
Director General for Regulation

Roger Halliday
Chief Statistician & Head of Performance
Scottish Government
Room 2W.02
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15 June 2015

Dear Roger,

STATISTICS ON OFFENCES INVOLVING FIREARMS IN SCOTLAND

Thank you for your letter of 10 June setting out the situation regarding your statistics on offences involving firearms. I am grateful to your staff for engaging with my team about the National Statistics status of the statistics, in the light of the outcome of Assessment Report 288 on Scottish Police Recorded Crime Statistics.

Your letter invited me to consider whether it would be appropriate for these statistics to be designated as National Statistics at present. Designation of official statistics as National Statistics shows that the statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. I agree with you that because of the dependency on a data source about which further improvement is needed to achieve the high standards set by the National Statistics status, the statistics should not currently be published as National Statistics. I would encourage you to ensure that the National Statistics status of these statistics is made clear in the publication.

I welcome your actions to address the Requirements from Assessment Report 288 and for your continued engagement with the Authority. I look forward to hearing more about your developments from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Ed Humpherson