Management Information: Call Handling

Report

Period: January 2017

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 20 February 2017

Produced by Police Scotland Analysis and Performance Unit

February 2017
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Commentary Notes on Management Information

Police Scotland currently has a network of service centres and area control rooms spread across the country which accept Emergency and Non-Emergency contacts.

Since the formation of Police Scotland in April 2013, work has been ongoing to integrate and remodel the structures that allow the public to contact the police, as well as the dispatch and support of officers on duty. As part of the re-structuring work, we will be investing in new technology and standardising the performance reporting information across the country.

At present there remain restrictions on the ability to report consistent data across all locations as a result of the different ICT systems which are still in use.

This will change in future but in the meantime, for the purposes of transparency, we are publishing our call handling data, along with a technical explanation and general commentary to assist with interpretation of the reports.

Data Source
Data for the North region is obtained from legacy call handling systems, which have limitations preventing the publication of complete data. Work is ongoing to replace these systems with national ones, which will allow us to determine service delivery in a consistent manner.

Data for the East and West regions has been extracted from our call handling systems which manages calls made to the service centre via 101 or 999 telephone numbers. It also handles other calls, such as direct lines from other emergency services.

The measurement of data commences from the point where a call is routed to Police Scotland by British Telecom (BT), Vodafone Cloud (101 system) or a direct dial line. It does not include the period of time taken by BT or Vodafone to answer and route the call to Police Scotland.

How calls are prioritised
All calls made to the Police Scotland Service Centre via 999, 101 or another dedicated line are prioritised dependent on their source.

- 999 Emergency – Calls received via 999 are treated as the highest priority and are always answered first.

- 101 Non-Emergency – Calls received from the public via 101 are treated as a normal priority and are answered when there is a suitable service adviser available but there are no other higher priority calls waiting.
### Non-emergency Call Handling (101)

**Calls Received**
This section measures the volume of calls received from the public via the 101 telephony system. Other calls that are received via the service centres are NOT included in this measure, those calls would include 999 calls, alarm company lines and the Police Scotland staff absence line.

**Calls Discontinued**
This section measures the volume of calls received from the public via the 101 telephony system that are disconnected without the caller speaking to a service adviser.

**Calls Discontinued after 120 seconds**
This section measures the volume of calls received from the public via the 101 telephony system that are disconnected without the caller speaking to a service adviser, after waiting for a period of 2 minutes or more.

Data for this measure is only held for a period of 31 days.

### Explanation of the report data

**Non-emergency Call Handling (101)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Calls Received</strong></td>
<td>This section measures the volume of calls received from the public via the 101 telephony system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Calls Discontinued</strong></td>
<td>This section measures the volume of calls received from the public via the 101 telephony system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Calls Discontinued after 120 seconds</strong></td>
<td>This section measures the volume of calls received from the public via the 101 telephony system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average time to answer (seconds)</strong></td>
<td>This section measures the average (mean) time to answer calls from the public, received via the 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Longest wait time (minutes:seconds)</strong></td>
<td>This section measures the longest time a member of the public waited to be connected to a service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Emergency Service Calls</strong></td>
<td>The section measures calls made to the Police Scotland Service Centres from other emergency services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade of Service %</strong></td>
<td>The grade of service is a Police Scotland management indicator to monitor how long it takes to answer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Emergency Call Handling (999)

**Calls Received**
This section measures the volume of calls received from the public via the 999 telephony system. Other calls that are received via the service centre are NOT included in this measure. Those calls would include 101 calls, alarm company lines and the Police Scotland staff absence line.

**Calls Discontinued**
This section measures the volume of calls received from the public via the 999 telephony system that are disconnected without the caller speaking to a service adviser.

**Calls Discontinued after 120 seconds**
This section measures the volume of calls received from the public via the 999 telephony system that are disconnected without the caller speaking to a service adviser, after waiting for a period of 2 minutes or more.

There are very few calls disconnected after 120 seconds as they are routinely answered within 10 seconds. A 999 call not being answered within this timescale occurs due to a spike in calls, normally resultant of a number of people calling about the one incident, eg a road crash.

Data for this measure is only held for a period of 31 days due to limitations on the system store process.

**Average time to answer (seconds)**
This section measures the average (mean) time to answer calls from the public, received via the 999 telephony system, within the reported period.

**Longest wait time (minutes:seconds)**
This section measures the longest time a member of the public waited to be connected to a service adviser when calling via the 999 telephony system. Times are displayed in minutes:seconds and are relevant for the reported period only.

**Grade of Service %**
The grade of service is a Police Scotland management indicator to monitor how long it takes to answer calls. This section displays as a percentage, the number of calls that are connected to a service adviser within 40 seconds from the total volume of calls received from the public via the 999 telephony system.
Table 1.1  
Non Emergency Call Handling (101) : Police Scotland.  
FORCE by Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Centre</th>
<th>Calls Received</th>
<th>Calls Discontinued</th>
<th>Calls Discontinued after 120 seconds</th>
<th>Average time to Answer (seconds)</th>
<th>Longest Wait Time (hours:mins:secs)</th>
<th>Other Emergency Service Calls (non 101)</th>
<th>Grade of Service %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FORCE</td>
<td>165 941</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dundee</td>
<td>1 282</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>99.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>22 907</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>96.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inverness</td>
<td>10 797</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>92.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East and West</td>
<td>130 995</td>
<td>966</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>00:05:12</td>
<td>14 022</td>
<td>98.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following virtualisation of the service centre structure across Bilston Glen, Govan and Motherwell on 23 November 2016, the call handling performance statistics now reflect a collated and combined report. Given the implementation of the Police Scotland Service Centre (PSSC) combined performance reports of Bilston Glen, Govan and Motherwell are now reflected collectively within this report. Individual reports in respect of Aberdeen and Inverness are included respectively.

As part of the C3 Integration and Remodelling Programme, Dundee service Centre closed on 10 January 2017, as of this date all calls transferred to the PSSC. The figures in this report also reflect call routing which at times of high call demand facilitates 101 calls from Dundee and Aberdeen being placed to available service advisors within the PSSC. This change in call handling was introduced to support operational events within D Division and continued until the closure of the Dundee service centre on 10 January 2017. This change in call routing for A Division was introduced on 10 December 2016 and continues on an ongoing basis.

These changes in call routing resulted in a corresponding reduction in the volume of calls reported within Dundee and Aberdeen Service Centres and subsequent increase as evidenced within the PSSC.
Table 1.2
Emergency Call Handling (999) : Police Scotland.

*FORCE by Division*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Centres</th>
<th>Calls Received</th>
<th>Calls Discontinued</th>
<th>Calls Discontinued after 120 seconds</th>
<th>Average time to Answer (seconds)</th>
<th>Longest Wait Time (mins:secs)</th>
<th>Grade of Service %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FORCE</strong></td>
<td>39 362</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dundee</td>
<td>1 939</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>96.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>3 017</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>96.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inverness</td>
<td>1 275</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>96.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>East and West</strong></td>
<td><strong>33 131</strong></td>
<td><strong>206</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>00:02:02</td>
<td>97.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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