

# Increasing value in crime and justice statistics in England and Wales through sharing and linking data

## Second round table meeting

### **What was the aim of the second round table meeting?**

This second meeting was set-up for Home Office (HO), Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to tell us about their progress on working together to share and link crime and justice data in England and Wales. It followed an [initial meeting to encourage this work](#) that we held in June 2017.

### **How did the meeting address its aim?**

We were pleased to hear from HO, MoJ and ONS that, after that first meeting, they set up a crime and justice working group, reporting to Deputy National Statistician Iain Bell, to give impetus to this work. Attendees told us about the work that the group had already started and their plans for linking data and other joint working.

### **What does this mean for crime and justice statistics?**

The working group is developing a graphic of the crime and justice statistics landscape to help users understand current statistics. They told us that a priority for 2018 is to publish an updated report on sexual offending, published previously in 2013, as they have identified clear and ongoing demand for a joined-up narrative using these statistics. Later in 2018 they will publish the third report bringing together data about domestic abuse from multiple sources, including third sector service providers, as well as police, prosecution and court data. They aim to link data from these different sources in future reports.

ONS told us they plan to use provisions in the 2017 Digital Economy Act to access additional data such as emergency care data on knife and gun crime or assaults and on fraud to enhance existing crime statistics. HO told us that access to police data for research purposes is their current top priority. HO also told us it intends to approach MoJ and the Department for Education to access data to investigate possible links between school exclusions and knife crime.

MoJ is working with Government Digital Service (GDS) to increase transparency and access to data via a new data reporting portal that has expanded what they can publish online. Also with GDS, it has developed a way to automate some of the production and quality assurance of tables and other reporting formats to free up resources for other work.

MoJ and ONS have agreed analytical access to data so that ONS can support MoJ priority projects. During the meeting we heard other offers to support work where resources were constrained and to support increased access to research and statistics for a wider audience.

While the working group are still planning much of the work we heard about and the timing is still to be agreed, we are encouraged by the group's commitment to joint working and the enthusiasm with which they have approached this task since our first exploratory meeting.

### **What does this mean for people and organisations using the statistics?**

The planned work, such as that on sexual offending and domestic abuse, is clearly being developed in response to recognised demand. And we encourage the group's efforts to share resources, and to improve data access and transparency. Using the provisions in the Digital Economy Act, and finding other ways to share and link data, will no doubt lead to increased value from the statistics. We expect the group to engage with a wide range of users as they undertake this important work and we will support any efforts to do this.

### **Next Steps**

The crime and justice working group told us they will continue to meet and identify more opportunities to increase the value of crime and justice statistics. We are particularly keen to see the potential for revealing untold stories about crime and justice that will come from linking data from different sources.

The work already underway covers both England and Wales, so we made the case for seeking Welsh Government input now. The working group committed at a recent meeting of the Inter-administration Committee to involve all devolved administrations to ensure they benefit from its work.

We will follow the progress of the crime and justice working group keenly as they seek to increase the value of crime and justice statistics and give support where requested. We will review the progress the group have made and publish an update to this note in summer 2018.