

CRIME AND JUSTICE

Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20

This bulletin presents National Statistics on crimes and offences recorded by the police in 2019-20. 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 reveal the incidence of all crime committed since not all crimes are reported to the police. For a definition of crimes recorded, refer to [Annex 1](#).

Key Points from Recorded Crime in Scotland

Between 2018-19 and 2019-20, crimes recorded by the police in Scotland remained almost unchanged, increasing by less than 1% from 246,480 to 246,516. The 2019-20 figures include 1,681 new crimes recorded under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, following its enactment on the 1st April 2019. A further 107 new crimes were recorded towards the end of 2019-20 under the Coronavirus Act 2020 and the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulation 2020. The recording of crime remains at one of the lowest levels seen since 1974.

Other changes between 2018-19 and 2019-20:

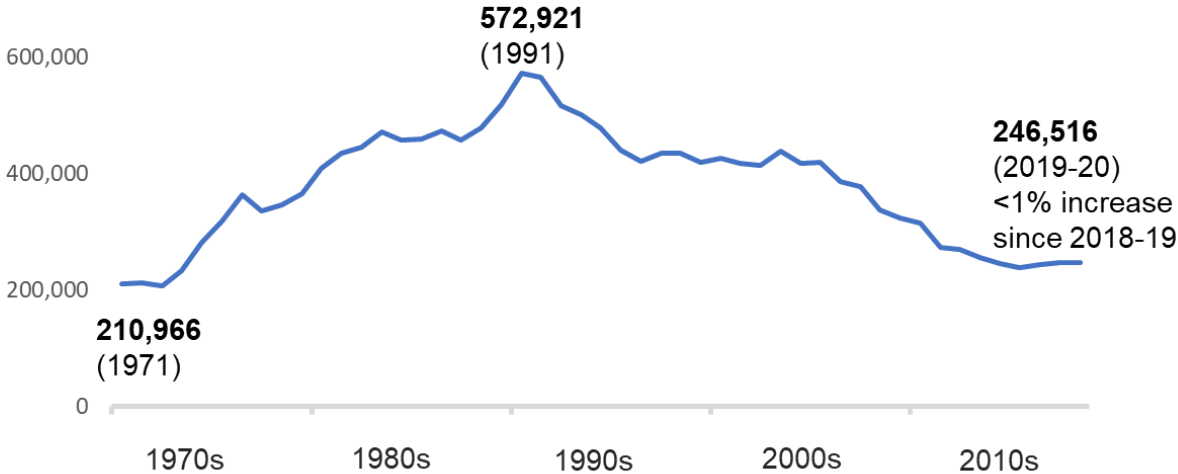
- Non-sexual crimes of violence increased by 16%, from 8,008 to 9,316. This increase is due to the recording of 1,681 new crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, following its enactment on the 1st April 2019. All other non-sexual crimes of violence collectively decreased by 5%.
- Sexual crimes decreased by 1% from 13,547 to 13,364. This is the first year since 2008-09 where sexual crimes haven't increased, though these crimes remain at the second highest level seen since 1971, the first year for which comparable groups are available.
- Crimes of dishonesty decreased by 3%, from 114,506 to 111,409. The recording of these crimes is at the lowest level seen since 1971.
- Fire-raising, vandalism etc. decreased by 1% from 47,997 to 47,731. The recording of these crimes is at the lowest level seen since 1976.
- Other crimes increased by 3% from 62,422 to 64,589. Most of these crimes relate to drug possession, crimes against public justice or handling offensive weapons.

Offences recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 1% from 247,791 to 250,662.

- Miscellaneous offences decreased by 1%, from 130,686 to 128,755.
- Motor vehicle offences increased by 4% from 117,105 to 121,907.

Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20

The number of crimes recorded by the police rose steadily from the 1970s to the early 1990s. Since then crime has generally fallen.



Change in Crimes

Since 2010-11, most types of crime have fallen, though Sexual crime has increased.



Change since: **2010-11** → **2018-19**

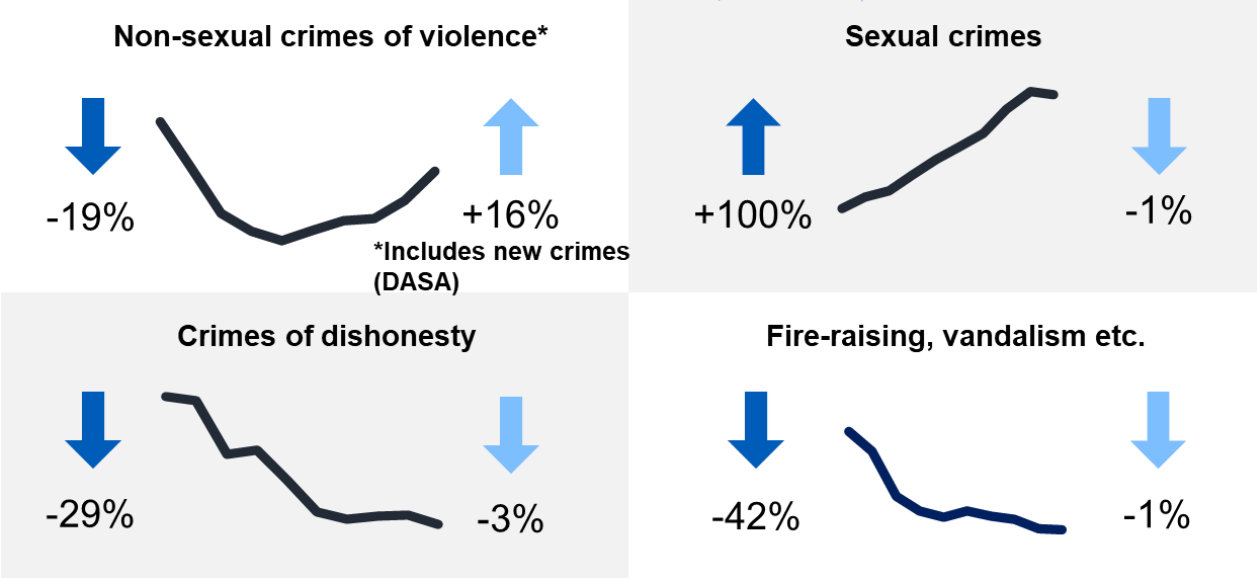


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1. Background

Statistics on recorded crimes and offences inform the Scottish Government's Justice Vision and Priorities - available via the following link:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Justice/justicestrategy>.

These statistics are also used by a wide range of stakeholders. Further information on users and uses of the statistics is available in [Annex 4](#) of this bulletin and in the User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland, available via the following link:

[http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecorded Crime/UserGuide](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/UserGuide).

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, which can be found on the Scottish Government website:

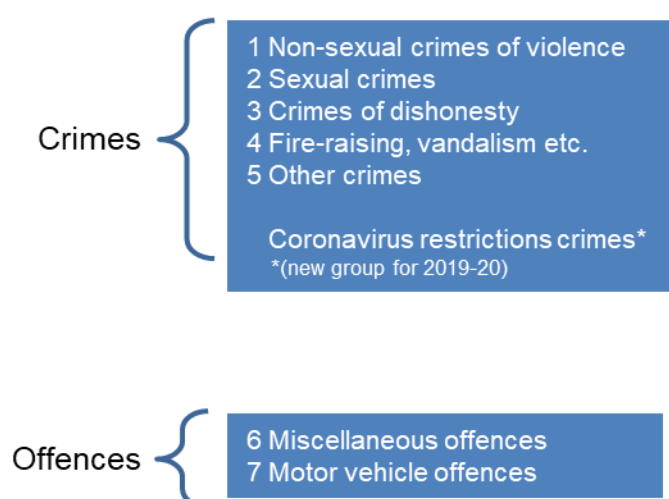
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/>

Contraventions of Scottish criminal law are divided for statistical purposes into crimes and offences. The term "crime" is generally used for the more serious criminal acts; the less serious are termed "offences". The distinction is made only for statistical reporting purposes and has no impact on how the police investigate reports of criminal activity. The "seriousness" of the offence is generally related to the maximum sentence that can be imposed. This distinction has been consistently used in the Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletins since publication began in 1983 and, prior to this, in the Criminal statistics publication dating back to the 1920s.

A further distinction, although not absolute, is that the numbers of offences recorded by the police generally tends to be affected more by police activity and operational decisions than the numbers of crimes.

For further information on crime and offence groups, see [Figure 1](#) and [Chapter 7](#).

Figure 1: Breakdown of crime and offence groups



The [Scottish Crime Recording Board](https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-official-statistics-present-information-recorded-crime-related-topics/) ran a consultation on how these National Statistics are presented. This included inviting user views on potential changes to the grouping structure outlined above. The consultation closed on 30th November 2019, with further background available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-official-statistics-present-information-recorded-crime-related-topics/>

Following the consultation, the Crime Board was due to consider responses alongside other stakeholder feedback in advance of deciding any changes to how these statistics are presented in future. However this work is currently paused due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the resultant increase in demand for associated analysis (for example the recent introduction of new monthly official statistics on crimes and offences recorded by the police). Going forward, users will be kept informed of any developments relating to the consultation through the ScotStat network.

Crimes are presented in this bulletin against the year in which they are recorded by the police. Not all crimes are reported to, and recorded by, the police immediately following their occurrence. As such each year's figures on police recorded crime will include a proportion of crimes committed in earlier years. The basis on which we receive the data means we are generally unable to identify which crimes were committed in earlier years.

The [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey \(SCJS\) 2018-19](#) provides a complementary measure of crime to police recorded crime statistics. The survey provides information on the criminal justice system, people's experience of civil justice

problems and people's perceptions of crime. A detailed analytical comparisons between recorded crime and the SCJS is provided in [Chapter 4](#).

In September 2016 the [Office for Statistics Regulation](#) (at the time known as the UK Statistics Authority) designated Recorded Crime in Scotland as National Statistics, which means that they meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. A more recent [compliance check](#) in December 2019 confirmed this status, with some recommendations for further improvement going forward. Work on these recommendations was paused as statisticians took on new work in relation to COVID-19, however this will be returned to once resources are available again.

The statistics on recorded crime clear up rates ([Chapter 3](#)) remain published as Official Statistics (i.e. on the same basis as since 2013-14). The Office for Statistics Regulation will re-visit the statistical designation of this information once an audit has been carried out and the [Scottish Crime Recording Board](#) has considered any implications for the quality of these data.

Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018

The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 came into force on 1st April 2019. The Act created a new offence of abusive behaviour as a course of conduct towards a partner or ex-partner. Prior to the 1st April 2019, any criminal act which formed part of a domestic abuse incident (such as a Common assault or Threatening or abusive behaviour) was included within the statistics under the relevant crime or offence. Where there is evidence of a course of conduct, new crime codes of Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 (against a male or female victim) have been created. In general, existing common law and statutory offences will continue to be recorded where appropriate, in addition to the new crimes. There are some limited exceptions (in particular Threatening and abusive behaviour), which will no longer be recorded when occurring as part of a course of conduct for Domestic Abuse. However these exceptions all relate to activity in Group 6 Miscellaneous Offences and therefore this change does not create a discontinuity within the total recorded crime figure for Scotland (which is based on Group 1 to 5).

It should be noted that new crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act related to a *course of conduct only* and therefore do not include all crimes relating to domestic abuse. For separate analysis of domestic abuse incidents reported to the police, please see the following: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/domestic-abuse-scotland-2018-2019-statistics/>

Coronavirus restrictions crimes

This year's bulletin contains a small number of crimes relating to coronavirus restrictions. Whilst Police Scotland have stated that enforcement would be used when faced with non-compliance and only as a last resort (after they have attempted to engage, explain and encourage compliance), there were 107 crimes relating to coronavirus restrictions in 2019-20. These crimes are included within the total recorded crime figure for Scotland, though are presented separately to the existing five crime groups.

Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on recorded crime

On 23rd March 2020, a nationwide lockdown was imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with guidelines on movements for some days prior to that. This had a significant impact on daily living which also affected the number of crimes and offences recorded, to varying degrees. As these developments only cover the final few days of the 2019-20 reporting year, they are unlikely to have had a significant effect on the crime statistics presented in this bulletin. However they are likely to have a more significant impact on the 2020-21 figures.

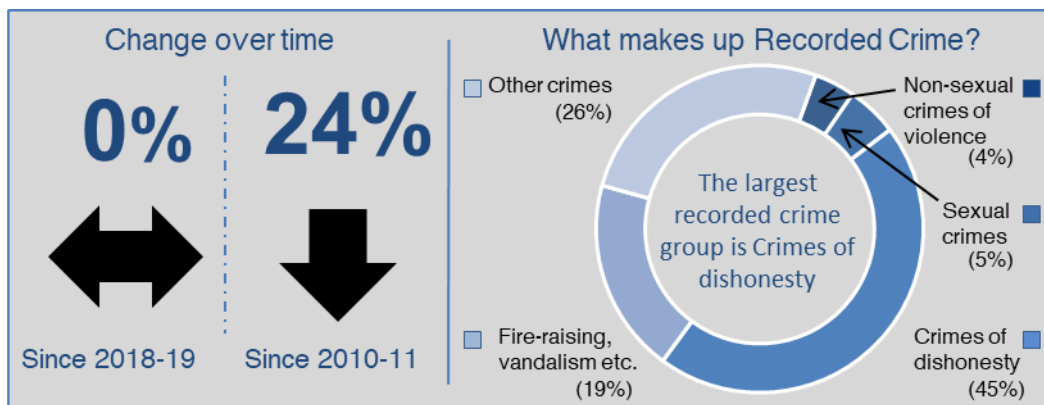
To inform users about the volume and type of crimes and offences recorded in Scotland during the pandemic, the Scottish Government introduced a new monthly series of Official Statistics from April 2020 onwards. These can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.scot/collections/recorded-crime-in-scotland/>

This annual National Statistics bulletin remains the primary source of information on crimes and offences recorded by the police.

Other legislative changes, and changes to classifications can be found in the User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland, available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/UserGuide>.

2. Main Findings: Recorded Crimes and Offences in Scotland

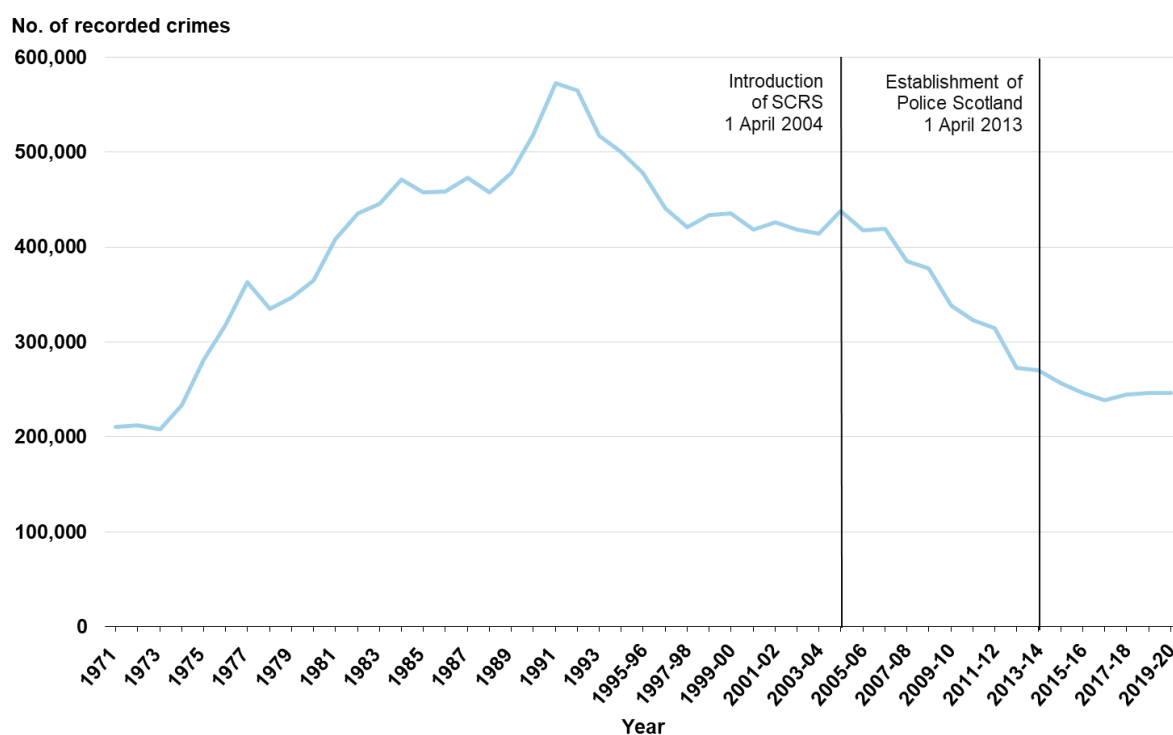
Total Recorded Crime



The recording of crime remains at one of the lowest levels seen since 1974. The total number of crimes recorded by the police in Scotland in 2019-20 was 246,516. This is 36 crimes (or less than 1%) higher than the level recorded in 2018-19 ([Chart 1](#) and [Table 1](#)).

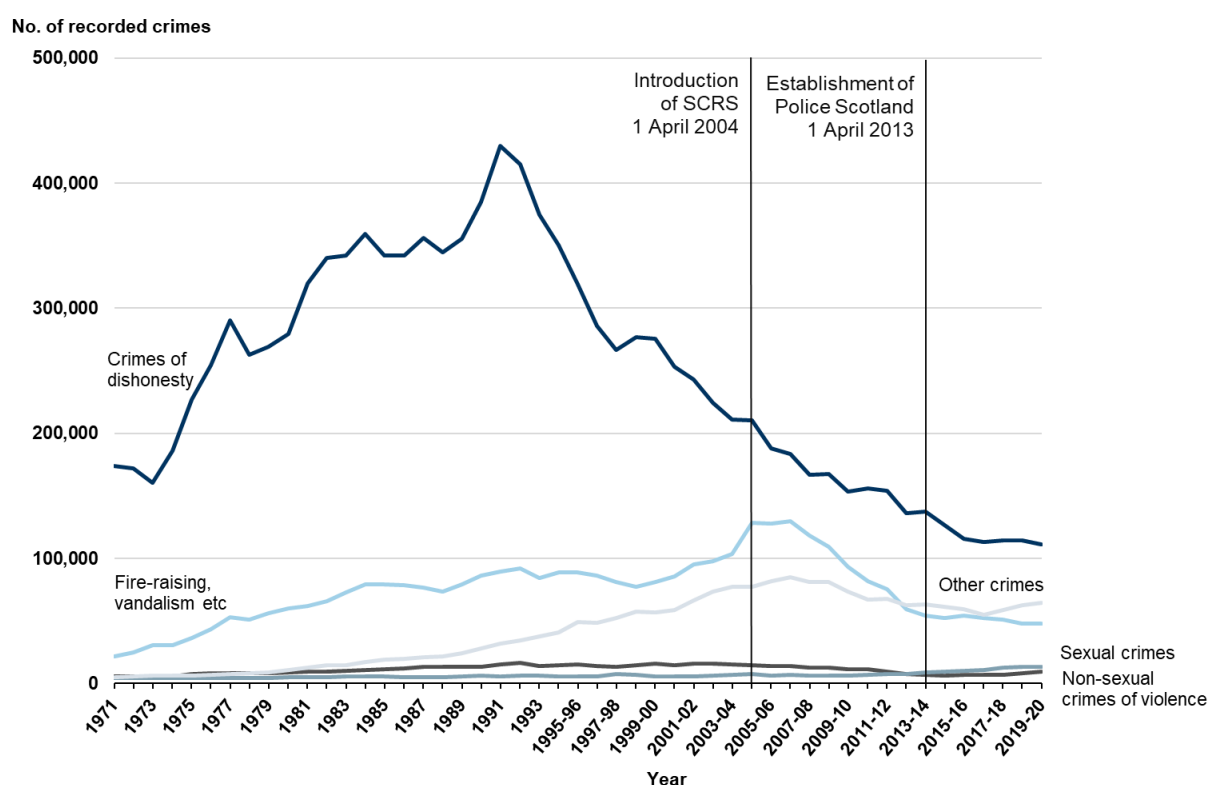
Over the past ten years crime has been on a downward trend in Scotland, having decreased by 24% since 2010-11. The relative stability in recent years is set against a generally decreasing trend in recorded crime over the longer term, from a peak in 1991 when crime reached a record high of 572,921.

Chart 1: Total crimes recorded by the police, 1971 to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2019-20 ([Table 6](#))



[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. Crimes of dishonesty are the largest group, accounting for 45% of all recorded crime in 2019-20. This was followed by Other crimes (26%), Fire-raising, vandalism etc. (19%), Sexual crimes (5%) and Non-sexual crimes of violence (4%). These individual groups will be discussed in more detail in the sections which follow.

Chart 2: Crimes recorded by the police by crime group, 1971 to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2019-20 (Table 6)



Local Authority analysis

Sixteen local authorities showed an increase in total recorded crime between 2018-19 and 2019-20 (Chart 3).

Four showed very little change, with the remaining twelve showing a decrease from the previous year.

Notwithstanding that year-on-year figures can vary across local authorities, the long term trend of decreasing crime is broadly the same across Scotland. Chart 4 shows that since 2010-11 all local authorities have seen a reduction in recorded crime.

This varies from 45% in Na h-Eileanan Siar to a more limited 3% in Dumfries and Galloway.

In 2019-20 the largest number of crimes recorded were in Glasgow City (see Table 5), which includes 12% of Scotland's population but accounted for 17% of all recorded crime in Scotland. It should be noted that Glasgow's daily population will be higher than its resident population as people travel into the city from surrounding local authority areas for work, leisure and other purposes. Crimes are recorded in terms of where they occur and not the home residency of the victim (where the two places are different locations). The comparison described above for overall crime

levels should be viewed in this context – which will also likely apply to Scotland's other city based local authorities.

Further explanation of these trends is set out in the following sections for each crime group. Please note that further local authority level data for Tables 1-4 can be accessed online via dropdown menus in the excel spreadsheet (see 'Supporting files' at the top right hand side of the webpage): <https://www.gov.scot/ISBN/978-1-80004-109-7>

Chart 3: Change in total recorded crime between 2018-19 and 2019-20, by local authority area

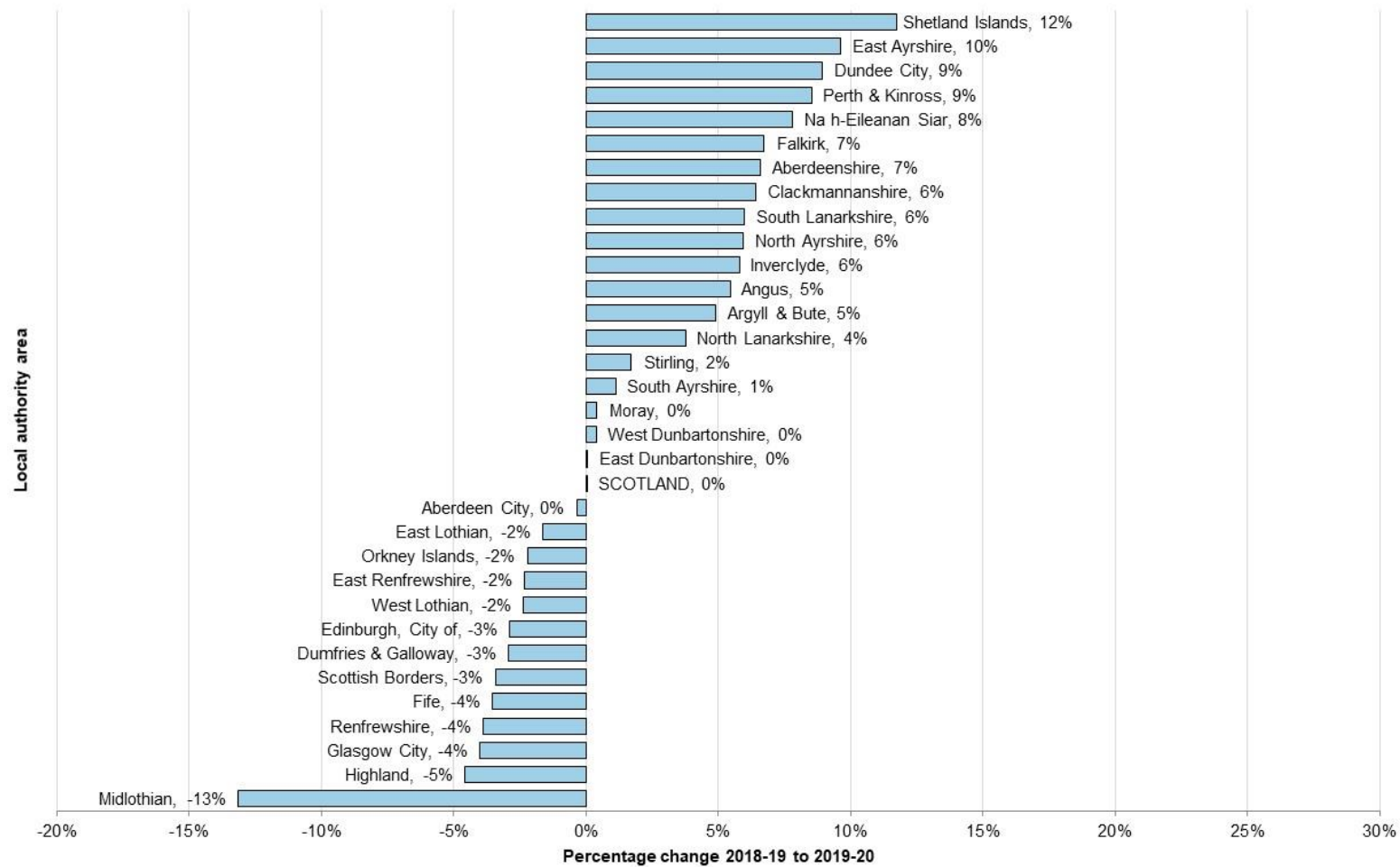
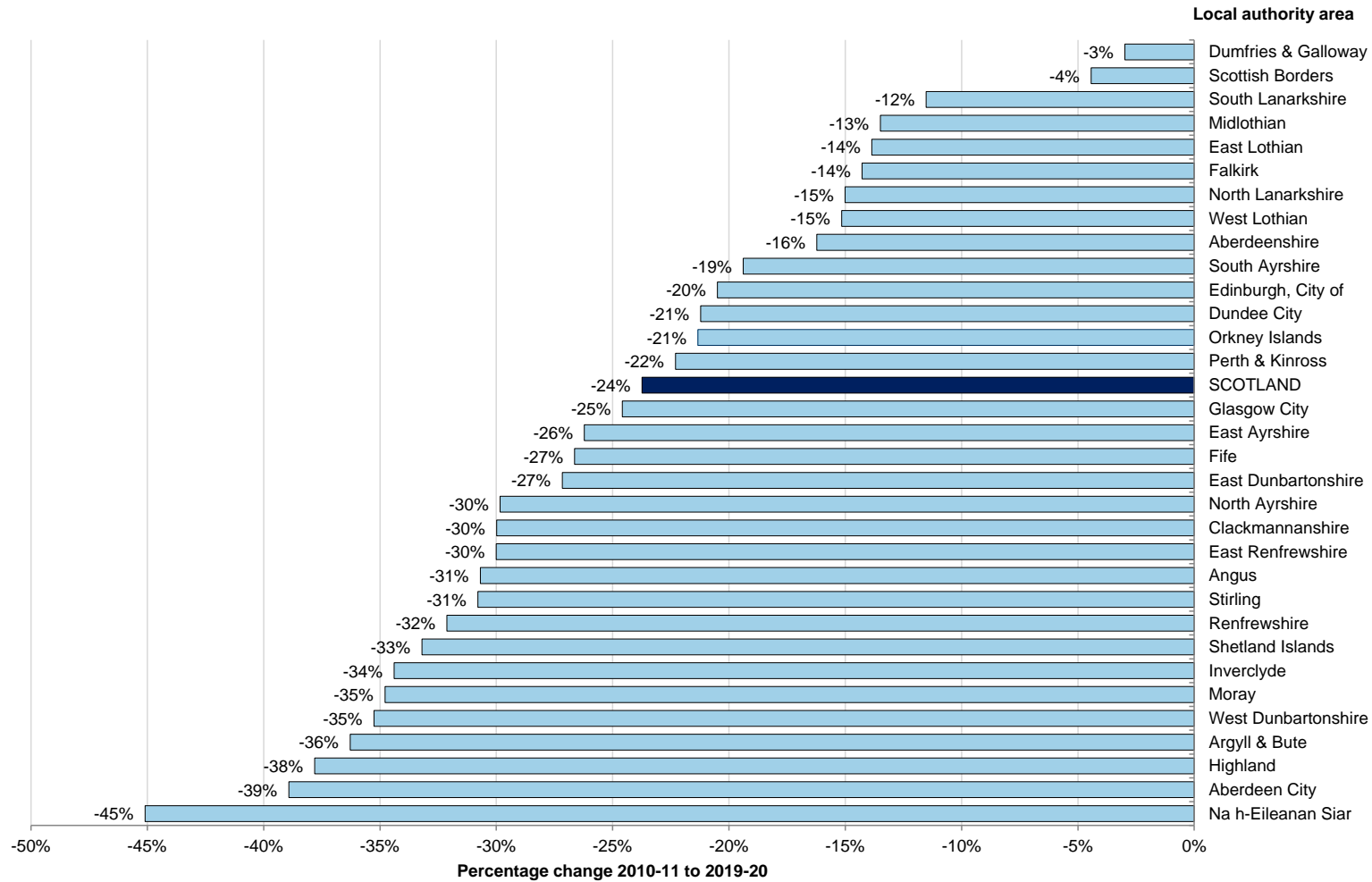


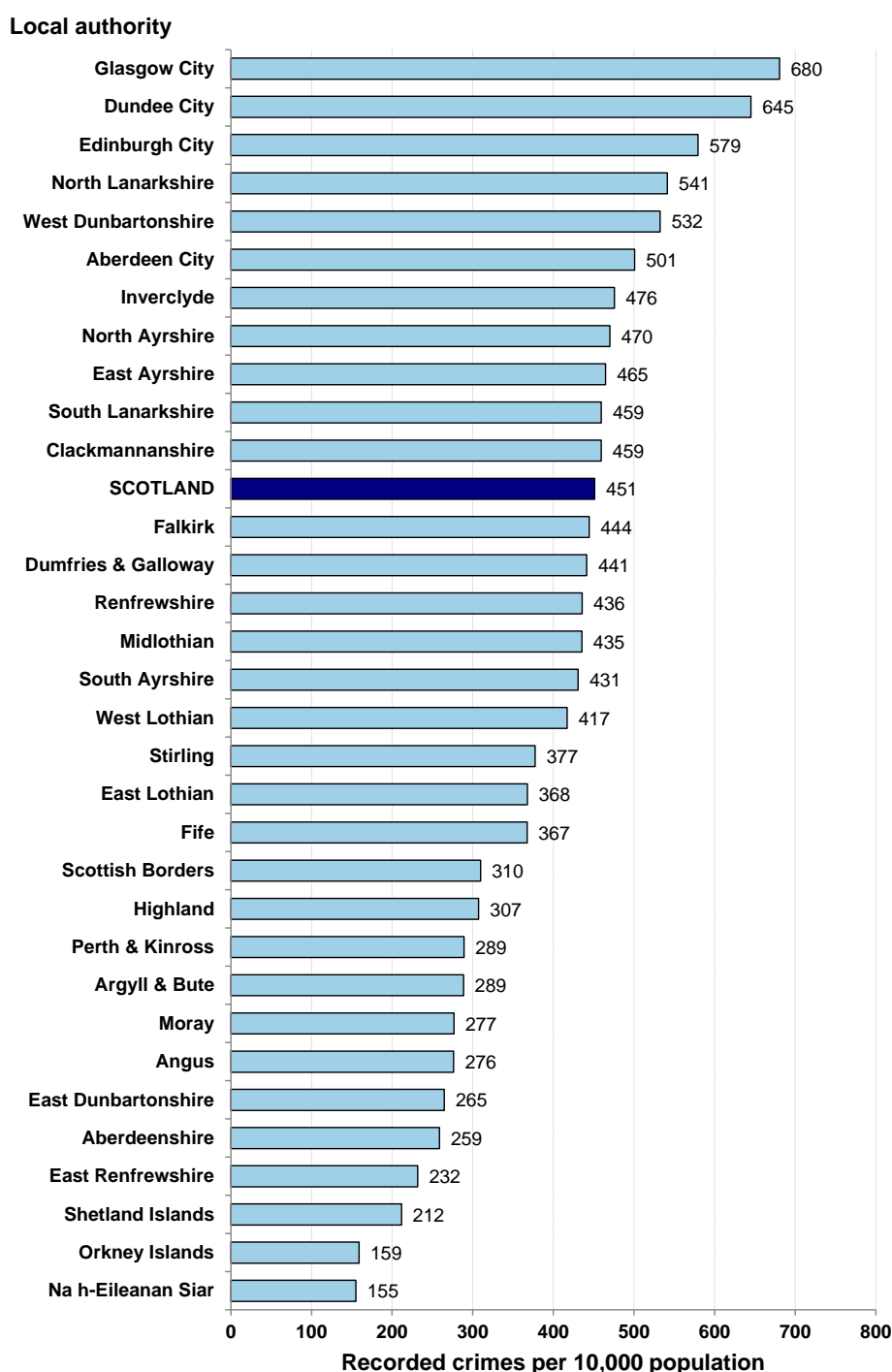
Chart 4: Change in total recorded crime between 2010-11 and 2019-20, by local authority area



Crime rate per 10,000 population

There were 451 recorded crimes per 10,000 population in 2019-20, with three of Scotland's city based areas recording the highest rates; Glasgow City (680 per 10,000 population), Dundee City (645 per 10,000 population) and Edinburgh City (579 per 10,000 population) (see [Table 4](#) in 'Supporting files').

Chart 5: Total number of recorded crimes per 10,000 population¹, 2019-20



¹ Population estimates are as at mid-year 2019 from the National Records of Scotland (<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates>).

Data considerations

As well as the new crimes being recorded under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 and Coronavirus restrictions (both referred to above in the Background to this bulletin), previous legislative changes and changes to recording will have some effect on the longer term time series.

Changes in 2017-18 to the recording of handling offensive weapons

Changes in recorded crime from 2017-18 should be treated with some caution due to the addition of newly recorded crimes of handling an offensive weapon. Further information on this procedural change and its impact on the statistics is available in the chapter on [Group 5 - Other crimes](#). This change will have an impact on the comparability of recorded crime statistics for all years prior to 2017-18, however the earlier the year selected (for example comparisons with 2010-11) the smaller this will be when set against the long term changes in total crime recorded by the police and other legislative and procedural changes made to the recording of crime during this period.

Data validation

HMICS Crime Audit 2016: Background

This bulletin reports on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland. In 2016, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) published an audit which assessed the extent to which police recording practices complied with the Scottish Crime Recording Standard and Counting Rules: <https://www.hmics.scot/publications/crime-audit-2016>.

This audit found no systemic data quality issues around the recording of crimes and offences, with the resulting report stating that 'the quality of most incident and crime recording decisions by Police Scotland is good'. 92.7% of incidents were closed correctly¹ and 95.1% of crime was counted and classified correctly.

The report also found that No-criming practice was generally good, with 96.0% of the 876 cases which were initially recorded as a crime but were later re-designated as not being a crime following additional investigation, found to have been no-crimed correctly. For a more detailed discussion of the results of the audit and its relation to recorded crime, please see the previous bulletin: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2018-19/>

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

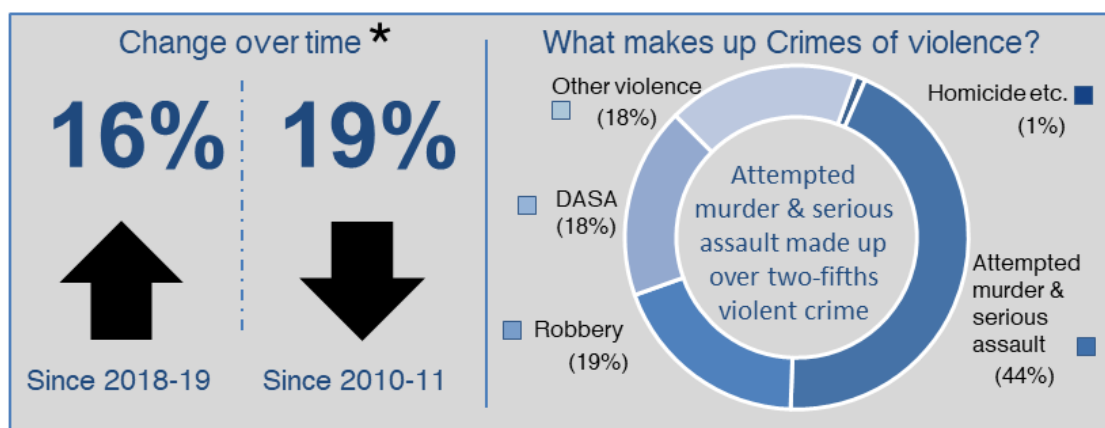
Overall, this audit demonstrates that users of crime statistics can have confidence that crimes are being classified and counted correctly.

The next HMICS Crime Audit is scheduled to be published in December 2020. Further information about HMICS's future work plan can be found at:

<https://www.hmics.scot/publications/hmics-annual-scrutiny-plan-2020-21>

The findings of this audit will be highlighted in the Recorded Crime in Scotland 2020-21 National Statistics bulletin.

Group 1 – Non-sexual Crimes of Violence



*This year's figures include crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 for the first time

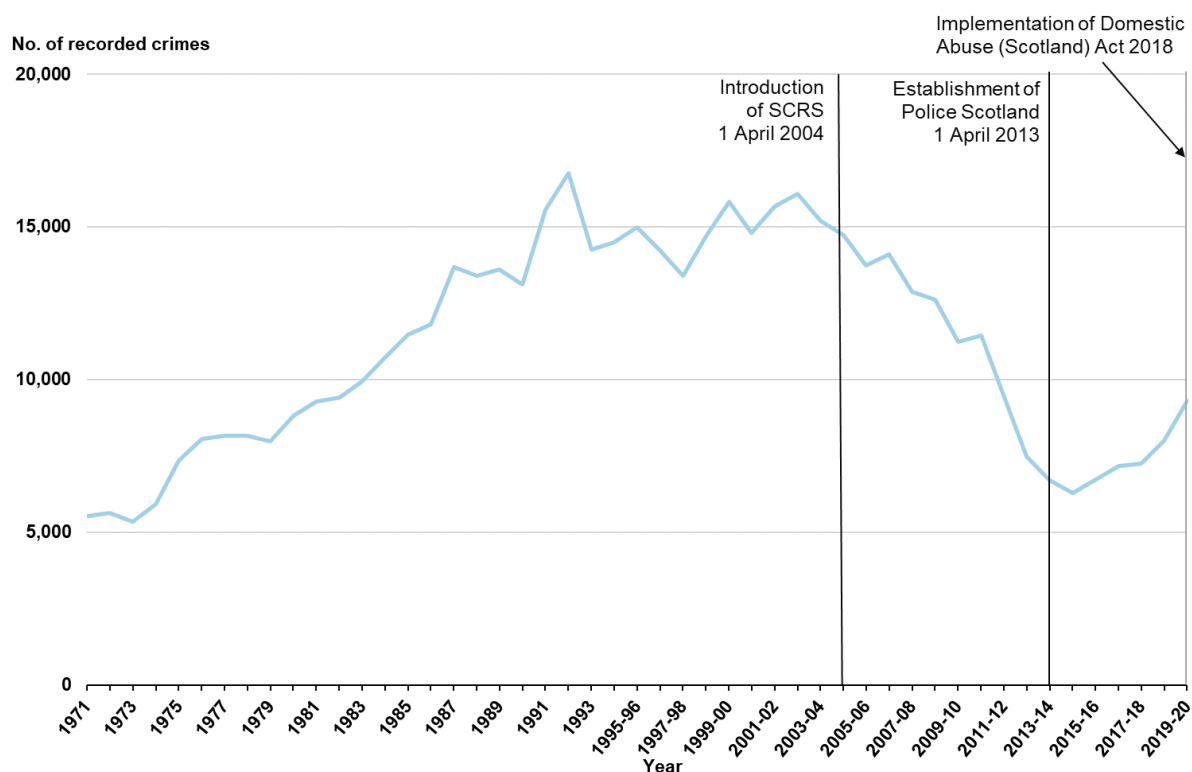
Number of Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded in 2019-20

Non-sexual crimes of violence account for 4% of all crimes recorded in Scotland in 2019-20. Between 2018-19 and 2019-20, the number of Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 16%, from 8,008 to 9,316.

This increase is due to the recording of 1,681 new crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 in 2019-20, following its enactment on the 1st April 2019. All other Non-sexual crimes of violence collectively decreased by 5% between 2018-19 and 2019-20.

[Chart 6](#) below shows the number of Non-sexual crimes of violence from 1971 onwards. Levels of violent crime increased for a long period, before entering a downward trend in 2002-03. There have been more recent increases, although as outlined above the latest one is due to new crimes being recorded under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 following its enactment on the 1st April 2019. There remains a 42% reduction in Non-sexual crimes of violence since 2002-03.

Chart 6: Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded by the police, 1971¹ to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2019-20 (Table 6)

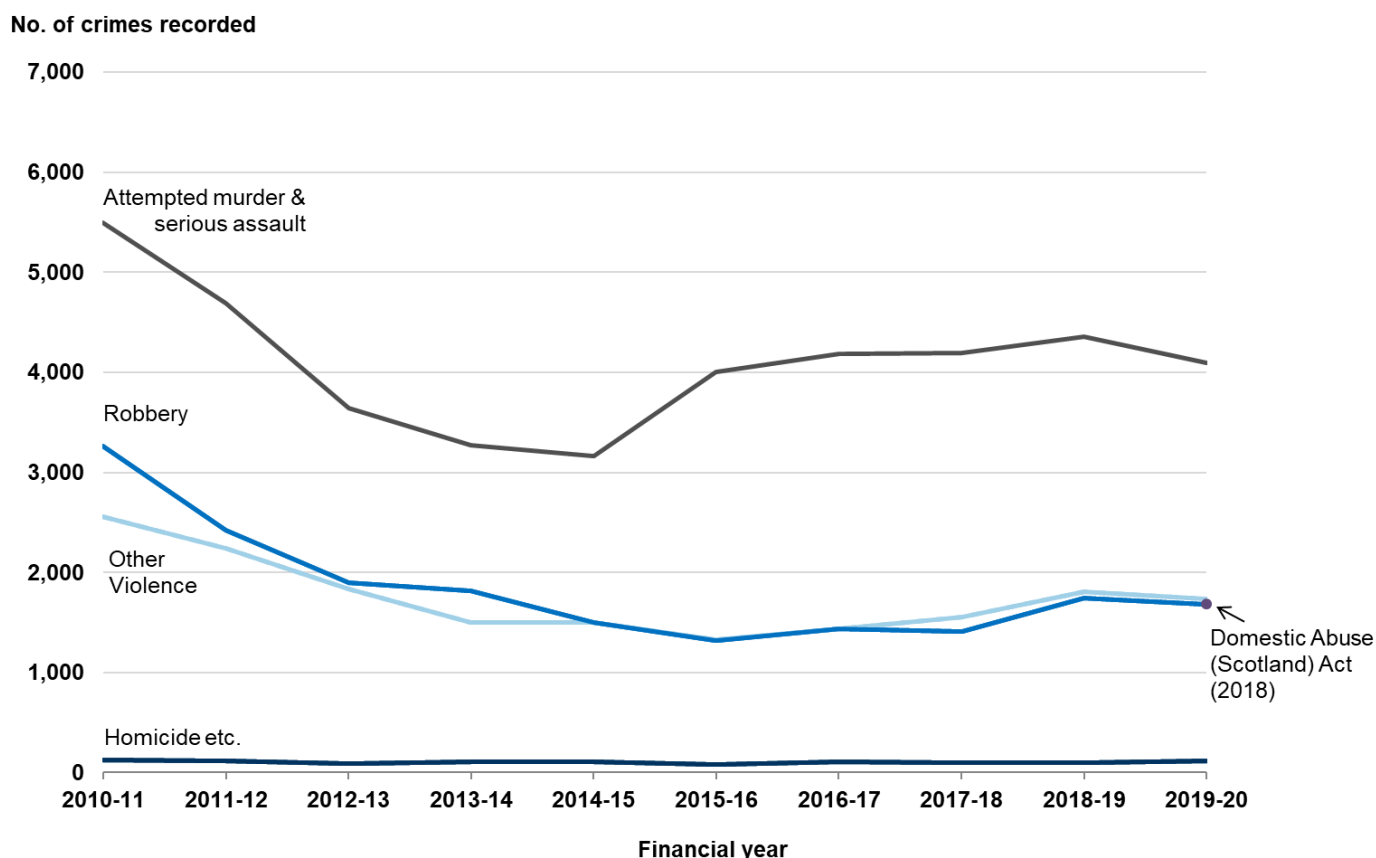


¹Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

In 2019-20, the national rate of recorded Non-sexual crimes of violence increased from 15 to 17 crimes per 10,000 population (see Tables 4 and 7).

[Chart 7](#) shows the five categories within Non-sexual crimes of violence over the last ten years, and gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category. In 2019-20, the volume of recorded crimes of Attempted murder and serious assault made up 44% of all Non-sexual crimes of violence. Crimes of Robbery and Other violence accounted for 19% and 18% respectively. Crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 accounted for 18% of the total number of Non-sexual crimes of violence. Since this is the first year of DASA crimes, all other categories make up a smaller proportion of Non-sexual crimes of violence than in 2018-19. Homicide etc. continues to contribute a very small proportion (1%) to the total.

Chart 7: Non-sexual crimes of violence in Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20



Attempted murder & serious assault

Attempted murder and serious assault is the largest category in Group 1, accounting for 44% of all Non-sexual crimes of violence. This category experienced a decrease of 6% between 2018-19 and 2019-20. Over the ten year period from 2010-11 to 2019-20, this category has seen a decrease of 25%. These crimes fell between 2010-11 and 2014-15, before figures rose sharply in 2015-16 and then more gradually in the years that followed, until the decrease this year. At least part of the increase in 2015-16 has been attributed by Police Scotland to the introduction of enhanced guidance for recording serious assault in January 2015.

For the definition of Serious assault and the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault please see [Paragraph 6.19](#) within Annex 1.

We earlier published the findings of a separate study into Attempted murder & serious assault. Further information is available via the following link: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-attempted-murder-serious-assault-2008-09-2017-18/>

Data Comparisons: Emergency Hospital Admissions as a result of Assault

As highlighted above, there has been a 25% decrease in the number of attempted murders and serious assaults recorded by the police between 2010-11 and 2019-20, from 5,493 to 4,097. Another source of statistics on assault is ISD Scotland's annual publication on hospital admissions due to unintentional injuries. This includes the number of emergency hospital admissions for assault.

The latest figures (2018-19) are available at: <https://beta.isdscotland.org/find-publications-and-data/health-services/hospital-care/unintentional-injuries/>

It is not possible to make direct comparisons between the two sources for various reasons (for example not all who attend hospital with assault injuries will report what has happened to the police). However, as these sources both generally relate to how Scotland's emergency services respond to the most serious types of assault, it would be anticipated that both should show similar trends over time.

There were 2,585 emergency hospital admissions as a result of assault in 2018-19, of which 665 were due to assault with a sharp object and 1,938 were other assaults². This represents a decrease of 43% in the total number of emergency admissions due to assault since 2010-11, including a 39% reduction in the number of emergency admissions due to assault with a sharp object. This comparison confirms that the reduction in police recorded crimes of attempted murder and serious assault over the past 10 years has also been broadly reflected in statistics for emergency admissions to hospital. Whilst the reduction in hospital admissions appears to be larger than that for recorded crime, the change in guidance for crimes classed as serious assaults in 2015 may have had an impact on these figures.

Robbery

Robbery accounted for 19% of Non-sexual crimes of violence. Over the ten year period from 2010-11 to 2019-20, this category has seen a decrease of 32%. Following an increase between 2016-17 and 2018-19, there was a 4% decrease between 2018-19 and 2019-20.

We earlier published the findings of a separate study into Robbery. Further information is available via the following link:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-robbery-2008-09-2017-18/>

² Total may not equal the sum of individual injuries as a person may be admitted with more than one type of injury.

Homicide etc.:

As well as Murder and Culpable homicide (common law), the Homicide etc. category included in this bulletin contains the crimes of:

- Causing death by dangerous driving;
- Causing 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.

Homicide etc. accounted for 1% of Non-sexual crimes of violence. This category increased by 19% from 102 crimes in 2018-19 to 121 in 2019-20. The biggest contributor to this increase was a rise in driving related homicides (for example Causing death by dangerous driving) which increased by 12 crimes (from 43 to 55).

Data comparisons: Homicide

A separate Homicide in Scotland bulletin is produced by the Scottish Government which contains more detailed information on the crimes of Murder and Culpable homicide (common law). This bulletin presents characteristics of victims and accused, such as age and gender, as well as the circumstances of the homicide. We therefore recommend that users interested in Homicide statistics should refer directly to the Homicide in Scotland bulletin series, which can be accessed at: <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubHomicide>.

The next Homicide in Scotland statistical bulletin will contain data for 2019-20 and will be published on October 27th 2020.

Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018

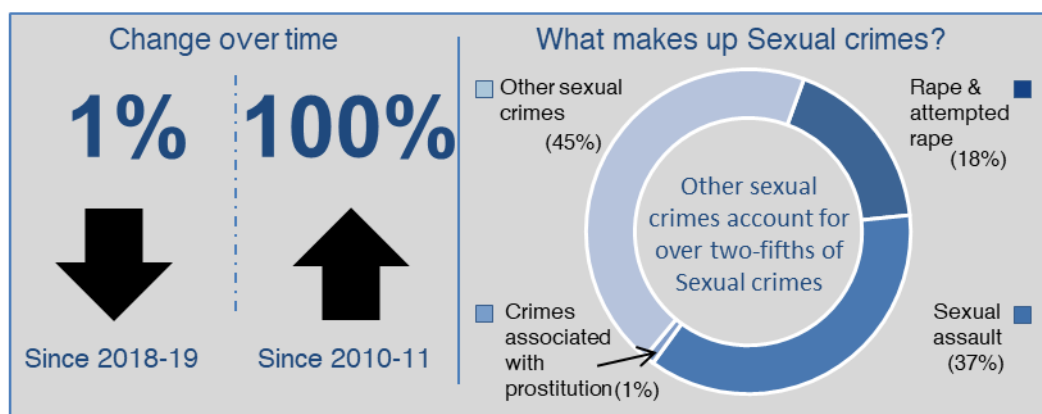
There were 1,681 new crimes recorded under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 in 2019-20, the first year this legislation has been in place. Of those new crimes, 94% (or 1,577) involved a female victim and 6% (or 104) had a male victim.

Other non-sexual violence

The Other violence category includes crimes such as Cruelty to & unnatural treatment of children, Threats & extortion and Abduction, which together account for more than 80% of the crimes within this category. More detail is provided in [Chapter 7](#).

Crimes recorded as Other violence account for 18% of Non-sexual crimes of violence. Over the ten year period from 2010-11 to 2019-20 this category has seen a decrease of 49%, including a 4% decrease from 1,740 in 2018-19 to 1,679 in 2019-20.

Group 2 – Sexual Crimes



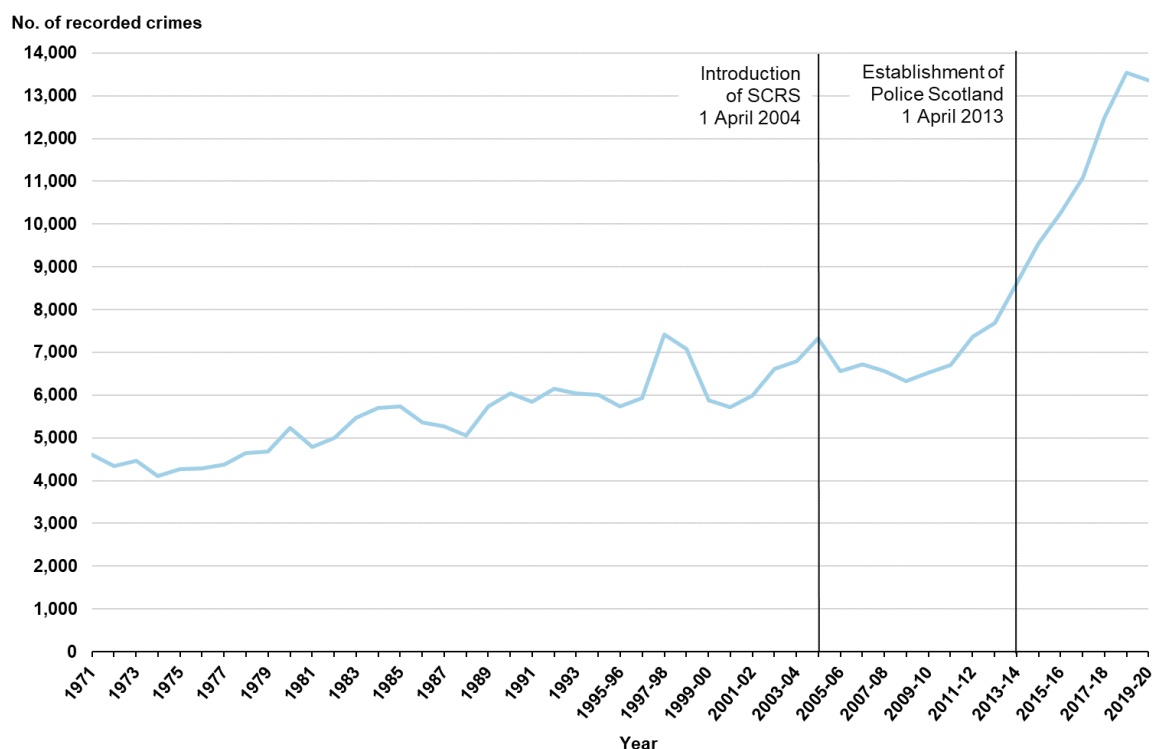
Number of Sexual crimes recorded in 2018-19

Sexual crimes account for 5% of all crimes recorded in Scotland in 2019-20. The number of Sexual crimes recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 1% from 13,547 in 2018-19 to 13,364 in 2019-20.

[Chart 8](#) below shows the number of Sexual crimes from 1971 onwards. Sexual crimes have been on a long-term upward trend since 1974, with some fluctuations. Prior to the small decrease in 2019-20, there had been increases each year since 2008-09.

The national rate of recorded Sexual crimes decreased from 25 to 24 crimes per 10,000 population in 2019-20 (see [Tables 4](#) and [7](#)).

Chart 8: Sexual crimes recorded by the police, 1971¹ to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2019-20 (Table 6)

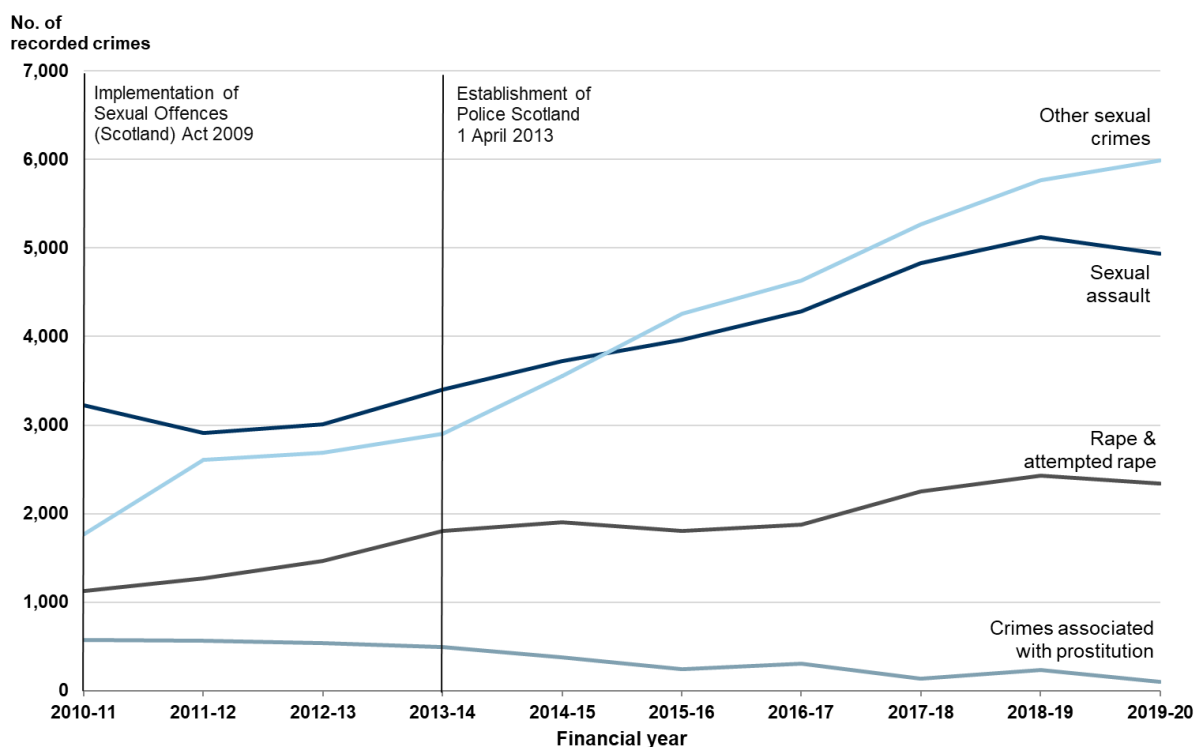


¹ Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

Whilst the specific age of the victim cannot generally be determined from the data supplied by Police Scotland, many of the sexual crime codes used by the police to record crime make it clear when the victim was aged under 18 (for example, Sexual assault of older male child (13-15 years))³. By adding up all these crime codes, we know that at least 40% of the 13,364 sexual crimes recorded in 2019-20 by the police related to a victim under the age of 18. This proportion is similar to the previous year.

³ Although the crime of Lewd and libidinous practices does not identify the age of the victim by its name, this crime code is specific to victims of historical (non-recent) crimes that were under 16 years of age. We have therefore included these crimes in our calculations.

Chart 9: Sexual crimes in Scotland by category, 2010-11 to 2019-20



[Chart 9](#) shows the four categories within Sexual crimes over the last ten years, and gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category. In 2019-20, Other sexual crimes made up 45% of all Sexual crimes. Sexual assault and Rape and attempted rape accounted for 37% and 18% respectively of sexual crimes. At just 1%, Crimes associated with prostitution continue to represent a very small proportion of the total.

The number of recorded crimes in the Other sexual crimes and Sexual assault categories have changed markedly over time. They almost converged after 2010, which coincides with the implementation of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009, before they both increased during the years that followed up to the present. Information on the impact of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 is available under [‘Data Considerations’](#) below.

[Table A1](#) contains more detailed breakdowns for Sexual crimes.

Sexual assault

Sexual assault accounted for 37% of Sexual crimes in 2019-20. Until this year this category had been on an upward trend since 2011-12, having increased by 76% between then and 2018-19. However, this year Sexual assaults fell by 4%, from 5,123 in 2018-19 to 4,936 in 2019-20.

Rape & attempted rape

Rape & attempted rape accounted for 18% of Sexual crimes. Similar to Sexual assault, after an upward trend from 2010-11 to 2018-19, there was a 3% decrease in Rape & attempted rape this year, from 2,426 in 2018-19 to 2,343 in 2019-20.

Crimes associated with prostitution

Crimes associated with prostitution account for 1% of Sexual crimes. Over the ten year period from 2010-11 to 2019-20, these crimes have seen a large fall of 82%. This year's figure (101 crimes) is the lowest over the last ten years.

Over half (58%) of the crimes recorded in 2019-20 were in the Glasgow City area, with a further 18% recorded in Aberdeen City.

Other sexual crimes

The Other sexual crimes category includes crimes such as Communicating indecently; Taking, possessing and distributing indecent photos of children; Sexual exposure, Public indecency and Causing to view sexual images or activity. From 2017-18 onwards it also includes Disclosing or threatening to disclose an intimate image.

The implementation of the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016 has had an impact on any comparisons with data prior to 2017-18. The Act led to new crimes of Disclosing or threatening to disclose an intimate image being recorded from 2017-18 onwards, with 655 being recorded in 2019-20 (this is part of an increasing trend with 421 crimes being recorded in 2017-18 and 596 recorded in 2018-19). As such, part of the increase in Other sexual crimes since 2016-17 is due to this legislative change. Further information is available in the '[Data Considerations](#)' section below.

Other sexual crimes are the largest category in Group 2, accounting for 45% of Sexual crimes. This category has been on an upward trend since 2010-11, having increased by 238% within that time, including a 4% increase from 5,763 in 2018-19 to 5,984 in 2019-20.

We earlier published the findings of a research project into Other sexual crimes, based on a sample of around 2,000 crimes recorded by the police in 2013-14 and 2016-17. The research contains details about the victims, perpetrators and circumstances of these crimes. The research suggests that cyber enabled Other sexual crimes (i.e. where the internet has been used as a means to commit the crime) contributed around half to the total growth in all recorded Sexual crimes between 2013-14 and 2016-17. Further information is available via the following

link: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-sexual-crimes-2013-14-2016-17/>

Data considerations

A number of legislative and procedural changes should be kept in mind when reviewing trends in sexual crime over the longer term.

Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009

The implementation of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 on 1st December 2010 resulted in a number of changes to the recording of sexual crimes, including a redistribution of Group 2 crimes among the subcategories and a widened the definition of rape. A number of crimes which may have been recorded as Breach of the peace prior to the implementation of the Act would also not have shown up as sexual crimes before December 2010. Comparisons with data prior to 2010-11 for these categories should therefore be treated with caution.

Taking, distribution etc. indecent photos of children

In 2010-11, incidents of Taking, distribution etc. indecent photos of children were transferred from Group 6 Miscellaneous offences to Group 2 Sexual crimes and back-revised to 2009-10. Whilst these crimes represent a small proportion of sexual crimes (4% of all Group 2 Sexual crimes in 2019-20), it has resulted in a small discontinuity in the time series for any analysis that spans 2009-10.

Communications Act (2003) Sexual

In 2017-18, Communications Act 2003 (Sexual) offences were transferred from Group 6 Miscellaneous offences to Group 2 Sexual crimes.

This change involved reclassifying some activity from an offence group to a crime group, and so resulted in a small increase in total recorded crime, with 223 recorded in 2019-20. Statistics for 2016-17 were back-revised within the 2017-18 bulletin, to ensure time series continuity was not affected. There will be some discontinuity for earlier years as Communications Act 2003 offences with a sexual element were not separately identifiable within the statistics until 2016-17.

Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016

Finally, the implementation of the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016 on 3rd July 2017 resulted in new crimes of Disclosing or threatening to disclose an intimate image being recorded. This has contributed to the increase in Other sexual crimes. Whilst some of these cases may have been recorded as a different crime or offence had they occurred prior to the Act, it is likely the majority of them would not have been classified as a Sexual crime. The enactment of this legislation also extended the criminal law to criminalise certain conduct that previously may not have been illegal.

There were 655 crimes of Disclosing or threatening to disclose an intimate image in 2019-20.

Historical (non-recent) reporting

In addition to the legislative and procedural changes outlined above, the issue of historical reporting of sexual crime also continues to play a role in the latest statistics. Further information from Police Scotland suggests that around a quarter (25%) of sexual crimes in 2019-20 were recorded at least one year after they occurred and that this figure is similar to the previous year. Furthermore, as discussed below the use of specific codes to record sexual crime also highlights where these cases are historical.

[Table A1](#) reports 1,116 crimes of Lewd and libidinous practices in 2019-20. These crimes should 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 historical (non-recent) offences. Similarly, there were 278 crimes of Sexual assault committed prior to 1 December 2010.

Data comparisons

This segment includes information that should be considered to widen contextual understanding of the data provided on Group 2 - Sexual crimes. Detail is provided on limited comparisons with recorded crime in England & Wales and Northern Ireland. Further detail on the type of information available from the SCJS on sexual crime is also included.

Comparisons with England & Wales and Northern Ireland

While recorded crime in Scotland is not directly comparable with England & Wales or Northern Ireland due to differences in legislation and counting rules, there are some tentative signs that the previous long-term upward trend for sexual crimes across the UK may be slowing down. In 2019-20, sexual crimes recorded by police in England & Wales⁴ and Northern Ireland⁵ remained relatively stable, compared to the 1% decrease in Scotland.

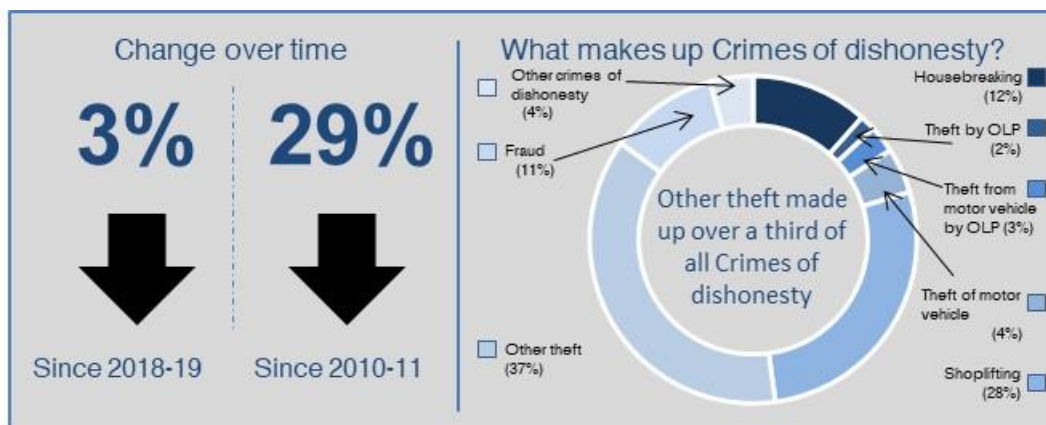
Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)

Detailed information on the victims of sexual crime is not collected in the main SCJS survey. Information on sensitive topics is collected through a number of additional self-completion sections. Some of these sections include information on sexual crime; for example, the self-completion elements of the 2016-17 and 2017-18 surveys included questions on sexual victimisation, stalking and harassment, and partner abuse. The findings are included in the [2017-18 Main Findings report](#).

⁴<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020#overall-estimates-of-crime>

⁵<https://www.psnipolice.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/2020/march/crime-bulletin-mar20.pdf>

Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty

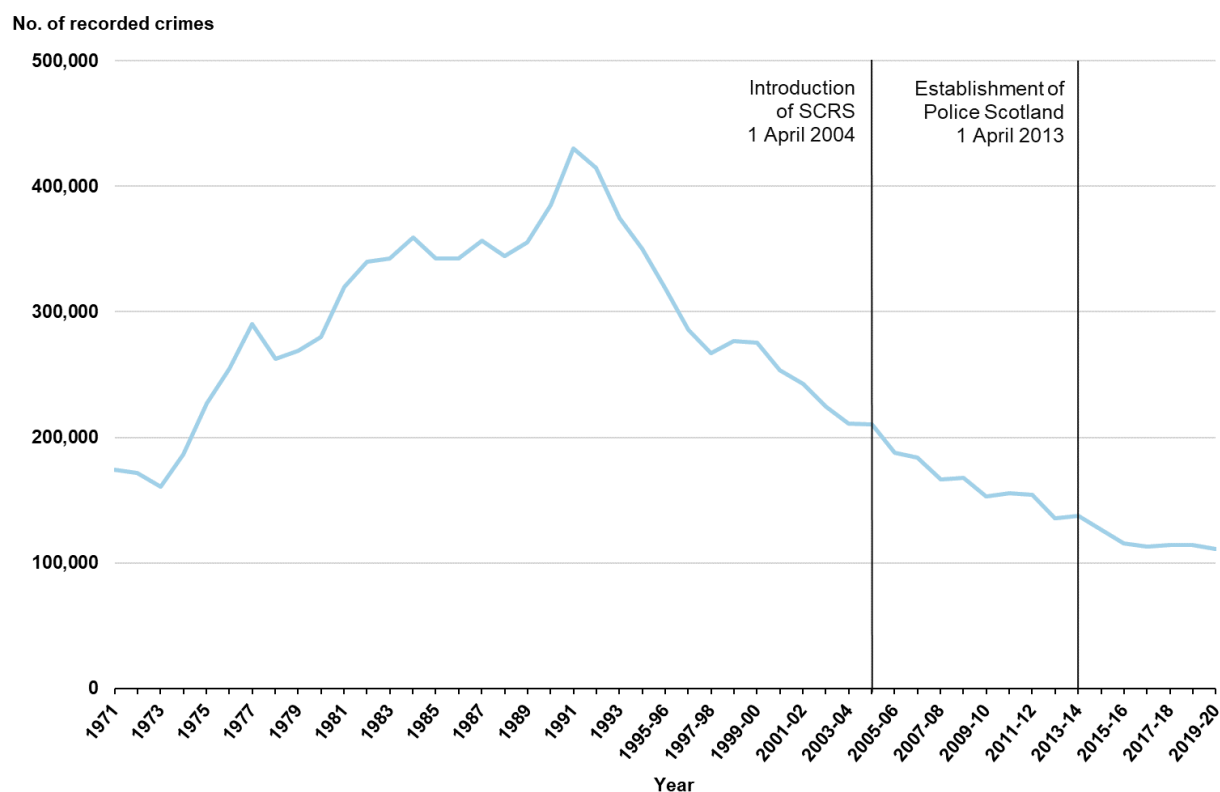


Number of Crimes of dishonesty recorded in 2019-20

Crimes of dishonesty account for over two-fifths (45%) of all crime recorded in Scotland in 2019-20. Between 2018-19 and 2019-20, the number of Crimes of dishonesty recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 3%, from 114,506 to 111,409.

[Chart 10](#) below shows the number of Crimes of dishonesty from 1971 onwards. Crimes of dishonesty increased for a long period between 1971 and 1991. Since then there has been a long-term decreasing trend, with a decrease of 74% between 1991 and 2019-20. These crimes are at their lowest level since 1971, the first year for which comparable crime groups are available.

Chart 10: Crimes of dishonesty recorded by the police, 1971¹ to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2019-20 ([Table 6](#))

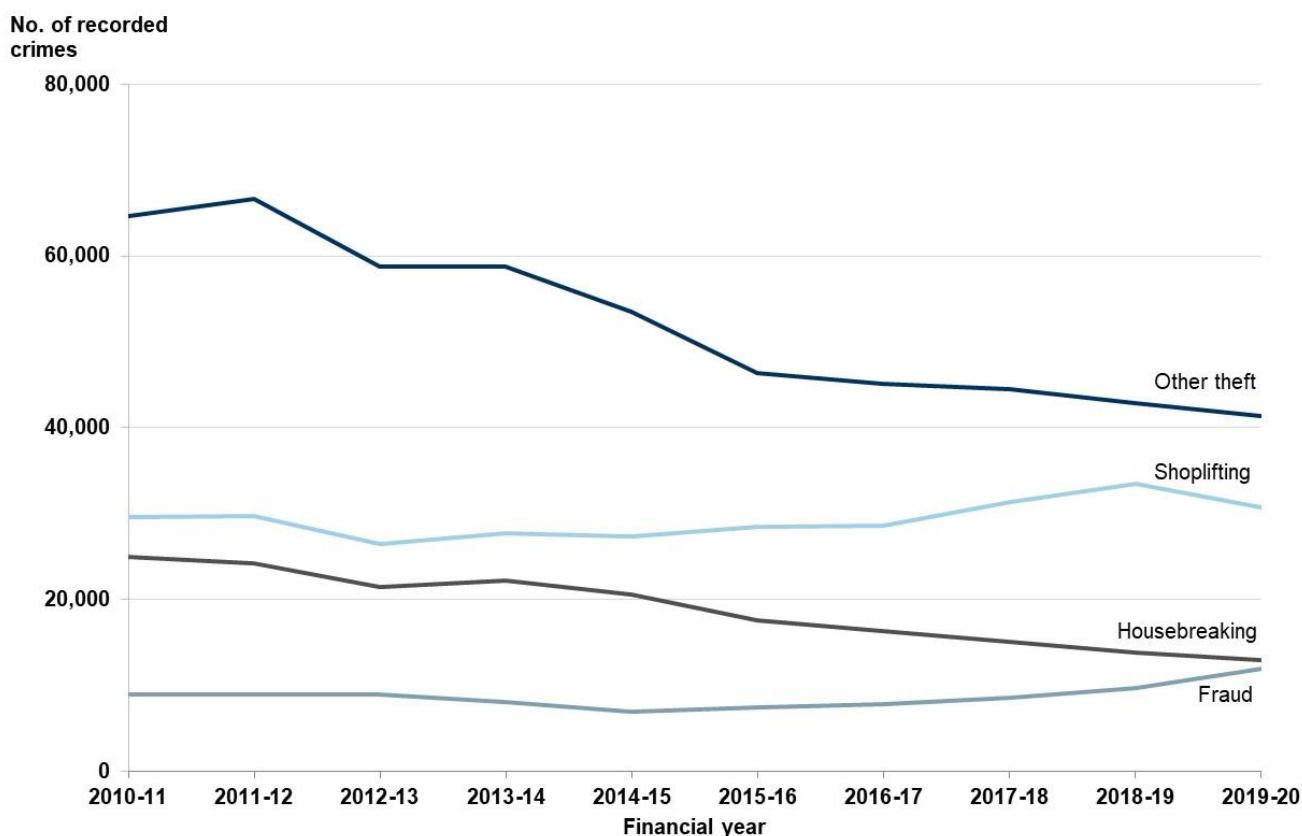


¹ Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

The national rate of recorded Crimes of dishonesty fell from 211 to 204 per 10,000 population in 2019-20 (see [Tables 4](#) and [7](#)).

[Chart 11](#) shows the four largest categories within Crimes of dishonesty over the last ten years, and gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category. Other theft has consistently been the biggest contributor to Crimes of dishonesty, although this is experiencing a downward trend. Other theft and Housebreaking fell by 36% and 48% respectively between 2010-11 and 2019-20. During this same time there were increases in Shoplifting (up 3%) and Fraud (up 33%). While not displayed in [Chart 11](#), the numbers of Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP), Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP and Theft of a motor vehicle have decreased over the ten years from 2010-11 to 2019-20 ([Table 1](#)).

Chart 11: Crimes of dishonesty (showing four largest categories) in Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20



Other theft

Other theft consists of Theft of pedal cycles, Theft from a motor vehicle not elsewhere classified and Theft not elsewhere classified (excl. motor vehicles).

This category is the largest in Crimes of dishonesty, accounting for 37% of these crimes. Over the ten year period from 2010-11 to 2019-20, Other theft has seen a decrease of 36%, including a 3% decrease from 42,880 in 2018-19 to 41,421 in 2019-20.

Shoplifting

Shoplifting accounted for over a quarter (28%) of Crimes of dishonesty. Shoplifting decreased by 8% from 33,523 in 2018-19 to 30,688 in 2019-20. This follows an increasing trend since 2014-15. The number of Shopliftings recorded was 3% higher than in 2010-11.

Housebreaking

Housebreaking accounted for 12% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2010-11 to 2019-20 this crime group has decreased by 48%, including a 6% decrease from 13,777 in 2018-19 to 12,903 in 2019-20.

Data validation: Housebreaking

HMICS's 2014 Crime Audit provided a quality assessment of crime recording decisions regarding housebreaking. Further details of this audit, and a link to the full audit, can be found in the [User Guide](#).

Fraud

Crimes of Fraud account for 11% of Crimes of dishonesty. After a relatively stable period between 2010-11 and 2013-14 and a decrease in 2014-15, crimes of fraud have experienced an upward trend since 2014-15. Crimes of fraud have increased by 33% since 2010-11, including a 23% increase between 2018-19 and 2019-20.

An Additional Topical Analysis of Fraud, based on a random sample of 500 crime records, was included in last year's bulletin. The results of this can be found here: [Recorded Crime in Scotland: 2018-19](#).

Theft from a motor vehicle by opening a lockfast place (OLP)

Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP accounted for 3% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2010-11 to 2019-20 this crime has seen a large decrease of 69%, including a 16% decrease from 3,532 in 2018-19 to 2,982 in 2019-20.

Theft of a motor vehicle

Theft of a motor vehicle accounted for 4% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2010-11 to 2019-20 this crime has seen a decrease of 43%, although there has been a small increase of 1% or 52 crimes from 4,950 in 2018-19 to 5,002 crimes in 2019-20.

Other crimes of dishonesty

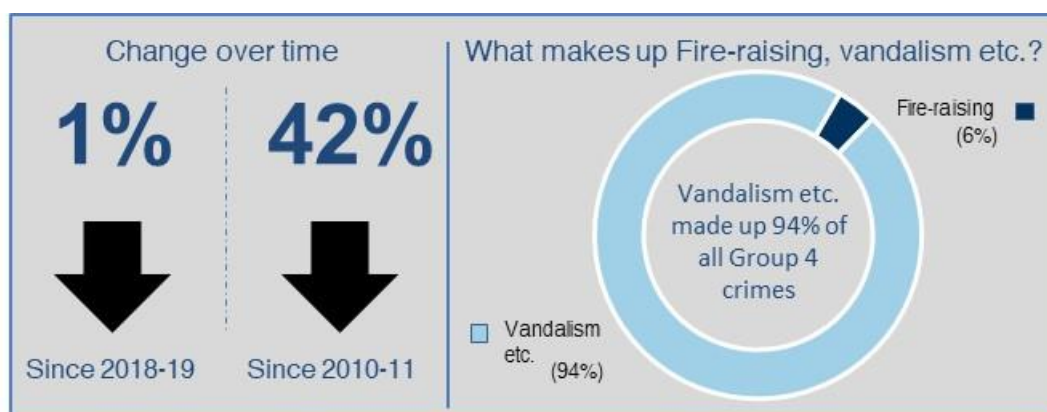
Other crimes of dishonesty includes Reset, Corruption, Embezzlement and other crimes of forgery which are not classified elsewhere.

Other crimes of dishonesty account for 4% of total Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2010-11 to 2019-20 this crime has seen a decrease of 10%, however there was a 6% increase from 4,485 in 2018-19 to 4,746 in 2019-20.

Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)

Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP) accounted for 2% of Crimes of dishonesty in 2019-20. Over the ten year period from 2010-11 to 2019-20, this crime has seen a decrease of 57%, although there has been a small increase of 3% from 1,684 in 2018-19 to 1,728 in 2019-20.

Group 4 – Fire-raising, Vandalism etc.



Number of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. recorded in 2019-20:

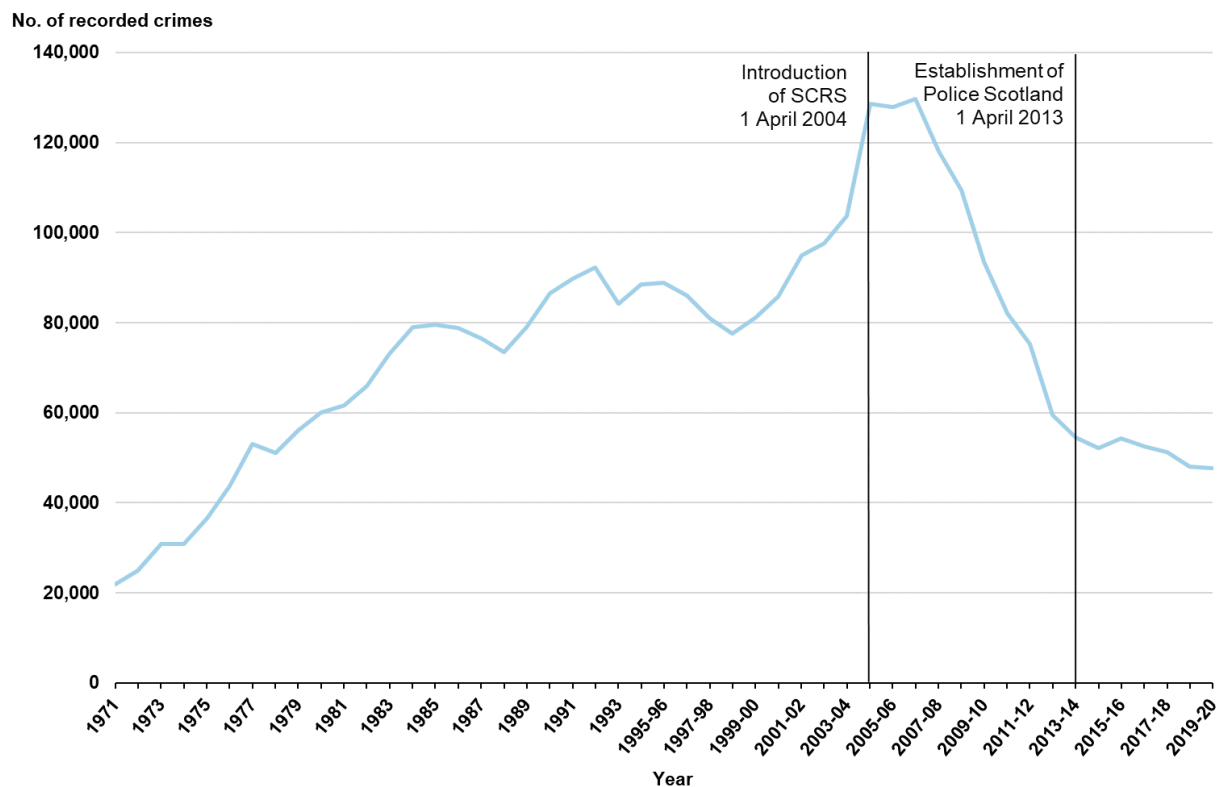
Fire-raising, vandalism etc. accounted for 19% of all crime recorded in Scotland in 2019-20. Between 2018-19 and 2019-20, the number of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 1%, from 47,997 to 47,731. The recording of these crimes is at the lowest level seen since 1976.

[Chart 12](#) shows the number of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. from 1971 onwards. Levels of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. increased for a long period, but there was a sharp downward trend since they peaked in 2006-07. Since 2010-11 the number of these crimes has fallen by 42%.

The national rate of recorded crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. fell from 88 to 87 crimes per 10,000 population in 2019-20.

Due to the difference in scale of recorded crimes of Vandalism etc. and Fire-raising, [Charts 13](#) and [14](#) show these two categories separately to better highlight the similar downward trends they have followed over the last ten years.

Chart 12: Crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. recorded by the police, 1971¹ to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2019-20 ([Table 6](#))



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

Chart 13: Fire-raising in Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20

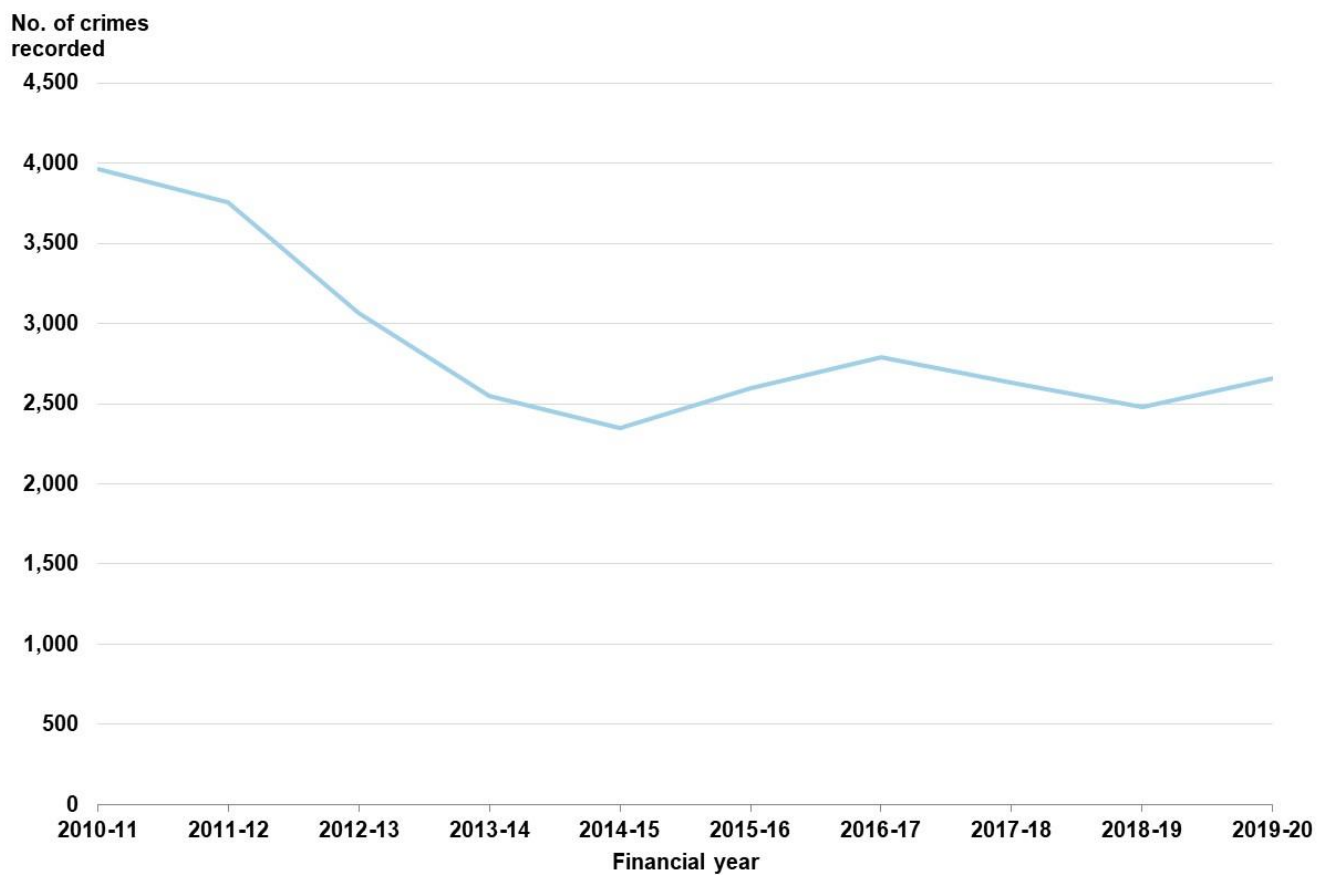
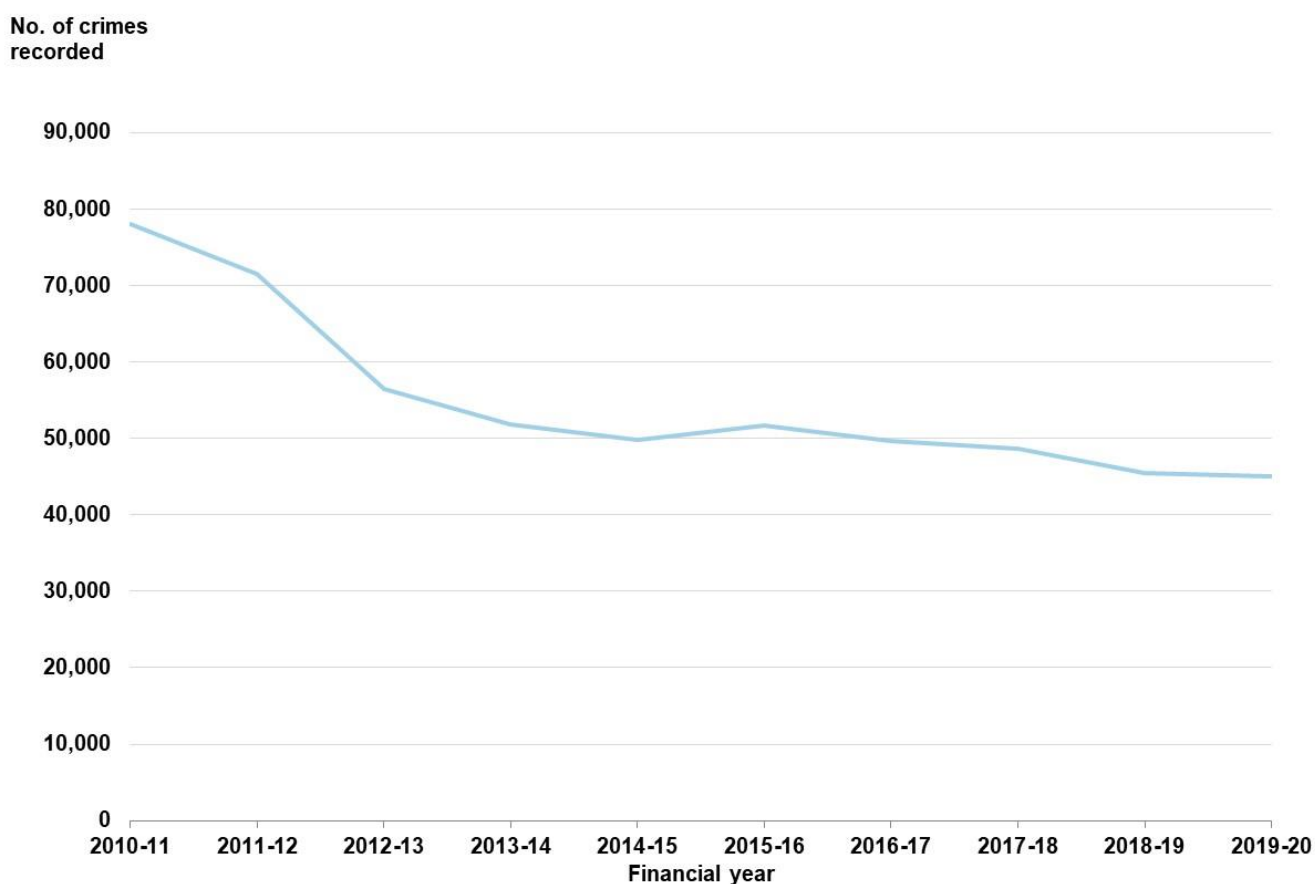


Chart 14: Vandalism etc. in Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20



Vandalism etc.

Vandalism etc. accounted for 94% of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. These crimes have decreased by 1% from 45,516 in 2018-19 to 45,074 in 2019-20. The longer term trend has also been downwards, with the number of crimes recorded decreasing by 42% between 2010-11 and 2019-20.

The Vandalism etc. category includes crimes recorded under the Computer Misuse Act 1990. There were 21 such crimes recorded in 2019-20.

Fire-raising

Fire-raising accounted for 6% of crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. These crimes have increased by 7% from 2,481 in 2018-19 to 2,657 in 2019-20. Fire-raising has decreased by a third over the ten year period from 2010-11 to 2019-20.

Data comparisons: Fire-raising

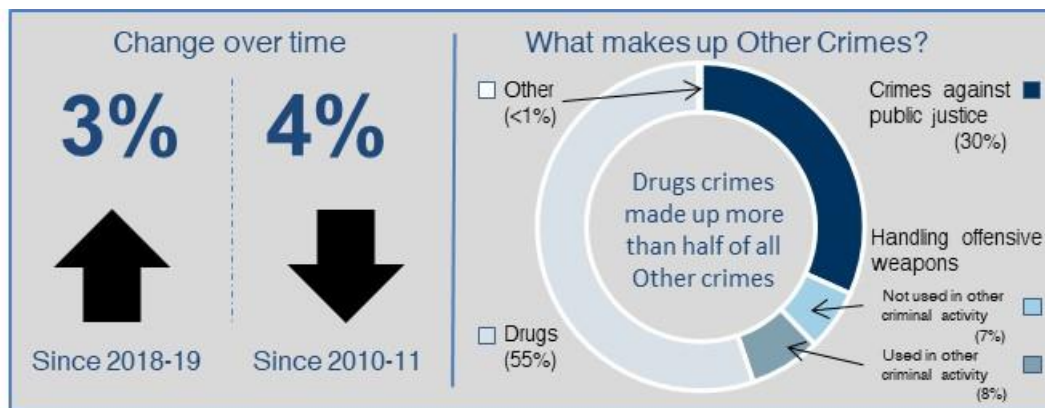
Another source of statistics on fires in Scotland is an annual publication covering the number of fires attended by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). The latest figures (for 2018-19) are available at: <http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/about-us/fire-and-rescue-statistics.aspx>.

It is not possible to make direct comparisons between the two sources, as many fires are caused accidentally rather than as a result of a crime, and the police are not called to all deliberate fires. Furthermore, not all police recorded crimes of fire-raising may result in the attendance of the SFRS. However as these sources both relate to how Scotland's emergency services respond to fires, it would be anticipated that both should show similar trends over time.

A total of 26,726 fires were attended by the SFRS in 2018-19, over half of which (56%) were started deliberately. This represents a 2% increase from 2017-18.

Between 2009-10 and 2018-19, there has been a reduction of 31% in the total number of fires attended and a 35% decrease in the number of deliberate fires. This comparison suggests that the overall reduction in police recorded crimes of fire-raising over the past 10 years has also been broadly reflected in statistics for the SFRS.

Group 5 – Other crimes

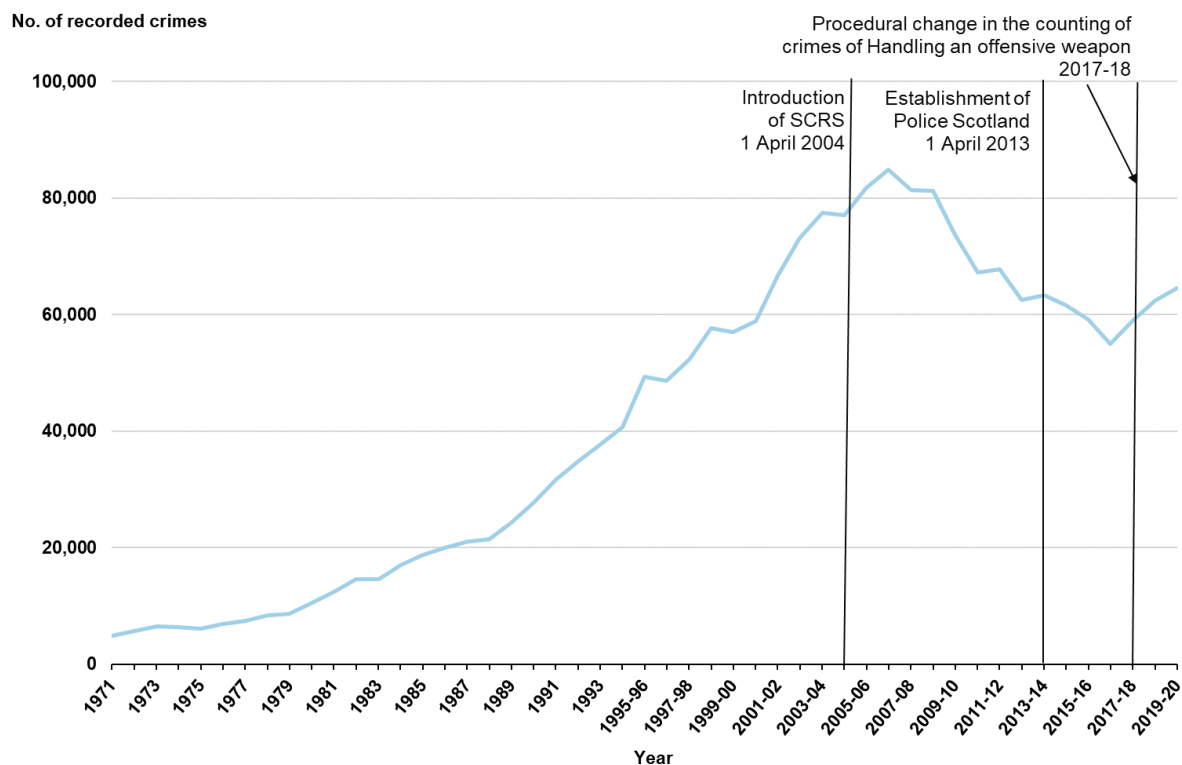


Number of Other crimes recorded in 2019-20

Other crimes account for around one quarter (26%) of all crimes recorded in Scotland in 2019-20. Between 2018-19 and 2019-20, the number of Other crimes recorded by the police increased by 3%, from 62,422 to 64,589.

[Chart 15](#) below shows the number of Other crimes from 1971 onwards. They increased for a long period, peaking in 2006-07. After that they reduced until 2016-17, before increasing again. However it should be noted that over half (54%) of the overall increase in Other crimes from 54,946 in 2016-17 to 64,589 in 2019-20 is due to a procedural change in the recording of crimes of handling an offensive weapon (see later in this section for more information).

Chart 15: Other crimes recorded by the police, 1971¹ to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2019-20 (Table 6)

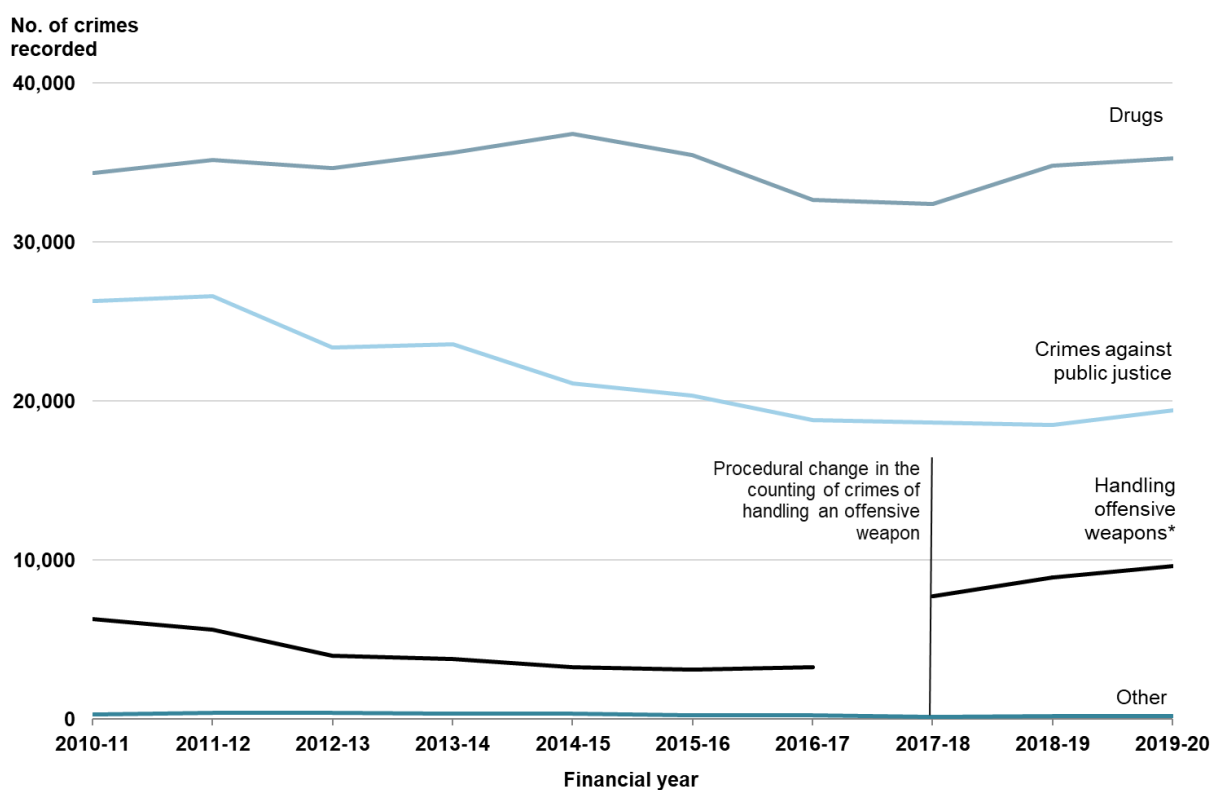


¹ Crimes recorded for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1971.

The national rate of recorded Other crimes increased from 115 to 118 crimes per 10,000 population in 2019-20 (see Tables 4 and 7).

Chart 16 shows the four categories within Other crimes over the last ten years, and gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category. Drugs crimes have consistently been the biggest contributor, accounting for 55% in 2019-20. A further 30% were Crimes against public justice and 15% were crimes of Handling offensive weapons.

Chart 16: Other crimes in Scotland by category, 2010-11 to 2018-19



**There was a procedural change to the counting of crimes of Handling an offensive weapon in 2017-18. As such the significant rise in the total number of recorded crimes of Handling an offensive weapon shown for that year, does not represent a real increase in these crimes.*

Drugs

Drug crimes account for 55% of Other crimes. Over the ten year period from 2010-11 to 2019-20 this crime has increased by 3%, including a 1% increase from 34,831 crimes in 2018-19 to 35,303 in 2019-20.

Most of these crimes (86%) are for drug possession, where the quantity of drugs seized is small enough to be considered for personal use (as opposed to crimes of drug supply).

An [additional topical analysis of drug possession crimes](#) recorded in 2018-19 is presented at the end of this section.

Crimes against public justice

Crimes against public justice account for 30% of Other crimes and include Bail offences, Resisting arrest and General attempts to pervert the course of justice. Over the ten year period from 2010-11 to 2019-20 this crime has decreased by 26%, although there was an increase of 5% from 18,512 in 2018-19 to 19,441 in 2019-20.

Handling offensive weapons

In 2017-18 the Scottish Crime Recording Board made a procedural change to how some crimes of handling an offensive weapon were recorded. This has had an impact on the comparability of the recorded crime statistics before and after this point.

Prior to 2017-18, statistics on handling offensive weapons in public places only include incidents where the perpetrator did not commit further crimes with the weapon. If they had, the specific crime of handling an offensive weapon was considered an aggravation of the crime it was used to commit (for example an aggravated assault) and would not have been included in the statistics.

From the 1st April 2017, crimes of handling offensive weapons in public places are no longer treated as an aggravation where they are used to commit other crimes or offences against a person. As such both the crime of handling an offensive weapon in a public place and any crime or offence committed with it are now both included in the statistics. This change was made to improve consistency between the recording of these crimes and the criminal law.

As a result of this amendment to recording practice, crimes of handling an offensive weapon have been substantially higher since 2017-18. This does not represent a real increase in recorded crime, and this change will continue have an impact on the comparability of recorded crime statistics for all years prior to 2017-18.

Not used in other crimes or offences

From 2017-18 onwards, crimes of Handling an offensive weapon in Scotland can be counted in two different ways. The first is to use the pre-existing statistics, where the offensive weapon hasn't been used to commit another crime or offence against a person in a public place. These crimes account for 7% of Other crimes in 2019-20.

Over the ten year period from 2010-11 to 2019-20 this category decreased by 29%. However, there was a 6% increase from 4,216 in 2018-19 to 4,484 in 2019-20, the fourth year-on-year increase following a prolonged decrease in these crimes.

In 2019-20, 89 crimes of handling an offensive weapon (not used) occurred within a prison and a further 146 occurred within a school. This compares to 127 occurring in a prison and 127 occurring in a school in 2018-19.

Used in other crimes or offences

In addition to the above measure, figures are also available for where the offensive weapon was used to commit another crime or offence against a person in a public place. These crimes account for 8% of Other crimes in 2019-20. There was a 10% increase from 4,680 in 2018-19 to 5,160 in 2019-20.

In 2019-20, 62 crimes of handling an offensive weapon (used) occurred within a prison and a further 61 occurred within a school. This compares to 84 occurring in a prison and 72 occurring in a school in 2018-19.

In June 2018 a report was published that presented more detailed information on the handling of offensive weapons within public places in Scotland. This included findings on the characteristics of these cases, based on a random sample of 1,500 crimes recorded by the police for the first six months (April to September) of 2013 and 2017.

The overwhelming majority of police recorded crimes for Handling an offensive weapon in a public place were committed by males. When the weapon was not used in other criminal activity the median age of perpetrators was 29 and the majority of crimes involved a knife or other articles with a blade or point.

When the weapon was used in other criminal activity in a public place, the majority of cases involved a male perpetrator and a male victim, who were known to each other and who were both more likely than average to live in urban areas and areas of higher deprivation. In these cases just over half of weapons used were items other than knives or other articles with a blade or point.

The most common criminal act committed with a weapon in a public place was Threatening or abusive behaviour followed by Common assault. In the majority of cases the crime or offence resulted in no physical injury to the victim and this proportion was higher when the victim was female or if the victim did not know the perpetrator. More information can be found by accessing the 'Recorded Crime in Scotland: Handling Offensive Weapons' publication:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-handling-offensive-weapons/>

Data considerations: Handling Offensive Weapons

Following the decision by the Scottish Crime Recording Board to change the approach to recording crimes of handling offensive weapons in 2017-18 and the impact this was likely to have on the Recorded Crime National Statistics, Scottish Government statisticians undertook a review of crime records to test whether this change had been implemented effectively. The review found that over 90% of

records in the sample studied had been correctly classified. More information can be found by accessing the 'Recorded Crime in Scotland: Handling Offensive Weapons' publication: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-handling-offensive-weapons/>

Other

The Other category within Other crimes includes Treason; Conspiracy; Explosive offences; Wrecking, piracy and hijacking; and Crimes against public order.

This category accounted for less than 1% of Other crimes in 2019-20. Over the past 10 years this type of crime increased by a third, including a 10% increase from 183 in 2018-19 to 201 in 2019-20.

Coronavirus restrictions crimes

The [Coronavirus Act 2020](#) and [Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#) were implemented on 25th March and 27th March 2020 respectively and have resulted in new crimes being recorded. For example, where someone, who had left the place they were living, did not have a reasonable excuse for this when asked by a police officer, and failed to comply with police advice or instruction to return there.

Given the rapid pace of these changes, Police Scotland have used a bespoke data collection to capture information on the number of new crimes recorded under the coronavirus legislation.

As the legislation noted above was introduced towards the end of 2019-20, this year's recorded crime figures only include a small number of Coronavirus restrictions crimes. Whilst many incidents will have been dealt with by police without the need for enforcement, 107 Coronavirus restrictions crimes were recorded in 2019-20. Of these, 35 occurred in Glasgow City, 15 in South Lanarkshire and 11 in South Ayrshire.

An analysis of drug possession crimes, 2018-19

The Official Statistics on Drug Seizures and Offender Characteristics presents figures on the number and type of drug seizures made by Police Scotland. The latest edition, for the 2017-18 reporting year was published in March 2019 and is available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/drug-seizures-offender-characteristics-2017-18/>

Each year, as part of preparing the Official Statistics on Drug Seizures and Offender Characteristics, Scottish Government statisticians review a sample of crimes of drug possession.

Updated figures for 2018-19 and 2019-20 are due to be published in Spring 2021. Given part of the data collection process for 2018-19 had been completed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (specifically an analysis of the characteristics of drug possession crimes, where that possession was considered to be small enough for personal use), we have provided this below to aid user understanding of drug crime in Scotland.

The data presented here is based on a random sample of 400 crimes recorded in 2018-19. As this analysis is drawn from a sample of records, users should treat the following information as a broad indication of the characteristics of drug possession rather than as an exact measure. All figures are presented at a national level as the sample size is too small to provide robust estimates for geographies below this.

Type of drugs seized from drug possession crimes

In 2018-19, cannabis (herbal and resin), etizolam, cocaine, and heroin accounted for 80.8% of all drug possession seizures ([Table D1](#)).

Cannabis is the most commonly seized drug by a considerable margin (51.0%), which splits into herbal cannabis (39.3%) and cannabis resin (11.8%), this equates to an estimated 15,200 crimes of cannabis possession in 2018-19 ([Table D2](#)). The second most commonly seized drug was etizolam, accounting for 13.3% of all seizures in 2018-19.

Between 2017-18 and 2018-19, the number of crimes of drug possession recorded by the police increased by 8%. One factor in this growth may be the UK government's [2017 amendment](#) to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, which made it illegal to possess etizolam (a 'designer' benzodiazepine) through classification as a Class C drug.

In 2018-19 (i.e. the first full year following enactment), 13.3% of all drug possession crimes were estimated to involve etizolam, equating to an estimated

4,000 crimes recorded in that year. This compares to an estimated 5% of drug possession crimes (or 1,500 estimated crimes) in 2017-18⁶, the largest estimated increase of any drug type in 2018-19. This demonstrates the impact that changes to the Misuse of Drugs Act, in this case making the possession of etizolam illegal, can have on recorded crime.

Table D1: Percentage of drug possession records in the sample, 2014-15 to 2018-19

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Crime category					
Cannabis	64.0%	63.6%	60.1%	53.5%	51.0%
Herbal Cannabis	43.0%	46.8%	41.8%	39.5%	39.3%
Cannabis Resin	21.0%	16.8%	18.3%	14.0%	11.8%
Etizolam¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.5%	13.3%
Cocaine	7.8%	8.3%	10.3%	10.0%	11.3%
Heroin	4.8%	6.0%	7.5%	8.8%	5.3%
Diazepam	14.5%	12.3%	9.8%	5.5%	*

Table D2: Estimated number of drug possession crimes², 2014-15 to 2018-19

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Crime category					
Cannabis	20,200	19,000	16,700	14,500	15,200
Herbal Cannabis	13,600	14,000	11,600	10,700	11,700
Cannabis Resin	6,600	5,500	5,100	3,800	3,500
Etizolam¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,500	4,000
Cocaine	2,500	2,500	2,900	2,700	3,400
Heroin	1,500	1,800	2,100	2,400	1,600
Diazepam	4,600	3,700	2,700	1,500	*

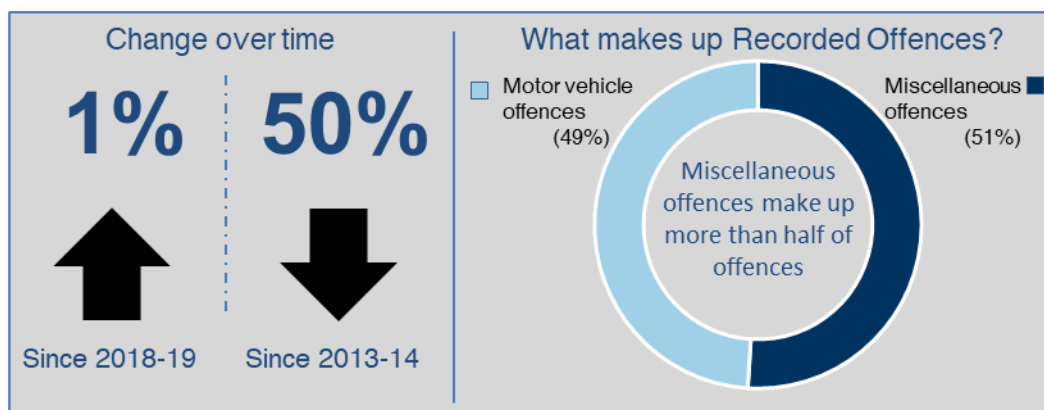
* Only a small number of records in 2018-19 related to possession of diazepam, as such we are unable to provide a robust estimate of total volume for the latest year.

¹ From 2017-18 onwards, separate figures are presented for etizolam, a 'designer' benzodiazepine, which was classified as a Class C drug under a 2017 amendment to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

² As these figures are estimates they have been rounded to the nearest 100

⁶ The estimates for etizolam in 2017-18 only apply to June 2017 to March 2018 (i.e. the period following enactment) and therefore as it is not a full year is not directly comparable with the estimates for 2018-19.

Total Recorded Offences



Total number of offences recorded in 2019-20:

Due to anomalies in the data for Motor vehicle offences, statistics for total recorded offences by the police are only comparable from 2013-14 onwards. Further detail on these anomalies can be found later in this section and in [Annex 2](#).

The total number of offences recorded has halved since 2013-14, including a 1% increase from 247,791 in 2018-19 to 250,662 in 2019-20 ([Table 2](#)).

Miscellaneous offences and Motor vehicle offences account for fairly equal proportions of total offences, compared to 2013-14 when Motor vehicle offences accounted for almost 60% of the total.

It should be noted that the number of offences recorded by the police generally tends to be affected to a greater extent by police activity and operational decisions than the number of crimes.

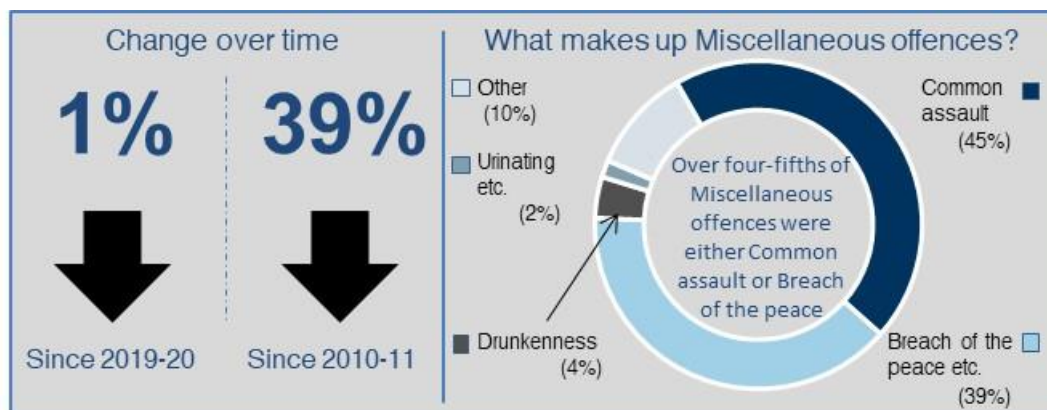
National Statistics on total recorded offences are based on data which Police Scotland extract from their IT system (called the Scottish Operational and Management Information System (ScOMIS)) and submit to the Scottish Government. Prior to 2013-14 and the establishment of Police Scotland, the Scottish Government collected recorded offences data from the eight legacy forces, who in turn extracted the data from their own systems.

Coinciding with this change of collection, the Scottish Government carried out an extensive data quality exercise to assess the comparability of data extracted from ScOMIS with the data published in previous bulletins. This analysis identified that a number of offence codes are non-comparable over time. For Group 6, Miscellaneous Offences, all data are fully comparable from 2008-09 onwards. For Group 7, Motor Vehicle Offences and hence the overall figures on Offences (based on Groups 6 and 7), data are only comparable from 2013-14 onwards.

The Scottish Government produced a Technical Report in 2014 which detailed the quality assurance work it carried out in reaching this conclusion:

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

Group 6 – Miscellaneous Offences



Number of Miscellaneous offences recorded in 2019-20:

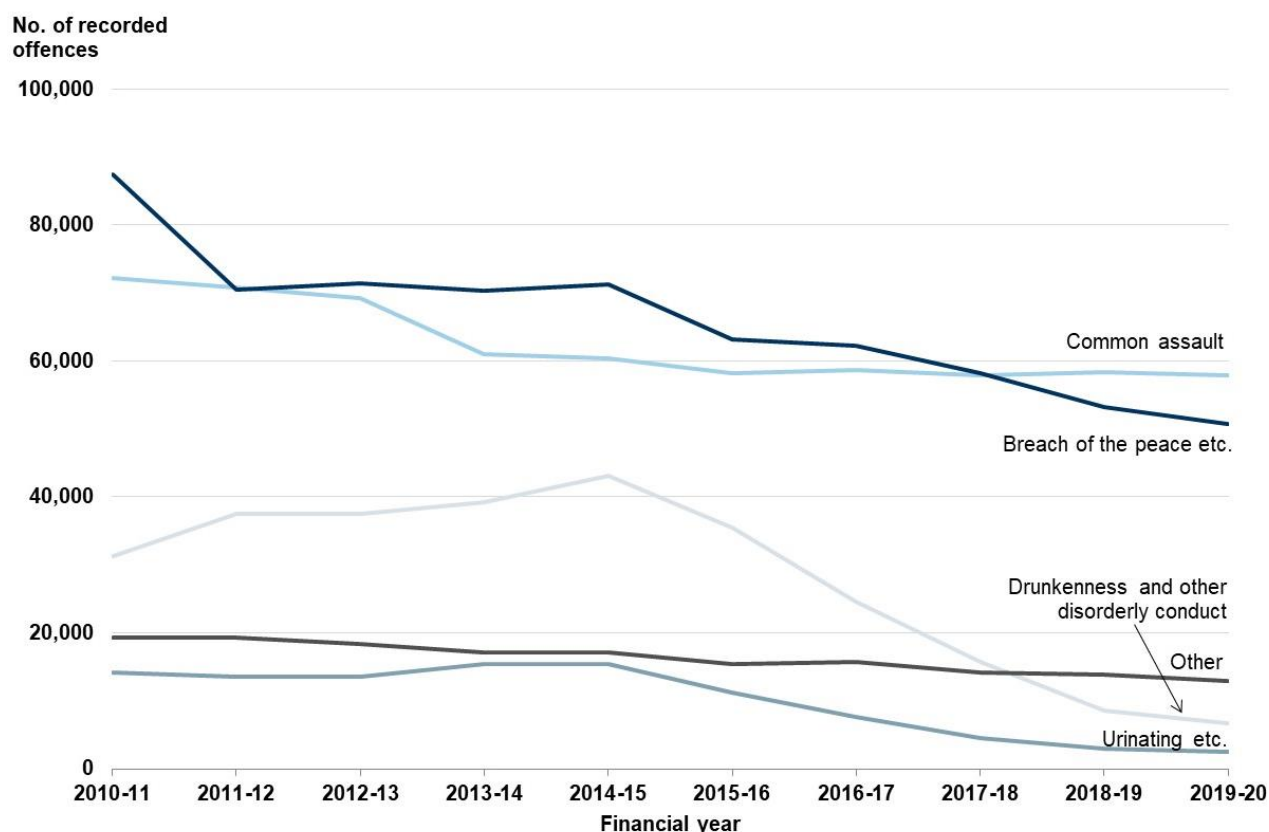
Miscellaneous offences account for around half (51%) of all offences recorded in Scotland in 2019-20. Between 2018-19 and 2019-20, the number of Miscellaneous offences recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 1%, from 130,686 to 128,755.

Due to a number of anomalies in the data for Miscellaneous offences, this group is only comparable from 2008-09 onwards. Further information on the comparability of Group 6 is available in [Annex 2](#).

The national rate of recorded Miscellaneous offences decreased from 240 per 10,000 population in 2018-19 to 236 offences per 10,000 population in 2019-20 (see [Table 4](#)).

[Chart 17](#) shows the five categories within Miscellaneous offences over the last ten years. This chart gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category. Common assault and Breach of the peace etc. have consistently been the biggest categories within Miscellaneous offences.

Chart 17: Miscellaneous offences in Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20



Common assault

Common assault is the largest category in Miscellaneous offences, accounting for more than two-fifths (45%) in 2019-20. Over the ten year period from 2010-11 to 2019-20, this category has fallen by just under a fifth (18%). There was a smaller than 1% decrease from 2018-19 to 2019-20 (a decrease of 82 offences).

Of the 57,833 offences recorded in 2019-20, 7,519 (15%) related to common assault of emergency workers, an increase of 6% since 2018-19 and 16% since 2010-11 (see [Table A8](#)).

The Recorded Crime in Scotland 2015-16 bulletin presented the results of an analysis of police recorded Common assault conducted by Scottish Government statisticians. More information can be found by accessing the ‘Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2015-16’ bulletin: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2015-16/>

Data validation: Common assaults

Scottish Government statisticians reviewed a random sample of 500 common assault records from 2014-15 to develop a better understanding of the nature of this type of offence. The quality of recording decisions for Common assault by Police Scotland was very good, with 98% of Common assaults classified correctly. The full findings and analysis from this sample can be found in the 2015-16 Recorded Crime in Scotland publication: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2015-16/>

Breach of the peace etc.

Breach of the peace etc. 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 A6](#).

Breach of the peace etc. is the second largest category in Miscellaneous offences, accounting for almost two-fifths (39%) in 2019-20. Over the ten year period from 2010-11 to 2019-20, this category has fallen by around a third (29%), including a 1% decrease from 50,708 in 2018-19 to 50,327 in 2019-20.

It should be noted that the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012, under which offences of offensive behaviour at football and threatening communications are included, was repealed by the Scottish Parliament on 19 April 2018, which means that there were no offences in 2019-20.

It should be noted that some offences which had previously been recorded under Breach of the peace etc. (primarily Threatening or abusive behaviour and Stalking) are no longer recorded when occurring as part of a course of conduct for which a crime has been recorded under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 legislation. This means there is a discontinuity in the time series for Breach of the peace etc. offences and is likely to be the reason why there has been a fall in Stalking offences.

Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct

Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct includes offences such as Drunk and incapable, Disorderly on licensed premises and Consumption of alcohol in designated places, byelaws prohibited. For further information on the classification of crimes and offences, please see [Chapter 7](#).

Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct accounted for 4% of Miscellaneous offences in 2019-20. Despite some fluctuation, levels of this offence fell 86% between 2010-11 and 2019-20. This includes a 22% decrease from 6,724 in 2018-19 to 5,234 in 2019-20.

Urinating etc.

Urinating etc. accounted for 2% of Miscellaneous offences in 2019-20. This category generally increased for several years from 2007-08, peaking in 2012-13. Urinating etc. offences decreased by 13% from 2,466 in 2018-19 to 2,153 in 2019-20, the seventh consecutive decrease in these offences.

Other miscellaneous offences

The Other miscellaneous offences category includes a wide range of offences, including Racially aggravated harassment, Racially aggravated conduct (see section below), False/hoax calls, Offences involving children and Offences involving animals/plants. For further information on the classification of crimes and offences, please see [Chapter 7](#).

Other miscellaneous offences account for 10% of Miscellaneous offences in 2019-20. These offences increased by 3% from 12,873 in 2018-19 to 13,208 in 2019-20.

It should be noted that the Other miscellaneous offences category is not considered comparable for years prior to 2008-09. Further information on quality issues is available in the '[Data Considerations](#)' section below, and in [Annex 2](#).

Racially aggravated harassment and conduct

[Table A7](#) shows these offences for the last ten years. In 2019-20 there were 92 offences of Racially aggravated harassment and 1,645 offences of Racially aggravated conduct. While these include specific racially aggravated offences, they do not account for all criminal behaviour which may have had a racial motivation such as Threatening or abusive behaviour or Common assault.

In February 2019 the Scottish Government published the research report '*Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland*' (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/developing-information-hate-crime-recorded-police-scotland/>).

Scottish Government statisticians are continuing to engage with Police Scotland as they develop the information they hold on hate crime. This includes a study of the characteristics and circumstances of police recorded hate crime, based on a review

of crime records. A publication date for the report on the findings from this exercise will be announced in the near future.

Data considerations

Similar to issues previously highlighted, due to changes in police recording systems, comparisons for the Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct and Other miscellaneous offences categories in Group 6 should 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.

The Scottish Government produced a Technical Report in 2014 which detailed the quality assurance work it carried out in reaching this conclusion:

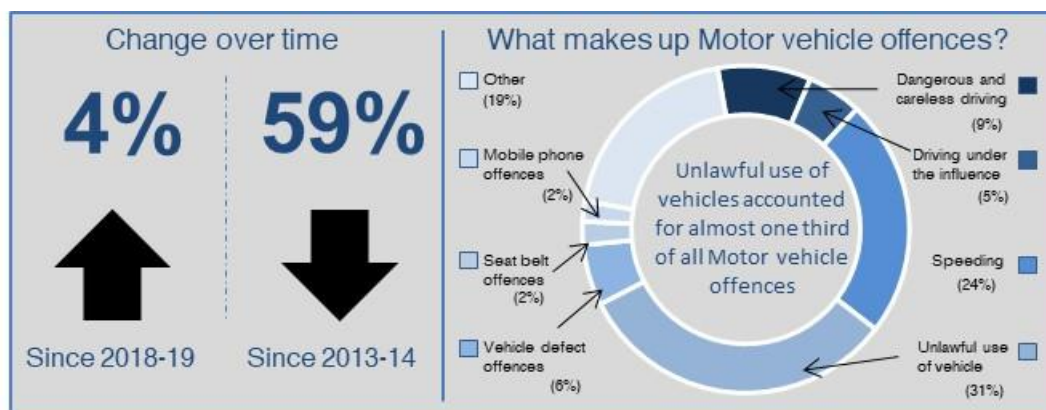
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/TechnicalReport>.

HMICS Crime Audit 2016

It should be noted that in the [HMICS audit report](#), violent crime includes common assault. Please refer to the [Group 1 - Non-sexual crimes of violence](#) section. Further information on this audit, including definitions of terminology and tests used, can be found in [Annex 2](#).

The previous HMICS Crime Audit, carried out in 2014, included a review of Hate Crime. Of the 504 Hate crimes examined, 94% were counted and classified correctly. Further information can be found in the [User Guide](#).

Group 7 – Motor Vehicle Offences



Number of Motor vehicle offences recorded in 2019-20

Motor vehicle offences account for 49% of all offences recorded in Scotland in 2019-20. Between 2018-19 and 2019-20, the number of Motor vehicle offences recorded by the police increased by 4% from 117,105 to 121,907. This amounts to an overall decrease of 59% since 2013-14.

Due to a number of anomalies in the data as a result of inconsistencies with legacy data reporting, Motor vehicle offences recorded by the police are only comparable from 2013-14 onwards. Further information on the comparability issues can be found in [Annex 2](#).

The national rate of recorded Motor vehicle offences increased from 215 per 10,000 population in 2018-19 to 223 per 10,000 population in 2019-20 (see [Table 4](#)).

Unlawful use of vehicle

The Unlawful use of vehicle category includes offences such as Driving while disqualified, Driving without a licence, Driving without insurance, and Driving without a test certificate. Further detail can be found in [Chapter 7](#).

Unlawful use of vehicle is the largest category in this group, accounting for just under a third (32%) of Motor vehicle offences. This category increased by 6% from 36,848 in 2018-19 to 39,022 in 2019-20.

Speeding

Speeding accounted for just under a quarter (24%) of Motor vehicle offences. This category increased by 5% from 27,368 in 2018-19 to 28,758 in 2019-20. However, there has been an overall decrease of 65% since 2013-14.

These figures do not include any offences recorded as a result of the Scottish Safety Camera Programme. These are excluded as no police resources were used in the recording of an offence by this programme and the National Statistics on Recorded Crime focuses solely on crimes and offences faced by the police and not other organisations.

Dangerous and careless driving

Dangerous and careless driving accounted for 9% of Motor vehicle offences. This category increased by 2% from 10,989 in 2018-19 to 11,246 in 2019-20. Numbers have fluctuated since 2010-11, but the level is currently 14% higher than in 2010-11.

Vehicle defect offences

Vehicle defect offences account for 6% of Motor vehicle offences. This category increased by 3% from 7,107 in 2018-19 to 7,346 in 2019-20. However there has been an overall decrease of 65% since 2013-14.

Mobile phone offences

Mobile phone offences account for 2% of Motor vehicle offences. This category decreased by 15% from 2,895 in 2018-19 to 2,450 in 2019-20. Levels of these offences increased each year from 2010-11, peaking in 2013-14, but have decreased each year since. There has been an overall decrease of 91% since 2010-11 and 93% since 2013-14.

Driving under the influence

Driving under the influence accounted for 5% of Motor vehicle offences. This category increased by 13% from 5,847 in 2018-19 to 6,594 in 2019-20. Over the longer term, driving under the influence has decreased by 13% since 2010-11.

Changes to the Road Traffic Act 1988 which introduced new offences of driving or being in charge of a motor vehicle with concentration of a specified controlled drug above a specified limit came into force on 21st October 2019. 616 of these new offences were recorded in 2019-20. While offences of driving or being in charge of a motor vehicle while impaired through alcohol or drugs already existed, evidence of impaired driving is not required for the new offences. This may have resulted in additional offences being recorded in relation to drug

driving and therefore may have played a part in the increase Driving under the influence being recorded.

Seat belt offences

Seat belt offences account for 2% of Motor vehicle offences. This category has decreased by 4% from 2,921 in 2018-19 to 2,800 in 2019-20. Levels of these offences had previously been on a generally upward trend between 2009-10 and 2013-14, before decreasing by 93% between 2013-14 and 2019-20.

Other motor vehicle offences

The Other motor vehicle offences category includes offences such as Accident offences and Parking offences. Further detail can be found in [Chapter 7](#).

Other motor vehicle offences account for 19% of Motor vehicle offences. This category increased by 2% from 23,130 in 2018-19 to 23,691 in 2019-20. This amounts to an overall decrease of 43% since 2013-14.

It should be noted that the Other motor vehicle offences category is not considered comparable for years prior to 2013-14. Further information on quality issues is available in [Annex 2](#).

3. Official Statistics on clear up rates

This chapter presents statistics on recorded crime clear up rates in Scotland during 2019-20. Whereas the rest of this bulletin presents recorded crime statistics that have been produced as National Statistics (following the then UKSA's decision to re-designate this information as National Statistics in 2016) – these clear up rate statistics remain published as Official Statistics.

The Office for Statistics Regulation will re-visit the statistical designation of this information once an audit has been carried out and the Scottish Crime Recording Board has considered any implications for the quality of the data.

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.

Clear up rates are calculated as follows:

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

Clear up rates presented are rounded to one decimal place.

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, e.g. 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, and as such clear up rates in excess of 100% can arise in a given year.

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 currently obtained, it is not possible to do this at present. Going forward, we will investigate any improvement that could be made to the measurement of clear up rates, and will consult with users on any possible change.

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'.

A new system of recorded warnings – known as the Recorded Police Warning (RPW) scheme, was introduced by Police Scotland on 11th January 2016. The scheme allows police officers to make greater use of their discretion when dealing with minor crimes and offences, and replaces the Formal Adult Warning system. Some crimes and offences in this 2019-20 bulletin (as with previous bulletins) will have been dealt with by a RPW.

This scheme should not impact on clear up rate statistics as a RPW can only be issued where there is sufficient evidence to report a matter to the Crown (and hence meet the criteria for a 'cleared-up' crime or offence). To date there has been no evidence of any impact of RPWs on clear up rate statistics.

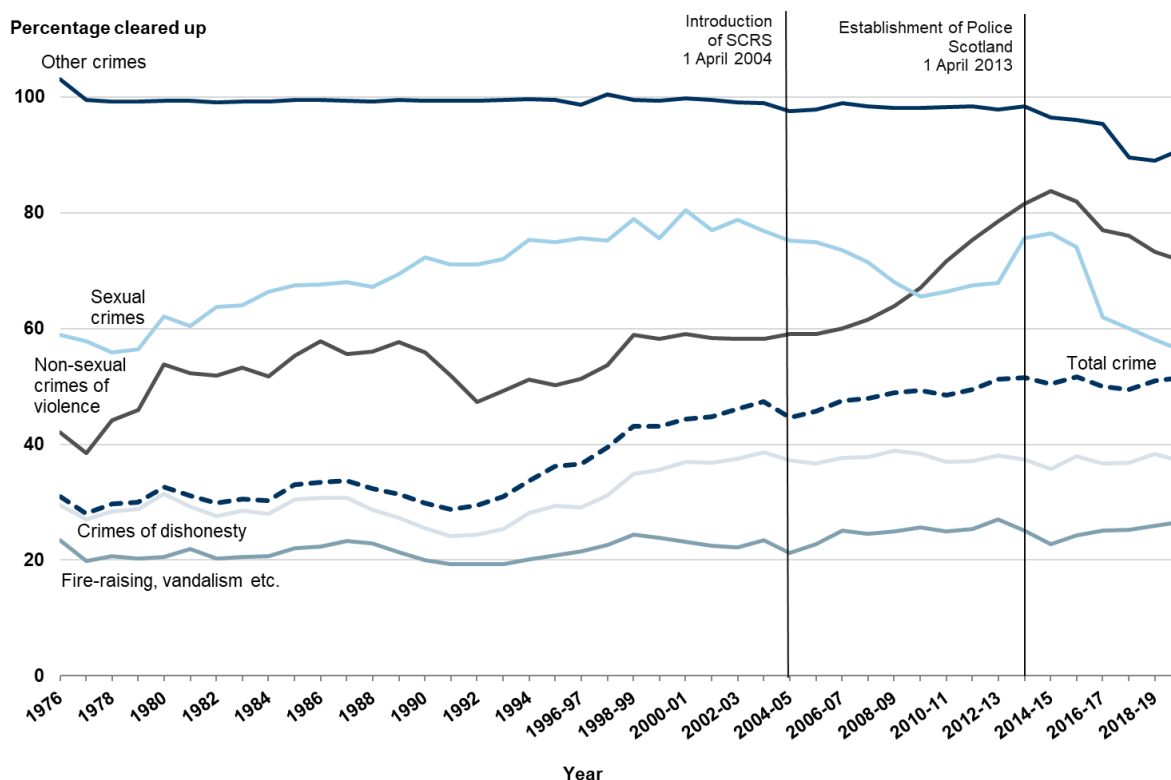
Total recorded crime

The clear up rate for total recorded crime increased by 0.6 percentage points (based on unrounded figures) from 51.0% in 2018-19 to 51.5% in 2019-20. Clear up rates have been relatively stable over the last decade following a generally upward trend since 1976, the first year for which comparable clear up rates are available, as shown by [Chart 18](#) below ([Table 3](#)).

There has been an impact on clear up rates for 2019-20 from the new crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act and the Coronavirus Acts, however the impact on overall clear up rates is small.

There now follows an analysis of clear up rates by crime group. It should be noted that rates of over 100% can occur when crimes are cleared up in a different reporting period to the year in which they were recorded.

Chart 18: Clear up rates for crimes recorded by the police by crime group, 1976¹ to 1994 then 1995-96 to 2019-20



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

Non-sexual crimes of violence

The clear up rate for Non-sexual crimes of violence decreased by 1.6 percentage points from 73.3% in 2018-19 to 71.7% in 2019-20.

It should be noted that changes in clear up rates between 2018-19 and 2019-20 for Non-sexual crimes of violence will be in part due to the recording of 1,681 new crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, following its enactment on the 1st April 2019. The clear up rate for these 1,681 crimes was 68.9% in 2019-20. The clear up rate for all other Non-sexual crimes of violence collectively decreased from 73.2% in 2018-19 to 72.3% in 2019-20.

Between 2018-19 and 2019-20 clear up rates for Homicide etc. increased by 4.2 percentage points from 94.1% to 98.3%. Clear up rates for Attempted murder and serious assault increased over the same period, from 76.3% to 77.2%, whilst Robbery and Other violence fell by 2.0 percentage points from 72.4% to 70.5% and 4.7 percentage points from 65.3% to 60.6% respectively.

Sexual crimes

The clear up rate for Sexual crimes decreased by 1.8 percentage points in 2019-20, from 58.1% in 2018-19 to 56.3% in 2019-20. The clear up rate for 2019-20 is the lowest since 1979.

Clear up rates decreased in all categories of Sexual crime between 2018-19 and 2019-20 with the exception of Rape and attempted rape, which increased by 0.3 percentage points, from 52.7% to 53.1%. The rate for Sexual assault fell 2.4 percentage points from 57.7% to 55.3%, and the rate for Other sexual crimes fell by 1.5 percentage points from 59.5% to 58.0%. The rate for Crimes associated with prostitution fell by 10.6 percentage points, from 86.8% to 76.2%.

Crimes of dishonesty

The clear up rate for Crimes of dishonesty decreased by 1.2 percentage points in 2019-20, from 38.3% in 2018-19 to 37.1%. Despite slight fluctuation year to year, this clear up rate has remained relatively stable over the ten year period since 2010-11.

Clear up rates decreased for Theft of a motor vehicle, Shoplifting and Fraud from 2018-19 to 2019-20. All other categories saw an increase in clear up rates over the same period (including, for example Housebreaking which saw an increase of 1.9 percentage points from 26.4% to 28.3%).

Fire-raising, vandalism etc.

The clear up rate for Fire-raising, vandalism etc. increased by 0.6 percentage points in 2019-20, from 25.9% in 2018-19 to 26.6%. Crimes of Fire-raising, vandalism etc. consistently have the lowest clear up rate of the five crime groups, although there have been consistent increases since 2014-15.

The clear up rate for Fire-raising decreased by 3.9 percentage points between 2018-19 and 2019-20, while the rate for Vandalism etc. increased by 0.9 percentage points.

Other crimes

Clear up rates for Other crimes were previously closer to 100% since these consist of many crimes for which someone is 'caught in the act', however there was a consistent decrease in clear up rates between 2013-14 and 2018-19. The clear up rate for Other crimes increased by 1.9 percentage points in 2019-20, from 89.0% to 90.9%.

The clear up rate for Crimes against public justice decreased by 0.6 percentage points, from 96.7% in 2018-19 to 96.0% in 2019-20. Clear up rates for all categories have decreased in the past year with the exception of Drugs, which has increased by 4.4 percentage points from 87.1% in 2018-19 to 91.6% in 2019-20.

Coronavirus restrictions

The clear up rate for crimes associated with the Coronavirus restrictions was 100%. This is because these are crimes where someone is 'caught in the act' and are therefore cleared up at the time of the crime. As noted above, the small number of new crimes recorded under the coronavirus legislation were collected using a bespoke data request to Police Scotland. The corresponding cleared up crimes were collected using the same method.

4. Putting recorded crime in context – A comparison with the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)

The preceding sections of this bulletin contain information on the volume and types of crime recorded by the police in Scotland in 2019-20. As highlighted earlier in this report, crime in Scotland is also measured by the [SCJS](#), a national survey with adults (aged 16 and over) living in private households, which asks respondents about their experiences of crime.

The SCJS and police recorded crime cover different populations and 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. However, the two sources present complementary information on crime occurring in Scotland, so it is therefore helpful and informative to look at these sources together⁷. This chapter will look at police recorded crime and SCJS findings in two ways:

- National trends of overall crime captured by Police Recorded Crime and by the SCJS.
- Comparable crime groups; a grouping of crimes specifically constructed to allow comparison between the SCJS and police recorded crime statistics for a set of crimes that are covered by both sources.

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, all Scottish Government face-to-face interviewing, including the SCJS, was suspended on 17th March 2020. Whilst the suspension came before the end of the 2019-20 fieldwork year, it is likely SCJS results of comparable quality to earlier years can still be produced (due in March 2021). Due to the ongoing length of the suspension, we will be unable to produce results for the subsequent 2020-21 fieldwork year. A telephone-based survey was launched on the 11th September 2020 to fill some of this evidence gap, with further information available at:

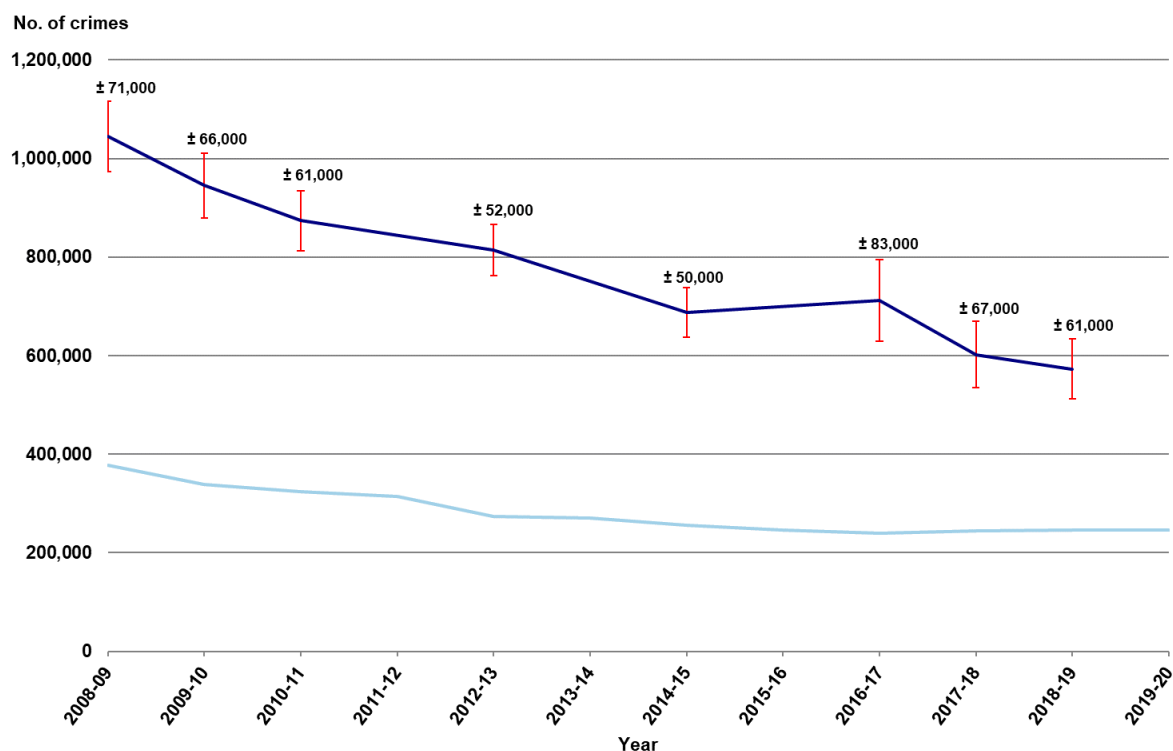
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scjs-COVID-19-suspension-and-alternative-data-collection/>

⁷ Information about crime in Scotland is also available from other sources: for example, other Scottish Government reports, which provide data on anti-social behaviour, harassment and discrimination, the [Scottish Household Survey](#), and other sources, such as [Police Scotland](#) and the [Scottish Police Authority](#).

Overall trends - Police Recorded Crime and the SCJS, 2008-09 to 2018-19

[Chart 19](#) 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. Therefore while the SCJS is useful for estimating the likely range of crime in the underlying population (and the level of uncertainty around such estimates), the police recorded crime data highlights the level of crime with which the police are faced.

Chart 19: Overall number of crimes in Scotland - Police Recorded Crime and the SCJS, 2008-09 to 2019-20*



* The red bars show the confidence intervals.

The 2018-19 SCJS estimated that of the 573,000 incidents of crime, 36% came to the attention of the police. In 2018-19, where crime was not reported to the police, the most common reasons SCJS respondents gave for not reporting crime were that the victim perceived the incident to be too trivial to involve the police (34%), or that the victim felt that the police could have done nothing (29%). Where crime was reported to the police it was mostly because the victim felt that it was the right thing to do (52%) or in the hope that offenders would be caught and punished (31%).

Figures from both sources ([Chart 19](#)) show a decreasing trend in the overall level of crime over the past decade. The survey finds the volume of crime in Scotland, including incidents not reported to the police, has fallen by 45% over the last decade or so – from an estimated 1,045,000 incidents in 2008-09 to 573,000 in 2018-19. The amount of overall crime has decreased by 20% since 2016-17, though has remained stable compared to the last survey in 2017-18.

In comparison, crimes recorded by the police in 2018-19 decreased by 35% compared to 2008-09 and increased by 1% compared to 2017-18.

4.1. Comparing SCJS estimates and Recorded Crime

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 Other crimes) 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 [Figure 2](#) below).

Figure 2: 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 & 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

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 collect data on all of the crimes and offences that the police are faced with (e.g. homicide, crimes against business i.e. shoplifting, and motor vehicle offences). This 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).

The following section provides an overview of the level of crime and trends in the comparable subset from 2008-09 to 2018-19. Note that this data does not use the most recent year's recorded crime data in order to allow 'like-for-like' comparison with the SCJS.

This analysis has been extended further in the 2018-19 SCJS report, 'Bringing Together Scotland's Crime Statistics', available from:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-crime-justice-survey-2018-19-main-findings/pages/9/>

4.1.1. Comparable Crime - Overall Comparison

Of the 573,000 crimes estimated by the 2018-19 SCJS, almost two-thirds (366,000) can be compared with police recorded crimes ([Figure 4](#)). The police recorded 125,953 crimes and offences in the comparable sub-set, representing approximately 34% of the number of crimes in the SCJS comparable sub-set. The extent of overall comparable crime in both the SCJS estimates and the recorded crime figures decreased between 2008-09 and 2018-19 (by 50% and 42% respectively). The reduction in estimated SCJS comparable crime from 731,000 in 2008-09 to 366,000 in 2018-19 is a statistically significant change.

Figure 3: Comparable crime group estimates, 2008-09 to 2018-19

	2008-09	2017-18	2018-19	% change 2008-09 to 2018-19 ⁹	% change 2017-18 to 2018-19 ⁹
Crime					
Comparable Recorded Crime	215,901	130,418	125,953	-42%	-3%
Comparable SCJS Crime	731,000	386,000	366,000	-50%	No change
Acquisitive crime					
Recorded Acquisitive Crime	27,527	17,867	16,644	-40%	-7%
SCJS Acquisitive Crime	64,000	51,000	46,000	-28%	No change
Violent crime					
Recorded Violent Crime	82,855	63,835	63,771	-23%	-0%
SCJS Violent Crime	317,000	172,000	165,000	-48%	No change
Vandalism					
Recorded Vandalism	105,519	48,716	45,538	-57%	-7%
SCJS Vandalism	350,000	163,000	155,000	-56%	No change

⁹ SCJS changes are specified when statistically significant.

4.1.2. Comparable Crime - by Comparable Crime Sub-groups

This section summarises findings for the comparable crime sub-groups: Acquisitive crime, Violent crime and Vandalism.

Acquisitive Crime

The acquisitive comparable crime group includes bicycle theft, housebreaking and theft of a motor vehicle. In 2018-19, the SCJS estimated that there were 46,000 acquisitive crimes (+/- 11,000, meaning that the true number of acquisitive crimes experienced by the population is estimated to be between 35,000 and 57,000⁸). The police recorded 16,644 acquisitive crimes in 2018-19.

⁸ Comparable acquisitive crime is rarer than vandalism and violent crime (estimates of acquisitive crime are based on 87 victim forms in the 2018-19 SCJS sample, compared to 116 violent crime victim forms and 251 vandalism victim forms). Consequently, there is greater uncertainty around the SCJS estimate of acquisitive crime and less power to identify significant changes over time.

Both SCJS estimates and recorded acquisitive crime figures decreased between 2008-09 and 2018-19 (by 28% and 40% respectively). Since 2017-18 police recorded acquisitive crime has decreased by 7%, while the SCJS found no change in acquisitive crime. This is likely to be due in part to the smaller sample sizes involved, which means it can be more challenging to identify significant changes between adjacent survey years.

Violent crime

Violent comparable crime includes serious assault, minor assault⁹ and robbery. In 2018-19 the SCJS estimated that there were 165,000 violent crimes¹⁰ (+/- 44,000, meaning that the true number of violent crimes experienced by the population is estimated to be between 121,000 and 209,000), while the police recorded 63,771 violent crimes.

[Figure 3](#) shows that the two sources of comparable violent crime data both show large decreases over the longer term, but broadly stable figures since 2017-18. Between 2008-09 and 2018-19, both SCJS estimates and police recorded violent crime figures have shown a decrease (by 48% and 23% respectively). Since 2017-18, comparable police recorded violent crime has shown a small decrease of 64 incidents, while the SCJS has found no change in violent crime.

Vandalism

The vandalism comparable crime group includes motor vehicle vandalism and property vandalism. In 2018-19, the SCJS estimated that there were 155,000 instances of vandalism (+/- 24,000, meaning that the true number of vandalism crimes experienced by the population is estimated to be between 130,000 and 179,000). The police recorded 45,538 vandalism crimes in 2018-19.

The trends in comparable crimes of vandalism across both the SCJS and police recorded crime between 2008-09 and 2018-19 are very similar – with the SCJS showing a decrease of 56% and police recorded crime showing a decrease of 57%. Since 2017-18, there has been no change in the SCJS estimate of vandalism, while crimes of vandalism recorded by the police have fallen by 7%.

⁹ The crime of 'minor assault' discussed here, is referred to as 'common assault' within the [Recorded Crime in Scotland National Statistics](#).

¹⁰ Violent crime estimates are based on a relatively small number of respondents who disclosed experiences of 116 violent crimes in 2018-19.

4.2. 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 has a different purpose, by comparing them where possible we can provide a more accurate picture of current crime levels in Scotland.

The latest results from both sources point towards a downward trend over the long term in overall comparable crime, with a more stable pattern over the shorter term.

Figure 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 annually for each financial year with reference period extending over 25 months. Results previously published biennially, now annually.
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covers the full range of crimes and offences. • Provides data at a local level (and can be used for performance monitoring). • A good measure of rarer, more serious crimes that are well reported. • Good measure of long-term trends. 	<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 domestic abuse or drug use). • 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).

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Figure 4 (Cont.): Strengths and limitations of Police Recorded Crime and the SCJS

<p>Limitations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partially reliant on the public reporting crime. Reporting rates may vary by the type of crime (e.g. crimes more likely to be reported include serious crime and crimes such as housebreaking where recording 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 crimes without a direct victim to interview such as speeding). Does not cover the entire population (e.g. children, homeless people or people living in communal accommodation). Less able to produce robust data at lower level geographies. Difficult to measure/detect changes between survey sweeps for rarer forms of crime (such as more serious offences). Estimates subject to a degree of error (confidence intervals).
<p>What other data are collected?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional data on homicides, racist incidents, domestic abuse incidents and firearm offences. 	<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).

5. Tables

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Table 1: Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20²

Crime group	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 ¹⁶	2018-19	2019-20	Number & Percentage	
											% change 18-19 to 19-20	% change 10-11 to 19-20
Total Crimes	323,247	314,188	273,053	270,397	256,350	246,243	238,921	244,504	246,480	246,516	0	-24
Non-sexual crimes of violence	11,437	9,484	7,468	6,686	6,272	6,737	7,164	7,251	8,008	9,316	16	-19
Homicide etc. ³ (incl. causing death by driving)	122	121	91	106	105	81	105	98	102	121	19	-1
Attempted murder & serious assault ⁴	5,493	4,693	3,643	3,268	3,166	4,007	4,186	4,189	4,359	4,097	-6	-25
Robbery	2,557	2,244	1,832	1,499	1,497	1,327	1,435	1,556	1,807	1,738	-4	-32
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,681	-	-
Other violence	3,265	2,426	1,902	1,813	1,504	1,322	1,438	1,408	1,740	1,679	-4	-49
Sexual crimes⁵	6,696	7,361	7,693	8,604	9,557	10,273	11,092	12,487	13,547	13,364	-1	100
Rape & attempted rape	1,131	1,274	1,462	1,808	1,901	1,809	1,878	2,255	2,426	2,343	-3	107
Sexual assault	3,220	2,908	3,008	3,405	3,727	3,963	4,281	4,826	5,123	4,936	-4	53
Crimes associated with prostitution	576	567	534	490	374	247	303	136	235	101	-57	-82
Other sexual crimes	1,769	2,612	2,689	2,901	3,555	4,254	4,630	5,270	5,763	5,984	4	238
Crimes of dishonesty	155,870	154,337	135,899	137,324	126,857	115,789	113,205	114,474	114,506	111,409	-3	-29
Housebreaking ⁶	25,017	24,222	21,515	22,272	20,607	17,637	16,299	15,130	13,777	12,903	-6	-48
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	4,059	3,529	3,239	3,218	2,879	2,193	1,940	2,027	1,684	1,728	3	-57
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	9,495	8,988	6,159	6,189	5,816	4,684	3,888	3,734	3,532	2,982	-16	-69
Theft of a motor vehicle	8,716	7,060	5,731	5,976	5,423	5,028	5,216	5,024	4,950	5,002	1	-43
Shoplifting	29,660	29,758	26,449	27,693	27,364	28,424	28,650	31,321	33,523	30,688	-8	3
Other theft	64,680	66,681	58,704	58,794	53,539	46,419	45,173	44,437	42,880	41,421	-3	-36
Fraud	8,983	8,892	8,898	8,088	6,913	7,400	7,811	8,628	9,675	11,939	23	33
Other dishonesty	5,260	5,207	5,204	5,094	4,316	4,004	4,228	4,173	4,485	4,746	6	-10

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Table 1 (Cont.): Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20²

Crime group	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18¹⁶	2018-19	2019-20	% change 18-19 to 19-20	% change 10-11 to 19-20
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	82,020	75,201	59,479	54,418	52,091	54,226	52,514	51,322	47,997	47,731	-1	-42
Fire-raising	3,966	3,755	3,066	2,549	2,351	2,595	2,793	2,632	2,481	2,657	7	-33
Vandalism etc.	78,054	71,446	56,413	51,869	49,740	51,631	49,721	48,690	45,516	45,074	-1	-42
Other crimes	67,224	67,805	62,514	63,365	61,573	59,218	54,946	58,970	62,422	64,589	3	-4
Crimes against public justice	26,294	26,635	23,401	23,610	21,100	20,361	18,795	18,679	18,512	19,441	5	-26
Handling offensive weapons								7,733	8,896	9,644	8	n/r
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	6,283	5,631	4,015	3,795	3,289	3,111	3,271	3,570	4,216	4,484	6	-29
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,163	4,680	5,160	10	-
Drugs	34,347	35,157	34,688	35,616	36,836	35,479	32,641	32,399	34,831	35,303	1	3
Other	300	382	410	344	348	267	239	159	183	201	10	-33
Coronavirus restrictions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	107	-	-

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police, Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20²

Offence group	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Number & Percentage	
											% change 18-19 to 19-20	% change 10-11 to 19-20
Total offences¹⁰				501,281	379,498	339,193	288,691	264,027	247,791	250,662	1	-
Miscellaneous offences⁷	211,655	210,135	203,063	207,190	183,513	168,896	150,523	137,012	130,686	128,755	-1	-39
Common assault ⁴	70,786	69,253	60,955	60,357	58,178	58,596	57,861	58,335	57,915	57,833	0	-18
Breach of the peace etc. ⁸	70,468	71,451	70,301	71,288	63,205	62,233	58,235	53,187	50,708	50,327	-1	-29
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct ⁷	37,451	37,458	39,238	43,043	35,524	24,639	15,796	8,635	6,724	5,234	-22	-86
Urinating etc.	13,620	13,602	15,420	15,361	11,216	7,700	4,505	3,044	2,466	2,153	-13	-84
Other ⁷	19,330	18,371	17,149	17,141	15,390	15,728	14,126	13,811	12,873	13,208	3	-32
Motor vehicle offences¹⁰				294,091	195,985	170,297	138,168	127,015	117,105	121,907	4	-
Dangerous and careless driving	9,839	9,853	10,530	11,524	10,773	12,057	11,693	10,722	10,989	11,246	2	14
Driving under the influence	7,563	7,445	6,433	6,079	5,218	5,458	5,917	5,863	5,847	6,594	13	-13
Speeding ¹⁰				82,382	60,926	54,419	34,371	29,223	27,368	28,758	5	-
Unlawful use of vehicle ¹⁰				57,779	40,855	41,470	45,978	43,871	36,848	39,022	6	-
Vehicle defect offences ¹⁰				20,923	15,593	13,070	8,385	7,049	7,107	7,346	3	-
Seat belt offences ⁷	29,171	31,505	33,047	37,880	15,619	8,059	4,502	3,134	2,921	2,800	-4	-90
Mobile phone offences ⁷	27,736	29,110	30,875	35,764	17,978	10,085	6,709	3,173	2,895	2,450	-15	-91
Other ¹⁰				41,760	29,023	25,679	20,613	23,980	23,130	23,691	2	-

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 3: Percentage of crimes / offences cleared up¹ by the police, Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20²

Crime / Offence group	Percentage									
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Total crimes	48.6	49.4	51.3	51.5	50.4	51.6	50.0	49.5	51.0	51.5
Non-sexual crimes of violence	71.6	75.4	78.5	81.5	83.7	82.0	77.1	76.1	73.3	71.7
Homicide etc. ³ (incl. causing death by driving)	99.2	96.7	104.4	101.9	107.6	101.2	99.0	104.1	94.1	98.3
Attempted murder & serious assault ⁴	69.9	73.9	77.8	81.5	83.3	84.4	78.6	78.9	76.3	77.2
Robbery	54.8	61.6	65.9	71.8	77.2	78.3	76.2	73.7	72.4	70.5
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68.9
Other violence	86.6	89.8	90.5	88.4	89.5	77.6	71.7	68.3	65.3	60.6
Sexual crimes⁵	66.4	67.5	68.0	75.6	76.5	74.1	61.9	60.0	58.1	56.3
Rape & attempted rape	54.9	56.9	61.8	73.0	74.2	76.3	59.6	54.6	52.7	53.1
Sexual assault	63.8	62.3	61.8	70.6	76.6	70.8	57.4	58.4	57.7	55.3
Crimes associated with prostitution	97.0	95.9	95.9	96.7	97.3	96.4	92.1	83.1	86.8	76.2
Other sexual crimes	68.6	72.2	72.7	79.4	75.5	74.9	65.1	63.3	59.5	58.0
Crimes of dishonesty	37.0	37.2	38.1	37.4	35.8	38.0	36.7	36.9	38.3	37.1
Housebreaking ⁶	24.5	24.5	24.8	23.2	25.0	26.7	22.5	23.9	26.4	28.3
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	22.6	21.7	19.5	16.8	15.2	21.2	17.5	18.5	18.2	18.5
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	17.2	17.2	20.1	16.2	15.1	19.3	16.5	15.8	19.2	19.9
Theft of a motor vehicle	43.3	45.2	47.6	43.1	39.3	41.8	39.9	40.8	41.7	37.5
Shoplifting	78.5	78.7	79.7	78.8	74.6	72.9	71.6	67.4	67.4	66.3
Other theft	20.0	20.6	21.0	20.5	18.6	19.9	19.3	19.2	20.2	20.3
Fraud	57.2	55.3	52.2	55.8	50.6	44.7	39.9	39.1	35.5	28.3
Other dishonesty	74.3	73.9	72.1	71.1	66.6	62.1	60.3	60.8	55.5	56.7

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Table 3 (Cont.): Percentage of crimes / offences cleared up¹ by the police, Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20²

Crime / Offence group	Percentage									
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	25.0	25.4	27.0	25.1	22.8	24.3	25.1	25.2	25.9	26.6
Fire-raising	21.9	23.9	25.9	27.2	25.1	28.2	25.7	27.5	26.9	23.0
Vandalism etc.	25.2	25.5	27.0	25.0	22.7	24.1	25.0	25.1	25.9	26.8
Other crimes	98.3	98.4	97.9	98.4	96.5	96.0	95.3	89.6	89.0	90.9
Crimes against public justice	97.6	97.6	97.6	98.0	97.5	97.5	96.7	96.3	96.7	96.0
Handling offensive weapons								80.7	80.3	78.1
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	96.2	97.3	97.0	97.8	96.6	96.5	96.7	91.9	90.1	90.9
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71.1	71.4	66.9
Drugs	99.4	99.2	98.2	98.8	95.9	95.1	94.4	87.8	87.1	91.6
Other	88.7	90.6	94.6	97.7	95.1	97.0	96.2	89.9	95.6	86.1
Coronavirus restrictions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
Miscellaneous offences⁷	82.0	83.9	85.5	87.5	86.3	84.3	80.3	77.7	76.6	75.9
Common assault ⁴	69.9	71.4	72.6	75.9	76.2	75.9	70.8	69.1	68.6	68.9
Breach of the peace etc. ⁸	84.3	86.8	87.8	89.2	87.8	86.5	84.8	84.0	83.3	82.3
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct ⁷	99.9	99.8	99.9	99.9	99.8	99.8	99.6	99.5	99.3	100.0
Urinating etc.	99.7	99.7	99.8	100.0	99.8	99.7	99.6	99.6	99.4	98.5
Other ⁷	70.6	75.5	76.0	78.9	76.9	74.9	72.5	71.3	69.9	69.3

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 4: Crimes and offences recorded in Scotland per 10,000 population¹¹, 2010-11 to 2019-20²

Crime / Offence group	Rate per 10,000 population									
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 ¹⁶	2018-19	2019-20
Total crimes	614	593	514	508	479	458	442	451	453	451
Non-sexual crimes of violence	22	18	14	13	12	13	13	13	15	17
Homicide etc. ³ (incl. causing death by driving)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted murder & serious assault ⁴	10	9	7	6	6	7	8	8	8	7
Robbery	5	4	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Other violence	6	5	4	3	3	2	3	3	3	3
Sexual crimes⁵	13	14	14	16	18	19	21	23	25	24
Rape & attempted rape	2	2	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	4
Sexual assault	6	5	6	6	7	7	8	9	9	9
Crimes associated with prostitution	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Other sexual crimes	3	5	5	5	7	8	9	10	11	11
Crimes of dishonesty	296	291	256	258	237	216	209	211	211	204
Housebreaking ⁶	48	46	40	42	39	33	30	28	25	24
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	8	7	6	6	5	4	4	4	3	3
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	18	17	12	12	11	9	7	7	6	5
Theft of a motor vehicle	17	13	11	11	10	9	10	9	9	9
Shoplifting	56	56	50	52	51	53	53	58	62	56
Other theft	123	126	110	110	100	86	84	82	79	76
Fraud	17	17	17	15	13	14	14	16	18	22
Other dishonesty	10	10	10	10	8	7	8	8	8	9

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Table 4 (Cont.): Crimes and offences recorded in Scotland per 10,000 population¹¹, 2010-11 to 2019-20²

Crime / Offence group	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 ¹⁶	2018-19	2019-20
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	156	142	112	102	97	101	97	95	88	87
Fire-raising	8	7	6	5	4	5	5	5	5	5
Vandalism etc.	148	135	106	97	93	96	92	90	84	83
Other crimes	128	128	118	119	115	110	102	109	115	118
Crimes against public justice	50	50	44	44	39	38	35	34	34	36
Handling offensive weapons								14	16	18
<i>Not used in other criminal activity</i>	12	11	8	7	6	6	6	7	8	8
<i>Used in other criminal activity</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	9	9
Drugs	65	66	65	67	69	66	60	60	64	65
Other	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Coronavirus restrictions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Miscellaneous offences⁷	402	396	382	389	343	314	279	253	240	236
Common assault ⁴	135	131	115	113	109	109	107	108	106	106
Breach of the peace etc. ⁸	134	135	132	134	118	116	108	98	93	92
Drunkness and other disorderly conduct ⁷	71	71	74	81	66	46	29	16	12	10
Urinating etc.	26	26	29	29	21	14	8	6	5	4
Other ⁷	37	35	32	32	29	29	26	25	24	24
Motor vehicle offences¹⁰				552	366	317	256	234	215	223
Dangerous and careless driving	19	19	20	22	20	22	22	20	20	21
Driving under the influence	14	14	12	11	10	10	11	11	11	12
Speeding ¹⁰				155	114	101	64	54	50	53
Unlawful use of vehicle ¹⁰				108	76	77	85	81	68	71
Vehicle defect offences ¹⁰				39	29	24	16	13	13	13
Seat belt offences ⁷	55	59	62	71	29	15	8	6	5	5
Mobile phone offences ⁷	53	55	58	67	34	19	12	6	5	4
Other ¹⁰				78	54	48	38	44	43	43

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 5: Crimes and offences recorded by local authority area, 2019-20

Local authority area							Number
	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	Coronavirus restrictions	Total crimes
Aberdeen City	512	608	5,218	1,850	3,256	8	11,452
Aberdeenshire	326	549	2,405	1,386	2,087	3	6,756
Angus	186	373	1,243	741	666	1	3,210
Argyll & Bute	90	211	785	600	796	1	2,483
Clackmannanshire	117	156	862	559	674	0	2,368
Dumfries & Galloway	195	428	2,543	1,293	2,112	0	6,571
Dundee City	464	614	4,345	1,742	2,469	0	9,634
East Ayrshire	189	237	2,638	1,137	1,461	7	5,669
East Dunbartonshire	106	175	1,268	546	777	5	2,877
East Lothian	89	196	1,923	873	854	0	3,935
East Renfrewshire	65	144	1,088	452	464	1	2,214
Edinburgh, City of	1,057	1,206	17,313	5,303	5,534	0	30,413
Falkirk	262	427	2,913	1,456	2,090	1	7,149
Fife	582	1,085	6,370	2,697	3,002	2	13,738
Glasgow City	1,819	1,866	19,377	7,909	12,075	35	43,081
Highland	232	462	2,751	1,460	2,343	0	7,248
Inverclyde	156	151	1,398	719	1,277	0	3,701
Midlothian	119	205	1,894	792	972	0	3,982
Moray	132	260	880	552	827	0	2,651
Na h-Eileanan Siar	11	38	99	93	173	0	414
North Ayrshire	180	360	2,798	1,460	1,534	3	6,335
North Lanarkshire	575	752	8,089	3,610	5,457	1	18,484
Orkney Islands	12	47	108	53	134	0	354
Perth & Kinross	174	350	1,950	756	1,154	0	4,384
Renfrewshire	300	404	3,429	1,547	2,116	6	7,802
Scottish Borders	100	229	1,460	864	924	0	3,577
Shetland Islands	24	56	179	109	117	0	485
South Ayrshire	160	211	2,386	886	1,248	11	4,902
South Lanarkshire	499	673	6,583	3,014	3,937	15	14,721
Stirling	139	252	1,517	670	978	0	3,556
West Dunbartonshire	187	217	1,650	929	1,744	7	4,734
West Lothian	257	422	3,947	1,673	1,337	0	7,636
SCOTLAND	9,316	13,364	111,409	47,731	64,589	107	246,516

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Table 5 (Cont.): Crimes and offences recorded by local authority area, 2019-20

Local authority area	Miscellaneous offences	Motor vehicle offences	Total offences	Number
				Total crimes and offences
Aberdeen City	5,833	5,577	11,410	22,862
Aberdeenshire	3,490	6,031	9,521	16,277
Angus	2,125	3,547	5,672	8,882
Argyll & Bute	1,920	2,197	4,117	6,600
Clackmannanshire	1,405	660	2,065	4,433
Dumfries & Galloway	4,377	7,994	12,371	18,942
Dundee City	4,523	5,794	10,317	19,951
East Ayrshire	2,835	2,123	4,958	10,627
East Dunbartonshire	1,353	857	2,210	5,087
East Lothian	1,733	1,132	2,865	6,800
East Renfrewshire	945	865	1,810	4,024
Edinburgh, City of	12,453	9,215	21,668	52,081
Falkirk	4,234	2,879	7,113	14,262
Fife	7,803	7,057	14,860	28,598
Glasgow City	23,179	15,594	38,773	81,854
Highland	3,834	7,190	11,024	18,272
Inverclyde	1,601	1,175	2,776	6,477
Midlothian	1,910	1,293	3,203	7,185
Moray	1,618	2,719	4,337	6,988
Na h-Eileanan Siar	285	487	772	1,186
North Ayrshire	3,509	2,295	5,804	12,139
North Lanarkshire	9,832	6,534	16,366	34,850
Orkney Islands	280	496	776	1,130
Perth & Kinross	2,076	7,716	9,792	14,176
Renfrewshire	4,325	3,727	8,052	15,854
Scottish Borders	2,256	1,739	3,995	7,572
Shetland Islands	251	504	755	1,240
South Ayrshire	2,558	1,886	4,444	9,346
South Lanarkshire	7,839	5,741	13,580	28,301
Stirling	2,019	1,768	3,787	7,343
West Dunbartonshire	2,721	2,473	5,194	9,928
West Lothian	3,633	2,642	6,275	13,911
SCOTLAND	128,755	121,907	250,662	497,178

Table 6: Number of crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 1971 to 2019-20

							Number
Year	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	Coronavirus restrictions	Total crimes
1971	5,532	4,611	173,940	21,962	4,921		210,966
1972	5,642	4,333	171,904	24,934	5,716		212,529
1973	5,334	4,471	160,527	30,939	6,507		207,778
1974	5,920	4,111	186,304	30,835	6,385		233,555
1975 ¹²	7,353	4,263	227,264	36,517	6,088		281,485
1976	8,056	4,290	254,880	43,757	6,894		317,877
1977	8,154	4,368	290,245	53,125	7,490		363,382
1978	8,168	4,653	262,576	51,148	8,412		334,957
1979	7,988	4,673	269,193	56,138	8,688		346,680
1980	8,821	5,244	279,793	60,121	10,608		364,587
1981	9,266	4,794	320,003	61,725	12,416		408,204
1982	9,408	4,996	340,070	66,013	14,594		435,081
1983	9,926	5,474	342,452	73,060	14,583		445,495
1984	10,706	5,710	359,196	79,054	16,977		471,643
1985	11,456	5,741	342,349	79,545	18,808		457,899
1986	11,818	5,354	342,522	78,891	20,020		458,605
1987	13,686	5,266	356,527	76,444	21,024		472,947
1988	13,384	5,057	344,509	73,518	21,453		457,921
1989	13,606	5,742	355,525	79,062	24,273		478,208
1990	13,098	6,034	385,152	86,457	27,781		518,522
1991	15,562	5,844	430,153	89,726	31,636		572,921
1992	16,764	6,150	414,992	92,237	34,747		564,890
1993	14,252	6,047	374,937	84,194	37,817		517,247
1994	14,492	5,998	350,346	88,543	40,731		500,110
1995-96	14,981	5,740	319,269	88,839	49,310		478,139
1996-97	14,233	5,941	285,785	86,025	48,703		440,687
1997-98	13,394	7,414	266,886	81,036	52,272		421,002
1998-99	14,693	7,071	276,974	77,624	57,734		434,096
1999-00	15,831	5,882	275,557	81,197	57,014		435,481
2000-01	14,812	5,727	253,295	85,781	58,879		418,494
2001-02	15,653	5,994	242,878	94,944	66,719		426,188
2002-03	16,074	6,623	224,785	97,598	73,201		418,281
2003-04	15,187	6,785	211,004	103,732	77,506		414,214
2004-05	14,728	7,325	210,365	128,566	77,139		438,123
2005-06	13,726	6,558	187,798	127,889	81,814		417,785
2006-07	14,099	6,726	183,760	129,734	84,938		419,257
2007-08	12,874	6,552	166,718	118,025	81,340		385,509
2008-09	12,612	6,331	167,812	109,430	81,248		377,433
2009-10	11,228	6,527	153,256	93,443	73,670		338,124

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Table 6 (Cont.): Number of crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 1971 to 2019-20

Year	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes¹⁶	Coronavirus restrictions	Total crimes¹⁶
2010-11	11,437	6,696	155,870	82,020	67,224		323,247
2011-12	9,484	7,361	154,337	75,201	67,805		314,188
2012-13	7,468	7,693	135,899	59,479	62,514		273,053
2013-14	6,686	8,604	137,324	54,418	63,365		270,397
2014-15	6,272	9,557	126,857	52,091	61,573		256,350
2015-16	6,737	10,273	115,789	54,226	59,218		246,243
2016-17	7,164	11,092	113,205	52,514	54,946		238,921
2017-18	7,251	12,487	114,474	51,322	58,970		244,504
2018-19	8,008	13,547	114,506	47,997	62,422		246,480
2019-20	9,316	13,364	111,409	47,731	64,589	107	246,516

Please also see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 7: Crimes per 10,000 population¹¹, Scotland, 1971 to 2019-20

Rate per 10,000 population

Year	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes*	Coronavirus restrictions	Total crimes	Population
1971	11	9	332	42	9		403	5,235,600
1972	11	8	329	48	11		406	5,230,600
1973	10	9	307	59	12		397	5,233,900
1974	11	8	355	59	12		446	5,240,800
1975 ¹²	14	8	434	70	12		538	5,232,400
1976	15	8	487	84	13		607	5,233,400
1977	16	8	555	102	14		695	5,226,200
1978	16	9	504	98	16		643	5,212,300
1979	15	9	517	108	17		666	5,203,600
1980	17	10	539	116	20		702	5,193,900
1981	18	9	618	119	24		788	5,180,200
1982	18	10	658	128	28		842	5,164,540
1983	19	11	665	142	28		865	5,148,120
1984	21	11	699	154	33		918	5,138,880
1985	22	11	668	155	37		893	5,127,890
1986	23	10	670	154	39		897	5,111,760
1987	27	10	699	150	41		928	5,099,020
1988	26	10	679	145	42		902	5,077,440
1989	27	11	700	156	48		942	5,078,190
1990	26	12	758	170	55		1,020	5,081,270
1991	31	11	846	177	62		1,127	5,083,330
1992	33	12	816	181	68		1,111	5,085,620
1993	28	12	736	165	74		1,016	5,092,460
1994	28	12	687	174	80		980	5,102,210
1995-96	29	11	626	174	97		937	5,103,690
1996-97	28	12	561	169	96		865	5,092,190
1997-98	26	15	525	159	103		828	5,083,340
1998-99	29	14	546	153	114		855	5,077,070
1999-00	31	12	543	160	112		859	5,071,950
2000-01	29	11	500	169	116		827	5,062,940
2001-02	31	12	480	187	132		842	5,064,200
2002-03	32	13	444	193	144		826	5,066,000
2003-04	30	13	416	205	153		817	5,068,500
2004-05	29	14	414	253	152		862	5,084,300
2005-06	27	13	367	250	160		818	5,110,200
2006-07	27	13	358	253	165		817	5,133,100
2007-08	25	13	322	228	157		746	5,170,000
2008-09	25	13	320	227	156		725	5,202,900
2009-10	24	12	321	209	155		646	5,231,900

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Table 7 (Cont.): Crimes recorded per 10,000 population¹¹, Scotland, 1971 to 2019-20

Year	Non-sexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes*	Coronavirus restrictions	Total crimes¹⁶	Population
2010-11	21	12	291	178	140		614	5,262,200
2011-12	22	13	294	155	127		593	5,299,900
2012-13	18	14	290	142	128		514	5,313,600
2013-14	14	14	255	112	117		508	5,327,700
2014-15	13	16	257	102	118		479	5,347,600
2015-16	12	18	236	97	115		458	5,373,000
2016-17	13	21	209	97	102		442	5,404,700
2017-18	13	23	211	95	109		451	5,424,800
2018-19	15	25	211	88	115		453	5,438,100
2019-20	17	24	204	87	118	<1	451	5,463,300

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table A1: Sexual crimes⁵ recorded by the police, Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20

	Number & Percentage										
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*	2018-19	2019-20	1 Year % change
Sexual crimes	1,131	1,274	1,462	1,808	1,901	1,809	1,878	2,255	2,426	2,343	-3
Rape & attempted rape	1,131	1,274	1,462	1,808	1,901	1,809	1,878	2,255	2,426	2,343	-3
Rape	997	1,183	1,372	1,690	1,797	1,692	1,755	2,136	2,293	2,213	-3
Attempted rape	134	91	90	118	104	117	123	119	133	130	-2
Sexual assault	3,220	2,908	3,008	3,405	3,727	3,963	4,281	4,826	5,123	4,936	-4
Sexual assault including against children	1,774	2,056	2,166	2,449	2,713	2,892	2,954	3,625	3,929	3,820	-3
<i>Sexual assault committed prior to 1 December 2010</i>	1,275	288	316	358	347	344	378	346	288	278	-3
<i>Sexual assault against an adult 16+</i>	321	1,139	1,149	1,323	1,434	1,597	1,615	2,021	2,296	2,222	-3
<i>Sexual assault against a child aged 13-15</i>	67	245	312	372	457	462	423	626	661	645	-2
<i>Sexual assault against a child under 13</i>	111	384	389	396	475	489	538	632	684	675	-1
Lewd and libidinous practices	1,446	852	842	956	1,014	1,071	1,327	1,201	1,194	1,116	-7
Crimes associated with prostitution	576	567	534	490	374	247	303	136	235	101	-57
Crimes relating to prostitution	353	344	348	295	179	146	194	65	50	13	-74
Soliciting services of person engaged in prostitution	154	149	133	117	138	64	58	22	139	42	-70
Brothel keeping	21	36	28	32	36	17	14	18	10	13	30
Immoral traffic	33	26	14	32	13	7	26	21	31	23	-26
Procuration	15	12	11	14	8	13	11	10	5	10	100

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Table A1 (Cont.): Sexual crimes⁵ recorded by the police, Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20

Sexual crimes	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*	2018-19	2019-20	<i>1 Year % change</i>
Other	1,769	2,612	2,689	2,901	3,555	4,254	4,630	5,270	5,763	5,984	4
Other sexually coercive conduct	164	719	875	1,038	1,624	2,168	2,461	2,718	3,202	3,320	4
<i>Other sexually coercive conduct against an adult 16+**</i>	62	306	391	425	906	1,358	1,501	1,750	1,995	1,987	0
<i>Other sexually coercive conduct against a child aged 13-15</i>	48	181	256	365	333	350	408	392	548	566	3
<i>Other sexually coercive conduct against a child under 13</i>	54	232	228	248	385	460	552	576	659	767	16
Other sexual crimes involving 13-15 year old children	441	516	429	434	417	485	452	391	393	399	2
Taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children	225	375	595	621	603	645	649	658	554	584	5
Threaten to disclose / disclose intimate image	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	421	596	655	10
Incest	17	18	16	11	7	8	5	4	7	8	14
Illegal homosexual acts	118	46	45	53	56	78	111	80	110	92	-16
Indecent exposure	742	894	680	682	784	726	523	506	494	469	-5
Other sexual crimes	62	44	49	62	64	144	429	492	407	457	12
Total Sexual crimes⁵	6,696	7,361	7,693	8,604	9,557	10,273	11,092	12,487	13,547	13,364	-1

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

~ = The relevant legislation for this category was implemented in 2017-18.

** Some crimes may be against children aged 13-15 where they did not consent to communications

Table A2: Theft by Housebreaking¹³ (including attempts and housebreaking 'with intent'), Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20

Crime category	Number & Percentage										% change 18-19 to 19-20
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*	2018-19	2019-20	
Domestic:	17,657	17,375	15,656	16,334	15,166	13,051	12,036	10,893	9,573	9,191	-4
Dwelling	12,633	12,198	10,767	10,732	9,590	8,854	8,169	7,204	6,993	6,671	-5
Non-dwelling	5,024	5,177	4,889	5,602	5,576	4,197	3,867	3,689	2,580	2,520	-2
Other	7,360	6,847	5,859	5,938	5,441	4,586	4,263	4,237	4,204	3,712	-12
Total Housebreaking	25,017	24,222	21,515	22,272	20,607	17,637	16,299	15,130	13,777	12,903	-6
Percentage Domestic	71%	72%	73%	73%	74%	74%	74%	72%	69%	71%	

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table A3: Theft of, and from, motor vehicles recorded by the police, Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20

Crime category	Number & Percentage										% change 18-19 to 19-20
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*	2018-19	2019-20	
Theft from motor vehicle of which:	16,531	16,906	13,323	13,821	12,933	11,081	10,162	9,397	9,114	8,731	-4
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	6,795	6,386	4,404	4,450	4,173	3,285	2,715	2,495	2,275	1,875	-18
OLP with intent to steal	1,793	1,792	1,198	1,152	1,119	964	733	753	733	596	-19
Attempted theft OLP	907	810	557	587	524	435	440	486	524	511	-2
Other theft	7,036	7,918	7,164	7,632	7,117	6,397	6,274	5,663	5,582	5,749	3
Theft of motor vehicle	7,325	6,087	5,149	5,340	4,866	4,597	4,696	4,594	4,558	4,648	2
Attempted theft of motor vehicle	1,391	973	582	636	557	431	520	430	392	354	-10
Total Motor vehicle theft	25,247	23,966	19,054	19,797	18,356	16,109	15,378	14,421	14,064	13,733	-2

Table A4: Crimes of Handling offensive weapons recorded by the police, Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20

Crime category	Number & Percentage										
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 ¹⁶	2018-19	2019-20	% change 18-19 to 19-20
Handling offensive weapons - Not used in other criminal activity	6,283	5,631	4,015	3,795	3,289	3,111	3,271	3,570	4,216	4,484	6
Possession of an offensive weapon	3,248	2,820	1,863	1,728	1,380	1,149	1,156	1,213	1,483	1,612	9
Restriction of an offensive weapon	20	19	17	6	17	11	23	17	24	33	38
Having in a public place an article with a blade or point	3,015	2,792	2,135	2,061	1,892	1,951	2,092	2,340	2,709	2,839	5
Handling offensive weapons - Used in other criminal activity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,163	4,680	5,160	10
Possession of an offensive weapon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,520	2,771	3,211	16
Having in a public place an article with a blade or point	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,643	1,909	1,949	2
Total Handling offensive weapons								7,733	8,896	9,644	8

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table A5: Drug crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20

Crime category	Number & Percentage										
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	% change 18-19 to 19-20
Illegal importation of drugs	30	19	24	27	21	52	64	70	56	106	89
Illegal cultivation of drugs	964	1,242	1,251	1,185	1,066	1,036	822	780	622	610	-2
Possession of drugs with intent to supply	6,144	5,423	3,861	3,594	3,700	3,976	3,531	3,877	3,973	3,841	-3
Possession of drugs	26,960	28,326	29,150	30,451	31,632	29,929	27,766	27,171	29,843	30,469	2
Drugs, other offences, money laundering	249	147	402	359	417	486	458	501	337	277	-18
Total Drug crimes	34,347	35,157	34,688	35,616	36,836	35,479	32,641	32,399	34,831	35,303	1

Table A6: Breach of the peace etc. offences recorded by the police, Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20

Crime category	Number & Percentage										
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	% change 18-19 to 19-20
Breach of the peace	58,432	33,710	25,072	21,755	14,636	12,178	8,751	6,604	5,669	4,778	-16
Threatening or abusive behaviour ¹⁴	11,914	37,223	44,429	48,521	47,210	48,456	47,850	45,064	43,731	44,678	2
Offence of stalking ¹⁴	122	495	605	875	1,251	1,435	1,372	1,376	1,304	871	-33
Offensive behaviour at football ¹⁵	.	22	154	126	102	152	247	140	3	0	n/r
Threatening communications ¹⁵	.	1	41	11	6	12	15	3	1	0	n/r
Total Breach of the peace etc.	70,468	71,451	70,301	71,288	63,205	62,233	58,235	53,187	50,708	50,327	-1

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table A7: Racially aggravated offences, Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20

	Number & Percentage										
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	% change 18-19 to 19-20
Racially aggravated harassment	257	171	155	128	130	75	66	74	108	92	-15
Racially aggravated conduct	3,916	3,315	2,748	2,584	2,326	2,057	1,927	1,847	1,636	1,645	1
Total	4,173	3,486	2,903	2,712	2,456	2,132	1,993	1,921	1,744	1,737	0

Table A8: Common assault offences recorded by the police, Scotland, 2010-11 to 2019-20

											Number & Percentage	
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	<i>% change 18-19 to 19-20</i>	
Common assault	64,330	62,146	54,441	53,544	51,698	52,182	51,352	51,331	50,817	50,314	-1	
Common assault of an emergency worker	6,456	7,107	6,514	6,813	6,480	6,414	6,509	7,004	7,098	7,519	6	
Total	70,786	69,253	60,955	60,357	58,178	58,596	57,861	58,335	57,915	57,833	0	

Notes for Tables

1. The definition of cleared up can be found toward the start of [Chapter 3](#).
2. This table can be accessed at local authority level online via the excel spreadsheet contained in the 'Supporting files' (top left of the webpage):
<https://www.gov.scot/ISBN/978-1-80004-109-7>.
3. 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.
4. For the definition of Serious assault and the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault please see [Paragraph 6.19](#) within Annex 1.
5. Implementation of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act on 1 December 2010 affected the comparability of the breakdown of Sexual crimes over time. For further information please see the '[Data Considerations](#)' section under Sexual crimes within Chapter 3.
6. Includes dwellings, non-dwellings and other premises. For a more detailed definition see [Paragraph 6.23](#) within Annex 1.
7. Due to comparability issues, it is not possible to compare data with years prior to 2008-09. For further detail see [Paragraph 6.33](#) within Annex 2.
8. Includes Breach of the peace and Threatening or abusive behaviour, offence of Stalking, Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications (Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act 2012).
9. SCJS statistically significant changes (at 95% confidence interval) shown in bold.
10. Due to comparability issues, it is not possible to compare data with years prior to 2013-14. For further detail see [Paragraph 6.33](#) within Annex 2.
11. Population estimates are as at mid-year 2019 from the National Records of Scotland (<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates>).
12. Data for 1975 are incomplete due to local government reorganisation.
13. For a detailed definition of Housebreaking see [Paragraph 6.23](#) within Annex 1.

14. Offence introduced in October 2010; therefore caution should be exercised when comparing 2010-11 with the rest of this time series as 2010-11 does not comprise a full year of data.

15. Offence introduced in March 2012; therefore caution should be exercised when comparing 2011-12 with the rest of this time series as 2011-12 does not comprise a full year of data. The Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 was repealed by the Scottish Parliament on 19th April 2018.

16. Part of the change in Total crime and Other crimes in 2017-18 was due to additional crimes of handling an offensive weapon. Further information on this procedural change and its impact on the statistics are available in the section on [Group 5](#) crimes.

6. Annexes

Annex 1: Data Sources and Definitions

Data collection:

- 6.1. National Statistics on total recorded crime are based on data which Police Scotland extract from their IT system (called the Scottish Operational and Management Information System (ScOMIS)) and submit to the Scottish Government. Prior to 2013-14 and the establishment of Police Scotland, the Scottish Government collected recorded crime data from the eight legacy forces, who in turn extracted the data from their own systems.
- 6.2. Despite the change in method of collection, the data presented in this section on total recorded crime (which comprises of Crime Groups 1 to 5) remains comparable both before and after 1st April 2013. The Scottish Government produced a Technical Report in 2014 which detailed the quality assurance work it carried out in reaching this conclusion:
<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/TechnicalReport>
- 6.3. On 1 April 2004, the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) was introduced to help maintain a victim orientated approach to crime recording. It was anticipated that this might increase the number of minor crimes recorded such as vandalism and minor thefts. It can be seen 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.
- 6.4. The detailed classification of crimes and offences used by the Scottish Government to collect criminal statistics contains around 500 codes. These are grouped in the bulletin as shown in [Chapter 7](#). 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.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/UserGuide>.
- 6.5. 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, for each local authority, which the police have recorded and cleared up. Returns of quarterly data are submitted by Police Scotland and are used to produce a national total.
- 6.6. Amendments to crime and offence records will always arise after data has been submitted by Police Scotland to the Scottish Government. Some crime or offence records may, on further investigation by the police, be re-designated to not constitute a crime or offence (a process known as ‘no-

criming'). In other cases the original crime or offence may be re-classified, which could shift the record between different crime or offence groups (for example if a common assault was found on further investigation to be a serious assault it would switch from Group 6 Miscellaneous Offences to Group 1 Non-sexual Crimes of Violence).

- 6.7. Following the implementation of the Scottish Operational Management Information System (ScOMIS) in Police Scotland, each quarterly submission of data to the Scottish Government contains revisions back to quarter 1 of the 2013-14 reporting year, reflecting the amendments described above. To assess the extent of these amendments, we have compared the crime and offence data published for 2018-19 (which was submitted to the Scottish Government in April 2019) with what ScOMIS reported for the same period one year later (April 2020). [Table A9](#) shows the results of this exercise.
- 6.8. As with our analysis in previous bulletins, this comparison confirms that the extent of further amendment to police crime and offence records following the original submission of data continues to be minimal at the Scotland level. This gives users confidence that the published statistics for 2013-14 to 2018-19 still provide a sufficiently accurate measure of the extent of police recorded crimes and offences. On a proportional basis the biggest impact is on Group 5 Other Crime, where a net 799 fewer crimes have been recorded following no-criming and reclassification between groups. This has reduced the number of Other Crimes by 1.3% from 62,422 to 61,623.

Table A9: Revisions of crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 2018-19

Crime or Offence Group	Number & Percentage			
	2018-19 Reporting Year		Difference	% Difference
	Submitted in April 2019	Submitted in April 2020		
Total Crime and Offences	494,271	492,626	-1,645	-0.3%
Total Crime	246,480	244,424	-2,056	-0.8%
Group 1 Non Sexual Violent Crime	8,008	8,019	11	0.1%
Group 2 Sexual Crime	13,547	13,617	70	0.5%
Group 3 Crimes of Dishonesty	114,506	113,286	-1,220	-1.1%
Group 4 Fire Raising / Vandalism etc.	47,997	47,879	-118	-0.2%
Group 5 Other Crimes	62,422	61,623	-799	-1.3%
Total Offences	247,791	248,202	411	0.2%
Group 6 Miscellaneous Offences	130,686	130,602	-84	-0.1%
Group 7 Motor Vehicle Offences	117,105	117,600	495	0.4%

- 6.9. Despite the fact that only a very small proportion of records are amended following their original submission to the Scottish Government, it is important for National Statistics purposes that time series comparisons

between 2013-14 to 2019-20 are on a like-for-like basis. As such the 2013-14 to 2018-19 data used in this bulletin remains that which was submitted immediately following each of these years, to ensure this is consistent with the timetable being followed for the submission of data for 2019-20 (i.e. the same amount of time has elapsed for amendments to records for each reporting year based on ScOMIS).

- 6.10. This analysis demonstrates that a more up-to-date set of figures are available from ScOMIS for 2013-14 to 2018-19 than is included in this National Statistics publication. Given this, we asked the Scottish Crime Recording Board¹¹ to assess whether any amendment to our revisions policy should be made before the 2015-16 publication. In light of the minimal level of change following the original submission of data, the Board concluded in December 2015 that no changes were necessary to our revisions policy as our current approach was simple to understand and kept open the possibility of future publications coming out earlier in the year.
- 6.11. 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:
<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/DataSource/RecordedCrimeSandS>
- 6.12. 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.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/StatementAdminSources>.
- 6.13. A separate statement of administrative sources is available for Police statistics via the following link:
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/AdminSourcesPolice>.
- 6.14. Information is also collected from the British Transport Police and the Ministry of Defence Police, but these figures have not been included in the main body of this bulletin. The following crimes and offences were recorded by these two organisations:

¹¹ <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/SCRB>

Table A10: Crimes and offences recorded and cleared up (as a percentage of those recorded) by the British Transport Police and Ministry of Defence Police, Scotland, 2019-20

	Crimes	Crime clear up rate	Offences	Offence clear up rate	Number & Percentage
Total recorded by British Transport Police	1,346	36.6%	3,129	38.4%	
Total recorded by Ministry of Defence Police	57	29.8%	-	-	

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

New series of monthly Official Statistics:

- 6.15. To inform users about the volume and type of crimes and offences recorded in Scotland during the pandemic, the Scottish Government introduced a new monthly series of Official Statistics from April 2020 onwards. These can be accessed at:
<https://www.gov.scot/collections/recorded-crime-in-scotland/>

Data publication in Police Scotland Quarterly Management Information Reports:

- 6.16. In addition to the National Statistics, Police Scotland publish management information on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police. This is presented within their Quarterly Management Information Reports, which are available from the 'Our Performance' section of Police Scotland's website: <http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/>.

These reports are produced to demonstrate Police Scotland's commitment to transparency (alongside other regular reporting activity to the Scottish Police Authority). The information within these reports is presented on a cumulative quarterly basis, with the first quarter of a reporting year containing 3 months of data (from April to June), the second containing 6 months of data (from April to September), etc.. The reports are typically published within 2 months of the period to which they refer.

The Quarterly Management Information Reports advise users that the data they contain on recorded crime is based on the Administrative Data available to Police Scotland at that time and not the National Statistics. The annual National Statistics published by the Scottish Government on police recorded crime are based on the same source of administrative information which has undergone further quality assurance work, including additional dialogue with Police Scotland, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Data Definitions:

- 6.17. 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.
- 6.18. 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 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.
- 6.19. In Scotland, assault is a common law offence. In order to distinguish between Serious and Common assaults, Police Scotland use a common definition for Serious assault:
- “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.”
- 6.20. When HMICS published an earlier audit of crime recording in 2013, they recommended that the definition used for serious assault within the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) be reviewed and clarified, as some police officers sought greater clarity from the existing guidance. In response to this, enhanced guidelines as to the interpretation of serious assault were introduced in January 2015.
- 6.21. When publishing their Management Information report for Quarter 4 2015-16 in June 2016, Police Scotland advised that this action may have resulted in some crimes that would have been seen previously as common assaults now falling into the category of serious assault. This in

turn may have led to an increase in overall levels of Group 1 non-sexual violent crime in 2015-16 (the first full year following the introduction of enhanced guidelines). Crimes of Violence will be included in HMICS's 2020 audit.

- 6.22. Attempts to commit an offence are included in the statistics, in general in the same group as the substantive offence.
- 6.23. 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.

Dwelling is defined as a house which is being used for (or fit to be used for) residential purposes. Non-dwelling is defined as all roofed buildings used for domestic purposes other than dwellings (for example garages, garden huts, outhouses, etc.). Other property is defined as all roofed buildings not used for residential or domestic purposes (for example commercial premises). Further information on the different types of building included under each of these headings is available in the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (the manual that details rules and guidance for how crimes should be recorded):

<https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0054/00547729.pdf>

Annex 2: Quality of the Statistics

Governance of Data Quality for Police Recorded Crime:

- 6.24. The Police Service of Scotland (referred to throughout this report as Police Scotland) is responsible for operational policing in Scotland and is held to account by the Scottish Police Authority. 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.
- 6.25. The recording of crime by the police and the subsequent publication of information through this statistical bulletin is undertaken by those who are professionally independent of wider decision-making and performance processes within their organisations. Within Police Scotland, the Crime Registrars ensure that crimes in Scotland are recorded ethically. They sit within the corporate services business area so that they are removed from direct operational activity and investigation. In turn, the production of the National Statistics on recorded crime is managed in an impartial and objective way, in the public interest, by Scottish Government statisticians.
- 6.26. A Scottish Crime Recording Board supports the production of accurate and objective statistics on crime in Scotland. It takes into account the needs of both users and providers in the production of crime statistics and ensures that this process is undertaken in a manner consistent with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Board is chaired by the Justice Analytical Services division of the Scottish Government and a wide range of organisations are represented including Police Scotland, the Scottish Police Authority, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) and the Crown and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). Information on the remit and functions of the Board, its actions and outcomes, is available from the following link:
<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/SCRB>.
- 6.27. In general, this statistical bulletin covers the ten year period from 2010-11 to 2019-20, the entirety of which is subject to the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) introduced in 2004-05. The SCRS has helped maintain a consistent approach to recording crime and is maintained and developed by the Scottish Crime Recording Board. A copy of the manual can be accessed from the Board's webpages:
<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/SCRB/SCRSmanual>
- 6.28. A Framework of Assurance is available for Recorded Crime statistics to provide evidence on:

- the suitability of the administrative data for use in producing national statistics;
- factors that the statistical producer needs to take into account in producing the national 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 link below. The aforementioned Crime Recording Board has responsibility for approving any changes to this product:

<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/FoA>

6.29. On 21st September 2016, Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) published Crime Audit 2016. This audit assessed the extent to which police recording practices complied with the Scottish Crime Recording Standard and Counting Rules.

6.30. HMICS audited just over 7,000 incidents reported between 1st January and 31st March 2016. Five categories were included, three of which related to specific crime types:

- Sexual crime
- Violent crime
- Vandalism (Damage)
- Non-crime related incidents (i.e. incidents that were potentially crime-related but which were ultimately closed as being non-crime related); and
- 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).

Further information on how the audit relates to the findings of this report can be found in the previous bulletin:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2018-19/>

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

<https://www.hmics.scot/publications/crime-audit-2016>.

The next HMICS Crime Audit is scheduled to be published in December 2020. Further information about HMICS’s future work plan can be found at: <https://www.hmics.scot/publications/hmics-annual-scrutiny-plan-2020-21>

The findings of this audit will be highlighted in the Recorded Crime in Scotland 2020-21 National Statistics bulletin.

- 6.31. In addition to HMICS, audits of incident and crime records are also undertaken by Police Scotland's Crime Registrars. In March 2016 the Crime Board considered how the audits by both HMICS and Police Scotland could best collectively support the quality assurance of these National Statistics. It concluded that HMICS should remain the primary source of audit-based assurance, given their role as an independent auditor. The results of Police Scotland's audit process will still be fed back to the Board by the National Crime Registrar. Where statisticians consider that this information has substantial data-quality implications, they will notify users of this through future publications and the ScotStat network. Users will also be kept informed of any Crime Board action(s) taken in response.

Quality Assurance of Submitted Data:

- 6.32. Detailed information on the quality assurance processes applied to recorded crime data is available in the Scottish Crime Statistics: Quality Assurance process document, available via the following link:
<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/qualityassurance>
- 6.33. Before the publication of the Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14 bulletin, an extensive quality assurance exercise was carried out to ensure consistency of data pre- and post-police reform, and to check the quality of recorded crime data supplied by the police. This exercise raised several data quality issues which led to a number of corrections to legacy data published in previous years.

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 is 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.

The extent of the amendments made to the data as part of the quality assurance exercise referred to above, along with all findings of this exercise and their impact on comparability, have been published in a Technical Report, available via the following link:
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/TechnicalReport>.

Annex 3: Comparisons with England & Wales and Northern Ireland

- 6.34. Recorded crime statistics for England & 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 (SCRS), which was introduced in 2004. Like its counterpart in England & Wales, it aims to give consistency in crime recording.

The main principles of the SCRS, with regard to when a crime should be recorded, are similar to the [National Crime Recording Standard \(NCRS\)](#) for England & Wales. However, there are various differences between the respective Counting Rules which specify different approaches for counting the number of crimes that should be recorded as a result of a single incident.

For instance, crimes recorded in England & 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 & Wales it would be recorded as one crime.

- 6.35. Differences in legislation and common law also have to be taken into account when comparing the crime statistics for England & Wales and Scotland.
- 6.36. Crime Statistics for England & Wales are published quarterly on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website. The latest Crime Statistics for England & Wales can be accessed from the following link:
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/previousReleases>.
- 6.37. The legal system in Northern Ireland is based on that of England & Wales and the Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI) has the same notifiable offence list for recorded crime as used in England & Wales. In addition, the PSNI has adopted the NCRS and Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime that applies in England & Wales. Thus, there are comparability considerations similar to those detailed above between recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Crime statistics for Northern Ireland are collected and published separately. The latest Police Recorded Crime Statistics for Northern Ireland can be accessed from the following link:
<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/>.

- 6.38. Further detail on the comparability of crime data can be found in the User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland, available from: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/UserGuide>.

Annex 4: User Engagement

- 6.39. These statistics are used by a large number of stakeholders within central government, the police and other public bodies for a variety of purposes.
- 6.40. We will continue to consult with the users of the National Statistics in order to get a better understanding of who the users are and what their requirements are for both the data and the presentation of these statistics.
- 6.41. As part of this work, we ran a consultation in 2019 on behalf of the [Scottish Crime Recording Board](#). This focused on how the National Statistics are presented and invited user views on some potential changes in approach to the grouping structure outlined above in the [Background](#) chapter. The consultation closed on 30th November 2019. Further background to the consultation can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-official-statistics-present-information-recorded-crime-related-topics/>
- 6.42. Following the consultation, the Crime Board was due to consider responses alongside other stakeholder feedback in advance of deciding any changes to how these statistics are presented in future. However this work is currently paused due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the resultant increase in demand for associated analysis (for example the recent introduction of new monthly official statistics on crimes and offences recorded by the police). Going forward, users will be kept informed of any developments relating to the consultation through the ScotStat network.

A report on the results of our earlier consultation, conducted from April to June 2015 can be found at the link below:

<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/StakeCon/RCUC2015>

- 6.43. We always welcome feedback on the content and the uses made of our statistical bulletins and users are invited to submit their comments and any suggestions for improvement to: justiceanalysts@gov.scot.

If you would like to be kept informed about developments in crime statistics, we suggest registering with ScotStat:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/scotstat>.

- 6.44. Further information on users and uses of the statistics is available in the User Guide to Recorded Crime Statistics in Scotland, which can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime/UserGuide>.

Annex 5: Upcoming Coding Changes and Future Considerations

Changes to the Coding of Recorded Crimes and Offences:

- 6.45. Changes made to the rules governing the coding and counting of crimes and offences within the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) must be approved by the Scottish Crime Recording Board (SCRB) ([Annex 2](#) provides background information on the role of the Board).

Future Considerations

Offensive Weapons Act

- 6.46. The Offensive Weapons Act received Royal Assent in May 2019. The Act will make it illegal to possess dangerous weapons in private, and will make it a criminal offence to dispatch bladed products sold online without verifying the buyer is over 18. The Act also makes it an offence to possess a corrosive substance in a public place, and has updated the definition of a flick knife to reflect changing weapons design. The Scottish Crime Recording Board will continue to monitor the implementation of this Act and users will be informed of what impact these changes will have on the presentation of the National Statistics.

New data repository for recorded crime

- 6.47. Since 2013-14, the National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland have been produced using data extracted from a single Police Scotland IT system, called the Scottish Operational and Management Information System (ScOMIS). This data is then provided to the Scottish Government on a quarterly basis for the production of the National Statistics. In 2019, Police Scotland developed a new data repository (which is designed, in part, to replace ScOMIS), called the Source for Evidence Based Policing (SEBP). The intention is that this will become the new source of information for the recorded crime National Statistics for the 2020-21 reporting year (to be published in September 2021) onwards.
- 6.48. Scottish Government analysts, in collaboration with Police Scotland, are conducting a comparative analysis to understand how changing from ScOMIS to SEBP will impact the production of the recorded crime statistics. Once completed, a technical paper will be published on (i) the findings of this work including any potential impact on time-series analysis and (ii), the proposed timing for the transition from ScOMIS to SEBP. Users will be kept informed of any developments in this area through the ScotStat network.

Cross-border crimes

- 6.49. A procedural change was made in April 2020 to how crimes which could involve a victim and a perpetrator in different physical locations (e.g.

cyber-enabled crimes) are recorded. Prior to the 1st April 2020, these statistics excluded any crime with a victim in Scotland and a perpetrator who was confirmed by the police to be outside the United Kingdom when the crime took place. Following a recommendation by Her Majesty's Chief Inspectorate for Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) to review recording practice in this area¹², the Scottish Crime Recording Board approved a change so that from the 1st April these crimes are now included in the statistics. It should be noted that those cases with only a suspicion or insufficient evidence to confirm that the perpetrator was outside the UK were always included.

- 6.50. This change is likely to lead to the recording of additional crimes for those types of crime which could be committed using digital technologies. At this early stage we are unable to say to what extent this procedural change has increased levels of recorded crime, however Scottish Government analysts will monitor the impact.
- 6.51. 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@gov.scot.

Annex 6: Other Notes

- 6.52. 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: £750.

Details of the calculation methodology are available on the Scottish Government Crime and Justice website at:
<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/costcalculation>.

- 6.53. 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 contact Debbie Kyle at JusticeAnalysts@gov.scot.

¹² <https://www.hmics.scot/publications/crime-audit-2016>

7. Classification of Crimes and Offences

CRIMES

Group 1: Non-sexual crimes of violence (Also referred to as **Crimes of violence**)

Homicide etc.

Includes:

- Murder
- Culpable homicide
 - Culpable homicide (common law)
 - Causing death by dangerous driving
 - Causing death by careless driving when under 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

For the definition of Serious assault and the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault please see [Paragraph 6.19](#) within Annex 1.

Robbery

- Robbery and assault with intent to rob

Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act

- Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act

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 and neglect of mental patients and vulnerable adults
- Drugging
- Slavery or forced labour

- Human organ offences

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
- Threatening to disclose and intimate image
- Disclosure of an intimate image
- Communications Act 2003 (sexual)
- Other sexual crimes

Group 3: Crimes of dishonesty

Housebreaking

(Also referred to as **Dishonesty**)

Includes:

- Theft by housebreaking domestic property (dwelling and non-dwelling)
- Theft by housebreaking other property

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 lockfast places (OLP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft of a motor vehicle and contents • Attempted theft of a motor vehicle
Shoplifting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoplifting
Other theft	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft of pedal cycles • Theft from a motor vehicle not elsewhere classified
Fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fraud
Other crimes of dishonesty	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forgery (other) • Reser • 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
- Culpable and reckless conduct involving aircraft

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
- Possession of an offensive weapon (not elsewhere specified) in a school
- Having in a school an article with a blade or point

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

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

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
- Psychoactive substance: production, import/export, supply or possession in custody

Other

Includes:

- Treason
- Conspiracy
- Offences relating to serious organised crime
- Explosives offences
- Wrecking, piracy and hijacking
- Crimes against public order

Coronavirus restrictions crimes

- Coronavirus restrictions crimes

OFFENCES

Group 6: Miscellaneous offences

Common assault

Includes:

- Common assault
- Common assault on an emergency worker

For the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault please see [Paragraph 6.19](#) within Annex 1.

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 designated 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

Other (cont.)

- Air weapons licensing offences
- 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

- Mobile phone offences

Other

Includes:

- Accident offences
- Parking offences

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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ISBN 978-1-80004-109-7

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PPDAS630750 (09/20)