

## CRIME AND JUSTICE

# Recorded Crime in Scotland:

## June 2021

This Official Statistics bulletin presents information on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland during June 2021. It also includes a comparison with the equivalent month of the previous two years.

These Official Statistics were introduced from April 2020 to inform users about the volume and type of crimes and offences recorded in Scotland during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Whilst the restrictions put in place to limit the spread of the virus will have had an impact on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police, some caution is advised before necessarily attributing all of the changes to this situation. For example, longer term trends in some types of offending, which existed prior to the pandemic, may remain a factor.

The annual [Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin](#) remains the primary source of information on crimes and offences recorded by the police, and has been designated as National Statistics by the Office for Statistics Regulation. The most recent update, covering the 2019-20 reporting year, was published on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The 2020-21 reporting year will be published in September 2021.

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 crimes committed as not all crimes are reported to the police.

## Summary

The police in Scotland recorded 18,946 crimes in June 2021. This was 7% lower than the 20,440 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 10% lower than the 21,084 crimes recorded in the same month of 2019 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement).

In June 2021:

- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 9% higher compared to June 2020 (increasing from 722 to 786 crimes), but 8% lower compared to June 2019 (decreasing from 851 to 786 crimes).
- Sexual crimes were 3% higher compared to June 2020 (increasing from 1,184 to 1,215 crimes), and 8% higher than June 2019 (increasing from 1,123 to 1,215 crimes).
- Crimes of dishonesty were 8% lower than June 2020 (decreasing from 8,184 to 7,554 crimes), and 22% lower than in June 2019 (decreasing from 9,655 to 7,554).
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. was 7% higher than June 2020 (increasing from 3,524 to 3,760 crimes), but 3% lower than in June 2019 (decreasing from 3,867 to 3,760).
- Other crimes were 18% lower compared to June 2020 (decreasing from 6,826 to 5,631 crimes), but 1% higher than in June 2019 (increasing from 5,588 to 5,631).
- Fewer crimes were recorded by police in 22 (69%) out of 32 local authorities, compared to June 2020.

The number of offences recorded by the police in Scotland in June 2021 was 20,333. This is 7% lower than the 21,892 offences recorded in the same month of 2020 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 6% lower than the 21,645 offences recorded in the same month of 2019 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement).

In June 2021:

- Miscellaneous offences decreased by 5% compared to June 2020 (decreasing from 11,881 to 11,321), and decreased by 1% compared to June 2019 (decreasing from 11,454 to 11,321).
- Motor vehicle offences were 10% lower compared to June 2020 (decreasing from 10,011 to 9,012), and 12% lower compared to June 2019 (decreasing from 10,191 to 9,012).

As outlined above, the annual Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin remains the primary source of information on crimes and offences recorded by the

police in Scotland, including longer-term analysis of changes to each of the crime and offence groups detailed above.

# Main findings

## Crimes recorded by the police

In June 2021, the police recorded 18,946 crimes. This was 7% lower (or 1,494 crimes) than the 20,440 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 10% lower than the 21,084 crimes recorded in the same month of 2019 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement). There were variations in the year-on-year trends between different crime types. However, with the exception of Sexual crimes and Other crimes, all groups were lower than pre-pandemic levels (June 2019) ([Table 1](#), [Chart 1](#)).

In June 2021:

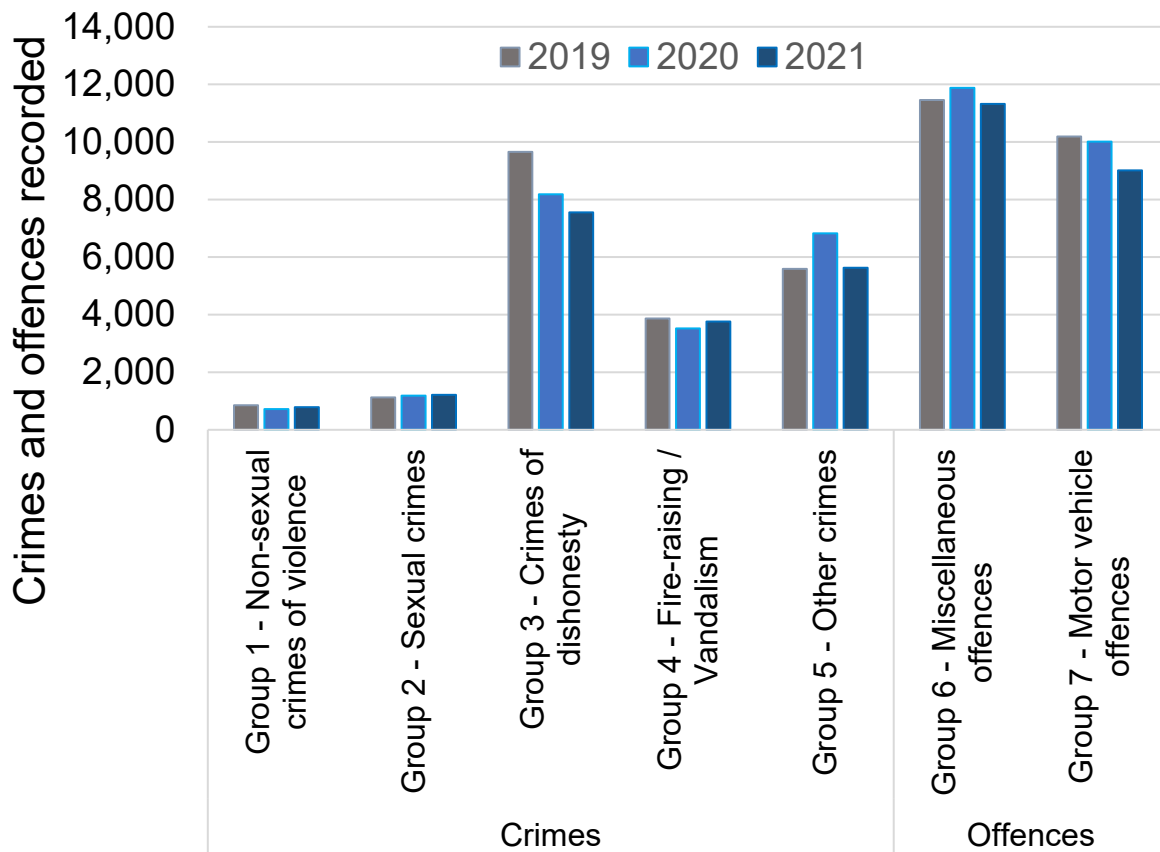
- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 9% higher compared to June 2020 (increasing from 722 to 786 crimes), but 8% lower compared to June 2019 (decreasing from 851 to 786 crimes). Within this, Attempted murder and serious assault increased by 19% compared to June 2020 (from 294 to 350), but decreased 20% from June 2019 (decreasing from 439 to 350 crimes). Other violence increased by 33% compared to June 2020 (from 139 to 185) and increased 53% from June 2019 (from 121 to 185). The increase in Other violence was mainly due to a rise in Threats and extortion, with the possibility that many of these crimes were cyber enabled. This possibility will be explored in more depth in the National Statistics which will be published in September. Crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 decreased by 2% compared to June 2020 (from 123 to 120), and were 15% lower than in June 2019 (decreasing from 142 to 120).
- Sexual crimes were 3% higher (or 31 crimes), increasing from 1,184 to 1,215 crimes. This was 8% higher than in June 2019 (increasing from 1,123 to 1,215 crimes). Sexual assault saw the largest increase since June 2020, increasing by 22% (from 338 to 414). However, this was 3% lower than in June 2019. Other sexual crimes decreased by 13% compared to June 2020 (from 646 to 565). However this was a 16% increase compared to June 2019 (from 485 to 565). The rise in Other sexual crimes since 2019 was driven by crimes including Communicating indecently, Coercing a person into being present/looking at sexual activity and Voyeurism, with many of these crimes likely to be cyber enabled. Rape and attempted rape increased by 20% compared to June 2020, from 194 to 232 crimes, this was also a 13% increase compared to June 2019 (from 205 to 232 crimes).
- Crimes of dishonesty were 8% lower (or 630 crimes) compared to June 2020, decreasing from 8,184 to 7,554 crimes. This was 22% lower than in June 2019 (decreasing from 9,655 to 7,554). Crimes of Fraud have increased throughout the pandemic. However, there has been a 13%

decrease since June 2020 (from 1,542 to 1,342), but still a 53% increase since June 2019 (from 880 to 1,342). The [Changes in levels of recorded fraud](#) section below provides users with further background on what may be contributing to this change. Housebreaking saw the largest decrease since June 2020, falling 19% (from 871 to 708 crimes), and is 36% lower than June 2019 (decreasing from 1,113 to 708 crimes).

- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. was 7% higher (or 236 crimes) compared to June 2020, increasing from 3,524 to 3,760 crimes. However this was still 3% lower than in June 2019. The increase since June 2020 was driven by crimes of Vandalism etc., which increased by 6% from 3,306 to 3,519 crimes. However this is still 4% lower than June 2019 levels.
- Other crimes were 18% lower (or 1,195 crimes) than in June 2020, decreasing from 6,826 to 5,631 crimes. However this was 1% higher than June 2019 (increasing from 5,588 to 5,631 crimes). The main contributors to these decreases were Drugs (which fell by 25% compared to June 2020 and 13% compared to June 2019) and Crimes against public justice (which fell by 12% compared to June 2020 but were 25% higher compared to June 2019).

**Chart 1. Crimes and offences recorded by the police, by crime group, June 2019, 2020 and 2021**

Chart: each category shows columns from left to right for June 2019, 2020 and 2021



## Offences recorded by the police

In June 2021, the police recorded 20,333 offences. This is 7% lower (down 1,559 offences) than the 21,892 offences recorded in the same month in 2020, and 6% lower than in June 2019 (decreasing from 21,645 to 20,333 offences). Miscellaneous offences decreased by 5% compared to June 2020, and were 1% lower than in June 2019. Motor vehicle offences decreased by 10% compared to June 2020, and were 12% lower than in June 2019, as detailed below ([Table 2](#)).

In June 2021:

- Miscellaneous offences decreased by 5%, from 11,881 to 11,321 offences, and were 1% lower than in June 2019 (decreasing from 11,454 to 11,321). The largest decrease since June 2020 was in Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct (which decreased by 46% from 889 to 483 offences), and were also 21% lower than in June 2019. Common assault increased by 15% compared to June 2020 (from 4,400 to 5,049 offences), but levels were unchanged from June 2019 (from 5,046 to 5,049 offences).
- Motor vehicle offences were 10% lower compared to June 2020 (or 999 offences), decreasing from 10,011 to 9,012 offences, and were 12% lower than June 2019 levels. The main contributor to the decrease since June 2020 was Unlawful use of vehicle offences (which decreased by 18%, from 3,301 to 2,708 offences), and this is 12% below June 2019 levels. Other motor vehicle offences saw the biggest increase compared to June 2020 (rising by 19%, from 1,494 to 1,778 offences), however this was 7% lower than June 2019 levels.

## Local Authorities

Compared to June 2020, a decrease in recorded crime was seen in 22 (69%) out of 32 local authorities, with 10 showing an increase ([Table 3](#)). The largest decrease was seen in Orkney Islands (down 55%) and the largest increase was in Shetland Islands (up 45%). It should be noted that the relatively small number of crimes recorded in some of Scotland's local authorities can fluctuate over time - leading to large percentage changes. This is particularly relevant in this release, where monthly data is being presented rather than the annual information provided in the National Statistics.

The biggest contributors by volume to the overall decrease in crimes recorded by the police were North Lanarkshire (down 22%, or 377 crimes), Edinburgh City (down 9%, or 203 crimes) and Inverclyde (down 42%, or 154 crimes).

## **April 2019 to June 2019 and April 2020 to June 2020 compared with April 2021 to June 2021**

Overall, in April 2021 to June 2021 the police recorded 57,669 crimes, a reduction of 1% (or 529 crimes) compared to the equivalent period of the previous year (58,198 crimes) ([Table 4](#)). This was 10% lower (or 6,131 crimes) than the same period in 2019 (63,800 crimes). The biggest drivers of the decrease by volume since 2020 were Drugs (down 15%, or 1,474 crimes) and Housebreaking (down 27%, or 765 crimes). When compared with 2019, the biggest drivers of the reduction in volume were Shoplifting (down 35%, or 3,030 crimes), Housebreaking (down 37%, or 1,181 crimes) and Drugs (down 9%, or 889 crimes). The largest increase since 2020 by volume was Vandalism etc. (up 13%, or 1,169 crimes). Compared with 2019, the largest increase by volume was seen in Fraud (up 82%, or 2,067 crimes).

Over the same period, the number of offences recorded by the police was 5% higher (or 3,204 offences) than in 2020, with Miscellaneous offences holding steady (0% change) and Motor vehicle offences increasing by 12% (or 3,104 offences) ([Table 5](#)). Compared to 2019 offences decreased 6% (or 3,796 offences), with Miscellaneous offences falling 4% (1,263 offences) and Motor vehicle offences decreasing by 8% (or 2,533 offences).

## Changes in levels of recorded fraud

Fraud was 13% lower (or 200 crimes) in June 2021 than in June 2020, but 53% higher (or 462 crimes) than in June 2019. Further to the note of caution provided in the introduction to these statistics, there are two reasons why some care is advised before attributing all of this change to the specific circumstances of the COVID-related lockdown.

The first is that the [Recorded Crime National Statistics](#) have highlighted an increasing trend in recorded fraud over a number of years (up 73% between 2014-15 and 2019-20), which may be continuing. The second is that a procedural change was made in April 2020 to how some crimes of fraud (and other types of crime which could involve a victim and a perpetrator in different physical locations) are recorded. This is likely to have had an impact when comparing figures for fraud which fall before and after the April 2020 change.

Prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, these statistics excluded any crime with a victim in Scotland and a perpetrator who was confirmed by the police to be outside the United Kingdom when the crime took place. Following a recommendation by Her Majesty's Chief Inspectorate for Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) to review recording practice in this area<sup>1</sup>, the Scottish Crime Recording Board approved a change so that from the 1<sup>st</sup> April these crimes are now included in the statistics. It should be noted that those cases with only a suspicion or insufficient evidence to confirm that the perpetrator was outside the UK were always included.

This change is likely to have led to additional crimes of fraud being recorded, with a similar impact possible for other types of crime which could be committed using digital technologies. At this early stage we are unable to say to what extent this procedural change has increased levels of recorded fraud, though the 2020-21 National Statistics (to be published in September 2021) will provide users with an estimate of the number of additional crimes that were recorded as a result of this change.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hmics.scot/publications/crime-audit-2016>



# Crimes recorded under coronavirus legislation

It is important to note that these Official Statistics currently exclude crimes recorded under coronavirus legislation such as the [Coronavirus Act 2020](#) and [Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#). These were implemented on 25<sup>th</sup> March and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020, respectively, and resulted in new crimes being recorded - for example where someone, who had left the place they were living, did not have a reasonable excuse for this when asked by a police officer, and failed to comply with police advice or instruction to return there.

Given the rapid pace of these changes, Police Scotland have used an interim and bespoke data collection to capture information on the number of new crimes recorded under the coronavirus legislation. This is why figures for this legislation are currently presented separately to the overall totals provided for recorded crime in this bulletin. The bespoke data collection suggests that 163 such crimes were recorded during June 2021. This month's figure is lower than the previous month and the lowest since August 2020 (see [Table A](#) below). This is likely to be due to decreased levels of enforcement due to the relaxation of restrictions in recent months. Users should treat these figures as broadly indicative, and may be subject to further revision in future releases. In due course the annual National Statistics will include this activity within the overall crime total for Scotland.

**Table A: Number of crimes recorded under coronavirus legislation, April 2020 to June 2021**

| Month     | Number of crimes recorded |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 2020      |                           |
| April     | 2,741                     |
| May       | 1,654                     |
| June      | 219                       |
| July      | 17                        |
| August    | 21                        |
| September | 189                       |
| October   | 588                       |
| November  | 1,811                     |
| December  | 1,540                     |
| 2021      |                           |
| January   | 3,473                     |
| February  | 4,199                     |
| March     | 3,573                     |
| April     | 2,221                     |
| May       | 1,434                     |
| June      | 163                       |

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### Notes for these tables

- The symbol 'n/r' is used to denote where a percentage change figure is not reported. This is done if the denominator is less than ten as any resulting figure may be misleading.
- Please note that tables 1, 2, 4 and 5 can be accessed at local authority level online via the following link: [Recorded Crime in Scotland: June 2021](#)

**Table 1: Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, June 2019, 2020 and 2021**

| Crime group                                | June 2019     | June 2020     | June 2021     | % change since June 2020 | % change since June 2019 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Total crimes<sup>1</sup></b>            | <b>21,084</b> | <b>20,440</b> | <b>18,946</b> | <b>-7%</b>               | <b>-10%</b>              |
| <b>Non-sexual crimes of violence</b>       | <b>851</b>    | <b>722</b>    | <b>786</b>    | <b>9%</b>                | <b>-8%</b>               |
| Homicide etc.                              | 17            | 9             | 10            | n/r                      | -41%                     |
| Attempted murder & serious assault         | 439           | 294           | 350           | 19%                      | -20%                     |
| Robbery                                    | 132           | 157           | 121           | -23%                     | -8%                      |
| Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018         | 142           | 123           | 120           | -2%                      | -15%                     |
| Other violence                             | 121           | 139           | 185           | 33%                      | 53%                      |
| <b>Sexual crimes</b>                       | <b>1,123</b>  | <b>1,184</b>  | <b>1,215</b>  | <b>3%</b>                | <b>8%</b>                |
| Rape & attempted rape                      | 205           | 194           | 232           | 20%                      | 13%                      |
| Sexual assault                             | 425           | 338           | 414           | 22%                      | -3%                      |
| Crimes associated with prostitution        | 8             | 6             | 4             | n/r                      | n/r                      |
| Other sexual crimes                        | 485           | 646           | 565           | -13%                     | 16%                      |
| <b>Crimes of dishonesty</b>                | <b>9,655</b>  | <b>8,184</b>  | <b>7,554</b>  | <b>-8%</b>               | <b>-22%</b>              |
| Housebreaking                              | 1,113         | 871           | 708           | -19%                     | -36%                     |
| Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)    | 178           | 101           | 104           | 3%                       | -42%                     |
| Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP          | 253           | 166           | 165           | -1%                      | -35%                     |
| Theft of a motor vehicle                   | 400           | 367           | 372           | 1%                       | -7%                      |
| Shoplifting                                | 2,840         | 1,680         | 1,790         | 7%                       | -37%                     |
| Other theft                                | 3,576         | 2,988         | 2,738         | -8%                      | -23%                     |
| Fraud                                      | 880           | 1,542         | 1,342         | -13%                     | 53%                      |
| Other dishonesty                           | 415           | 469           | 335           | -29%                     | -19%                     |
| <b>Fire-raising, vandalism etc.</b>        | <b>3,867</b>  | <b>3,524</b>  | <b>3,760</b>  | <b>7%</b>                | <b>-3%</b>               |
| Fire-raising                               | 215           | 218           | 241           | 11%                      | 12%                      |
| Vandalism etc.                             | 3,652         | 3,306         | 3,519         | 6%                       | -4%                      |
| <b>Other crimes</b>                        | <b>5,588</b>  | <b>6,826</b>  | <b>5,631</b>  | <b>-18%</b>              | <b>1%</b>                |
| Crimes against public justice              | 1,620         | 2,290         | 2,019         | -12%                     | 25%                      |
| Handling offensive weapons                 | 882           | 958           | 928           | -3%                      | 5%                       |
| <i>Not used in other criminal activity</i> | <i>400</i>    | <i>459</i>    | <i>413</i>    | <i>-10%</i>              | <i>3%</i>                |
| <i>Used in other criminal activity</i>     | <i>482</i>    | <i>499</i>    | <i>515</i>    | <i>3%</i>                | <i>7%</i>                |
| Drugs                                      | 3,070         | 3,563         | 2,672         | -25%                     | -13%                     |
| Other                                      | 16            | 15            | 12            | -20%                     | -25%                     |

1. The total figure for recorded crime excludes the new crimes being recorded under the recently enacted coronavirus legislation. Please see the [Crimes recorded under coronavirus legislation section](#) for more information.

**Table 2: Offences recorded by the police, Scotland, June 2019, 2020 and 2021**

| Crime group                              | June 2019     | June 2020     | June 2021     | % change since June 2020 | % change since June 2019 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Total offences</b>                    | <b>21,645</b> | <b>21,892</b> | <b>20,333</b> | <b>-7%</b>               | <b>-6%</b>               |
| <b>Miscellaneous offences</b>            | <b>11,454</b> | <b>11,881</b> | <b>11,321</b> | <b>-5%</b>               | <b>-1%</b>               |
| Common assault                           | 5,046         | 4,400         | 5,049         | 15%                      | 0%                       |
| Breach of the peace etc.                 | 4,545         | 4,827         | 4,388         | -9%                      | -3%                      |
| Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct | 609           | 889           | 483           | -46%                     | -21%                     |
| Urinating etc.                           | 214           | 131           | 76            | -42%                     | -64%                     |
| Other miscellaneous offences             | 1,040         | 1,634         | 1,325         | -19%                     | 27%                      |
| <b>Motor vehicle offences</b>            | <b>10,191</b> | <b>10,011</b> | <b>9,012</b>  | <b>-10%</b>              | <b>-12%</b>              |
| Dangerous and careless driving           | 914           | 1,049         | 1,085         | 3%                       | 19%                      |
| Driving under the influence              | 512           | 788           | 611           | -22%                     | 19%                      |
| Speeding                                 | 2,649         | 2,350         | 2,014         | -14%                     | -24%                     |
| Unlawful use of vehicle                  | 3,067         | 3,301         | 2,708         | -18%                     | -12%                     |
| Vehicle defect offences                  | 597           | 630           | 480           | -24%                     | -20%                     |
| Seat belt offences                       | 307           | 222           | 226           | 2%                       | -26%                     |
| Mobile phone offences                    | 231           | 177           | 110           | -38%                     | -52%                     |
| Other motor vehicle offences             | 1,914         | 1,494         | 1,778         | 19%                      | -7%                      |

**Table 3: Crimes recorded by the police by local authority, Scotland, June 2019, 2020 and 2021**

|                             | June 2019     | June 2020     | June 2021     | % change since June 2020 | % change since June 2019 |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Aberdeen City               | 944           | 965           | 964           | 0%                       | 2%                       |
| Aberdeenshire               | 548           | 669           | 560           | -16%                     | 2%                       |
| Angus                       | 337           | 239           | 292           | 22%                      | -13%                     |
| Argyll & Bute               | 232           | 203           | 167           | -18%                     | -28%                     |
| Clackmannanshire            | 202           | 178           | 185           | 4%                       | -8%                      |
| Dumfries & Galloway         | 636           | 506           | 596           | 18%                      | -6%                      |
| Dundee City                 | 847           | 920           | 769           | -16%                     | -9%                      |
| East Ayrshire               | 494           | 495           | 478           | -3%                      | -3%                      |
| East Dunbartonshire         | 217           | 236           | 227           | -4%                      | 5%                       |
| East Lothian                | 350           | 293           | 305           | 4%                       | -13%                     |
| East Renfrewshire           | 222           | 207           | 152           | -27%                     | -32%                     |
| Edinburgh City              | 2,467         | 2,198         | 1,995         | -9%                      | -19%                     |
| Falkirk                     | 637           | 581           | 511           | -12%                     | -20%                     |
| Fife                        | 1,235         | 1,062         | 1,289         | 21%                      | 4%                       |
| Glasgow City                | 3,592         | 3,263         | 3,179         | -3%                      | -11%                     |
| Highland                    | 631           | 612           | 556           | -9%                      | -12%                     |
| Inverclyde                  | 308           | 366           | 212           | -42%                     | -31%                     |
| Midlothian                  | 363           | 259           | 304           | 17%                      | -16%                     |
| Moray                       | 236           | 210           | 258           | 23%                      | 9%                       |
| Na h-Eileanan Siar          | 23            | 55            | 41            | -25%                     | 78%                      |
| North Ayrshire              | 550           | 532           | 459           | -14%                     | -17%                     |
| North Lanarkshire           | 1,660         | 1,721         | 1,344         | -22%                     | -19%                     |
| Orkney Islands              | 36            | 74            | 33            | -55%                     | -8%                      |
| Perth & Kinross             | 346           | 435           | 425           | -2%                      | 23%                      |
| Renfrewshire                | 605           | 713           | 563           | -21%                     | -7%                      |
| Scottish Borders            | 322           | 304           | 320           | 5%                       | -1%                      |
| Shetland Islands            | 49            | 31            | 45            | 45%                      | -8%                      |
| South Ayrshire              | 431           | 360           | 366           | 2%                       | -15%                     |
| South Lanarkshire           | 1,202         | 1,236         | 1,117         | -10%                     | -7%                      |
| Stirling                    | 334           | 364           | 242           | -34%                     | -28%                     |
| West Dunbartonshire         | 404           | 433           | 306           | -29%                     | -24%                     |
| West Lothian                | 624           | 720           | 686           | -5%                      | 10%                      |
| <b>Scotland<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>21,084</b> | <b>20,440</b> | <b>18,946</b> | <b>-7%</b>               | <b>-10%</b>              |

1. The total figure for recorded crime excludes the new crimes being recorded under the recently enacted coronavirus legislation. Please see the [Crimes recorded under coronavirus legislation section](#) for more information.

**Table 4: Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, April to June 2019, 2020 and 2021**

| Crime group                                | April to June 2019 | April to June 2020 | April to June 2021 | % Change since 2020 | % Change since 2019 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total crimes<sup>1</sup></b>            | <b>63,800</b>      | <b>58,198</b>      | <b>57,669</b>      | <b>-1%</b>          | <b>-10%</b>         |
| <b>Non-sexual crimes of violence</b>       | <b>2,378</b>       | <b>2,102</b>       | <b>2,307</b>       | <b>10%</b>          | <b>-3%</b>          |
| Homicide etc.                              | 34                 | 26                 | 27                 | 4%                  | -21%                |
| Attempted murder & serious assault         | 1,163              | 830                | 916                | 10%                 | -21%                |
| Robbery                                    | 388                | 435                | 392                | -10%                | 1%                  |
| Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018         | 425                | 370                | 389                | 5%                  | -8%                 |
| Other violence                             | 368                | 441                | 583                | 32%                 | 58%                 |
| <b>Sexual crimes</b>                       | <b>3,458</b>       | <b>2,907</b>       | <b>3,610</b>       | <b>24%</b>          | <b>4%</b>           |
| Rape & attempted rape                      | 618                | 481                | 640                | 33%                 | 4%                  |
| Sexual assault                             | 1,309              | 823                | 1,197              | 45%                 | -9%                 |
| Crimes associated with prostitution        | 16                 | 10                 | 18                 | 80%                 | 13%                 |
| Other sexual crimes                        | 1,515              | 1,593              | 1,755              | 10%                 | 16%                 |
| <b>Crimes of dishonesty</b>                | <b>28,622</b>      | <b>23,797</b>      | <b>22,999</b>      | <b>-3%</b>          | <b>-20%</b>         |
| Housebreaking                              | 3,199              | 2,783              | 2,018              | -27%                | -37%                |
| Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)    | 441                | 279                | 324                | 16%                 | -27%                |
| Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP          | 748                | 662                | 483                | -27%                | -35%                |
| Theft of a motor vehicle                   | 1,243              | 1,161              | 1,098              | -5%                 | -12%                |
| Shoplifting                                | 8,411              | 4,885              | 5,381              | 10%                 | -36%                |
| Other theft                                | 10,798             | 8,501              | 7,994              | -6%                 | -26%                |
| Fraud                                      | 2,508              | 4,072              | 4,575              | 12%                 | 82%                 |
| Other dishonesty                           | 1,274              | 1,454              | 1,126              | -23%                | -12%                |
| <b>Fire-raising, vandalism etc.</b>        | <b>12,386</b>      | <b>9,996</b>       | <b>11,246</b>      | <b>13%</b>          | <b>-9%</b>          |
| Fire-raising                               | 757                | 666                | 747                | 12%                 | -1%                 |
| Vandalism etc.                             | 11,629             | 9,330              | 10,499             | 13%                 | -10%                |
| <b>Other crimes</b>                        | <b>16,956</b>      | <b>19,396</b>      | <b>17,507</b>      | <b>-10%</b>         | <b>3%</b>           |
| Crimes against public justice              | 4,811              | 6,593              | 6,128              | -7%                 | 27%                 |
| Handling offensive weapons                 | 2,600              | 2,693              | 2,743              | 2%                  | 6%                  |
| <i>Not used in other criminal activity</i> | 1,201              | 1,321              | 1,227              | -7%                 | 2%                  |
| <i>Used in other criminal activity</i>     | 1,399              | 1,372              | 1,516              | 10%                 | 8%                  |
| Drugs                                      | 9,484              | 10,069             | 8,595              | -15%                | -9%                 |
| Other                                      | 61                 | 41                 | 41                 | 0%                  | -33%                |

1. The total figure for recorded crime excludes the new crimes being recorded under the recently enacted coronavirus legislation. Please see the [Crimes recorded under coronavirus legislation section](#) for more information.

**Table 5: Offences recorded by the police, Scotland, April to June 2019, 2020 and 2021**

| <b>Crime group</b>                       | <b>April to June 2019</b> | <b>April to June 2020</b> | <b>April to June 2021</b> | <b>% Change since 2020</b> | <b>% Change since 2019</b> |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Total offences</b>                    | <b>65,410</b>             | <b>58,410</b>             | <b>61,614</b>             | <b>5%</b>                  | <b>-6%</b>                 |
| <b>Miscellaneous offences</b>            | <b>34,008</b>             | <b>32,645</b>             | <b>32,745</b>             | <b>0%</b>                  | <b>-4%</b>                 |
| Common assault                           | 14,963                    | 12,513                    | 14,166                    | 13%                        | -5%                        |
| Breach of the peace etc.                 | 13,386                    | 13,528                    | 12,788                    | -5%                        | -4%                        |
| Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct | 1,700                     | 2,112                     | 1,564                     | -26%                       | -8%                        |
| Urinating etc.                           | 618                       | 246                       | 269                       | 9%                         | -56%                       |
| Other miscellaneous offences             | 3,341                     | 4,246                     | 3,958                     | -7%                        | 18%                        |
| <b>Motor vehicle offences</b>            | <b>31,402</b>             | <b>25,765</b>             | <b>28,869</b>             | <b>12%</b>                 | <b>-8%</b>                 |
| Dangerous and careless driving           | 2,834                     | 2,682                     | 3,138                     | 17%                        | 11%                        |
| Driving under the influence              | 1,528                     | 2,166                     | 2,020                     | -7%                        | 32%                        |
| Speeding                                 | 8,262                     | 4,741                     | 6,330                     | 34%                        | -23%                       |
| Unlawful use of vehicle                  | 9,451                     | 9,807                     | 9,648                     | -2%                        | 2%                         |
| Vehicle defect offences                  | 1,893                     | 1,397                     | 1,506                     | 8%                         | -20%                       |
| Seat belt offences                       | 903                       | 436                       | 510                       | 17%                        | -44%                       |
| Mobile phone offences                    | 741                       | 433                       | 378                       | -13%                       | -49%                       |
| Other motor vehicle offences             | 5,790                     | 4,103                     | 5,339                     | 30%                        | -8%                        |



# Annexes

## Annex 1: Background

As outlined on page one, these monthly Official Statistics have been introduced to inform users about the volume and type of crimes and offences recorded in Scotland during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Their role is to provide more recent information on this topic - in a product that has been produced by Scottish Government statisticians, in line with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

Scottish Government statisticians will continue to publish these bulletins each month. In due course, the Scottish Crime Recording Board (which oversees the production of Official Statistics on recorded crime in Scotland) will review whether this process should continue, including user feedback on the value of these statistics.

The annual [Recorded Crime in Scotland](#) bulletin remains the primary source of information on crimes and offences recorded by the police, and has been designated as National Statistics by the Office for Statistics Regulation. The most recent update, covering the 2019-20 reporting year, was published on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Users should refer to the National Statistics for more detailed information on the production of the recorded crime statistics - including governance arrangements, a description of their quality, background methodologies and changes to recording practice.

## Annex 2: Data Sources

Since 2013-14, the National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland have been produced using data extracted from a single Police Scotland IT system called the Scottish Operational and Management Information System (ScOMIS). This data is then provided to the Scottish Government for the production of the National Statistics.

In 2019, Police Scotland developed a new data repository called the Source for Evidence Based Policing (SEBP). The intention is that this will, in due course, become the official source of information for the recorded crime National Statistics, replacing ScOMIS.

A preliminary review, looking at how changing from ScOMIS to SEBP impacts on the production of the Recorded Crime National Statistics, suggested that there is good alignment between both of these administrative systems.

Before the Scottish Crime Recording Board (SCRB) approved this transition, a final confirmatory check of the full 2019-20 reporting year was carried out. This involved a comparison of trends in recorded crimes, offences and clear up

rates for all local authorities and Scotland as a whole between 2018-19 and 2019-20. A technical report detailing the results of this analysis and highlighting any implications for data interpretation will be published in due course.

In order to produce the new monthly Official Statistics included in this bulletin in the necessary shorter time frames, the information supplied by Police Scotland has been extracted from SEBP. As such, the figures provided in this publication use a different source from the most recent National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland – and are therefore not directly comparable (notwithstanding the findings noted above that there is good alignment between the two systems).

In addition, 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 redesignated 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).

The June 2021 data for this bulletin was extracted in July 2021. In order to compare on a like-for-like basis, data used for comparison was taken from the June 2020 bulletin published last year, which was extracted in July 2020. Since there was a relatively short time frame for amendments to have been made to the information for both bulletins, this information is likely to be subject to change as time passes. In contrast, information for June 2019 was extracted in July 2020. As more than a year had passed since the crimes were originally recorded and the vast majority of amendments were likely to have taken place, this data is unlikely to change. Some caution should therefore be taken in interpreting the changes between years, as outlined in these monthly bulletins, which should be seen as providing a broad indication of changes over the period in volumes and types of specific crimes and offences.

The annual National Statistics for 2019-20 and 2020-21 (when published) will provide the most robust source of information on crimes recorded by the police, and how these have changed over time.

For further background information (e.g. classification of Crimes and Offences and comparisons with England & Wales and Northern Ireland) please see Annex 1 in the latest National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2019-2020/>

### **Annex 3: Feedback**

We are always keen to hear users' views on our products and as this is a new series of monthly recorded crime publications we would welcome feedback. If you have any comments or suggestions please contact us at:

[Justice\\_Analysts@gov.scot](mailto:Justice_Analysts@gov.scot).

## **An Official Statistics publication for Scotland**

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

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e-mail: [statistics.enquiries@gov.scot](mailto:statistics.enquiries@gov.scot)

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

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

- are available in more detail through [statistics.gov.scot](http://statistics.gov.scot).
- some limited additional information may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact [statistics.enquiries@gov.scot](mailto:statistics.enquiries@gov.scot) for further information.
- detailed information cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

### **Complaints and suggestions**

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

If you would like to be consulted about statistical collections or receive notification of publications, please register your interest at [ScotStat Register: guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/guidance/scotstat-register)

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