

Correspondence regarding the reported crime statistics published on June 25

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 20 June 2024 17:00

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024

Cc: Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024; First Minister; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills; Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the Promise; DG Education & Justice; Director of Justice; Director of Safer Communities; Director for Children and Families; Director of Learning; Mo Rooney; Penelope Cooper; Penelope Curtis; Anna Donald; Alex Doig; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]; Head of Justice Analytical Services; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]; Jeanette Campbell; Sean McGivern; Chief Statistician; PSLordAdvocate@copfs.gov.uk; PSSolicitorGeneral@copfs.gov.uk; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Subject: Accredited Official Statistics: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24 - RESTRICTED until 9.30 am Tuesday 25 June 2024

Attachments: Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - Bulletin - ministerial submission.docx; Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - Bulletin - Annex A for ministerial submission.docx; Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - Bulletin - Statistical news release.docx; Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2023-24 - final.pdf; Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - Bulletin - Tables - Final.xlsx; Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - Bulletin - Annex B - Q&A for media bids.docx

Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs

Copy: As above

Please note, we have copied to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, as the bulletin includes figures on police recorded crimes of weapon possession in schools.

ACCREDITED OFFICIAL STATISTICS – RESTRICTED BY STATUTORY ORDER

Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Please find attach a submission on the publication of Accredited Official Statistics on

Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24. This is being sent under the Pre-release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008.

The bulletin is to be published at 9.30 am on Tuesday 25 June 2024. 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'.

Communication and Special Adviser colleagues will be in touch separately to discuss a proactive statement to coincide with the publication of these figures.

To confirm, this email contains the following attachments:

- * Ministerial Submission on Recorded Crime 2023-24 Accredited Official Statistics
- * Annex A – trends in recorded crime by local authority
- * Annex B - Question & Answer document for media bids
- * Statistical News Release
- * Statistics Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24
- * Supporting data tables: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

A **[redacted]** brief will be provided for Cabinet on Tuesday 25 June (the day these statistics are published). We will also prepare a dedicated **[redacted]** brief.

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

The Scottish Government
Police Activity and Recorded Crime Statistics
Safer Communities Analytical Unit
Justice Analytical Services

2-G Dockside, Victoria Quay, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

To be kept informed of justice statistical releases and any upcoming consultations please register with our ScotStat service.

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: 21 June 2024 11:10

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: Accredited Official Statistics: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24 - RESTRICTED until 9.30 am Tuesday 25 June 2024

Attachments: Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - Bulletin - Tables - Final.xlsx; Recorded Crime in Scotland - 2023-24 - Bulletin.pdf

ACCREDITED OFFICIAL STATISTICS – RESTRICTED BY STATUTORY ORDER

Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

I attach a Pre-Release copy of the Accredited Official Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24. This is being sent under the Pre-release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008.

The bulletin is to be published at 9.30 am on Tuesday 25 June 2024. 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 a member of the PARCs team.

Wrongful release includes indications of the content or the trend of the figures, including descriptions such as 'favourable' or 'unfavourable'.

Thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Police Activity and Recorded Crime Statistics

Safer Communities Analytical Unit

Justice Analytical Services

Scottish Government

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**
Sent: 21 June 2024 15:34
To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024
Cc: Director of Safer Communities; Head of Justice Analytical Services;
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]
Subject: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24 - RESTRICTED
until 25 June
2024
Attachments: Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - **[redacted]**.docx

ACCREDITED OFFICIAL STATISTICS – RESTRICTED BY STATUTORY ORDER

PO/Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs,

Please find attached a **[redacted]** submission covering the findings from RECORDED CRIME IN SCOTLAND, 2023-24, due to be published at 9.30am, Tuesday 25 June, as requested.

This submission contains analysis which should be treated as restricted and should not be circulated beyond those copied until publication of the report.

If you have any queries please do get in touch.

Kind Regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Police Activity and Recorded Crime Statistics

Safer Communities Analytical Unit

Justice Analytical Services

Scottish Government

Emails relating to preparing briefing

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: 20 June 2024 12:08

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**; Mo Rooney

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE until 9:30 am on Tuesday 25 June 2024 - Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Attachments: Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - Bulletin - **[redacted]** - draft violence reduction contribution 19

June 2024.docx; Recorded Crime - 2023-24- QA for media bids - draft violence reduction contribution 19

June 2024.docx

Hi **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Please find attached tracked changes on the **[redacted]** Note (please also see **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** comment on including stats on increase in weapons carrying across whole of population

in the main body of the **[redacted]**) and the Q&A.

On the Q&A, I have updated Q3 on Non-sexual violence and Q8 on weapons possession, in so far as it relates to the Violence Prevention Framework. I assume education will update the rest of Q8?. I have also added another possible Q&A around weapon possession at the bottom of Q8.

I understand you have already agreed lines on Retail Crime with **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** and others. Can we also add the following lines to that:

[OUT OF SCOPE]

Thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Violence Reduction Policy Team

Community Safety Policy and Prevention Unit

Safer Communities Directorate | Scottish Government | St Andrews House, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

| mobile: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** Email: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: 20 June 2024 09:42

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE until 9:30 am on Tuesday 25 June 2024 - Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Attachments: Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - Bulletin - [redacted] - draft - with [redacted S.38(1)(b)] additions.docx;

Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - Bulletin - Annex B - QA for media bids (002) with my amendments.docx;

Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - Bulletin - ministerial submission - with [redacted S.38(1)(b)] comments.docx

Hello [redacted S.38(1)(b)],

Please see attached the documents with additions from Child Protection to include some text on 'sextortion'

[OUT OF SCOPE]

Best wishes,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 19 June 2024 13:34

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Cc: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Subject:FW: OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE until 9:30 am on Tuesday 25 June 2024 - Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Attachments: Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - Bulletin - ministerial submission.docx; Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - Bulletin - [redacted] - draft.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

I've made an addition to the [redacted] note to include summary of fraud offences-rather

than it just referring to cyber enabled fraud. And think they should be informed fraud has decreased by 2% in last year.

I've also made small addition to the submission with an associated comment. Although you may wish to think of using the text in the **[redacted]** note around cyber/fraud in the submission as I think that is a better descriptor?

I'll look at Q&A shortly.

Hope that helps.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: 20 June 2024 14:02

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: Crime Stats - School.docx

I've sent these to **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**.

Thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Policy Officer | Support and Wellbeing Unit | Scottish Government Area 2C North, Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Please note my working pattern is Tuesday to Thursday.

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 12:14 PM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: Crime Stats - School.docx

Hi

Thank you – minor suggestion just to soften the middle one up a bit.

Ta

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

* Violence is never acceptable and the safety of pupils and staff is paramount.

Scottish Government are investing significantly in various violence reduction preventative approaches with young people across Scotland through schools, stakeholders and local authorities as part of a wider strategy to promote positive relationships and behaviour.

* We recognise the concerns around the increase in the use of weapons across wider society. I am pleased to recognise that the approaches within schools are effective, as demonstrated by the latest statistical information.

* We have invested £4 million to support implementation of the Violence Prevention Framework published in May last year, to implement this we are working with partners, including YouthLink Scotland and Medics Against Violence to help educate young people on the dangers and consequences of knife carrying and how to keep themselves and their peers safe.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]: Support and Wellbeing Unit Head

Support and Wellbeing Unit : The Scottish Government : Area 2B North : Victoria Quay :
Edinburgh : EH6 6QQ

Phone **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Email: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 10:39 AM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: Crime Stats - School.docx

HI [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Does this work for the final line in red?

Top line

* Violence is never acceptable and the safety of pupils and staff is paramount.

Scottish Government are investing significantly in various violence reduction preventative approaches with young people across Scotland through schools, stakeholders and local authorities as part of a wider strategy to promote positive relationships and behaviour.

So your next bit is about the crime stats...

* We recognise the concerns around the increase in the use of weapons in society.

The current approach used in schools has been effective due to the decrease which is demonstrated in the latest stats.

If I understood the briefing the other day correctly – the statistics for weapons possession are increased across the board except in schools? If that's right it means that the approach in schools is effective because the schools stats have decreased. So the line would have to say something about recognising the overall increases, but being pleased that the approach in schools is effective, as the stats show.

Finish on the investment

* We have invested £4 million to support implementation of the Violence Prevention Framework published in May last year, to implement this we are working with partners, including YouthLink Scotland and Medics Against Violence to help educate young people on the dangers and consequences of knife

carrying and how to keep themselves and their peers safe.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Policy Officer | Support and Wellbeing Unit | Scottish
Government Area 2C North, Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Please note my working pattern is Tuesday to Thursday.

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 9:32 AM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: Crime Stats - School.docx

Hi **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Thanks for doing this and for considering in such detail.

I would suggest your first would be our headline – you then need to link it to the crime stats publication information and then finish off with actions.

The lines will be set after the stats – so you don't need to quote them in the lines. The lines are to respond to the information – not to provide the stats info.

Top line

* Violence is never acceptable and the safety of pupils and staff is paramount.

Scottish Government are investing significantly in various violence reduction preventative approaches with young people across Scotland through schools, stakeholders and local authorities as part of a wider strategy to promote positive relationships and behaviour.

So your next bit is about the crime stats...

If I understood the briefing the other day correctly – the statistics for weapons possession are increased across the board except in schools? If that's right it means that the approach in schools is effective because the schools stats have decreased. So the line would have to say something about recognising the overall increases, but being pleased that the approach in schools is effective, as the stats show.

Finish on the investment

*

* We have invested £4 million to support implementation of the Violence Prevention Framework published in May last year, to implement this we are working with partners, including YouthLink Scotland and Medics Against Violence to help educate young people on the dangers and consequences of knife carrying and how to keep themselves and their peers safe.

Hope that makes sense – give me a shout if not

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]: Support and Wellbeing Unit Head

Support and Wellbeing Unit : The Scottish Government : Area 2B North : Victoria Quay :
Edinburgh : EH6 6QQ

Phone **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Email: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 8:54 AM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: Crime Stats - School.docx

Hi **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

I have tried to come up with a few (hopefully one of them is close to the mark). Can you

please give me some feedback on these.

* Violence is never acceptable and the safety of pupils and staff is paramount.

Scottish Government are investing significantly in various violence reduction preventative approaches with young people across Scotland through schools, stakeholders and local authorities as part of a wider strategy to promote positive relationships and behaviour.

* Violence is never acceptable and the safety of pupils and staff is paramount. In

2023-24 there was 231 crimes of handing an offensive weapon in school, this was a 5% decrease compared to the previous year. We have invested £4 million to support implementation of the Violence Prevention Framework published in May last year, to implement this we are working with partners, including YouthLink Scotland and Medics Against Violence to help educate young people on the dangers and consequences of knife carrying and how to keep themselves and their peers safe.

* Violence towards anyone is unacceptable and the safety of our children, young

people and staff at school is paramount. The Scottish Government has invested £4 million to support the implementation of the Violence Prevention Framework published in May last year.

* We want children and young people to be able to thrive and achieve their full

potential and this needs learning environments which are safe, nurturing, respectful and free from fear, abuse and discrimination. The Scottish Government has invested £4 million to support the implementation of the Violence Prevention Framework published in May last year.

* Possession of any form of weapon in schools is totally unacceptable. We have

invested £4 million to support implementation of the Violence Prevention Framework published in May last year, to implement this we are working with

partners, including YouthLink Scotland and Medics Against Violence to help educate young people on the dangers and consequences of knife carrying and how to keep themselves and their peers safe.

Thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

| Policy Officer | Support and Wellbeing Unit | Scottish
Government Area 2C North, Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Please note my working pattern is Tuesday to Thursday.

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 12:52 PM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: Crime Stats - School.docx

Thanks **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Can you also develop some lines to take for use in **[redacted]**s and media enquiries (not for the submission unless we are asked particularly)

[OUT OF SCOPE]

Thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]: Support and Wellbeing Unit Head

Support and Wellbeing Unit : The Scottish Government : Area 2B North : Victoria Quay :
Edinburgh : EH6 6QQ

Phone [redacted S.38(1)(b)]: Mobile [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Email: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 12:31 PM

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Subject: Crime Stats - School.docx

Hi Both

I have had a look over last year against this years and have pulled together the attached.

Thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 12:55 PM

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Cc: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE until 9:30 am on Tuesday 25 June 2024 - Recorded Crime in Scotland,

2023-24

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[OUT OF SCOPE]

The deep dive data I think shows 43% of offences under the Act (Oct 2021 to Sept 2022) were linked to shoplifting and if shoplifting is increasingly being detected then one is leading into the other for a proportion of incidents.

Cheers

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: 19 June 2024 12:30

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE until 9:30 am on Tuesday 25 June 2024 - Recorded Crime in Scotland,

2023-24

Hi **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**,

Thanks very much for raising this for our awareness. Please find the current lines we hold on violence against shop workers, shoplifting and general crime – hope these are of use. We would ask if **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** could please review to make sure there are no issues with them.

All the best,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[OUT OF SCOPE]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Senior Retail Policy Adviser

Business Strategy Division

Directorate for Business and Better Regulation

DG Economy | Scottish Government

5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 10:26 AM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE until 9:30 am on Tuesday 25 June 2024 - Recorded Crime in Scotland,

2023-24

Hi All,

With regards to lines around retail crime, please see below numbers on crimes against retail workers and shoplifting. As you'll see there have been big increases in all but serious assault over the last year and as **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** pointed out yesterday it's likely to gain some media interest. I just lifted the below lines from a recent media query, but if there is anything else useful you can add, that would be great.

We're hoping to send up the Q&A document alongside the briefing tomorrow, so if you could get back to us by midday Thursday that would be much appreciated.

Thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

RETAIL CRIME

1. What is the Scottish Government doing to tackle the rise in retail crime?

Background

Crime category

2021-22

2022-23

2023-24

% change

22-23 to 23-

24

Shoplifting

22,913

28,619

38,674

35

Serious assault of retail worker

8

15

13

-13

Common assault of a retail worker

786

1,650

2,555

55

Threatening and abusive behaviour

of a retail worker

1,130

2,106

2,922

39

Total crimes against retail workers

1,924

3,771

5,490

The Scottish Government recognises the significant harm retail crime causes and condemns any violence against retail workers. We encourage retailers to report all crimes to Police Scotland, who are committed to protecting our communities.

[OUT OF SCOPE]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Statistician

The Scottish Government

Police Activity and Recorded Crime Statistics

Safer Communities Analytical Unit

Justice Analytical Services

2-G Dockside, Victoria Quay, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

To be kept informed of justice statistical releases and any upcoming consultations please register with our

ScotStat service.

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 12:38 PM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: FW: OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE until 9:30 am on Tuesday 25 June 2024 - Recorded Crime in Scotland,

2023-24

Hi All,

With apologies for the very short notice, I just realised that your team may have an interest in our upcoming publication of Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24, particularly because it includes a chapter on Police recorded crimes against retail workers in Scotland and it may be useful to have some lines from yourselves to include in the briefing pack.

We will be having a handling meeting at 12.45 today, if any of you are able to make it that would be useful – although given the timing I am happy to chat separately if that's easier.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Statistician

The Scottish Government

Police Activity and Recorded Crime Statistics

Safer Communities Analytical Unit

Justice Analytical Services

2-G Dockside, Victoria Quay, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

To be kept informed of justice statistical releases and any upcoming consultations please register with our

ScotStat service.

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 10:52 AM

To **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE until 9:30 am on Tuesday 25 June 2024 - Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

ACCREDITED OFFICIAL STATISTICS – RESTRICTED BY STATUTORY ORDER

Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

This e-mail is to provide you with pre-release access to the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24 bulletin as set out in the Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics Order 2008. Please note that this bulletin is an Accredited Official Statistics publication for Scotland.

The bulletin is to be published at 9:30 am on Tuesday 25 June 2024. 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 either myself or a member of the PARCS team. These statistics should only be accessed by named 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 or the PARCS team. Furthermore, please note that these statistics are not to be used in other documents and not to be saved in a shared file, before publication at 9.30 am on Tuesday 25 June 2024. Any accidental or wrongful release should be reported to us immediately. Wrongful release includes indications of the content or the trend of the figures, including descriptions such as 'favourable' or 'unfavourable'.

In particular, please note that this e-mail or the statistics included in the e-mail should not be forwarded to the Cabinet Secretary, Ministers or their staff at this point. The Cabinet Secretary will receive briefing materials by COP Thursday 20 June, after the documents have been finalised following today's handling meeting.

Please find attached a copy of the draft bulletin and data tables, draft ministerial submission, separate Q&A, statistical news release and draft **[redacted]**.

After the handling meeting (12.45pm today), please provide us with the updated lines for the ministerial briefing, **[redacted]** and Q&A by 12 noon, Thursday 20 June. We've marked in the

document where input from policy is required. Please do read through the whole document and comment on any parts relevant to your policy area. Similarly, if you think someone else needs to have sight of this document, please let me know.

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Statistician

The Scottish Government

Police Activity and Recorded Crime Statistics

Safer Communities Analytical Unit

Justice Analytical Services

2-G Dockside, Victoria Quay, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

To be kept informed of justice statistical releases and any upcoming consultations please register with our

ScotStat service.

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

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2024 12:32 PM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: Recorded Crime Statistics - Handling meeting

When: 18 June 2024 12:45-13:15 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Good afternoon,

The Recorded Crime Statistics for 2023-24 are scheduled for release at 09:30am on 25

June 2024.

Therefore, the pre-release period for the publication starts Tuesday 18 June and we would like to take this opportunity to have a handling meeting for this publication.

If possible, we would appreciate if at least one representative could attend from each policy area.

As always, briefing materials will be issued in the morning prior to this meeting.

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Microsoft Teams Need help?

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Passcode: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Dial in by phone

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Find a local number

Phone conference ID: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

For organisers: Meeting options | Reset dial-in PIN

SCOTS Connect - Please note - You must have the explicit permission of the organiser to record this meeting and its attendees, using any technology.

Org help

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: 20 June 2024 17:58

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RESTRICTED - OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE until 9:30 am on Tuesday 25 June 2024 - Recorded

Crime in Scotland, 2023-24 - [redacted] and [redacted] briefings

Attachments: Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - Bulletin - [redacted] - draft.docx; Recorded Crime Bulletin -

2023-24 - [redacted].docx

ACCREDITED OFFICIAL STATISTICS – RESTRICTED BY STATUTORY ORDER

Statistical Bulletin: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Hi all,

A [redacted] and [redacted] briefing have now been requested for this upcoming publication.

If policy colleagues could confirm they are content with lines in the [redacted] and provide any contributions to the [redacted] by noon tomorrow (Friday 21st), it would be much appreciated.

Thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Senior Assistant Statistician

Police Activity and Recorded Crime Statistics

Safer Communities Analytical Unit

Justice Analytical Services

Scottish Government

[Correspondence regarding Comms lines](#)

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: 24 June 2024 15:10

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject:RE: POLICY VIEWS PLEASE - recorded crime stats

Fine for me, thanks.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Head of Strategy and Collaboration

Police Powers, Strategy & Sponsorship team

Police Division

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] Available by MS Teams or mobile **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: 24 June 2024 15:06

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: POLICY VIEWS PLEASE - recorded crime stats

OK, thanks **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**.

[OUT OF SCOPE]

I'm sending this to CabSec in 10 mins so please shout now if any issues.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager

Justice and Home Affairs

Desk: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Scottish Government | news.gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 3:01 PM

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Cc: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] Subject: RE: POLICY VIEWS PLEASE - recorded crime stats

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Apologies for the last minute suggested change, see below, to ensure no misinterpretation.

Thank you

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] Violence Reduction, Community Safety Policy and Prevention Unit

Safer Communities Directorate | Scottish Government

Email: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] | ViolenceReduction@gov.scot

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Area 1W, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

My working pattern is Monday to Thursday

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 2:52 PM

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Cc: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] Subject: POLICY VIEWS PLEASE - recorded crime stats

[redacted S.38(1)(b)], police colleagues – can I check you are content with Jeanette's amends, as below

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager

Justice and Home Affairs

Desk: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Scottish Government | news.gov.scot

From: Jeanette Campbell **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 2:41 PM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR SPAD CLEARANCE OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24. Views by

3.30pm pls

Changes thanks **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 1:18 PM

To: Jeanette Campbell **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR SPAD CLEARANCE OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24. Views by

3.30pm pls

Jeanette

To see an updated draft pro-active statement, which follows a newsdesk review. The line on violence prevention has also been updated on advice from policy colleagues.

Please let me know if you are content.

Thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Justice Secretary Angela Constance said:

“Whilst these statistics show a slight rise in recorded crime they also show Scotland remains a safe place to live, with crime remaining at one of the lowest levels since 1974, below pre-pandemic levels, and 51% lower than its peak in 1991.

“The Scottish Government has provided record funding of £1.55 billion for policing in 2024-25 – an increase of £92.7 million which means Police Scotland can increase police officer numbers to between 16,500 and 16,600. to around 16,500-16,600.

In addition, we have made more than £4 million available over this year and last year the past two years for violence prevention to help divert people away from violence, with a further £19 million per year to 2025 on supporting projects that tackle violence against women and girls.

“I recognise that retail crime can cause significant disruption to businesses, which is why we support the Scottish Partnership Against Acquisitive Crime, led by Police Scotland, which targets enforcement activity and offers advice on preventative measures. There is always more that can be done to reduce crime which is why Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority are working to ensure the necessary resources and expertise are in place to tackle emerging areas of crime.

“We work closely with Police Scotland, the National Cyber Security Centre, and the Cyber and Fraud Centre and others to tackle cybercrime, including sextortion crimes, and to raise awareness of cyber security and how individuals and organisations can reduce their risk of becoming victims.”

Background

Recorded crime in 2023-24 is 299,780 - the fifth lowest level since 1974.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager

Justice and Home Affairs

Desk: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Scottish Government | news.gov.scot

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 11:55 AM

To: Jeanette Campbell **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR SPAD CLEARANCE OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24. Views by

3.30pm pls

Jeanette, we spoke. I'll progress the following pro-active comment and Tweet.

Thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Justice Secretary Angela Constance said:

“These statistics show that Scotland remains a safe place to live, with crime remaining at one of the lowest levels since 1974, below pre-pandemic levels, and falling by 51% from its peak in 1991. We have invested more than £4 million over the past two years on the Violence Prevention Framework to help divert people away from violence, with a further £19 million per year to 2025 on supporting projects that tackle violence against women and girls.

“There is always more we can do to reduce crime. I recognise that retail crime can cause significant disruption, which is why we support the Scottish Partnership Against Acquisitive Crime, led by Police Scotland, which targets enforcement activity and offers advice on preventative measures.

“We have provided record funding for the police budget in 2024-25 of £1.55 billion – an

increase of £92.7 million. Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority are working together to ensure the necessary resources and expertise are in place to tackle emerging areas of crime.

“We work closely with partners including Police Scotland, the National Cyber Security Centre, and the Cyber and Fraud Centre to tackle cyber-crime, including sextortion scams, and to raise awareness of cyber security and how individuals and organisations can reduce their risk of becoming victims of cyber attacks.”

Background

Recorded crime in 2023-24 is at the fifth lowest level since 1974. Total recorded crime in 1974 was 256,498 compared with 299,780 in 2023-24.

Tweet 1

The latest recorded crime stats confirm that Scotland remains a safe place to live and crime remains at one of the lowest levels since 1974.

Read more: [Link to stats:](#)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager

Justice and Home Affairs

Desk: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Scottish Government | news.gov.scot

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: 21 June 2024 09:55

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Cheers **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

I am content with that.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Friday, June 21, 2024 9:45 AM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Hi **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

I've had a chat with **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** and suggesting s further slight tweak below.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] – for benefit of copy list – can you confirm if content?

Thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Friday, June 21, 2024 9:33 AM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Thanks **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

[OUT OF SCOPE]

I've amended to reflect suggested changes.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] – grateful if you can confirm content as sending to SpAds 10am.

Justice Secretary Angela Constance said:

“These statistics show that Scotland remains a safe place to live, with crime at one of the lowest levels since 1974, and below pre-pandemic levels.

“Crimes recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 4%, from 289,352 to 299,780. With the recording of crime remaining below the pre-pandemic levels and falling by 51% from its peak in 1991, people can feel safer in their communities.

“The recent Scottish Crime and Justice Survey shows that crime levels – including incidents not reported to police – have dropped by more than half since 2008-09 and people feel safer in their communities.

“I recognise there is always more we can do to reduce crime. We have provided record funding for the police budget in 2024/25 of £1.55 billion – an increase of £92.7 million. Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority are working together to ensure the necessary resources and expertise are in place to tackle emerging areas of threat crime.

“We work closely with partners including Police Scotland, the National Cyber Security Centre, and the Cyber and Fraud Centre to tackle cyber-crime, including sextortion scams and raise awareness of cyber security the potential cyber risks that exist and on how criminals are looking to defraud individuals and organizations. and how individuals and organisations can reduce their risk of becoming victims of cyber attacks.

“Retail crime can cause significant disruption and we support the Scottish Partnership Against Acquisitive Crime, led by Police Scotland, which targets enforcement activity and offers advice on preventative measures.”

Background

As the recent Scottish Crime and Justice Survey showed crime levels – including incidents not reported to police – have dropped by more than half since 2008-09 and people feel safer in their communities.

Many thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

I am working from home – please contact me on **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Senior Media Manager | Communications NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care | Scottish

Government

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Friday, June 21, 2024 8:34 AM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**; Penelope Curtis; **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: FW: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Hi **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

I see you have added a further line to the new release on cyber crime as requested.

I've been following this for my interest in fraud and following amendments made by **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** in JAS I was content.

[OUT OF SCOPE]

While the fraud stats show a 114% increase in fraud over a longer period, the latest yearly figures show a decrease of 2% in fraud so I think the angle of criticism here is more about tackling cyber crime-in particular the sextortion threat rather than fraud?

[OUT OF SCOPE]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 5:15 PM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Hi **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

I have added to the line below. Not sure if this is what you are looking for?

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 5:07 PM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Thaks **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Is there a line we can have on cyber-crime – similar to what we have done in the quote on acquisitive crime (highlighted)? We are needing this for the quote.

Many thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

I am working from home – please contact me on **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Senior Media Manager | Communications NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care | Scottish

Government

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 2:43 PM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

What you have also looks fine to me.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Head of Policy and Programme | National Cyber Resilience Unit | Digital Directorate |

Scottish Government

| Mob: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** | E-mail: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 2:37 PM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

What you have looks fine from my perspective in Organised Crime Unit. You might want to run it past **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** for **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** specific cyber interests.

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 2:24 PM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Apologies to chase

Grateful if cyber-crime colleagues can come back by 3pm latest with the ask in the email below as looking to send to SpAds then.

Many thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

I am working from home – please contact me on **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Senior Media Manager | Communications NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care | Scottish

Government

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 12:58 PM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Apologies all

We have revised the line to keep it shorter. We have added a line on acquisitive crime (highlighted) – is there something similar we can provide on cyber crime? Keen to get this to SpAds today to get this moving.

Justice Secretary Angela Constance said:

“These statistics show that Scotland remains a safe place to live, with crime at one of the lowest levels since 1974, and below pre-pandemic levels.

“Crimes recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 4%, from 289,352 to 299,780. With the recording of crime remaining below the pre-pandemic levels and falling by 51% from its peak in 1991, people can feel safer in their communities.

“The recent Scottish Crime and Justice Survey shows that crime levels – including incidents not reported to police – have dropped by more than half since 2008-09 and people feel safer in their communities.

“I recognise there is always more we can do to reduce crime. We have provided record funding for the police budget in 2024/25 of £1.55 billion – an increase of £92.7 million. Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority are working together to ensure the necessary resources and expertise are in place to tackle emerging areas of threat crime.

“We work closely with partners including Police Scotland, the National Cyber Security Centre, and the Cyber and Fraud Centre to tackle cyber-crime, including sextortion scams and raise awareness of the potential cyber risks that exist and on how criminals are looking to defraud individuals and organizations.

“Retail crime can cause significant disruption and we support the Scottish Partnership Against Acquisitive Crime, led by Police Scotland, which targets enforcement activity and offers advice on preventative measures.”

Background

As the recent Scottish Crime and Justice Survey showed crime levels – including incidents not reported to police – have dropped by more than half since 2008-09 and people feel safer in their communities.

As no amends made to the draft tweets circulated yesterday afternoon – we are going with the below and graphic – for your awareness.

Tweet 1

The latest recorded crime stats confirms Scotland remains a safe place to live and crime remains at one of the lowest levels since 1974.

Read more: [Link to stats:](#)

Graphic

Tweet 2

We work closely with Police Scotland, National Cyber Security Centre, Cyber and Fraud Centre and Retailers Against Crime to tackle cyber and retail crime.

Many thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

I am working from home – please contact me on **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Senior Media Manager | Communications NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care | Scottish

Government

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 4:09 PM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Sorry for delay but content with this in relation to scams prevention.

Ta

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 3:54 PM

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Cc: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Content for fraud interest.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 3:49 PM

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Cc: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Content with [redacted S.38(1)(b)] suggested edits re cyber.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Head of Cyber Resilience Unit, National Cyber Security and Resilience Division, Scottish Government

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] My working pattern is full-time across four days: Mon – Thurs

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 1:54 PM

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Cc: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Hello [redacted S.38(1)(b)],

A slight tweak in purple from Child Protection below to specifically reference 'sextortion'.

Best wishes,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 1:48 PM

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Cc: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Mostly fine for my interests, with a few suggested tweaks below. I reckon the balance is about right but colleagues elsewhere, i.e. cyber, will wish to comment given the emphasis on their areas.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Head of Strategy and Collaboration

Police Powers, Strategy & Sponsorship team

Police Division

([redacted S.38(1)(b)]. Available by MS Teams or mobile **([redacted S.38(1)(b)])**)

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: 19 June 2024 13:12

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

All

We are looking to issue a proactive statement on Tuesday morning, instead of a news release.

I have started drafting something and grateful for your views. Can you let me know what the main points are we want to get across – is it investment/technology or something else?

I think we need to address the increase in cyber crime and retail crime as well as the clear up rates – I've pulled something together based on previous lines – grateful for any amends to the below (in red for ease).

Justice Secretary Angela Constance said:

“These stats show crime in Scotland remains at one of the lowest levels since 1974.

“Crimes recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 4%, from 289,352 to 299,780. With the recording of crime remaining below the pre-pandemic levels and falling by 51% from its peak in 1991, people can feel safer in their communities.

“The recent Scottish Crime and Justice Survey shows that crime levels – including incidents not reported to police – have dropped by more than half since 2008-09 and people feel safer in their communities.

“While some crimes have increased, there is always more we can do to tackle them.

“We work closely with partners including Police Scotland, the National Cyber Security Centre, and the Cyber and Fraud Centre to ensure Scotland is resilient to cyber threats tackle cyber-crime, including sextortion scams.

“We have provided record funding for the police budget in 2024/25 of £1.55 billion – an increase of £92.7 million. Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority are working together to ensure the necessary resources and expertise are in place to tackle emerging areas of threat, such as cyber-crime and fraud [suggest removal given we mention above].

“The Scottish Government is supportive of the Scottish Partnership Against Acquisitive Crime Strategy, which is led by Police Scotland, working with retailers and other organisations including Retailers Against Crime. We recognise the significant disruption and harm retail crime causes and condemn any violence against retail workers. Nobody should be subject to violence during their working day.”

Many thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

I am working from home – please contact me on **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Senior Media Manager | Communications NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care | Scottish

Government

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: 19 June 2024 15:15

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Thanks All

Grateful for any other amends by 4.30pm.

Justice Secretary Angela Constance said:

“These stats show crime in Scotland remains at one of the lowest levels since 1974.

“Crimes recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 4%, from 289,352 to 299,780. With the recording of crime remaining below re-pandemic levels and falling by 40% since 2006/07, people can feel safer in their communities.

“This also reflects the latest Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, which shows that crime levels – including incidents not reported to police – have dropped by more than half since 2008-09.

“While some crimes have increased, there is always more we can do to tackle them.

“We work closely with partners including Police Scotland, the National Cyber Security Centre and the Cyber and Fraud Centre to tackle cyber-crime, including sextortion scams.

“We have provided record funding for the police budget in 2024/25 of £1.55 billion – an increase of £92.7 million. Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority are working together to ensure the necessary resources and expertise are in place to tackle emerging areas of threat.

“The Scottish Government is supportive of the Scottish Partnership Against Acquisitive Crime, which is led by Police Scotland, working with retailers and

other organisations including Retailers Against Crime. We recognise the significant disruption and harm retail crime causes and condemn any violence against retail workers. Nobody should be subject to violence during their working day.”

Based on the above suggesting the tweet below (we are limited to 280 characters per tweet which includes spaces, punctuation and any links). Grateful for views/amends (in red for ease pls).

Tweet 1

The latest recorded crime stats confirms Scotland remains a safe place to live and crime remains at one of the lowest levels since 1974.

Read more: [Link to stats:](#)

Tweet 2

We work closely with Police Scotland, National Cyber Security Centre, Cyber and Fraud Centre and Retailers Against Crime to tackle cyber and retail crime.

Many thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

I am working from home – please contact me on **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Senior Media Manager | Communications NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care | Scottish

Government

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 2:04 PM

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Cc: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Thanks [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

I've suggested slight tweaks to the stats part. Possibly remove the second reference to people feeling safer in their communities? (sounds a bit repetitive with the above para). Alternatively we could keep the SCJS reference and delete the first one.

[redacted S.30(b)(i)]

Also suggested using the 40% drop since 2006/07 in place of the 51% drop since 1991 – as it aligns with current administration (without explicitly saying so), and is closer to the SCJS time series.

Cheers

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

“These stats show crime in Scotland remains at one of the lowest levels since 1974.

“Crimes recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 4%, from 289,352 to 299,780. With the recording of crime remaining below the pre-pandemic levels and falling by 40% since 2006/07, people can feel safer in their communities.

“This also reflects the latest Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, which shows that crime levels – including incidents not reported to police – have dropped by more than half since 2008-09 and people feel safer in their communities.

“While some crimes have increased, there is always more we can do to tackle them.

“We work closely with partners including Police Scotland, the National Cyber Security Centre, and the Cyber and Fraud Centre to ensure Scotland is resilient to cyber threats tackle cyber-crime, including sextortion scams.

“We have provided record funding for the police budget in 2024/25 of £1.55 billion – an increase of £92.7 million. Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority are working together to ensure the necessary resources and expertise are in place to tackle emerging areas of threat, such as cyber-crime and fraud [suggest removal given we mention above].

“The Scottish Government is supportive of the Scottish Partnership Against Acquisitive Crime Strategy, which is led by Police Scotland, working with retailers and other organisations including Retailers Against Crime. We recognise the significant disruption and harm retail crime causes and condemn any violence against retail workers. Nobody should be subject to violence during their working day.”

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 1:54 PM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Hello **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**,

A slight tweak in purple from Child Protection below to specifically reference ‘sextortion’.

Best wishes,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 1:48 PM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** Subject: RE: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

[redacted S.38(1)(b)],

Mostly fine for my interests, with a few suggested tweaks below. I reckon the balance is about right but colleagues elsewhere, i.e. cyber, will wish to comment given the emphasis on their areas.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Head of Strategy and Collaboration

Police Powers, Strategy & Sponsorship team

Police Division

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] Available by MS Teams or mobile **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: 19 June 2024 13:12

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: FOR POLICY VIEW OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

All

We are looking to issue a proactive statement on Tuesday morning, instead of a news release.

I have started drafting something and grateful for your views. Can you let me know what

the main points are we want to get across – is it investment/technology or something else?

I think we need to address the increase in cyber crime and retail crime as well as the clear up rates – I've pulled something together based on previous lines – grateful for any amends to the below (in red for ease).

Justice Secretary Angela Constance said:

“These stats show crime in Scotland remains at one of the lowest levels since 1974.

“Crimes recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 4%, from 289,352 to 299,780. With the recording of crime remaining below the pre-pandemic levels and falling by 51% from its peak in 1991, people can feel safer in their communities.

“The recent Scottish Crime and Justice Survey shows that crime levels – including incidents not reported to police – have dropped by more than half since 2008-09 and people feel safer in their communities.

“While some crimes have increased, there is always more we can do to tackle them.

“We work closely with partners including Police Scotland, the National Cyber Security Centre, and the Cyber and Fraud Centre to ensure Scotland is resilient to cyber threats tackle cyber-crime, including sextortion scams.

“We have provided record funding for the police budget in 2024/25 of £1.55 billion – an increase of £92.7 million. Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority are working together to ensure the necessary resources and expertise are in place to tackle emerging areas of threat, such as cyber-crime and fraud [suggest removal given we mention above].

“The Scottish Government is supportive of the Scottish Partnership Against Acquisitive Crime Strategy, which is led by Police Scotland, working with retailers and other organisations including Retailers Against Crime. We

recognise the significant disruption and harm retail crime causes and condemn any violence against retail workers. Nobody should be subject to violence during their working day.”

Many thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

I am working from home – please contact me on **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Senior Media Manager | Communications NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care | Scottish

Government

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: 25 June 2024 09:51

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: JUSTICE SECRETARY STATEMENT - Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Good morning,

Please find below a statement from the Justice Secretary Angela Constance on this morning's recorded crime stats. Link below.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/recorded-crime-in-scotland-2023-24/>

Best wishes,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

News | Senior Media Manager | Communications Justice and Home Affairs Team

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9023

www.gov.scot/news

Justice Secretary Angela Constance said:

“Whilst these statistics show a slight rise in recorded crime, they also show Scotland remains a safe place to live, with crime remaining at one of the lowest levels since 1974, below pre-pandemic levels, and 51% lower than its peak in 1991.

“The Scottish Government has provided record funding of £1.55 billion for policing in 2024-25 – an increase of £92.7 million, which means Police Scotland can increase police officer numbers to around 16,500-16,600.

“In addition, we have made more than £4 million available over this year and last year for violence prevention to help divert people away from violence, with a further £19 million per year to 2025 on supporting projects that tackle violence against women and girls.

“I recognise that retail crime can cause significant disruption to businesses, which is why we support the Scottish Partnership Against Acquisitive Crime, led by Police Scotland, which targets enforcement activity and offers advice on preventative measures. There is always more that can be done to reduce crime, which is why Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority are working to ensure the necessary resources and expertise are in place to tackle emerging areas of crime.

“We work closely with Police Scotland, the National Cyber Security Centre, the Cyber and Fraud Centre and others to tackle cyber-crime, including sextortion crimes, and to raise awareness of cyber security and how individuals and organisations can reduce their risk of becoming victims.”

Background

Recorded crime in 2023-24 is 299,780 - the fifth lowest level since 1974.

ENDS

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: 25 June 2024 09:17

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject:RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Pro-active statement Tweet - Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Hi **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

This is the cleared pro-active statement that is to issue to PA. Can you also send it to **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** who has asked on the post-Cabinet briefing email chain.

Thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Justice Secretary Angela Constance said:

“Whilst these statistics show a slight rise in recorded crime, they also show Scotland remains a safe place to live, with crime remaining at one of the lowest levels since 1974, below pre-pandemic levels, and 51% lower than its peak in 1991.

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girls.

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Background

Recorded crime in 2023-24 is 299,780 - the fifth lowest level since 1974.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager

Justice and Home Affairs

Desk: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Scottish Government | news.gov.scot

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024

Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 7:01 AM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024 **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**; Jeanette Campbell **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Pro-active statement Tweet - Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Hi **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Apologies for the delay, Ms Constance is content.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs : Angela Constance MSP

T: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** | M: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** | E: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

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www.lobbying.scot

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 3:11 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024 **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**; Jeanette Campbell **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Pro-active statement Tweet - Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

PO/Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs

Please see a pro-active statement and Tweet that we intend to issue tomorrow to mark publication of the Recorded Crime in Scotland 2023-24 statistics.

Grateful for clearance.

Many thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Justice Secretary Angela Constance said:

“Whilst these statistics show a slight rise in recorded crime they also show Scotland remains a safe place to live, with crime remaining at one of the lowest levels since 1974, below pre-pandemic levels, and 51% lower than its peak in 1991.

“The Scottish Government has provided record funding of £1.55 billion for policing in 2024-25 – an increase of £92.7 million which means Police Scotland can increase police officer numbers to around 16,500-16,600.

In addition, we have made more than £4 million available over this year and last year for violence prevention to help divert people away from violence, with a further £19 million per year to 2025 on supporting projects that tackle violence against women and girls.

“I recognise that retail crime can cause significant disruption to businesses, which is why we support the Scottish Partnership Against Acquisitive Crime, led by Police Scotland, which targets enforcement activity and offers advice on preventative measures. There is always more that can be done to reduce crime, which is why Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority are working to ensure the necessary resources and expertise are in place to tackle emerging areas of crime.

“We work closely with Police Scotland, the National Cyber Security Centre, the Cyber and Fraud Centre and others to tackle cybercrime, including sextortion crimes, and to raise awareness of cyber security and how individuals and organisations can reduce their risk of becoming victims.”

Background

Recorded crime in 2023-24 is 299,780 - the fifth lowest level since 1974.

Tweet

The latest recorded crime stats confirm that Scotland remains a safe place to live and crime remains at one of the lowest levels since 1974.

Read more: Link to stats:

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager

Justice and Home Affairs

Desk: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Scottish Government | news.gov.scot

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: 24 June 2024 12:59

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: FOR URGENT NEWSDESK REVIEW PLEASE

Attachments: These show a 4.docx

Thanks **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Pls see tracked in the attached some suggestions; happy to chat if helpful.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Deputy head of News, Scottish Government | **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

----- The Scottish Government - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) -----

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 12:43 PM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Subject: FOR URGENT NEWSDESK REVIEW PLEASE

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Grateful for a newsdesk review of the following pro-active statement that we intend to issue to PA tomorrow to mark publication of the annual recorded crime stats. These show a 4% increase in crime recorded by the police in 2023-24.

You've been added to PRA.

Thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Justice Secretary Angela Constance said:

“These statistics show that Scotland remains a safe place to live, with crime remaining at one of the lowest levels since 1974, below pre-pandemic levels, and falling by 51% from its peak in 1991. We have made more than £4 million available over the past two years for violence prevention to help divert people away from violence, with a further £19 million per year to 2025 on supporting projects that tackle violence against women and girls.

“There is always more we can do to reduce crime. I recognise that retail crime can cause significant disruption, which is why we support the Scottish Partnership Against Acquisitive Crime, led by Police Scotland, which targets enforcement activity and offers advice on preventative measures.

“We have provided record funding for the police budget in 2024-25 of £1.55 billion – an increase of £92.7 million. Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority are working together to ensure the necessary resources and expertise are in place to tackle emerging areas of crime.

“We work closely with partners including Police Scotland, the National Cyber Security Centre, and the Cyber and Fraud Centre to tackle cyber crime, including sextortion scams, and to raise awareness of cyber security and how individuals and organisations can reduce their risk of becoming victims of cyber attacks.”

Background

Recorded crime in 2023-24 is at the fifth lowest level since 1974. Total recorded crime in 1974 was 256,498 compared with 299,780 in 2023-24.

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: 25 June 2024 09:45

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: Ross Ingebrigtsen; **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject:RE: Post cabinet media briefing

Hi **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**,

RECORDED CRIME STATS

Here's the Justice Secretary statement that's been issued to PA.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Justice Secretary Angela Constance said:

“Whilst these statistics show a slight rise in recorded crime, they also show Scotland remains a safe place to live, with crime remaining at one of the lowest levels since 1974, below pre-pandemic levels, and 51% lower than its peak in 1991.

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2024-25 – an increase of £92.7 million, which means Police Scotland can increase police officer numbers to around 16,500-16,600.

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Background

Recorded crime in 2023-24 is 299,780 - the fifth lowest level since 1974.

ENDS

Other correspondence

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: 26 June 2024 11:57

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject:RE: Recorded Crime in Scotland - contextual information

Hi **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**,

Not sure if this may be helpful for context but, through Retail Policy's engagement with our stakeholders, they have consistently fed back an increase in incidents of shoplifting and abuse directed towards their staff.

Broadly, retailers have advised us that they feel the cost of living crisis has resulted in more people attempting to steal what they cannot afford to purchase, with numerous stakeholders providing anecdotes of incidents of customers stealing food and essential items.

[OUT OF SCOPE]

Similar to **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**, this info is anecdotal and we have no data-driven evidence that these are

reasons for the increases. Just purely based on the feedback we received from engagement with retailers and some of it should come as no surprise.

I hope this helps,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Senior Retail Policy Adviser

Business Strategy Division

Directorate for Business and Better Regulation

DG Economy | Scottish Government

5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 9:24 AM

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] Subject: RE: Recorded Crime in Scotland - contextual information

Thanks [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[OUT OF SCOPE]

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Sent: 25 June 2024 17:16

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Cc: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: Recorded Crime in Scotland - contextual information

Attachments: RE: OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE until 9:30 am on Tuesday 25 June 2024 - Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

Thanks [redacted S.38(1)(b)].

On the specific issue of the increase in the retail workers act offence, I had some exchanges with JAS previously as attached. I had wondered if there was any data driven thing that might be in play to explain at least some of the 55% increase. JAS advised there did not appear to be so (the new offence came into force in August 2021 and the 55% increase relates to 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 and so covers two comparable full years of data etc.).

[OUT OF SCOPE]

Cheers

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Head of Criminal Law, Practice and Licensing Unit

Criminal Justice Division

Room GW, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
Scottish Government

*Contactable by email, MS Teams and on **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]***

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 3:48 PM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: Recorded Crime in Scotland - contextual information

Hi all,

Many thanks for your contributions to the briefing documents for the Recorded Crime in Scotland statistics which were published this morning.

[OUT OF SCOPE]

This ask is more to provide any background information to colleagues who potentially receive follow up questions from Cab Sec/FM regarding the increases we've reported and not necessarily for lines on what Government is doing in these areas. For example, is what we are hearing from stakeholders around shoplifting consistent with the statistics we are reporting etc.?

Thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Senior Assistant Statistician

Police Activity and Recorded Crime Statistics

Safer Communities Analytical Unit

Justice Analytical Services

Scottish Government

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:44 AM

To: ET **[redacted]**/PQ Mailbox **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**; **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24 - **[redacted]** briefing

Hi all,

Please see attached requested **[redacted]** briefing for the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24 statistics published this morning.

Thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Senior Assistant Statistician

Police Activity and Recorded Crime Statistics

Safer Communities Analytical Unit

Justice Analytical Services

Scottish Government

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: 12 July 2024 13:11

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: RE: Recorded Crime Publication

Hi all,

As discussed with **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** on Monday, I've noted another mistake to the tables and unfortunately the bulletin. I made a typo in the cyber table A12 and cyber chapter of the bulletin – estimated volume of cyber sexual crimes should be 4,300 not 4,320. This impact is minimal but does unfortunately change the total estimated volumes in the tables and cyber chapter as well.

I've corrected both tables A3 and A12 and marked up a copy of the PDF with the necessary changes to the cyber chapter and other errors I've found.

I've went through all the tables again, re-extracting the data from SAS, and there appears to be no other errors in the tables. I've also started to have another read through the bulletin to ensure that there is no errors since we need to update the cyber sections anyway and found a couple of errors which I've marked up. I only got as far as page 18 so if someone else could double check the rest, I'd really appreciate it.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] – would you be okay to give this a final once over?

Given that the PDF version of the bulletin will require updates, I'm not sure how best to proceed. I know that **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** and **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]** are able to self-publish so we could correct the tables and HTML fairly easily, however since APS add a back page to the PDF version we might need to go through them.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] – are you able to advise on what we can do with this?

Links to all the updates:

Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - Bulletin - PDF - July updates details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - Bulletin - Tables - Working - July updates details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - Bulletin - Tables - Final - July updates details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - Main Infographic - Charts details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

Recorded Crime - 2023-24 - Bulletin - Main Infographic details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

Thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Senior Assistant Statistician

Police Activity and Recorded Crime Statistics

Safer Communities Analytical Unit

Justice Analytical Services

Scottish Government

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 10:48 AM

To: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Cc: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

Subject: Recorded Crime Publication

Hi Guys

[OUT OF SCOPE]

Well done on getting the annual crime bulletin out on the 25th, it looks really good, and appreciate everyone's efforts in getting it over the line.

....and I'm really sorry to say this....I've found a small error! :)

Table A3 shows other non-sexual violence split by crime code. It totals 4,625 for 2023-24. However in Table 1 it says there were 4,628. I'm assuming the issue might be that the new 'encourage self-harm' cases need added to the former? (as there were 3 in 2023-24, so this would account for the difference?).

Grateful if you can consider. If the above is correct- we don't need to do lots in terms of telling people we've amended, as it's so minor. Could just fix and then let folk know through Scotstat.

Happy to chat

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Head of Safer Communities Analytical Unit

Justice Analytical Services

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Ministerial Submission

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Justice Analytical Services

20 June 2024

Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs

RECORDED CRIME IN SCOTLAND, 2023-24

Purpose

1. To provide you with pre-release access to the 'Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24' Accredited Official Statistics publication.

Priority

2. Routine – these statistics will be published at **9:30 am on Tuesday 25 June 2024**. Please treat the attached statistics and any indication of their results as **restricted until their public release**.

Background

3. This publication provides key statistics which inform The Vision for Justice in Scotland, and is the primary source of information on the volume of criminal activity with which the police are faced. We have also shared a copy of this brief with the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, as it includes figures on police recorded crimes of weapon possession in schools (see paragraphs 26-28).

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 2022-23 and 2023-24:

5. Crimes recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 4%, from 289,352 to 299,780. The recording of crime remains below the position immediately prior to the pandemic (2019-20) and down 51% from its peak in 1991.
6. Non-sexual crimes of violence increased by 4%, from 68,870 to 71,463. This was driven by an increase in Common assault (up 3%), which makes up the clear majority (83%) of all Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded in 2023-24.

7. Sexual crimes decreased by 1%, from 14,602 to 14,484. These crimes are now at the third highest level seen since 1971, the first year for which comparable groups are available.
8. Crimes of dishonesty increased by 7%, from 103,393 to 111,054. The recording of these crimes is **back to the level seen immediately prior to the pandemic (in 2019-20) and down 74% from the peak in 1991.**
9. Damage and reckless behaviour crimes decreased by 5%, from 43,123 to 41,129. The recording of these crimes is now at the lowest level seen since 1976.
10. Crimes against society increased by 4% from 59,374 to 61,650. Most of these crimes relate to crimes against public justice (41%) or drug possession (34%).
11. Offences recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 1%, from 172,207 to 174,073. This included an increase in Miscellaneous offences (up 8%) and Road traffic offences (up 3%), though antisocial offences decreased by 5%.

Police recorded cyber-Crime in Scotland

12. **This bulletin also includes an estimate of how many cyber-crimes (i.e. crimes committed using the internet) were recorded in Scotland.**
13. **An estimated 16,910 cyber-crimes were recorded by the police in 2023-24. This was up by around 2,000 crimes (or 14%) compared to 2022-23, and remains significantly above the pre-pandemic year of 2019-20 (with 7,710 cyber-crimes).**
14. **Cyber-crimes accounted for 30% of Sexual crimes in 2023-24 and 9% of Crimes of dishonesty. They only account for 4% of Non-sexual crimes of violence.**

Official Statistics on Crime Clear Up Rates

15. Crime clear up rates show the proportion of crime where sufficient evidence exists to justify consideration of criminal proceedings against a person. The clear up rate for all recorded crime was 54.1% in 2023-24, up from 53.3% in 2022-23.
16. Crimes against society (91.4%), Non-sexual crimes of violence (68.0%) and Sexual crime (57.2%) continued to have higher clear up rates in 2023-24 than Crimes of dishonesty (33.1%) and Damage and reckless behaviour (29.6%).

Statistics in Context

Total Recorded crime

17. The 4% increase in total recorded crime in 2023-24 is the largest rise in any year since 2004-05. Whilst there are a range of changes by type of crime, it is notable that the overall increase is similar to the rise in shoplifting alone (itself up 35% to a record high). Despite this, crime still remains below the position immediately prior to the pandemic (2019-20) and down 51% from its peak in 1991. It is also down 40% since 2006/07 (the last year before the current administration).

Increase in Non-sexual crimes of violence

18. Non-sexual crimes of violence are at their highest level since 2011-12. Even if we exclude the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act crimes (which commenced in 2019-20), this still remains the case.
19. Common assault accounts for 83% of Non-sexual crimes of violence, and increased by 3% between 2022-23 and 2023-24, from 57,708 to 59,314. Of these, 7,972 (13%) related to Common assault of emergency workers, up 5% since 2022-23. A further 2,555 (or 4%) related to Common assault of a retail worker, which has increased by 55% since 2022-23. The bulletin covers the second full year of data under the Protection of Workers Retail Act. The Act did not create new crimes, it simply ensured that relevant cases would be recorded as common assault of a retail worker, rather than a generic common assault.
20. There was an 18% increase in Robbery from 1,623 to 1,922, whilst Threats and extortion increased 20% to 2,417. Those latter crimes have increased 10-fold over the last decade and are overwhelmingly cyber-enabled (86%). They most commonly relate to 'sextortion', where the perpetrator (who is often outside Scotland) threatens to reveal evidence of a victim's online sexual activity, unless they receive some form of monetary payment. Drugging crimes fell by 38% to 159, however they remain substantially higher than the period from 2014-15 to 2020-21 when no more than 24 were recorded in any year.
21. This is the fifth year that the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act has been in place, with 2,042 crimes recorded in 2023-24 (up 15% on 2022-23 and the highest level since this legislation came into place). The vast majority (94%, or 1,921) of these crimes involved a female victim and 6%, or 121, involved a male victim.

Decrease in Sexual crimes

22. Whilst there was a 1% decrease in sexual crimes in 2023-24, levels are at the third highest seen since 1971 (and up 52% over the past decade).
23. Where information was recorded as part of the statistics, 95% of rape and attempted rapes and 87% of sexual assaults had a female victim in 2023-24.
24. Historical reporting of sexual crime continues to play a role. Almost a quarter (24%) of cases in 2023-24 were recorded at least one year after they occurred. This is higher than the previous year, and closer to that of pre-pandemic years.

Increase in Crimes of dishonesty

25. Crimes of dishonesty increased by 7% in 2023-24, from 103,393 to 111,054, and were the main driver for the total increase in recorded crime. The rise was driven by an increase in Shoplifting (up 35%) to a record high. A similar trend has been seen across England & Wales¹.

Increase in crimes of weapons

¹ [Shoplifting hits record high in England and Wales - BBC News](#)

26. In 2023-24 there was an increase in weapons possession (both used and not used in criminal activity).
27. Weapons possession (not used) increased by 17% in 2023-24 and are 45% higher than in 2014-15. There were 138 crimes involving an offensive weapon (not used) in a prison, up from 81 in 2022-23. Crimes involving an offensive weapon (not used) in a school were down from 147 in 2022-23 to 136 in 2023-24.
28. Weapons possession (used) increased by 7% in 2023-24 and are 46% higher than in 2017-18, when this category was introduced. There were 72 crimes involving an offensive weapon (used) in a prison, up from 66 in 2022-23. Crimes involving an offensive weapon (used) in a school were down by 1 from 96 in 2022-23 to 95 in 2023-24.

Cyber-crime

29. An estimated 16,910 cyber-crimes were recorded in 2023-24, accounting for at least 6% of all crimes recorded by police. This includes an estimated 59% of Fraud and 30% of Sexual crime.
30. The estimated number of Threats and Extortion crimes that were cyber-crimes increased by 14% in 2023-24 (from 1,830 to 2,080). As noted in paragraph 20, most of these related to cases of financially motivated sexual extortion ('sextortion'), where an offender threatens to reveal nude or semi-nude images or videos of a victim, unless they receive some form of financial gain.

Increase in clear up rates

31. The clear-up rate increased from 53.3% to 54.1%, back to a similar level seen in 2021-22. This level is also comparable to several of the pre-pandemic years.
32. Crimes against society was the only group to see a drop in clear up rates. However these still have the highest rates of all groups, as many cases cover activity where someone is generally 'caught in the act' (like Drugs – Possession).

Crimes against retail workers

33. The publication also includes high level findings from a one-off study of the characteristics of those new crimes being recorded under the Protection of Workers Retail etc. Act – namely assault of a retail worker and threaten/abuse a retail worker. As noted in paragraph 19, recorded common assault of a retail worker increased 55% in 2023-24 (albeit the study focused on an earlier period).
34. For the year ending September 2022, the study found that victims were more likely to be male (64%), and had an average age of 35 years old. The estimated proportion who were not White Scottish or Other White British (at 26.3%), was notably higher than the equivalent working age population (16-64) as measured by the 2022 census (15.2%) - suggesting a greater a degree of ethnic diversity amongst victims of retail worker crime. Shoplifting was estimated to be a factor in 43% of cases.

Crime over longer term and England & Wales comparison

35. As noted in paragraph 5, recorded crime increased 4% though remains 51% below its peak in 1991. The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) is a complementary measure that includes crimes that are not reported to the police. It found a 53% fall in the volume of crime experienced by adults between 2008-09 and 2021-22, with no change from 2019-20. Findings for the equivalent year of 2023-24 will be published by early 2025.
36. 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.
37. Comparisons can be made using crime surveys. The proportion of adults in Scotland estimated to have experienced crime was similar to that in England & Wales (10.0% compared to 10.4%). In both areas, there has been a significant reduction in the volume of crime experienced by adults since 2008-09.
38. Changes in recorded crime since the current administration started (i.e. 2006-07) and over the past year are provided by local authority area in Annex A (separate attachment). All areas have seen a substantial reduction in recorded crime since 2006-07. Dundee City (847 per 10,000 population) and Glasgow City (812 per 10,000) had the highest crime rates in 2023-24.

Policy Lines / Comms Actions

39. Comms colleagues will prepare a ministerial news release on these statistics, which will be issued shortly after publication. As standard, a statistical news release will be issued. A **(redacted)** brief will be provided for Cabinet on Tuesday 25 June (the day of publication) and we will prepare an **(redacted)** brief.
40. Officials are happy to discuss any of these statistics further. We will provide a separate question & answer document with lines that can be used on key issues.

Conclusion

41. **The Cabinet Secretary is invited to note that the statistical bulletin “Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24” will be published at 9.30 am on Tuesday 25 June 2024.**

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Justice Analytical Services

| Copy List: | For Action | For Comments | For Information | | |
|---|------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | | | Portfolio Interest | Constit Interest | General Awareness |
| First Minister | | | | | |
| Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills | | | | | X |
| Minister for Victims and Community Safety | | | X | | |
| Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the promise | | | X | | |
| | | | X | | |

Permanent Secretary

Director General Education and Justice

Director of Justice

Director of Safer Communities

Director for Children and Families

Director of Learning

Ally McAlpine (Chief Statistician)

Amy Wilson (Deputy Director, Justice Analytical Services)

Maureen Rooney (Deputy Director, Safer Communities)

Penelope Cooper (Deputy Director, Police Division)

Penelope Curtis (Deputy Director, Defence, Security and Cyber Resilience)

Anna Donald (Deputy Director, Criminal Justice)

Alex Doig (Deputy Director Prisons)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Deputy Director, Community Justice Division)

Alison Taylor (Deputy Director, Improvement, Attainment and Wellbeing)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Head of Criminal Law and Practice Unit)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Policy Officer – Criminal Law and Practice Unit)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Legislation Manager – Criminal Law and Practice Unit)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Team Leader – Violence Against Women and Girls)

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[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Violence Against Women and Girls)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Head of Community Safety)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Team Leader – Violence Reduction Policy)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Policy Officer – Violence Reduction)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Policy Officer – Violence Reduction)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]– Violence Reduction Policy Officer

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Head of Strategy – Police Division)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Head of Legislation and Divisional Development)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Head of Cyber Resilience Unit)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Policy Lead – Cyber Resilience Unit)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]- (Policy Lead – Cyber Resilience Unit)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Head of Organised Crime Unit)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Organised Crime Unit)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Organised Crime Unit)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]– Proceeds of crime

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Team Leader, Consumer Rights and Standards)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Consumer Rights and Standards)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Head of Support and Wellbeing Unit)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Support and Wellbeing Unit)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Support and Wellbeing Unit)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Child Protection)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Child Protection)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Child Protection)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Head of Road Safety Policy)

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (Head of Research, Statistics and Evaluation – Road Safety)

James Hynd – Director for Cabinet

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Craig Naylor (Chief Inspector – HMICS)

Lord Advocate

Solicitor General

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Statistical Bulletin Only (received under separate copy):

Police Scotland:

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Scottish Police Authority:

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

ANNEX A – to Ministerial Submission

Change in the number of crimes recorded in each local authority

| Local Authority | 2006-07 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | % change 06-07 to 23-24 | % change 22-23 to 23-24 |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Scotland | 497,424 | 289,362 | 299,780 | -40% | 4% |
| Aberdeen City | 27,525 | 14,811 | 14,855 | -46% | 0% |
| Aberdeenshire | 12,859 | 8,048 | 7,741 | -40% | -4% |
| Angus | 7,457 | 4,635 | 4,711 | -37% | 2% |
| Argyll & Bute | 6,459 | 3,186 | 3,464 | -46% | 9% |
| Clackmannanshire | 5,844 | 2,697 | 2,873 | -51% | 7% |
| Dumfries & Galloway | 11,615 | 7,721 | 7,811 | -33% | 2% |
| Dundee City | 18,264 | 12,547 | 12,571 | -31% | 0% |
| East Ayrshire | 10,195 | 6,183 | 6,570 | -36% | 6% |
| East Dunbartonshire | 5,640 | 2,771 | 2,623 | -53% | -5% |
| East Lothian | 6,169 | 4,595 | 5,213 | -15% | 13% |
| East Renfrewshire | 4,737 | 2,303 | 2,379 | -50% | 3% |
| Edinburgh, City of | 56,619 | 32,176 | 34,976 | -38% | 9% |
| Falkirk | 12,152 | 7,813 | 8,062 | -34% | 3% |
| Fife | 36,011 | 20,554 | 19,892 | -45% | -3% |
| Glasgow City | 88,394 | 50,128 | 50,558 | -43% | 1% |
| Highland | 17,909 | 10,094 | 11,082 | -38% | 10% |
| Inverclyde | 7,920 | 4,238 | 4,386 | -45% | 3% |
| Midlothian | 7,583 | 4,455 | 4,669 | -38% | 5% |
| Moray | 7,294 | 3,957 | 3,884 | -47% | -2% |
| Na h-Eileanan Siar | 1,435 | 820 | 630 | -56% | -23% |
| North Ayrshire | 12,059 | 6,852 | 7,732 | -36% | 13% |
| North Lanarkshire | 31,221 | 18,751 | 19,501 | -38% | 4% |
| Orkney Islands | 611 | 514 | 521 | -15% | 1% |
| Perth & Kinross | 9,085 | 5,904 | 6,093 | -33% | 3% |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|
| Renfrewshire | 17,082 | 9,146 | 9,499 | -44% | 4% |
| Scottish Borders | 6,528 | 4,562 | 4,593 | -30% | 1% |
| Shetland Islands | 976 | 637 | 496 | -49% | -22% |
| South Ayrshire | 9,020 | 5,418 | 5,607 | -38% | 3% |
| South Lanarkshire | 24,673 | 15,769 | 16,327 | -34% | 4% |
| Stirling | 7,528 | 3,680 | 4,268 | -43% | 16% |
| West Dunbartonshire | 10,794 | 5,180 | 5,936 | -45% | 15% |
| West Lothian | 15,766 | 9,217 | 10,187 | -35% | 11% |

Source: Police Recorded Crime Accredited Official Statistics, 2023-24

Information extracted from Annex B to Ministerial Submission – Q&A

OVERALL RECORDED CRIME

Today's statistics show a 4% increase in crime recorded by the police in 2023-24. This was driven by a 7% increase in crimes of dishonesty. The recording of crime remains below the position immediately prior to the pandemic (2019-20) and down 51% from its peak in 1991.

THREATS AND EXTORTION

There has been an increase in recorded crimes of Threats & extortion, from 2,008 in 2022-23 to 2,417 in 2023-24. Almost nine-in-ten (86%) crimes of Threats & Extortion were estimated to be cyber-crimes in 2023-24. Where the location of the perpetrators was identified, the large majority were from outside of Scotland.

FRAUD

We are pleased to see fraud has decreased by 2% in the last year. While the overall figure has come down we have noted the increasing use of cyber enabled fraud, which we estimate to account for over half of all Frauds (59%).

WEAPONS POSSESSION

| Crime category | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Handling offensive weapons - Not used in other criminal activity | 146 | 74 | 126 | 147 | 136 |
| Possession of an offensive weapon in a school | 34 | 18 | 28 | 35 | 42 |
| Having in a school an article with a blade or point | 112 | 56 | 98 | 112 | 94 |
| | | | | | |
| Handling offensive weapons - Used in other criminal activity | 61 | 36 | 102 | 96 | 95 |
| Possession of an offensive weapon in a school | 40 | 27 | 65 | 69 | 60 |
| Having in a school an article with a blade or point | 21 | 9 | 37 | 27 | 35 |
| | 207 | 110 | 228 | 243 | 231 |

Background: For the purposes of these statics a weapon may be “any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to a person, or intended, by the person having the article, for use for causing injury to a person by (i) the person having it, or (ii) some other person”. Therefore, this may include items which would be readily available within schools, such a ruler or rubber.

RETAIL CRIME

| Crime category | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | <i>% change 22-23 to 23- 24</i> |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| Shoplifting | 22,913 | 28,619 | 38,674 | 35 |
| Serious assault of retail worker | 8 | 15 | 13 | -13 |
| Common assault of a retail worker | 786 | 1,650 | 2,555 | 55 |
| Threatening and abusive behaviour of a retail worker | 1,130 | 2,106 | 2,922 | 39 |
| Total crimes against retail workers | 1,924 | 3,771 | 5,490 | 46 |

LOCAL AREA TRENDS

Local authorities with the five largest increases in recorded crime since 2022-23, and comparison with 2006-07:

| Local authority | % change 22-23 to 23-24 | % change 06-07 to 23-24 |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Stirling | 16% | -43% |
| West Dunbartonshire | 15% | -45% |
| East Lothian | 13% | -15% |
| North Ayrshire | 13% | -36% |
| West Lothian | 11% | -35% |

Information extracted from briefing to the First Minister

Recorded Crime

25 June: Publication of Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24

- Recorded crime has increased by 4% compared to the previous year, however remains below the position immediately prior to the pandemic (2019-20) and down 51% from its peak in 1991.

Compared to 2022-23:

- 4% increase in police recorded crime.
- 4% increase in non-sexual violence.
- Crimes of dishonesty increased by 7% compared to 2022-23. The recording of these crimes is back to the level seen immediately prior to the pandemic (in 2019-20) and down 74% from the peak in 1991.
- Sexual crimes fell by 1% but remains at the third highest level on record.
- Weapon Possession increased from 9,727 to 10,835 (up 11%), the highest since data was collected separately from 2017-18
- The crime clear up rate rose to 54.1% (from 53.3%). The clear up rate for sexual crimes increased to 57.2% (from 53.4%, the lowest ever level).
- Estimated levels of cyber-crime increased by 14% in 2023-24 and remain substantially above pre pandemic levels.

Between 2006-07 and 2023-24:

| Recorded Crime Accredited Official Statistics | 2006-07 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | Change since 2022-23 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Total Crimes | 497,424 | 289,352 | 299,780 | 10,418 (+4%) |
| Non-sexual violence | 92,266 | 68,870 | 71,643 | 2,593 (+4%) |
| Sexual crimes | 6,726 | 14,602 | 14,484 | -118 (-1%) |
| Crimes of dishonesty | 183,760 | 103,393 | 111,054 | 7,661 (+7%) |
| Damage and reckless behaviour | 129,734 | 43,123 | 41,129 | -1,994 (-5%) |
| Crimes against society | 84,938 | 59,364 | 61,650 | 2,276 (+4%) |

Scotland is a safer place since this government took office. Recorded crime remains below the position immediately prior to the pandemic (2019-20), and is **down 40% since 2006-07**.

We have seen a **23% reduction** in non-sexual violent crime since 2006-07

Violence Reduction

25 June: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24 published, shows 4% increase in non-sexual violent crime and weapons possession, used (7%) and not used (17%).

- Whilst progress has been made over the longer term, (23% reduction in non-sexual violent crime since 2006/07), we know there is still much more to do.

Police

25 Jun: Recorded Crime in Scotland 2023-24 shows 4% year on year increase in police recorded crime including crimes of dishonesty (which includes shoplifting) increased by 7% compared and back to the level seen immediately prior to the pandemic. Crime clear up rate rose to 54.1% from 53.3%.

The most recent statistics, published in 2023 show Scotland continues to be a safe place to live. Recorded crime in Scotland has fallen significantly under this administration.

- Scotland is a safer place since this government took office. Recorded crime remains below the position immediately prior to the pandemic (2019-20), and is down 40% since 2006-07.

Serious Organized Crime – Fraud and Scams

- Crimes of Fraud accounted for 15% of Crimes of dishonesty. Fraud increased year-on-year between 2014-15 and 2022-23, increasing by 144% in that time period.
- However, there was a 2% decrease in the most recent year.
- Fraud decreased by 2% between 2022-23 and 2023-24 (from 16,879 crimes in 2022-23 to 16,624 in 2023-24).
- Much of the recent increase in Fraud has related to cyber-crimes which are estimated to account for more than half of all Frauds (59%) in 2023-24 and saw a further rise in the previous year.

Serious Organized Crime – Cybercrime

- In 2023-24, an estimated 16,910 cyber-crimes were recorded by the police in Scotland. This was an increase of around 2,000 crimes (or 14%) when compared to the estimated volume for 2022-23 (14,890). Levels also remain significantly above the pre-pandemic year of 2019-20 (with 7,710 cyber-crimes).
- It is estimated that around 30% of all sexual crimes in 2023-24 in Scotland had a cyber-element.
- In the latest year, 59% of recorded frauds were estimated to have been cyber-crimes.

Information extracted from briefing to the Scottish Cabinet

Topic Heading: Recorded Crime in Scotland Statistics, 2023-24

Minister: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs

The Scottish Government today (at 9:30am) published the 2023-24 Accredited Official Statistics on '**Recorded Crime in Scotland**' (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 by the police and local authority data. Further detail will be provided in Cabinet.

Police recorded crime increased by 4% in 2023-24, from 289,362 to 299,780.

The recording of crime remains below the position immediately prior to the pandemic (2019-20) and down 51% from its peak in 1991.

Non-sexual crimes of violence increased by 4%.

Sexual crimes decreased by 1%, however is at the third highest level since 1971.

Crimes of dishonesty increased by 7% and were the main driver for the total increase in recorded crime. The rise was driven by an increase in Shoplifting (up 35%) to a record high. A similar trend has been seen across England & Wales.

Recorded **cyber-crimes** increased by 14%, from 14,890 to 16,910. Fraud accounted for 58% of cyber-crime, followed by Sexual Crime (30%) and Threats/Extortion – which are often '*sextortion*' type cases (12%).

Weapon Possession in Schools decreased by 5%, from 243 to 231, the second highest year since this was collected separately from 2017-18. There has also been an increase in total recorded crimes of weapon possession.

Common assault of a retail worker increased by 55%, from 1,650 to 2,555.

Clear up rates show where sufficient evidence exists to justify criminal proceedings against a person. These increased to 54.1% this year (from 53.3%) and remain comparable to pre-pandemic years.

Sextortion

The statistics show a 14% increase in cyber-enabled Threats & Extortion.

Most of these are financially motivated sexual extortion ('sextortion'), where an offender threatens to reveal nude or semi-nude images or videos of a victim, unless they receive some form of financial gain.

The publication can be found here after 9:30am on Tuesday 25 June

[Recorded crime in Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Recorded-crime-in-Scotland)