

## CRIME AND JUSTICE

# Recorded Crime in Scotland: year ending June 2022

This quarterly National Statistics bulletin presents information on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland for the year ending June 2022. It also includes a comparison with the equivalent four previous years.

For additional and more detailed commentary on the recording of crimes and offences, including time series analysis over the longer term (back to 1971), statistics on cyber-crimes and clear-up rates, users should refer to the 2021-22 (or year ending March 2022) [National Statistics bulletin](#).

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. The other main source of crime statistics in Scotland is the [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey \(SCJS\)](#), a national survey of adults (aged 16 and over) living in private households, which asks respondents about their experiences and perceptions of crime.

This bulletin presents crime statistics using the new set of crime and offence groups approved by the [Scottish Crime Recording Board](#), following a public consultation of users. More information on the new crime grouping structure is available in the 2021-22 [National Statistics bulletin](#).

### **Amendments to the recording of Crimes and offences over the past five years**

Users should note that some changes have been made to the recording of crimes and offences over the five years up to year ending June 2022. Most often this reflects the enactment of new legislation passed by either the Scottish or UK Parliaments, which can create new criminal offences or amend the existing approach to recording some types of criminal activity. Other changes reflect decisions taken by the Scottish Crime Recording Board. These include:

- The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, which came into effect on 1 April 2019;
- A procedural change made to the recording of international crime, from 1 April 2020;
- The Coronavirus Act 2020 and Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020, implemented on 25 March and 27 March 2020, respectively;
- The implementation of the Protection of Workers (Retail and Age-restricted goods and services) (Scotland) Act 2021, which came into effect on 24 August 2021.

The implementation of the Protection of Workers Act did not change the volume of crime being recorded. Prior to this, any assault of a retail worker would have been recorded as either a Common or Serious assault. From 24 August 2021 such cases are now recorded as either Common or Serious assault of a retail worker (with the same changes for threatening and abusive behaviour towards retail workers).

The other amendments did result in changes to the number of crimes being recorded within these statistics, following their implementation – most notably the 20,146 crimes recorded under Coronavirus related legislation in year ending June 2021, which reduced to negligible levels in year ending June 2022 (96 crimes).

Where statistics have been impacted by the above changes, this has been highlighted within the bulletin. More detailed information, including for changes prior to the five years presented below, is available in the recorded crime [User Guide](#).

# Summary

The police in Scotland recorded 285,974 crimes in the year ending June 2022. This was 5% lower than the 300,747 crimes recorded in the year ending June 2021, and 5% lower than the 301,376 crimes recorded in the year ending June 2018.

It should be noted that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and associated measures to limit social contact, had an impact on both the type and volume of crime recorded since March 2020. Most recently, the 5% fall in recorded crime between the year ending June 2021 and year ending June 2022 was driven by a reduction in crimes recorded under Coronavirus related legislation (from 20,146 to 96). All other crimes collectively increased by 2%.

As highlighted above, the 2021-22 (or year ending March 2022) [National Statistics bulletin](#) provides further time series analysis over the longer term (back to 1971). The recording of crime for the year ending June 2022 is at the lowest level seen for a 12-month period since 1974.

In the year ending June 2022:

- Non-sexual crimes of violence were 9% higher compared to the year ending June 2021 (increasing from 64,080 to 70,156 crimes), and 5% higher compared to the year ending June 2018 (increasing from 66,540 to 70,156 crimes).
- Sexual crimes were 7% higher compared to the year ending June 2021 (increasing from 13,939 to 14,880 crimes), and 14% higher compared to the year ending June 2018 (increasing from 13,055 to 14,880 crimes).
- Crimes of dishonesty were 9% higher compared to the year ending June 2021 (increasing from 89,259 to 97,207 crimes), but 15% lower compared to the year ending June 2018 (decreasing from 113,774 to 97,207 crimes).
- Damage and reckless behaviour was <1% higher compared to the year ending June 2021 (increasing from 44,293 to 44,455 crimes), but 12% lower compared to the year ending June 2018 (decreasing from 50,303 to 44,455 crimes).
- Crimes against society were 14% lower compared to the year ending June 2021 (decreasing from 69,030 to 59,180 crimes), but 3% higher compared to the year ending June 2018 (increasing from 57,704 to 59,180 crimes).
- Coronavirus restrictions were almost 100% lower compared to the year ending June 2021 (decreasing from 20146 to 96). As noted above, the legislation used to record these crimes was introduced in March 2020.

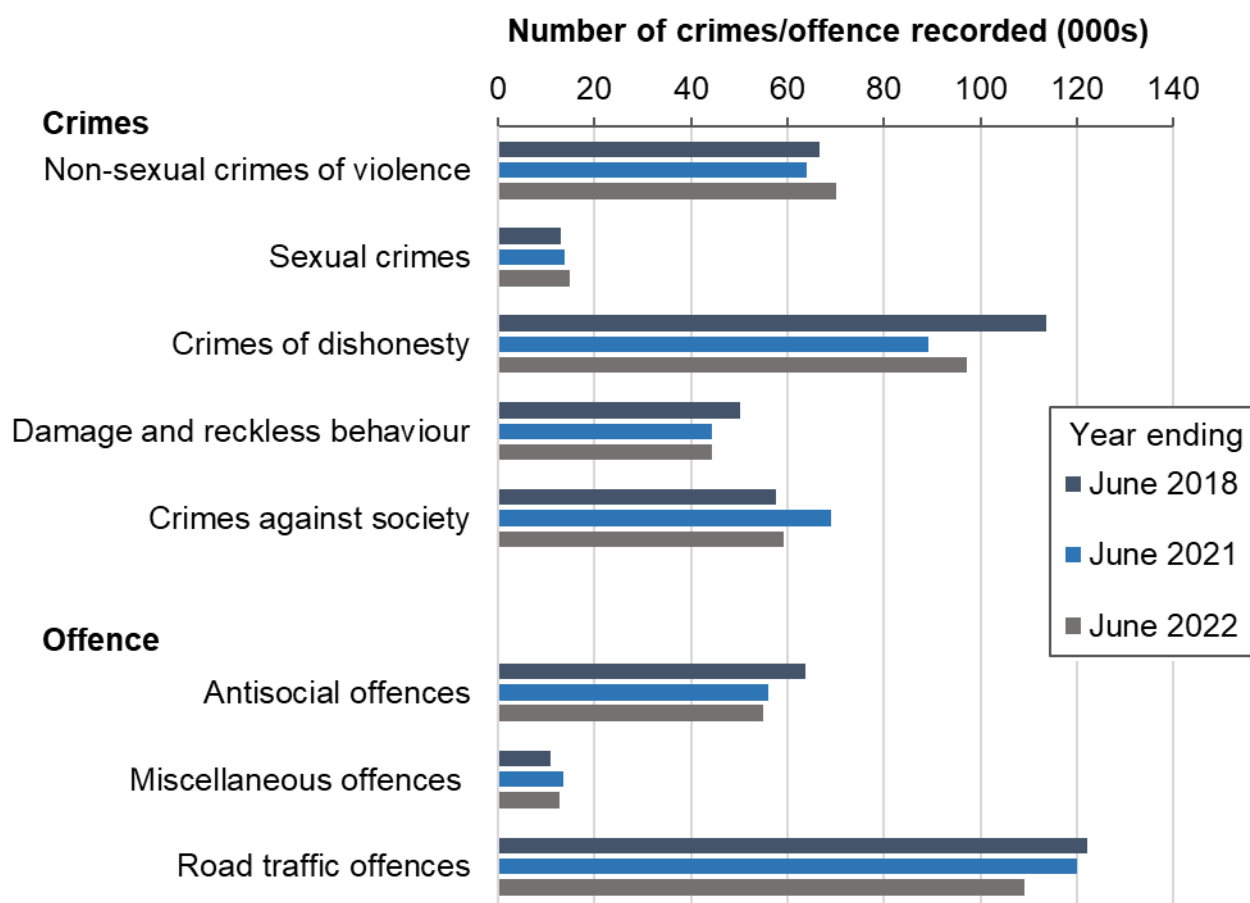
The number of offences recorded by the police in Scotland in the year ending June 2022 was 176,960. This is 7% lower than the 189,677 offences recorded in the year

ending June 2021, and 10% lower than the 196,848 offences recorded in the year ending June 2018.

- Antisocial offences were 2% lower compared to the year ending June 2021 (decreasing from 56,168 to 55,018 offences), and 14% lower compared to the year ending June 2018 (decreasing from 63,738 to 55,018 offences).
- Miscellaneous offences were 5% lower compared to the year ending June 2021 (decreasing from 13,451 to 12,815 offences), but 17% higher compared to the year ending June 2018 (increasing from 10,970 to 12,815 offences).
- Road traffic offences were 9% lower compared to the year ending June 2021 (decreasing from 120,058 to 109,127 offences), and 11% lower compared to the year ending June 2018 (decreasing from 122,140 to 109,127 offences).

# Main findings

Chart 1. Crimes and offences recorded by the police, by crime group, year ending June 2018 to 2022



## Crimes recorded by the police

In the year ending June 2022, the police recorded 285,974 crimes. This was 5% (or 14,773 crimes) lower than the 300,747 crimes recorded in the previous year, and 5% lower than the 301,376 crimes recorded in the year ending June 2018.

### Non-sexual crimes of violence

The number of Non-sexual crimes of violence in the year ending June 2022:

- were 9% (or 6,076 crimes) higher compared to the previous year (increasing from 64,080 to 70,156 crimes), and
- were 5% (or 3,616 crimes) higher compared to the year ending June 2018 (increasing from 66,540 to 70,156 crimes).

Within this:

- Murder and culpable homicide decreased by 12% compared to the previous year (from 57 to 50 crimes), and decreased by 23% from the year ending June 2018 (from 65 to 50 crimes).
- Death by dangerous driving decreased by 13% compared to the previous year (from 45 to 39 crimes), and decreased by 7% from the year ending June 2018 (from 42 to 39 crimes).
- Serious assault and attempted murder increased by 4% compared to the previous year (from 3,635 to 3,797 crimes), but decreased by 11% from the year ending June 2018 (from 4,254 to 3,797 crimes).
- Common assault increased by 10% compared to the previous year (from 53,895 to 59,081 crimes), and increased by 2% from the year ending June 2018 (from 57,791 to 59,081 crimes).
- Robbery decreased by 3% compared to the previous year (from 1,655 to 1,604 crimes), and decreased by <1% from the year ending June 2018 (from 1,607 to 1,604 crimes).
- Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 crimes increased by 7% compared to the previous year (from 1,682 to 1,800 crimes). Please note that the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 came into effect on 1 April 2019. As such the year ending June 2019 figures reflect only three months of activity, with subsequent years covering a full 12 months.
- Other non-sexual violence increased by 22% compared to the previous year (from 3,111 to 3,785 crimes), and increased by 36% from the year ending June 2018 (from 2,781 to 3,785 crimes).

## **Sexual crimes**

The number of Sexual crimes in the year ending June 2022:

- were 7% (or 941 crimes) higher compared to the previous year (increasing from 13,939 to 14,880 crimes), and
- were 14% (or 1,825 crimes) higher compared to the year ending June 2018 (increasing from 13,055 to 14,880 crimes).

Within this:

- Rape and attempted rape decreased by 1% compared to the previous year (from 2,477 to 2,455 crimes), but increased by 10% from the year ending June 2018 (from 2,237 to 2,455 crimes).
- Sexual assault increased by 20% compared to the previous year (from 4,587 to 5,495 crimes), and increased by 6% from the year ending June 2018 (from 5,182 to 5,495 crimes).
- Causing to view sexual activity or images remained unchanged compared to the previous year (at 2,166 crimes), but increased by 19% from the year ending June 2018 (from 1,820 to 2,166 crimes).

- Communicating indecently increased by 1% compared to the previous year (from 1,525 to 1,533 crimes), and increased by 24% from the year ending June 2018 (from 1,238 to 1,533 crimes).
- Threatening to or disclosing intimate images increased by 9% compared to the previous year (from 801 to 870 crimes), and increased by 64% from the year ending June 2018 (from 532 to 870 crimes).
- Indecent photos of children increased by <1% compared to the previous year (from 682 to 683 crimes), and increased by 4% from the year ending June 2018 (from 654 to 683 crimes).
- Crimes associated with prostitution increased by 20% compared to the previous year (from 65 to 78 crimes), but decreased by 40% from the year ending June 2018 (from 131 to 78 crimes).
- Other sexual crimes decreased by 2% compared to the previous year (from 1,636 to 1,600 crimes), but increased by 27% from the year ending June 2018 (from 1,261 to 1,600 crimes).

### **Crimes of dishonesty**

The number of Crimes of dishonesty in the year ending June 2022:

- were 9% (or 7,948 crimes) higher compared to the previous year (increasing from 89,259 to 97,207 crimes), and
- were 15% (or 16,567 crimes) lower compared to the year ending June 2018 (decreasing from 113,774 to 97,207 crimes).

Within this:

- Housebreaking decreased by 2% compared to the previous year (from 8,925 to 8,705 crimes), and decreased by 40% from the year ending June 2018 (from 14,521 to 8,705 crimes).
- Theft by opening lockfast places increased by 1% compared to the previous year (from 1,243 to 1,251 crimes), but decreased by 37% from the year ending June 2018 (from 2,001 to 1,251 crimes).
- Theft from a motor vehicle increased by 9% compared to the previous year (from 1,920 to 2,086 crimes), but decreased by 47% from the year ending June 2018 (from 3,935 to 2,086 crimes).
- Theft of motor vehicle increased by 11% compared to the previous year (from 4,233 to 4,691 crimes), but decreased by 5% from the year ending June 2018 (from 4,938 to 4,691 crimes).
- Shoplifting increased by 18% compared to the previous year (from 21,136 to 24,877 crimes), but decreased by 23% from the year ending June 2018 (from 32,122 to 24,877 crimes).
- Other theft increased by 13% compared to the previous year (from 31,496 to 35,440 crimes), but decreased by 19% from the year ending June 2018 (from 43,610 to 35,440 crimes).

- Fraud increased by 4% compared to the previous year (from 15,835 to 16,461 crimes), and increased by 96% from the year ending June 2018 (from 8,395 to 16,461 crimes). Further explanation on the changes in levels of recorded fraud are available in the [Recorded Crime in Scotland annual bulletin](#).
- Other dishonesty decreased by 17% compared to the previous year (from 4,471 to 3,696 crimes), and decreased by 13% from the year ending June 2018 (from 4,252 to 3,696 crimes).

### **Damage and reckless behaviour**

The number of Damage and reckless behaviour crimes in the year ending June 2022:

- were <1% (or 162 crimes) higher compared to the previous year (increasing from 44,293 to 44,455 crimes), and
- were 12% (or 5,848 crimes) lower compared to the year ending June 2018 (decreasing from 50,303 to 44,455 crimes).

Within this:

- Fire-raising decreased by 2% compared to the previous year (from 2,683 to 2,623 crimes), but increased by 4% from the year ending June 2018 (from 2,529 to 2,623 crimes).
- Vandalism increased by 1% compared to the previous year (from 38,338 to 38,582 crimes), but decreased by 15% from the year ending June 2018 (from 45,288 to 38,582 crimes).
- Reckless conduct decreased by 1% compared to the previous year (from 3,272 to 3,250 crimes), but increased by 31% from the year ending June 2018 (from 2,486 to 3,250 crimes).

### **Crimes against society**

The number of Crimes against society in the year ending June 2022:

- were 14% (or 9,850 crimes) lower compared to the previous year (decreasing from 69,030 to 59,180 crimes), and
- were 3% (or 1,476 crimes) higher compared to the year ending June 2018 (increasing from 57,704 to 59,180 crimes).

Within this:

- Crimes against public justice decreased by 6% compared to the previous year (from 24,455 to 22,895 crimes), but increased by 26% from the year ending June 2018 (from 18,106 to 22,895 crimes).
- Weapons possession (not used) decreased by 7% compared to the previous year (from 4,422 to 4,093 crimes), but increased by 13% from the year ending June 2018 (from 3,633 to 4,093 crimes).



- Weapons possession (used) decreased by 1% compared to the previous year (from 5,806 to 5,757 crimes), but increased by 31% from the year ending June 2018 (from 4,390 to 5,757 crimes).
- Drugs - Supply decreased by 24% compared to the previous year (from 5,054 to 3,838 crimes), and decreased by 20% from the year ending June 2018 (from 4,794 to 3,838 crimes).
- Drugs - Possession decreased by 23% compared to the previous year (from 29,135 to 22,390 crimes), and decreased by 16% from the year ending June 2018 (from 26,619 to 22,390 crimes).
- Other crimes against society increased by 31% compared to the previous year (from 158 to 207 crimes), and increased by 28% from the year ending June 2018 (from 162 to 207 crimes).

### **Coronavirus restrictions**

The number of Coronavirus restrictions crimes in the year ending June 2022:

- were almost 100% (or 20,050 crimes) lower compared to the previous year (decreasing from 20,146 to 96 crimes).

The [Coronavirus Act 2020](#) and [Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#) were implemented on 25 March and 27 March 2020, respectively. As such the year ending June 2020 figures reflect only a little over three months of activity.

### **Offences recorded by the police**

In the year ending June 2022, the police recorded 176,960 offences. This was 7% (or 12,717 offences) lower than the 189,677 offences recorded in the previous year, and 10% lower than the 196,848 offences recorded in the year ending June 2018.

### **Antisocial offences**

The number of Antisocial offences in the year ending June 2022:

- were 2% (or 1,150 offences) lower compared to the previous year (decreasing from 56,168 to 55,018 offences), and
- were 14% (or 8,720 offences) lower compared to the year ending June 2018 (decreasing from 63,738 to 55,018 offences).

Within this:

- Threatening and abusive behaviour decreased by 2% compared to the previous year (from 48,108 to 47,065 offences), and decreased by 7% from the year ending June 2018 (from 50,842 to 47,065 offences).
- Racially aggravated conduct decreased by 6% compared to the previous year (from 1,760 to 1,649 offences), and decreased by 12% from the year ending June 2018 (from 1,883 to 1,649 offences).

- Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct decreased by 12% compared to the previous year (from 5,380 to 4,714 offences), and decreased by 41% from the year ending June 2018 (from 8,026 to 4,714 offences).
- Urinating etc. increased by 73% compared to the previous year (from 920 to 1,590 offences), but decreased by 47% from the year ending June 2018 (from 2,987 to 1,590 offences).

### **Miscellaneous offences**

The number of Miscellaneous offences in the year ending June 2022:

- were 5% (or 636 offences) lower compared to the previous year (decreasing from 13,451 to 12,815 offences), and
- were 17% (or 1,845 offences) higher compared to the year ending June 2018 (increasing from 10,970 to 12,815 offences).

Within this:

- Community and public order offences decreased by 2% compared to the previous year (from 9,418 to 9,192 offences), but increased by 28% from the year ending June 2018 (from 7,184 to 9,192 offences).
- Environmental offences decreased by 32% compared to the previous year (from 677 to 463 offences), and decreased by 16% from the year ending June 2018 (from 552 to 463 offences).
- Licensing offences decreased by 14% compared to the previous year (from 928 to 802 offences), and decreased by 43% from the year ending June 2018 (from 1,412 to 802 offences).
- Wildlife offences decreased by <1% compared to the previous year (from 1,457 to 1,456 offences), but increased by 15% from the year ending June 2018 (from 1,262 to 1,456 offences).
- Other miscellaneous offences decreased by 7% compared to the previous year (from 971 to 902 offences), but increased by 61% from the year ending June 2018 (from 560 to 902 offences).

### **Road traffic offences**

The number of Road traffic offences in the year ending June 2022:

- were 9% (or 10,931 offences) lower compared to the previous year (decreasing from 120,058 to 109,127 offences), and
- were 11% (or 13,013 offences) lower compared to the year ending June 2018 (decreasing from 122,140 to 109,127 offences).

Within this:

- Dangerous and careless driving increased by 4% compared to the previous year (from 12,413 to 12,968 offences), and increased by 17% from the year ending June 2018 (from 11,055 to 12,968 offences).

- Driving under the influence decreased by 3% compared to the previous year (from 7,821 to 7,615 offences), but increased by 30% from the year ending June 2018 (from 5,836 to 7,615 offences).
- Speeding decreased by 19% compared to the previous year (from 24,699 to 19,929 offences), and decreased by 28% from the year ending June 2018 (from 27,555 to 19,929 offences).
- Unlawful use of vehicle decreased by 17% compared to the previous year (from 43,787 to 36,514 offences), and decreased by 12% from the year ending June 2018 (from 41,575 to 36,514 offences).
- Vehicle defect offences decreased by 19% compared to the previous year (from 6,885 to 5,611 offences), and decreased by 18% from the year ending June 2018 (from 6,858 to 5,611 offences).
- Seat belt offences increased by 1% compared to the previous year (from 1,756 to 1,781 offences), but decreased by 41% from the year ending June 2018 (from 3,008 to 1,781 offences).
- Mobile phone offences increased by 22% compared to the previous year (from 1,565 to 1,914 offences), but decreased by 34% from the year ending June 2018 (from 2,891 to 1,914 offences).
- Other road traffic offences increased by 8% compared to the previous year (from 21,132 to 22,795 offences), but decreased by 2% from the year ending June 2018 (from 23,362 to 22,795 offences).

## **Local Authorities**

Between the year ending June 2018 and the year ending June 2022, of the 32 Local Authorities, 14 saw an increase in recorded crime, two saw very little (less than half a percentage) change, and 16 saw a decrease in recorded crime.

Between the year ending June 2021 and the year ending June 2022, of the 32 Local Authorities, eight Local Authorities saw an increase in recorded crime, one saw very little (less than half a percentage) change, and 23 saw a decrease in recorded crime.

# Annexes

## Annex 1: Background

These quarterly National Statistics cover a rolling 12-months of activity, up to the end of the latest quarter. They were introduced to inform users about the volume and type of crimes and offences recorded in Scotland, on a more frequent basis than the existing annual [Recorded Crime in Scotland National Statistics](#).

The latest annual [Recorded Crime in Scotland](#) bulletin, covering the 2021-22 reporting year, was published on 28 June 2022. Users should refer to the annual National Statistics for more detailed contextual information regarding the statistics in this report, and the production of the recorded crime statistics more generally - including governance arrangements, a description of their quality, background methodologies and changes to recording practice.

## Annex 2: Data Sources

Since 2020-21 the National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland have been produced using data extracted from a single Police Scotland IT system called the Source for Evidence Based Policing (SEBP), which was created in 2019.

A technical review on the impact of changing from the previous IT system to SEBP, found strong alignment between both administrative systems for recorded crime in 2020-21. Further information on this is available in Annex 3 of the [Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2020-21 bulletin](#).

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. As such it is important for National Statistics purposes that data is extracted at a similar point in time each year, to allow comparisons of any trends to be on a like-for-like basis.

The figures provided in this bulletin for the year ending June 2022 were extracted in July 2022. Data for the two previous years ending June 2020 and June 2021 was then extracted retrospectively to reflect the position as it would have been at June in each of those two years. This ensured a like-for-like comparison could be carried out, as discussed above. Due to earlier IT constraints, this retrospective extraction wasn't possible for the years ending June 2018 and June 2019. However the impact this will have on any comparisons with those two earlier years, will be minor.

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

For further background information (e.g. classification of Crimes and Offences and comparisons with England & Wales and Northern Ireland) please see the [Recorded Crime in Scotland User Guide](#).

### **Annex 4: Feedback**

We are always interested to hear users' views on our products, how our statistics are used and how they can be improved. As this is a new series of quarterly recorded crime publications we would particularly welcome feedback.

Please consider answering our short [feedback survey](#) on how you found this publication.

Or you can contact us with any queries, comments or suggestions at: [Justice\\_Analysts@gov.scot](mailto:Justice_Analysts@gov.scot).

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

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### **Correspondence and enquiries**

For enquiries about this publication please contact: 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**

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