POLICE SCOTLAND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION
REVISIONS ANALYSIS

Figures for 2016/17 Quarter 4

Background

Official statistics for recorded crime in Scotland are published by the Scottish Government on an annual basis. Police Scotland publishes Management Information on recorded crime each quarter. The data underpinning these publications come from Police Scotland’s Scottish Operational Management Information System (ScOMIS) which is a dynamic database of current and historical records that are continually being updated. The published figures are derived from snapshots of this information system.

This note demonstrates how data held in the system are revised over time and shows how the latest figures compare to previously published figures. In particular, it focuses on (A) how year-end data for the first year (2013/14) of Police Scotland have changed over time, (B) how the year-end figures for 2014/15 have changed since they were first published and (C) how 2015/16 Q1 figures compare with those published at the end of Q4.

A. How 2013/14 data have changed over time

Table 1 (see page 2) shows how the number of recorded crimes in each group has changed in the intervening period.

Although the end result, over all, is very little change (less than 1%) it can be seen that much of the revision to recorded crime data occur in the first two quarters. This indicates that the most recent quarters are most susceptible to revision.

However, it should also be noted that there have been further amendments during the intervening period, particularly to Group 7 during Q2 and Q4 of 2015/16. In the last three quarters (Q2 to Q4 of 2016/17), there has been very little change to the level of recorded crimes (initially recorded in financial year 2013/14).

During Q1 of 2016/17 Group 1 crimes reduced by 110, whilst Group 5 crimes increased by 102 crimes. This change is explained by the fact a crime classification (101108 - Offences relating to Serious Organised Crime) moved from Group 1 to Group 5 (504001). Also, during Q1 of 2016/17 Group 3 crimes reduced by 163 crimes. Most of this is explained by 161 fraud crimes in Fife being deleted, and replaced with a single fraudulent crime scheme crime (in accordance with Scottish Crime Recording Standards).
Over the last three quarters (2016/17 Q2 to Q4) only Group 1 crimes have remained constant. All of the other crime and offence groups have been subject to minimal revisions.
Using Group 1 crimes as an example, we can also see (Table 2) that although from 2014/15 Q2 through 2014/15 Q4, and 2015/16 Q3 and Q4 the number of recorded crimes remains the same, the distribution of these crimes across the quarters changes slightly.

It should be noted that it is nine quarters after the end of the 2013/14 recording period that the level of Group 1 crimes recorded completely stabilises, and has not been subject to further revision. Although the Group 1 data have remained constant for the last three consecutive quarters, this pattern is not repeated in the other crime groups.

The change of 110 crimes between 2015/16 Q4 and 2016/17 Q1 is the result of Offences relating to Serious Organised Crime being moved out of Group 1.

Whilst we observe that revisions continue to take place more than 2 years after the original crime was recorded, the very nature of crime means that this should not be unexpected. A combination of ongoing investigations, new information coming to light, audit and review of crimes, and general housekeeping are all likely to be factors in these revisions.

Although it has always been known and accepted that recorded crimes may be subject to revisions, it is only in the last couple of years that efforts have been made to quantify the exact nature and extent of these revisions.

### Table 2

**Recorded Crimes (Group 1) - Police Scotland:**

*Year end 2013/14 revisions analysis; 2013/14 Q4 to 2016/17 Q4.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Published Date</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>2013/14 Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>Q2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14 Q4</td>
<td>1 659</td>
<td>1 789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15 Q1</td>
<td>1 649</td>
<td>1 783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15 Q2</td>
<td>1 651</td>
<td>1 783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15 Q3</td>
<td>1 652</td>
<td>1 785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15 Q4</td>
<td>1 653</td>
<td>1 786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16 Q1</td>
<td>1 654</td>
<td>1 784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16 Q2</td>
<td>1 654</td>
<td>1 784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16 Q3</td>
<td>1 654</td>
<td>1 784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16 Q4</td>
<td>1 653</td>
<td>1 784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17 Q1</td>
<td>1 628</td>
<td>1 737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17 Q2</td>
<td>1 628</td>
<td>1 737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17 Q3</td>
<td>1 628</td>
<td>1 737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17 Q4</td>
<td>1 628</td>
<td>1 737</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. Revisions analysis of 2014/15 data

Recorded crime data for 2014/15 was first published using data extracted on April 2, 2015. Table 3 below shows how the original data compares with data for the same period collated for the most recent (2016/17 Q4) publication (data extracted on April 2, 2017).

### TABLE 3

**Recorded crimes - Police Scotland:**

*Year end 2014/15 revisions analysis; 2014/15 Q4 and 2016/17 Q4.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Published Date</th>
<th>Crime Groups</th>
<th>Group 1</th>
<th>Group 2</th>
<th>Group 3</th>
<th>Group 4</th>
<th>Group 5</th>
<th>Total Gp 1-5</th>
<th>Group 6</th>
<th>Group 7</th>
<th>Total Gp 6-7</th>
<th>Total Gp 1-7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recorded Crimes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15 Q4</td>
<td></td>
<td>6 357</td>
<td>9 557</td>
<td>126 857</td>
<td>52 091</td>
<td>61 488</td>
<td>256 350</td>
<td>183 513</td>
<td>195 985</td>
<td>379 498</td>
<td>635 848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17 Q4</td>
<td></td>
<td>6 352</td>
<td>9 679</td>
<td>125 570</td>
<td>51 930</td>
<td>60 664</td>
<td>254 195</td>
<td>182 969</td>
<td>196 675</td>
<td>379 644</td>
<td>633 839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>- 5</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>- 1 287</td>
<td>- 161</td>
<td>- 824</td>
<td>- 2 155</td>
<td>- 544</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>- 2 009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td></td>
<td>- 0.1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>- 1.0</td>
<td>- 0.3</td>
<td>- 1.3</td>
<td>- 0.8</td>
<td>- 0.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>- 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Group 2 crimes have been revised upwards by 122 crimes (1.3%). The remaining crimes groups (1, 3, 4 and 5) have all been revised downwards. The overall impact of Group 1 to 5 crimes is less than 1% (revised downwards by 2,155 crimes). Most of this change is explained by revisions within Group 3 (crimes of dishonesty).

Offences recorded in Group 6 have been revised downwards by 544 (0.3%) offences, whilst Group 7 offences have been revised up by 690 (0.4%) offences. The overall change in offences is negligible (0.0% or 146 offences).

Total recorded crimes and offences in Scotland for financial year 2014/15 has been revised down by 2,009 (0.3%) crimes and offences.
C. Revisions analysis of Q1 2015/16 data

Table 4, below, presents the impact of revisions to the 2015/16 Q1 (originally extracted 02/07/2016, and published in August 2016) data, when compared to the latest extract (i.e. Q4 2016/17). Overall there has been a revision downwards of 476 (0.3%) crimes and offences.

TABLE 4
Recorded crimes - Police Scotland:
Revisions analysis Q1 2015/16 data; 2015/16 Q1 and 2016/17 Q4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Published Date</th>
<th>Crime Groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16 Q1</td>
<td>1 625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17 Q4</td>
<td>1 622</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Change
Number 
- 3  
- 2  
- 780  
- 105  
- 499  
- 1 389  
- 167  
1 080  
913  
- 476  
Percentage
- 0.2  
- 0.1  
- 2.5  
- 0.7  
- 3.1  
- 2.1  
- 0.4  
2.3  
1.0  
- 0.3

The largest numerical change has occurred in Group 7 (revised upwards 1,080 offences, or 2.3%). The next largest revisions occurred in Group 3 (down 780 crimes, 2.5%) and Group 5 (down 499 crimes, 3.1%).

Further information:

If you require further information about any of the data published in this document please contact the Analysis and Performance Unit at APUStatisticalUnit@scotland.pnn.police.uk.

Should you require any other data or information recorded by Police Scotland please visit our Access to Information page (http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/).

Alternatively, you may write to:

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