

From : Richard Laux [redacted]
To : Roger.Halliday [redacted]
CC : [redacted] Nicola.Edge [redacted]
Date Sent : 29/10/2014 17:06:00
Subject : [Re: Scottish Police Recorded Crime - timing and narrative](#)

Hi Roger,

Thanks for the phone call earlier. It will be good to discuss all of this in more detail at 3.30 on Friday. To focus our discussion, and to try to avoid drafting by committee (!), I've suggested some enhancements to the narrative you suggested below. (There might be merit in also discussing with NSO/Good Practice Team, to make sure the different parts of the Authority are seeing things the same way).

- We have been improving the presentation of the statistics to help users better understand recorded crime trends, **including in the context of other related statistics such as those from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey**. As with all official statistics, this is an on-going process.
- On quality of data, HMICS have conducted a thorough audit of the recorded crime data, and we will consider **the implications** of its findings for the **analysis, quality assurance**, production and communication of the statistics, **and associated quality reporting**. The creation of Police Scotland **should** further strengthen the consistency of data **recording** across Scotland.
- We have engaged with a wider range of users of crime statistics in Scotland (such as our user event in early October) and continue to draw on user views for their information needs, and their communication preferences.
- The UK Statistics Authority assessment on recorded crime was helpful in identifying **many** further areas for improvement **that are required to meet the standards of National Statistics**. As with all reports from the UK Statistics Authority there are a number of issues for us to work through, **and** we have been taking steps to address them. We are expecting the **Statistics Authority** to consider **our response to the assessment report** in early 2015, **by which time I am confident that we will have made the improvements specified in the assessment report that will enable us to publish future crime statistics reports as National Statistics**. However, I am confident that the **report** we are publishing **[today?]** includes **statistics and associated commentary and methodological information that are** presented in a way consistent with what **many of** our users tell us they want, **and that go some way to addressing the improvements identified by the Statistics Authority**.
- I have decided to publish this set of official statistics today (rather than to wait until all of the improvements have been implemented and reported to the Authority), recognising that Police Scotland has itself already published some of this information, and that any further delay might disadvantage users of the statistics.

Richard.

From: Roger.Halliday [redacted]
To: Richard Laux [redacted]
Cc: Nicola.Edge [redacted]
Date: 29/10/2014 09:37
Subject: Scottish Police Recorded Crime - timing and narrative

Hi Richard

Thank you very much for coming back on the handling of publication of recorded crime statistics. I will go out very soon to users to explain the situation around timing of this publications. My overriding aim here is to maintain user trust in the recorded crime statistics and crime statistics in Scotland more broadly, and would want to accompany an official statistics labelled publication with a confident narrative. To maintain trust though, I think it is important that you are supportive of our direction of travel, the narrative we put out, and happy to help us address any unfair criticism (should it arrive). Could we talk through what that would look like?

Building on what you suggested, I think my narrative looks something like

- We have been improving the presentation of the statistics to help users better understand recorded crime trends. As with all official statistics, this is an on-going process.
- On quality of data, HMICS have conducted a thorough audit of the recorded crime data, and we will consider its findings for the production and communication of the statistics. The creation of Police Scotland will further strengthen the consistency of data across Scotland.
- We have engaged with a wider range of users of crime statistics in Scotland (such as our user event in early October) and continue to draw on user views for their information needs, and their communication preferences.
- The UK Statistics Authority assessment on recorded crime was helpful in identifying further areas for improvement. As with all reports from the UK Statistics Authority there are a number of issues for us to work through, we have been taking steps to address them. We are expecting the UKSA to consider these statistics again in early 2015. However, I am confident that the statistics we are publishing are of high quality and presented in a way consistent with what our users tell us they want.

Roger

Roger Halliday
Chief Statistician & Head of Performance, Scottish Government, [redacted]

From: Richard Laux [redacted]
Sent: 22 October 2014 17:36

To: Halliday R (Roger)

Cc: [REDACTED] Ed Humpherson; [REDACTED] Edge N (Nicola); [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Scottish Police Recorded Crime

Hi Roger,

I'm replying on Ed's behalf. [REDACTED]

I do think that it's most sensible to defer publication of the statistics until after the HMICS report is published. I can see that this is a bit awkward in practice - probably needing two announcements (one of another deferral, because of the need to reflect upon the HMICS findings, and then one of the actual date). But I'm sure that this is the right thing to do, in these circumstances.

I also think that there's an imperative to get the statistics out as soon as reasonably possible, and very ideally in November. I'm conscious that Police Scotland has published MI during the period that the statistics haven't been published - and I think this is a problematic situation which needs to be addressed quite quickly. So my strong preference would be to publish as Official Statistics, in November. I think that a deferral of publication to January or beyond would most likely lead to criticism. Whilst I recognise that it might take some time to address every HMICS recommendation in full, the Authority's expectation will be that you address what you can in a short period of time, and make clear your plans to make further improvements, alongside the publication of the statistics, in November.

I do think that there's a positive, confident narrative in this:

- You've been improving the statistics, including in response to the Assessment.
- Meantime HMICS is adding another, complementary perspective.
- You're not able to meet all of the various bodies' recommendations immediately ...
- You're mindful that the Code emphasises publication as soon as statistics are available
- So in order to best meet users' needs you're arranging for the statistics to be published (ideally in November), alongside information about the further developments you have in mind which will fully address the remaining recommendations.
-

From this distance that looks quite a reasonable, balanced, pragmatic approach, and one that the Authority would tend to support as being in the public interest.

Happy to discuss more, of course.

Regards,

Richard.

From: [Roger.Halliday](#) [REDACTED]

To: Ed Humpherson [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Richard Laux [REDACTED]

Date: 22/10/2014 12:58

Subject: RE: Scottish Police Recorded Crime

Dear Ed

Thank you for your note about timing of the recorded crime statistics publication and timing of the assessment committee. I just missed you on the phone, as I wanted to check my interpretation of what you have written. I'll briefly sketch out my thoughts.

We have currently pre-announced these statistics to be published in October and have to quickly update our advice to users ahead of the publication of the HMICS audit. I completely agree that we need to take account of the audit findings in our statistics publication. I wondered whether we should therefore be saying to users that ahead of publication, we want to take account of the HMICS findings and that shortly after the HMICS audit is published, we will set a firm publication date for the recorded crime statistics based upon the time it will take to incorporate the HMICS audit findings. Can I check that you'd support this approach.

And, can I check that if our judgement was that it would take until the time of the assessment committee in January or later to do this that you would continue to be supportive (assuming this view on time to adjust the publication was shared by the assessment team).

I'm in meetings from 2pm today, but around on my mobile for a conversation tomorrow if that would be helpful.

Roger

Roger Halliday
Chief Statistician & Head of Performance, Scottish Government, [REDACTED]

From: Ed Humpherson [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 October 2014 14:36
To: Halliday R (Roger)
Cc: [REDACTED] Richard Laux
Subject: Scottish Police Recorded Crime

Dear Roger,

I'm pleased to hear that there's a flow of evidence about the Code-compliance of Scottish Police-Recorded Crime statistics from your team to M&A. We are under considerable pressure at the moment, but of course this assessment is one we are giving high priority to.

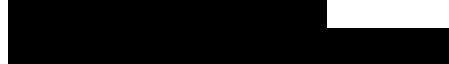
As you may know I met [REDACTED] last Friday; he mentioned that he expected HMICS to publish their report in early November – the 6th, I understand. With this in mind I thought I should raise with you the issue of when you choose to publish the next set of statistics. Of course this is your decision alone, but I thought it worth making my position clear – that I would support the publication of the (deferred) bulletin as Official Statistics as soon as you feel that you have been able to address the findings of the HMICS. I'm acutely conscious that many of the statistics in question are already in the public domain, as Police Scotland management information, and I would like to see this anomalous situation regularised.

I also wanted to mention to you the fact that I will not be asking the November meeting of the Regulation Committee to make a decision about the NS designation of the statistics – simply because I judge that the timing is too tight. Instead we will provide the Committee with a summary of progress (from an M&A

perspective), and a copy of the HMICS report. I expect us to be able to address the issue of designation at the January 2015 meeting of the Committee.

Ed

Ed Humpherson
Head of Assessment
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London SW1V 2QQ



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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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