

From: Andrew Anderson
To: Authority Enquiries
Date: 22/06/2015 13:05
Subject: Scottish Government Misuse of Statistics

On June 11th, in response to a report by Reform Scotland, a think tank, on the performance of Police Scotland, the Scottish Government issued a highly critical statement. I've reproduced a brief extract below:

The claims this report makes are wrong. The clear up rate for all recorded crimes increased by 1% to 52% in 2013-14, the highest recorded since 1976, the first year for which comparable records are available.

In fact, as I've pointed out to the Scottish Government (I await a detailed response), the clear-up rate did not rise by 1%, but by 0.22%: the figures in the two years 2012-13 and 2013-14 were 51.30% and 51.52% respectively. Reform Scotland used whole numbers in its report (Table 11), which is acceptable in that context, but it is obviously wrong and misleading to use those numbers to claim that there was a rise of 1% when in truth it was a fifth of that.

I do hope that you will be able to take appropriate action, which I would like to see in the form of a public rebuke, or pass this is on to the appropriate body if it is outside your remit.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,
Andrew Anderson