

## CRIME AND JUSTICE

# Recorded Crime in Scotland:

## July 2021

This Official Statistics bulletin presents information on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland during July 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 on 28<sup>th</sup> 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 19,092 crimes in July 2021. This was 6% lower than the 20,401 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 13% lower than the 21,839 crimes recorded in the same month of 2019 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement).

In July 2021:

- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 6% higher compared to July 2020 (increasing from 827 to 878 crimes), and 11% higher compared to July 2019 (increasing from 794 to 878 crimes).
- Sexual crimes were 4% lower compared to July 2020 (decreasing from 1,203 to 1,158 crimes), but 4% higher than July 2019 (increasing from 1,117 to 1,158 crimes).
- Crimes of dishonesty were 3% lower than July 2020 (decreasing from 8,166 to 7,943 crimes), and 21% lower than in July 2019 (decreasing from 10,008 to 7,943).
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. remained relatively unchanged compared to July 2020 (decreasing from 3,760 to 3,758 crimes), but was 8% lower than in July 2019 (decreasing from 4,084 to 3,758).
- Other crimes were 17% lower compared to July 2020 (decreasing from 6,445 to 5,355 crimes), and 8% lower than in July 2019 (decreasing from 5,836 to 5,355).
- Fewer crimes were recorded by police in 23 (72%) out of 32 local authorities, compared to July 2020.

The number of offences recorded by the police in Scotland in July 2021 was 20,968. This is 3% lower than the 21,607 offences recorded in the same month of 2020 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 7% lower than the 22,644 offences recorded in the same month of 2019 (for which there was no pandemic or restrictions on movement).

In July 2021:

- Miscellaneous offences decreased by 2% compared to July 2020 (decreasing from 11,745 to 11,484), and remained relatively unchanged compared to July 2019 (decreasing from 11,502 to 11,484).
- Motor vehicle offences were 4% lower compared to July 2020 (decreasing from 9,862 to 9,484), and 15% lower compared to July 2019 (decreasing from 11,142 to 9,484).

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 July 2021, the police recorded 19,092 crimes. This was 6% lower (or 1,309 crimes) than the 20,401 crimes recorded in the same month of 2020 (when pandemic restrictions were in place) and 13% lower than the 21,839 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 Non-sexual crimes of violence and Sexual crimes, all groups were lower than pre-pandemic levels (July 2019) ([Table 1](#), [Chart 1](#)).

In July 2021:

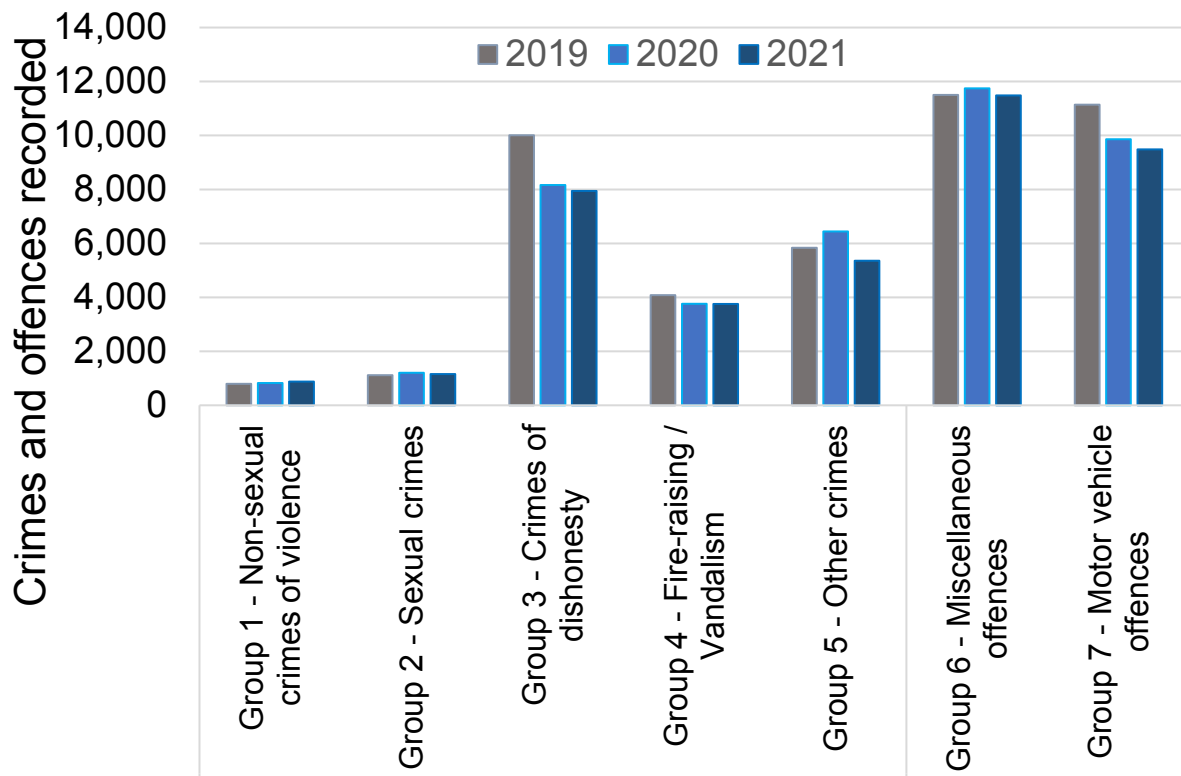
- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 6% higher compared to July 2020 (increasing from 827 to 878 crimes), and 11% higher compared to June 2019 (increasing from 794 to 878 crimes). Within this, Attempted murder and serious assault increased by 3% compared to July 2020 (from 351 to 361), but decreased 3% from July 2019 (decreasing from 373 to 361 crimes). Other violence increased by 30% compared to July 2020 (from 168 to 218) and increased 68% from July 2019 (from 130 to 218). 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 11% compared to July 2020 (from 148 to 131), and were 6% lower than in July 2019 (decreasing from 140 to 131).
- Sexual crimes were 4% lower (or 45 crimes) compared to July 2020, decreasing from 1,203 to 1,158 crimes. This was 4% higher than in July 2019 (increasing from 1,117 to 1,158 crimes). Sexual assault saw the largest increase since July 2020, increasing by 5% (from 400 to 419). However, this was 3% lower than in July 2019. Other sexual crimes decreased by 2% compared to July 2020 (from 546 to 534). However this was a 7% increase compared to July 2019 (from 501 to 534). The rise in Other sexual crimes since 2019 was driven by crimes including Voyeurism, Threatening to disclose an intimate image and sexual crimes under the Communications Act 2003, with many of these crimes likely to be cyber enabled. Rape and attempted rape decreased by 22% compared to July 2020, from 255 to 199 crimes, but this was also an 11% increase compared to July 2019 (from 179 to 199 crimes).
- Crimes of dishonesty were 3% lower (or 223 crimes) compared to July 2020, decreasing from 8,166 to 7,943 crimes. This was 21% lower than in July 2019 (decreasing from 10,008 to 7,943). Crimes of Fraud have increased throughout the pandemic. However, there has been a 10%

decrease since July 2020 (from 1,534 to 1,381), but still a 39% increase since July 2019 (from 991 to 1,381). The [Changes in levels of recorded fraud](#) section below provides users with further background on what may be contributing to this change. After Fraud, Housebreaking saw the second largest decrease by volume since July 2020, falling 11% (from 807 to 718 crimes), and is 35% lower than July 2019 (decreasing from 1,104 to 718 crimes).

- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. remained relatively unchanged (2 fewer crimes) compared to July 2020, decreasing from 3,760 to 3,758 crimes. However this was still 8% lower than in July 2019. Vandalism etc. has remained relatively unchanged since July 2020 (decreasing by 10 crimes from 3,526 to 3,516). However this is 9% lower than July 2019 levels.
- Other crimes were 17% lower (or 1,090 crimes) than in July 2020, decreasing from 6,445 to 5,355 crimes. This is also 8% lower than July 2019 (decreasing from 5,836 to 5,355 crimes). The main contributors to these decreases were Drugs (which fell by 25% compared to July 2020 and 28% compared to July 2019) and Crimes against public justice (which fell by 8% compared to July 2020 but were 23% higher compared to July 2019).

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

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



## Offences recorded by the police

In July 2021, the police recorded 20,968 offences. This is 3% lower (down 639 offences) than the 21,607 offences recorded in the same month in 2020, and 7% lower than in July 2019 (decreasing from 22,644 to 20,968 offences). Miscellaneous offences decreased by 2% compared to July 2020, and held steady compared to July 2019. Motor vehicle offences decreased by 4% compared to July 2020, and were 15% lower than in July 2019, as detailed below ([Table 2](#)).

In July 2021:

- Miscellaneous offences decreased by 2%, from 11,745 to 11,484 offences, and held steady compared to July 2019 (decreasing from 11,502 to 11,484). The largest decrease since July 2020 was in Other miscellaneous offences (which decreased by 12% from 1,416 to 1,240 offences), but were 10% higher than in July 2019. Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct increased by 10% compared to July 2020 (from 546 to 601 offences), but levels decreased by 12% from July 2019 (from 684 to 601 offences).
- Motor vehicle offences were 4% lower compared to July 2020 (or 378 offences), decreasing from 9,862 to 9,484 offences, and were 15% lower than July 2019 levels. The main contributor to the decrease since July 2020 was Vehicle defect offences (which decreased by 30%, from 663 to 464 offences), and this is 22% below July 2019 levels. Other motor vehicle offences saw the biggest increase compared to July 2020 (rising by 7%, from 1,663 to 1,780 offences), however this was 9% lower than July 2019 levels.

## Local Authorities

Compared to July 2020, a decrease in recorded crime was seen in 23 (72%) out of 32 local authorities, with 8 showing an increase and one where was no change ([Table 3](#)). The largest decrease was seen in Orkney Islands (down 48%) and the largest increase was in Falkirk (up 39%). 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 Edinburgh City (down 15%, or 356 crimes), North Lanarkshire (down 17% or 256 crimes) and Aberdeen City (down 17%, or 197 crimes).

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

Overall, in April 2021 to July 2021 the police recorded 76,761 crimes, a reduction of 2% (or 1,838 crimes) compared to the equivalent period of the previous year (78,599 crimes) ([Table 4](#)). This was 10% lower (or 8,878 crimes) than the same period in 2019 (85,639 crimes). The biggest drivers of the decrease by volume since 2020 were Drugs (down 17%, or 2,269 crimes) and Housebreaking (down 24%, or 854 crimes). When compared with 2019, the biggest drivers of the reduction in volume were Shoplifting (down 36%, or 4,095 crimes), Other theft (down 24%, or 3,539 crimes) and Drugs (down 14%, or 1,798 crimes). The largest increase since 2020 by volume was Vandalism etc. (up 9%, or 1,159 crimes). Compared with 2019, the largest increase by volume was seen in Fraud (up 70%, or 2,457 crimes).

Over the same period, the number of offences recorded by the police was 3% higher (or 2,565 offences) than in 2020, with Miscellaneous offences remaining relatively unchanged (0% change) and Motor vehicle offences increasing by 8% (or 2,726 offences) ([Table 5](#)). Compared to 2019 offences decreased 6% (or 5,472 offences), with Miscellaneous offences falling 3% (or 1,281 offences) and Motor vehicle offences decreasing by 10% (or 4,191 offences).

## Changes in levels of recorded fraud

Fraud was 10% lower (or 153 crimes) in July 2021 than in July 2020, but 39% higher (or 390 crimes) than in July 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 45 such crimes were recorded during July 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 July 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
July	45

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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: July 2021](#)

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

Crime group	July 2019	July 2020	July 2021	% change since July 2020	% change since July 2019
<b>Total crimes<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>21,839</b>	<b>20,401</b>	<b>19,092</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>-13%</b>
<b>Non-sexual crimes of violence</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>11%</b>
Homicide etc.	17	3	7	n/r	-59%
Attempted murder & serious assault	373	351	361	3%	-3%
Robbery	134	157	161	3%	20%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	140	148	131	-11%	-6%
Other violence	130	168	218	30%	68%
<b>Sexual crimes</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>1,203</b>	<b>1,158</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Rape & attempted rape	179	255	199	-22%	11%
Sexual assault	430	400	419	5%	-3%
Crimes associated with prostitution	7	2	6	n/r	n/r
Other sexual crimes	501	546	534	-2%	7%
<b>Crimes of dishonesty</b>	<b>10,008</b>	<b>8,166</b>	<b>7,943</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-21%</b>
Housebreaking	1,104	807	718	-11%	-35%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	161	109	95	-13%	-41%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	235	177	168	-5%	-29%
Theft of a motor vehicle	440	350	395	13%	-10%
Shoplifting	2,848	1,750	1,783	2%	-37%
Other theft	3,813	3,075	3,078	0%	-19%
Fraud	991	1,534	1,381	-10%	39%
Other dishonesty	416	364	325	-11%	-22%
<b>Fire-raising, vandalism etc.</b>	<b>4,084</b>	<b>3,760</b>	<b>3,758</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-8%</b>
Fire-raising	235	234	242	3%	3%
Vandalism etc.	3,849	3,526	3,516	0%	-9%
<b>Other crimes</b>	<b>5,836</b>	<b>6,445</b>	<b>5,355</b>	<b>-17%</b>	<b>-8%</b>
Crimes against public justice	1,702	2,273	2,095	-8%	23%
Handling offensive weapons	852	1,002	886	-12%	4%
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	389	421	374	-11%	-4%
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	463	581	512	-12%	11%
Drugs	3,271	3,157	2,362	-25%	-28%
Other	11	13	12	-8%	9%

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, July 2019, 2020 and 2021**

Crime group	July 2019	July 2020	July 2021	% change since July 2020	% change since July 2019
<b>Total offences</b>	<b>22,644</b>	<b>21,607</b>	<b>20,968</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-7%</b>
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	<b>11,502</b>	<b>11,745</b>	<b>11,484</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Common assault	4,896	4,868	4,875	0%	0%
Breach of the peace etc.	4,553	4,787	4,664	-3%	2%
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	684	546	601	10%	-12%
Urinating etc.	238	128	104	-19%	-56%
Other miscellaneous offences	1,131	1,416	1,240	-12%	10%
<b>Motor vehicle offences</b>	<b>11,142</b>	<b>9,862</b>	<b>9,484</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>-15%</b>
Dangerous and careless driving	1,077	1,090	1,185	9%	10%
Driving under the influence	548	803	687	-14%	25%
Speeding	2,819	2,187	2,173	-1%	-23%
Unlawful use of vehicle	3,538	3,014	2,871	-5%	-19%
Vehicle defect offences	592	663	464	-30%	-22%
Seat belt offences	372	228	180	-21%	-52%
Mobile phone offences	248	214	144	-33%	-42%
Other motor vehicle offences	1,948	1,663	1,780	7%	-9%

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

Local authority	July 2019	July 2020	July 2021	% change since July 2020	% change since July 2019
Aberdeen City	1,002	1,141	944	-17%	-6%
Aberdeenshire	631	590	527	-11%	-16%
Angus	310	295	341	16%	10%
Argyll & Bute	248	241	197	-18%	-21%
Clackmannanshire	213	157	209	33%	-2%
Dumfries & Galloway	628	526	563	7%	-10%
Dundee City	890	848	825	-3%	-7%
East Ayrshire	435	452	441	-2%	1%
East Dunbartonshire	265	261	232	-11%	-12%
East Lothian	370	272	318	17%	-14%
East Renfrewshire	192	160	147	-8%	-23%
Edinburgh City	2,718	2,371	2,015	-15%	-26%
Falkirk	636	385	536	39%	-16%
Fife	1,193	1,210	1,157	-4%	-3%
Glasgow City	3,818	3,311	3,254	-2%	-15%
Highland	715	755	684	-9%	-4%
Inverclyde	265	289	277	-4%	5%
Midlothian	372	326	340	4%	-9%
Moray	180	268	231	-14%	28%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	34	44	44	0%	29%
North Ayrshire	544	536	524	-2%	-4%
North Lanarkshire	1,558	1,487	1,231	-17%	-21%
Orkney Islands	23	46	24	-48%	4%
Perth & Kinross	389	415	387	-7%	-1%
Renfrewshire	706	673	585	-13%	-17%
Scottish Borders	307	341	303	-11%	-1%
Shetland Islands	40	34	29	-15%	-28%
South Ayrshire	433	383	421	10%	-3%
South Lanarkshire	1,220	1,189	1,120	-6%	-8%
Stirling	325	229	254	11%	-22%
West Dunbartonshire	451	436	358	-18%	-21%
West Lothian	728	730	574	-21%	-21%
<b>Scotland<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>21,839</b>	<b>20,401</b>	<b>19,092</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>-13%</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 July 2019, 2020 and 2021**

Crime group	April to July 2019	April to July 2020	April to July 2021	% Change since 2020	% Change since 2019
<b>Total crimes<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>85,639</b>	<b>78,599</b>	<b>76,761</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-10%</b>
<b>Non-sexual crimes of violence</b>	<b>3,172</b>	<b>2,929</b>	<b>3,185</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Homicide etc.	51	29	34	17%	-33%
Attempted murder & serious assault	1,536	1,181	1,277	8%	-17%
Robbery	522	592	553	-7%	6%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	565	518	520	0%	-8%
Other violence	498	609	801	32%	61%
<b>Sexual crimes</b>	<b>4,575</b>	<b>4,110</b>	<b>4,768</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Rape & attempted rape	797	736	839	14%	5%
Sexual assault	1,739	1,223	1,616	32%	-7%
Crimes associated with prostitution	23	12	24	100%	4%
Other sexual crimes	2,016	2,139	2,289	7%	14%
<b>Crimes of dishonesty</b>	<b>38,630</b>	<b>31,963</b>	<b>30,942</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-20%</b>
Housebreaking	4,303	3,590	2,736	-24%	-36%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	602	388	419	8%	-30%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	983	839	651	-22%	-34%
Theft of a motor vehicle	1,683	1,511	1,493	-1%	-11%
Shoplifting	11,259	6,635	7,164	8%	-36%
Other theft	14,611	11,576	11,072	-4%	-24%
Fraud	3,499	5,606	5,956	6%	70%
Other dishonesty	1,690	1,818	1,451	-20%	-14%
<b>Fire-raising, vandalism etc.</b>	<b>16,470</b>	<b>13,756</b>	<b>15,004</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>-9%</b>
Fire-raising	992	900	989	10%	0%
Vandalism etc.	15,478	12,856	14,015	9%	-9%
<b>Other crimes</b>	<b>22,792</b>	<b>25,841</b>	<b>22,862</b>	<b>-12%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Crimes against public justice	6,513	8,866	8,223	-7%	26%
Handling offensive weapons	3,452	3,695	3,629	-2%	5%
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	1,590	1,742	1,601	-8%	1%
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	1,862	1,953	2,028	4%	9%
Drugs	12,755	13,226	10,957	-17%	-14%
Other	72	54	53	-2%	-26%

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 July 2019, 2020 and 2021**

Crime group	April to July 2019	April to July 2020	April to July 2021	% Change since 2020	% Change since 2019
<b>Total offences</b>	<b>88,054</b>	<b>80,017</b>	<b>82,582</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>-6%</b>
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	<b>45,510</b>	<b>44,390</b>	<b>44,229</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-3%</b>
Common assault	19,859	17,381	19,041	10%	-4%
Breach of the peace etc.	17,939	18,315	17,452	-5%	-3%
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	2,384	2,658	2,165	-19%	-9%
Urinating etc.	856	374	373	0%	-56%
Other miscellaneous offences	4,472	5,662	5,198	-8%	16%
<b>Motor vehicle offences</b>	<b>42,544</b>	<b>35,627</b>	<b>38,353</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>-10%</b>
Dangerous and careless driving	3,911	3,772	4,323	15%	11%
Driving under the influence	2,076	2,969	2,707	-9%	30%
Speeding	11,081	6,928	8,503	23%	-23%
Unlawful use of vehicle	12,989	12,821	12,519	-2%	-4%
Vehicle defect offences	2,485	2,060	1,970	-4%	-21%
Seat belt offences	1,275	664	690	4%	-46%
Mobile phone offences	989	647	522	-19%	-47%
Other motor vehicle offences	7,738	5,766	7,119	23%	-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 July 2021 data for this bulletin was extracted in August 2021. In order to compare on a like-for-like basis, data used for comparison was taken from the July 2020 bulletin published last year, which was extracted in August 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 July 2019 was extracted in August 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.

### **Correspondence and enquiries**

For enquiries about this publication please contact:

Jamie Macfarlane

Justice Analytical Services,

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

For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

Office of the Chief Statistician, Telephone: 0131 244 0442,

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

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

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

- are available in more detail through [statistics.gov.scot](http://statistics.gov.scot).
- 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).

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