CRIME AND JUSTICE

RECORDED CRIME IN SCOTLAND, 2017-18

This bulletin presents National Statistics on crimes and offences recorded by the police in 2017-18. 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.

A procedural change was made to the recording of crime in 2017-18. Crimes of handling an offensive weapon are now included in these statistics for all cases where the weapon was used in a public place to commit a crime or offence against another person. This change has resulted in an additional 4,163 crimes of handling an offensive weapon being recorded in 2017-18.

Prior to 2017-18, where a weapon was used in a public place to commit another crime or offence against a person, the specific crime of handling an offensive weapon was treated as an aggravation of that crime or offence (for example a weapon aggravated assault). As such it was not included in the recorded crime statistics. Given this, we have advised users throughout this bulletin where some caution should be exercised when making comparisons between 2017-18 and earlier years.

Key Points from Recorded Crime in Scotland

There were 244,504 crimes recorded by the police in Scotland in 2017-18. This is the second lowest level of recorded crime since 1974.

Between 2016-17 and 2017-18:

- Crimes recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 1% - excluding those additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon, which were only recorded from 2017-18 onwards.

- If the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon are included, crimes recorded by the police increased by 2%. This is not a reliable measure given those crimes of handling an offensive weapon were not recorded prior to 2017-18.

- Non-sexual crimes of violence increased by 1% from 7,164 to 7,251. The recording of these crimes remains at a lower level than all years between 1975 and 2012-13.

- Sexual crimes increased by 13% from 11,092 to 12,487. Following the enactment of The Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016 on 3rd July 2017, part of this increase includes 421 new crimes of disclosing or threatening to disclose an intimate image. The recording of sexual crime is at the highest level seen since 1971, the first year for which comparable crime groups are available.

- Crimes of dishonesty increased by 1% from 113,205 to 114,474. The recording of these crimes is at the second lowest level seen since 1971.

- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. decreased by 2% from 52,514 to 51,322. The recording of these crimes is at the lowest level seen since 1978.

- Other crimes recorded by the police remained at similar levels to 2016-17 – excluding those additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon, which were only recorded from 2017-18 onwards.

- If the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon are included, Other crimes recorded by the police increased by 7% to 58,970. This is not a reliable measure given those crimes of handling an offensive weapon were not recorded prior to 2017-18.

Offences recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 9% from 288,691 to 264,027.

- Miscellaneous offences decreased by 9% from 150,523 to 137,012.

- Motor vehicle offences decreased by 8% from 138,168 to 127,015.

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 2017-18.

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 crime in 2017-18 was 49.5%.

- Clear up rates in 2017-18 were higher for some types of crime than others. Other crimes (89.6%), non-sexual crimes of violence (76.1%) and sexual crime (60.0%) had higher clear up rates than crimes of dishonesty (36.9%) and fire-raising, vandalism etc. (25.2%).

Between 2016-17 and 2017-18:

- The clear up rate fell by 0.9 percentage points from 50.0% to 49.1% - excluding those additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon which were only recorded from 2017-18 onwards.

- If the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon are included, the clear up rate fell by 0.5 percentage points from 50.0% to 49.5%. This is not a reliable measure of change between these two years given those crimes of handling an offensive weapon were not recorded prior to 2017-18.

Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2017-18

Number of crimes in 2017-18:

Second lowest since 1974

244,504 crimes recorded in 2017-18

1970s   1980s   1990s   2000s   2010s
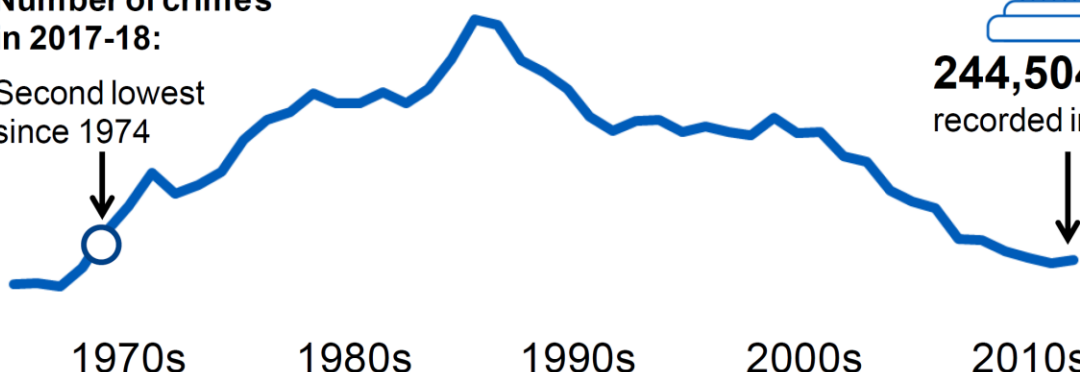
The number of crimes recorded by the police rose steadily from the 1970s to a peak in the early 1990s. Since then crime has been on a general downward trend.

Since 2016-17, crimes recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 1%
- When the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon which were only recorded from 2017-18 onwards are excluded.

Since 2008-09, most types of crime have fallen, though Sexual crime has increased

Change since: **2008-09**   **2016-17**
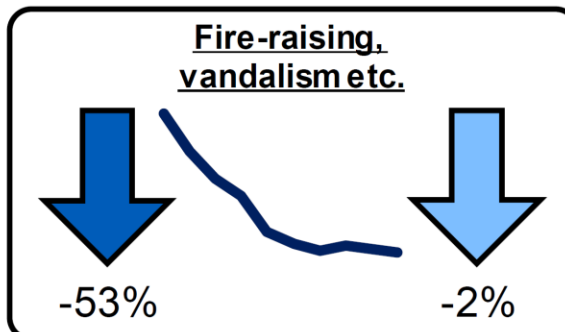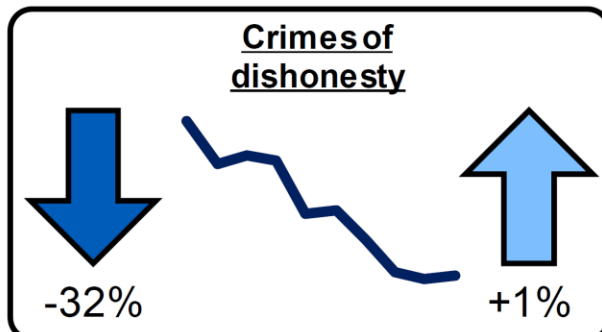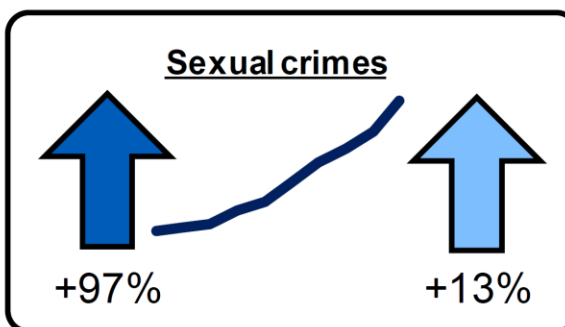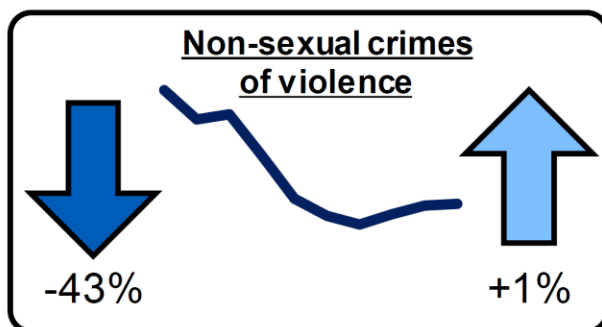
Non-sexual crimes of violence

-43%   +1%

Sexual crimes

+97%   +13%

Crimes of dishonesty

-32%   +1%

Fire-raising, vandalism etc.

-53%   -2%

Justice Analytical Services

4

Table of Contents

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/PubRecorded Crime/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:
• Non-sexual crimes of violence,	• Miscellaneous offences, and
• Sexual crimes,	• Motor vehicle offences.
• Crimes of dishonesty,	
• Fire-raising, vandalism etc., and	
• Other crimes.	

For further information on crime and offence groups, see Chapter 8.

2.5. In general, this statistical bulletin covers the ten year period from 2008-09 to 2017-18, 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/PubRecorded Crime/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.

2.8. The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) 2016/17 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 2016-17, it was estimated that 37% 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://nationalperformance.gov.scot/.

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 2017-18 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/PubRecorded Crime/UserGuide.

2.10.   A procedural change was made to how some crimes of handling an offensive weapon were recorded in 2017-18. This has had an impact on the comparability of the recorded crime statistics.

Following discussions between Justice delivery partners, the Scottish Crime Recording Board (SCRB) agreed a change in the recording of crimes of handling offensive weapons (including articles with a blade or point) in public places.

Prior to 2017-18, statistics on handling offensive weapons in public places only include incidents where the perpetrator did not commit further crimes with the weapon. If they had, the specific crime of handling an offensive weapon was considered an aggravation of the crime it was used to commit (for example an aggravated assault) and would not have been included in the statistics.

From the 1st April 2017, crimes of handling offensive weapons in public places are no longer treated as an aggravation where they are used to commit other crimes or offences against a person. As such both the crime of handling an offensive weapon in a public place and any crime or offence committed with it are now both included in the statistics. This change was made to improve consistency between the recording of these crimes and the criminal law.

As a result of this change, just over four thousand (4,163) additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon were counted in 2017-18. These crimes do not represent a real increase in recorded crime as crimes of handling an offensive weapon were not included in earlier years where those weapons were used to commit other crimes or offences against a person.

Given this, the apparent 2% increase in the number of crimes recorded by the police in Scotland from 238,921 in 2016-17 to 244,504 in 2017-18 is not a reliable measure. A better measure of change between 2016-17 and 2017-18 is to exclude the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon. When the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon are excluded from 2017-18, total crimes recorded by the police increased by 1% compared to 2016-17.

This change will also have an impact on the comparability of recorded crime statistics for all other years prior to 2017-18, however the earlier

the year selected (for example comparisons with 2008-09) the less influence this procedural change will have when set against the long term changes in total crime recorded by the police and other legislative and procedural changes made to the recording of crime during this period.

2.11. 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 since 2013-14). HMICS will continue to consider the possibility of an audit of clear up data as they develop their programme for 2019-20, with a view to providing the public and other stakeholders with an assessment of their reliability. The Office for Statistics Regulation will re-visit the statistical designation of this information once an audit has been carried out 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

Change over time

1%*   35%

↑   ↓

Since 2016-17   Since 2008-09

What makes up Recorded Crime?

- Other crimes (24%)
- Non-sexual crimes of violence (3%)
- Sexual crimes (5%)
- Crimes of dishonesty (47%)
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. (21%)

Almost half of all recorded crime is made up of Crimes of dishonesty

When the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon are excluded.
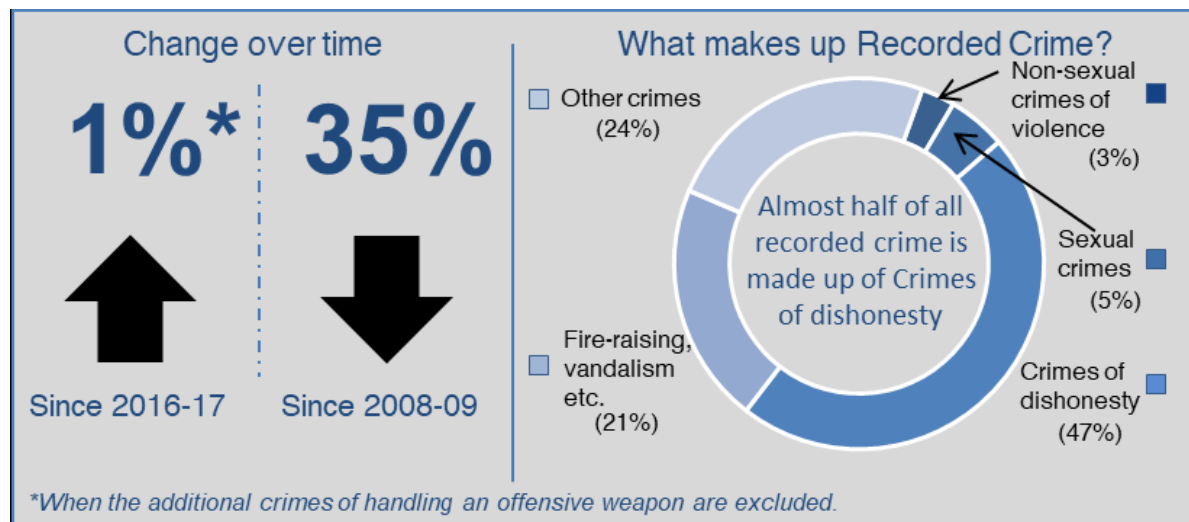
Recorded crime in 2017-18 is at its second lowest level since 1974. The total number of crimes recorded by the police in Scotland in 2017-18 was 244,504. This is 1% higher than the level recorded in 2016-17 – when the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon are excluded (Chart 1 and Table 6). If the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon are included, crimes recorded by the police increased by 2%. This is not a reliable measure given those crimes of handling an offensive weapon were not recorded prior to 2017-18.

Over the past ten years crime has been on a downward trend in Scotland, having decreased by over a third (35%) since 2008-09. Whilst this change will also be affected by the inclusion of additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon, this will have less of an impact when set against the long term changes in total crime recorded by the police and other legislative and procedural changes made to the recording of crime during this period. The small rise in recorded crime this year is set against 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 2017-18 ([Table 10](#))

No. of recorded crimes

Chart 1: Total crimes recorded by the police, 1971 to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2017-18
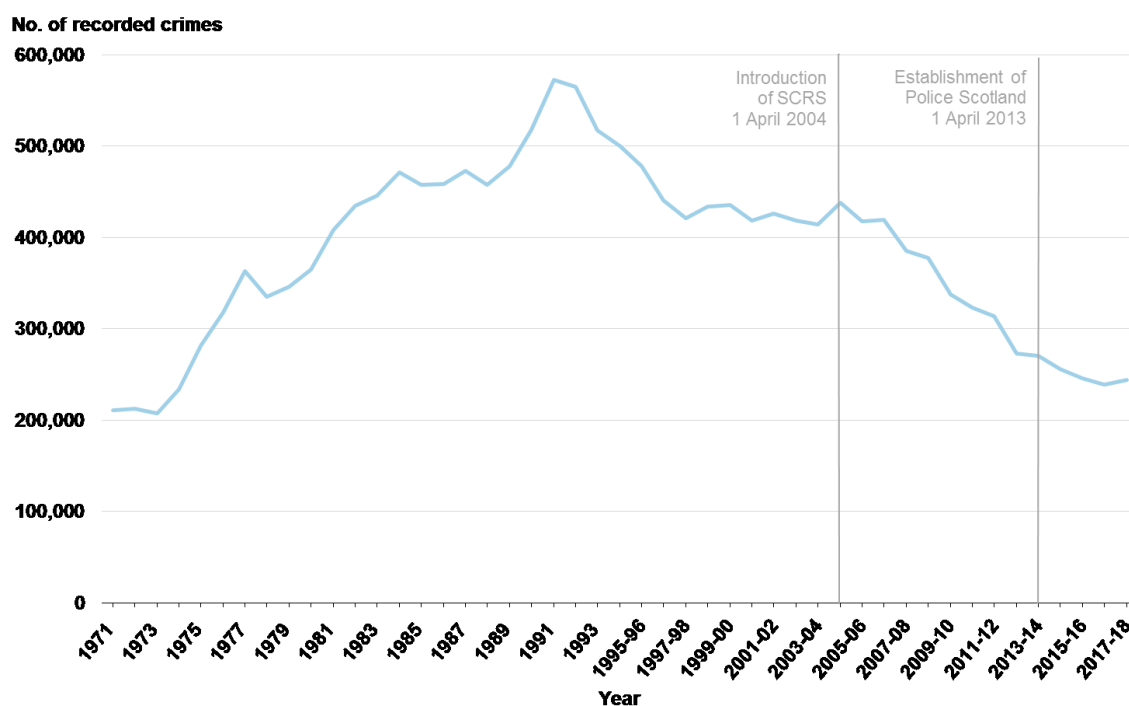
[Chart 2](#) shows the number of recorded crimes in each of the five crime groups since 1971 and gives an indication of the scale of each crime group. At 47%, Crimes of dishonesty account for almost half of all recorded crime in 2017-18. This was followed by Other crimes (24%), Fire-raising, vandalism etc. (21%), 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 2017-18 ([Table 10])

No. of recorded crimes
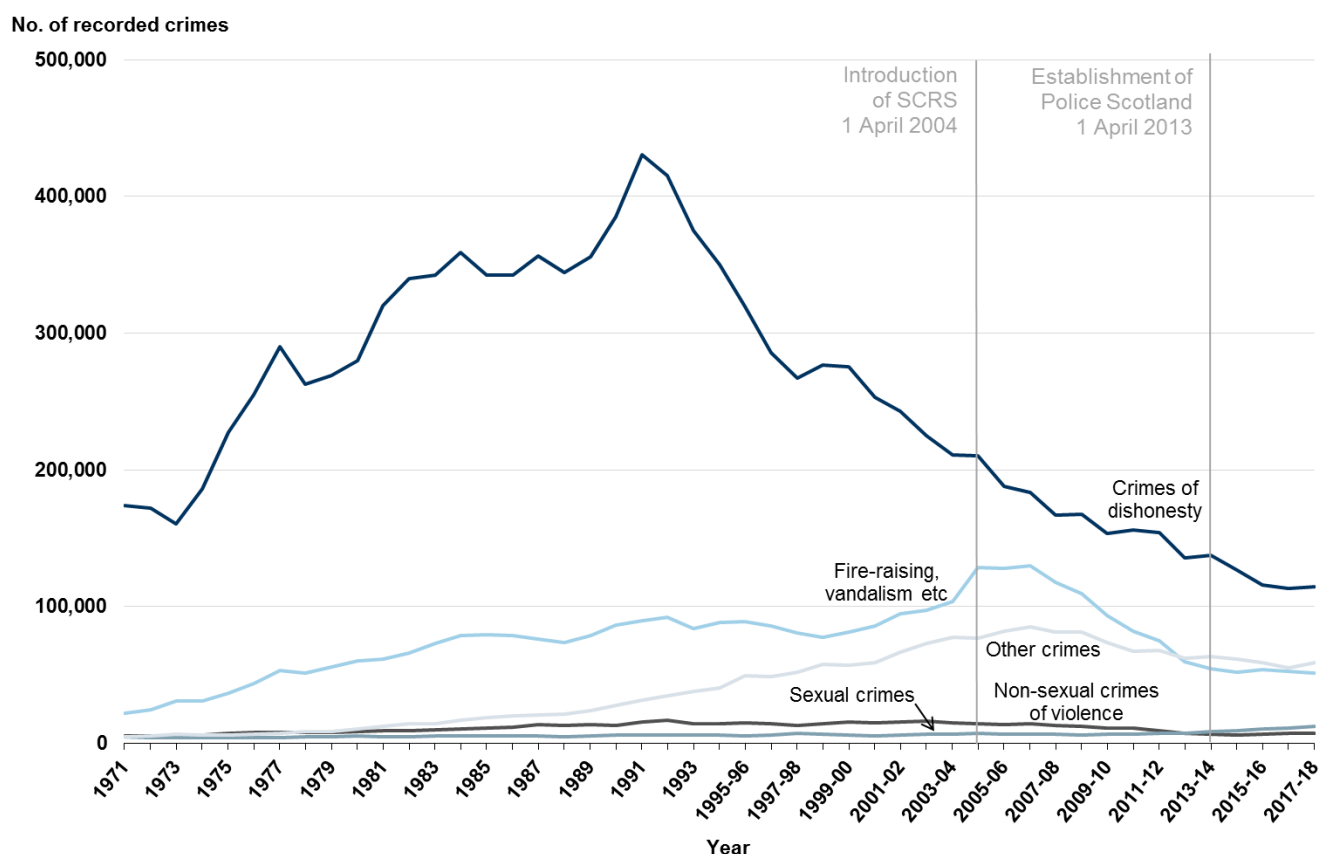
Local Authority analysis:

When the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon are excluded, fourteen local authorities showed an increase in total crime recorded between 2016-17 and 2017-18 ([Chart 3], [Table 6A]). One local authority remained the same and the remaining 17 showed a decrease from the previous year. Notwithstanding the change in weapons crime and that year-on-year figures can vary across local authorities, the long term trend of decreasing crime is broadly the same across Scotland. [Chart 4] shows that since 2008-09, all local authorities show a reduction in recorded crime, varying from 18% in East Lothian to 61% in Na h-Eileanan Siar.

In 2017-18, the largest number of crimes recorded were in Glasgow City, which includes 11% of Scotland's population[1], but accounted for 18% (43,977 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

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[1] *Population estimates are as at mid-year 2017 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).*

context – which will also likely apply to Scotland's other city based local authorities.

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

Chart 3: Change in total recorded crime between 2016-17 and 2017-18, by local authority area*

*When the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon are excluded.

Chart 4: Change in total recorded crime between 2008-09 and 2017-18, by local authority area

Local authority area

Local authority area	Percentage change
East Lothian	-18%
Dumfries & Galloway	-19%
Midlothian	-21%
Edinburgh, City of	-25%
Scottish Borders	-27%
Aberdeenshire	-28%
Falkirk	-29%
South Lanarkshire	-30%
East Renfrewshire	-32%
Dundee City	-33%
South Ayrshire	-34%
North Lanarkshire	-34%
West Lothian	-35%
SCOTLAND	-35%
Glasgow City	-36%
East Ayrshire	-36%
East Dunbartonshire	-37%
Perth & Kinross	-38%
Renfrewshire	-39%
Stirling	-39%
Fife	-41%
Aberdeen City	-42%
Angus	-42%
Highland	-43%
Inverclyde	-44%
North Ayrshire	-44%
Orkney Islands	-45%
Clackmannanshire	-45%
Moray	-48%
West Dunbartonshire	-51%
Argyll & Bute	-51%
Shetland Islands	-60%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	-61%

Percentage change 2008-09 to 2017-18

17

Crime rate per 10,000 population

There were 451 recorded crimes per 10,000 population in 2017-18, with urban areas recording the highest rates; Glasgow City (708 per 10,000 population), City of Edinburgh (645 per 10,000 population), Dundee City (602 per 10,000 population) and the Aberdeen City (547 per 10,000 population) ([Table 14](#)).

Chart 5: Total number of recorded crimes per 10,000 population[1], 2017-18

Local authority

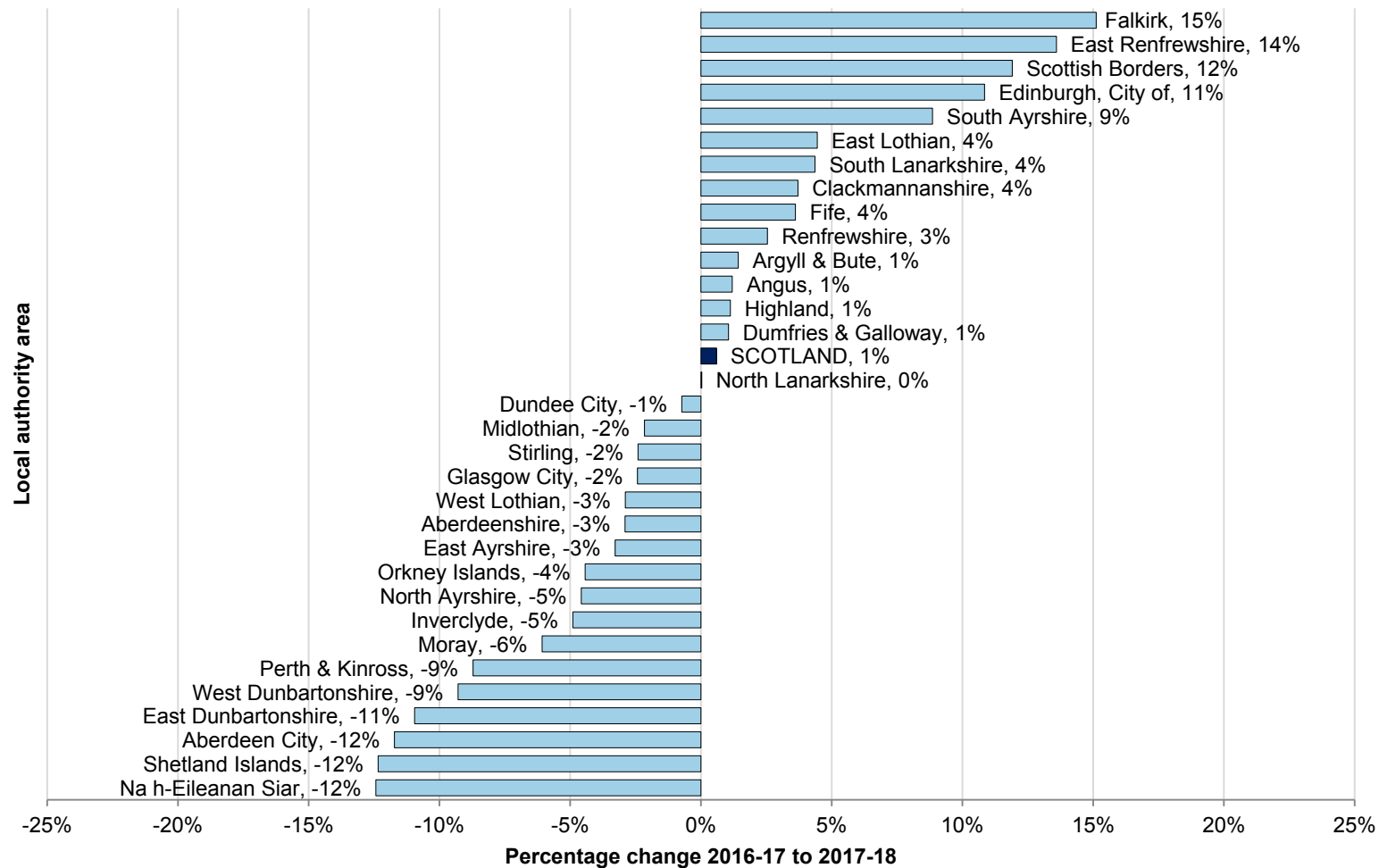| Local authority	Recorded crimes per 10,000 population
Glasgow City	708
Edinburgh City	645
Dundee City	602
Aberdeen City	547
Midlothian	507
North Lanarkshire	493
West Dunbartonshire	467
Renfrewshire	454
SCOTLAND	451
Inverclyde	445
North Ayrshire	439
East Ayrshire	427
South Lanarkshire	427
Clackmannanshire	426
Falkirk	418
Dumfries & Galloway	409
South Ayrshire	402
West Lothian	398
Fife	383
Stirling	359
East Lothian	358
Highland	335
Scottish Borders	300
Angus	296
Perth & Kinross	279
East Renfrewshire	263
Argyll & Bute	261
Moray	260
Aberdeenshire	240
East Dunbartonshire	239
Shetland Islands	154
Orkney Islands	139
Na h-Eileanan Siar	124

Recorded crimes per 10,000 population

1. Population estimates are as at mid-year 2017 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

Changes to the recording of crimes of handling offensive weapons

As outlined above. Changes in recorded crime in 2017-18 should be treated with some caution due to the addition of newly recorded crimes of handling an offensive weapon. Further information on this procedural change and its impact on the statistics are available in Section 2.10.

Data collection process

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/PubRecorded Crime/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 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: http://www.hmics.org/publications/hmics-crime-audit-2016.

HMICS audited 6,273 incidents reported to Police Scotland between 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[2] 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. Whist 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 & Inverclyde. Four divisions performed significantly better (Dumfries & Galloway, Highland & 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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[2] Correct closure means either that (a) the incident was closed as non-crime related and contained sufficient information to dispel any inference of criminality; or (b) the incident indicated a crime had occurred and a crime record was traced

Division	Local authorities
Ayrshire	East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire
Lanarkshire	North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire
Renfrewshire & 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[3].

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

Comparison with Recorded Crime (comparable crime subset):

Of the 712,000 crimes estimated by the 2016-17 SCJS, around 63 per cent (448,000) 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 2016-17 (down 39% in both cases). The reduction in SCJS estimated comparable crime, from 731,000 in 2008-09 to 448,000 in 2016-17 was a statistically significant change.

Group 1 – Non-sexual Crimes of Violence

Change over time

1% ↑ Since 2016-17

43% ↓ Since 2008-09

What makes up Crimes of violence?

Attempted murder & serious assault made up more than half of violent crime

- Other violence (19%)
- Homicide etc. (1%)
- Robbery (21%)
- Attempted murder & serious assault (58%)
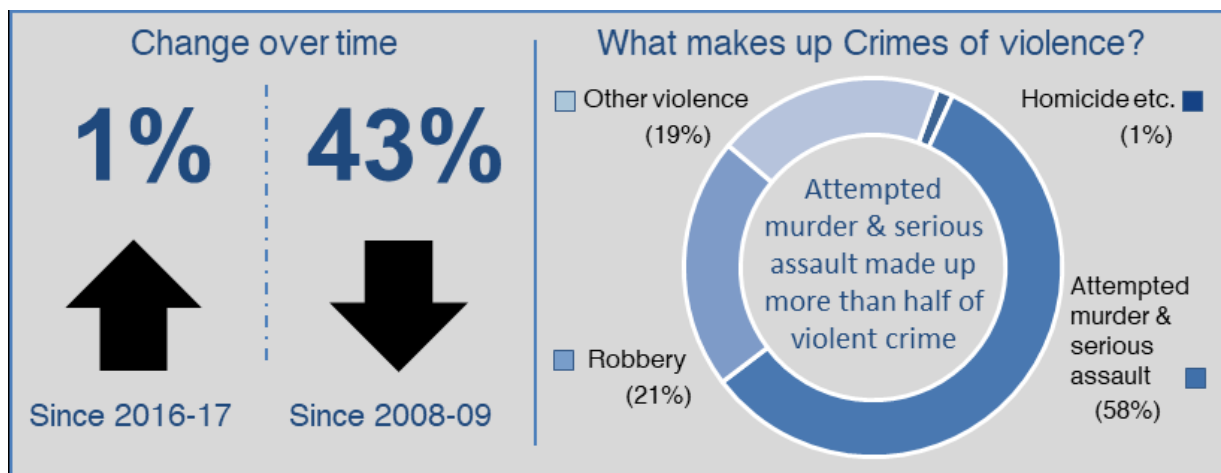
Number of Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded in 2017-18:

Non-sexual crimes of violence account for 3% of all crimes recorded in Scotland in 2017-18. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, the number of Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 1%, from 7,164 to 7,251.

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 three 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[1] to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2017-18 (Table 10)
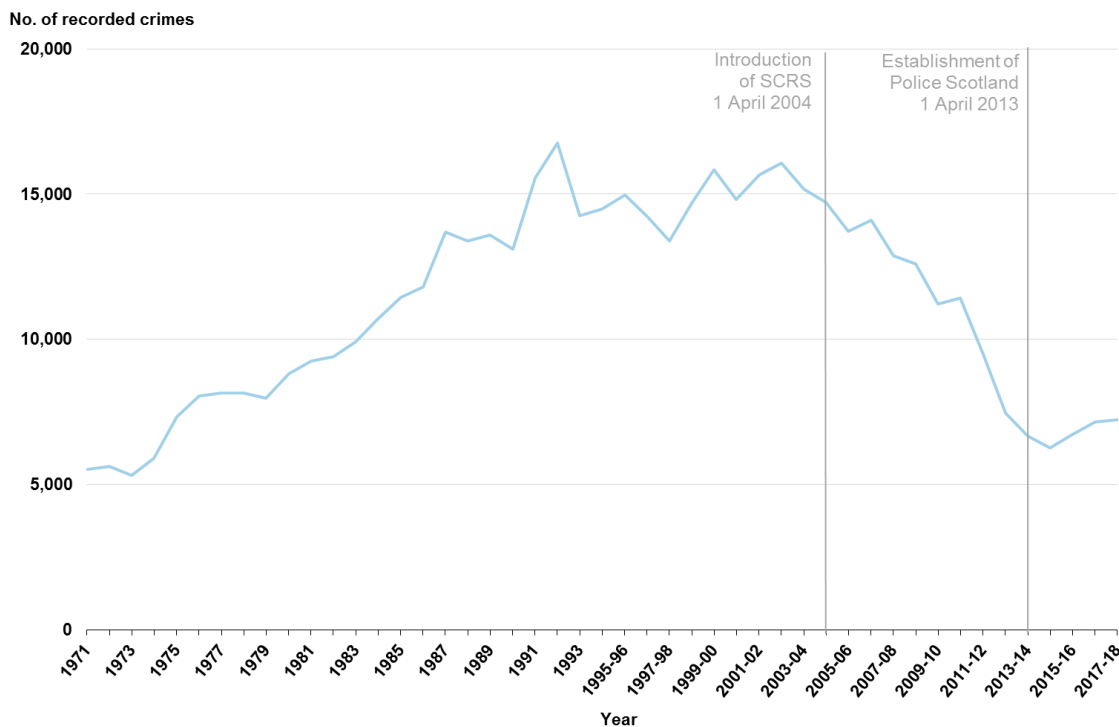
1. Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

In 2017-18, 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 (3 per 10,000 population) (Table 14).

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 2017-18, the volume of recorded crimes of Attempted murder and serious assault made up 58% of all Non-sexual crimes of violence. Crimes of Robbery and Other violence accounted for 21% and 19% respectively of Non-sexual crimes of violence. Homicide etc. continues to contribute a very small proportion (1%) to the total.

Chart 7: Non-sexual crimes of violence in Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18
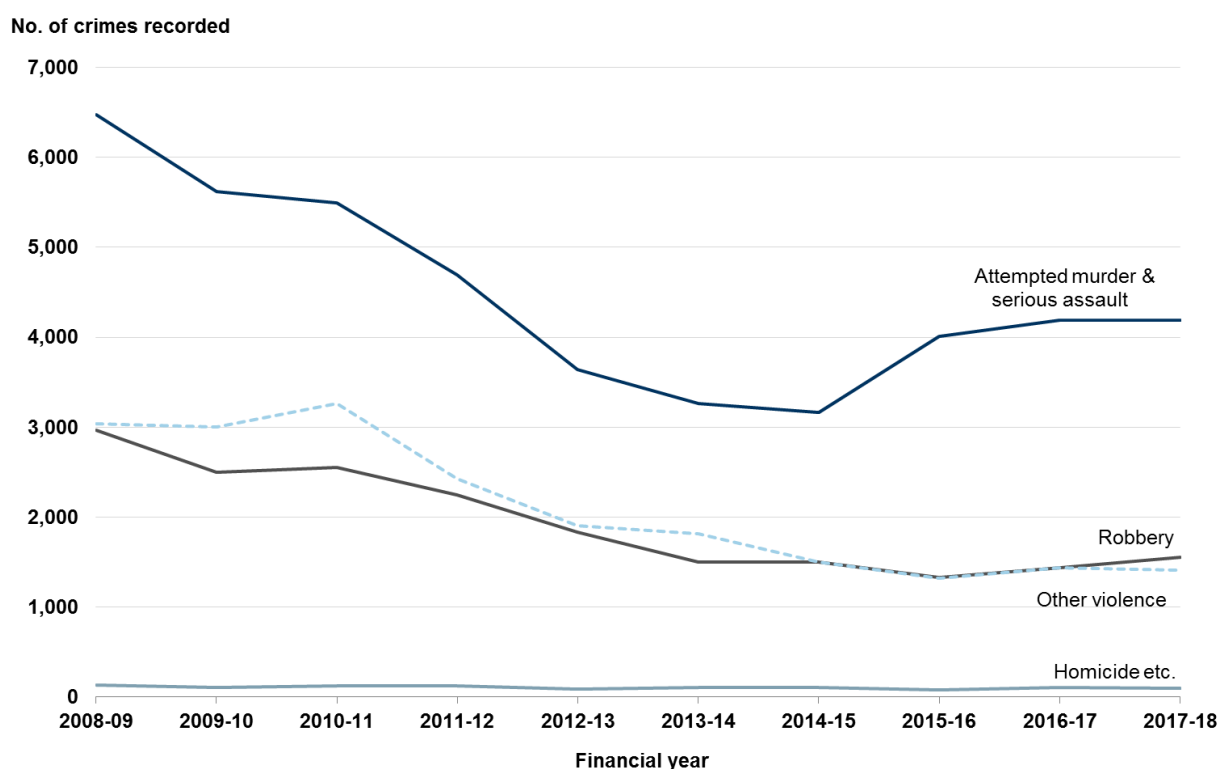
Attempted murder & serious assault:

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 2008-09 to 2017-18, this category has seen a decrease of 35%. There was a decrease between 2008-09 and 2014-15, before figures rose in 2015-16 and flattened out over the two subsequent years. At least part of the increase in 2015-16 has been attributed by Police Scotland to the introduction of enhanced guidance for recording serious assault in January 2015 (see 'Data Considerations' section below).

All but two 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 (21%) of Non-sexual crimes of violence. Over the ten year period from 2008-09 to 2017-18, this crime has seen a decrease of 47%, however there was an 8% increase from 1,435 in 2016-17 to 1,556 in 2017-18.

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

Along with the release of these statistics we have published the findings of a separate study into robbery. This was based on a sample of almost 1,000 crimes recorded by the police in 2008-09 and 2017-18, the time between which saw robberies in Scotland decrease by 47% or 1,407 crimes (from 2,963 to 1,556).

The vast majority (87%) of the total fall in police recorded robbery between 2008-09 and 2017-18 was due to fewer cases of victims being robbed in public spaces by strangers. The reduction in the number of those cases with a male victim was much larger than the reduction in cases with a female victim, though this might be expected as almost three-quarters (71%) of robbery victims were male in 2008-09.

Other types of robbery, such as robbery in a private space (like a residential property) or where the victim knew the perpetrator, have not noticeably reduced in volume since 2008-09. As such they had very little impact on the total fall in police recorded robbery over the past ten years.

Although the reduction in strangers committing public space robberies has driven the total fall in robbery since 2008-09, these factors still predominate the nature of robbery committed today – with 75% of robbery in 2017-18 happening in a public space and 63% being carried out by a stranger. Males still make up a majority of victims (60%).

However, as the fall in police recorded robbery over the past 10 years was driven by fewer public space robberies committed by strangers, robberies in private spaces or committed by someone known to the victim made up a greater proportion of robbery in 2017-18 than in 2008-09.

This suggests that whilst the police in Scotland face far fewer reports of robbery today than a decade ago, the characteristics of the smaller number of robberies that remain are now less homogenous.

The study also found that the average age of both a victim and perpetrator of robbery in 2017-18 was several years older than their counterparts from 2008-09. This reflected a particularly large fall in the estimated rate of both victimisation and offending for teenagers (aged 13 to 19 years) and people in their twenties.

Finally, the study found that robbery in 2017-18 was less likely to involve the use of a knife or bladed/pointed article than in 2008-09 (dropping from 43% to 35%).

Further information is available via the following link:

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

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 decreased by 7% from 105 in 2016-17 to 98 in 2017-18. The biggest contributor to this decrease was a drop in Murder which decreased by 9 cases whereas Culpable Homicide increased by four cases, driving related homicides (for example Causing death by dangerous driving) decreased by one and Corporate Homicide decreased by one over the year.

Other non-sexual violence:

The Other violence category includes crimes such as Cruel and unnatural treatment of children, Threats & extortion and Abduction, which together account for more than 80% of the crimes within this category. More detail is provided in Chapter 8.

Crimes recorded as Other violence account for 19% of Non-sexual crimes of violence. Over the ten year period from 2008-09 to 2017-18, this category has seen a large decrease of 54%, with a 2% decrease from 1,438 in 2016-17 to 1,408 in 2017-18. Over the ten year period, all but one local authority recorded a decrease in this category.

DATA CONSIDERATIONS

As noted above, non-sexual crimes of violence increased by 1% between 2016-17 and 2017-18 from 7,164 to 7,251. Increases during the preceding years (2015-16 and 2016-17) were primarily due to a rise in Attempted murder & serious assault recorded by the police, whereas the 1% increase in 2017-18 has been driven by an increase in Robbery (up by 8% from 1,435 in 2016-17 to 1,556 in 2017-18).

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 introduced 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 2017-18 statistics are not yet available for all of them. Police recorded common assault (covered in more detail under Group 6 Miscelleanous Offences) decreased by 1% between 2016-17 and 2017-18. The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) estimated a statistically significant decrease in violent crime of 27% between 2008-09 and 2016-17, whilst numbers of assault based emergency admissions to hospital fell 55% between 2007-08 and 2016-17 (more detail on these sources is provided below under Data Comparisons).

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[4] 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

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[4] 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).

- 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[5] 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:

- 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.

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

We therefore recommend that users interested in Homicide statistics should refer directly to the Homicide in Scotland bulletin series, which can be accessed at:
http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubHomicide.

The next Homicide in Scotland statistical bulletin will contain data for 2017-18 and is scheduled to be published on 30 October 2018.

Emergency Hospital Admissions as a result of Assault

As highlighted above, there has been a 35% reduction in the number of attempted murders and serious assaults recorded by the police between 2008-09 and 2016-17, from 6,472 to 4,189. 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 2016-17) are available at:
http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Emergency-Care/Publications/2018-03-06/2018-03-06-Unintentional-Injuries-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 2,346 emergency hospital admissions as a result of assault in 2016-17, of which 517 were due to assault with a sharp object and 1,843 were other assaults. This represents a decrease of 55% in the total number of emergency admissions due to assault since 2008-09, including a 59% 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 712,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2016-17, 231,000 (32%) were violent crimes. It is estimated that 2.9% of adults in Scotland were a victim of violent crime in 2016-17.

In 2016-17, minor assaults made up the vast majority of SCJS violent crime (85%), followed by serious assault (7%), attempted assault (4%) and robbery (3%).

Further detail on the comparable crime set is available in Section 5.3. As outlined there and in the Annex of the 2016-17 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 2016-17, while for the same period the SCJS estimates of violent crime decreased by 27% (a statistically significant change in the SCJS results).

Group 2 – Sexual Crimes

Change over time

13% ↑ Since 2016-17

97% ↑ Since 2008-09

What makes up Sexual crimes?

Rape & attempted rape accounts for less than one fifth of Sexual crimes

- Other sexual crimes (42%)
- Rape & attempted rape (18%)
- Crimes associated with prostitution (1%)
- Sexual assault (39%)
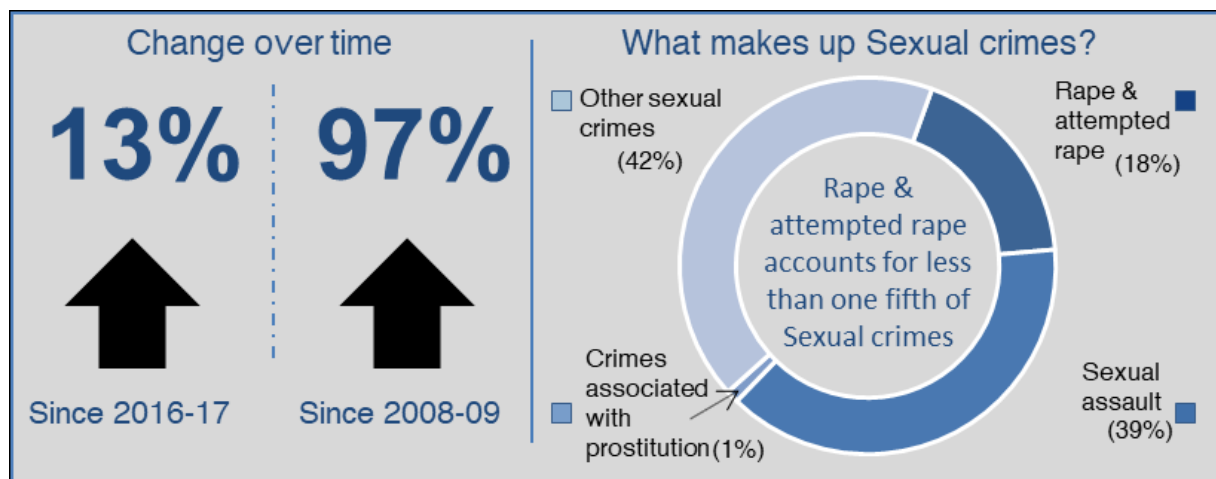
Number of Sexual crimes recorded in 2017-18:

Sexual crimes account for 5% of all crimes recorded in Scotland in 2017-18. The number of Sexual crimes recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 13% from 11,092 in 2016-17 to 12,487 in 2017-18.

Following the enactment of the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016 on the 3rd July 2017, part of this increase includes 421 new crimes of disclosing or threatening to disclose an intimate image. If they had occurred prior to the 3rd July 2017, its possible some of these cases may have been in the statistics as a different crime or offence, however it's likely the clear majority would not have been classified as a sexual crime. It is also the case that the enactment of this legislation extended the criminal law to criminalise certain conduct that previously may not have been illegal.

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 every 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[1] to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2017-18 ([Table 10](#))
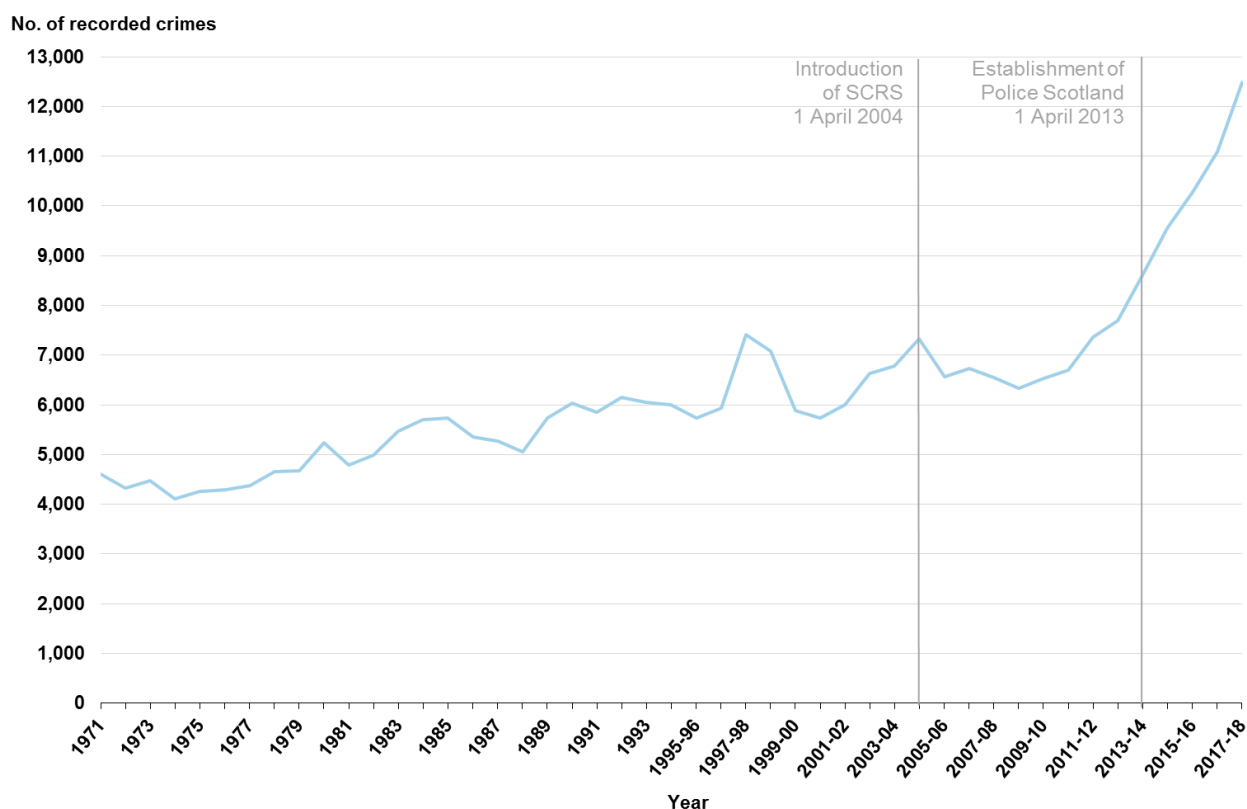
No. of recorded crimes

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

The national rate of recorded Sexual crimes increased from 21 crimes per 10,000 population in 2016-17 to 23 crimes per 10,000 population in 2017-18. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Dundee City (41 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in East Dunbartonshire (10 per 10,000 population) ([Table 14](#)).

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))[6]. By adding up all these crime codes, we know that <u>at least</u> 40% of the 12,487 sexual crimes recorded in 2017-18 by the police related to a victim under the age of 18. This proportion is similar to the previous year.

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[6] 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 historical (non-recent) crimes that were under 16 years of age. We have therefore included these crimes in our calculations.

Chart 9*: Sexual crimes in Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18*
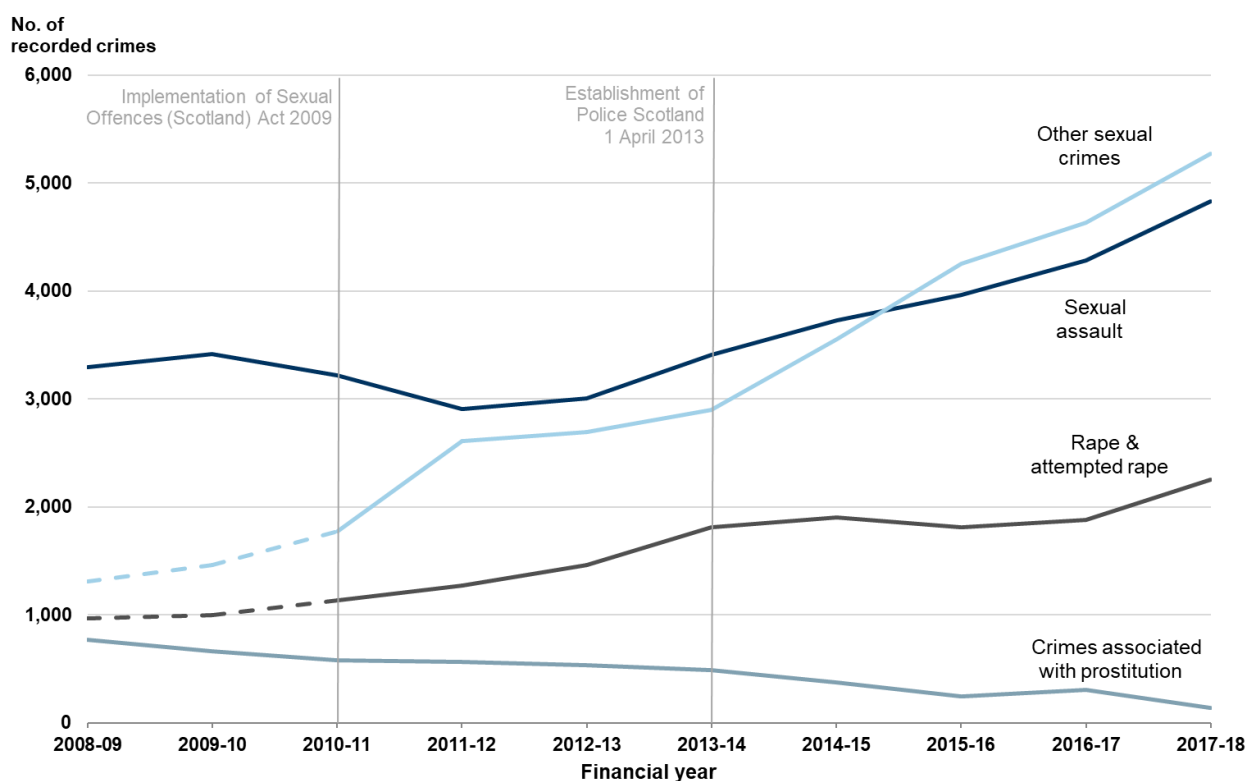
[Chart 9](#) shows the four categories within Sexual crimes over the last ten years, and gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category. The number of recorded crimes in the Sexual assault and Other sexual crimes categories have changed markedly over time, almost converging after 2010, which coincides with the implementation of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009. Information on the impact of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 is available under [Data Considerations](#) below. The Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016 has also had an impact on the number of Other sexual crimes recorded, with 421 new cases of disclosing or threatening to disclose an intimate image recorded in 2017-18. The proportion of Rape and attempted rape has remained fairly constant over time, whereas that of Crimes associated with prostitution has fallen.

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

Sexual assault:

Sexual assault accounted for 39% of Sexual crimes in 2017-18. This category has been on an upward trend since 2011-12, having increased by 66% since that time. This includes a 13% increase from 4,281 in 2016-17 to 4,826 in 2017-18.

The majority (29) of local authorities recorded an increase in sexual assault since 2008-09 and 24 recorded an increase between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

One of the main drivers behind the increase in Sexual assault between 2016-17 and 2017-18 was a 25% increase in crimes of Sexual assault against an adult 16+, accounting for three quarters (74%) of the overall increase.

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 18% of Sexual crimes. There has generally been an upward trend in these crimes since 2010-11 with Rape & attempted rape increasing by 99% overall between 2010-11 and 2017-18. This includes a 20% increase from 1,878 in 2016-17 to 2,255 in 2017-18. Over half (21 out of 32) local authority areas recorded an increase in this category between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Crimes associated with prostitution:

Crimes associated with prostitution account for 1% of Sexual crimes. Over the ten year period from 2008-09 to 2017-18, these crimes have seen a large fall of 82%, with a 55% decrease from 303 in 2016-17 to 136 in 2017-18.

The majority of crimes in this category (73%) are recorded in Aberdeen City and Glasgow City. Both of these local authorities have seen large decreases of 75% and 91% respectively over the last ten years.

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. From 2017-18 onwards it also includes disclosing or threatening to disclose an intimate image.

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. Further to this, the implementation of the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016 has also had an impact on comparisons with data prior to 2017-18, as 421 new crimes of disclosing or threatening to disclose an intimate image were recorded in 2017-18, accounting for part of the increase in Other sexual crimes since 2016-17. 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 42% of Sexual crimes. This category has been on an upward trend since 2010-11, having increased by 198% within that time, including a 14% increase from 4,630 in 2016-17 to 5,270 in 2017-18. All local authority areas recorded an increase in this category over the period from 2010-11 to 2017-18.

Last year's bulletin presented 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:

https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/09/7838

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.

Taking, distribution etc. indecent photos of children

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 5% of all Group 2 Sexual crimes in 2017-18, 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.

Communications Act (2003) Sexual

In 2017-18, incidents of Communications Act (2003) Sexual were transferred from Group 6 Miscellaneous offences to Group 2 Sexual crimes. A review of these cases determined many were similar in characteristic to the type of activity targeted by the new Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) 2016 Act 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. As such, it was decided by the Scottish Crime Recording Board that these offences would be more appropriately classified as sexual crimes within Group 2.

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 301 cases recorded in 2017-18; however, as mentioned above, some of this activity would have moved in any event, due to the new ABSH legislation. Statistics for 2016-17 were back-revised within this 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).

Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016

Finally, the implementation of the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016 on 3rd July 2017 has resulted in new crimes of disclosing or threatening to disclose an intimate image being recorded. Whilst some of these cases may have been recorded as a different crime or offence had they occurred prior to the Act, its likely the clear majority of them would not have been classified as a sexual crime. It is also the case that the enactment of this legislation extended the criminal law to criminalise certain conduct that previously may not have been illegal.

Historical (non-recent) reporting

Table A1 reports 1,201 crimes of Lewd and Libidinous practices in 2017-18. 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 historical (non-recent) offences. Similarly, there were 346 crimes of Sexual assault committed prior to 1 December 2010. There will be other Sexual crimes recorded in 2017-18 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 historical (non-recent) reporting.

Furthermore, Police Scotland have cited that increased reporting, including that of historical (non-recent) crimes, may in part be responsible for the increase in recorded sexual crime. The successful outcome of cases featuring historical (non-recent) offending may have highligted 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 1st January and 31st 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.

Whist 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[7] 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 2016-17 and 2017-18, sexual crimes in England & Wales increased by 24% compared with 13% in Scotland and 9% in Northern Ireland. In the five years from 2012-13 to 2017-18, sexual crimes in England & Wales increased by 181% compared with 65% in Scotland and 78% in Northern Ireland.

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

England & Wales detail in their report that the increase in recent years is thought to reflect a greater willingness of victims to come forward to report such crimes, and that it may also reflect changes in recording 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)

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 2015-16 SCJS included questions on Sexual victimisation & stalking and Partner abuse.

Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty

Change over time

1% **32%**

Since 2016-17   Since 2008-09

What makes up Crimes of dishonesty?

- Other crimes of dishonesty (4%)
- Fraud (8%)
- Other theft (39%)
- Housebreaking (13%)
- Theft by OLP (2%)
- Theft from motor vehicle by OLP (3%)
- Theft of motor vehicle (4%)
- Shoplifting (27%)

Shoplifting made up over a quarter of all Crimes of dishonesty
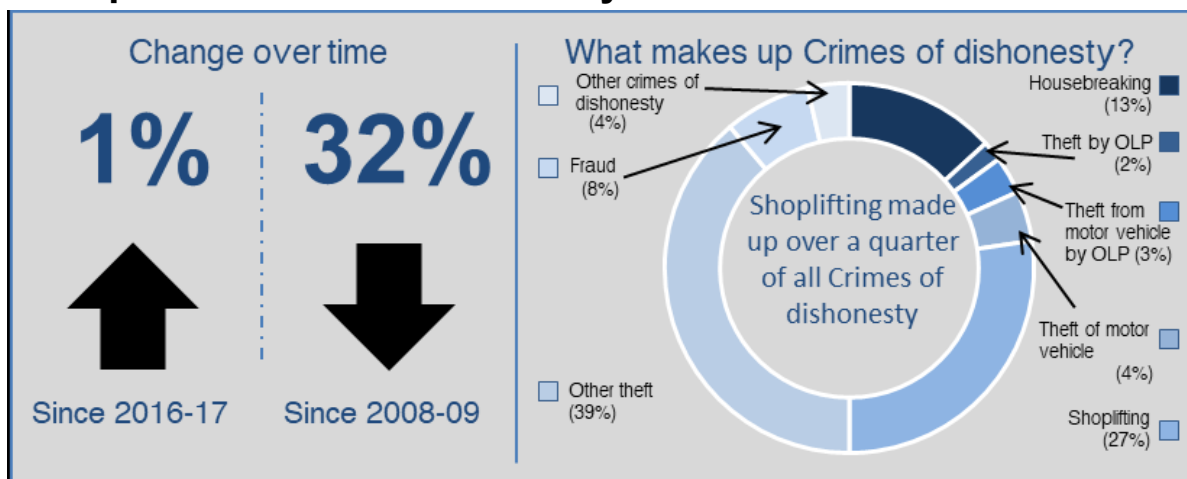
Number of Crimes of dishonesty recorded in 2017-18:

Crimes of dishonesty account for almost half (47%) of all crime recorded in Scotland in 2017-18. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, the number of Crimes of dishonesty recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 1%, from 113,205 to 114,474.

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 73% up to 2017-18. These crimes are now at their second lowest level since 1971, the first year for which comparable crime groups are available.

Chart 10: Crimes of dishonesty recorded by the police, 1971[1] to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2017-18 (Table 10)
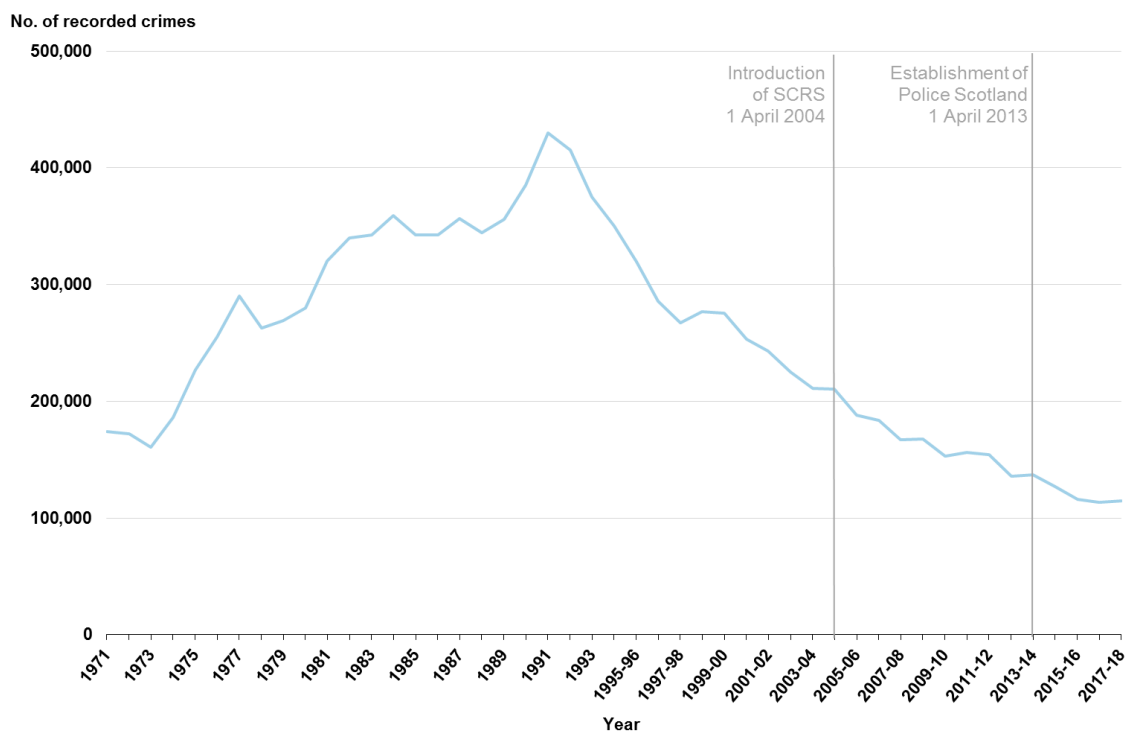
1. Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

The national rate of recorded Crimes of dishonesty increased from 209 per 10,000 population in 2016-17 to 211 crimes per 10,000 population in 2017-18. Rates varied significantly by local authority area, with the highest rate in the City of Edinburgh (398 per 10,000 population) and the lowest in the Shetland Islands (34 per 10,000 population) (Table 14).

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 are at a similar level to 2008-09, 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 2008-09 to 2017-18 (Table 6).

Chart 11: Crimes of dishonesty (showing four largest categories) in Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18
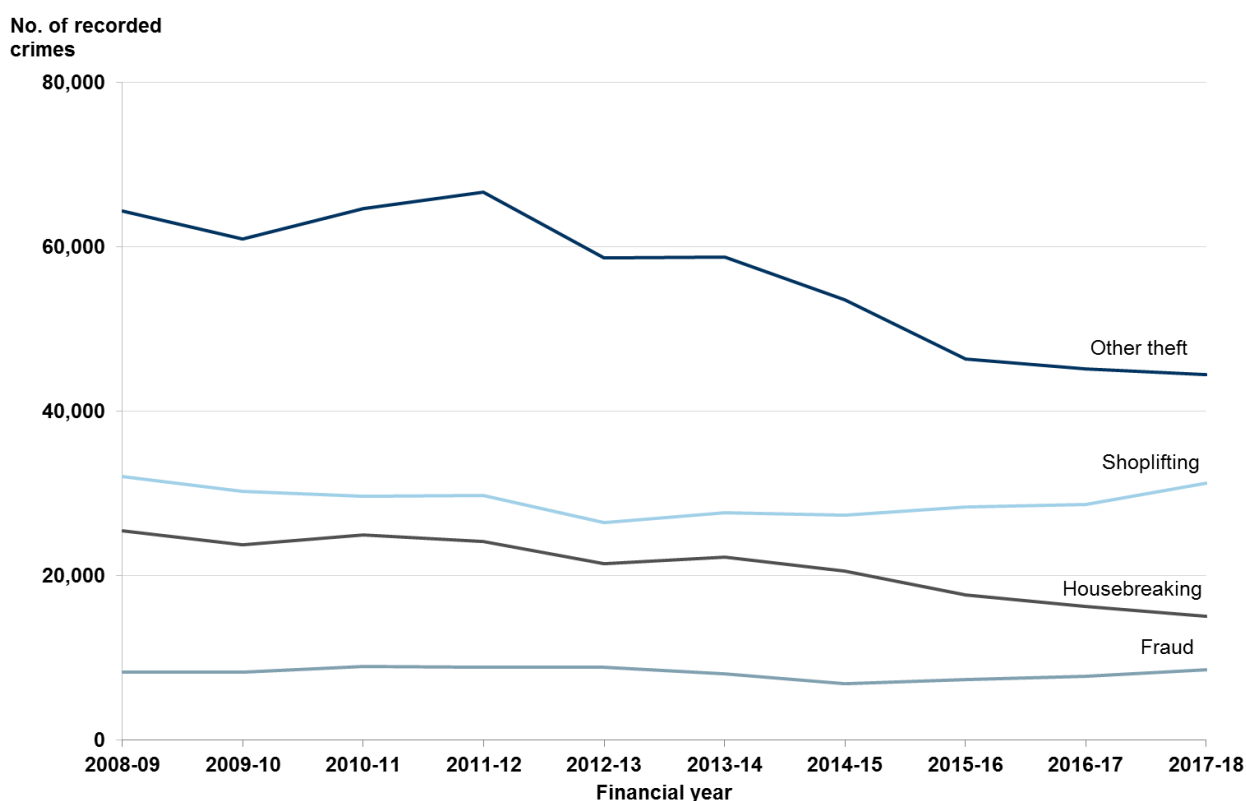
Other theft:

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 39% of these crimes. Over the ten year period from 2008-09 to 2017-18, Other theft has seen a decrease of 31%, including a 2% decrease from 45,173 in 2016-17 to 44,437 in 2017-18.

All local authorities recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period.

Shoplifting:

Shoplifting accounted for a quarter (27%) of Crimes of dishonesty. Shoplifting increased by 9% from 28,650 in 2016-17 to 31,321 in 2017-18. 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 just under two thirds (21) showing a decrease in Shoplifting. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18 just under two thirds (22) of Scotland's local authorities recorded an increase in the number of shopliftings.

Housebreaking:

Housebreaking accounted for 13% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2008-09 to 2017-18 this crime has decreased by 41%, including a 7% decrease from 16,299 in 2016-17 to 15,130 in 2017-18. Table A2 shows that this has been driven by a 12% decrease in housebreaking of domestic dwellings.

All but two local authorities recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, over half (19) of local authorities showed a decrease.

Fraud:

Crimes of Fraud account for 8% of Crimes of dishonesty. Despite small fluctuations over the ten year period from 2008-09 to 2017-18, this category has seen an increase of 4%. Numbers increased by 10% between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Changes by local authority varied widely over the ten year period, with 18 showing a decrease in Fraud. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, over half (19) 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 2008-09 to 2017-18 this crime has seen a large decrease of 73%, including a 4% decrease from 3,888 in 2016-17 to 3,734 in 2017-18.

All but one local authority area recorded a decrease (with one remaining the same) in this category over the ten year period. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, less than half (14) of all local authorities showed a decrease.

Theft of a motor vehicle:

Theft of a motor vehicle accounted for 4% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2008-09 to 2017-18 this crime has seen a large decrease of 57%, including a 4% decrease from 5,216 in 2016-17 to 5,024 in 2017-18.

All but one local authority recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, half (16) of all local authorities decreased.

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 2008-09 to 2017-18 this crime has seen a decrease of 23%, including a 1% decrease from 4,228 in 2016-17 to 4,173 in 2017-18.

All but seven local authorities recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Just over a third of local authorities showed a decrease between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

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 2008-09 to 2017-18, this crime has seen a large decrease of 71%, however there was a 4% increase from 1,940 in 2016-17 to 2,027 in 2017-18.

All but one local authority area recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, just under half (14) 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[8] examined, 94% were closed correctly. Around half of the incidents which failed Test 1 did so because the incident record had not been updated with the results of the enquiry and the initial inference of criminality had not been dispelled. Around a quarter of Test 1 fails were thought to be crimes where the incident had not been followed up or the complainers had become uncooperative. Other Test 1 errors included incidents where the items stolen were deemed to be of no monetary value and therefore did not

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[8] Incidents consist of all reports to the police, whether a crime is recorded or 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 712,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2016-17, 481,000 (68%) were property crimes. It is estimated that around 12% of adults in Scotland were a victim of property crime in 2016-17.

In 2016-17, vandalism accounted for 34% of property crime, followed by other household theft (including bicycle theft, 27%), personal theft (excluding robbery, 26%), all motor vehicle theft related incidents (8%) and housebreaking (5%).

Further detail on the comparable crime set is available in Section 5.3. As outlined there and in the Annex of the 2016-17 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 32% between 2008-09 and 2016-17, while for the same period the SCJS estimate showed no change (the apparent change of 20% was not statistically significant).

Group 4 – Fire-raising, Vandalism etc.
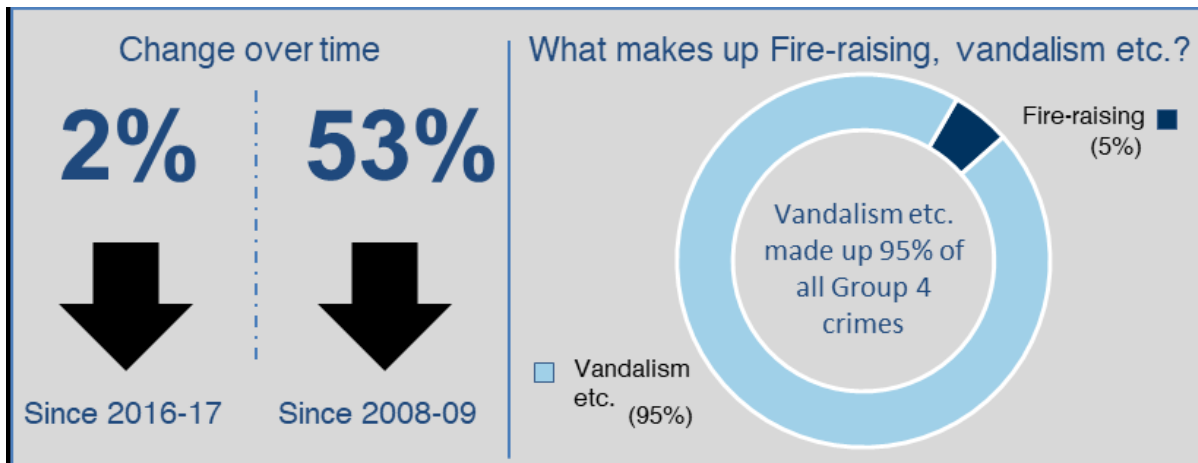
Number of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. recorded in 2017-18:

Fire-raising, vandalism etc. accounted for 21% of all crime recorded in Scotland in 2017-18. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, the number of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 2%, from 52,514 to 51,322. The recording of these crimes is at the lowest level seen since 1978.

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 have levelled off more recently. Since 2008-09 the number of these crimes has fallen by 53%.

Chart 12: Crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. recorded by the police, 1971[1] to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2017-18*(Table 10)*
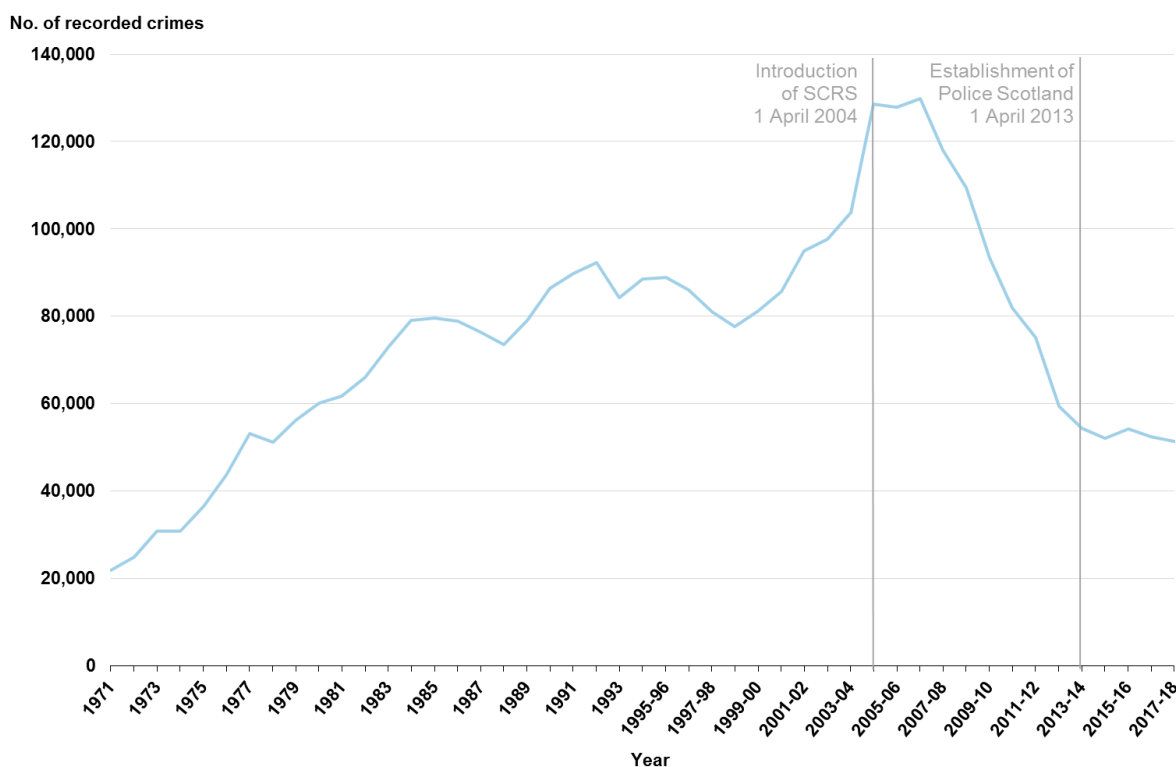
1. Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

The national rate of recorded crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. decreased from 97 per 10,000 population in 2016-17 to 95 crimes per 10,000 population in 2017-18. Rates varied by local authority area, with the highest in Glasgow City (132 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in Na h-Eileanan Siar (26 per 10,000 population) (Table 14).

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, 2008-09 to 2017-18
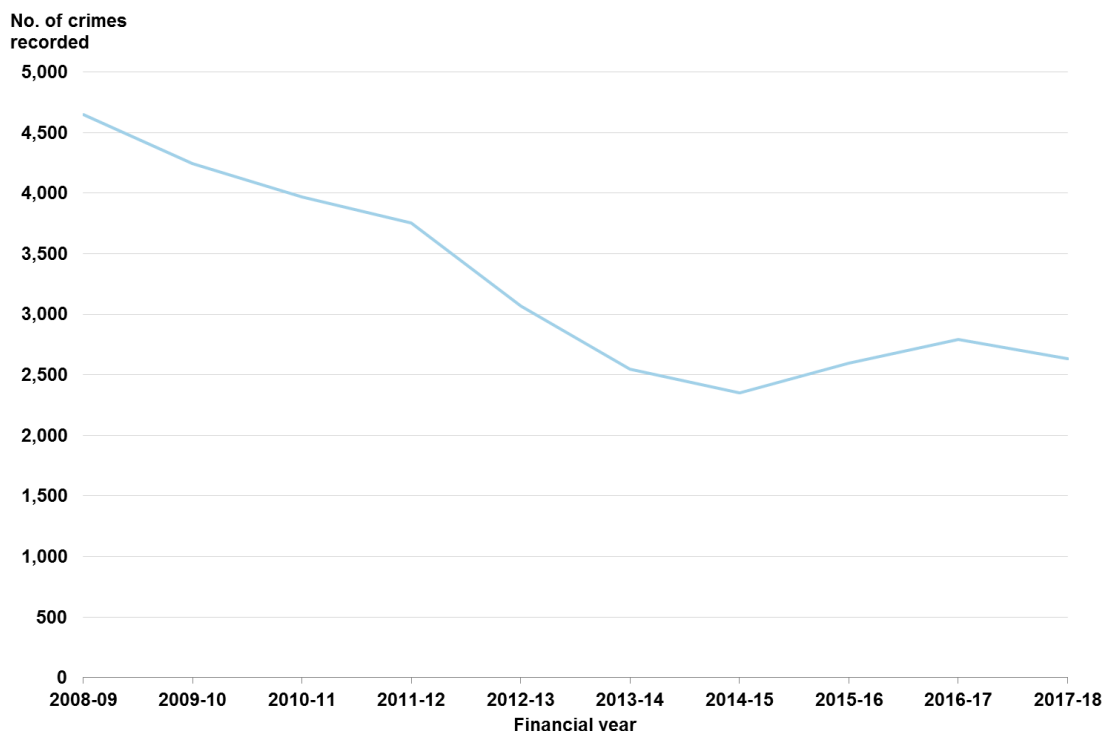
Chart 14: Vandalism etc. in Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18

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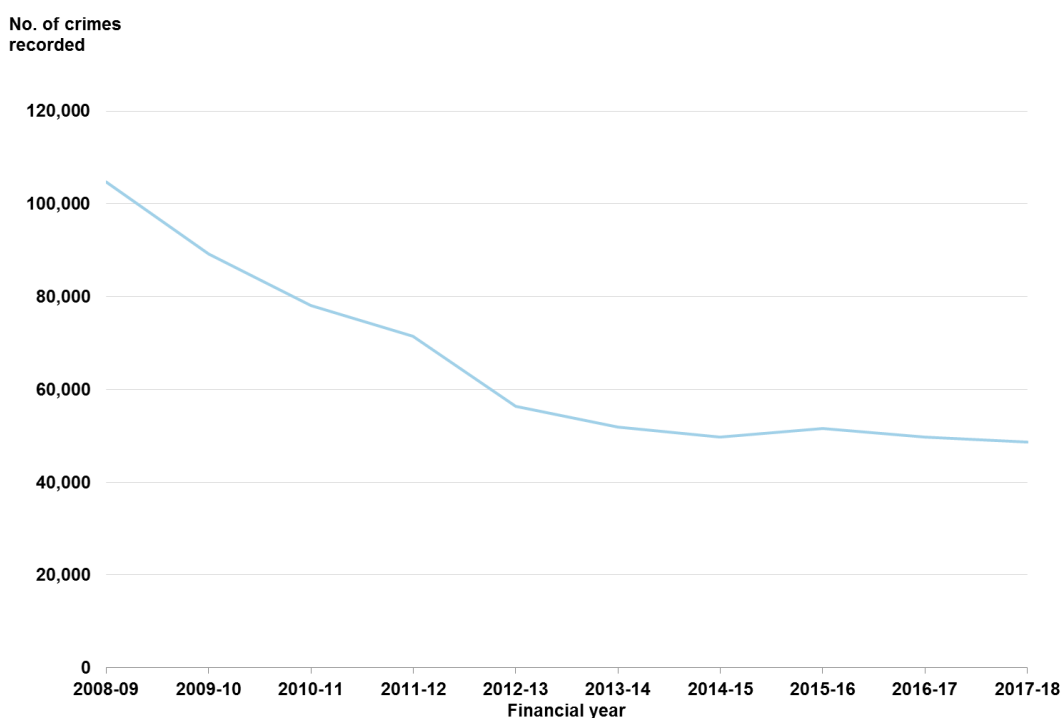
Vandalism etc.:

Vandalism etc. accounted for 95% of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. These crimes have decreased by 2% from 49,721 in 2016-17 to 48,690 in 2017-18. The longer term trend has also been downwards, with the number of crimes recorded decreasing by 54% from 2008-09 to 2017-18.

All local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, over a quarter (10) of local authorities showed an increase.

The Vandalism etc. category includes crimes recorded under the Computer Misuse Act 1990. There were 22 such crimes recorded in 2017-18.

Fire-raising:

Fire-raising accounted for 5% of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. These crimes have decreased by 6% from 2,793 in 2016-17 to 2,632 in 2017-18, this decrease follows two consecutive year-on-year increases and continues the downward trend seen since 2008-09. Fire-raising has decreased by 43% over the ten year period from 2008-09 to 2017-18.

All but one local authority area recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, 22 out of 32 local authorities showed a decrease.

DATA VALIDATION

HMICS Crime Audit 2016

As previously outlined, HMICS tested the accuracy of crime recording through auditing a sample of records recorded between 1st January and 31st 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[9] 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.

Of the 2,032 damage-related incidents[10] audited, 94.9% were closed correctly. Errors in this area were often due to a lack of information to dispel an allegation

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[9] 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).

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

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 43% reduction in the number of fire-raising crimes recorded by the police between 2008-09 and 2017-18, from 4,651 to 2,632. 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 2016-17) 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 27,240 fires were attended by the SFRS in 2016-17, of which over 15,800 were started deliberately. This represents a 40% reduction in the total number of fires attended since 2008-09 and a 31% 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.

Key points from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey:

As stated earlier, of the 712,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2016-17, 481,000 (68%) were property crimes and it is estimated that around 12% of adults in Scotland were a victim of property crime in 2016-17.

In 2016-17, vandalism accounted for 34% of property crime, followed by other household theft (including bicycle theft, 27%), personal theft (excluding robbery, 26%), all motor vehicle theft related incidents (8%) and housebreaking (5%).

Further detail on the comparable crime group is available in Section 5.3 and in the Annex of the 2016-17 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 2016-17, while for the same period the SCJS estimates of vandalism also decreased by 53% (a statistically significant change in the SCJS results).

Group 5 – Other Crimes

Change over time

0%* | 27%

⟷ | ⬇

Since 2016-17 | Since 2008-09

When the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon are excluded.

What makes up Other Crimes?

Other (<1%)

Drugs crimes made up more than half of all Other crimes

Crimes against public justice (32%)

Handling offensive weapons
Not used in other criminal activity (6%)
Used in other criminal activity (7%)

Drugs (55%)
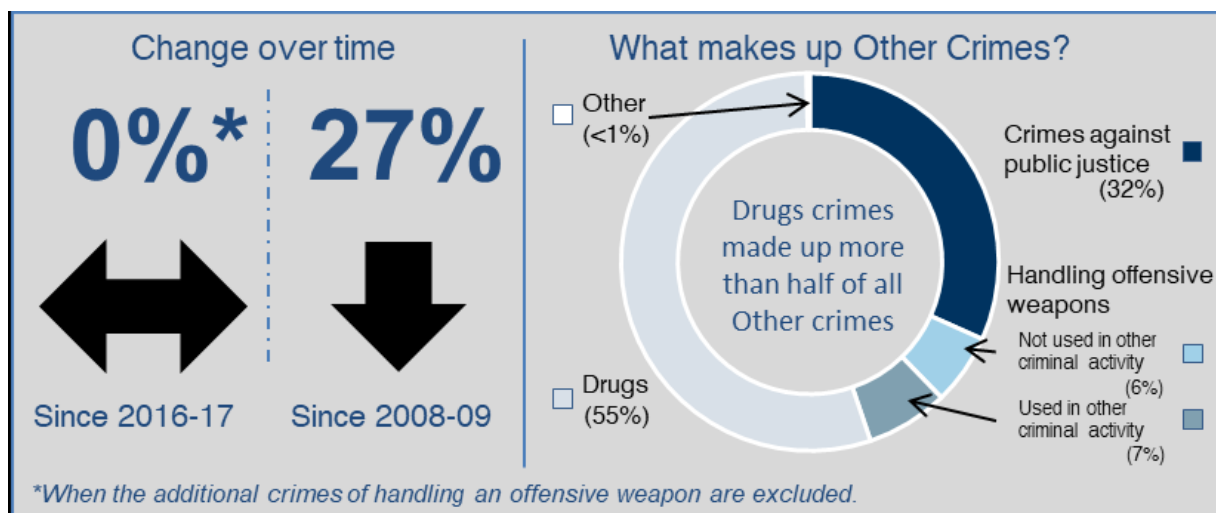
Number of Other crimes recorded in 2017-18:

Other crimes account for almost one quarter (24%) of all crimes recorded in Scotland in 2017-18. The total number of Other crimes recorded by the police in Scotland in 2017-18 was 58,970, remaining at similar levels to 2016-17 - when the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon are excluded. If the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon are included, Other crimes increased by 7%, from 54,946 to 58,970. This is not a reliable measure given those crimes of handling an offensive weapon were not recorded prior to 2017-18.

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 31% up to 2017-18. These crimes are now at the second lowest level since 1997-98.

Chart 15: Other crimes recorded by the police, 1971[1] to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2017-18 *(Table 10)*
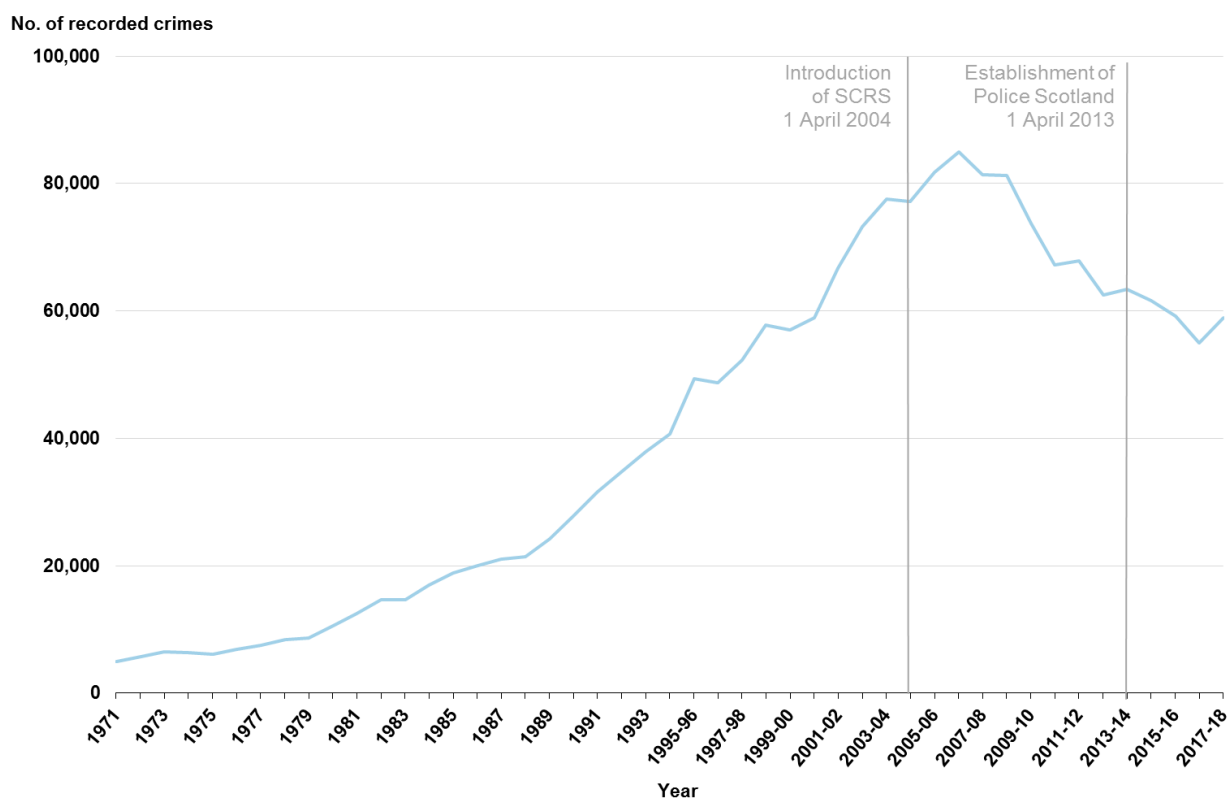
No. of recorded crimes

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

The national rate of recorded Other crimes was 109 crimes per 10,000 population in 2017-18. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Glasgow City (186 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in the Orkney Islands (37 per 10,000 population) (Table 14).

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 2017-18, 55% of Other crimes were drug crimes. A further 32% were Crimes against public justice and 13% were crimes of Handling Offensive weapons.

Chart 16: Other crimes in Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18
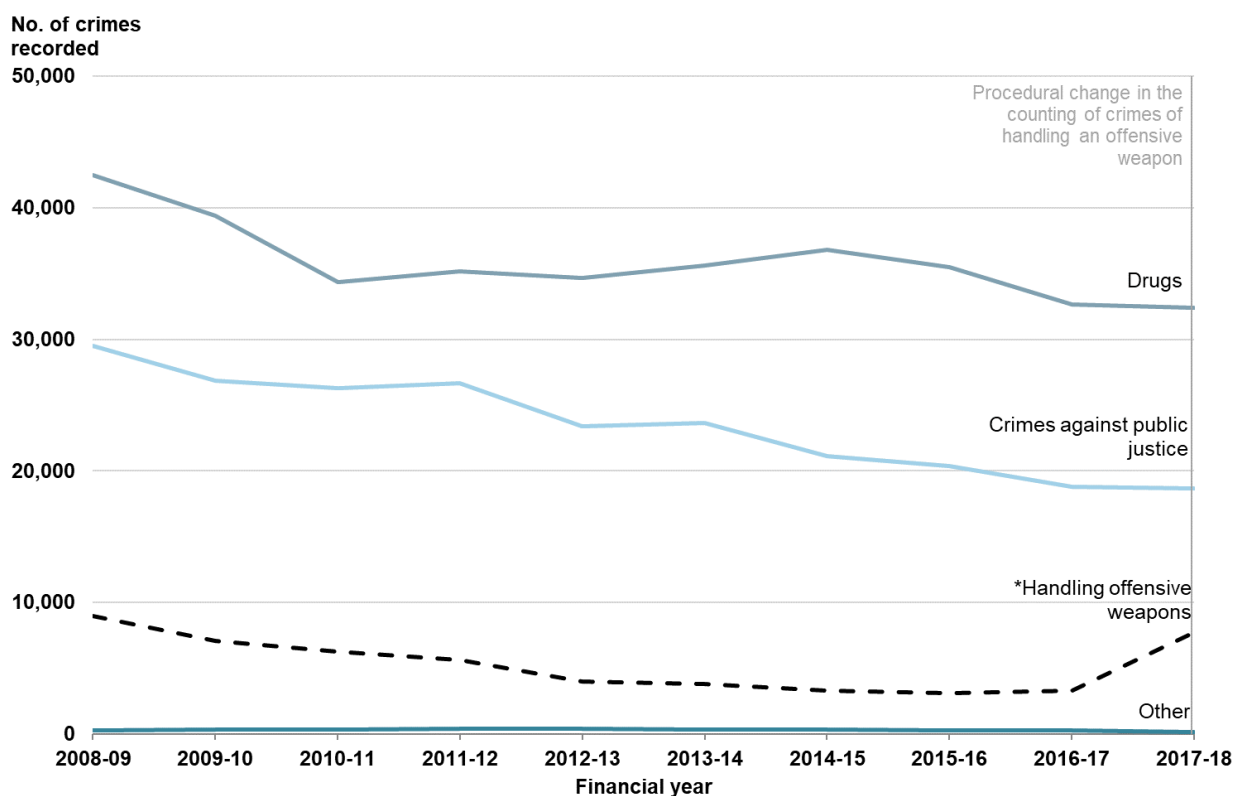
As of 2017-18 there has been a procedural change to the counting of crimes of handling an offensive weapon. The additional 4,163 crimes shown in the chart do not represent a real increase in recorded crimes of handling an offensive weapon.

Drugs:

Drug crimes account for 55% of Other crimes. Over the ten year period from 2008-09 to 2017-18 this crime has decreased by 24%, including a 1% decrease from 32,641 in 2016-17 to 32,399 in 2017-18.

Three quarters (24) of local authorities recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, around three fifths (19) of local authorities showed an increase.

Crimes against public justice:

Crimes against public justice account for 32% of Other Crimes and include Bail offences, Resisting arrest and Wasting police time. Over the ten year period from 2008-09 to 2017-18 this crime has decreased by 37%, including a 1% decrease from 18,795 in 2016-17 to 18,679 in 2017-18.

Over the ten year period all local authorities recorded a decrease in this category. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, over a half (17) of local authorities showed an increase.

Handling offensive weapons:

Not used in other crimes or offences

From 2017-18 onwards, crimes of handling an offensive weapon in Scotland can be measured in two different ways. One way is to use the pre-existing statistics, where the offensive weapon hasn't been used to commit another crime or offence against a person in a public place. These crimes account for 6% of Other crimes in 2017-18. Of these, 72 crimes occurred within a prison and 128 occurred in a school[11].

Over the ten year period from 2008-09 to 2017-18 this crime has decreased by 60%. However, there was a 9% increase from 3,271 in 2016-17 to 3,570 in 2017-18, the second year-on-year increase following a prolonged decrease in these crimes.

Over the ten year period, all local authorities recorded a decrease in this category. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, two thirds (21) of local authorities showed an increase.

Used in other crimes or offences

In addition to the above measure, for the first time, figures are also available for a new measure where the offensive weapon was used to commit another crime or offence against a person in a public place. In 2017-18, there were 4,163 crimes recorded, accounting for 7% of Other crimes in 2017-18. Of these, 23 crimes occurred within a prison and 32 occurred within a school.

In June a report was published that presented more detailed information on the handling of offensive weapons within public places in Scotland. This included findings on the characteristics of these cases, based on a random sample of 1,500 crimes recorded by the police for the first six months (April to September) of 2013 and 2017.

The overwhelming majority of police recorded crimes for handling an offensive weapon in a public place were committed by males. When the weapon was not

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[11] In 2017-18, for the first time, the number of handling offensive weapons that occurred within a school are separately identifiable within the statistics.

used in other criminal activity the median age of perpetrators was 29 and the majority of crimes involved a knife or other articles with a blade or point.

When the weapon was used in other criminal activity in a public place the majority of cases involved a male perpetrator and a male victim, who were known to each other and who were both more likely than average to live in urban areas and areas of higher deprivation. In these cases just over half of weapons were items other than knives or other articles with a blade or point.

The most common criminal act committed with a weapon in a public place was threatening or abusive behaviour followed by common assault. In the majority of cases the crime or offence resulted in no physical injury to the victim and this proportion was higher when the victim was female or if the victim did not know the perpetrator. More information can be found by accessing the 'Recorded Crime in Scotland: Handling Offensive Weapons' publication:

http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/06/2507

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 2017-18. Over the last 10 years this type of crime increased by 54% between 2008-09 and 2012-13, and has fallen since then. In 2017-18, the number of crimes recorded was 40% lower than in 2008-09. There was a 33% decrease from 239 in 2016-17 to 159 in 2017-18.

DATA CONSIDERATIONS

As outlined above. Changes in recorded crime in 2017-18 should be treated with some caution due to the addition of newly recorded crimes of handling an offensive weapon. Further information on this procedural change and its impact on the statistics are available in Section 2.10.

DATA VALIDATION

Scottish Government statisticians reviewed a sample of 400 drug possession crime records from 2016-17 - 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 considered and found to be very good, with nearly 100% of the sampled records classified correctly.

Following the decision by the Scottish Crime Recording Board to change the approach to recording crimes of handling offensive weapons and the impact this was likely to have on the Recorded Crime National Statistics, Scottish Government statisticians undertook a review of crime records to test whether this change had been implemented effectively. As part of a study into the characteristics of weapons crime in Scotland, a random sample of 1,000 crimes

of handling an offensive weapon were selected from April to September 2017 (i.e. the first six months following the change to recording practice). The sample was split into 500 crimes of handling an offensive weapon which wasn't used to commit a further crime or offence against a person (i.e. the exisiting measure and shortened to 'weapon not used') and 500 crimes of using an offensive weapon to commit a further crime or offence against a person (i.e. the additional cases recorded since 1st April 2017 and shortened to 'weapon used'). For each crime selected, the record was reviewed to determine if the description of the incident was consistent with the crime assigned to it.

Based on this random sample, 91% of the 1,000 crimes reviewed were correctly classified. For those newly recorded crimes of using an offensive weapon to commit a further crime or offence against a person, the percentage of cases correctly classified was 93%. This suggests that the implementation of new codes to separately identify these cases within the statistics has gone well. For crimes of handling but not using an offensive weapon (i.e. the exisiting measure), the percentage of correctly classified cases was 89%. Going forward statisticians will continue to work with Police Scotland and the Scottish Crime Recording Board to promote further improvement in recording practice for crimes of handling offensive weapons. More information can be found by accessing the 'Recorded Crime in Scotland: Handling Offensive Weapons' publication:

https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/06/2507

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 1,200 drug possession crime records over the years of 2014-15 to 2016-17,it was found that the vast majority of drug possession offenders were male and the average age of an offender was 29. Around three fifths 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
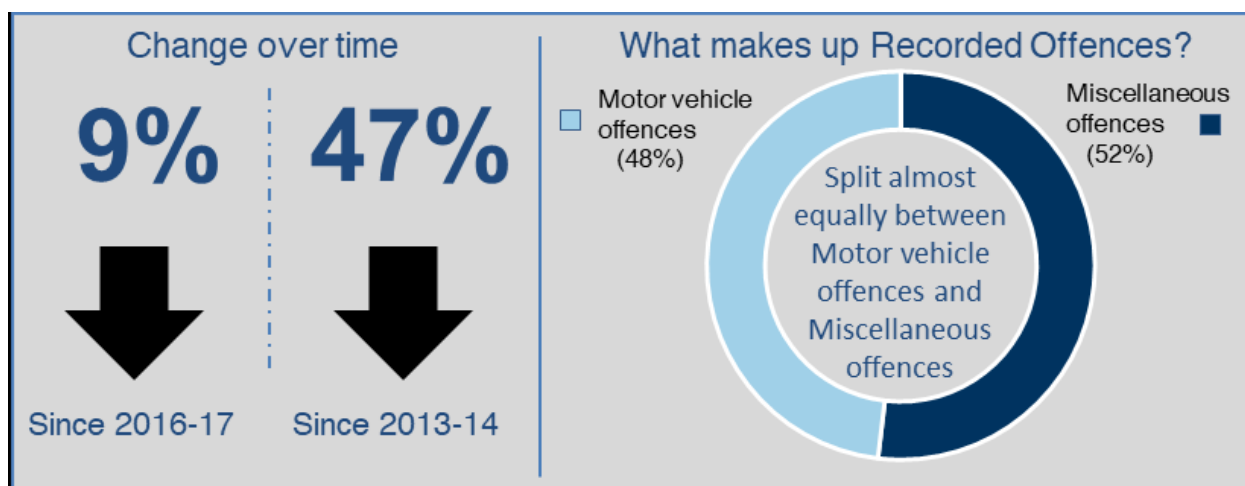
Total number of offences recorded in 2017-18:

Due to anomalies in the data for 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 9% from 288,691 in 2016-17 to 264,027 in 2017-18 (Table 7). This amounts to an overall decrease of 47% 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:

28 out of the 32 local authority areas showed a decrease in recorded offences between 2016-17 and 2017-18. 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 2013-14 and the establishment of Police Scotland, the Scottish Government collected recorded offences data from the eight legacy forces, who in turn extracted the data from their own systems.

Coinciding with this change of collection, the Scottish Government carried out an extensive data quality exercise to assess the comparability of data extracted from ScOMIS with the data published in previous bulletins. This analysis identified that a number of offence codes are non-comparable over time. For

Group 6, Miscellaneous Offences, all data are fully comparable from 2008-09 onwards. For Group 7, Motor Vehicle Offences and hence the overall figures on Offences (based on 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

Change over time

9%

Since 2016-17

40%

Since 2008-09

What makes up Miscellaneous offences?

☐ Other (10%)

■ Urinating etc. (2%)

■ Drunkenness (6%)

Over 80% of Miscellaneous offences were either Common assault or Breach of the peace

Common assault (43%) ■

Breach of the peace etc. (39%) ☐
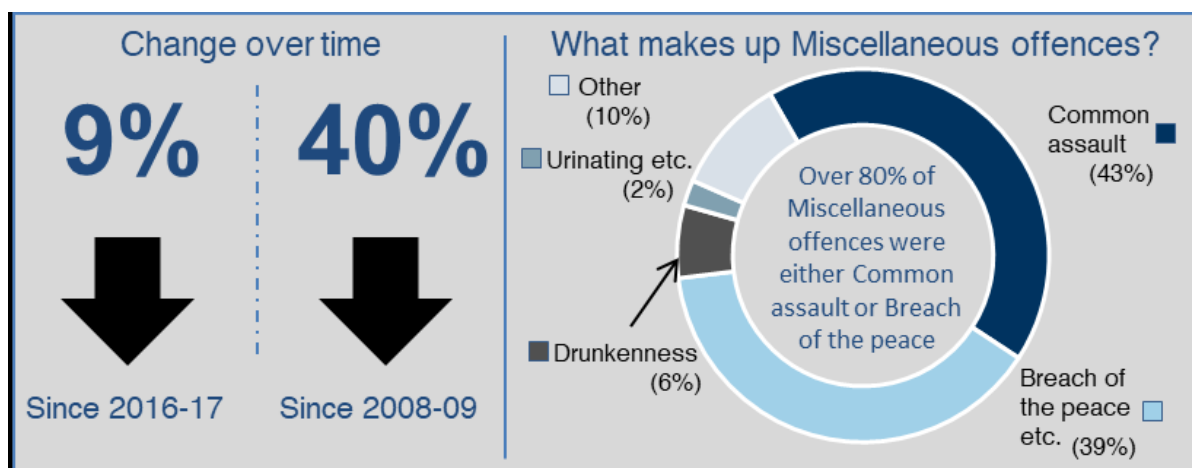
Number of Miscellaneous offences recorded in 2017-18:

Miscellaneous offences account for just over half (52%) of all offences recorded in Scotland in 2017-18. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, the number of Miscellaneous offences recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 9%, from 150,523 to 137,012.

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 279 per 10,000 population in 2016-17 to 253 offences per 10,000 population in 2017-18. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Glasgow City (429 per 10,000 population) and the lowest rate in Orkney Islands (111 per 10,000 population) (Table 14).

Chart 17 shows the five categories within Miscellaneous offences over the last ten years. This chart gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category. Common assault and Breach of the peace etc. have consistently been the biggest contributors to Miscellaneous offences.

Chart 17: Miscellaneous offences in Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18
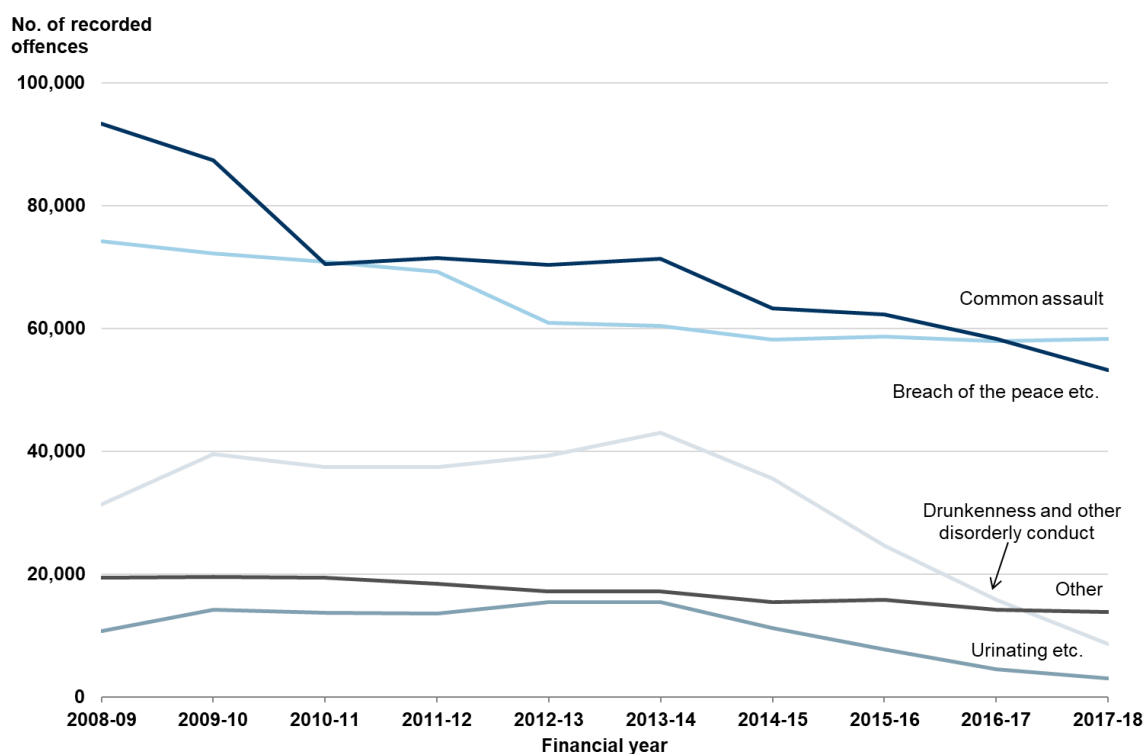
Common assault:

Common assault is the largest category in Miscellaneous offences, accounting for more than two-fifths (43%) in 2017-18. Over the ten year period from 2008-09 to 2017-18, this category has fallen by around one fifth (21%), however there was a 1% increase from 57,861 in 2016-17 to 58,335 in 2017-18.

All but three local authorities recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, just over half (17) of local authorities showed a decrease. For the distinction between Common assault and Serious assault please see Paragraph 7.13 within Annex 1.

The Recorded Crime in Scotland 2015-16 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

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 second largest category in Miscellaneous offences, accounting for more than a third (39%) in 2017-18. Over the ten year period from 2008-09 to 2017-18, this category has fallen by over two-fifths (43%), including a 9% decrease from 58,235 in 2016-17 to 53,187 in 2017-18.

It should be noted that the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012, under which offences of Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications are included, was repealed by the Scottish Parliament on 19 April 2018. Whilst the number of Breach of the peace etc. offences fell from 58,235 in 2016-17 to 53,187 in 2017-18 - the driver of the overall 9% decrease was fewer offences of both Threatening or abusive behaviour (down 2,786) and Breach of the peace (down 2,147) rather than any impact of the repeal.

All local authorities recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, The majority (27) of local authorities showed a decrease.

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 6% of Miscellaneous offences in 2017-18. Despite some fluctuation, levels of this offence fell 72% between 2008-09 and 2017-18. This includes a 45% decrease from 15,796 in 2016-17 to 8,635 in 2017-18.

All local authorities recorded a decrease in this category between 2008-09 and 2017-18. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18 all but five (27) local authorities showed a decrease.

Urinating etc.:

Urinating etc. accounted for 2% of Miscellaneous offences in 2017-18. This category generally increased for several years from 2007-08, peaking in 2012-13. Urinating etc. decreased by 32% from 4,505 in 2016-17 to 3,044 in 2017-18, the fifth consecutive decrease in these offences.

All but two local authorities recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18 all but two (30) 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 invoving 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 2017-18. These offences decreased by 2% from 14,126 in 2016-17 to 13,811 in 2017-18.

All but five (27) local authorities recorded a decrease between 2008-09 and 2017-18. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, 12 of the 32 local authorities showed a decrease.

The Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 came into force on the 1 January 2017 which makes provision for the licensing and regulation of air weapons. In 2017-18, i.e. the first full year for which statistics are available there were 396 air weapons licensing offences recorded by the police.

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 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 the 2015-16 '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 2017-18 there were 74 offences of Racially aggravated harassment and 1,847 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.

Scottish Government statisticians have been working with Police Scotland to assess whether their data systems adequately capture hate-related incidents reported to the police. This work has now been completed and a report will be published later in 2018. The report will cover 2014-15 to 2017-18 and include information on hate-related incidents with a race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity element. It will include information on victims, perpetrators, and associated crimes.

The Scottish Government previously published statistics on Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland. The last publication covered 2013-14 and was published in November 2015, and is available via the following link: http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRacistIncidents.

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 712,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2016-17, 231,000 (32%) were violent crimes and it is estimated that 2.9% of adults in Scotland were a victim of violent crime in 2016-17.

In 2016-17, minor assaults made up the vast majority of SCJS violent crime (85%), followed by serious assault (7%), attempted assault (4%) and robbery (3%).

Further detail on the comparable crime set is available in Section 5.3. As outlined there and in the Annex of the 2016-17 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 2016-17, while for the same period the SCJS estimates of violent crime decreased by 27% (a statistically significant change in the SCJS results).

Group 7 – Motor Vehicle Offences

Change over time

8% Since 2016-17

57% Since 2013-14

What makes up Motor vehicle offences?

- Other (19%)
- Mobile phone offences (2%)
- Seat belt offences (2%)
- Vehicle defect offences (6%)
- Dangerous and careless driving (8%)
- Driving under the influence (5%)
- Speeding (23%)
- Unlawful use of vehicle (35%)

Speeding accounted for almost one quarter of all Motor vehicle offences
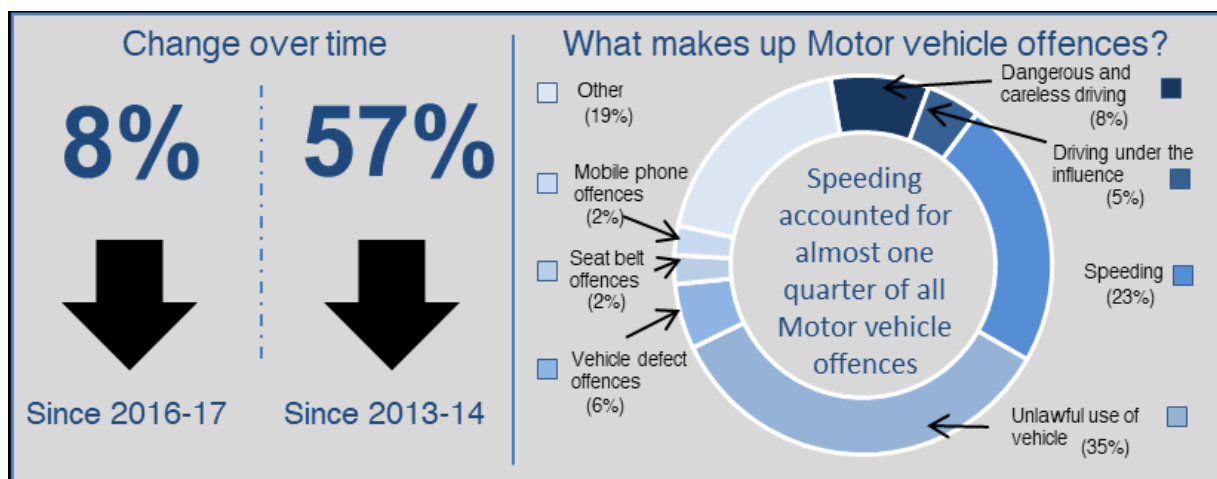
Number of Motor vehicle offences recorded in 2017-18:

Motor vehicle offences account for nearly half (48%) of all offences recorded in Scotland in 2017-18. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, the number of Motor vehicle offences recorded by the police decreased by 8% from 138,168 to 127,015. This amounts to an overall decrease of 57% 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 256 per 10,000 population in 2016-17 to 234 per 10,000 population in 2017-18. This varied by local authority area, with the highest rate in Dumfries & Galloway (541 per 10,000 population), and the lowest in East Renfrewshire (89 per 10,000 population) (Table 14).

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 over a third (35%) of Motor vehicle offences. This category decreased by 5% from 45,978 in 2016-17 to 43,871 in 2017-18. Just under three quarters (23) of local authority areas recorded a decrease between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

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 just under a quarter (23%) of Motor vehicle offences. This category decreased by 15% from 34,371 in 2016-17 to 29,223 in 2017-18. This amounts to an overall decrease of 65% since 2013-14. All but three (29) local authorities recorded a decrease between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

These figures do not include any offences recorded as a result of the Scottish Safety Camera Programme. These are excluded as no police resources were used in the recording of an offence by this programme and the National Statistics on Recorded Crime focuses solely on crimes and offences faced by the police and not other organisations.

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 8% from 11,693 in 2016-17 to 10,722 in 2017-18. Numbers declined for a few years after 2008-09, but have fluctuated since 2010-11. Despite this, levels remain 7% lower than in 2008-09.

Over half (18) of local authority areas recorded a decreasein this category between 2008-09 and 2017-18. Two thirds (22) of the 32 local authorities showed a decreasebetween 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Vehicle defect offences:

Vehicle defect offences account for 6% of Motor vehicle offences. This category decreased by 16% from 8,385 in 2016-17 to 7,049 in 2017-18. This amounts to an overall decrease of 66% since 2013-14. Almost three fifths (19) of the 32 local authorities recorded a decrease between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

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 2% of Motor vehicle offences. This category decreased by 53% from 6,709 in 2016-17 to 3,173 in 2017-18. 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 87% since 2008-09 and 91% since 2013-14. All but one (31) local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category between 2008-09 and 2017-18. All but one (31) local authority areas showed a decrease between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

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 5% of Motor vehicle offences. There was a 1% decrease in this category from 5,917 in 2016-17 to 5,863 in 2017-18, continuing the downward trend seen since 2008-09. Driving under the influence has decreased by 40% as a whole over this period.

All local authorities recorded a decrease in this category between 2008-09 and 2017-18. More than half (17) of local authorities showed a decrease between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Seat belt offences:

Seat belt offences account for 2% of Motor vehicle offences. This category has decreased by 30% from 4,502 in 2016-17 to 3,134 in 2017-18. Levels of these offences had previously been on a generally upward trend between 2008-09 and 2013-14, before decreasing by 92% between 2013-14 and 2017-18.

All 32 local authority areas recorded a decrease in this category between 2008-09 and 2017-18. All but five (27) local authority areas showed a decrease between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

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 19% of Motor vehicle offences. This category increased by 16% from 20,613 in 2016-17 to 23,980 in 2017-18. This amounts to an overall decrease of 43% since 2013-14. More than half (18) of local authority areas recorded an increase between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

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 2017-18. 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 through to 2016-17 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 will continue to consider the possibility of an audit of clear up data as they develop their programme for 2019-20, 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. Some crimes and offences in this 2017-18 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 crime in 2017-18 was 49.5%, 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).

As discussed earlier there has been a procedural change made to the recording of crime in 2017-18, whereby some additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon in a public place are now included in the statistics. This change has had a small impact on the clear up rate for both total recorded crime and other crimes in 2017-18.

Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, the clear up rate fell by 0.9 percentage points from 50.0% to 49.1% - when the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon, which were only recorded from 2017-18 onwards, are excluded.

If the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon are included, the clear up rate fell by 0.5 percentage points from 50.0% to 49.5%. This is not a reliable

measure of change between these two years given those crimes of handling an offensive weapon were not recorded prior to 2017-18.

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 1.0 percentage point from 77.1% in 2016-17 to 76.1% in 2017-18. 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 100% in the Orkney Islands to 61.5% in East Dunbartonshire.

Between 2016-17 and 2017-18 clear up rates increased for Homicide etc. by 5.0 percentage points from 99% to 104.1%. Clear up rates for both Robbery and Other violence fell over the same period. Robbery fell by 2.5 percentage points from 76.2% to 73.7% while Other violence fell by 3.4 percentage points from 71.7% to 68.3%. The clear up rate for Attempted murder and serious assault remained relatively unchanged, increasing by 0.3 percentage points from 78.6% to 78.9%.

Chart 18: Clear up rates for crimes recorded by the police by crime group, 1976[1] to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2017-18
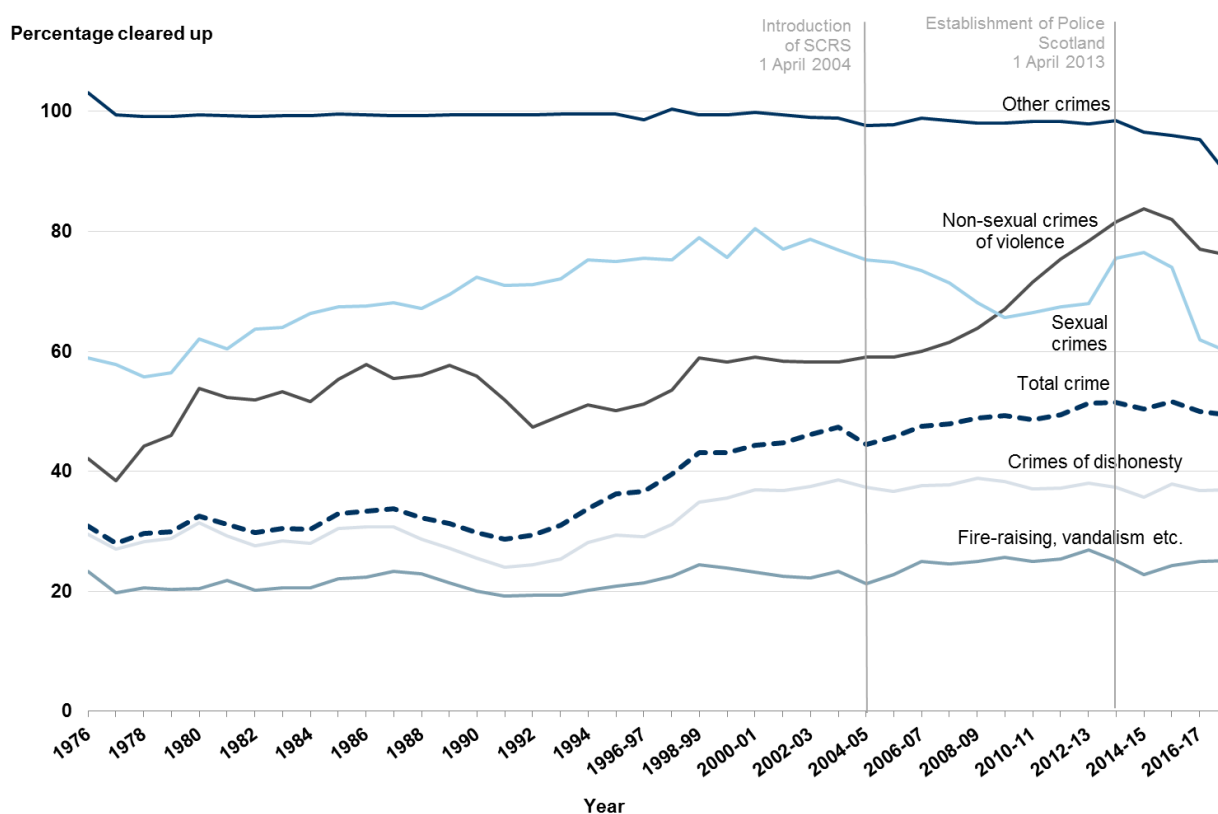
1. Comparable clear up rates for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1976.

Sexual crimes:

The clear up rate for Sexual crimes decreased by 1.9 percentage points in 2017-18, from 61.9% to 60%. Although the clear up rate for Group 2 crimes followed a generally upward trend in recent years, the clear up rate for 2017-18 is the lowest since 1981. Clear up rates ranged from 151.9% in the Orkney Islands to 46.2% in Renfrewshire.

Clear up rates decreased in all categories of Sexual crime between 2016-17 and 2017-18 with the exception of Sexual assault which rose by 0.9 percentage points from 57.4% to 58.4%. The rate for Rape and attempted rape fell by 5 percentage points from 59.6% in 2016-17 to 54.6% in 2017-18. The rate for Other sexual crimes and Crimes associated with prostitution fell by 1.8 percentage points and 9 percentage points respectively.

Crimes of dishonesty:

The clear up rate for Crimes of dishonesty increased by 0.1 percentage points in 2017-18, from 36.7% to 36.9%. Despite slight fluctuation year to year, this clear up rate has remained relatively stable over the ten year period since 2008-09. The clear up rate for Crimes of dishonesty ranged 72.2% in the Shetland Islands to 23.2% in the City of Edinburgh.

Clear up rates decreased for Theft of a motor vehicle by OLP, Shoplifting and Fraud between 2016-17 and 2017-18. All other categories saw an increase in clear up rates over the same period.

Fire-raising, vandalism etc.:

The clear up rate for Fire-raising, vandalism etc. increased by 0.1 percentage points in 2017-18, from 25.1% to 25.2%. Crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. consistently have the lowest clear up rate of the five crime groups. The 2017-18 clear up rate for Fire-raising, vandalism etc. ranged from 58% in the Orkney Islands to 13.8% in Inverclyde.

The clear up rate for Fire-raising increased by 1.8 percentage points between 2016-17 and 2017-18, while the rate for Vandalism etc. remained practically unchanged.

Other crimes:

Clear up rates for Other crimes are generally closer to 100% since these consist of many crimes for which someone is 'caught in the act'. The clear up rate for Other crimes in 2017-18 was 89.6%, the lowest level in the ten year period from 2008-09 to 2017-18. The clear up rate for Group 5 crimes ranged from 101.5% in the Shetland Islands to 80.5% in East Dunbartonshire.

Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, the clear up rate for Other crimes fell by 4.3 percentage points from 95.3% to 91.0% - when the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon, which were only recorded from 2017-18 onwards, are excluded.

If the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon are included, the clear up rate fell by 5.7 percentage points from 95.3% to 89.6%. This is not a reliable

measure of change between these two years given those crimes of handling an offensive weapon were not recorded prior to 2017-18.

Clear up rates decreased in all categories of Other crimes between 2016-17 and 2017-18. The rate for Handling offensive weapons where the weapon was not used in other criminal activity (i.e. the pre-existing measure) fell by 4.8 percentage points from 96.7% in 2016-17 to 91.9% in 2017-18. Crimes of handling an offensive weapon where the weapon was used in other criminal activity had a clear up rate of 71.1% in 2017-18. Drugs and the Other category fell by 6.6 and 6.3 percentage points respectively. Crimes against public justice fell by 0.4 percentage points over the same period.

Table 1: Percentage of crimes / offences cleared up[1] by the police, Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18[2]

Crime / Offence group	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Percentage 2017-18
Total crimes	**48.9**	**49.3**	**48.6**	**49.4**	**51.3**	**51.5**	**50.4**	**51.6**	**50.0**	**49.5**
Non-sexual crimes of violence	**63.9**	**67.0**	**71.6**	**75.4**	**78.5**	**81.5**	**83.7**	**82.0**	**77.1**	**76.1**
Homicide etc.[3] (incl. causing death by driving)	100.0	105.7	99.2	96.7	104.4	101.9	107.6	101.2	99.0	104.1
Attempted murder & serious assault[4]	61.6	65.7	69.9	73.9	77.8	81.5	83.3	84.4	78.6	78.9
Robbery	46.2	46.4	54.8	61.6	65.9	71.8	77.2	78.3	76.2	73.7
Other violence	84.5	85.2	86.6	89.8	90.5	88.4	89.5	77.6	71.7	68.3
Sexual crimes[5]	**68.1**	**65.6**	**66.4**	**67.5**	**68.0**	**75.6**	**76.5**	**74.1**	**61.9**	**60.0**
Rape & attempted rape	61.4	56.8	54.9	56.9	61.8	73.0	74.2	76.3	59.6	54.6
Sexual assault	64.8	61.5	63.8	62.3	61.8	70.6	76.6	70.8	57.4	58.4
Crimes associated with prostitution	99.3	96.5	97.0	95.9	95.9	96.7	97.3	96.4	92.1	83.1
Other sexual crimes	62.9	67.3	68.6	72.2	72.7	79.4	75.5	74.9	65.1	63.3
Crimes of dishonesty	**38.9**	**38.3**	**37.0**	**37.2**	**38.1**	**37.4**	**35.8**	**38.0**	**36.7**	**36.9**
Housebreaking[6]	24.2	24.9	24.5	24.5	24.8	23.2	25.0	26.7	22.5	23.9
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	37.7	30.7	22.6	21.7	19.5	16.8	15.2	21.2	17.5	18.5
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	16.6	17.3	17.2	17.2	20.1	16.2	15.1	19.3	16.5	15.8
Theft of a motor vehicle	43.4	43.9	43.3	45.2	47.6	43.1	39.3	41.8	39.9	40.8
Shoplifting	77.8	78.7	78.5	78.7	79.7	78.8	74.6	72.9	71.6	67.4
Other theft	21.4	21.0	20.0	20.6	21.0	20.5	18.6	19.9	19.3	19.2
Fraud	74.6	57.3	57.2	55.3	52.2	55.8	50.6	44.7	39.9	39.1
Other dishonesty	78.6	73.4	74.3	73.9	72.1	71.1	66.6	62.1	60.3	60.8
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	**25.0**	**25.6**	**25.0**	**25.4**	**27.0**	**25.1**	**22.8**	**24.3**	**25.1**	**25.2**
Fire-raising	24.4	23.6	21.9	23.9	25.9	27.2	25.1	28.2	25.7	27.5
Vandalism etc.	25.0	25.7	25.2	25.5	27.0	25.0	22.7	24.1	25.0	25.1
Other crimes	**98.1**	**98.1**	**98.3**	**98.4**	**97.9**	**98.4**	**96.5**	**96.0**	**95.3**	**89.6**
Crimes against public justice	97.5	97.3	97.6	97.6	97.6	98.0	97.5	97.5	96.7	96.3
Handling offensive weapons	95.7	96.5	96.2	97.3	97.0	97.8	96.6	96.5	96.7	80.7
Drugs	99.1	99.0	99.4	99.2	98.2	98.8	95.9	95.1	94.4	87.8
Other	89.5	89.9	88.7	90.6	94.6	97.7	95.1	97.0	96.2	89.9
Miscellaneous offences[7]	**82.6**	**83.0**	**82.0**	**83.9**	**85.5**	**87.5**	**86.3**	**84.3**	**80.3**	**77.7**
Common assault[4]	69.7	69.7	69.9	71.4	72.6	75.9	76.2	75.9	70.8	69.1
Breach of the peace etc.[8]	86.7	85.8	84.3	86.8	87.8	89.2	87.8	86.5	84.8	84.0
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct[7]	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.8	99.9	99.9	99.8	99.8	99.6	99.5
Urinating etc.	99.7	99.8	99.7	99.7	99.8	100.0	99.8	99.7	99.6	99.6
Other[7]	75.3	73.6	70.6	75.5	76.0	78.9	76.9	74.9	72.5	71.3

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, 2008-09 to 2017-18
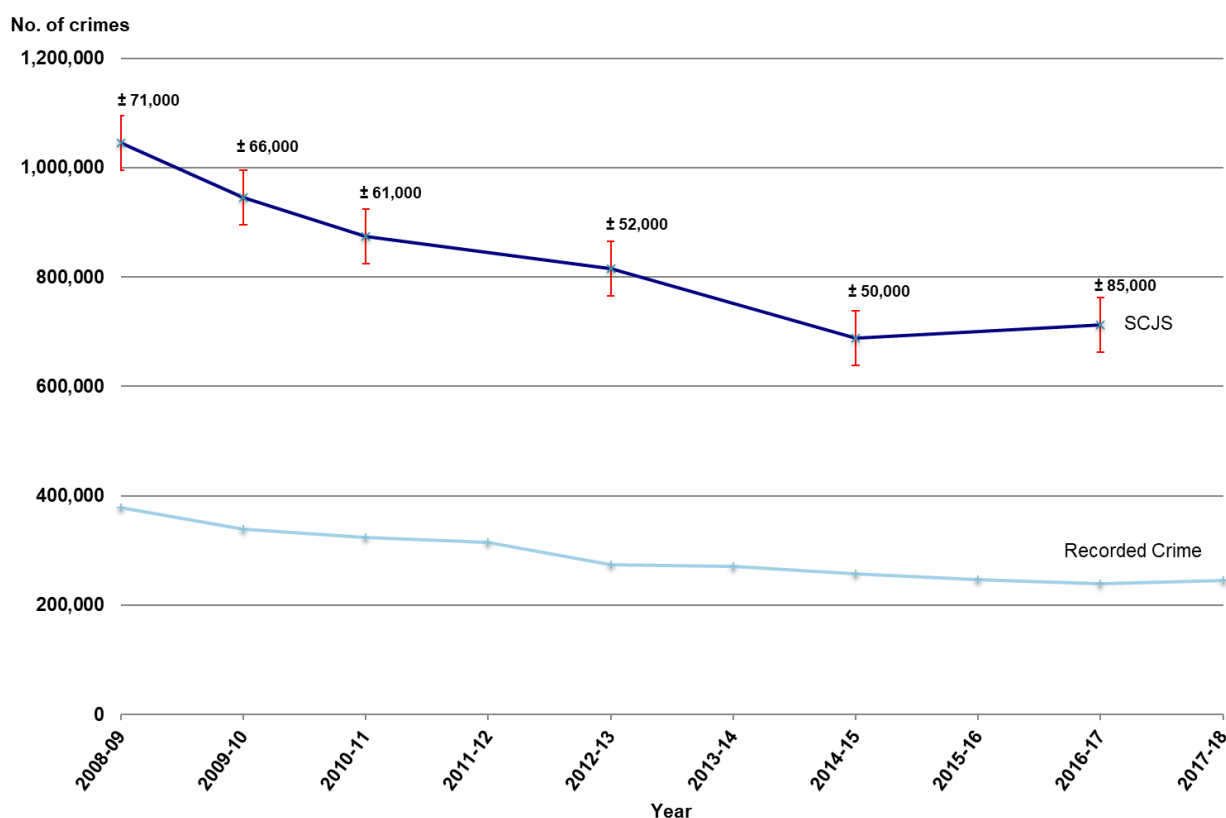
1. The shift to the current survey design in 2008-09 has led to greater certainty around estimates.

The preceding sections of this bulletin contain information on the volume and types of crime recorded by the police in Scotland in 2017-18. 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[12]. However bringing the two sources together in this way highlights that the SCJS and police recorded crime cover different populations and different timescales, and the SCJS does not cover the entire range of crimes

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[12] *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.*

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, 2008-09 to 2016-17

The SCJS estimates that there were 712,000 incidents of crime against adults in Scotland in 2016-17. This is 32% lower than in the 2008-09 survey when there were an estimated 1,045,000 crimes. In 2016-17 around one in seven adults (13.4%) were the victim of at least one crime.

The analysis that follows in this chapter focuses on the period from 2008-09 onwards, for which there is more consistent SCJS data.

In comparison to the SCJS, as noted previously in this report, in 2017-18, the police recorded 244,504 crimes; this represents an increase of 1% since 2016-17 (when the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon are excluded), and a decrease of 35% since 2008-09. Chart 19 shows that the 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 2016-17 SCJS estimated that of the 712,000 incidents of crime, 37% 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 2016-17, where crime was not reported to the police, the most common reasons SCJS respondents gave for not reporting crime were that the victim perceived the

incident to be too trivial to involve the police (39%), or that the victim felt that the police could have done nothing (23%). Where crime was reported to the police it was mostly because the victim felt that it was the right thing to do (42%) or in the hope that offenders would be caught and punished (24%).

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
- Vandalism (including motor vehicle and property vandalism) - All motor vehicle theft related incidents (including theft and attempted theft of and from a motor vehicle) - Housebreaking (termed burglary in England and Wales) - Other household thefts (including bicycle theft) - Personal theft (excluding robbery)	- Assault (includes serious assault, attempted assault, minor assault with no-negligible and minor injury) - Robbery

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

This section provides an overview of the main findings from SCJS 2016-17 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 2016-17, approximately 418,000 crimes (68% of all SCJS crime) were in this category, which means that it is estimated that around 11.5% of adults in Scotland were a victim of property crime. Between 2008-09 and 2016-17, there was a statistically significant decrease of 34% in the estimated number of incidents of property crime captured by the SCJS.

Of the 481,000 property crimes estimated by the SCJS in 2014-15, vandalism accounted for 34%, followed by other household theft (including bicycle theft) (27%), personal theft (excluding robbery) (26%), all motor vehicle theft related incidents (8%) and housebreaking (5%).

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 113,205 crimes in the Crimes of dishonesty group in 2016-17 (down 2% since 2015-16) and 52,514 crimes in the fire-raising, vandalism etc. group (down 3% since 2015-16), 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 (28,650 recorded crimes in 2016-17) and fraud (7,811 recorded crimes in 2016-17)) which are not captured in the SCJS.

In terms of crimes reported to the police, the 2016-17 SCJS estimates that over a third (34%) of property crimes were reported to the police, with reporting rates highest among victims of property vandalism (41%). The most common reasons given for not reporting property crime was that the victim felt the incident was considered to be too trivial (46%), or that the police could not have done anything about it (28%). When property crime was reported, the most common reasons given were that reporting was considered to be the right thing to do/automatic (40%) or in the hope that offenders would be caught and punished (28%). Victims of property crime also experienced emotional responses, with anger (41%), annoyance (39%) and shock (7%) 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 2016-17)

	All	Male	Female	16-24	25-44	45-59	60+
Property Crime (risk as a percentage)	**11.5**	13.4	12.6	16.8	14.3	10.9	6.8
Base	5,570	2,561	3,006	418	1527	1,539	2,083

Violent Crime

The SCJS violent crime category includes attempted assault, serious assault, minor assault and robbery. Of the 712,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2016-17, 231,000 (32%) were violent crimes, which means that it is estimated that 2.9% of adults in Scotland were a victim of violent crime in 2016-17. Between 2008-09 and 2016-17 there was a statistically significant decrease of 27% in the estimated number of incidents of violent crime captured by the SCJS.

The 231,000 violent crimes estimated by the SCJS in 2016-17 comprise 72% minor assaults (no/negligible injury), 13% minor assaults (injury), 7% serious assaults, 4% attempted assaults, and 3% robbery.

The latest data presented elsewhere in this report shows that in 2016-17 the police recorded 7,164 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 57,861 common assaults in 2016-17.

We know from the SCJS that not all crime is reported to the police. The 2016-17 SCJS estimates that 43% 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 (47%), it was considered a personal family matter (24%) or that they considered the incident to be too trivial to involve the police (21%). Where violent crime was reported, the most common reasons given for reporting were that it was considered to be the right thing to do/automatic (33%), that the crime was serious or upsetting (19%), or other reasons (17%).

Table 3 shows that that risk of violent crime decreases with age from 5% 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 2016-17)

	All	**Male**	**Female**	**16-24**	**25-44**	**45-59**	**60+**
Violent Crime (risk as a percentage)	**2.9**	3.4	2.3	5.3	4.4	2.5	0.4
Base	5,570	2,561	3,006	418	1,527	1,539	2,083

The 2016-17 SCJS estimates that just over one in three violent crimes (34%) happened between midnight and 6 am on the weekend and that victims thought that the offender was under the influence of alcohol in 42% of violent crime, and drugs in 22% of violent crime. Injuries were sustained by victims in almost half

(48%) of violent crime. Where injuries were sustained, 57% received minor bruising or a black eye and 31% received scratches. Victims also experienced emotional responses to violent crime with anger (52%), annoyance (51%) and shock (51%) 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 712,000 crimes estimated by the 2016-17 SCJS, around 63% (448,000) can be compared with police recorded crimes in 2016-17. The remainder of this section provides an overview of the level of crime and trends in the comparable subset from 2008-09 to 2016-17.

This analysis has been extended further in the 2016-17 SCJS report, 'Bringing Together Scotland's Crime Statistics, available from: http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/03/9068/8.

As presented in Table 4, in 2016-17 the SCJS estimated that there were 448,000 crimes in the overall comparable crime category, while the police recorded around 131,566 crimes in this category. The extent of overall comparable crime in both the recorded crime figures and SCJS estimates decreased between 2008-09 and 2016-17 (-39% in both cases). The reduction in estimated SCJS comparable crime from 731,000 in 2008-09 to 448,000 in 2016-17 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 2016-17 SCJS indicate that of the 448,000 crimes in the overall comparable subset, around 189,000 incidents (42%) were estimated to have been reported to police. In 2016-17 the police recorded 131,566 crimes in the comparable category. From this it can also be estimated that around 29% of the total comparable crimes estimated by the SCJS (that is reported and non-reported crime) were recorded by the police in 2016-17.

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 2016-17)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2012-13	2014-15	2016-17	% change 2008-09 to 2016-17[9]	% change 2014-15 to 2016-17[9]
Comparable Recorded Crime	215,901	195,728	183,117	144,662	133,170	131,566	-39%	-1%
Comparable SCJS Crime	731,000	630,000	556,000	527,000	414,000	448,000	-39%	No change
Recorded Acquisitive Crime	27,527	26,146	26,478	21,834	21,000	18,295	-34%	-13%
SCJS Acquisitive Crime	64,000	61,000	61,000	73,000	49,000	51,000	No change	No change
Recorded Violent Crime	82,855	79,769	78,263	66,076	62,578	63,246	-24%	1%
SCJS Violent Crime	317,000	266,000	220,000	236,000	186,000	231,000	-27%	No change
Recorded Vandalism	105,519	89,813	78,376	56,752	49,592	50,025	-53%	1%
SCJS Vandalism	350,000	303,000	275,000	219,000	179,000	166,000	-53%	No change

9. SCJS changes are specified when statistically significant.

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

The acquisitive comparable crime group includes bicycle theft, housebreaking and theft of a motor vehicle. In 2016-17, the SCJS estimated that there were 51,000 acquisitive crimes (+/- 16,000, meaning that the true number of aquisitive crimes in the underying population is estimated to be between 36,000 and 67,000[13]).

Recorded acquisitive crime fell by 34% between 2008-09 and 2016-17 and by 13% between 2014-15 and 2016-17. No statistically significant changes were identified in SCJS acquisitive crime across either of these time periods, however this is likely in part due to the smaller sample sizes involved.

Violent crime

Violent comparable crime includes serious assault, common assault and robbery. In 2016-17 the SCJS estimated that there were 231,000 violent crimes (+/- 59,000, meaning that the true number of violent crimes in the underlying population is estimated to be between 172,000 and 290,000, while the police recorded 63,246 violent crimes.

Table 4 shows that there is greater consistency between trend in the two sources of comparable violent crime data over the longer term. Between 2008-09 and 2016-17, both SCJS estimates and recorded crime violent crimes figures have shown a decrease (by 27% and 24% respectively). Since 2014-15, recorded violent crime has increased by 1%, while the SCJS has shown no change in violent crime.

Vandalism

The vandalism comparable group incldes motor vehicle vandalism and property vandalism. In 2016-17, the SCJS estimated that there were 166,000 instances of vandlism (+/- 27,000, meaning that the true number of vandalism crimes in the underlying population is estimated to be between 139,000 and 192,000[14]). The police recorded 50,025 vandalism incidents in 2016-17.

There has been relative consistency in the trends in comparable vandalism crime across both SCJS and police recorded crime between 2008-09 and 2016-17. Since 2014-15, there has been no statistically significant change in the SCJS estimate of vandalism, while crimes of vandalism recorded by the police have increased by 1%. Over the longer term, both SCJS estimates and

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[13] *Figures for the confidence interval rounded to nearest thousand.*

[14] *Figures for the confidence interval rounded to nearest thousand.*

recorded crime figures have been on a downward trend (each decreasing by 53% since 2008-09).

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 712,000 incidents of crime against adults living in households in Scotland in 2016-17, while at the same time the police in Scotland recorded 238,921 crimes (and 150,523 Miscellaneous offences, including 57,861 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 two of the groups highlighted (violent crime and vandalism); the changes overall and for both of these groups (between 2008-09 and 2016-17) are statistically significant.

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

	Recorded Crime	Scottish Crime and Justice Survey
Where do the data come from?	Administrative police records	Face to face interviews with residents from a nationally representative sample of the household population
Basis for inclusion	Crimes recorded by the police in Scotland, governed by the Scottish Crime Recording Standard and Counting Rules.	Trained coders determine whether experiences of victimisation in the last 12 months constitute a crime and assign an offence code.
Frequency	Collected by financial year. Statistics released in an annual publication.	Continuous survey with results currently published biennially.
Strengths	• Covers the full range of crimes and offences. • Provides data at a local level (and can be used for performance monitoring). • A good measure of rarer, more serious crimes that are well reported. • Good measure of long-term trends.	• Good measure of trends since 2008-09. • Captures information about crimes that are not reported to the police (including sensitive issues such as domestic abuse or drug use). • Provides information on multiple and repeat victimisation (up to 5 incidents in a series). • Analyses risk for different demographic groups and victim-offender relationships. • Provides attitudinal data (e.g. fear of crime or attitudes towards the criminal justice system).
Limitations	• Partially reliant on the public reporting crime. • Reporting rates may vary by the type of crime (e.g. crimes more likely to be reported include serious crime and crimes such as housebreaking where recording is required for insurance purposes). • Trends can be affected by legislation; public reporting practices; police recording practices.	• Does not cover all crimes (e.g. homicide or 'victimless' crimes such as speeding). • Does not cover the entire population (e.g. children, homeless people or people living in communal accommodation). • Unable to produce robust data at lower level geographies. • Difficult to measure/detect changes between survey sweeps for rarer forms of crime (such as more serious offences). • Subject to quantifiable/non-quantifiable error.
What other data are collected?	• Additional data on homicides, racist incidents, domestic abuse incidents and firearm offences.	• Public perceptions about crime. • Worry about crime and the perceived likelihood of being a victim. • Confidence in the police and the criminal justice system. • Prevalence estimates on 'sensitive' topics (partner abuse, sexual victimisation, stalking and drug use).

6. Tables

List Of Tables

Table 6: Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18[2]

Number & Percentage

Crime group	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	% change 16-17 to 17-18
Total Crimes	377,433	338,124	323,247	314,188	273,053	270,397	256,350	246,243	238,921	244,504	*
Non-sexual crimes of violence	12,612	11,228	11,437	9,484	7,468	6,686	6,272	6,737	7,164	7,251	*1*
Homicide etc.[3] (incl. causing death by driving)	134	106	122	121	91	106	105	81	105	98	-7
Attempted murder & serious assault[4]	6,472	5,621	5,493	4,693	3,643	3,268	3,166	4,007	4,186	4,189	0
Robbery	2,963	2,496	2,557	2,244	1,832	1,499	1,497	1,327	1,435	1,556	8
Other violence	3,043	3,005	3,265	2,426	1,902	1,813	1,504	1,322	1,438	1,408	-2
Sexual crimes[5]	6,331	6,527	6,696	7,361	7,693	8,604	9,557	10,273	11,092	12,487	*13*
Rape & attempted rape	963	996	1,131	1,274	1,462	1,808	1,901	1,809	1,878	2,255	20
Sexual assault	3,297	3,412	3,220	2,908	3,008	3,405	3,727	3,963	4,281	4,826	13
Crimes associated with prostitution	765	661	576	567	534	490	374	247	303	136	-55
Other sexual crimes	1,306	1,458	1,769	2,612	2,689	2,901	3,555	4,254	4,630	5,270	14
Crimes of dishonesty	167,812	153,256	155,870	154,337	135,899	137,324	126,857	115,789	113,205	114,474	*1*
Housebreaking[6]	25,496	23,774	25,017	24,222	21,515	22,272	20,607	17,637	16,299	15,130	-7
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	6,952	5,074	4,059	3,529	3,239	3,218	2,879	2,193	1,940	2,027	4
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	13,649	10,173	9,495	8,988	6,159	6,189	5,816	4,684	3,888	3,734	-4
Theft of a motor vehicle	11,551	9,304	8,716	7,060	5,731	5,976	5,423	5,028	5,216	5,024	-4
Shoplifting	32,048	30,332	29,660	29,758	26,449	27,693	27,364	28,424	28,650	31,321	9
Other theft	64,384	61,008	64,680	66,681	58,704	58,794	53,539	46,419	45,173	44,437	-2
Fraud	8,316	8,283	8,983	8,892	8,898	8,088	6,913	7,400	7,811	8,628	10
Other dishonesty	5,416	5,308	5,260	5,207	5,204	5,094	4,316	4,004	4,228	4,173	-1
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	109,430	93,443	82,020	75,201	59,479	54,418	52,091	54,226	52,514	51,322	*-2*
Fire-raising	4,651	4,244	3,966	3,755	3,066	2,549	2,351	2,595	2,793	2,632	-6
Vandalism etc.	104,779	89,199	78,054	71,446	56,413	51,869	49,740	51,631	49,721	48,690	-2
Other crimes	81,248	73,670	67,224	67,805	62,514	63,365	61,573	59,218	54,946	58,970	*
Crimes against public justice	29,493	26,885	26,294	26,635	23,401	23,610	21,100	20,361	18,795	18,679	-1
Handling offensive weapons										7,733	-
Not used in other criminal activity	*8,980*	*7,042*	*6,283*	*5,631*	*4,015*	*3,795*	*3,289*	*3,111*	*3,271*	*3,570*	*9*
Used in other criminal activity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*4,163*	-
Drugs	42,509	39,408	34,347	35,157	34,688	35,616	36,836	35,479	32,641	32,399	*-1*
Other	266	335	300	382	410	344	348	267	239	159	*-33*

*When the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon are excluded, the total number of crimes recorded by the police between 2016-17 and 2017-18 increased by 1% and the number of Other crimes remained at similar levels over the same period. For local authority comparisons see *Table 6A*.

Please see *Notes for Tables* at end of Chapter 6.

Table 6A Percentage change in crimes recorded by the police by local authority, Scotland, 2016-17 and 2017-18

Local Authority	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes*	Total crimes*
Aberdeen City	-6%	-12%	-19%	-5%	0%	-12%
Aberdeenshire	-12%	10%	-13%	1%	11%	-3%
Angus	0%	41%	0%	-2%	-6%	1%
Argyll & Bute	24%	24%	1%	-8%	5%	1%
Clackmannanshire	33%	22%	2%	-3%	8%	4%
Dumfries & Galloway	-4%	22%	10%	-14%	1%	1%
Dundee City	5%	15%	-4%	-5%	7%	-1%
East Ayrshire	-8%	68%	-6%	-9%	0%	-3%
East Dunbartonshire	-9%	-24%	-20%	9%	-2%	-11%
East Lothian	-16%	-18%	7%	-5%	21%	4%
East Renfrewshire	-16%	5%	16%	17%	11%	14%
Edinburgh, City of	9%	10%	13%	3%	14%	11%
Falkirk	9%	45%	6%	17%	22%	15%
Fife	3%	16%	7%	-3%	0%	4%
Glasgow City	1%	19%	-3%	1%	-7%	-2%
Highland	-3%	-24%	5%	-5%	8%	1%
Inverclyde	21%	14%	3%	-22%	-5%	-5%
Midlothian	0%	11%	4%	-9%	-12%	-2%
Moray	5%	-4%	-12%	-17%	12%	-6%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	-43%	33%	-29%	-17%	-1%	-12%
North Ayrshire	9%	15%	3%	-19%	-8%	-5%
North Lanarkshire	16%	37%	-3%	-3%	2%	0%
Orkney Islands	8%	-16%	-15%	-14%	37%	-4%
Perth & Kinross	-23%	-6%	-2%	-1%	-25%	-9%
Renfrewshire	4%	5%	13%	8%	-14%	3%
Scottish Borders	-17%	26%	10%	7%	23%	12%
Shetland Islands	18%	18%	-37%	21%	-17%	-12%
South Ayrshire	8%	11%	17%	-6%	5%	9%
South Lanarkshire	6%	39%	10%	0%	-6%	4%
Stirling	-7%	35%	4%	3%	-22%	-2%
West Dunbartonshire	-7%	26%	-8%	-10%	-15%	-9%
West Lothian	-11%	-12%	-10%	-9%	26%	-3%
SCOTLAND	**1%**	**13%**	**1%**	**-2%**	**0%**	**1%**

When the additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon are excluded.

Table 7: Offences recorded by the police, Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18[2]

											Number & Percentage
Offence group	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	*% change 16-17 to 17-18*
Total offences[10]						501,281	379,498	339,193	288,691	264,027	*-9*
Miscellaneous offences[7]	228,854	232,846	211,655	210,135	203,063	207,190	183,513	168,896	150,523	137,012	*-9*
Common assault[4]	74,130	72,212	70,786	69,253	60,955	60,357	58,178	58,596	57,861	58,335	*1*
Breach of the peace etc.[8]	93,327	87,403	70,468	71,451	70,301	71,288	63,205	62,233	58,235	53,187	*-9*
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct[7]	31,307	39,545	37,451	37,458	39,238	43,043	35,524	24,639	15,796	8,635	*-45*
Urinating etc.	10,717	14,186	13,620	13,602	15,420	15,361	11,216	7,700	4,505	3,044	*-32*
Other[7]	19,373	19,500	19,330	18,371	17,149	17,141	15,390	15,728	14,126	13,811	*-2*
Motor vehicle offences[10]						294,091	195,985	170,297	138,168	127,015	*-8*
Dangerous and careless driving	11,519	11,073	9,839	9,853	10,530	11,524	10,773	12,057	11,693	10,722	*-8*
Driving under the influence	9,800	8,504	7,563	7,445	6,433	6,079	5,218	5,458	5,917	5,863	*-1*
Speeding[10]						82,382	60,926	54,419	34,371	29,223	*-15*
Unlawful use of vehicle[10]						57,779	40,855	41,470	45,978	43,871	*-5*
Vehicle defect offences[10]						20,923	15,593	13,070	8,385	7,049	*-16*
Seat belt offences[7]	26,225	29,324	29,171	31,505	33,047	37,880	15,619	8,059	4,502	3,134	*-30*
Mobile phone offences[7]	23,957	26,146	27,736	29,110	30,875	35,764	17,978	10,085	6,709	3,173	*-53*
Other[10]						41,760	29,023	25,679	20,613	23,980	*16*

Please see Notes for Tables at end of Chapter 6.

Table 8: Crimes and offences recorded in Scotland per 10,000 population[11], 2008-09 to 2017-18[2]

| | | | | | | | | | | Percentage |
Crime / Offence group	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Total crimes	**725**	**646**	**614**	**593**	**514**	**508**	**479**	**458**	**442**	**451**
Non-sexual crimes of violence	**24**	**21**	**22**	**18**	**14**	**13**	**12**	**13**	**13**	**13**
Homicide etc.[3] (incl. causing death by driving)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted murder & serious assault[4]	12	11	10	9	7	6	6	7	8	8
Robbery	6	5	5	4	3	3	3	2	3	3
Other violence	6	6	6	5	4	3	3	2	3	3
Sexual crimes[5]	**12**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**14**	**16**	**18**	**19**	**21**	**23**
Rape & attempted rape	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	3	3	4
Sexual assault	6	7	6	5	6	6	7	7	8	9
Crimes associated with prostitution	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
Other sexual crimes	3	3	3	5	5	5	7	8	9	10
Crimes of dishonesty	**323**	**293**	**296**	**291**	**256**	**258**	**237**	**216**	**209**	**211**
Housebreaking[6]	49	45	48	46	40	42	39	33	30	28
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	13	10	8	7	6	6	5	4	4	4
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	26	19	18	17	12	12	11	9	7	7
Theft of a motor vehicle	22	18	17	13	11	11	10	9	10	9
Shoplifting	62	58	56	56	50	52	51	53	53	58
Other theft	124	117	123	126	110	110	100	86	84	82
Fraud	16	16	17	17	17	15	13	14	14	16
Other dishonesty	10	10	10	10	10	10	8	7	8	8
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	**210**	**179**	**156**	**142**	**112**	**102**	**97**	**101**	**97**	**95**
Fire-raising	9	8	8	7	6	5	4	5	5	5
Vandalism etc.	201	170	148	135	106	97	93	96	92	90
Other crimes	**156**	**141**	**128**	**128**	**118**	**119**	**115**	**110**	**102**	**123**
Crimes against public justice	57	51	50	50	44	44	39	38	35	34
Handling offensive weapons										14
Not used in other criminal activity	17	13	12	11	8	7	6	6	6	7
Used in other criminal activity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Drugs	82	75	65	66	65	67	69	66	60	60
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Total offences[10]						941	710	631	534	487
Miscellaneous offences[7]	**440**	**445**	**402**	**396**	**382**	**389**	**343**	**314**	**279**	**253**
Common assault[4]	142	138	135	131	115	113	109	109	107	108
Breach of the peace etc.[8]	179	167	134	135	132	134	118	116	108	98
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct[7]	60	76	71	71	74	81	66	46	29	16
Urinating etc.	21	27	26	26	29	29	21	14	8	6
Other[7]	37	37	37	35	32	32	29	29	26	25
Motor vehicle offences[10]						552	366	317	256	234
Dangerous and careless driving	22	21	19	19	20	22	20	22	22	20
Driving under the influence	19	16	14	14	12	11	10	10	11	11
Speeding[10]						155	114	101	64	54
Unlawful use of vehicle[10]						108	76	77	85	81
Vehicle defect offences[10]						39	29	24	16	13
Seat belt offences[7]	50	56	55	59	62	71	29	15	8	6
Mobile phone offences[7]	46	50	53	55	58	67	34	19	12	6
Other[10]						78	54	48	38	44

Notes:

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)

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 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

Part of the change in Total crime and Other crimes in 2017-18 is due to additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon. Further information on this procedural change and its impact on the statistics are available in Section 2.10.

Please see Notes for Tables at end of Chapter 6.

Table 9: Crimes and offences recorded by local authority area, 2017-18

Local authority area	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	Total crimes	Miscellaneous offences	Motor vehicle offences	Total offences	Total crimes and offences
Aberdeen City	377	623	6,013	2,189	3,307	12,509	6,607	6,419	13,026	25,535
Aberdeenshire	186	516	2,506	1,367	1,714	6,289	3,713	6,230	9,943	16,232
Angus	110	335	1,422	880	692	3,439	2,291	3,685	5,976	9,415
Argyll & Bute	63	170	722	540	769	2,264	1,853	2,641	4,494	6,758
Clackmannanshire	80	116	784	632	579	2,191	1,489	864	2,353	4,544
Dumfries & Galloway	146	473	2,151	1,357	1,971	6,098	4,168	8,068	12,236	18,334
Dundee City	272	606	4,211	1,821	2,046	8,956	4,338	5,434	9,772	18,728
East Ayrshire	132	254	2,106	1,267	1,451	5,210	3,054	2,533	5,587	10,797
East Dunbartonshire	78	108	1,243	594	564	2,587	1,348	1,023	2,371	4,958
East Lothian	81	134	1,983	835	724	3,757	1,583	1,044	2,627	6,384
East Renfrewshire	46	112	1,083	660	593	2,494	1,060	846	1,906	4,400
Edinburgh, City of	838	1,086	20,429	5,887	4,840	33,080	12,868	9,302	22,170	55,250
Falkirk	215	454	2,622	1,666	1,730	6,687	4,430	3,510	7,940	14,627
Fife	452	1,119	6,476	3,250	2,936	14,233	8,755	8,039	16,794	31,027
Glasgow City	1,553	2,032	20,641	8,216	11,535	43,977	26,624	16,492	43,116	87,093
Highland	221	445	3,131	1,731	2,339	7,867	4,720	10,173	14,893	22,760
Inverclyde	114	180	1,318	708	1,186	3,506	1,860	1,697	3,557	7,063
Midlothian	98	179	2,407	1,071	812	4,567	1,862	1,291	3,153	7,720
Moray	90	221	848	560	773	2,492	1,871	2,861	4,732	7,224
Na h-Eileanan Siar	8	53	95	71	107	334	325	513	838	1,172
North Ayrshire	185	247	2,897	1,267	1,362	5,958	3,272	2,417	5,689	11,647
North Lanarkshire	461	660	7,212	3,888	4,546	16,767	9,853	6,165	16,018	32,785
Orkney Islands	13	27	103	81	82	306	244	374	618	924
Perth & Kinross	129	295	2,002	812	979	4,217	2,278	4,447	6,725	10,942
Renfrewshire	266	316	3,469	1,727	2,242	8,020	5,060	4,021	9,081	17,101
Scottish Borders	81	205	1,488	872	802	3,448	1,737	1,626	3,363	6,811
Shetland Islands	13	26	79	104	133	355	258	483	741	1,096
South Ayrshire	119	193	2,342	820	1,054	4,528	2,529	2,324	4,853	9,381
South Lanarkshire	374	545	6,330	3,074	3,261	13,584	8,131	4,631	12,762	26,346
Stirling	79	191	1,519	813	769	3,371	1,998	2,546	4,544	7,915
West Dunbartonshire	128	194	1,689	969	1,209	4,189	2,749	2,126	4,875	9,064
West Lothian	243	372	3,153	1,593	1,863	7,224	4,084	3,190	7,274	14,498
SCOTLAND	**7,251**	**12,487**	**114,474**	**51,322**	**58,970**	**244,504**	**137,012**	**127,015**	**264,027**	**508,531**

Table 10: Number of crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 1971 to 2017-18

						Number
Year	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes*	Total 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 [12]	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	11,437	6,696	155,870	82,020	67,224	323,247
2011-12	9,484	7,361	154,337	75,201	67,805	314,188
2012-13	7,468	7,693	135,899	59,479	62,514	273,053
2013-14	6,686	8,604	137,324	54,418	63,365	270,397
2014-15	6,272	9,557	126,857	52,091	61,573	256,350
2015-16	6,737	10,273	115,789	54,226	59,218	246,243
2016-17	7,164	11,092	113,205	52,514	54,946	238,921
2017-18	7,251	12,487	114,474	51,322	58,970	244,504

Part of the change in Total crime and Other Crimes in 2017-18 is due to additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon. Further information on this procedural change and its impact on the statistics are available in Section 2.10.
Please see Notes for Tables at end of Chapter 6.

Table 11: Crimes recorded per 10,000 population[11], Scotland, 1971 to 2017-18

Rate per 10,000 population

Year	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes*	Total crimes*	Population
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 [12]	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	25	13	320	227	156	725	5,202,900
2009-10	24	12	321	209	155	646	5,231,900
2010-11	21	12	291	178	140	614	5,262,200
2011-12	22	13	294	155	127	593	5,299,900
2012-13	18	14	290	142	128	514	5,313,600
2013-14	14	14	255	112	117	508	5,327,700
2014-15	13	16	257	102	118	479	5,347,600
2015-16	12	18	236	97	115	458	5,373,000
2016-17	13	21	209	97	102	442	5,404,700
2017-18	13	23	211	95	109	451	5,424,800

*Part of the change in Total crime and Other Crimes in 2017-18 is due to additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon. Further information on this procedural change and its impact on the statistics are available in Section 2.10.
Please see Notes for Tables at end of Chapter 6.

Table A1: Sexual crimes[5] recorded by the police, Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18

Number & Percentage

Sexual crimes	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	% change 16-17 to 17-18
Rape & attempted rape	**963**	**996**	**1,131**	**1,274**	**1,462**	**1,808**	**1,901**	**1,809**	**1,878**	**2,255**	**20**
Rape	821	884	997	1,183	1,372	1,690	1,797	1,692	1,755	2,136	22
Attempted rape	142	112	134	91	90	118	104	117	123	119	-3
Sexual assault	**3,297**	**3,412**	**3,220**	**2,908**	**3,008**	**3,405**	**3,727**	**3,963**	**4,281**	**4,826**	**13**
Sexual assault including against children	1,681	1,737	1,774	2,056	2,166	2,449	2,713	2,892	2,954	3,625	23
Sexual assault committed prior to 1 December 2010	*1,640*	*1,685*	*1,275*	*288*	*316*	*358*	*347*	*344*	*378*	*346*	*-8*
Sexual assault against an adult 16+	*~*	*~*	*321*	*1,139*	*1,149*	*1,323*	*1,434*	*1,597*	*1,615*	*2,021*	*25*
Sexual assault against a child aged 13-15	*~*	*~*	*67*	*245*	*312*	*372*	*457*	*462*	*423*	*626*	*48*
Sexual assault against a child under 13	*41*	*52*	*111*	*384*	*389*	*396*	*475*	*489*	*538*	*632*	*17*
Lewd and libidinous practices	1,616	1,675	1,446	852	842	956	1,014	1,071	1,327	1,201	-9
Crimes associated with prostitution	**765**	**661**	**576**	**567**	**534**	**490**	**374**	**247**	**303**	**136**	**-55**
Crimes relating to prostitution	533	418	353	344	348	295	179	146	194	65	-66
Soliciting services of person engaged in prostitution	172	162	154	149	133	117	138	64	58	22	-62
Brothel keeping	24	34	21	36	28	32	36	17	14	18	29
Immoral traffic	21	36	33	26	14	32	13	7	26	21	-19
Procuration	15	11	15	12	11	14	8	13	11	10	-9
Other	**1,306**	**1,458**	**1,769**	**2,612**	**2,689**	**2,901**	**3,555**	**4,254**	**4,630**	**5,270**	**14**
Other sexually coercive conduct	~	~	164	719	875	1,038	1,624	2,168	2,461	2,718	10
Other sexually coercive conduct against an adult 16+ [1]	*~*	*~*	*62*	*306*	*391*	*425*	*906*	*1,358*	*1,501*	*1,750*	*17*
Other sexually coercive conduct against a child aged 13-15	*~*	*~*	*48*	*181*	*256*	*365*	*333*	*350*	*408*	*392*	*-4*
Other sexually coercive conduct against a child under 13	*~*	*~*	*54*	*232*	*228*	*248*	*385*	*460*	*552*	*576*	*4*
Other sexual crimes involving 13-15 year old children	370	445	441	516	429	434	417	485	452	391	-13
Taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children	*	69	225	375	595	621	603	645	649	658	1
Threaten to disclose / disclose intimate image	*~	*~	*~	*~	*~	*~	*~	*~	*~	421	n/a
Incest	19	49	17	18	16	11	7	8	5	4	-20
Illegal homosexual acts	97	74	118	46	45	53	56	78	111	80	-28
Indecent exposure	786	766	742	894	680	682	784	726	523	506	-3
Other sexual crimes	34	55	62	44	49	62	64	144	429	492	15
Total Sexual crimes[5]	**6,331**	**6,527**	**6,696**	**7,361**	**7,693**	**8,604**	**9,557**	**10,273**	**11,092**	**12,487**	**13**

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.

*~ = The relevant legislation for this category was implemented in 2017-18.

Table A2: Theft by Housebreaking[13] (including attempts and housebreaking 'with intent'), Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18

Number & Percentage

Crime category	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	% change 16-17 to 17-18
Domestic:	17,223	16,727	17,657	17,375	15,656	16,334	15,166	13,051	12,036	10,893	-9
Dwelling	12,133	11,790	12,633	12,198	10,767	10,732	9,590	8,854	8,169	7,204	-12
Non-dwelling	5,090	4,937	5,024	5,177	4,889	5,602	5,576	4,197	3,867	3,689	-5
Other	8,273	7,047	7,360	6,847	5,859	5,938	5,441	4,586	4,263	4,237	-1
Total Housebreaking	**25,496**	**23,774**	**25,017**	**24,222**	**21,515**	**22,272**	**20,607**	**17,637**	**16,299**	**15,130**	**-7**
Percentage Domestic	**68%**	**70%**	**71%**	**72%**	**73%**	**73%**	**74%**	**74%**	**74%**	**72%**	

Table A3: Theft of, and from, motor vehicles recorded by the police, Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18

Number & Percentage

Crime category	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	% change 16-17 to 17-18
Theft from motor vehicle of which:	20,825	17,075	16,531	16,906	13,323	13,821	12,933	11,081	10,162	9,397	-8
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	9,847	7,400	6,795	6,386	4,404	4,450	4,173	3,285	2,715	2,495	-8
OLP with intent to steal	2,613	1,812	1,793	1,792	1,198	1,152	1,119	964	733	753	3
Attempted theft OLP	1,189	961	907	810	557	587	524	435	440	486	10
Other theft	7,176	6,902	7,036	7,918	7,164	7,632	7,117	6,397	6,274	5,663	-10
Theft of motor vehicle	9,407	7,706	7,325	6,087	5,149	5,340	4,866	4,597	4,696	4,594	-2
Attempted theft of motor vehicle	2,144	1,598	1,391	973	582	636	557	431	520	430	-17
Total Motor vehicle theft	**32,376**	**26,379**	**25,247**	**23,966**	**19,054**	**19,797**	**18,356**	**16,109**	**15,378**	**14,421**	**-6**

Table A4: Crimes of Handling offensive weapons recorded by the police, Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18

											Number & Percentage
											% change 16-17
Crime category	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	to 17-18
Handling offensive weapons - Not used in other criminal activity	**8,980**	**7,042**	**6,283**	**5,631**	**4,015**	**3,795**	**3,289**	**3,111**	**3,271**	**3,570**	**9**
Possession of an offensive weapon	4,892	3,839	3,248	2,820	1,863	1,728	1,380	1,149	1,156	1,213	5
Restriction of an offensive weapon	8	9	20	19	17	6	17	11	23	17	-26
Having in a public place an article with a blade or point	4,080	3,194	3,015	2,792	2,135	2,061	1,892	1,951	2,092	2,340	12
Handling offensive weapons - Used in other criminal activity	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	**4,163**	**n/a**
Possession of an offensive weapon	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,520	n/a
Having in a public place an article with a blade or point	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,643	n/a
Total Handling offensive weapons										**7,733**	**n/a**

Please see Notes for Tables at end of Chapter 6.

Table A5: Drug crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18

Crime category	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	% change 16-17 to 17-18
Illegal importation of drugs	9	17	30	19	24	27	21	52	64	70	9
Illegal cultivation of drugs	609	753	964	1,242	1,251	1,185	1,066	1,036	822	780	-5
Possession of drugs with intent to supply	9,697	9,131	6,144	5,423	3,861	3,594	3,700	3,976	3,531	3,877	10
Possession of drugs	31,805	29,179	26,960	28,326	29,150	30,451	31,632	29,929	27,766	27,171	-2
Drugs, other offences, money laundering	389	328	249	147	402	359	417	486	458	501	9
Total Drug crimes	**42,509**	**39,408**	**34,347**	**35,157**	**34,688**	**35,616**	**36,836**	**35,479**	**32,641**	**32,399**	**-1**

Table A6: Breach of the peace etc. offences recorded by the police, Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18

Crime category	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	% change 16-17 to 17-18
Breach of the peace	93,327	87,403	58,432	33,710	25,072	21,755	14,636	12,178	8,751	6,604	-25
Threatening or abusive behaviour[14]	.	.	11,914	37,223	44,429	48,521	47,210	48,456	47,850	45,064	-6
Offence of stalking[14]	.	.	122	495	605	875	1,251	1,435	1,372	1,376	0
Offensive behaviour at football[15]	.	.	.	22	154	126	102	152	247	140	-43
Threatening communications[15]	.	.	.	1	41	11	6	12	15	3	-80
Total Breach of the peace etc.	**93,327**	**87,403**	**70,468**	**71,451**	**70,301**	**71,288**	**63,205**	**62,233**	**58,235**	**53,187**	**-9**

Table A7: Racially aggravated offences, Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	% change 16-17 to 17-18
Racially aggravated harassment	425	313	257	171	155	128	130	75	66	74	12
Racially aggravated conduct	4,139	4,200	3,916	3,315	2,748	2,584	2,326	2,057	1,927	1,847	-4
Total	**4,564**	**4,513**	**4,173**	**3,486**	**2,903**	**2,712**	**2,456**	**2,132**	**1,993**	**1,921**	**-4**

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. The Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 was repealed by the Scottish Parliament on 19 April 2018.

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 around 500 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/PubRecorded Crime/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 2016-17 (which was submitted to the Scottish Government in April 2017) with what ScOMIS reported for the same period one year later (April 2018). 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 to 2016-17 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 1,060 fewer crimes have been recorded following no-criming and reclassification between groups. This has reduced the number of Other Crimes by 1.9% from 54,946 and 53,886.

Table 12: Revisions of crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 2016-17

				Number & Percentage
	2016-17 Reporting Year			
Crime or Offence Group	**Submitted in April 2017**	**Submitted in April 2018**	**Difference**	**% Difference**
Total Crime and Offences	**527,612**	**525,838**	**-1,774**	**-0.3%**
Total Crime	**238,921**	**236,398**	**-2,523**	**-1.1%**
Group 1 Non Sexual Violent Crime	7,164	7,190	26	0.4%
Group 2 Sexual Crime	11,092	11,128	36	0.3%
Group 3 Crimes of Dishonesty	113,205	111,828	-1,377	-1.2%
Group 4 Fire Raising / Vandalism etc.	52,514	52,366	-148	-0.3%
Group 5 Other Crimes	54,946	53,886	-1,060	-1.9%
Total Offences	**288,691**	**289,440**	**749**	**0.3%**
Group 6 Miscellaneous Offences	150,523	150,140	-383	-0.3%
Group 7 Motor Vehicle Offences	138,168	139,300	1,132	0.8%

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 to 2017-18 are on a like-for-like basis. As such the 2013-14 to 2016-17 data used in this bulletin remains that which was submitted in April 2014, April 2015, April 2016 and April 2017 respectively[15], to ensure this is consistent with the timetable being followed for the submission of data for 2017-18 (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, 2015-16 and 2016-17 than is included in this National Statistics publication. Given this, we asked the Scottish Crime Recording Board[16] 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.

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[15] Subject to the back-dated change whereby Crimes related to Communications Act 2003 (sexual) has been moved from Group 6 to Group 2. See 'Data Considerations' section.

[16] 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/AdminSources Police.

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[13], as a percentage of those recorded, Scotland, 2017-18

	Crimes	Crime clear up rate	Offences	Number & Percentage Offences clear up rate
Total recorded by British Transport Police and Ministry of Defence Police	1,517	41.1%	3,721	37.3%

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 at that time, 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.

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 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 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 subsuming17 has been carried out correctly.

- Timeliness: crimes should be recorded within 72 hours of the circumstances becoming known to the police (or within seven days where the delay is outwith police control).

All three tests were applied to the three crime types HMICS examined (sexual crime, 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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[17] 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 2018 available via the following link:

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

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 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 and produce the bulletin.

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/PubRecorded Crime/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.

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 our latest 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.

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). During the 2017-18 financial year, the Board did not make any changes to the coding of crimes and offences that will impact on the 2018-19 reporting year (i.e. the year immediately following the statistics presented in this Bulletin).

Future Considerations

7.37. The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill received Royal Assent on the 9th of March 2018. The Bill creates an offence with respect to the engaging by a person in a course of behavior which is abusive of the person's partner or ex-partner. At present, any criminal act which formed part of a domestic abuse incident (such as a common assault or threatening or abusive behavior) will be included within the statistics under the relevant crime or offence. The Scottish Crime Recording Board will consider how to record the new offence created by the Bill, and statisticians will use the SCOTSTAT network to update users on its decision and any impact this will have on the recording of crime.

7.38. In April 2018, the UK Government announced plans to introduce an Offensive Weapons Bill to tackle serious violence. The Bill will make proposals that if enacted could change the legislative landscape used to record crimes of weapon possession, including in Scotland. This in turn could affect the number of weapons-related crimes recorded by Police Scotland. Some of the areas identified by the Home Office for inclusion in the Bill are plans to make new criminal offences for possessing corrosive substances in a public place or certain offensive weapons like zombie knives or knuckledusters in private settings. Specific provisions in the proposed Bill also update the definition of a flick knife to reflect changing weapon designs. The Scottish Crime Recording Board will continue to monitor the implementation of this Bill and users will be informed of any impact these changes will have on the preparation of the National Statistics.

7.39. 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.

Annex 6: Other Notes

7.40. 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: £725.

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.

7.41. 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 2018-19 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.

7.42. 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.

8. Classification of Crimes and Offences

CRIMES

<u>Group 1: Non-sexual crimes of violence</u>

(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

<u>Group 2: Sexual crimes</u>

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 • Threatening to disclose and intimate image • Disclosure of an intimate image • Other sexual crimes
Group 3: Crimes of dishonesty Housebreaking	(Also referred to as **Dishonesty**) Includes: • Theft by housebreaking domestic property (dwelling and non-dwelling) • Theft by housebreaking other property • Housebreaking with intent to steal domestic property (dwelling and non-dwelling) • Housebreaking with intent to steal other property • Attempted housebreaking with intent to enter and steal domestic property (dwelling and non-dwelling)

	• Attempted housebreaking with intent to enter and steal other property
Theft by opening lockfast places (OLP)	• Theft by opening lockfast places (OLP) (excluding motor vehicle) • OLP (excluding motor vehicle) with intent to steal • Attempted OLP excluding motor vehicle with intent to steal
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	Includes: • Theft by OLP from a motor vehicle • OLP with intent to steal from a motor vehicle • Attempted OLP with intent to steal from a motor vehicle
Theft of motor vehicle	• Theft of a motor vehicle and contents • Attempted theft of a motor vehicle
Shoplifting	• Shoplifting
Other theft	Includes: • Theft of pedal cycles • Theft from a motor vehicle not elsewhere classified
Fraud	• Fraud
Other crimes of dishonesty	Includes: • Forgery (other) • Reset • Embezzlement • Corruption

Group 4: Fire-raising, vandalism etc.

Fire-raising	Includes: • Fire-raising • Muirburn
Vandalism, etc. -	Includes: • Malicious mischief • Vandalism • Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)

- Reckless conduct with firearms
- Culpable and reckless conduct involving aircraft

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
- Possession of an offensive weapon (not elsewhere specified) in a school
- Having in a school an article with a blade or point

- Possession of an offensive weapon used in other criminal activity
- Having in a public place an article with a blade or point used in other criminal activity
- Possession of an offensive weapon in a prison used in other criminal activity
- Having in a prison an article with a blade or point used in other criminal activity
- Possession of offensive weapon in a school used in other criminal activity
- Having in a school an article with a blade or point used in other criminal activity
-

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

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	• 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

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How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:
☒ are available in more detail through statistics.gov.scot.

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

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ISBN 978-1-78781-237-6 (web only)

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