

Correspondence relating to Q2

From: [redacted]

Sent: 09 October 2019 11:14

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]; Russell GE (Gillian) <Gillian.Russell@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Violence Reduction Unit Post-Cabinet Presentation

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Justice,

This is a short note to inform you on the plans of the Post-Cabinet presentation on violence reduction in Scotland that you, and the First Minister previously signed off. The session was due to take place on Tuesday 19 November, with the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit and Justice Analytical Services hosting a session for the Cabinet team after Cabinet that morning. After further discussions with Cabinet Secretariat, given ongoing work around Brexit, and the EU Exit Ministerial Group meetings, which we believe take place after Cabinet on a Tuesday, Cabinet Secretariat have decided to postpone the session on Violence Reduction on the 19 November. There has not been a new date agreed, but discussions will continue and a date for the start of 2020 will be agreed in the coming months. Once discussions have taken place, we will send a further note updating you with the agreed plans for the session.

Regards,

[redacted]

Community Safety Unit

Safer Communities Directorate | Scottish Government

[redacted] Area 1W, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

From: [redacted]

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] Russell GE (Gillian) <Gillian.Russell@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Violence Reduction Unit Post-Cabinet Presentation

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Justice,

As per email chain below, I recently set out a plan for the SVRU to deliver a post-cabinet presentation on violence, to advise other Cab Secs about the progress we've made with violence over the last 14 years; alert them to the challenges; and consider how their respective portfolios can contribute to this. Your office kindly came back to me and advised that the Cabinet Secretary was content with our approach, and was happy for us to draft a note for him to send to the FM to hopefully get her approval to proceed with setting up the session. After the Cabinet Secretary had confirmed this, we had further discussions within our team around how we can make the best use of our time, and agreed that we could potentially involve JAS colleagues (to explain a bit about what the recent 'deep dive' results tell us) and also involve [redacted], from the Street and Arrow project, to give a personal

view around violence by talking about his previous experiences. After these discussions, we revised the agenda for the session to the below:

11:30-11:40 Justice Analytical colleagues - to give a brief overview of recent non-sexual crime publications, looking at the picture of violence 10 years ago to now.

11:40-11:50 Niven Rennie and Will Linden, Violence Reduction Unit - to give an overview of progress to date, how violence relates to wider social issues (i.e. ACES agenda, exclusion, inequalities, poverty, care system etc) and the challenges ahead (i.e. violence has flat lined largely over the last few years, if we are going to make further progress, we need to make further progress to tackle the underlying main factors influencing violent crime – such as alcohol, violence in a domestic setting etc)

11:50-12:00 [redacted], Street and Arrow Project – to give personal experience on how violence has affected his life and how it still affects others now.

12:00 Questions/discussion

I have drafted up a note (attached) for the Cabinet Secretary to send to the First Minister to explain our plan for a post-cabinet presentation on Tuesday 19 November 2019. Before considering the note for the FM, is the Cabinet Secretary be content with the new plan for the session? If so, I would be grateful if you could send the attached note to the First Minister, on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary, for her to sign off this session on violence, and officials from the Violence Reduction Team can start with the planning.

If you need anything further from me just now, please let me know.

Thanks,

[redacted]

Community Safety Unit

Safer Communities Directorate | Scottish Government

[redacted] Area 1W, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

From: [redacted]

Sent: 11 June 2019 09:58

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]; Russell GE (Gillian) <Gillian.Russell@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy)

<Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Violence Reduction Unit Post-Cabinet Presentation

Thanks [redacted]. I will take this forward, and keep your office in the loop.

Thanks,

[redacted]

Community Safety Unit

Safer Communities Directorate | Scottish Government

[redacted] Area 1W, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

From: [redacted] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Justice
Sent: 06 June 2019 16:52
To: [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]; Russell GE (Gillian) <Gillian.Russell@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Violence Reduction Unit Post-Cabinet Presentation

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for sending that up, Mr Yousaf has seen and confirmed he's happy for you to proceed with the plan you've set out.

Kind regards,
[redacted]

Office of Humza Yousaf, Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Scottish Government, Room 1W.11, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |
CabSecJustice@gov.scot | www.gov.scot |

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 31 May 2019 12:42
To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]; Russell GE (Gillian) <Gillian.Russell@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>
Subject: Violence Reduction Unit Post-Cabinet Presentation

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Justice

What and Purpose:

Mr Yousaf recently met with Niven Rennie and Will Linden, Director and Deputy Director of the Violence Reduction Unit on Tuesday 23 April. In this meeting, I believe it was discussed to arrange for the VRU to present to other Cabinet Secretary's and Ministers about Violence Reduction, given the underlying causes of violence cuts across a number of portfolios, to raise awareness of the work of the VRU, highlighting the wider social policies that underpin the prevention and reduction of harm caused by violence across Scotland. The option discussed was for the VRU to potentially do a post-cabinet presentation one Tuesday morning, following Cabinet at around 11:30-12:30. This would ensure there would be a maximum amount of Cabinet Secretaries attending the session. I am looking to take this forward and arrange to get a date agreed.

Agenda/Discussion points

The VRU have indicated that they would like to present the following within their session.

- Brief overview of progress to date

- How violence related to wider social issues (i.e. ACES agenda, exclusion, poverty, care system etc)
- The challenges ahead (i.e. violence has flat lined largely over the last few years, if we are going to make further progress, we need to tackle the main factors influencing violence – like alcohol, violence in a domestic setting etc)
- Look at the projects the VRU and partners are advancing to tackle violence (both existing and projects under development)

Can the Cabinet Secretary confirm he agrees with the above agenda, and if there is anything he feels we need to add, can he let us know and I can pass this on to the VRU.

How we will do this:

Both Niven and Will, will give a presentation on the inception of the VRU, what has been achieved to prevent and reduce violence to date, what violence still persists within communities across Scotland and what the VRU believe we should be focusing on now and how to make further reductions in violent crime to improve outcomes for people through the various social policy areas across Scotland.

To take this forward:

Once the Cabinet Secretary has agreed he is content with posing this option to the First Minister, Cabinet Secretariat will speak to the FM's office and look at possible dates for this. Once a date is identified, your office will need to put a request to the FM's office on behalf of the Violence Reduction Policy Team to seek approval for this post Cabinet session. If the First Minister agrees, the date will be held in the diary.

Can you confirm whether the Cabinet Secretary is happy for us to proceed with the above plan for a post-cabinet session with the VRU?

If you need any further information on this, please let me know.

Regards,

[redacted] Community Safety Unit
Safer Communities Directorate | Scottish Government
[redacted]
Area 1W, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Correspondence relating to Q3

From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 September 2020 11:21

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS – RESTRICTED until Tuesday 29 September 2020

With thanks to [redacted], breakdown of the schools figures below. There has been greater change in knives/blades crimes, with an increase in 'not used' crimes and a fall in 'used' crimes. The numbers are relatively low so there may be a bit of fluctuation year-on-year.

	2018-19	2019-20
Possession of an offensive weapon in a school	36	34
Possession of offensive weapon in a school used in other criminal activity	38	40
Having in a school an article with a blade or point	91	112
Having in a school an article with a blade or point used in other criminal activity	34	21

Thanks

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted] Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](#) [@ScotStat](#)

From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 September 2020 10:42

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS – RESTRICTED until Tuesday 29 September 2020

Hi [redacted],

Thanks, no rush for our part of the request as we intend to consider that info alongside the excellent handling offensive weapons paper from June 18.

[redacted]

Cheers

[redacted]

[redacted]

Community Safety Unit | Safer Communities Directorate | Scottish Government | 1W | St. Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Mob: [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 September 2020 10:34

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS – RESTRICTED until Tuesday 29 September 2020

Thanks [redacted]

On the schools figures, we will look out a breakdown of the used/not used, and split by whether weapon or knife/blade. As these are aggregated figures we aren't able to break down any further in terms of characteristics (who reported, people involved, etc.). The weapons research we published a couple of years ago did pick up some crimes which occurred in schools although this was a small proportion of the sample as a whole but we could look into this.

[redacted] – once we've sent the submission, we can provide a more detailed LA breakdown of the handling weapons crimes.

Cheers

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted]

Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](#) [@ScotStat](#)

From: [redacted]

Sent: 22 September 2020 15:47

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS – RESTRICTED until Tuesday 29 September 2020

Hi folks,

Also thank you from us, that was good call.

We will review the Q & A and come back to you.

I agree with [redacted]'s points below, as a side question (not for the publication) it would be useful for us to have/know (if possible) a breakdown of Local Authorities, this would help us speak directly to local areas to gain an idea of what they are seeing on the ground.

Cheers

[redacted]

Community Safety Unit | Safer Communities Directorate | Scottish Government | 1W | St. Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Mob: [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 22 September 2020 15:20

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: FW: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS – RESTRICTED until Tuesday 29 September 2020

Hi all

Many thanks for the call earlier and for advance sight of the stats.

In relation to the schools stats.

In the submission I think it would be good to show the disaggregated results for not used and used – as the numbers of crimes where an offensive weapon has been used has fallen from 72 in 18/19 to 61 in 19/20.

I think the rise in the numbers of offensive weapons not used is also interesting – I agree with [redacted] that this could show that the preventative actions are working, greater detection etc – is there any data underneath this that shows who reported the crimes e.g. school staff, school pupil, member of public?

It would also be good to see, if possible, what weapons were categorised in this and if you can show that knives were used in x number of these, other implements in x number of these.

I've also added in some text to the Q&A section on the school's stats.

All the best

[redacted]

Health & Wellbeing in Schools

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 22 September 2020 10:58

To: Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; MacKinnon D (Donna) <Donna.MacKinnon@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; Chief Statistician <ChiefStatistician@gov.scot>; [redacted];

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS – RESTRICTED until Tuesday 29 September 2020

Dear Colleagues,

**OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS – RESTRICTED until
Tuesday 29 September 2020**

Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20

Please note that you are receiving this under the statistics pre-release access protocols and this should not be circulated beyond those included in this email until publication at 9.30am on Tuesday the 29th September 2019. Please let me know immediately of any accidental circulation beyond those copied.

I have attached a copy of next week's National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 and a draft Ministerial submission on the release. The submission can be discussed at the handling meeting this afternoon and we plan to submit a final copy to Cab Sec by tomorrow's box closure.

The handling meeting is via Skype at 2pm today.

There will also be a Statistics News Release – which we'll draft this week. This will mostly reflect the headline results.

Hope this helps and just let me know if you have any queries.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 15:54

To: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted];

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks All

For awareness – please find below statement from the VRU which they post on their website once the stats are live.

RECORDED CRIME IN SCOTLAND 2019 – 2020 STATEMENT SVRU

Commenting on the latest Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20 figures, Will Linden, the Deputy Director of the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit, said:

“Scotland has made real progress in reducing the violence infecting our communities with a 42% reduction in non-sexual crimes of violence since 2002-3. These latest figures show further progress with a 5% decrease overall in non-sexual crimes of violence* and a 6% reduction in serious assaults and attempted murders between 2018 -19 and 2019 -20.

“However these figures are also a reminder that constant vigilance and effort is needed to keep communities safe. Any reported increase in weapons carrying must be taken seriously. While we have seen big decreases in young people carrying knives they are still one of the groups most at risk of this behaviour. We will look closely at the data to discover any trends that may be developing, but crucially we must redouble our efforts with those most at risk of becoming involved in a violent lifestyle.”

- Non-sexual crimes of violence increased from 8,008 to 9,316. This increase is due to the recording of 1,681 new crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, introduced on 1st April 2019. All other non-sexual crimes of violence collectively decreased by 5%

[redacted]

[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 28th September at 14:08 (included elsewhere in this document on p12)]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 28 September 2020 16:42
To: [redacted]; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Subject: RE: FOR SPAD CLEARANCE NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks [redacted]

We will use the version below.

John has confirmed off chain that he is content with this too.

Many thanks

[redacted]

Communications DFM, Education and Justice | Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 28 September 2020 16:15
To: [redacted]; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>;

McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted] **Subject:** RE: FOR SPAD CLEARANCE NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

[redacted]— sorry, just a change below as while I agree with the sentiment expressed by [redacted]'s feedback, I think the impression given is that that all kinds of coercive controlling behaviour could never have previously been dealt with under the criminal law and that goes a wee bit too far in my view.

Cheers

[redacted]

Criminal Justice Division

Room GW, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 16:11

To: McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOR SPAD CLEARANCE NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Hi John

Please find amended news release below.

Grateful if you can clear urgently.

Many thanks

[redacted]

Recorded Crime down 24% over the decade
First annual figures for crimes under new domestic abuse laws

Almost 1,700 crimes were reported under Scotland's new Domestic Abuse laws in their first year in force, official figures show.

The crimes reported under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 – which enables police and prosecutors to **better** pursue abuse involving coercive and controlling behaviour - account for a rise in overall non-sexual violent crime in 2019-20. The other categories of non-sexual violent crime collectively fell by 5%.

The new crimes are included within the National Statistics on Recorded Crime for 2019-20 which showed there was almost no change in overall recorded crime compared to the previous year. Recorded crime was almost a quarter (24%) lower last year compared to a decade before – and was at one of the lowest levels since 1974.

Mr Yousaf said: "I am pleased that victims of domestic abuse have confidence in the collective actions of Scotland's police and wider justice and third sector partners, to come forward and report these cases. Reports under these new laws, which reflect the reality of many domestic abuse victims, account for the rise in overall non-sexual violence recorded by police last year. We must learn from our success in reducing violence on our streets to help keep people safer in their homes, in particular those who are subjected to, or at risk of, domestic abuse.

"That requires not just a government response, but a commitment across families, friends, and colleagues to help tackle the attitudes and behaviours that allow any form of domestic abuse to persist.

"The Parliament will soon be considering our further legislative plans to give police and courts powers to remove domestic abusers from victims' homes. "That legislation, if passed by Parliament will lift the burden of action from those already suffering or at risk from abuse by giving greater powers to police to intervene where necessary, in turn giving victims vital breathing space to decide the best future option for them."

Background:

The full statistical publication (<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781800041097>) is available on the Scottish Government website.

[redacted]

Communications DFM, Education and Justice | Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 15:14

To: McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: FOR SPAD CLEARANCE NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

John

Please see the news release below which policy have agreed to.

Grateful if you can let me know you are content.

Many thanks

[redacted]

Recorded Crime down 24% over the decade
First annual figures for crimes under new domestic abuse laws

Almost 1,700 crimes were reported under Scotland's new Domestic Abuse laws in their first year in force, official figures show.

The crimes reported under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 – which makes it easier to pursue abuse involving coercive and controlling behaviour - account for a rise in overall non-sexual violent crime in 2019-20. The other categories of non-sexual violent crime collectively fell by 5%.

The new crimes are included within the National Statistics on Recorded Crime for 2019-20 which showed there was almost no change in overall recorded crime compared to the previous year. Recorded crime was almost a quarter (24%) lower last year compared to a decade before – and was at one of the lowest levels since 1974.

Mr Yousaf said: "I am pleased that victims of domestic abuse have confidence in the collective actions of Scotland's police and wider justice and third sector partners, to come forward and report these cases. Reports under these new laws account for the rise in overall non-sexual violence recorded by police last year. We must learn from our success in reducing violence on our streets to help keep people safer in their homes, in particular those who are subjected to, or at risk of, domestic abuse.

"That requires not just a government response, but a commitment across families, friends, and colleagues to help tackle the attitudes and behaviours that allow any form of domestic abuse to persist.

"The Parliament will soon be considering our further legislative plans to give police and courts powers to remove domestic abusers from victims' homes. "That legislation, if passed by Parliament will lift the burden of action from those already suffering or at risk from abuse by giving greater powers to police to intervene where necessary, in turn giving victims vital breathing space to decide the best future option for them."

Background:

The full statistical publication (<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781800041097>) is available on the Scottish Government website.

[redacted]

Communications DFM, Education and Justice | Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 14:08

To: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan

WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>;
McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release -
RESTRICTED

[redacted]

A small suggested addition from me as below.

[redacted]

Violence Reduction Policy & PIRC Sponsorship Team – Community Safety Unit, Justice, Scottish
Government, St Andrews House, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 13:42

To: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>;
Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan
WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>;
McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release -
RESTRICTED

Thanks [redacted]. I've suggested a few amendments below and added the link – the
green highlighted line may not be required.

I also wondered if we might want to rephrase the sub-heading to avoid saying new
twice?

Cheers

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted] Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](https://twitter.com/SGJusticeAnalys) [@ScotStat](https://twitter.com/ScotStat)

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 13:36

To: [redacted]

Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W
(Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie)
<Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J
(John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release -
RESTRICTED

[redacted] – a suggestion below, but as per my feedback on the [redacted] I am happy
to be corrected if I am misunderstanding the impact of the new domestic abuse
offence on trends.

Cheers

[redacted] Criminal Justice Division
Room GW, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 13:18

To: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

All

Please find below draft ministerial news release which will be issued once the statistical news release has been issued.

Grateful for any amends by 2.45pm.

Many thanks

[redacted]

Recorded Crime down 24% over the decade
[text is repeated elsewhere in the document]

[redacted]

Communications DFM, Education and Justice | Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted] **Sent:** 23 September 2020 16:51

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Minister for Community Safety <MinisterCS@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; DG Education, Communities & Justice <DGECJ@gov.scot>; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; MacKinnon D (Donna) <Donna.MacKinnon@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; Chief Statistician <ChiefStatistician@gov.scot>; PSLordAdvocate@copfs.gsi.gov.uk; PSSolicitorGeneral@copfs.gsi.gov.uk; Imery G (Gill) <Gill.Imery@gov.scot>; permanent.secretary@gov.scot; [redacted]; Anthony.McGeehan@copfs.gov.uk; [redacted]

Subject: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Copy: As above

NATIONAL STATISTICS – RESTRICTED BY STATUTORY ORDER
Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20

I attach a submission on the publication of National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20. This is being sent under the **Pre-release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008**. I've also attached a copy of the statistics bulletin. A copy of the standard statistical news release will follow for information before the 29th.

The bulletin is to be published at **9.30 am on Tuesday 29 September 2020**. Please treat the attached statistics and any indication of the results as **restricted until their public release**. If you think you need to discuss or share these statistics with anyone not on the circulation list then please contact me. These statistics should only be forwarded on to named Scottish Government officials where this is required for the preparation of briefing and/or Ministerial comment, and **where prior approval for such onward access has been sought from myself**. Any accidental or wrongful release should be reported to me immediately. Wrongful release includes indications of the content or the trend of the figures, including descriptions such as 'favourable' or 'unfavourable'.

As outlined in the Ministerial submission, Communication and Special Adviser colleagues will be in touch separately to discuss a possible media release to coincide with the publication of these figures

To confirm this email contains the following attachments:

- Ministerial Submission on Recorded Crime National Statistics
- Statistics Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

Justice Analytical Services
Scottish Government
2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 11:05

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J

(John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** **Subject:** RE: FOR CAB SEC CLEARANCE NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

[redacted],

With thanks to JAS colleagues, I attach a table from today's bulletin (**information available in the published bulletin online**) with the 10-year trends across the crime categories from 2010-11 to 2019-20. It also has the changes compared to 2007.

I also attach the **[redacted]** prepared by policy and JAS (**information relevant to request included at the end of this document**). I've requested lines from policy colleagues on the latest position for corroboration, just in case that is raised in light of the clear-up rates for sexual crime.

[redacted]

COVID19 SG Comms & Justice Comms, Scottish Government | **[redacted]**

- Updates from Scottish Government www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/ | [@ScotGov](https://twitter.com/ScotGov) | [@ScotGovJustice](https://www.facebook.com/ScotGovJustice)
Contact SG newsdesk (0131 244 0222) with urgent media queries or requests; Out-of-office hours call 0131 556 8400

From: **[redacted]** On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Sent: 28 September 2020 18:35

To: **[redacted]**; Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>

Cc: **[redacted]**; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**

Subject: RE: FOR CAB SEC CLEARANCE NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

[redacted]

The Cabinet Secretary is content.

We have time set aside for media bids tomorrow, grateful if officials can consider if Mr Yousaf will require any further briefing/top lines on this and provide by noon tomorrow (29/09/20).

Regards

[redacted]

CabSecJustice@gov.scot

[redacted]

All emails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Out of Hours Advice

The Justice Private Office Team do not work a shift pattern. The mailbox is actively monitored between 0830 and 1830 Monday to Friday. However, if you require help or an immediate response out with these times or over the weekend please phone or text

[redacted] and we will be happy to assist.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 17:44

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: FOR CAB SEC CLEARANCE NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

[redacted]

Please find below news release to issue tomorrow just after the statistical news release has been issued.

SpAds and policy have cleared and grateful if you can confirm the Cab Sec is content.

Many thanks

[redacted]

Recorded Crime down 24% over the decade
First annual figures for crimes under new domestic abuse laws

Almost 1,700 crimes were reported under Scotland's new Domestic Abuse laws in their first year in force, official figures show.

The crimes reported under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 – which enables police and prosecutors to better pursue abuse involving coercive and controlling behaviour - account for a rise in overall non-sexual violent crime in 2019-20. The other categories of non-sexual violent crime collectively fell by 5%.

The new crimes are included within the National Statistics on Recorded Crime for 2019-20 which showed there was almost no change in overall recorded crime compared to the previous year. Recorded crime was almost a quarter (24%) lower last year compared to a decade before – and was at one of the lowest levels since 1974.

Mr Yousaf said: "I am pleased that victims of domestic abuse have confidence in the collective actions of Scotland's police and wider justice and third sector partners, to come forward and report these cases. Reports under these new laws, which reflect the reality of many domestic abuse victims, account for the rise in overall non-sexual violence recorded by police last year. We must learn from our success in reducing violence on our streets to help keep people safer in their homes, in particular those who are subjected to, or at risk of, domestic abuse.

“That requires not just a government response, but a commitment across families, friends, and colleagues to help tackle the attitudes and behaviours that allow any form of domestic abuse to persist.

“The Parliament will soon be considering our further legislative plans to give police and courts powers to remove domestic abusers from victims’ homes. “That legislation, if passed by Parliament will lift the burden of action from those already suffering or at risk from abuse by giving greater powers to police to intervene where necessary, in turn giving victims vital breathing space to decide the best future option for them.”

Background:

The full statistical publication (<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781800041097>) is available on the Scottish Government website.

[redacted]

Communications DFM, Education and Justice | Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 12:34

To: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWSRELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

[redacted]

This relates to the exchanges yesterday as attached. The premise of the news release below is false once you strip out the effect on trends of the new domestic abuse offence. For my part, I'd suggest developing some sort of rebuttal based on this.

Cheers

[redacted]

Criminal Justice Division
Room GW, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
Scottish Government

From: [redacted]**Sent:** 29 September 2020 12:22

To: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan

WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>;
McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

All

Please see the below news release from the Conservatives – grateful if you can advise how to respond to it.

Violent crime hits eight-year high

Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party press office

Tuesday, 29 September, 2020

FAO: all newsdesks

Embargo: for immediate release

The Scottish Conservatives have slammed the SNP's soft-touch justice system as new figures revealed violent crime in Scotland has hit an eight-year high.

The annual Recorded Crime in Scotland publication released on Tuesday revealed that non-sexual violent crime is at the highest level since 2011-12, and it has increased for each of the last five years.

Overall crime in Scotland has increased for the last three years, from 238,921 in 2016-17 to 246,516 in 2019-20.

Homicides are also at the highest level since 2011-12 and fraud cases have spiked in the last year.

The increase in violent crime over the long-term have been driven by rises in robbery, attempted murder & serious assault. In the last year alone, the increase is attributable in part to the inclusion of domestic abuse charges.

Scottish Conservative justice spokesman, Liam Kerr MSP, said: "Violent crime has soared under the SNP's soft-touch justice system, and these new figures show no sign of that changing.

"Victims have been let down repeatedly and our police officers are not receiving the backing and resources they need from the SNP government.

"Instead of focusing on tackling this shocking rise in crime, the SNP is concentrating on pushing through its widely-criticised and deeply-flawed Hate Crime Bill.

"The Scottish Conservatives have consistently called for the SNP to abandon their soft-touch approach to crime. Those calls have been ignored and now we're seeing the consequences."

Notes

The Recorded Crime publication is here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2019-2020/>

ENDS

[redacted]

Communications DFM, Education and Justice | Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 16:07

To: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

[redacted]

Sorry to chase, I've been unable to get you on messenger or phone – unless you raise any concerns by 4.10pm , we will go with the version below.

Many thanks

[redacted]

Communications DFM, Education and Justice | Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 15:49

To: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; >; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks [redacted]

Grateful if you can clear by return as this needs to be cleared by Cab Sec by 5.30pm and still has to be cleared by SpAds and Newsdesk.

Recorded Crime down 24% over the decade
First annual figures for crimes under new domestic abuse laws

Almost 1,700 crimes were reported under Scotland's new Domestic Abuse laws in their first year in force, official figures show.

The crimes reported under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 – which enables police and prosecutors to pursue abuse involving coercive and controlling behaviour - account for a rise in overall non-sexual violent crime in 2019-20. The other categories of non-sexual violent crime collectively fell by 5%.

The new crimes are included within the National Statistics on Recorded Crime for 2019-20 which showed there was almost no change in overall recorded crime compared to the previous year. Recorded crime was almost a quarter (24%) lower last year compared to a decade before – and was at one of the lowest levels since 1974.

Mr Yousaf said: “I am pleased that victims of domestic abuse have confidence in the collective actions of Scotland’s police and wider justice and third sector partners, to come forward and report these cases. Reports under these new laws, which reflect the reality of many domestic abuse victims, account for the rise in overall non-sexual violence recorded by police last year. We must learn from our success in reducing violence on our streets to help keep people safer in their homes, in particular those who are subjected to, or at risk of, domestic abuse.

“That requires not just a government response, but a commitment across families, friends, and colleagues to help tackle the attitudes and behaviours that allow any form of domestic abuse to persist.

“The Parliament will soon be considering our further legislative plans to give police and courts powers to remove domestic abusers from victims’ homes. “That legislation, if passed by Parliament will lift the burden of action from those already suffering or at risk from abuse by giving greater powers to police to intervene where necessary, in turn giving victims vital breathing space to decide the best future option for them.”

Background:

The full statistical publication (<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781800041097>) is available on the Scottish Government website.

[redacted]

Communications DFM, Education and Justice | Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 15:40

To: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

[redacted]

Sorry for the delay in responding - I might suggest a different phrase for ‘which makes it easier...’ Coercive and controlling behaviour, as an offence, is new and some of the activities may not have been an offence previously so its not easier, its now possible where it wasn’t a crime before. I think better to say something like:

The crimes reported under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 – which **enables police and prosecutors** ~~makes it easier~~ to pursue abuse involving coercive and controlling behaviour - accounts for a rise in overall non-sexual violent crime in 2019-20.

Also I wonder if there was a possibility of including that the new offence is reflecting the reality for victims of DA and potentially this is why they are coming forward (i.e they are understanding more readily that what they are experiencing is domestic abuse). I'm, as ever, sceptical about putting reporting down solely to confidence in the authorities and services.

[redacted]

Violence against Women and Girls

Criminal Justice Division

Working remotely for the foreseeable future. Mail can be posted to St Andrews House for my attention, if email is unsuitable.

For all out of hours related queries – I do not have a blackberry but you can contact me on [redacted] (please use text where I do not have your number saved).

[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 28th September at 13:42 (included elsewhere in this document on px)]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 13:21

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted] **Subject:** RE: FOR CAB SEC CLEARANCE NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

[redacted],

[redacted] has advised you that BBC has withdrawn their interview bid so, currently, there are no bids.

However, with thanks to colleagues, below are top lines in the event that the SG is asked about corroboration in respect of the new figures for clear-up rates for sexual crimes.

[redacted]

Corroboration

- **As there was no parliamentary or legal consensus when Ministers previously proposed removing the corroboration requirement in criminal proceedings, the Scottish Government asked Lord Bonomy to conduct a**

review into what additional safeguards may be required if corroboration was removed.

- That review recommended research into jury reasoning and decision-making, to ensure any changes are made on a fully informed basis.
- In October last year, we published the largest and most realistic independent jury research of its kind ever undertaken in the UK.
- We have engaged a wide range of individuals and organisations – including the legal profession and victims representatives – to seek their views on the findings of that jury research study.
- While that research did not specifically look at corroboration, it found the size of the jury, the number of verdicts available and the type of majority required may all have an effect on the outcome of finely balanced trials.
- Work resulting from the engagement events had to be paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic but we have now resumed this and hope to publish the emerging conclusions in due course.
- There is wider work ongoing that we also have to take account of before determining next steps, including the Lord Justice Clerk’s group examining the management of sexual offence cases.

Background/detail if needed:

- *Scottish Jury Research: Findings From a Large-Scale Mock Jury Study involved 64 mock juries and 969 individual participants. It is the first to consider the unique nature of the Scottish jury system with 15 jurors, three verdicts and a simple majority.*
- *The report sets out the researchers’ findings but does not make any recommendations.*
- *Although the research did not specifically look at corroboration, it found the size of the jury, the number of verdicts available and the type of majority required may all have an effect on the outcome of finely balanced trials.*
- *As well as being asked to consider the research findings from the project, stakeholders from justice organisations, the legal profession and third sector, along with individuals with personal experience of the criminal justice system, were invited to share views on potential reforms, including the reform or abolition of the corroboration rule.*
- *While the SG recognises the importance of progressing matters in relation to this issue, there is wider work which is currently ongoing that we require take into consideration before determining next steps, including that of the Lord Justice Clerk’s group which is looking into the management of sexual offence cases, the current Open University research into legal professionals’ views on reforms to the criminal justice system and the Recover, Renew, Transform project for the Criminal Justice system.*

[redacted]

COVID19 SG Comms & Justice Comms, Scottish Government [redacted]- Updates from Scottish

Government www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/ | [@ScotGov](https://twitter.com/ScotGov) | [@ScotGovJustice](https://twitter.com/ScotGovJustice)

Contact [SG newsdesk](mailto:SG.newsdesk@scot.nhs.uk) (0131 244 0222) with urgent media queries or requests; Out-of-office hours call 0131 556 8400

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 11:04

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOR CAB SEC CLEARANCE NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

[redacted],

With thanks to JAS colleagues, I attach a table from today's bulletin with the 10-year trends across the crime categories from 2010-11 to 2019-20. It also has the changes compared to 2007.

I also attach the [redacted] prepared by policy and JAS. I've requested lines from policy colleagues on the latest position for corroboration, just in case that is raised in light of the clear-up rates for sexual crime.

[redacted]

COVID19 SG Comms & Justice Comms, Scottish Government [redacted] - Updates from Scottish

Government www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/ | [@ScotGov](https://twitter.com/ScotGov) | [@ScotGovJustice](https://twitter.com/ScotGovJustice)

Contact [SG newsdesk](mailto:SG.newsdesk) (0131 244 0222) with urgent media queries or requests; Out-of-office hours call 0131 556 8400

[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 28th September at 18:35 (included elsewhere in this document on p17)]

From: [redacted] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Sent: 29 September 2020 14:05

To: [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted] **Subject:** RE: FOR CAB SEC CLEARANCE NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

[redacted],

Thanks for letting us know – Mr Yousaf has also noted.

[redacted] CabSecJustice@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 12:36

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOR CAB SEC CLEARANCE NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Hi [redacted]

Just to let you know that the BBC have withdrawn their bid for the Cab Sec as their reporters are tied up with other stories.

The BBC wish to pass on their thanks and apologies.

Best wishes

[redacted]

Communications DFM, Education and Justice | Scottish Government

[redacted]

[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 28th September at 18:35 (included elsewhere in this document on p17)]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 16:06

To: [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Many thanks [redacted]

I'd be minded to most of your new par as a Background point, to help journalists understand.

The BBC has just filed their online copy which carries the Tories claiming “Violent crime has soared under the SNP's soft-touch justice system, and these new figures show no sign of that changing. Victims have been let down repeatedly and our police officers are not receiving the backing and resources they need from the SNP government.” <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-54339732>

Not sure they will give us any more lineage, but worth sending them our lines, and PA agency too – if policy and JAS are content w below.

[redacted] – thoughts too?

[redacted]

(In respect of the erroneous claim that “violent crime has soared”:) “The reality is that violent crime is significantly lower today than a decade ago – as made clear in these latest police recorded crime figures and backed up by other data sources such as the Scottish Crime & Justice Survey and NHS emergency admissions, both of which include incidents not reported to police.

“The recorded crime bulletin makes clear that the reporting of 1,681 new crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 wholly accounts for the rise in the non-sexual violent crime category in 2019-20. So all other non-sexual crimes of violence collectively decreased by 5%. – with attempted murder and serious assault now 25% lower than in 2010-11 and robbery down by almost a third (32%) over the decade.

“While the Scottish Government is working with police and other partners to tackle violence wherever it persists, the progress in making Scotland’s streets safer over the last decade is apparent across all main measures. The 2018-19 Scottish Crime & Justice Survey of more than 5,500 adults – including incidents not reported to police – indicates that violent crime has almost halved (down by 48%) over since 2008-09 – a positive trend also reflected in a 43% reduction in the number of emergency hospital admissions due to assault since 2010-11 and 39% fall in those due to attacks involving a knife or other sharp object.

“These are three independent sources pointing to the success of our comprehensive approach, including investment in education and prevention and support for police enforcement, notwithstanding the need to maintain this work to protect all parts of our communities.

“Despite constraints on Scotland’s public services through a decade of UK austerity, our investment in policing this year has increased 5.1% to more than £1.2 billion. Scotland has significantly more officers than at any time before 2007 – while over the same period numbers in England and Wales were cut by almost 13,000.”

Background:

Between 2018-19 and 2019-20, this latest data shows that non-sexual violent crime has fallen 5% when comparing the data on a like for like basis. This is because the new domestic abuse offence was introduced on 1 April 2019 and, as the recorded crime bulletin makes clear, it is the reporting of 1,681 new crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 that wholly accounts for the rise in the numbers in the

non-sexual violent crime category in 2019-20. However, where the new domestic abuse offence is recorded and committal of the offence consists of conduct, such as assault, that was already criminal prior to 1 April 2019, then this conduct is recorded both under the new domestic abuse offence and under the existing assault category. This double-counting approach is to maintain the integrity of comparing data for the period after introduction of the new domestic abuse offence with the period prior to the introduction of the new offence.

[redacted] COVID19 SG Comms & Justice Comms, Scottish Government **[redacted]** - Updates from

Scottish Government www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/ | [@ScotGov](https://twitter.com/ScotGov) | [@ScotGovJustice](https://twitter.com/ScotGovJustice)

Contact [SG newsdesk](mailto:SG.newsdesk@scotland.nhs.uk) (0131 244 0222) with urgent media queries or requests; Out-of-office hours call 0131 556 8400

From: **[redacted]**

Sent: 29 September 2020 14:56

To: **[redacted]**; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks **[redacted]**. I wonder if we can go a bit further on this depending on the specific query? I am afraid it takes a bit of explaining so if you or others can condense it that would be fine/helpful. **[redacted]** and others in JAS may wish to offer views on what I am suggesting.

Cheers

[redacted] Criminal Justice Division
Room GW, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
Scottish Government

“The reality is that violent crime is significantly lower today than a decade ago – as made clear in these latest police recorded crime figures and backed up by other data sources such as the Scottish Crime & Justice Survey and NHS emergency admissions, both of which include incidents not reported to police.

“Between 2018-19 and 2019-20, this latest data shows that non-sexual violent crime has fallen 5% when comparing the data on a like for like basis. This is because the new domestic abuse offence was introduced on 1 April 2019 and, as the recorded crime bulletin makes clear, it is the reporting of 1,681 new crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 that wholly accounts for the rise in the numbers in the non-sexual violent crime category in 2019-20. However, where the new domestic abuse offence is recorded and committal of the offence consists of conduct, such as assault, that was already criminal prior to 1 April 2019, then this conduct is recorded both under the new domestic abuse offence and under the existing assault category. This double-counting approach is to maintain the integrity

of comparing data for the period after introduction of the new domestic abuse offence with the period prior to the introduction of the new offence.

So non-sexual crimes of violence collectively decreased by 5% last year – with attempted murder and serious assault now 25% lower than in 2010-11 and robbery down by almost a third (32%) over the decade.

“While the Scottish Government is working with police and other partners to tackle violence wherever it persists, the progress in making Scotland’s streets safer over the last decade is apparent across all main measures. The 2018-19 Scottish Crime & Justice Survey of more than 5,500 adults – including incidents not reported to police – indicates that violent crime has almost halved (down by 48%) over since 2008-09 – a positive trend also reflected in a 43% reduction in the number of emergency hospital admissions due to assault since 2010-11 and 39% fall in those due to attacks involving a knife or other sharp object.

“These are three independent sources pointing to the success of our comprehensive approach, including investment in education and prevention and support for police enforcement, notwithstanding the need to maintain this work to protect all parts of our communities.

“Despite constraints on Scotland’s public services through a decade of UK austerity, our investment in policing this year has increased 5.1% to more than £1.2 billion. Scotland has significantly more officers than at any time before 2007 – while over the same period numbers in England and Wales were cut by almost 13,000.”

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 13:58

To: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks,

We indeed pre-empted this in the ministerial news release, but we may wish to send something specific against the Tory take if we see it in PA for example.

The increase in violent crime over the long-term have been driven by rises in robbery, attempted murder & serious assault. In the last year alone, the increase is attributable in part to the inclusion of domestic abuse charge

...

“Violent crime has soared under the SNP’s soft-touch justice system, and these new figures show no sign of that changing.

“Victims have been let down repeatedly and our police officers are not receiving the backing and resources they need from the SNP government.

“Instead of focusing on tackling this shocking rise in crime, the SNP is concentrating on pushing through its widely-criticised and deeply-flawed Hate Crime Bill.

“The Scottish Conservatives have consistently called for the SNP to abandon their soft-touch approach to crime. Those calls have been ignored and now we’re seeing the consequences.”

[redacted]

A Scottish Government spokesperson /Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf said:

“The reality is that violent crime is significantly lower today than a decade ago – as made clear in these latest police recorded crime figures and backed up by other data sources such as the Scottish Crime & Justice Survey and NHS emergency admissions, both of which include incidents not reported to police.

“The recorded crime bulletin makes clear that the reporting of 1,681 new crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 wholly accounts for the rise in the non-sexual violent crime category in 2019-20. All other non-sexual crimes of violence collectively decreased by 5% last year – with attempted murder and serious assault now 25% lower than in 2010-11 and robbery down by almost a third (32%) over the decade.

“While the Scottish Government is working with police and other partners to tackle violence wherever it persists, the progress in making Scotland’s streets safer over the last decade is apparent across all main measures. The 2018-19 Scottish Crime & Justice Survey of more than 5,500 adults – including incidents not reported to police – indicates that violent crime has almost halved (down by 48%) over since 2008-09 – a positive trend also reflected in a 43% reduction in the number of emergency hospital admissions due to assault since 2010-11 and 39% fall in those due to attacks involving a knife or other sharp object.

“These are three independent sources pointing to the success of our comprehensive approach, including investment in education and prevention and support for police enforcement, notwithstanding the need to maintain this work to protect all parts of our communities.

“Despite constraints on Scotland’s public services through a decade of UK austerity, our investment in policing this year has increased 5.1% to more than £1.2 billion. Scotland has significantly more officers than at any time before 2007 – while over the same period numbers in England and Wales were cut by almost 13,000.”

[redacted] | COVID19 SG Comms & Justice Comms, Scottish Government [redacted]

- Updates from Scottish Government www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/ | [@ScotGov](https://twitter.com/ScotGov) | [@ScotGovJustice](https://twitter.com/ScotGovJustice)
Contact [SG newsdesk](mailto:SG.newsdesk@scot.nhs.uk) (0131 244 0222) with urgent media queries or requests; Out-of-office hours call 0131 556 8400

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 13:26

To: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

[redacted]

In terms of police resources, we can use:

The Scottish Government has increased funding for Police Scotland by £60 million, to more than £1.2 billion in 2020/21, continuing a trend of increased funding for policing in Scotland.

[redacted]

Finance, Assets and Sponsorship Team, Police Division | Safer Communities Directorate | Scottish Government | 1R St Andrews House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

[redacted]

From: [redacted] **Sent:** 29 September 2020 13:11

To: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

[redacted]

Equally we could flag up for all the other non-sexual crimes of violence collectively decreased by 5%, including decreases in Attempted murder & serious assault (down 6%) and Robbery (down 4%).

[redacted] Violence Reduction Policy & PIRC Sponsorship Team – Community Safety Unit, Justice, Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 12:48

To: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks [redacted]. I would agree – we can also back up the long term fall in crime and violent crime with the crime and justice survey results.

Thanks

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted]

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[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 29th September at 12:34
(included elsewhere in this document on p19)]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 16:36

To: [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks [redacted]

We'll pick up that change.

[redacted] COVID19 SG Comms & Justice Comms, Scottish Government | [redacted]- Updates from

Scottish Government www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/ | [@ScotGov](#) | [@ScotGovJustice](#)

Contact [SG newsdesk](#) (0131 244 0222) with urgent media queries or requests; Out-of-office hours call 0131 556 8400

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 16:34

To: [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks [redacted]

Re the officer number reference. I think there is an inaccuracy in the 13,000 figure.

For context, these are the most recent lines for E&W comparison:

Scotland has a higher number of police officers than at any time between 1999 and 2007, with the total number of officers at 17,273 on 30 June 2020. This is 1,039 higher than the number at 31 March 2007. The latest figures for England and Wales as at 31 March 2020 show a decrease of 16,228 (-11.4%) from the position at 31 March 2007.

So the quote should be 'around 16,000' and it should state more clearly that the comparison is since the position end of March 2007.

I hope this helps.

Thanks

[redacted]

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey team
Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay
The Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 16:14

To: [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks [redacted]. I've suggested using the wording in the publication for the background.

Copied to SCJS team re. survey and officer number references.

Cheers

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted] Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](https://twitter.com/SGJusticeAnalys) [@ScotStat](https://twitter.com/ScotStat)

[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 29th September at 16:06 (included elsewhere in this document on p26)]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 16:39

To: [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Hi [redacted]

Some additional SCJS lines in case it's helpful.

Violent crime has almost halved since 2008/09 (down by 48%), whilst the proportion of adults experiencing any violence has fallen from 4.1% in 2008/09 to 2.2% in 2018/19. This suggests that violent victimisation in Scotland has remained relatively

uncommon since 2008/09, and has become an even less prevalent experience over the last decade. The fall in the volume of violent crime over the last decade has been mostly driven by decreases between 2008/09 and 2010/11, with broad stability seen in more recent years. Consistent with previous years, the majority of violent incidents were cases of minor assault resulting in no or negligible injury (60%), with instances of serious assault (7%) and robbery (3%) remaining relatively uncommon.

Thanks,
[redacted]

[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 29th September at 16:14 (included elsewhere in this document on p32)]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 17:00
To: [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks [redacted], looks good from our perspective.

[redacted]
Violence Reduction Policy & PIRC Sponsorship Team – Community Safety Unit, Justice, Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[redacted]

From: [redacted]**Sent:** 29 September 2020 16:50
To: [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks. Only change we would suggest is removing the reference to 'double counting' in the background as it's not the phrasing we would use to describe how DASA is recorded.

Cheers

[redacted]
Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay
[redacted] Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](https://twitter.com/SGJusticeAnalys) [@ScotStat](https://twitter.com/ScotStat)

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 16:38

To: [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks [redacted], for my part that looks good.

Cheers
[redacted]

[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 29th September at 16:34 (included elsewhere in this document on p31)]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 17:36
To: [redacted]; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Great, thanks [redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 17:27
To: [redacted]; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

[redacted]
As agreed we have gone with more than as per the statement below – highlighted for ease.

[redacted]

Communications DFM, Education and Justice | Scottish Government

[redacted]
From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 17:25
To: [redacted]; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

[redacted]

Just to confirm, I've seen a couple of statements in latest emails, one saying 'almost 16,000' – as we discussed, just to make sure it should be 'more than 16,000'.

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 17:19

To: McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks John

Now issuing on your clearance.

[redacted]

Communications DFM, Education and Justice | Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>

Sent: 29 September 2020 17:18

To: [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot> [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Happy for the statement to issue.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 17:17

To: [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks [redacted] – we will remove that line

[redacted]

Communications DFM, Education and Justice | Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 17:15

To: [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Importance: High

Thanks [redacted]

Just in line with what [redacted] said – I'd be wary about the sentence that refers to figures being counted twice – I'm not sure we need it in the final paragraph.

[redacted] Were someone to be assaulted by their partner, and be subjected to a course of domestic abuse over a longer period (i.e. the new law) – then yes, the Crown will likely only proceed on the new law – but they are two different things (i.e. an assault and then a wider course of conduct). So suggest we avoid language on double counting or anything similar.

As I say I think the paragraph is fine without it.

Cheers

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 17:04

To: [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks [redacted], All

Amended statement below:

I think I have caught everybody's amendments. I will send to SpAds for clearance at **5.15pm** unless anybody raises any concerns.

[redacted] – are you content with the language in the highlighted section?

(In respect of the erroneous claim that “violent crime has soared”:) “The reality is that violent crime is significantly lower today than a decade ago – as made clear in these latest police recorded crime figures and backed up by other data sources such as the Scottish Crime & Justice Survey and NHS emergency admissions, both of which include incidents not reported to police.

“Between 2018-19 and 2019-20, this latest data shows that non-sexual violent crime has fallen 5% when comparing the data on a like for like basis. This is because the new domestic abuse offence was introduced on 1 April 2019 and, as the recorded crime bulletin makes clear, it is the reporting of 1,681 new crimes under the

Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 that wholly accounts for the rise in the numbers in the non-sexual violent crime category in 2019-20.

In terms of all other non-sexual crimes of violence – *which are the only directly comparable figures for previous years* – these collectively decreased by 5% in 2019-20, with attempted murder and serious assault now 25% lower than in 2010-11 and robbery down by almost a third (32%) over the decade.

“While the Scottish Government is working with police and other partners to tackle violence wherever it persists, the progress in making Scotland’s streets safer over the last decade is apparent across all main measures. The 2018-19 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey of more than 5,500 adults – including incidents not reported to police – indicates that violent crime has almost halved (down by 48%) since 2008-09 – a positive trend also reflected in a 43% reduction in the number of emergency hospital admissions due to assault since 2010-11 and 39% fall in admissions due to attacks involving a knife or other sharp object.

The SCJS also shows the proportion of adults experiencing any violence has fallen from 4.1% in 2008/09 to 2.2% in 2018/19. This suggests that violent victimisation in Scotland has remained relatively uncommon since 2008/09, and has become an even less prevalent experience over the last decade. The fall in the volume of violent crime over the last decade has been mostly driven by decreases between 2008/09 and 2010/11, with broad stability seen in more recent years.

“These are three independent sources pointing to the success of our comprehensive approach, including investment in education and prevention and support for police enforcement, notwithstanding the need to maintain this work to protect all parts of our communities.

“Despite constraints on Scotland’s public services through a decade of UK austerity, our investment in policing this year has increased 5.1% to more than £1.2 billion. Scotland has significantly more officers than at any time before 2007 – while since then numbers in England and Wales were cut by more than 16,000.”

Background:

The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 came into force on 1 April 2019. The Act created a new offence of abusive behaviour as a course of conduct towards a partner or ex-partner. Prior to the 1 April 2019, any criminal act which formed part of a domestic abuse incident (such as a Serious assault, Common assault, Threatening or abusive behaviour, etc.) was included within the statistics under the relevant crime or offence. Where there is evidence of a course of conduct, new crime codes of Domestic abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 (against a male or female victim) have been created. In general, existing common law and statutory offences will continue to be recorded where appropriate, in addition to the new crimes – i.e. there is an element figures being counted twice. There are some limited exceptions (in particular Threatening and abusive behaviour and Stalking), which will no longer

be recorded when occurring as part of a course of conduct for Domestic Abuse. However, these exceptions all relate to activity in Group 6 Miscellaneous Offences and therefore this change does not create a discontinuity within the total recorded crime figure for Scotland (which is based on Group 1 to 5).

[redacted]

Communications DFM, Education and Justice | Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 16:56

To: [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: FW: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Hi [redacted],

Following our call, you could consider including the SCJS line highlighted below.

Hope this helps.

[redacted]

[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 29th September at 16:39 (included elsewhere in this document on p32)]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 September 2020 10:42

To: L[redacted]

Cc: [redacted]>

Subject: FW: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS – RESTRICTED until Tuesday 29 September 2020

Hi [redacted] – grateful if you could take a look at my additions for the JAS handling submission:

<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A30124078/details>

Anny comments / amendments welcomed. Grateful please by 2pm at latest as the submission is due to go up by cop today.

But let me know if you are struggling for time.

For awareness – the above link is saved as version 2. I've saved the contribution I provided to [redacted] yesterday, as version 1. This might come in handy next week if there is a scramble for lines to press enquiries: <https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A30127912/details>

And of course all of the above is available in a great more detail from the original submission to Justice Secretary available here: <https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A29682400/details>

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 22 September 2020 10:58

To: Rennick NS (Neil) ; Griffin J (Joe) ; Wilkinson W (Wendy) ; Hicks C (Clare) ; Cowan WJ (Willie) ; MacKinnon D (Donna) ; Head of Justice Analytical Services ; McFarlane J (John) ; Chief Statistician ; [redacted];

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS – RESTRICTED until Tuesday 29 September 2020

Dear Colleagues,

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS – RESTRICTED until Tuesday 29 September 2020

Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20

Please note that you are receiving this under the statistics pre-release access protocols and this should not be circulated beyond those included in this email until publication at 9.30am on Tuesday the 29th September 2019. Please let me know immediately of any accidental circulation beyond those copied.

I have attached a copy of next week's National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 and a draft Ministerial submission on the release. The submission can be discussed at the handling meeting this afternoon and we plan to submit a final copy to Cab Sec by tomorrow's box closure.

The handling meeting is via Skype at 2pm today.

There will also be a Statistics News Release – which we'll draft this week. This will mostly reflect the headline results.

Hope this helps and just let me know if you have any queries.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 24 September 2020 09:55

To: Minister for Children and Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: FW: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

PS / Minister for Children and Young People.

Please note the attached submission and pre-release copy of the embargoed statistics due to for publication next week on 29 September 2020. Justice Analytical Support colleagues

have kindly agreed that we could share this with Ms Todd outwith the restricted copy list below and request **that this not be shared any wider?**

The Minister is invited to note in particular, page 14 in the submission and pages 86-87 in the publication paper.

Child Protection Unit officials, in partnership with SG comms colleagues, are preparing for potential media interest in the above mentioned sections specifically and will have media lines prepared for Ministerial clearance in advance, should this be required.

Kind regards,
[redacted]

[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 23rd September at 16:51 (included elsewhere in this document on p15)]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 September 2020 10:17
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Hi [redacted] – we discussed this morning.

Links below which will have all the info you need if there is a scramble for dia lines when crime stats are published. Hopefully not.
Comms obviously not anticipating any child protection issues as part of the fall out.

- <https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A30124078/details> Contribution we sent to JAS for inclusion in handling submission (they didn't use it all, so Ministers and comms would not have seen the full response)

[redacted]

From [redacted]

[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 23rd September at 16:51 (included elsewhere in this document on p15)]

-----Original Appointment-----

From: [redacted]
Sent: 23 September 2020 14:14
To: [redacted]
Subject: Reminder: Share Crime stats link with [redacted]
When: 29 September 2020 10:00-10:05 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.
Where:

Hi [redacted]– [redacted] asked if we could please let our Police Scotland Secondee know when the recorded crime stats have been published. They had a discussion about it on 23 Sept.

As I'm on leave, grateful if you could please email the link to the SG pages when its published, to [redacted]

In the email to him, can we also say that we are keen to share intel with PS on the trends and issues highlighted by the stats, so we'd very much appreciate if they could share with us anything in advance, whether that be comm lines or a likely position they would take if asked by media.

We would be very happy to do the same. If asked.

Thanks so much in advance,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 09:51

To: [redacted]

Subject: Recorded Crime Statistics

Morning all

The latest recorded crime stats have been published here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2019-2020/>

As per [redacted] earlier mail:

- Intro of Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act – first time crime stats to include crime under this legislation
- Although Total sexual crimes is down by 1% and crime stats relating to sexual assault (including against children) are overall down by 3%, increases are noted in 'other' sexual crime (which includes 'cyber enabled sexual crimes'), listed below
 - Other crime involving sexually coercive conduct against a child aged 13-15 (3% increase)
 - Other sexually coercive conduct against a child under 13 (16% increase)
 - Other sexual crimes involving 13-15 year old children (2% increase)
 - Taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children (5% increase)
 - Threaten to disclose / disclose intimate image (10% increase)

Lines relating to these have been added to our [redacted].

News release has been cleared by the Cab Sec and time has been set aside for media bids. Comms are focussing on the domestic abuse stats but there's always potential for our usual stakeholders to highlight the above stats relating to children and young people – many thanks to [redacted], who has me prepared...

[redacted]

Child Protection Unit | Care, Protection and Justice Division | Directorate for Children and Families | Scottish Government | [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 11:17

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-2020 [OFFICIAL]

Hi [redacted]

Please see attached, which details the headline stats and statistical context – hope this is useful for you. I've also attached a table from the published statistical bulletin showing long term trends.

And this is the press release:

Recorded Crime down 24% over the decade
First annual figures for crimes under new domestic abuse laws

Almost 1,700 crimes were reported under Scotland's new Domestic Abuse laws in their first year in force, official figures show.

The crimes reported under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 – which enables police and prosecutors to better pursue abuse involving coercive and controlling behaviour - account for a rise in overall non-sexual violent crime in 2019-20. The other categories of non-sexual violent crime collectively fell by 5%.

The new crimes are included within the National Statistics on Recorded Crime for 2019-20 which showed there was almost no change in overall recorded crime compared to the previous year. Recorded crime was almost a quarter (24%) lower last year compared to a decade before – and was at one of the lowest levels since 1974.

Mr Yousaf said: "I am pleased that victims of domestic abuse have confidence in the collective actions of Scotland's police and wider justice and third sector partners, to come forward and report these cases. Reports under these new laws, which reflect the reality of many domestic abuse victims, account for the rise in overall non-sexual violence recorded by police last year. We must learn from our success in reducing violence on our streets to help keep people safer in their homes, in particular those who are subjected to, or at risk of, domestic abuse.

"That requires not just a government response, but a commitment across families, friends, and colleagues to help tackle the attitudes and behaviours that allow any form of domestic abuse to persist.

"The Parliament will soon be considering our further legislative plans to give police and courts powers to remove domestic abusers from victims' homes.

"That legislation, if passed by Parliament will lift the burden of action from those already suffering or at risk from abuse by giving greater powers to police to intervene

where necessary, in turn giving victims vital breathing space to decide the best future option for them."

Background:

The full statistical publication (<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781800041097>) is available on the Scottish Government website.

Regards

[redacted]

Child Protection Unit | Care, Protection and Justice Division | Directorate for Children and Families | Scottish Government | [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 10:43

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-2020 [OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

[redacted]

I have put this up through line management so hopefully will be able to get back to you shortly. If you could share any intel or issues highlighted and the comms lines that would be great

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 10:00

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-2020

Morning [redacted]

I hope this finds you well.

Please note that the latest recorded crime stats have been published here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2019-2020/>

We can share intel with you on the trends and issues highlighted by the stats, if that would be helpful, as well as the Comms lines that have been prepared. I wonder if you could share anything similar, such as the likely position Police Scotland will take if asked by media?

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted] Child Protection Unit | Care, Protection and Justice Division | Directorate for Children and Families | Scottish Government | [redacted]

From: [redacted]**Sent:** 29 September 2020 14:06
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-2020 [OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

[redacted]
I have forwarded that on to [redacted] as there is not much focus on CP he is has forwarded it [redacted] and [redacted] to review.

I'll get back to you with any responses

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 11:17
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-2020 [OFFICIAL]

Hi [redacted]

Please see attached, which details the headline stats and statistical context – hope this is useful for you. I've also attached a table from the published statistical bulletin showing long term trends.

And this is the press release:

Recorded Crime down 24% over the decade
First annual figures for crimes under new domestic abuse laws

Almost 1,700 crimes were reported under Scotland's new Domestic Abuse laws in their first year in force, official figures show.

The crimes reported under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 – which enables police and prosecutors to better pursue abuse involving coercive and controlling behaviour - account for a rise in overall non-sexual violent crime in 2019-20. The other categories of non-sexual violent crime collectively fell by 5%.

The new crimes are included within the National Statistics on Recorded Crime for 2019-20 which showed there was almost no change in overall recorded crime compared to the previous year. Recorded crime was almost a quarter (24%) lower last year compared to a decade before – and was at one of the lowest levels since 1974.

Mr Yousaf said: "I am pleased that victims of domestic abuse have confidence in the collective actions of Scotland's police and wider justice and third sector partners, to come forward and report these cases. Reports under these new laws, which reflect the reality of many domestic abuse victims, account for the rise in overall non-sexual violence recorded by police last year. We must learn from our success in reducing violence on our streets to help keep people safer in their homes, in particular those who are subjected to, or at risk of, domestic abuse.

"That requires not just a government response, but a commitment across families, friends, and colleagues to help tackle the attitudes and behaviours that allow any form of domestic abuse to persist.

"The Parliament will soon be considering our further legislative plans to give police and courts powers to remove domestic abusers from victims' homes.

"That legislation, if passed by Parliament will lift the burden of action from those already suffering or at risk from abuse by giving greater powers to police to intervene where necessary, in turn giving victims vital breathing space to decide the best future option for them."

Background:

The full statistical publication (<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781800041097>) is available on the Scottish Government website.

Regards

[redacted]

Child Protection Unit | Care, Protection and Justice Division | Directorate for Children and Families | Scottish Government | [redacted]

[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 29th September at 10:43 (included elsewhere in this document on p43)]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 30 September 2020 12:48

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Violent Crime [redacted] - Updates Requested - Deadline 11:00

I have made the change

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 30 September 2020 12:43

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Violent Crime [redacted] - Updates Requested - Deadline 11:00

[redacted]

I know it'll be too late for today but for future versions could we use this (the amounts awarded under the SE schemes have been updated)?

[redacted]
Defence, Security and Cyber Resilience Division | Safer Communities Directorate
1W.R SAH
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 30 September 2020 10:52
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Violent Crime [redacted] - Updates Requested - Deadline 11:00
Importance: High

Please see attached note updated in relation to fraud.

[redacted]
Defence, Security and Cyber Resilience Division | Safer Communities Directorate
1W.R SAH
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 30 September 2020 09:00
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted] **Subject:** RE: Violent Crime [redacted] - Updates Requested - Deadline 11:00

Thanks [redacted].

Fraud colleagues – could we get answers to the tracked comments on the attached by 11:00 please?

Thanks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 17:42
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Violent Crime [redacted] - Updates Requested - Deadline 17:30

Hi [redacted]

Please find attached an updated brief – I've added a few notes. I think the lines already covered the conservative press release so added this to issues box.

Policy colleagues – thanks for following up with PS on the cyber centre of excellence. Grateful if you could pass on any further info on the other fraud questions directly to the [redacted] team.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted]

Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](#) [@ScotStat](#)

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 14:01

To: [redacted]; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Violent Crime [redacted] - Updates Requested - Deadline 17:30

No problem.

Thanks

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted] Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](#) [@ScotStat](#)

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 13:59

To: McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Violent Crime [redacted] - Updates Requested - Deadline 17:30

Thanks John.

[redacted] – can the update address these points please?

[redacted]

From: McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>

Sent: 29 September 2020 13:59

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Violent Crime [redacted]- Updates Requested - Deadline 17:30

Tory release on violent crime –

Violent crime hits eight-year high

Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party press office

Tuesday, 29 September, 2020

FAO: all newsdesks

Embargo: for immediate release

[text repeated elsewhere in document]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 13:51

To: [redacted]

Cc: McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Violent Crime [redacted] - Updates Requested - Deadline 17:30

Thanks [redacted]. We will update and get this back to you.

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted] Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](https://twitter.com/SGJusticeAnalys) [@ScotStat](https://twitter.com/ScotStat)

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 13:46

To: [redacted]

Cc: McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [redacted] **Subject:** Violent Crime [redacted] - Updates Requested - Deadline 17:30

[redacted],

Thanks for your work on the crime stats [redacted] this week. I have made a few changes as attached (information relevant to request available at the end of this document) which I would be grateful if you could consider. I have also tracked some further questions and follow-ups.

I would be grateful if you could review as attached and return an updated brief for 17:30 today.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 18:01

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Hi [redacted]

Happy to pick this up in future - it's quite a techy thing but it's important we can explain it in a clear way. We will also need to be mindful when the next official statistics on domestic abuse are published in early 2021.

Looking further down the line, there are likely to be changes to the crime grouping structure (as a result of the consultation we ran last year) which may make it a bit easier to explain. [redacted]

We were hoping to be further forward with that at this stage but the work was paused due to covid. All going well, we should be picking back up next year so this (or the next) bulletin are likely to be the last using the current grouping structure.

I've copied to [redacted] for awareness as DASA will impact the next criminal proceedings stats, although in a different way.

Thanks

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted]

Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](#) [@ScotStat](#)

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 17:01

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks [redacted]. Perhaps counted more than once?!??

In all seriousness and in slower time, we will need to consider how best to better explain the approach taken as otherwise we are going to be faced with this every time stats come out for the period post-1 April 2019 and trend data is affected.

Cheers

[redacted]

[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 29th September at 16:50 (included elsewhere in this document on p33)]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 13:09

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: News release - Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2019-20

[redacted]

Content from my perspective.

Regards

[redacted]

Criminal Justice Reform

Scottish Government Justice Directorate

St Andrews House

Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/victims-and-witnesses/pre-recording-of-evidence-criminal-trials/>

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 12:52

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) ; [redacted]

Subject: RE: News release - Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2019-20

Many thanks [redacted],

As this is for possible broadcast bids, I've had to truncate the sentences closer to 'soundbite' length and the kind of language that he will use.

That necessitates some loss of detail, but I've put that below the main points so Cab Sec has it, as my be needed.

Pls shout if any of below is problematic before I send up,

Thx,

[redacted]

Corroboration

- **As there was no parliamentary or legal consensus when Ministers previously proposed removing the corroboration requirement in criminal proceedings, the Scottish Government asked Lord Bonyon to conduct a review into what additional safeguards may be required if corroboration was removed.**
- **That review recommended research into jury reasoning and decision-making, to ensure any changes are made on a fully informed basis.**
- **In October last year, we published the largest and most realistic independent jury research of its kind ever undertaken in the UK.**

- We have engaged a wide range of individuals and organisations – including the legal profession and victims representatives – to seek their views on the findings of that jury research study.
- While that research did not specifically look at corroboration, it found the size of the jury, the number of verdicts available and the type of majority required may all have an effect on the outcome of finely balanced trials.
- Work resulting from the engagement events had to be paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic but we have now resumed this and hope to publish the emerging conclusions in due course.
- There is wider work ongoing that we also have to take account of before determining next steps, including the Lord Justice Clerk’s group examining the management of sexual offence cases.

Background/detail if needed:

- *Scottish Jury Research: Findings From a Large-Scale Mock Jury Study involved 64 mock juries and 969 individual participants. It is the first to consider the unique nature of the Scottish jury system with 15 jurors, three verdicts and a simple majority.*
- *The report sets out the researchers’ findings but does not make any recommendations.*
- *Although the research did not specifically look at corroboration, it found the size of the jury, the number of verdicts available and the type of majority required may all have an effect on the outcome of finely balanced trials.*
- *As well as being asked to consider the research findings from the project, stakeholders from justice organisations, the legal profession and third sector, along with individuals with personal experience of the criminal justice system, were invited to share views on potential reforms, including the reform or abolition of the corroboration rule.*
- *While the SG recognises the importance of progressing matters in relation to this issue, there is wider work which is currently ongoing that we require take into consideration before determining next steps, including that of the Lord Justice Clerk’s group which is looking into the management of sexual offence cases, the current Open University research into legal professionals’ views on reforms to the criminal justice system and the Recover, Renew, Transform project for the Criminal Justice system.*

[redacted]

COVID19 SG Comms & Justice Comms, Scottish Government [redacted]

- Updates from Scottish Government www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/ | [@ScotGov](https://twitter.com/ScotGov) |

[@ScotGovJustice](https://twitter.com/ScotGovJustice)

Contact [SG newsdesk](mailto:SG.newsdesk@scot.nhs.uk) (0131 244 0222) with urgent media queries or requests; Out-of-office hours call 0131 556 8400

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 11:50

To: [redacted]; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: News release - Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2019-20

Morning [redacted]

Suggested lines below.

- The Scottish Government carried out an extensive programme of stakeholder engagement to seek views on the findings from a large scale jury research project which were published in October 2019.
- As well as being asked to consider the findings from the project, stakeholders from justice organisations, the legal profession and third sector, along with individuals with personal experience of the criminal justice system, were invited to share views on potential reforms, including the reform or abolition of the corroboration rule.
- Work on the findings from the engagement events was paused to the Covid-19 pandemic but we have now resumed this and intend to publish the emerging conclusions in due course.
- While we recognise the importance of progressing matters in relation to this issue, there is wider work which is currently ongoing that we require take into consideration before determining next steps, including that of the Lord Justice Clerk's group which is looking into the management of sexual offence cases, the current Open University research into legal professionals' views on reforms to the criminal justice system and the Recover, Renew, Transform project for the Criminal Justice system.

Regards

[redacted]

Criminal Justice Reform
Scottish Government Justice Directorate
St Andrews House
Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

[redacted]

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/victims-and-witnesses/pre-recording-of-evidence-criminal-trials/>

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 10:01

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: News release - Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2019-20

Thanks.

[redacted]— given the sexual crime clear-up rates, it's possible that RCS and others may re-raise the issue of corroboration, saying we need to get rid of it. Is it possible pls to get some brief lines on where we are with that, incl COVID impact and any next steps?

Thx

[redacted]

COVID19 SG Comms & Justice Comms, Scottish Government [redacted] - Updates from Scottish

Government www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/ | [@ScotGov](https://twitter.com/ScotGov) | [@ScotGovJustice](https://twitter.com/ScotGovJustice)

Contact [SG newsdesk](https://www.gov.scot/newsdesk) (0131 244 0222) with urgent media queries or requests; Out-of-office hours call 0131 556 8400

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 09:58

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: News release - Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2019-20

Hi [redacted]

The Q&A includes information weapons and clear up rates but doesn't cover corroboration - would need policy input on that.

We can add a column for the 2006-07 and get that back to you.

Cheers

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted]

Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](https://twitter.com/SGJusticeAnalys) [@ScotStat](https://twitter.com/ScotStat)

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 09:50

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: News release - Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2019-20

Many thanks [redacted].

Apologies, snowed under various emails – does the Q&A have anything more on offensive weapons specifically, and also on corroboration (vis-à-vis clear-up rates for sexual crimes)?

I think the 10-year trends would stay consistent with our comms – and the table I'm about to send up. But equally I understand why he might want 2007. Is it possible to put an additional column, rather than swapping?

Thx

[redacted]

COVID19 SG Comms & Justice Comms, Scottish Government [redacted]

- Updates from Scottish Government www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/ | [@ScotGov](https://twitter.com/ScotGov) |

[@ScotGovJustice](https://twitter.com/ScotGovJustice)

Contact [SG newsdesk](https://www.gov.scot/newsdesk) (0131 244 0222) with urgent media queries or requests; Out-of-office hours call 0131 556 8400

From: [redacted]**Sent:** 29 September 2020 09:45
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: News release - Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2019-20

[redacted]

I think the cab sec asked for some more top lines for media bids? The Q&A is quite extensive but we also have the attached [redacted] which could be passed on for media bids. This focuses on the change since 2006-07, but could be updated for the 10 year change.

Thanks

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted] Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](#) [@ScotStat](#)

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 09:30

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: News release - Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2019-20

Thanks [redacted]

Overall clear up rates are at a high level, third highest figure (since comparable records began in 1976) and higher than any year before 2013-14. The picture for Non-sexual violence also looks better over the longer term, higher than any year prior to 2011-12 (back to 1976).

[redacted]

Cheers

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted]

Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](#) [@ScotStat](#)

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 09:23

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: News release - Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2019-20

10 year trends for clear up rates – for sexual crimes in 2010-11 the clear up rate was 66.4%, compared to 56.3% this year.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 09:17
To [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: News release - Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2019-20

Many thanks, that's ideal. He mentioned 2009, but I think he just meant the most recent 10-year period which you've provided.

Can I ask if there is something similar on clear-up rates? I think historically they are not that bad, but not sure whether that compares to 10 years ago or 20 years. If helpful what are clear-up rates for sexual crimes 10 years ago?

Thx

[redacted]

COVID19 SG Comms & Justice Comms, Scottish Government [redacted]

- Updates from Scottish Government www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/ | [@ScotGov](https://twitter.com/ScotGov) | [@ScotGovJustice](https://twitter.com/ScotGovJustice)
Contact [SG newsdesk](http://www.gov.scot/newsdesk) (0131 244 0222) with urgent media queries or requests; Out-of-office hours call 0131 556 8400

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 09:14
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: News release - Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2019-20

Hi [redacted]

I have attached a table from the bulletin showing 10 year trends from 2010-11 to 2019-20 – did the Cab Sec want the trends from 2009-10 to 2018-19?

Kind Regards

[redacted]

Justice Analytical Services
Scottish Government
2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 09:03
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: News release - Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2019-20

Hi [redacted],

I ***think*** you are on the current call w Cab Sec.

Can I pls check if someone in JAS is okay to respond to Cab Sec's ask for a table with 10-year 2009-2019 trends on some of the headline crimes/crime categories?

Thx,

[redacted]

COVID19 SG Comms & Justice Comms, Scottish Government | [redacted]- Updates from Scottish

Government www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/ | [@ScotGov](https://twitter.com/ScotGov) | [@ScotGovJustice](https://twitter.com/ScotGovJustice)

Contact [SG newsdesk](https://www.gov.scot/newsdesk) (0131 244 0222) with urgent media queries or requests; Out-of-office hours call 0131 556 8400

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 08:19

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: News release - Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2019-20

That's great, thanks

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]**Sent:** 29 September 2020 08:18

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: News release - Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2019-20

[redacted],

Apologies if [redacted] has already come back, but no, we'll get this issued to newsdesks and published on the website as soon as the main bulletin is published.

[redacted] COVID19 SG Comms & Justice Comms, Scottish Government | [redacted]

- Updates from Scottish Government www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/ | [@ScotGov](https://twitter.com/ScotGov) | [@ScotGovJustice](https://twitter.com/ScotGovJustice)

Contact [SG newsdesk](https://www.gov.scot/newsdesk) (0131 244 0222) with urgent media queries or requests; Out-of-office hours call 0131 556 8400

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 18:06

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: News release - Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2019-20

Thanks [redacted]. I've attached a clean version reflecting the changes. Do we need to forward this to the news desk for publishing?

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted]

Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](#) [@ScotStat](#)

From: [redacted]
Sent: 28 September 2020 17:44
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: News release - Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2019-20

Hi [redacted]

Apologies – your email was buried in my inbox!

Please find attached news release with the formatting done.

Hope this helps.

Best wishes

[redacted]

Communications DFM, Education and Justice | Scottish Government
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 28 September 2020 09:23
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: News release - Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2019-20

Good morning all,

Please find attached the stats news release for our upcoming publication, Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20.

Please let me know if this meets your style/formatting requirements.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]
Justice Analytical Services
Scottish Government
2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 10:18
To: [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Pre-cabinet call - Recorded Crime Stats

Hi [redacted]

[redacted] is pulling together but I think we're well covered for those topics in the Q&A. [redacted] has asked for policy input on corroboration to add in (linked to sexual crime clear up rates).

Thanks

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted]

Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](#) [@ScotStat](#)

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 10:01

To: Head of Justice Analytical Services ; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Pre-cabinet call - Recorded Crime Stats

Thanks as well [redacted], that's great feedback.

Catching up on emails – can I just confirm – is Cab Sec expecting extra lines to be provided on weapons, clear up rates and fraud (and if so are policy leading?) – or did you get the sense he is happy with what he already has?

Cheers

[redacted]

From: Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>

Sent: 29 September 2020 09:50

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Pre-cabinet call - Recorded Crime Stats

Thanks [redacted]

Amy Wilson

Deputy Director

Head of Justice Analytical Services

Email: HeadofJAS@gov.scot Twitter: @SGJusticeAnalys

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 09:37

To: [redacted]; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>

Subject: Pre-cabinet call - Recorded Crime Stats

Hi everyone

[redacted]

Asked for some information on the 10 year change ([redacted] has passed on to [redacted]) and top lines for media bids.

Thanks

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted]

Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](#) [@ScotStat](#)

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 16:28

To: [redacted]; Rennick NS (Neil) ; Griffin J (Joe) ; Wilkinson W (Wendy) ; Hicks C (Clare) ; Cowan WJ (Willie) ; Head of Justice Analytical Services ; McFarlane J (John) [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks [redacted], that reflect my comments so looks good to me!

[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 28th September at 16:07 (included elsewhere in this document on p20)]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 14:07

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks [redacted]

That's correct (just updated the date to 1 April 2019), and the example below holds for both serious or common assault but only serious assault appears in group 1 - non-sexual crimes of violence.

There are some offences which are now not be recorded if part of a DASA course of conduct crime (and so time series have been impacted) but these fall into the Miscellaneous offences category (in particular threatening or abusive behaviour, stalking, breach of the peace and some Communications Act offences).

Re. the sub-heading, I think I would prefer **First annual figures for crimes under new domestic abuse laws**

Thanks

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted]

Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](#) [@ScotStat](#)

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 13:53

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; Cowan WJ (Willie) ; [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks [redacted]. Can I check my understanding offline before going back more widely? Is the position as outlined below?

- Non-sexual violent crime has fallen 5% between 2018-19 and 2019-20 once account is taken for the introduction of the new domestic abuse offence and the effect this new offence has on comparing data pre 1 April 2019 and post 1 April 2019
- Where behaviour is contained within a recorded crime for the new offence that also constituted criminal behaviour under existing violent crime (e.g. where the new offence of domestic abuse constituted two items of assault), then this is recorded under both the new domestic abuse offence as a crime and under two assaults under existing assault crime.
- This approach means trend data is maintained for the period prior to commencement of the new domestic abuse offence (and non-sexual violent crime fell 5% under this measure)

Cheers

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 13:48

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thx. Both useful sets of amends.

Think we can lose the green-highlighted text as the rest of the sentence is framed?

Re: the subhead, would it be accurate to replace the second reference to "new" with "more" or "further"?

If not, perhaps something simple like:

First annual figures for crimes under new domestic abuse laws

Thx

[redacted]

COVID19 SG Comms & Justice Comms, Scottish Government | [redacted]

- Updates from Scottish Government www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/ | @ScotGov |
[@ScotGovJustice](https://twitter.com/ScotGovJustice)
Contact [SG newsdesk](https://www.gov.scot/newsdesk) (0131 244 0222) with urgent media queries or requests; Out-of-office hours call 0131 556 8400

[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 28th September at 13:42 (included elsewhere in this document on p13)]

From: [redacted] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Justice
Sent: 28 September 2020 13:28
To: [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Minister for Community Safety <MinisterCS@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; DG Education, Communities & Justice <DGECJ@gov.scot>; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; MacKinnon D (Donna) <Donna.MacKinnon@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; Chief Statistician <ChiefStatistician@gov.scot>; PSLordAdvocate@copfs.gsi.gov.uk; PSSolicitorGeneral@copfs.gsi.gov.uk; Imery G (Gill) <Gill.Imery@gov.scot>; permanent.secretary@gov.scot; [redacted]; Anthony.McGeehan@copfs.gov.uk; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

[redacted]
Mr Yousaf has noted.

Many thanks,

[redacted]
CabSecJustice@gov.scot

[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 23rd September at 16:51 (included elsewhere in this document on p15)]

From: [redacted] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Justice
Sent: 25 September 2020 15:53
To: [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Minister for Community Safety <MinisterCS@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; DG Education, Communities & Justice <DGECJ@gov.scot>; Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; MacKinnon D (Donna) <Donna.MacKinnon@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; Chief Statistician <ChiefStatistician@gov.scot>; PSLordAdvocate@copfs.gsi.gov.uk; PSSolicitorGeneral@copfs.gsi.gov.uk; Imery G (Gill) <Gill.Imery@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Anthony.McGeehan@copfs.gov.uk; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Thanks [redacted], Mr Yousaf has cleared and I have sent to Cabinet Secretariat.

[redacted]

CabSecJustice@gov.scot

From: [redacted]

Sent: 25 September 2020 13:04

To: [redacted] ; Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Cc: First Minister ; Minister for Community Safety ; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills ; DG Education, Communities & Justice ; Rennick NS (Neil) ; Griffin J (Joe) ; Wilkinson W (Wendy) ; Hicks C (Clare) ; Cowan WJ (Willie) ; MacKinnon D (Donna) ; Head of Justice Analytical Services ; McFarlane J (John) ; Chief Statistician ; PSLordAdvocate@copfs.gsi.gov.uk ; PSSolicitorGeneral@copfs.gsi.gov.uk ; Imery G (Gill) ; [redacted] ; Anthony.McGeehan@copfs.gov.uk ;

[redacted] ; Permanent Secretary

Subject: RE: Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - pre-release - RESTRICTED

Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Please find attached a draft [redacted] for your approval.

Thanks

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted]

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[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 23rd September at 16:51 (included elsewhere in this document on p15)]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 22 September 2020 10:58

To: Rennick NS (Neil) <Neil.Rennick@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Wilkinson W (Wendy) <Wendy.Wilkinson@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Cowan WJ (Willie) <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>; MacKinnon D (Donna) <Donna.MacKinnon@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <headofjas@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; Chief Statistician <ChiefStatistician@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS – RESTRICTED until Tuesday 29 September 2020

Dear Colleagues,

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS – RESTRICTED until Tuesday 29 September 2020

Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20

Please note that you are receiving this under the statistics pre-release access protocols and this should not be circulated beyond those included in this email until publication at 9.30am on Tuesday the 29th September 2019. Please let me know immediately of any accidental circulation beyond those copied.

I have attached a copy of next week's National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 and a draft Ministerial submission on the release. The submission can be discussed at the handling meeting this afternoon and we plan to submit a final copy to Cab Sec by tomorrow's box closure.

The handling meeting is via Skype at 2pm today.

There will also be a Statistics News Release – which we'll draft this week. This will mostly reflect the headline results.

Hope this helps and just let me know if you have any queries.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

Justice Analytical Services
Scottish Government
2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh
[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 September 2020 14:27

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: URGENT: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS – RESTRICTED until Tuesday 29 September 2020

This looks good, I'll add to the submission.

Thanks for the quick response!

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 September 2020 14:17

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: URGENT: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS– RESTRICTED until Tuesday 29 September 2020

[redacted]

How does this sound for a contribution.

The Scottish Government is committed to achieving safer road travel in Scotland and has published a public consultation on a new world leading framework with an ultimate vision where there are no fatalities on Scotland roads by 2050. The journey to achieving this vision will also include ambitious interim targets where the number of people being killed or seriously injured on our roads will be halved by 2030. The new framework provides us with an opportunity to enhance our road safety record with a vision for Scotland to have the best road safety performance in the world by 2030.

Regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 September 2020 13:28

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: URGENT: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 - OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS– RESTRICTED until Tuesday 29 September 2020

Importance: High

Hi [redacted]

We're currently drafting a submission to accompany the latest recorded crime statistics. We have seen an increase in driving related homicide and dangerous driving offences so we were looking to include a question in the Q&A (in the submission annex). I was wondering if you would be able to provide some high level lines on what we're doing re. road safety which we could use as part of the answer.

Sorry for the tight turnaround but we're looking to submit today so would be very grateful for a response by 4pm, if possible.

Thanks

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted]

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[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 22nd September at 10:58 (included elsewhere in this document on p8)]

From: [redacted]>

Sent: 30 September 2020 10:00

To: [redacted]
Cc: Justice Analysts <Justice_Analysts@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Recorded Crime 2019-20: Drug Possession

Hi [redacted],

Excel document attached in request – ‘Copy of drug possession by LA’

Please find attached a breakdown of drugs possession crimes by local authority over the past 10 years. Note that these are possession crimes only and do not include other crimes under the ‘Drugs’ sub-group (possession with intent to supply etc).

Let me know if you would like to discuss anything.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]
Justice Analytical Services
Scottish Government
2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 16:46
To: Justice Analysts <Justice_Analysts@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Recorded Crime 2019-20: Drug Possession

Hello,

I work in the Drug Law and Health Harms Team in the Directorate of Population Health.

We were hoping that you could provide a breakdown on Drug Possession Crimes by local authority area [redacted]

We did get this last year from the Drug seizures and Offender Characteristics Publication. Let me know if you are able to provide an update from the latest Recorded Crime Statistics.

Many thanks

[redacted] | Scottish Government | Riaghaltas na h-Alba
Drug Policy | St Andrews House | Edinburgh |

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 12:24
To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Tweets

Hi [redacted],

Looks good to me!

[redacted]

Justice Analytical Services
Scottish Government
2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 12:18

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Tweets

Hi [redacted]

Are you ok for me to put this as two separate tweets?

1. The latest annual National Statistics on crimes recorded by the police in Scotland have been released today. Read the full publication here - [shorturl.at/kS256](https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2019-2020/)

2. . Recorded crime remained stable in 2019-20. Read the full publication here - [shorturl.at/kS256](https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2019-2020/) + infographic

Cheers

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 12:08

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Tweets

Great! Can we have the following text please:

The latest annual National Statistics on crimes recorded by the police in Scotland have been released today. Recorded crime remained stable in 2019-20. Read the full publication here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2019-2020/>

I have attached an infographic – is that an okay format? The original is in powerpoint.

[redacted]

Justice Analytical Services
Scottish Government
2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 11:36

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Tweets

Hi [redacted],

Just your text and/or graphic if you have one 😊 oh, and a link to the publication.

Cheers

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 11:34

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Tweets

No that's fine – just chat with [redacted]

😊

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 11:33

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Tweets

I got a meeting now but I can do this after 12:30 if that's not too late

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 11:04

To: [redacted]

Subject: FW: Tweets

[redacted]

Are you Ok to tweet or do you want me to do it?

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 11:00
To: Justice Analysts <Justice_Analysts@gov.scot>
Subject: Tweets

Hi [redacted],

Would you be able to send out a tweet for us for the Recorded Crime bulletin? What do you need?

[redacted]
Justice Analytical Services
Scottish Government
2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 11:14
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Tweets

Thanks [redacted]. Couple of minor changes below

The latest annual National Statistics on crimes recorded by the police in Scotland have been released today. Recorded crime remained stable in 2019-20. Read the full publication here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2019-2020/>

[redacted]
Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay
[redacted]
Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](https://twitter.com/SGJusticeAnalys) [@ScotStat](https://twitter.com/ScotStat)

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 11:04
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Tweets

Maybe the following?:

The most up-to-date National Statistics on crimes recorded by the police in Scotland have been released today. Recorded crime has remained stable since last year. Read the full publication here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2019-2020/>

And include the infographic?

[redacted]
Justice Analytical Services

Scottish Government
2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 10:59
To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Tweets

[redacted] and [redacted] have powers over our twitter account so they should be able to send it out.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 10:58
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Tweets

Looks good to me – you want me to sort this?

[redacted]
Justice Analytical Services
Scottish Government
2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 10:49
To: [redacted]

Subject: Tweets

I was wondering if we should send a tweet or two from the JAS account. Maybe something like this, with the infographic or the long term chart?

<https://twitter.com/SGJusticeAnalys/status/1244940193188192261>

Is it [redacted] and [redacted] who are the JAS tweeters?

Thanks

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted]
Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](https://twitter.com/SGJusticeAnalys) [@ScotStat](https://twitter.com/ScotStat)

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 10:21
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: News release - Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2019-20

Hi [redacted]

,

As discussed, I've added in the 2006-07 change to the table.

Thanks

[redacted]

Safer Communities Analytical Unit, Justice Analytical Services
2G North, Victoria Quay

[redacted]

Follow us on Twitter: [@SGJusticeAnalys](#) [@ScotStat](#)

[This email chain follows on from the email sent on 29th September at 09:58 (included elsewhere in this document on p53)]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 28 September 2020 14:14
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: PDFPROOF4 - SCT0820071868 - Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Thanks [redacted] – I just noticed a very minor point, that the link to the Tables index (Chapter 5) in the main Table of Contents on p4 was not updated (should link to p73).

I have also attached the excel document which is to be uploaded under 'Supporting files'.

We will send through the alt-text document asap.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

Justice Analytical Services
Scottish Government
2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 28 September 2020 13:56
To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: PDF PROOF 4 - SCT0820071868 - Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Hi [redacted],

I've now attached the final version that will be sent to our Digital Media Team in preparation for publication tomorrow.

Just let me know if you have any issues/questions.

Thanks!

[redacted]



www.theapsgroup.com

APS Group Scotland

21 Tennant Street, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 5NA, UK

[redacted]

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Make more possible.



From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 12:32

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: PDF PROOF 3 - SCT0820071868 - Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Hi [redacted],

Happy for the document to be published with these changes. Let me know if there are any issues with the changes.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

Justice Analytical Services
Scottish Government
2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 12:30

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: PDF PROOF 3 - SCT0820071868 - Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Hi **[redacted]**,

I'll speak to our Studio and ask that these be made before publication tomorrow. We would now require final sign off with no further changes on this next proof in order to meet your publication date.

I'll let you know if there's any issues.

Thanks again,

[redacted]



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21 Tennant Street, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 5NA, UK

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 12:23

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: PDF PROOF 3 - SCT0820071868 - Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Hi [redacted],

Please find attached the final PDF version with some minor amendments attached as comments within the document.

Please do let me know if you have any queries about these.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

Justice Analytical Services
Scottish Government
2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 09:45

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: PDF PROOF 3 - SCT0820071868 - Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Hi [redacted],

I've actually just received the amended proof of your document. If you could let me know if you are happy to proceed as soon as possible, that would be great.

Thanks!

[redacted]



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21 Tennant Street, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 5NA, UK

[redacted]

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Make more possible.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 09:40

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: SG WEB REGISTRATION FORM - SCT0820071868 - Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Thanks [redacted],

I'll complete the form now.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

Justice Analytical Services

Scottish Government

2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 09:36

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: SG WEB REGISTRATION FORM - SCT0820071868 - Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Hi [redacted],

No worries, thanks for letting me know.

You would have been unable to access this form as it had [redacted]'s details on it. I've now updated this and you should now be able to enter this form.

I'll get your amended proof over for final sign off as soon as possible.

Thanks!

[redacted]



www.theapsgroup.com

APS Group Scotland

21 Tennant Street, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 5NA, UK

[redacted]

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Make more possible.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 09:33

To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: SG WEB REGISTRATION FORM - SCT0820071868 - Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Hi [redacted],

I am taking this publication forward now (I am off Friday afternoons). Just to let you know, I wasn't able to access the link provided – is it possibly in [redacted]'s name? Apologies if I'm doing something daft!

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

Justice Analytical Services
Scottish Government
2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 28 September 2020 08:20

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: SG WEB REGISTRATION FORM - SCT0820071868 - Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Morning [redacted],

I have put this back into our Studio and will get this back over to you as soon as possible. Given the timescales and current workload, we would require final sign off with no further changes as soon as possible.

In the meantime, I have attached your SG web registration form below;

You must now register your publication with SG Web Publications by following the link and instructions below. Noting that this must be completed before our Digital Media Team can upload any files for publication. Please notify your APS Account Manager (**myself**) of the confirmed date and time of publication once you have completed the registration.

NOTE: If this is the first time you are accessing the web registration site or if your password has expired, you will need to request a new password here:

<https://sgwebregistration.scot/password/reset>

SG Web Registration

APS are currently producing the web converted files for your Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20. To publish on the SG corporate website you must now click on the following link and complete the new publication form displayed. Advice on completing the form can be seen by clicking into the form sections:

<https://sgwebregistration.scot/publication/9781800041097>

In clicking the above link and completing the online form, this will enable the SG web publications team to upload the files supplied by APS to be associated with the data you provide. These files will be sent to the Web Team shortly after you receive this notification. Failure to complete the form may result in delays to the publication of your document.

Please be aware that this is the only notification you will receive.

In the form you will be asked to provide a brief description and set a date and time for publication.

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Thanks again,

[redacted]



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Make more possible.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 25 September 2020 17:14

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: PDF PROOF 2 - SCT0820071868 - Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for turning it around so quickly. We've spotted a few issues are our end so thought it would be easier to send over a new document.

One issue however we spotted in both proofs is that the table numbers seem to change in the PDF version i.e. Table A2 (page 89) onwards have the wrong number, starting again from A1, they should be sequential from A2 to A8. The same was also true for Table 7 (page 85) which went page to Table 1.

Apologies, that this is all a bit last minute. I assume you won't get this back to us today but we will be around first thing on Monday and can hopefully sign it off then.

Best,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 September 2020 15:27
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: PDF PROOF 2 - SCT0820071868 - Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Hi [redacted],

I've now attached the second proof of this document. If you could let me know if you are happy to proceed with this, that would be great.

Thanks!

[redacted]



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From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 September 2020 14:11
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: PDF PROOF 1 - SCT0820071868 - Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for getting this over to us. I'll put this back into our Studio and get your revised proof back over for final sign off as soon as possible.

Thanks,

[redacted]



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[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 September 2020 13:55
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: PDF PROOF 1 - SCT0820071868 - Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Hi [redacted],
In [redacted]'s absence, please see the attached revised word document.

Best,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 24 September 2020 16:33
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: PDF PROOF 1 - SCT0820071868 - Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Hi [redacted],

I have attached the proof of your document. If you could please supply a revised word document, inclusive of the accessibility amends previously discussed, as well as any final amends required, that would be great!

I just wanted to flag that I will be out of the office from this evening until Wednesday morning, however my colleagues [redacted] (cc'd) will assist in my absence.

Thanks,
[redacted]



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From: [redacted]
Sent: 23 September 2020 17:15
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Thanks [redacted] – I'm off tomorrow morning so if it's okay I'll just make those changes as part of the 2nd proof?

[redacted]
Justice Analytical Services
Scottish Government
2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 23 September 2020 17:09
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Hi [redacted],

Yes, although if you are able to make these changes and get the document over early tomorrow, I can ask our Studio to hold off on creating the PDF proof until you provide the revised word document?

There are also some comments throughout requesting the link – the link to this publication (which will work once the publication goes live) is: <https://www.gov.scot/ISBN/978-1-80004-109-7>

Please note that we are unable to link specifically to the supporting files, only to the web page.

Just let me know if you have any questions!

Thanks,

[redacted]



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[redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 September 2020 17:03

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Hi [redacted],

No problem, I can make those changes. Just to clarify, is the second proof after I receive it back from you?

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

Justice Analytical Services

Scottish Government

2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 September 2020 16:59

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for getting this over to me. I have put the document into our Digital Studio for a PDF proof.

Just to note that there are some accessibility issues within the document:

- The light grey in the charts (i.e. charts 15 and 16) is too light and does not pass the contrast check, could this be made darker?
- The text on page 71 is a size 10. Could this please be increased to minimum size 12?
- The 'ALL CAPS' heading will be changed by our Studio to 'Sentence Case' in the PDF proof, but I just wanted to make you aware before this change is made.

I have put the document into our Studio for a PDF proof given the timescales, but if you could incorporate these changes in the second proof, this would make the document more accessible. If you won't be able to, please let me know and if you could keep this in mind for future publications that would be great!

Thanks,

[redacted]



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Make more possible.

From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 September 2020 16:17

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

Hi [redacted],

Please find attached the following publication: **Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20**.

We will forward the alt-text and associated excel spreadsheets as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Apologies once again for the tight turn around!

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

Justice Analytical Services
Scottish Government
2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 29 September 2020 17:23

To: newsonlinescotland@bbc.co.uk; [redacted]

Subject: FOR URGENT ATTENTION - rebuttal to claims that violent crime has soared

Hi

Please find below our response to the Conservative news release which claims that violent crime has soared – which was issued after the publication of the Recorded Crime stats this morning.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The reality is that violent crime is significantly lower today than a decade ago – as made clear in these latest police recorded crime figures and backed up by other data sources such as the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey and NHS emergency admissions, both of which include incidents not reported to police.

“Between 2018-19 and 2019-20, this latest data shows that non-sexual violent crime has fallen 5% when comparing the data on a like for like basis. This is because the new domestic abuse offence was introduced on 1 April 2019 and, as the recorded crime bulletin makes clear, it is the reporting of 1,681 new crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 that wholly accounts for the rise in the numbers in the non-sexual violent crime category in 2019-20.

“In terms of all other non-sexual crimes of violence – which are the only directly comparable figures for previous years – these collectively decreased by 5% in 2019-20, with attempted murder and serious assault now 25% lower than in 2010-11 and robbery down by almost a third (32%) over the decade.

“While the Scottish Government is working with police and other partners to tackle violence wherever it persists, the progress in making Scotland’s streets safer over the last decade is apparent across all main measures. The 2018-19 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey of more than 5,500 adults – including incidents not reported to police – indicates that violent crime has almost halved (down by 48%) since 2008-09 – a positive trend also reflected in a 43% reduction in the number of emergency hospital admissions due to assault since 2010-11 and 39% fall in admissions due to attacks involving a knife or other sharp object.

“The SCJS also shows the proportion of adults experiencing any violence has fallen from 4.1% in 2008/09 to 2.2% in 2018/19. This suggests that violent victimisation in Scotland has remained relatively uncommon since 2008/09, and has become an even less prevalent experience over the last decade. The fall in the volume of violent crime over the last decade has been mostly driven by decreases between 2008/09 and 2010/11, with broad stability seen in more recent years.

“These are three independent sources pointing to the success of our comprehensive approach, including investment in education and prevention and support for police enforcement, notwithstanding the need to maintain this work to protect all parts of our communities.

“Despite constraints on Scotland’s public services through a decade of UK austerity, our investment in policing this year has increased 5.1% to more than £1.2 billion. Scotland has significantly more officers than at any time before 2007 – while since then numbers in England and Wales were cut by more than 16,000.”

Background:

The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 came into force on 1 April 2019. The Act created a new offence of abusive behaviour as a course of conduct towards a partner or ex-partner. Prior to the 1 April 2019, any criminal act which formed part of a domestic abuse incident (such as a Serious assault, Common assault, Threatening or abusive behaviour, etc.) was included within the statistics under the relevant crime or offence. Where there is evidence of a course of conduct, new crime codes of Domestic abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 (against a male or female victim) have been created. In general, existing common law and statutory offences will continue to be recorded where appropriate, in addition to the new crimes. There are some limited exceptions (in particular Threatening and abusive behaviour and Stalking), which will no longer be recorded when occurring as part of a course of conduct for Domestic Abuse. However, these exceptions all relate to activity in Group 6 Miscellaneous Offences and therefore this change does not create a

discontinuity within the total recorded crime figure for Scotland (which is based on Group 1 to 5).

[redacted]

[Communications DFM, Education and Justice | Scottish Government

Documents included in discussions

From: [redacted]

Justice Analytical Services
23 September 2020

Cabinet Secretary for Justice

RECORDED CRIME IN SCOTLAND, 2019-20

Purpose

1. To provide you with pre-release access to the 'Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20' National Statistics publication.

Priority

2. Routine – these National Statistics will be published at **9:30am on Tuesday 29th September 2020**. Please treat the attached statistics and any indication of their results as **restricted until their public release**.

Background

3. This publication provides key statistics to inform the Scottish Government's Justice Vision & Priorities, and is the primary source of information on the volume of criminal activity with which the police are faced.

Headline Statistics

4. It should be noted that these statistics do not relate to all crime committed in Scotland, as not all crime is reported to the police.

Between 2018-19 and 2019-20;

5. **Crimes recorded by the police in Scotland remained almost unchanged, increasing from 246,480 to 246,516 (an increase of just 36 crimes)**. The recording of crime remains at one of the lowest levels seen since 1974.
6. The 2019-20 figures include 1,681 new crimes recorded under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 (DASA), following its enactment on the 1st April 2019. A further 107 new crimes were recorded towards the end of 2019-20 under the Coronavirus Act 2020 and Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020.
7. Non-sexual crimes of violence increased by 16%, from 8,008 to 9,316. This increase is due to the recording of 1,681 new crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018. All other Non-sexual crimes of violence collectively decreased by 5%.
8. **Sexual crimes** decreased by 1% from 13,547 to 13,364. This is the first year since 2008-09 where sexual crimes have fallen, though these crimes remain at the second highest level since 1971, the first year for which comparable groups are available.

9. **Crimes of dishonesty (theft, housebreaking, shoplifting, fraud etc.)** decreased by 3%, from 114,506 to 111,409. The recording of these crimes is the lowest level seen since 1971.
10. **Fire-raising, vandalism etc.** decreased by 6% from 51,322 to 47,997. The recording of these crimes is at the lowest level seen since 1976.
11. **Other crimes** increased by 3% from 62,422 to 64,589. Most of these crimes relate to drug possession, crimes against public justice or handling offensive weapons.
12. **Offences recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 1% from 247,791 to 250,662. Changes in recorded offence levels tend to be more affected by police activity and operational decisions than changes in recorded crime.**
 - **Miscellaneous offences (most often common assault, breach of the peace, drunkenness etc.)** decreased by 1%, from 130,686 to 128,755. This included a less than 1% decrease in common assault (from 57,915 to 57,833).
 - **Motor vehicle offences** increased by 4% from 117,105 to 121,907.

Official Statistics on Crime Clear Up Rates

13. Crime clear up rates show the proportion of crime where sufficient evidence exists to justify consideration of criminal proceedings against an individual. The clear up rate for total recorded crime increased between 2018-19 and 2019-20 by 0.6 percentage points from 51.0 to 51.5% (rounded figures).
14. As with previous years, Other crimes (90.0%), non-sexual crimes of violence (71.7%) and sexual crime (56.3%) had higher clear up rates than Crimes of dishonesty (37.1%) and Fire-raising, vandalism etc. (26.6%).

Statistics in Context

15. The total volume of crime recorded by the police remains almost unchanged, with an increase of 36 crimes (less than 1%). Recorded crime remains at one of the lowest levels seen since 1974, including a fall of almost a quarter (24%) during the past ten years.
16. The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) is a complementary measure of crime that includes those that are not reported to the police. The latest figures found no change in the number of crimes experienced by adults in Scotland between 2017-18 and 2018-19, although there has been a 45% fall since 2008-09 and a 20% fall since 2016-17.
17. Whilst both sources estimate a long term downward trend in crime since 2008-09, police recorded has been much 'flatter' in recent years - with changes in specific types of crime broadly cancelling each other out. Further discussion is provided below on different trends in recorded crime.
18. Police in Scotland use a different set of rules to count recorded crime than those in England & Wales. For many incidents, multiple crimes will be counted in Scotland but only the most serious one will be counted south of the border. This means statistical comparisons on levels of recorded crime cannot be made between Scotland and England & Wales.

19. Comparisons can be made using the SCJS and England & Wales equivalent. Adults in Scotland were less likely to experience crime in 2018-19 than those in England & Wales, with an estimated 12.4% of adults in Scotland experiencing at least one crime, compared to 14.9% in England & Wales. Like Scotland, there has also been a significant reduction in the volume of crime experienced by adults in England & Wales since 2008-09.
20. Changes in recorded crime since the current administration commenced (i.e. since 2006-07) and over the past year are provided by local authority area in Annex A. All local authority areas have seen a substantial reduction in recorded crime since 2006-07. Glasgow City and Dundee City local authority areas have the highest rates of recorded crime (with 680 and 645 crimes per 10,000 population respectively, compared to an average of 451 across Scotland as a whole).

Increase in non-sexual violent crime

21. Non-sexual violent crime increased by 16% (or 1,308 crimes), from 8,008 in 2018-19 to 9,318 in 2019-20. However as noted above, this was due to 1,681 new crimes being recorded under DASA, for which this is the first full year of implementation. All other non-sexual crimes of violence collectively fell by 5%, including decreases in Attempted murder & serious assault (down 6%) and Robbery (down 4%).
22. Crimes of homicide etc. increased by 19 crimes (19%), from 102 to 121. This increase was driven by a rise in driving related homicides (for example Causing death by dangerous driving) which increased by 12 crimes.

Increase in fraud

23. **Whilst Crimes of dishonesty decreased by 3% between 2018-19 and 2019-20** (from 114,506 to 111,409), there has been a continued increase in fraud (up every year since 2014-15, including a 23% increase to 11,939 crimes in 2018-19).
24. Previous analysis (published as part of the 2018-19 bulletin) suggested that bank card fraud (very often using contactless payment) accounts for 30% of fraud, and that over a quarter of all fraud is cyber enabled. As such it seems likely that technological change is at least part of the reason why police recorded fraud continues to increase. We've also previously highlighted to users a recording change that may lead to additional frauds being included in these statistics. However this change follows immediately after the 2019-20 reporting year, so will play no part in the 23% increase referred to above.

Increase in Other crimes

25. Other Crimes increased by 3% from 62,422 in 2018-19 to 64,589. All categories in Other crimes have experienced an increase.
26. Crimes of drug possession for personal use increased by 2% (or 626 crimes), from 29,843 in 2018-19 to 30,469 in 2019-20. We know from earlier research that a majority of these crimes are identified during police patrols or warrant-based searches, so changes in volumes could to some extent be due to operational decisions.
27. One factor in this growth may be the UK government's 2017 amendment to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, which made it illegal to possess etizolam (a 'designer' benzodiazepine) through classification as a Class C drug. In 2018-19 (i.e. the first full year following enactment), 13.3% of

all drug possession crimes were estimated to involve etizolam, equating to an estimated 4,000 crimes recorded in that year. This compares to an estimated 5% of drug possession crimes (or 1,500 estimated crimes) in 2017-18, the largest estimated increase of any drug type in 2018-19. The estimates for 2019-20 will be published in early 2021.

28. There are two measures of handling weapons crime in Scotland. One is where the weapon was not used to commit another crime or offence against a person in a public place; these increased by 6% from 4,216 in 2018-19 to 4,484 in 2019-20, the fourth year-on-year increase following a prolonged decrease in these crimes. However, there remains a 29% decrease since 2010-11. The number of these crimes recorded in a school increased from 127 in 2018-19 to 146 in 2019-20, whilst at the same time the number in a prison decreased from 127 to 89.
29. The second measure is where the weapon was used to commit another crime against a person. These increased by 10% from 4,680 in 2018-19 to 5,160 in 2019-20. The number of these crimes recorded in a school decreased from 72 in 2018-19 to 61 in 2019-20, whilst at the same time the number in a prison decreased from 84 to 62.
30. We published an earlier report in June 2018¹ that provided more detailed information on handling offensive weapons. This found that where a weapon had been used against another person in a public setting, the most common criminal act was threatening or abusive behaviour (44%) followed by common assault (32%). Most cases (71%) resulted in no physical injury to the victim.
31. Recorded crimes of handling offensive weapons (not used) have now increased each year since 2015-16 (up 44%), whilst recorded crimes of handling offensive weapons (used) have increased by 24% since 2017-18 (the first year to include the used crimes). These figures include a 46% increase (since 2015-16) in possession of knives/bladed articles (not used) and a 19% increase (since 2017-18) where used. According to the most recent figures, convictions for knife crime and hospital admissions due to assaults involving knives have also shown increases (albeit statistics for 2019-20 are not yet available for those sources). The latest SCJS (for 2018-19) finds that the proportion of adults who think knife carrying is common in their local area remains much lower than 10 years ago (down from 22% to 11%).
32. Crimes against public justice have increased by 5% from 18,512 in 2018-19 to 19,441 in 2019-20. This increase has been driven by an increase in Bail offences, which have increased by 13% from 7,237 to 8,150.

Clear up rates

33. Whilst the overall clear up rate has increased, some of the crime groups have experienced a decrease.
34. The clear up rate for Non-sexual crimes of violence has decreased by 1.6 percentage points, from 73.3% to 71.7%. This is driven by the decrease in clear-up rates for Robbery (which has decreased from 72.4% to 70.5%) and Other violence (which has decreased from 65.3% to 60.6%). The addition of new crimes under DASA may also have had an impact on the overall clear up rate for this group. The clear up rate for DASA crimes is 68.9%, which is the second lowest rate within this group.

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/06/2507>

35. Clear up rates for Sexual crime fell by 1.8 percentage points from 58.1% in 2018-19 to 56.3% in 2019-20, and are at the lowest level since 1979. This has been driven by decreases in the clear up rate for Sexual assault (down from 57.7% to 55.3%) and Other sexual crimes (down from 59.5% to 58.0%).
36. Police Scotland have advised that there can be multiple reasons why crimes remain unsolved including evidential shortfalls, particularly in the case of historical crimes which can be complex, protracted in nature and with investigatory challenges around the lack of forensic opportunities and witnesses. There are also likely to be additional challenges around identifying perpetrators where sexual crimes are cyber-enabled (i.e. the victim has been targeted through the internet).
37. The clear up rate for Crimes of dishonesty has decreased by 1.2 percentage points. This has been driven by decreases in clear up rates for Theft of a motor vehicle (down from 41.7% to 37.5%), Shoplifting (from 67.4% to 66.3%) and Fraud (from 35.5% to 28.3%).

Policy Lines / Comms Actions

38. Communications will prepare a ministerial news release to comment on these statistics, which will be released shortly after publication. As standard, a statistical news release will also be issued. A **[redacted]** will be provided for Cabinet on Tuesday 29th September (the day these statistics are published). We will also prepare an **[redacted]** on these statistics.
39. Officials are happy to discuss any of these statistics further. Annex B of this brief includes a question & answer document with lines that can be used on key issues.

Conclusion

40. **The Cabinet Secretary is invited to note that the statistical bulletin “Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20” will be published at 9.30 am on Tuesday 29th September 2020.**

[redacted]

Justice Analytical Services

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
First Minister Minister for Community Safety			X		X

DG Education, Communities & Justice
Neil Rennick (Director, Justice)
Joe Griffin (Director, Safer Communities)
Wendy Wilkinson (Deputy Director, Safer Communities)
Clare Hicks (Deputy Director, Police Division)
[redacted]
Willie Cowan (Deputy Director, Justice Renewal)
Donna MacKinnon (Deputy Director, Community Justice)

[redacted]

Roger Halliday (Chief Statistician)

Amy Wilson (Justice Analytical Services)

[redacted]

Gill Imery (HMICS)

[redacted]

Anthony McGeehan (COPFS)

[redacted]

John McFarlane (Special Adviser)

Lord Advocate
Solicitor General

Statistical Bulletin Only (received under separate copy):

Police Scotland:

Iain Livingstone - Chief Constable
Malcolm Graham – Deputy Chief Constable
Fiona Taylor – Deputy Chief Constable
[redacted]
Niven Rennie - Director, Violence Reduction Unit

[redacted]

ANNEX A:

Change in the number of crimes recorded in each local authority

Local Authority				Percentage change since	
	2006-07	2018-29	2019-20	2006-07	2018-19
SCOTLAND	419,257	246,480	246,516	-41%	0%
Aberdeen City	23,322	11,493	11,452	-51%	0%
Aberdeenshire	10,527	6,339	6,756	-36%	7%
Angus	6,099	3,044	3,210	-47%	5%
Argyll & Bute	5,303	2,367	2,483	-53%	5%
Clackmannanshire	4,932	2,225	2,368	-52%	6%
Dumfries & Galloway	9,547	6,770	6,571	-31%	-3%
Dundee	15,512	8,844	9,634	-38%	9%
East Ayrshire	8,544	5,172	5,669	-34%	10%
East Dunbartonshire	4,874	2,875	2,877	-41%	0%
East Lothian	5,232	4,000	3,935	-25%	-2%
East Renfrewshire	4,164	2,267	2,214	-47%	-2%
Edinburgh City	48,385	31,318	30,413	-37%	-3%
Falkirk	10,148	6,698	7,149	-30%	7%
Fife	30,304	14,245	13,738	-55%	-4%
Glasgow City	75,387	44,892	43,081	-43%	-4%
Highland	14,872	7,597	7,248	-51%	-5%
Inverclyde	7,040	3,498	3,701	-47%	6%
Midlothian	6,325	4,586	3,982	-37%	-13%
Moray	5,900	2,640	2,651	-55%	0%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	1,125	384	414	-63%	8%
North Ayrshire	9,871	5,981	6,335	-36%	6%
North Lanarkshire	26,157	17,814	18,484	-29%	4%
Orkney Islands	497	362	354	-29%	-2%
Perth & Kinross	7,634	4,039	4,384	-43%	9%
Renfrewshire	14,672	8,118	7,802	-47%	-4%
Scottish Borders	5,402	3,704	3,577	-34%	-3%
Shetland Islands	782	434	485	-38%	12%
South Ayrshire	7,531	4,848	4,902	-35%	1%
South Lanarkshire	20,969	13,892	14,721	-30%	6%
Stirling	6,150	3,496	3,556	-42%	2%
West Dunbartonshire	9,160	4,716	4,734	-48%	0%
West Lothian	12,890	7,822	7,636	-41%	-2%

Source: Police Recorded Crime National Statistics, 2019-20

ANNEX B:

Recorded Crime 2019-20 National Statistics:

Q&A Briefing for any enquiries following publication or media interviews

OVERALL RECORDED CRIME

1. What do today's statistics tell us about crime in Scotland?

These statistics show that crime remains at one of the lowest levels seen since 1974, and that many types of crime have continued to fall. Housebreaking is at a new record low, whilst vandalism is lower than any year since 1976.

This complements the results of the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, which includes crimes which have not been reported to the police, and finds a long term fall in crimes experienced by adults in Scotland - down 45% between 2008-09 and 2018-19.

CORONAVIRUS

2. Has the coronavirus pandemic affected the crime figures for this year?

COVID-19 has impacted the National Statistics in two ways. Firstly, there are now new crimes recorded for incidents contrary to the new Coronavirus Acts. The legislation was introduced towards the very end of the reporting year, with only 107 of these crimes being recorded in 2019-20.

Secondly, restrictions on public movement may have had a small impact on the number and nature of crimes and offences committed towards the end of the reporting year. Again though these restrictions only overlapped with the tail end of the reporting year, so the impact is likely to be small.

To monitor any potential trends since the national lockdown commenced, Scottish Government analysts are producing new monthly Official Statistics. These show a reduction in recorded crime during April to August 2020, compared to the same time in 2019 – with the largest difference being in April. Therefore, the impact on next year's figures is likely to be greater.

NON-SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND DOMESTIC ABUSE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2018

3. Why have non-sexual crimes of violence increased by 16%?

The 16% increase is accounted for by the implementation of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act, which resulted in almost 1,700 new crimes being recorded. We strongly welcome this as it demonstrates victims are coming forward to access justice, and we continue to encourage all those who experience domestic abuse to report it.

Collectively the other categories within Non-sexual crimes of violence fell by 5% in the latest year, including a 6% fall in Attempted murder and serious assault, and a 4% fall in robbery.

Over the longer term, Non-sexual crimes of violence have fallen significantly, including by around a third (34%) since 2006-07. The separate Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, which includes crimes not

reported to the police, shows a near halving (down 48%) in violent incidents experienced by adults in Scotland between 2008-09 and 2018-19.

I recognise that there is much more we can do. The impact of violence reaches way beyond the victim and perpetrator, affecting communities and society, we will continue to do everything we can to tackle this.

Alongside the available enforcement options, Scotland has adopted a public health approach to violence that focuses on tackling the underlying causes of violence through collaborative prevention and early intervention work.

The Scottish Government has invested more than £20 million in violence prevention over the last decade through our support of the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit, Medics Against Violence and innovative programmes such as Mentors in Violence Prevention, No Knives Better Lives and the Navigator service.

The Navigator service for example, operates in 7 hospital emergency departments throughout Scotland and helps people living in chaotic and violent situations get the person centred support they need to make positive changes in their lives.

We will continue to work with individuals, partners and communities across Scotland to identify and tackle violence.

DRIVING-RELATED HOMICIDE AND DRIVING OFFENCES

4. There has been increases in driving related homicides and dangerous driving offences. What action are the Scottish Government taking?

The Scottish Government is committed to achieving safer road travel in Scotland. We have published a public consultation on a new world leading framework with an ultimate vision where there are no fatalities on Scotland roads by 2050. The journey to achieving this vision will also include ambitious interim targets where the number of people being killed or seriously injured on our roads will be halved by 2030. The new framework provides us with an opportunity to enhance our road safety record with a vision for Scotland to have the best road safety performance in the world by 2030.

FRAUD

5. Fraud crimes continue to increase, and clear-up rates have fallen. Why is this and what is the Scottish Government doing about this?

The Scottish Government supports the efforts of Police Scotland and partners to tackle fraud & cyber crime, to reduce the harm it inflicts upon communities in Scotland.

There is a range of advice to help people improve their online safety, including from the National Cyber Security Centre, the Cyber Essentials Scheme, Cyber Aware, Take Five and Get Safe Online.

More Specifically on Scams (link to Fraudulent selling)

Scams have an enormous cost, both to the individuals who suffer as a result of them, and to our wider economy. The Scottish Government accepts that they cannot be eradicated entirely, but we

are committed to doing all we can to reduce them and to make Scotland an inhospitable environment for those who perpetrate them.

Achieving this will take close collaboration, and building on the good work that the police, Trading Standards and consumer organisations already do, and will require a combination of raising awareness, technological solutions and an understanding of how social isolation can lead to the most vulnerable being targeted.

On Cyber-resilience

The Scottish Government is implementing a number of action plans under its Cyber Resilience Strategy “Safe, Secure and Prosperous”, with the aim of making Scotland’s citizens, businesses and charities more resilient against cyber-attacks. These include the Learning and Skills Action Plan, which will help equip people with the skills they need to operate safely online at work or at home, and the Public, Private and Third Sector Action Plans, which aim to raise fundamental levels of cyber resilience in key sectors of Scotland’s economy and society.

HANDLING OFFENSIVE WEAPONS

6. Why have crimes of handling offensive weapons, including knives, continued to increase?

Keeping our communities safe is a key priority. While there is another increase in this year’s figures, the longer term trend on weapons crime is positive.

The number of crimes of handling an offensive weapon has more than halved since 2006-07 (a decrease of 56%), and the number of emergency admissions to hospital due to assault with a sharp object have fallen 51% since 2006-07. The proportion of people who think knife-carrying is common in their local area has also fallen significantly, from 22% in 2009-10 to 11% by 2018-19 (Scottish Crime and Justice Survey).

This helps demonstrate the success of our twin approach; encouraging tough enforcement of the law coupled with education and diversion to help stop people from carrying knives and weapons within our communities.

The use of any offensive weapon is never acceptable as it has a devastating effect on individuals, families and communities.

The Scottish Government has invested more than £20 million in violence prevention over the last decade, including funding for Scotland’s Violence Reduction Unit, Medics Against Violence, the No Knives, Better Lives’ programme and for delivery of the Mentors in Violence Prevention programme in schools across Scotland.

We are not complacent and continue to work with partners across Scotland to tackle the underlying causes of violence, including crimes of handling offensive weapons.

7. The recorded crime statistics show 207 weapon-related crimes being committed in schools, what are you doing about this?

I want all children and young people to get the support that they need to reach their full learning potential and teachers and support staff play a crucial role. We will continue to support local

authorities, schools and parents to ensure good attendance in addition to our considerable investment in raising attainment.

Violence towards anyone is unacceptable and the safety of our children, young people and staff at school is paramount. We, and partners across the education sector, advocate an approach for schools and local authorities to work with pupils on the underlying reasons behind inappropriate behaviour.

We want all pupils to respect their peers and staff and are supporting a number of programmes to promote positive relationships and tackle indiscipline, abuse and violence. This includes good behaviour management, restorative approaches and programmes to help develop social, emotional and behavioural skills.

All forms of violence are unacceptable and have no place in our schools or society.

In partnership with YouthLink Scotland, the national No Knives, Better Lives programme engages with young people from local communities to highlight the impact and consequences that carrying a weapon can have. Through innovative resources such as “Nae Danger” guide, No Knives, Better Lives encourages young people to be part of the solution by helping them understand how to safely intervene when someone they know is carrying a knife or weapon.

All 32 local authorities are engaged with The Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme (MVP) which is empowering young people to be part of the solution. MVP is a peer education programme providing a framework to explore and challenge the attitudes, beliefs and cultural norms that underpin gender-based violence, bullying and other forms of abuse.

We now have over 800 Police Scotland Youth Volunteers and 300 Adult volunteers within 43 active groups engaging with Police Scotland, breaking down barriers and promoting positive role models. Schools also have access to community-based officers who engage with and support students and staff as part of the community policing service. This offers positive interaction between young people, the police and the community.

CYBER SEXUAL CRIMES

8. Other sexual crimes, many of which are cyber crimes with younger victims, have increased. What action is the Scottish Government taking to target perpetrators of online abuse?

The rapid evolution and development of information and communication technologies (ICT), especially internet and mobile technologies, have seen an increase in the exposure of children and young people to online harms. Police Scotland will pursue cases where online illegal content and activity occurs, and work to see those responsible brought to justice.

The Scottish Government recognises the complexity of child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse, which happens in person or online or a combination of both. Internet regulation is a reserved matter and we continue to work with the UK Government in progressing their regulatory proposals to tackle online harms.

In Scotland, we are developing and implementing policy relating to child internet safety using our devolved responsibility for education, policing and child protection. In collaboration with Education Scotland, we have ensured that digital literacy, including internet safety and cyber resilience, is an integral part of the school curriculum.

We have committed to review and update school guidance on Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood, and will ensure appropriate guidance on consent education is included, to reflect the issues faced by young people, especially from online influences.

SEXUAL CRIME CLEAR UP RATES

9. Why have Sexual crime clear-up rates fallen to the lowest level since 1979?

Whilst the majority of sexual crimes are cleared up, reporting of non-recent sexual crime and previous research which showed an increase in online offending, practically demonstrate how the demands faced by the police continue to change.

Police Scotland are committed to responding to these developments – investigation of both presents different challenges due to their increased complexity (for example the gathering of evidence for crimes that may have happened some time ago).

The Scottish Government approach is to support Police Scotland in their attempts to ensure sexual crimes are cleared up, but also to identify actions we can take to stop sexual offending happening in the first place.

At national level we are driving forward work across a number of areas, across Health, Justice, Equality and Human rights and in partnership with third sector partners, to focus on early intervention, protection and support for victims.

NON-SEXUAL VIOLENCE CLEAR UP RATES

10. Why has the clear up rate for Non-sexual crimes of violence fallen?

While there has been a fall in the latest year, it should be recognised that the clear up rate for Non-sexual crimes of violence remains above 70%, and is higher than in any year from 1976 to 2010-11.

CLASSIFICATION OF STATISTICS

11. Why is common assault classified as an offence rather than a crime?

The distinction between a criminal act being classed as a crime or an offence has no bearing on how the justice system deals with such offending.

In general terms – the more serious criminal acts are defined in these statistics as crimes – with others defined as offences. The level of seriousness is generally based on the type of sentence a perpetrator can expect to receive. This distinction has been applied to Scotland’s crime statistics since the 1920s.

Whilst around half of common assault involves no or very little injury to the victim, we know these can be very distressing incidents and would encourage people to report them to the police.

The Scottish Crime Recording Board ran a consultation on how these National Statistics are presented, including some potential changes to common assault. However this work is currently paused due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the resultant increase in demand for associated analysis (for example the recent introduction of new monthly official statistics on

crimes and offences recorded by the police). Going forward, we will keep users informed of any developments relating to the consultation.

12. Why are the numbers on clear-up rates not classed as National Statistics?

The Office for Statistics Regulation will consider the classification of clear-up rates once an audit of this information has been carried out, and the findings reflected on by the Scottish Crime Recording Board.

Whilst we have no reason to doubt the accuracy of crime clear-up rates – we welcome this extra level of scrutiny, which will ensure Scotland’s crime statistics continue to meet the highest levels of public trust and value.

LOCAL AREA TRENDS

13. Why have some local authorities shown an increase in Recorded Crime?

It is important to recognise that there is a clear and long term positive trend when it comes to recorded crime across all local authorities, including those who have experienced a rise this year. Moving forward, we expect this data will be used by Local Commanders alongside a range of other management information and intelligence to inform local policing activity.

Local authority	% change 18-19 to 19-20	% change 10-11 to 19-20
Shetland Islands	+12%	-33%
East Ayrshire	+10%	-26%
Dundee City	+9%	-21%
Perth and Kinross	+9%	-22%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	+8%	-45%

COMPARISONS WITH ENGLAND & WALES

14. How do we compare to England & Wales?

Police in Scotland use a different set of rules to count recorded crime than those in England & Wales. For many incidents, multiple crimes will be counted in Scotland but only the most serious one will be counted south of the border. This means statistical comparisons on levels of recorded crime cannot be made between Scotland and England & Wales.

Comparisons can be made using the SCJS and England & Wales equivalent. Adults in Scotland were less likely to experience crime in 2018-19 than those in England & Wales, with an estimated 12.4% of adults in Scotland experiencing at least one crime, compared to 14.9% in England & Wales. Like Scotland, there has also been a significant reduction in the volume of crime experienced by adults in England & Wales since 2008-09.

Extract from Documentation prepared for Cabinet

25th September 2020

The Scottish Government today (at 9:30am) published the 2019-20 National Statistics on 'Recorded Crime in Scotland'. The report is currently subject to pre-release access procedures. Cabinet will wish to be aware that the recorded crime statistics traditionally receive high media attention (including on violent and sexual crime), and include information on crimes cleared up the police and local authority data. A ministerial news release will accompany the publication and the Cabinet Secretary for Justice will undertake media bids. Further detail will be provided in Cabinet.

Police recorded crime remained almost unchanged in 2019-20, increasing by just 36 crimes compared to the previous year. Recorded crime remains at one of the lowest levels seen since 1974. Today's annual figures are the first to include crimes recorded under the **Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018**, with almost 1,700 cases in 2019-20. We strongly welcome this as it demonstrates victims are coming forward to access justice, and we continue to encourage all those who experience domestic abuse to report it. As a result of the new Act, non-sexual crimes of violence increased by 16% between 2018-19 and 2019-20. All other non-sexual crimes of violence **collectively decreased by 5%**, including falls in attempted murder & serious assault and robbery. Other positive findings include a new record low in recorded **housebreaking**, and **vandalism** being at its lowest level since 1976.

Sexual crimes fell for the first time since 2008-09 (down 1%), though they remain at the second highest level since 1971 (when comparable records began). Clear up rates for sexual crime **remain at their lowest level since 1979**.

The impact of the **pandemic** on these annual statistics is minimal, as lockdown only began at the tail end of the reporting year (with 107 crimes recorded under the recently enacted Coronavirus restrictions legislation). We know that from April to August this year, recorded crime has been lower than in 2019.

Extract from Documentation prepared for First Minister

29 September: Publication of Recorded Crime in Scotland 2019-20

- Crimes recorded by the police in Scotland remained almost unchanged from 2018-19, rising by just 36 crimes or less than 1%.
- There was a 16% increase in Non-sexual crimes of violence, which is due entirely to nearly 1,700 new crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018.
- For comparison, the other categories of non-sexual violence collectively fell by 5%.
- **Sexual crimes fell for the first time since 2008-09. However, Other sexual crimes (which tend to be cyber enabled) continued to increase.**
- **Other crimes** increased by 3%, including a fourth consecutive increase in handling offensive weapons.
- The overall clear up rate increased between 2018-19 and 2019-20 from 51.0% to 51.5%. However it fell for Non-sexual crimes of violence, Sexual crimes and Crimes of dishonesty.

Between 2006-07 and 2019-20:

Recorded Crime National Statistics	2006-07	2018-19	2019-20	Change since 2018-19
Total Crimes	419,257	246,480	246,516	+36 (<1%)
Non-sexual violence	14,099	8,008	9,316	+1,308 (16%)
Sexual crimes	6,726	13,547	13,364	-183 (-1%)
Crimes of dishonesty	183,760	114,506	111,409	-3,097 (-3%)
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	129,889	47,997	47,731	-266 (-1%)
Other crimes	84,938	62,422	64,589	+2,167 (3%)

- Recorded crime remains at one of the lowest levels seen since 1974, and is down 41% since 2006-07.
- Over the long term we have seen huge reductions in non-sexual violent crime, though agree there is more we must and will do to tackle this unacceptable behaviour.

- The increase in recorded non-sexual violence this year is due to the introduction of our world leading Domestic Abuse legislation.
- We welcome this as it demonstrates victims are coming forward to access justice, and we continue to encourage all those who experience domestic abuse to report it.
- All local areas have seen a reduction in recorded crime over the longer term.
- Local commanders will use this information, and a range of other intelligence to plan activity in partnership with the communities they serve.

The latest National Statistics (2019-20) show recorded crime is down 41% since 2006-07 and is at one of the lowest levels seen since 1974

- All council areas have seen a substantial fall in crime under this administration, ranging from a quarter to nearly two-thirds.

Significant progress has been made in reducing non-sexual violent crime, but we all agree more needs to be done

- Keeping our communities safe is a key priority and police recorded non-sexual violent crime has fallen by a third (34%) since 2006-07.
- While there have been increases in handling offensive weapons crimes in recent years, these crimes have more than halved since 2006-07 (falling by 56%).

The new crimes under our Domestic Abuse legislation demonstrate victims are coming forward to access justice, and we continue to encourage all those who experience domestic abuse to report it.

- Nearly 1,700 crimes were recorded by police under the new legislation in 2019-20.
- The recording of these new crimes is due to the 1st April 2019 commencement of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act, passed with cross-party support by Parliament.
- The Act creates a specific offence covering not just physical abuse but other forms of psychological abuse that were previously difficult to prosecute.

Multiple factors lie behind the increase in recorded sexual crime over the last decade

- Around a quarter of sexual crimes recorded in 2018-19 happened at least one year before they were reported.
- Part of the increase in sexual crime in recent years can be directly attributed to the new intimate images offences.
- These statistics show further growth in crimes of disclosing or threatening to disclose an intimate image (655 cases in 2019-20).

- The recording of these new crimes as sexual offences is due to the enactment of a specific new offence.
- Care should therefore be taken in looking at trends as such offending might previously have been recorded under more general non-sexual offences.

Crime Clear up rates are amongst the highest ever seen

- At 51.5%, the proportion of crime cleared up in 2019-20 is at one of the highest levels seen since comparable records began in 1976.
- 71.7% of non-sexual violence was cleared up in 2019-20 (60.0% in 2006-07).
- Whilst most sexual crime was cleared up, rates are the lowest since 1979.
- This is likely to reflect increased reports of historical sexual crime, which have challenges involving the gathering of forensic evidence and witness statements.
- An increase in online sexual offending is also likely to be a factor, where there can be difficulties in identifying the perpetrator.
- We will support Police Scotland in their response to these developments, including through actions to stop sexual offending in the first place.