

Statistical Bulletin

Crime and Justice Series

A National Statistics Publication for Scotland

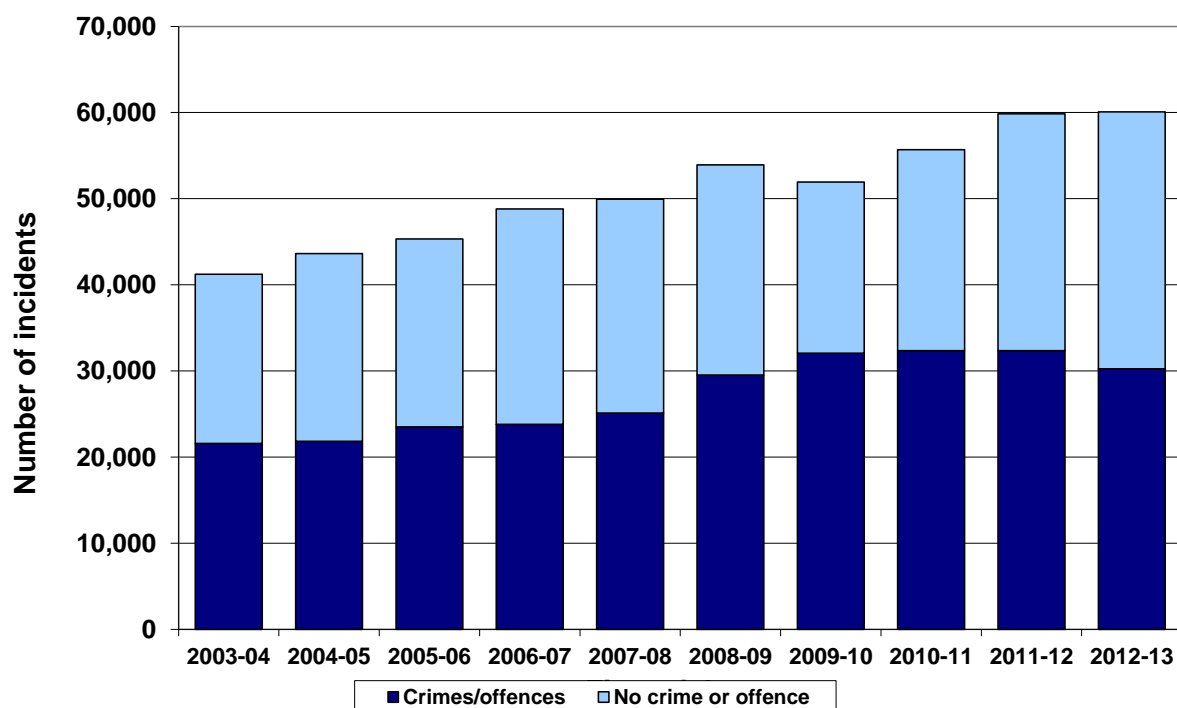


DOMESTIC ABUSE RECORDED BY THE POLICE IN SCOTLAND, 2012-13 8 October 2013

1. Introduction

1.1 This bulletin presents statistics on domestic abuse, based on details of incidents supplied by the eight Scottish police forces in 2012-13. It forms part of the Scottish Government series of statistical bulletins on the criminal justice system. The figures are used to inform policy and, in conjunction with the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (see [note 4.12](#)), are used to measure the extent and nature of domestic abuse in Scotland.

1.2 There were 60,080 incidents of domestic abuse recorded in 2012-13, compared to 59,847 incidents recorded in 2011-12, an increase of less than half of 1% and in line with the generally increasing trend over the ten year period covered by this bulletin. Half of all incidents recorded in 2012-13 (30,259) led to the recording of a crime or offence, down from 54% (32,369) in 2011-12 (table 2 and chart 1).



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2. Main points

- The crime/offence statistics reported in this bulletin refer to the most serious crime/offence associated with each incident of domestic abuse. The most common crime or offence in 2012-13 was common assault, at 42% (12,778) of all incidents where a crime or offence was recorded. Threatening or abusive behaviour was the second most common crime or offence, accounting for 19% (5,685) of incidents where a crime or offence was recorded ([table 2](#) and [note 4.7](#)).
- The overall number of domestic abuse incidents recorded by the police in Scotland in 2012-13 was 1,131 per 100,000 population ([table 3](#)), similar to the 1,129 incidents per 100,000 in 2011-12.
- Incidents with a female victim and a male perpetrator represented 80% (45,916) of all domestic abuse incidents in 2012-13 where this information was recorded. Over the ten year period covered by the bulletin, this percentage has gradually decreased from 89% in 2003-04. The percentage of domestic abuse incidents with a male victim and female perpetrator has increased steadily from 9% (3,695) in 2003-04 to stand at 17% (9,946) in 2012-13 ([table 7](#)).
- For incidents where information regarding repeat victimisation of domestic abuse was available in 2012-13, 61% (31,397) involved victims who had previously experienced domestic abuse, the same as in 2011-12 ([table 9](#)).
- When looking at the number of incidents per 100,000 population in 2012-13, females are most at risk of becoming victims of domestic abuse when aged between 22 and 25 years and males when aged between 26 and 30 years ([table 11](#)).
- In 2012-13, incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police involving cohabittees or partners accounted for 42% of all incidents where the relationship was recorded, with more incidents related to partners (23%) than cohabittees (19%). Partners refer to couples who do not live together. Incidents involving spouses accounted for a further 13% ([table 17](#)).
- Since 2003-04, the percentage of incidents involving spouses has decreased from 22% to 13% in 2012-13. There has also been a decrease in the percentage of incidents involving cohabittees from 26% in 2003-04 to 19% in 2012-13. In 44% of incidents in 2012-13 where the relationship was known, the victim and perpetrator were ex-partners or ex-spouses. This figure has been increasing steadily from 32% in 2003-04 ([table 17](#)).
- In 2012-13, 39% of incidents of domestic abuse were referred to the procurator fiscal (23,606). This represents a slight decrease over the previous three year period, where the percentage of incidents referred to the procurator fiscal remained constant at 42%. Of the incidents where a crime/offence was recorded, 78% were referred to the procurator fiscal in 2012-13, an increase of one percentage point compared to 2011-12 (77%) ([table 2](#)).

3. Commentary

The statistics on domestic abuse are used to inform [National Outcome 9](#) – ‘we live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger’ as well as [The Strategy for Justice in Scotland](#). These statistics are also used by a wide range of stakeholders to monitor trends, for policy research and development, and for research purposes.

The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 changed the policing landscape in Scotland, replacing the eight police forces, the Scottish Police Services Authority and the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency from 1 April 2013. The Police Service of Scotland is now responsible for operational policing in Scotland and will be held to account by the Scottish Police Authority. The statistics set out in this bulletin cover the year immediately preceding the establishment of the Police Service of Scotland.

3.1. Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police (tables 1 and 2, and chart 1)

- Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland increased from 59,847 in 2011-12 to 60,080 in 2012-13, an increase of less than half of 1% and continuing the generally upward trend.
- 50% (30,259) of the incidents recorded in 2012-13 led to the recording of at least one crime or offence. This is four percentage points lower than in 2011-12. In 2012-13, the highest proportion of crimes/offences to incidents was recorded by Grampian (66%) and the lowest by Lothian & Borders (34%).
- The most common crime or offence recorded in 2012-13, as in previous years, was Common assault, accounting for 42% (12,778) of all incidents where a crime or offence was recorded, followed by Threatening or abusive behaviour at 19% (5,685).
- Crimes, which are generally regarded as more serious than offences, were recorded in 12% (7,488) of all incidents in 2012-13, similar to the previous three year period in which the percentage remained constant at 13%.
- In 2012-13, where a crime was recorded, it was most likely to be a Crime against public justice (typically Bail offences and Resisting arrest), accounting for 13% (4,005) of all incidents where a crime or offence was recorded, or Vandalism, accounting for 6% (1,720).
- The Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 introduced two new statutory offences, namely Threatening or abusive behaviour (section 38) and Stalking (section 39). These sections of the Act came into force in late 2010. These offences would previously have been recorded under Breach of the peace and therefore the recent decreases in the number of offences of Breach of the peace should be treated with caution.

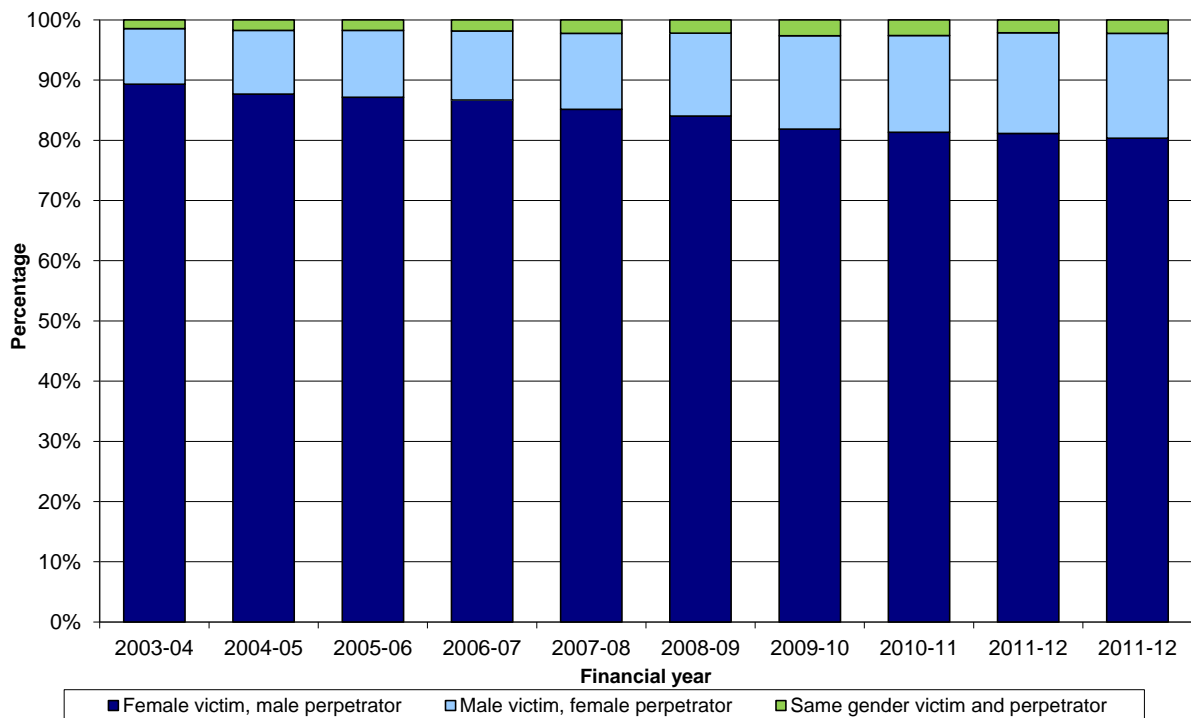
3.2. Incidents of domestic abuse per 100,000 population (table 3)

- The number of domestic abuse incidents recorded by the police in 2012-13 ranged from 707 per 100,000 population in Grampian to 1,311 per 100,000 population in Fife, compared with an overall Scottish rate of 1,131 per 100,000 population.
- In 2012-13, Strathclyde has the highest number of domestic abuse incidents where a crime or offence was recorded (733 per 100,000 population), while Dumfries & Galloway and Lothian & Borders have the lowest (each 377 per 100,000 population).
- There was some variation between police forces in the number of incidents of domestic abuse which were reported to the procurator fiscal in 2012-13. These ranged from 217 per 100,000 population in Grampian, to 630 per 100,000 population in Strathclyde.

3.3. Incidents of domestic abuse by gender of victim and perpetrator (tables 6 and 7, and chart 2)

- Incidents with a female victim and a male perpetrator represented 80% of all incidents of domestic abuse in 2012-13 (where this information was recorded), one percentage point lower than in 2011-12. This percentage has gradually decreased since 2003-04, when it was 89%. This is mainly the result of an increase in the proportion of incidents with a male victim and a female perpetrator, which has risen from 9% of all incidents (where this information was recorded) in 2003-04 to 17% in 2012-13.

Chart 2 Gender of victim and perpetrator, where known, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13.



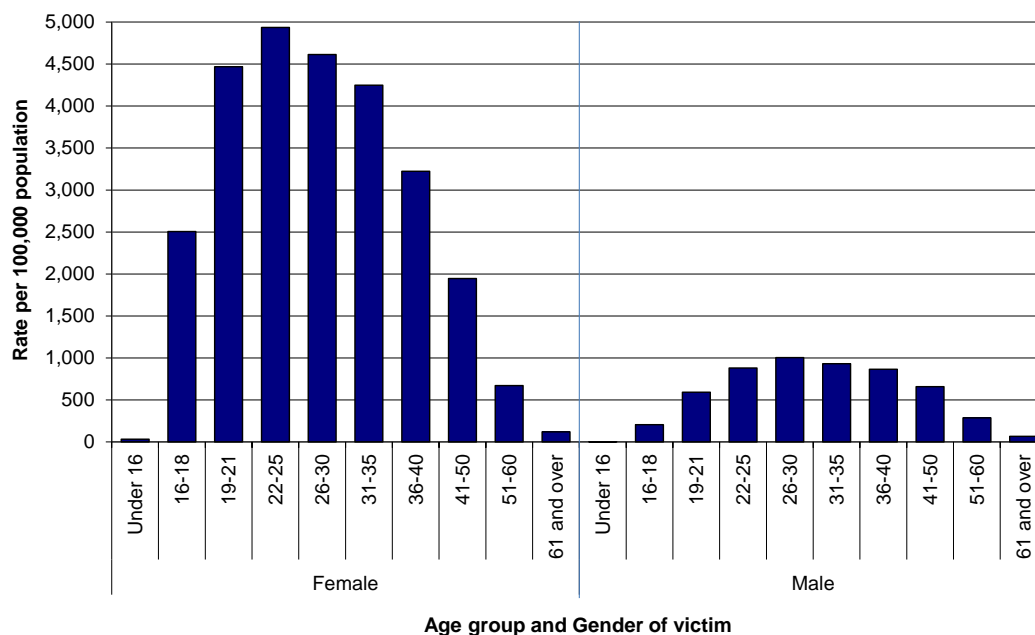
3.4. Level of repeat victimisation (tables 8, 9, and 10)

- For incidents where information regarding repeat victimisation of domestic abuse was available in 2012-13, 61% of the incidents involved known repeat victimisation, the same as in 2011-12, and compared to 47% in 2003-04. The increase since 2003-04 may be in part due to the length of time different forces have kept databases on domestic abuse, allowing repeat incidents to be identified.
- In 2012-13, where the number of previous incidents was known, 30% of cases involved a single previous incident, 30% of cases involved two or three previous incidents, and 39% involved four or more previous incidents. Please note that these are counts of incidents – victims of repeat abuse over the financial year period may be counted on more than one occasion as the numbers of previous incidents increases (see note 4.4).

3.5. Incidents of domestic abuse by age of victim and perpetrator (tables 11, 12, and 13, and chart 3)

- In 2012-13, the highest rate of incidents of domestic abuse per 100,000 population among female victims was for those aged 22 to 25 years, where the rate was 4,937 incidents per 100,000 population. This is the same age group as in 2011-12, where the rate was 5,061 incidents recorded per 100,000 population.
- Among male victims, the highest rate of incidents of domestic abuse per 100,000 population in 2012-13, was for those aged, 26-30 years, where the rate was 1,004 incidents per 100,000 population. In 2011-12, the highest rate of incidents among male victims was for those aged 31 to 35 years 2011-12, where the rate was 964 per 100,000 population.

Chart 3 Rate per 100,000 population of incidents of domestic abuse, by age and gender of victim, where known, Scotland, 2012-13.



- In 2012-13, the highest rate of incidents of domestic abuse per 100,000 population among female perpetrators was by those aged 22 to 25 years, where the rate was 990 incidents per 100,000 population. This has changed from 2011-12 where the highest rate per 100,000 population of female perpetrators was by those aged 26 to 30 years, at a rate of 988 incidents per 100,000 population.
- Among male perpetrators, the highest rate of incidents of domestic abuse per 100,000 population in 2012-13 was by those aged 26 to 30 years, where the rate was 4,835 incidents per 100,000 population. This is the same age group as in 2011-12 where the rate was 4,877 incidents recorded per 100,000 population.

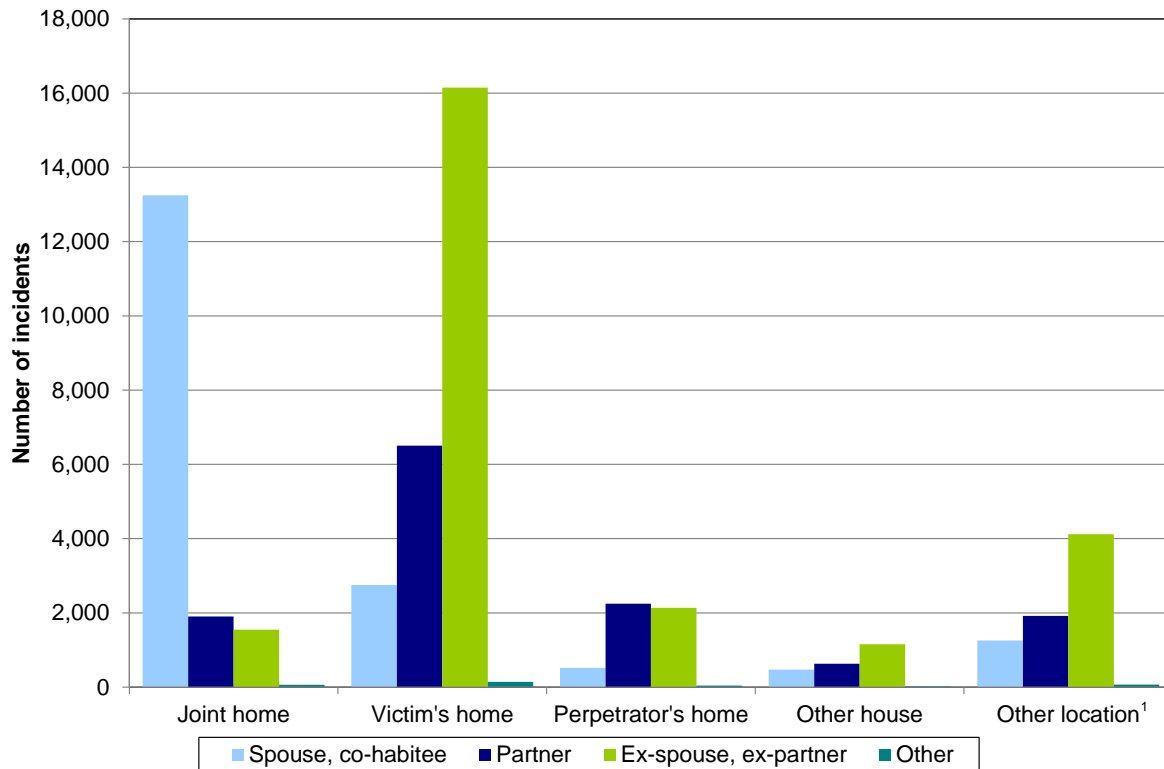
3.6. Incidents of domestic abuse by relationship between victim and perpetrator ([table 17](#))

- Since 2003-04, the percentage of incidents involving spouses has decreased from 22% to 13% in 2012-13. There has also been a decrease in the percentage of incidents involving cohabittees from 26% in 2003-04 to 19% in 2012-13.
- In 2012-13, incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police involving partners accounted for 23% of all incidents where the relationship was recorded. This percentage has been increasing since 2003-04 where partners accounted for 17% of domestic abuse incidents.
- In 44% of incidents where the relationship was recorded in 2012-13, the victim and perpetrator were ex-partners or ex-spouses. This figure has been increasing since 2003-04, when 32% of incidents involved ex-partners/ex-spouses. 'Other' relationships include relationships not fitting into specified categories.

3.7. Location of incidents of domestic abuse ([tables 18, 19 and 20](#) and [chart 4](#))

- In 87% of incidents in 2012-13 where the location was recorded, domestic abuse took place in a home/house. Where the victim and perpetrator cohabited i.e. were a 'spouse' or 'cohabitee', 93% of all incidents recorded were in a home/house, where location and relationship were recorded.
- In all other relationships, excluding those of a 'spouse' or 'cohabitee', 84% of all incidents in 2012-13 (where the relationship and location were recorded) took place in a home/house. This shows that the overwhelming majority of domestic abuse incidents take place 'behind closed doors'.

Chart 4 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police: location of incident by relationship (where known), Scotland, 2012-13.

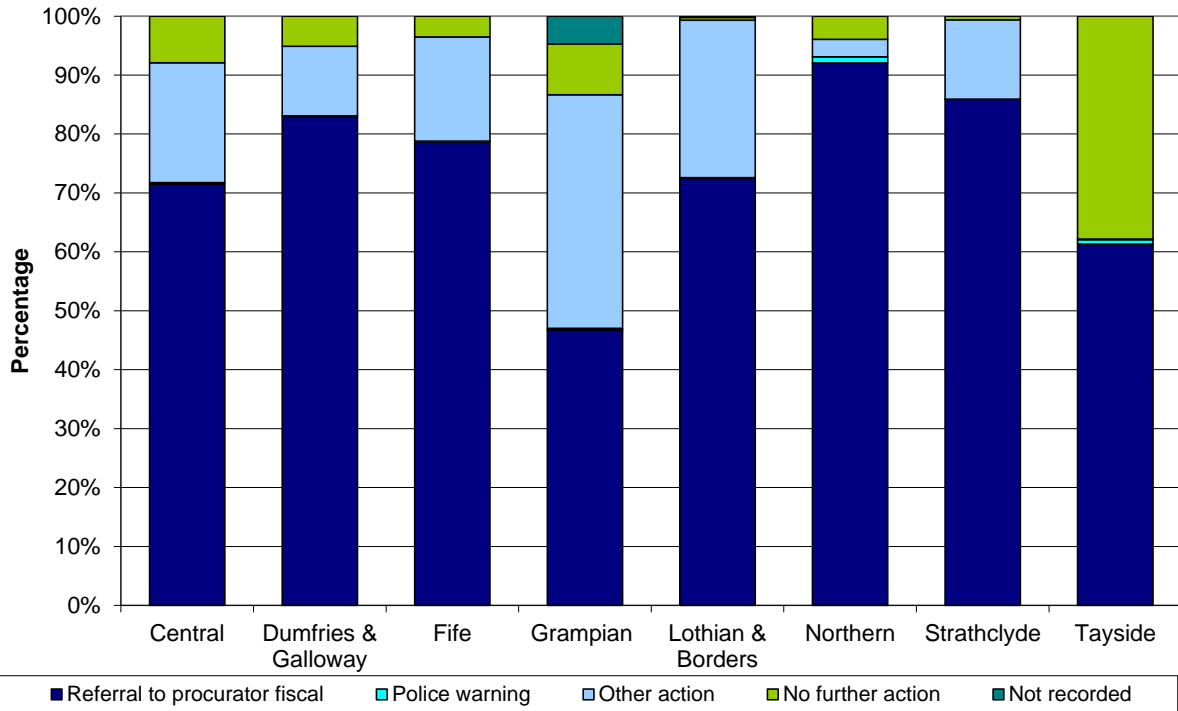


1. Other location includes street and licensed premises.

3.8. Crimes and offences of domestic abuse, action taken by police (tables 1, 2, 21, and 22, and chart 5)

- Where an incident of domestic abuse resulted in a crime or offence being recorded, a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal in 78% of incidents in 2012-13, a substantial increase from 51% in 2003-04.
- In 2012-13, where a report was not submitted to the procurator fiscal but the action taken was known, 17% of incidents involved some other type of action and in 5% of incidents no further action was taken.
- In 2012-13, the proportion of crimes and offences of domestic abuse referred to the procurator fiscal varied considerably across police force areas. The percentages ranged from 47% in Grampian, to 92% in Northern. This variation may reflect the differences in police practice in deciding when the behaviour justifies the recording of a crime/offence following an incident of domestic abuse (see note 4.5).

Chart 5 Action taken by the police for crimes/offences cleared up, by police force area, 2012-13



3.9. Day of occurrence of domestic abuse incidents (table 24 and chart 6)

- More incidents of domestic abuse take place at the weekend than during the week. 37% of all incidents of domestic abuse in 2012-13 occurred on a Saturday or a Sunday, with the remaining 63% spread fairly evenly throughout the rest of the week.

Chart 6 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police: day of week incident occurred, Scotland 2012-13.

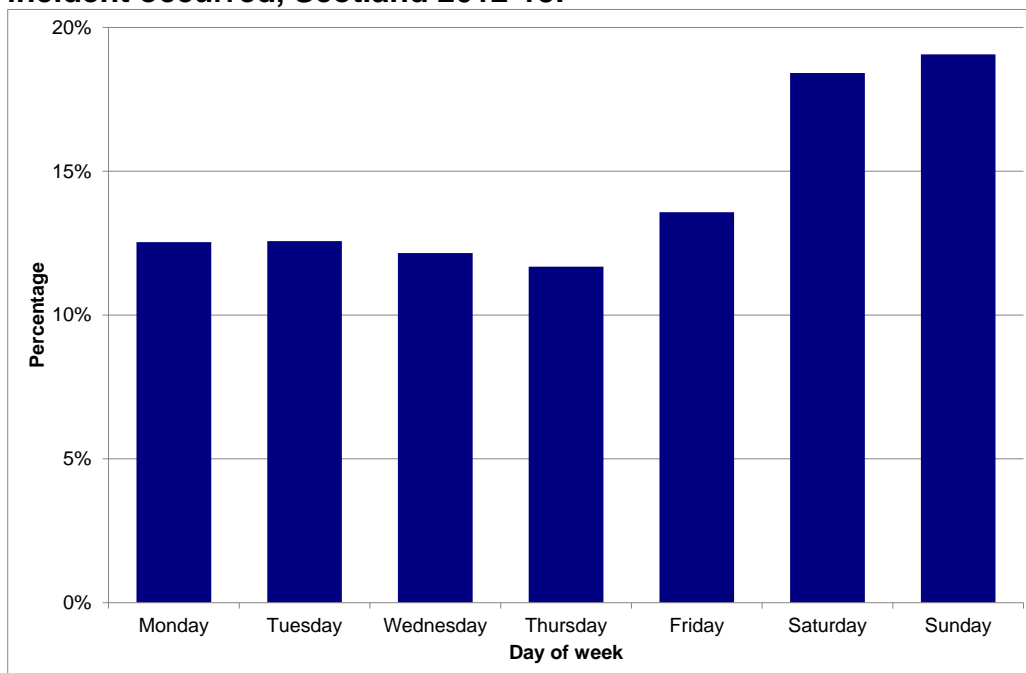


Table 1 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by police force area and type of main crime/offence, 2012-13
Number

	Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Northern	Strathclyde	Tayside	SCOTLAND
Total incidents¹	3,500	1,411	4,800	4,055	10,703	2,392	28,304	4,915	60,080
Incidents resulting in the recording of a crime/offence	1,543	568	1,991	2,661	3,614	1,173	16,491	2,218	30,259
<i>(Of which reported to the procurator fiscal)</i>	<i>1,103</i>	<i>471</i>	<i>1,566</i>	<i>1,244</i>	<i>2,619</i>	<i>1,080</i>	<i>14,163</i>	<i>1,360</i>	<i>23,606</i>
Non-sexual crimes of violence	64	11	15	21	100	28	246	32	517
Homicide ²	1	-	1	1	-	-	7	1	11
Attempted murder & serious assault ³	51	6	5	8	37	23	166	17	313
Other	12	5	9	12	63	5	73	14	193
Sexual offences	8	3	10	22	14	6	165	20	248
Rape & attempted rape	5	3	10	14	9	1	108	9	159
Sexual assault ⁴	3	-	-	8	5	5	52	10	83
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	6
Crimes of dishonesty	62	6	45	79	73	6	503	74	848
Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	150	53	188	155	214	87	736	171	1,754
Fire-raising	6	3	7	4	3	1	9	1	34
Vandalism, etc.	144	50	181	151	211	86	727	170	1,720
Other crimes	258	79	293	241	654	57	2,336	203	4,121
Crimes against public justice	239	74	289	218	614	56	2,314	201	4,005
Handling an offensive weapon	5	2	4	10	18	1	20	1	61
Drugs	14	3	-	11	18	-	1	1	48
Other	-	-	-	2	4	-	1	-	7
Miscellaneous offences	1,000	415	1,440	2,142	2,555	989	12,503	1,718	22,762
Common assault ⁵	567	240	907	1,251	1,749	465	6,595	1,004	12,778
Breach of the peace etc. ⁶	104	107	119	285	154	459	723	455	2,406
Threatening or abusive behaviour ⁶	227	55	394	375	506	57	4,037	34	5,685
Stalking ⁶	21	2	20	28	46	4	145	39	305
Drunkenness	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	81	11	-	203	100	4	1,003	186	1,588
Motor vehicle offences	1	1	-	1	4	-	2	-	9
Behaviour not leading to recording a crime or offence	1,957	843	2,809	1,394	7,089	1,219	11,813	2,697	29,821

1. Different police forces record domestic abuse information in differing ways. Police practice in deciding when behaviour justifies the recording of a crime or offence may also differ. These differences influence the proportion of incidents which lead to the recording of a crime or offence, as well as the proportion of crimes and offences reported to the procurator fiscal. See [note 4.5](#).
2. Includes murder and culpable homicide, which includes death by dangerous driving, causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, causing death by careless driving and corporate homicide
3. For the definition of Serious assault, please see [note 4.8](#)
4. Implementation of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 will have an effect on comparability of breakdown of Sexual offences over time. For further information, please see [note 4.7](#)
5. Includes Common assault and Common assault of an emergency worker
6. Threatening or abusive behaviour and Stalking were introduced in late 2010. These offences would previously have been included in Breach of the peace.

Table 2 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by type of main crime/offence, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13
Number

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Total incidents¹	41,235	43,633	45,331	48,808	49,949	53,931	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080
Incidents resulting in the recording of a crime/offence (Of which reported to the procurator fiscal)	21,593	21,829	23,506	23,804	25,127	29,526	32,066	32,370	32,369	30,259
	11,013	14,176	14,857	15,565	15,843	18,828	21,660	23,196	24,963	23,606
Non-sexual crimes of violence	682	607	625	646	606	643	593	644	581	517
Homicide ²	4	11	5	6	10	17	16	15	12	11
Attempted murder & serious assault ³	364	351	351	361	356	387	349	369	307	313
Other	314	245	269	279	240	239	228	260	262	193
Sexual offences	99	108	106	101	123	135	165	185	223	248
Rape & attempted rape	69	77	75	59	72	91	111	107	142	159
Sexual assault ⁴	26	28	26	40	45	44	48	70	77	83
Other	4	3	5	2	6	-	6	8	4	6
Crimes of dishonesty	187	327	354	451	460	515	639	739	829	848
Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	1,342	1,653	1,611	1,745	1,734	1,918	1,793	1,908	1,885	1,754
Fire-raising	15	17	21	20	21	23	21	28	28	34
Vandalism, etc.	1,327	1,636	1,590	1,725	1,713	1,895	1,772	1,880	1,857	1,720
Other crimes	1,302	1,984	2,180	2,288	2,716	3,205	3,440	3,685	4,192	4,121
Crimes against public justice	1,217	1,897	2,052	2,170	2,606	3,097	3,333	3,550	4,056	4,005
Handling an offensive weapon	50	48	66	69	80	67	58	67	72	61
Drugs	27	34	58	48	26	40	49	66	61	48
Other	8	5	4	1	4	1	-	2	3	7
Miscellaneous offences	17,976	17,141	18,601	18,555	19,460	23,089	25,418	25,184	24,647	22,762
Common assault ⁵	9,761	9,548	9,941	10,566	11,116	12,622	13,745	13,946	14,154	12,778
Breach of the peace etc. ^{6,7}	7,962	7,265	8,088	7,475	7,809	9,704	10,489	8,034	3,281	2,406
Threatening or abusive behaviour ⁶	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,794	5,453	5,685
Stalking ⁶	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	239	305
Drunkenness	4	8	-	3	-	9	3	3	4	-
Other	249	320	572	511	535	754	1,181	1,361	1,516	1,588
Motor vehicle offences	5	9	29	18	28	21	18	25	12	9
Behaviour not leading to recording a crime or offence	19,642	21,804	21,825	25,004	24,822	24,405	19,860	23,328	27,478	29,821

1. Different police forces record domestic abuse information in differing ways. Police practice in deciding when behaviour justifies the recording of a crime or offence may also differ. These differences influence the proportion of incidents which lead to the recording of a crime or offence, as well as the proportion of crimes and offences reported to the procurator fiscal. See [note 4.5](#).
2. Includes murder and culpable homicide, which includes death by dangerous driving, causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, causing death by careless driving and corporate homicide
3. For the definition of Serious assault, please see [note 4.8](#).
4. Implementation of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 will have an effect on comparability of breakdown of Sexual Offences over time. For further information, please see [note 4.7](#).
5. Includes Common assault and Common assault of an emergency worker
6. Threatening or abusive behaviour and Stalking were introduced in late 2010. These offences would previously have been included in Breach of the peace. Figures for Threatening or abusive behaviour and Stalking in 2010-11 are therefore not for a full financial year.
7. A change to Tayside's recording practice has also contributed to a decrease in Breach of the peace for 2011-12

Table 3 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by police force area per 100,000 population¹ and type of crime/offence, 2012-13
Rate per 100,000 population

	Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Northern	Strathclyde	Tayside	SCOTLAND
Total incidents²	1,170	935	1,311	707	1,118	784	1,258	1,194	1,131
Incidents resulting in the recording of a crime/offence	516	377	544	464	377	384	733	539	569
<i>(Of which reported to the procurator fiscal)</i>	<i>369</i>	<i>312</i>	<i>428</i>	<i>217</i>	<i>274</i>	<i>354</i>	<i>630</i>	<i>330</i>	<i>444</i>
Non-sexual crimes of violence	21	7	4	4	10	9	11	8	10
Homicide ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Attempted murder & serious assault ⁴	17	4	1	1	4	8	7	4	6
Other	4	3	2	2	7	2	3	3	4
Sexual offences	3	2	3	4	1	2	7	5	5
Rape & attempted rape	2	2	3	2	1	-	5	2	3
Sexual assault ⁵	1	-	-	1	1	2	2	2	2
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Crimes of dishonesty	21	4	12	14	8	2	22	18	16
Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	50	35	51	27	22	29	33	42	33
Fire-raising	2	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	1
Vandalism, etc.	48	33	49	26	22	28	32	41	32
Other crimes	86	52	80	42	68	19	104	49	78
Crimes against public justice	80	49	79	38	64	18	103	49	75
Handling an offensive weapon	2	1	1	2	2	-	1	-	1
Drugs	5	2	-	2	2	-	-	-	1
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous offences	334	275	393	374	267	324	556	417	428
Common assault ⁶	190	159	248	218	183	152	293	244	240
Breach of the peace etc. ⁷	35	71	32	50	16	150	32	111	45
Threatening or abusive behaviour ⁷	76	36	108	65	53	19	179	8	107
Stalking ⁷	7	1	5	5	5	1	6	9	6
Drunkenness	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	27	7	-	35	10	1	45	45	30
Motor vehicle offences	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Behaviour not leading to recording a crime or offence	654	559	767	243	740	399	525	655	561

1. Population estimates are at mid-year 2012 from the National Records of Scotland. (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/mid-year/2012/index.html>)
2. Different police forces record domestic abuse information in differing ways. Police practice in deciding when behaviour justifies the recording of a crime or offence may also differ. These differences influence the proportion of incidents which lead to the recording of a crime or offence, as well as the proportion of crimes and offences reported to the procurator fiscal. See note 4.5.
3. Includes murder and culpable homicide, which includes death by dangerous driving, causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, causing death by careless driving and corporate homicide
4. For the definition of Serious assault, please see note 4.8.
5. Implementation of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 will have an effect on comparability of breakdown of Sexual offences over time. For further information, please see Note 4.7.
6. Includes Common assault and Common assault of an emergency worker
7. Threatening or abusive behaviour and Stalking were introduced in late 2010. These offences would previously have been included in Breach of the peace.

Table 4 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by police force area where gender of victim was recorded, 2012-13

										Number		
	All incidents where gender recorded			Crimes ¹			Offences ¹			Behaviour not leading to the recording of a crime or offence		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Central	2,951	515	3,466	478	59	537	850	146	996	1,623	310	1,933
Dumfries & Galloway	1,283	128	1,411	143	9	152	366	50	416	774	69	843
Fife	4,043	753	4,796	485	65	550	1,197	243	1,440	2,361	445	2,806
Grampian	3,389	666	4,055	470	48	518	1,747	396	2,143	1,172	222	1,394
Lothian & Borders	8,940	1,760	10,700	948	107	1,055	2,195	363	2,558	5,797	1,290	7,087
Northern	1,908	484	2,392	152	32	184	785	204	989	971	248	1,219
Strathclyde	22,246	6,033	28,279	3,275	701	3,976	10,050	2,448	12,498	8,921	2,884	11,805
Tayside	1,868	319	2,187	402	59	461	1,450	260	1,710	16	0	16
TOTAL	46,628	10,658	57,286	6,353	1,080	7,433	18,640	4,110	22,750	21,635	5,468	27,103

1. Although someone is the victim of a domestic incident, it is possible that they are not the victim of the main crime, therefore data linking gender with crime, should be treated with caution.

Table 5 Incidents of domestic abuse, by gender of victim and financial year, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

	Number									
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Female	36,139	38,152	39,438	42,374	42,751	45,831	43,002	45,882	47,125	46,628
Male	4,041	4,955	5,394	5,999	6,794	7,936	8,673	9,626	10,245	10,658
Transgender ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**	**	21	13
Unknown ²	1,055	526	499	435	404	164	**	**	2,456	2,781
TOTAL	41,235	43,633	45,331	48,808	49,949	53,931	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080

1. 2009-10 was the first year in which a separate code for Transgender was used in the data collection. See [note 4.4](#).

2. In April 2011-12, Tayside made a change to the way domestic incidents are recorded which has resulted in an increase in the number of incidents with unknown details. See [note 4.5](#).

Table 6 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by gender of victim/perpetrator and nature of main crime/offence¹, Scotland, 2012-13

						Number	
	Female victim, male perpetrator	Male victim, female perpetrator	Female victim, female perpetrator	Male victim, male perpetrator	Not recorded	Total	
Non-sexual crimes of violence	398	98	3	16	2	517	
Sexual offences	234	6	3	4	1	248	
Crimes of dishonesty	693	127	8	15	5	848	
Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	1,467	238	15	17	17	1,754	
Other crimes	3,490	526	37	26	42	4,121	
Miscellaneous offences	18,394	3,813	215	282	58	22,762	
Motor vehicle offences	7	1	0	1	0	9	
Behaviour not amounting to a crime	21,233	5,137	324	316	2,811	29,821	
TOTAL	45,916	9,946	605	677	2,936	60,080	

1. Although someone is the victim of a domestic incident, it is possible that they are not the victim of the main crime, therefore data linking gender with crime, should be treated with caution.

Table 7 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by gender of victim/perpetrator, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13
Number & Percentage

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Female victim, male perpetrator	35,729	37,510	38,696	41,499	41,833	44,961	41,927	44,951	46,439	45,916
<i>% of total known</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>82</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>80</i>
Male victim, female perpetrator	3,695	4,532	4,932	5,482	6,199	7,361	7,938	8,889	9,569	9,946
<i>% of total known</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>17</i>
Female victim, female perpetrator	251	363	381	431	565	640	682	736	566	605
<i>% of total known</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
Male victim, male perpetrator	328	380	400	455	530	548	666	693	659	677
<i>% of total known</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
Not recorded ¹	1,232	848	922	941	822	421	713	429	2,614	2,936
TOTAL	41,235	43,633	45,331	48,808	49,949	53,931	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080

1. In April 2011-12, Tayside made a change to the way domestic incidents are recorded which has resulted in an increase in the number of incidents with unknown details. See note 4.5

Table 8 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in 2012-13, where incidents against the same victim had previously been recorded, by police force area

	Number ¹					<i>Percent of incidents where this information is available which involved repeat victimisation</i>
	No previous incidents	Previous incidents	TOTAL where information available	Information not available	TOTAL	
Central ²	-	-	-	3,500	3,500	-
Dumfries & Galloway	571	840	1,411	-	1,411	60
Fife	1,126	3,674	4,800	-	4,800	77
Grampian	1,495	2,550	4,045	10	4,055	63
Lothian & Borders	2,448	6,099	8,547	2,156	10,703	71
Northern	661	1,389	2,050	342	2,392	68
Strathclyde	12,324	15,980	28,304	-	28,304	56
Tayside	1,369	865	2,234	2,681	4,915	39
TOTAL	19,994	31,397	51,391	8,689	60,080	61

1. Figures represent a count of previous incidents, not the sum of previous incidents.
2. Central are currently unable to provide information on repeat incidents.

Table 9 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police where incidents against the same victim had previously been recorded, by financial year, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

	Number & Percentage									
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11 ¹	2011-12 ¹	2012-13
No previous incidents	20,492	18,984	18,820	19,647	19,097	19,575	19,280	22,976	20,022	19,994
<i>% of total known</i>	53	48	45	43	41	39	43	45	39	39
Previous incidents ²	18,136	20,481	23,260	26,491	27,551	30,595	25,602	28,317	31,415	31,397
<i>% of total known</i>	47	52	55	57	59	61	57	55	61	61
Not recorded ²	2,607	4,168	3,251	2,670	3,301	3,761	7,044	4,405	8,410	8,689
TOTAL	41,235	43,633	45,331	48,808	49,949	53,931	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080

1. An issue with the processing of repeat codes in data was identified resulting in a revision in repeat information for 2010-11 and 2011-12. See [note 4.4](#).

2. Issues with previous years coding was discovered while updating the system used to process domestic abuse incidents data resulting in a revision to data for 2007-08 and 2008-09. See [note 4.4](#)

Table 10 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, 2012-13, where incidents against the victim had previously been recorded, by police force area and number of previous incidents

	Number of previous incidents ¹						Number unknown	TOTAL
	1 incident	2-3 incidents	4-5 incidents	6-10 incidents	11 or more incidents			
Central ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dumfries & Galloway	250	235	134	113	98	10	840	
Fife	653	797	491	841	892	-	3,674	
Grampian	597	700	338	453	457	5	2,550	
Lothian & Borders	-	261	103	63	47	5,625	6,099	
Northern	320	195	60	51	14	749	1,389	
Strathclyde	5,382	5,132	2,243	2,182	1,041	-	15,980	
Tayside	346	282	114	80	43	-	865	
TOTAL	7,548	7,602	3,483	3,783	2,592	6,389	31,397	

1. Forces can only identify a repeat victim if they have been previously entered onto their database. The longer the database has been in existence, the more likely it is that a repeat victim can be recognised as such. Police forces have maintained their databases over different periods and the proportion of identified repeat victims varies accordingly.

2. Central are currently unable to provide information on repeat incidents.

**Table 11 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of victim, Scotland, 2012-13
Number & Rate per 100,000 population**

Age Group of Victim	Gender of victim				Rate per 100,000 population ¹		
	Female	Male	Not recorded	TOTAL	Female	Male	TOTAL
Under 16	144	8	-	152	32	2	17
16-18	2,305	198	3	2,506	2,504	203	1,323
19-21	4,926	648	3	5,577	4,469	592	2,539
22-25	7,224	1,270	23	8,517	4,937	881	2,931
26-30	8,124	1,703	4	9,831	4,615	1,004	2,844
31-35	6,974	1,479	5	8,458	4,248	930	2,617
36-40	5,532	1,419	4	6,955	3,223	864	2,071
41-50	8,031	2,560	7	10,598	1,945	657	1,320
51-60	2,421	990	3	3,414	671	287	483
61 and over	774	348	-	1,122	118	66	95
Not Recorded	173	35	2,742	2,950			
TOTAL	46,628	10,658	2,794	60,080	1,704	414	1,131

1. Population estimates are at mid-year 2012 from the National Records of Scotland. (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/mid-year/2012/index.html>)

Table 12 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age of victim, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13
Number

Age Group of Victim	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Under 16	42	55	57	49	51	75	105	147	133	152
16-18	1,431	1,671	1,914	2,278	2,294	2,517	2,641	2,737	2,715	2,506
19-21	3,285	3,673	3,951	4,786	4,981	5,442	5,285	5,637	5,625	5,577
22-25	5,224	5,521	5,997	6,544	6,835	7,710	7,503	8,296	8,591	8,517
26-30	6,324	6,663	6,820	7,394	7,862	9,002	8,794	9,325	9,873	9,831
31-35	6,906	7,223	7,193	7,315	7,309	7,687	7,130	7,824	8,375	8,458
36-40	6,460	6,925	6,974	7,377	7,324	7,578	6,977	7,193	7,544	6,955
41-50	7,138	8,046	8,528	9,103	9,321	9,958	9,702	10,166	10,361	10,598
51-60	2,118	2,314	2,524	2,599	2,592	2,876	2,670	3,181	3,051	3,414
61 and over ¹	576	699	583	649	685	807	854	979	959	1,122
Not recorded ^{1,2}	1,731	843	790	714	695	279	265	213	2,620	2,950
TOTAL	41,235	43,633	45,331	48,808	49,949	53,931	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080

1. Data for 2006-07 to 2009-10 has been revised following the identification of a number of incidents where the perpetrators age was unknown, which had been included in the category 61 and over. See [note 4.4](#).

2. In April 2011-12, Tayside made a change to the way domestic incidents are recorded which has resulted in an increase in the number of incidents with unknown details. See [note 4.5](#)

Table 13 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of perpetrator, Scotland, 2012-13
Number & Rate per 100,000 population

Age Group of Perpetrator	Gender of perpetrator				Rate per 100,000 population ¹		
	Female	Male	Not recorded	TOTAL	Female	Male	TOTAL
Under 16	22	45	-	67	5	10	7
16-18	501	992	-	1,493	544	1,019	788
19-21	1,012	3,296	1	4,309	918	3,011	1,961
22-25	1,449	6,377	18	7,844	990	4,421	2,700
26-30	1,732	8,204	6	9,942	984	4,835	2,876
31-35	1,553	6,960	1	8,514	946	4,375	2,634
36-40	1,358	6,072	3	7,433	791	3,697	2,213
41-50	2,053	9,685	6	11,744	497	2,486	1,463
51-60	651	3,612	2	4,265	181	1,045	604
61 and over	165	1,179	1	1,345	25	222	113
Not Recorded	66	267	2,791	3,124			
TOTAL	10,562	46,689	2,829	60,080	386	1,812	1,131

1. Population estimates are at mid-year 2012 from the National Records of Scotland. (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/mid-year/2012/index.html>)

Table 14 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age of perpetrator, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13
Number

Age Group of Perpetrator	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Under 16	12	20	25	24	34	27	40	54	80	67
16-18	729	860	944	1,182	1,168	1,324	1,532	1,617	1,663	1,493
19-21	2,218	2,462	2,833	3,416	3,748	4,136	4,092	4,452	4,327	4,309
22-25	4,265	4,792	5,282	5,962	6,301	7,242	7,074	7,789	7,848	7,844
26-30	6,029	6,260	6,466	7,149	7,810	8,670	8,637	9,290	10,002	9,942
31-35	7,226	7,354	7,321	7,430	7,296	7,928	7,298	8,035	8,365	8,514
36-40	7,013	7,419	7,429	7,881	7,926	8,138	7,531	7,623	8,020	7,433
41-50	8,100	9,280	9,714	10,513	10,571	11,379	10,574	11,350	11,603	11,744
51-60	2,792	2,948	3,115	3,338	3,336	3,505	3,478	3,944	3,887	4,265
61 and over ¹	729	832	803	807	838	1,017	1,028	1,158	1,185	1,345
Not recorded ^{1,2}	2,122	1,406	1,399	1,106	921	565	642	386	2,867	3,124
TOTAL	41,235	43,633	45,331	48,808	49,949	53,931	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080

1. Data for 2006-07 to 2009-10 has been revised following the identification of a number of incidents where the perpetrators age was unknown, which had been included in the category 61 and over. See [note 4.4](#).
2. In April 2011-12, Tayside made a change to the way domestic incidents are recorded which has resulted in an increase in the number of incidents with unknown details. See [note 4.5](#).

Table 15 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age of victim and perpetrator, Scotland, 2012-13
Number

Age Group of Victim	Age Group of Perpetrator											TOTAL
	Under 16	16-18	19-21	22-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-50	51-60	61 and over	Not Recorded	
Under 16	36	89	17	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	152
16-18	25	738	975	490	170	50	21	13	-	-	24	2,506
19-21	2	395	1,712	2,061	932	259	79	84	12	2	39	5,577
22-25	1	170	943	2,892	2,742	1,015	408	261	33	4	48	8,517
26-30	1	69	438	1,527	3,457	2,379	1,018	784	93	10	55	9,831
31-35	-	19	110	506	1,523	2,684	1,896	1,461	185	24	50	8,458
36-40	2	3	45	195	608	1,173	2,197	2,309	347	35	41	6,955
41-50	-	4	50	124	416	794	1,592	5,577	1,776	205	60	10,598
51-60	-	2	5	17	60	117	175	1,104	1,541	377	16	3,414
61 and over	-	-	1	3	6	17	26	113	265	684	7	1,122
Not Recorded	-	4	13	22	26	26	21	38	13	4	2,783	2,950
TOTAL	67	1,493	4,309	7,844	9,942	8,514	7,433	11,744	4,265	1,345	3,124	60,080

Table 16 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by relationship between victim/perpetrator and gender of victim/perpetrator, Scotland, 2012-13

Number

	Female victim, male perpetrator	Male victim, female perpetrator	Female victim, female perpetrator	Male victim, male perpetrator	Not recorded	TOTAL
Spouse	6,147	1,368	23	21	3	7,562
Cohabitee	8,358	2,055	136	200	22	10,771
Partner	10,366	2,473	173	197	56	13,265
Ex-spouse	1,722	316	7	2	4	2,051
Ex-partner	18,983	3,650	264	246	54	23,197
Other	260	50	2	11	11	334
Not recorded	80	34	-	-	2,786	2,900
TOTAL	45,916	9,946	605	677	2,936	60,080

Table 17 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by relationship between victim/perpetrator, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

	Number									
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Spouse	8,415	8,439	8,504	8,230	8,077	8,363	7,632	7,810	7,440	7,562
Cohabitee	10,083	10,504	10,317	11,737	12,127	12,197	11,117	10,809	10,866	10,771
Partner	6,737	7,067	7,129	8,673	9,944	11,234	11,379	12,317	13,189	13,265
Ex-spouse	2,783	2,369	2,364	2,174	2,280	2,301	2,046	2,237	2,081	2,051
Ex-partner	9,824	11,723	13,139	14,523	16,475	19,442	18,907	21,730	23,372	23,197
Other	959	3,476	3,863	3,436	896	386	372	609	360	334
Not recorded ¹	2,434	55	15	35	150	8	473	186	2,539	2,900
TOTAL	41,235	43,633	45,331	48,808	49,949	53,931	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080

1. In April 2011-12, Tayside made a change to the way domestic incidents are recorded which has resulted in an increase in the number of incidents with unknown details. See [note 4.5](#)

Table 18 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by relationship between victim/perpetrator and location of incident, Scotland, 2012-13

	Number								
	Joint home	Victim's home	Perpetrator's home	Other house	Street	Licensed premises	Other	Not recorded	TOTAL
Spouse	5,210	1,329	208	176	372	56	170	41	7,562
Cohabitee	8,040	1,421	311	297	485	56	118	43	10,771
Partner	1,904	6,504	2,248	631	1,432	138	347	61	13,265
Ex-spouse	176	1,301	136	55	187	10	178	8	2,051
Ex-partner	1,373	14,850	2,000	1,099	2,341	193	1,211	130	23,197
Other	62	144	40	21	36	8	23	-	334
Not Recorded	841	933	82	68	201	15	111	649	2,900
Total	17,606	26,482	5,025	2,347	5,054	476	2,158	932	60,080

Table 19 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by location of incident, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

	Number									
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Joint home	16,705	17,257	16,882	17,677	17,760	18,463	16,947	17,417	17,801	17,606
Victim's home	16,325	17,716	19,503	20,690	20,999	23,197	22,186	24,313	26,722	26,482
Perpetrator's home	2,177	2,340	2,338	3,036	3,467	3,960	4,179	4,614	5,103	5,025
Other house	1,246	1,501	1,369	1,728	1,844	2,219	2,220	2,360	2,462	2,347
Street	2,473	2,992	3,403	3,666	3,743	4,174	4,568	4,929	5,251	5,054
Licensed premises	268	327	342	367	351	389	404	424	524	476
Other	434	530	608	702	807	1,506	1,419	1,538	1,891	2,158
Not recorded	1,607	970	886	942	978	23	3	103	93	932
TOTAL	41,235	43,633	45,331	48,808	49,949	53,931	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080

Table 20 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by type of main crime/offence and location of incident, Scotland, 2012-13

	Number								
	Joint home	Victim's home	Perpetrator's home	Other house	Street	Licensed premises	Other	Not recorded	TOTAL
Non-sexual crimes of violence	115	206	89	28	51	7	16	5	517
Sexual offences	43	102	63	18	8	2	9	3	248
Crimes of dishonesty	99	529	43	39	91	9	29	9	848
Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	202	1,179	67	67	183	14	36	6	1,754
Other crimes	313	2,299	394	243	559	44	243	26	4,121
Miscellaneous offences	7,081	8,753	2,220	1,072	2,448	267	766	155	22,762
Motor vehicle offences	2	2	-	1	1	2	1	-	9
Behaviour not amounting to a crime	9,751	13,412	2,149	879	1,713	131	1,058	728	29,821
TOTAL	17,606	26,482	5,025	2,347	5,054	476	2,158	932	60,080

Table 21 Action taken by the police against identified perpetrators of crimes/offences cleared up by the police, by police force area, 2012-13

	Number					
	Referral to procurator fiscal	Police warning	Other action ¹	No further action	Not recorded	TOTAL
Central	1,103	4	314	122	-	1,543
Dumfries & Galloway	471	1	67	29	-	568
Fife	1,566	3	352	70	-	1,991
Grampian	1,244	7	1,055	230	125	2,661
Lothian & Borders	2,619	5	965	17	8	3,614
Northern	1,080	12	35	46	-	1,173
Strathclyde	14,163	8	2,217	102	1	16,491
Tayside	1,360	17	2	839	-	2,218
Scotland	23,606	57	5,007	1,455	134	30,259

1. 'Other action' includes, for example, referrals to support groups.

Table 22 Action taken by the police against identified perpetrators of crimes/offences cleared up by the police, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

	Number									
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Referral to procurator fiscal	11,013	14,176	14,857	15,565	15,843	18,828	21,660	23,196	24,963	23,606
Police warning	1,183	1,173	887	838	706	293	72	44	39	57
Other action ¹	4,967	5,007	4,781	4,692	5,399	6,761	7,037	5,772	5,534	5,007
No further action	3,165	1,180	2,908	2,466	2,935	3,637	3,290	3,311	1,774	1,455
Not recorded	1,265	293	73	243	244	7	7	47	59	134
TOTAL	21,593	21,829	23,506	23,804	25,127	29,526	32,066	32,370	32,369	30,259

1. 'Other action' includes, for example, referrals to support groups.

Table 23 Percentage of incidents of domestic abuse reported to the procurator fiscal¹, where a crime/offence recorded and action taken is known, by police force area, 2012-13

	Percentage								
	Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Northern	Strathclyde	Tayside	SCOTLAND
Total crimes and offences	71	83	79	49	73	92	86	61	78
Non-sexual crimes of abuse	80	100	67	62	62	100	98	78	85
Homicide ²	100	-	100	100	-	-	100	100	100
Attempted murder & serious assault ³	76	100	100	75	97	100	98	94	94
Other	92	100	44	50	41	100	99	57	71
Sexual offences	63	67	60	20	71	83	73	55	67
Rape & attempted rape	40	67	60	33	67	-	75	67	68
Sexual assault ⁴	100	-	-	-	80	100	73	50	66
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	33
Crimes of dishonesty	55	100	69	20	56	83	77	47	65
Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	72	81	77	36	71	94	89	65	77
Fire-raising	67	100	71	25	100	100	89	100	76
Vandalism, etc.	72	80	77	36	71	94	89	65	78
Other crimes	81	84	81	66	88	98	97	89	91
Crimes against public justice	82	85	80	64	87	98	97	89	91
Handling an offensive weapon	60	50	100	90	100	100	100	100	93
Drugs	79	67	-	91	94	-	100	100	88
Other	-	-	-	-	75	-	100	-	57
Miscellaneous offences	70	82	79	49	70	91	84	58	77
Common assault ⁵	69	82	83	54	70	91	81	57	75
Breach of the peace etc. ⁶	77	79	52	60	66	92	89	66	78
Threatening or abusive behaviour ⁶	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stalking ⁶	59	73	-	19	46	100	82	41	67
Drunkenness	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	100	100	-	-	100	-	100	-	89
Motor vehicle offences	100	100	-	-	100	-	100	-	89

1. Different police forces record domestic abuse information in differing ways. Police practice in deciding when behaviour justifies the recording of a crime or offence may also differ. These differences influence the proportion of incidents which lead to the recording of a crime or offence, as well as the proportion of crimes and offences reported to the procurator fiscal. See [note 4.5](#).
2. Includes murder and culpable homicide, which includes death by dangerous driving, causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, causing death by careless driving and corporate homicide.
3. For the definition of Serious assault, please see [note 4.8](#).
4. Implementation of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 will have an effect on comparability of breakdown of Sexual offences over time. For further information, please see [note 4.7](#).
5. Includes Common assault and Common assault of an emergency worker.
6. Threatening or abusive behaviour and Stalking were introduced in late 2010. These offences would previously have been included in Breach of the peace.

Table 24 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by day of week, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13
Number

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Monday	5,135	5,617	5,835	6,416	6,257	6,702	6,538	7,068	7,662	7,530
Tuesday	4,654	5,053	5,244	5,708	6,001	6,262	5,925	6,474	7,017	7,552
Wednesday	4,805	5,117	5,137	5,561	5,933	6,296	6,013	6,479	6,977	7,303
Thursday	4,972	5,115	5,232	5,510	5,921	6,682	5,984	6,548	7,065	7,020
Friday	5,513	5,707	5,999	6,333	6,466	7,044	7,062	7,364	8,258	8,156
Saturday	7,868	8,497	8,655	9,597	9,573	10,396	10,132	10,776	11,260	11,065
Sunday	8,288	8,527	9,229	9,683	9,798	10,549	10,272	10,989	11,608	11,454
TOTAL	41,235	43,633	45,331	48,808	49,949	53,931	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080

Table 25 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by police force area, 2003-04 to 2012-13

	Number									
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Central	1,816	2,041	1,988	2,458	3,273	3,609	3,403	3,702	3,705	3,500
Dumfries & Galloway	857	1,057	1,194	1,237	1,204	1,306	1,176	1,407	1,291	1,411
Fife	2,120	2,728	3,243	3,717	3,926	3,987	4,055	3,847	4,519	4,800
Grampian	4,266	4,372	3,563	3,138	3,406	3,470	3,388	3,466	3,748	4,055
Lothian & Borders	7,576	7,836	8,632	9,617	8,967	9,652	9,566	9,886	10,185	10,703
Northern	1,615	1,524	1,554	1,224	1,152	1,163	1,018	1,730	2,197	2,392
Strathclyde	19,151	20,557	21,379	23,709	24,352	26,696	25,112	27,265	29,413	28,304
Tayside	3,834	3,518	3,778	3,708	3,669	4,048	4,208	4,395	4,789	4,915
SCOTLAND	41,235	43,633	45,331	48,808	49,949	53,931	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080

Table 26 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, per 100,000 population¹, by police force area, 2003-04 to 2012-13

	Rate per 100,000 population									
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Central	649	724	698	858	1,133	1,243	1,166	1,260	1,243	1,170
Dumfries & Galloway	582	715	805	836	812	879	792	949	853	935
Fife	602	769	909	1,036	1,089	1,102	1,116	1,054	1,237	1,311
Grampian	815	834	677	592	636	643	622	629	658	707
Lothian & Borders	853	874	957	1,055	973	1,038	1,019	1,041	1,072	1,118
Northern	584	546	552	432	403	405	352	596	720	784
Strathclyde	869	932	969	1,074	1,102	1,206	1,132	1,227	1,307	1,258
Tayside	992	907	969	947	931	1,020	1,053	1,092	1,167	1,194
SCOTLAND	815	859	890	954	971	1,043	1,000	1,067	1,129	1,131

1. Population estimates are at mid-year from the National Records of Scotland (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/mid-year/index.html>).

Following the publication of revised 2011 mid-year population estimates, the 2011-12 data has been calculated using the revised estimates and will therefore not match those published in the last statistical bulletin.

Table 27 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by council area, 2003-04 to 2012-13

	Number									
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Aberdeen City	2,279	2,481	1,975	1,862	2,138	2,388	2,415	2,323	2,449	2,648
Aberdeenshire	1,409	1,342	970	649	707	639	584	550	605	787
Angus	922	789	729	841	852	983	947	969	1,187	1,154
Argyll & Bute	428	437	461	447	481	517	503	521	563	536
Clackmannanshire	342	406	354	558	629	720	707	833	792	713
Dumfries & Galloway	857	1,057	1,194	1,237	1,204	1,306	1,176	1,407	1,291	1,411
Dundee City	2,006	1,780	2,076	1,995	1,937	2,135	2,305	2,366	2,440	2,525
East Ayrshire	534	1,051	1,027	1,149	1,253	1,252	1,273	1,387	1,430	1,413
East Dunbartonshire	418	388	469	535	596	642	537	661	650	665
East Lothian	601	555	682	629	729	926	902	970	929	1,023
East Renfrewshire	309	331	395	407	394	382	421	481	555	551
Edinburgh, City of	4,612	4,821	5,178	5,784	5,081	5,103	4,923	5,233	5,287	5,313
Eilean Siar	82	104	87	77	82	94	58	102	114	94
Falkirk	952	1,154	1,257	1,407	1,885	2,107	1,862	2,019	2,080	1,997
Fife	2,120	2,728	3,243	3,717	3,926	3,987	4,055	3,847	4,519	4,800
Glasgow City	7,407	7,603	8,187	9,030	8,975	9,664	8,866	10,160	11,116	10,220
Highland	1,468	1,351	1,350	1,055	995	1,006	879	1,451	1,872	2,102
Inverclyde	769	762	808	844	918	821	640	773	951	896
Midlothian	588	584	713	780	777	917	933	860	1,036	1,125
Moray	578	549	618	627	561	443	389	593	694	620
North Ayrshire	996	1,133	1,194	1,455	1,468	1,639	1,770	1,791	1,897	1,820
North Lanarkshire	2,551	2,890	3,122	3,269	3,197	4,068	4,157	3,662	3,680	3,996
Orkney Islands	33	30	57	44	24	21	44	107	108	95
Perth & Kinross	906	949	973	872	880	930	956	1,060	1,162	1,236
Renfrewshire	1,590	1,528	1,462	1,827	1,902	2,045	1,658	2,179	2,431	2,333
Scottish Borders	469	533	613	650	592	665	808	760	801	930
Shetland Islands	32	39	60	48	51	42	37	70	103	101
South Ayrshire	1,059	1,029	950	1,075	1,147	1,105	1,208	1,245	1,265	1,292
South Lanarkshire	1,885	2,134	2,148	2,268	2,379	2,959	2,717	2,920	3,166	3,064
Stirling	522	481	377	493	759	782	834	850	833	790
West Dunbartonshire	1,205	1,271	1,156	1,403	1,642	1,602	1,362	1,485	1,709	1,518
West Lothian	1,306	1,343	1,446	1,774	1,788	2,041	2,000	2,063	2,132	2,312
SCOTLAND	41,235	43,633	45,331	48,808	49,949	53,931	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080

Table 28 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, per 100,000 population¹, by council area, 2003-04 to 2012-13
Rate per 100,000 population

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Aberdeen City	1,098	1,206	959	900	1,022	1,135	1,130	1,070	1,101	1,177
Aberdeenshire	616	580	416	275	296	265	240	224	239	308
Angus	858	728	670	769	775	891	859	876	1,022	993
Argyll & Bute	469	479	507	489	527	571	559	584	633	617
Clackmannanshire	717	842	728	1,141	1,261	1,426	1,399	1,645	1,538	1,390
Dumfries & Galloway	582	715	805	836	812	879	792	949	853	935
Dundee City	1,400	1,252	1,458	1,403	1,363	1,499	1,608	1,640	1,658	1,708
East Ayrshire	447	878	860	963	1,048	1,044	1,059	1,154	1,166	1,151
East Dunbartonshire	391	364	443	507	568	613	513	632	619	628
East Lothian	660	606	743	678	772	964	932	995	930	1,014
East Renfrewshire	345	369	441	456	441	428	472	537	611	605
Edinburgh, City of	1,029	1,063	1,131	1,248	1,086	1,082	1,031	1,076	1,106	1,101
Eilean Siar	314	396	330	292	312	359	222	389	412	341
Falkirk	652	783	843	940	1,251	1,390	1,221	1,317	1,331	1,274
Fife	602	769	909	1,036	1,089	1,102	1,116	1,054	1,237	1,311
Glasgow City	1,284	1,316	1,415	1,555	1,542	1,654	1,507	1,714	1,874	1,717
Highland	702	639	632	490	458	459	399	655	804	902
Inverclyde	926	924	984	1,035	1,132	1,016	798	969	1,171	1,111
Midlothian	738	734	900	984	977	1,138	1,155	1,060	1,241	1,335
Moray	663	633	714	723	646	505	444	676	742	667
North Ayrshire	732	833	879	1,074	1,081	1,206	1,306	1,325	1,374	1,323
North Lanarkshire	793	895	965	1,010	985	1,250	1,274	1,122	1,090	1,183
Orkney Islands	171	154	291	223	121	106	220	532	504	441
Perth & Kinross	666	691	702	622	619	645	655	717	791	837
Renfrewshire	930	896	860	1,077	1,121	1,204	976	1,280	1,392	1,338
Scottish Borders	433	488	559	590	531	591	717	673	703	818
Shetland Islands	146	178	273	219	232	191	167	313	443	435
South Ayrshire	949	920	850	963	1,027	990	1,084	1,117	1,120	1,144
South Lanarkshire	622	699	701	737	769	954	874	936	1,009	975
Stirling	604	557	434	561	861	885	940	946	922	868
West Dunbartonshire	1,305	1,382	1,265	1,538	1,803	1,762	1,498	1,640	1,886	1,680
West Lothian	811	825	883	1,071	1,066	1,204	1,169	1,199	1,216	1,314
SCOTLAND	815	859	890	954	971	1,043	1,000	1,067	1,129	1,131

1. Population estimates are at mid-year from the National Records of Scotland. (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/mid-year/index.html>).

Following the publication of revised 2011 mid-year population estimates, the 2011-12 data has been recalculated using the revised estimates and will therefore not match those published in the last statistical bulletin.

4. Notes on statistics used in this bulletin

4.1 Background

A statistical collection on domestic abuse (previously referred to as domestic violence) was recommended in the Report of HM Inspectorate of Constabulary “Hitting Home – A Report on the Police Response to Domestic Violence 1997”:

Recommendation 1

‘That the standard definition of domestic violence to be developed by The Scottish Office in consultation with forces includes sub-categories of: - crimes of personal violence (non-sexual and sexual); other crimes (such as breach of the peace, threats, and vandalism); and abuse which does not amount to crime; and that the definition be adopted by all forces as soon as it is agreed’.

Recommendation 2

‘That all forces record domestic incidents so that they can be reviewed individually and in total, using the sub-categories referred to in recommendation 1’.

These recommendations were progressed through the Domestic Violence Working Group of the Scottish Criminal Statistics Committee involving ACPOS (Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland) nominated representatives who agreed the following definition of domestic abuse:

‘Any form of physical, sexual or mental and emotional abuse [that] might amount to criminal conduct and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse can be committed in the home or elsewhere’.

4.2 Returns

The statistical return from which the figures in this bulletin are taken is a simple count of the numbers of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police using the definition of domestic abuse as shown above. Following current terminology, these incidents are now referred to as incidents of domestic abuse. Returns from the eight legacy Scottish police forces are included in this bulletin.

Under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, the estimated costs of responding to statistical surveys and data collections are to be published.

The estimated cost of compliance for supplying and validating the data for this bulletin is **£2,100**

Details of the calculation methodology are available on the Scottish Government Crime and Justice website at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/costcalculation>

4.3 Recording of crimes and offences

Contraventions of Scottish criminal law are divided for statistical purposes into crimes and offences. The term “crime” is generally used for the more serious criminal acts; the less serious are termed “offences”, although the term “offence” may also be used in relation to serious breaches of criminal law. The distinction is made only for working purposes and the “seriousness” of the offence is generally related to the maximum sentence that can be imposed.

Crimes relate to Groups 1 to 5; Non-sexual crimes of violence, Sexual offences, Crimes of dishonesty, Fire-raising, vandalism etc. and Other crimes. Note that crimes within Group 2 are termed Sexual offences as this corresponds to the name of the legislation covering these crimes. Offences relate to Groups 6 and 7 namely Miscellaneous offences and Motor vehicle offences. For further information on crime and offence groups, see [Section 5](#).

Note that for the purposes of the statistical tables, only the most serious crime or offence related to each incident is used.

4.4 Recording issues

- **Incident Count**

During 2003-04, Strathclyde Police rolled out a new Vulnerable Person Database (VPD) which collects information about domestic, racist and homophobic incidents. This also involved the back-record conversion of paper records from September 2002. In the long term, this was expected to lead to more dynamic, accurate and timely data.

- **Repeat Victimisation**

Police forces can only identify a repeat victim if he/she has previously been entered onto their database. The longer the database has been in existence, the more likely it is that a repeat victim will be recognised as such. Police forces have maintained their databases over different periods of time and the proportion of identified repeat victims will vary accordingly.

The data collection is based on the number of incidents and it is not possible to identify individual victims. It is therefore possible for a victim of repeat incidents recorded over the same financial year period to be included several times within the statistics. In the case of [table 10](#) (incidents broken down by number of previous incidents) for example, it is possible that a victim of repeat incidents may appear across several columns as the number of incidents increases.

- **Transgender victims and perpetrators**

A separate code for Transgender was used in the data collection for the first time in 2009-10. Due to the small numbers of transgender victims and perpetrators, these are included in detailed tables as ‘Unknown’ for disclosure purposes. The total number of transgender victims can be found in [table 5](#).

In 2012-13, there were 13 recorded incidents of domestic abuse involving a transgender victim. There were 15 incidents of domestic abuse which involved a transgender perpetrator; however, no incidents involved a victim and perpetrator who were both transgender.

• **Where information is unknown**

Police forces were not able to record complete or certain types of information in all incidents. The percentage of incidents of domestic abuse where information was not recorded is shown in the following table:

	Percentage	
	Recorded	Not Recorded
Crimes and offences	100.00	-
Gender of victim	95.37	4.63
Gender of perpetrator	95.32	4.68
Gender of victim and perpetrator	95.11	4.89
No. of previous incidents against victim	85.54	14.46
Age of victim	95.44	4.56
Age of perpetrator	95.35	4.65
Location of incident	98.45	1.55
Relationship between victim and perpetrator	95.17	4.83
Action taken by police	99.56	0.44

Please note however, that in April 2011-12, Tayside made a change to the way domestic incidents were recorded which has resulted in an increase in the number of incidents with unknown details. See [note 4.5](#).

• **Correction to codes used in the returns**

During recent work to the system used to process and manage the data collection, it was discovered that changes in the data collection over the last ten years have resulted in some inconsistencies in the tables.

1. In the years prior to 2009-10, the code '99' was submitted in data returns where data was not recorded. However, in 2009-10, this was changed to '999'. The program used to extract the data was amended at that time but did not convert the codes from previous years, resulting in anything coded as '99' not being included in the 'unknown' category where it should have been.

2. Some divisions of Lothian & Borders Police were still returning repeat incident data using obsolete codes. On production of this bulletin, a problem with the way these codes had been amended by Justice Analytical Services in 2010-11 and 2011-12 was identified. This data has now been corrected.

These corrections have resulted in a number of revisions to some of the tables as follows:

Table 9: Where previous incidents information was not recorded, these incidents would have been included as 'previous incidents' – revisions made to the 2007-08 data. In addition, codes were amended as detailed above, revisions made to the 2010-11 and 2011-12 data.

Table 12: Where age was not recorded, these would have been included in the age group '61 and over' – revisions made to the 2006-07 to 2008-09 data.

Table 14: Where age was not recorded, these would have been included in the age group '61 and over'. In addition, an error in the program used to calculate perpetrator age groups for table 14 was identified - revisions made to the 2004-05 to 2011-12 data.

4.5 Reporting practice

- **Reporting of domestic abuse**

The statistics reported in this bulletin do not reveal the incidence of all domestic abuse committed since not all incidents are reported to the police. In conjunction with the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS), the statistics help to measure the extent and impact of domestic abuse in Scotland (see [note 4.12](#)). A number of reasons have been found for such under reporting. For example, victims experience fear and shame as common effects of domestic abuse. In addition, under reporting may also be caused by a perpetrator physically preventing a victim reporting the domestic abuse.

- **Recording practices**

The statistics provided from this data return have highlighted the different ways in which police forces record information. In particular, police practice in deciding when the behaviour justifies the recording of a crime or offence may differ. For example, some forces have ruled that no crime or offence should be recorded if no further action is to be taken e.g. because the victim does not wish any action to be taken. Other forces may record this as a crime or offence.

These differences clearly influence the proportion of incidents which lead to the recording of a crime or offence. In 2010-11, this ranged from 98% in Tayside, to 31% in Dumfries & Galloway. Tayside's figures show a marked change in this regard from the figures published for 2004-05. This is because during 2004, Tayside was returning crimes with crime codes not recognised by Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services. This recording issue has now been resolved.

- **Change of recording practice in Tayside**

In 2011-12, the proportion of incidents which led to a crime or offence being recorded in Tayside decreased and was more in line with other police forces. Tayside Police historically recorded instances of Domestic Abuse as substantive crimes with a Domestic Aggravator in every case purely as a means of having a method by which to record and manage investigations.

In order to achieve more accurate recording, in April 2011 the Domestic Concern Report was introduced and is now used when there is no substantive crime or offence, such as Breach of the Peace which was the most common one involved. In such cases the complainer is listed as the Procurator Fiscal and so the gender etc. of the victim is not identifiable. This has resulted in a high number of unknown returns. The victim will be listed as a witness on any such report and Domestic Abuse Officers manage these cases in exactly the same way as those where a substantive crime or offence is involved. This process has resulted in a drop in incidents with a recorded offence of Breach of the Peace.

- **Crimes and offences referred to the Procurator Fiscal**

Differences in the recording of crimes and offences also influence the proportion of recorded crimes and offences which are referred to the procurator fiscal. There was much less variation between police forces in the proportion of all incidents of domestic abuse which led to a referral to the procurator fiscal.

It should be noted that these recording practices are under continuing review with the aim of achieving consistency across Scotland. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland (HMICS) published a report in May 2012, assessing the consistency of recording

across police forces. The report is available via the HMICS website:
<http://www.hmics.org/publications/crime-audit-2011-national-overview-report>

4.6 Changes in methodology

2009-10 was the first year in which data was submitted based on the date the incident was recorded. Prior to this, data was returned based on the number of incidents which occurred during that time period. As historic data has never been revised, any incidents which occurred in a different time period to the date in which the incident was recorded, will have been excluded from the returns.

For example, if an incident occurred during 2007-08 but was reported during 2008-09, it would have been excluded from 2008-09 (since the date committed is not in the relevant time period), but it would also have been missed out of the 2007-08 data as the submitted data would not have been updated. Hence, the incident would never be reported in the statistics.

The number of incidents in the bulletins from 2009-10 onwards, is therefore based on the date the incident was recorded. This should give a truer reflection of police activity relating to domestic abuse incidents. By reporting on the date the incidents were committed, we get a snapshot account of the number of domestic abuse incidents occurring within a particular period. However, by analysing the data based on the date recorded, we can see the trend in reporting incidents of domestic abuse to the police. Hence, if there was an increase in the number of victims who found the courage to report incidents of domestic abuse to the police, this should be reflected in the statistics.

It was estimated that less than 1% of incidents recorded within a particular year are 'historic' incidents i.e. occurred within a previous time period. By not updating the data which was collected for all years prior to 2009-10, it is estimated that there was an undercount in the total number of incidents but this should not be more than 3%. 2009-10 was the first year in which there should be no undercount in the number of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police.

4.7 Legislation

As well as common law, some of the main legislation applicable to domestic abuse is as follows:

- Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (Section 31 of this Act introduced the concept of "domestic interdicts" into the 1981 Act, which applies to unmarried cohabitants (either opposite-sex or same-sex). Domestic interdicts have much the same effect in relation to cohabitants as matrimonial interdicts have for married couples as is defined in section 10 of this Act, which amends section 14 of the 1981 Act to extend the scope of matrimonial interdicts to include not only a matrimonial home, but also any other home owned by the applicant, the applicant's place of work and the school attended by any child in the applicant's care).
- Protection from Abuse (Scotland) Act 2001
- Criminal Justice Act 1998
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- Family Law Act 1996
- Matrimonial Homes (Family Law) (Scotland) Act 1981

Legislation introduced over the period covered by the statistical bulletin

On 6 October 2010, section 38 of the **Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010** was implemented. This introduced a new statutory offence of 'Threatening or abusive behaviour'. Unlike the common law offence of Breach of the peace, where case law has decreed that it is necessary to show a 'public element' to the conduct, there is no requirement in the new legislation to demonstrate the offending behaviour was in a public place.

Section 39 of the 2010 Act introduced, on 13 December 2010, the new offence of "Stalking". Formerly conduct which constitutes this new offence would also have been recorded under the common law offence of Breach of the peace.

The Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 came into force on 1 December 2010. The Act was passed following widespread media and academic criticism of the previous law in Scotland surrounding rape and other sexual offences, particularly the gender specific nature of the common law offence of rape.

The Act replaces a number of common law crimes including Rape, Clandestine injury to women and Sodomy with new statutory sexual offences. The Act provides a statutory description of consent, which is defined as free agreement and provides a non-exhaustive list of factual circumstances during which consent will be deemed to be absent.

The Act created a number of new 'protective' offences, which criminalise sexual activity with children and mentally disordered persons. There are separate offences concerning young children (under 13 years) and older children (13-15 years).

The new legislation will only apply to offences committed from 1 December 2010. Any offences committed prior to this date will be recorded using the previous legislation.

The new legislation resulted in some increases in Sexual offences. However, it is likely that the effect will be to change the distribution of these crimes among the subcategories. For example, some crimes previously categorised as Lewd and libidinous practices will now be classified as Sexual assault.

The introduction of the new legislation resulted in some crimes that would previously have been classified as either Breach of the peace etc. or Other miscellaneous offences being classified as Sexual offences. Most of these are now classed as Other sexual offences. However, it is not possible to quantify the number of crimes that this change affects.

Any Sexual offence which occurred prior to 1 December 2010 will be recorded in line with the appropriate legislation in place at that time. If the conduct occurred both prior to and after 1 December 2010 the appropriate offences under the old and new legislation are recorded. Caution should therefore be taken when comparing Sexual offences with previous years.

4.8 Definition of serious assault

In Scotland, assault is a common law offence. In order to distinguish between serious and common assaults, police forces use a common definition of what a serious assault is.

"An assault or attack in which the victim sustains injury resulting in detention in hospital as an inpatient, for the treatment of that injury, or any of the following injuries whether or not detained in hospital;

- Fractures (the breaking or cracking of a bone. Note - nose is cartilage not bone, so a 'broken nose' should not be classified unless it meets one of the other criteria)
- Internal injuries
- Severe concussion
- Lacerations requiring sutures which may lead to impairment or disfigurement
- Any other injury which may lead to impairment or disfigurement."

4.9 Crimes and offences cleared up

The definition of 'cleared up' was revised with effect from 1 April 1996. Previously, a crime or offence was regarded as being cleared up if one or more offenders was apprehended, cited, warned or traced for it. This was revised as follows:

A crime or offence is regarded as cleared up where there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots law, to justify consideration of criminal proceedings notwithstanding that a report is not submitted to the procurator fiscal because either

(i) by standing agreement with the procurator fiscal, the police warn the accused due to the minor nature of the offence, or

(ii) reporting is inappropriate due to the non-age of the accused, death of the accused or other similar circumstances.

For some types of crimes and offences the case is cleared up immediately because the offender is caught in the act e.g. motoring offences. In Scots law, the confession of an accused person to a crime would not in general be sufficient to allow a prosecution to be taken, as corroborative evidence is required. Thus, a case cannot be regarded as 'cleared up' on the basis of a confession alone.

It has been suggested that the above definition of 'cleared up' may not have been applied consistently in all police forces returning data on incidents of domestic abuse.

4.10 Consultations

- User review of bulletin content 2010

In June 2010, the Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services carried out a survey of users of the Domestic Abuse Recorded by the Police in Scotland statistical bulletin series. A copy of the report and recommendations can be viewed online via the following link:

<http://scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/StakeCon/DAConResult>

- User review of bulletin frequency 2011

In October 2011, the Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services carried out a second survey of users of the Domestic Abuse Recorded by the Police in Scotland statistical bulletin series to assess the need for an annual publication and to assess whether a biennial publication would meet user's needs.

Having carried out the consultation, the view was that we could move to a biennial publication of domestic abuse statistics, since there are alternative sources of data which would be sufficient to meet many users' needs. Overall trends are not changing markedly over time and biennial data will still allow adequate information to allow users to track changes in policies.

However since the time this consultation was held, the Act to merge Scotland's police and fire and rescue services was granted Royal Assent. The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 created a single Police Service of Scotland and a single Fire and Rescue Service to serve local communities and meet the demands and challenges of the 21st century. The Police Service of Scotland went live on 1 April 2013.

The consultation report can be accessed via the following link:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/StakeCon/DAOctober2011/DAOct11

4.11 UK Statistics Authority

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The Assessment Report, which was published in June 2011, can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-119---statistics-on-homicide--domestic-abuse--firearm-offences-and-firearm-certificates-recorded-by-the-police-in-scotland.pdf>

In 2011, the United Kingdom Statistics Authority¹ assessed these statistics against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics². An assessment report³ was prepared under the provisions of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007⁴. One of the requirements to be met before the statistics could be designated as National Statistics was as follows:

¹ UK Statistics Authority

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>

² Code of Practice for Official Statistics

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>

³ Assessment Report Number 119

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/index.html>

⁴ Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2007/18/pdfs/ukpga_20070018_en.pdf

Requirement 6 Address the implications of recording practices on the relevance of statistics on domestic abuse.

In August 2010, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland (HMICS) published the Crime Audit: National overview report ⁵ following a crime audit, in which a sample of incidents reported to the police was examined to determine whether they had been properly recorded as crimes. Crime recording was checked for compliance with the Scottish Crime Recording Standard ⁶ (SCRS).

The crime audit focussed on three types of recorded crime, including domestic abuse and was also used to assess forces' progress in responding to a recommendation in an earlier HMICS report ⁷, namely:

Recommendation 5: that forces review and reinforce their quality assurance practices and processes for recording domestic abuse incidents.

The report stated that four police forces failed to meet the 95% compliance target set by the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS) for domestic abuse. This highlighted an urgent need for these forces to increase compliance.

A follow up report, Crime Audit 2011: National Overview Report ⁸ was published by HMICS in May 2012 which provided an update on the four forces who previously failed to meet the 95% compliance rate. During this follow up audit, it was found that the progress made by these four forces was deemed sufficient to discharge recommendation 5 (as given above).

4.12 Other sources of domestic abuse (related) statistics

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2010-11

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey: First Findings (SCJS) 2010-11 had an enhanced self-completion section on domestic abuse. This section has been completely reworked and questions about sexual assault/rape have been added in consultation with stakeholders. The definition of abuse is wider than used in 2006 and includes physical, emotional/psychological, sexual and financial abuse by partners. This definition of abuse is closer to the UN definition of violence against women but is not a gender based definition. Findings from the SCJS 2010-11, partner abuse module were published in December 2011:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/12/16145746/0>

It was estimated that the police came to know about less than one in five (17%) of the most recent /only incidents of partner abuse experienced in the last 12 months. This was higher for female victims (24%) than for male victims (9%).

⁵ Crime Audit: National overview report (2010)

<http://www.hmics.org/publications/crime-audit-national-overview>

⁶ Scottish Crime Recording Standard

<http://www.acpos.police.uk/Documents/Policies/CRIME%20-%20Scottish%20Crime%20Recording%20Standard%20Manual.pdf>

⁷ HMICS Thematic Inspection: Domestic Abuse (2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/08/21125841/7>

⁸ Crime Audit 2011: National Overview Report

<http://www.hmics.org/publications/crime-audit-2011-national-overview-report>

According to the SCJS survey, 11% of respondents experiencing partner abuse in the last 12 months told the police about the most recent / only incident. In particular, men were less likely than women to tell someone about the domestic abuse incident. However the police often came to know about the abuse from sources other than the respondents, this included friends, relatives and doctors. Where the police were not informed, the most prevalent reasons for not reporting the incident were that it was a private matter, that it was too trivial, and that it could be dealt with personally.

The SCJS survey data revealed a notable gender difference in respondents' perception of the incident. Women were more likely than men to view the most recent / only incident of partner abuse as a crime, particularly in relation to physical abuse. Men were more likely to say both forms of abuse (physical and psychological) were 'just something that happens'.

Men were also less likely to view themselves as victims of domestic abuse (based on their understanding of this term). The findings thus highlight notable gender differences in the reporting and perception of partner abuse and in the perception of being a victim. The following sections explore the findings in further detail.

In June 2013, an Analytical Paper was published by Justice Analytical Services which collates, presents and discusses the main statistics on domestic abuse in Scotland from two principal sources of statistics, namely police recorded incidents of domestic abuse and the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS). Each source has different strengths and limitations but together they provide a more comprehensive picture of domestic abuse in Scotland and help to measure the extent and impact of domestic abuse in Scotland.

This paper is based on statistics for 2010-11, the most recent year for which statistics are available from both sources. The paper does not present new statistics but collates previously published information and is available on the following weblink:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Publications/DomesticAbusePaperIntro>

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2012-13 Main Findings report is due to be published in late 2013 and the Partner Abuse report is due to be published in early 2014.

Domestic Abuse awareness raising campaign:

The Scottish Government, working under the Safer Scotland superbrand, has conducted an annual Domestic Abuse campaign since 1998, focussing on the key message 'Domestic Abuse – there's no excuse'. Since initiation of the campaign, there have been 11 waves of post-campaign evaluation, tracking attitudes and perceptions towards domestic abuse and the media executions.

The 2008-09 campaign ran from 26th December 2008 for four weeks, and consisted of television and online advertising, containing the contact details for both the freephone Scottish Domestic Abuse helpline and the website.

The 2008-09 evaluation report is available via the following link:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/07/15100712/0>

Comparisons with England and Wales

Care must be taken in making comparisons between crime statistics due to different counting rules and definitions.

In England and Wales, Domestic Violence data is not comparable with Scotland's statistics on Domestic Abuse due to differences in definition. The definition of domestic violence in England and Wales is:

'Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality'.

The Scottish definition does not include family members, and data collected from the Scottish police forces includes only domestic abuse between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners.

In September 2012, the Home Office announced that the definition of domestic violence would be widened to include psychological abuse and would include those aged 16-17 years of age. Details of this change in definition can be found via the following Home Office link: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/domestic-violence/>

The changes in definition will be implemented in March 2013.

4.13 Other

The following symbols are used throughout the tables in this bulletin.

- = Nil

* = <0.5

** = <5

N/A = Not applicable

5. Classification of crimes and offences

Group

CRIMES

Non-Sexual Crimes Of Violence

(Also referred to as **Crimes of Violence**)

Homicide -

Includes:

- Murder
- Culpable homicide
 - Causing death by dangerous driving
 - Causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs
 - Causing death by careless driving
 - Corporate homicide

Attempted murder &
serious assault -

Includes:

- Attempted murder
- Serious assault

An assault is classified as **serious** if the victim sustained an injury resulting in detention in hospital as an in-patient or any of the following injuries whether or not he/she was detained in hospital: fractures, internal injuries, severe concussion, lacerations requiring sutures which may lead to impairment or disfigurement or any other injury which may lead to impairment or disfigurement.

Other violence -

Includes:

- Robbery
- Threats and extortion
- Cruel and unnatural treatment of children.
- Abortion
- Concealment of pregnancy
- Possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, commit crime etc.
- Abduction
- Ill treatment of mental patients
- Drugging

Sexual Offences

Rape & attempted rape -

Includes:

- Rape
- Attempted rape

Sexual assault -

Includes:

- Contact sexual assault (13-15 yr old or adult 16+)
- Sexually coercive conduct (13-15 yr old or adult 16+)
- Sexual offences against children under 13 years
- Lewd and libidinous practices

Other sexual offences -

Includes:

- Offences relating to prostitution
- Soliciting services of person engaged in prostitution
- Brothel keeping
- Immoral traffic
- Procuration
- Other sexually coercive conduct
- Other sexual offences involving 13-15 year old children
- Taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children
- Incest
- Unnatural Crimes
- Public indecency
- Sexual exposure
- Other sexual offences

Crimes Involving Dishonesty

Includes:

- Housebreaking
- Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)
- Theft from a motor vehicle by (OLP)
- Theft of motor vehicle
- Shoplifting –
- Other theft –
- Fraud -

Fire-Raising, Vandalism Etc.

(Also referred to as **Vandalism**)

Fire-raising -

Includes:

- Fire-raising
- Muirburn

Vandalism, etc. -

Includes:

- Malicious mischief
- Vandalism
- Reckless conduct with firearms

Other Crimes

Crimes against public justice -

Includes:

- Perjury
- Resisting arrest
- Bail offences (other than absconding or re-offending)
- Wasting police time

Handling offensive weapons -

Includes:

- Possession of an offensive weapon
- Restriction of offensive weapons
- Having in a public place an article with a blade or point

Drugs -

Includes:

- Importation of drugs
- Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs
- Possession and supply of controlled drugs
- Related money laundering offences

Other -

Includes:

- Treason
- Conspiracy
- Explosives offences
- Wrecking, piracy and hijacking
- Crimes against public order

OFFENCES

Miscellaneous Offences

Common assault -

Includes:

- Common assault
- Common assault on an emergency worker

Breach of the peace etc. -

Includes:

- Breach of the peace
- Offensive behaviour at football
- Threatening communications (Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act 2012)

Threatening or abusive behaviour

Offence of stalking

Drunkenness -

Includes:

- Drunk and disorderly
- Drunk and incapable
- Drunk in charge of a child
- Drunk and attempting to enter licensed premises
- Drunk or drinking in unlicensed premises
- Disorderly on licensed premises
- Drunk and attempting to enter a sports ground
- Refusing to quit licensed premises

Other -

Includes:

- False/Hoax calls
- Offences involving children
- Offences involving animals/plants
- Offences against local legislation
- Offences against liquor licensing laws
- Labour laws
- Naval military and air force laws
- Offences against environmental legislation
- Consumer protection acts

Motor Vehicle Offences

Includes:

Dangerous and careless driving
Driving Under the Influence
Speeding
Unlawful use of vehicle
Vehicle defect offences
Other

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