

Statistical Bulletin

Crime and Justice Series

An Official Statistics Publication for Scotland

RECORDED CRIME IN SCOTLAND, 2013-14 25 November 2014

The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 changed the policing landscape in Scotland, replacing the previous 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 following the establishment of the Police Service of Scotland (referred to throughout this report as Police Scotland).

This bulletin presents statistics on crimes and offences recorded and cleared up by the police in 2013-14. Statistics on crimes and offences recorded by the police provide a measure of the volume of criminal activity with which the police are faced. Crimes recorded by the police do not of course reveal the incidence of all crime committed since not all crimes are reported to the police. Clear up rates measure the percentage of recorded crimes that have been cleared up. For a definition of crimes recorded and clear up rates, refer to [Annex 1](#).

KEY POINTS FROM RECORDED CRIME IN SCOTLAND

Crimes recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 1%, from 273,053 in 2012-13 to 270,397 in 2013-14. Recorded crime is now at the lowest level since 1974.

- The number of Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded by the police decreased by 10% from 7,530 in 2012-13 to a total of 6,785 in 2013-14.
- The number of Sexual crimes increased by 12% from 7,693 in 2012-13 to 8,604 in 2013-14.
- The number of Crimes of dishonesty increased by 1% from 135,899 in 2012-13 to stand at 137,324 crimes in 2013-14. The number of Crimes of dishonesty peaked in 1991 and has been on a downwards trend ever since.
- Recorded crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. decreased by 9% from 59,479 in 2012-13 to 54,418 in 2013-14. These crimes peaked in 2006-07 and have been decreasing sharply since then.
- The number of Other crimes increased by 1% between 2012-13 and 2013-14 from 62,452 to 63,266. This increase has been driven by a 3% increase in drugs crimes, specifically possession of drugs.

- The number of Miscellaneous offences increased by 2% from 203,063 in 2012-13 to 207,190 in 2013-14.
- In 2013-14, the police recorded 501,281 offences. Due to a number of changes in the way Motor vehicle offences have been submitted, it is not possible to compare 2013-14 data with that for previous years. See [Annex 2](#) for further details on these changes.

The clear up rate for all recorded crimes increased by one percentage point, to 52%. This is the highest clear up rate recorded since 1976, the first year for which comparable clear up rates are available.

- The clear up rate for Non-sexual crimes of violence increased by 3 percentage points from 79% in 2012-13 to 82% in 2013-14, continuing a long term trend
- The clear up rate for Sexual crimes increased by 8 percentage points from 68% in 2012-13 to 76% in 2013-14, a return to levels seen ten years ago.
- The clear up rates for Crimes of dishonesty (37%) and for Fire-raising, vandalism etc.(25%) decreased by 1 and 2 percentage points respectively The rates for these crime groups have remained broadly consistent over the last ten years.
- The clear up rate for Other crimes has remained at 98%, the same rate as in 2012-13. This is broadly consistent over the last ten years.

CHANGES TO THE STATISTICS 2013-14

The statistics set out in this bulletin cover the year immediately following the establishment of Police Scotland. and as such, it is the first year for which data has been extracted using the unified Scottish Operational Management Information System (ScOMIS) implemented on 1 April 2013 which collates data from the eight legacy police force systems, and was implemented on 1 April 2013

In order to assess the comparability of data extracted from ScOMIS with the data published in previous statistical bulletins, an extensive data quality exercise has been carried out for the five year period 2008-09 to 2012-13. The Technical Report produced detailing this quality assurance work is available via the following link: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/TechnicalReport>

Following the analysis carried out by the Scottish Government to produce the Technical Report, it was found that there were no issues regarding comparability for recorded crime (Groups 1 to 5). However, it was found that a number of offence codes (in Groups 6 and 7), are non-comparable for the full ten years covered by the bulletin.

For Group 6, Miscellaneous offence, all data are fully comparable from 2008-09 onwards. However, two offences are non-comparable prior to 2008-09: Disorderly on

licensed premises (within the Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct category) and Control of Pollution (within the Other miscellaneous offences category).

Therefore, comparisons for Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct and Other miscellaneous offences categories in Group 6 should also only be made for 2008-09 onwards. The comparability of the remaining three categories in Group 6: Common assault; Breach of the peace etc. and Urinating etc. are not affected.

This means that, overall comparisons for Group 6 should only be made for 2008-09 onwards.

Due to the standardisation of reporting practices following the establishment of Police Scotland, there are greater comparability issues for Group 7, Motor vehicle offence. There are no comparability issues for two of the categories of in Group 7: Dangerous and careless driving and Driving under the influence.

However, Seat belt offences and Mobile phone offences are comparable back to 2008-09. For the other categories in Group 7 comparisons are not currently possible with previous years.

The Scottish Government aim to rectify these comparability issues as soon as we can.

More detailed information about these comparability issues can be found in [Annex 2](#).

HMICS Crime Audit 2014

On 12 November 2014, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) published Crime Audit 2014 <http://www.hmics.org/publications/hmics-crime-audit-2014>.

This audit, the largest into crime recording undertaken by HMICS, examined records in six categories, four of which were related to specific crime types. It audited incidents reported between 1 April 2013 and 30 June 2014, and was the first crime audit in which a timeliness test was applied. This audit found no systemic data quality issues around the recording of crimes and offences.

One of the key findings from the report was that 'the quality of most incident and crime recording decisions by Police Scotland is good. 92% of incidents were closed correctly¹ and 94% of crime was counted and classified correctly'.

The findings from this detailed audit by HMICS provide users with the information on which to have confidence in the quality of crime statistics in Scotland.

Further details from this audit in relation to specific crime types and divisional information are provided within the relevant sections of this bulletin as well as in [Annex 4](#).

¹ Correct closure means either that (a) the incident was closed as non-crime related and contained sufficient information to dispel any inference of criminality; or (b) the incident indicated a crime had occurred and a crime record was traced.

UK Statistics Authority Assessment

The [UK Statistics Authority](#) (UKSA) has recently undertaken an assessment of Recorded Crime in Scotland statistics. The UKSA published its assessment report on Recorded Crime in Scotland on 31 July 2014. The report states that UKSA "cannot at present confer National Statistics status on these statistics", whilst also recognising that the UKSA "have been impressed with features of the institutional framework in Scotland" and noting that "Police Scotland is surrounded by a strong framework of inspection and regulation, including a National Crime Registrar, the Scottish Police Authority, and HMICS". As a result of this, the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 statistical bulletin has been published as Official Statistics.

Each of the UKSA assessment reports point to improvements statistics producers can make. The Scottish Government are actioning these requirements. The full assessment report can be accessed here:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-288---statistics-on-recorded-crime-in-scotland.pdf>

The Scottish Government is undertaking a range of actions which have the overarching aim of improving the information being provided to users, to aid their understanding and interpretation of the statistics, including the strengths and limitations of the statistics and how they can use the statistics. The Scottish Government has provided more details on the quality assurance processes as well as the quality of the data, and has taken account of the results of audits by HMICS, to demonstrate how it assures itself of the quality of recorded crime statistics. It has also provided users with an assessment of any risk and potential sources of error associated with the use of the underlying administrative data source.

The Scottish Government has produced a [User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland](#) as part of a suite of documents, alongside the [Framework of Assurance](#) and the [Recorded Crime: Comparability of Police Scotland and Legacy Force Data](#) report. These accompanying documents are intended to support and inform users about police recorded crime statistics in Scotland.

KEY POINTS FROM THE SCOTTISH CRIME AND JUSTICE SURVEY (published In March 2014)

In addition to the information on police recorded crime, crime in Scotland is also measured by the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS), a national household survey with adults (aged 16 and over) which asks respondents about their experiences of crime. This bulletin uses data since 2008-09² to bring together the two complementary sources, police recorded crime and the SCJS, to present a fuller, more comprehensive picture of crime in Scotland³

² The current survey design and increased sample size for the SCJS were introduced in 2008-09.

³ However it should also be noted that bringing the two sources together in this way highlights that the SCJS and police recorded crime cover different populations, different timescales, and the SCJS does not cover the entire range of crimes and offences that the police are faced with.

There were 815,000 incidents of crime against adults in Scotland in 2012-13, 22% lower than reported in the 2008-09 survey. The survey estimates that, in 2012-13, around one in six (16.9%) adults aged 16 or over were the victim of at least one crime.

- Survey estimates of the overall level of comparable crime have fallen in line with similar reductions in the overall level of comparable recorded crime, between 2008-09 to 2012-13, by 28% and 33% respectively.

It is estimated that around 15% of adults in Scotland were a victim of property crime in 2012-13.

- Property crime measured in the SCJS involves theft or damage to personal or household property (including vehicles). In 2012-13, approximately 579,000 crimes (71% of all SCJS crime) fell into this category.
- Between 2008-09 and 2012-13, there was a statistically significant decrease of 21% in property crime captured by the SCJS, and a statistically significant decrease of 12% between 2010-11 and 2012-13.
- In 2012-13, vandalism accounted for 27% of property crime, followed by other household theft (including bicycle theft, 21%), personal theft (excluding robbery, 13%), all motor vehicle theft related incidents (6%) and housebreaking (4%).

It is estimated that around 3% of adults in Scotland were a victim of violent crime in 2012-13.

- Violent crime in the SCJS includes attempted assault, serious assault, minor assault and robbery. Of the 815,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2012-13, 236,000 (29%) were violent crimes.
- Between the 2011-12 and the 2012-13 SCJS, the change in estimated violent crime was not statistically significant. However, the cumulative effect of changes since 2008-09 is statistically significant, showing a 25% decrease in violent crimes.
- In 2012-13, minor assaults made up the majority of SCJS violent crime (23%), followed by attempted assault (3%), serious assault (2%) and robbery (1%).

Presentation of Scottish Crime and Justice Survey information.

Where relevant, subsequent findings from the latest, 2012-13, Scottish Crime and Justice Survey SCJS are presented in this bulletin in a blue box. Where comparisons are made between SCJS and police recorded crime these are mostly made since 2008-09, following changes to the current SCJS survey design and the increased sample size.

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1. Background

- 1.1 The statistics on recorded crimes and offences inform the Scottish Government Strategy for Justice in Scotland, and our National Outcome 9 – ‘we live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger’.
- 1.2 These statistics are also used by a wide range of stakeholders to monitor trends, for policy research and development, and for research purposes. The ‘Recorded Crime in Scotland’ annual statistical bulletin forms part of a series of bulletins produced by the Scottish Government on the criminal justice system.
- 1.3 The term “crime” is *generally* used for the more serious criminal acts; the less serious are termed “offences”. The distinction is made only for statistical reporting purposes and the “seriousness” of the offence is *generally* related to the maximum sentence that can be imposed. This distinction has been consistently used since the publication of Recorded Crime in Scotland began in 1983 and prior to this, the Criminal statistics publication back to the 1920’s.

Crimes relate to Groups 1 to 5;

- Non-sexual crimes of violence,
- Sexual crimes⁴,
- Crimes of dishonesty,
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. and
- Other crimes.

Offences relate to Groups 6 and 7;

- Miscellaneous offences
- Motor vehicle offences.

For further information on crime and offence groups, see [Section 5](#).

- 1.4 This statistical bulletin covers the ten year period since the introduction of the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) in 2004-05. The SCRS has helped maintain a consistent approach to recording crime. The SCRS manual is available on the Police Scotland website on the following link:
<http://www.scotland.police.uk/assets/pdf/138327/232757/scottish-crime-recording-standard?view=Standard>
- 1.5 The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) 2012-13 provides a complementary measure of crime compared with police recorded crime statistics. The survey provides information on the criminal justice system, on people’s experience of civil justice problems and people’s perception of crime. It also provides estimates of progress for two of the 50 national indicators in the Scottish Government’s National Performance Framework namely:
- Improve people's perceptions about the crime rate in their area and
 - Reduce crime victimisation rates.

⁴ Note that Sexual crimes were previously termed Sexual offences as this corresponds to the name of the legislation implemented on 1 December 2010 covering these crimes. However, this has in the past caused some confusion. To emphasise that these are crimes, as they always have been, this group has been renamed Sexual crimes.

Further information on the National Performance Framework can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/scotPerforms>

- 1.6** The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey also provides an estimate of the proportion of crimes not reported to the police. In 2012-13, it was estimated that 39% of crimes, as defined by the SCJS, were reported to the police.

A more detailed chapter on the comparisons between recorded crime and the SCJS is provided in [Section 3](#). Additional sections on the SCJS are featured throughout the commentary around crimes and offences.

- 1.7** There have been no major legislative changes throughout 2013-14 which impact on the comparability of the statistics.

Past legislative changes, and changes to classifications can be found in the User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland, available via the following link: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/UserGuide>

2. MAIN FINDINGS: RECORDED CRIMES AND OFFENCES IN SCOTLAND

Following the establishment of Police Scotland on 1 April 2013, 2013-14 is the first year in which this bulletin reports on statistics for the single police service. Since there are now no individual police force areas, it is no longer appropriate to show data at legacy police force level.

Clearly, there are limits to the amount of information which can be shown in the tables in the bulletin. Therefore these tables are restricted to high level figures (for example Scotland level) and selected crime types at local authority level. Tables 5 to 8 contain data for the top 35 crime and offence categories over a ten year time series. The accompanying data file contains the same version of these tables but allow the user to select a local authority to look at in more detail.

A set of additional tables will also be made available which will allow the user to look at a ten year time series across all local authorities for a chosen crime/offence or crime group. These tables will be made available via the following web link and users will be notified of their publication via ScotStat:

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

TOTAL RECORDED CRIME

Recorded crime is now at the lowest level since 1974. The total number of crimes recorded by the police in Scotland in 2013-14 was 270,397. This is 1% lower than the level recorded in 2012-13 ([Chart 1](#) and [Table 1](#)). This continues a steadily decreasing trend in recorded crime in Scotland over the last 23 years, from a peak in 1991 when crime reached a record high of 572,921.

On 1 April 2004, the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) was introduced to help maintain a victim orientated approach to crime recording and was anticipated to increase the number of minor crimes recorded such as vandalism and minor thefts. We can see from [Chart 1](#) that this did cause a slight increase in 2004-05 as expected, but that the downwards trend returned following this change to recording practice.

[Chart 2](#) shows the number of recorded crimes in each of the five crime groups since 1971 and gives an indication of the scale of each crime group. These individual groups will be discussed in more detail in the sections which follow.

Chart 1: Crimes recorded by the police, 1971 to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2013-14

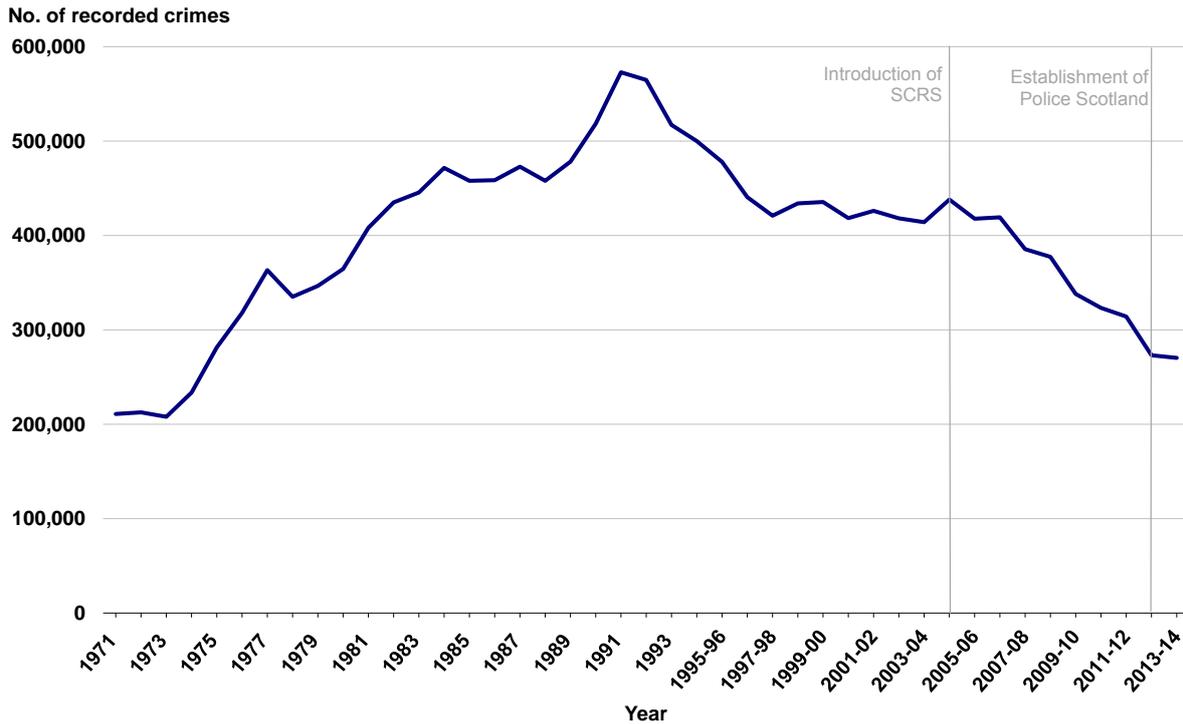
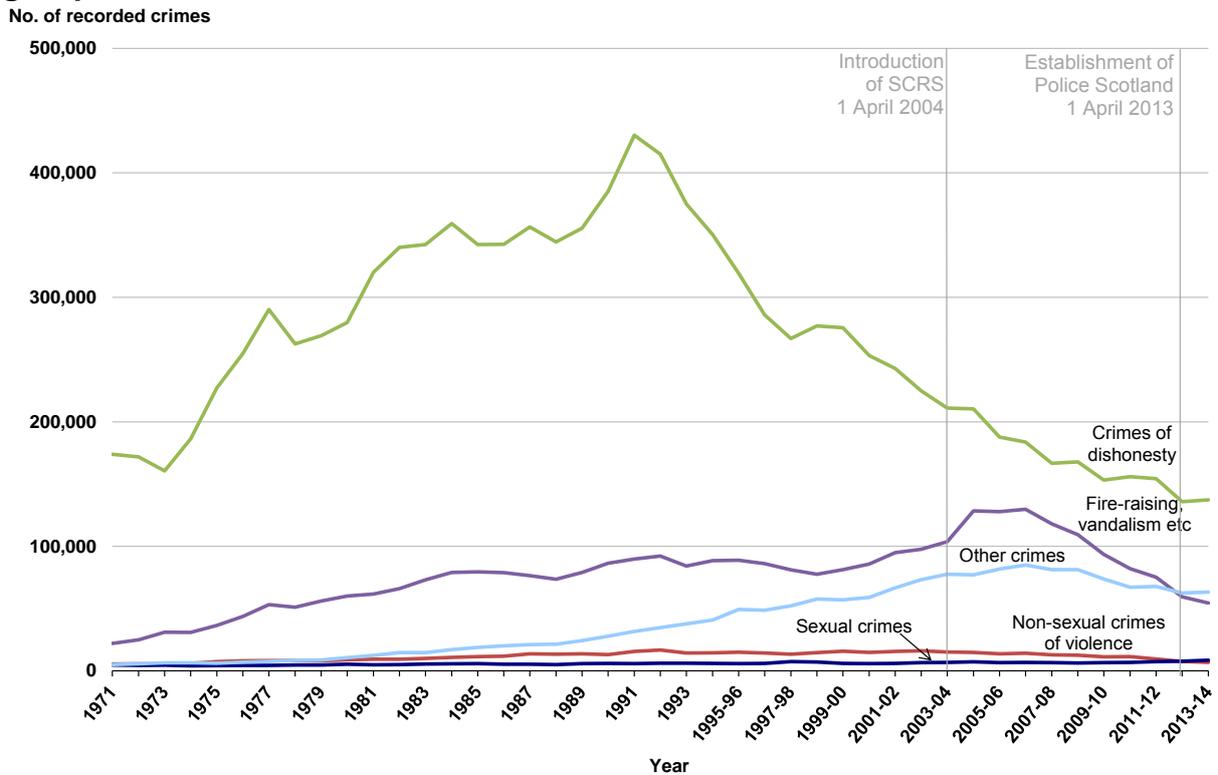


Chart 2: Change in total recorded crime between 2004-05 and 2013-14, by crime group



1. Comparable clear up rates for the current crime groups are not available prior to 1976.

HMICS audit

HMICS tested the accuracy of crime recording through an audit of records recorded between 1 April 2013 and 30 June 2014, taking into account areas identified as weak in previous audits, areas of high risk or emerging concern, and national and local policing priorities. HMICS audited records in six categories, four of which related to specific crime types:

- Sexual crime
- Violent crime
- Housebreaking
- Hate crime
- Non-crime related incidents
- No-crimes

The HMICS crime audit found that 'the quality of most incident and crime recording decisions by Police Scotland is good. 92% of incidents were closed correctly⁵ and 94% of crime was counted and classified correctly'.

This bulletin reports on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland.

The HMICS Crime Audit 2014 found that 94% of crimes and offences were counted and classified correctly (Test 2). The chances are 19 in 20 that the 'true' value will fall within the range $\pm 1.4\%$ from the sample results (i.e. approximately between 92.6% and 95.4%).

92% of incidents were closed correctly (Test 1). The associated 95% confidence interval is $92\% \pm 1.1\%$ (i.e. approximately between 90.9% and 93.1%).

The report also shows that 94% of the almost 1,000 cases which were initially thought to be a crime but were later re-designated as not being a crime following additional investigation, were found to have been no-crimes correctly. The chances are 19 in 20 that the 'true' value will fall within the range $\pm 2.7\%$ from the sample results (i.e. approximately between 91.3% and 96.7%).

Users of these crime statistics can therefore have confidence that crimes are being classified and counted correctly.

We also know from the audit that there are some incident records which have not been closed correctly, for various reasons. However, the technical errors found by HMICS in its examination of non-crime related incidents would not necessarily result in the under recording of crime.

Furthermore, it is not possible to determine the exact number of incident records which indicated that a crime had occurred, as many were closed with insufficient information from which to make a judgement as to whether or not a crime had occurred.

⁵ Correct closure means either that (a) the incident was closed as non-crime related and contained sufficient information to dispel any inference of criminality; or (b) the incident indicated a crime had occurred and a crime record was traced.

Compliance rates in relation to specific crime types, as well as for divisions, are reported in subsequent sections of this bulletin.

Key points from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey:

The latest figures from the SCJS estimate that there were 815,000 incidents of crime against adults in Scotland in 2012-13, 22% lower since the 2008-09 survey. The survey estimates that, in 2012-13, around one in six (16.9%) adults aged 16 or over were the victim of at least one crime.

Comparison with recorded crime (comparable crime subset):

Of the 815,000 crimes estimated by the 2012-13 SCJS, just under two-thirds (527,000) can be compared with police recorded crimes. Further detail on the comparable crime set is available in [Section 3.3](#) and in [Annex 5 of the 2012-13 SCJS](#).

Both recorded crime figures and SCJS estimates show downward trends in the extent of comparable crime between 2008-09 and 2012-13 (-33% and -28% respectively). The reduction in estimates across all sweeps of the SCJS, from 731,000 in 2008-09 to 527,000 in 2012-13, is a statistically significant change. However, the short-term change in SCJS comparable crime between 2010-11 and 2012-13 is not a statistically significant change (at the 95% confidence level).

At this stage, it is difficult to identify trends in the relationship between recorded crime and SCJS estimates using only four sweeps of comparable data and we do not have enough evidence to make confident assertions about longer-term trends in SCJS estimates in the comparable crime subset prior to 2008-09. It is likely that greater certainty in trends will emerge over longer timescales, therefore continuing this analysis in future years will help to assess whether some of the short term changes reported here mark the beginning of a consistent pattern.

Local Authority analysis:

The overall decrease in recorded crime was reflected in 21 of the 32 local authority areas. Year on year figures can vary across local authorities, however the long term trend is broadly the same across Scotland. [Chart 4](#) shows that over the ten year period covered by the bulletin, all local authorities are showing a decrease in recorded crime, varying from just under a third to just over a half

The largest decrease in recorded crime in 2013-14, was in Eilean Siar (30%) where 53% of the decrease was accounted for by decreases in Other thefts, Drug crimes and Sexual assault.

In the Shetland Islands, the Orkney Islands and in East Renfrewshire, the overall decrease was 17%. In the Shetland Islands, the decrease was driven by a 52% decrease in Vandalism etc. while on the Orkney Islands, Other Theft and Crimes against public justice accounted for 76% of the decrease. In East Renfrewshire, Shoplifting, Vandalism etc. and Drug crimes were the main drivers of the decrease, accounting for 48% of the decrease.

It should be noted that in all four of these areas, overall numbers of crimes are small and therefore subject to more fluctuation.

Ten local authorities have noted an increase varying from 1% in the Scottish Borders and Renfrewshire, to 14% in Edinburgh City, while Dumfries & Galloway saw no change from 2012-13 ([Chart 3](#)).

In Edinburgh City, 75% of the increase was accounted for by Crimes of dishonesty, in particular Housebreaking and Other theft. In Midlothian, 82% of the increase was also accounted for by Crimes of dishonesty while in Fife 42% of the increase was due to an increase in Sexual crimes.

Further explanation of these trends is set out in the following sections under each crime group.

HMICS Audit

The HMICS Audit report states that 'a few divisions performed very well, achieving high compliance rates in all or most areas'. However, the report goes on to state that 'conversely, a few divisions performed poorly'.

Divisional compliance rates for Test 1 ranged from 83% to 99% and for Test 2 from 88% to 98%.

The lowest Test 2 compliance rate was for Ayrshire at 88%. The 95% CI for the Test 2 compliance rate is $\pm 5\%$ and so the chances are 19 in 20 that the 'true' value will fall within the range (83% to 93%). The division of Ayrshire comprises the following three local authorities: East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire.

The Test 1 compliance rate was 90% or below for four of the 14 divisions, namely Edinburgh, Ayrshire, Argyll and West Dunbartonshire, and Renfrewshire and Inverclyde. Furthermore, the no-crime compliance rate is below 90% for the last three of these divisions.

Readers should be aware of these factors when considering information relating to these four divisions.

The following table shows the local authorities within these divisions:

Division	Local authorities
Edinburgh	Edinburgh City
Ayrshire	East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire
Argyll and West Dunbartonshire	Argyll & Bute and West Dunbartonshire
Renfrewshire and Inverclyde	Renfrewshire and Inverclyde

Chart 3: Change in total recorded crime between 2012-13 and 2013-14, by local authority area

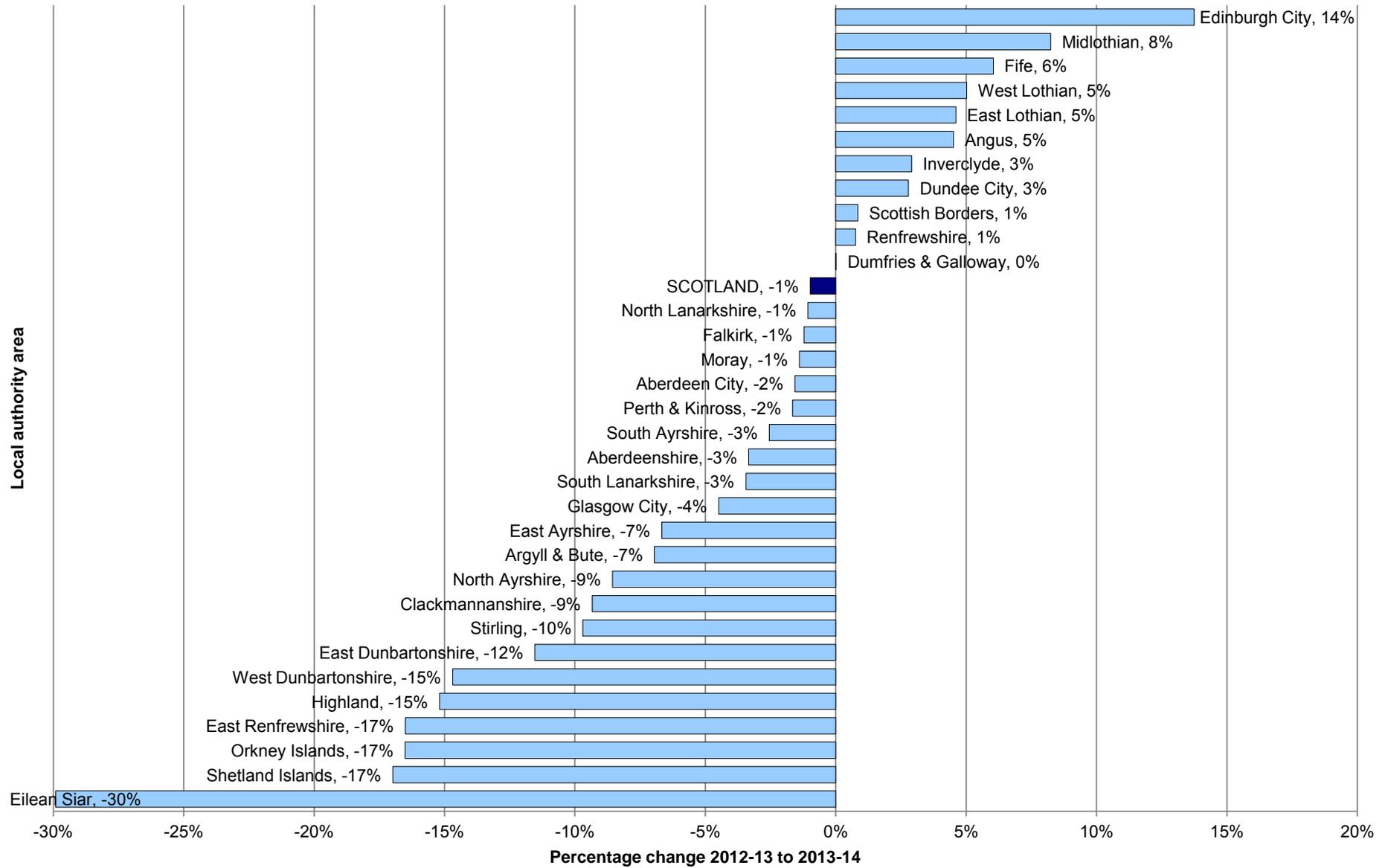
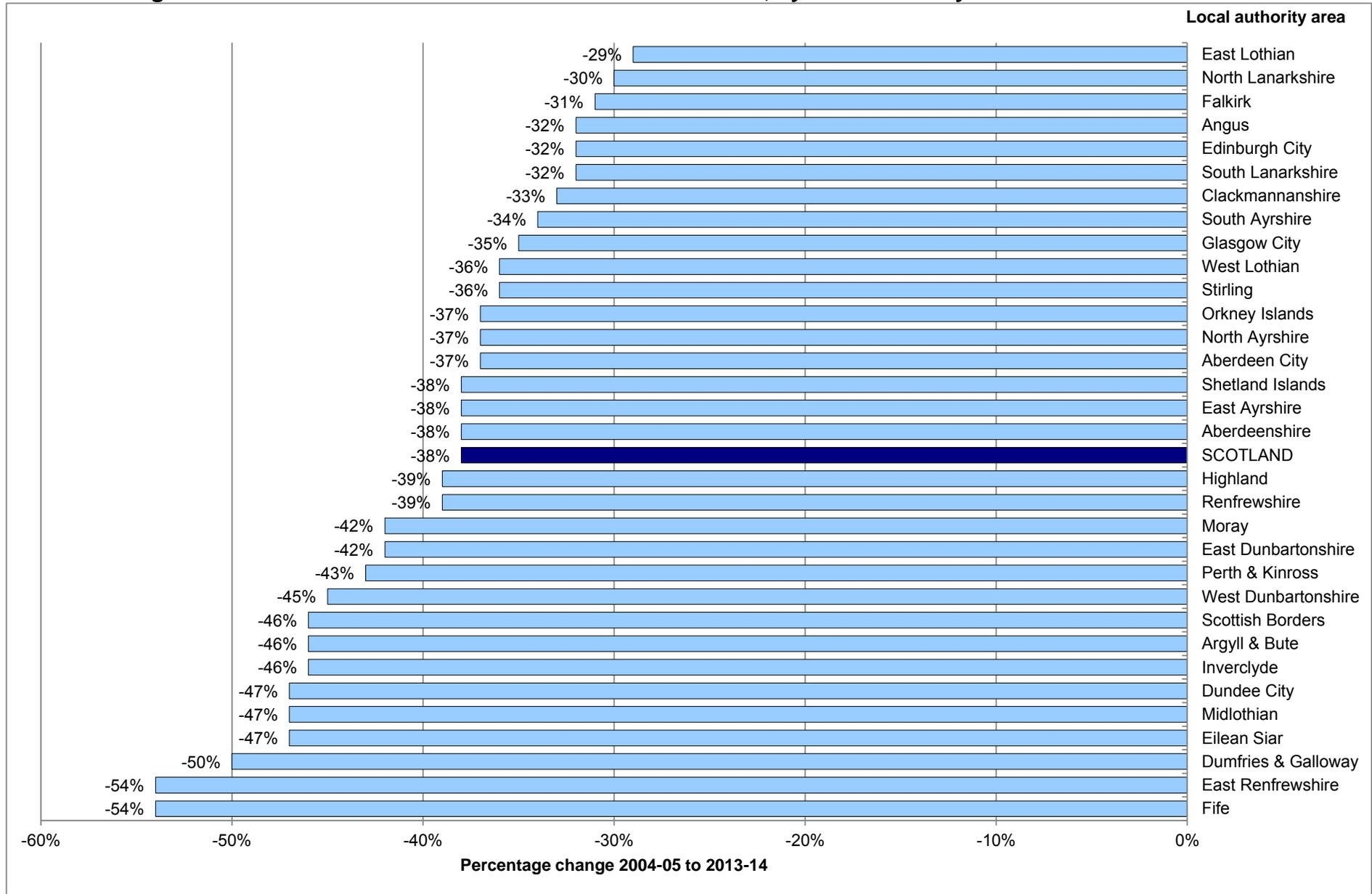


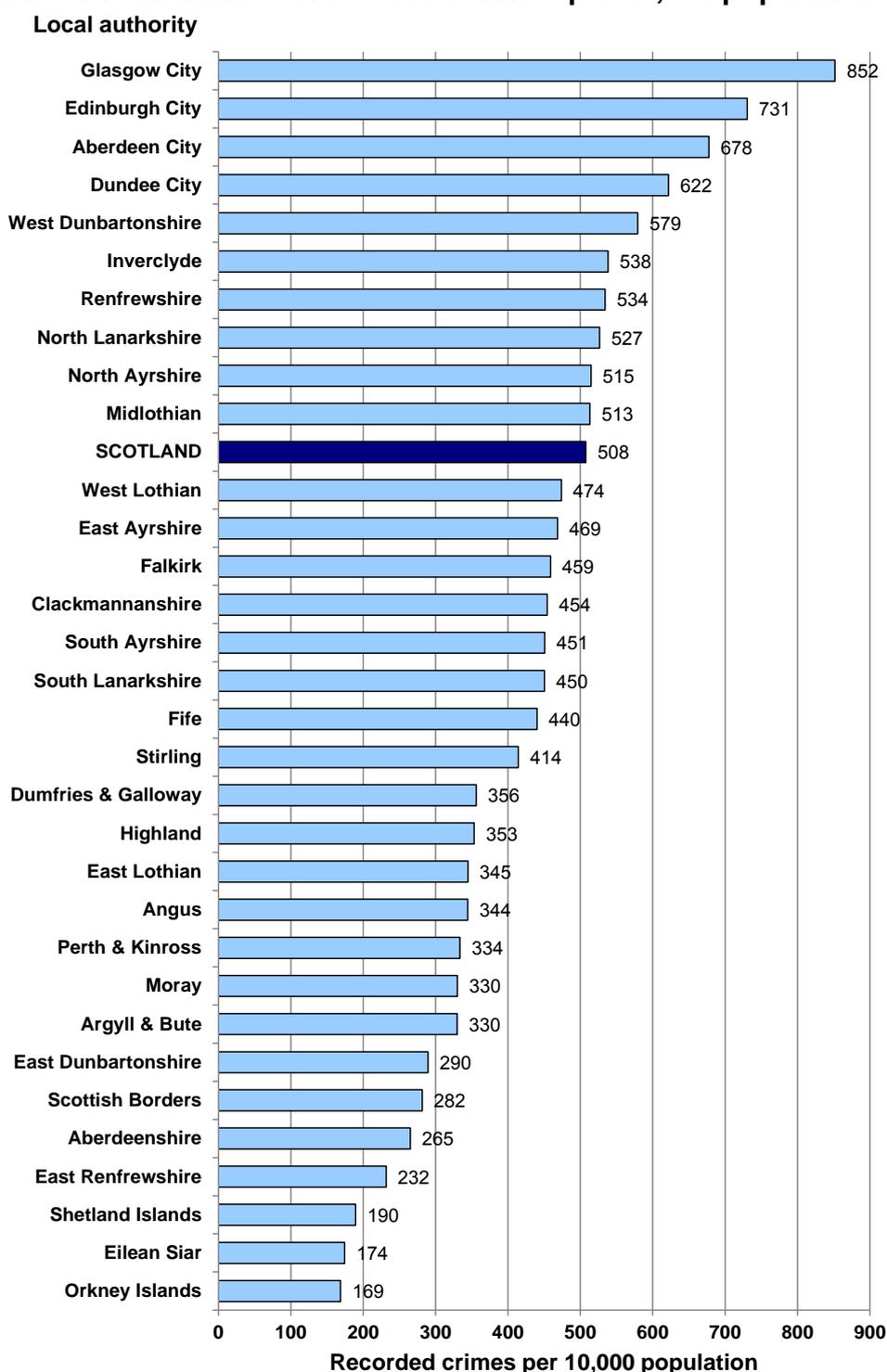
Chart 4: Change in total recorded crime between 2004-05 and 2013-14, by local authority area



Crime rate per 10,000 population

There were 508 recorded crimes per 10,000 population in 2013-14, with urban areas recording the highest rates; Glasgow City (852 per 10,000 population), Edinburgh City (731 per 10,000 population), Aberdeen City (678 per 10,000 population) and Dundee City (622 per 10,000 population).

Chart 5: Total number of recorded crimes per 10,000 population¹ in 2013-14

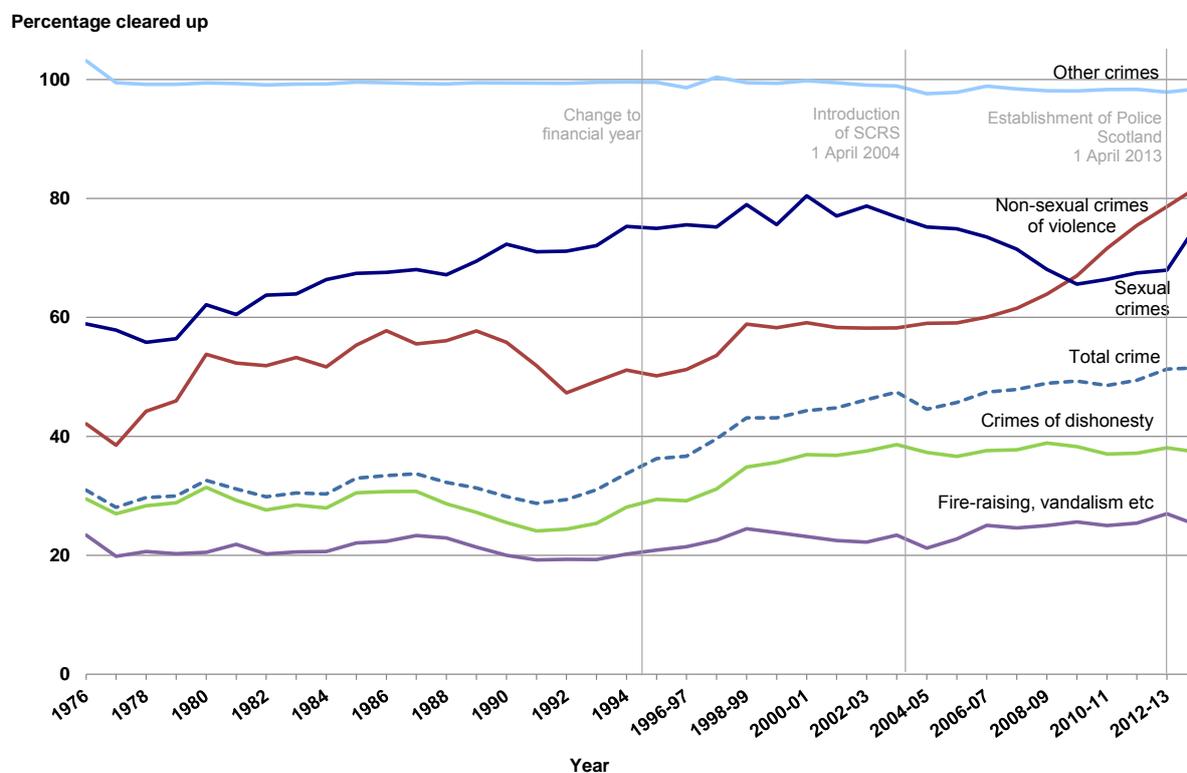


1. Population estimates are as at mid-year 2013 from the National Records of Scotland. (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/mid-year/index.html>)

Clear up rates

The clear up rate for recorded crimes in 2013-14 increased by 1 percentage point to 52%. This is the highest clear up rate since 1976, the first year for which comparable clear up rates are available.

Chart 6: Clear up rates for crimes recorded by the police by crime group, 1976¹ to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2013-14



1. Comparable clear up rates for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1976.

Other publications relating to various crime types

Domestic abuse

There is no specific crime for domestic abuse - a range of different crimes can occur in domestic abuse incidents. The data on recorded crime does not contain enough detail for domestic abuse incidents to be identified and so a separate data collection is made each year to look at more detail at incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police.

The Domestic Abuse Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland statistical bulletin series contains detailed information on domestic abuse incidents such as victim and perpetrator characteristics, relationship between victim and perpetrator, location of incident and the crimes recorded and cleared up as part of domestic abuse incidents.

We therefore recommend that users interested in Domestic Abuse Incidents should refer directly to the Domestic Abuse Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland bulletin series, available via the following link:

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

The next Domestic Abuse Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland bulletin will contain data for 2013-14 and is scheduled for publication in early 2015.

Firearm offences

There are a range of offences which can occur involving a firearm and as with domestic abuse, it is not possible to identify these from the Recorded Crime dataset. A separate data collection is made each year which gathers information on the crimes and offences committed, the type of weapon, victim and accused characteristics and location of incident.

The Recorded Crimes and Offences Involving Firearms, Scotland statistical bulletin series present statistics on crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved or where a firearm was stolen.

We therefore recommend that users interested in crimes and offences involving firearms should refer directly to the Recorded Crimes and Offences Involving Firearms, Scotland bulletin series, available via the following link:

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

The next Recorded Crimes and Offences Involving Firearms, Scotland bulletin will contain data for 2013-14 and is scheduled for publication in spring 2015.

This report will now examine the recorded crime and clear up rates attributable to each crime Group. Comparison will be drawn to the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey where relevant.

Reference is also made to the HMICS crime audit with more detailed information available in [Annex 4](#).

GROUP 1 – NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE

Number of Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded in 2013-14:

Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, the number of Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 10%, from 7,530 to 6,785. These crimes are now at the lowest level since 1974.

Since 2004-05, the number of Non-sexual crimes of violence has decreased by more than a half (54%). ([Chart 7](#) and [Table 1](#)). This crime group has been on a downwards trend since 2002-03 following a long period of increase.

Chart 7: Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded by the police, 1971¹ to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2013-14



1. Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

In 2013-14, the highest rates of recorded Non-sexual crimes of violence per 10,000 population were found in Glasgow City (26 per 10,000 population), Edinburgh City (18 per 10,000 population) and Renfrewshire (17 per 10,000 population) ([Table 7](#)). This compares to the Scotland level figure of 13 crimes per 10,000 population.

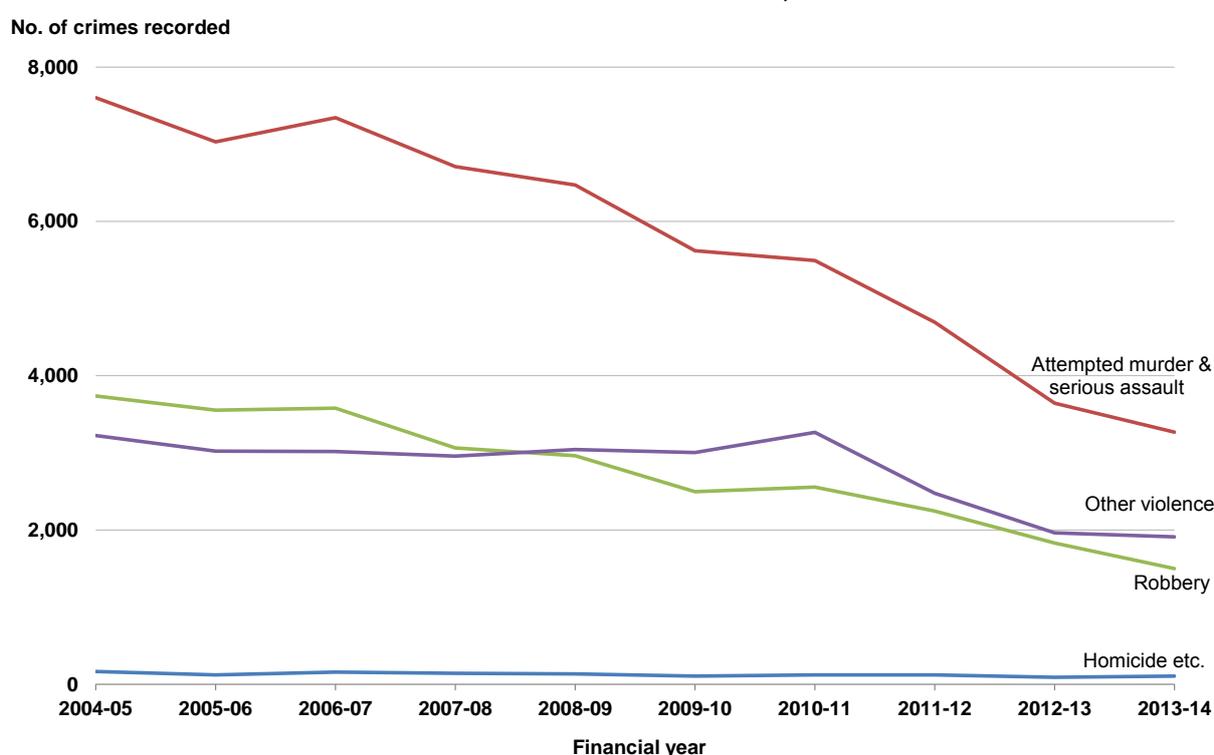
Chart 8 shows the four categories in Non-sexual crimes of violence over the last ten years and gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category within Group 1.

Attempted murder & serious assault:

Attempted murder & serious assault is the largest category in Group 1, accounting for around half of all Non-sexual crimes of violence. This category has been on a downward trend over the ten year period and is now 57% lower than in 2004-05. All local authorities have recorded a decrease in this category over the ten year period.

This category decreased by 10% in 2013-14 and this trend was reflected in all but five local authority areas; Dumfries & Galloway, Dundee City, East Renfrewshire, Fife, and South Lanarkshire. In most of these areas the numerical change is small in each of these areas apart from Dumfries & Galloway, where there was a larger increase.

Chart 8: Non-sexual crimes of violence in Scotland, 2004-05 to 2013-14



Robbery:

Robbery decreased by 18% between 2012-13 and 2013-14. This crime accounts for around a quarter of Non-sexual crimes of violence. Over the ten year period from 2004-05 to 2013-14, Robbery has seen a large decrease of 60%.

This decrease has been driven mainly by Glasgow City, Edinburgh City and Perth & Kinross which among them accounted for 88% of the decrease. There were seven local authorities in which an increase in Robbery was recorded in 2013-14. However these changes are based on small numbers.

Homicide etc:

It should be noted that the Homicide etc. category included in this bulletin contains the crimes of Murder and Culpable homicide (common law), as well as the crimes of Causing death by dangerous driving, Death by careless driving when under influence

of drink or drugs, Causing death by careless driving, Illegal driver involved in fatal accident and Corporate homicide.

There was a 16% increase in Homicide etc. in 2013-14 from 91 to 106. However, the increase was due to increases in Causing death by dangerous driving (up by eight) and Causing death by careless driving (up by 12). Looking at Murder and Culpable homicide (common law), this figure has decreased by four since 2012-13.

A separate Homicide in Scotland bulletin is produced by the Scottish Government that contains more detailed information on the crimes of Murder and Culpable homicide (common law). These two crimes are collectively referred to as Homicide in this bulletin. The data in Homicide in Scotland bulletin are collected via a separate data collection from the police and are collected on an individual case basis. This means that characteristics of victims and accused, such as age and gender, as well as the circumstances of the homicide are collected and then included in the bulletin.

As the data in the Homicide in Scotland bulletin are collected separately from the data included in this bulletin, the data are extracted from police recoding systems at different time points which may result in reclassification of crimes, such as attempted murder to murder, which are not then reflected in this bulletin. In the Homicide in Scotland bulletin homicide cases are included against the year in which it is recorded by the police. This is not necessarily the year in which the crime took place, the year in which the accused is brought to trial for the crime, or the year in which the case is finally disposed of by the courts. This may lead to minor differences between the figures reported in Homicide in Scotland bulletin and this bulletin, as well as those published by the police.

We therefore recommend that users interested in Homicide statistics should refer directly to the Homicide in Scotland bulletin series, which can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubHomicide>.

The next Homicide in Scotland statistical bulletin will contain data for 2013-14 and is scheduled to be published in December 2014.

Other violence:

The Other violence category includes crimes such as Threats and extortion, Cruel and unnatural treatment of children and Abduction. More detail is provided in [Section 5](#).

Crimes in Scotland recorded as Other violence are at the lowest level since 1989. Other violence decreased by 3% from 1,964 in 2012-13 to 1,912 in 2013-14. This is a decrease of 41% since 2004-05. Over the ten year period, the vast majority (27) of local authorities have recorded a downwards trend in this category. Perth & Kinross recorded the largest numerical increase over the ten year period from 26 in 2004-05 to 62 in 2013-14.

The decrease in 2013-14 is mainly driven by a decrease in the number of crimes of Threats and extortion, and Child cruelty.

Eleven local authorities recorded an increase in this category although overall numbers are small. The largest increase was found in Fife, driven by an increase in Serious organised crime as a result of activity undertaken in targeting serious and

organised crime. Police Scotland have identified that tackling serious and organised crime is one of their priorities. The increase in crimes recorded under the serious organised crime may be the result of activity undertaken in targeting serious and organised crime

Clear up rates for Group 1 crimes 2013-14:

The clear up rate for Group 1 crimes increased by three percentage points in 2013-14 from 79% to 82%, continuing the longer term trend. The clear up rate for Group 1 crimes ranged from 70% in Inverclyde to 100% in Clackmannanshire and Eilean Siar and 122% in Shetland Islands. Rates of over 100% can occur when crimes are cleared up in a different reporting period to the year in which they were recorded. However, clear up rates for these areas are based on small numbers of recorded crimes.

Commentary:

There are a number of operations and initiatives which are carried out by the police which may affect the trends in recorded crime.

On 27 November 2013, Operation Oak was launched in Aberdeen City. Working alongside partner organisations, the operation was launched to target violence and anti-social behaviour over five weeks covering the festive period.

In Eilean Siar, Highland, the Orkney Islands and the Shetland Islands, Operation Respect was also launched over the festive period, to reduce street violence and incidents linked to licensed premises. The operation has run for the past six years and involves uniformed and plain clothes officers working with local partners to keep people safe across the division.

It is anticipated that these police operations may have an impact on the number of crimes recorded by the police. Increases may occur where the police are present and come across crimes. However, increased police presence and raising of awareness may also deter crime.

Key points from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey:

Of the 815,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2012-13, 236,000 (29%) were violent crimes. It is estimated that around 3% of adults in Scotland were a victim of violent crime in 2012-13.

In 2012-13, minor assaults made up the majority of SCJS violent crime (23%), followed by attempted assault (3%), serious assault (2%) and robbery (1%).

Further detail on the comparable crime set is available in [Section 3.3](#). As outlined there and in [Annex 5 of the 2012-13 SCJS](#), violent crime in the SCJS includes attempted assault, serious assault, minor assault and robbery, crimes which are included in Group 1 (Non-sexual crimes of violence) and Group 6 (Miscellaneous offences) in police recorded crime figures.

As outlined in [Section 3.3](#), between 2008-09 and 2012-13, recorded violent crime figures in the comparable category decreased by 20%, while, for the same period, the SCJS estimates of violent crime decreased by 25%, a statistically significant

change in the SCJS results. As indicated by [Table 3](#), the SCJS is often better able to detect changes in survey estimates with greater certainty over longer timescales, due primarily to the small numbers of victims identified in the survey (343 for violent crime in 2012-13).

HMICS Audit

It should be noted that in the HMICS audit report, violent crime includes common assault.

Of the 1,766 crimes examined in the audit that resulted from the violent incidents, 94% were counted and classified correctly.

The chances are 19 in 20 that the 'true' value will fall within the range $\pm 2.5\%$ from the sample results (i.e. approximately between 91.5% and 96.5%).

The audit found that a number of crimes had been under-counted (38) as well as over-counted (31). Most of the under-counted crimes were for common assault. Most of the over-counted crimes related to common assault and threatening and abusive behaviour.

A number of crimes (38) were classified incorrectly. The majority of these fell into three categories:

- common assault which should have been serious assault (14)
- serious assault which should have been attempted murder (7)
- thefts, or assaults and thefts, that should have been robberies (10)

The HMICS audit report notes that the 'classification of serious assault continues to be a challenge'. As noted in the report, a review is currently underway by Police Scotland in conjunction with the Scottish Government and other criminal justice partners, on the definition of serious assault.

Of the 2,238 violent incidents examined in the audit, 92% were closed correctly⁶. The chances are 19 in 20 that the 'true' value will fall within the range $\pm 1.9\%$ from the sample results (i.e. approximately between 90.1% and 93.9%).

Almost half of the incidents which failed Test 1 involved a report of violence (usually a common assault) where the complainer was uncooperative. Around a third of the Test 1 fails involved a lack of information or update on the incident record to dispel the initial report of criminality.

⁶ Correct closure means either that (a) the incident was closed as non-crime related and contained sufficient information to dispel any inference of criminality; or (b) the incident indicated a crime had occurred and a crime record was traced.

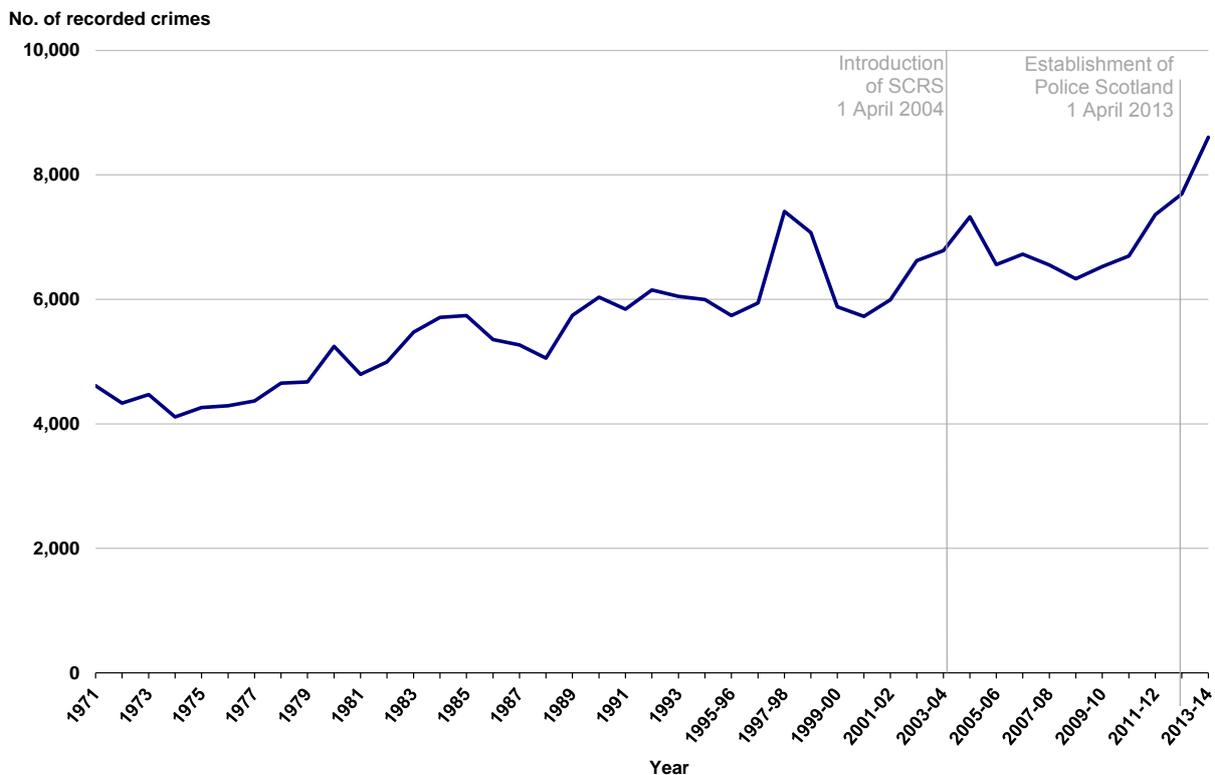
GROUP 2 – SEXUAL CRIMES

Number of Sexual crimes recorded in 2013-14:

The number of Sexual crimes recorded by the police increased by 12% from 7,693 in 2012-13 to 8,604 in 2013-14. Sexual crimes have been on a generally upwards trend since 2008-09 and are now at the highest level since 1971, the first year for which comparable crime groups are available. However, it should be noted that as these are recorded crimes, this increase may be the result of increased reporting, including reporting of historic crimes, as victims find the courage to come forward and report such crimes to the police, particularly following increased media attention on high profile cases in recent years (Chart 9 and Table 1).

Tables A2 and A3 contain more detailed breakdowns for Sexual crimes. In Table A3, we can see that in 2013-14, 956 crimes of Lewd and Libidinous practices were recorded. These crimes will all relate to offences which occurred prior to the implementation of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 on 1 December 2010, as the act replaced Lewd and Libidinous practices with specific sexual assault crimes. As a result, we know that these are historic offences. Similarly, there were 358 crimes of Sexual assault committed prior to 1 December 2010. There will of course be other Sexual crimes which were recorded in 2013-14 but which occurred in previous years but after the introduction of the Act. However, it is not possible to identify these separately to give a full picture of historic reporting.

Chart 9: Sexual crimes recorded by the police, 1971¹ to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2013-14



1. Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

While recorded crime in Scotland is not directly comparable with England & Wales or Northern Ireland due to differences in legislation and counting rules (see Annex 7), the overall trend for Sexual crimes is very similar across the UK.

Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, Sexual crimes in England and Wales increased by 20% compared with 12% in Scotland and 16% in Northern Ireland. Between 2008-09 and 2013-14 Sexual crimes in England & Wales increased by 28%, Northern Ireland increased by 21% and Scotland increased by 36%.

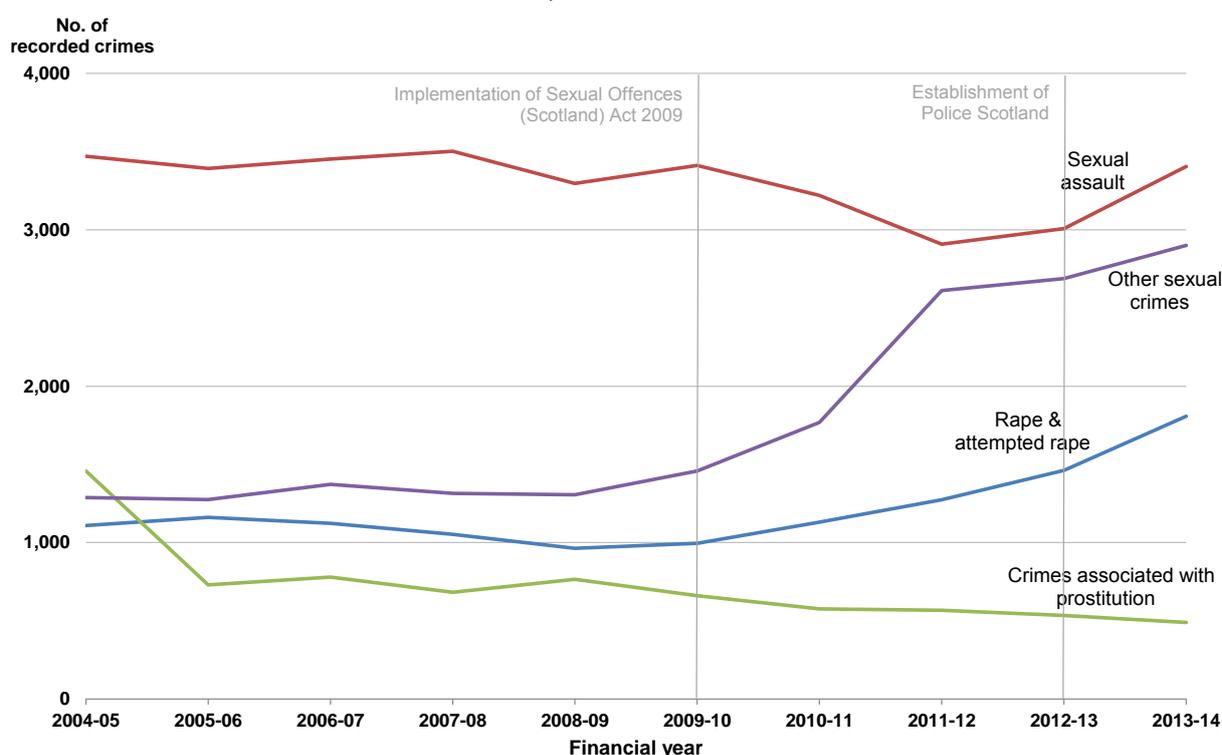
England & Wales and Northern Ireland both detail in their reports that the increase in recent years has been due to the increased media attention on historic abuse cases. In particular, the England & Wales Crime statistics cite the effect of the Operation Yewtree investigation, connected to the Jimmy Savile inquiry, whereby more victims are coming forward to report offences to the police.

The largest number of Group 2 crimes per 10,000 population is in Fife (26 per 10,000 population), closely followed by Glasgow City (25 per 10,000 population). This compares to the Scotland level of 16 per 10,000 population. The high level of Sexual crimes in Fife in 2013-14 is due to a high proportion of historic crimes reported.

Chart 10 shows the four categories of Sexual crimes over the last ten years and gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category within Group 1.

The implementation of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 on 1 December 2010, resulted in a redistribution of Group 2 crimes among the subcategories. Comparisons over time of the breakdown of Sexual crimes should therefore be treated with caution. However, no new crimes were introduced as a result of the legislation and thus we do not consider there to be a break in the time series.

Chart 10: Sexual crimes in Scotland, 2004-05 to 2013-14



Sexual assault:

Sexual assault is the largest category of Sexual crimes, accounting for 40% of Sexual crimes in 2013-14 and is a main driver behind the overall increase in Group 2 crimes. These crimes have increased by 13% since 2012-13. Dumfries & Galloway and Fife have seen the largest numerical increases accounting for 57% of the overall increase.

Rape & attempted rape:

Rape & attempted rape showed the largest percentage increase of Group 2 categories with there being a 24% increase in 2013-14 compared to 2012-13. It is likely that this increase is caused by historic reporting, particularly with increased media attention around sexual crimes in recent years which may have encouraged victims to report these crimes to the police. However, it should be noted that the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 widened the definition of Rape and therefore comparisons with data prior to 2010-11 should be treated with caution.

Other sexual crimes:

Other sexual crimes increased by 8% between 2012-13 and 2013-14. However again, due to the implementation of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009, comparisons with data prior to 2010-11 should be treated with caution.

However, there are a number of crimes such as 'Indecent communication and Voyeurism' which may have been recorded as 'Breach of the peace' prior to the implementation of the Act, which therefore wouldn't have shown up as sexual crimes before December 2010. This may in part explain the increase in Other sexual crimes in 2011-12.

Crimes associated with prostitution:

Crimes associated with prostitution decreased by 8% between 2012-13 and 2013-14, continuing the long term trend. In 2005-06, there was a large decrease in these crimes. Following a murder, police took a different approach to the policing of crimes of prostitution in 2005-06, in order to maximise the information obtained from the community relating to this murder. As a result the decrease may be somewhat artificial.

Clear up rates for Group 2 crimes 2013-14:

The clear up rate for Sexual crimes in Scotland has increased by 8 percentage points, in the last year, from 68% in 2012-13 to 76% in 2013-14. Clear up rates in each of the four categories in this crime group have also increased, with the largest increase in the clear up rate noted in Rape & attempted rape, increasing from 62% to 73%.

Across local authorities, the clear up rates for Sexual crimes ranged from 56% in East Renfrewshire to 104% in the Orkney Islands and 132% in Eilean Siar. Rates of over 100% can occur when crimes are cleared up in a different reporting period to the date in which they were recorded. However, clear up rates for these areas are based on small numbers of recorded crimes. Excluding the Orkney Islands and Eilean Siar, South Ayrshire recorded the highest clear up rate at 91%.

Commentary:

A number of operations and campaigns have been undertaken by Police Scotland to target Sexual crimes.

Operation Dash was launched by Police Scotland in February 2013 to scope the scale and extent of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in the 12 local authorities of the legacy Strathclyde police force and working in partnership with Barnardo's.

As a result of intelligence information obtained, a full multi agency investigation was established to investigate criminality associated with CSE. Police Scotland continues to work with Local Authorities, Partnerships, Social work departments, health board areas, education services, the UK Border Agency (UKBA) and Barnardo's to improve awareness, prevention and intervention.

On 10 March 2014, a rape awareness campaign – 'We can stop it' was launched by Police Scotland. This month long campaign was aimed at increasing awareness and challenging perceptions about rape and was supported by groups including Rape Crisis Scotland, ASSIST, Scottish Women's Aid and White Ribbon Scotland.

It is anticipated that these operations and campaigns would increase awareness around Sexual crimes and encourage victims to find the courage to report such crimes to the police. Improved levels of reporting is likely to result in an increase in Sexual crimes.

HMICS Audit

Of the 897 crimes examined in the audit that resulted from the sexual incidents, 93% were counted and classified correctly.

The chances are 19 in 20 that the 'true' value will fall within the range $\pm 2.3\%$ from the sample results (i.e. between 90.7% and 95.3%).

The audit found that a number of crimes had been under-counted (34) as well as over-counted (17).

Only 12 classification errors (out of 897 crimes examined) were made.

Several of the counting and classification errors related to the introduction of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 which came into force on 1 December 2010.

The thorough scrutiny of reports of rape within divisions and by the National Rape Review Team tends to ensure consistent and accurate recording.

Of the 1,200 sexual incidents, 89% were closed correctly⁷. The chances are 19 in 20 that the 'true' value will fall within the range $\pm 1.4\%$ from the sample results (i.e. approximately between 87.9% and 90.4%). The majority of incidents were incorrectly closed due to the inclusion of insufficient information from which to make a judgement as to whether or not a crime has actually occurred. A third of these incidents has been referred to a specialist investigation unit. HMICS received assurances that investigations were on-going in these instances and a crime may be recorded at a later date, and noted that specialist investigation units should bear in mind that the Counting Rules require that crimes should be recorded as soon as practicable.

⁷ Correct closure means either that (a) the incident was closed as non-crime related and contained sufficient information to dispel any inference of criminality; or (b) the incident indicated a crime had occurred and a crime record was traced.

GROUP 3 – CRIMES OF DISHONESTY

Number of Crime of dishonesty recorded in 2013-14:

Crimes of dishonesty in Scotland have decreased over the last ten years, by 35% overall with all local authorities showing a decrease over this period. Crimes of dishonesty have been on a downwards trend since they peaked in 1991 following an upwards increase since 1971, the first year for which comparable crime groups are available.

In 2013-14, there was a slight increase of 1% in Crimes of dishonesty. These crimes account for half of all crime recorded in Scotland in 2013-14. The main driver behind this slight increase was crimes of shoplifting which increased by 5% between 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Chart 11: Crimes of dishonesty recorded by the police, 1971¹ to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2013-14



1. Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

The highest numbers of crimes of dishonesty per 10,000 population were in Edinburgh City (461 per 10,000 population), Glasgow City (425 per 10,000 population) and Aberdeen City (388 per 10,000 population). This compares with the 258 per 10,000 population recorded for Scotland as a whole.

[Chart 12](#) shows the four largest categories in Crimes of dishonesty and gives an indication of the trend across these categories over the ten year period.

Other theft:

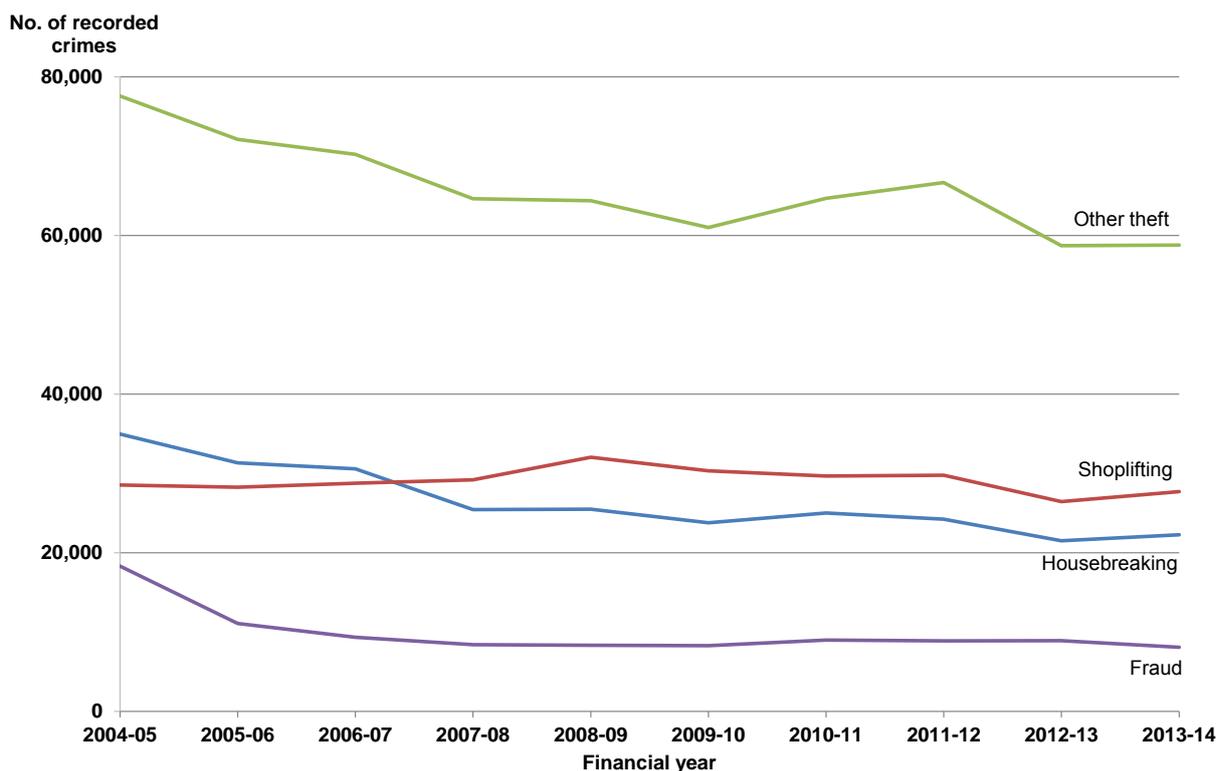
Other theft accounts for the largest proportion of Group 3 crimes at 43% in 2013-14. This category includes theft of pedal cycles and other thefts which are not classified

elsewhere. Other theft has fluctuated over the ten year period (as shown in [Chart 12](#)), but is generally on a downwards trend with 2013-14 at a similar level to 2012-13.

Shoplifting:

Shoplifting accounts for a further fifth of crimes of dishonesty and increased by 5% between 2012-13 and 2013-14. Over the ten year period covered by the bulletin, Shoplifting is down by 3% overall however, this is the only category in Crime of dishonesty which is not on a clear downwards trend.

Chart 12: Crimes of dishonesty (showing four largest categories) in Scotland, 2004-05 to 2013-14



Twenty two of the 32 local authorities recorded an increase in shoplifting. The largest increase in Group 3 crimes was in Edinburgh City where there was an increase of 17% in 2013-14.

Housebreaking:

There was a 4% increase in Housebreaking in 2013-14, and [Table A4](#) shows that this has been driven by an increase of 15% in housebreaking of non-dwellings. This includes garages, garden huts and sheds and outhouses.

In particular Edinburgh City saw a 39% increase in these crimes. Due to the increase in housebreaking, Police Scotland reviewed its operation practice in relation to housebreaking in Edinburgh City, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian and the Scottish Borders. Operation RAC was also instigated on 16 December across Scotland to tackle housebreaking over the festive period.

In 2013-14, the number of crimes of Domestic housebreaking recorded per 10,000 population was highest in Edinburgh City (69), Midlothian (50), Glasgow City (42) and Aberdeen City (40). Rural areas recorded much lower levels with Shetland Islands (6),

Orkney Islands (2) and Eilean Siar (1) and recording the lowest level of Domestic housebreaking per 10,000 population in 2013-14 ([Chart 13](#)).

Fraud:

Crimes of Fraud decreased by 9% between 2012-13 and 2013-14, with all but five local authorities showing a decrease. Increases ranged from 5% in Stirling to 37% in Fife, while the largest proportional decrease was noted in Moray, 34% although the largest numerical decrease was in Edinburgh City.

Theft of a motor vehicle:

Theft of a motor vehicle also increased by 4% between 2012-13 and 2013-14. Again, the largest increase was found in Edinburgh City (58%). However, this is mainly due to a low figure in 2012-13 with the 2013-14 figure being more in line with data prior to 2012-13.

Clear up rates for Group 3 crimes 2013-14:

Clear up rates for crimes of dishonesty decreased by one percentage point to 37% in 2013-14. Across local authorities, clear up rates ranged from 25% in East Renfrewshire to 65% in the Orkney Islands, although again, this is based on small numbers. Excluding the Orkney Islands, the highest clear up rate was in Fife at 56%.

Commentary:

There was increased media coverage around the 2013 festive period relating to the launch of a national housebreaking campaign by Police Scotland. Operation RAC aimed to work closely with partners at the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) to ensure housebreakers are being appropriately dealt with and removed from communities where possible. This operation was launched on 18 December 2013 within Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Clackmannanshire, East Lothian, Edinburgh City, Eilean Siar, Falkirk, Fife, Highland, Midlothian, Moray, North Lanarkshire, Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands, South Lanarkshire, Stirling, The Scottish Borders and West Lothian

It is likely that some of the increase in Housebreaking could be attributed to the resulting increased police action.

Operation Mondara, a multi-agency doorstep crime operation ran in September 2013 in conjunction with the UK wide Operation Rogue Trader, to target doorstep crime. As well as detecting these crimes, a crucial part of the operation was to raise awareness and encourage victims to come forward and report these crimes of Fraud.

Key points from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey:

Of the 815,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2012-13, 579,000 (71%) were property crimes. It is estimated that around 15% of adults in Scotland were a victim of property crime in 2012-13.

In 2012-13, vandalism accounted for 27% of property crime, followed by other household theft (including bicycle theft, 21%), personal theft (excluding robbery, 13%), all motor vehicle theft related incidents (6%) and housebreaking (4%).

Further detail on the comparable crime set is available in [Section 3.3](#). As outlined

there and in [Annex 5 of the 2012-13 SCJS](#), the comparable acquisitive crime group in the SCJS includes theft or damage to personal or household property (including vehicles) which are included in a number of recorded crime groups, including Group 3 (Crimes of Dishonesty) and Group 7 (Motor vehicle offences)

As presented in section 3.3, results show that recorded acquisitive crime decreased by 21% between 2008-09 and 2012-13, however, the SCJS estimates of acquisitive crime showed no statistically significant change between 2008-09 and 2012-13 (the apparent change from 64,000 to 73,000 is not statistically significant). Survey estimates on the comparable crime subgroups are based on small base sizes of respondents (272 for acquisitive crime in 2012-13) and as a consequence, there is less certainty around estimates.

HMICS audit

Of the 1,341 crimes examined in the audit that resulted from the **housebreaking** incidents, 95% were counted and classified correctly.

The chances are 19 in 20 that the 'true' value will fall within the range $\pm 2.4\%$ from the sample results (i.e. between 92.6% and 97.4%).

The audit report stated that this 'good Test 2 compliance rate reflects the fact that housebreaking incidents appear to be scrutinised carefully by crime management units and are therefore more likely to be accurate'.

Most Test 2 errors related to the classification of the crime, and most of these related to whether the security of the building had been overcome (see page 24 of the [HMICS report](#) for further information).

Of the 1,664 incidents examined, 94% were closed correctly⁸.

The chances are 19 in 20 that the 'true' value will fall within the range $\pm 2.1\%$ from the sample results (i.e. between 91.9% and 96.1%).

Around half of the incidents which failed Test 1 did so because the incident record had not been updated with the results of the enquiry and the initial inference of criminality had not been dispelled. Around a quarter of Test 1 fails were thought to be crimes where the incident had not been followed up or the complainers had become uncooperative. Other Test 1 errors included incidents where the items stolen were deemed to be of no monetary value and therefore did not merit a crime report and where the owner of the property broken into was reporting the break-in 'for information only'.

Non-crime related incidents are those incidents reported to the police which never result in a crime report. Because no crime report results, this category was assessed against Test 1 only (that is, whether they were closed correctly as being non-crime related). 1,254 such incidents were examined, of which 87% were closed correctly.

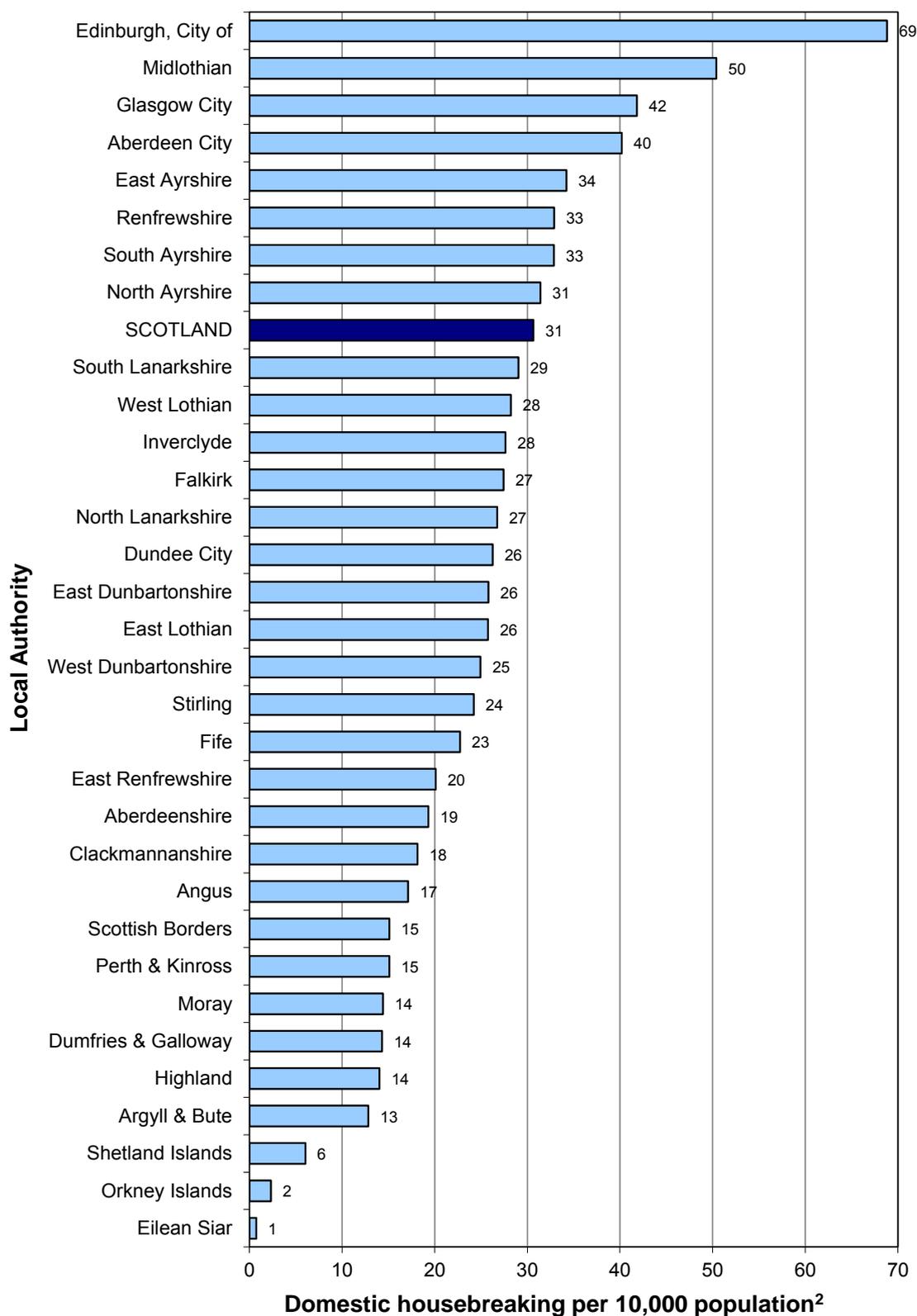
⁸ Correct closure means either that (a) the incident was closed as non-crime related and contained sufficient information to dispel any inference of criminality; or (b) the incident indicated a crime had occurred and a crime record was traced.

The chances are 19 in 20 that the 'true' value will fall within the range $\pm 2.7\%$ from the sample results (i.e. between 84.3% and 89.7%).

Several of the incidents where a crime had clearly been committed but no crime record was found related to **shoplifting**. Often the goods stolen were of low value and officers elected not to record a crime, often because it was unlikely the offender would have been prosecuted. However, the decision to record a crime is distinct from the decision to prosecute. In these cases, HMICS viewed that a crime should still have been recorded.

Other incidents where a crime had clearly been committed but no crime record was found related to **fraud**. It seemed that some officers were uncertain how to respond to fraud allegations, particularly in relation to online fraud. The issue of fraud and cybercrime is one that HMICS has said they will consider more broadly in future. While the statistics in this bulletin show that crime is falling, there is a fear that some crime is being displaced and is now taking place online where it can be more challenging to identify, record and investigate. HMICS have stated that it will consider this type of crime further when setting their scrutiny programme in future.

Chart 13: Number of domestic housebreaking¹ crimes recorded by the police per 10,000 population² in 2013-14



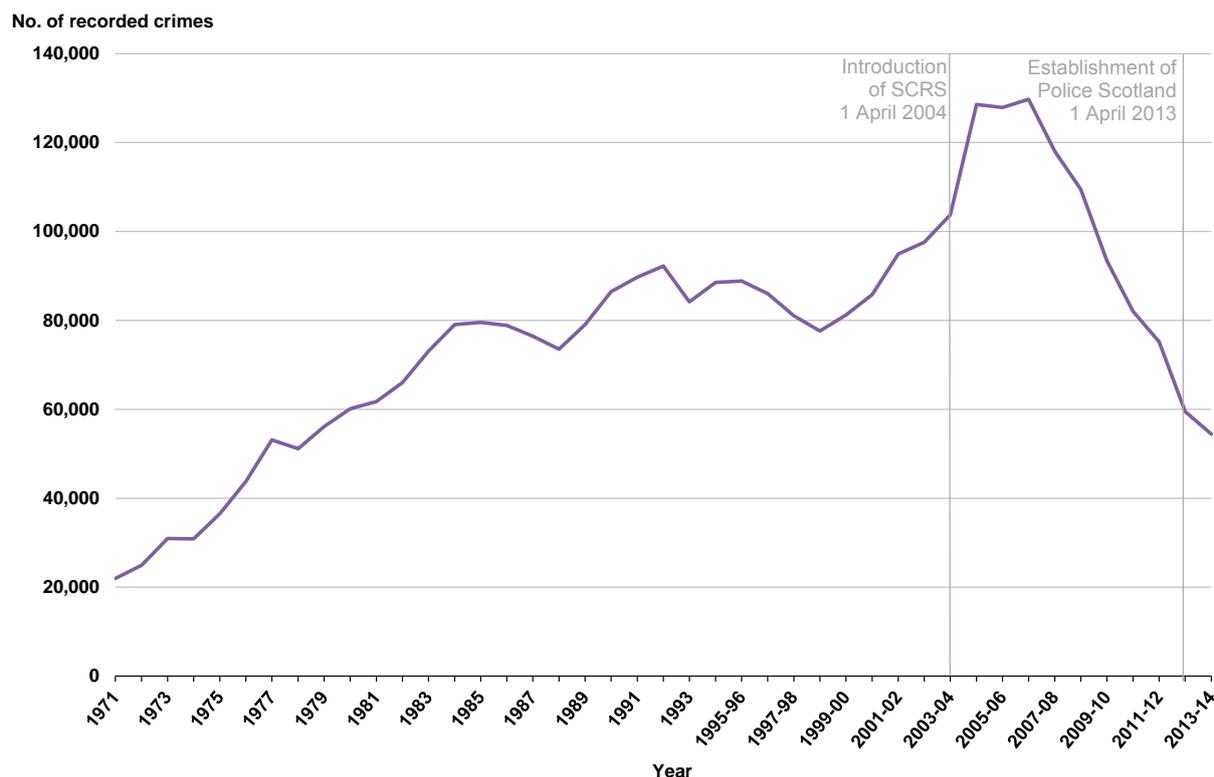
1. Includes dwellings and non-dwellings (including garages, sheds and outhouses) only.
 2. Population estimates are as at mid-year 2013 from the National Records of Scotland. (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/mid-year/index.html>)

GROUP 4 – FIRE-RAISING AND VANDALISM ETC.

Number of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. recorded in 2013-14:

Fire-raising, vandalism etc. decreased by 9% between 2012-13 and 2013-14, largely driven by an 8% decrease in Vandalism which makes up the larger part of this crime group. This decrease continues the generally downward trend seen in this crime group since 2006-07 where Group 4 crimes peaked after a long term upwards trend.

Chart 14: Crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. recorded by the police, 1971¹ to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2013-14



1. Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

The highest rates of Group 4 crimes per 10,000 population were found in Glasgow City (141 per 10,000 population), Dundee City (135 per 10,000 population) and Clackmannanshire (133 per 10,000 population). The highest rate of Fire-raising per 10,000 population was in West Dunbartonshire, at a rate of 13 per 10,000 population, with North Lanarkshire second highest at 8 per 10,000 population.

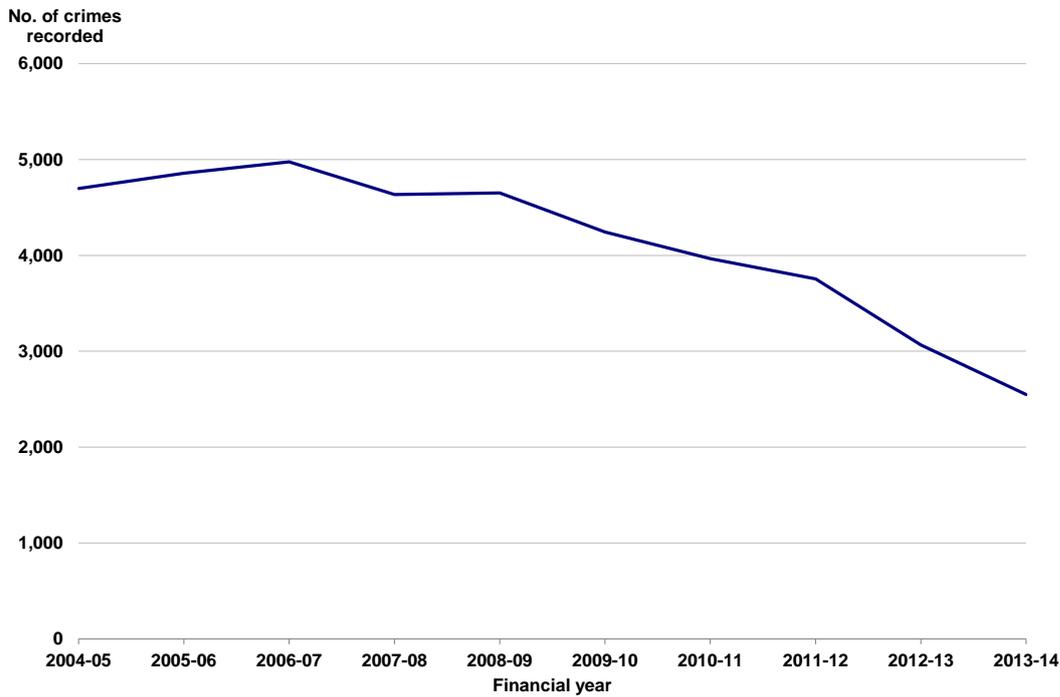
Vandalism etc:

Vandalism etc. which makes up 95% of Group 4 crimes, decreased by 8% between 2012-13 and 2013-14. Vandalism etc. has been decreasing steadily since a slight increase resulting from the introduction of the SCRS on 1 April 2004. This was expected to show an increase in the number of minor crimes recorded by the police and Group 4 crimes did show an increase as expected. Overall, there has been a 58% decrease in Vandalism since 2004-05 ([Chart 15](#)).

Due to the difference in scale of recorded crimes of Fire-raising and Vandalism etc., [Charts 15](#) and [16](#) show these two categories separately to better highlight the individual trends over the past 10 years.

Only two local authority areas showed an increase in Vandalism between 2012-13 and 2013-14: Dundee City and Edinburgh City, increasing by 6% and 8% respectively.

Chart 15: Fire-raising in Scotland, 2004-05 to 2013-14

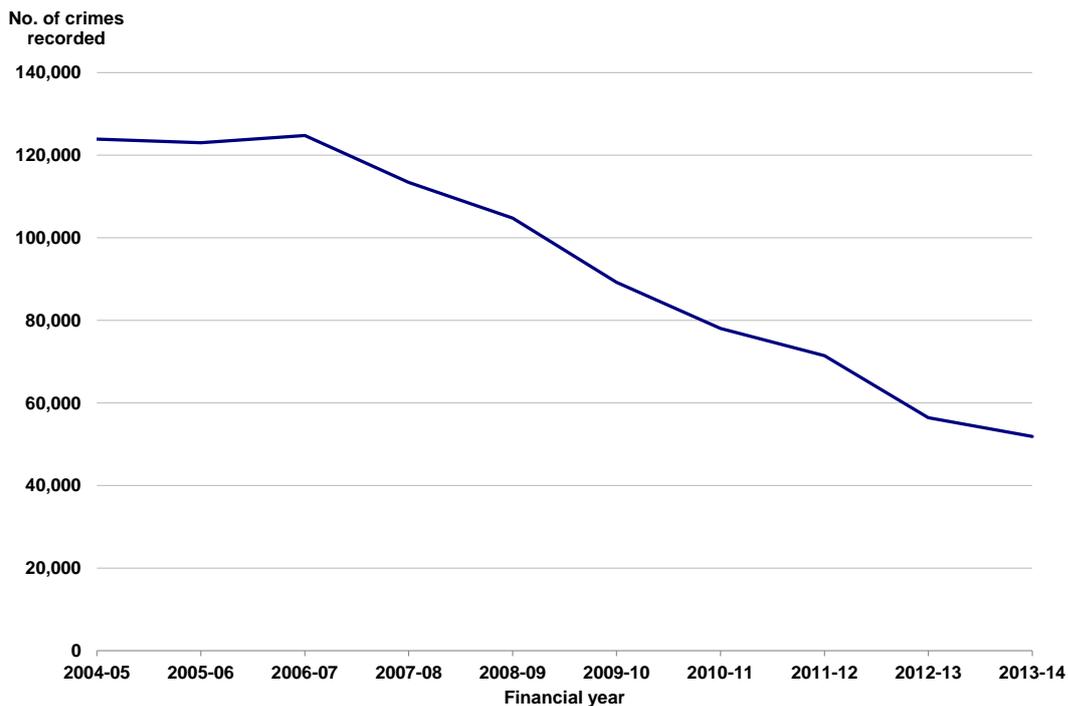


Charts 15 and 16 show that Fire-raising and Vandalism etc. are following similar decreasing trends over the last 10 years.

Fire-raising:

Fire-raising decreased by 17% between 2012-13 and 2013-14 and is 46% lower than in 2004-05 (Chart 16).

Chart 16: Vandalism etc. in Scotland, 2004-05 to 2013-14



Clear up rates for Group 4 crimes 2013-14:

The clear up rate for Group 4 decreased by two percentage points to 25% in 2013-14, the lowest clear up rate of the five crime groups. The rate ranged from 14% in East Renfrewshire to 52% in Eilean Siar.

Key points from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey:

As stated earlier, of the 815,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2012-13, 579,000 (71%) were property crimes and it is estimated that around 15% of adults in Scotland were a victim of property crime in 2012-13.

In 2012-13, vandalism accounted for 27% of property crime, followed by other household theft (including bicycle theft, 21%), personal theft (excluding robbery, 13%), all motor vehicle theft related incidents (6%) and housebreaking (4%).

Further detail on the comparable crime group is available in [Section 3.3](#) and in [Annex 5 of the 2012-13 SCJS](#). Vandalism is included in recorded crime figures within Group 4 (Fire-raising, vandalism etc).

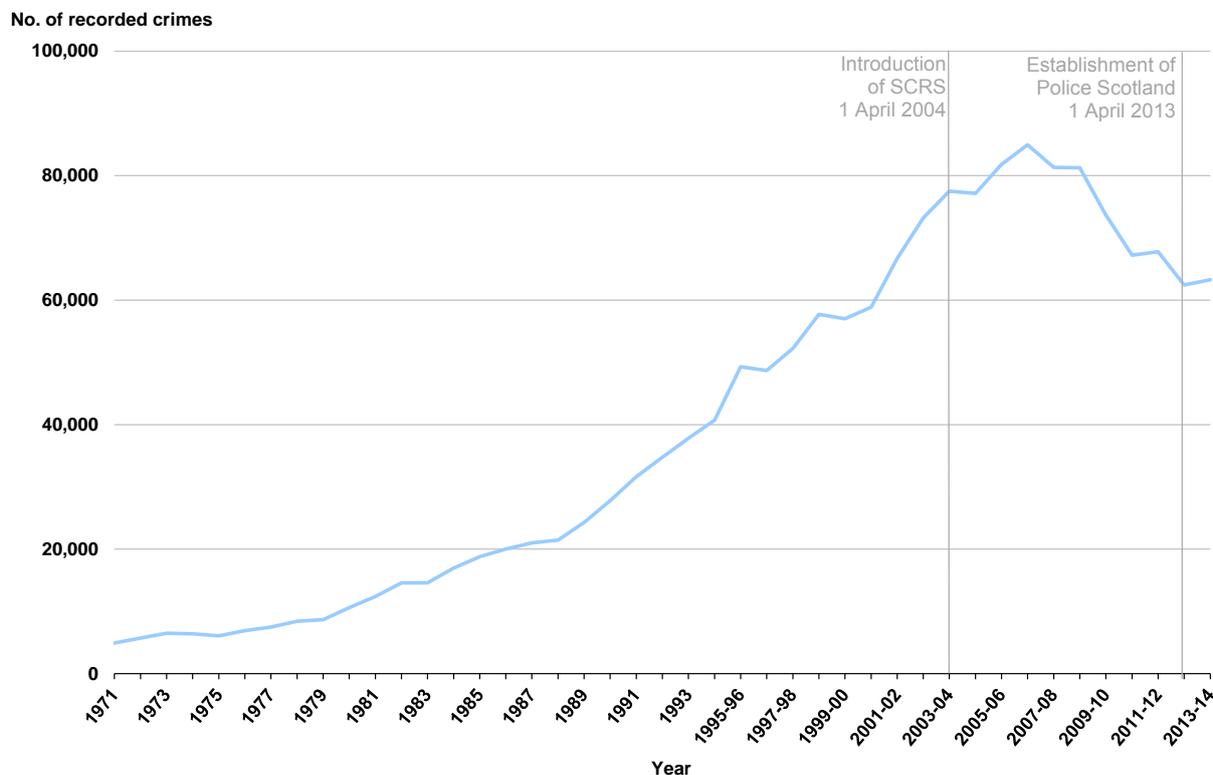
As shown in section 3.3, between 2008-09 and 2012-13, recorded vandalism figures fell by 46%, while SCJS estimates decreased significantly by of 37%. Compared to the violent crime and acquisitive crime groups, vandalism estimates are based on larger samples of respondents (760 in the 2012-13 survey), leading to greater certainty around changes in the short and medium term.

GROUP 5 – OTHER CRIMES

Number of Other crimes recorded in 2013-14:

Other crimes have increased by 1% between 2012-13 and 2013-14, an increase largely driven by an increase of 3% in drug crimes.

Chart 17: Other crimes recorded by the police, 1971¹ to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2013-14



1. Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

Local Authority analysis:

In 2013-14, the highest rates of Other crimes per 10,000 population were in Glasgow City (235 per 10,000 population), Inverclyde (207 per 10,000 population) and West Dunbartonshire (184 per 10,000 population). This compares with the Scotland level of 119 per 10,000 population.

Chart 18 shows the four categories included in Group 5 and gives an indication of the scale of each category as well as showing the trends across the ten year period.

Drug crimes:

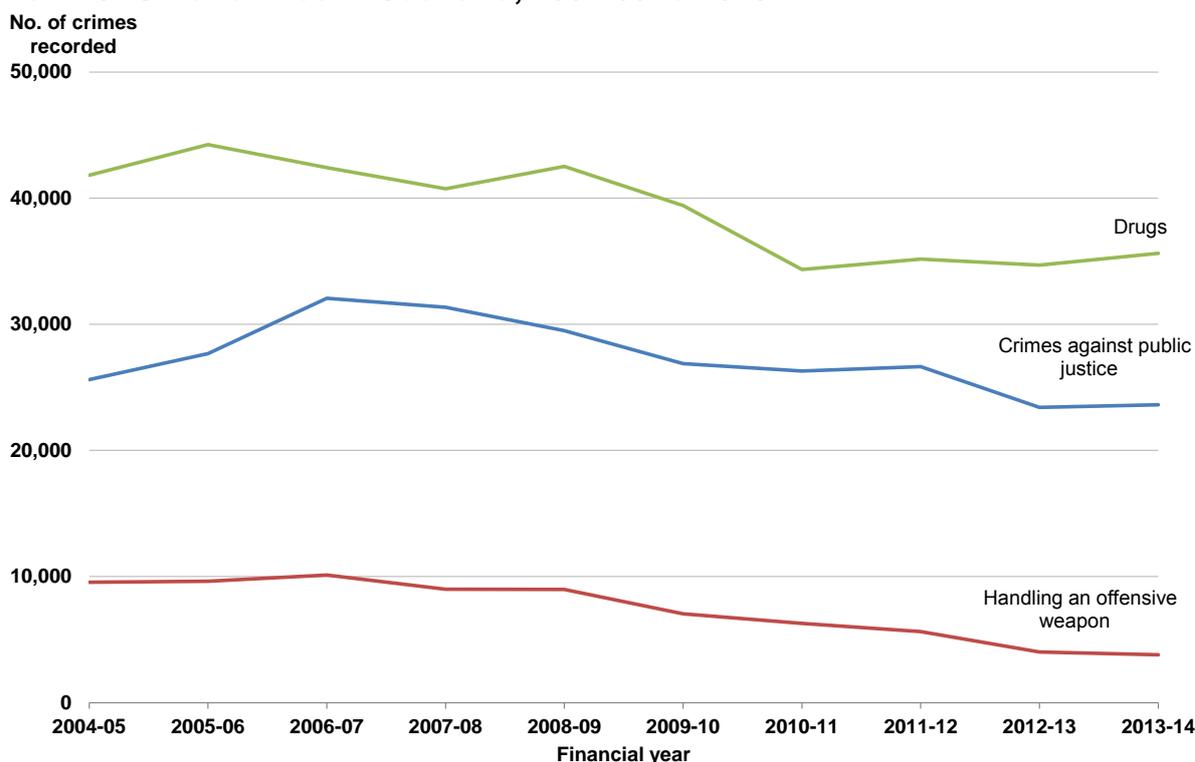
Drug crimes accounted for 56% of Group 5 crimes and these crimes increased by 3% between 2012-13 and 2013-14. This was driven by a 4% increase in Possession of drugs crimes, which account for 85% of all drug crimes. Inverclyde recorded the largest increase in drug crimes (52%), followed by Midlothian (33%) and Perth & Kinross (25%). The increase in drug crime in Inverclyde was driven by an increase in drug possession detections. Police Scotland have noted that there was a high level of proactivity by officers regarding these crimes in these areas. This may have impacted on the number of crimes coming to the attention of the police and thus on these statistics.

The increase in Inverclyde has resulted in this local authority recording the highest number of drug crimes per 10,000 population (160 per 10,000 population). In previous years, the highest rate has been in Glasgow City which is now the second highest (144 per 10,000 population). This compares with the Scotland level figure of 67 drug crimes recorded per 10,000 population.

Crimes against public justice:

Crimes against public justice, which includes Bail offences, resisting arrest and wasting police time increased by 1% between 2012-13 and 2013-14, mainly driven by increases in Bail offences, other than absconding and re-offending and Resisting arrest. Police Scotland have stated that their approach to managing domestic abuse offenders will likely have caused an increase in bail offences.

Chart 18: Other crimes in Scotland, 2004-05 to 2013-14



Handling an offensive weapon:

Crimes of Handling an offensive weapon decreased by 5%, from 4,015 in 2012-13 to 3,795 in 2013-14. This continues the downward trend seen since 2006-07 when these crimes were at the highest level since 1971, the first year for which comparable data are available. There has been a 62% decrease since 2006-07.

The rate of crimes of Handling an offensive weapon per 10,000 population was highest in West Dunbartonshire (16 per 10,000 population), Glasgow (14 per 10,000 population) and Dundee City and Edinburgh City (each 9 per 10,000 population). This compares with the Scotland level of 7 per 10,000 population.

Clear up rates for Group 5 crimes 2013-14:

Clear up rates for Group 5 crimes are generally close to 100% since these consist of many crimes for which someone is ‘caught in the act’. In 2013-14, the overall clear up rate for Scotland was 98%, a level which has remained consistent since 2007-08.

Commentary:

No Knives, Better Lives (NKBL) is a Scottish Government youth initiative that works with local partners (council, police, youth groups) to deliver a range of activities in schools and communities to get the message across to young people 'on the cusp' of picking up a knife about the dangers and consequences of carrying a knife, and encourages them to make more positive life choices. Over the last five years, it has been operating in eleven areas across Scotland – Inverclyde, Renfrewshire, Clackmannanshire, West Dunbartonshire, South Lanarkshire, North Lanarkshire, Glasgow, Edinburgh, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and West Lothian. NKBL is now available to all Local authorities on an opt in basis.

GROUP 6 – MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES

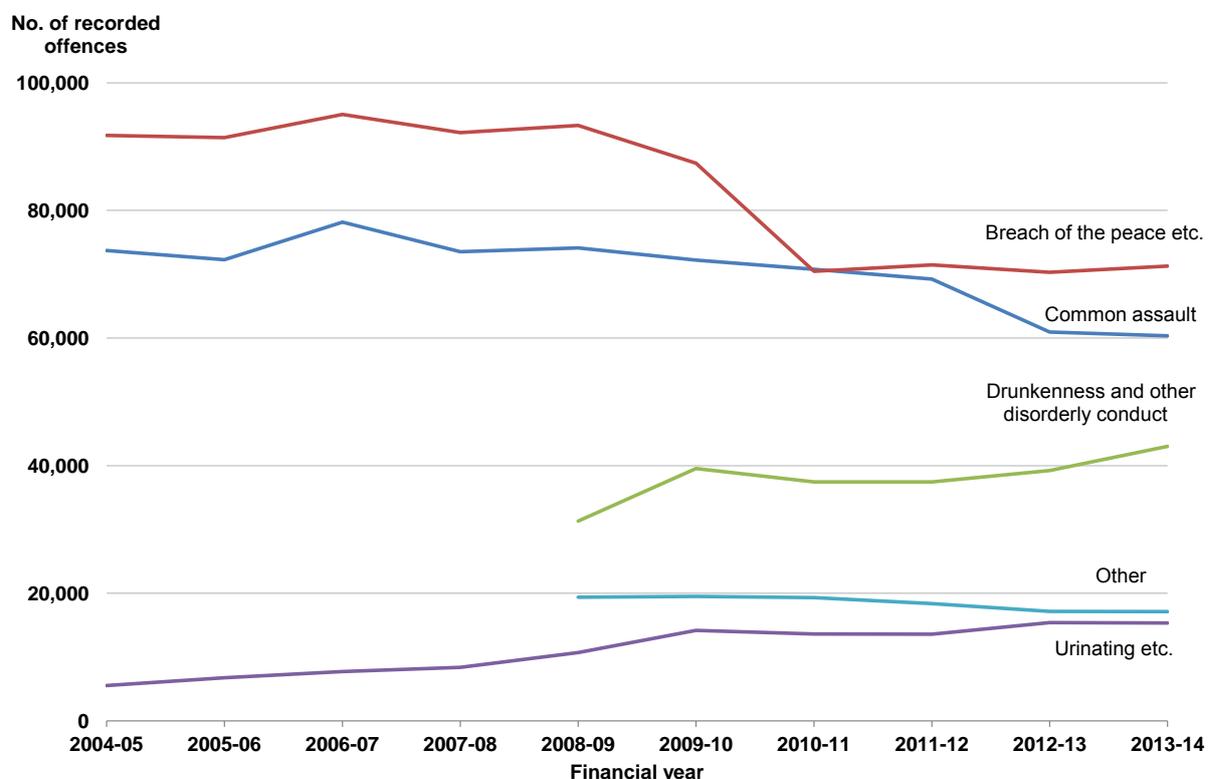
Number of Miscellaneous offences recorded in 2013-14:

The total number of Miscellaneous offences increased by 2%, from 203,063 in 2012-13 to 207,190 in 2013-14. Please note that a number of changes have occurred in this offence group and these are detailed in [Annex 2](#).

The Other miscellaneous offences category is generally to categorise a large number of offences which in themselves, are too small to consider reporting separately. However, as this category has become rather large, the category was looked at more closely and two particular offences were found to be large enough to report individually: Consumption of alcohol in designated places, byelaws prohibited, and Urinating etc. A separate category of Urinating etc. has created, while Consumption of alcohol in designated places, byelaws prohibited was found to sit with the Drunkenness offences which has been renamed accordingly to Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct.

Due to a number of anomalies found in the data, there is a break in the time series at 2008-09. However, the comparability issues relate only to Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct and to Other miscellaneous offences. However, the two individual crime codes affecting these two categories are very small. All other categories have been assessed as comparable with the long term time series, including Common assault, Breach of the peace etc. and Urinating etc. Detailed information on the comparability of Group 6 are available in [Annex 2](#).

Chart 19: Miscellaneous offences in Scotland, 2004-05 to 2013-14



Breach of the peace etc:

Breach of the peace etc. is the largest category in this group accounting for a third of miscellaneous offences in 2013-14. This offence category includes Breach of the peace, Threatening or abusive behaviour, Stalking, Offensive behaviour at football

and Threatening communications. A further breakdown of Breach of the peace etc. into its component parts is available in [Table A8](#).

There was a 1% increase in Breach of the peace offences between 2012-13 and 2013-14. However this figure is a fifth lower than the 2004-05 figure of 91,772.

Common assault:

There was a 1% decrease in Common assault between 2012-13 and 2013-14. Eleven local authorities noted an increase in common assault with the largest increases in the Scottish Borders (40%) and Dumfries & Galloway (23%). The largest decreases were in Shetland (46%, from 204 in 2012-13 to 111 in 2013-14) and Aberdeen City (17%, from 4,247 in 2012-13 to 3,507 in 2013-14).

The rate of Common assault per 10,000 population was highest in Glasgow City (166 per 10,000 population), Aberdeen City (154 per 10,000 population) and Dundee City (150 per 10,000 population).

Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct:

Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct includes offences such as Drunk and Incapable, Disorderly on licensed premises, Refusing to quit licensed premises and Consumption of alcohol in designated places, byelaws prohibited. For further information on the classification of crimes and offences, please see [Section 5](#).

Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct increased by 10% between 2012-13 and 2013-14. The highest rates of Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct per 10,000 population were recorded in Glasgow City (395 per 10,000 population), Inverclyde (202 per 10,000 population) and North Lanarkshire (130 per 10,000 population). In previous publications, the offences of Consumption of alcohol in designated places, byelaws prohibited, was included in the Other category within this group. However, as this offence is fairly large, it has been removed from the Other category and was found to sit best within the Drunkenness category. To reflect this change, the category has been renamed Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct. The figures shown against this category have been revised to ensure comparability across the whole time series.

It should be noted that during the quality assurance exercise carried out prior to publication, an issue was found with offences of Disorderly on licensed premises, which have in the past been double counted in legacy Tayside. It has been possible to correct these data back to 2008-09 but corrections cannot be made prior to this and as a result the category Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct is not considered comparable for years prior to 2008-09.

Urinating etc:

Offences of Urinating etc. recorded in 2013-14 remained at the same level as 2012-13. The highest rates of Urinating etc. per 10,000 population were recorded in Glasgow City (112 per 10,000 population), Aberdeen City (46 per 10,000 population) and Inverclyde (40 per 10,000 population). In previous publications, the offence of Urinating etc. was included in the Other category within this group. However, as this offence is fairly large, it has been removed from the Other category and has been included as a category in its own right.

Racially aggravated harassment and conduct:

The Other category in Group 6 contains offences of Racially aggravated harassment and Racially aggravated conduct and [Table A9](#) shows these offences for the last ten years. While these are specific racially aggravated offences, they do not account for all racially aggravated crimes such as assault or vandalism.

The Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland statistical bulletin series contains more detailed information on Racist Incidents such as victim/complainer and perpetrator characteristics, location of incident and the crimes recorded and cleared up as part of racist incidents.

We therefore recommend that users interested in Racist Incidents should refer directly to the Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland bulletin series, available via the following link: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRacistIncidents>

The next Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland bulletin will contain data for 2013-14 and is scheduled for publication in spring 2015.

Key points from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey:

As stated earlier, of the 815,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2012-13, 236,000 (29%) were violent crimes and it is estimated that around 3% of adults in Scotland were a victim of violent crime in 2012-13.

In 2012-13, minor assaults made up the majority of SCJS violent crime (23%), followed by attempted assault (3%), serious assault (2%) and robbery (1%).

Further detail on the comparable crime set is available in [Section 3.3](#). As outlined there and in [Annex 5 of the 2012-13 SCJS](#), violent crime in the SCJS includes attempted assault, serious assault, minor assault and robbery, crimes which are included in Group 1 (Non-sexual crimes of violence) and Group 6 (Miscellaneous offences) in police recorded crime figures.

As presented in section 3.3, between 2008-09 and 2012-13, recorded violent crime figures in the comparable category decreased by 20%, while, for the same period, the SCJS estimates of violent crime decreased by 25%, a statistically significant change in the SCJS results. As indicated by [Table 3](#), the SCJS is often better able to detect changes in survey estimates with greater certainty over longer timescales, due primarily to the small numbers of victims identified in the survey (343 for violent crime in 2012-13).

HMICS audit

Of the 504 hate crimes examined, 94% were counted and classified correctly.

The chances are 19 in 20 that the 'true' value will fall within the range $\pm 2.2\%$ from the sample results (i.e. approximately between 91.8% and 96.2%).

Five crimes were under-counted and six crimes were over-counted. There were no recurring themes in relation to counting errors for hate crime. However, the majority of

classification errors related to the same technical issue around the classification of crimes between s.50(a) (1B) of the Criminal law Consolidation (Scotland) Act 1005 and s.38 of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010.

The Test 1 compliance rate of 97% for hate crime was the best of the four crime categories audited.

The chances are 19 in 20 that the 'true' value will fall within the range $\pm 1.5\%$ from the sample results (i.e. approximately between 95.5% and 98.5%).

Test 1 failures tended to relate to a lack of information or update on the incident record to dispel criminality. In several incidents, the complainer became uncooperative but a crime should nonetheless have been recorded. In a few incidents, a crime had clearly taken place but we could find no trace of a crime record.

As was noted earlier, in the HMICS audit report, violent crime includes **common assault**. Please refer to the [Group 1 - Non-sexual crimes of violence](#) section.

GROUP 7 – MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENCES

Number of Motor vehicle offences recorded in 2013-14:

During the quality assurance exercise carried out to assess the comparability of data from the new Police Scotland ScOMIS system with existing data from legacy forces, a number of anomalies have been identified in the data. There are a number of data sources previously included in some of the legacy force data which are not reported in ScOMIS such as the Safety Camera Partnership, Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme and DVLA tickets. In addition to the changes in data reported to SG, the issue has highlighted inconsistencies with legacy data reporting. [Annex 2](#) highlights all of the issues affecting Group 7 crimes in detail.

There are two crime categories in this group which are fully comparable across the time series: Dangerous and careless driving and Driving under the influence. However, as there are a number of issues affecting the other categories, totals for motor vehicle offences for 2013-14 cannot be compared with previous years.

We are investigating how to rectify these problems and obtain data for Group 7 which is comparable over time, but in the meantime, only data for 2013-14 is presented in tables with the exception of Dangerous and careless driving and Driving under the influence which are shown for the whole ten year time series.

The issues identified in Group 7 also mean that it is not possible to obtain a comparable total for all offences.

Dangerous and careless driving:

There has been a 9% increase in Dangerous and careless driving between 2012-13 and 2013-14 with 21 local authorities showing an increase in this time period. The highest number of offences of Dangerous and Careless driving per 10,000 population was recorded in Dumfries & Galloway (45 per 10,000 population), followed by Argyll & Bute (43 per 10,000 population) and Glasgow City (38 per 10,000 population)

Driving under the influence:

There was a 6% decrease in Driving under the influence between 2012-13 and 2013-14. The rate of offences of Driving under the influence per 10,000 population was highest in Argyll & Bute, Highland and Shetland Islands, each at 16 per 10,000 population.

Seat belt offences:

Seat belt offences increased by 15% between 2012-13 and 2013-14. These offences are on an upwards trend over the comparable period 2008-09 to 2013-14, however, this is most likely because such offences may often be targeted in local driving initiatives.

Mobile phone offences:

Mobile phone offences have been steadily increasing over the period 2008-09 to 2013-14, with a 16% increase since 2012-13. Again, these offences may be influenced by police initiatives on safer driving.

Commentary:

The police frequently run road safety initiatives to tackle problems such as drunk driving, Seat belt and Mobile phone offences as well as ensuring vehicles are safe to be on the road.

An example of this is in Eilean Siar, Highland, the Orkney Islands and the Shetland Islands. There have been a range of road safety initiatives as part of Operation Route, an on-going campaign aimed at increasing road safety and deterring travelling criminals. In addition to this, they highlighted road users to the dangers of drink and drug driving at the start of the national Festive Drink Drive campaign which began on 6 December 2013, with the aim of the campaign to reduce the number of those committing such offences and to reduce the number of casualties on the roads. Awareness of this may in part explain the decrease in Driving under the influence offences recorded in these local authorities.

3. SCOTTISH CRIME AND JUSTICE SURVEY

The preceding sections of this bulletin contain information on the volume and types of crime recorded and cleared up by the police in Scotland in 2013-14. As highlighted earlier in this report, in addition to the information on police recorded crime, crime in Scotland is also measured by the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS), a national household survey with adults (aged 16 and over) which asks respondents about their experiences of crime.

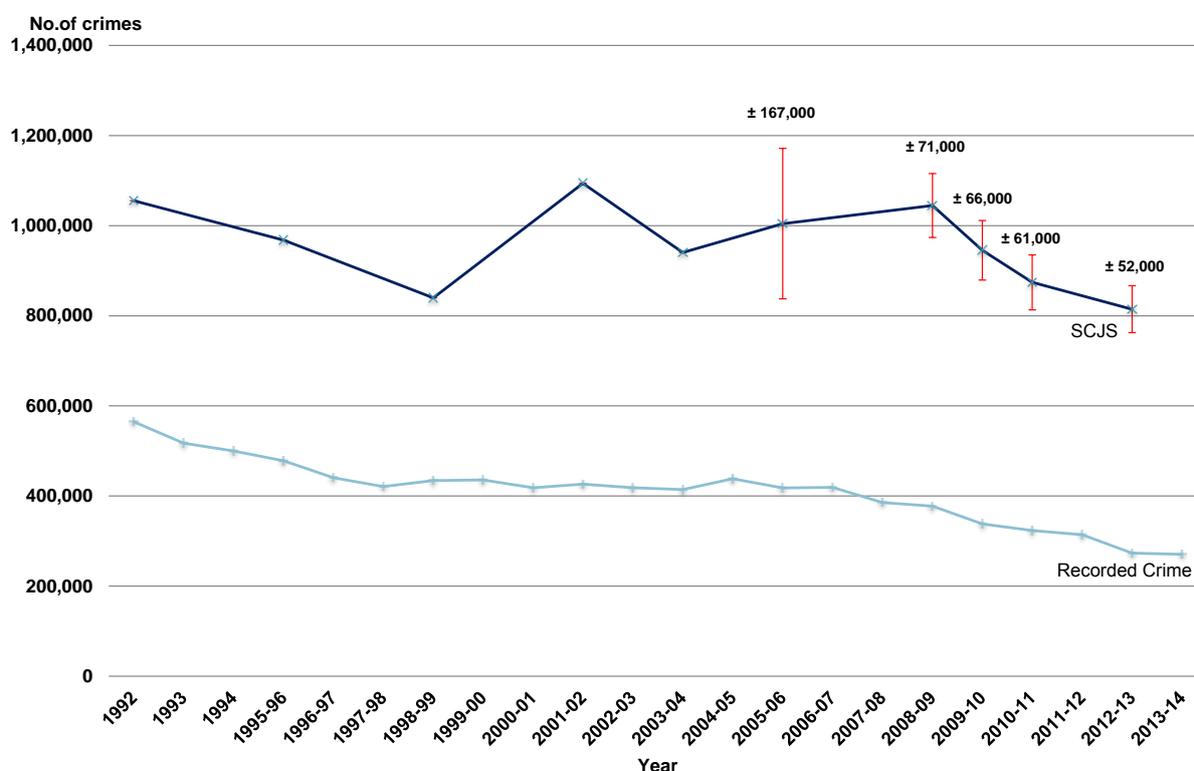
This chapter brings together the two complementary sources, police recorded crime and the SCJS, to present a fuller, more comprehensive picture of crime in Scotland⁹. However bringing the two sources together in this way highlights that the SCJS and police recorded crime cover different populations, different timescales, and the SCJS does not cover the entire range of crimes and offences that the police are faced with. These and other differences mean that making direct comparisons between the two sources is not straightforward. Nevertheless, the SCJS and police recorded crime statistics do present complementary information on crime occurring in Scotland, so it is therefore helpful and informative to look at these sources together. This chapter will look at police recorded crime and SCJS findings in three ways:

- i. Firstly, it will look at national trends of overall crime captured by police recorded crime and by the SCJS.
- ii. Secondly, it will look at crime in the two broad categories of crime captured by the SCJS (namely, property crime and violent crime). This section will also highlight how the SCJS captures more contextual information on the risk and characteristics of crime.
- iii. Lastly, it will look at the comparable crime groups, a grouping of crimes specifically constructed to allow comparison of the estimates of all comparable crime and comparable sub-groups from the SCJS and police recorded crime statistics for a set of crimes that are covered by both sources.

⁹ Information about crime in Scotland is also available from other sources. For example, from other Scottish Government reports, which provide data on anti-social behaviour, fear of crime and harassment and discrimination, within the [Scottish Household Survey](#), and from other sources, such as [Police Scotland](#) and the [Scottish Police Authority](#).

3.1 Overall number of crimes – Police Recorded Crime and the SCJS, 1992 to 2013-14

Chart 20: Overall number of crimes – Police Recorded Crime and the SCJS, 1992 to 2013-14



1. After 1994, the recording period for police recorded crime changed from calendar year to financial year.
2. The shift to the current survey design in 2008-09 has led to greater certainty around estimates.
3. Latest SCJS figures are available for 2012-13 while the latest recorded crime statistics cover 2013-14.

The 2012-13 SCJS estimates that there were 815,000 incidents of crime against adults in Scotland in 2012-13. This is 22% lower than in the 2008-09 survey when there were an estimated 1,045,000 crimes, meaning that in 2012-13, around one in six (16.9%) adults were the victim of at least one crime.

While [Chart 20](#) presents overall estimated crime levels for surveys conducted since the 1990's, prior to the current SCJS methodology (employed in surveys since 2008-09¹⁰), crime survey estimates in Scotland were derived from smaller sample surveys and, in general, were subject to a higher level of uncertainty¹¹. No clear trend could be detected for changes to the overall number of crimes measured by the various Scottish crime surveys conducted prior to 2008-09. This is reflected in [Chart 20](#) in the higher levels of fluctuation in the overall crime series prior to 2008-09. We have assessed that the greater levels of certainty around survey estimates since 2008-09

¹⁰ There have been some changes to SCJS since 2008-09, for example, the SCJS sample changed to an unclustered design in 2012-13, however this is not thought to have introduced any bias to the results.

¹¹ As demonstrated, for example, by the confidence interval around the estimated number of SCJS crimes in 2006, compared to later surveys.

enable more consistency in comparisons between the SCJS and recorded crime series and as such the analysis that follows in this chapter focuses on the period from 2008-09 onwards.

In comparison to the SCJS, as noted previously in this report, in 2013-14, the police recorded 270,397 crimes; this represents a decrease of 1% since 2012-13, and a decrease of 28% since 2008-09. [Chart 20](#) show that since the shift to the current survey design and increased sample sizes in 2008-09, survey estimates of the overall level of crime have fallen in line with similar reductions in overall recorded crime over the same period.

[Chart 20](#) effectively highlights the scale of the difference between the number of crimes estimated by the SCJS, and the level recorded by the police. There are a range of reasons for this difference, however the main factor is that the SCJS captures crimes that do not come to the attention of the police, and therefore are not included in recorded crime figures. The 2012-13 SCJS estimated that, of the 815,000 incidents of crime, 39% came to the attention of the police. Therefore, while the SCJS is good for estimating the likely range of crime in the underlying population (and the level of uncertainty around such estimates), the police recorded crime data effectively highlights the level of crime with which the police are faced.

In summary then, the SCJS can help to identify the relative magnitude of crime not reported to the police and why crimes are not reported. In 2012-13, where crime was not reported to the police, the most common reasons SCJS respondents gave for not reporting crime were that the victim felt that the police could have done nothing (37%) or that the victim perceived the incident to be too trivial to involve the police (36%). Conversely, where crime was reported to the police, it was mostly because the victim felt that it was the right thing to do (49%) or in the hope that offenders would be caught and punished (27%).

3.2 Police Recorded Crime and the SCJS Crime Groups

As noted elsewhere in this report, recorded crime figures are grouped into five crime groups (Non-sexual crimes of violence, Sexual crimes, Crimes of dishonesty, Fire-raising, vandalism etc. and Crimes against public justice) and two offence groups (Miscellaneous offences and Motor vehicle offences). However, the SCJS presents information in two broad crime categories: Property Crime and Violent Crime (outlined in [Box 1](#) below).

There are a number of reasons that the SCJS crime categories do not match the recorded crime groups; principally this is because the SCJS is a victimisation survey and does not, for example, collect data on all of the crimes and offences that the police are faced with (e.g. homicide, shoplifting or motor vehicle offences).

Box 1: SCJS Crime types

Property crime	Violent crime
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Vandalism (including motor vehicle and property vandalism)○ All motor vehicle theft related incidents (including theft and attempted theft of and from a motor vehicle)○ Housebreaking (termed burglary in England and Wales)○ Other household thefts (including bicycle theft)○ Personal theft (excluding robbery).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Assault (includes serious assault, attempted assault, minor assault with no-negligible and minor injury)○ Robbery

However, the SCJS is able to collect more detailed information on crimes that are not reported to the police, as well as information on the characteristics of crime and the attitudes and perceptions of victims. Such information is vital in presenting a fuller picture of the nature of crime in Scotland, than can be gained from recorded crime figures alone.

This section provides an overview of the main findings from SCJS 2012-13 in the property crime and violent crime categories, however does not make many direct comparisons to police recorded crime data, due to the differences in crime group within the two sources, as outlined above. Comparisons with recorded crime results are made in the [section 3.3](#) which outlines the comparable crime subset.

Property Crime

Property crime as measured by the SCJS involves theft or damage to personal or household property (including vehicles). In 2012-13, approximately 579,000 crimes (71% of all SCJS crime) were in this category, which means that it is estimated that around 15% of adults in Scotland were a victim of property crime. Between 2008-09 and 2012-13, there was a statistically significant decrease of 21% in property crime captured by the SCJS.

Of the 579,000 property crimes estimated by the SCJS in 2012-13, vandalism accounted for 27%, followed by other household theft (including bicycle theft) (21%), personal theft (excluding robbery)(13%), all motor vehicle theft related incidents (6%) and housebreaking (4%).

The types of property crime captured in the SCJS are mostly covered in two of the police recorded crime groups, crimes of dishonesty and crime in the fire-raising, vandalism etc. group. However, while the police recorded 137,324 crimes of dishonesty group in 2013-14 (a 1% increase since 2012-13) and 54,418 crimes in the fire-raising, vandalism etc. group (a 9% decrease since 2012-13), it should be noted that these groupings are not directly comparable with the SCJS 'property' crime group as, for example they cover some crimes (such as shoplifting (27,693 recorded crimes in 2013-14) and fraud (8,088 recorded crimes in 2013-14)) which are not captured in the SCJS.

In terms of crimes reported to the police, the 2012-13 SCJS estimates that over a third (35%) of property crimes were reported to the police, however, reporting rates were highest among victims of housebreaking (64%). The most common reasons given for not reporting property crime was that the incident was considered to be too trivial (43%) or that the victim felt that the police could not have done anything about it (41%). When property crime was reported, the most common reasons given were that reporting was considered to be the right thing to do/automatic (52%) or in the hope that offenders would be caught and punished (28%). Victims of property crime also experienced emotional responses, with annoyance (56%), anger (52%) and shock (16%) being the most commonly experienced.

Table 1 shows that property crime was experienced by near equal proportions of men (15%) and women (14%), however risk declined with age.

Table 1: The varying risk of property crime (SCJS 2012-13)

	All	Male	Female	16-24	25-44	45-59	60+
Property Crime	14.8	15.3	14.4	18.1	18.7	15.2	8.5
Base	12,050	5,210	6,840	970	3,590	3,110	4,380

Violent Crime

The SCJS violent crime category includes attempted assault, serious assault, minor assault and robbery. Of the 815,000 crimes measured by the SCJS in 2012-13, 236,000 (29%) were violent crimes, which means that it is estimated that around 3% of adults in Scotland were a victim of violent crime in 2012-13. Between 2008-09 and 2012-13 there was a statistically significant decrease of 25% in violent crime captured by the SCJS.

Of the 236,000 violent crimes estimated by the SCJS in 2012-13, minor assaults (non-negligible and minor injury) made up the majority (23%), followed by attempted assault (3%), serious assault (2%) and robbery (1%).

The latest data presented elsewhere in this report shows that in 2013-14, the police recorded 6,785 non-sexual crimes of violence. However, as noted already, this grouping is not directly comparable with the SCJS 'violent' crime group. Non-sexual crimes of violence (as used in police recorded crime) includes homicide, whilst, in addition, common assaults (which make up the majority of SCJS violent crime) are included in the miscellaneous offences police recorded crime group; in 2013-14 the police recorded 60,357 common assaults.

We know from the SCJS that not all crime is reported to the police. The 2012-13 SCJS estimates that almost half (48%) of violent crimes were reported to the police. The most common reasons victims provided for why violent crime was not reported was because they felt that the police could not have done anything about it (24%), they dealt with the matter themselves (23%) or that they considered the incident to be too trivial to involve the police (17%). Conversely, where violent crime was reported, the most common reasons given for reporting were that it was considered to be the right thing to do/automatic (42%), and-or the victim hoped to avoid repetition of the crime to themselves (29%) or someone else (29%).

Table 2 shows that that risk of violent crime decreases with age from 8% for those aged 16-24, to less than 1% for those aged 60 or over, and that males (4%) are at a higher risk of violent crime than females (2%).

Table 2: The varying risk of violent crime (SCJS 2012-13)

	All	Male	Female	16-24	25-44	45-59	60+
Violent Crime	3.1	4.2	2.2	8.2	4.3	1.9	0.4
Base	12,050	5,210	6,840	970	3,590	3,110	4,380

In addition, the 2012-13 SCJS estimates that almost one in three violent crimes (29%) happened between 9 pm and 3 am on the weekend and that victims thought that the offender was under the influence of alcohol in 59% of violent crime, and drugs in 29% of violent crime. Injuries were sustained by victims in almost three-fifths (58%) of violent crime. Where injuries were sustained, 60% received minor bruising or a black eye and 33% received scratches. Victims also experienced emotional responses to violent crime with anger (50%), annoyance (47%) and shock (38%) being the most commonly experienced.

3.3 Comparing SCJS estimates and Recorded Crime

3.3.1 Comparable Crime – Overall Comparison

As highlighted above, the two data sources cover different populations, time periods and crimes, which means that making direct comparisons is not straightforward. Comparisons can be made by examining a broadly comparable subset of crimes which are covered by each source and can be consistently coded in the SCJS in the same way as the police would do. Comparisons are made in the following three broad crime groups:

- Vandalism (other household crime including motor vehicle vandalism and property vandalism).
- Acquisitive crime (including bicycle theft, housebreaking and theft of motor vehicles).
- Violent crime (including serious assault, common assault and robbery).

On this basis, of the 815,000 crimes estimated by the 2012-13 SCJS, just under two-thirds (527,000) can be compared with police recorded crimes 2012-13.

The remainder of this section provides an overview of the level of crime and trends in the comparable subset from 2008-09 to 2012-13, the latest year for which data is available from both sources.

This analysis will be extended further in the forthcoming Scottish Government report, *Bringing Together Scotland's Crime Statistics*¹². This report will be made available on the following section of the Crime and Justice web pages and users will be informed of its publication via ScotStat.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications>

¹² From 2014-15, the key elements of this analysis will be included in the biennial SCJS main findings report.

Table 3: Comparable crime group estimates (2008-09 to 2012-13)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2012-13	% change 2008-09 to 2012-13	% change 2010-11 to 2012-13
Comparable Recorded Crime	215,901	195,728	183,117	144,662	-33%	-21%
Comparable SCJS Crime	731,000	630,000	556,000	527,000	-28%	-5%
Recorded Acquisitive Crime	27,527	26,146	26,478	21,834	-21%	-18%
SCJS Acquisitive Crime	64,000	61,000	61,000	73,000	16%	19%
Recorded Violent Crime	82,855	79,769	78,263	66,076	-20%	-16%
SCJS Violent Crime	317,000	266,000	220,000	236,000	-25%	7%
Recorded Vandalism	105,519	89,813	78,376	56,752	-46%	-28%
SCJS Vandalism	350,000	303,000	275,000	219,000	-37%	-20%

1. SCJS statistically significant changes (at 95% confidence interval) are shown in bold.

As presented in Table 3, in 2012-13, the SCJS estimated that there were 527,000 crimes in the overall comparable crime category, while the police recorded around 145,000 crimes in this category. The extent of overall comparable crime, in both the recorded crime figures and SCJS estimates, decreased between 2008-09 and 2012-13 (-33% and -28% respectively). The reduction in estimated SCJS comparable crime from 731,000 in 2008-09 to 527,000 in 2012-13 is a statistically significant change.

SCJS respondents are asked whether the police 'came to know about' the crime, either by them or somebody else. This allows comparisons to be made between crime estimated to have been reported to the police in the SCJS, and police recorded crime data. Figures from the 2012-13 SCJS indicate that of the 527,000 crimes in the overall comparable subset, around 232,000 incidents (44%), were estimated to have been reported to police. In 2012-13, the police recorded 144,662 crimes in the comparable category, so overall, it can also be estimated that around 27% of the total comparable crimes estimated by the SCJS (that is reported and non-reported crime) were recorded by the police in 2012-13.

However, it should be noted that this 'comparable' series is broadly, rather than directly, comparable. As a survey, the SCJS can only provide estimates of crimes reported to the police, not precise figures. It is not possible, for example, to match SCJS microdata (i.e. the individual records of survey respondents) to police recorded crime records. Therefore, it is not possible to determine whether a crime that a respondent said they reported to the police actually appeared on a police incident log in the relevant time period (at all, or before/after the time period) and, if so, to identify how it was recorded.

Consequently, we would not expect estimates of the crime reported to the police and the level recorded by the police to be equal. In light of this, the methods of analysis presented in this section are more suitable for assessing this relationship and variation of each series over time, rather than, for example, assessing with confidence the absolute level of crime estimated to have been reported but not recorded within each survey.

Finally, it should also be noted that there are a range of other factors which may affect the comparability of these series, for example it is possible that a number of crimes reported to the police are not captured and recorded by the police. However auditing of incidents and crimes recorded by Police Scotland by HMICS (<http://www.hmics.org/publications/hmics-crime-audit-2014>) indicates that police compliance in recording is generally good overall and does not indicate that this

accounts for the difference in our two series of crime data or changes over time. In addition, the SCJS also contains factors which are likely to affect the degree of comparability to recorded crime; for example non-quantifiable error around survey estimates (for example, error in the recall of respondents about the data of the incident which may have been outside the survey reference period); or a change in underlying survey sample design (from clustered to unclustered in 2012-13); or the switch to SCJS biennial design in 2012-13, although these factors are not thought to have introduced any bias to the SCJS results.

3.3.2 Comparable Crime – by Comparable Crime Sub-groups

This section summarises findings for the comparable crime sub-groups: acquisitive crime, violent crime and vandalism. When considering these comparable crime sub-groups over time (as shown in [Table 3](#)), police recorded crime data should be used to assess the level of crime with which the police are faced and SCJS results used as a barometer to estimate the underlying level of crime.

Acquisitive Crime

In 2012-13, the SCJS estimated that there were 73,000 acquisitive crimes (+/-10,000, meaning that the true number of acquisitive crimes in the underlying population is estimated to lie somewhere between 63,000 and 82,000¹³). Of these estimated 73,000 crimes, around 40,000 (55%) were said to have been reported to the police, while, in comparison, the police recorded 21,834 acquisitive crimes. Therefore, it can be estimated that 55% of the crime estimated to be reported to the police by the SCJS were captured in police statistics. This demonstrates and reinforces the finding that these two sources of crime data should be considered as broadly rather than directly comparable; for example, they do not cover the same populations or time periods, and the SCJS gathers information from a sample rather than the whole population so the results are always estimates not precise figures, and so are subject to a range of quantifiable and non-quantifiable error.

When considering this comparable crime sub-group over time, results show that recorded acquisitive crime decreased by 21% between 2008-09 and 2012-13, however, the SCJS estimates of acquisitive crime showed no statistically significant change between 2008-09 and 2012-13 (the apparent change from 64,000 to 73,000 is not statistically significant). Survey estimates on the comparable crime subgroups are based on small base sizes of respondents (272 for acquisitive crime in 2012-13) and as a consequence, there is less certainty around estimates.

The variable nature of making these type of comparisons is reflected, for example, in analysis of shorter term change in these series, which finds greater consistency in comparable acquisitive crime in the SCJS and recorded crime between 2008-09 and 2010-11 (respectively, a change of -5% (again non-statistically significant) and a decrease of 4%). Therefore, the uncertainty around the changes in this crime sub-group, both in the short and medium term, limit the conclusions which can be drawn when comparing the SCJS and recorded crime in the acquisitive crime sub-group at this stage.

¹³ Figures for the confidence interval rounded to nearest thousand.

Violent crime

In 2012-13, the SCJS estimated that there were 236,000 violent crimes (+/-40,000, meaning that the true number of violent crimes in the underlying population is estimated to lie somewhere within the range 196,000 to 275,000¹⁴) and the police recorded 66,076 violent crimes. The SCJS estimates that around 113,000 (48%) violent crimes were reported to the police in 2012-13. Therefore, it can be estimated that 58% of the crime estimated to be reported to the police by the SCJS were recorded in police statistics, demonstrating, as mentioned above, that these two sources of crime data should be considered as broadly rather than directly comparable.

Between 2008-09 and 2012-13, recorded violent crime figures in the comparable category decreased by 20%, while, for the same period, the SCJS estimates of violent crime decreased by 25%, a statistically significant change in the SCJS results. As indicated by [Table 3](#), the SCJS is often better able to detect changes in survey estimates with greater certainty over longer timescales, due primarily to the small numbers of victims identified in the survey (343 for violent crime in 2012-13).

Vandalism

In 2012-13, the SCJS estimated that there were 219,000 vandalism crimes (+/-20,000, meaning that the true number of vandalism crimes in the underlying population is estimated to lie somewhere between 199,000 and 239,000¹⁵) of which around 79,000 (36%) were reported to the police, while the police recorded 56,752 vandalism incidents. From this, it can be estimated that 72% of the vandalism crime estimated to be reported to the police by the SCJS were recorded in police statistics, again demonstrating that these two sources of crime data should be considered as broadly rather than directly comparable.

Between 2008-09 and 2012-13, recorded vandalism figures fell by 46%, while SCJS estimates have been shown a statistically significant decrease of 37%. Compared to the violent crime and acquisitive crime groups, vandalism estimates are based on larger samples of respondents (760 in the 2012-13 survey), leading to greater certainty around changes in the short and medium term.

¹⁴ Figures for the confidence interval rounded to nearest thousand.

¹⁵ Figures for the confidence interval rounded to nearest thousand.

Conclusion

This chapter has brought together the two main sources of crime statistics in Scotland: the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey and Police Recorded Crime statistics. Although each source covers different populations, crimes and offences and time periods, considering them together presents a more comprehensive picture of crime in Scotland. For example, the latest figures from the SCJS show that there were an estimated 815,000 incidents of crime against adults living in households in Scotland in 2012-13, while the police in Scotland recorded 273,053 crimes in 2012-13 (and 543,678 other offences, including 60,955 common assaults). This difference between survey estimates and recorded crime figures shows that, for many reasons, not all crime comes to the attention of the police. However, the SCJS helps to assess this and in addition is able to capture more information on the characteristics of crime and victims of crime, helping to provide a fuller picture of the nature of crime in Scotland.

Due to the differences between them, making direct comparisons between the two sources is not straightforward. However, a comparable subset of crime can be used to make some broad comparisons to assess the relationship between recorded crime figures and SCJS estimates.

Table 4: Strengths and limitations of Police Recorded Crime and the SCJS

	Recorded Crime	Scottish Crime and Justice Survey
Where do the data come from?	Administrative police records	Face to face interviews with residents from a nationally representative sample of the household population
Basis for inclusion	Crimes recorded by the police in Scotland, governed by the Scottish Crime Recording Standard and Counting Rules.	Trained coders determine whether experiences of victimisation in the last 12 months constitute a crime and assign an offence code.
Frequency	Collected by financial year. Statistics released in an annual publication.	Survey conducted over 12 months, with recall period extending over 23 months. Results published biennially.
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers the full range of crimes and offences. Provides data at a local authority level. A good measure of rarer, more serious crimes that are well reported. Measure of long-term trends. Good measure of the volume and type of crime that the police are faced with. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good measure of trends since 2008-09. Captures information about crimes that are not reported to the police (including sensitive issues such as drug abuse). Provides information on multiple and repeat victimisation (up to 5 incidents in a series). Analyses risk for different demographic groups and victim-offender relationships. Provides attitudinal data (e.g. fear of crime or attitudes towards the criminal justice system).
Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partially reliant on the public reporting crime. Reporting rates may vary by the type of crime (e.g. serious crime is more likely to be reported or housebreaking if a crime number is required for insurance purposes). Trends can be affected by legislation; public reporting practices; police recording practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not cover all crimes (e.g. homicide or 'victimless' crimes such as speeding). Does not cover the entire population (e.g. children, homeless people or people living in communal accommodation). Unable to produce robust data at lower level geographies. Difficult to measure trends between survey sweeps in rarer forms of crime (such as more serious offences). Estimates are subject to a degree of error.
What other data are collected?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional statistical bulletins published on homicides, racist incidents, firearm offences and domestic abuse incidents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public perceptions about crime. Worry about crime and the perceived likelihood of being a victim. Confidence in the police and the criminal justice system. Prevalence estimates on 'sensitive' topics (partner abuse, sexual victimisation, stalking and drug use).

Table 5: Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 2004-05 to 2013-14

Crime group	Number & Percentage										
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	% change 12-13 to 13-14
Total Crimes	438,123	417,785	419,257	385,509	377,433	338,124	323,247	314,188	273,053	270,397	-1
Non-sexual crimes of violence	14,728	13,726	14,099	12,874	12,612	11,228	11,438	9,533	7,530	6,785	-10
Homicide etc. ¹ (incl. causing death by driving)	165	121	159	142	134	106	122	121	91	106	16
Attempted murder & serious assault ²	7,603	7,030	7,345	6,711	6,472	5,621	5,493	4,693	3,643	3,268	-10
Robbery	3,736	3,553	3,578	3,064	2,963	2,496	2,557	2,244	1,832	1,499	-18
Other	3,224	3,022	3,017	2,957	3,043	3,005	3,266	2,475	1,964	1,912	-3
Sexual crimes³	7,325	6,558	6,726	6,552	6,331	6,527	6,696	7,361	7,693	8,604	12
Rape & attempted rape	1,109	1,161	1,123	1,053	963	996	1,131	1,274	1,462	1,808	24
Sexual assault	3,470	3,392	3,452	3,502	3,297	3,412	3,220	2,908	3,008	3,405	13
Crimes associated with prostitution	1,458	730	779	682	765	661	576	567	534	490	-8
Other sexual crimes	1,288	1,275	1,372	1,315	1,306	1,458	1,769	2,612	2,689	2,901	8
Crimes of dishonesty	210,365	187,798	183,760	166,718	167,812	153,256	155,870	154,337	135,899	137,324	1
Housebreaking ⁴	34,959	31,319	30,580	25,443	25,496	23,774	25,017	24,222	21,515	22,272	4
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	7,849	8,263	7,422	6,378	6,952	5,074	4,059	3,529	3,239	3,218	-1
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	20,403	16,453	16,060	15,217	13,649	10,173	9,495	8,988	6,159	6,189	0
Theft of a motor vehicle	15,633	14,041	15,000	12,105	11,551	9,304	8,716	7,060	5,731	5,976	4
Shoplifting	28,534	28,247	28,750	29,186	32,048	30,332	29,660	29,758	26,449	27,693	5
Other theft	77,586	72,128	70,241	64,645	64,384	61,008	64,680	66,681	58,704	58,794	0
Fraud	18,307	11,074	9,332	8,409	8,316	8,283	8,983	8,892	8,898	8,088	-9
Other dishonesty	7,094	6,273	6,375	5,335	5,416	5,308	5,260	5,207	5,204	5,094	-2
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	128,566	127,889	129,734	118,025	109,430	93,443	82,020	75,201	59,479	54,418	-9
Fire-raising	4,698	4,856	4,976	4,635	4,651	4,244	3,966	3,755	3,066	2,549	-17
Vandalism etc.	123,868	123,033	124,758	113,390	104,779	89,199	78,054	71,446	56,413	51,869	-8
Other crimes	77,139	81,814	84,938	81,340	81,248	73,670	67,223	67,756	62,452	63,266	1
Crimes against public justice	25,616	27,668	32,052	31,353	29,493	26,885	26,294	26,635	23,401	23,610	1
Handling an offensive weapon	9,545	9,628	10,110	8,989	8,980	7,042	6,283	5,631	4,015	3,795	-5
Drugs	41,823	44,247	42,422	40,746	42,509	39,408	34,347	35,157	34,688	35,616	3
Other	155	271	354	252	266	335	299	333	348	245	-30

Notes:

This table can be accessed at local authority level online via the following link: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/RecCrime>

1. Includes Murder, and Culpable homicide (common law), which includes Causing death by dangerous driving, Causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, Causing death by careless driving, Illegal driver involved in fatal accident and Corporate homicide.
2. For the definition of Serious assault please see [Annex 1](#).
3. Implementation of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act on 1 December 2010 will have an effect on comparability of breakdown of Sexual crimes over time.
4. Includes dwellings, non-dwellings and other premises. For a more detailed definition see [Annex 1](#).

Table 6: Offences recorded by the police, Scotland, 2004-05 to 2013-14

Offence group ¹	Number & Percentage																
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	% change 12-13 to 13-14						
Total offences											501,281						
Miscellaneous offences											228,854	232,846	211,655	210,135	203,063	207,190	2
Common assault ²	73,711	72,281	78,167	73,523	74,130	72,212	70,786	69,253	60,955	60,357	60,357	-1					
Breach of the peace etc. ^{3,4}	91,772	91,400	95,051	92,206	93,327	87,403	70,468	71,451	70,301	71,288	71,288	1					
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct ^{4,5}											31,307	39,545	37,451	37,458	39,238	43,043	10
Urinating etc. ^{4,6}	5,550	6,781	7,753	8,384	10,717	14,186	13,620	13,602	15,420	15,361	15,361	0					
Other ^{4,5,6}											19,373	19,500	19,330	18,371	17,149	17,141	0
Motor vehicle offences											294,091						
Dangerous and careless driving	13,062	12,956	13,601	12,964	11,519	11,073	9,839	9,853	10,530	11,524	11,524	9					
Driving under the influence	11,061	11,257	11,704	10,697	9,800	8,504	7,563	7,445	6,433	6,079	6,079	-6					
Speeding											82,382						
Unlawful use of vehicle											57,779						
Vehicle defect offences											20,923						
Seat belt offences ⁷											26,225	29,324	29,171	31,505	33,047	37,880	15
Mobile phone offences ⁷											23,957	26,146	27,736	29,110	30,875	35,764	16
Other ⁷											41,760						

Notes:

This table can be accessed at local authority level online via the following link: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/RecCrime>

1. Since 2013-14, not all offence categories are comparable with previous years data. Please see [Annex 2](#) for further information.
2. For the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault please see [Annex 1](#).
3. Includes Breach of the peace, Threatening or abusive behaviour, Offence of stalking, Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications
4. Corrections made to data for years prior to 2013-14
5. Category now includes Consumption of alcohol in designated places (local byelaws). These crimes were previously included in the Other category
6. Urinating etc. was previously included in 'Other'
7. Seat belt offences and Mobile phone offences were previously included in Other motor vehicle offences

Table 7: Crimes and offences cleared up¹ by the police, as a percentage of those recorded, Scotland, 2004-05 to 2013-14

Crime / Offence group	Percentage									
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Total crimes	45	46	47	48	49	49	49	49	51	52
Non-sexual crimes of violence	59	59	60	62	64	67	72	75	79	82
Homicide etc. ² (incl. causing death by driving)	99	99	100	99	100	106	99	97	104	102
Attempted murder & serious assault ³	60	60	60	61	62	66	70	74	78	81
Robbery	39	37	39	40	46	46	55	62	66	72
Other violence	79	81	83	84	84	85	87	90	91	89
Sexual crimes⁴	75	75	74	71	68	66	66	67	68	76
Rape & attempted rape	69	72	67	70	61	57	55	57	62	73
Sexual assault	73	74	71	68	65	61	64	62	62	71
Crimes associated with prostitution	99	99	98	98	99	97	97	96	96	97
Other sexual crimes	60	65	70	68	63	67	69	72	73	79
Crimes of dishonesty	37	37	38	38	39	38	37	37	38	37
Housebreaking ⁵	25	26	26	26	24	25	25	24	25	23
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	30	37	37	32	38	31	23	22	19	17
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	18	15	17	15	17	17	17	17	20	16
Theft of a motor vehicle	37	37	41	44	43	44	43	45	48	43
Shoplifting	77	77	78	77	78	79	78	79	80	79
Other theft	20	21	21	21	21	21	20	21	21	21
Fraud	80	76	75	74	75	57	57	55	52	56
Other dishonesty	79	79	78	82	79	73	74	74	72	71
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	21	23	25	25	25	26	25	25	27	25
Fire-raising	22	26	26	25	24	24	22	24	26	27
Vandalism etc.	21	23	25	25	25	26	25	25	27	25
Other crimes	98	98	99	98						
Crimes against public justice	98	98	98	98	98	97	98	98	98	98
Handling an offensive weapon	97	97	97	96	96	96	96	97	97	98
Drugs	97	98	100	99	99	99	99	99	98	99
Other	73	85	85	89	89	90	89	89	94	95
Miscellaneous offences⁶					83	83	82	84	85	87
Common assault ⁷	69	70	71	71	70	70	70	71	73	76
Breach of the peace etc. ⁸	87	88	88	88	87	86	84	87	88	89
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct ⁹					100	100	100	100	100	100
Urinating etc. ¹⁰	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Other ^{9,10}					75	74	71	75	76	79

Notes:

This table can be accessed at local authority level online via the following link: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/RecCrime>

1. The definition of cleared up can be found in [Annex 1](#).
2. Includes Murder, and Culpable homicide (common law), which includes Causing death by dangerous driving, Causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, Causing death by careless driving, Illegal driver involved in fatal accident and Corporate homicide.
3. For the definition of Serious assault please see [Annex 1](#).
4. Implementation of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act on 1 December 2010 will have an effect on comparability of breakdown of Sexual crimes over time.
5. Includes dwellings, non-dwellings and other premises. For a more detailed definition see [Annex 1](#).
6. Due to comparability issues, it is not possible to compare data with years prior to 2008-09. Further detail can be found in [Annex 2](#).
7. For the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault please see [Annex 1](#).
8. Includes Breach of the peace, Threatening or abusive behaviour, Offence of stalking, Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications
9. Category now includes Consumption of alcohol in designated places (local byelaws) previously included in 'Other'
10. Urinating etc. was previously included in the Other category

Table 8: Crimes recorded in Scotland per 10,000 population, 2004-05 to 2013-14

	Number									
Crime / Offence group	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Total crimes	862	818	817	746	725	646	614	593	514	508
Non-sexual crimes of violence	29	27	27	25	24	21	22	18	14	13
Homicide etc. ¹ (incl. causing death by driving)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted murder & serious assault ²	15	14	14	13	12	11	10	9	7	6
Robbery	7	7	7	6	6	5	5	4	3	3
Other violence	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	4	4
Sexual crimes³	14	13	13	13	12	12	13	14	14	16
Rape & attempted rape	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
Sexual assault	7	7	7	7	6	7	6	5	6	6
Crimes associated with prostitution	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other sexual crimes	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	5	5	5
Crimes of dishonesty	414	367	358	322	323	293	296	291	256	258
Housebreaking ⁴	69	61	60	49	49	45	48	46	40	42
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	15	16	14	12	13	10	8	7	6	6
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	40	32	31	29	26	19	18	17	12	12
Theft of a motor vehicle	31	27	29	23	22	18	17	13	11	11
Shoplifting	56	55	56	56	62	58	56	56	50	52
Other theft	153	141	137	125	124	117	123	126	110	110
Fraud	36	22	18	16	16	16	17	17	17	15
Other dishonesty	14	12	12	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	253	250	253	228	210	179	156	142	112	102
Fire-raising	9	10	10	9	9	8	8	7	6	5
Vandalism etc.	244	241	243	219	201	170	148	135	106	97
Other crimes	152	160	165	157	156	141	128	128	118	119
Crimes against public justice	50	54	62	61	57	51	50	50	44	44
Handling an offensive weapon	19	19	20	17	17	13	12	11	8	7
Drugs	82	87	83	79	82	75	65	66	65	67
Other	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
Total offences⁵										941
Miscellaneous offences					440	445	402	396	382	389
Common assault ⁶	145	141	152	142	142	138	135	131	115	113
Breach of the peace etc. ⁷	181	179	185	178	179	167	134	135	132	134
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct ⁸					60	76	71	71	74	81
Urinating etc. ⁹	11	13	15	16	21	27	26	26	29	29
Other ^{8,9}					37	37	37	35	32	32
Motor vehicle offences										552
Dangerous and careless driving	26	25	26	25	22	21	19	19	20	22
Driving under the influence	22	22	23	21	19	16	14	14	12	11
Speeding										155
Unlawful use of vehicle										108
Vehicle defect offences										39
Seat belt offences ¹⁰					50	56	55	59	62	71
Mobile phone offences ¹⁰					46	50	53	55	58	67
Other motor vehicle offences ¹⁰										78
Total crimes and offences										1,448

Notes:

This table can be accessed at local authority level online via the following link: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/RecCrime>

1. Includes Murder, and Culpable homicide (common law), which includes Causing death by dangerous driving, Causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, Causing death by careless driving, Illegal driver involved in fatal accident and Corporate homicide.
2. For the definition of Serious assault please see [Annex 1](#).
3. Implementation of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act will have an effect on comparability of breakdown of Sexual crimes over time. For further information please see [Annex 2](#).
4. Includes dwellings, non-dwellings and other premises. For a more detailed definition see [Annex 1](#).
5. Due to comparability issues, it is not possible to compare data with years prior to 2008-09. Further detail can be found in [Annex 2](#).
6. For the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault please see [Annex 1](#).
7. Includes Breach of the peace, Threatening or abusive behaviour, Offence of stalking, Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications (Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act 2012).
8. Category now includes Consumption of alcohol in designated places (local byelaws) previously included in 'Other'
9. Urinating etc. was previously included in the Other category
10. Seat belt offences and Mobile phone offences were previously included in Other motor vehicle offences

Table 9: Crimes recorded by local authority area, 2013-14

Local authority area						Number				
	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	Total crimes	Miscellaneous offences	Motor vehicle offences	Total offences	Total crimes and offences
Aberdeen City	317	402	8,815	2,715	3,141	15,390	9,999	10,655	20,654	36,044
Aberdeenshire	117	255	3,693	1,688	1,083	6,836	4,010	8,899	12,909	19,745
Angus	87	251	1,966	896	804	4,004	2,409	5,094	7,503	11,507
Argyll & Bute	76	131	1,122	627	948	2,904	2,854	4,915	7,769	10,673
Clackmannanshire	63	59	1,006	681	521	2,330	1,419	2,720	4,139	6,469
Dumfries & Galloway	176	261	2,173	1,111	1,630	5,351	4,184	12,250	16,434	21,785
Dundee City	195	338	4,763	1,996	1,920	9,212	5,066	6,060	11,126	20,338
East Ayrshire	155	181	2,735	1,291	1,376	5,738	4,243	8,405	12,648	18,386
East Dunbartonshire	66	47	1,660	642	651	3,066	2,418	3,968	6,386	9,452
East Lothian	78	131	1,866	763	655	3,493	2,100	2,616	4,716	8,209
East Renfrewshire	33	50	1,179	539	319	2,120	1,303	3,649	4,952	7,072
Edinburgh, City of	869	856	22,493	5,995	5,401	35,614	15,686	14,977	30,663	66,277
Eilean Siar	11	31	160	151	125	478	494	631	1,125	1,603
Falkirk	149	222	3,533	1,584	1,722	7,210	4,956	11,902	16,858	24,068
Fife	383	964	8,093	3,323	3,387	16,150	11,009	12,633	23,642	39,792
Glasgow City	1,538	1,516	25,363	8,403	14,003	50,823	59,431	68,775	128,206	179,029
Highland	226	375	3,725	1,912	1,994	8,232	6,347	11,884	18,231	26,463
Inverclyde	125	88	1,617	832	1,661	4,323	3,902	3,849	7,751	12,074
Midlothian	100	95	2,313	990	848	4,346	2,440	1,347	3,787	8,133
Moray	53	166	1,577	762	557	3,115	2,091	4,246	6,337	9,452
North Ayrshire	225	183	3,534	1,549	1,556	7,047	4,941	7,318	12,259	19,306
North Lanarkshire	401	389	7,810	4,118	5,066	17,784	15,108	17,538	32,646	50,430
Orkney Islands	10	50	133	104	67	364	418	545	963	1,327
Perth & Kinross	127	209	2,360	852	1,382	4,930	3,075	6,640	9,715	14,645
Renfrewshire	300	258	4,311	1,717	2,705	9,291	7,389	11,413	18,802	28,093
Scottish Borders	73	152	1,479	792	710	3,206	2,342	3,140	5,482	8,688
Shetland Islands	9	18	158	112	143	440	352	474	826	1,266
South Ayrshire	122	147	2,808	1,036	975	5,088	3,753	7,268	11,021	16,109
South Lanarkshire	285	229	6,514	3,197	3,958	14,183	12,280	22,096	34,376	48,559
Stirling	72	120	1,952	850	787	3,781	2,533	6,818	9,351	13,132
West Dunbartonshire	139	116	2,112	1,180	1,656	5,203	4,074	5,456	9,530	14,733
West Lothian	205	314	4,301	2,010	1,515	8,345	4,564	5,910	10,474	18,819
SCOTLAND	6,785	8,604	137,324	54,418	63,266	270,397	207,190	294,091	501,281	771,678

Table 10: Percentage of crimes cleared up¹, by local authority area, 2013-14

Local authority area							Percentage	
	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	Total crimes	Miscellaneous offences	
Aberdeen City	75	68	35	26	97	48	82	
Aberdeenshire	79	69	32	22	99	42	77	
Angus	93	79	49	33	98	58	86	
Argyll & Bute	97	82	40	30	98	60	91	
Clackmannanshire	100	75	46	32	98	56	85	
Dumfries & Galloway	91	75	54	48	97	68	90	
Dundee City	88	79	46	26	97	54	86	
East Ayrshire	93	85	38	21	99	52	87	
East Dunbartonshire	83	68	29	22	95	44	89	
East Lothian	81	73	37	22	98	47	82	
East Renfrewshire	82	56	25	14	100	35	78	
Edinburgh, City of	76	71	30	19	99	40	75	
Eilean Siar	100	132	61	52	116	78	97	
Falkirk	93	86	48	34	97	59	85	
Fife	94	86	56	41	99	65	93	
Glasgow City	73	69	35	20	97	52	90	
Highland	92	82	46	41	107	63	93	
Inverclyde	70	75	43	15	99	60	94	
Midlothian	87	80	36	26	98	48	80	
Moray	89	78	30	28	101	46	78	
North Ayrshire	84	75	31	18	98	46	85	
North Lanarkshire	80	71	38	24	99	54	91	
Orkney Islands	90	104	65	43	100	71	94	
Perth & Kinross	98	76	44	37	97	61	90	
Renfrewshire	74	71	32	16	99	51	88	
Scottish Borders	89	75	45	35	101	57	90	
Shetland Islands	122	78	63	45	106	74	94	
South Ayrshire	88	91	37	22	99	49	89	
South Lanarkshire	86	75	33	20	98	50	91	
Stirling	94	73	46	30	99	55	86	
West Dunbartonshire	95	63	40	19	98	56	87	
West Lothian	84	71	34	20	100	45	79	
SCOTLAND	82	76	37	25	98	52	87	

Notes:

1. The definition of cleared up can be found in [Annex 1](#).

Table 11: Number of crimes recorded by the police per 10,000 population¹ by local authority area, 2013-14

Local authority area	Rate per 10,000 population									
	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	Total crimes	Miscellaneous offences	Motor vehicle offences	Total offences	Total crimes and offences
Aberdeen City	14	18	388	120	138	678	440	469	909	1,587
Aberdeenshire	5	10	143	65	42	265	156	345	501	766
Angus	7	22	169	77	69	344	207	438	645	990
Argyll & Bute	9	15	127	71	108	330	324	558	882	1,212
Clackmannanshire	12	12	196	133	102	454	277	530	807	1,262
Dumfries & Galloway	12	17	145	74	108	356	278	815	1,094	1,450
Dundee City	13	23	321	135	130	622	342	409	751	1,373
East Ayrshire	13	15	223	105	112	469	347	686	1,033	1,502
East Dunbartonshire	6	4	157	61	61	290	228	375	603	893
East Lothian	8	13	184	75	65	345	207	258	465	810
East Renfrewshire	4	5	129	59	35	232	142	399	541	773
Edinburgh, City of	18	18	461	123	111	731	322	307	629	1,360
Eilean Siar	4	11	58	55	46	174	180	230	411	585
Falkirk	9	14	225	101	110	459	315	757	1,073	1,532
Fife	10	26	221	91	92	440	300	344	644	1,085
Glasgow City	26	25	425	141	235	852	996	1,153	2,149	3,001
Highland	10	16	160	82	86	353	272	510	783	1,136
Inverclyde	16	11	201	104	207	538	486	479	965	1,503
Midlothian	12	11	273	117	100	513	288	159	447	960
Moray	6	18	167	81	59	330	222	450	672	1,002
North Ayrshire	16	13	258	113	114	515	361	534	895	1,410
North Lanarkshire	12	12	231	122	150	527	447	519	967	1,493
Orkney Islands	5	23	62	48	31	169	194	253	446	615
Perth & Kinross	9	14	160	58	94	334	208	449	658	991
Renfrewshire	17	15	248	99	156	534	425	656	1,081	1,615
Scottish Borders	6	13	130	70	62	282	206	276	481	763
Shetland Islands	4	8	68	48	62	190	152	204	356	546
South Ayrshire	11	13	249	92	86	451	333	644	977	1,427
South Lanarkshire	9	7	207	102	126	450	390	702	1,092	1,542
Stirling	8	13	214	93	86	414	278	747	1,025	1,439
West Dunbartonshire	15	13	235	131	184	579	454	608	1,061	1,640
West Lothian	12	18	244	114	86	474	259	336	595	1,068
SCOTLAND	13	16	258	102	119	508	389	552	941	1,448

Notes:

1. Population estimates are as at mid-year 2013 from the National Records of Scotland. (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/mid-year/index.html>)

Table 12: Number of crimes recorded by the police, index of rate per 10,000 population¹, by local authority area, 2012-13

Local authority area	Index of rate per 10,000 population									
	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	Total crimes	Miscellaneous offences	Motor vehicle offences	Total offences	Total crimes and offences
Aberdeen City	110	110	151	117	116	134	113	85	97	110
Aberdeenshire	36	61	56	64	35	52	40	63	53	53
Angus	59	134	66	75	58	68	53	79	69	68
Argyll & Bute	68	92	49	70	91	65	83	101	94	84
Clackmannanshire	96	71	76	130	86	90	71	96	86	87
Dumfries & Galloway	92	108	56	72	91	70	72	148	116	100
Dundee City	103	141	125	132	109	122	88	74	80	95
East Ayrshire	99	92	87	103	95	92	89	124	110	104
East Dunbartonshire	49	27	61	59	52	57	59	68	64	62
East Lothian	60	80	71	74	54	68	53	47	49	56
East Renfrewshire	28	34	50	58	29	46	37	72	58	53
Edinburgh, City of	140	109	179	120	93	144	83	56	67	94
Eilean Siar	32	70	23	54	38	34	46	42	44	40
Falkirk	74	87	87	99	92	90	81	137	114	106
Fife	82	163	86	89	78	87	77	62	68	75
Glasgow City	202	157	165	138	198	168	256	209	228	207
Highland	76	100	62	80	72	70	70	92	83	78
Inverclyde	122	68	78	101	174	106	125	87	103	104
Midlothian	93	69	106	114	84	101	74	29	48	66
Moray	44	109	65	79	50	65	57	82	71	69
North Ayrshire	129	83	100	111	96	101	93	97	95	97
North Lanarkshire	93	71	90	119	126	104	115	94	103	103
Orkney Islands	36	144	24	47	26	33	50	46	47	42
Perth & Kinross	67	88	62	56	79	66	54	81	70	68
Renfrewshire	135	92	96	97	131	105	109	119	115	112
Scottish Borders	50	83	50	68	53	55	53	50	51	53
Shetland Islands	30	48	26	47	52	37	39	37	38	38
South Ayrshire	85	81	97	90	73	89	86	117	104	99
South Lanarkshire	71	45	80	99	106	89	100	127	116	106
Stirling	62	81	83	91	73	82	71	135	109	99
West Dunbartonshire	122	80	91	129	155	114	117	110	113	113
West Lothian	91	110	95	112	72	93	67	61	63	74
SCOTLAND	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Notes:

1. Population estimates are as at mid-year 2013 from the National Records of Scotland. (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/mid-year/index.html>).

Table A1: Crimes and offences recorded and cleared up¹ by the police, Scotland, 2009-10 to 2013-14

	Number				
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Police strength at end financial year (full-time equivalent - FTE)	17,409	17,263	17,436	17,496	17,244
Number of crimes recorded	338,124	323,247	314,188	273,053	270,397
Crimes recorded per 1,000 population ²	65	61	59	51	51
Crimes recorded per FTE police officer	19	19	18	16	16
Number of crimes cleared up¹	166,680	156,943	155,264	140,083	139,306
Crimes cleared up per FTE police officer	10	9	9	8	8
Number of offences recorded					501,281
Offences recorded per 1,000 population ²					94
Offences recorded per FTE police officer					29
Number of offences cleared up¹					472,099
Offences cleared up per FTE police officer					27

Notes:

1. For a definition of cleared up, see [Annex 1](#).
2. Population estimates are as at mid-year 2013 from the National Records of Scotland. (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/mid-year/index.html>).

Table A2: Sexual crimes¹ recorded by the police, Scotland, 2004-05 to 2013-14

Sexual crimes	Number & Percentage										
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	% change 12-13 to 13-14
Rape & attempted rape	1,109	1,161	1,123	1,053	963	996	1,131	1,274	1,462	1,808	24
Rape	900	975	922	908	821	884	997	1,183	1,372	1,690	23
Attempted rape	209	186	201	145	142	112	134	91	90	118	31
Sexual assault	3,470	3,392	3,452	3,502	3,297	3,412	3,220	2,908	3,008	3,405	13
Sexual assault including against children	1,542	1,557	1,714	1,721	1,681	1,737	1,774	2,056	2,166	2,449	13
Lewd and libidinous practices	1,928	1,835	1,738	1,781	1,616	1,675	1,446	852	842	956	14
Crimes associated with prostitution	1,458	730	779	682	765	661	576	567	534	490	-8
Crimes relating to prostitution	1,391	684	718	525	533	418	353	344	348	295	-15
Soliciting services of person engaged in prostitution	-	-	-	101	172	162	154	149	133	117	-12
Brothel keeping	11	11	18	27	24	34	21	36	28	32	14
Immoral traffic	47	27	17	16	21	36	33	26	14	32	129
Procuration	9	8	26	13	15	11	15	12	11	14	27
Other	1,288	1,275	1,372	1,315	1,306	1,458	1,769	2,612	2,689	2,901	8
Other sexually coercive conduct	~	~	~	~	~	~	155	660	823	956	16
Other sexual offences involving 13-15 year old children	277	316	436	394	370	445	441	516	429	434	1
Taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children	*	*	*	*	*	69	225	375	595	621	4
Incest	27	29	19	18	19	49	17	18	16	11	-31
Illegal homosexual acts	117	98	84	87	97	74	118	46	45	53	18
Indecent exposure	858	816	817	786	786	766	742	894	680	682	0
Other sexual crimes	9	16	16	30	34	55	71	103	101	144	43
Total Sexual crimes¹	7,325	6,558	6,726	6,552	6,331	6,527	6,696	7,361	7,693	8,604	12

- =The relevant legislation for this category was implemented in 2007-08.

~ =The relevant legislation for this category was implemented in 2010-11.

* = Crimes within this category were not separately identifiable before 2009-10.

Notes:

1. Implementation of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act on 1 December 2010 will have an effect on comparability of breakdown of Sexual crimes over time.

Table A3: Further breakdown of Sexual crimes¹ recorded by the police, Scotland, 2009-10 to 2013-14

Sexual crimes	Number					% change 12-13 to 13-14
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	
Rape & attempted rape	996	1,131	1,274	1,462	1,808	24
Rape	884	997	1,183	1,372	1,690	23
Attempted rape	112	134	91	90	118	31
Sexual assault	3,412	3,220	2,908	3,008	3,405	13
Sexual assault committed prior to 1 December 2010	1,685	1,275	288	316	358	13
Sexual assault against an adult 16+	~	321	1,139	1,149	1,323	15
Sexual assault against a child aged 13-15	~	67	245	312	372	19
Sexual assault against a child under 13	52	111	384	389	396	2
Lewd and libidinous practices	1,675	1,446	852	842	956	14
Crimes associated with prostitution	661	576	567	534	490	-8
Crimes relating to prostitution	418	353	344	348	295	-15
Soliciting services of person engaged in prostitution	162	154	149	133	117	-12
Brothel keeping	34	21	36	28	32	14
Immoral traffic	36	33	26	14	32	129
Procuration	11	15	12	11	14	27
Other	1,458	1,769	2,612	2,689	2,901	8
Other sexually coercive conduct against an adult 16+	~	53	247	339	343	1
Other sexually coercive conduct against a child aged 13-15	~	48	181	256	365	43
Other sexually coercive conduct against a child under 13	~	54	232	228	248	9
Other sexual offences involving 13-15 year old children	445	441	516	429	434	1
Taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children	69	225	375	595	621	4
Incest	49	17	18	16	11	-31
Illegal homosexual acts	74	118	46	45	53	18
Indecent exposure	766	742	894	680	682	0
Other sexual crimes	55	71	103	101	144	43
Total Sexual crimes¹	6,527	6,696	7,361	7,693	8,604	12

~ =The relevant legislation for this category was implemented in 2010-11.

Notes:

1. Implementation of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act on 1 December 2010 will have an effect on comparability of breakdown of Sexual crimes over time.

Table A4: Theft by housebreaking¹ (including attempts and housebreaking 'with intent'), Scotland, 2004-05 to 2013-14

Crime category	Number & Percentage										% change 12-13 to 13-14
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	
Domestic:	23,613	21,232	20,429	17,465	17,223	16,727	17,657	17,375	15,656	16,334	4
Dwelling	17,368	15,135	14,523	12,437	12,133	11,790	12,633	12,198	10,767	10,732	0
Non-dwelling	6,245	6,097	5,906	5,028	5,090	4,937	5,024	5,177	4,889	5,602	15
Other	11,346	10,087	10,151	7,978	8,273	7,047	7,360	6,847	5,859	5,938	1
Total Housebreaking	34,959	31,319	30,580	25,443	25,496	23,774	25,017	24,222	21,515	22,272	4
Percentage Domestic	68%	68%	67%	69%	68%	70%	71%	72%	73%	73%	

1. For a more detailed definition of housebreaking see [Annex 1](#).

Table A5: Theft of, and from, motor vehicles recorded by the police, Scotland, 2004-05 to 2013-14

Crime category	Number & Percentage										% change 12-13 to 13-14
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	
Theft from motor vehicle of which:	27,921	23,569	22,858	21,944	20,825	17,075	16,531	16,906	13,323	13,821	4
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	15,012	12,162	11,519	11,181	9,847	7,400	6,795	6,386	4,404	4,450	1
OLP with intent to steal	3,367	2,634	2,882	2,695	2,613	1,812	1,793	1,792	1,198	1,152	-4
Attempted theft OLP	2,024	1,657	1,659	1,341	1,189	961	907	810	557	587	5
Other theft	7,518	7,116	6,798	6,727	7,176	6,902	7,036	7,918	7,164	7,632	7
Theft of motor vehicle	12,339	11,317	11,820	9,864	9,407	7,706	7,325	6,087	5,149	5,340	4
Attempted theft of motor vehicle	3,294	2,724	3,180	2,241	2,144	1,598	1,391	973	582	636	9
Total Motor vehicle theft	43,554	37,610	37,858	34,049	32,376	26,379	25,247	23,966	19,054	19,797	4

Table A6: Crimes of Handling an offensive weapon recorded by the police, Scotland, 2004-05 to 2013-14

Crime category	Number & Percentage										% change 12-13 to 13-14
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	
Possession of an offensive weapon	5,794	5,982	6,189	5,398	4,892	3,839	3,248	2,820	1,863	1,728	-7
Restriction of an offensive weapon	2	3	1	3	8	9	20	19	17	6	-65
Having in a public place an article with a blade or point	3,749	3,643	3,920	3,588	4,080	3,194	3,015	2,792	2,135	2,061	-3
Total Handling an offensive weapon	9,545	9,628	10,110	8,989	8,980	7,042	6,283	5,631	4,015	3,795	-5

Table A7: Drug crimes recorded by the police, Scotland 2004-05 to 2013-14

Crime category	Number & Percentage										
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	% change 12-13 to 13-14
Illegal importation of drugs	1	23	9	9	9	17	30	19	24	27	13
Illegal cultivation of drugs	254	297	437	490	609	753	964	1,242	1,251	1,185	-5
Possession of drugs with intent to supply	9,078	9,293	10,444	9,328	9,697	9,131	6,144	5,423	3,861	3,594	-7
Possession of drugs	32,268	34,440	31,329	30,559	31,805	29,179	26,960	28,326	29,150	30,451	4
Drugs, other offences, money laundering	222	194	203	360	389	328	249	147	402	359	-11
Total Drug crimes	41,823	44,247	42,422	40,746	42,509	39,408	34,347	35,157	34,688	35,616	3

Table A8: Breach of the peace etc. offences recorded by the police, Scotland, 2009-10 to 2013-14

Crime category	Number & Percentage					
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	% change 12-13 to 13-14
Breach of the peace	87,403	58,432	33,710	25,072	21,755	-13
Threatening or abusive behaviour ¹	-	11,914	37,223	44,429	48,521	9
Offence of stalking ¹	-	122	495	605	875	45
Offensive behaviour at football ²	-	-	22	154	126	-18
Threatening communications ²	-	-	1	41	11	-73
Total Breach of the peace etc.	87,403	70,468	71,451	70,301	71,288	1

Notes:

1. Offence introduced in October 2010

2. Offence introduced in March 2012

Table A9: Racially aggravated offences, Scotland, 2004-05 to 2013-14

Crime category	Number & Percentage										
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	% change 12-13 to 13-14
Racially aggravated harassment	550	503	463	452	425	313	257	171	155	128	-17
Racially aggravated conduct	3306	3791	4011	4091	4,139	4,200	3,916	3,315	2,748	2,584	-6
Total	3,856	4,294	4,474	4,543	4,564	4,513	4,173	3,486	2,903	2,712	-7

4. ANNEXES

Annex 1: Data sources and definitions

Data collection:

- 4.1 The statistical return from which most of the figures in this bulletin are taken is a simple count of the numbers of crimes and offences recorded and cleared up by the police. Returns are submitted quarterly from Police Scotland at local authority level which allows a national total to be obtained. Amendments (such as the deletion of incidents found on investigation not to be criminal) which arise after the end of the financial year are not incorporated. However, due to the implementation of the Scottish Operational Management Information System (ScOMIS) in Police Scotland, it may be possible to reassess whether a revisions policy should be put in place. This will be considered for future publications and users consulted accordingly if it is thought that this would be a useful change in practice.
- 4.2 Information on the data source used in the Recorded Crime bulletin series and supporting metadata can be found in the Data Sources and Suitability document which is available via the following link:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0045/00458459.pdf>
- 4.3 The main Scottish Government Statement of Administrative Sources covers all sources of administrative data used by Scottish Government Statisticians. This statement can be found on the Scottish Government website at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/About/StatementAdminSources>
- A separate statement of administrative source is available for Police statistics via the following link:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0045/00451670.pdf>
- 4.4 Information is collected from other police forces, such as the British Transport Police, but these figures have **not** been included in the main body of this bulletin. Thus, in addition to those crimes and offences referred to throughout this bulletin there were in total, 1,454 crimes and 3,756 offences recorded by the British Transport Police, Ministry of Defence Police and Civil Nuclear Constabulary in 2013-14. The crime clear up rate was 41% and the offence clear up rate was 51%.

Definitions:

- 4.5 In one criminal incident, several crimes or offences may occur - e.g. a house may be broken into and vandalised and the occupants assaulted. In this example, crimes of housebreaking (which would include the vandalism) and assaults would be recorded. In multiple offence incidents more than one offence may be counted rather than one for the incident as a whole; that is, the counting system is offence based rather than incident based. An offence may have more than one victim - for example in robberies - and be committed by more than one offender - e.g. some assaults and housebreakings (note that for murder, attempted murder and culpable homicide, the number of crimes recorded is equal to the number of the victims). Thus the statistics in this bulletin are not directly comparable with statistics on action taken against offenders, as one offence may lead to several persons being charged.

Equally, an offender may be charged with several offences.

- 4.6** 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.”

- 4.7** Attempts to commit an offence are included in the statistics, in general in the same group as the substantive offence.

- 4.8** Housebreaking can be broken down into different building types: Dwelling, Non-dwelling and Other property. Where ‘domestic dwelling’ is presented in the statistics, this refers to dwellings and non-dwellings only. Definitions of the different types of building are as follows:

Dwelling is defined as a house which is being used or fit for residential purposes and includes:

- Caravans used as residential home and touring caravans if used as permanent domicile.
- Houses which are unfinished / under renovation but are capable of being secured against intrusion (e.g. lock on door) which are roofed and have windows and doors fitted are classed as dwelling houses.
- Boarding House where the owner resides permanently on the premises.
- Domestic garage, which is an integral part of a dwelling house (ie. there is a connecting door between house and garage).
- Occupied bedrooms within hotel.

Non-dwelling is defined as all roofed buildings used for domestic purposes other than dwellings and includes:

- Garages which are not an integral part of the dwelling, sheds and outhouses.
- Domestic garages, which are not an integral part of a dwelling house.
- Garden huts / garden sheds / allotment huts (non-commercial)
- Outhouses

Other property is defined as all roofed buildings not used for residential or domestic purposes i.e. commercial premises and includes:

- Portacabins – not used for storage e.g office (portacabins used for storage and non-static caravans would be classified as a Lockfast Place)

- Commercial / Business premises
- Factory buildings, Schools
- Park huts
- Show houses (used purely for that purpose)
- Boarding House where the owner does not reside permanently on the premises
- Ships – unless used as full time domicile
- Barn within a working farm

Reported crime:

4.9 These statistics do not of course reveal the incidence of all crime committed. Not all incidents are reported to the police. The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) 2012-13 estimated that 39% of crimes, as defined by the SCJS, were reported to the police. The two reasons most commonly given by victims for not reporting to the police were that the police would not have been able to do anything (37%) incident was considered by them to be too trivial (36%) or the police would not have been interested (15%).

4.10 Some crimes and offences, for example, speeding or possession of drugs, have no victim other than perhaps the perpetrator and are discovered and recorded as a result of police activity rather than by being reported to the police by the public. Hence, the strength and deployment of the police forces mainly determine the numbers of such crimes and offences recorded.

4.11 Contraventions of Scottish criminal law are divided for statistical purposes into crimes and offences. "Crime" is *generally* used for the more serious criminal acts; the less serious 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.

4.12 The detailed classification of crimes and offences used by The Scottish Government to collect criminal statistics contains about 475 codes. These are grouped in the bulletin as shown in [Section 5](#). Further information on crime codes can be found in the User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland, available via the following link:

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

Crimes and offences cleared up

4.13 The definition of "cleared up" is noted below. This definition came into force with effect from 1 April 1996.

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 crime or offence the case is cleared up immediately because the offender is "caught in the act", e.g. motor vehicle 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. In some cases there is sufficient evidence but a prosecution cannot be brought, for example, because the accused has left the country. In such cases, the offender is said to have been traced and the crime is regarded as cleared up. The other terms in the definition describe the various actions that must be taken by the police against offenders.

4.14 Crimes or offences recorded by the police as cleared up in one financial year, year y, may have been committed and therefore recorded in a previous year, i.e. year y-1. This means that the number of crimes or offences cleared up are being expressed as a percentage of a different set of crimes or offences. This means that clear up rates in excess of 100% can arise in a given year.

4.15 Clear up rates are calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{number of crimes cleared up in year y}}{\text{total number of crimes recorded in year y}} \times \frac{100}{1}$$

4.16 Clear up rates for the Motor vehicle offences group are not included in the bulletin since many of these crimes are offences for which the offender is 'caught in the act'.

4.17 As the number of crimes cleared up in a year may include crimes recorded in a previous year, this is not a perfect measure of crimes cleared up, particularly since this method can result in clear up rates of over 100%. The best method would be to take the number of crimes recorded and the subset of those which have been cleared up by the police. However due to the aggregate way in which the data is obtained, it is not possible to do this at present.

4.18 Police Scotland are working on the development of a single crime recording system which when available, may open up the potential for more individual level crime data to be available which may make it possible to obtain a more accurate count of crimes cleared up which have been recorded in that same period. This is something we will investigate with Police Scotland and consult users on in due course.

Annex 2: Quality of the statistics

Due to the complexities of the issues in Motor vehicle offences, only two of the categories are considered fully comparable with the existing time series: Dangerous and careless driving and Driving under the influence.

As a result, the total number of Motor vehicle offences is subject to a break in the time series at 2013-14. We require to investigate these issues in greater detail to find a resolution to these problems and hope to find a resolution in due course.

Changes to data collection:

4.19 The data provided by the Police Scotland go through a process of quality assurance in which data received are checked across the four quarters of the financial year period, and against the previous year. Anything unusual or which we feel requires further explanation is then fed back to the Police for their attention. Any amendments are carried out and the final data is used to produce a set of data tables which can be used to check the final dataset. If the police are content that the figures are an accurate reflection of the dataset, then the data is officially signed off for use in the publication.

During the quality assurance checking process, it is possible for errors to be found in previous years data. While we do not routinely revise figures, we are committed to correcting errors in the data and providing suitable explanations for any changes made to previously published data.

4.20 2013-14 is the first full reporting year since the establishment of Police Scotland. As a result, data is no longer returned by the eight legacy police force areas and instead comes from one central unit within Police Scotland, using their new performance management reporting tool. To ensure that the dataset produced from this new system is consistent with data returned from legacy police forces, an extensive quality assurance exercise has been carried out to closely compare the data held by the Scottish Government with that extracted from the new force system.

The findings of this exercise have been published alongside the statistical bulletin in a technical report ([Annex 3](#)), publicly available via the following weblink:

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

Revisions to previous years data:

4.21 The work around the technical report raised several data quality issues which have led to a number of corrections to legacy data published in previous years. The extent of these amendments to the data are detailed in the Technical report.

General corrections to legacy force data

- Breach of the peace

It has been found that data returned previously by legacy Tayside police for

2004-05 onwards have been subject to an undercount. Breach of the peace offences have only been included where the crime was cleared up. However, there were a number of these offences which were not cleared up and these have had to be added to the data to rectify this issue. As well as a resulting undercount in the data, this problem would have artificially increased the clear up rate for these offences. This issue has been corrected for all years.

- Urinating etc. and Consumption of alcohol in designated places, byelaws prohibited

Due to the number of systems used by legacy forces to obtain data, it has been found that the legacy data for Tayside had been subject to double counting for 2010-11 onwards for these two offences. These data have been corrected.

- Refusal to quit licensed premises

Due to the number of systems used by legacy forces to obtain data, it has been found that the legacy data for Tayside has been subject to double counting since the offence code was introduced in 2009-10. These data have been corrected.

- Litter offences and Bicycles, other offences

A number of legacy force systems were used to obtain these statistics. However, it was found that one of the systems required, was missed from the legacy Lothian & Borders data which means that past data was subject to a very slight undercount. Data has been corrected back to 2008-09 using ScOMIS data but it has not been possible to correct data further back than this. However, the undercount is small and the effect on historic data is minimal.

- Disorderly on licensed premises and Control of Pollution

Due to the number of systems used by legacy forces to obtain data, it has been found that the legacy data for Tayside has been subject to double counting for this offence. These data have been corrected back to 2008-09, however it has not been possible to correct data prior to this and this has resulted in a break in the time series from 2008-09. Disorderly on licensed premises affects the comparability for the Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct category, and Control of Pollution affects the other miscellaneous offences category.

As a result of these two offences which affect comparability, the total number of miscellaneous offences is subject to a break in the time series from 2008-09.

Specific data errors

- Salmon and freshwater fisheries offences

The data submitted by the legacy Central Scotland Police for 2012-13 was found to be erroneous. The error affected all three local authorities in the legacy force area: Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling. These data have been corrected and will affect the Other miscellaneous offences category.

- Drunk and incapable

The data submitted by the legacy Tayside Police for 2009-10 was discovered to be erroneous. The error affected two of the three local authorities in the legacy force

area: Angus and Perth & Kinross. These data have been corrected and will affect the Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct category.

- Data Protection Act offences

The data submitted by the legacy Lothian and Borders Police for 2012-13 was discovered to be erroneous. The error affected only one of the five local authorities in this legacy force area, namely East Lothian. These data have been corrected and will affect the Other miscellaneous offences category.

4.22 Motor vehicle offences provided by Police Scotland for 2013-14, have been subject to a number of issues affecting comparability over time.

ScOMIS does not include data which is not considered by Police Scotland to be in the definition of 'criminal activity which the police are faced' and as a result a number of data sources which were previously included by some of the legacy police forces, are no longer included.

- Safety Camera Partnership

This data source affects the comparability of the following offences: Speeding; Other speeding; Drivers neglect of traffic directions (not pedestrian crossing); Drivers contravention of pedestrian crossing regulations and Motorway traffic offences. In addition, it was found that legacy Strathclyde did not include Safety Camera Partnership data in their returns for 2007-08 onwards which means that data for this time period onwards is not comparable across Scotland. We are investigating how to resolve this comparability issue, but in the meantime, data for 2013-14 cannot be compared with data for previous years. This affects the Speeding and Other motor vehicle offences categories.

- Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme

This data source affects the comparability of the following offences: Registration or identification mark offences; Lighting offences (motor vehicles) and Construction and use regulation (other than lighting) offences. It also appears that legacy forces were not consistently including this data in their returns. We are investigating how to resolve this comparability issue, but in the meantime, data for 2013-14 cannot be compared with data for previous years. This affects the Unlawful use of a motor vehicle and Vehicle defect offences categories.

- Tickets issued by the DVLA

This data source data from the VDRS, relating to tickets issued for Vehicle Excise Licence offences, as this is not considered to be in the definition of 'criminal activity which the police are faced'. It also appears that legacy forces were not consistently including this data in their returns. We are investigating how to resolve this comparability issue, but in the meantime, data for 2013-14 cannot be compared with data for previous years. This affects the Unlawful use of motor vehicle category.

- Invalid data

It has been found that legacy Dumfries & Galloway and Fife were including invalid data in their returns for a number of motor vehicle offences: Using a motor vehicle without a test certificate; Driving without a licence (including under age); Failure to

insure against third party risks; Lighting offences (motor vehicle) (Dumfries & Galloway, 2011-12 and 2012-13 only); Construction and use regulations (other than lighting) (Dumfries & Galloway only); Seat belt offences and Mobile Phone offences. These data have been corrected back to 2008-09 using data from ScOMIS, however, it has not been possible to correct data in earlier years.

There were also two specific data errors which were identified. Failure to provide information to identify driver of a motor vehicle – an erroneous figure had been provided in the legacy force data for Edinburgh City for 2009-10. Insure against third party risks, other offences – an erroneous figure had been provided in the legacy force data for Perth & Kinross for 2008-09. Both of these errors have been corrected.

- Double counting in legacy data

It has been found that legacy Lothian & Borders has been double counting a number of motor vehicle offences, as they were counting tickets issues and cases resulting from non-payment of tickets. This affects Using a motor vehicle without a test certificate, Driving without a licence (including under age), Failure to insure against third party risks), Seat belt offences and Mobile phone offences. We are investigating how to resolve this comparability issue, but in the meantime, data for 2013-14 cannot be compared with data for previous years. This affects the Unlawful use of motor vehicle, Seat belt offences and Mobile phone offences categories.

4.23 Detailed information on the quality assurance processes applied to recorded crime data is available in the User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland, available via the following link:

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

4.24 In November 2014, HMICS published the findings from the 2014 Crime Audit. Details about the Audit are featured throughout the relevant sections of this statistical bulletin. Further details about the audit can be found in [Annex 4](#).

4.25 A Framework of Assurance has been developed for Recorded Crime statistics to provide evidence on:

- the suitability of the administrative data for use in producing official statistics;
- factors that the statistical producer needs to take into account in producing the official statistics;
- the information that users need to know in order to make informed use of the statistics.

The Framework of Assurance can be accessed via the following link:

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

Annex 3: Recorded Crime: Comparability of Police Scotland and Legacy Force Data

4.26 With the establishment of Police Scotland, a new IT system, Scottish Operational and Management Information System (ScOMIS), was developed. This collates crime reports from across the variety of systems used by the eight legacy police forces into one central information management system and supplies the Scottish Government with recorded crime data. Previously, the Scottish Government collected recorded crime data from the eight legacy police forces, who in turn had extracted the data from their own systems.

There were two aims to the report:

- To investigate the comparability of ScOMIS data and legacy force data; and
- Check the quality of recorded crime data supplied by the police.

The Technical report on the comparability of recorded crime data report should be read alongside the [User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland](#) and this bulletin, as these provide context and background information on recorded crime data.

To enable a full check of whether data extracted from ScOMIS were comparable with legacy force data, ScOMIS was populated with data for 2008-09 onwards. These data were then compared with the data previously submitted by the legacy forces. To be as thorough as possible, this was done at local authority level for all 470 crime codes over the five year period between 2008-09 and 2012-13. Any differences were then investigated by Police Scotland and rectified if appropriate.

The majority of differences between the data sources were due to the fact that a snapshot of historical data was being compared to a more up-to-date snapshot of data. There were two reasons why the recorded crime data may have changed in the time period between two snapshots:

- **Changes made as a result of on-going police investigation.** This includes the reclassification of crimes and offences and no criming, i.e. where it is determined by the police that no crime actually took place. It is not possible to know the extent to which differences between ScOMIS and previous data are due to these types of changes – Section 14 of the [User Guide to Recorded Crime in Scotland](#).
- **Changes to crime codes.** A number of changes have been made to crime codes over the period 2008-09 to 2012-13, as well as changes to how particular incidents are recorded by the police. These changes do not affect the accuracy or comparability of recorded crime data previously published by the Scottish Government.

A number of specific issues with the data were identified:

- **Issues relating to ScOMIS.** Two issues were discovered with the way ScOMIS was extracting data from the legacy force systems. Both of these issues have since been rectified by Police Scotland.
- **Issues relating to legacy force data.** The issues identified with legacy forces' data collections include recording errors as well as specific data errors on a small number of crime codes. The majority of errors identified in this section will be corrected with the publication of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin. However, the overall comparability of Group 6 has been affected by these errors.
- **Changes in reporting practices.** There were a large number queries raised with Police Scotland regarding Group 7 offences. They related to both the comparability and the quality of the data. It was determined, that with the establishment of Police Scotland there has been a standardisation of the reporting practices for what data should and should not be included in data returns to the Scottish Government. These included offences recorded as a result of the Scottish Safety Camera Programme, offences arising from the DVLA issuing tickets, offences resulting from the Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme and offences recorded as a result of the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency. With the standardisation in reporting practices the overall comparability of Group 7 has been affected. This is true for comparing the data post and pre reform as well as when comparing the data pre reform.

In terms of comparability, the Scottish Government are satisfied that crime data, Groups 1 to 5, are comparable pre and post reform. This means there will be no break in the time series for this data.

However the overall comparability for offences data, Groups 6 and 7, has been affected by some of the issues relating to legacy force data and changes in recording practices. For Group 6, all crime codes are fully comparable from 2008-09 onwards and overall comparisons for Group 6 should only be made for 2008-09 onwards. There are greater comparability issues for Group 7 and overall comparisons for Group 7 should not be made prior to 2013-14. This is discussed fully in Section 7 of the [Technical report on the comparability of recorded crime data](#).

Overall, the Scottish Government are confident that ScOMIS can provide data which are accurate and reliable for inclusion in the Recorded Crime in Scotland statistical bulletin series.

The full version of the report can be accessed here:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/TechnicalReport>

Annex 4: Auditing of data by HMICS

4.27 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland have conducted and, in November 2014, published, a thorough audit of police recorded crime data. In this detailed audit, HMICS has confirmed that the quality of crime recording in Scotland is good, supported by a system of checks and balances, though there is scope for improvement in relation to some sexual crimes and non-crime related incidents.

The Crime Audit 2014 is the largest into crime recording undertaken by HMICS and shows that the reform of Scottish policing has provided new opportunities for greater consistency. HM Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland, Derek Penman, said of the review:

"It is important that the public can have confidence in crime figures and the scale of this report, which examined five times more records than any previous report, provides that.

"Police Scotland's own auditing of crime recording is good and the fact it broadly mirrors our results should provide assurance as to its accuracy. "

HMICS tested the accuracy of crime recording through an audit of records recorded between 1 April 2013 and 30 June 2014. In deciding which records to audit, HMICS took several factors into account including areas identified as weak in previous audits, areas of high risk or emerging concern, and national and local policing priorities. HMICS audited records in six categories, four of which related to specific crime types:

- Sexual crimes
- Violent crime
- Housebreaking
- Hate crime
- Non-crime related incidents (i.e. incidents that were potentially crime-related but which were eventually closed as being non-crime related)
- No-crimes (i.e. cases that were originally thought to be a crime but were later redesignated as not being a crime following additional investigation).

The examination of no-crimes involves an assessment of whether the no-crime decision was correct. Because the no-crime test is different from that applied to incidents, the no-crime results are reported separately.

The following tests can be applied to incidents:

- Test 1 involves reviewing the initial report to the police (the 'incident') and assessing whether the incident has been correctly closed. Correct closure means either that (a) the incident was closed as non-crime related and contained sufficient information to dispel any inference of criminality; or (b) the incident indicated a crime had occurred and a crime report was traced. Incidents which result in a crime report proceed to Test 2.
- Test 2 involves reviewing the crime report to assess whether the crimes recorded are correctly classified and counted. Test 2 allows us to consider whether subsuming has been carried out correctly

- **Timeliness:** crimes should be recorded within 72 hours of the circumstances becoming known to the police (or within seven days where the delay is outwith police control).

All three tests were applied to the four crime types HMICS examined (sexual crimes, violent crime, housebreaking and hate crime). Only Test 1 was applied to non-crime related incidents as reviewing them involves a simple assessment of whether the decision not to record a crime was correct.

This was the first crime audit in which HMICS applied a timeliness test. At the time of the review of incident and crime recording in 2013, the SCRS required that crimes be recorded 'as soon as reasonably practicable'. During our 2013 review, HMICS recommended that Police Scotland should clearly define the term 'as soon as reasonably practicable' by introducing timescales.

HMICS also found no overt evidence of performance targets affecting crime recording. If performance targets were driving crime recording practice, HMICS would expect to see crimes featuring in Police Scotland's internal performance framework being under-recorded or misclassified. For example, the performance framework includes a key performance indicator to reduce the number of serious assaults. If performance pressures were driving recording behaviour, HMICS would expect to see efforts to reduce the number of serious assaults by classifying assaults as less serious (common assaults) or more serious (attempted murders). While HMICS found some evidence of the former, they found no evidence of the latter.

The full report, including key findings, recommendations and improvement actions, can be accessed from the HMICS website.

<http://www.hmics.org/sites/default/files/publications/HMICS%20-%20Crime%20Audit%202014%20Report.pdf>

Annex 5: User review of the geographical breakdown at which Recorded Crime statistics are presented

4.28 In previous bulletins in the series, data have been collected from and presented for the eight legacy police force areas. However, following the implementation of Police Scotland on 1 April 2013, data are for a single police service. As a result it is no longer appropriate to present data at police force level. However, data continues to be collected at local authority level and so LA breakdowns are not affected by this change.

4.29 In April 2014, Justice Analytical Services carried out a survey of users of the Recorded Crime in Scotland Statistical bulletin series to seek their views on the most appropriate geographical level at which users would want data to be made available. The consultation questionnaire was sent to ScotStat users as well as being posted on the website to ensure access for those not registered with ScotStat. A copy of the report and recommendations can be viewed online via the following link: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/StakeCon/RCUC2014>

4.30 We proposed to produce more tables at local authority level and most respondents to the consultation stated that they had no concerns about this change, although there was a desire to present information at a lower level of geography than local authority.

Some users also expressed a desire for information to be made available more frequently.

While we have considered these issues in the past, the systems used by the eight legacy police forces posed a barrier to more frequent and more detailed data collection. However, the new policing landscape and changes to IT systems do provide us with an opportunity to revisit these suggestions. Once the feasibility of these suggestions have been explored with Police Scotland, we would seek to consult users in more detail in due course.

4.31 The tables which accompany this statistical bulletin have been updated to reflect the geographical changes and allow users to access more data at local authority level. However, we always welcome feedback on the content of our statistical bulletins and users are welcome to submit their comments to:
justiceanalysts@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Crime statistics user event

4.32 On 6 October 2014, users of crime statistics were invited to attend an event presenting the sources of crime statistics available and to discuss user's needs. The presentations from the day and the user views from the discussion sessions are available via the following link:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime>

Users were invited to the event through ScotStat. If you would like to be kept informed about developments in crime statistics, we suggest registering with ScotStat:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/scotstat>

Annex 6: Changes to the statistical bulletin for 2013-14.

4.33 For 2013-14 there have been a number of changes to the standard breakdowns included in the bulletin tables.

Since the establishment of Police Scotland on 1 April 2013, it is no longer appropriate to publish information at a police force level. Since only limited information can be presented in the statistical bulletin, a set of web tables have been published alongside this statistical bulletin which allows users to access more information at local authority level for the last ten years. We aim to present more information in this way in due course but in the meantime if you have any comments on how the data is presented or if you have any suggestions of how you'd like to see information presented in future, please contact us on the details below.

- 4.34** In addition to the change in geographical presentation, there have also been a small number of changes to the breakdown of offences.
- 4.35** As detailed in the data quality section of the bulletin, a number of issues were identified in the Technical report which affects the comparability of offences. As a result, where data cannot be compared with previous years, this has been highlighted in the tables.
- 4.36** As the number of crimes included in the Other category is fairly large, we have opted to split out the two crime codes which make up the largest proportion of this category: Urinating etc. and Consumption of alcohol in public places (designated byelaws prohibited). Urinating etc. has been represented as a category in it's own right, while Consumption of alcohol was found to sit best with Drunkenness offences. These offences have been renamed as Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct and data reworked across the time series to ensure consistency.

As with miscellaneous offences, the 'Other' category was found to be rather large and this was mainly due to Seat belt offences and Mobile phone offences. These have therefore been separated into their own categories. We have in the past received enquiries about these types of offence and therefore it is hoped that the separation of these categories is found to be useful to users.

Annex 7: Comparisons with England and Wales and Northern Ireland

- 4.37** Recorded crime statistics for England and Wales are not directly comparable with those in Scotland. The recorded crime statistics for Scotland are collected on the basis of the Scottish Crime Recording Standard, which was introduced in 2004. Like its counterpart in England and Wales, it aims to give consistency in crime recording.

The main principles of the Scottish Crime Recording Standard itself are similar to the National Crime Recording Standard for England/Wales with regard to when a crime should be recorded. However there are various differences between the respective Counting Rules in that they specify different approaches for counting the number of crimes that should be recorded as a result of a single incident.

For example, crimes recorded in England and Wales tend to be incident based where the Principle Crime Rule states that if the sequence of crimes in an incident, or a complex crime, contains more than one type of crime, then the most serious crime should be counted. For example, an incident where an intruder breaks into a home and assaults the sole occupant would be recorded as two crimes in Scotland, while in England and Wales it would be recorded as one crime.

- 4.38** Differences in legislation and common law have also to be taken into account when comparing the crime statistics for England/Wales and Scotland.
- 4.39** [Crime Statistics for England and Wales](#) are published quarterly on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website.

- 4.40** The legal system in Northern Ireland is based on that of England and Wales and the Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI) has the same notifiable offence list for recorded crime as used in England and Wales. In addition, the PSNI has adopted the [NCRS](#) and [Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime](#) that applies in England and Wales. Thus there are similar comparability considerations between recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Crime statistics for Northern Ireland are collected and published separately. The latest police recorded crime data for Northern Ireland can be accessed here: http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm.

- 4.41** Further detail on the comparability of crime data can be found in the User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland, available via the following link:

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

Annex 8: Users of the Statistics

- 4.42** Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin series are published annually and report on crimes and offences recorded and cleared up by the Police in Scotland. These statistics are used by a large number of internal and external stakeholders for a variety of purposes.
- 4.43** The statistics form part of the evidence base for the Building Safer Communities (BSC) programme. The programme was established in 2009 to accelerate crime reduction in Scotland. The purpose, as agreed by the BSC programme board, is to build the evidence base, provide strategic challenge, reduce violence and increase community safety and resilience.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/justicestrategy/programmes/building-safer-communities>

Statistics on Violent crime and Handling offensive weapons are a key part of the evidence base which informs policies on reducing violence and knife crime.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/policies/reducing-crime/reducing-violence>

- 4.44** As part of tackling violence, the No Knives Better Lives youth engagement programme was launched in 2009 in 10 areas across Scotland. In 2014 this was rolled out across all local authorities. The programme aims to provide education and support to young people to prevent and deter knife carrying and use. This preventative approach is balanced by tough measures for those who commit knife crime.
- 4.45** Sexual crimes are used to evaluate the effectiveness of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 which 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 crimes, particularly the gender specific nature of the common law offence of rape.
- <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/10/sexualoffencesactguidance>

The Act replaced a number of common law crimes including Rape, Clandestine injury to women and Sodomy with new statutory sexual crimes. 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).
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/10/sexualoffencesactguidance>

- 4.46** Crimes on Sexual crimes are also used to inform Equally Safe, Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women.
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/violence-women/strategydocuments>

Equally Safe sets out Scotland's strategy to take action on all forms of violence against women and girls. While the overarching aim is to prevent and eradicate violence against women and girls, it identifies key priority areas. While the strategy sets out some early commitments, it explains how a phased approach will help ensure that the longer-term change is sustained.

- 4.47** Statistics on Wildlife crime also feeds into the Wildlife Crime in Scotland Annual Report. This report details wildlife offences in Scotland, including information on incidences and prosecutions during the year, and on research, advice and other work relevant to wildlife crime.
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/10/2293>

- 4.48** Crime statistics are also used by a variety of external stakeholders. A flavour of such uses are:
- Utility companies who wish to assess the safety of an area before sending employees out into the public
 - Insurance companies assessing the risk of crime in different areas
 - Local authority planning
 - Academic research
 - Students and school pupils writing dissertations and carrying out projects

- 4.49** Our user consultations in 2009 and 2014 found that our statistics were used for the following purposes -

1. Monitoring trends
2. Research and development
3. Local authority reporting
4. General awareness of issues and trends
5. Provide data on single outcome agreements or national indicators
6. Policy development
7. Briefing

4.50 Official statistics are a tool used in decision making both inside and outside government, and for this tool to be effective it must be designed to meet the needs of users. Comments on the uses you have made of these statistics and any suggestions for their improvement are always welcomed and should be sent to justiceanalysts@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

4.51 Further information on users and uses of the statistics is available in the User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland, available via the following link: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/UserGuide>

Annex 9: Future considerations

4.52 As stated in [Annex 3](#), it has been the case with data in previous years, that data from the police are considered to be snapshot and are not revised unless errors are identified which we are committed to correcting. This has always been the case since the publication of the statistical bulletin series began and the policy of non-revising data is due to the burden it would have placed on the eight legacy forces to resubmit data each year. However, the implementation of the Scottish Operational Management Information System (ScOMIS) in Police Scotland provides an opportunity to reassess whether a revisions policy should be put in place.

The feasibility of amending the revisions policy and any potential impact on the statistics will be considered for future publications. We will therefore seek to consult users to obtain their views on this in due course.

4.53 At present, legacy police force systems are still in place for the recording of incidents and crimes. Police Scotland are working on the development of a single crime recording system which when available, may open up the potential for more individual level crime data to be available. This is something which many of our users have shown an interest in the past. At present, we are restricted to the level of analysis which we can carry out on the data since it is held at an aggregate level. Access to more detailed information would allow us to undertake more detailed analyses and this is something we are currently taking forward with Police Scotland. We will consult with users of the statistics in due course as appropriate.

4.54 Consideration is also being given to the way users can access data. The tables which accompany this bulletin provide users with access to more data at a local authority level for the first time. Consideration is also being given to Open Data.

However, we are always keen to hear users' views on our products. If you have any comments or suggestions on how you would like to access information, please contact us at justiceanalysts@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Annex 10: Other notes

4.55 The following symbols are used throughout the tables in this bulletin:

- =The relevant legislation for this category was implemented in 2007-08.
- * = Crimes within this category were not separately identifiable before 2009-10.
- ~ =The relevant legislation for this category was implemented in 2010-11.

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

The estimated cost of compliance for supplying and validating the data for this bulletin is: **£700**.

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>

4.57 Justice Analytical Services publishes a work plan each year detailing the programme of work planned over the current financial year period. The work of the division covers both an agreed forward programme of analytical priorities, and routine analytical work particularly related to the compilation of National and Official Statistics, ongoing project management and knowledge transfer activity.

Analytical planning to develop a programme for the financial year 2014-15 followed a structured process of engagement with policy colleagues which was designed to closely align our analysis with current policy priorities and to the delivery of outcomes. The work plan is available via the following link:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/JASAP11-12>

4.58 Clearly, only a limited selection of tables can be included in any statistical bulletin. Further analysis of recorded crime statistics can be supplied on request. This includes available information relating to time periods other than those covered in the bulletin. In certain cases a fee is charged. For details of what can be provided, please telephone Jan Young on 0131 244 5428 or e-mail JusticeAnalysts@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

5. CLASSIFICATION OF CRIMES AND OFFENCES

CRIMES

Group 1: Non-sexual crimes of violence

Homicide etc. -

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

Includes:

- Murder
- Culpable homicide
 - Culpable homicide (common law)
 - Causing death by dangerous driving
 - Causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs
 - Causing death by careless driving
 - Illegal driver involved in fatal accident
 - Corporate homicide

Attempted murder and 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.

Robbery -

Robbery and assault with intent to rob

Other -

Includes:

- 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

Group 2: Sexual crimes

Rape and attempted rape -

Includes:

- Rape
- Attempted rape

Sexual assault -

Includes:

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

Crimes associated with prostitution -

Includes:

- Crimes relating to prostitution
- Soliciting services of person engaged in prostitution
- Brothel keeping
- Immoral traffic
- Procuration

Other -

Includes:

- Other sexually coercive conduct
- Other sexual crimes involving 13-15 year old children
- Taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children
- Incest
- Unnatural crimes
- Public indecency
- Sexual exposure
- Other sexual crimes

Group 3: Crimes of dishonesty

(Also referred to as **Dishonesty**)

Housebreaking -

Includes:

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

Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP) -

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

Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP -

Includes :

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

Theft of motor vehicle -

- Theft of a motor vehicle and contents
- Attempted theft of a motor vehicle

Shoplifting -

Shoplifting

Other theft -

Includes :

- Theft of pedal cycles
- Theft from a motor vehicle not elsewhere classified

Fraud -

Includes:

- Common law fraud
- Statutory fraud
- Forgery and uttering (excluding currency crimes)

Other crimes of dishonesty -

Includes:

- Forgery (other)
- Reset
- Embezzlement
- Corruption

Group 4: Fire-raising, vandalism etc.

Fire-raising -

Includes:

- Fire-raising
- Muirburn

Vandalism, etc. -

Includes:

- Malicious mischief
- Vandalism
- Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)
- Reckless conduct with firearms

Group 5: 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
- Having in prison an article with a blade or point
- Possession of a firearm in a prison
- Possession of an offensive weapon (not elsewhere specified) in a prison

Drugs -

Includes:

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

Other -

Includes:

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

OFFENCES

Group 6: Miscellaneous offences

Common assault -

Includes:

- Common assault
- Common assault on an emergency worker

Breach of the peace etc. -

Includes:

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

Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct -

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
- Consumption of alcohol in designated places, byelaws prohibited

Urinating etc. -

Includes:
Urinating /defecating

Other -

Includes:

- Racially aggravated harassment
- Racially aggravated conduct
- 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

Group 7: Motor vehicle offences

Dangerous and careless driving -

Includes:

- Dangerous driving offences
- Driving carelessly

Driving under the influence -

Includes:

- Driving or in charge of motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs
- Blood alcohol content above limit
- Failing to provide breath, blood or urine specimens

Speeding -

Includes:

- Speeding in restricted areas
- Other speeding offences

Unlawful use of vehicle -

Includes:

- Driving while disqualified
- Driving without a licence
- Driving without insurance
- Driving without a test certificate
- Vehicle tax and registration and identification offences

Vehicle defect offences -

Includes:

- Construction and use regulations
- Lighting offences

Seat belt offences -

Seat belt offences

Mobile phone offences -

Other -

Mobile phone offences

Includes:

- Accident offences
- Parking offences

AN OFFICIAL STATISTICS PUBLICATION FOR SCOTLAND

Official and National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Both undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs and are produced free from any political interference.

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How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

- are available through Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics
- are available via an alternative route
- may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact justiceanalysts@scotland.gsi.gov.uk for further information.
- cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, 3WR, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

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