justice accounts for 34% of Other crimes in 2014-15. This category has seen a decrease of 24% over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, and has decreased by 11% from 23,610 in 2013-14 to 21,100 in 2014-15.

Over the ten year period, all but five local authorities recorded a decrease in this category. This trend continued between 2013-14 and 2014-15 with all but six local authority areas showing a decrease. This was mainly driven by decreases in two crime codes: Resisting arrest; and Bail offences, other than absconding or re-offending.

Handling offensive weapons:

Crimes of Handling offensive weapons accounts for 5% of Other crimes in 2014-15. This category has seen a decrease of 67% since 2006-07 when these crimes were at the highest level since 1971, the first year for which comparable data are available. This category has decreased by 13% from 3,795 in 2013-14 to 3,289 in 2014-15.

Over the ten year period, all local authorities recorded a decrease in this category, ranging from 29% in Dundee City to 85% in North Ayrshire and Moray. This trend continued between 2013-14 and 2014-15 with over two thirds (23) of local authority areas showing a decrease or very little change from the previous year.

Other:

The Other category within Other crimes includes Treason, Conspiracy, Explosive offences, Wrecking, piracy and hijacking, and Crimes against public order.

This category accounts for less than 1% of Other crimes in 2014-15. This category has fluctuated over time with a decrease of 3% over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, and an increase of 7% from 245 in 2013-14 to 263 in 2014-15.

Clear up rates for Other crimes in 2014-15:

Clear up rates for Other crimes are generally close to 100% since these consist of many crimes for which someone is 'caught in the act'. The clear up rate for Other crimes decreased by 1.9 percentage points in 2014-15 from 98.4% to 96.5%, the lowest level in the ten year period covered by the bulletin. The clear

up rate for Group 5 crimes ranged from 111.2% in the Shetland Islands to 90.6% in the City of Edinburgh.

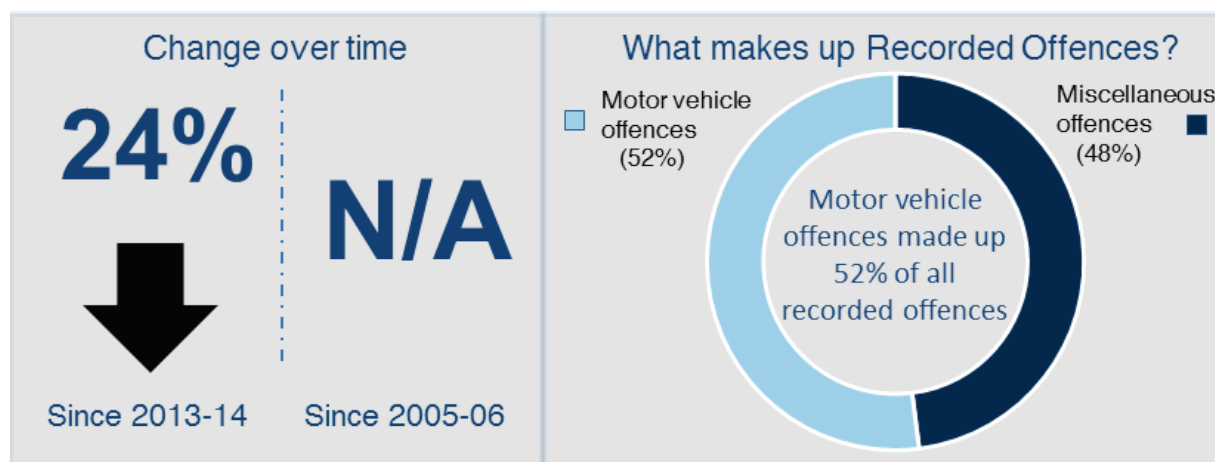
Clear up rates in each of the four categories in this crime group have also decreased, with the largest decrease in the clear up rate noted in the Other category, decreasing from 94.7% to 90.5%.

Rates of over 100% can occur when crimes are cleared up in a different reporting period to the year in which they were recorded.

DATA CONSIDERATIONS

As highlighted above, 38% of the national increase in Drug crimes was in the Renfrewshire local authority area. Police Scotland advise that the increase in drug related crimes in Renfrewshire relates mainly to the possession of drugs, recorded as a result of pro-active and intelligence led policing activity, including stop and search patrols in hotspot areas. Additionally, Police Scotland advise that the pro-active monitoring of breaches of bail conditions may have contributed to an increase in the number of drug crimes being recorded in Renfrewshire.

Total Recorded Offences



Total number of offences recorded in 2014-15:

Due to a number of anomalies in the data for Miscellaneous offences and Motor vehicle offences, data for the total recorded offences by the police are only comparable from 2013-14 onwards. Further detail on these anomalies can be found in the '[Data Considerations](#)' sections below and in the following sections under each offence group, as well as in [Annex 2](#).

The total number of offences recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by almost one quarter (24%) from 501,281 in 2013-14 to 379,498 in 2014-15 ([Table 6](#)).

The two groups account for almost equal proportions of the total number of offences, compared to 2013-14 when Motor vehicle offences accounted for just under 60% of the total.

Local Authority analysis:

Every local authority area, with the exception of the Shetland Islands, showed a decrease in recorded offences. The decreases ranged from 4% in Highland to 47% in East Dunbartonshire.

Further explanation of these trends is set out in the following sections under each offence group.

DATA CONSIDERATIONS

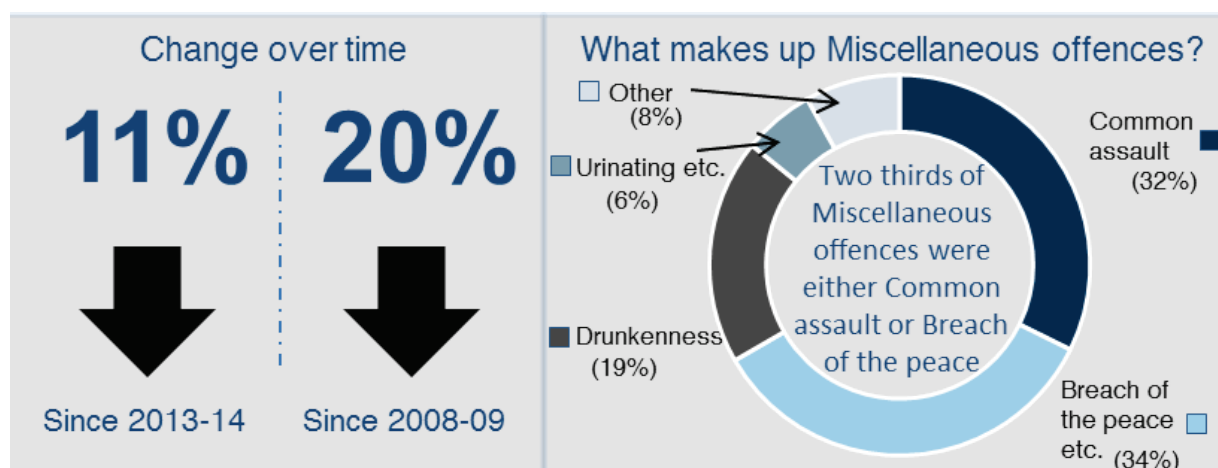
It should be noted that the number of offences recorded by the police generally tends to be affected more by police activity and operational decisions than the numbers of crimes.

Official Statistics on total recorded offences are based on data which Police Scotland extract from their IT system (called the Scottish Operational and Management Information System (ScOMIS)) and submit to the Scottish Government. Prior to 2013-14 and the establishment of Police Scotland, the Scottish Government collected recorded offences data from the eight legacy forces, who in turn extracted the data from their own systems.

Coinciding with this change of collection, the Scottish Government carried out an extensive data quality exercise to assess the comparability of data extracted from ScOMIS with the data published in previous bulletins. This analysis identified that a number of offence codes are non-comparable over time. For Group 6, Miscellaneous Offences, all data are fully comparable from 2008-09 onwards. For Group 7, Motor Vehicle Offences and hence the overall figures on Offences (based on Group 6 and 7), data are only comparable from 2013-14 onwards.

The Scottish Government produced a Technical Report in 2014 which detailed the quality assurance work it carried out in reaching this conclusion: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/TechnicalReport>.

Group 6 – Miscellaneous Offences



Number of Miscellaneous offences recorded in 2014-15:

Miscellaneous offences account for almost half (48%) of all offences recorded in Scotland in 2014-15. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, the number of Miscellaneous offences recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 11%, from 207,190 to 183,513.

Due to a number of anomalies in the data for Miscellaneous offences, this group is only comparable from 2008-09 onwards. Further information on the comparability of Group 6 is available in the '[Data Considerations](#)' section below, and in [Annex 2](#).

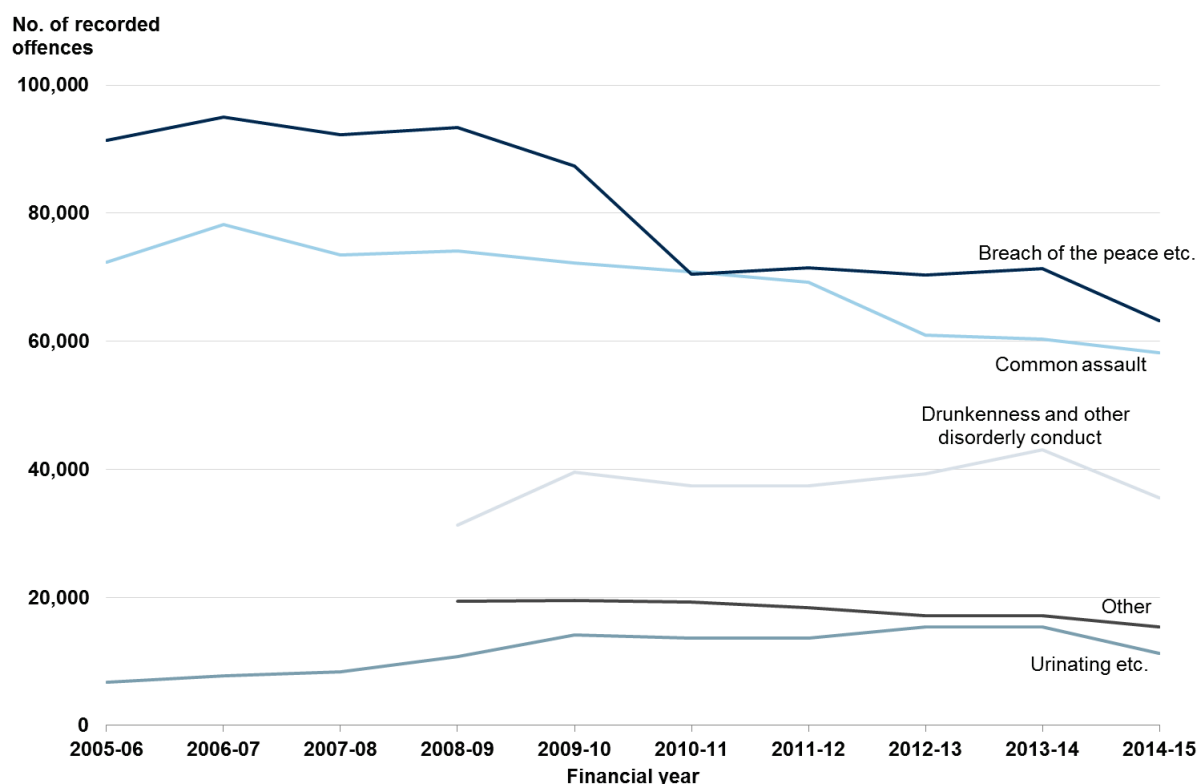
In 2014-15, the rate for Scotland of recorded Miscellaneous offences decreased to 343 crimes per 10,000 population, compared to 389 per 10,000 population for 2013-14. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Glasgow City (841 per 10,000 population), and the lowest rate in East Renfrewshire (130 per 10,000 population).

[Chart 18](#) shows the four categories within Miscellaneous offences over the last ten years for Breach of the peace etc., Common assault and Urinating etc., and from 2008-09 for Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct and Other miscellaneous offences. This chart gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category. The proportion of Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct and Urinating etc. have increased since 2008-09, while that of Breach of the peace etc. has decreased, with the others remaining relatively steady throughout. Breach of the peace etc. and Common assault have consistently been the biggest contributors to Miscellaneous offences.

Breach of the peace etc.:

Breach of the peace etc. includes Breach of the peace, Threatening or abusive behaviour, Offence of stalking, Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications. A further breakdown of Breach of the peace etc. into its component parts is available in [Table A8](#).

Chart 18: Miscellaneous offences in Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15



Breach of the peace etc. is the largest category in Miscellaneous offences, accounting for more than a third (34%) of Miscellaneous offences in 2014-15. Over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, this category has fallen by 31%, and has decreased by 11% from 71,288 in 2013-14 to 63,205 in 2014-15.

All but two local authority areas recorded a decrease or very little change in this category over the ten year period. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, more than three quarters (26) of local authorities showed a decrease.

In 2014-15, the rate for Scotland of recorded Breach of the peace etc. was 118 offences recorded per 10,000 population. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Glasgow City (219 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in Aberdeenshire (42 per 10,000 population).

Common assault:

Common assault accounts for 32% of Miscellaneous offences. Over the ten year period from 2005-06 to 2014-15, this offence has seen a decrease of 20%, and has decreased by 4% from 60,357 in 2013-14 to 58,178 in 2014-15.

All but four local authority areas recorded a decrease or very little change in this category over the ten year period. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, three quarters (24) of local authorities showed a decrease or very little change from the previous year.

In 2014-15, the rate for Scotland of recorded Common assault was 109 offences recorded per 10,000 population. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Glasgow City (160 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in East Renfrewshire (39 per 10,000 population).

For the distinction between Common assault and Serious assault please see [Paragraph 6.9](#) within Annex 1.

Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct:

Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct includes offences such as Drunk and Incapable, Disorderly on licensed premises and Consumption of alcohol in designated places, byelaws prohibited. For further information on the classification of crimes and offences, please see [Chapter 7](#).

Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct accounts for 19% of Miscellaneous offences. Between 2008-09 and 2014-15, levels of this crime have fluctuated, but are currently 13% higher than 2008-09. Since 2013-14, this category has decreased by 17% from 43,043 to 35,524 in 2014-15. The largest numerical change was in Glasgow City (down 17%, from 23,549 in 2013-14 to 19,587 in 2014-15) which accounts for 55% of all crime in this category.

Three quarters (24) of local authority areas recorded a decrease or very little change in this category between 2008-09 and 2014-15. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, all but five local authorities showed a decrease.

In 2014-15, the rate for Scotland of recorded Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct was 66 offences recorded per 10,000 population. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Glasgow City (327 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in Angus (1 per 10,000 population).

It should be noted that the category Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct is not considered comparable for years prior to 2008-09. This is due to double counting of offences of Disorderly on licensed premises in legacy Tayside, and it has not been possible to correct these data prior to 2008-09. Further information on quality issues is available in the '[Data Considerations](#)' section below, and in [Annex 2](#).

Urinating etc.:

Urinating etc. accounts for 6% of Miscellaneous offences. This category followed a generally increasing trend for several years from 2005-06, peaking in 2012-13 and remaining at the same level in 2013-14. However, Urinating etc. decreased by 27% from 15,361 in 2013-14 to 11,216 in 2014-15.

Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, all local authorities showed a decrease or very little change from the previous year.

In 2014-15, the rate for Scotland of recorded Urinating etc. was 21 offences recorded per 10,000 population. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Glasgow City (89 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in Perth & Kinross (2 per 10,000 population).

Other miscellaneous offences

The Other miscellaneous offences category includes a wide range of offences, including Racially aggravated harassment, Racially aggravated conduct,

False/hoax calls, Offences involving children and Offences involving animals/plants. For further information on the classification of crimes and offences, please see [Chapter 7](#).

Other miscellaneous offences account for 8% of Miscellaneous offences. This category has seen a decrease of 21% between 2008-09 and 2014-15, and has reduced by 10% from 17,141 in 2013-14 to 15,390 in 2014-15.

All but five local authority areas recorded a decrease between 2008-09 and 2014-15. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, three quarters (24) of local authorities showed a decrease or very little change from the previous year.

In 2014-15, the rate for Scotland of recorded Other miscellaneous offences was 29 offences recorded per 10,000 population. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Aberdeen City (51 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in the Orkney Islands (10 per 10,000 population).

It should be noted that the Other miscellaneous offences category is not considered comparable for years prior to 2008-09. This is due to a very slight undercount for Litter offences and Bicycles, other offences in legacy Lothian & Borders data, as well as double counting of offences of Control of Pollution in legacy Tayside. It has not been possible to correct these issues prior to 2008-09. Further information on quality issues is available in the '[Data Considerations](#)' section below, and in [Annex 2](#).

DATA CONSIDERATIONS

As outlined in the overall section on police recorded offences – an extensive data quality exercise was carried out to assess the comparability of data extracted from the Scottish Operational and Management Information System (ScOMIS) with data collected from legacy police forces and published in previous bulletins. This analysis identified that all data for Group 6, Miscellaneous Offences, are fully comparable from 2008-09 onwards. However, two offences are non-comparable prior to 2008-09: Disorderly on licensed premises (within the Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct category) and Control of Pollution (within the Other miscellaneous offences category). Therefore, comparisons for the Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct and Other miscellaneous offences categories in Group 6 should also only be made for 2008-09 onwards. The comparability of the remaining three categories in Group 6: Common assault; Breach of the peace etc. and Urinating etc. are not affected.

The Scottish Government produced a Technical Report in 2014 which detailed the quality assurance work it carried out in reaching this conclusion: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/TechnicalReport>.

DATA VALIDATION

HMICS Crime Audit 2014

It should be noted that in the [HMICS audit report](#), violent crime includes Common assault. Please refer to the [Group 1 - Non-sexual crimes of violence](#) section. Further information on this audit, including definitions of terminology and tests used, can be found in [Annex 3](#).

As highlighted on page 16, the HMICS Crime Audit also included a review of Hate Crime. Of the 504 hate crimes examined, 94% were counted and classified correctly.

Five crimes were under-counted and six crimes were over-counted. There were no recurring themes in relation to counting errors for hate crime. However, the majority of classification errors related to the same technical issue around the classification of crimes between s.50(a) (1B) of the Criminal Law Consolidation (Scotland) Act 1005 and s.38 of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010.

The Test 1 compliance rate of 97% for hate crime was the best of the four crime categories audited.

Test 1 failures tended to relate to a lack of information or update on the incident record to dispel criminality. In several incidents, the complainer became uncooperative but a crime should nonetheless have been recorded. In a few incidents, a crime had clearly taken place but no trace of a crime record could be found.

DATA COMPARISONS

Racially aggravated harassment and conduct

The Other category in Miscellaneous offences contains offences of Racially aggravated harassment and Racially aggravated conduct, and [Table A9](#) shows these offences for the last ten years. In 2014-15, there were 130 offences of Racially aggravated harassment and 2,326 offences of Racially aggravated conduct. While these are specific racially aggravated offences, they do not account for all racially aggravated crimes such as assault or vandalism.

The Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland statistical bulletin series contains more detailed information on racist incidents such as victim/complainer and perpetrator characteristics, location of incident and the crimes recorded and cleared up as part of racist incidents.

We therefore recommend that users interested in racist incidents should refer directly to the Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland bulletin series, available via the following

link: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRacistIncidents>.

The next Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland bulletin will contain data for 2013-14 and is scheduled for publication in the Autumn of 2015. There are also plans to scope out what potential there is for a new and wider bulletin on the topic of Hate Crime.

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)

In addition to the information on police recorded crime, the SCJS provides a complimentary outlook on crimes of violence through asking respondents about their experiences.

As previously noted, violent crime as defined by the SCJS is not directly comparable with non-sexual crimes of violence recorded by the Police. Common assaults, which make up the majority of SCJS violent crime, are included in the Miscellaneous offences police recorded crime group, and the Non-sexual crimes of violence crime group includes homicide.

A more detailed examination of comparisons between the SCJS and recorded crime is made within [Chapter 4](#).

Key points from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey:

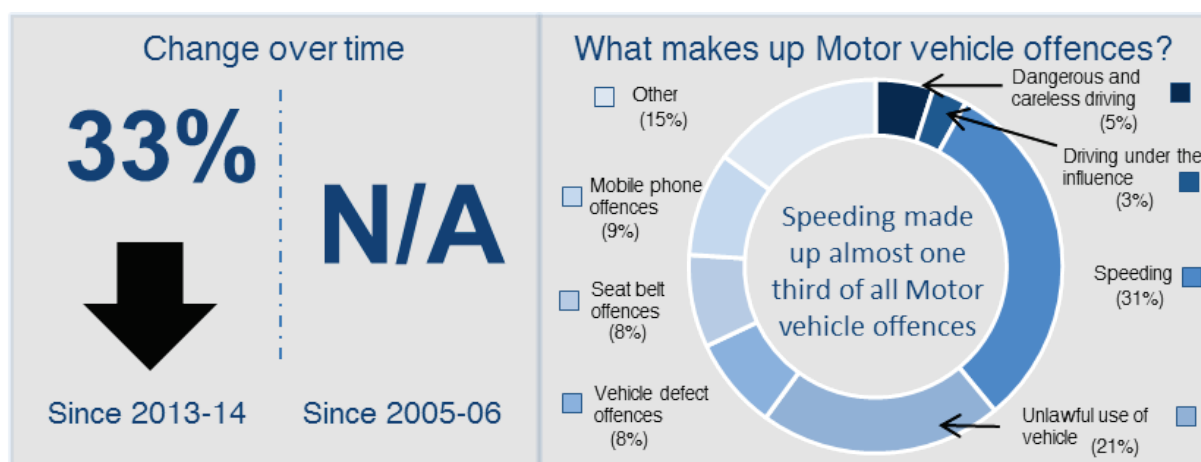
As stated under the Non-sexual crimes of violence section, of the 815,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2012-13, 236,000 (29%) were violent crimes and it is estimated that around 3% of adults in Scotland were a victim of violent crime in 2012-13.

In 2012-13, minor assaults made up the majority of SCJS violent crime (23%), followed by attempted assault (3%), serious assault (2%) and robbery (1%).

Further detail on the comparable crime set is available in [Section 4.3](#). As outlined there and in [Annex 5 of the 2012-13 SCJS](#), violent crime in the SCJS includes attempted assault, serious assault, minor assault and robbery, crimes which are included in Group 1 (Non-sexual crimes of violence) and Group 6 (Miscellaneous offences) in police recorded crime figures.

As presented in [Section 4.3](#), between 2008-09 and 2012-13, recorded violent crime figures in the comparable category decreased by 20%, while, for the same period, the SCJS estimates of violent crime decreased by 25%, a statistically significant change in the SCJS results. As indicated by [Table 3](#), the SCJS is often better able to detect changes in survey estimates with greater certainty over longer timescales, particularly where the prevalence of crime is low i.e. in part due to the small numbers of victims identified in the survey (343 for violent crime in 2012-13).

Group 7 – Motor Vehicle Offences



Number of Motor vehicle offences recorded in 2014-15:

Motor vehicle offences account for over half (52%) of all offences recorded in Scotland in 2014-15. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, the number of Motor vehicle offences recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 33% from 294,091 to 195,985.

Due to a number of anomalies in the data as a result of inconsistencies with legacy data reporting, there is a break in the time series at 2013-14. Further information on the comparability issues can be found in the '[Data Considerations](#)' section below, and detailed information on the comparability of Group 7 are available in [Annex 2](#).

In 2014-15, the rate for Scotland of recorded Motor vehicle offences decreased to 366 crimes per 10,000 population, compared to 552 per 10,000 population for 2013-14. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Dumfries & Galloway (721 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in Midlothian (112 per 10,000 population).

Additional information provided by Police Scotland relating to Motor vehicle offences is available in the '[Data Considerations](#)' section below.

Speeding:

Speeding accounts for 31% of Motor vehicle offences. This category has decreased by 26% from 82,382 in 2013-14 to 60,926 in 2014-15.

All but five local authority areas recorded a decrease or very little change between 2013-14 and 2014-15. The greatest numerical decrease was in South Lanarkshire (47%, from 10,524 in 2013-14 to 5,580 in 2014-15). South Lanarkshire accounts for 6% of Scotland's population⁸.

⁸ Population estimates are as at mid-year 2014 from the National Records of Scotland (<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates>)

In 2014-15, the rate for Scotland of recorded Speeding was 114 offences recorded per 10,000 population. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Dumfries & Galloway (365 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in Midlothian (6 per 10,000 population).

It should be noted that the Speeding category is not considered comparable for years prior to 2013-14. This is due to the exclusion of certain data sources in legacy Strathclyde which affected the Speeding in restricted areas and Other speeding offences, and it has not been possible to correct these data prior to 2013-14. Further information on quality issues is available in [Annex 2](#).

Unlawful use of vehicle:

The Unlawful use of vehicle category includes offences such as Driving while disqualified, Driving without a licence, Driving without insurance, and Driving without a test certificate. Further detail can be found in [Chapter 7](#).

Unlawful use of vehicle accounts for 21% of Motor vehicle offences. This category has decreased by 29% from 57,779 in 2013-14 to 40,855 in 2014-15.

All but two local authority areas recorded a decrease between 2013-14 and 2014-15.

In 2014-15, the rate for Scotland of recorded Unlawful use of vehicle offences was 76 offences recorded per 10,000 population. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Glasgow City (156 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in East Dunbartonshire (29 per 10,000 population).

It should be noted that the Unlawful use of vehicle category is not considered comparable for years prior to 2013-14. This is due to the exclusion of certain data sources in legacy force returns, as well as double counting in legacy Lothian & Borders data, and it has not been possible to correct these data prior to 2013-14. These issues affect the following offences: Registration or identification mark offences, Vehicle Excise Licence offences, Using a motor vehicle without a test certificate, Driving without a licence (including under age) and Failure to insure against third party risks). Further information on quality issues is available in [Annex 2](#).

Mobile phone offences:

Mobile phone offences account for 9% of Motor vehicle offences. Levels of these offences have increased each year since 2008-09, but decreased by 50% from 35,764 in 2013-14 to 17,978 in 2014-15, and are 25% lower than the number recorded in 2008-09.

Three quarters (24) of local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category between 2008-09 and 2014-15. All but two local authority areas showed a decrease or very little change between 2013-14 and 2014-15, with 16 local authorities decreasing by 50% or more.

In 2014-15, the rate for Scotland of recorded Mobile phone offences was 34 offences recorded per 10,000 population. This varied by local authority area,

with the highest rate in Glasgow City (88 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in Midlothian (5 per 10,000 population).

It should be noted that the Mobile phone offences category is not considered comparable for years prior to 2008-09. This is due to the inclusion of invalid data in the returns from legacy Dumfries & Galloway and Fife, as well as double counting in legacy Lothian & Borders data, and it has not been possible to correct these data prior to 2008-09. Further information on quality issues is available in [Annex 2](#).

Vehicle defect offences:

Vehicle defect offences account for 8% of Motor vehicle offences. This category has decreased by 25% from 20,923 in 2013-14 to 15,593 in 2014-15.

All but three local authority areas recorded a decrease between 2013-14 and 2014-15.

In 2014-15, the rate for Scotland of recorded Vehicle defect offences was 29 offences recorded per 10,000 population. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Clackmannanshire (246 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in East Dunbartonshire (3 per 10,000 population).

It should be noted that the Vehicle defect offences category is not considered comparable for years prior to 2013-14. This is due to the exclusion of certain data sources in legacy force returns, as well as the inclusion of invalid data in the returns from legacy Dumfries & Galloway and Fife, which affected the Lighting offences (motor vehicles) and Construction and use regulation (other than lighting) offences, and it has not been possible to correct these data prior to 2013-14. Further information on quality issues is available in [Annex 2](#).

Seat belt offences:

Seat belt offences accounts for 8% of Motor vehicle offences. Levels of these offences had previously been on a generally upward trend since 2008-09, but have decreased by 59% from 37,880 in 2013-14 to 15,619 in 2014-15, and are 40% lower than the number recorded in 2008-09.

All but four local authority areas have recorded a decrease in this category between 2008-09 and 2014-15. All but one local authority area showed a decrease between 2013-14 and 2014-15, with 22 local authorities decreasing by 50% or more.

In 2014-15, the rate for Scotland of recorded Seat belt offences was 29 offences recorded per 10,000 population. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Glasgow City (72 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in Midlothian (3 per 10,000 population).

It should be noted that the Seat belt offences category is not considered comparable for years prior to 2008-09. This is due to the inclusion of invalid data in the returns from legacy Dumfries & Galloway and Fife, as well as double counting in legacy Lothian & Borders data, and it has not been possible to

correct these data prior to 2008-09. Further information on quality issues is available in [Annex 2](#).

Dangerous and careless driving:

Dangerous and careless driving accounts for 5% of Motor vehicle offences. Between 2005-06 and 2014-15, levels of this category have fluctuated, but are currently 17% lower than 2005-06. Since 2013-14, this category has decreased by 7% from 11,524 to 10,773 in 2014-15.

Over half (19) of local authority areas recorded a decrease or very little change in this category between 2005-06 and 2014-15. Over two thirds (22) of local authorities showed a decrease or very little change between 2013-14 and 2014-15.

In 2014-15, the rate for Scotland of recorded Dangerous and careless driving was 20 offences recorded per 10,000 population. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Argyll & Bute (47 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in Dundee City (7 per 10,000 population).

Driving under the influence:

Driving under the influence accounts for 3% of Motor vehicle offences. There was a 14% decrease in Driving under the influence from 6,079 in 2013-14 to 5,218 in 2014-15, which continues the downward trend since 2006-07. Driving under the influence has decreased by 55% as a whole over this period.

All local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category between 2005-06 and 2014-15. Three quarters (24) of local authorities showed a decrease between 2013-14 and 2014-15.

In 2014-15, the rate for Scotland of the offence of Driving under the influence was 10 offences recorded per 10,000 population. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in the Shetland Islands (18 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire and the City of Edinburgh (6 per 10,000 population).

Other motor vehicle offences:

The Other motor vehicle offences category includes offences such as Accident offences and Parking offences. Further detail can be found in [Chapter 7](#).

Other motor vehicle offences accounts for 15% of Motor vehicle offences. This category has decreased by 31% from 41,760 in 2013-14 to 29,023 in 2014-15.

All but three local authority areas recorded a decrease or very little change between 2013-14 and 2014-15.

In 2014-15, the rate for Scotland of recorded Other motor vehicle offences was 54 offences recorded per 10,000 population. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Glasgow City (155 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in Angus (12 per 10,000 population).

It should be noted that the Other motor vehicle offences category is not considered comparable for years prior to 2013-14. This is due to the exclusion of certain data sources in legacy Strathclyde which affected the Drivers neglect of traffic directions (not pedestrian crossing), Drivers contravention of pedestrian crossing regulations and Motorway traffic offences, and it has not been possible to correct these data prior to 2013-14. Further information on quality issues is available in [Annex 2](#).

DATA CONSIDERATIONS

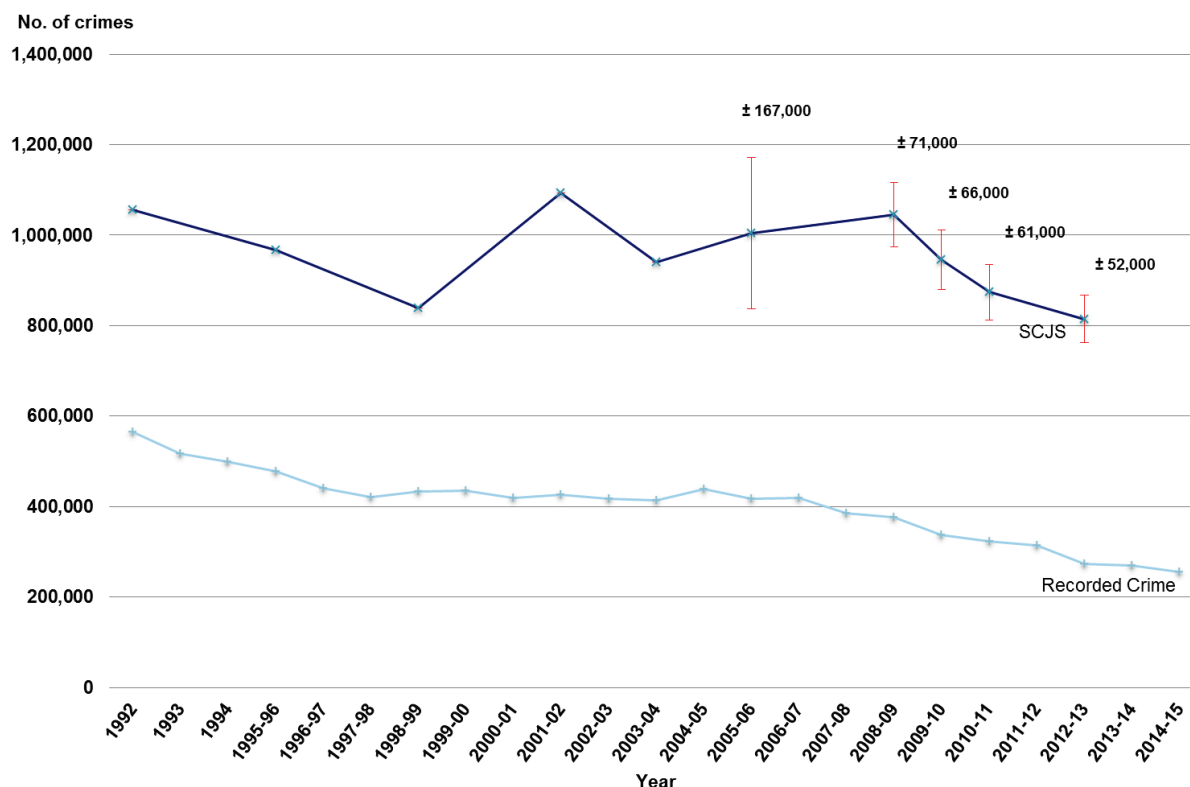
As outlined in the overall section on police recorded offences – an extensive data quality exercise was carried out to assess the comparability of data extracted from the Scottish Operational and Management Information System (ScOMIS) with data collected from legacy police forces and published in previous bulletins. This analysis identified that due to the standardisation of reporting practices following the establishment of Police Scotland, there are significant comparability issues for Group 7 Motor Vehicle Offences. There are no issues for two of the categories in Group 7: Dangerous and careless driving and Driving under the influence. Seat belt offences and Mobile phone offences are only comparable back to 2008-09. The other categories in Group 7 and hence the overall figures for Group 7 are only comparable back to 2013-14.

The Scottish Government produced a Technical Report in 2014 which detailed the quality assurance work it carried out in reaching this conclusion: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/TechnicalReport>.

In relation to the decrease overall in Motor vehicle offences, Police Scotland have advised that they have moved towards engagement and education to prevent road crime in addition to enforcement, with raising awareness and high profile media campaigns designed to influence driver behaviour and public attitudes. Further, Police Scotland state that high-risk road traffic offender groups are identified and targeted as part of routine business, and Anti-Social Behaviour legislation is used proactively, through the issue of initial warnings to drivers/vehicles followed by seizure of the vehicle where relevant.

4. Putting recorded crime in context – A comparison with the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)

Chart 19: Overall number of crimes in Scotland – Police Recorded Crime and the SCJS, 1992 to 2014-15



1. After 1994, the recording period for police recorded crime changed from calendar year to financial year.
2. The shift to the current survey design in 2008-09 has led to greater certainty around estimates.
3. Latest SCJS figures are available for 2012-13 while the latest recorded crime statistics cover 2014-15. The results of the 2014-15 SCJS are due to be published in the first quarter of 2016.

The preceding sections of this bulletin contain information on the volume and types of crime recorded and cleared up by the police in Scotland in 2014-15. As highlighted earlier in this report, in addition to the information on police recorded crime, crime in Scotland is also measured by the SCJS, a national survey with adults (aged 16 and over) living in private households which asks respondents about their experiences of crime.

This chapter brings together these two complementary sources, police recorded crime and the SCJS, to present a fuller, more comprehensive picture of crime in

Scotland⁹. However bringing the two sources together in this way highlights that the SCJS and police recorded crime cover different populations and different timescales, and the SCJS does not cover the entire range of crimes and offences that the police are faced with. These and other differences mean that making direct comparisons between the two sources is not straightforward. Nevertheless, the SCJS and police recorded crime statistics do present complementary information on crime occurring in Scotland, so it is therefore helpful and informative to look at these sources together. This chapter will look at police recorded crime and SCJS findings in three ways:

- Firstly, it will look at national trends of overall crime captured by police recorded crime and by the SCJS.
- Secondly, it will look at crime in the two broad categories of crime captured by the SCJS (namely, property crime and violent crime). This section will also highlight how the SCJS captures more contextual information on the risk and characteristics of crime.
- Lastly, it will look at the comparable crime groups, a grouping of crimes specifically constructed to allow comparison of the estimates of all comparable crime and comparable sub-groups from the SCJS and police recorded crime statistics for a set of crimes that are covered by both sources.

At the time of this bulletin's publication, the latest published SCJS data still relates to 2012-13. As such this chapter remains broadly similar to what was included in the previous Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin. An update of the analysis, comparing the statistics for Police Recorded Crime and the SCJS, will be possible following the publication of the results for the 2014-15 SCJS, currently scheduled for the first quarter of 2016.

4.1. Overall number of crimes – Police Recorded Crime and the SCJS, 1992 to 2014-15

The 2012-13 SCJS estimates that there were 815,000 incidents of crime against adults in Scotland in 2012-13. This is 22% lower than in the 2008-09 survey when there were an estimated 1,045,000 crimes, meaning that in 2012-13, around one in six (16.9%) adults were the victim of at least one crime.

While [Chart 19](#) presents overall estimated crime levels for surveys conducted since the 1990's, prior to the current SCJS methodology (employed in surveys since 2008-09¹⁰), crime survey estimates in Scotland were derived from smaller

⁹ Information about crime in Scotland is also available from other sources: for example, other Scottish Government reports, which provide data on anti-social behavior, harassment and discrimination, the [Scottish Household Survey](#), and other sources, such as [Police Scotland](#) and the [Scottish Police Authority](#).

¹⁰ There have been some changes to the SCJS since 2008-09, for example, the SCJS sample changed to an unclustered design in 2012-13, however this is not thought to have introduced any bias to the results.

sample surveys and, in general, were subject to a higher level of uncertainty¹¹. No clear trend could be detected for changes to the overall number of crimes measured by the various Scottish crime surveys conducted prior to 2008-09. This is reflected in [Chart 19](#) in the higher levels of fluctuation in the overall crime series prior to 2008-09. We have assessed that the greater levels of certainty around survey estimates since 2008-09 enable more consistency in comparisons between the SCJS and recorded crime series, and as such the analysis that follows in this chapter focuses on the period from 2008-09 onwards.

In comparison to the SCJS, as noted previously in this report, in 2014-15, the police recorded 256,350 crimes; this represents a decrease of 5% since 2013-14, and a decrease of 32% since 2008-09. [Chart 19](#) shows that since the shift to the current survey design and increased sample sizes in 2008-09, survey estimates of the overall level of crime have fallen in line with similar reductions in overall recorded crime over the same period.

[Chart 19](#) effectively highlights the scale of the difference between the number of crimes estimated by the SCJS, and the level recorded by the police. There are a range of reasons for this difference, however the main factor is that the SCJS captures crimes that do not come to the attention of the police, and therefore are not included in recorded crime figures. The 2012-13 SCJS estimated that, of the 815,000 incidents of crime, 39% came to the attention of the police. Therefore, while the SCJS is good for estimating the likely range of crime in the underlying population (and the level of uncertainty around such estimates), the police recorded crime data effectively highlights the level of crime with which the police are faced.

In summary then, the SCJS can help to identify the relative magnitude of crime not reported to the police and why crimes are not reported. In 2012-13, where crime was not reported to the police, the most common reasons SCJS respondents gave for not reporting crime were that the victim felt that the police could have done nothing (37%) or that the victim perceived the incident to be too trivial to involve the police (36%). Conversely, where crime was reported to the police, it was mostly because the victim felt that it was the right thing to do (49%) or in the hope that offenders would be caught and punished (27%).

4.2. Police Recorded Crime and the SCJS Crime Groups

As noted elsewhere in this report, recorded crime figures are grouped into five crime groups (Non-sexual crimes of violence, Sexual crimes, Crimes of dishonesty, Fire-raising, vandalism etc. and Other crimes) and two offence groups (Miscellaneous offences and Motor vehicle offences). However, the SCJS presents information in two broad crime categories: Property Crime and Violent Crime (outlined in [Box 1](#) below).

¹¹ As demonstrated, for example, by the confidence interval around the estimated number of SCJS crimes in 2006, compared to later surveys.

There are a number of reasons that the SCJS crime categories do not match the recorded crime groups; principally this is because the SCJS is a victimisation survey and does not collect data on all of the crimes and offences that the police are faced with (e.g. homicide, crimes against business i.e. shoplifting, and motor vehicle offences).

Box 1: SCJS Crime types

Property crime	Violent crime
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vandalism (including motor vehicle and property vandalism) ○ All motor vehicle theft related incidents (including theft and attempted theft of and from a motor vehicle) ○ Housebreaking (termed burglary in England and Wales) ○ Other household thefts (including bicycle theft) ○ Personal theft (excluding robbery). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assault (includes serious assault, attempted assault, minor assault with no-negligible and minor injury) ○ Robbery

However, the SCJS is able to collect more detailed information on crimes that are not reported to the police, as well as information on the characteristics of crime and the attitudes and perceptions of victims. Such information is vital in presenting a fuller picture of the nature of crime in Scotland, than can be gained from recorded crime figures alone.

This section provides an overview of the main findings from SCJS 2012-13 in the property crime and violent crime categories, however direct comparisons to police recorded crime data are limited, due to the differences in crime groups within the two sources, as outlined above. Comparisons with recorded crime results are made in [Section 4.3](#) which outlines the comparable crime subset.

Property Crime

Property crime as measured by the SCJS involves theft or damage to personal or household property (including vehicles). In 2012-13, approximately 579,000 crimes (71% of all SCJS crime) were in this category, which means that it is estimated that around 15% of adults in Scotland were a victim of property crime. Between 2008-09 and 2012-13, there was a statistically significant decrease of 21% in property crime captured by the SCJS.

Of the 579,000 property crimes estimated by the SCJS in 2012-13, vandalism accounted for 27%, followed by other household theft (including bicycle theft) (21%), personal theft (excluding robbery)(13%), all motor vehicle theft related incidents (6%) and housebreaking (4%).

The types of property crime captured in the SCJS are mostly covered in two of the police recorded crime groups, Crimes of dishonesty and Fire-raising, vandalism etc. However, while the police recorded 126,857 crimes in the Crimes of dishonesty group in 2014-15 (an 8% decrease since 2013-14) and

52,091 crimes in the fire-raising, vandalism etc. group (a 4% decrease since 2013-14), it should be noted that these groupings are not directly comparable with the SCJS 'property' crime group as, for example, they cover some crimes (such as shoplifting (27,364 recorded crimes in 2014-15) and fraud (6,913 recorded crimes in 2014-15)) which are not captured in the SCJS.

In terms of crimes reported to the police, the 2012-13 SCJS estimates that over a third (35%) of property crimes were reported to the police, however, reporting rates were highest among victims of housebreaking (64%). The most common reasons given for not reporting property crime was that the incident was considered to be too trivial (43%) or that the victim felt that the police could not have done anything about it (41%). When property crime was reported, the most common reasons given were that reporting was considered to be the right thing to do/automatic (52%) or in the hope that offenders would be caught and punished (28%). Victims of property crime also experienced emotional responses, with annoyance (56%), anger (52%) and shock (16%) being the most commonly experienced.

[Table 1](#) shows that property crime was experienced by near equal proportions of men (15%) and women (14%), however risk declined with age.

Table 1: The varying risk of property crime (SCJS 2012-13)

	All	Male	Female	16-24	25-44	45-59	60+
Property Crime (risk as a percentage)	14.8	15.3	14.4	18.1	18.7	15.2	8.5
Base	12,050	5,210	6,840	970	3,590	3,110	4,380

Violent Crime

The SCJS violent crime category includes attempted assault, serious assault, minor assault and robbery. Of the 815,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2012-13, 236,000 (29%) were violent crimes, which means that it is estimated that around 3% of adults in Scotland were a victim of violent crime in 2012-13. Between 2008-09 and 2012-13 there was a statistically significant decrease of 25% in violent crime captured by the SCJS.

Of the 236,000 violent crimes estimated by the SCJS in 2012-13, minor assaults (no-negligible and minor injury) made up the majority (23% of all crimes measured by the SCJS), followed by attempted assault (3%), serious assault (2%) and robbery (1%).

The latest data presented elsewhere in this report shows that in 2014-15, the police recorded 6,357 non-sexual crimes of violence. However, as noted already, this grouping is not directly comparable with the SCJS 'violent' crime group. Non-sexual crimes of violence (as used in police recorded crime) includes homicide, whilst, in addition, common assaults (which make up the majority of SCJS violent crime) are included in the Miscellaneous offences police recorded crime group. In 2014-15, the police recorded 58,178 common assaults.

We know from the SCJS that not all crime is reported to the police. The 2012-13 SCJS estimates that almost half (48%) of violent crimes were reported to the

police. The most common reasons victims provided for why violent crime was not reported was because they felt that the police could not have done anything about it (24%), they dealt with the matter themselves (23%) or that they considered the incident to be too trivial to involve the police (17%). Conversely, where violent crime was reported, the most common reasons given for reporting were that it was considered to be the right thing to do/automatic (42%), and-or the victim hoped to avoid repetition of the crime to themselves (29%) or someone else (29%).

[Table 2](#) shows that that risk of violent crime decreases with age from 8% for those aged 16-24, to less than 1% for those aged 60 or over, and that males (4%) are at a higher risk of violent crime than females (2%).

Table 2: The varying risk of violent crime (SCJS 2012-13)

	All	Male	Female	16-24	25-44	45-59	60+
Violent Crime (risk as a percentage)	3.1	4.2	2.2	8.2	4.3	1.9	0.4
Base	12,050	5,210	6,840	970	3,590	3,110	4,380

In addition, the 2012-13 SCJS estimates that almost one in three violent crimes (29%) happened between 9 pm and 3 am on the weekend and that victims thought that the offender was under the influence of alcohol in 59% of violent crime, and drugs in 29% of violent crime. Injuries were sustained by victims in almost three-fifths (58%) of violent crime. Where injuries were sustained, 60% received minor bruising or a black eye and 33% received scratches. Victims also experienced emotional responses to violent crime with anger (50%), annoyance (47%) and shock (38%) being the most commonly experienced.

4.3. Comparing SCJS estimates and Recorded Crime

4.3.1. Comparable Crime – Overall Comparison

As highlighted above, the two data sources cover different populations, time periods and crimes, which means that making direct comparisons is not straightforward. Comparisons can be made by examining a broadly comparable subset of crimes which are covered by each source and can be consistently coded in the SCJS in the same way as the police would do. Comparisons are made in the following three broad crime groups:

- Vandalism (other household crime including motor vehicle vandalism and property vandalism).
- Acquisitive crime (including bicycle theft, housebreaking and theft of motor vehicles).
- Violent crime (including serious assault, common assault and robbery).

On this basis, of the 815,000 crimes estimated by the 2012-13 SCJS, just under two-thirds (527,000) can be compared with police recorded crimes 2012-13.

The remainder of this section provides an overview of the level of crime and trends in the comparable subset from 2008-09 to 2012-13, the latest year for which data are available from both sources.

This analysis has been extended further in the Scottish Government report, *Bringing Together Scotland's Crime Statistics*¹², available from <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications/SCJSPRCanalyticalpaper>.

Table 3: Comparable crime group estimates (2008-09 to 2012-13)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2012-13	% change 2008-09 to 2012-13 ¹	% change 2010-11 to 2012-13 ¹
Comparable Recorded Crime	215,901	195,728	183,117	144,662	-33%	-21%
Comparable SCJS Crime	731,000	630,000	556,000	527,000	-28%	-5%
Recorded Acquisitive Crime	27,527	26,146	26,478	21,834	-21%	-18%
SCJS Acquisitive Crime	64,000	61,000	61,000	73,000	14%	19%
Recorded Violent Crime	82,855	79,769	78,263	66,076	-20%	-16%
SCJS Violent Crime	317,000	266,000	220,000	236,000	-25%	7%
Recorded Vandalism	105,519	89,813	78,376	56,752	-46%	-28%
SCJS Vandalism	350,000	303,000	275,000	219,000	-37%	-20%

1. SCJS statistically significant changes (at 95% confidence interval) shown in bold.

As presented in [Table 3](#), in 2012-13, the SCJS estimated that there were 527,000 crimes in the overall comparable crime category, while the police recorded around 145,000 crimes in this category. The extent of overall comparable crime, in both the recorded crime figures and SCJS estimates, decreased between 2008-09 and 2012-13 (-33% and -28% respectively). The reduction in estimated SCJS comparable crime from 731,000 in 2008-09 to 527,000 in 2012-13 is a statistically significant change.

SCJS respondents are asked whether the police 'came to know about' the crime, either by them or somebody else. This allows comparisons to be made between crime estimated to have been reported to the police in the SCJS, and police recorded crime data. Figures from the 2012-13 SCJS indicate that of the 527,000 crimes in the overall comparable subset, around 232,000 incidents (44%), were estimated to have been reported to police. In 2012-13, the police recorded 144,662 crimes in the comparable category, so overall, it can also be estimated that around 27% of the total comparable crimes estimated by the SCJS (that is reported and non-reported crime) were recorded by the police in 2012-13.

However, it should be noted that this 'comparable' series is broadly, rather than directly, comparable. As a survey, the SCJS can only provide estimates of crimes reported to the police, not precise figures. It is not possible, for example, to match SCJS microdata (i.e. the individual records of survey respondents) to police recorded crime records. Therefore, it is not possible to determine whether a crime that a respondent said they reported to the police actually appeared on a police incident log in the relevant time period (at all, or before/after the time period) and, if so, to identify how it was recorded.

¹² From 2014-15, the key elements of this analysis will be included in the biennial SCJS main findings report.

Consequently, we would not expect estimates of the crime reported to the police and the level recorded by the police to be equal. In light of this, the methods of analysis presented in this section are more suitable for assessing this relationship and variation of each series over time, rather than, for example, assessing with confidence the absolute level of crime estimated to have been reported but not recorded within each survey.

Finally, it should also be noted that there are a range of other factors which may affect the comparability of these series, for example it is possible that a number of crimes reported to the police are not captured and recorded by the police. However auditing of incidents and crimes recorded by Police Scotland by HMICS (<http://www.hmics.org/publications/hmics-crime-audit-2014>) indicates that police compliance in recording is generally good overall and does not indicate that this accounts for the difference in our two series of crime data or changes over time. In addition, the SCJS also contains factors which are likely to affect the degree of comparability to recorded crime; for example non-quantifiable error around survey estimates (for example, error in the recall of respondents about the date of the incident which may have been outside the survey reference period); or a change in underlying survey sample design (from clustered to unclustered in 2012-13); or the switch to SCJS biennial design in 2012-13, although these factors are not thought to have introduced any bias to the SCJS results.

4.3.2. Comparable Crime – by Comparable Crime Sub-groups

This section summarises findings for the comparable crime sub-groups: acquisitive crime, violent crime and vandalism. When considering these comparable crime sub-groups over time (as shown in [Table 3](#)), police recorded crime data should be used to assess the level of crime with which the police are faced and SCJS results used as a barometer to estimate the underlying level of crime.

Acquisitive Crime

In 2012-13, the SCJS estimated that there were 73,000 acquisitive crimes (+/- 10,000, meaning that the true number of acquisitive crimes in the underlying population is estimated to lie somewhere between 63,000 and 82,000¹³). Of these estimated 73,000 crimes, around 40,000 (55%) were said to have been reported to the police, while, in comparison, the police recorded 21,834 acquisitive crimes. Therefore, it can be estimated that 55% of the crime estimated to be reported to the police by the SCJS were captured in police statistics. This demonstrates and reinforces the finding that these two sources of crime data should be considered as broadly rather than directly comparable; for example, they do not cover the same populations or time periods, and the SCJS gathers information from a sample rather than the whole population so the results are always estimates not precise figures, and so are subject to a range of quantifiable and non-quantifiable error.

¹³ Figures for the confidence interval rounded to nearest thousand.

When considering this comparable crime sub-group over time, results show that recorded acquisitive crime decreased by 21% between 2008-09 and 2012-13, however, the SCJS estimates of acquisitive crime showed no statistically significant change between 2008-09 and 2012-13 (the apparent change from 64,000 to 73,000 is not statistically significant). Survey estimates on the comparable crime subgroups are based on small base sizes of respondents (272 for acquisitive crime in 2012-13) and as a consequence, there is less certainty around estimates.

The variable nature of making these type of comparisons is reflected, for example, in analysis of shorter term change in these series, which finds greater consistency in comparable acquisitive crime in the SCJS and recorded crime between 2008-09 and 2010-11 (respectively, a change of -5% (again non-statistically significant) and a decrease of 4%). Therefore, the uncertainty around the changes in this crime sub-group, both in the short and medium term, limit the conclusions which can be drawn when comparing the SCJS and recorded crime in the acquisitive crime sub-group at this stage.

Violent crime

In 2012-13, the SCJS estimated that there were 236,000 violent crimes (+/- 40,000, meaning that the true number of violent crimes in the underlying population is estimated to lie somewhere within the range 196,000 to 275,000¹⁴) and the police recorded 66,076 violent crimes. The SCJS estimates that around 113,000 (48%) violent crimes were reported to the police in 2012-13. Therefore, it can be estimated that 58% of the crime estimated to be reported to the police by the SCJS were recorded in police statistics, demonstrating, as mentioned above, that these two sources of crime data should be considered as broadly rather than directly comparable.

Between 2008-09 and 2012-13, recorded violent crime figures in the comparable category decreased by 20%, while, for the same period, the SCJS estimates of violent crime decreased by 25%, a statistically significant change in the SCJS results. As indicated by [Table 3](#), the SCJS is often better able to detect changes in survey estimates with greater certainty over longer timescales, due primarily to the small numbers of victims identified in the survey (343 for violent crime in 2012-13).

Vandalism

In 2012-13, the SCJS estimated that there were 219,000 vandalism crimes (+/- 20,000, meaning that the true number of vandalism crimes in the underlying population is estimated to lie somewhere between 199,000 and 239,000¹⁵) of which around 79,000 (36%) were reported to the police, while the police recorded 56,752 vandalism incidents. From this, it can be estimated that 72% of the vandalism crime estimated to be reported to the police by the SCJS were

¹⁴ Figures for the confidence interval rounded to nearest thousand.

¹⁵ Figures for the confidence interval rounded to nearest thousand.

recorded in police statistics, again demonstrating that these two sources of crime data should be considered as broadly rather than directly comparable.

Between 2008-09 and 2012-13, recorded vandalism figures fell by 46%, while SCJS estimates have shown a statistically significant decrease of 37%. Compared to the violent crime and acquisitive crime groups, vandalism estimates are based on larger samples of respondents (760 in the 2012-13 survey), leading to greater certainty around changes in the short and medium term.

4.4. Conclusion

This chapter has brought together the two main sources of crime statistics in Scotland: the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey and Police Recorded Crime statistics. Although each source covers different populations, crimes and offences and time periods, considering them together presents a more comprehensive picture of crime in Scotland. For example, the latest figures from the SCJS show that there were an estimated 815,000 incidents of crime against adults living in households in Scotland in 2012-13, while the police in Scotland recorded 273,053 crimes in 2012-13 (and 203,063 Miscellaneous offences, including 60,955 common assaults). This difference between survey estimates and recorded crime figures shows that, for many reasons, not all crime comes to the attention of the police. However, the SCJS helps to assess this and in addition is able to capture more information on the characteristics of crime and victims of crime, helping to provide a fuller picture of the nature of crime in Scotland.

Due to the differences between them, making direct comparisons between the two sources is not straightforward. However, a comparable subset of crime can be used to make some broad comparisons to assess the relationship between recorded crime figures and SCJS estimates.

Table 4: Strengths and limitations of Police Recorded Crime and the SCJS

	Recorded Crime	Scottish Crime and Justice Survey
Where do the data come from?	Administrative police records	Face to face interviews with residents from a nationally representative sample of the household population
Basis for inclusion	Crimes recorded by the police in Scotland, governed by the Scottish Crime Recording Standard and Counting Rules.	Trained coders determine whether experiences of victimisation in the last 12 months constitute a crime and assign an offence code.
Frequency	Collected by financial year. Statistics released in an annual publication.	Continuous survey with results currently published biennially.
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers the full range of crimes and offences. Provides data at a local level (and can be used for performance monitoring). A good measure of rarer, more serious crimes that are well reported. Good measure of long-term trends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good measure of trends since 2008-09. Captures information about crimes that are not reported to the police (including sensitive issues such as domestic abuse or drug use). Provides information on multiple and repeat victimisation (up to 5 incidents in a series). Analyses risk for different demographic groups and victim-offender relationships. Provides attitudinal data (e.g. fear of crime or attitudes towards the criminal justice system).
Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partially reliant on the public reporting crime. Reporting rates may vary by the type of crime (e.g. crimes more likely to be reported include serious crime and crimes such as housebreaking where recording is required for insurance purposes). Trends can be affected by legislation; public reporting practices; police recording practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not cover all crimes (e.g. homicide or 'victimless' crimes such as speeding). Does not cover the entire population (e.g. children, homeless people or people living in communal accommodation). Unable to produce robust data at lower level geographies. Difficult to measure trends between survey sweeps in rarer forms of crime (such as more serious offences). Subject to quantifiable/non-quantifiable error.
What other data are collected?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional data on homicides, racist incidents, domestic abuse incidents and firearm offences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public perceptions about crime. Worry about crime and the perceived likelihood of being a victim. Confidence in the police and the criminal justice system Prevalence estimates on 'sensitive' topics (partner abuse, sexual victimisation, stalking and drug use).

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Table 5: Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15²

Crime group	Number & Percentage										
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	% change 13-14 to 14-15
Total Crimes	417,785	419,257	385,509	377,433	338,124	323,247	314,188	273,053	270,397	256,350	-5
Non-sexual crimes of violence	13,726	14,099	12,874	12,612	11,228	11,438	9,533	7,530	6,785	6,357	-6
Homicide etc. ³ (incl. causing death by driving)	121	159	142	134	106	122	121	91	106	105	-1
Attempted murder & serious assault ⁴	7,030	7,345	6,711	6,472	5,621	5,493	4,693	3,643	3,268	3,166	-3
Robbery	3,553	3,578	3,064	2,963	2,496	2,557	2,244	1,832	1,499	1,497	0
Other	3,022	3,017	2,957	3,043	3,005	3,266	2,475	1,964	1,912	1,589	-17
Sexual crimes⁵	6,558	6,726	6,552	6,331	6,527	6,696	7,361	7,693	8,604	9,557	11
Rape & attempted rape	1,161	1,123	1,053	963	996	1,131	1,274	1,462	1,808	1,901	5
Sexual assault	3,392	3,452	3,502	3,297	3,412	3,220	2,908	3,008	3,405	3,727	9
Crimes associated with prostitution	730	779	682	765	661	576	567	534	490	374	-24
Other sexual crimes	1,275	1,372	1,315	1,306	1,458	1,769	2,612	2,689	2,901	3,555	23
Crimes of dishonesty	187,798	183,760	166,718	167,812	153,256	155,870	154,337	135,899	137,324	126,857	-8
Housebreaking ⁶	31,319	30,580	25,443	25,496	23,774	25,017	24,222	21,515	22,272	20,607	-7
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	8,263	7,422	6,378	6,952	5,074	4,059	3,529	3,239	3,218	2,879	-11
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	16,453	16,060	15,217	13,649	10,173	9,495	8,988	6,159	6,189	5,816	-6
Theft of a motor vehicle	14,041	15,000	12,105	11,551	9,304	8,716	7,060	5,731	5,976	5,423	-9
Shoplifting	28,247	28,750	29,186	32,048	30,332	29,660	29,758	26,449	27,693	27,364	-1
Other theft	72,128	70,241	64,645	64,384	61,008	64,680	66,681	58,704	58,794	53,539	-9
Fraud	11,074	9,332	8,409	8,316	8,283	8,983	8,892	8,898	8,088	6,913	-15
Other dishonesty	6,273	6,375	5,335	5,416	5,308	5,260	5,207	5,204	5,094	4,316	-15
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	127,889	129,734	118,025	109,430	93,443	82,020	75,201	59,479	54,418	52,091	-4
Fire-raising	4,856	4,976	4,635	4,651	4,244	3,966	3,755	3,066	2,549	2,351	-8
Vandalism etc.	123,033	124,758	113,390	104,779	89,199	78,054	71,446	56,413	51,869	49,740	-4
Other crimes	81,814	84,938	81,340	81,248	73,670	67,223	67,756	62,452	63,266	61,488	-3
Crimes against public justice	27,668	32,052	31,353	29,493	26,885	26,294	26,635	23,401	23,610	21,100	-11
Handling offensive weapons	9,628	10,110	8,989	8,980	7,042	6,283	5,631	4,015	3,795	3,289	-13
Drugs	44,247	42,422	40,746	42,509	39,408	34,347	35,157	34,688	35,616	36,836	3
Other	271	354	252	266	335	299	333	348	245	263	7

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 6: Offences recorded by the police, Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15²

Offence group ⁷	Number & Percentage											
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	% change 13-14 to 14-15	
Total offences										501,281	379,498	-24
Miscellaneous offences				228,854	232,846	211,655	210,135	203,063	207,190	183,513	-11	
Common assault ⁴	72,281	78,167	73,523	74,130	72,212	70,786	69,253	60,955	60,357	58,178	-4	
Breach of the peace etc. ⁸	91,400	95,051	92,206	93,327	87,403	70,468	71,451	70,301	71,288	63,205	-11	
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct				31,307	39,545	37,451	37,458	39,238	43,043	35,524	-17	
Urinating etc.	6,781	7,753	8,384	10,717	14,186	13,620	13,602	15,420	15,361	11,216	-27	
Other				19,373	19,500	19,330	18,371	17,149	17,141	15,390	-10	
Motor vehicle offences									294,091	195,985	-33	
Dangerous and careless driving	12,956	13,601	12,964	11,519	11,073	9,839	9,853	10,530	11,524	10,773	-7	
Driving under the influence	11,257	11,704	10,697	9,800	8,504	7,563	7,445	6,433	6,079	5,218	-14	
Speeding									82,382	60,926	-26	
Unlawful use of vehicle									57,779	40,855	-29	
Vehicle defect offences									20,923	15,593	-25	
Seat belt offences				26,225	29,324	29,171	31,505	33,047	37,880	15,619	-59	
Mobile phone offences				23,957	26,146	27,736	29,110	30,875	35,764	17,978	-50	
Other									41,760	29,023	-31	

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 7: Crimes / offences cleared up⁹ by the police, as a percentage of those recorded, Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15²

Crime / Offence group	Percentage									
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Total crimes	45.7	47.5	47.9	48.9	49.3	48.6	49.4	51.3	51.5	50.4
Non-sexual crimes of violence	59.1	60.1	61.5	63.9	67.0	71.6	75.5	78.6	81.9	84.1
Homicide etc. ³ (incl. causing death by driving)	99.2	100.0	99.3	100.0	105.7	99.2	96.7	104.4	101.9	107.6
Attempted murder & serious assault ⁴	60.2	60.0	60.7	61.6	65.7	69.9	73.9	77.8	81.5	83.3
Robbery	36.9	39.5	40.3	46.2	46.4	54.8	61.6	65.9	71.8	77.2
Other violence	80.8	82.5	83.6	84.5	85.2	86.6	90.0	90.8	89.2	90.6
Sexual crimes⁵	74.9	73.5	71.5	68.1	65.6	66.4	67.5	68.0	75.6	76.5
Rape & attempted rape	71.8	67.1	69.9	61.4	56.8	54.9	56.9	61.8	73.0	74.2
Sexual assault	74.4	71.3	68.0	64.8	61.5	63.8	62.3	61.8	70.6	76.6
Crimes associated with prostitution	99.0	98.1	98.2	99.3	96.5	97.0	95.9	95.9	96.7	97.3
Other sexual crimes	65.0	70.4	68.1	62.9	67.3	68.6	72.2	72.7	79.4	75.5
Crimes of dishonesty	36.6	37.6	37.7	38.9	38.3	37.0	37.2	38.1	37.4	35.8
Housebreaking ⁶	26.1	26.3	25.7	24.2	24.9	24.5	24.5	24.8	23.2	25.0
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	37.1	37.4	32.3	37.7	30.7	22.6	21.7	19.5	16.8	15.2
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	15.3	16.8	15.2	16.6	17.3	17.2	17.2	20.1	16.2	15.1
Theft of a motor vehicle	36.8	41.2	43.7	43.4	43.9	43.3	45.2	47.6	43.1	39.3
Shoplifting	76.6	77.9	77.5	77.8	78.7	78.5	78.7	79.7	78.8	74.6
Other theft	20.6	21.4	20.9	21.4	21.0	20.0	20.6	21.0	20.5	18.6
Fraud	76.1	75.1	74.3	74.6	57.3	57.2	55.3	52.2	55.8	50.6
Other dishonesty	78.8	78.3	81.9	78.6	73.4	74.3	73.9	72.1	71.1	66.6
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	22.7	25.0	24.6	25.0	25.6	25.0	25.4	27.0	25.1	22.8
Fire-raising	26.3	26.3	25.4	24.4	23.6	21.9	23.9	25.9	27.2	25.1
Vandalism etc.	22.6	25.0	24.6	25.0	25.7	25.2	25.5	27.0	25.0	22.7
Other crimes	97.8	98.9	98.4	98.1	98.1	98.3	98.4	97.9	98.4	96.5
Crimes against public justice	97.7	97.9	98.0	97.5	97.3	97.6	97.6	97.6	98.0	97.5
Handling offensive weapons	96.8	97.2	95.9	95.7	96.5	96.2	97.3	97.0	97.8	96.6
Drugs	98.2	100.2	99.4	99.1	99.0	99.4	99.2	98.2	98.8	95.9
Other	85.2	84.7	89.3	89.5	89.9	88.6	89.5	94.0	94.7	90.5
Miscellaneous offences¹⁰				82.6	83.0	82.0	83.9	85.5	87.5	86.3
Common assault ⁴	69.9	70.7	70.8	69.7	69.7	69.9	71.4	72.6	75.9	76.2
Breach of the peace etc. ⁸	88.1	88.4	87.9	86.7	85.8	84.3	86.8	87.8	89.2	87.8
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct				99.9	99.9	99.9	99.8	99.9	99.9	99.8
Urinating etc.	99.6	99.5	99.7	99.7	99.8	99.7	99.7	99.8	100.0	99.8
Other				75.3	73.6	70.6	75.5	76.0	78.9	76.9

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 8: Crimes and offences recorded in Scotland per 10,000 population¹¹, 2005-06 to 2014-15²

Crime / Offence group	Rate per 10,000 population									
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Total crimes	818	817	746	725	646	614	593	514	508	479
Non-sexual crimes of violence	27	27	25	24	21	22	18	14	13	12
Homicide etc. ³ (incl. causing death by driving)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted murder & serious assault ⁴	14	14	13	12	11	10	9	7	6	6
Robbery	7	7	6	6	5	5	4	3	3	3
Other violence	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	4	4	3
Sexual crimes⁵	13	13	13	12	12	13	14	14	16	18
Rape & attempted rape	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	4
Sexual assault	7	7	7	6	7	6	5	6	6	7
Crimes associated with prostitution	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other sexual crimes	2	3	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	7
Crimes of dishonesty	367	358	322	323	293	296	291	256	258	237
Housebreaking ⁶	61	60	49	49	45	48	46	40	42	39
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	16	14	12	13	10	8	7	6	6	5
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	32	31	29	26	19	18	17	12	12	11
Theft of a motor vehicle	27	29	23	22	18	17	13	11	11	10
Shoplifting	55	56	56	62	58	56	56	50	52	51
Other theft	141	137	125	124	117	123	126	110	110	100
Fraud	22	18	16	16	16	17	17	17	15	13
Other dishonesty	12	12	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	8
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	250	253	228	210	179	156	142	112	102	97
Fire-raising	10	10	9	9	8	8	7	6	5	4
Vandalism etc.	241	243	219	201	170	148	135	106	97	93
Other crimes	160	165	157	156	141	128	128	118	119	115
Crimes against public justice	54	62	61	57	51	50	50	44	44	39
Handling offensive weapons	19	20	17	17	13	12	11	8	7	6
Drugs	87	83	79	82	75	65	66	65	67	69
Other	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Total offences¹⁰									941	710
Miscellaneous offences				440	445	402	396	382	389	343
Common assault ⁴	141	152	142	142	138	135	131	115	113	109
Breach of the peace etc. ⁸	179	185	178	179	167	134	135	132	134	118
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct				60	76	71	71	74	81	66
Urinating etc.	13	15	16	21	27	26	26	29	29	21
Other				37	37	37	35	32	32	29
Motor vehicle offences									552	366
Dangerous and careless driving	25	26	25	22	21	19	19	20	22	20
Driving under the influence	22	23	21	19	16	14	14	12	11	10
Speeding									155	114
Unlawful use of vehicle									108	76
Vehicle defect offences									39	29
Seat belt offences				50	56	55	59	62	71	29
Mobile phone offences				46	50	53	55	58	67	34
Other motor vehicle offences									78	54
Total crimes and offences									1,448	1,189

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 9: Crimes and offences recorded by local authority area, 2014-15

Local authority area						Number				
	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	Total crimes	Miscellaneous offences	Motor vehicle offences	Total offences	Total crimes and offences
Aberdeen City	298	497	7,568	2,636	2,913	13,912	9,080	10,212	19,292	33,204
Aberdeenshire	138	306	2,768	1,448	1,021	5,681	3,736	5,583	9,319	15,000
Angus	123	264	1,709	894	817	3,807	2,475	3,193	5,668	9,475
Argyll & Bute	55	105	1,072	575	961	2,768	2,531	4,253	6,784	9,552
Clackmannanshire	89	116	972	640	517	2,334	1,563	2,311	3,874	6,208
Dumfries & Galloway	141	314	1,947	981	1,567	4,950	3,733	10,815	14,548	19,498
Dundee City	228	543	4,213	1,844	1,741	8,569	5,276	3,261	8,537	17,106
East Ayrshire	163	204	2,771	1,207	1,623	5,968	4,136	4,377	8,513	14,481
East Dunbartonshire	61	93	1,651	507	597	2,909	1,558	1,812	3,370	6,279
East Lothian	70	112	1,838	784	611	3,415	1,750	1,674	3,424	6,839
East Renfrewshire	47	53	1,095	537	450	2,182	1,203	2,510	3,713	5,895
Edinburgh, City of	828	1,035	22,448	6,125	5,191	35,627	13,771	10,287	24,058	59,685
Eilean Siar	10	43	182	107	102	444	418	580	998	1,442
Falkirk	182	274	3,227	1,472	1,490	6,645	4,652	8,677	13,329	19,974
Fife	335	829	7,102	2,882	3,154	14,302	9,407	10,643	20,050	34,352
Glasgow City	1,358	1,483	22,606	8,367	13,944	47,758	50,418	42,725	93,143	140,901
Highland	162	351	2,897	1,619	1,837	6,866	5,711	11,838	17,549	24,415
Inverclyde	125	74	1,583	984	1,574	4,340	2,880	2,044	4,924	9,264
Midlothian	89	129	2,325	1,102	828	4,473	1,992	967	2,959	7,432
Moray	61	183	1,172	662	483	2,561	1,811	3,106	4,917	7,478
North Ayrshire	200	207	3,327	1,553	1,458	6,745	4,439	3,884	8,323	15,068
North Lanarkshire	340	409	7,308	4,045	4,699	16,801	14,037	10,278	24,315	41,116
Orkney Islands	8	44	96	87	79	314	318	570	888	1,202
Perth & Kinross	90	261	2,478	830	1,249	4,908	2,526	3,142	5,668	10,576
Renfrewshire	255	275	3,936	1,527	2,973	8,966	7,172	5,739	12,911	21,877
Scottish Borders	64	129	1,516	779	701	3,189	1,908	2,104	4,012	7,201
Shetland Islands	10	30	185	109	107	441	364	484	848	1,289
South Ayrshire	137	205	2,694	915	1,091	5,042	3,088	4,785	7,873	12,915
South Lanarkshire	272	337	6,107	3,120	3,909	13,745	11,553	11,834	23,387	37,132
Stirling	89	147	2,161	905	824	4,126	2,276	5,626	7,902	12,028
West Dunbartonshire	143	174	1,835	1,153	1,709	5,014	3,587	3,415	7,002	12,016
West Lothian	186	331	4,068	1,695	1,268	7,548	4,144	3,256	7,400	14,948
SCOTLAND	6,357	9,557	126,857	52,091	61,488	256,350	183,513	195,985	379,498	635,848

Table 10: Percentage of crimes and offences cleared up⁹, by local authority area, 2014-15

Local authority area							Percentage	
	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	Total crimes	Miscellaneous offences	
Aberdeen City	86.2	76.3	39.1	26.8	96.0	51.0	83.4	
Aberdeenshire	92.8	68.0	31.2	26.5	93.5	44.7	76.7	
Angus	91.1	72.7	42.9	28.1	92.4	53.7	86.5	
Argyll & Bute	112.7	77.1	37.2	28.9	96.7	59.1	91.6	
Clackmannanshire	91.0	67.2	43.8	27.5	91.5	52.9	80.6	
Dumfries & Galloway	95.0	80.9	45.3	41.7	95.8	64.2	89.7	
Dundee City	86.8	72.0	41.1	21.9	93.0	50.7	85.5	
East Ayrshire	89.0	83.3	42.8	19.7	98.0	55.8	86.4	
East Dunbartonshire	85.2	63.4	28.5	18.3	95.1	42.7	84.9	
East Lothian	85.7	67.0	34.9	20.7	96.2	44.7	79.8	
East Renfrewshire	87.2	79.2	28.1	13.6	95.1	40.9	81.8	
Edinburgh, City of	74.0	67.5	25.4	14.9	90.6	35.4	69.0	
Eilean Siar	100.0	81.4	51.1	38.3	101.0	63.5	90.9	
Falkirk	97.8	79.6	40.6	31.3	97.3	54.4	84.6	
Fife	98.5	91.3	54.0	34.9	99.6	63.4	91.5	
Glasgow City	76.1	73.1	34.0	19.7	97.1	52.3	89.8	
Highland	99.4	94.0	46.4	35.6	104.5	63.1	89.8	
Inverclyde	66.4	73.0	36.8	14.2	96.0	54.6	90.0	
Midlothian	79.8	62.0	29.1	19.1	95.4	40.9	75.9	
Moray	85.2	86.3	38.1	29.5	98.3	51.8	79.9	
North Ayrshire	83.0	84.1	36.4	14.7	98.9	47.8	83.4	
North Lanarkshire	88.5	77.3	39.8	22.7	97.9	53.8	90.9	
Orkney Islands	87.5	70.5	41.7	44.8	92.4	60.5	97.2	
Perth & Kinross	87.8	77.4	38.4	36.1	91.8	54.6	87.5	
Renfrewshire	79.2	78.5	32.9	18.9	95.4	53.9	89.4	
Scottish Borders	85.9	86.8	38.5	23.6	98.1	50.9	85.6	
Shetland Islands	100.0	96.7	74.6	60.6	111.2	82.1	92.3	
South Ayrshire	95.6	87.3	40.1	18.7	96.9	51.9	86.4	
South Lanarkshire	84.2	75.1	33.8	22.2	97.7	51.3	91.0	
Stirling	92.1	64.6	38.0	26.6	94.4	48.9	83.0	
West Dunbartonshire	91.6	77.0	43.7	19.1	98.4	59.2	86.4	
West Lothian	81.2	68.6	29.4	16.7	98.2	41.1	73.7	
SCOTLAND	84.1	76.5	35.8	22.8	96.5	50.4	86.3	

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 11: Number of crimes and offences recorded by the police per 10,000 population¹¹ by local authority area, 2014-15

Local authority area	Rate per 10,000 population									
	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	Total crimes	Miscellaneous offences	Motor vehicle offences	Total offences	Total crimes and offences
Aberdeen City	13	22	330	115	127	608	397	446	842	1,450
Aberdeenshire	5	12	106	56	39	218	143	214	358	576
Angus	11	23	146	77	70	326	212	274	486	812
Argyll & Bute	6	12	122	66	110	316	289	485	774	1,090
Clackmannanshire	17	23	190	125	101	456	305	451	757	1,213
Dumfries & Galloway	9	21	130	65	105	330	249	721	970	1,300
Dundee City	15	37	284	124	117	578	356	220	576	1,154
East Ayrshire	13	17	227	99	133	489	339	358	697	1,186
East Dunbartonshire	6	9	155	48	56	273	146	170	316	588
East Lothian	7	11	180	77	60	335	171	164	336	670
East Renfrewshire	5	6	119	58	49	236	130	272	402	638
Edinburgh, City of	17	21	456	124	105	723	280	209	488	1,211
Eilean Siar	4	16	67	39	37	163	153	213	366	529
Falkirk	12	17	205	93	95	422	295	550	846	1,267
Fife	9	23	193	78	86	389	256	290	546	935
Glasgow City	23	25	377	140	233	796	841	712	1,553	2,350
Highland	7	15	124	69	79	295	245	508	753	1,047
Inverclyde	16	9	198	123	197	543	361	256	617	1,160
Midlothian	10	15	270	128	96	519	231	112	343	862
Moray	6	19	124	70	51	270	191	328	519	789
North Ayrshire	15	15	244	114	107	494	325	285	610	1,104
North Lanarkshire	10	12	216	120	139	497	415	304	719	1,217
Orkney Islands	4	20	44	40	37	145	147	264	411	557
Perth & Kinross	6	18	166	56	84	330	170	211	381	710
Renfrewshire	15	16	226	88	171	515	412	329	741	1,256
Scottish Borders	6	11	133	68	61	280	167	185	352	632
Shetland Islands	4	13	80	47	46	190	157	208	365	555
South Ayrshire	12	18	239	81	97	448	274	425	700	1,148
South Lanarkshire	9	11	194	99	124	436	366	375	742	1,177
Stirling	10	16	236	99	90	451	249	614	863	1,313
West Dunbartonshire	16	19	205	128	190	559	400	381	780	1,339
West Lothian	10	19	230	96	72	426	234	184	418	844
SCOTLAND	12	18	237	97	115	479	343	366	710	1,189

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 12: Number of crimes and offences recorded by the police, index of national rate per 10,000 population¹¹, by local authority area, 2014-15

Local authority area	Index of rate per 10,000 population									
	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	Total crimes	Miscellaneous offences	Motor vehicle offences	Total offences	Total crimes and offences
Aberdeen City	109	121	139	118	111	127	116	122	119	122
Aberdeenshire	45	66	45	57	34	45	42	58	50	48
Angus	89	127	62	79	61	68	62	75	68	68
Argyll & Bute	53	67	52	67	95	66	84	132	109	92
Clackmannanshire	146	127	80	128	88	95	89	123	107	102
Dumfries & Galloway	79	117	55	67	91	69	73	197	137	109
Dundee City	129	205	120	128	102	121	104	60	81	97
East Ayrshire	112	93	96	101	116	102	99	98	98	100
East Dunbartonshire	48	49	65	49	49	57	43	46	44	49
East Lothian	58	61	76	79	52	70	50	45	47	56
East Renfrewshire	43	32	50	60	42	49	38	74	57	54
Edinburgh, City of	141	118	192	128	92	151	81	57	69	102
Eilean Siar	31	88	28	40	33	34	45	58	52	45
Falkirk	97	97	86	96	82	88	86	150	119	107
Fife	77	126	82	81	75	81	75	79	77	79
Glasgow City	191	138	159	143	202	166	245	194	219	198
Highland	58	84	52	71	69	61	71	139	106	88
Inverclyde	132	52	84	126	171	113	105	70	87	98
Midlothian	87	84	114	131	84	108	67	31	48	73
Moray	54	108	52	72	44	56	56	89	73	66
North Ayrshire	123	85	103	117	93	103	95	78	86	93
North Lanarkshire	85	68	91	123	121	104	121	83	101	102
Orkney Islands	31	114	19	41	32	30	43	72	58	47
Perth & Kinross	51	98	70	57	73	69	49	58	54	60
Renfrewshire	123	88	95	90	148	107	120	90	104	106
Scottish Borders	47	63	56	70	53	58	49	50	50	53
Shetland Islands	36	72	34	48	40	40	46	57	51	47
South Ayrshire	102	102	101	83	84	93	80	116	99	97
South Lanarkshire	73	60	82	102	108	91	107	102	105	99
Stirling	82	90	99	101	78	94	72	168	122	110
West Dunbartonshire	134	109	86	132	166	117	116	104	110	113
West Lothian	88	105	97	98	62	89	68	50	59	71
SCOTLAND	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table A1: Crimes and offences recorded and cleared up⁹ by the police, Scotland, 2010-11 to 2014-15

	Number				
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Police strength at end financial year (full-time equivalent - FTE)	17,263	17,436	17,496	17,244	17,295
Number of crimes recorded	323,247	314,188	273,053	270,397	256,350
Crimes recorded per 1,000 population ¹¹	61	59	51	51	48
Crimes recorded per FTE police officer	19	18	16	16	15
Number of crimes cleared up⁹	156,943	155,264	140,083	139,306	129,217
Crimes cleared up per FTE police officer	9	9	8	8	7
Number of offences recorded				501,281	379,498
Offences recorded per 1,000 population ¹¹				94	71
Offences recorded per FTE police officer				29	22
Number of offences cleared up⁹				472,099	351,100
Offences cleared up per FTE police officer				27	20

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table A2: Sexual crimes⁵ recorded by the police, Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15

Sexual crimes	Number & Percentage										
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	% change 13-14 to 14-15
Rape & attempted rape	1,161	1,123	1,053	963	996	1,131	1,274	1,462	1,808	1,901	5
Rape	975	922	908	821	884	997	1,183	1,372	1,690	1,797	6
Attempted rape	186	201	145	142	112	134	91	90	118	104	-12
Sexual assault	3,392	3,452	3,502	3,297	3,412	3,220	2,908	3,008	3,405	3,727	9
Sexual assault including against children	1,557	1,714	1,721	1,681	1,737	1,774	2,056	2,166	2,449	2,713	11
Lewd and libidinous practices	1,835	1,738	1,781	1,616	1,675	1,446	852	842	956	1,014	6
Crimes associated with prostitution	730	779	682	765	661	576	567	534	490	374	-24
Crimes relating to prostitution	684	718	525	533	418	353	344	348	295	179	-39
Soliciting services of person engaged in prostitution	-	-	101	172	162	154	149	133	117	138	18
Brothel keeping	11	18	27	24	34	21	36	28	32	36	13
Immoral traffic	27	17	16	21	36	33	26	14	32	13	-59
Procuration	8	26	13	15	11	15	12	11	14	8	-43
Other	1,275	1,372	1,315	1,306	1,458	1,769	2,612	2,689	2,901	3,555	23
Other sexually coercive conduct	~	~	~	~	~	155	660	823	956	1,508	58
Other sexual crimes involving 13-15 year old children	316	436	394	370	445	441	516	429	434	417	-4
Taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children	*	*	*	*	69	225	375	595	621	603	-3
Incest	29	19	18	19	49	17	18	16	11	7	-36
Illegal homosexual acts	98	84	87	97	74	118	46	45	53	56	6
Indecent exposure	816	817	786	786	766	742	894	680	682	784	15
Other sexual crimes	16	16	30	34	55	71	103	101	144	180	25
Total Sexual crimes⁵	6,558	6,726	6,552	6,331	6,527	6,696	7,361	7,693	8,604	9,557	11

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

- =The relevant legislation for this category was implemented in 2007-08.

~ =The relevant legislation for this category was implemented in 2010-11.

* = Crimes within this category were not separately identifiable before 2009-10.

Table A3: Further breakdown of Sexual crimes⁵ recorded by the police, Scotland, 2010-11 to 2014-15

Sexual crimes	Number & Percentage					
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	% change 13-14 to 14-15
Rape & attempted rape	1,131	1,274	1,462	1,808	1,901	5
Rape	997	1,183	1,372	1,690	1,797	6
Attempted rape	134	91	90	118	104	-12
Sexual assault	3,220	2,908	3,008	3,405	3,727	9
Sexual assault committed prior to 1 December 2010	1,275	288	316	358	347	-3
Sexual assault against an adult 16+	321	1,139	1,149	1,323	1,434	8
Sexual assault against a child aged 13-15	67	245	312	372	457	23
Sexual assault against a child under 13	111	384	389	396	475	20
Lewd and libidinous practices	1,446	852	842	956	1,014	6
Crimes associated with prostitution	576	567	534	490	374	-24
Crimes relating to prostitution	353	344	348	295	179	-39
Soliciting services of person engaged in prostitution	154	149	133	117	138	18
Brothel keeping	21	36	28	32	36	13
Immoral traffic	33	26	14	32	13	-59
Procuration	15	12	11	14	8	-43
Other	1,769	2,612	2,689	2,901	3,555	23
Other sexually coercive conduct against an adult 16+	53	247	339	343	790	130
Other sexually coercive conduct against a child aged 13-15	48	181	256	365	333	-9
Other sexually coercive conduct against a child under 13	54	232	228	248	385	55
Other sexual offences involving 13-15 year old children	441	516	429	434	417	-4
Taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children	225	375	595	621	603	-3
Incest	17	18	16	11	7	-36
Illegal homosexual acts	118	46	45	53	56	6
Indecent exposure	742	894	680	682	784	15
Other sexual crimes	71	103	101	144	180	25
Total Sexual crimes⁵	6,696	7,361	7,693	8,604	9,557	11

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table A4: Theft by Housebreaking¹² (including attempts and housebreaking 'with intent'), Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15

Crime category	Number & Percentage										% change 13-14 to 14-15
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	
Domestic:	21,232	20,429	17,465	17,223	16,727	17,657	17,375	15,656	16,334	15,166	-7
Dwelling	15,135	14,523	12,437	12,133	11,790	12,633	12,198	10,767	10,732	9,590	-11
Non-dwelling	6,097	5,906	5,028	5,090	4,937	5,024	5,177	4,889	5,602	5,576	0
Other	10,087	10,151	7,978	8,273	7,047	7,360	6,847	5,859	5,938	5,441	-8
Total Housebreaking	31,319	30,580	25,443	25,496	23,774	25,017	24,222	21,515	22,272	20,607	-7
Percentage Domestic	68%	67%	69%	68%	70%	71%	72%	73%	73%	74%	

Table A5: Theft of, and from, motor vehicles recorded by the police, Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15

Crime category	Number & Percentage										% change 13-14 to 14-15
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	
Theft from motor vehicle of which:	23,569	22,858	21,944	20,825	17,075	16,531	16,906	13,323	13,821	12,933	-6
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	12,162	11,519	11,181	9,847	7,400	6,795	6,386	4,404	4,450	4,173	-6
OLP with intent to steal	2,634	2,882	2,695	2,613	1,812	1,793	1,792	1,198	1,152	1,119	-3
Attempted theft OLP	1,657	1,659	1,341	1,189	961	907	810	557	587	524	-11
Other theft	7,116	6,798	6,727	7,176	6,902	7,036	7,918	7,164	7,632	7,117	-7
Theft of motor vehicle	11,317	11,820	9,864	9,407	7,706	7,325	6,087	5,149	5,340	4,866	-9
Attempted theft of motor vehicle	2,724	3,180	2,241	2,144	1,598	1,391	973	582	636	557	-12
Total Motor vehicle theft	37,610	37,858	34,049	32,376	26,379	25,247	23,966	19,054	19,797	18,356	-7

Table A6: Crimes of Handling offensive weapons recorded by the police, Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15

Crime category	Number & Percentage										% change 13-14 to 14-15
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	
Possession of an offensive weapon	5,982	6,189	5,398	4,892	3,839	3,248	2,820	1,863	1,728	1,380	-20
Restriction of an offensive weapon	3	1	3	8	9	20	19	17	6	17	183
Having in a public place an article with a blade or point	3,643	3,920	3,588	4,080	3,194	3,015	2,792	2,135	2,061	1,892	-8
Total Handling offensive weapons	9,628	10,110	8,989	8,980	7,042	6,283	5,631	4,015	3,795	3,289	-13

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table A7: Drug crimes recorded by the police, Scotland 2005-06 to 2014-15

Crime category	Number & Percentage										
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	% change 13-14 to 14-15
Illegal importation of drugs	23	9	9	9	17	30	19	24	27	21	-22
Illegal cultivation of drugs	297	437	490	609	753	964	1,242	1,251	1,185	1,066	-10
Possession of drugs with intent to supply	9,293	10,444	9,328	9,697	9,131	6,144	5,423	3,861	3,594	3,700	3
Possession of drugs	34,440	31,329	30,559	31,805	29,179	26,960	28,326	29,150	30,451	31,632	4
Drugs, other offences, money laundering	194	203	360	389	328	249	147	402	359	417	16
Total Drug crimes	44,247	42,422	40,746	42,509	39,408	34,347	35,157	34,688	35,616	36,836	3

Table A8: Breach of the peace etc. offences recorded by the police, Scotland, 2010-11 to 2014-15

Crime category	Number & Percentage					
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	% change 13-14 to 14-15
Breach of the peace	58,432	33,710	25,072	21,755	14,636	-33
Threatening or abusive behaviour ¹³	11,914	37,223	44,429	48,521	47,210	-3
Offence of stalking ¹³	122	495	605	875	1,251	43
Offensive behaviour at football ¹⁴	-	22	154	126	102	-19
Threatening communications ¹⁴	-	1	41	11	6	-45
Total Breach of the peace etc.	70,468	71,451	70,301	71,288	63,205	-11

Table A9: Racially aggravated offences, Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15

Crime category	Number & Percentage										
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	% change 13-14 to 14-15
Racially aggravated harassment	503	463	452	425	313	257	171	155	128	130	2
Racially aggravated conduct	3791	4011	4091	4139	4,200	3,916	3,315	2,748	2,584	2,326	-10
Total	4,294	4,474	4,543	4,564	4,513	4,173	3,486	2,903	2,712	2,456	-9

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Notes for Tables

1. Table 3 only – SCJS statistically significant changes (at 95% confidence interval) shown in bold.
2. This table can be accessed at local authority level online via the following link: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/RecCrime>.
3. Includes Murder, and Culpable homicide (common law), which includes Causing death by dangerous driving, Causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, Causing death by careless driving, Illegal driver involved in fatal accident and Corporate homicide.
4. For the definition of Serious assault and the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault please see [Paragraph 6.9](#) within Annex 1.
5. Implementation of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act on 1 December 2010 affected the comparability of the breakdown of Sexual crimes over time. For further information please see the '[Data Considerations](#)' section under Sexual crimes within Chapter 3.
6. Includes dwellings, non-dwellings and other premises. For a more detailed definition see [Paragraph 6.11](#) within Annex 1.
7. Since 2013-14, not all offence categories are comparable with previous years data. Please see [Annex 2](#) for further information.
8. Includes Breach of the peace, Threatening or abusive behaviour, Offence of stalking, Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications (Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act 2012).
9. The definition of cleared up can be found in [Paragraph 6.16](#) within Annex 1.
10. Due to comparability issues, it is not possible to compare data with years prior to 2008-09. Further detail can be found in [Annex 2](#).
11. Population estimates are as at mid-year 2014 from the National Records of Scotland (<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates>).
12. For a detailed definition of housebreaking see [Paragraph 6.11](#) within Annex 1.
13. Offence introduced in October 2010; therefore caution should be exercised when comparing 2010-11 with the rest of this time series as 2010-11 does not comprise a full year of data.
14. Offence introduced in March 2012; therefore caution should be exercised when comparing 2011-12 with the rest of this time series as 2011-12 does not comprise a full year of data.

6. Annexes

Annex 1: Data sources and definitions

Data collection:

- 6.1. The statistical return from which most of the figures in this bulletin are taken is a simple count of the numbers of crimes and offences, for each local authority, which the police have recorded and cleared up. Returns of quarterly data are submitted by Police Scotland and are used to produce a national total.
- 6.2. Amendments to crime and offence records will always arise after data has been submitted by Police Scotland to the Scottish Government. Some crime or offence records may, on further investigation by the police, be re-designated to not constitute a crime or offence (a process known as ‘no-criming’). In other cases the original crime or offence may be re-classified, which could shift the record between different crime or offence groups (for example if a common assault was found on further investigation to be a serious assault it would switch from Group 6 Miscellaneous Offences to Group 1 Non-sexual Violent Crime).
- 6.3. Following the implementation of the Scottish Operational Management Information System (ScOMIS) in Police Scotland, each quarterly submission of data to the Scottish Government contains revisions back to quarter 1 of the 2013-14 reporting year, reflecting the amendments described above. An exercise was undertaken to compare the crime and offence data published for 2013-14 (which was submitted to the Scottish Government in April 2014) with what ScOMIS reported for the same period one year later (April 2015). The results of this exercise are shown in the table below.

Crime or Offence Group	Number & Percentage			
	2013-14 Reporting Year			
	April 2014	April 2015	Difference	% Difference
Total Crime and Offences	771,678	771,414	-264	0.0%
Total Crime	270,397	269,092	-1,305	-0.5%
Group 1 Non Sexual Violent Crime	6,785	6,768	-17	-0.3%
Group 2 Sexual Crime	8,604	8,747	143	1.7%
Group 3 Crimes of Dishonesty	137,324	136,475	-849	-0.6%
Group 4 Fire Raising / Vandalism etc.	54,418	54,221	-197	-0.4%
Group 5 Other Crimes	63,266	62,881	-385	-0.6%
Total Offences	501,281	502,322	1,041	0.2%
Group 6 Miscellaneous Offences	207,190	206,973	-217	-0.1%
Group 7 Motor Vehicle Offences	294,091	295,349	1,258	0.4%

This analysis confirms that the extent of further amendment to police crime and offence records following the original submission of data is minimal at the Scotland level. This can give users confidence that the published statistics for 2013-14 still provide a sufficiently accurate measure of the extent of police recorded crimes and offences. On a proportional basis the biggest impact is on Group 2 Sexual crime, where a net 143 additional crimes have been recorded following reclassification from other groups. This has increased the number of sexual crimes by 1.7% from 8,604 to 8,747.

Whilst the number of records amended following their original submission to the Scottish Government are a very small proportion of all records, it is important for Official Statistics purposes that time series comparisons between 2013-14 and 2014-15 are on a like-for-like basis. As such the 2013-14 data used in this bulletin remains that which was submitted in April 2014 and published last year, to ensure this is consistent with the timetable being followed for the submission of data for 2014-15 (i.e. the same amount of time has elapsed for amendments to records for both of the reporting years contained in this bulletin).

Nonetheless, this analysis demonstrates that a more up-to-date set of figures are available from ScOMIS for 2013-14 than included in this Official Statistics publication. Given this we will assess whether any amendment to our revisions policy should be made before the 2015-16 publication. Users will be consulted accordingly if it is thought that this would be a useful change in practice.

6.4. Information on the data source used in the Recorded Crime bulletin series and supporting metadata can be found in the Data Sources and Suitability document which is available via the following link:
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/DataSource/RecordedCrimeSandS>.

6.5. The main Scottish Government Statement of Administrative Sources covers all sources of administrative data used by Scottish Government Statisticians. This statement can be found on the Scottish Government website at:
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/StatementAdminSources>.

A separate statement of administrative source is available for Police statistics via the following link:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/AdminSourcesPolice>.

6.6. Information is collected from the British Transport Police and the Ministry of Defence Police, but these figures have not been included in the main body of this bulletin. Thus, the following crimes and offences were recorded in addition to those referred to throughout this bulletin:

Table 13: Crimes and offences recorded by the British Transport Police and the Ministry of Defence Police, and cleared up¹³, as a percentage of those recorded, Scotland, 2014-15

	Crimes	Number & Percentage	
		Crime clear up rate	Offence clear up rate
Total recorded by British Transport Police and Ministry of Defence Police	1,583	34.6%	4,148 55.4%

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

On the 12 August 2015, Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) published Crime Audit, British Transport Police, Scotland Division:

<http://hmics.org/publications/crime-audit-british-transport-police-scotland-division>.

This audit looked at significantly more records than such previous audits and assessed the state, efficiency and effectiveness of the Division’s crime recording and the extent to which its recording practices comply with the Scottish Crime Recording Standard and the Scottish Government’s Counting Rules.

In total, 912 incidents and 522 crime records relating to allegations of theft, violence, sexual crime, hate crime, non-crime related incidents and those deemed as no-crime were examined (covering the period from 1 April 2014 to 30 September 2014). It was found that 98.8% had been closed correctly and 95.2% were counted and classified correctly.

HM Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, Derek Penman, said: “The results of our audit provide clear evidence that BTP’s Scotland Division crime recording processes are effective, ensuring the correct application of crime recording standards and counting rules”.

Data publication in Police Scotland Quarterly Management Information Reports:

6.7. In addition to the Official Statistics, Police Scotland publish management information on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police. This is presented within their Quarterly Management Information Reports, which are available from the ‘Our Performance’ section of Police Scotland’s website:

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/>.

These reports are produced to demonstrate Police Scotland’s commitment to transparency (alongside other regular reporting activity to the Scottish Police

Authority). The information within these reports is presented on a cumulative quarterly basis, with the first quarter of a reporting year containing 3 months of data (from April to June), the second containing 6 months of data (from April to September) etc. The reports are typically published within 2 months of the period to which they refer.

The Quarterly Management Information Reports make clear to users that the data they contain on recorded crime is based on the Administrative Data available to Police Scotland at that time and not the Official Statistics. The annual Official Statistics published by the Scottish Government on police recorded crime are based on management information which has undergone further quality assurance work, including additional dialogue with Police Scotland, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Data Definitions:

- 6.8. In one criminal incident, several crimes or offences may occur - e.g. a house may be broken into and vandalised and the occupants assaulted. In this example, crimes of housebreaking (which would include the vandalism) and assaults would be recorded. In multiple offence incidents more than one offence may be counted rather than one for the incident as a whole; that is, the counting system is offence based rather than incident based. An offence may have more than one victim - for example in robberies - and be committed by more than one offender – e.g. some assaults and housebreakings (note that for murder, attempted murder and culpable homicide, the number of crimes recorded is equal to the number of victims). Thus the statistics in this bulletin are not directly comparable with statistics on action taken against offenders, as one offence may lead to several persons being charged. Equally, an offender may be charged with several offences.
- 6.9. In Scotland, assault is a common law offence. In order to distinguish between serious and common assaults, Police Scotland use a common definition for serious assault:

“An assault or attack in which the victim sustains injury resulting in detention in hospital as an inpatient, for the treatment of that injury, or any of the following injuries whether or not detained in hospital:

- *Fractures (the breaking or cracking of a bone. Note – nose is cartilage not bone, so a ‘broken nose’ should not be classified unless it meets one of the other criteria)*
- *Internal injuries*
- *Severe concussion*
- *Lacerations requiring sutures which may lead to impairment or disfigurement*
- *Any other injury which may lead to impairment or disfigurement.”*

6.10. Attempts to commit an offence are included in the statistics, in general in the same group as the substantive offence.

6.11. Housebreaking can be broken down into different building types: Dwelling, Non-dwelling and Other property. Where 'domestic dwelling' is presented in the statistics, this refers to dwellings and non-dwellings only. Definitions of the different types of building are as follows:

Dwelling is defined as a house which is being used or fit for residential purposes and includes:

- Caravans used as residential home and touring caravans if used as permanent domicile.
- Houses which are unfinished / under renovation but are capable of being secured against intrusion (e.g. lock on door) which are roofed and have windows and doors fitted are classed as dwelling houses.
- Boarding House where the owner resides permanently on the premises.
- Domestic garage, which is an integral part of a dwelling house (ie. there is a connecting door between house and garage).
- Occupied bedrooms within hotel.

Non-dwelling is defined as all roofed buildings used for domestic purposes other than dwellings and includes:

- Garages which are not an integral part of the dwelling, sheds and outhouses.
- Domestic garages, which are not an integral part of a dwelling house.
- Garden huts / garden sheds / allotment huts (non-commercial)
- Outhouses

Other property is defined as all roofed buildings not used for residential or domestic purposes i.e. commercial premises and includes:

- Portacabins – not used for storage e.g. office (portacabins used for storage and non-static caravans would be classified as a Lockfast Place)
- Commercial / Business premises
- Factory buildings, Schools
- Park huts
- Show houses (used purely for that purpose)
- Boarding House where the owner does not reside permanently on the premises
- Ships – unless used as full time domicile
- Barn within a working farm

Reported crime:

- 6.12. These statistics do not reveal the incidence of all crime committed. Not all incidents are reported to the police. The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) 2012-13 estimated that 39% of crimes, as defined by the SCJS, were reported to the police. The reasons most commonly given by victims for not reporting to the police were that the police would not have been able to do anything (37%), that the incident was considered by them to be too trivial (36%) or that the police would not have been interested (15%).
- 6.13. Some crimes and offences, for example, speeding or possession of drugs, have no victim other than perhaps the perpetrator and are discovered and recorded as a result of police activity rather than by being reported to the police by the public. Hence, the strength and deployment of the police forces mainly determine the numbers of such crimes and offences recorded.
- 6.14. Contraventions of Scottish criminal law are divided for statistical purposes into crimes and offences. "Crime" is generally used for the more serious criminal acts; the less serious termed "offences", although the term "offence" may also be used in relation to serious breaches of criminal law. The distinction is made only for working purposes and the "seriousness" of the offence is generally related to the maximum sentence that can be imposed.
- 6.15. The detailed classification of crimes and offences used by The Scottish Government to collect criminal statistics contains about 475 codes. These are grouped in the bulletin as shown in [Chapter 7](#). Further information on crime codes can be found in the User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland, available via the following link:
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/UserGuide>.

Crimes and offences cleared up

- 6.16. The definition of "cleared up" is noted below. This definition came into force with effect from 1 April 1996.

A crime or offence is regarded as cleared up where there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots law, to justify consideration of criminal proceedings notwithstanding that a report is not submitted to the procurator fiscal because either:

- (i) by standing agreement with the procurator fiscal, the police warn the accused due to the minor nature of the offence, or*
- (ii) reporting is inappropriate due to the non-age of the accused, death of the accused or other similar circumstances.*

For some types of crime or offence the case is cleared up immediately because the offender is "caught in the act", e.g. motor vehicle offences. In Scots law, the confession of an accused person to a crime would not in general be sufficient to allow a prosecution to be taken, as corroborative

evidence is required. Thus, a case cannot be regarded as "cleared up" on the basis of a confession alone. In some cases there is sufficient evidence but a prosecution cannot be brought, for example, because the accused has left the country. In such cases, the offender is said to have been traced and the crime is regarded as cleared up. The other terms in the definition describe the various actions that must be taken by the police against offenders.

6.17. Crimes or offences recorded by the police as cleared up in one financial year, year y, may have been committed and therefore recorded in a previous year, i.e. year y-1. This means that the number of crimes or offences cleared up are being expressed as a percentage of a different set of crimes or offences. This means that clear up rates in excess of 100% can arise in a given year.

6.18. Clear up rates are calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{number of crimes cleared up in year y}}{\text{total number of crimes recorded in year y}} \times \frac{100}{1}$$

6.19. Clear up rates for the Motor vehicle offences group are not included in the bulletin since many of these crimes are offences for which the offender is 'caught in the act'.

6.20. As the number of crimes cleared up in a year may include crimes recorded in a previous year, this is not a perfect measure of crimes cleared up, particularly since this method can result in clear up rates of over 100%. The best method would be to take the number of crimes recorded and the subset of those which have been cleared up by the police. However due to the aggregate way in which the data is obtained, it is not possible to do this at present.

6.21. Prior to this bulletin, statistics on Clear up rates were presented on a rounded basis as they are only an approximation of the amount of crime cleared up each year (given the imperfect nature of this measure as outlined above). From this bulletin onwards Clear up rates will be presented to one-decimal place. Whilst this is still only an approximation of the amount of crime cleared up, this change will provide more clarity on how clear up rates vary over time.

6.22. Police Scotland are working on the development of a single crime recording system. When complete this could allow for more individual level crime data to be available. This opens up the possibility that clear up rates could be calculated by taking the number of crimes recorded in one year and measuring the number of those same crimes that were cleared up. Once the data is available in a format that allows this comparison, we will investigate with Police Scotland the best way to measure clear up rates and will consult with users on any possible change.

Annex 2: Quality of the statistics

Governance of Data Quality for Police Recorded Crime:

- 6.23. The recording of crime by the police and the subsequent publication of information through this statistical bulletin is undertaken by those who are professionally independent of wider decision-making and performance processes within their organisations. Within Police Scotland, the Crime Registrars ensure that crimes in Scotland are recorded ethically. They sit within the corporate services business area so that they are removed from direct operational activity and investigation. In turn, the production of the Official Statistics on recorded crime is managed in an impartial and objective way, in the public interest, by Scottish Government statisticians.
- 6.24. A Scottish Crime Recording Board has been set up to support the production of accurate and objective statistics on crime in Scotland. This Board will ensure that crime data is comprehensive, consistent, transparent and trustworthy. It will take into account the needs of both users and providers in the production of crime statistics and will ensure that this process is undertaken in a manner consistent with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Board is chaired by the Justice Analytical Services division of the Scottish Government and a wide range of organisations are represented including Police Scotland, the Scottish Police Authority, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) and the Crown and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). Information on the remit and functions of the Board, its actions and its relationship to other forums, will be published on the Scottish Government website. Users can receive updates on these developments by registering with Scotstat:
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/scotstat>.
- 6.25. A Framework of Assurance has been developed for Recorded Crime statistics to provide evidence on:
- the suitability of the administrative data for use in producing official statistics;
 - factors that the statistical producer needs to take into account in producing the official statistics;
 - the information that users need to know in order to make informed use of the statistics.
- The Framework of Assurance can be accessed via the link below and the aforementioned Crime Recording Board will assume responsibility for approving any future changes to this product: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/FoA>.
- 6.26. In November 2014, HMICS published the findings from the 2014 Crime Audit. Details about the Audit are featured throughout this statistical bulletin and

where relevant within the Data Validation segments contained within [Chapter 3](#). Further details about the audit, including a link to the full report, can be found in [Annex 3](#). HMICS propose to conduct a follow-up audit of Crime Recording in 2016 and will commence the scoping of this, in consultation with key stakeholders, in March 2016.

- 6.27. In addition to HMICS, audits of incident and crime records are also undertaken by Police Scotland's Crime Registrars. From April 2015 onwards, and in line with a recommendation made by HMICS in their 2014 Crime Audit, updates on the results of these internal audits and Police Scotland's actions against other recommendations are presented to the [Audit and Risk Committee](#) of the Scottish Police Authority. Papers from the Committee's meetings are published, with those from meetings held in 2015 available at the link below. Prior to the production of the 2015-16 bulletin on police recorded crime, we will ask the Scottish Crime Recording Board to consider what role there may be for these internal audits to support the process of producing the Official statistics and how they may provide further information to users on the quality of the data.
- <http://www.spa.police.uk/meetings-events/audit-and-risk-committee/auditmeetings2015/>.

Quality Assurance of Submitted Data:

- 6.28. The data provided by Police Scotland go through a process of quality assurance in which data received are checked across the four quarters of the financial year period, and against the previous year. Anything unusual or which we feel requires further explanation is then fed back to the Police for their attention. Any amendments are carried out and the final data is used to produce a set of data tables which can be used to check the final dataset. If the police are content that the figures are an accurate reflection of the dataset, then the data is officially signed off for use in the publication.

During the quality assurance checking process, it is possible for errors to be found in data for previous years. While we do not routinely revise figures, we are committed to correcting errors in the data and providing suitable explanations for any changes made to previously published data.

- 6.29. Detailed information on the quality assurance processes applied to recorded crime data is available in the User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland, available via the following link:
- <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/UserGuide>.
- 6.30. Before the publication of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin, an extensive quality assurance exercise was carried out both to ensure consistency of data pre and post police reform, and to check the quality of recorded crime data supplied by the police. This was due to the data being extracted from one central unit within Police Scotland, using their new

information and performance management reporting tool (ScOMIS), instead of being returned by the eight legacy police force areas. ScOMIS collates crime reports from across the variety of systems used by the eight legacy police forces into one central system, and supplies the Scottish Government with recorded crime data.

This exercise raised several data quality issues which led to a number of corrections to legacy data published in previous years. The extent of these amendments to the data, along with all findings of this exercise, have been published in a Technical Report on the comparability of recorded crime data, publicly available via the following link:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/TechnicalReport>.

The Technical Report should be read alongside this bulletin and the User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland, as these provide context and background information on recorded crime data.

Continuing data quality issues:

Overall, the Scottish Government are confident that ScOMIS can provide data which are accurate and reliable for inclusion in the Recorded Crime in Scotland statistical bulletin series.

In terms of comparability, the Scottish Government are satisfied that crime data, Groups 1 to 5, are comparable pre and post reform, and so there is no break in the time series for this data.

However the overall comparability for offences data, Groups 6 and 7, has been affected by some of the issues relating to legacy force data and changes in recording practices. **Overall comparisons for offences data should not be made prior to 2013-14.**

6.31. The total number of Miscellaneous offences (Group 6) is subject to a break in the time series from 2008-09 as a result of the incomparability of four specific offences. **Overall comparisons for Group 6 should only be made for 2008-09 onwards.**

- It has not been possible to correct a very slight undercount in legacy Lothian & Borders data for Litter offences and Bicycles, other offences prior to 2008-09, which affects the Other miscellaneous offences category.
- It has not been possible to correct double counting in legacy Tayside data for Disorderly on licensed premises and Control of Pollution prior to 2008-09, which affects the Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct and the Other miscellaneous offences categories respectively.

6.32. The total number of Motor vehicle offences (Group 7) is subject to a break in the time series from 2013-14 as a result of a number of issues affecting comparability over time. **Overall comparisons for Group 7 should not be made prior to 2013-14.**

- Legacy Strathclyde did not include Safety Camera Partnership data in their returns for 2007-08 onwards which means that data for this time period onwards is not comparable across Scotland. This affects the following offences: Speeding in restricted areas; Other speeding; Drivers neglect of traffic directions (not pedestrian crossing); Drivers contravention of pedestrian crossing regulations and Motorway traffic offences. As a result, this affects the Speeding and Other motor vehicle offences categories.
- Legacy forces did not consistently include Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme (VDRS) data in their returns, and so data cannot be compared prior to 2013-14. This affects the following offences: Registration or identification mark offences; Lighting offences (motor vehicles) and Construction and use regulation (other than lighting) offences. As a result, this affects the Unlawful use of vehicle and Vehicle defect offences categories.
- Legacy forces did not consistently include data relating to tickets issued by the DVLA for Vehicle Excise Licence offences, also sourced from the Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme, and so data cannot be compared prior to 2013-14. As a result, this affects the Unlawful use of vehicle category.
- It has not been possible to correct invalid data included in the returns from legacy Dumfries & Galloway and Fife for a number of motor vehicle offences prior to 2008-09. This affects the following offences: Using a motor vehicle without a test certificate; Driving without a licence (including under age); Failure to insure against third party risks; Lighting offences (motor vehicle) (Dumfries & Galloway, 2011-12 and 2012-13 only); Construction and use regulations (other than lighting) (Dumfries & Galloway only); Seat belt offences and Mobile phone offences. As a result, this affects the Unlawful use of vehicle, Vehicle defect offences, Seat belt offences and Mobile phone offences categories.
- It has not been possible to correct double counting in legacy Lothian & Borders data for the following offences: Using a motor vehicle without a test certificate, Driving without a licence (including under age), Failure to insure against third party risks, Seat belt offences and Mobile phone offences. As a result, this affects the Unlawful use of vehicle, Seat belt offences and Mobile phone offences categories.

Annex 3: Auditing of data by HMICS

6.33. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland have conducted and, in November 2014, published, a thorough audit of police recorded crime data. In this detailed audit, HMICS has confirmed that the quality of crime recording in Scotland is good, supported by a system of checks and balances, though there is scope for improvement in relation to some sexual crimes and non-crime related incidents.

Crime Audit 2014 was the largest audit into crime recording undertaken by HMICS to date, and shows that the reform of Scottish policing has provided new opportunities for greater consistency. HM Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland, Derek Penman, said of the review:

"It is important that the public can have confidence in crime figures and the scale of this report, which examined five times more records than any previous report, provides that.

"Police Scotland's own auditing of crime recording is good and the fact it broadly mirrors our results should provide assurance as to its accuracy. "

HMICS tested the accuracy of crime recording through an audit of records recorded between 1 April 2013 and 30 June 2014. In deciding which records to audit, HMICS took several factors into account including areas identified as weak in previous audits, areas of high risk or emerging concern, and national and local policing priorities. HMICS audited records in six categories, four of which related to specific crime types:

- Sexual crimes;
- Violent crime;
- Housebreaking;
- Hate crime;
- Non-crime related incidents (i.e. incidents that were potentially crime-related but which were eventually closed as being non-crime related); and
- No-crimes (i.e. cases that were originally thought to be a crime but were later redesignated as not being a crime following additional investigation).

The examination of no-crimes involves an assessment of whether the no-crime decision was correct. Because the no-crime test is different from that applied to incidents, the no-crime results are reported separately.

The following tests can be applied to incidents:

- Test 1 involves reviewing the initial report to the police (the 'incident') and assessing whether the incident has been correctly closed. Correct closure means either that (a) the incident was closed as non-crime related and

contained sufficient information to dispel any inference of criminality; or (b) the incident indicated a crime had occurred and a crime report was traced. Incidents which result in a crime report proceed to Test 2.

- Test 2 involves reviewing the crime report to assess whether the crimes recorded are correctly classified and counted. Test 2 allows us to consider whether subsuming has been carried out correctly.
- Timeliness: crimes should be recorded within 72 hours of the circumstances becoming known to the police (or within seven days where the delay is outwith police control).

All three tests were applied to the four crime types HMICS examined (sexual crimes, violent crime, housebreaking and hate crime). Only Test 1 was applied to non-crime related incidents as reviewing them involves a simple assessment of whether the decision not to record a crime was correct.

This was the first crime audit in which HMICS applied a timeliness test. At the time of the review of incident and crime recording in 2013, the SCRS required that crimes be recorded 'as soon as reasonably practicable'. During the 2013 review, HMICS recommended that Police Scotland should clearly define the term 'as soon as reasonably practicable' by introducing timescales.

HMICS also found no overt evidence of performance targets affecting crime recording. If performance targets were driving crime recording practice, HMICS would expect to see crimes featuring in Police Scotland's internal performance framework being under-recorded or misclassified. For example, the performance framework includes a key performance indicator to reduce the number of serious assaults. If performance pressures were driving recording behaviour, HMICS would expect to see efforts to reduce the number of serious assaults by classifying assaults as less serious (common assaults) or more serious (attempted murders). While HMICS found some evidence of the former, they found no evidence of the latter.

The full report, including key findings, recommendations and improvement actions, can be accessed from the HMICS website:

<http://www.hmics.org/sites/default/files/publications/HMICS%20-%20Crime%20Audit%202014%20Report.pdf>

Annex 4: Stakeholder Consultation on Recorded Crime Statistics

- 6.34. From April-June 2015, Justice Analytical Services conducted a consultation of stakeholders and users of the suite of publications based on returns from Police Scotland, which includes the Recorded Crime in Scotland statistical bulletin series. The main objectives of this consultation were to: understand who the users are, what their requirements for data are and the benefits of any new suggested structure and content; guide the future strategy for how, when and what we publish regarding police data; and identify improvements that will ease and increase the use of police data in the future.
- 6.35. Reflecting our commitment to user engagement and to establishing a broad evidence base to inform our future publications, we used a variety of consultation methods to capture the views of both expert and non-expert users. This included one-to-one interviews, user group discussions, social media interaction and written surveys.
- 6.36. A report on the results of the consultation can be found at the link below: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/StakeCon/RCUC2015>.
- 6.37. Justice Analytical Services has reflected on the feedback received from the consultation during the production of this bulletin. This includes the addition of new graphics to highlight the main points conveyed by these statistics.
- 6.38. This consultation builds on previous and on-going engagement around crime statistics, including:
- a user event held in October 2014. Further details, including a summary of the feedback following the event, can be found at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime>.
 - a user consultation via online survey, which was open from April-May 2014. Further details, including the results of the consultation, can be found at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/StakeCon/RCUC2014>.
- 6.39. We always welcome feedback on the content of our statistical bulletins and users are welcome to submit their comments to: justiceanalysts@gov.scot.

If you would like to be kept informed about developments in crime statistics, we suggest registering with ScotStat: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/scotstat>.

Annex 5: Comparisons with England & Wales and Northern Ireland

- 6.40. Recorded crime statistics for England & Wales are not directly comparable with those in Scotland. The recorded crime statistics for Scotland are collected on the basis of the SCRS, which was introduced in 2004. Like its counterpart in England & Wales, it aims to give consistency in crime recording.

The main principles of the SCRS, with regard to when a crime should be recorded, are similar to the [National Crime Recording Standard \(NCRS\)](#) for England & Wales. However, there are various differences between the respective Counting Rules which specify different approaches for counting the number of crimes that should be recorded as a result of a single incident.

For instance, crimes recorded in England & Wales tend to be incident based, where the Principle Crime Rule states that if the sequence of crimes in an incident, or a complex crime, contains more than one type of crime, then the most serious crime should be counted. For example, an incident where an intruder breaks into a home and assaults the sole occupant would be recorded as two crimes in Scotland, while in England & Wales it would be recorded as one crime.

- 6.41. Differences in legislation and common law also have to be taken into account when comparing the crime statistics for England & Wales and Scotland.
- 6.42. Crime Statistics for England & Wales are published quarterly on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website. The latest Crime Statistics for England & Wales can be accessed from the following link:
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/index.html>.
- 6.43. The legal system in Northern Ireland is based on that of England & Wales and the Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI) has the same notifiable offence list for recorded crime as used in England & Wales. In addition, the PSNI has adopted the NCRS and Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime that applies in England & Wales. Thus, there are comparability considerations similar to those detailed above between recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Crime statistics for Northern Ireland are collected and published separately. The latest Police Recorded Crime Statistics for Northern Ireland can be accessed from the following link:
http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm.

- 6.44. Further detail on the comparability of crime data can be found in the User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland, available from:
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/UserGuide>.

Annex 6: Users of the Statistics

- 6.45. These statistics are used by a large number of stakeholders within central government, the police and other public bodies for a variety of purposes.
- 6.46. Crime statistics are also used by a variety of external stakeholders. A flavour of such uses are:
- Utility companies who wish to assess the safety of an area before sending employees out into the public;
 - Insurance companies assessing the risk of crime in different areas;
 - Local authority planning;
 - National and local journalism;
 - Academic research; and
 - Students and school pupils writing dissertations and carrying out projects.
- 6.47. As part of our stakeholder consultation in 2015, users discussed utilising the publication on Police Recorded Crime (amongst other publications based on returns from Police Scotland) in multiple ways, including:
- Selecting headline figures for briefing and communication lines;
 - Monitoring trends over time;
 - Developing policy;
 - Understanding local crime rates and clear up rates;
 - Understanding police performance;
 - Making comparisons in conjunction with other justice statistics and data from other sources;
 - Providing legitimacy and reassurance around police management data.

In many cases, the themes reported above replicated and built on those identified in previous consultations.

- 6.48. Official statistics are a tool used in decision making both inside and outside government, and for this tool to be effective it must be designed to meet the needs of users. Comments on the uses you have made of these statistics and any suggestions for their improvement are always welcomed and should be sent to justiceanalysts@gov.scot.
- 6.49. Further information on users and uses of the statistics is available in the User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland, which can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/UserGuide>.

Annex 7: Future considerations

- 6.50. As outlined in [Annex 1](#) on Data Collection, we will assess whether any amendment to our revisions policy should be made before the 2015-16 publication. We will ask the Scottish Crime Recording Board to consider this issue further and users will be consulted accordingly if it is thought a change in practice would be beneficial.
- 6.51. At present, legacy police force systems are still in place for the recording of incidents and crimes. This means we can only receive an aggregate count of crimes and offences recorded by the police. We note that many of our users have an interest in more analysis of individual level crime data, which would allow, for example, new information on the age and gender of victims and perpetrators. Police Scotland are working on the development of a single crime recording system which when available, may lead to new opportunities in this area. All divisions within Police Scotland are scheduled to move onto the new system by the end of the 2016-17 financial year, which means 2017-18 could be the first reporting year for which individual level analysis could be incorporated into the Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletins. As the development of Police Scotland's recording system proceeds, we will consult with our statistical users at the appropriate time.
- 6.52. Where reported to the police, Cyber-Enabled crime will be recorded under the specific offence code for the registered crime (for example fraud, including online banking fraud and mass marketing fraud, and thefts such as using technology to steal personal data). With the development of the single crime recording system referred to above, provision has been made for the inclusion of a 'cybercrime' marker that will be able to provide a more accurate understanding of where there has been a Cyber element to a crime. As these IT developments progress, we will keep under review how these statistics can best incorporate any new information on cyber-enabled crime.
- 6.53. These Official Statistics on police recorded crimes and offences are split into seven recognised categories (as defined by the Scottish Government). HMICS noted in its 2014 audit of recorded crime that there should be a consideration of whether the current crime categories continue to reflect the public's perception of crime. The July 2015 meeting of the Scottish Crime Recording Board agreed to set up a working group to investigate this issue further and produce options for how a review could be taken forward. We will keep users informed as this work develops.
- 6.54. Consideration is also being given to the way users can access data. The tables which accompany this bulletin provide users with access to more data at local authority level. Consideration is also being given to Open Data.

However, we are always keen to hear users' views on our products. If you have any comments or suggestions on how you would like to access information, please contact us at justiceanalysts@gov.scot.

Annex 8: Other notes

- 6.55. Under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, the estimated costs of responding to statistical surveys and data collection are to be published.

The estimated cost of compliance for supplying and validating the data for this bulletin is: £700.

Details of the calculation methodology are available on the Scottish Government Crime and Justice website at:
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/costcalculation>.

- 6.56. Justice Analytical Services publishes a work plan each year detailing the programme of work planned over the current financial year period. The work of the division covers both an agreed forward programme of analytical priorities, and routine analytical work particularly related to the compilation of National and Official Statistics, ongoing project management and knowledge transfer activity.

Analytical planning to develop a programme for the financial year 2015-16 followed a structured process of engagement with policy colleagues which was designed to closely align our analysis with current policy priorities and to the delivery of outcomes. The work plan is available via the following link: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/JASAP11-12>.

- 6.57. Clearly, only a limited selection of tables can be included in any statistical bulletin. Further analysis of recorded crime statistics can be supplied on request. This includes available information relating to time periods other than those covered in the bulletin. In certain cases a fee is charged. For details of what can be provided, please telephone Keith Paterson on 0131 244 5428 or e-mail JusticeAnalysts@gov.scot.

7. Classification of Crimes and Offences

CRIMES

Group 1: Non-sexual crimes of violence (Also referred to as **Crimes of violence**)

Homicide etc.

Includes:

- Murder
- Culpable homicide
 - Culpable homicide (common law)
 - Causing death by dangerous driving
 - Causing death by careless driving when under influence of drink or drugs
 - Causing death by careless driving
 - Illegal driver involved in fatal accident
 - Corporate homicide

Attempted murder and serious assault

Includes:

- Attempted murder
- Serious assault

For the definition of Serious assault and the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault please see [Paragraph 6.9](#) within Annex 1.

Robbery

- Robbery and assault with intent to rob

Other

Includes:

- Threats and extortion
- Cruel and unnatural treatment of children
- Abortion
- Concealment of pregnancy
- Possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, commit crime etc.
- Abduction
- Ill treatment of mental patients
- Drugging

Group 2: Sexual crimes

Rape and attempted rape

Includes:

- Rape
- Attempted rape

Sexual assault

Includes:

- Contact sexual assault (13-15 year old or adult 16+)
- Sexually coercive conduct (13-15 year old or adult 16+)
- Sexual crimes against children under 13 years
- Lewd and libidinous practices

Crimes associated with prostitution

Includes:

- Crimes relating to prostitution
- Soliciting services of person engaged in prostitution
- Brothel keeping
- Immoral traffic
- Procuration

Other

Includes:

- Other sexually coercive conduct
- Other sexual crimes involving 13-15 year old children
- Taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children
- Incest
- Unnatural crimes
- Public indecency
- Sexual exposure
- Other sexual crimes

Group 3: Crimes of dishonesty

Housebreaking

(Also referred to as **Dishonesty**)

Includes:

- Theft by housebreaking domestic property (dwelling and non-dwelling)
- Theft by housebreaking other property
- Housebreaking with intent to steal domestic property (dwelling and non-dwelling)
- Housebreaking with intent to steal other property
- Attempted housebreaking with intent to enter and steal domestic property (dwelling and non-dwelling)
- Attempted housebreaking with intent to enter and steal other property

Theft by opening lockfast places (OLP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft by opening lockfast places (OLP) (excluding motor vehicle) • OLP (excluding motor vehicle) with intent to steal • Attempted OLP excluding motor vehicle with intent to steal
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft by OLP from a motor vehicle • OLP with intent to steal from a motor vehicle • Attempted OLP with intent to steal from a motor vehicle
Theft of motor vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft of a motor vehicle and contents • Attempted theft of a motor vehicle
Shoplifting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoplifting
Other theft	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft of pedal cycles • Theft from a motor vehicle not elsewhere classified
Fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fraud
Other crimes of dishonesty	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forgery (other) • Reset • Embezzlement • Corruption

Group 4: Fire-raising, vandalism etc.

Fire-raising	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire-raising • Muirburn
Vandalism, etc. -	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malicious mischief • Vandalism • Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms) • Reckless conduct with firearms

Group 5: Other crimes

Crimes against public justice

Includes:

- Perjury
- Resisting arrest
- Bail offences (other than absconding or re-offending)
- Wasting police time

Handling offensive weapons

Includes:

- Possession of an offensive weapon
- Restriction of offensive weapons
- Having in a public place an article with a blade or point
- Having in prison an article with a blade or point
- Possession of a firearm in a prison
- Possession of an offensive weapon (not elsewhere specified) in a prison

Drugs

Includes:

- Importation of drugs
- Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs
- Possession and supply of controlled drugs
- Related money laundering offences
- Bringing drugs into prison

Other

Includes:

- Treason
- Conspiracy
- Explosives offences
- Wrecking, piracy and hijacking
- Crimes against public order

OFFENCES

Group 6: Miscellaneous offences

Common assault

Includes:

- Common assault
- Common assault on an emergency worker

For the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault please see [Paragraph 6.9](#) within Annex 1.

Breach of the peace etc.

Includes:

- Breach of the peace
- Threatening or abusive behaviour
- Offence of stalking
- Offensive behaviour at football
- Threatening communications (Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act 2012)

Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct

Includes:

- Drunk and disorderly
- Drunk and incapable
- Drunk in charge of a child
- Drunk and attempting to enter licensed premises
- Drunk or drinking in unlicensed premises
- Disorderly on licensed premises
- Drunk and attempting to enter designated sports ground
- Refusing to quit licensed premises
- Consumption of alcohol in designated places, byelaws prohibited

Urinating etc.

Includes:

- Urinating /defecating

Other

Includes:

- Racially aggravated harassment
- Racially aggravated conduct
- False/Hoax calls
- Offences involving children
- Offences involving animals/plants

Other (cont.)

- Offences against local legislation
- Offences against liquor licensing laws
- Labour laws
- Naval military and air force laws
- Offences against environmental legislation
- Consumer protection acts

Group 7: Motor vehicle offences

Dangerous and careless driving

Includes:

- Dangerous driving offences
- Driving carelessly

Driving under the influence

Includes:

- Driving or in charge of motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs
- Blood alcohol content above limit
- Failing to provide breath, blood or urine specimens

Speeding

Includes:

- Speeding in restricted areas
- Other speeding offences

Unlawful use of vehicle

Includes:

- Driving while disqualified
- Driving without a licence
- Driving without insurance
- Driving without a test certificate
- Vehicle tax and registration and identification offences

Vehicle defect offences

Includes:

- Construction and use regulations
- Lighting offences

Seat belt offences

- Seat belt offences

Mobile phone offences

- Mobile phone offences

Other

Includes:

- Accident offences
- Parking offences

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Official and National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Both undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs and are produced free from any political interference.

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How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

are available in more detail through Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics.

may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact JusticeAnalysts@gov.scot for further information.

Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, 3WR, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail statistics.enquiries@gov.scot.

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