

A consultation on how Official Statistics present information on recorded crime and related topics

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Introduction

1. Scottish Government statisticians produce a National Statistics bulletin once a year on crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland. The 2017-18 edition was published on the 25th September 2018¹.
2. Police recorded crime in Scotland has fallen over the past decade, with the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey² showing a similar trend for comparable crimes. Over this time there have been larger than average falls in some types of crime, such as vandalism or theft from a motor vehicle - whilst in contrast, the number of sexual crimes recorded by the police continues to grow.
3. The recording of crime by the police has also seen changes as a result of new legislation – and will likely continue to do so into the future. Examples include the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009³, the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016⁴ and more recently the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018⁵.
4. It is within the context of this evolving nature of crime, and the legislation that underpins how it is categorised, that the Scottish Crime Recording Board would like to consult users on how these National Statistics are presented. This includes their views on some potential changes in approach.
5. The purpose of this engagement is to ensure recorded crime statistics remain of high value – through their relevance to those who use them, and their capacity to support understanding of the important issues relating to crime in Scotland (alongside other complementary sources of official statistics and research). This process is guided by the Code of Practice for Official Statistics⁶, which underpins the production of high

¹ Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2017-18: <https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/09/2051>

² Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2017-18: main findings: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-crime-justice-survey-2017-18-main-findings/>

³ Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2009/9/contents>

⁴ Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2016/22/enacted>

⁵ Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2018/5/introduction/enacted>

⁶ Code of Practice for Statistics: <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice/>

quality and trustworthy statistics, that support society's needs for information.

The Scottish Crime Recording Board

6. The role of the Scottish Crime Recording Board⁷ (henceforth referred to as the Crime Board) is to ensure the production of recorded crime statistics is accurate and objective, taking into account the needs of both users and providers. It is chaired by the Justice Analytical Services division of the Scottish Government, with representation from Police Scotland, the British Transport Police, the Ministry of Defence Police, the Scottish Police Authority, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

Current approach

7. Contraventions of Scottish criminal law are divided for statistical purposes into crimes and offences. The term 'crime' is generally used for the more serious criminal acts; with others termed as 'offences'. This distinction is made only for statistical reporting purposes, and has no impact on how the police investigate reports of criminal activity. The 'seriousness' of a criminal act is generally related to the maximum sentence that can be imposed. This distinction has been consistently used in the Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletins since publication began in 1983 and, prior to this, in the Criminal statistics publications dating back to the 1920s.
8. A further distinction, although not absolute, is that those incidents defined as 'crimes' within the statistics tend to be based on reports of criminal activity to the police - from victims, witnesses or other parties. Those incidents defined as 'offences' tend to be more affected by police activity and operational decisions.
9. The National Statistics on recorded crime are currently split into the five groups shown below, with two further groups on recorded offences. [Annex A](#) presents this information, split by the seven groups, for the past 10 years (2008-09 to 2017-18). [Annex B](#) provides the full list of crime and offence types within each of these groups.

⁷ Scottish Crime Recording Board: <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/SCRB>

Recorded Crime:

- Group 1: Non-sexual Crimes of Violence (including Homicide, Attempted murder & serious assault, Robbery and Other violence)
- Group 2: Sexual Crimes (including Rape & attempted rape, Sexual assault, Crimes associated with prostitution and Other sexual crimes)
- Group 3: Crimes of Dishonesty (including Housebreaking, Theft by opening a lockfast place, Theft from or theft of a motor vehicle, Shoplifting, Other theft, Fraud and Other dishonesty)
- Group 4: Fire-raising, Vandalism etc. (including Fire-raising, Vandalism etc.)
- Group 5: Other Crimes (including Crimes against public justice, Handling an offensive weapon, Drugs and Other)

Recorded Offences:

- Group 6: Miscellaneous Offences (including Common assault, Breach of the peace, Drunk & disorderly, Urinating and Other)
- Group 7: Motor Vehicle Offences (including Dangerous & careless driving, Driving under the influence, Speeding, Unlawful use of a vehicle, Vehicle defect offences, Seat belt offences, Mobile phone offences and Other)

Developing this consultation

10. In November 2014⁸ HMICS recommended an exploration of whether the crime groupings used for statistical purposes remain relevant, taking into account the changing nature of crime and consideration of whether the crime groupings reflect the public's perception of crime.
11. The following year a consultation on Police Recorded Crime Statistics⁹ asked users for their views on the broad system (outlined above) used to classify crimes and offences in statistical publications. As 'expert' or 'professional' users, respondents felt that the difference between crimes and offences was clear, and that the continuity of the current system was particularly important for making time series comparisons. It was also suggested that there is room for improvement in the 'non-sexual crimes of violence' category, particularly around serious and minor (common) assault.
12. After that earlier consultation, further improvements were made to the commentary and analyses that provide context to the statistics within the publication. This approach, alongside other work to inform users about the recording and quality assurance of police recorded crime data led to the re-designation of these statistics as National Statistics in 2016 (confirming they meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and value¹⁰).
13. In tandem with that work, the Crime Board took on responsibility for addressing the HMICS recommendation, taking forward a range of actions which have culminated with the issuing of this consultation. This included commissioning and publishing new research into the nature of violence contained within police recorded common assaults¹¹ and a study into how crimes are categorised internationally (see [Annex F](#)). In addition to this, new research into police recorded crimes of robbery¹²,

⁸ HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland: Crime Audit 2014:
<https://www.hmics.scot/publications/crime-audit-2014>

⁹ Stakeholder consultation – Police Recorded Crime Statistics 2015:
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/StakeCon/RCUC2015>

¹⁰ Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland: Letter of Confirmation as National Statistics:
<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/statistics-on-recorded-crime-in-scotland-2/>

¹¹ Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2015-16: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/09/2960/332788>

¹² Recorded Crime in Scotland: Robbery 2008-09 and 2017-18:
<https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/09/6637/0>

some types of sexual crime¹³ and drug possession¹⁴ also provides useful context for the potential changes set out in this consultation.

Structure of this consultation

14. This consultation is split into three parts:

- [Part One](#) outlines the purpose and supporting principles on how police recorded crimes and offences should be grouped and presented in the National Statistics, and the Crime Board would like your views on them. These aim to give the Board a formal set of criteria on which to base the presentation of crime statistics and judge any changes in approach, both as part of this consultation and in the future.
- [Part Two](#) proposes an alternative way through which the recorded crime statistics could be presented, using a refreshed set of groups. The main differences between the current grouping structure and this potential refresh are discussed and user views invited.
- [Part Three](#) gives an opportunity to offer any other views you may have on the approach used to present these statistics. The aforementioned study into how crimes are categorised internationally found that no one standard approach predominates and with such a wide range of recorded crime and offence types, the Crime Board recognises you may have other suggestions not included in [Part two](#). This section also discusses recording crime with a cyber-element (i.e. committed online) and how we might present information on this topic in future.

Impact on other statistical bulletins

15. The approach outlined in [paragraph 9](#) for the grouping and presentation of police recorded crime statistics is also used in other publications on related topics – the largest of which is the National Statistics on Criminal Proceedings in Scotland¹⁵. This presents information on the outcome of court proceedings, including a detailed breakdown for each of the seven crime and offence groups. Similar information on the

¹³ Recorded Crime in Scotland: 'Other Sexual Crimes' 2013-14 and 2016-17: <https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/09/7838>

¹⁴ Drug seizures and offender characteristics, 2017-18: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/drug-seizures-offender-characteristics-2017-18/>

¹⁵ Criminal Proceedings in Scotland 2017-18: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/criminal-proceedings-scotland-2017-18/>

committing of crimes and offences is also provided in topic-based bulletins on specific areas of police or justice-related activity (for example police recorded Domestic Abuse or Reconvictions of Offenders).

16. To ensure the existing level of continuity between these different statistics is maintained, it is very likely that any changes made to how criminal activity is presented within the police recorded crime bulletin will also be fully reflected within the other statistical bulletins. Statisticians responsible for those other products have contributed to the production of this consultation, and would like to invite their own users to respond if they have any views.
17. In addition to the National Statistics on police recorded crime, Police Scotland publish a quarterly management information report¹⁶. These reports are produced to demonstrate Police Scotland's commitment to transparency and are based on crime and offence data drawn from their administrative systems, prior to its quality assurance for the National Statistics. Police Scotland plan to reflect any changes as a result of this consultation to the presentation of data within these reports.

Impact on other public bodies

18. Police Scotland is not the only body that records crimes in Scotland. Depending on the location of the incident, some crime may be dealt with and recorded by partner organisations like the British Transport Police or the Ministry of Defence Police. This information is presented within an Annex of the [Recorded Crime Bulletin](#). Furthermore, crimes where the perpetrator was confirmed to be outwith Scotland when they targeted the victim (for example online crime) may instead be recorded by the jurisdiction where the perpetrator was based.

¹⁶ Police Scotland Management Information: <http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/>

Responding to this consultation

We are inviting responses to this by 8 October 2019.

Please respond to this consultation using the Scottish Government's consultation hub, Citizen Space (<https://consult.gov.scot>). Access and respond to this consultation at <https://consult.gov.scot/justice/statistics-on-police-recorded-crime-and-other>. You can save and return to your responses while the consultation is still open. Please ensure that consultation responses are submitted before the closing date of 8 October 2019.

If you are unable to respond using our consultation hub, please complete and send the Respondent Information Form to:

Police Activity Statistics Team
Scottish Government
2G-North
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Handling your response

If you respond using the consultation hub, you will be directed to the About You page before submitting your response. Please indicate how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are content for your response to be published. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

If you are unable to respond via Citizen Space, please complete and return the Respondent Information Form included in this document.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy: <https://beta.gov.scot/privacy/>

Next steps in the process

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public, and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public at <http://consult.gov.scot>. If you use the consultation hub to respond, you will receive a copy of your response via email.

Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us. Responses will be published where we have been given permission to do so. An analysis report will also be made available.

Comments and complaints

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the contact address above or at crimeconsultation@gov.scot.

The Scottish Government Consultation Process

Consultation is an essential part of the policymaking process. It gives us the opportunity to consider your opinion and expertise on a proposed area of work.

You can find all our consultations online: <http://consult.gov.scot>. Each consultation details the issues under consideration, as well as a way for you to give us your views, either online, by email or by post.

Responses will be analysed and used as part of the decision making process, along with a range of other available information and evidence. We will publish a report of this analysis for every consultation. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise the responses may:

- indicate the need for policy development or review
- inform the development of a particular policy
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body.



RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy:
<https://beta.gov.scot/privacy/>

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual
 Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Phone number

Address

Postcode

Email

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
 Publish response only (without name)
 Do not publish response

Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response with the Scottish Crime Recording Board (on whose behalf this consultation is being run), who may be addressing the issues you discuss. We may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

- Yes
 No

Part One

Purpose and supporting principles

19. In preparing this consultation the Crime Board has developed the following purpose statement for the production of recorded crime statistics. The aim of this is to more formally set out an overarching purpose for the framework used to group and present statistics on police recorded crimes and offences.

Purpose of Framework

To produce National Statistics on crimes and offences recorded by the police in any given year, which (i) informs users, stakeholders and the public in general and (ii) enables a robust and meaningful picture of how crime changes over time to be produced.

20. In addition to this purpose statement, the Crime Board has also developed the four supporting principles shown below. These were used by the Board to inform the proposed refresh of crime groups outlined in [Part two](#) of this consultation. The Board also intends to continue using this framework to judge any future proposals that may change the presentation of police recorded crime statistics.

Supporting principles:

- To seek consistency across the framework, both between crime and offence groups and over time - with the assumption that more serious criminal behaviour should generally be defined as a crime, and less serious as an offence (based on the typical sentence a perpetrator can expect, see [Annex E](#)).
- To generally place activity more susceptible to operational decisions by the Police, Crown etc. within the offences total, and activity that is more victim-reported and less operationally affected within the crimes total - ensuring as valid a trend as possible in crimes brought to the police's attention can be produced.
- In reflecting on the first two principles, to preserve or where possible enhance the user's ability to both produce meaningful time series

analysis on police recorded crime and their ability to compare these statistics with other sources of information.

- To consider the views of those who use crime statistics on how best to present data for the crime and offence groups and how this can best promote their understanding of criminal behaviour.

21. These four principles collectively emphasise the importance of continuing to produce a consistent Framework for the categorisation of crimes and offences - which provides users with a fair reflection of how crimes faced by the police evolve over time and is informed by the views of those users. All these requirements are in line with the recommended approach for producing these statistics under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics¹⁷.

22. In proposing these supporting principles, the Crime Board recognises that they are not absolutes and that decisions on how to present statistics on recorded crime will be based on finding the best balance between them. There are likely to be times where the Board will require further information on the nature of certain types of criminality or the views of users, to help it reach a decision.

Questions to consider

Question One

Do you have any views or feedback on the purpose statement and supporting principles developed by the Crime Board for the production of recorded crime statistics? Should any changes be made to these?

¹⁷ Code of Practice for Statistics: <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/osr/code-of-practice/>

Part Two

An alternative way to present recorded crime statistics

23. The Crime Board has developed an alternative way to present the recorded crime statistics, based on a refreshed set of groups. A discussion of this proposal is provided below, including the main differences to our existing approach.
24. The inclusion of an alternative approach is to help illustrate for users a range of possible changes to how crime statistics are presented. None of the proposals in the alternative approach should be seen as having been endorsed by the Crime Board, with the outcome of this consultation determining which changes might be made.

Background to alternative approach

25. [Annex C](#) presents an alternative way to present the recorded crime statistics, and how this would have looked over the past 10 years (2008-09 to 2017-18).
26. This alternative proposes a greater number of groups, replacing the existing seven group structure (with five for crimes and two for offences) with a twelve group structure (nine for crimes and three for offences). [Annex D](#) provides a full list of crime and offence types within each of these groups.
27. The Purpose and Supporting principles outlined in [Part one](#) of the consultation have informed the design of this alternative approach. Key themes included;
 - Increasing the number of crime and offence groups to allow a more detailed understanding of trends over time in different types of criminal behaviour in Scotland (and as part of this to move away from the less-detailed descriptors used for some sub-categories of crime, like '*Other Sexual Crimes*').
 - Protecting the statistical user's ability to undertake time series analysis using the recorded crime National Statistics (when compared to the existing approach).

- Updating the crime and offence groups to better reflect the impact of new legislation – including the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018.
- Rearranging the division of incidents between crime and offence groups – to align them more fully with the principles outlined in [Part one](#) of this consultation (namely that more serious criminal acts, which tend to be victim or witness reported should be categorised as crimes - whilst less serious acts, that can be operationally affected should be categorised as offences).

For information [Annex E](#) provides the sentencing profile for all crime and offence categories (including the proportion leading to custodial or communities based sentences, monetary fines and other outcomes). The biggest impact of this is the proposal that common assault could be included in a crime group (it is currently categorised as an offence), whilst users are also asked whether drug possession (for personal use) should be moved in the opposite direction into an offence-based group.

28. The alternative approach to presenting the recorded crime statistics would represent a significant change to the existing structure. Despite this, it would still show the same significant reduction in recorded crime in Scotland over the past ten years (down 33% between 2008-09 and 2017-18, compared to a fall of 35% with the existing approach).
29. The following sections discuss, and invite user views, on each proposed group within the alternative approach. [Part three](#) of this consultation also provides respondents with the opportunity to feedback any other views they may have on how recorded crime statistics could be presented.

Non-sexual Violence

30. The existing approach for presenting crime statistics has one group to cover non-sexual crimes of violence. This includes four sub-categories; Homicide etc., Attempted murder and serious assault, Robbery and Other. The 'Other' sub-category includes a range of different crime types – the most common in 2017-18 were cruelty to & unnatural treatment of children, Threats & extortion and Abduction.
31. The non-sexual crimes of violence group accounted for 3% of all crime recorded in Scotland in 2017-18. Over the past ten years the volume of these crimes decreased by 43% (since 2008-09).
32. The alternative approach proposes using multiple groups to present statistics on the general area of non-sexual violence.

Homicide, attempted murder and serious assault

33. The first group would be 'Homicide, attempted murder and serious assault'. This would be based on the first two sub-categories of the existing non-sexual crimes of violence group and would represent the most serious acts of non-sexual violence in Scotland. Serious assaults (which would account for around 90% of this group) involve a victim sustaining injuries that lead to detention in hospital as an inpatient or specific types of injury such as fractures, internal injuries or lacerations that require stitches.
34. It is proposed that the crime of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) also be included in the 'Homicide, Attempted murder and serious assault' group. FGM is currently included within the 'Other' sub-category of the existing non-sexual crimes of violence group, though no crimes of FGM were recorded by the police in 2017-18.

Common assault and other violence

35. An earlier consultation of Police Recorded Crime Statistics¹⁸ suggested there could be scope to improve the presentation of figures for assault – specifically the existing split between classifying serious assault as a non-sexual crime of violence and common assault as a miscellaneous offence. Common assaults are assaults that result in either no physical injuries or a less severe injury than a serious assault (for example cuts and bruises).
36. Responding to this, the Crime Board took forward research to develop our understanding of the characteristics of police recorded common assault. This research¹⁹ found that cases of common assault include a wide range of actions. Around half involve no or very little physical injury to the complainer, whilst the other half had some degree of physical injury (from soreness/red marks to single or multiple injuries like scratches & lacerations or bruising & swelling).
37. Having carried out this research, the Board considered whether re-classifying common assault to become a non-sexual crime of violence would add value to the recorded crime statistics. This could be reasonable on the grounds that common assaults tend to be reported by victims or witnesses (and not as a consequence of operational decisions by the police) and offenders can expect a more severe sentence than other types of criminal behaviour (like vandalism) that are included in the total figures for recorded crime (see [Annex E](#)).
38. Further to this, the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)²⁰ uses a measure of people’s experience of violent crime (including those not reported to the police) that includes incidents similar to common assault, potentially offering an opportunity for greater consistency between police and population based crime measures.

¹⁸ Stakeholder consultation – Police Recorded Crime Statistics 2015:

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

¹⁹ Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2015-16: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/09/2960/332788>

²⁰ Scottish Crime and Justice Survey: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications>

39. However, simply transferring common assault from being a miscellaneous offence to a non-sexual crime of violence could decrease the statistical visibility of more serious incidents (such as attempted murder and serious assault). This may be a disadvantage as the current measure of non-sexual crimes of violence has been well established with users for many years, and has helped identify a relatively larger decrease in more serious acts of violence than it could have done if common assault was also in this group.
40. As such, the alternative approach to presenting the recorded crime statistics proposes a second group to cover 'Common assault and other violence'.
41. This would be based on the sub-category of common assault (which as noted above is currently categorised as a miscellaneous offence) and some crimes from the 'Other' non-sexual crimes of violence sub-category outlined in [paragraph 30](#) ([Annex D](#) provides a list of these crimes, with Threats & Extortion and Abduction having the greatest numbers in 2017-18).
42. [Annex C](#) demonstrates what the volume of this group would look like (with 59,043 incidents in the latest year). Almost all of this second group would be based on common assault (with the 'other violence' sub-category collectively accounting for around 1% of the group).
43. It should be noted that through this alternative approach, around 58,000 common assaults a year would switch from the total for police recorded offences to police recorded crimes. This change could be back-revised, which taken together with all other changes in the alternative approach, would result in a similar long-term decrease in recorded crime. As highlighted in [paragraph 28](#), the alternative approach shows a 33% drop in recorded crime since 2008-09 (see [Annex C](#)) compared to a 35% drop as presented in the National Statistics (see [Annex A](#)).
44. Another change that could be enacted as part of an alternative approach would be to split common assault into common assault with physical injury and common assault without physical injury (henceforth shortened to common assault with/without injury). This would provide additional detail on the different characteristics of common assault, and

would be a similar approach to that taken for England & Wales by the Office for National Statistics.

45. Should common assault be split along these lines, it is suggested that the sub-category common assault with injury could be any assault where the victim sustains minor injuries such as grazes, scratches, abrasions, bruising, swelling, reddening of the skin, superficial cuts or a 'black eye'. Common assault without injury could be any assault that leaves no visible mark or injury and does not cause more than a passing moment of pain.
46. This proposed split focuses on the physical nature of any injury. Whilst the psychological impact of assault is also likely to be of interest to users, this is more difficult to determine for recording purposes – at least in the immediate aftermath of an assault-based incident, when officers are most likely to be supporting the victim.
47. Should responses to this consultation favour splitting common assault as described above, the Crime Board will undertake further work to test and refine as appropriate the proposed definition of common assault with / without injury (to ensure new guidance issued for recording common assault supports the delivery of high value statistics for users).

Robbery

48. The third group would be 'Robbery'. This would be based on the third sub-category of the existing non-sexual crimes of violence group.
49. Robbery is where someone has been physically assaulted or verbally threatened by a perpetrator in order to gain or attempt to gain property. Research²¹ into the characteristics of police recorded robbery suggested that 60% of cases in 2017-18 involved no physical injuries to the victim, with 32% sustaining a common assault level injury and 8% a serious assault level injury. The research also found that these proportions hadn't changed significantly since 2008-09.

²¹ Recorded Crime in Scotland: Robbery 2008-09 and 2017-18:
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-robbery-2008-09-2017-18/>

50. Given most robbery doesn't involve any physical injuries to the victim, this alternative approach proposes keeping crimes of robbery separate to the two assault-based groups described above. Giving crimes of robbery their own group would also be similar to the approach taken in England & Wales.

Crimes of domestic abuse and other cruelty

51. The fourth group would be 'Crimes of domestic abuse and other cruelty'. This would include three sub-categories - the first of which would present statistics for crimes recorded under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018²². This covers abusive behaviour as a course of conduct towards a partner or ex-partner.
52. The second sub-category would be 'Cruelty to Children' – and would include cruelty to & unnatural treatment of children and other related crimes. The third sub-category would be 'Other Cruelty' – and would include stalking and some crimes from the 'Other' non-sexual crimes of violence sub-category outlined in [paragraph 30 Annex D](#) provides a list of these crimes, with slavery or forced labour having the greatest numbers in 2017-18).
53. Under this alternative approach, stalking would be recategorised from a miscellaneous offence to a crime of 'other cruelty' within the 'Crimes of domestic abuse and other cruelty' group. This could be a reasonable approach on the grounds that stalking tends to be victim-reported and offenders can expect a more severe sentence than other types of criminal behaviour.
54. However, regardless of the outcome of this consultation, it is also anticipated that cases of stalking recorded by the police could fall substantially in 2019-20 - as officers instead use the new crime of domestic abuse to record this behaviour where it occurs between partners or ex-partners. As such the statistics could benefit from a greater degree of consistency through transferring the remaining cases

²² A statutory offence was introduced on the 1st April 2019.

of stalking (i.e. where an offender isn't a victim's partner/ex-partner) into the Crimes of domestic abuse and other cruelty group.

Questions to consider

Question Two

Do you have any views on using multiple groups, as outlined above, to present statistics on the general area of non-sexual violence in Scotland? (As an alternative to having one group with multiple sub-categories)

Question Three

Do you have any views on creating a 'Homicide, attempted murder & serious assault' group to cover the most serious acts of non-sexual violence in Scotland?

Question Four

Would the reclassification of common assault from a recorded offence to a recorded crime add value to these statistics? If so, do you have any views on the proposal to have a 'Common assault and other violence' group'?

Question Five

Would you favour splitting Common assault in future years into 'Common assault with injury' and 'Common assault without injury'?

Question Six

Do you favour the creation of a separate group to present statistics on crimes of robbery?

Question Seven

Do you have any views on the proposal to create a 'Crimes of domestic abuse and other cruelty' group? Is this the right place for the new crimes of domestic abuse and would you favour transferring cases of stalking into this group?

Sexual Crimes

55. The existing approach for presenting crime statistics has one group to cover sexual crimes. This includes four sub-categories; Rape and attempted rape, Sexual assault, Crimes associated with prostitution and Other sexual crimes. The 'Other' sub-category includes several different crime types – the most common in 2017-18 were cause to view sexual activity or images, communicating indecently and possessing indecent images of children.
56. Sexual crimes accounted for 5% of all crime recorded in Scotland in 2017-18. The number of crimes in this group has grown every year since 2008-09, including a 13% increase in 2017-18. Part of the latest increase included 421 new crimes of disclosing or threatening to disclose an intimate image, following enactment of The Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016.
57. In recent years the biggest contributor to growth in sexual crime has been increases in 'Other sexual crimes', which represented 42% of all recorded sexual crime by 2017-18.
58. Given the diverse nature of crimes contained within the 'Other' sub-category and the size it has now reached – an alternative approach is to split the existing sexual crimes group into two new groups. These could be 'Sexual crimes with physical contact' and 'Sexual crimes without physical contact'. This could provide the user with more detailed information on trends in sexual offending. It should be noted the group without physical contact would still include serious cases of sexual offending.

Sexual crimes with physical contact

59. The first group would be 'Sexual crimes with physical contact'. This would include three sub-categories - Rape & attempted rape, Sexual assault and Other sexual crimes with physical contact. It would be dominated by the first two sub-categories, with 93% of crimes in 2017-18 being rape & attempted rape or sexual assault.

The 'Other sexual crimes with physical contact' sub-category would include some crimes from the existing 'Other sexual crimes' sub-category ([Annex D](#) provides a list of these crimes, most of which would relate to sexual activity with older children).

Sexual crimes without physical contact

60. The second group would be 'Sexual crimes without physical contact'. This would include four sub-categories – Causing to view sexual activity or images, Communicating indecently, Indecent photos of children and Other sexual crimes without physical contact. The 'Other sexual crimes without physical contact' sub-category would include some crimes from the existing 'Other sexual crimes' sub-category ([Annex D](#) provides a list of these crimes, the most common being Sexual exposure, Public indecency and Voyeurism).
61. [Annex C](#) shows what the volume of a 'Sexual crimes without physical contact' group would look like. The aim of this group would be to give greater clarity about trends in different types of sexual crime, specifically those where the crime did not involve any direct physical contact between the victim and perpetrator. It is likely a majority of these crimes would be cyber-enabled (i.e. committed using the internet²³).

Crimes associated with prostitution

62. As outlined in [paragraph 55](#), one of the existing sub-categories of sexual crime is 'Crimes associated with prostitution'. These have fallen by 82% since 2008-09, so that by 2017-18 they only accounted for 1% of total sexual crime.
63. Under the alternative approach, all 'Crimes associated with prostitution' are classified as a sub-category within the 'Sexual crimes without

²³ Further analysis of research into 'Other Sexual Crimes' suggests that around 60% of sexual crimes that involved no physical contact between an offender and victim were cyber-enabled in 2016-17.

physical contact' group. However there may be other ways in which this information could be presented.

64. For example, users may have views as to whether crimes involving a prostitute soliciting or loitering in a public place for the purposes of prostitution should continue to be categorised within a Sexual crimes group. These represented most (57%) of all crimes associated with prostitution during the past five years. Unlike other crimes associated with prostitution such as Immoral trafficking and Brothel keeping, these crimes are not reported to the police by victims, and have a relatively less severe sentence – with offenders generally receiving an admonishment. An alternative could be to move this activity into a Miscellaneous offence group (see section on [Miscellaneous Offences](#)), whereby it would no longer contribute to the overall total for police recorded crime in Scotland. Any change of this nature would have a small impact on total recorded crime (with 65 crimes recorded in 2017-18) and could be back revised in the statistics.
65. Users may also have further views as to how crimes associated with prostitution could be presented in the National Statistics.

Questions to consider

Question Eight

Do you have any views on using multiple groups, as outlined above, to present statistics on Sexual crime in Scotland? (As an alternative to having one group with multiple sub-categories)

Question Nine

Should two groups be used to present sexual crime, do you have any views on the suggested split into 'Sexual crimes with physical contact' and 'Sexual crimes without physical contact'?

Question Ten

Should soliciting or loitering in a public place for the purposes of prostitution continue to be classified as a sexual crime? Do you have any other views on how police recorded crimes associated with prostitution could be presented?

Question Eleven

Do you have any other views on how sexual crimes could be presented in the recorded crime statistics?

Crimes of Dishonesty

66. Under the existing approach, the largest group by volume is Crimes of dishonesty. This includes eight sub-categories; Housebreaking, Theft by opening a lockfast place, Theft from a motor vehicle, Theft of a motor vehicle, Shoplifting, Other theft, Fraud and Other dishonesty.
67. Crimes of dishonesty accounted for almost half (47%) of all crime recorded in Scotland in 2017-18. Over the past ten years the volume of these crimes decreased by 32% (since 2008-09).
68. No change is proposed to this group in the alternative approach. However, users may wish to note that we are currently conducting research into the characteristics of police recorded fraud (based on a sample of crime records). Findings from this exercise will be published as part of the 2018-19 National Statistics bulletin. This will also include information from other sources on fraud that is not reported to the police.

Questions to consider

Question Twelve

Do you have any views on how Crimes of dishonesty could be presented in the recorded crime statistics?

Fire-raising, Vandalism etc.

69. Under the existing approach, the Fire-raising, vandalism etc. group has two sub-categories; Fire-raising and Vandalism etc.
70. Crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. accounted for 21% of all crime recorded in Scotland in 2017-18. Over the past ten years the volume of these crimes decreased by 53% (since 2008-09).
71. Under the alternative approach it is proposed that this group be renamed to 'Damage and reckless behaviour'. This might be more informative than the existing name, as the existing group also includes crimes related to culpable and reckless conduct.
72. In addition to the name change, the alternative approach proposes splitting the existing two sub-categories into three – Fire-raising, vandalism and Reckless conduct. This change would not involve the moving of any crimes to or from the existing Fire-raising, Vandalism etc. group, so will have no impact on time series. [Annex D](#) provides a list of each crime type under the three proposed sub-categories.

Questions to consider

Question Thirteen

Do you have any views on renaming the 'Fire raising, vandalism etc.' group to 'Crimes of damage and reckless behaviour' and the proposal to add an additional sub-category to show reckless conduct?

Question Fourteen

Do you have any other views on how crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. are presented in the National Statistics on Recorded Crime?

Other Crimes

73. Under the existing approach, the Other crimes group has four sub-categories; Crimes against public justice, handling offensive weapons, Drugs and Other. The 'Other' sub-category includes several different crime types – the most common in 2017-18 was Obstruct or hinder other emergency worker in pursuance of duty.
74. Other crimes account for almost one quarter (24%) of all crime recorded in Scotland in 2017-18. These crimes have fallen by 27% since 2008-09.
75. The Crime Board noted that the current name for this group could be more informative, and that most of the crimes included do not have a victim (in contrast to the earlier groups discussed). As such the alternative approach proposes renaming this group to 'Crimes against society'. This change would be more in line with the approach taken by the Office for National Statistics in England and Wales.
76. The alternative approach doesn't propose any other changes for this group, albeit user views are invited regarding the presentation of statistics on drug possession.

Possession of drugs

77. Drug crime makes up the majority of Other crimes, and splits into drug possession (84% of drug crime in 2017-18) and other crimes which mostly relate to drug production or the supply of drugs. Drug possession cases are where the quantity of drugs seized by the police is small enough to be considered for personal use.
78. Updated research into the characteristics of police recorded drug possession was published in March 2019²⁴. This found that:

²⁴ Drug seizures and offender characteristics, 2017-18: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/drug-seizures-offender-characteristics-2017-18/>

- In 2017-18, around 54% of drug possession crimes were for cannabis or cannabis resin. A further 10% were for Cocaine, 9% for Heroin, and 6% each for Diazepam and Etizolam.
- Around 44% of drug possession cases were detected by police while on patrol – most often where the offender was suspected of or observed to be in the possession of drugs. A further 15% of drug possession cases were made by police whilst carrying out a search warrant (likely due to the receipt of intelligence that an individual was involved in drugs crime).
- The remaining 32% (around a third) were recorded as a result of police responding to a report of a crime, offence or another incident (most often where there is a victim of another crime or offence, or where a third party has reported the drug crime).

79. Recorded drug possession does not have a victim, and the research summarised above suggests that a relatively small proportion of cases come to the attention of the police through victim-based reports of other crimes or offences (which would be separately recorded in the statistics). Furthermore the punishment for drug possession is relatively less severe compared to other crimes. This included 5,372 Recorded Police Warnings in 2017-18²⁵. Where cases proceeded to court, offenders generally received either a fiscal or court based fine or other disposals which exclude custodial or community based sentences. This is in contrast to drugs-supply based crimes, where the vast majority of court cases result in either a custodial or community based sentence (see [Annex E](#)).

80. Given the above - the Crime Board would like to ask users for their views on whether any change should be made to how statistics on drug possession are presented. One option, which is currently proposed in the alternative approach, is to make no change and keep possession-based and supply-based drugs crime together, with both contributing to the national total for all police recorded crime. Users may prefer this to splitting up the presentation of drugs-based crimes within the statistics.

²⁵ From further analysis of Criminal Proceedings in Scotland, 2017-18 National Statistics: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/criminal-proceedings-scotland-2017-18/>

81. Another option could be to move drug possession (but not drug production or supply) from the 'Other crimes' group to its own 'Drug possession' offence group. Under this option the national total for all police recorded crime would exclude drug possession (for personal use) and become more focused on crimes which have victims and relatively more severe sentences – and how these evolve over time. Under this scenario cases of drug possession would be included in the national total for all police recorded offences, rather than crimes.
82. If drug possession (for personal use) was to be moved from being an 'Other Crime' to its own offence group for drug possession, then around 30,000 cases a year would switch from the total for police recorded crimes to police recorded offences. This change could be back-revised, which would result in a similar long-term decrease in recorded crime as currently shown by the National Statistics.
83. Due to how these data are collected, no distinction can be made between possessing Class A, Class B or Class C drugs – to preserve time series continuity either all cases would have to be moved or no change is made at all.

Questions to consider

Question Fifteen

Would 'Crimes against society' be a better name for the 'Other crimes' Group?

Question Sixteen

Do you have any views on how police recorded drug possession for personal use should be presented in the statistics? Should it continue to be presented in the National Statistics as a crime (i.e. included in the national totals for recorded crime) or should it be moved to become an offence, and be included in the national total for recorded offences instead?

Question Seventeen

Do you have any other views on how other crimes are presented in the National Statistics on recorded crime?

Miscellaneous Offences

84. Under the existing approach, the Miscellaneous Offences group has five sub-categories; 'Common assault', 'Breach of the peace', 'Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct', 'Urinating etc.' and 'Other miscellaneous offences'.
85. Miscellaneous offences accounted for just over half (52%) of all offences recorded in Scotland in 2017-18. Over the past ten years the volume of these offences decreased by 40% (since 2008-09).
86. Given the diverse range of offences contained within the 'Other miscellaneous offences' sub-category – an alternative approach is to split the existing miscellaneous offences group into two new groups; 'Anti-social offences' and 'Miscellaneous offences'. This could provide the user with more detailed information on trends in certain types of offending that are currently included in a broader group alongside other miscellaneous offences.
87. The alternative Anti-social offences group is proposed to have four sub-categories. These are: 'Threatening and abusive behaviour', 'Racially aggravated conduct', 'Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct' and 'Urinating etc.'.
88. The alternative Miscellaneous offences group is proposed to have five sub-group categories: 'Community and public order offences', 'Environmental offences', 'Licensing offences', 'Wildlife offences', and 'Other miscellaneous offences'.
89. [Annex C](#) shows what the offence groups and corresponding sub-groups would look like under the alternative approach. For example, there would be 65,411 Antisocial offences recorded in 2017-18 and 11,721 Miscellaneous offences. [Annex D](#) provides a full list of offence types within each of these groups.

Questions to consider

Question Eighteen

Should the 'Miscellaneous offences' group be split into two groups - 'Anti-social offences' and 'Miscellaneous offences'? Do you have any other views on how 'Miscellaneous offences' are presented in the National Statistics on recorded crime?

Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles

90. Under the existing approach, the Motor vehicle offences group has eight sub-categories; Dangerous and careless driving, Driving under the influence, Speeding, Unlawful use of vehicle, Vehicle defect offences, Seat belt offences and Other.
91. Motor vehicle offences accounted for nearly half (48%) of all offences recorded in Scotland in 2017-18. Since 2013-14, the number of motor vehicle offences have fallen by 57%.
92. Under the alternative approach, it is proposed that this group be renamed to 'Road traffic offences'. This is in order to allow for the possibility that offences may be included in this group that do not specifically relate to a motor vehicle, but perhaps another road using vehicle, for example a bicycle.

Questions to consider

Question Nineteen

Do you have any views on renaming the 'Offences relating to motor vehicles' group to 'Road traffic offences'? Do you have any other views on how 'offences relating to motor vehicles' are presented in the National Statistics on recorded crime?

Part Three

Cyber-crime in Scotland

93. As the nature of crime in Scotland has evolved over the past decade, so too has the role played by cyber-enabled technologies.
94. An example of this has been the impact of the internet on sexual crimes recorded by the police. Research published in 2017 suggested that around half of the growth in all recorded sexual crime between 2013-14 and 2016-17 was due to growth in cyber-enabled 'Other sexual crimes'. This includes crimes like communicating indecently (58% cyber-enabled in 2016-17) and causing others to view sexual activity or images (71%)²⁶.
95. In 2018 the Scottish Government published a review of the evidence on cyber-crime in Scotland²⁷. This found that cyber-technology can impact on any type of crime – for example sexual crime, fraud and computer misuse, though it is likely to have had less of an impact on non-sexual violent crime, drug possession and stalking/harassment.
96. The review also noted that cyber-crime is conceptualised as a method or locus through which crime takes place, rather than it being a distinct type of crime or group. As such it wouldn't be practical to propose a distinct crime group within the National Statistics on 'cyber-crime' - as crime types are not defined as being 'cyber-enabled' and not all crimes committed for those crime-types that might be candidates for such a group (for example fraud) are committed online.
97. Police Scotland introduced a cyber-marker to their crime recording systems in 2016, to help identify crimes and offences with a cyber-element. Two examples of criminal behaviour where the marker could be applied include;
 - A company employee accidentally opening an email attachment containing ransomware. This encrypts the company's electronic files,

²⁶ Recorded Crime in Scotland: 'Other Sexual Crimes', 2013-14 and 2016-17: <https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/09/7838/0>

²⁷ Cyber-crime in Scotland: evidence review: <https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/03/2464/0>

rendering them unusable. An associated demand is made by 'pop up' message requesting payment to decrypt the files.

- A person is sent abusive and threatening messages through a social media app via their smart phone.

98. Police Scotland are currently considering how to enhance the use of this marker, which requires challenging the definitions and perceptions of 'cyber-crime' and acknowledging the limitation of current legacy systems (which can make it difficult to draw information into a national picture for all of Scotland).
99. When fully implemented, the cyber-marker approach offers the best route through which new analysis can be included in the recorded crime National Statistics on the proportion of crime that is cyber-enabled and how this has changed over time.
100. In the shorter term, one option could be to include a dedicated chapter (to be updated annually) in the recorded crime National Statistics bulletin. This would present and discuss the latest available information on recorded cyber-crime in Scotland, progress with the cyber-marker and other developments that could enhance the available evidence on this topic.

Questions to consider

Question Twenty

Would a dedicated chapter on cyber-enabled crime within the National Statistics bulletin be useful? Do you have any other views or suggestions as to how crimes or offences involving a cyber-element should be presented within the statistics?

Other suggested approaches

101. The alternative approach presented within [Part two](#) of this consultation (and the [annexes](#)) represents a potential rearrangement of the National Statistics on recorded crime, to reflect the changing nature of crime and to inform the response of the criminal justice system.
102. The Crime Board recognises that users may have views on other alternative approaches that they'd like it to consider.
103. As background to this consultation, an examination of how other countries classify crimes was conducted - from which a summary of the methods and a breakdown of crime classification for the selected countries is provided in [Annex F](#). This work concluded that there is no single 'best' way to present crime statistics with each country using a unique crime classification structure which is in part guided by the views of their users and each country's own body of legislation.

Questions to consider

Question Twenty One

Based on the discussion above and the purpose statement and supporting principles proposed in Part one, do you have any additional views regarding how data on police recorded crimes and offences should be categorised and presented in the National Statistics?

Annexes

Annex A: Current classification of police recorded crimes and offences

Crime group											% change over the past ten years (2008-09 to 2017-18)
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	
Total Crimes	377,433	338,124	323,247	314,188	273,053	270,397	256,350	246,243	238,921	244,504	-35%
Non-sexual crimes of violence	12,612	11,228	11,437	9,484	7,468	6,686	6,272	6,737	7,164	7,251	-43%
Homicide etc. (incl. causing death by driving)	134	106	122	121	91	106	105	81	105	98	-27%
Attempted murder & serious assault	6,472	5,621	5,493	4,693	3,643	3,268	3,166	4,007	4,186	4,189	-35%
Robbery	2,963	2,496	2,557	2,244	1,832	1,499	1,497	1,327	1,435	1,556	-47%
Other	3,043	3,005	3,265	2,426	1,902	1,813	1,504	1,322	1,438	1,408	-54%
Sexual crimes	6,331	6,527	6,696	7,361	7,693	8,604	9,557	10,273	11,092	12,487	97%
Rape & attempted rape	963	996	1,131	1,274	1,462	1,808	1,901	1,809	1,878	2,255	134%
Sexual assault	3,297	3,412	3,220	2,908	3,008	3,405	3,727	3,963	4,281	4,826	46%
Crimes associated with prostitution	765	661	576	567	534	490	374	247	303	136	-82%
Other sexual crimes	1,306	1,458	1,769	2,612	2,689	2,901	3,555	4,254	4,630	5,270	304%
Crimes of dishonesty	167,812	153,256	155,870	154,337	135,899	137,324	126,857	115,789	113,205	114,474	-32%
Housebreaking	6,952	5,074	4,059	3,529	3,239	3,218	2,879	2,193	1,940	2,027	-71%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	13,649	10,173	9,495	8,988	6,159	6,189	5,816	4,684	3,888	3,734	-73%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	11,551	9,304	8,716	7,060	5,731	5,976	5,423	5,028	5,216	5,024	-57%
Theft of a motor vehicle	32,048	30,332	29,660	29,758	26,449	27,693	27,364	28,424	28,650	31,321	-2%
Shoplifting	64,384	61,008	64,680	66,681	58,704	58,794	53,539	46,419	45,173	44,437	-31%
Other theft	8,316	8,283	8,983	8,892	8,898	8,088	6,913	7,400	7,811	8,628	4%
Fraud	5,416	5,308	5,260	5,207	5,204	5,094	4,316	4,004	4,228	4,173	-23%
Other dishonesty	25,496	23,774	25,017	24,222	21,515	22,272	20,607	17,637	16,299	15,130	-41%
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	109,430	93,443	82,020	75,201	59,479	54,418	52,091	54,226	52,514	51,322	-53%
Fire-raising	4,651	4,244	3,966	3,755	3,066	2,549	2,351	2,595	2,793	2,632	-43%
Vandalism etc.	104,779	89,199	78,054	71,446	56,413	51,869	49,740	51,631	49,721	48,690	-54%
Other crimes	81,248	73,670	67,224	67,805	62,514	63,365	61,573	59,218	54,946	58,970	-27%
Crimes against public justice	29,493	26,885	26,294	26,635	23,401	23,610	21,100	20,361	18,795	18,679	-37%
Handling offensive weapons										7,733	-
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	8,980	7,042	6,283	5,631	4,015	3,795	3,289	3,111	3,271	3,570	-60%
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,163	-
Drugs	42,509	39,408	34,347	35,157	34,688	35,616	36,836	35,479	32,641	32,399	-24%
Other	266	335	300	382	410	344	348	267	239	159	-40%

Continued on the next page

Offence group											% change over the past ten years (2008-09 to 2017-18)
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	
Total offences¹						501,281	379,498	339,193	288,691	264,027	-
Miscellaneous offences	228,854	232,846	211,655	210,135	203,063	207,190	183,513	168,896	150,523	137,012	-40%
Common assault	74,130	72,212	70,786	69,253	60,955	60,357	58,178	58,596	57,861	58,335	-21%
Breach of the peace etc.	93,327	87,403	70,468	71,451	70,301	71,288	63,205	62,233	58,235	53,187	-43%
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	31,307	39,545	37,451	37,458	39,238	43,043	35,524	24,639	15,796	8,635	-72%
Urinating etc.	10,717	14,186	13,620	13,602	15,420	15,361	11,216	7,700	4,505	3,044	-72%
Other	19,373	19,500	19,330	18,371	17,149	17,141	15,390	15,728	14,126	13,811	-29%
Motor vehicle offences¹						294,091	195,985	170,297	138,168	127,015	-
Dangerous and careless driving	11,519	11,073	9,839	9,853	10,530	11,524	10,773	12,057	11,693	10,722	-7%
Driving under the influence	9,800	8,504	7,563	7,445	6,433	6,079	5,218	5,458	5,917	5,863	-40%
Speeding ¹						82,382	60,926	54,419	34,371	29,223	-
Unlawful use of vehicle ¹						57,779	40,855	41,470	45,978	43,871	-
Vehicle defect offences ¹						20,923	15,593	13,070	8,385	7,049	-
Seat belt offences	26,225	29,324	29,171	31,505	33,047	37,880	15,619	8,059	4,502	3,134	-88%
Mobile phone offences	23,957	26,146	27,736	29,110	30,875	35,764	17,978	10,085	6,709	3,173	-87%
Other ¹						41,760	29,023	25,679	20,613	23,980	-

Source: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2017-18: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2017-18/>

¹Due to comparability issues, it is not possible to compare with years prior to 2013-14. See Paragraph 7.25 within Annex 2 of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2017-18 bulletin: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2017-18/>

Annex B: Breakdown of crime codes for current crime and offence groups

Crimes

Group 1 – Non-sexual crimes of violence

1. Homicide etc.

Murder
Culpable homicide (common law)
Causing death by dangerous driving
Death by careless driving when under influence drink or drug
Causing death by careless driving
Illegal driver involved in fatal accident
Corporate homicide

2. Attempted murder and serious assault

Attempted murder
Serious assault
Causing serious injury etc. by culpable & reckless conduct

3. Robbery

Robbery and assault with intent to rob

4. Other violence

Illegal driver, disqualified/unlicensed etc. causing serious injury
Threats and extortion
Cruelty (neglecting &c) to & unnatural treat. of children
Child Stealing (Plagium)
Exposing child under 7 to risk of burning
Abortion
Concealment of Pregnancy
Possess firearm with intent to endanger life, commit crime & cause fear or alarm
Abduction
Ill treatment of mental patients and vulnerable adults
Cruel and unnatural treatment of an adult
Drugging

Chemical weapon offences
Female genital mutilation
Forced Marriage
Slavery or forced labour
Human organ offences
Domestic Abuse (Male)
Domestic Abuse (Female)

Group 2 – Sexual crimes

5. Rape and attempted rape

Rape
Rape of male (16+)
Rape of female (16+)
Rape of older male child (13-15 years)
Rape of older female child (13-15 years)
Rape of young male child (< 13)
Rape of young female child (< 13)
Assault with intent to Rape
Assault with intent to rape male (16+)
Assault with intent to rape female (16+)
Assault with intent to rape older male child (13-15)
Assault with intent to rape older female child (13-15)
Assault with intent to rape young male child (< 13)
Assault with intent to rape young female child (< 13)

6. Sexual assault

Sexual assault
Sexual assault by penetration of male (16+)
Sexual assault by penetration of female (16+)
Sexual assault by penetration of male (13-15 years)

Sexual assault by penetration of female (13-15 years)
Sexual assault of male (16+)
Sexual assault of female (16+)
Sexual assault of older male child (13-15 years)
Sexual assault of older female child (13-15 years)
Sexual coercion of male (16+)
Sexual coercion of female (16+)
Sexual coercion of older male child (13-15 years)
Sexual coercion of older female child (13-15 years)
Assault by penetration of young male child (< 13)
Assault by penetration of young female child (< 13)
Sexual assault of young male child (< 13)
Sexual assault of young female child (< 13)
Cause young male child (< 13) to participate in sexual activity
Cause young female child (< 13) to participate in sexual activity
Lewd and libidinous practices
Sexual intercourse with girl under 13
Lewd and libidinous practices

7. Crimes associated with prostitution

Procuration (excluding homosexual acts)
Brothel keeping
Immoral traffic
Offences related to prostitution
Procuration of homosexual acts
Soliciting services of person engaged in prostitution

8. Other sexual crimes

Incest
Illegal homosexual acts
Bestiality
Attempt to commit unnatural crimes
Coercing a person into being present/ looking at sexual activity
Communicating indecently
Cause young child to be present/ look at sexual activity (< 13)

Communicating indecently with young child (< 13)
Sexual exposure to a young child (< 13)
Voyeurism young child (< 13)
Intercourse with older male child (13-15)
Intercourse with older female child (13-15)
Penetrative sexual activity with older male child (13-15)
Penetrative sexual activity with older female child (13-15)
Sexual activity with older male child (13-15)
Sexual activity with older female child (13-15)
Cause older male child (13-15) to participate in sexual activity
Cause older female child (13-15) to participate in sexual activity
Older male child (13-15) engaging in sexual conduct with another older child
Older female child (13-15) engaging in sexual conduct with another older child
Causing an older child (13-15) to be present/ look at sexual activity
Communicate indecently older child (13-15)
Sexual exposure older child (13-15)
Voyeurism older child (13-15)
Public indecency
Sexual exposure
Voyeurism
Sexual intercourse with child under 16
Carnal knowledge of mentally disordered person
Householder permitting carnal knowledge of mentally disordered person
Abducting girl under 18 woman mental disordered
Person with custody & care of girl or other causing her seduction
Clandestine Injury
Conspiracy to commit sexual acts outside the U.K.
Grooming of children for purposes of sexual offences
Procuration of sexual services from child under 18

Procuration of child under 18 for pornography
Taking, distribution, possession etc of indecent photos of children
Sexual abuse of trust of person under 18
Sexual abuse of trust of mentally disordered person
Bestiality
Administering a substance for sexual purposes
Possession of extreme pornography
Taking, distribution etc. indecent photos of children
Communications Act 2003 (Sexual)
Threatening to disclose an intimate image
Disclosure of intimate image

Group 3 – Crimes of dishonesty

9. Housebreaking

Theft by housebreaking
Housebreaking with intent to steal
Attempted housebreaking with intent to enter and steal
Theft by housebreaking domestic property (dwelling)
Theft by housebreaking domestic property (non-dwelling)
Theft by housebreaking other property
Housebreaking with intent to steal domestic property (dwelling)
Housebreaking with intent to steal domestic property (non-dwelling)
Housebreaking with intent to steal other property
Attempted housebreaking with intent to enter and steal domestic property (dwelling)
Attempted housebreaking with intent to enter and steal domestic property (non-dwelling)
Attempted housebreaking with intent to enter and steal other property

10. Theft against opening lockfast place

Theft by opening lockfast places (excl motor vehicles)
OLP (excl motor vehicles) with intent to steal

Attempted OLP (excl motor vehicle) with intent to steal
11. Theft from a Motor Vehicle (OLP)

Theft by OLP from a motor vehicle
OLP with intent to steal from a motor vehicle
Attempted OLP with intent to steal from motor vehicle

12. Theft of a Motor Vehicle

Theft of motor vehicle and contents incl. taking and driving
Attempted theft of a motor vehicle

13. Shoplifting

Theft by shoplifting

14. Other theft

Theft not elsewhere classified (excl motor vehicles)
Theft of pedal cycle
Theft from motor vehicle not classified elsewhere

15. Fraud

Fraud (including statutory fraud)

16. Other dishonesty

Prevention of Crimes
Vagrancy and known thief
In building with intent to steal
Reset
Breach of trust and embezzlement
Forgery and uttering (excluding currency off)
Bankruptcy
Clandestine removal of boats
Clandestine removal of other property
Corruption
Currency offences
Other criminal conduct, money laundering related offences
Insider dealing
Proceeds of crime

Group 4 – Fire-raising, Vandalism etc.

17. Fire-raising

Fire-raising excluding muirburn

Fire-raising - muirburn

18. Vandalism etc.

Vandalism, reckless damage + malicious mischief

Reckless conduct with firearms

Flying aircraft to danger life or property

Endangering rail passengers

Reckless driving at common law

Culpable neglect of duty

Endangering ship by breach of duty

Supply of glue sniffing kits

Computer Misuse Act 1990 (causing damage)

Reckless conduct (not with firearms)

Vandalism

Reckless damage

Malicious damage

Culpable and reckless conduct involving aircraft

Group 5 – Other crimes

19. Crimes against public justice

Election etc. offences

Public mischief (inc wasting police time)

Falsely accusing (named) person of crime

Escape and rescue (inc custody + prison)

Resisting arrest

Personation of police

Failing to give name or remain with constable

Obstructing constable in pursuance of duty

General attempts to pervert course of justice

Failure to notify police/provision of false information

Protection of vulnerable groups

Contempt of court

Failing to appear after undertaking to police

Publishing info re person < 16 on trial

Not appearing for trial following bail

Bail offences other than absconding/re-offending

Accused failing to appear at trial diet

Witness, offences by

Prevarication on oath etc

Perjury and subordination

Breach of non harassment order (criminal court)

Breach of non harassment order (civil court)

Breach of anti social behaviour order

Breach of sex offender order

Breach of parenting order

Breach of risk of sexual harm order (SHO) or interim risk of SHO

Breach of football banning order

Breach of adult at risk banning order

Breach of violent offender order

Breach of domestic abuse interdict

Breach of forced marriage protection order

20. Handling offensive weapons

Possession of an offensive weapon

Restriction of offensive weapon

Having in a public place an article with a blade or point

Having in a prison an article with a blade or point

Possession of a firearm in a prison

Possession of an offensive weapon (not elsewhere specified) in a prison

Possession of an offensive weapon (not elsewhere specified) in a school

Having in a school an article with a blade or point

Possession of offensive weapon used in other criminal activity

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

Conspiracy
Offences relating to serious organised crime
Sacrilige
Wrecking
Piracy and hijacking

21. Drugs

Illegal importation of drugs
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs
Supply, possession with intent to supply etc. of drugs
Possession of drugs
Drugs, money laundering related offences
Bringing drugs into prison
Drugs, other offences

22. Other

Treason
Sedition
Official Secrets Act
United Nations sanctions offences
Mobbing and rioting
Public processions etc
Trespass, crimes against public order
Raves, crimes against public order
Obstruct or hinder other emergency worker in pursuance of duty
Terrorism, money laundering related offences
Prevention of Terrorism, other offences
Explosive Substances Act 1883
Unlawful use of explosives
Reckless blasting

Offences

Group 6 – Miscellaneous offences

23. Common assault

- Common assault
- Common assault of an emergency worker

24. Breach of the peace

- Breach of the peace
- Threatening or abusive behaviour
- Offence of stalking
- Offensive behaviour at football
- Threatening communications

25. Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct

- Drunk and incapable and habitual drunkenness
- Drunk in charge of a child
- Drunk and attempting to enter licensed premises
- Drunk or drinking in unlicensed premises
- Disorderly on licensed premises
- Drunk in or attempting to enter designated sports ground
- Refusing to quit licensed premises
- Consumption of alcohol in designated places, byelaws prohibited

26. Urinating etc.

- Urinating etc.

27. Other miscellaneous offences

- Aliens and immigration offences
- Betting
- Gaming
- Gaming by means of machines
- Lotteries and amusements with prizes
- Racially aggravated harassment
- Racially aggravated conduct
- Antisocial behaviour offences
- False calls to emergency services and bomb hoaxes

- False or hoax calls to emergency services
- Bomb hoaxes
- Brokers (Licensed) and Auction Acts
- Children & young person offences (not elsewhere classified)
- Education Acts
- Tattooing of Minors Act 1969
- Child minding and day care for children
- Employment of children (non-industrial)
- Employment of children (industrial)
- Selling loose cigarettes
- Not displaying notice cigarettes sold to 18 and over
- Offences involving tobacco and persons under 18
- Offences relating to persons disqualified from working with children
- Prevent a person feeding a baby milk in a public place
- Offences against selling spray paint to children
- Smoking in car with child
- Cruelty to animals (ex dogs) inc killing and maiming cattle
- Rabies orders
- Animals, offences involving (ex dogs, birds elsewhere classified)
- Birds, offences involving
- Pet and kept animals
- Cruelty to dogs
- Protection of livestock from dogs
- Guard Dogs Act 1975
- Dangerous dogs, failure to control, supervise, destroy
- Dogs bred for fighting
- Keeping dogs under prop control, contravention of an order
- Hunting with dogs
- Cruelty to wild animals
- Offences involving badgers
- Other wildlife offences

Dogs, other offences
Crossbow offences
Petroleum Acts
Energy Acts
Keeping and supply of explosives
Firearms, Miscellaneous offences
Air weapons licensing offences
Salmon and freshwater fisheries offences
Sea fisheries offences
Possession of salmon or trout unlawfully obtained
Possession of salmon or trout as result of offence
Poaching and game laws
Deer (S) offences
Harbour Acts
Handling obscene material
Sex shop offences
Sale of drink to person under 18
Employing a person under 18 in a bar
Licensed person, employee or agent drunk in licensed premise
Permitting riotous behaviour in licensed premises
Permitting betting and gaming offences in licensed premises
Contravening condition of premises with children's certificate
Dealing wholesale other than from permitted premises
Wholesaler selling liquor to person under 18
Wholesaler permitting person under 18 to sell alcohol
License holder of off sales permit person under 18 to sell alcohol
Licensed persons, other offences
Carriage of liquor in contract carriage
Consuming outwith permitted hours
Trafficking without a licence
Club licensing offences
Hawking excisable liquor
Person under 18 buying excisable liquor or consuming in bar

Consuming liquor on licensed premises on credit (other than hotels)
Inducing holder of off-sales license to sell liquor illegally
Purchasing excise liquor for consumption by person under 18
Breaking sales restrictions on licences other than for pubs
Alcohol offences, travelling to and from sporting event
Sports ground offences (possessing alcohol etc)
Confiscation of alcohol from person under 18
Liquor licensing laws, other offences
Factories legislation (not elsewhere classified)
Fire Precautions Acts
Health and Safety at Work Acts
Employment and property protection legislation
Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978
Wages Councils Act 1979
Trade Union & Labour Relations Act 1974
Mines Acts
Shops Acts
Social Security offences
Merchant Shipping Acts (not elsewhere classified)
Absentees and deserters
Naval military and air force, other offences
Parks etc
Pawnbrokers, Firearms offences
Pedlars Act & Off Against Certificates Issued by Local Auth
Licensing offences (Civic Govt (S) Act 1982)
Obstruction of local official
Common stairs offences
Civic Government (S) Act 1982 (not elsewhere classified)
Litter offences
Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978
Oil pollution in navigable waters
Control of pollution

Clean air Acts
Sanitary laws
Food Safety Act 1990
Milk Acts
Control of Food Premises Act 1977
Water (S) Acts
Town and country planning acts
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949
Housing (S) Acts
Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act 1960
Methylated Spirits (Sale by Retail) (S) Act 1937
Therapeutic Substances Act 1956
Cinematograph Acts
Other Environmental offences
Contravention of section 6(1) by continuing to operate proscribed process
Failure to comply with or contravention of enforcement or prohibition notice
Other conservation offences
Dog Fouling
Smoking in public places
Medical Acts
Dentists Acts
Nurses (S) Acts
Opticians Acts
Venereal Diseases Act 1917
Poisons Act
Medicines Acts
National Health Service (S) Acts
Railways
Bigamy
False declarations
Births deaths marriages, registration offences

Marriage (S) Act 1977
Revenue and excise offences (excluding Vehicle and Drugs)
Dangerously riding a bicycle or tricycle
Carelessly or inconsiderately riding a bicycle or tricycle
Drunk when riding a bicycle
Bicycles, other offences
Pedestrian traffic offences
Obstruction by pedestrian
Touting
offences relating to road works
Hackney carriages offences
Public service vehicles offences
Lighting fires without consent of owner
Lodging without consent of owner
Weights & Measures Acts
Registration of Business Names
Prices Act 1974
Goods & Services (price control) Acts
Counter Inflation Act 1973
Patents Acts
Copyright Acts
Fair Trading Act 1973
Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976
Consumer Protection Acts
Consumer Credit Act 1974
Trading offences
Accommodation Agencies Act 1953
Nursing Homes (Registration) (S) Act 1938
Rent Acts
Video Recordings Act 1984 (not elsewhere classified)
Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949
General post office/telecommunications offs
Disclosure of information

Interception of Communications Act 1984
Data Protection Act 1984
Computer Misuse Act 1990 (Unauthorised access only)
Prisons (S) Act 1989 (not elsewhere classified)
Charitable collections offences
Agricultural offences
Investment legislation
Industrial training and statistics of trade offences
Building legislation
Building Societies Act 1986
Public utilities (gas electricity etc) legislation
Supplementary benefits offences
Fire services legislation
Emergency powers Acts
Solicitors (S) Acts
Aviation legislation
Local Government legislation
Architects registration offences
Estate Agents Acts
Insurance Brokers (Registration) Act 1977
Sex Discrimination Act 1975
Census Acts
Race Relations Act
Legal Aid and advice legislation
Social work and community service offences
Adoption (S) Act 1978
Theatres Act 1968
Industrial and provident societies offences
Friendly Societies Acts
Credit Union Acts 1979
Archaeological legislation
Lands Valuation (S) Act
Child Support Act 1991

Scotland Act offences
Ethical Standards in Public Life
Pensions Acts
Antisocial behaviour, landlord offences
Offences relating to working with vulnerable adults
Offences under the Charities and Trustees Inv Act
Failure to comply with a Property Factor Enforcement Order (PFEO)

Group 7 – Motor Vehicle Offences

28. Dangerous and careless driving

Dangerous driving offences

Driving carelessly

29. Driving under the influence

Driving motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs

In charge of motor vehicle while unfit through drink/drugs

Driving motor vehicle with blood alcohol content above prescribed limit

In charge of motor vehicle while blood alcohol content above limit

Failure to provide breath specimen at roadside

Failure to provide breath, blood or urine specimen at police station

30. Speeding

Speeding in restricted areas

Other speeding offences

31. Unlawful use of motor vehicle

Vehicle excise licence offences

Using motor vehicle without test certificate

Driving while disqualified from holding or obtaining licence

Driving without a licence (including under age)

Driving licence, other offences

Failure to Insure against third party risks

Insure against third party risks, other offences
Registration or identification mark offences (not lighting)

32. Vehicle defect offences

Lighting offences, motor vehicle
Construction & use regulations (other than lighting)

33. Seat belt offences

Seat belt offences

34. Mobile phone offences

Mobile phone offences

35. Other motor vehicle offences

Driver's neglect of traffic directions (not pedestrian crossing)
Driver's contravention of pedestrian crossing regulations
Accident offences
Parking offences
Failing to provide info to identify driver of motor vehicle
Motorway traffic offences
Clearway offences
Motor vehicle records of work (eg tachograph) offences
Motor vehicle, other offences

Annex C: Alternative way to present the recorded crime statistics

Crime group	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	% change over the past ten years (2008-09 to 2017-18)
Total Crimes	451,563	410,336	394,155	383,936	334,613	331,629	315,779	306,274	298,154	304,215	-33%
Homicide, attempted murder & serious assault	6,606	5,727	5,615	4,814	3,734	3,374	3,271	4,088	4,291	4,287	-35%
Homicide etc. (incl. causing death by driving)	134	106	122	121	91	106	105	81	105	98	-27%
Attempted murder & serious assault	6,472	5,621	5,493	4,693	3,643	3,268	3,166	4,007	4,186	4,189	-35%
Common assault and other violence	75,630	73,554	72,366	70,267	61,555	60,984	58,700	59,186	58,586	59,043	-22%
Common assault	74,130	72,212	70,786	69,253	60,955	60,357	58,178	58,596	57,861	58,335	-21%
Other violence	1,500	1,342	1,580	1,014	600	627	522	590	725	708	-53%
Robbery	2,963	2,496	2,557	2,244	1,832	1,499	1,497	1,327	1,435	1,556	-47%
Crimes of domestic abuse and other cruelty											
Domestic abuse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cruelty to children	1,532	1,655	1,673	1,394	1,289	1,164	954	723	661	568	-63%
Other cruelty	11	8	134	513	618	897	1,279	1,444	1,424	1,508	*
Sexual crimes with physical contact	4,758	4,999	4,952	4,785	4,984	5,743	6,120	6,370	6,760	7,585	59%
Rape and attempted rape	963	996	1,131	1,274	1,462	1,808	1,901	1,809	1,878	2,255	134%
Sexual assault	3,297	3,412	3,220	2,908	3,008	3,405	3,727	3,963	4,281	4,826	46%
Other sexual crimes with physical contact	498	591	601	603	514	530	492	598	601	504	1%
Sexual crimes without physical contact	1,573	1,528	1,744	2,576	2,709	2,861	3,437	3,903	4,332	4,902	212%
Causing to view sexual activity or images	786	766	809	1,176	950	1,009	1,350	1,507	1,624	1,752	123%
Communicating indecently	-	-	86	358	526	605	906	1,180	1,166	1,222	-
Indecent photos of children	-	69	225	375	595	621	603	645	649	658	-
Crimes associated with prostitution	765	661	576	567	534	490	374	247	303	136	-82%
Threatening to or disclosing an intimate image	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	421	-
Other sexual crimes without physical contact	22	32	48	100	104	136	204	324	590	713	**
Crimes of dishonesty	167,812	153,256	155,870	154,337	135,899	137,324	126,857	115,789	113,205	114,474	-32%
Housebreaking	25,496	23,774	25,017	24,222	21,515	22,272	20,607	17,637	16,299	15,130	-41%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	6,952	5,074	4,059	3,529	3,239	3,218	2,879	2,193	1,940	2,027	-71%
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	13,649	10,173	9,495	8,988	6,159	6,189	5,816	4,684	3,888	3,734	-73%
Theft of a motor vehicle	11,551	9,304	8,716	7,060	5,731	5,976	5,423	5,028	5,216	5,024	-57%
Shoplifting	32,048	30,332	29,660	29,758	26,449	27,693	27,364	28,424	28,650	31,321	-2%
Other theft	64,384	61,008	64,680	66,681	58,704	58,794	53,539	46,419	45,173	44,437	-31%
Fraud	8,316	8,283	8,983	8,892	8,898	8,088	6,913	7,400	7,811	8,628	4%
Other dishonesty	5,416	5,308	5,260	5,207	5,204	5,094	4,316	4,004	4,228	4,173	-23%

Continued on the next page

*A ten year comparison has not been shown as the offence of Stalking was introduced in October 2010.

**A ten year comparison has not been shown for some sub-categories of Sexual crime. This is primarily due to new legislation, which changed the classification and presentation of some Sexual crimes (for example Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009). For further information on all these changes see the 'Data Considerations' section in the Sexual Crimes chapter of the [Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2017-18](#) bulletin or the [User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland](#).

Crime group	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	<i>% change over the past ten years (2008-09 to 2017-18)</i>
Damage and reckless behaviour	109,430	93,443	82,020	75,201	59,479	54,418	52,091	54,226	52,514	51,322	-53%
Fire-raising	4,651	4,244	3,966	3,755	3,066	2,549	2,351	2,595	2,793	2,632	-43%
Vandalism	100,886	85,594	74,428	67,993	53,708	49,465	47,265	48,955	47,268	46,111	-54%
Reckless conduct	3,893	3,605	3,626	3,453	2,705	2,404	2,475	2,676	2,453	2,579	-34%
Crimes against society	81,248	73,670	67,224	67,805	62,514	63,365	61,573	59,218	54,946	58,970	-27%
Crimes against public justice	29,493	26,885	26,294	26,635	23,401	23,610	21,100	20,361	18,795	18,679	-37%
Handling offensive weapons										7,733	-
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	8,980	7,042	6,283	5,631	4,015	3,795	3,289	3,111	3,271	3,570	-60%
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,163	-
Drugs	42,509	39,408	34,347	35,157	34,688	35,616	36,836	35,479	32,641	32,399	-24%
Other crimes against society	266	335	300	382	410	344	348	267	239	159	-40%

Offence group	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	<i>% change over the past ten years (2008-09 to 2017-18)</i>
Total offences¹						440,049	320,068	279,155	229,454	204,309	-
Antisocial offences	139,915	145,647	125,590	125,502	127,257	131,529	111,150	95,269	79,157	65,411	-53%
Threatening and abusive behaviour	93,327	87,403	70,346	70,956	69,696	70,413	61,954	60,798	56,863	51,811	-44%
Racially aggravated behaviour	4,564	4,513	4,173	3,486	2,903	2,712	2,456	2,132	1,993	1,921	-58%
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	31,307	39,545	37,451	37,458	39,238	43,043	35,524	24,639	15,796	8,635	-72%
Urinating etc.	10,717	14,186	13,620	13,602	15,420	15,361	11,216	7,700	4,505	3,044	-72%
Miscellaneous offences	14,491	14,663	14,848	14,558	13,873	14,147	12,733	13,424	11,989	11,721	-19%
Community and public order offences	7,634	8,466	8,533	8,668	8,370	8,845	8,113	8,525	7,780	7,564	-1%
Environmental offences	1,771	1,578	1,297	1,338	1,450	1,832	1,469	1,489	1,224	732	-59%
Licensing offences	2,463	1,984	1,867	1,913	1,670	1,318	1,124	1,089	1,065	1,519	-38%
Wildlife and other animal offences	1,796	1,803	1,913	1,759	1,564	1,444	1,394	1,528	1,321	1,297	-28%
Other miscellaneous offences	827	832	1,238	880	819	708	633	793	599	609	-26%
Road traffic offences¹						294,373	196,185	170,462	138,308	127,177	-
Dangerous and careless driving	11,519	11,073	9,839	9,853	10,530	11,524	10,773	12,057	11,693	10,722	-7%
Driving under the influence	9,800	8,504	7,563	7,445	6,433	6,079	5,218	5,458	5,917	5,863	-40%
Speeding ¹						82,382	60,926	54,419	34,371	29,223	-
Unlawful use of vehicle ¹						57,779	40,855	41,470	45,978	43,871	-
Vehicle defect offences ¹						20,923	15,593	13,070	8,385	7,049	-
Seat belt offences	26,225	29,324	29,171	31,505	33,047	37,880	15,619	8,059	4,502	3,134	-88%
Mobile phone offences	23,957	26,146	27,736	29,110	30,875	35,764	17,978	10,085	6,709	3,173	-87%
Other road traffic offences ¹						42,042	29,223	25,844	20,753	24,142	-

¹ A ten year comparison has not been shown for some sub-categories of Road traffic offences. This is due to comparability issues, it is not advisable to compare with years prior to 2013-14. See Paragraph 7.25 within Annex 2 of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2017-18 bulletin: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2017-18/>

Annex D: Breakdown of crime codes for the alternative approach shown in Annex C

Crimes

Homicide, attempted murder & serious assault

Homicide etc.

- Murder
- Culpable homicide (common law)
- Causing death by dangerous driving
- Death by careless driving when under influence drink or drug
- Causing death by careless driving
- Illegal driver involved in fatal accident
- Corporate homicide

Attempted murder and serious assault

- Attempted murder
- Serious assault
- Causing serious injury etc. by culpable & reckless conduct
- Female genital mutilation

Common assault and other violence

Common assault

- Common assault
- Common assault of an emergency worker

Other violence

- Illegal driver, disqualified/unlicensed etc. causing serious injury
- Threats and extortion
- Abortion
- Possess firearm with intent to endanger life, commit crime & cause fear or alarm
- Abduction
- Drugging
- Chemical weapon offences
- Human organ offences

Robbery

- Robbery and assault with intent to rob

Crimes of domestic abuse and other cruelty

Domestic Abuse

- Domestic Abuse (Male)
- Domestic Abuse (Female)

Cruelty to children

- Cruelty (neglecting &c) to & unnatural treat. of children
- Exposing child under 7 to risk of burning
- Child Stealing (Plagium)

Other cruelty

- Concealment of Pregnancy
- Cruel and unnatural treatment of an adult
- Forced Marriage
- Ill treatment of mental patients and vulnerable adults
- Slavery or forced labour
- Offence of stalking

Sexual crimes with physical contact

Rape and attempted rape

- Rape
- Rape of male (16+)
- Rape of female (16+)
- Rape of older male child (13-15 years)
- Rape of older female child (13-15 years)
- Rape of young male child (< 13)
- Rape of young female child (< 13)
- Assault with intent to Rape

- Assault with intent to rape male (16+)
- Assault with intent to rape female (16+)
- Assault with intent to rape older male child (13-15)
- Assault with intent to rape older female child (13-15)
- Assault with intent to rape young male child (< 13)
- Assault with intent to rape young female child (< 13)
- Sexual assault**
- Sexual assault
- Sexual assault by penetration of male (16+)
- Sexual assault by penetration of female (16+)
- Sexual assault by penetration of male (13-15 years)
- Sexual assault by penetration of female (13-15 years)
- Sexual assault of male (16+)
- Sexual assault of female (16+)
- Sexual assault of older male child (13-15 years)
- Sexual assault of older female child (13-15 years)
- Sexual coercion of male (16+)
- Sexual coercion of female (16+)
- Sexual coercion of older male child (13-15 years)
- Sexual coercion of older female child (13-15 years)
- Assault by penetration of young male child (< 13)
- Assault by penetration of young female child (< 13)
- Sexual assault of young male child (< 13)
- Sexual assault of young female child (< 13)
- Cause young male child (< 13) to participate in sexual activity
- Cause young female child (< 13) to participate in sexual activity
- Lewd and libidinous practices
- Sexual intercourse with girl < 13

Other sexual crimes with physical contact

- Incest
- Illegal homosexual acts
- Bestiality
- Attempt to commit unnatural crimes
- Intercourse with older male child (13-15)

- Intercourse with older female child (13-15)
- Penetrative sexual activity with older male child (13-15)
- Penetrative sexual activity with older female child (13-15)
- Sexual activity with older male child (13-15)
- Sexual activity with older female child (13-15)
- Cause older male child (13-15) to participate in sexual activity
- Cause older female child (13-15) to participate in sexual activity
- Older male child (13-15) engaging in sexual conduct with another older child
- Older female child (13-15) engaging in sexual conduct with another older child
- Sexual intercourse with child under 16
- Carnal knowledge of mentally disordered person
- Householder permitting carnal knowledge of mentally disordered person
- Abducting girl under 18 woman mental disordered
- Person with custody & care of girl or other causing her seduction
- Clandestine Injury
- Procuration of sexual services from child under 18
- Procuration of child under 18 for pornography
- Sexual abuse of trust of person under 18
- Sexual abuse of trust of mentally disordered person
- Bestiality

Sexual crimes without physical contact

Causing to view sexual activity or images

- Coercing a person into being present/ looking at sexual activity
- Cause young child to be present/ look at sexual activity (< 13)
- Sexual exposure to a young child (< 13)
- Causing an older child (13-15) to be present/ look at sexual activity
- Sexual exposure older child (13-15)
- Public indecency
- Sexual exposure

Communicating indecently

- Communicating indecently
- Communicating indecently with young child (< 13)
- Communicate indecently older child (13-15)

Indecent photos of children

- Taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children

Crimes associated with prostitution

- Offences related to prostitution
- Procuration of homosexual acts
- Soliciting services of person engaged in prostitution
- Procuration (excluding homosexual acts)
- Brothel keeping
- Immoral traffic

Threatening to or disclosing an intimate image

- Threatening to disclose an intimate image
- Disclosure of intimate image

Other sexual crimes without physical contact

- Voyeurism young child (< 13)
- Voyeurism older child (13-15)
- Voyeurism
- Conspiracy to commit sexual acts outside the U.K.
- Grooming of children for purposes of sexual offences
- Administering a substance for sexual purposes
- Possession of extreme pornography
- Communications Act 2003 (Sexual)

Crimes of dishonesty

Housebreaking

- Theft by housebreaking
- Housebreaking with intent to steal
- Attempted housebreaking with intent to enter and steal
- Theft by housebreaking domestic property (dwelling)
- Theft by housebreaking domestic property (non-dwelling)

Theft by housebreaking other property

- Housebreaking with intent to steal domestic property (dwelling)
- Housebreaking with intent to steal domestic property (non-dwelling)
- Housebreaking with intent to steal other property
- Attempted housebreaking with intent to enter and steal domestic property (dwelling)
- Attempted housebreaking with intent to enter and steal domestic property (non-dwelling)
- Attempted housebreaking with intent to enter and steal other property

Theft against opening lockfast place

- Theft by opening lockfast places (excl motor vehicles)
- OLP (excl motor vehicles) with intent to steal
- Attempted OLP (excl motor vehicle) with intent to steal

Theft from a Motor Vehicle (OLP)

- Theft by OLP from a motor vehicle
- OLP with intent to steal from a motor vehicle
- Attempted OLP with intent to steal from motor vehicle

Theft of a Motor Vehicle

- Theft of motor vehicle and contents incl. taking and driving
- Attempted theft of a motor vehicle

Shoplifting

- Theft by shoplifting

Other theft

- Theft not elsewhere classified (excl motor vehicles)
- Theft of pedal cycle
- Theft from motor vehicle not classified elsewhere

Fraud

- Fraud (including statutory fraud)

Other dishonesty

- Prevention of Crimes
- Vagrancy and known thief
- In building with intent to steal

Reset
Breach of trust and embezzlement
Forgery and uttering (excluding currency off)
Bankruptcy
Clandestine removal of boats
Clandestine removal of other property
Corruption
Currency offences
Other criminal conduct, money laundering related offences
Insider dealing
Proceeds of crime

Damage and reckless behaviour

Fire-raising

Fire-raising excluding muirburn
Fire-raising - muirburn

Vandalism

Vandalism, reckless damage + malicious mischief
Computer Misuse Act 1990 (causing damage)
Vandalism
Reckless damage
Malicious damage

Reckless conduct

Flying aircraft to danger life or property
Endangering rail passengers
Culpable neglect of duty
Endangering ship by breach of duty
Supply of glue sniffing kits
Reckless conduct with firearms
Reckless driving at common law
Reckless conduct (not with firearms)
Culpable and reckless conduct involving aircraft

Crimes against society

Crimes against public justice

Election etc. offences
Public mischief (inc wasting police time)
Falsely accusing (named) person of crime
Escape and rescue (inc custody + prison)
Resisting arrest
Personation of police
Failing to give name or remain with constable
Obstructing constable in pursuance of duty
General attempts to pervert course of justice
Failure to notify police/provision of false information
Protection of vulnerable groups
Contempt of court
Failing to appear after undertaking to police
Publishing info re person < 16 on trial
Not appearing for trial following bail
Bail offences other than absconding/re-offending
Accused failing to appear at trial diet
Witness, offences by
Prevarication on oath etc
Perjury and subordination
Breach of non harassment order (criminal court)
Breach of non harassment order (civil court)
Breach of anti social behaviour order
Breach of sex offender order
Breach of parenting order
Breach of risk of sexual harm order (SHO) or interim risk of SHO
Breach of football banning order
Breach of adult at risk banning order
Breach of violent offender order
Breach of domestic abuse interdict
Breach of forced marriage protection order

Handling offensive weapons

Possession of an offensive weapon
Restriction of offensive weapon
Having in a public place an article with a blade or point
Having in a prison an article with a blade or point
Possession of a firearm in a prison
Possession of an offensive weapon (not elsewhere specified) in a prison
Possession of an offensive weapon (not elsewhere specified) in a school
Having in a school an article with a blade or point

Using offensive weapons

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

Drugs (supply)

Illegal importation of drugs
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs
Supply, possession with intent to supply etc. of drugs
Drugs, money laundering related offences
Bringing drugs into prison
Drugs, other offences
Possession of drugs

Other crimes against society

Treason
Sedition

Official Secrets Act
United Nations sanctions offences
Mobbing and rioting
Public processions etc.
Trespass, crimes against public order
Raves, crimes against public order
Obstruct or hinder other emergency worker in pursuance of duty
Terrorism, money laundering related offences
Prevention of Terrorism, other offences
Explosive Substances Act 1883
Unlawful use of explosives
Reckless blasting
Conspiracy
Offences relating to serious organised crime
Sacrilege
Wrecking
Piracy and hijacking

Offences

Anti-social offences

Threatening and abusive behaviour

- Breach of the peace
- Threatening or abusive behaviour
- Offensive behaviour at football²⁸
- Threatening communications²⁸

Racially aggravated behaviour

- Racially aggravated harassment
- Racially aggravated conduct

Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct

- Drunk and incapable and habitual drunkenness
- Drunk in charge of a child
- Drunk and attempting to enter licensed premises
- Drunk or drinking in unlicensed premises
- Disorderly on licensed premises
- Drunk in or attempting to enter designated sports ground
- Refusing to quit licensed premises
- Consumption of alcohol in designated places, byelaws prohibited

Urinating etc.

- Urinating etc.

Miscellaneous offences

Community and public order offences

- False calls to emergency services and bomb hoaxes
- False or hoax calls to emergency services
- Bomb hoaxes
- Children & young person offences (not elsewhere classified)
- Education Acts
- Tattooing of Minors Act 1969

- Child minding and day care for children
- Employment of children (non-industrial)
- Employment of children (industrial)
- Selling loose cigarettes
- Not displaying notice cigarettes sold to 18 and over
- Offences involving tobacco and persons under 18
- Offences against selling spray paint to children
- Smoking in car with child
- Handling obscene material
- Sex shop offences
- Social Security offences
- Pedlars Act & Off Against Certificates Issued by Local Auth
- Licensing offences (Civic Govt (S) Act 1982)
- Obstruction of local official
- Common stairs offences
- Civic Government (S) Act 1982 (not elsewhere classified)
- Obstruction by pedestrian
- Touting
- Weights & Measures Acts
- Registration of Business Names
- Prices Act 1974
- Goods & Services (price control) Acts
- Counter Inflation Act 1973
- Patents Acts
- Copyright Acts
- Fair Trading Act 1973
- Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976
- Consumer Protection Acts
- Consumer Credit Act 1974
- Trading offences
- Accommodation Agencies Act 1953
- Nursing Homes (Registration) (S) Act 1938
- Rent Acts

²⁸ The Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 was repealed on 20 April 2018.

Video Recordings Act 1984 (not elsewhere classified)
Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949
General post office/telecommunications offs
Disclosure of information
Interception of Communications Act 1984
Data Protection Act 1984
Computer Misuse Act 1990 (Unauthorised access only)
Charitable collections offences
Public utilities (gas electricity etc) legislation
Supplementary benefits offences
Sex Discrimination Act 1975
Census Acts
Race Relations Act
Social work and community service offences
Child Support Act 1991

Environmental offences

Petroleum Acts
Energy Acts
Salmon and freshwater fisheries offences
Sea fisheries offences
Factories legislation (not elsewhere classified)
Fire Precautions Acts
Health and Safety at Work Acts
Employment and property protection legislation
Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978
Wages Councils Act 1979
Trade Union & Labour Relations Act 1974
Mines Acts
Shops Acts
Merchant Shipping Acts (not elsewhere classified)
Parks etc
Litter offences
Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978
Oil pollution in navigable waters

Control of pollution
Clean air Acts
Sanitary laws
Food Safety Act 1990
Milk Acts
Control of Food Premises Act 1977
Water (S) Acts
Town and country planning acts
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949
Housing (S) Acts
Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act 1960
Methylated Spirits (Sale by Retail) (S) Act 1937
Therapeutic Substances Act 1956
Cinematograph Acts
Other Environmental offences
Contravention of section 6(1) by continuing to operate proscribed process
Failure to comply with or contravention of enforcement or prohibition notice
Other conservation offences
Offences relating to road works
Lighting fires without consent of owner
Lodging without consent of owner
Agricultural offences
Building legislation
Aviation legislation
Archaeological legislation

Licensing offences

Betting
Gaming
Gaming by means of machines
Lotteries and amusements with prizes
Brokers (Licensed) and Auction Acts
Crossbow offences

Firearms, Miscellaneous offences
Air weapons licensing offences
Sale of drink to person under 18
Employing a person under 18 in a bar
Licensed person, employee or agent drunk in licensed premise
Permitting riotous behaviour in licensed premises
Permitting betting and gaming offences in licensed premises
Contravening condition of premises with children's certificate
Dealing wholesale other than from permitted premises
Wholesaler selling liquor to person under 18
Wholesaler permitting person under 18 to sell alcohol
License holder of off sales permit person under 18 to sell alcohol
Licensed persons, other offences
Carriage of liquor in contract carriage
Consuming outwith permitted hours
Trafficking without a licence
Club licensing offences
Hawking excisable liquor
Person under 18 buying excisable liquor or consuming in bar
Consuming liquor on licensed premises on credit (other than hotels)
Inducing holder of off-sales license to sell liquor illegally
Purchasing excise liquor for consumption by person under 18
Breaking sales restrictions on licences other than for pubs
Alcohol offences, travelling to and from sporting event
Sports ground offences (possessing alcohol etc)
Confiscation of alcohol from person under 18
Liquor licensing laws, other offences
Pawnbrokers, Firearms offences
Hackney carriages offences
Public service vehicles offences

Wildlife and other animal offences

Cruelty to animals (ex dogs) inc killing and maiming cattle
Rabies orders

Animals, offences involving (ex dogs, birds elsewhere classified)
Birds, offences involving
Pet and kept animals
Cruelty to dogs
Protection of livestock from dogs
Guard Dogs Act 1975
Dangerous dogs, failure to control, supervise, destroy
Dogs bred for fighting
Keeping dogs under prop control, contravention of an order
Hunting with dogs
Cruelty to wild animals
Offences involving badgers
Other wildlife offences
Dogs, other offences
Possession of salmon or trout unlawfully obtained
Possession of salmon or trout as result of offence
Poaching and game laws
Deer (S) offences

Other miscellaneous offences

Aliens and immigration offences
Antisocial behaviour offences
Offences relating to persons disqualified from working with children
Prevent a person feeding a baby milk in a public place
Keeping and supply of explosives
Harbour Acts
Absentees and deserters
Naval military and air force, other offences
Dog Fouling
Smoking in public places
Medical Acts
Dentists Acts
Nurses (S) Acts
Opticians Acts

Venereal Diseases Act 1917
 Poisons Act
 Medicines Acts
 National Health Service (S) Acts
 Railways
 Bigamy
 False declarations
 Births deaths marriages, registration offences
 Marriage (S) Act 1977
 Revenue and excise offences (excluding Vehicle and Drugs)
 Prisons (S) Act 1989 (not elsewhere classified)
 Investment legislation
 Industrial training and statistics of trade offences
 Building Societies Act 1986
 Fire services legislation
 Emergency powers Acts
 Solicitors (S) Acts
 Local Government legislation
 Architects registration offences
 Estate Agents Acts
 Insurance Brokers (Registration) Act 1977
 Legal Aid and advice legislation
 Adoption (S) Act 1978
 Theatres Act 1968
 Industrial and provident societies offences
 Friendly Societies Acts
 Credit Union Acts 1979
 Lands Valuation (S) Act
 Scotland Act offences
 Ethical Standards in Public Life
 Pensions Acts
 Antisocial behaviour, landlord offences
 Offences relating to working with vulnerable adults
 Offences under the Charities and Trustees Inv Act

Failure to comply with a Property Factor Enforcement Order
 (PFEO)

Road traffic offences

Dangerous and careless driving

Dangerous driving offences
 Driving carelessly

Driving under the influence

Driving motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs
 In charge of motor vehicle while unfit through drink/drugs
 Driving motor vehicle with blood alcohol content above prescribed
 limit
 In charge of motor vehicle while blood alcohol content above limit
 Failure to provide breath specimen at roadside
 Failure to provide breath, blood or urine specimen at police
 station

Speeding

Speeding in restricted areas
 Other speeding offences

Unlawful use of motor vehicle

Vehicle excise licence offences
 Using motor vehicle without test certificate
 Driving while disqualified from holding or obtaining licence
 Driving without a licence (including under age)
 Driving licence, other offences
 Failure to Insure against third party risks
 Insure against third party risks, other offences
 Registration or identification mark offences (not lighting)

Vehicle defect offences

Lighting offences, motor vehicle
 Construction & use regulations (other than lighting)

Seat belt offences

Seat belt offences

Mobile phone offences

Mobile phone offences

Other road traffic offences

Dangerously riding a bicycle or tricycle

Carelessly or inconsiderately riding a bicycle or tricycle

Drunk when riding a bicycle

Bicycles, other offences

Pedestrian traffic offences

Driver's neglect of traffic directions (not pedestrian crossing)

Driver's contravention of pedestrian crossing regulations

Accident offences

Parking offences

Failing to provide info to identify driver of motor vehicle

Motorway traffic offences

Clearway offences

Motor vehicle records of work (eg tachograph) offences

Motor vehicle, other offences

Annex E: Sentencing profile for crimes and offences

The table below shows percentage of sentences given to persons convicted in 2017-18²⁹ for all current crime and offence groups, ranked by the percentage of persons given a custodial sentence. Current crime groups are highlighted in grey.

In addition to presenting the sentencing profile for drug crime as split has also been provided to demonstrate the difference between typical sentences for drug possession for personal use and other drug crimes i.e. production and supply (See section on [Possession of drugs](#) for more details).

Crime/offence group	Main crime or offence	Custody	Community sentence	Monetary	Other	Total
Group 2: Sexual crimes	Rape and attempted rape	97	1	-	2	100
Group 1: Non-sexual crimes of violence	Robbery	72	23	3	2	100
Group 1: Non-sexual crimes of violence	Homicide etc.	70	23	3	3	100
Group 3: Crimes of dishonesty	Housebreaking	65	26	5	4	100
Group 3: Crimes of dishonesty	Theft by opening lockfast places	51	26	10	13	100
Group 1: Non-sexual crimes of violence	Attempted murder and serious assault	49	35	13	3	100
Group 3: Crimes of dishonesty	Theft from a motor vehicle	46	43	6	5	100
Group 4: Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	Fire-raising	46	42	4	8	100
Group 2: Sexual crimes	Sexual assault	40	52	5	3	100
Group 5: Other crimes	Drugs (supply)	39	44	12	4	100
Group 5: Other crimes	Handling offensive weapons	35	39	14	12	100
Group 5: Other crimes	Other crime	34	29	13	24	100
Group 3: Crimes of dishonesty	Other dishonesty	33	37	16	15	100
Group 3: Crimes of dishonesty	Other theft	33	30	21	16	100
Group 3: Crimes of dishonesty	Theft of a motor vehicle	31	41	18	10	100
Group 2: Sexual crimes	Other sexual crimes	29	59	7	5	100
Group 3: Crimes of dishonesty	Fraud	28	38	25	9	100
Group 3: Crimes of dishonesty	Shoplifting	26	20	20	33	100
Group 1: Non-sexual crimes of violence	Other non-sexual crimes of violence	22	42	7	29	100
Group 5: Other crimes	Crimes against public justice	20	25	21	34	100
Group 6: Miscellaneous offences	Common assault	17	33	29	21	100
Group 4: Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	Vandalism etc.	17	32	33	18	100
Group 5: Other crimes	Drugs	16	24	42	18	100
Group 6: Miscellaneous offences	Other miscellaneous, including urinating	13	26	37	24	100
Group 6: Miscellaneous offences	Breach of the peace etc.	13	26	31	30	100
Group 5: Other crimes	Drugs (possession)	5	14	56	25	100
Group 7: Motor vehicle offences	Dangerous and careless driving	5	10	82	3	100
Group 7: Motor vehicle offences	Unlawful use of motor vehicle	4	6	80	10	100
Group 7: Motor vehicle offences	Driving under the influence	2	16	80	2	100
Group 6: Miscellaneous offences	Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct	2	14	40	43	100
Group 2: Sexual crimes	Crimes associated with prostitution	2	4	45	49	100
Group 7: Motor vehicle offences	Other motor vehicle offences ¹	*	1	94	4	100
Group 7: Motor vehicle offences	Vehicle defect offences	*	*	93	7	100
Group 7: Motor vehicle offences	Speeding	-	*	99	1	100

Values lower than 1% are highlighted with an asterix (*).

1. Includes Seat belt offences, Mobile phone offences and Other motor vehicle offences

²⁹ Criminal Proceedings in Scotland 2017-18: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/criminal-proceedings-scotland-2017-18/>

Annex F: An international comparison of crime classification structures

To help inform future decisions on the way that recorded crime could be categorised in Scotland, a comparison of the approach to classifying and presenting crimes in other countries was carried out. The selection of comparator countries was not the result of scientific analysis, but instead based on pragmatic reasons such as our immediate neighbours, countries of a similar size to Scotland, those with a single police force, and some that were considered either influential or interesting.

In summary, there is no standard ‘one size fits all’ solution for crime classification – largely, every country has a unique structure for classifying crime.

Generally, the rationale for the particular structure of crime classification in each country is to simplify and ease understanding of the statistics, taking into account the views of their users and the specific structure of each country’s body of legislation. This helps explain why there is such variety across the different countries.

Key points:

- England and Wales and Northern Ireland are the only countries to adopt a split between victim based crime, and crimes against society³⁰. Sweden has a classification of crimes against the person, but this only covers crimes such as violence and sexual offences, but not theft and other victim based crime.
- Both Sweden and Denmark split their crime groups by those against their main penal code and those against other laws. However, one prominent difference to note is that Denmark treats drugs offences within its penal code, whereas Sweden it is out with.
- Some countries include sexual offences within their violence category (e.g. Sweden, USA, Canada), and others treat it separately (e.g. England & Wales, Denmark, Australia, New Zealand).
- Only Australia and New Zealand separate the classification of homicide from other violence, whereas all of the other countries treat all violent crime together.
- Some countries have a separate classification for robbery (e.g. England & Wales, Australia, New Zealand), whereas the others do not, with Sweden and Denmark treating it as part of property/theft, and USA and Canada treating it as part of violence.

³⁰ The classification systems of England & Wales and Northern Ireland are almost identical due to the fact that N. Ireland adopted any recent changes implemented in England & Wales. As a result of this, only England & Wales will be listed in the rest of this summary, as the inclusion of N. Ireland as well would unfairly misconstrue perceptions of the popularity of certain approaches.

- Several countries treat drug offences as a separate classification within the main body of their crimes (e.g. England & Wales, Denmark, USA, Canada, New Zealand). However, as previously mentioned, Sweden treats drug offences under other laws, and Australia does not publish them at all.
- Traffic/motor vehicle offences are only published in Canada as part of the main body of crimes, with it being included under other laws in Sweden, and not reported at all as part of recorded crime in the rest.

Simplified breakdown of crime classification by country

England & Wales / Northern Ireland

VICTIM-BASED CRIME

Violence against the person offences

Sexual offences

Robbery offences

Theft offences

Criminal damage and arson

OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY

Drug offences

Possession of weapons offences

Public order offences

Miscellaneous crimes against society

Sweden

CRIMES AGAINST THE PENAL CODE

Crimes Against Person (incl. violence & sexual offences)

Crimes Against Property (incl. theft & fraud)

Crimes Against the Public

Crimes Against the State

OTHER LAWS (incl. traffic & drugs)

Denmark

PENAL CODE

Sexual Offences

Crimes of Violence

Offence Against Property

Other Offences (incl. Against the Public/State & Drugs)

OTHER LAWS

USA

Violent Crime (incl. sexual offences)

Property Crime

Drugs Crime

Canada

Violent Crime (incl. sexual assault & robbery)

Property Crime

Other Criminal Code Offences

Criminal Code Traffic Violations

Drug Offences

OTHER LAWS

Australia

Homicide
Assault
Sexual assault
Robbery
Kidnapping
Unlawful entry with intent (UEWI)
Motor vehicle theft (MVT)
Other theft

New Zealand

Homicide & Related Offences
Acts Intended to Cause Injury
Sexual Assault & Related Offences
Dangerous or Negligent Acts Endangering Persons
Abduction, Harassment & Offences Against A Person
Robbery, Extortion & Related Offences
Unlawful Entry with Intent/Burglary, Break & Enter
Theft & Related Offences
Fraud, Deception & Related Offences
Illicit Drug Offences
Prohibited & Regulated Weapons & Explosives Offences
Property Damage & Environmental Pollution
Public Order Offences
Offences Against Justice Procedures, Government Security & Government Operations
Miscellaneous Offences



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