

Strategy and Constitution Directorate

Chief Statistician and Head of Performance

T: 0131-244 0302

E: chiefstatistician@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Tw: @ScotStat



Ed Humpherson
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London
SW1V 2QQ



10 June 2015

Recorded Crimes and Offences Involving Firearms Statistics

Dear Ed,

I am writing to you concerning the National Statistics status of the Recorded Crimes and Offences Involving Firearms (Scotland) statistics. These statistics have been produced annually as National Statistics. We will publish the 2013-14 data on 17th June.

You will recall that the Authority's assessment report on Scottish police recorded crime last year outlined a series of requirements that needed enacted to comply with the Code and to enable designation as National Statistics. We have been working through a range of actions to meet those requirements and will continue engaging with the Authority as these develop. In the interim period, we published the 2013-14 Recorded Crime statistics as an Official Statistics product in November 2014.

The Firearms offences statistics are also based on recorded crime records, albeit further work is undertaken by the Police before we receive the data. Therefore, it would be helpful if you could consider whether the NS designation would really be appropriate this for the 2013-14 firearms figures. My professional view is that they should be published as Official Statistics, and to keep this position in place until such time as the current designation of the overall Recorded Crime publication as Official Statistics changes. Even if you decide on this change, I can assure you that statisticians from Justice Analytical Services have been making some improvements to the upcoming firearms publication to reflect, where relevant, the requirements outlined in Assessment Report on Scottish police recorded crime.

I look forward to hearing your decision on the status of these statistics.

Your Sincerely

ROGER HALLIDAY