

## CRIME AND JUSTICE

# RECORDED CRIME IN SCOTLAND, 2016-17

This bulletin presents National Statistics on crimes and offences recorded by the police in 2016-17. 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. For a definition of crimes recorded, refer to [Annex 1](#).

## Key Points from Recorded Crime in Scotland

Between 2015-16 and 2016-17:

**Crimes recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 3%** from 246,243 to 238,651. This is the lowest level of recorded crime since 1974.

- Non-sexual crimes of violence increased by 6% from 6,737 to 7,164. The recording of these crimes remains at one of the lowest levels seen since 1974.
- Sexual crimes increased by 5% from 10,273 to 10,822. 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 2% from 115,789 to 113,205. These crimes have been on a downward trend since they peaked in 1991.
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. decreased by 3% from 54,226 to 52,514. These crimes are at their second lowest level since they peaked in 2006-07.
- Other crimes decreased by 7% from 59,218 to 54,946. These crimes have been on a generally downward trend since they peaked in 2006-07.

Offences recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 15% from 339,193 to 288,961.

- Miscellaneous offences decreased by 11% from 168,896 to 150,793.
- Motor vehicle offences decreased by 19% from 170,297 to 138,168.

## Key Points from Recorded Crime in Scotland (cont.)

### Official Statistics on Clear up rates

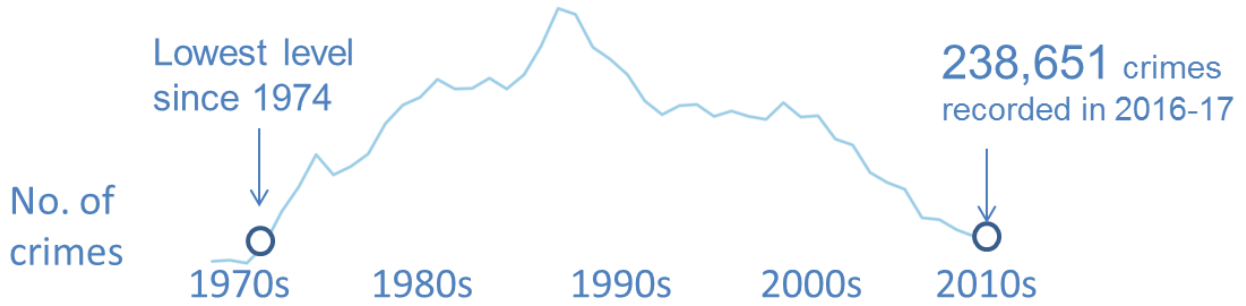
In addition to the National Statistics on police recorded crimes and offences, this bulletin also presents Official Statistics on crimes and offences cleared up by the police in 2016-17.

Clear up rates measure the percentage of recorded crimes that have been cleared up. For further information on the statistical designation of this data and a definition of clear up rates, please refer to [Chapter 4](#).

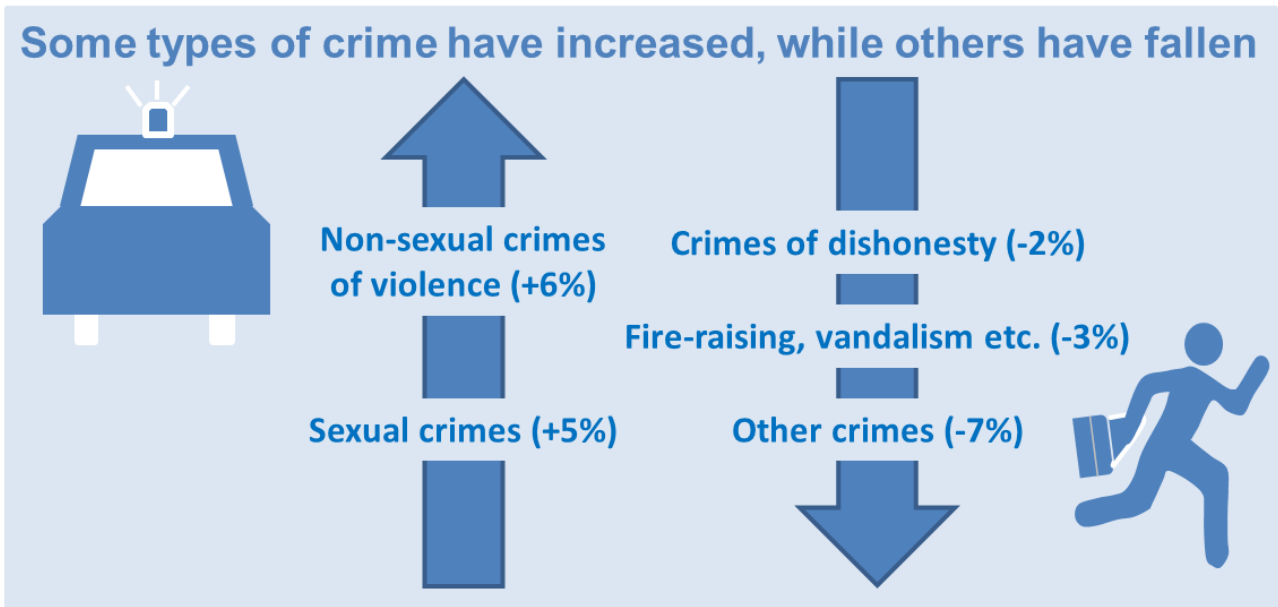
The clear up rate for all recorded crimes decreased by 1.6 percentage points from 51.6% to 50.0%.

# Recorded Crime in Scotland 2016-17

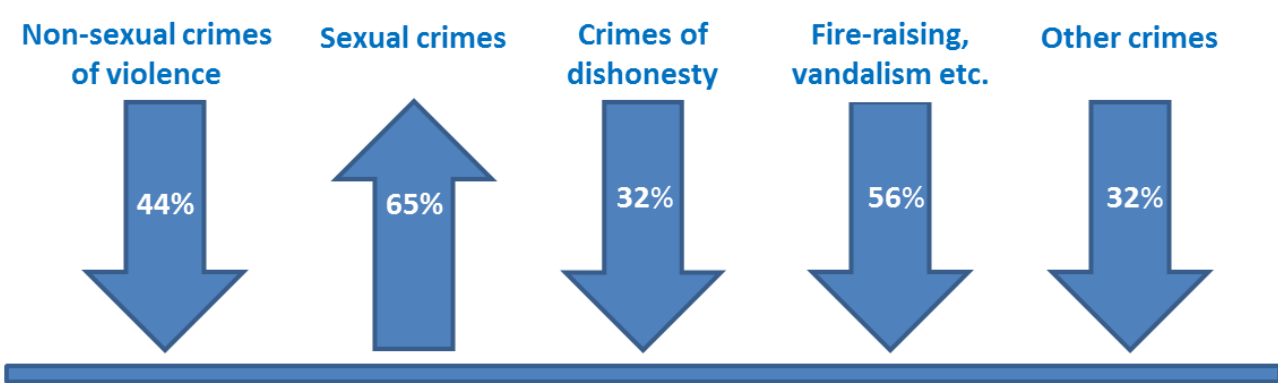
Over the year, crime **DOWN 3%**



Some types of crime have increased, while others have fallen



Since 2007-08, most types of crime have fallen, though Sexual crime has increased



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# 1. Structure of Bulletin

- 1.1. This bulletin presents National Statistics on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland and Official Statistics on the number cleared up.
- 1.2. [Key Points](#) on recorded crime in Scotland are shown on pages 1 to 3.
- 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 local authority level.
  - Data Considerations** – which, where relevant, 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. [Chapter 4](#) presents the latest Official Statistics on clear up rates for recorded crime in Scotland.

- 1.6. 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 5](#) presents a topic report on ‘Putting Recorded Crime in Context – A comparison with the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey’.

- 1.7. [Chapter 6](#) 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>.
- 1.8. [Chapter 7](#) 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;
  - Quality of the Statistics;
  - Comparisons with England & Wales and Northern Ireland;
  - User Engagement;
  - Upcoming Coding Changes and Future Considerations; and
  - Other Notes (including contact details for further analysis).
- 1.9. [Chapter 8](#) 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 Justice Vision and Priorities. Available via the following link: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Justice/justicestrategy>
- 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 4](#) 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. Contraventions of Scottish criminal law are divided for statistical purposes into crimes and offences. 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"><li>• Non-sexual crimes of violence,</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Miscellaneous offences, and</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sexual crimes,</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Motor vehicle offences.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crimes of dishonesty,</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fire-raising, vandalism etc., and</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Other crimes.</li></ul>	

For further information on crime and offence groups, see [Chapter 8](#).

- 2.5. In general, this statistical bulletin covers the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17, 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 and is maintained and developed by the Scottish Crime Recording Board. A copy of the manual can be accessed from the Board's webpages: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/SCRB/SCRSmanual>.
- 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 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 fourth year following the establishment of Police Scotland.
- 2.8. The [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey \(SCJS\) 2014-15](#) 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 2014-15, it was estimated that 38% 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 5](#).



- 2.9. There have been no major legislative changes throughout 2016-17 which impact on the comparability of the statistics.

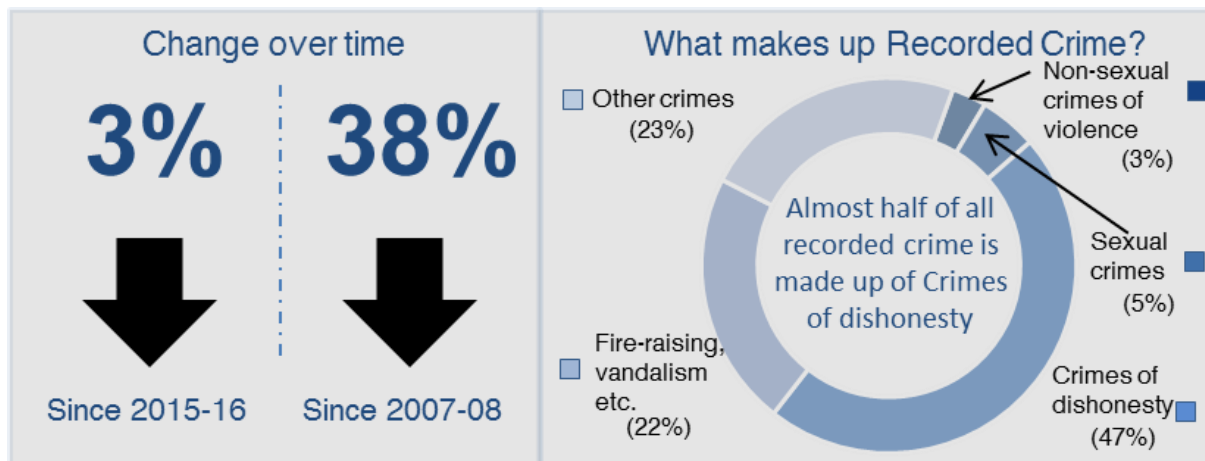
Past legislative changes, and changes to classifications can be found in the User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland, available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/UserGuide>.

- 2.10. The [Office for Statistics Regulation](#) (at the time known as the UK Statistics Authority) published an [assessment report](#) on Recorded Crime in Scotland in July 2014. The report stated that the UKSA "cannot at present confer National Statistics status on these statistics". A range of actions have been taken forward by the Scottish Government and others to meet the UKSA requirements (with further information on this presented throughout the bulletin – including in [Annex 2](#) on Data Quality). Following this work, the UKSA re-visited the designation of these statistics in September 2016 and concluded that the police recorded crime statistics can again be designated as National Statistics, which means that they meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

The statistics on recorded crime clear up rates (Chapter 4) will remain published as Official Statistics (i.e. on the same basis as in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16). HMICS intend to scope and pilot an audit of clear up data in early 2018, with a view to providing the public and other stakeholders with an assessment of their reliability, given that there has been no recent independent audit of clear up rates. The Office for Statistics Regulation will re-visit the statistical designation of this information once HMICS have carried out this audit and the [Scottish Crime Recording Board](#) has considered any implications for the quality of these data.

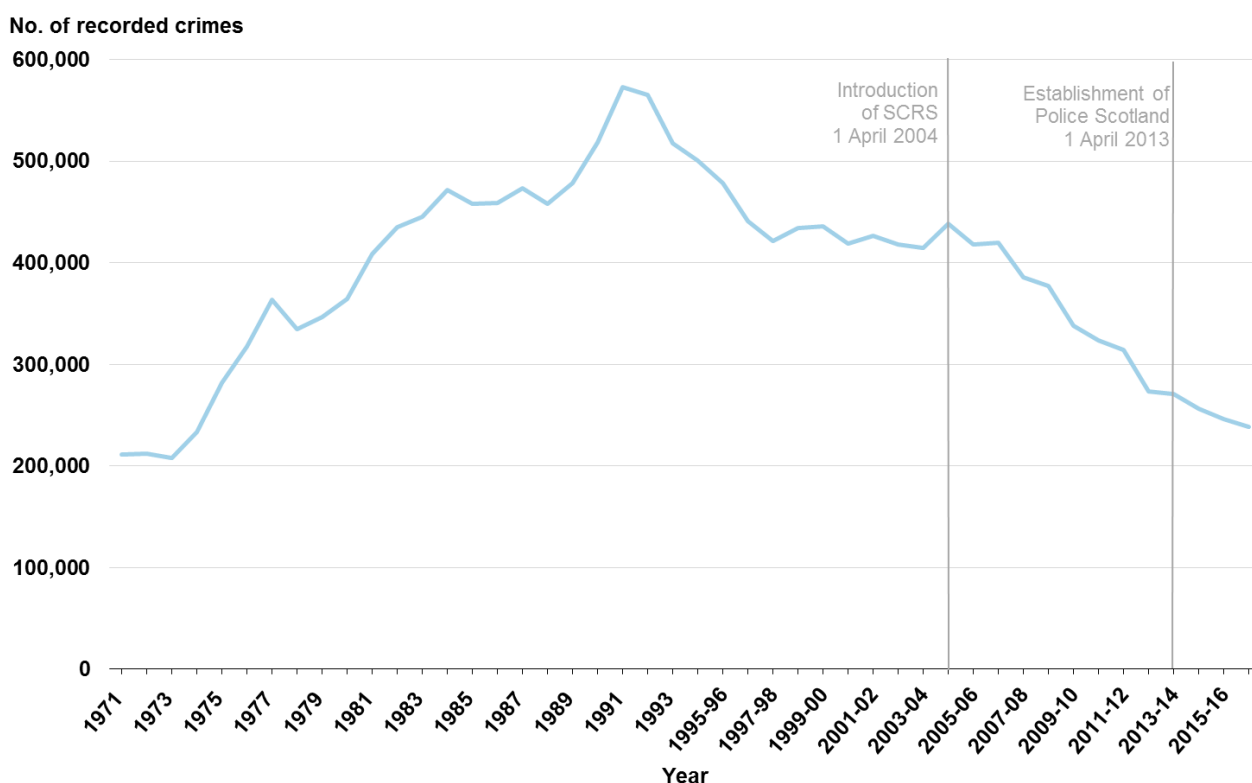
### 3. Main Findings: Recorded Crimes and Offences in Scotland

#### Total Recorded Crime



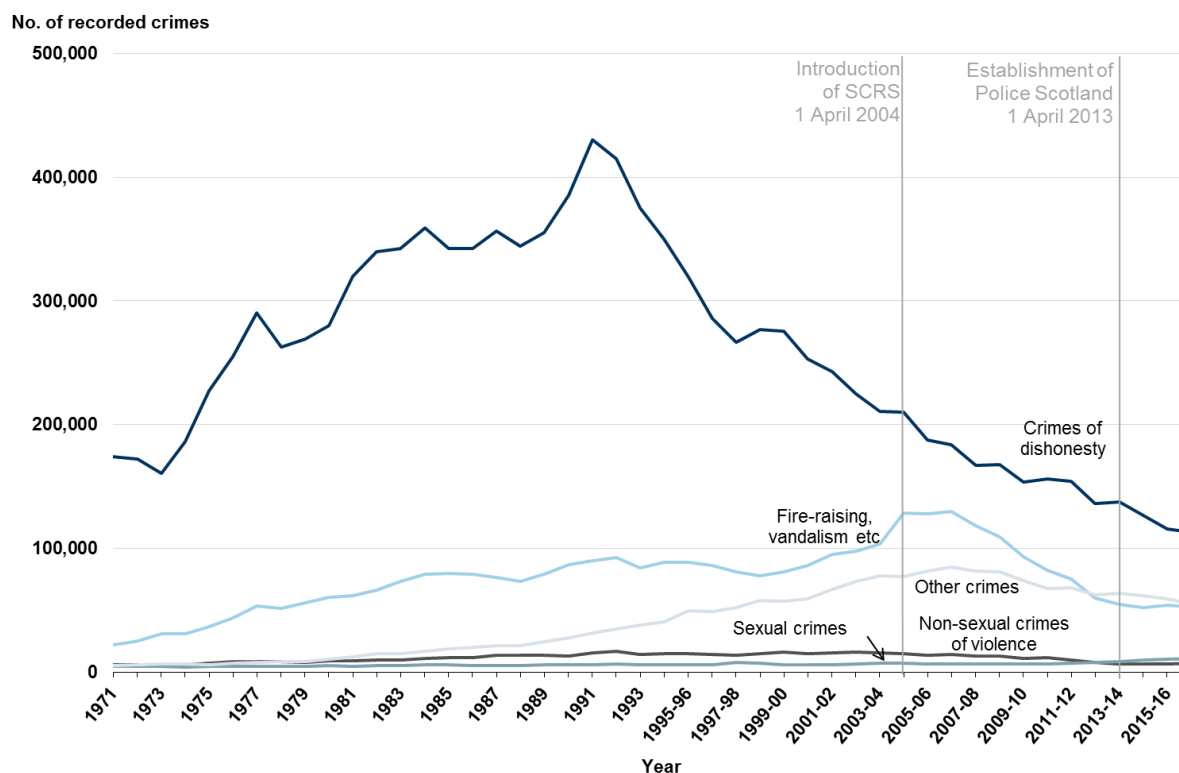
Recorded crime is at its lowest level since 1974. The total number of crimes recorded by the police in Scotland in 2016-17 was 238,651. This is 3% lower than the level recorded in 2015-16 ([Chart 1](#) and [Table 6](#)). Crime has been on a downward trend in Scotland since 2006-07, having decreased by 43%. This continues a generally decreasing trend in recorded crime in Scotland, 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 2016-17 ([Table 10](#))**



[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 47%, Crimes of dishonesty account for almost half of all recorded crime in 2016-17. This was followed by Other crimes (23%), Fire-raising, vandalism etc. (22%), Sexual crimes (5%) and Non-sexual crimes of violence (3%). 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 2016-17 ([Table 10](#))**



### Local Authority analysis:

The overall decrease in recorded crime between 2015-16 and 2016-17 was reflected in 20 of the 32 local authorities, with 11 experiencing an increase and one 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 2007-08, all local authorities show a decrease in recorded crime, varying from 13% in Midlothian to 61% in Na h-Eileanan Siar.

The largest fall in recorded crime between 2015-16 and 2016-17 was in the Shetland Islands (34%) where more than half (52%) of the decrease was accounted for by falls in the Other crimes group. This is in contrast to the previous year when the Shetland Islands had the largest increase in recorded crime.

The largest numerical decrease was in the City of Edinburgh, falling by over 2,300 crimes from 31,880 in 2015-16 to 29,558 in 2016-17. The largest number of crimes recorded were in Glasgow City, which includes 11% of Scotland's

population<sup>1</sup>, but accounted for 18% (43,903 crimes) of all recorded crime in Scotland. It should however be noted that Glasgow's daily population will be higher than its resident population as people travel into the city from surrounding local authority areas for work, leisure and other purposes. Crimes are recorded in terms of where they occur and not the home residency of the victim (where the two places are different locations). The comparison described above for overall crime levels should be viewed in this context – which will also likely apply to Scotland's other city based local authorities.

The largest rise in recorded crime between 2015-16 and 2016-17 was in Midlothian (12%) where 78% of the increase was accounted for by a rise in Crimes of dishonesty and Other crimes.

One local authority, Fife, saw very little change in recorded crime between 2015-16 and 2016-17 ([Chart 3](#)).

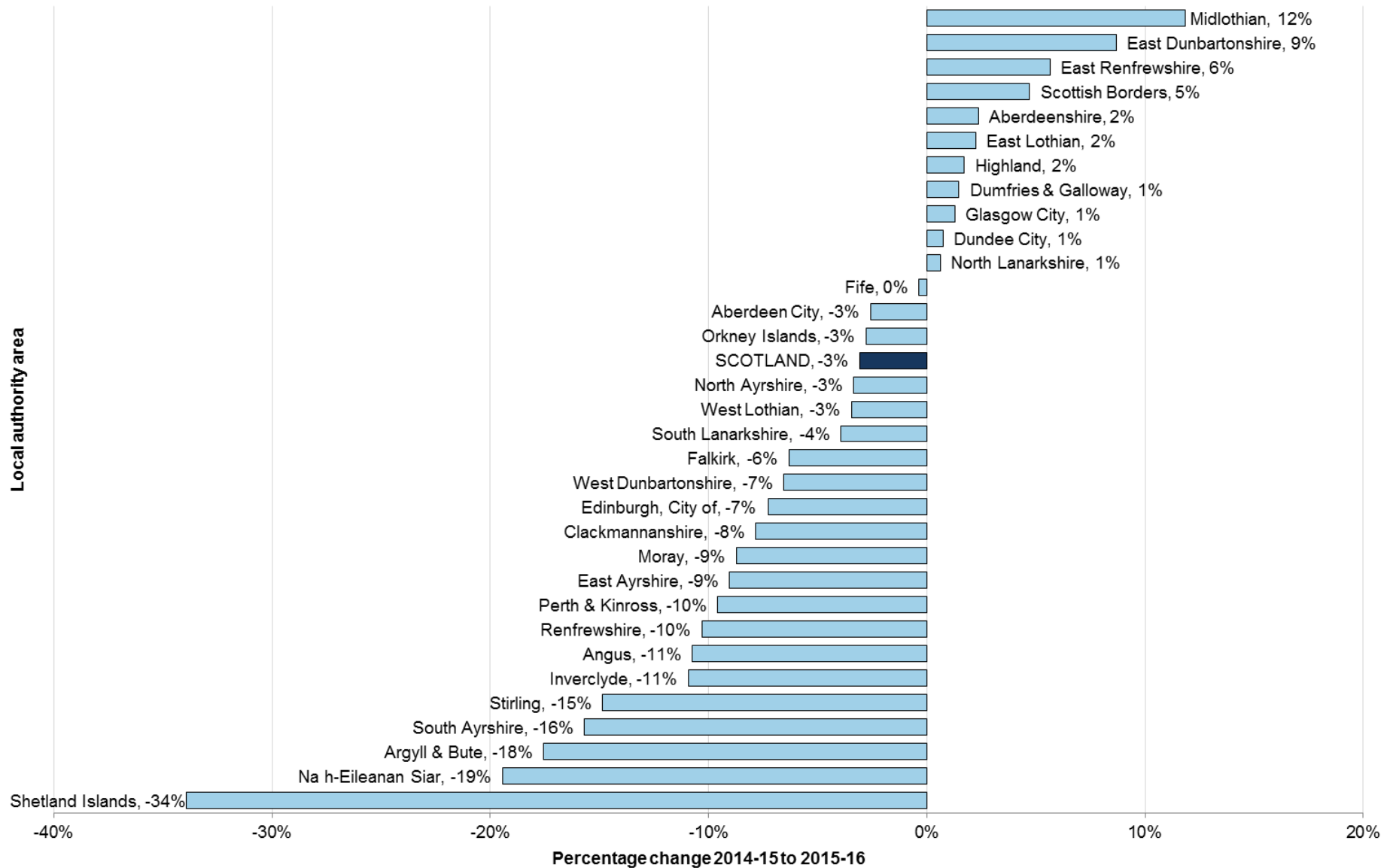
Further explanation of these trends is set out in the following sections for each crime group. Please note that further local authority level data for Tables 5-8 can be accessed online via the following link:

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

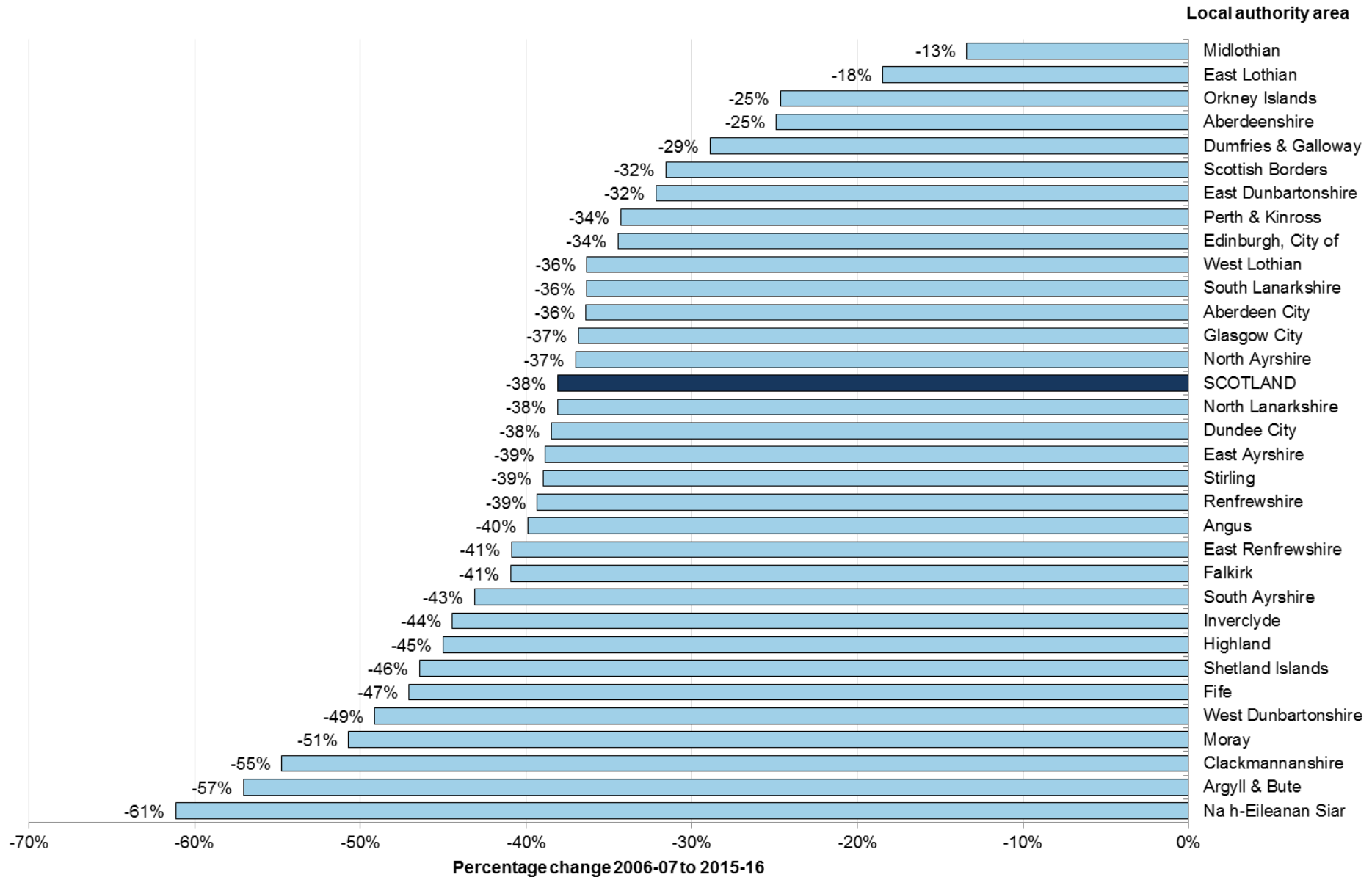
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<sup>1</sup> Population estimates are as at mid-year 2016 from the National Records of Scotland (<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates>).

**Chart 3: Change in total recorded crime between 2015-16 and 2016-17, by local authority area**



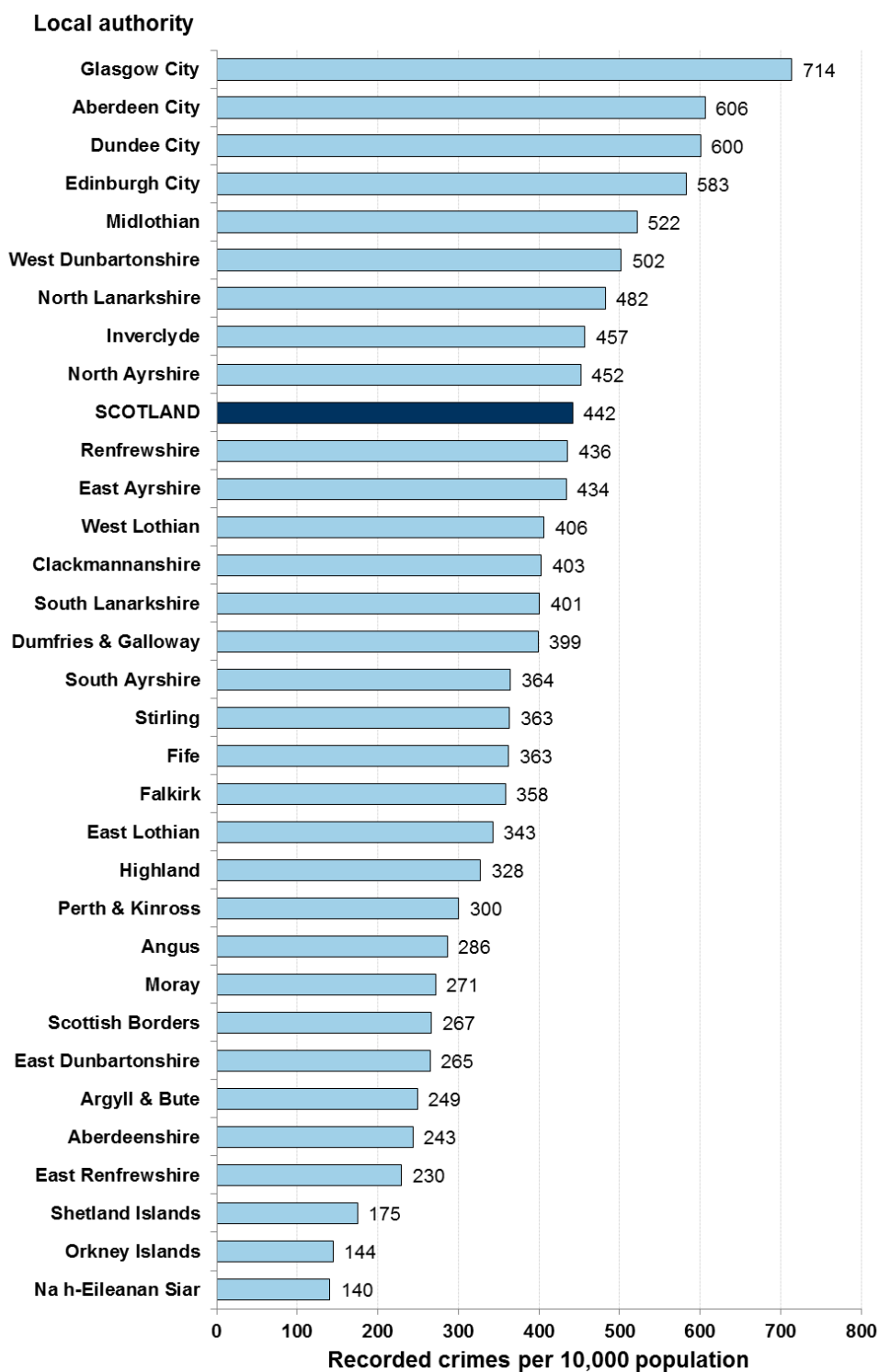
**Chart 4: Change in total recorded crime between 2007-08 and 2016-17, by local authority area**



## Crime rate per 10,000 population

There were 442 recorded crimes per 10,000 population in 2016-17, with urban areas recording the highest rates; Glasgow City (714 per 10,000 population), Aberdeen City (606 per 10,000 population), Dundee City (600 per 10,000 population) and the City of Edinburgh (583 per 10,000 population) ([Table 13](#)).

**Chart 5: Total number of recorded crimes per 10,000 population<sup>1</sup>, 2016-17**



1. Population estimates are as at mid-year 2016 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>)

## DATA CONSIDERATIONS

National 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 2016: Background

This bulletin reports on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland. On the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) published Crime Audit 2016. This audit assessed the extent to which police recording practices complied with the Scottish Crime Recording Standard and Counting Rules:

<http://www.hmics.org/publications/hmics-crime-audit-2016>.

HMICS audited 6,273 incidents reported to Police Scotland between the 1st January and 31st March 2016. HMICS took several factors into account when deciding what to audit – including areas identified as weak in previous audits, areas of high risk or emerging concern, national and local policing priorities, and areas which have not previously been subject to independent audit. Five categories were included, three of which related to specific crime types:

- Sexual crime
- Violent crime
- Vandalism (Damage)
- Non-crime related incidents
- No-crimes



## **HMICS Crime Audit 2016: 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’. 92.7% of incidents were closed correctly<sup>2</sup> and 95.1% of crime was counted and classified correctly’.

The report also found that No-criming practice was generally good, with 96.0% of the 876 cases which were initially thought to be a crime but were later re-designated as not being a crime following additional investigation, found to have been no-crimed correctly.

The Audit reported a significant reduction in the proportion of crimes recorded within 72 hours of being reported to the police, from 96.6% in 2014 to 90.8% in 2016. Whilst the quality of recording decisions was found to be good overall, it did note evidence that delays in recording have contributed to a reduced level of compliance against the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (investigations can become more complex and detections harder to achieve if significant time has elapsed between reporting a crime and it being recorded by the police).

### **Non-crime related incidents**

Non-crime related incidents are those incidents reported to the police which never result in a crime report. Of the 1,138 such incidents examined, 91.0% were closed correctly. This was a statistically significant improvement on HMICS’ results for the same category in 2014 (87.2%). The improvement has resulted from increased scrutiny of incidents.

### **Divisional Results**

The Audit report states that there ‘are still some significant divisional variations in compliance rates’. Divisional compliance rates for Test 1 (whether an incident was closed correctly) ranged from 87.1% to 98.6% and for Test 2 (whether a crime was counted and classified correctly) from 90.7% to 98.8%.

The Test 1 compliance rate was significantly worse than Scotland as a whole for two of the 14 divisions; Ayrshire and Renfrewshire and Inverclyde. Four divisions performed significantly better (Dumfries and Galloway, Highland and Islands, Fife and Edinburgh). The result in Ayrshire for Test 2 compliance was on the borderline of being significantly worse than Scotland as a whole. Furthermore, the no-crime compliance rate in Lanarkshire was significantly worse than Scotland as a whole.

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

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<sup>2</sup> 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

Division	Local authorities
Ayrshire	East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire
Lanarkshire	North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire
Renfrewshire and Inverclyde	Renfrewshire and Inverclyde

### Conclusion for the National 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 subject to a range of quantifiable and non-quantifiable error.

Further details from this audit in relation to compliance rates for specific crime types are provided within the relevant sections of this bulletin and [Annex 2](#) on Quality of the Statistics.

### 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. A comparison of the two sources is provided below<sup>3</sup>.

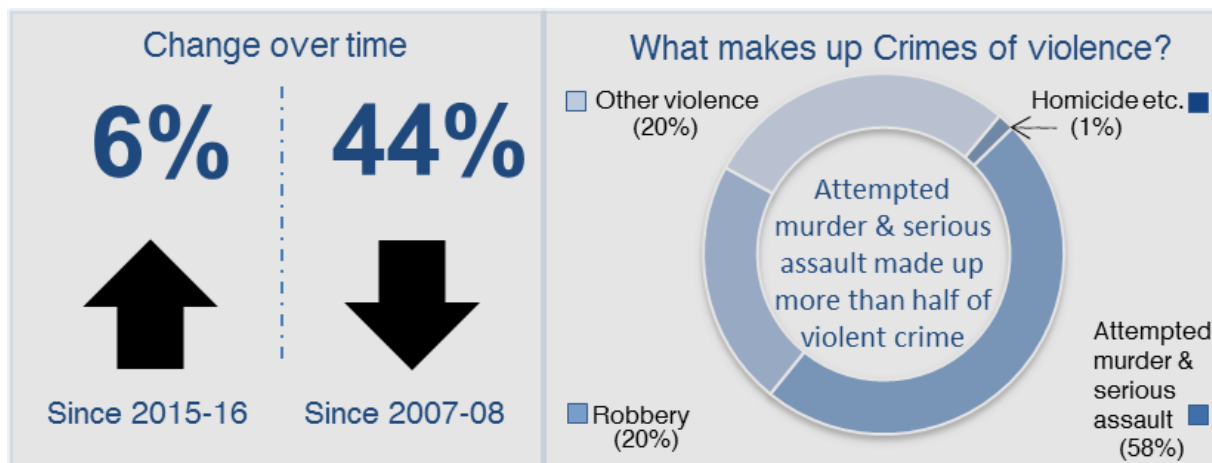
#### Comparison with Recorded Crime (comparable crime subset):

Of the 688,000 crimes estimated by the 2014-15 SCJS, around 60 per cent (414,000) can be compared with police recorded crimes. Further detail on the comparable crime set is available in [Section 5.3](#).

Both recorded crime figures and SCJS estimates show downward trends in the extent of comparable crime between 2008-09 and 2014-15 (-38% and -43% respectively). The reduction in estimates across all sweeps of the SCJS, from 731,000 in 2008-09 to 414,000 in 2014-15, is a statistically significant change, as too is the short-term change in SCJS comparable crime between 2012-13 and 2014-15.

<sup>3</sup> 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

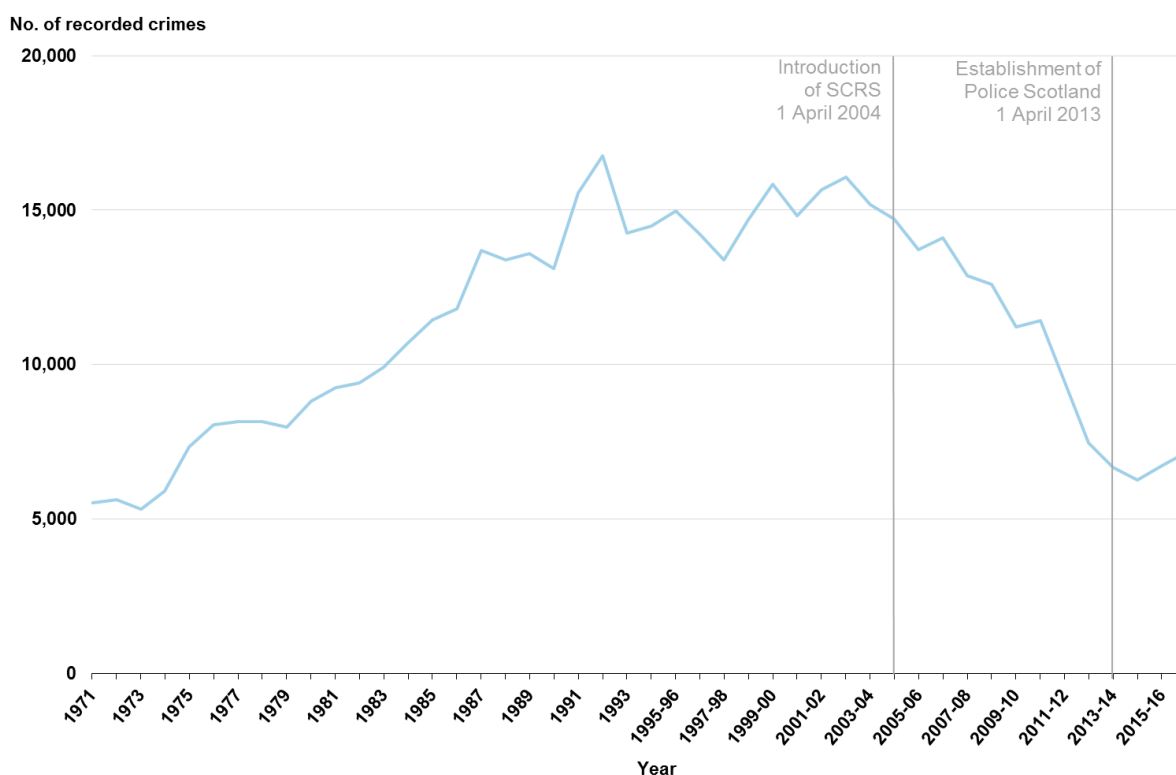


### Number of Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded in 2016-17:

Non-sexual crimes of violence account for 3% of all crimes recorded in Scotland in 2016-17. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, the number of Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 6%, from 6,737 to 7,164.

[Chart 6](#) 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, however there have been increases in the last two years. Despite this the number of Non-sexual crimes of violence has decreased by 55% since 2002-03.

### Chart 6: Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded by the police, 1971<sup>1</sup> to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2016-17 ([Table 10](#))

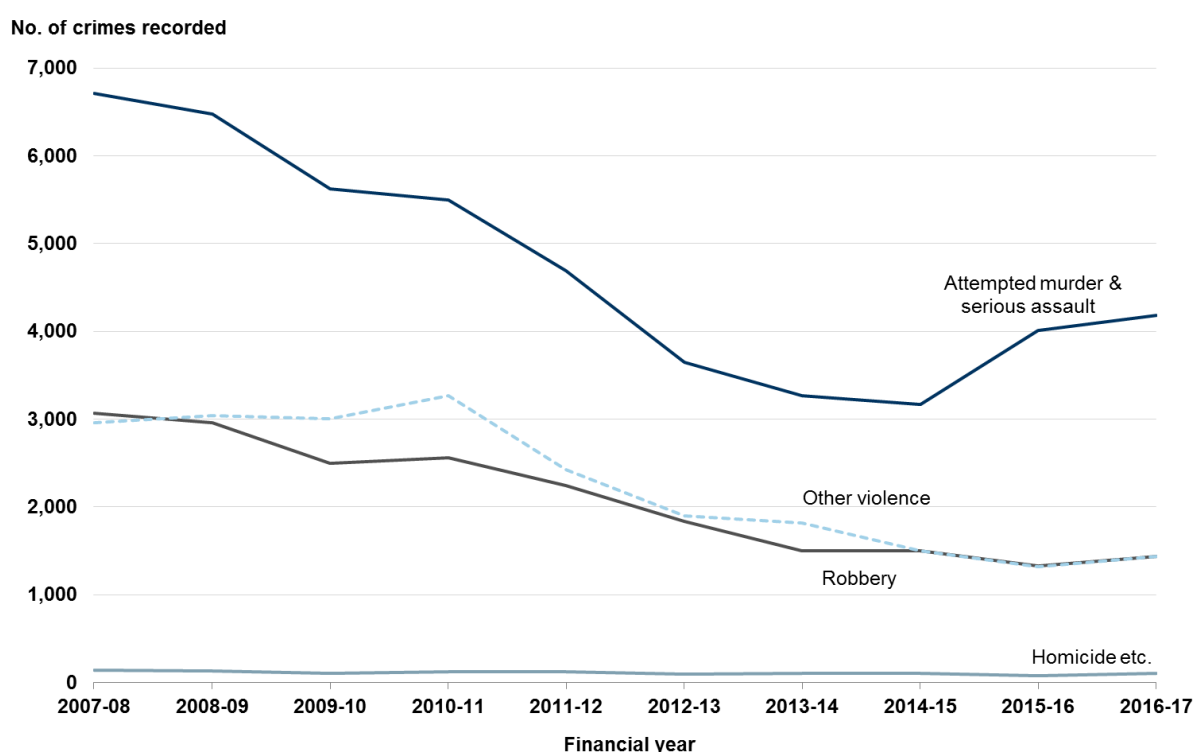


1. Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

In 2016-17, the national rate of recorded Non-sexual crimes of violence remained at 13 crimes per 10,000 population. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Glasgow City (25 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in the Na h-Eileanan Siar, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands (all 5 per 10,000 population) ([Table 13](#)).

[Chart 7](#) 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. In 2016-17, the volume of recorded crimes of Attempted murder and serious assault makes up 58% of all Non-sexual crimes of violence. Crimes of Robbery and Other violence each accounted for 20% of Non-sexual crimes of violence. Homicide etc. continues to contribute a very small proportion to the total.

**Chart 7: Non-sexual crimes of violence in Scotland, 2007-08 to 2016-17**



**Attempted murder & serious assault:**

Attempted murder and serious assault is the largest category in Group 1, accounting for 58% of all Non-sexual crimes of violence. Over the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17, this category has seen a large decrease of 38%. However, a long term decrease until 2014-15 was followed by a 27% increase in 2015-16 and a 4% increase from 4,007 in 2015-16 to 4,186 in 2016-17. At least part of this increase has been attributed by Police Scotland to the production of enhanced guidance for recording serious assault in January 2015 (see '[Data Considerations](#)' section below).

All but six out of Scotland's 32 local authorities recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period.

For the definition of Serious assault and the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault please see [Paragraph 7.13](#) within Annex 1.

### **Robbery:**

Robbery accounted for one fifth of Non-sexual crimes of violence. Over the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17, this crime has seen a large decrease of 53%, however there was an 8% increase from 1,327 in 2015-16 to 1,435 in 2016-17.

Seven local authority areas recorded an increase in this category over the ten year period, with most of these increases being small in magnitude.

### **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. accounted for 1% of Non-sexual crimes of violence. This crime increased by 30% from 81 in 2015-16 to 105 in 2016-17. The biggest contributor to this increase was a rise in driving related homicides (for example Causing death by dangerous driving) which collectively increase by 19 whereas Murder and Culpable Homicide collectively increased by seven cases over the year.

### **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 8](#).

Crimes recorded as Other violence account for 20% of Non-sexual crimes of violence. Over the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17, this category has seen a large decrease of 51%, however there was a 9% increase from 1,322 in 2015-16 to 1,438 in 2016-17. This increase was driven by a 25% increase in Threats and Extortion from 299 to 425. Over the ten year period, all but four local authorities recorded a decrease in this category.

## **DATA CONSIDERATIONS**

As noted above, non-sexual crimes of violence increased by 6% between 2015-16 and 2016-17, from 6,357 to 6,775. The biggest individual contributor to this increase in terms of volume was rise in the number of attempted murders and serious assaults recorded by the police, from 4,007 to 4,186. Over 90% of this

category is made up of serious assaults, which increased by 7% from 3,667 in 2015-16 to 3,910 in 2016-17.

When HMICS published an earlier audit of crime recording in 2013, they recommended that the definition used for serious assault within the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) be reviewed and clarified, as some police officers sought greater clarity from the existing guidance. In response to this, enhanced guidelines as to the interpretation of serious assault were produced in January 2015.

When publishing their Management Information report for Quarter 4 2015-16 in June 2016, Police Scotland advised that this action may have resulted in some crimes that would have been seen previously as common assaults now falling into the category of serious assault. This in turn may have led to an increase in overall levels of Group 1 non-sexual violent crime in 2015-16 (the first full year following the introduction of enhanced guidelines).

At this stage, complementary sources of information do not report a significant increase in levels of violence, albeit 2016-17 statistics are not yet available for all of them. Police recorded common assault (covered in more detail under Group 6 Miscellaneous Offences) decreased by 1% between 2015-16 and 2016-17. The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) estimated a statistically significant decrease in violent crime of 41% between 2008-09 and 2014-15, whilst numbers of assault based emergency admissions to hospital fell 54% between 2007-08 and 2015-16 (more detail on these sources is provided below under Data Comparisons).

As outlined to users in last year's bulletin, crimes of Serious Organised Crime (36 cases in 2016-17) were moved from Group 1 'Non-sexual crimes of violence' to Group 5 'Other crimes'. This was based on the fact that SOC is not technically a violent crime, and any crime related to an incident of SOC is also recorded in the statistics. Therefore any associated violent crime would already be counted within Group 1. This change has been fully back revised so has no impact on time series continuity.

## **DATA VALIDATION**

### **HMICS Crime Audit 2016**

The HMICS Audit report included an examination of violent incidents. It should be noted that in addition to the crimes covered within Group 1 non-sexual crimes of violence, these incidents also included cases of Common assault (the figures for which are contained 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 2](#).

Of the 1,693 crimes examined that resulted from violent incidents, 96.0% were counted and classified correctly. The audit found that 34 crimes had been under-counted and 15 had been over-counted. More than half of the under-counted crimes were for common assault; the most commonly over-counted

crime was threatening and abusive behaviour, which was often recorded in addition to an assault where it should have been subsumed<sup>4</sup> instead.

A number of crimes (19) were classified incorrectly:

- six assaults should have been serious assaults and one assault should have been a robbery;
- one serious assault should have been an attempted murder;
- three breaches of the peace should have been threatening and abusive behaviour under section 38 of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010
- five section 38 offences should have been assaults, one section 38 should have been a robbery and one section 38 should have been a serious assault; and
- one culpable and reckless conduct should have been an assault.

The HMICS audit report notes that whilst classification errors were similar to those found in 2014, there has been improvement in some key areas. For example there were fewer cases in 2016 of more serious violent crimes being classified as less serious, and this may be partly due to extensive work by the crime registrars to ensure serious assaults are not wrongly classified as common assaults. However, it was also noted that the ‘errors involving section 38 offences (Threatening and Abusive behaviour) suggests that this offence might be at risk of being used as a ‘catch-all’ for violent behaviour’.

Of the 1,986 violent incidents<sup>5</sup> examined in the audit, 93.0% were closed correctly. Test 1 errors for violent incidents generally arose because there was insufficient update on the incident to dispel an initial inference of criminality; there was a lack of follow-up regarding the allegation; the complainer became uncooperative; or the SCRS was misapplied.

## **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 on a separate homicide bulletin, an analysis of assault-based emergency hospital admissions and the SCJS. Collectively this provides 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:

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<sup>4</sup> Subsuming refers to the practice of counting multiple crimes as one crime, with less serious crimes subsumed within more serious crimes. For more information, please refer to Section D of the [Scottish Crime Recording Standard \(SCRS\)](#).

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

- 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.

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 2016-17 and is scheduled to be published on 10 October 2017.

### **Emergency Hospital Admissions as a result of Assault**

As highlighted above, there has been a 38% reduction in the number of attempted murders and serious assaults recorded by the police between 2007-08 and 2016-17, from 6,711 to 4,186. Another source of statistics on assault is ISD Scotland's annual publication on hospital admissions due to unintentional injuries. This includes the number of emergency hospital admissions for assault. The latest figures (for 2015-16) are available at:

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Emergency-Care/Publications/2017-03-07/2017-03-07-UI-Report.pdf>

It is not possible to make direct comparisons between the two sources. Not all cases of police recorded attempted murder or serious assault may include an emergency admission to hospital (treatment might only be required within the Accident and Emergency department or the complainer may not wish to seek medical treatment). Furthermore, not all emergency admissions to hospital for assault may be reported to the police. Depending on the type of injuries sustained by the complainer, some assault-based emergency admissions may be recorded as a common assault rather than a serious assault. However, as these sources both generally relate to how Scotland's emergency services respond to the most serious types of assault, it would be anticipated that both should show similar trends over time.

There were 2,413 emergency hospital admissions as a result of assault in 2015-16, of which 559 were due to assault with a sharp object and 1,854 were other assaults. This represents a decrease of almost 54% in the total number of emergency admissions due to assault since 2007-08, including a 56% reduction



in the number of emergency admissions due to assault with a sharp object. This comparison confirms that the significant reduction in police recorded crimes of attempted murder and serious assault over the past 10 years has also been broadly reflected in statistics for emergency admissions to hospital.

### **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:**

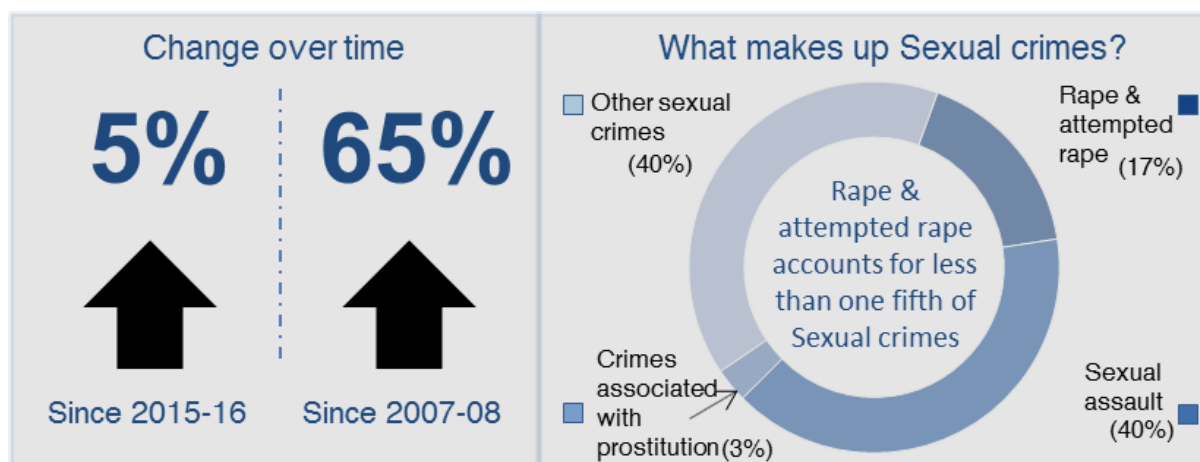
Of the 688,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2014-15, 186,000 (27%) were violent crimes. It is estimated that 2.6% of adults in Scotland were a victim of violent crime in 2014-15.

In 2014-15, minor assaults made up the vast majority of SCJS violent crime (76%), followed by attempted assault (16%), serious assault (4%) and robbery (4%).

Further detail on the comparable crime set is available in [Section 5.3](#). As outlined there and in the [Annex of the 2014-15 SCJS](#), violent crime in the SCJS includes 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 5.3](#), recorded violent crime figures in the comparable category decreased by 24% between 2008-09 and 2014-15, while for the same period the SCJS estimates of violent crime decreased by 41% (a statistically significant change in the SCJS results).

## Group 2 – Sexual Crimes

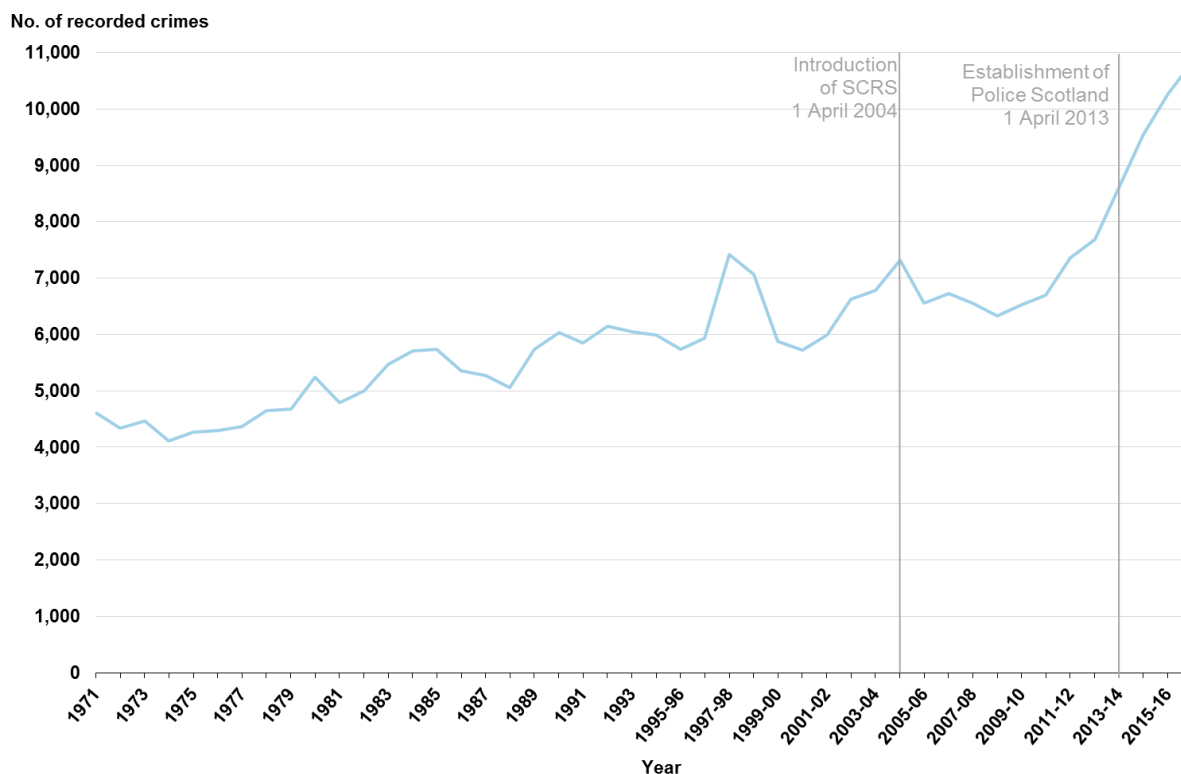


### Number of Sexual crimes recorded in 2016-17:

Sexual crimes account for 5% of all crimes recorded in Scotland in 2016-17. The number of Sexual crimes recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 5% from 10,273 in 2015-16 to 10,822 in 2016-17.

[Chart 8](#) 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 seen since 1971, the first year for which broadly comparable crime groups are available.

### **Chart 8: Sexual crimes recorded by the police, 1971<sup>1</sup> to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2016-17 ([Table 10](#))**

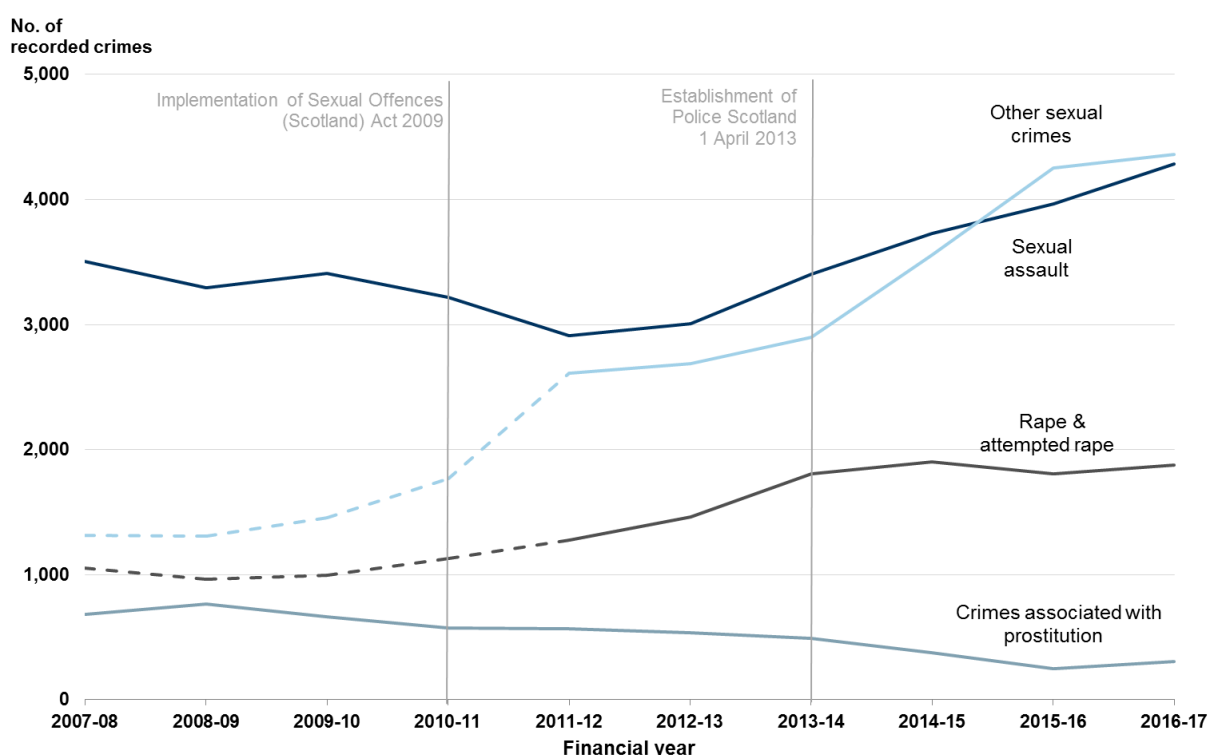


1. Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

The national rate of recorded Sexual crimes increased from 19 crimes per 10,000 population in 2015-16 to 20 crimes per 10,000 population in 2016-17. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Dundee City (35 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in the Shetland Islands (9 per 10,000 population) ([Table 13](#)).

Whilst the specific age of the victim cannot generally be determined from the data supplied by Police Scotland, many of the sexual 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))<sup>6</sup>. By adding up all these crime codes, we know that at least 44% of the 10,822 sexual crimes recorded in 2016-17 by the police related to a victim under the age of 18. This proportion is unchanged on the previous year.

**Chart 9: Sexual crimes in Scotland, 2007-08 to 2016-17**



[Chart 9](#) 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 number of recorded crimes in 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. In 2015-16, the number of Other sexual crimes exceeded that of Sexual assault and despite narrowing, this continued in 2016-17. Information on the impact of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 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.

<sup>6</sup> Although the crime of Lewd and libidinous practices does not identify the age of the victim by its name, this crime code is specific to victims of historic crimes that were under 16 years of age. We have therefore included these crimes in our calculations.

[Table A1](#) contains more detailed breakdowns for Sexual crimes.

### **Sexual assault:**

Sexual assault accounted for 40% of Sexual crimes in 2016-17. This category has been on an upward trend since 2011-12, having increased by 47% since that time. This includes an 8% increase from 3,963 in 2015-16 to 4,281 in 2016-17.

Nearly three quarters (23) of local authorities recorded an increase in sexual assault since 2007-08 and 21 recorded an increase between 2015-16 and 2016-17.

One of the main drivers behind the increase in Sexual assault between 2015-16 and 2016-17 was a 24% increase in crimes of Lewd and libidinous practices, accounting for four fifths (81%) of the overall increase. Incidents of Lewd and Libidinous practice all relate to crimes which occurred prior to the implementation of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 on 1 December 2010 (see '[Data Considerations](#)' below for further information on Historic reporting).

### **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 accounted for 17% of Sexual crimes. There has been an upward trend in these crimes since 2010-11 with Rape & attempted rape increasing by 66% overall between 2010-11 and 2016-17. This includes a 4% increase from 1,809 in 2015-16 to 1,878 in 2016-17. All but four local authority areas recorded an increase in this category between 2015-16 and 2016-17.

### **Crimes associated with prostitution:**

Crimes associated with prostitution account for 3% of Sexual crimes. Over the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17, these crimes have seen a large fall of 56%, however there was a 23% increase from 247 in 2015-16 to 303 in 2016-17.

The majority of crimes in this category (87%) are recorded in Aberdeen City and Glasgow City. Both of these local authorities have seen a decrease of more than a half in the last ten years, however between 2015-16 and 2016-17 both recorded an increase (from 76 to 105 in Aberdeen and from 137 to 158 in Glasgow).

### **Other sexual crimes:**

The Other sexual crimes category includes crimes such as Communicating indecently, Taking, possessing and distributing indecent photos of children, Sexual exposure, Public indecency and Causing to view sexual images or activity.

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.

Other sexual crimes are the largest category in Group 2, accounting for 40% of Sexual crimes. This category has been on an upward trend since 2010-11, having increased by 146% within that time, including a 2% increase from 4,254 in 2015-16 to 4,360 in 2016-17. All local authority areas apart from the Shetland Islands recorded an increase in this category over the period from 2010-11 to 2016-17.

Along with the release of these statistics we have published the findings of a research project into Other sexual crimes, based on a sample of around 2,000 crimes recorded by the police in 2013-14 and 2016-17. The research contains details about the victims, perpetrators and circumstances of these crimes.

Where identifiable, the clear majority of victims of 'Other sexual crimes' were female and the vast majority of perpetrators were male. The research also suggests that cyber enabled 'Other sexual crimes' (i.e. where the internet has been used as a means to commit the crime) contributed around half to the total growth in all recorded sexual crimes between 2013-14 and 2016-17. Those types of crime that have contributed most to the overall increase in 'Other sexual crimes' ('Communicating indecently' and 'Cause to view sexual activity or images') are more likely to have younger victims and younger perpetrators where they are cyber enabled, than where they are not. Further information is available via the following link:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Research/by-topic/crime-and-justice/publications>

## **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. 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.

In 2010-11, incidents of Taking, distribution etc. indecent photos of children were transferred from Group 6 Miscellaneous offences to Group 2 Sexual crimes. At the time, figures were back-revised to 2009-10. As these incidents accounted for 6% of all Group 2 Sexual crimes in 2016-17, it should be noted that, although figures for this crime have increased over time, a small discontinuity is present in the time series for any analysis that spans 2009-10.

## **Historic reporting**

[Table A1](#) reports 1,327 crimes of Lewd and Libidinous practices in 2016-17. These crimes should 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 378 crimes of Sexual assault committed prior to 1 December 2010. There will be other Sexual crimes recorded in 2016-17 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.

Further more, Police Scotland have cited that increased reporting, including that of historic crimes, may in part be responsible for the increase in recorded sexual crime. The successful outcome of cases featuring historic offending may have highlighted to survivors that cases will be listened to by the police, regardless of how long ago they occurred. Media coverage may also have led to the identification of further survivors who previously may not have reported crimes to the police.

Police Scotland have also highlighted that some investigations can be large-scale involving numerous victims/offenders which span a number of years and can lead to the identification of additional victims/offenders. Online child sexual abuse, which includes grooming/exploitation, has also seen an increase in reporting, not only from victims but concerned members of the public.

## **DATA VALIDATION**

### **HMICS Crime Audit 2016**

As previously mentioned, HMICS tested the accuracy of crime recording through auditing a sample of records recorded between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. Further information on this [audit](#), including definitions of terminology and tests used can be found in [Annex 2](#).

Of the 914 crimes sampled that resulted from sexual incidents, 91.4% were counted and classified correctly. The audit found that 44 crimes had been under-counted, eight had been over-counted, and 27 were wrongly classified.

Whilst the audit confirmed that the vast majority of these crimes are counted and classified correctly, it also noted that 'there remains scope for improvement in the recording of sexual crime'.

Counting errors tended to arise due to the complexity of sexual crime. The audit found that officers and staff making crime recording decisions can sometimes

overlook an additional locus which merits an additional crime, or can count too many crimes where a person has been a victim of the same crime repeatedly but specific dates for each instance of the crime are not known. Some classification errors were also attributed to the complexity of sexual crime, with several statutory provisions sometimes being relevant to one set of circumstances and a decision must be made as to which fits best. Some classification errors also arose because there was a failure to take account of any sexual element of a case, for example the audit found several instances of threatening or abusive behaviour being recorded where the behaviour featured a sexual element and would have been more appropriately classified as a sexual crime. Such classification errors can result in a misrepresentation of the total volume of sexual crime in Scotland.

Of the 1,117 sexual incidents<sup>7</sup> audited, 90.0% 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. Many of these incidents have been referred to a specialist investigation unit, and while a crime record may be created eventually after what is often a complex and lengthy investigation, it was found that incidents were not updated in the meantime. As a result, HMICS have recommended that 'Police Scotland should embed a 'record-to-investigate' approach to all crime recording in support of a victim-centred service'.

## **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, there is an upward trend for sexual crimes across the UK. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, sexual crimes in England & Wales increased by 14% compared with 5% in Scotland and 4% in Northern Ireland. In the five years from 2011-12 to 2016-17, sexual crimes in England & Wales increased by 130% compared with 47% in Scotland and 74% in Northern Ireland.

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 practice rather than actual victimisation. Northern Ireland suggest in their report that it may in part be due to improved recording of these offences as a result of clarification from the Home Office in relation to the issue of consent.

### **Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)**

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

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 2014-15 SCJS](#) included questions on Sexual victimisation & stalking and Partner abuse.



## Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty

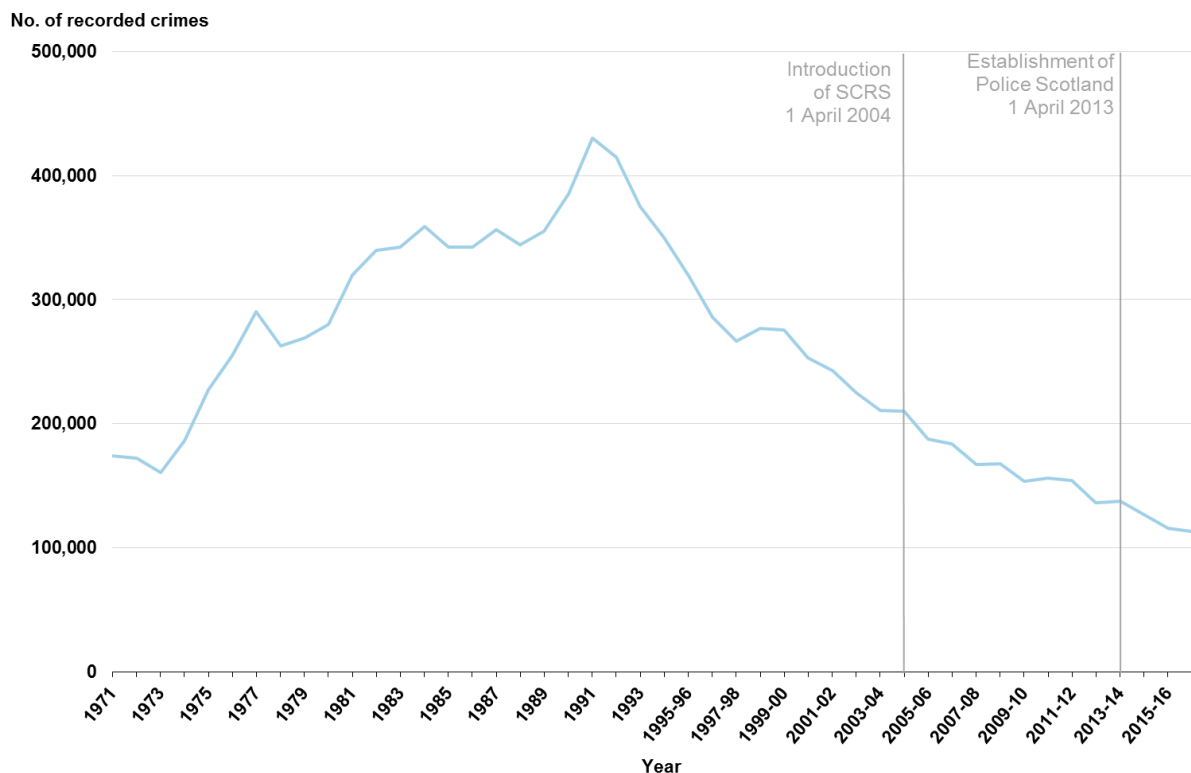


### Number of Crimes of dishonesty recorded in 2016-17:

Crimes of dishonesty account for almost half (47%) of all crime recorded in Scotland in 2016-17. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, the number of Crimes of dishonesty recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 2%, from 115,789 to 113,205.

[Chart 10](#) below shows the number of Crimes of dishonesty from 1971 onwards. Crimes of dishonesty increased for a long period, peaking in 1991. Since then they have generally reduced, decreasing by 74% up to 2016-17. These crimes are now at the lowest level since 1971, the first year for which comparable crime groups are available.

### Chart 10: Crimes of dishonesty recorded by the police, 1971<sup>1</sup> to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2016-17 ([Table 10](#))

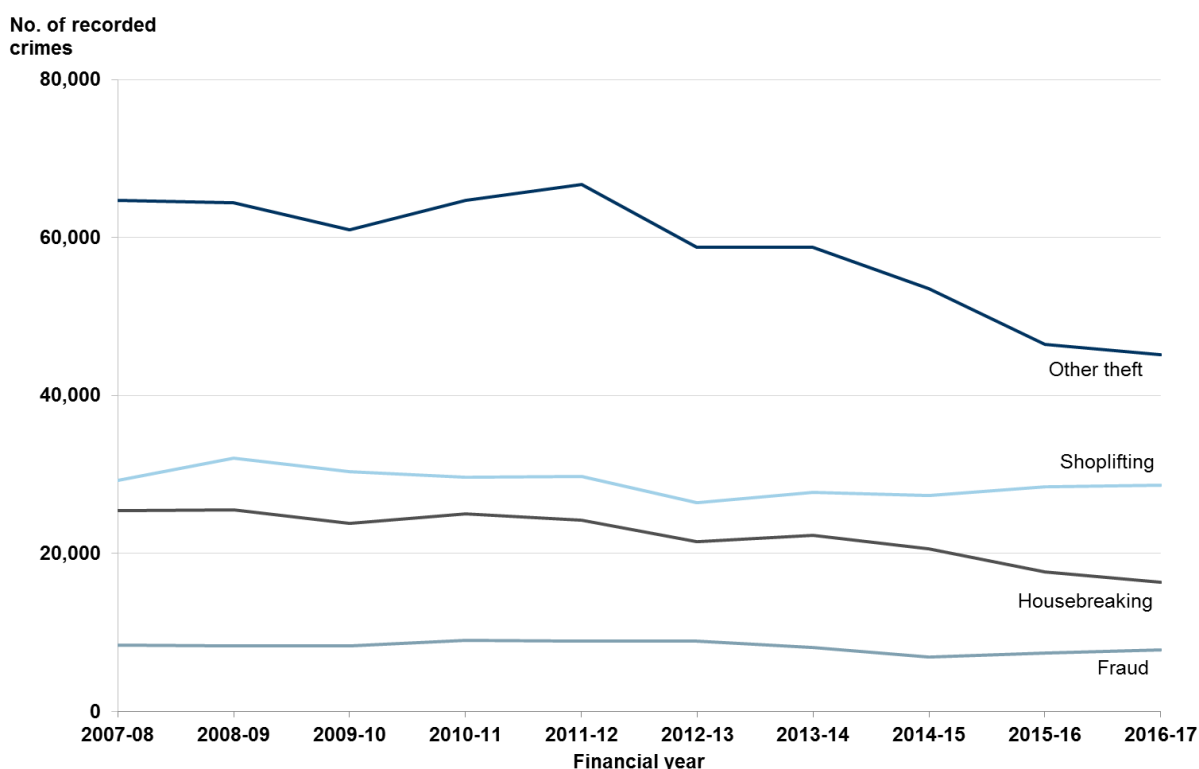


1. Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

The national rate of recorded Crimes of dishonesty decreased from 216 per 10,000 population in 2015-16 to 209 crimes per 10,000 population in 2016-17. Rates varied significantly by local authority area, with the highest rate in the City of Edinburgh (357 per 10,000 population) and the lowest in the Na h-Eileanan Siar (49 per 10,000 population) ([Table 13](#)).

[Chart 11](#) 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. Other theft has consistently been the biggest contributor to Crimes of dishonesty. Shoplifting and Fraud remain at a similar level to 2007-08, whereas Housebreaking and Other theft have decreased over time. While not displayed in [Chart 11](#), the numbers 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 2007-08 to 2016-17 ([Table 6](#)).

**Chart 11: Crimes of dishonesty (showing four largest categories) in Scotland, 2007-08 to 2016-17**



### Other theft:

Other theft consists of Theft of pedal cycles, Theft from a motor vehicle not elsewhere classified and Theft not elsewhere classified (excl. motor vehicles).

This category is the largest in Crimes of dishonesty, accounting for 40% of these crimes. Over the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17, Other theft has seen a decrease of 30%, including a 3% decrease from 46,419 in 2015-16 to 45,173 in 2016-17.

All but two local authorities, the Orkney Islands and North Ayrshire, recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period.

### **Shoplifting:**

Shoplifting accounted for a quarter (25%) of Crimes of dishonesty. Shoplifting increased by 1% from 28,424 in 2015-16 to 28,650 in 2016-17. The number of shopliftings recorded has remained comparatively stable over the ten year period.

Changes by local authority varied over the ten year period, with almost two thirds (20) showing a decrease in Shoplifting. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17 just under half (15) of Scotland's local authorities recording an increase in the number of shopliftings.

### **Housebreaking:**

Housebreaking accounted for 14% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17 this crime has decreased by 36%, including a 8% decrease from 17,637 in 2015-16 to 16,299 in 2016-17. [Table A2](#) shows that this has been driven by a 8% decrease in housebreaking of domestic dwellings.

All but three local authorities recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, three quarters (24) of local authorities showed a decrease.

### **Fraud:**

Crimes of Fraud account for 7% of Crimes of dishonesty. Despite small fluctuations over the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17, this category has seen a decrease of 7%. Numbers increased by 6% between 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Changes by local authority varied widely over the ten year period, with 19 showing a decrease in Fraud. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, over half (18) of all local authorities showed an increase.

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

Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP accounted for 3% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17 this crime has seen a large decrease of 74%, including a 17% decrease from 4,684 in 2015-16 to 3,888 in 2016-17.

All local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, over half (18) of all local authorities showed a decrease.

### **Theft of a motor vehicle:**

Theft of a motor vehicle accounted for 5% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17 this crime has seen a large decrease of 57%, however there was a 4% increase from 5,028 in 2015-16 to 5,216 in 2016-17.

All but one local authority recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, over a third (12) of all local authorities showed an increase.

### **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 4% of total Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17 this crime has seen a decrease of 21%, however there was a 6% increase from 4,004 in 2015-16 to 4,228 in 2016-17.

All but five local authorities recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Half of all local authorities showed a decrease between 2015-16 and 2016-17.

### **Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP):**

Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP) accounted for 2% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17, this crime has seen a large decrease of 70%, including a 12% decrease from 2,193 in 2015-16 to 1,940 in 2016-17.

All but two local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, about two thirds (22) of local authorities showed a decrease.

## **DATA VALIDATION**

### **HMICS Crime Audit 2014**

This bulletin primarily uses HMICS's [2016 Crime Audit](#) to provide a quality assessment of crime recording decisions. This latest audit did not sample any incidents relating to Group 3 dishonest crime, as the previous audit in 2014 found compliance in this area to be good. As such, more value was to be gained from testing damage related incidents and crimes - which had not been included in the 2014 Crime Audit.

The [2014 Crime Audit](#) included a specific focus on housebreaking. Of the 1,341 crimes examined 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 2014 HMICS report for further information).

Of the 1,664 incidents<sup>8</sup> examined, 94% were closed correctly. Around half of the incidents which failed Test 1 did so because the incident record had not

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<sup>8</sup> Incidents consist of all reports to the police, whether a crime is recorded or 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'.

### **HMICS Crime Audit 2016**

As noted [above](#), the more recent 2016 Crime Audit included a sample of incidents reported to the police which never resulted in a crime report (non-crime related incidents). Of the 1,138 incidents examined, 91.0% were closed correctly, a statistically significant improvement on the 2014 Audit. Despite this improvement, the audit found that some errors persisted in relation to allegations of fraud, particularly cyber-enabled fraud (potentially a Group 3 Dishonest Crime). The audit noted that some officers may be uncertain as to how to respond to these incidents and there is some confusion about the role of Action Fraud. HMICS have recommended that Police Scotland should work with Action Fraud to clarify its role in Scotland.

Further information on the 2016 audit, including definitions of terminology and tests used, can be found in [Annex 2](#).

### **DATA COMPARISONS**

In addition to information on police recorded Crimes of dishonesty, the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) provides a complementary 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 5](#).

### **Key points from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey:**

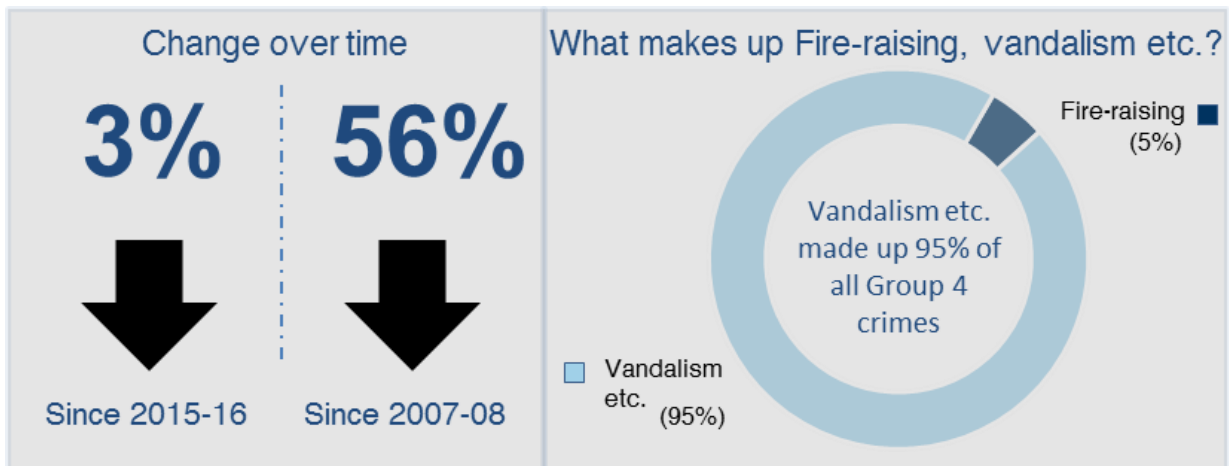
Of the 688,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2014-15, 502,000 (73%) were property crimes. It is estimated that around 13% of adults in Scotland were a victim of property crime in 2014-15.

In 2014-15, vandalism accounted for 36% of property crime, followed by other household theft (including bicycle theft, 31%), personal theft (excluding robbery, 21%), all motor vehicle theft related incidents (8%) and housebreaking (4%).

Further detail on the comparable crime set is available in [Section 5.3](#). As outlined there and in the [Annex of the 2014-15 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 outlined in [Section 5.3](#), recorded acquisitive crime figures in the comparable category decreased by 24% between 2008-09 and 2014-15, while for the same period the SCJS estimates of acquisitive crime decreased by 23% (a statistically significant change in the SCJS results).

## Group 4 – Fire-raising, Vandalism etc.

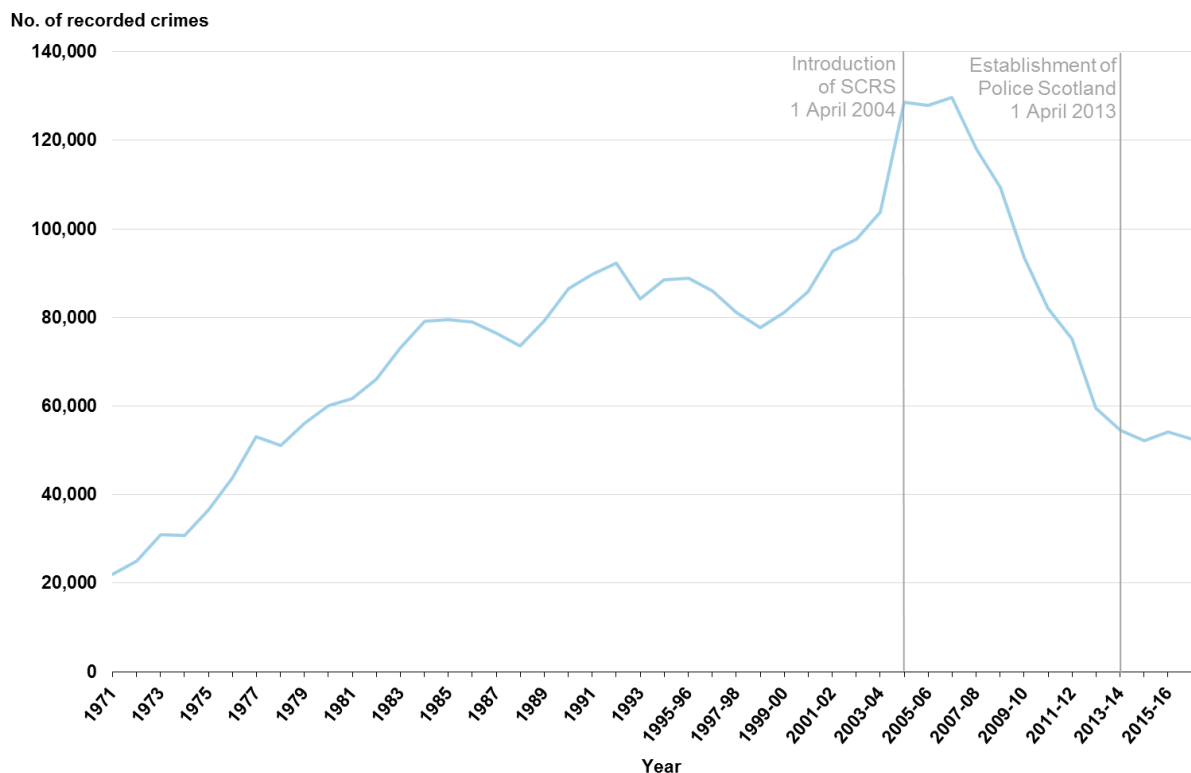


### Number of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. recorded in 2016-17:

Fire-raising, vandalism etc. accounted for 22% of all crime recorded in Scotland in 2016-17. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, the number of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 3%, from 54,226 to 52,514.

[Chart 12](#) 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 there was a sharp downward trend since they peaked in 2006-07, however this appears to be leveling off. Since 2007-08 the number of these crimes has fallen by 56%.

**Chart 12: Crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. recorded by the police, 1971<sup>1</sup> to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2016-17 ([Table 10](#))**

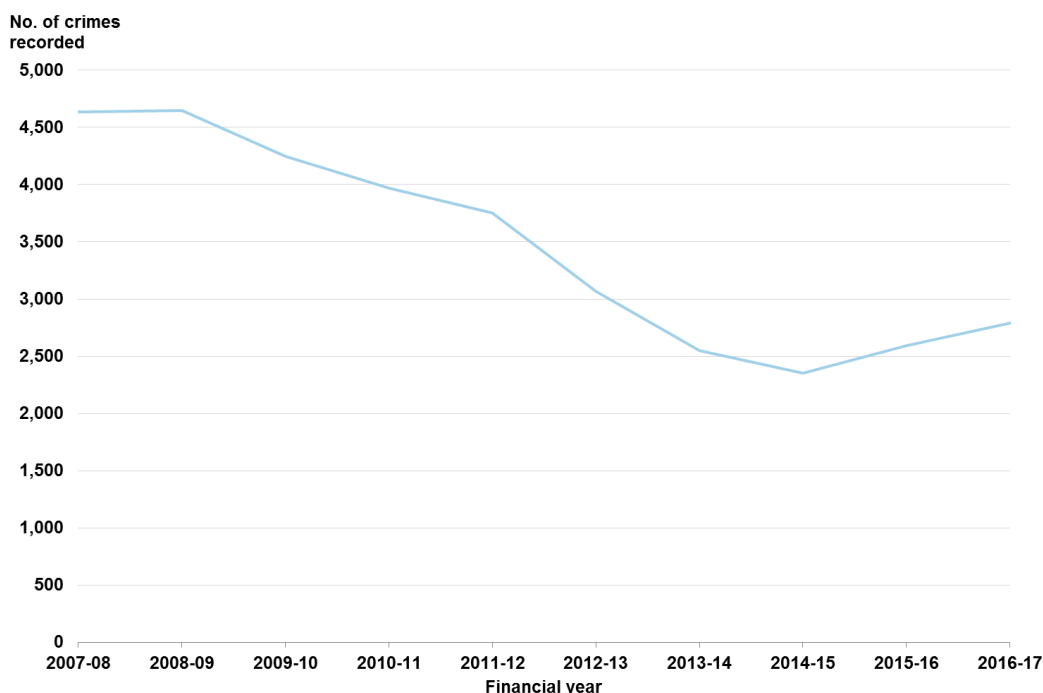


1. Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

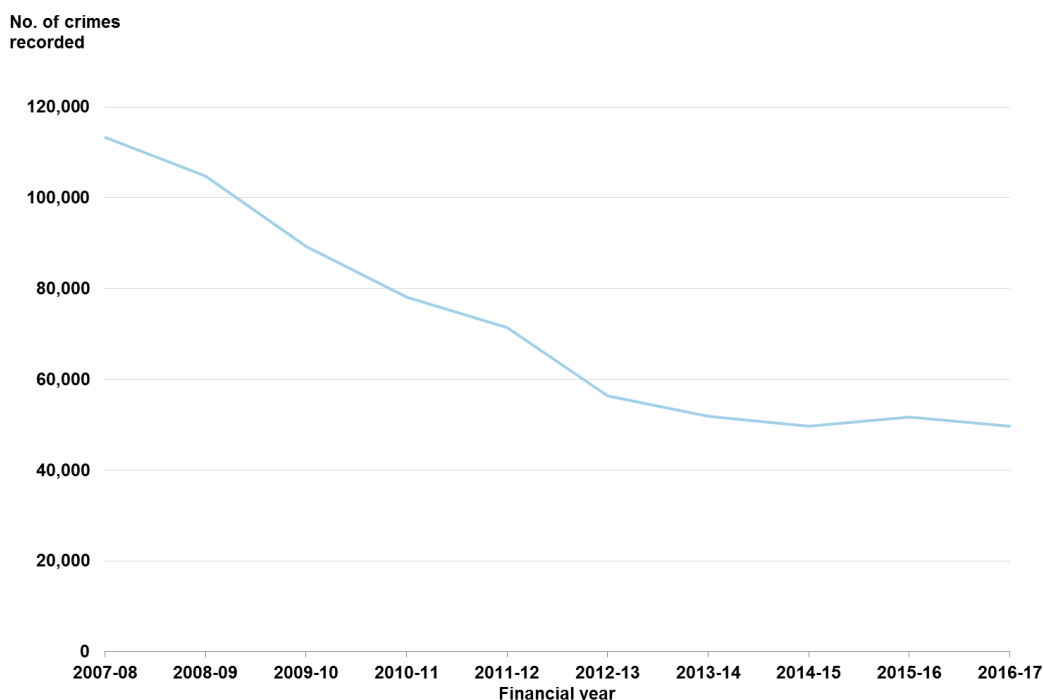
The national rate of recorded crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. decreased from 101 per 10,000 population in 2015-16 to 97 crimes per 10,000 population in 2016-17. Rates varied by local authority area, with the highest in Glasgow City and Midlothian (both 133 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in Na h-Eileanan Siar (32 per 10,000 population) ([Table 13](#)).

Due to the difference in scale of recorded crimes of Vandalism etc. and Fire-raising, [Charts 13](#) and [14](#) show these two categories separately to highlight better the similar downward trends they have followed over the last ten years.

**Chart 13: Fire-raising in Scotland, 2007-08 to 2016-17**



**Chart 14: Vandalism etc. in Scotland, 2007-08 to 2016-17**





## **Vandalism etc.:**

Vandalism etc. accounted for 95% of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. These crimes have decreased by 4% from 51,631 in 2015-16 to 49,721 in 2016-17. The longer term trend has also been downwards, with the number of crimes recorded decreasing by 56% from 2007-08 to 2016-17.

All local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, about two thirds (22) of local authorities showed an increase.

The Vandalism etc. category includes crimes recorded under the Computer Misuse Act 1990. There were 30 such crimes recorded in 2016-17, accounting for less than 1% of all crimes of Vandalism etc.

## **Fire-raising:**

Fire-raising accounted for 5% of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. These crimes have increased by 8% from 2,595 in 2015-16 to 2,793 in 2016-17, in contrast to the downward trend seen since 2008-09. Fire-raising has decreased by 40% over the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17.

All but three local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, 19 out of 32 local authorities showed an increase.

## **DATA VALIDATION**

### **HMICS Crime Audit 2016**

As previously mentioned, HMICS tested the accuracy of crime recording through auditing a sample of records recorded between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. Further information on this [audit](#), including definitions of terminology and tests used can be found in [Annex 2](#).

Of the 1,938 crimes sampled that resulted from damage-related incidents, 96.0% were counted and classified correctly. The audit found 44 crimes were under-counted and 11 were over-counted. The audit noted that the vast majority of under-counted crimes were vandalisms, for example where a person reported a vandalism to the police and highlighted that the same incident had occurred recently, or had also happened to their neighbour. In this circumstance an additional crime should have been recorded. Most over-counted crimes were also vandalisms, and these occurred when the vandalism could have been subsumed<sup>9</sup> into another crime. The audit also found 22 classification errors, the majority relating to crimes being classified as vandalisms when they were a different crime such as culpable and reckless conduct, theft or an attempted housebreaking.

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<sup>9</sup> Subsuming refers to the practice of counting multiple crimes as one crime, with less serious crimes subsumed within more serious crimes. For more information, please refer to Section D of the [Scottish Crime Recording Standard \(SCRS\)](#).

Of the 2,032 damage-related incidents<sup>10</sup> audited, 94.9% were closed correctly. Errors in this area were often due to a lack of information to dispel an allegation of criminality, or a lack of follow up with a minor incident not being attended or followed up by telephone. There were also several errors involving non-cooperative complainers, as well as difficulties in re-contacting complainers, which led to incidents being incorrectly closed.

## **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 40% reduction in the number of fire-raising crimes recorded by the police between 2007-08 and 2016-17, from 4,635 to 2,793. 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 2015-16) are available at: <http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/about-us/fire-and-rescue-statistics.aspx>.

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 26,613 fires were attended by the SFRS in 2015-16, of which over 14,800 were started deliberately. This represents a 42% reduction in the total number of fires attended since 2007-08 and a 35% 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 complementary 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 5](#).

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<sup>10</sup> Incidents consist of all reports to the police, whether a crime is recorded or not.

### **Key points from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey:**

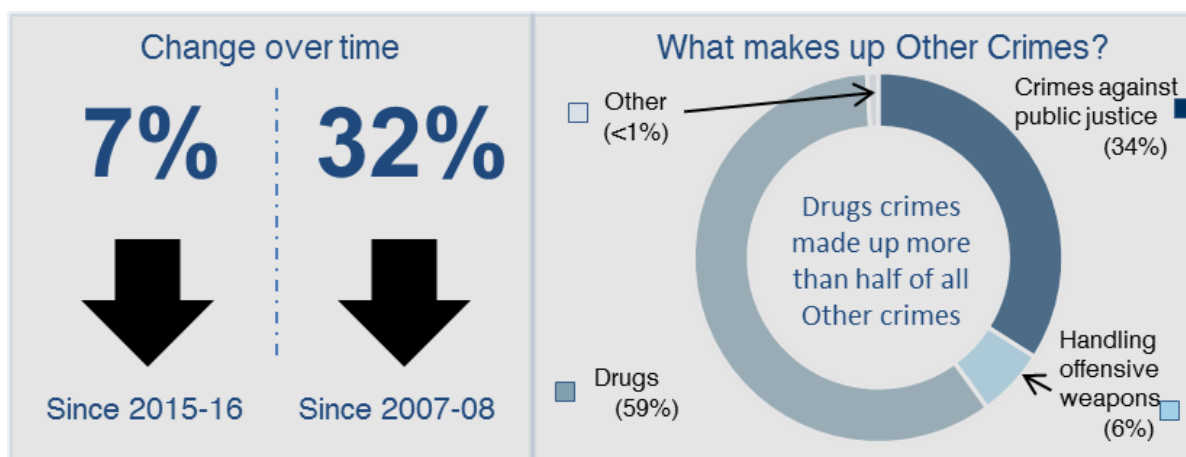
As stated earlier, of the 688,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2014-15, 502,000 (73%) were property crimes and it is estimated that around 13% of adults in Scotland were a victim of property crime in 2014-15.

In 2014-15, vandalism accounted for 36% of property crime, followed by other household theft (including bicycle theft, 31%), personal theft (excluding robbery, 21%), all motor vehicle theft related incidents (8%) and housebreaking (4%).

Further detail on the comparable crime group is available in [Section 5.3](#) and in the [Annex of the 2014-15 SCJS](#). Vandalism is included in recorded crime figures within Group 4 (Fire-raising, vandalism etc).

As outlined in [Section 5.3](#), recorded vandalism in the comparable category decreased by 53% between 2008-09 and 2014-15, while for the same period the SCJS estimates of vandalism decreased by 49% (a statistically significant change in the SCJS results).

## Group 5 – Other Crimes

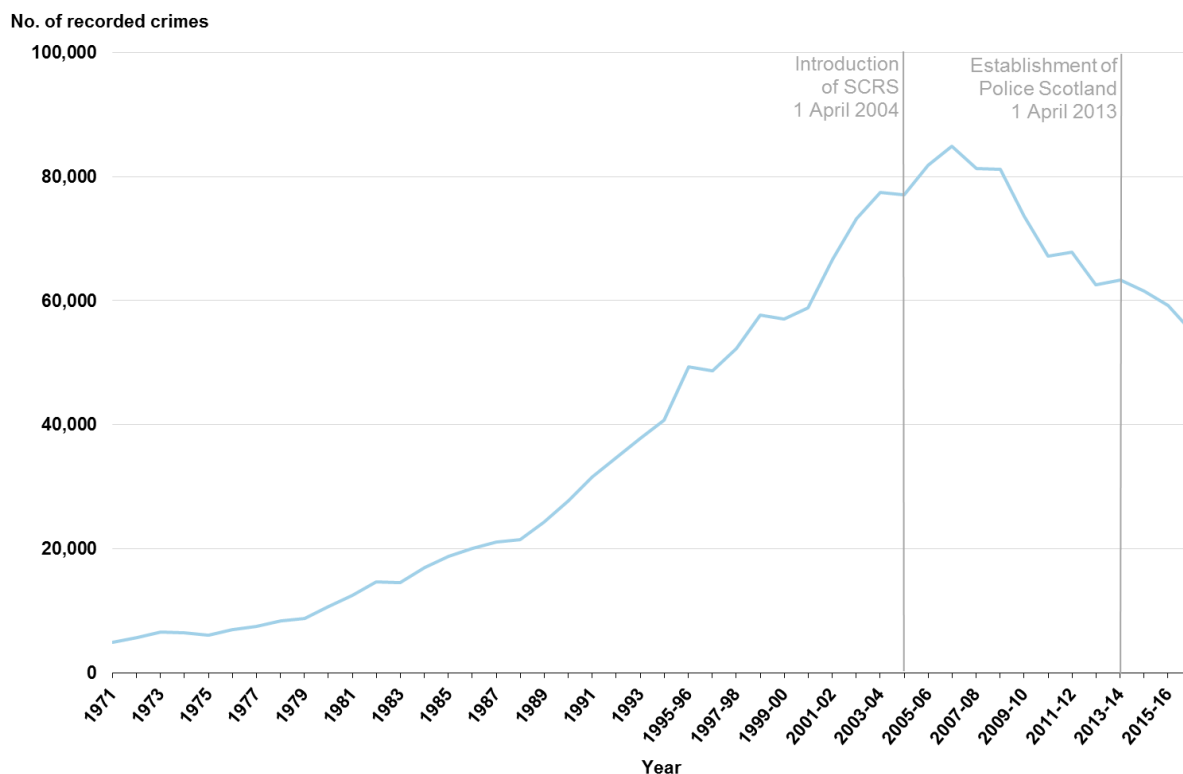


### Number of Other crimes recorded in 2016-17:

Other crimes account for almost one quarter (23%) of all crimes recorded in Scotland in 2016-17. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, the number of Other crimes recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 7%, from 59,218 to 54,946.

[Chart 15](#) below shows the number of Other crimes from 1971 onwards. Other crimes increased for a long period, peaking in 2006-07. Since then they have generally reduced, decreasing by 35% up to 2016-17. These crimes are now at the lowest level since 1997-98.

### Chart 15: Other crimes recorded by the police, 1971<sup>1</sup> to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2016-17 ([Table 10](#))

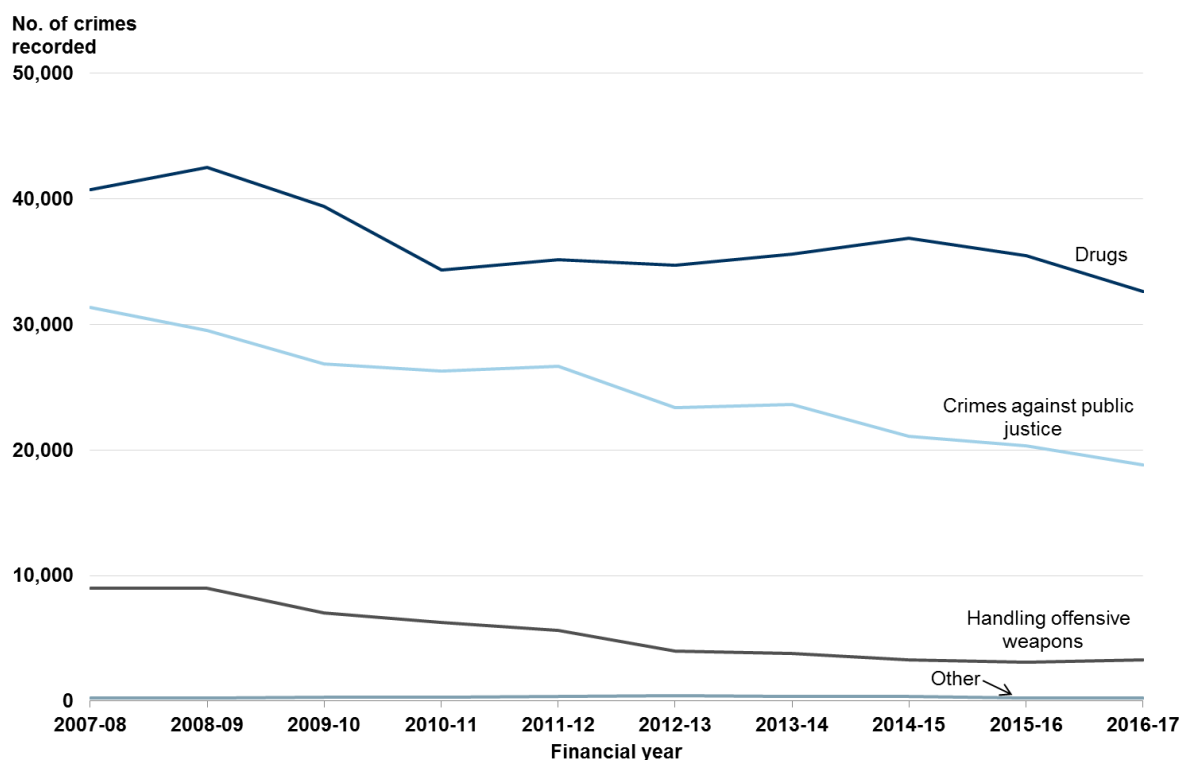


1. Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

The national rate of recorded Other crimes decreased from 110 per 10,000 population in 2015-16 to 102 crimes per 10,000 population in 2016-17. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Glasgow City (183 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in the Orkney Islands (26 per 10,000 population) ([Table 13](#)).

[Chart 16](#) shows the four categories within Other crimes over the last ten years, and gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category. Drugs crimes have consistently been the biggest contributor to Other crimes. In 2016-17, 59% of Other crimes were drug crimes. A further 34% were Crimes against public justice and 6% were crimes of Handling Offensive weapons.

**Chart 16: Other crimes in Scotland, 2007-08 to 2016-17**



### Drugs:

Drug crimes account for 59% of Other crimes. Over the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17 this crime has decreased by 20%, including an 8% decrease from 35,479 in 2015-16 to 32,641 in 2016-17.

Nearly four fifths (25) of local authorities recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, nearly two thirds (20) of local authorities showed a decrease.

### **Crimes against public justice:**

Crimes against public justice account for 34% of Other Crimes and include Bail offences, Resisting arrest and Wasting police time. Over the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17 this crime has decreased by 40%, including an 8% decrease from 20,361 in 2015-16 to 18,795 in 2016-17.

Over the ten year period, all but two local authorities recorded a decrease in this category. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, three quarters (24) of local authorities showed a decrease.

### **Handling offensive weapons:**

Crimes of Handling offensive weapons account for 6% of Other crimes. Over the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17 this crime has decreased by 64%, however there was a 5% increase from 3,111 in 2015-16 to 3,271 in 2016-17.

Over the ten year period, all local authorities recorded a decrease in this category. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, just over half (17) of local authorities showed a decrease.

### **Other:**

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

This category accounted for less than 0.5% of Other crimes in 2016-17. Over the last 10 years this type of crime increased between 2007-08 and 2012-13, and has fallen since then. In 2016-17 the number of crimes recorded was 5% lower than in 2007-08. There was a 10% decrease from 267 in 2015-16 to 239 in 2016-17.

## **DATA VALIDATION**

Scottish Government statisticians reviewed a sample of 800 drug possession crime records from 2014-15 and 2015-16 - as part of the production process for the annual statistics release on [Drug Seizures and Offender Characteristics](#). As part of the review process, the quality of recording for crimes of drug possession was checked and found to be very good, with nearly 100% of the sampled records classified correctly.

## **DATA COMPARISONS**

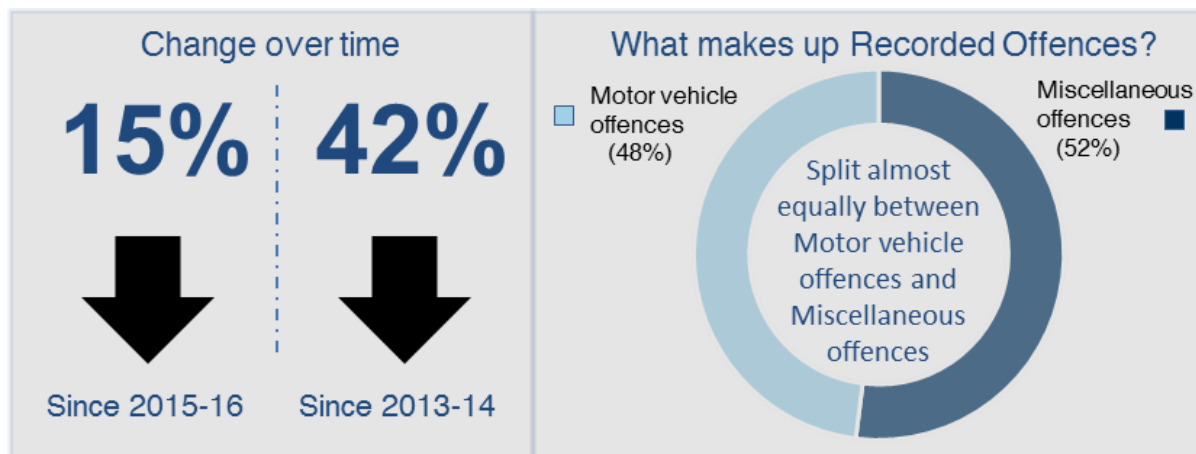
### **Drugs**

A separate 'Drug Seizures and Offender Characteristics' bulletin is produced by the Scottish Government. It contains more detailed information on the quantities of drugs seized and the characteristics of those who commit crimes of drug possession. Based on a review of 800 drug possession crime records it was found that the vast majority of drug possession offenders were male and the average age of an offender was 30. Around two thirds of drug possessions

involved the seizure of cannabis. More information can be found by accessing the 'Drug Seizures and Offender Characteristics' bulletin:

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

## Total Recorded Offences



### Total number of offences recorded in 2016-17:

Due to anomalies in the data for Miscellaneous offences and Motor vehicle offences, statistics for 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 15% from 339,193 in 2015-16 to 288,961 in 2016-17 ([Table 7](#)). This amounts to an overall decrease of 42% since 2013-14.

Miscellaneous offences and Motor vehicle offences account for fairly equal proportions of total offences, compared to 2013-14 when Motor vehicle offences accounted for almost 60% of the total.

### Local Authority analysis:

All but four (28) local authority areas showed a decrease in recorded offences between 2015-16 and 2016-17. 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.

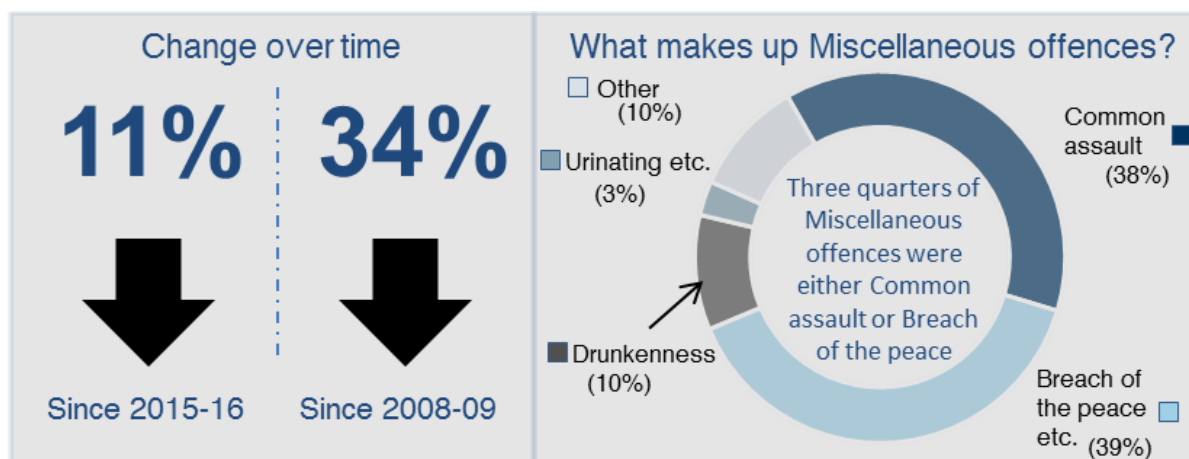
National Statistics on total recorded offences are based on data which Police Scotland extract from their IT system (called the Scottish Operational and Management Information System (ScOMIS)) and submit to the Scottish Government. Prior to 2014-15 and the establishment of Police Scotland, the Scottish 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 Groups 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 2016-17:

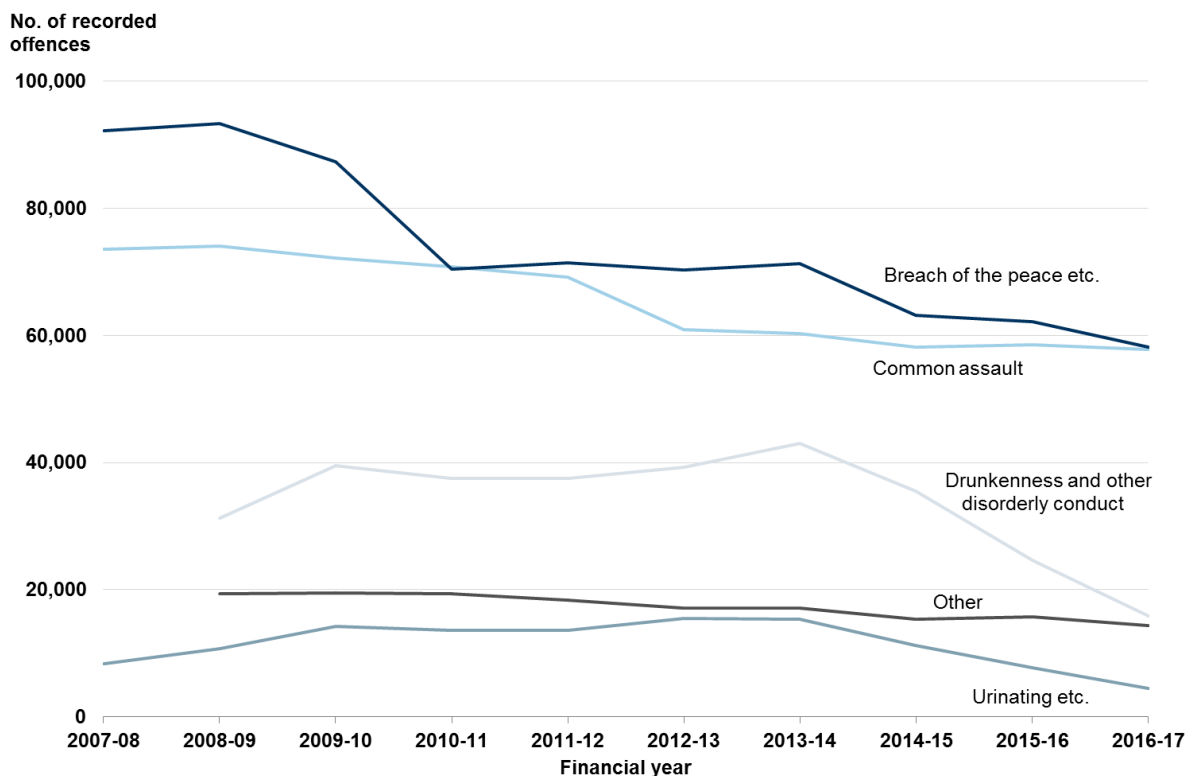
Miscellaneous offences account for just over half (52%) of all offences recorded in Scotland in 2016-17. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, the number of Miscellaneous offences recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 11%, from 168,896 to 150,793.

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](#).

The national rate of recorded Miscellaneous offences decreased from 314 per 10,000 population in 2015-16 to 279 offences per 10,000 population in 2016-17. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Glasgow City (542 per 10,000 population) and the lowest rate in Na h-Eileanan Siar (113 per 10,000 population) ([Table 13](#)).

[Chart 17](#) shows the five categories within Miscellaneous offences over the last ten years, with Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct and Other miscellaneous offences from 2008-09. This chart gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category. Breach of the peace etc. and Common assault have consistently been the biggest contributors to Miscellaneous offences.

**Chart 17: Miscellaneous offences in Scotland, 2007-08 to 2016-17**



**Breach of the peace etc.:**

Breach of the peace etc. includes Breach of the peace, Threatening or abusive behaviour, 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 A6](#).

Breach of the peace etc. is the largest category in Miscellaneous offences, accounting for more than a third (39%) in 2016-17. Over the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17, this category has fallen by more than one third (37%), including a 6% decrease from 62,233 in 2015-16 to 58,235 in 2016-17.

All local authorities recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, around two thirds (21) of local authorities showed a decrease.

**Common assault:**

Common assault also accounted for more than a third (38%) of Miscellaneous offences in 2016-17. Over the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17, this category has fallen by around one fifth (21%), including a 1% decrease from 58,596 in 2015-16 to 57,861 in 2016-17.

All but two local authorities recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, two thirds (21) of local authorities showed a decrease. For the distinction between Common assault and Serious assault please see [Paragraph 7.13](#) within Annex 1.

Last year's bulletin presented the results of an analysis of police recorded common assault conducted by Scottish Government statisticians. Based on a review of 500 common assaults recorded by the police in 2014-15, it suggested that the gender of complainers was equally split between males and females (49% in each case). Perpetrators were more likely to be male or all male groups (74% of cases). It was also found that around half of common assault cases involve no or very little injury to the complainer. The remaining cases (again around half) involve some degree of injury to the complainer. More information can be found by accessing the 'Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2015-16' bulletin:

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

### **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 8](#).

Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct accounted for 10% of Miscellaneous offences in 2016-17. Despite some fluctuation, levels of this offence fell 50% between 2008-09 and 2016-17. This includes a 36% decrease from 24,639 in 2015-16 to 15,796 in 2016-17.

All but one local authority recorded a decrease in this category between 2008-09 and 2016-17. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17 all but five (27) local authorities showed a decrease.

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. accounted for 3% of Miscellaneous offences in 2016-17. This category generally increased for several years from 2007-08, peaking in 2012-13. Urinating etc. decreased by 41% from 7,700 in 2015-16 to 4,505 in 2016-17, the fourth consecutive decrease in these offences.

Three quarters (24) of local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17 all but six (26) local authorities showed a decrease.

### **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 8](#).

Other miscellaneous offences account for 10% of Miscellaneous offences in 2016-17. These offences decreased by 8% from 15,728 in 2015-16 to 14,396 in 2016-17.

All but five (27) local authorities recorded a decrease between 2008-09 and 2016-17. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, 26 of the 32 local authorities showed a decrease.

It should be noted that the Other miscellaneous offences category is not considered comparable for years 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**

Scottish Government statisticians reviewed a random sample of 500 common assault crime records from 2014-15 to develop a better understanding of the nature of this type of offence. The quality of recording decisions for common assault by Police Scotland is very good, with 98% of common assaults classified correctly. Those records incorrectly classified as common assault were either a breach of the peace, a serious assault or insufficient detail was provided to dispel the notion a serious assault had occurred. The full findings and analysis from this sample can be found in last year's '[Recorded Crime in Scotland](#)' publication.

## **HMICS Crime Audit 2016**

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 2](#).

The previous HMICS Crime Audit, carried out in 2014, 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 in 2014. 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 A7](#) shows these offences for the last ten years. In 2016-17 there were 66 offences of Racially aggravated harassment and 1,927 offences of Racially aggravated conduct. While these include specific racially aggravated offences, they do not account for all criminal behaviour which may have had a racial motivation 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 latest Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland bulletin, containing data for 2013-14, was published in November 2015. This bulletin also outlined plans to scope out the possibility of replacing the racist incidents publication with a new and broader statistical product on police recorded Hate Crime. Scottish Government analysts are working with Police Scotland as they

consider the Hate Crime data they hold on their existing systems, and we anticipate an update on this work before the end of the year.

### **Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)**

In addition to information on police recorded crime, the SCJS provides a complementary 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 5](#).

#### **Key points from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey:**

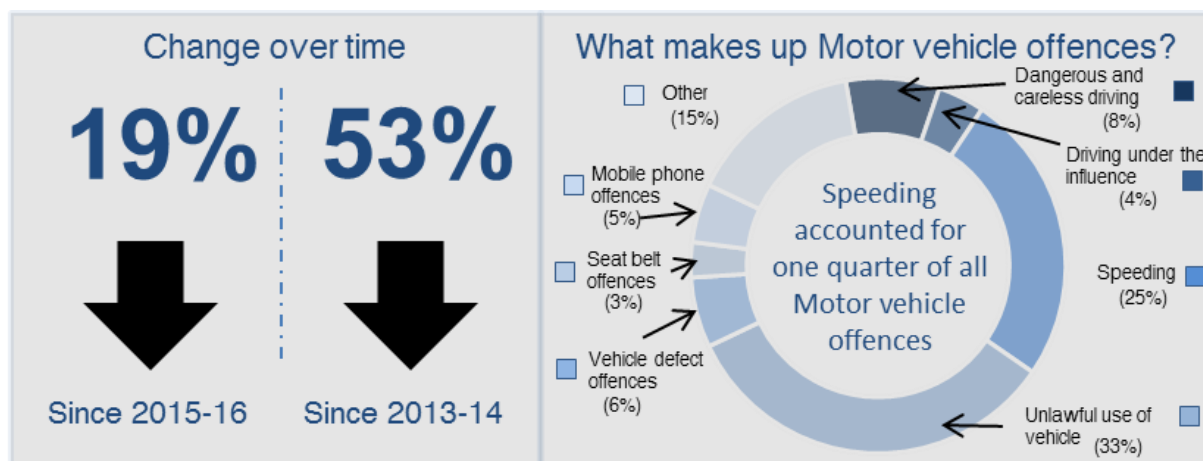
As stated under the Non-sexual crimes of violence section, of the 688,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2014-15, 186,000 (27%) were violent crimes and it is estimated that 2.6% of adults in Scotland were a victim of violent crime in 2014-15.

In 2014-15, minor assaults made up the vast majority of SCJS violent crime (76%), followed by attempted assault (16%), serious assault (4%) and robbery (4%).

Further detail on the comparable crime set is available in [Section 5.3](#). As outlined there and in the [Annex of the 2014-15 SCJS](#), violent crime in the SCJS includes 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 5.3](#), recorded violent crime figures in the comparable category decreased by 24% between 2008-09 and 2014-15, while for the same period the SCJS estimates of violent crime decreased by 41% (a statistically significant change in the SCJS results).

## Group 7 – Motor Vehicle Offences



### Number of Motor vehicle offences recorded in 2016-17:

Motor vehicle offences account for nearly half (48%) of all offences recorded in Scotland in 2016-17. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, the number of Motor vehicle offences recorded by the police decreased by 19% from 170,297 to 138,168. This amounts to an overall decrease of 53% since 2013-14.

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](#).

The national rate of recorded Motor vehicle offences decreased from 317 per 10,000 population in 2015-16 to 256 per 10,000 population in 2016-17. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Dumfries & Galloway (599 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in East Lothian (95 per 10,000 population) ([Table 13](#)).

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

### 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 8](#).

Unlawful use of vehicle is the largest category in this group, accounting for a third (33%) of Motor vehicle offences. This category increased by 11% from 41,470 in 2015-16 to 45,978 in 2016-17. Despite this rise, these offences remain 20% lower than in 2013-14. Three quarters (24) of local authority areas recorded an increase between 2015-16 and 2016-17.

It should be noted that the Unlawful use of vehicle category is not considered comparable for years prior to 2013-14. Further information on quality issues is available in [Annex 2](#).



### **Speeding:**

Speeding accounted for a quarter (25%) of Motor vehicle offences. This category decreased by 37% from 54,419 in 2015-16 to 34,371 in 2016-17. This amounts to an overall decrease of 58% since 2013-14. All but four (28) local authorities recorded a decrease between 2015-16 and 2016-17.

It should be noted that the Speeding category is not considered comparable for years prior to 2013-14. Further information on quality issues is available in [Annex 2](#).

### **Dangerous and careless driving:**

Dangerous and careless driving accounted for 8% of Motor vehicle offences. This category decreased by 3% from 12,057 in 2015-16 to 11,693 in 2016-17. Numbers declined for a few years after 2007-08, but have fluctuated since 2010-11. Despite this, levels remain 10% lower than in 2007-08.

Over half (19) of local authority areas recorded an increase in this category between 2007-08 and 2016-17. Less than half (15) of the 32 local authorities showed an increase between 2015-16 and 2016-17.

### **Vehicle defect offences:**

Vehicle defect offences account for 6% of Motor vehicle offences. This category decreased by 36% from 13,070 in 2015-16 to 8,385 in 2016-17. This amounts to an overall decrease of 60% since 2013-14. All but five of the 32 local authorities recorded a decrease between 2015-16 and 2016-17.

It should be noted that the Vehicle defect offences category is not considered comparable for years prior to 2013-14. Further information on quality issues is available in [Annex 2](#).

### **Mobile phone offences:**

Mobile phone offences account for 5% of Motor vehicle offences. This category decreased by 33% from 10,085 in 2015-16 to 6,709 in 2016-17. Levels of these offences increased each year from 2008-09, peaking in 2013-14, but have decreased each year since. There has been an overall decrease of 72% since 2008-09 and 81% since 2013-14. All but one (31) local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category between 2008-09 and 2016-17. All but five (27) local authority areas showed a decrease between 2015-16 and 2016-17.

It should be noted that the Mobile phone offences category is not considered comparable for years prior to 2008-09. Further information on quality issues is available in [Annex 2](#).

### **Driving under the influence:**

Driving under the influence accounted for 4% of Motor vehicle offences. There was an 8% increase in this category from 5,458 in 2015-16 to 5,917 in 2016-17, in contrast to the downward trend seen since 2007-08. Driving under the influence has decreased by 45% as a whole over this period.

All local authorities recorded a decrease in this category between 2007-08 and 2016-17. Less than half (13) of local authorities showed an increase between 2015-16 and 2016-17.

### **Seat belt offences:**

Seat belt offences account for 3% of Motor vehicle offences. This category has decreased by 44% from 8,059 in 2015-16 to 4,502 in 2016-17. Levels of these offences had previously been on a generally upward trend between 2008-09 and 2013-14, before decreasing by 88% between 2013-14 and 2016-17.

All 32 local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category between 2008-09 and 2016-17. All but three (29) local authority areas showed a decrease between 2015-16 and 2016-17.

It should be noted that the Seat belt offences category is not considered comparable for years prior to 2008-09. Further information on quality issues is available in [Annex 2](#).

### **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 8](#).

Other motor vehicle offences account for 15% of Motor vehicle offences. This category decreased by 20% from 25,679 in 2015-16 to 20,613 in 2016-17. This amounts to an overall decrease of 51% since 2013-14. Over half (21) of local authority areas recorded a decrease between 2015-16 and 2016-17.

It should be noted that the Other motor vehicle offences category is not considered comparable for years 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 overall decrease in Motor vehicle offences, Police Scotland have cited their move towards engagement and education to prevent road offences 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. Clear up rates

This chapter presents statistics on recorded crime Clear up rates in Scotland during 2016-17. Whereas the rest of this bulletin presents recorded crime statistics that have been produced as National Statistics (following the UKSA's decision to re-designate this information as National Statistics in September 2016) – these clear up rate statistics remain published as Official Statistics. This is the same designation as was used to publish this information for the 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 reporting years.

The UKSA will re-visit the statistical designation of this information once HMICS have carried out an audit of this data and the [Scottish Crime Recording Board](#) has considered any implications for the quality of these data. HMICS propose to scope out an audit of clear-up data and pilot an audit methodology in early 2018, with a view to providing the public and other stakeholders with assurance about the reliability of clear up rates. Statisticians will keep users informed of progress with this audit and further developments beyond this (through the Scotstat network).

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.

Clear up rates are calculated as follows:

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

Clear up rates presented are rounded to one decimal place.

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.

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 currently obtained, it is not possible to do this at present. Going forward, we will investigate any improvement that could be made to the measurement of clear up rates, and will consult with users on any possible change.

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'.

A new system of recorded warnings – known as the Recorded Police Warning (RPW) scheme, was introduced by Police Scotland on the 11 January 2016. The scheme allows police officers to make greater use of their discretion when dealing with minor crimes and offences, and replaces the Formal Adult Warning system. This scheme has been in operation for the full year of 2016-17, and so some crimes and offences in this bulletin (as with the previous bulletin) will have been dealt with by a RPW.

This new scheme should not impact on clear up rate statistics as a RPW can only be issued where there is sufficient evidence to report a matter to the Crown (and hence meet the criteria for a 'cleared-up' crime or offence). There is no evidence of any impact of RPWs on clear-up rate statistics. The Scottish Crime Recording Board (SCRB) will continue to monitor developments in this area to ensure this remains the case.

### **Total recorded crime**

The clear up rate for total recorded crimes decreased by 1.6 percentage points from 51.6% in 2015-16 to 50.0% in 2016-17. This clear up rate is the lowest since 2011-12, however this follows a generally upward trend since 1976, the first year for which comparable clear up rates are available, as shown by [Chart 18](#) below ([Table 1](#)).

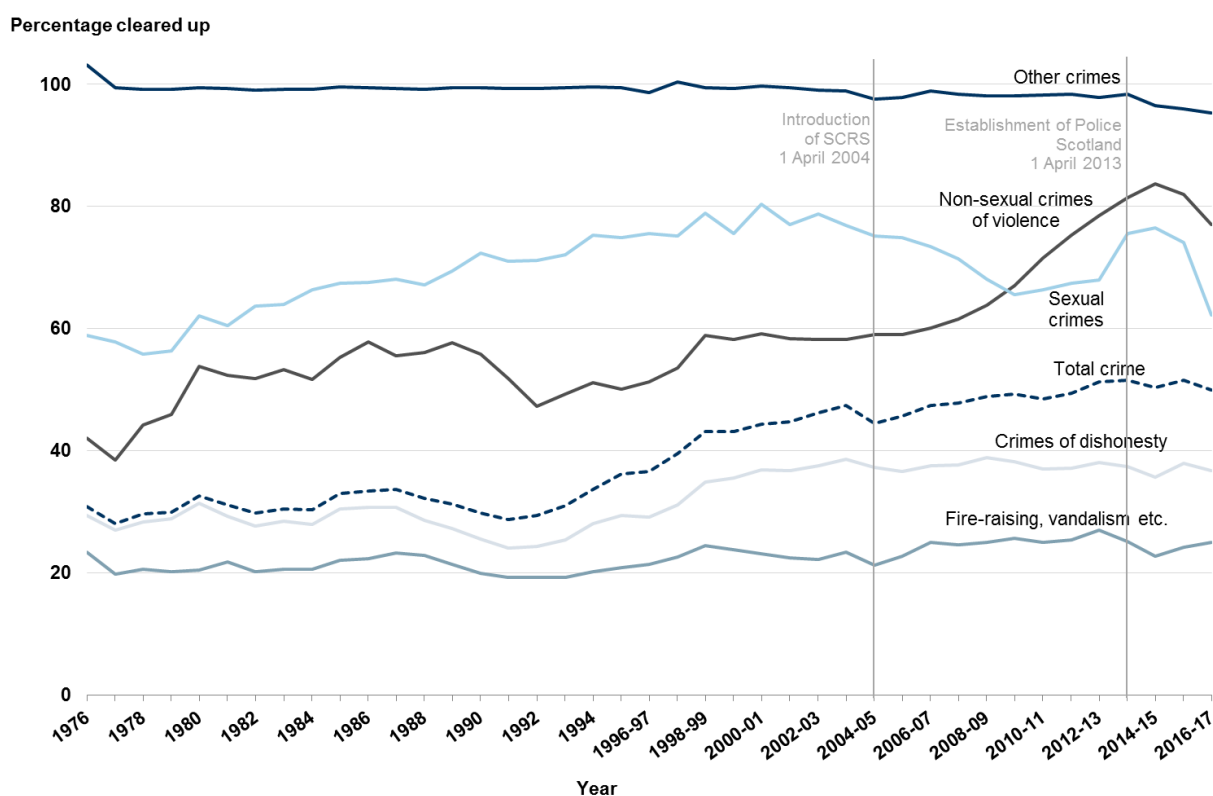
There now follows an analysis of clear up rates by crime group at both Scotland and local authority levels. It should be noted that some local authority areas have comparatively low levels of recorded crime, and so clear up rates that are based on small numbers should be treated with caution. Rates of over 100% can occur when crimes are cleared up in a different reporting period to the year in which they were recorded.

## Non-sexual crimes of violence:

The clear up rate for Non-sexual crimes of violence decreased by 4.9 percentage points from 82.0% in 2015-16 to 77.1% in 2016-17. This clear up rate is the lowest since 2011-12, however this follows a generally upward trend since 1976, the first year for which comparable clear up rates are available. The clear up rate for Group 1 crimes ranged from 145.5% in the Shetland Islands to 65.8% in the City of Edinburgh.

Clear up rates decreased in all categories for Non-Sexual crimes of violence between 2015-16 and 2016-17. The largest decreases were seen in Other violence, which dropped by 5.9 percentage points from 77.6% to 71.7%, and Attempted murder and serious assault, which fell by 5.8 percentage points from 84.4% to 78.6%. Homicide etc. and Robbery decreased by 2.2 percentage points and 2.1 percentage points respectively.

**Chart 18: Clear up rates for crimes recorded by the police by crime group, 1976<sup>1</sup> to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2016-17**



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

## Sexual crimes:

The clear up rate for Sexual crimes decreased by 11.8 percentage points in 2016-17, from 74.1% to 62.3%. Although the clear up rate for Group 2 crimes followed a generally upward trend in recent years, the clear up rate for 2016-17 is the lowest since 1981. Clear up rates ranged from 77.5% in Stirling to 48.2% in East Dunbartonshire.

Clear up rates decreased in all categories of Sexual crimes between 2015-16 and 2016-17. The rate for Rape and attempted rape fell by 16.7 percentage points from 76.3% in 2015-16 to 59.6% in 2016-17, while Sexual assault fell by 13.4 percentage points from 70% to 57.4% over the same period. The rate for Other sexual crimes and Crimes associated with prostitution fell by 8.8 percentage points and 4.3 percentage points respectively.

### **Crimes of dishonesty:**

The clear up rate for Crimes of dishonesty decreased by 1.3 percentage points in 2016-17, from 38.0% to 36.7%. Despite slight fluctuation year to year, this clear up rate has remained relatively stable since 2007-08. The clear up rate for Crimes of dishonesty ranged from 64.8% in the Shetland Islands to 25.8% in the City of Edinburgh.

Clear up rates decreased in all categories of this crime group between 2015-16 and 2016-17.

### **Fire-raising, vandalism etc.:**

The clear up rate for Fire-raising, vandalism etc. increased by 0.8 percentage points in 2016-17, from 24.3% to 25.1%. Crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. consistently have the lowest clear up rate of the five crime groups. The 2016-17 clear up rate for Fire-raising, vandalism etc. ranged from 52.1% in the Orkney Islands to 13.5% in East Renfrewshire.

The clear up rate for Fire-raising decreased by 2.5 percentage points between 2015-16 and 2016-17, while the rate for Vandalism etc. increased by 0.9 percentage points over the same period.

### **Other crimes:**

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 0.7 percentage points in 2016-17 from 96.0% to 95.3%, the lowest level in the ten year period from 2007-08 to 2016-17. The clear up rate for Group 5 crimes ranged from 116.8% in the Shetland Islands to 88.8% in Dundee City.

The clear up rate for Handling offensive weapons increased slightly by 0.2 percentage points from 96.5% in 2015-16 to 96.7% in 2016-17, while all other categories saw a decrease of less than 1 percentage point over the same period.

**Table 1: Percentage of crimes / offences cleared up<sup>1</sup> by the police, Scotland, 2007-08 to 2016-17<sup>2</sup>**

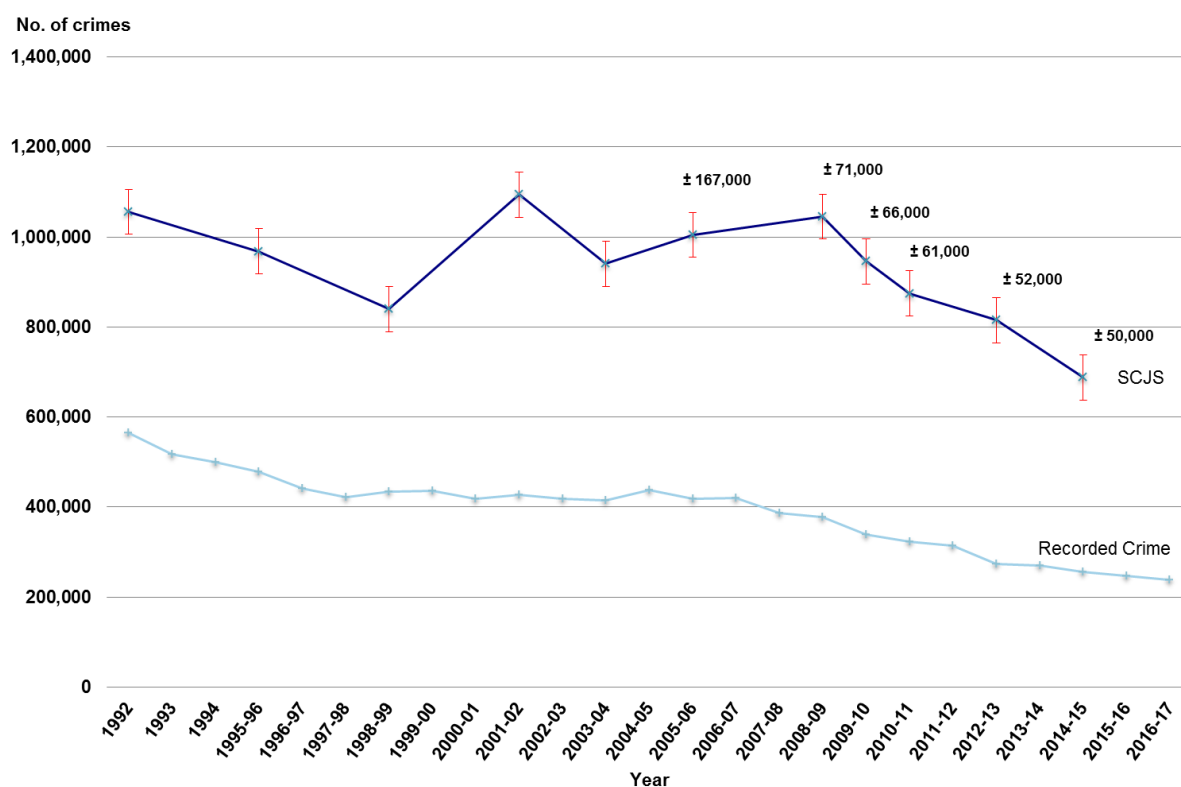
Crime / Offence group	Percentage									
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
<b>Total crimes</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>48.9</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>50.0</b>
<b>Non-sexual crimes of violence</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>78.5</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>83.7</b>	<b>82.0</b>	<b>77.1</b>
Homicide etc. <sup>3</sup> (incl. causing death by driving)	99.3	100.0	105.7	99.2	96.7	104.4	101.9	107.6	101.2	99.0
Attempted murder & serious assault <sup>4</sup>	60.7	61.6	65.7	69.9	73.9	77.8	81.5	83.3	84.4	78.6
Robbery	40.3	46.2	46.4	54.8	61.6	65.9	71.8	77.2	78.3	76.2
Other violence	83.6	84.5	85.2	86.6	89.8	90.5	88.4	89.5	77.6	71.7
<b>Sexual crimes<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>71.5</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>66.4</b>	<b>67.5</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>76.5</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>62.3</b>
Rape & attempted rape	69.9	61.4	56.8	54.9	56.9	61.8	73.0	74.2	76.3	59.6
Sexual assault	68.0	64.8	61.5	63.8	62.3	61.8	70.6	76.6	70.8	57.4
Crimes associated with prostitution	98.2	99.3	96.5	97.0	95.9	95.9	96.7	97.3	96.4	92.1
Other sexual crimes	68.1	62.9	67.3	68.6	72.2	72.7	79.4	75.5	74.9	66.1
<b>Crimes of dishonesty</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>36.7</b>
Housebreaking <sup>6</sup>	25.7	24.2	24.9	24.5	24.5	24.8	23.2	25.0	26.7	22.5
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	32.3	37.7	30.7	22.6	21.7	19.5	16.8	15.2	21.2	17.5
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	15.2	16.6	17.3	17.2	17.2	20.1	16.2	15.1	19.3	16.5
Theft of a motor vehicle	43.7	43.4	43.9	43.3	45.2	47.6	43.1	39.3	41.8	39.9
Shoplifting	77.5	77.8	78.7	78.5	78.7	79.7	78.8	74.6	72.9	71.6
Other theft	20.9	21.4	21.0	20.0	20.6	21.0	20.5	18.6	19.9	19.3
Fraud	74.3	74.6	57.3	57.2	55.3	52.2	55.8	50.6	44.7	39.9
Other dishonesty	81.9	78.6	73.4	74.3	73.9	72.1	71.1	66.6	62.1	60.3
<b>Fire-raising, vandalism etc.</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>25.1</b>
Fire-raising	25.4	24.4	23.6	21.9	23.9	25.9	27.2	25.1	28.2	25.7
Vandalism etc.	24.6	25.0	25.7	25.2	25.5	27.0	25.0	22.7	24.1	25.0
<b>Other crimes</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>97.9</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>96.5</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>95.3</b>
Crimes against public justice	98.0	97.5	97.3	97.6	97.6	97.6	98.0	97.5	97.5	96.7
Handling offensive weapons	95.9	95.7	96.5	96.2	97.3	97.0	97.8	96.6	96.5	96.7
Drugs	99.4	99.1	99.0	99.4	99.2	98.2	98.8	95.9	95.1	94.4
Other	89.3	89.5	89.9	88.7	90.6	94.6	97.7	95.1	97.0	96.2
<b>Miscellaneous offences<sup>7</sup></b>		<b>82.6</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>82.0</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>84.3</b>	<b>80.2</b>
Common assault <sup>4</sup>	70.8	69.7	69.7	69.9	71.4	72.6	75.9	76.2	75.9	70.8
Breach of the peace etc. <sup>8</sup>	87.9	86.7	85.8	84.3	86.8	87.8	89.2	87.8	86.5	84.8
Drunkness and other disorderly conduct <sup>7</sup>		99.9	99.9	99.9	99.8	99.9	99.9	99.8	99.8	99.6
Urinating etc.	99.7	99.7	99.8	99.7	99.7	99.8	100.0	99.8	99.7	99.6
Other <sup>7</sup>		75.3	73.6	70.6	75.5	76.0	78.9	76.9	74.9	72.1

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



## 5. 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 2016-17**



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.

The preceding sections of this bulletin contain information on the volume and types of crime recorded by the police in Scotland in 2016-17. As highlighted earlier in this report, 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 Scotland<sup>11</sup>. However bringing the two sources together in this way highlights that the SCJS and police recorded crime cover different populations and

<sup>11</sup> 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](#).

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 (i.e. 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 between the SCJS and police recorded crime statistics for a set of crimes that are covered by both sources.

### **5.1. Overall number of crimes - Police Recorded Crime and the SCJS, 1992 to 2014-15**

The SCJS estimates that there were 688,000 incidents of crime against adults in Scotland in 2014-15. This is 34% lower than in the 2008-09 survey when there were an estimated 1,045,000 crimes. In 2014-15 around one in seven adults (14.5%) 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 2008-09<sup>12</sup>), crime survey estimates in Scotland were derived from smaller sample surveys and in general were subject to a higher level of uncertainty<sup>13</sup>. 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 2016-17, the police recorded 238,651 crimes; this represents a decrease of 3% since 2015-16, and a decrease of 37% since 2008-09. [Chart 19](#) shows that since the shift

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<sup>12</sup> *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.*

<sup>13</sup> *As demonstrated, for example, by the confidence interval around the estimated number of SCJS crimes in 2006, compared to later surveys.*

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.

[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 2014-15 SCJS estimated that of the 688,000 incidents of crime, 38% 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, the SCJS can help to identify the relative magnitude of crime not reported to the police and why crimes are not reported. In 2014-15, 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 (36%) or that the victim perceived the incident to be too trivial to involve the police (32%). Where crime was reported to the police it was mostly because the victim felt that it was the right thing to do (48%) or in the hope that offenders would be caught and punished (32%).

## **5.2. 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).

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

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 2014-15 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 5.3](#).

### Property Crime

Property crime as measured by the SCJS involves theft or damage to personal or household property (including vehicles). In 2014-15, approximately 502,000 crimes (73% of all SCJS crime) were in this category, which means that it is estimated that around 13% of adults in Scotland were a victim of property crime. Between 2008-09 and 2014-15, there was a statistically significant decrease of 31% in the estimated number of incidents of property crime captured by the SCJS.

Of the 502,000 property crimes estimated by the SCJS in 2014-15, vandalism accounted for 36%, followed by other household theft (including bicycle theft) (31%), personal theft (excluding robbery)(21%), all motor vehicle theft related incidents (8%) 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 (down 8% since 2013-14) and 52,091 crimes in the fire-raising, vandalism etc. group (down 4% since 2013-14), it should be noted that these groupings are not directly comparable with the SCJS 'property' crime group as 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 2014-15 SCJS estimates that over a third (36%) of property crimes were reported to the police, with reporting rates highest among victims of housebreaking (62%). The most common reasons given for not reporting property crime was that the victim felt that the police could not have done anything about it (42%) or the incident was considered to be too trivial (37%). When property crime was reported, the most common reasons given were that reporting was considered to be the right thing to do/automatic (55%) or in the hope that offenders would be caught and punished (30%). Victims of property crime also experienced emotional responses, with annoyance (61%), anger (54%) and shock (16%) being the most commonly experienced.

[Table 2](#) shows that property crime was experienced by near equal proportions of men (13%) and women (13%), however risk declined with age.

**Table 2: The varying risk of property crime (SCJS 2014-15)**

	All	Male	Female	16-24	25-44	45-59	60+
<b>Property Crime (risk as a percentage)</b>	<b>13.0</b>	13.4	12.6	16.8	16.5	13.7	6.5
<b>Base</b>	11,470	5,180	6,290	930	3,420	2,970	4,160

## Violent Crime

The SCJS violent crime category includes attempted assault, serious assault, minor assault and robbery. Of the 688,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2014-15, 186,000 (27%) were violent crimes, which means that it is estimated that 2.6% of adults in Scotland were a victim of violent crime in 2014-15. Between 2008-09 and 2014-15 there was a statistically significant decrease of 41% in the estimated number of incidents of violent crime captured by the SCJS.

The 186,000 violent crimes estimated by the SCJS in 2014-15 comprise 64% minor assaults (no/negligible injury), 12% minor assaults (injury), 16% attempted assaults, 4% serious assaults and 4% robbery.

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 common assaults (which make up the majority of SCJS violent crime) are included in the Miscellaneous offences police recorded crime group. The police recorded 58,178 common assaults in 2014-15.

We know from the SCJS that not all crime is reported to the police. The 2014-15 SCJS estimates that 44% of violent crimes were reported to the police. The most common reasons victims provided for why violent crime was not reported was because the victim dealt with the matter (22%), it was considered a personal family matter (18%) or that they considered the incident to be too trivial to involve the police (16%). Where violent crime was reported, the most common reasons given for reporting were that the crime was serious or upsetting (44%), in the hope that the offender would be caught/punished (37%) or it was considered to be the right thing to do/automatic (30%).

[Table 3](#) shows that that risk of violent crime decreases with age from 6% for those aged 16-24, to less than 1% for those aged 60 or over, and that males (over 3%) are at a higher risk of violent crime than females (2%).

**Table 3: The varying risk of violent crime (SCJS 2014-15)**

	All	Male	Female	16-24	25-44	45-59	60+
<b>Violent Crime (risk as a percentage)</b>	<b>2.6</b>	3.5	1.8	6.0	3.5	2.2	0.4
<b>Base</b>	11,470	5,180	6,290	930	3,420	2,970	4,160

The 2014-15 SCJS estimates that just over one in five violent crimes (22%) happened between 9 pm and 3 am on the weekend and that victims thought that the offender was under the influence of alcohol in 54% of violent crime, and drugs in 23% of violent crime. Injuries were sustained by victims in almost half (48%) of violent crime. Where injuries were sustained, 61% received minor bruising or a black eye and 25% received scratches. Victims also experienced emotional responses to violent crime with anger (54%), annoyance (37%) and shock (30%) being the most commonly experienced.

### 5.3. Comparing SCJS estimates and Recorded Crime

#### 5.3.1. 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 688,000 crimes estimated by the 2014-15 SCJS, around 60% (414,000) can be compared with police recorded crimes in 2014-15. The remainder of this section provides an overview of the level of crime and trends in the comparable subset from 2008-09 to 2014-15.

This analysis has been extended further in the 2014-15 SCJS report, 'Bringing Together Scotland's Crime Statistics, available from: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/03/5269/7>.

As presented in [Table 4](#), in 2014-15 the SCJS estimated that there were 414,000 crimes in the overall comparable crime category, while the police recorded around 133,000 crimes in this category. The extent of overall comparable crime in both the recorded crime figures and SCJS estimates decreased between 2008-09 and 2014-15 (-38% and -41% respectively). The reduction in estimated SCJS comparable crime from 731,000 in 2008-09 to 414,000 in 2014-15 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 2014-15 SCJS indicate that of the 414,000 crimes in the overall comparable subset, around 174,000 incidents (42%) were estimated to have been reported to police. In 2014-15 the police recorded 133,170 crimes in the comparable category. From this it can also be estimated that around 32% of the total comparable crimes estimated by the SCJS (that is reported and non-reported crime) were recorded by the police in 2014-15.

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.

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.

**Table 4: Comparable crime group estimates (2008-09 to 2014-15)**

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2012-13	2014-15	% change 2008-09 to 2014-15 <sup>9</sup>	% change 2012-13 to 2014-15 <sup>9</sup>
<b>Comparable Recorded Crime</b>	215,901	195,728	183,117	144,662	133,170	-38%	-8%
<b>Comparable SCJS Crime</b>	731,000	630,000	556,000	527,000	414,000	<b>-43%</b>	<b>-21%</b>
<b>Recorded Acquisitive Crime</b>	27,527	26,146	26,478	21,834	21,000	-24%	-4%
<b>SCJS Acquisitive Crime</b>	64,000	61,000	61,000	73,000	49,000	<b>-23%</b>	<b>-32%</b>
<b>Recorded Violent Crime</b>	82,855	79,769	78,263	66,076	62,578	-24%	-5%
<b>SCJS Violent Crime</b>	317,000	266,000	220,000	236,000	186,000	<b>-41%</b>	-21%
<b>Recorded Vandalism</b>	105,519	89,813	78,376	56,752	49,592	-53%	-13%
<b>SCJS Vandalism</b>	350,000	303,000	275,000	219,000	179,000	<b>-49%</b>	<b>-18%</b>

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

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-2016>) indicates that police compliance in recording is generally good overall and does not indicate that this accounted 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.



### 5.3.2. 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 4](#)), 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 2014-15 the SCJS estimated that there were 49,000 acquisitive crimes (+/- 8,000, meaning that the true number of acquisitive crimes in the underlying population is estimated to lie somewhere between 41,000 and 57,000<sup>14</sup>). Of these estimated 49,000 crimes, around 25,000 (50%) were said to have been reported to the police, while, in comparison, the police recorded 21,000 acquisitive crimes. Therefore it can be estimated that 84% 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 comparable, albeit it should be noted that 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.

When considering this comparable crime sub-group over time, results show that recorded acquisitive crime decreased by 24% between 2008-09 and 2014-15, with the SCJS estimates of acquisitive crime showing a statistically significant reduction of 23% between 2008-09 and 2014-15.

#### Violent crime

In 2014-15 the SCJS estimated that there were 186,000 violent crimes (+/- 35,000, meaning that the true number of violent crimes in the underlying population is estimated to lie somewhere within the range 150,000 to 221,000<sup>15</sup>) and the police recorded 62,578 violent crimes. The SCJS estimates that around 82,000 (44%) violent crimes were reported to the police in 2014-15. Therefore it can be estimated that 76% 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 2014-15, recorded violent crime figures in the comparable category decreased by 24%, while, for the same period, the SCJS estimates of violent crime decreased by 41%, a statistically significant change in the SCJS results. As indicated by [Table 4](#), the SCJS is often better able to detect changes in survey estimates with greater certainty over longer

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<sup>14</sup> Figures for the confidence interval rounded to nearest thousand.

<sup>15</sup> Figures for the confidence interval rounded to nearest thousand.

timescales than from year to year, due primarily to the small numbers of victims identified in the survey (282 for violent crime in 2014-15).

## **Vandalism**

In 2014-15 the SCJS estimated that there were 179,000 vandalism crimes (+/- 18,000, meaning that the true number of vandalism crimes in the underlying population is estimated to lie somewhere between 161,000 and 198,000<sup>16</sup>) of which around 69,000 (37%) were reported to the police, while the police recorded 49,592 vandalism incidents. From this it can be estimated that 72% of vandalism crime estimated to be reported to the police by the SCJS were 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 2014-15 recorded vandalism figures fell by 53%, while SCJS estimates have shown a statistically significant decrease of 49%. Compared to the violent crime and acquisitive crime groups, vandalism estimates are based on larger samples of respondents (598 in the 2014-15 survey), leading to greater certainty around changes in the short and medium term.

## **5.4. 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 688,000 incidents of crime against adults living in households in Scotland in 2014-15, while at the same time the police in Scotland recorded 256,350 crimes (and 183,513 Miscellaneous offences, including 58,178 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. The latest results from both sources point towards a downward trend in overall comparable crime and for the 3 groups highlighted (acquisitive crime, violent crime and vandalism); the changes overall and for each of these groups (between 2008-09 and 2014-15) are statistically significant. These comparisons will be updated in the next recorded crime bulletin, following the release of the 2016-17 SCJS in early 2018.

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<sup>16</sup> *Figures for the confidence interval rounded to nearest thousand.*

**Table 5: Strengths and limitations of Police Recorded Crime and the SCJS**

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

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**Table 6: Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 2007-08 to 2016-17<sup>2</sup>**

Crime group	Number & Percentage										
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	% change 15-16 to 16-17
<b>Total Crimes</b>	<b>385,509</b>	<b>377,433</b>	<b>338,124</b>	<b>323,247</b>	<b>314,188</b>	<b>273,053</b>	<b>270,397</b>	<b>256,350</b>	<b>246,243</b>	<b>238,651</b>	<b>-3</b>
<b>Non-sexual crimes of violence</b>	<b>12,874</b>	<b>12,612</b>	<b>11,228</b>	<b>11,437</b>	<b>9,484</b>	<b>7,468</b>	<b>6,686</b>	<b>6,272</b>	<b>6,737</b>	<b>7,164</b>	<b>6</b>
Homicide etc. <sup>3</sup> (incl. causing death by driving)	142	134	106	122	121	91	106	105	81	105	30
Attempted murder & serious assault <sup>4</sup>	6,711	6,472	5,621	5,493	4,693	3,643	3,268	3,166	4,007	4,186	4
Robbery	3,064	2,963	2,496	2,557	2,244	1,832	1,499	1,497	1,327	1,435	8
Other violence	2,957	3,043	3,005	3,265	2,426	1,902	1,813	1,504	1,322	1,438	9
<b>Sexual crimes<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>6,552</b>	<b>6,331</b>	<b>6,527</b>	<b>6,696</b>	<b>7,361</b>	<b>7,693</b>	<b>8,604</b>	<b>9,557</b>	<b>10,273</b>	<b>10,822</b>	<b>5</b>
Rape & attempted rape	1,053	963	996	1,131	1,274	1,462	1,808	1,901	1,809	1,878	4
Sexual assault	3,502	3,297	3,412	3,220	2,908	3,008	3,405	3,727	3,963	4,281	8
Crimes associated with prostitution	682	765	661	576	567	534	490	374	247	303	23
Other sexual crimes	1,315	1,306	1,458	1,769	2,612	2,689	2,901	3,555	4,254	4,360	2
<b>Crimes of dishonesty</b>	<b>166,718</b>	<b>167,812</b>	<b>153,256</b>	<b>155,870</b>	<b>154,337</b>	<b>135,899</b>	<b>137,324</b>	<b>126,857</b>	<b>115,789</b>	<b>113,205</b>	<b>-2</b>
Housebreaking <sup>6</sup>	25,443	25,496	23,774	25,017	24,222	21,515	22,272	20,607	17,637	16,299	-8
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	6,378	6,952	5,074	4,059	3,529	3,239	3,218	2,879	2,193	1,940	-12
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	15,217	13,649	10,173	9,495	8,988	6,159	6,189	5,816	4,684	3,888	-17
Theft of a motor vehicle	12,105	11,551	9,304	8,716	7,060	5,731	5,976	5,423	5,028	5,216	4
Shoplifting	29,186	32,048	30,332	29,660	29,758	26,449	27,693	27,364	28,424	28,650	1
Other theft	64,645	64,384	61,008	64,680	66,681	58,704	58,794	53,539	46,419	45,173	-3
Fraud	8,409	8,316	8,283	8,983	8,892	8,898	8,088	6,913	7,400	7,811	6
Other dishonesty	5,335	5,416	5,308	5,260	5,207	5,204	5,094	4,316	4,004	4,228	6
<b>Fire-raising, vandalism etc.</b>	<b>118,025</b>	<b>109,430</b>	<b>93,443</b>	<b>82,020</b>	<b>75,201</b>	<b>59,479</b>	<b>54,418</b>	<b>52,091</b>	<b>54,226</b>	<b>52,514</b>	<b>-3</b>
Fire-raising	4,635	4,651	4,244	3,966	3,755	3,066	2,549	2,351	2,595	2,793	8
Vandalism etc.	113,390	104,779	89,199	78,054	71,446	56,413	51,869	49,740	51,631	49,721	-4
<b>Other crimes</b>	<b>81,340</b>	<b>81,248</b>	<b>73,670</b>	<b>67,224</b>	<b>67,805</b>	<b>62,514</b>	<b>63,365</b>	<b>61,573</b>	<b>59,218</b>	<b>54,946</b>	<b>-7</b>
Crimes against public justice	31,353	29,493	26,885	26,294	26,635	23,401	23,610	21,100	20,361	18,795	-8
Handling offensive weapons	8,989	8,980	7,042	6,283	5,631	4,015	3,795	3,289	3,111	3,271	5
Drugs	40,746	42,509	39,408	34,347	35,157	34,688	35,616	36,836	35,479	32,641	-8
Other	252	266	335	300	382	410	344	348	267	239	-10

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 6.

**Table 7: Offences recorded by the police, Scotland, 2007-08 to 2016-17<sup>2</sup>**

Offence group	Number & Percentage										
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	% change 15-16 to 16-17
<b>Total offences<sup>10</sup></b>							<b>501,281</b>	<b>379,498</b>	<b>339,193</b>	<b>288,961</b>	<b>-15</b>
<b>Miscellaneous offences<sup>7</sup></b>		<b>228,854</b>	<b>232,846</b>	<b>211,655</b>	<b>210,135</b>	<b>203,063</b>	<b>207,190</b>	<b>183,513</b>	<b>168,896</b>	<b>150,793</b>	<b>-11</b>
Common assault <sup>4</sup>	73,523	74,130	72,212	70,786	69,253	60,955	60,357	58,178	58,596	57,861	-1
Breach of the peace etc. <sup>8</sup>	92,206	93,327	87,403	70,468	71,451	70,301	71,288	63,205	62,233	58,235	-6
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct <sup>7</sup>		31,307	39,545	37,451	37,458	39,238	43,043	35,524	24,639	15,796	-36
Urinating etc.	8,384	10,717	14,186	13,620	13,602	15,420	15,361	11,216	7,700	4,505	-41
Other <sup>7</sup>		19,373	19,500	19,330	18,371	17,149	17,141	15,390	15,728	14,396	-8
<b>Motor vehicle offences<sup>10</sup></b>							<b>294,091</b>	<b>195,985</b>	<b>170,297</b>	<b>138,168</b>	<b>-19</b>
Dangerous and careless driving	12,964	11,519	11,073	9,839	9,853	10,530	11,524	10,773	12,057	11,693	-3
Driving under the influence	10,697	9,800	8,504	7,563	7,445	6,433	6,079	5,218	5,458	5,917	8
Speeding <sup>10</sup>							82,382	60,926	54,419	34,371	-37
Unlawful use of vehicle <sup>10</sup>							57,779	40,855	41,470	45,978	11
Vehicle defect offences <sup>10</sup>							20,923	15,593	13,070	8,385	-36
Seat belt offences <sup>7</sup>		26,225	29,324	29,171	31,505	33,047	37,880	15,619	8,059	4,502	-44
Mobile phone offences <sup>7</sup>		23,957	26,146	27,736	29,110	30,875	35,764	17,978	10,085	6,709	-33
Other <sup>10</sup>							41,760	29,023	25,679	20,613	-20

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 6.

**Table 8: Crimes and offences recorded in Scotland per 10,000 population<sup>11</sup>, 2007-08 to 2016-17<sup>2</sup>**

Crime / Offence group	Percentage									
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
<b>Total crimes</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>442</b>
<b>Non-sexual crimes of violence</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>
Homicide etc. <sup>3</sup> (incl. causing death by driving)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted murder & serious assault <sup>4</sup>	13	12	11	10	9	7	6	6	7	8
Robbery	6	6	5	5	4	3	3	3	2	3
Other violence	6	6	6	6	5	4	3	3	2	3
<b>Sexual crimes<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
Rape & attempted rape	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	3	3
Sexual assault	7	6	7	6	5	6	6	7	7	8
Crimes associated with prostitution	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Other sexual crimes	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	7	8	8
<b>Crimes of dishonesty</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>209</b>
Housebreaking <sup>6</sup>	49	49	45	48	46	40	42	39	33	30
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	12	13	10	8	7	6	6	5	4	4
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	29	26	19	18	17	12	12	11	9	7
Theft of a motor vehicle	23	22	18	17	13	11	11	10	9	10
Shoplifting	56	62	58	56	56	50	52	51	53	53
Other theft	125	124	117	123	126	110	110	100	86	84
Fraud	16	16	16	17	17	17	15	13	14	14
Other dishonesty	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	8	7	8
<b>Fire-raising, vandalism etc.</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>97</b>
Fire-raising	9	9	8	8	7	6	5	4	5	5
Vandalism etc.	219	201	170	148	135	106	97	93	96	92
<b>Other crimes</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>102</b>
Crimes against public justice	61	57	51	50	50	44	44	39	38	35
Handling offensive weapons	17	17	13	12	11	8	7	6	6	6
Drugs	79	82	75	65	66	65	67	69	66	60
Other	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
<b>Total offences<sup>10</sup></b>							<b>941</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>535</b>
<b>Miscellaneous offences<sup>7</sup></b>		<b>440</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>279</b>
Common assault <sup>4</sup>	142	142	138	135	131	115	113	109	109	107
Breach of the peace etc. <sup>8</sup>	178	179	167	134	135	132	134	118	116	108
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct <sup>7</sup>		60	76	71	71	74	81	66	46	29
Urinating etc.	16	21	27	26	26	29	29	21	14	8
Other <sup>7</sup>		37	37	37	35	32	32	29	29	27
<b>Motor vehicle offences<sup>10</sup></b>							<b>552</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>256</b>
Dangerous and careless driving	25	22	21	19	19	20	22	20	22	22
Driving under the influence	21	19	16	14	14	12	11	10	10	11
Speeding <sup>10</sup>							155	114	101	64
Unlawful use of vehicle <sup>10</sup>							108	76	77	85
Vehicle defect offences <sup>10</sup>							39	29	24	16
Seat belt offences <sup>7</sup>		50	56	55	59	62	71	29	15	8
Mobile phone offences <sup>7</sup>		46	50	53	55	58	67	34	19	12
Other <sup>10</sup>							78	54	48	38

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 6.

**Table 9: Crimes and offences recorded by local authority area, 2016-17**

Local authority area	Non-sexual crimes of violence						Total crimes	Miscellaneous offences	Motor vehicle offences	Total offences	Total crimes and offences	Number
	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	Total crimes	Total offences						Total crimes and offences
Aberdeen City	401	683	7,415	2,312	3,123	13,934	7,607	7,226	14,833	28,767		
Aberdeenshire	212	445	2,889	1,357	1,476	6,379	3,661	5,450	9,111	15,490		
Angus	110	235	1,419	898	672	3,334	2,504	3,892	6,396	9,730		
Argyll & Bute	51	137	718	590	673	2,169	2,029	2,829	4,858	7,027		
Clackmannanshire	60	89	768	651	501	2,069	1,473	1,251	2,724	4,793		
Dumfries & Galloway	152	388	1,952	1,586	1,887	5,965	3,925	8,950	12,875	18,840		
Dundee City	260	526	4,390	1,916	1,810	8,902	4,887	5,349	10,236	19,138		
East Ayrshire	143	151	2,241	1,393	1,372	5,300	3,388	2,647	6,035	11,335		
East Dunbartonshire	86	141	1,553	543	524	2,847	1,465	1,073	2,538	5,385		
East Lothian	96	160	1,861	876	576	3,569	1,539	989	2,528	6,097		
East Renfrewshire	55	106	936	564	493	2,154	1,179	929	2,108	4,262		
Edinburgh, City of	771	968	18,116	5,696	4,007	29,558	12,967	8,808	21,775	51,333		
Falkirk	197	297	2,462	1,418	1,339	5,713	4,029	4,609	8,638	14,351		
Fife	439	893	6,075	3,335	2,683	13,425	9,326	8,791	18,117	31,542		
Glasgow City	1,539	1,691	21,259	8,174	11,240	43,903	33,364	19,524	52,888	96,791		
Highland	227	559	2,972	1,815	2,119	7,692	5,255	10,583	15,838	23,530		
Inverclyde	94	158	1,276	904	1,183	3,615	1,994	2,149	4,143	7,758		
Midlothian	98	157	2,320	1,175	873	4,623	2,073	1,269	3,342	7,965		
Moray	86	221	966	674	661	2,608	2,193	2,980	5,173	7,781		
Na h-Eileanan Siar	14	39	133	86	105	377	304	730	1,034	1,411		
North Ayrshire	170	215	2,810	1,570	1,373	6,138	3,873	2,487	6,360	12,498		
North Lanarkshire	398	478	7,400	4,028	4,060	16,364	10,309	6,425	16,734	33,098		
Orkney Islands	12	31	121	94	57	315	278	412	690	1,005		
Perth & Kinross	168	308	2,040	817	1,194	4,527	2,400	4,298	6,698	11,225		
Renfrewshire	257	302	3,072	1,606	2,431	7,668	5,846	4,243	10,089	17,757		
Scottish Borders	98	159	1,353	812	631	3,053	1,871	1,953	3,824	6,877		
Shetland Islands	11	22	125	86	161	405	314	698	1,012	1,417		
South Ayrshire	110	174	2,002	868	944	4,098	2,626	2,781	5,407	9,505		
South Lanarkshire	352	391	5,756	3,067	3,149	12,715	8,544	5,157	13,701	26,416		
Stirling	85	138	1,463	791	928	3,405	2,127	3,533	5,660	9,065		
West Dunbartonshire	138	154	1,839	1,071	1,310	4,512	3,269	2,769	6,038	10,550		
West Lothian	274	406	3,503	1,741	1,391	7,315	4,174	3,384	7,558	14,873		
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	<b>7,164</b>	<b>10,822</b>	<b>113,205</b>	<b>52,514</b>	<b>54,946</b>	<b>238,651</b>	<b>150,793</b>	<b>138,168</b>	<b>288,961</b>	<b>527,612</b>		



**Table 10: Number of crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 1971 to 2016-17**

Year	Number					Total crimes
	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	
1971	5,532	4,611	173,940	21,962	4,921	210,966
1972	5,642	4,333	171,904	24,934	5,716	212,529
1973	5,334	4,471	160,527	30,939	6,507	207,778
1974	5,920	4,111	186,304	30,835	6,385	233,555
1975 <sup>12</sup>	7,353	4,263	227,264	36,517	6,088	281,485
1976	8,056	4,290	254,880	43,757	6,894	317,877
1977	8,154	4,368	290,245	53,125	7,490	363,382
1978	8,168	4,653	262,576	51,148	8,412	334,957
1979	7,988	4,673	269,193	56,138	8,688	346,680
1980	8,821	5,244	279,793	60,121	10,608	364,587
1981	9,266	4,794	320,003	61,725	12,416	408,204
1982	9,408	4,996	340,070	66,013	14,594	435,081
1983	9,926	5,474	342,452	73,060	14,583	445,495
1984	10,706	5,710	359,196	79,054	16,977	471,643
1985	11,456	5,741	342,349	79,545	18,808	457,899
1986	11,818	5,354	342,522	78,891	20,020	458,605
1987	13,686	5,266	356,527	76,444	21,024	472,947
1988	13,384	5,057	344,509	73,518	21,453	457,921
1989	13,606	5,742	355,525	79,062	24,273	478,208
1990	13,098	6,034	385,152	86,457	27,781	518,522
1991	15,562	5,844	430,153	89,726	31,636	572,921
1992	16,764	6,150	414,992	92,237	34,747	564,890
1993	14,252	6,047	374,937	84,194	37,817	517,247
1994	14,492	5,998	350,346	88,543	40,731	500,110
1995-96	14,981	5,740	319,269	88,839	49,310	478,139
1996-97	14,233	5,941	285,785	86,025	48,703	440,687
1997-98	13,394	7,414	266,886	81,036	52,272	421,002
1998-99	14,693	7,071	276,974	77,624	57,734	434,096
1999-00	15,831	5,882	275,557	81,197	57,014	435,481
2000-01	14,812	5,727	253,295	85,781	58,879	418,494
2001-02	15,653	5,994	242,878	94,944	66,719	426,188
2002-03	16,074	6,623	224,785	97,598	73,201	418,281
2003-04	15,187	6,785	211,004	103,732	77,506	414,214
2004-05	14,728	7,325	210,365	128,566	77,139	438,123
2005-06	13,726	6,558	187,798	127,889	81,814	417,785
2006-07	14,099	6,726	183,760	129,734	84,938	419,257
2007-08	12,874	6,552	166,718	118,025	81,340	385,509
2008-09	12,612	6,331	167,812	109,430	81,248	377,433
2009-10	11,228	6,527	153,256	93,443	73,670	338,124
2010-11	11,438	6,696	155,870	82,020	67,223	323,247
2011-12	9,533	7,361	154,337	75,201	67,756	314,188
2012-13	7,530	7,693	135,899	59,479	62,452	273,053
2013-14	6,785	8,604	137,324	54,418	63,266	270,397
2014-15	6,357	9,557	126,857	52,091	61,488	256,350
2015-16	6,775	10,273	115,789	54,226	59,180	246,243
2016-17	7,164	10,822	113,205	52,514	54,946	238,651

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 6.

**Table 11: Crimes recorded per 10,000 population<sup>11</sup>, Scotland, 1971 to 2016-17**

Year	Rate per 10,000 population						Population
	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	Total crimes	
1971	11	9	332	42	9	403	5,235,600
1972	11	8	329	48	11	406	5,230,600
1973	10	9	307	59	12	397	5,233,900
1974	11	8	355	59	12	446	5,240,800
1975 <sup>12</sup>	14	8	434	70	12	538	5,232,400
1976	15	8	487	84	13	607	5,233,400
1977	16	8	555	102	14	695	5,226,200
1978	16	9	504	98	16	643	5,212,300
1979	15	9	517	108	17	666	5,203,600
1980	17	10	539	116	20	702	5,193,900
1981	18	9	618	119	24	788	5,180,200
1982	18	10	658	128	28	842	5,164,540
1983	19	11	665	142	28	865	5,148,120
1984	21	11	699	154	33	918	5,138,880
1985	22	11	668	155	37	893	5,127,890
1986	23	10	670	154	39	897	5,111,760
1987	27	10	699	150	41	928	5,099,020
1988	26	10	679	145	42	902	5,077,440
1989	27	11	700	156	48	942	5,078,190
1990	26	12	758	170	55	1,020	5,081,270
1991	31	11	846	177	62	1,127	5,083,330
1992	33	12	816	181	68	1,111	5,085,620
1993	28	12	736	165	74	1,016	5,092,460
1994	28	12	687	174	80	980	5,102,210
1995-96	29	11	626	174	97	937	5,103,690
1996-97	28	12	561	169	96	865	5,092,190
1997-98	26	15	525	159	103	828	5,083,340
1998-99	29	14	546	153	114	855	5,077,070
1999-00	31	12	543	160	112	859	5,071,950
2000-01	29	11	500	169	116	827	5,062,940
2001-02	31	12	480	187	132	842	5,064,200
2002-03	32	13	444	193	144	826	5,066,000
2003-04	30	13	416	205	153	817	5,068,500
2004-05	29	14	414	253	152	862	5,084,300
2005-06	27	13	367	250	160	818	5,110,200
2006-07	27	13	358	253	165	817	5,133,100
2007-08	25	13	322	228	157	746	5,170,000
2008-09	24	12	323	210	156	725	5,202,900
2009-10	21	12	293	179	141	646	5,231,900
2010-11	22	13	296	156	128	614	5,262,200
2011-12	18	14	291	142	128	593	5,299,900
2012-13	14	14	256	112	118	514	5,313,600
2013-14	13	16	258	102	119	508	5,327,700
2014-15	12	18	237	97	115	479	5,347,600
2015-16	13	19	216	101	110	458	5,373,000
2016-17	13	20	209	97	102	442	5,404,700

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 6.

**Table A1: Sexual crimes<sup>5</sup> recorded by the police, Scotland, 2007-08 to 2016-17**

Sexual crimes	Number & Percentage										
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	% change 15-16 to 16-17
<b>Rape &amp; attempted rape</b>	<b>1,053</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>1,462</b>	<b>1,808</b>	<b>1,901</b>	<b>1,809</b>	<b>1,878</b>	<b>4</b>
Rape	908	821	884	997	1,183	1,372	1,690	1,797	1,692	1,755	4
Attempted rape	145	142	112	134	91	90	118	104	117	123	5
<b>Sexual assault</b>	<b>3,502</b>	<b>3,297</b>	<b>3,412</b>	<b>3,220</b>	<b>2,908</b>	<b>3,008</b>	<b>3,405</b>	<b>3,727</b>	<b>3,963</b>	<b>4,281</b>	<b>8</b>
Sexual assault including against children	1,721	1,681	1,737	1,774	2,056	2,166	2,449	2,713	2,892	2,954	2
<i>Sexual assault committed prior to 1 December 2010</i>	1,666	1,640	1,685	1,275	288	316	358	347	344	378	10
<i>Sexual assault against an adult 16+</i>	~	~	~	321	1,139	1,149	1,323	1,434	1,597	1,615	1
<i>Sexual assault against a child aged 13-15</i>	~	~	~	67	245	312	372	457	462	423	-8
<i>Sexual assault against a child under 13</i>	55	41	52	111	384	389	396	475	489	538	10
Lewd and libidinous practices	1,781	1,616	1,675	1,446	852	842	956	1,014	1,071	1,327	24
<b>Crimes associated with prostitution</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>23</b>
Crimes relating to prostitution	525	533	418	353	344	348	295	179	146	194	33
Soliciting services of person engaged in prostitution	101	172	162	154	149	133	117	138	64	58	-9
Brothel keeping	27	24	34	21	36	28	32	36	17	14	-18
Immoral traffic	16	21	36	33	26	14	32	13	7	26	271
Procuration	13	15	11	15	12	11	14	8	13	11	-15
<b>Other</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>1,306</b>	<b>1,458</b>	<b>1,769</b>	<b>2,612</b>	<b>2,689</b>	<b>2,901</b>	<b>3,555</b>	<b>4,254</b>	<b>4,360</b>	<b>2</b>
Other sexually coercive conduct	~	~	~	155	660	823	956	1,508	2,008	2,303	15
<i>Other sexually coercive conduct against an adult 16+</i>	~	~	~	53	247	339	343	790	1,198	1,343	12
<i>Other sexually coercive conduct against a child aged 13-15</i>	~	~	~	48	181	256	365	333	350	408	17
<i>Other sexually coercive conduct against a child under 13</i>	~	~	~	54	232	228	248	385	460	552	20
Other sexual crimes involving 13-15 year old children	394	370	445	441	516	429	434	417	485	452	-7
Taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children	*	*	69	225	375	595	621	603	645	649	1
Incest	18	19	49	17	18	16	11	7	8	5	-38
Illegal homosexual acts	87	97	74	118	46	45	53	56	78	111	42
Indecent exposure	786	786	766	742	894	680	682	784	726	523	-28
Other sexual crimes	30	34	55	71	103	101	144	180	304	317	4
<b>Total Sexual crimes<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>6,552</b>	<b>6,331</b>	<b>6,527</b>	<b>6,696</b>	<b>7,361</b>	<b>7,693</b>	<b>8,604</b>	<b>9,557</b>	<b>10,273</b>	<b>10,822</b>	<b>5</b>

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 6.

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

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

**Table A2: Theft by Housebreaking<sup>13</sup> (including attempts and housebreaking 'with intent'), Scotland, 2007-08 to 2016-17**

Crime category	Number & Percentage										% change 15-16 to 16-17
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	
Domestic:	17,465	17,223	16,727	17,657	17,375	15,656	16,334	15,166	13,051	12,036	-8
Dwelling	12,437	12,133	11,790	12,633	12,198	10,767	10,732	9,590	8,854	8,169	-8
Non-dwelling	5,028	5,090	4,937	5,024	5,177	4,889	5,602	5,576	4,197	3,867	-8
Other	7,978	8,273	7,047	7,360	6,847	5,859	5,938	5,441	4,586	4,263	-7
<b>Total Housebreaking</b>	<b>25,443</b>	<b>25,496</b>	<b>23,774</b>	<b>25,017</b>	<b>24,222</b>	<b>21,515</b>	<b>22,272</b>	<b>20,607</b>	<b>17,637</b>	<b>16,299</b>	<b>-8</b>
<b>Percentage Domestic</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>74%</b>	

**Table A3: Theft of, and from, motor vehicles recorded by the police, Scotland, 2007-08 to 2016-17**

Crime category	Number & Percentage										% change 15-16 to 16-17
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	
Theft from motor vehicle of which:	21,944	20,825	17,075	16,531	16,906	13,323	13,821	12,933	11,081	10,162	-8
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	11,181	9,847	7,400	6,795	6,386	4,404	4,450	4,173	3,285	2,715	-17
OLP with intent to steal	2,695	2,613	1,812	1,793	1,792	1,198	1,152	1,119	964	733	-24
Attempted theft OLP	1,341	1,189	961	907	810	557	587	524	435	440	1
Other theft	6,727	7,176	6,902	7,036	7,918	7,164	7,632	7,117	6,397	6,274	-2
Theft of motor vehicle	9,864	9,407	7,706	7,325	6,087	5,149	5,340	4,866	4,597	4,696	2
Attempted theft of motor vehicle	2,241	2,144	1,598	1,391	973	582	636	557	431	520	21
<b>Total Motor vehicle theft</b>	<b>34,049</b>	<b>32,376</b>	<b>26,379</b>	<b>25,247</b>	<b>23,966</b>	<b>19,054</b>	<b>19,797</b>	<b>18,356</b>	<b>16,109</b>	<b>15,378</b>	<b>-5</b>

**Table A4: Crimes of Handling offensive weapons recorded by the police, Scotland, 2007-08 to 2016-17**

Crime category	Number & Percentage										% change 15-16 to 16-17
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	
Possession of an offensive weapon	5,398	4,892	3,839	3,248	2,820	1,863	1,728	1,380	1,149	1,156	1
Restriction of an offensive weapon	3	8	9	20	19	17	6	17	11	23	109
Having in a public place an article with a blade or point	3,588	4,080	3,194	3,015	2,792	2,135	2,061	1,892	1,951	2,092	7
<b>Total Handling offensive weapons</b>	<b>8,989</b>	<b>8,980</b>	<b>7,042</b>	<b>6,283</b>	<b>5,631</b>	<b>4,015</b>	<b>3,795</b>	<b>3,289</b>	<b>3,111</b>	<b>3,271</b>	<b>5</b>

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 6.

**Table A5: Drug crimes recorded by the police, Scotland 2007-08 to 2016-17**

Crime category	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Number & Percentage	
										2016-17	% change 15-16 to 16-17
Illegal importation of drugs	9	9	17	30	19	24	27	21	52	64	23
Illegal cultivation of drugs	490	609	753	964	1,242	1,251	1,185	1,066	1,036	822	-21
Possession of drugs with intent to supply	9,328	9,697	9,131	6,144	5,423	3,861	3,594	3,700	3,976	3,531	-11
Possession of drugs	30,559	31,805	29,179	26,960	28,326	29,150	30,451	31,632	29,929	27,766	-7
Drugs, other offences, money laundering	360	389	328	249	147	402	359	417	486	458	-6
<b>Total Drug crimes</b>	<b>40,746</b>	<b>42,509</b>	<b>39,408</b>	<b>34,347</b>	<b>35,157</b>	<b>34,688</b>	<b>35,616</b>	<b>36,836</b>	<b>35,479</b>	<b>32,641</b>	<b>-8</b>

**Table A6: Breach of the peace etc. offences recorded by the police, Scotland, 2012-13 to 2016-17**

Crime category	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Number & Percentage
						% change 15-16 to 16-17
Breach of the peace	25,072	21,755	14,636	12,178	8,751	-28
Threatening or abusive behaviour <sup>14</sup>	44,429	48,521	47,210	48,456	47,850	-1
Offence of stalking <sup>14</sup>	605	875	1,251	1,435	1,372	-4
Offensive behaviour at football <sup>15</sup>	154	126	102	152	247	63
Threatening communications <sup>15</sup>	41	11	6	12	15	25
<b>Total Breach of the peace etc.</b>	<b>70,301</b>	<b>71,288</b>	<b>63,205</b>	<b>62,233</b>	<b>58,235</b>	<b>-6</b>

**Table A7: Racially aggravated offences, Scotland, 2007-08 to 2016-17**

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Number & Percentage
											% change 15-16 to 16-17
Racially aggravated harassment	452	425	313	257	171	155	128	130	75	66	-12
Racially aggravated conduct	4,091	4,139	4,200	3,916	3,315	2,748	2,584	2,326	2,057	1,927	-6
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,543</b>	<b>4,564</b>	<b>4,513</b>	<b>4,173</b>	<b>3,486</b>	<b>2,903</b>	<b>2,712</b>	<b>2,456</b>	<b>2,132</b>	<b>1,993</b>	<b>-7</b>

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 6.

## Notes for Tables

1. The definition of cleared up can be found toward the start of [Chapter 4](#).
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 7.13](#) 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 7.15](#) within Annex 1.
7. Due to comparability issues, it is not possible to compare data with years prior to 2008-09. For further detail see [Paragraph 7.25](#) within Annex 2.
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. SCJS statistically significant changes (at 95% confidence interval) shown in bold.
10. Due to comparability issues, it is not possible to compare data with years prior to 2013-14. For further detail see [Paragraph 7.25](#) within Annex 2.
11. Population estimates are as at mid-year 2016 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. Data for 1975 are incomplete due to local government reorganisation.
13. For a detailed definition of housebreaking see [Paragraph 7.15](#) within Annex 1.
14. 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.
15. 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.

## 7. Annexes

### Annex 1: Data Sources and Definitions

#### Data collection:

- 7.1. The detailed classification of crimes and offences used by The Scottish Government to collect criminal statistics contains about 477 codes. These are grouped in the bulletin as shown in [Chapter 8](#). 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>.
- 7.2. 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.
- 7.3. 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 Crimes of Violence).
- 7.4. 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. To assess the extent of these amendments, we have compared the crime and offence data published for 2015-16 (which was submitted to the Scottish Government in April 2016) with what ScOMIS reported for the same period one year later (April 2017). [Table 12](#) shows the results of this exercise.

As with our analysis in previous bulletins, this comparison confirms that the extent of further amendment to police crime and offence records following the original submission of data continues to be minimal at Scotland level. This gives users confidence that the published statistics for 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 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 5 Other Crime, where a net 625 fewer crimes have been recorded following no-criming and reclassification between crime groups. This has reduced the number of Other Crimes by 1.1% from 59,180 to 58,555.

**Table 12: Revisions of crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 2015-16**

Crime or Offence Group	Number & Percentage			
	2015-16 Reporting Year			
	Submitted in April 2016	Submitted in April 2017	Difference	% Difference
<b>Total Crime and Offences</b>	<b>585,436</b>	<b>583,399</b>	<b>-2,037</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>
<b>Total Crime</b>	<b>246,243</b>	<b>244,482</b>	<b>-1,761</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>
Group 1 Non Sexual Violent Crime	6,775	6,813	38	0.6%
Group 2 Sexual Crime	10,273	10,285	12	0.1%
Group 3 Crimes of Dishonesty	115,789	114,727	-1,062	-0.9%
Group 4 Fire Raising / Vandalism etc.	54,226	54,102	-124	-0.2%
Group 5 Other Crimes	59,180	58,555	-625	-1.1%
<b>Total Offences</b>	<b>339,193</b>	<b>338,917</b>	<b>-276</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>
Group 6 Miscellaneous Offences	168,896	168,614	-282	-0.2%
Group 7 Motor Vehicle Offences	170,297	170,303	6	0.0%

- 7.5. We will continue to repeat this exercise annually, as a quality assurance exercise, to confirm that further amendments remain minimal. Despite the fact that only a very small proportion of records are amended following their original submission to the Scottish Government, it is important for National Statistics purposes that time series comparisons between 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are on a like-for-like basis. As such the 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 data used in this bulletin remains that which was submitted in April 2014, April 2015 and April 2016 respectively<sup>17</sup>, to ensure this is consistent with the timetable being followed for the submission of data for 2016-17 (i.e. the same amount of time has elapsed for amendments to records for the four reporting years based on ScOMIS).
- 7.6. This analysis demonstrates that a more up-to-date set of figures are available from ScOMIS for 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 than is included in this National Statistics publication. Given this, we asked the Scottish Crime Recording Board<sup>18</sup> to assess whether any amendment to our revisions policy should be made before the 2015-16 publication. In light of the minimal level of change following the original submission of data, the Board concluded in December 2015 that no changes were necessary to our revisions policy as our current approach was simple to understand and kept open the possibility of future publications coming out earlier in the year.
- 7.7. 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>.

<sup>17</sup> Subject to the back-dated change whereby Offences related to serious organised crime has been moved from Group 1 to Group 5. See 'Data Considerations' section.

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/SCRB>



- 7.8. 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>.
- 7.9. 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>.
- 7.10. 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 up<sup>13</sup>, as a percentage of those recorded, Scotland, 2016-17**

	Number & Percentage			
	Crimes	Crime clear up rate	Offences	Offence clear up rate
Total recorded by British Transport Police and Ministry of Defence Police	1,370	37.4%	2,981	53.9%

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 6.

In 2015 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) published Crime Audit, British Transport Police, Scotland Division. 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". Further information on the Audit is available via the following link:

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

### **Data publication in Police Scotland Quarterly Management Information Reports:**

- 7.11. In addition to the National 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 advise 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 National Statistics. The annual National Statistics published by the Scottish Government on police recorded crime are based on the same source of administrative 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:**

- 7.12. In one criminal incident, several crimes or offences may occur - e.g. a house may be broken into and vandalized, 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.
- 7.13. 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.”*

- 7.14. Attempts to commit an offence are included in the statistics, in general in the same group as the substantive offence.
- 7.15. 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.

Dwelling is defined as a house which is being used for (or fit to be used for) residential purposes. Non-dwelling is defined as all roofed buildings used for domestic purposes other than dwellings (for example Garages, Garden Huts, Outhouses, etc.). Other property is defined as all roofed buildings not used for residential or domestic purposes (for example commercial premises). Further information on the different types of building included under each of these headings is available on page 258 of the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (the manual that details rules and guidance for how crimes should be recorded):

[http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecorded Crime/SCRB/SCRSmanual](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/SCRB/SCRSmanual).

## Annex 2: Quality of the Statistics

### Governance of Data Quality for Police Recorded Crime:

- 7.16. 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 National Statistics on recorded crime is managed in an impartial and objective way, in the public interest, by Scottish Government statisticians.
- 7.17. A Scottish Crime Recording Board supports the production of accurate and objective statistics on crime in Scotland. It takes into account the needs of both users and providers in the production of crime statistics and ensures 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 outcomes, is available from the following link: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/SCRB>.
- 7.18. A Framework of Assurance is available for Recorded Crime statistics to provide evidence on:
- the suitability of the administrative data for use in producing national statistics;
  - factors that the statistical producer needs to take into account in producing the national 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. The aforementioned Crime Recording Board has responsibility for approving any changes to this product: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/FoA>.

- 7.19. On the 21st September 2016, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) published Crime Audit 2016. This audit assessed the extent to which police recording practices complied with the Scottish Crime Recording Standard and Counting Rules.

7.20. HMICS audited just over 7,000 incidents reported between the 1st January and 31st March 2016. Five categories were included, three of which related to specific crime types:

- Sexual crime
- Violent crime
- Vandalism (Damage)
- Non-crime related incidents (i.e. incidents that were potentially crime-related but which were ultimately 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 were 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<sup>19</sup> 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 out with police control).

All three tests were applied to the three crime types HMICS examined (sexual crimes, violent crime, vandalism (damage)). 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.

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

<http://www.hmics.org/publications/hmics-crime-audit-2016>.

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<sup>19</sup> Subsuming refers to the practice of counting multiple crimes as one crime, with less serious crimes subsumed within more serious crimes. For more information, please refer to Section D of the [Scottish Crime Recording Standard \(SCRS\)](#).

7.21. 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 Committee](#) of the Scottish Police Authority. Papers from the Committee's meetings are published, with those from meetings held in 2017 available via the following link:

<http://www.spa.police.uk/meetings-events/auditcommittee/auditcommittee2017/>

7.22. In March 2016 the Crime Board considered how the audits by both HMICS and Police Scotland could best collectively support the quality assurance of these National Statistics. It concluded that HMICS should remain the primary source of audit-based assurance, given their role as an independent auditor. The results of Police Scotland's audit process will still be fed back to the Board by the National Crime Registrar. Where statisticians consider that this information has substantial data-quality implications, they will notify users of this through future publications and the SCOTSTAT network. Users will also be kept informed of any Crime Board action(s) taken in response.

#### **Quality Assurance of Submitted Data:**

7.23. 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.

7.24. Detailed information on the quality assurance processes applied to recorded crime data is available in the Scottish Crime Statistics: Quality Assurance process document, available via the following link:

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

7.25. Before the publication of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin, an extensive quality assurance exercise was carried out to ensure consistency of data pre- and post-police reform, and to check the quality of recorded crime data supplied by the police. This followed 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.

In terms of comparability, the Scottish Government are satisfied that crime data, Groups 1 to 5, are comparable pre- and post-reform. This means 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. For Group 6 – Miscellaneous Offences, all crime codes are fully comparable from 2008-09 onwards. There are greater comparability issues for Group 7 – Motor Vehicle Offences and overall comparisons should not be made prior to 2013-14.

The extent of the amendments made to the data as part of the quality assurance exercise referred to above, along with all findings of this exercise and their impact on comparability, have been published in a Technical Report, available via the following link:

[http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecorded Crime/TechnicalReport](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/TechnicalReport).

## Annex 3: Comparisons with England & Wales and Northern Ireland

- 7.26. 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.

- 7.27. Differences in legislation and common law also have to be taken into account when comparing the crime statistics for England & Wales and Scotland.
- 7.28. 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>.
- 7.29. 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: <https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/>.

- 7.30. 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 4: User Engagement

- 7.31. These statistics are used by a large number of stakeholders within central government, the police and other public bodies for a variety of purposes.
- 7.32. 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.
- 7.33. We will continue to consult with the users of the National Statistics in order to get a better understanding of who the users are and what their requirements are for both the data and the presentation of these statistics including how, when and what we publish regarding police data. This information will aid us in the continual improvement to the structure of the bulletin as well as how the statistics are presented in future publications and ultimately help to increase the use of police data in the future.

A report on the results of the previous consultation conducted from April to June 2015 can be found at the link below:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/StakeCon/RCUC2015>.

- 7.34. National 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. We always welcome feedback on the content and the uses made of our statistical bulletins and users are invited to submit their comments and any suggestions for improvement to:  
[justiceanalysts@gov.scot](mailto: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>.

- 7.35. 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 5: Upcoming Coding Changes and Future Considerations

### Changes to the Coding of Recorded Crimes and Offences:

- 7.36. Changes made to the rules governing the coding and counting of crimes and offences within the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) must be approved by the Scottish Crime Recording Board (SCRB) ([Annex 2](#) provides background information on the role of the Board). In November 2016 and March 2017 the Board approved four changes to the coding of crimes and offences, which were enacted for the 2017-18 reporting year (i.e. the year immediately following the statistics presented in this Bulletin). Further information on these changes and their likely statistical impact is shown below.
- 7.37. Aviation Offences – The SCRB decided to transfer some aviation related offences from Group 6 – Miscellaneous Offences to Group 4 – Fire-raising, vandalism etc. This includes using a light to endanger, or dazzle / distract an air pilot, or endangering the safety of an aircraft. It was felt these incidents would be more appropriately classified as culpable and reckless conduct – with a new crime code created to record them – 33016: Culpable and reckless conduct involving aircraft. Statistics for 2017-18 will be the first to reflect this change, which is likely to have a very small impact on total crimes recorded for Group 4. Statisticians will monitor the number of cases recorded against this code, so as to inform users within the 2017-18 publication of the overall impact on cases of culpable and reckless conduct recorded by the police. The Board also decided to amend the counting rule for culpable and reckless conduct from ‘one crime for each incident’ to ‘one crime for each incident per individual bus, train etc.’. This change was also enacted from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.
- 7.38. Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Bill – The Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Bill received Royal Assent in April 2016. The SCRB has approved two new crime codes to capture the charges introduced following the passage of this bill. These are 16039: Threatening to disclose an intimate image and 16040: Disclosure of an intimate image (both Group 2 – Sexual crimes). Statistics for 2017-18 will be the first to reflect these changes. Statisticians will monitor the number of cases recorded against these two new codes, so as to inform users of the impact on Group 2 Sexual crimes in the 2017-18 publication.
- 7.39. Communications Act 2003 (sexual) – The SCRB decided to transfer the offence code 59004: Communications Act 2003 (sexual), which currently sits within Group 6 – Miscellaneous offences, to Group 2 – Sexual crimes – under the new crime code 16041: Communications Act 2003 (sexual). A review of these cases determined that a large proportion were similar in characteristic to the type of activity targeted by the new Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Bill and the remainder included incidents of a sexual nature that did not quite fit with the existing definition of Communicating Indecently

or the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009, such as an individual sending the victim a sexual image of themselves. It was decided that these offences would be more appropriately classified as sexual crimes within Group 2. Statistics for 2017-18 will be the first to reflect this change.

This change involves reclassifying some activity from an offence group to a crime group, and so this will result in a small increase in total recorded crime, with 270 cases recorded in 2016-17; however, as mentioned above, some of this activity would have moved in any event, due to the new ABSH legislation. Statistics for 2016-17, will be back-revised within the 2017-18 Bulletin, to ensure time series' continuity is not affected for this year (there will be some discontinuity for earlier years as the Communications Act 2003 (sexual) cases were not separately identifiable within the statistics until 2016-17). Statisticians will monitor the number of cases recorded against the new code of 16041, so as to inform users of the impact on Group 2 Sexual crimes in 2017-18 publication.

- 7.40. Handling Offensive Weapons – In March 2017 the SCRB decided to change how crimes of Handling offensive weapons are recorded. Prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, any crime/offence committed against a person in a public setting with a weapon was recorded with the weapon possession treated as an aggravation of that crime/offence, and not as an additional separate crime. From the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, both the crime/offence committed with the weapon and the possession of the weapon are recorded as separate crimes/offences, where this occurs in a public place, school or prison.

The SCRB has approved the following six new crime codes within Group 5 – Other crimes to capture this change in recording practices:

43009: Possession of offensive weapon used in other criminal activity

43010: Having in a public place an article with a blade or point used in other criminal activity

43011: Possession of offensive weapon in a prison used in other criminal activity

43012: Having in a prison an article with a blade or point used in other criminal activity

43013: Possession of offensive weapon in a school used in other criminal activity

43014: Having in a school an article with a blade or point used in other criminal activity

Although it is not yet possible to forecast the exact impact this definitional change will have on the 2017-18 reporting year, it is expected to add around 1% to 2% to the total figure for recorded crime. Therefore, any comparison with total figures for Handling offensive weapons in previous years should be treated with caution. The creation of these new codes ensures the existing

measure of Handling offensive weapons (relating to cases where the weapon was not used in other crimes/offences) remains consistent with earlier years.

Statistics for 2017-18 will be the first to reflect these changes. Statisticians will monitor the number of cases recorded against the six new codes outlined above, so as to inform users of the impact on Group 5 Other crimes and total recorded crime in the 2017-18 publication.

## Future Considerations

7.41. The Railway Policing (Scotland) Bill received Royal Assent on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2017. The Bill confers railway policing powers on the Police Service of Scotland (i.e. Police Scotland) and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) – and removes functions from the British Transport Police, in preparation for the integration of the BTP in Scotland into Police Scotland. At present, statistics on crimes and offences recorded by the BTP in Scotland are presented separately in [Table 13](#) and are excluded from the National Statistics totals for recorded crimes and offences in Scotland (which are based on crimes and offences recorded by Police Scotland). The Scottish Crime Recording Board is currently monitoring the implementation of this Bill – to ensure the impact of this change on the preparation of the National Statistics is fully assessed, reflected upon and shared with users in a way that best adds value to the production of these statistics. Further updates will be provided through the SCOTSTAT network as they develop.

7.42. 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. As the development of Police Scotland's recording system proceeds, we will consult with our statistical users at the appropriate time.

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](mailto:justiceanalysts@gov.scot).

## Annex 6: Other Notes

7.43. 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>.

- 7.44. 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 2017-18 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/Research/by-topic/crime-and-justice>.

- 7.45. 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 Jamie Macfarlane on 0131 244 5428 or e-mail [JusticeAnalysts@gov.scot](mailto:JusticeAnalysts@gov.scot).

## 8. 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 7.13](#) 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
- Slavery or forced labour
- Human organ offences

#### **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**

(Also referred to as **Dishonesty**)

Housebreaking

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

**Group 4: Fire-raising, vandalism etc.**

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



## **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
- Psychoactive substance: production, import/export, supply or possession in custody

### Other

Includes:

- Treason
- Conspiracy
- Offences relating to serious organised crime
- 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 7.13](#) 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

## **A National Statistics publication for Scotland**

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Statistics assessed, or subject to assessment, by the UK Statistics Authority carry the National Statistics label, a stamp of assurance that the statistics have been produced and explained to high standards and that they serve the public good.

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Office of the Chief Statistician, Telephone: 0131 244 0442,  
e-mail: [statistics.enquiries@gov.scot](mailto:statistics.enquiries@gov.scot)

### **How to access background or source data**

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

- are available in more detail through [statistics.gov.scot](http://statistics.gov.scot).
- may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact [JusticeAnalysts@gov.scot](mailto: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, 2W, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail [statistics.enquiries@gov.scot](mailto:statistics.enquiries@gov.scot).

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ISBN 978-1-78851-197-1 (web only)

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