

## POLICE SCOTLAND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION REVISIONS ANALYSIS

### Figures for 2018/19 Quarter 2

#### 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.

These revisions analyses represent a regular review of changes in recorded crime held by the Police Service in Scotland, and are used to track change over time. It demonstrates the fluidity of recorded crimes and the importance of recognising that these data are "live" and subject to change over time.

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 comparator data for the current quarter (Q2) has changed since it was published last year, and (C) how 2017/18 year-end figures have changed since they were first published.

#### 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. It is also important to note that some changes occur approximately one year later, suggesting an ongoing review.

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).

In the first quarter of 2017/18 there were a number of changes to note. The total of Group 6 offences has decreased by 67, but this has no material impact on the overall level. The reason for this change is that two offence classifications have been moved. The first classification relates to the ill-treatment or neglect of adults with incapacity. This has moved to Group 1 where the number of crimes has increase by 7. The other reassignment increased the number of Group 2 crimes by 60 and related to offences under the Communications Act 2003.

Over the last three quarters of 2016/17 (Q2 to Q4) Group 1 crimes were the only Group to have remained constant. Following a revision upwards of 7 Group 1 crimes in Q1 of 2017/18 they have again remained constant through the rest of the most recent year. Since Q2 of 2017/18 Group 1 and Group 4 crimes have remained constant, with each of the other Groups subject to occasional minor changes.

TABLE 1

## Recorded crimes - Police Scotland:

Year end 2013/14 revisions analysis; 2013/14 Q4 to 2018/19 Q2.

Published Date	Crime Groups										
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Total Gp 1-5	Group 6	Group 7	Total Gp 6-7	Total Gp 1-7	
<b>Recorded Crimes</b>											
2013/14 Q4	6 785	8 604	137 324	54 418	63 266	<b>270 397</b>	207 190	294 091	<b>501 281</b>	<b>771 678</b>	
<b>2013/14 Q4 (as at)</b>											
2014/15 Q1	6 759	8 687	136 793	54 376	63 031	<b>269 646</b>	210 266	295 208	<b>505 474</b>	<b>775 120</b>	
2014/15 Q2	6 768	8 723	136 610	54 234	62 963	<b>269 298</b>	207 048	295 258	<b>502 306</b>	<b>771 604</b>	
2014/15 Q3	6 768	8 741	136 566	54 234	62 915	<b>269 224</b>	207 008	295 254	<b>502 262</b>	<b>771 486</b>	
2014/15 Q4	6 768	8 747	136 475	54 221	62 881	<b>269 092</b>	206 973	295 349	<b>502 322</b>	<b>771 414</b>	
2015/16 Q1	6 763	8 757	136 443	54 218	62 855	<b>269 036</b>	206 956	295 349	<b>502 305</b>	<b>771 341</b>	
2015/16 Q2	6 762	8 770	136 435	54 217	62 850	<b>269 034</b>	206 953	295 119	<b>502 072</b>	<b>771 106</b>	
2015/16 Q3	6 764	8 766	136 428	54 218	62 842	<b>269 018</b>	206 944	295 118	<b>502 062</b>	<b>771 080</b>	
2015/16 Q4	6 764	8 767	136 417	54 218	62 835	<b>269 001</b>	206 937	295 339	<b>502 276</b>	<b>771 277</b>	
2016/17 Q1	6 654	8 768	136 254	54 218	62 937	<b>268 831</b>	206 932	295 339	<b>502 271</b>	<b>771 102</b>	
2016/17 Q2	6 654	8 767	136 249	54 217	62 937	<b>268 824</b>	206 930	295 338	<b>502 268</b>	<b>771 092</b>	
2016/17 Q3	6 654	8 766	136 246	54 217	62 939	<b>268 822</b>	206 934	295 342	<b>502 276</b>	<b>771 098</b>	
2016/17 Q4	6 654	8 765	136 245	54 218	62 938	<b>268 820</b>	206 944	295 342	<b>502 286</b>	<b>771 106</b>	
2017/18 Q1	6 661	8 825	136 241	54 218	62 940	<b>268 885</b>	206 877	295 342	<b>502 219</b>	<b>771 104</b>	
2017/18 Q2	6 661	8 828	136 238	54 218	62 940	<b>268 885</b>	206 876	295 352	<b>502 228</b>	<b>771 113</b>	
2017/18 Q3	6 661	8 828	136 238	54 218	62 940	<b>268 885</b>	206 877	295 352	<b>502 229</b>	<b>771 114</b>	
2017/18 Q4	6 661	8 829	136 239	54 218	62 932	<b>268 879</b>	206 877	295 352	<b>502 229</b>	<b>771 108</b>	
2018/19 Q1	6 661	8 830	136 238	54 218	62 929	<b>268 876</b>	206 877	295 353	<b>502 230</b>	<b>771 106</b>	
2018/19 Q2	6 661	8 832	136 238	54 218	62 929	<b>268 878</b>	206 877	295 354	<b>502 231</b>	<b>771 109</b>	
<b>Number CHANGE (as at)</b>											
2014/15 Q1	- 26	83	- 531	- 42	- 235	- 751	3 076	1 117	4 193	3 442	
2014/15 Q2	9	36	- 183	- 142	- 68	- 348	- 3 218	50	- 3 168	- 3 516	
2014/15 Q3	0	18	- 44	0	- 48	- 74	- 40	- 4	- 44	- 118	
2014/15 Q4	0	6	- 91	- 13	- 34	- 132	- 35	95	60	- 72	
2015/16 Q1	- 5	10	- 32	- 3	- 26	- 56	- 17	0	- 17	- 73	
2015/16 Q2	- 1	13	- 8	- 1	- 5	- 2	- 3	- 230	- 233	- 235	
2015/16 Q3	2	- 4	- 7	1	- 8	- 16	- 9	- 1	- 10	- 26	
2015/16 Q4	0	1	- 11	0	- 7	- 17	- 7	221	214	197	
2016/17 Q1	- 110	1	- 163	0	102	- 170	- 5	0	- 5	- 175	
2016/17 Q2	0	- 1	- 5	- 1	0	- 7	- 2	- 1	- 3	- 10	
2016/17 Q3	0	- 1	- 3	0	2	- 2	4	4	8	6	
2016/17 Q4	0	- 1	- 1	1	- 1	- 2	10	0	10	8	
2017/18 Q1	7	60	- 4	0	2	65	- 67	0	- 67	- 2	
2017/18 Q2	0	3	- 3	0	0	0	- 1	10	9	9	
2017/18 Q3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	
2017/18 Q4	0	1	1	0	- 8	- 6	0	0	0	- 6	
2018/19 Q1	0	1	- 1	0	- 3	- 3	0	1	1	- 2	
2018/19 Q2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	3	
<b>Percentage CHANGE (as at)</b>											
2014/15 Q1	- 0.4	1.0	- 0.4	- 0.1	- 0.4	- 0.3	1.5	0.4	0.8	0.4	
2014/15 Q2	0.1	0.4	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 1.5	0.0	- 0.6	- 0.5	
2014/15 Q3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	- 0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
2014/15 Q4	0.0	0.1	- 0.1	0.0	- 0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
2015/16 Q1	- 0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
2015/16 Q2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	- 0.1	0.0	0.0	
2015/16 Q3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
2015/16 Q4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	
2016/17 Q1	- 1.6	0.0	- 0.1	0.0	0.2	- 0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
2016/17 Q2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
2016/17 Q3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
2016/17 Q4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
2017/18 Q1	0.1	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
2017/18 Q2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
2017/18 Q3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
2017/18 Q4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
2018/19 Q1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
2018/19 Q2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
<b>Change 2013/14 Q4 to 2018/19 Q2</b>											
Number	- 124	228	- 1 086	- 200	- 337	- 1 519	- 313	1 263	950	- 569	
Percentage	- 1.8	2.6	- 0.8	- 0.4	- 0.5	- 0.6	- 0.2	0.4	0.2	- 0.1	

Five years after the Q4 2013/14 data were originally published there are still minor revisions occurring within the data. So whilst the data are relatively stable, we now know that revisions may occur for many years following initial publication. Although the latest revisions are unlikely to have a material impact on high level analysis for time series or percentage changes, it is possible that these may have a greater impact in lower level analyses.

**TABLE 2a****Recorded Crimes (Group 1) - Police Scotland:**

*Year end 2013/14 revisions analysis; 2013/14 Q4 to 2017/18 Q3.*

Published Date	2013/14				2013/14 Total
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
2013/14 Q4	1 659	1 789	1 657	1 680	<b>6 785</b>
2014/15 Q1	1 649	1 783	1 645	1 682	<b>6 759</b>
2014/15 Q2	1 651	1 783	1 649	1 685	<b>6 768</b>
2014/15 Q3	1 652	1 785	1 647	1 684	<b>6 768</b>
2014/15 Q4	1 653	1 786	1 649	1 680	<b>6 768</b>
2015/16 Q1	1 654	1 784	1 650	1 675	<b>6 763</b>
2015/16 Q2	1 654	1 784	1 650	1 674	<b>6 762</b>
2015/16 Q3	1 654	1 784	1 650	1 676	<b>6 764</b>
2015/16 Q4	1 653	1 784	1 650	1 677	<b>6 764</b>
2016/17 Q1	1 628	1 737	1 626	1 663	<b>6 654</b>
2016/17 Q2	1 628	1 737	1 626	1 663	<b>6 654</b>
2016/17 Q3	1 628	1 737	1 626	1 663	<b>6 654</b>
2016/17 Q4	1 628	1 737	1 626	1 663	<b>6 654</b>
2017/18 Q1	1 628	1 737	1 625	1 671	<b>6 661</b>
2017/18 Q2	1 628	1 737	1 625	1 671	<b>6 661</b>
2017/18 Q3	1 628	1 737	1 625	1 671	<b>6 661</b>
2017/18 Q4	1 628	1 737	1 625	1 671	<b>6 661</b>
2018/19 Q1	1 628	1 737	1 625	1 671	<b>6 661</b>
2018/19 Q2	1 628	1 737	1 625	1 671	<b>6 661</b>

Using Group 1 crimes as an example, we can see (Table 2a above) that although there have been periods of no change over the last five years, there are also several substantive changes, generally from amendments to where recorded crimes are being classified. Following a small (7) revision in 2017/18 Q1, Group 1 crimes for 2013/14 have remained constant for the last six quarters.

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. And, as stated above, the increase of seven crimes in 2017/18 Q1 is due to a crime classification moving from another Group.

Overall, the same general stability shown above is not replicated in other crime groups. Although most of the other Groups have experienced periods of no change, only Groups 1 and 4 crimes has shown any long-term stability (see Table 1).

TABLE 2b

**Recorded Crimes (Group 3) - Police Scotland:***Year end 2013/14 revisions analysis; 2013/14 Q4 to 2017/18 Q3.*

Published Date	2013/14				2013/14 Total
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
2013/14 Q4	34 628	36 394	34 300	32 002	<b>137 324</b>
2014/15 Q1	34 613	36 373	34 231	31 576	<b>136 793</b>
2014/15 Q2	34 611	36 365	34 204	31 430	<b>136 610</b>
2014/15 Q3	34 608	36 363	34 194	31 401	<b>136 566</b>
2014/15 Q4	34 601	36 349	34 187	31 338	<b>136 475</b>
2015/16 Q1	34 599	36 347	34 181	31 316	<b>136 443</b>
2015/16 Q2	34 599	36 346	34 177	31 313	<b>136 435</b>
2015/16 Q3	34 599	36 346	34 173	31 310	<b>136 428</b>
2015/16 Q4	34 599	36 344	34 168	31 306	<b>136 417</b>
2016/17 Q1	34 599	36 343	34 168	31 144	<b>136 254</b>
2016/17 Q2	34 598	36 342	34 167	31 142	<b>136 249</b>
2016/17 Q3	34 597	36 341	34 166	31 142	<b>136 246</b>
2016/17 Q4	34 595	36 342	34 165	31 143	<b>136 245</b>
2017/18 Q1	34 595	36 340	34 163	31 143	<b>136 241</b>
2017/18 Q2	34 595	36 338	34 162	31 143	<b>136 238</b>
2017/18 Q3	34 595	36 338	34 162	31 143	<b>136 238</b>
2017/18 Q4	34 595	36 339	34 162	31 143	<b>136 239</b>
2018/19 Q1	34 595	36 339	34 161	31 143	<b>136 238</b>
2018/19 Q2	34 595	36 339	34 161	31 143	<b>136 238</b>

By way of a secondary example, Table 2b (above) shows changes to Group 3 crimes over time. Only twice in the five year period has the number of crimes recorded remained the same from one quarter to the next. In effect these data are in a constant state of flux. Although the changes are extremely small and are unlikely to materially impact analysis, it does demonstrate the requirement to use refreshed data to ensure that the most up-to-date number of recorded crimes are reported.

Whilst we observe that some minor revisions continue to take place more than five 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, changes to the crime classification structure 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 few years that efforts have been made to quantify the exact nature and extent of these revisions.

## B. Revisions analysis of Q2 2017/18 data

Recorded crime data for Quarter 2 2017/18 was first published using data extracted on October 2, 2017. Table 3 below shows how the original data compares with data for the same period collated for the most recent (2018/19 Q2) publication (data extracted on October 2, 2018).

**TABLE 3**

**Recorded crimes - Police Scotland:**

*Revisions analysis Q1 2017/18 data; as at 2017/18 Q2 and 2018/19 Q2.*

Published Date	Crime Groups									
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Total Gp 1-5	Group 6	Group 7	Total Gp 6-7	Total Gp 1-7
<b>Recorded Crimes</b>										
2017/18 Q2	3 805	5 961	59 689	26 867	30 632	<b>126 954</b>	73 838	68 958	<b>142 796</b>	<b>269 750</b>
As at 2018/19 Q2	3 805	6 048	58 626	26 862	30 167	<b>125 508</b>	73 642	69 857	<b>143 499</b>	<b>269 007</b>
<b>Change</b>										
Number	0	87	- 1 063	- 5	- 465	<b>- 1 446</b>	- 196	899	<b>703</b>	<b>- 743</b>
Percentage	0.0	1.5	- 1.8	0.0	- 1.5	<b>- 1.1</b>	- 0.3	1.3	<b>0.5</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>

With the reductions in Group 3 (down 1,063 crimes) and Group 5 (down 465 crimes) the overall recorded crime total has gone down by 1.1% (or 1,446 recorded crimes)

A small (1.3% or 899 offences) increase has taken place in Group 7 offences, whilst group 6 has been revised down by 196 (0.3%) offences. The overall change in offences is almost negligible (up 0.5% or 703 offences).

Total recorded crimes and offences in Scotland for Q2 of financial year 2017/18 has been revised down by 743 (0.3%) crimes and offences.

### C. Revisions analysis of year-end 2017/18 data

Table 4, below, presents the impact of revisions to the year-end 2017/18 (Q4) data (originally extracted 02/04/2018, and published in May 2018), when compared to the latest extract (i.e. Q2 2018/19, extracted 02/10/2018).

**TABLE 4**

**Recorded crimes - Police Scotland:**

*Year end 2017/18 revisions analysis; 2017/18 Q4 and as at 2018/19 Q2.*

Published Date	Crime Groups									
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Total Gp 1-5	Group 6	Group 7	Total Gp 6-7	Total Gp 1-7
<b>Recorded Crimes</b>										
2017/18 Q4	7 251	12 487	114 474	51 322	58 970	<b>244 504</b>	137 012	127 015	<b>264 027</b>	<b>508 531</b>
As at 2018/19 Q2	7 267	12 613	113 546	51 324	58 508	<b>243 258</b>	136 797	127 885	<b>264 682</b>	<b>507 940</b>
<b>Change</b>										
Number	16	126	- 928	2	- 462	<b>- 1 246</b>	- 215	870	<b>655</b>	<b>- 591</b>
Percentage	0.2	1.0	- 0.8	0.0	- 0.8	<b>- 0.5</b>	- 0.2	0.7	<b>0.2</b>	<b>- 0.1</b>

The largest numerical change has occurred in Group 3 (revised downwards 928 crimes, or 0.8%). The next largest revision occurred in Group 7 (up 870, 0.7%) and Group 5 (down 462 crimes, 0.8%).

#### 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](mailto:APUStatisticalUnit@scotland.pnn.police.uk).

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Information Management Unit  
Police Scotland  
2 French Street  
Glasgow  
G40 4EH

[foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

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