

From : [REDACTED]  
To : [REDACTED]  
CC : [REDACTED], Roger.Halliday, [REDACTED],  
Nicola.Edge, Sandy Stewart/NEWPORT/ONS  
Date Sent : 17/04/2014 11:38:35  
Subject : [RE: Assessment - Recorded Crime statistics](#)

[REDACTED],

Thanks for your email.

Could you confirm that I have understood the email below correctly. The UKSA is stating that there is no scope to (i) phase the assessment activity over a longer time period, and/or (ii) prioritise particular elements (risks) for a first phase of assessment activity to take account of this particular resource intensive period for the Scottish Government, thus balance the needs for, and use of Scottish Government resources between, the achievement of a timely “Recorded Crime in Scotland 2013-14” publication and the re-assessment activity.

I do apologise that the above statement is rather stark, however I think it is important that we are both crystal clear about this issue. As we have consistently said, we would prefer to discuss how to balance the needs of a timely publication and the needs of the re-assessment activity (we thought that through a specification for the work would be a useful way to do this). Our preference is most definitely to have a phased or transparently prioritised procedure, that limits the call on our time prior to the June publication. I am sorry, but it is not feasible for us to accomplish (to the high standard we hold ourselves to) and immensely stressful for us to have the pressures of; (i) a new format for the publication in June of “Recorded Crime In Scotland 2013-14” taking account of police reform; (ii) the regular quality assurance work conducted on recorded crime data submitted by the police to Scottish Government for “Recorded Crime in Scotland”; (iii) an expansive technical exercise to investigate Police Scotland methods to collate recorded crime data at a national level; and (iii) re-assessment activity. As you will know, we have already brought the “Recorded Crime in Scotland” publication forward to June in response to a previous UKSA request – which limits the time available from the end of the financial year to conduct a lot of very complicated work.

As I said in my previous email, the timing for our publication is under serious jeopardy. It would be very helpful for us to work together to prioritise the publication date.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 April 2014 10:43  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Edge N (Nicola); Halliday R (Roger); [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]; Sandy Stewart  
**Subject:** Re: Assessment - Recorded Crime statistics

[REDACTED],

Thank you for arranging the conference call facility. At the delayed kick-off meeting on 20 March we specified that the re-assessment is appraising compliance with the Code of Practice. Our process continues to be as we explained to you at that time, that we are gathering evidence and analysing compliance with the Code.

We have previously sent you the link to the documents on our website which contain guidance about Assessment, I paste the link again <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/guidance-about-assessment/index.html>. I would also again encourage you to speak with the Office of the Chief Statistician in the Scottish Government, I understand that they provide useful guidance to statistical teams who are completing Assessments.

Looking forward to seeing you and the team later today,

[REDACTED].

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED], [Nicola.Edge](mailto:Nicola.Edge), [REDACTED],  
[Roger.Halliday](mailto:Roger.Halliday), [REDACTED], [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date: 16/04/2014 19:23  
Subject: RE: Assessment - Recorded Crime statistics

Thanks for your reply [REDACTED],

It would be very helpful to have a discussion on the key areas for us to focus our limited resources and time during this resource intensive period. It would still be very helpful to have a specification for this re-assessment work, to help us transparently understand the process being followed and the key risks that have been identified by the UKSA for this publication. We could then help to identify the key areas where it would be most useful to focus our limited available resources.

We are now only 8 weeks from our proposed publication date, and we have a significant amount of detailed work to accomplish and complicated decisions to make in this time. In the next 2 weeks, we have to make a range of key decisions. As you know, police reform has made publication of this year's report more resource intensive than normal (as we have to redesign the report and are also engaged in a wide-ranging and detailed exercise to assess the new SCOMIS collation system). It is urgent that we fully concentrate on completing these very detailed and complicated tasks, if we do not then there is a real risk to the final report.

The timing of the report is now in serious jeopardy, and is a cause of some concern. It would be very helpful to discuss how best to balance the needs of the re-assessment process and the needs of the final publication. We, of course, want to be as helpful as possible, however this is a very challenging and resource intensive time at the moment. So it would be good to focus on what is feasible.

See you tomorrow. We have also got a conference call facility in place for [REDACTED] – so she doesn't have to travel.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Head of Safer Communities Analysis  
The Scottish Government

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 15 April 2014 18:24

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Edge N (Nicola); Halliday R (Roger); [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Assessment - Recorded Crime statistics

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for your mail, 3.30pm on Thursday at VQ suits myself and [REDACTED]. Is there any chance that you can get a conference call facility so that [REDACTED] can join in the discussion?

Just to build slightly on the points you outline below to cover:

- the roles and responsibilities of the Scottish Government, Police Scotland (including the Crime Registrars and associated groups) and the SPA in the production of the recorded crime statistics
- the QA work you outline, including how you have determined the appropriate level of QA for these data
- the separate 'SCOMIS' data exercise, including clarity around the purpose and content of the related 'Technical Report'.

In addition it would be useful to discuss your response to our initial set of questions that you sent through, we need a bit more detail on some points. It would also be useful to discuss the remainder of the outstanding questions, especially if you could tell us any questions that are proving difficult or time consuming to answer and we can consider if there are ways of making them clearer for you.

Finally, following the QA point above, [REDACTED] today sent a document to all HoPs which I think you will find useful when considering your QA processes in relation to compliance with the Code of Practice. I think Roger Halliday is [REDACTED] so I've attached the document in order that you have sight of it. Happy to discuss this when we meet.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED].

[REDACTED] | Monitoring & Assessment Team | UK Statistics Authority | [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Now you can follow us on Twitter! : [www.twitter.com/UKStatsAuth](http://www.twitter.com/UKStatsAuth)

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED], Sandy  
Stewart/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,  
[Nicola.Edge](#), [REDACTED],  
[Roger.Halliday](#), Ed Humpherson/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Date: 14/04/2014 15:38  
Subject: RE: Assessment - Recorded Crime statistics

Hi [REDACTED],

How about 3.30pm on Thursday here in VQ?

Having now had a chance to consider your questions, it would appear that it would be useful for us to cover:

- The Crime Registrars, and the Scottish Crime Registrars Group;
- The quality assurance work to be conducted on data submitted by Police Scotland, and,
- The separate exercise looking at the "SCOMIS" data collation system.

It would also be useful to get a sense of the overall specification for the re-assessment, where you are in the re-assessment and where we should prioritise our limited resources.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Head of Safer Communities Analysis  
The Scottish Government

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 April 2014 16:48  
**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Ed Humpherson; [REDACTED]; Edge N (Nicola); Halliday R (Roger);  
[REDACTED] Sandy Stewart; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Assessment - Recorded Crime statistics

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for sending that information over. That's really useful.

We are free to catch up next Thursday. We're happy to come down to VQ or we can do it via phone if you prefer.

Thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Monitoring & Assessment Team | UK Statistics Authority | [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Now you can follow us on Twitter! : [@UKStatsAuth](#)**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Ed Humpherson/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [Roger.Halliday](#) [REDACTED], [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], Sandy Stewart/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED]  
[Nicola.Edge](#) [REDACTED], [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 11/04/2014 16:10  
**Subject:** RE: Assessment - Recorded Crime statistics

Hi [REDACTED],

Please find attached, a first batch of answers to your question list and stakeholder contact details. We are still working on: (i) the responses to the remainder of the questions, and (ii) amendments

to the note. Please do let us know if this is the correct level of information that you find helpful.

It would also still be really helpful to have a specification for the re-assessment. This will be really helpful in allowing us to target our limited resources onto your key evidential needs. As you know, this is a very resource intensive time for us, so any help in focussing our efforts would be appreciated.

It may also be worth have a chat next week to assess progress, how about Thursday?

Yours

[REDACTED]

Head of Safer Communities Analysis  
The Scottish Government

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 04 April 2014 15:53

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Ed Humpherson; Halliday R (Roger); [REDACTED]; Sandy Stewart; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Assessment - Recorded Crime statistics

[REDACTED],

Following Ed and Roger's conversation today about the recorded crime in Scotland assessment, I understand we will all be meeting in a few weeks.

We just discussed with Ed. In order to keep momentum in advance of that meeting, we would like you to take another look at the list of questions that we sent to you, and provide answers to those questions that you can answer now. I've attached the document again for your reference.

As I said in my previous email we are happy to take answers in whatever way you find easiest, be that in a meeting, by you sending us links to published documents or sending us copies of locally held documents. Many of the questions require a simple yes/no or a link to documents, and we really need you to offer your answers to those.

There are a small number that you may prefer to discuss and I am happy to meet or discuss them over the phone, especially to identify whether any would be too onerous to expect a response over the next fortnight. If any are unclear please do let me know as soon as possible as it would be good to have your response early next week.

I would also be grateful if you could send over the contact details (name and email address is fine) for your key stakeholders as agreed when we met.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,



[Redacted] | Monitoring & Assessment Team | UK Statistics Authority | [Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Now you can follow us on Twitter! : [www.twitter.com/UKStatsAuth](http://www.twitter.com/UKStatsAuth)

For information on the work of the UK Statistics Authority, visit:

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Please Note: Incoming and outgoing email messages are routinely monitored for compliance with our policy on the use of electronic communications

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Legal Disclaimer: Any views expressed by the sender of this message are not necessarily those of the UK Statistics Authority

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*

This email has been received from an external party and

has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of



any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.