

**NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S CRIME STATISTICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
**AGENDA**

**UK Statistics Authority, Meeting room 3, Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ  
Thursday 24 September 2015, 14:00 – 16:00**

**Attendees:**

Adrian Smith (Chair)	UK Statistics Authority Board
David Blunt	Home Office
Steve Bond	Home Office
Allan Brimicombe	University of East London
Roma Chappell	Office for National Statistics
Steve Ellerd-Elliott	Ministry of Justice
Jeff Farrar	National Policing Lead for Crime Statistics
Fiona Glen	Independent expert
Glyn Jones	Welsh Government
Chris Lewis	University of Portsmouth
Patricia Mayhew	Independent Criminological Consultant
Mark Cooper	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (for Tom Winsor)
Mike Warren	Home Office (for Diana Luchford)
John Flatley (Secretariat)	Office for National Statistics

**Apologies:**

Junaid Gharda	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire
Mike Levi	Cardiff University
Diana Luchford	Home Office
Stephen Shute	University of Sussex
Tom Winsor	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary

<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>Timings</b>	<b>Order of Business</b>		
1.	14:00 – 14:10			<i>Introduction and announcements</i> Adrian Smith (Chair)
2.	14:10 – 14:15		<b>NSCSAC(15)1</b>	<i>Minutes and matters arising from the meeting held on 20 May 2015</i> Adrian Smith (Chair)
3.	14:15 – 14:30	For Discussion	<b>NSCSAC(15)2</b>	<i>Draft terms of reference</i> Adrian Smith (Chair)
4.	14:30 – 15:30		<b>NSCSAC(15)3</b>	<i>Report on the UKSA event</i> <i>Author</i>
			<b>NSCSAC(15)4</b>	<i>Review of work programme and priorities for the Committee</i> <i>John Flatley (Secretariat)</i>
5.	15:30 – 15:40			<i>Crime Data Integrity – Oral update</i> Mark Cooper, HMIC

6.	15:40 – 15:50		<b>NCSAC(15)5</b>	<i>National Crime Registrar's Report</i> Steve Bond, Home Office
7.	15:50 – 16:00	Any other business		All members

**MINUTES OF**  
**THE NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S CRIME STATISTICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2015**  
**Meeting room 3, 1 Drummond Gate, Pimlico, London, SW1V 2QQ**

**CHAIR**

Adrian Smith                                      UK Statistics Authority Board

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Blunt	Home Office
Steve Bond	Home Office
Allan Brimicombe	University of East London
Roma Chappell	Office for National Statistics
Steve Ellerd-Elliott	Ministry of Justice
Jeff Farrar	National Policing Lead for Crime Statistics
Fiona Glen	Independent expert
Glyn Jones	Welsh Government
Chris Lewis	University of Portsmouth
Patricia Mayhew	Independent Criminological Consultant

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES**

Mark Cooper	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (for Tom Winsor)
Mike Warren	Home Office (for Diana Luchford)

**SECRETARIAT**

John Flatley                                      Office for National Statistics

**APOLOGIES**

Junaid Gharda	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire
Mike Levi	Cardiff University
Diana Luchford	Home Office
Stephen Shute	University of Sussex
Tom Winsor	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary

**1. Chair's Introduction and announcements**

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the re-constituted committee and explained that he wanted to use this first meeting to focus discussion on ways of working and to identify priorities for future work. The Chair suggested that he was minded to make more use of sub-groups to take a "deep dive" into specific issues to bring back to the committee. Such sub-groups could be extended to experts beyond the current membership if it was felt useful to do so.
  
- 1.2. The Chair informed members, that in the light of such discussion, he wanted to review membership and consider whether the committee had the right blend of

expertise it needed. The Chair said that he would write to members in the coming weeks about membership and periods of appointment.

## **2. Minutes and matters arising from meeting held on 20 May 2015- NSCSAC(15)1**

- 2.1. The minutes of the last meeting of the predecessor committee were agreed as an accurate record.
- 2.2. The Secretariat informed members that the outgoing Chair, Stephen Shute, expected to circulate a draft final report to members for comment within the next few weeks. Once agreed, it would be sent to the Home Secretary and the National Statistician.
- 2.3. The Chair noted that the actions from the last meeting, as summarized in the Action Log at the end of the minutes, had been completed or were to be covered by agenda items at this meeting.
- 2.4. The Chair then invited Chris Lewis to report back on the first meeting of a Task and Finish Group (TFG) that had been created to take forward work on a Crime Index.
- 2.5. It was reported that the first meeting had been held in the morning before the full committee meeting and reviewed a paper presented by ONS on work that they had undertaken to date. Chris Lewis said that he thought it likely that the group would take 9-12 months to complete its work.
- 2.6. There was a discussion about the extent to which the full NSCSAC committee should be engaged in the work of the TFG and it was agreed there should be an ongoing dialogue with brief updates given at each main committee meeting. The Chair thought there would be useful lessons to share from the review of and debate on Prices Indices in the development of this work.

<b>Action 1: Secretariat to add update from the Crime Index TFG to the agenda for future meetings.</b>
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## **3. Draft terms of reference - NSCSAC(15)2**

- 3.1. The Chair introduced the draft terms of reference and invited comments from members. There was a question about the extent to which the new terms of reference differed from the previous set. It was explained that the most significant change concerned the change in governance and that the committee's advice was to go to the National Statistician, who would then advise the Home Secretary and HMIC in his role as Government's principal adviser on official statistics.
- 3.2. The Chair also drew attention to the additional reference to the Regulatory work of the UK Statistics Authority and that he thought it helpful for the committee to hear, from time to time, from the Director General for Regulation when there were issues that raised matters for this committee.
- 3.3. It was noted that paragraph 3 referred to the scope of the committee's consideration being extended to include the Home Office's Commercial Victimisation Survey (CVS). Some members questioned the need for this extension, pointing out that the CVS already had a separate set of governance

arrangements including a Steering Group and an External Reference Group. There was agreement that NSCSAC should not seek to duplicate activity carried out elsewhere but that crime against business was an important part of the crime statistics landscape and should not be beyond the scope of the committee's advice if it was needed in the future.

3.4. This led to further discussion about whether or not the views of NSCSAC needed to be sought before any changes or improvements were made to the official statistics on crime. It was agreed that it was never the intention for the committee to consider every small change and that only matters of significance with regard to the primary mission for the committee (as set out in para 1 of the terms of reference) needed to come before the committee for advice.

3.5. It was agreed that the terms of reference needed some tweaking to reflect the above discussion.

**Action 2: Secretariat to amend draft terms of reference and to circulate with the minutes for comment.**

#### **4. Report on the UK Statistics Authority event on crime statistics – NSCSAC(15)3**

4.1. John Flatley (ONS) introduced a paper that had been jointly written with Ed Humpherson, UK Statistics Authority Director General of Regulation which reflected on the Authority event on crime statistics under the banner of the new strategy of *Better Statistics, Better Decisions*. The paper summarized the key themes that came out of the event and invited the committee to reflect on them and consider which were key priorities for advice by the committee going forward.

4.2. The Chair invited the committee to consider the issues identified in Ed Humpherson's address to the event which sought to set out some of the key questions about the value of crime statistics, such as:

- Who are crime statistics for?
- What judgements do they inform?
- Do they cover the right types of crime?
- Do they capture experiences of all victims?
- Is enough done to link them to other types of criminal justice data, and to other non justice data sets, including commercial datasets?
- What sort of accountability do they support?

4.3. The Chair invited members to consider whether these were the right questions. In discussion, the additional points were identified:

- Is the burden imposed in collecting or producing the statistics commensurate with the value in publishing them?
- How does the quality of the statistics benchmark against international standards?

- How well are the statistics communicated and presented to the diverse range of users who might make use of them?
- What are the major gaps in our understanding of crime and what new forms of databases might be used to better inform the totality of crime/demand on the police?

4.4. The committee then reviewed the themes and proposed actions set out in Annex A of the paper. The proposed actions were agreed and there was discussion on a range of work that was already under various themes. The Chair suggested that an issues log should be created to provide an up to date information record of the latest developments on topics being considered by the committee.

**Action 3: Secretariat to establish an issues log to be updated for each committee meeting.**

## 5. Crime Data Integrity - Oral update from HMIC

- 5.1. At this point in the meeting, the Chair invited Mark Cooper to give an update on HMIC's latest thinking about their future inspection of police recorded crime data.
- 5.2. Mark Cooper confirmed that Sir Tom Winsor viewed the need for improved crime recording accuracy as very important. HMIC would be following up on their 2014 Crime Data Integrity inspection and were currently minded to carry out up to 10 inspection audits per year, starting in March/April 2016, subject to confirmation of future budgets. These were likely to be unannounced and their scope and size had yet to be determined. Steve Bond noted that the methodology need not be the same for each force inspected as a more risk based approach should be considered. It was the intention of HMIC to seek advice from NSCSAC over the design and methodology of the audits.
- 5.3. Comments made by members included the importance of HMIC maintaining a strong focus on crime recording to avoid risk of forces regressing back to past practice. It was also noted that HMIC had only a secondary interest in re-designation of police recorded crime as National Statistics.
- 5.4. In the light of the general discussion, the Chair wondered whether the committee felt its focus should be on how to maximize the value of police recorded crime data rather than on a plan for its re-designation as National Statistics. Mike Warren commented that re-designation remains important to Ministers and that there would be some expectation that the committee would continue to support that objective. The Chair noted that improved recording practices and greater consistency across forces was important and that the committee should continue to offer advice on how this could be achieved.
- 5.5. There was a suggestion that individual designation at force level of the quality and trustworthiness of recorded crime data, perhaps based on HMIC's inspections, could be a powerful incentive for forces to improve their recording. Mark Cooper explained that the PEEL inspection process would result in an OFSTED-style rating of forces with regard to their approach to efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy but that, to

date, there had not been a decision about whether or not a similar approach could be used for crime recording.

## **6. Review of work programme – NSCSAC(15)4**

6.1. The Chair then returned to the issue of future work priorities and asked John Flatley to introduce the paper on the committee's existing work programme. There was discussion on the issues outlined in the paper together with those raised in the earlier paper.

6.2. The Chair summed up the committee discussion as identifying the following issues as future priorities:

- cyber-crime
- maximizing the value of police recorded crime data
- review of existing data on fraud and cyber-crime with a view to identifying gaps and where value could be added
- further consideration of data on repeat victimization, including domestic violence and other crime types
- mapping data available on child abuse with a view to considering significant gaps and how they could be filled
- consideration of the harmonization of ethnicity classifications should be folded into wider piece of work looking at joining up the crime and criminal justice statistics
- the future of non-crime incident reports (this will be considered by Jeff Farrar and NPCC colleagues and a verbal report back will be made to the next meeting).
- In the longer term, a TFG could take a deep dive into the possible utility of Big Data and other sources of admin data not currently forming part of the official statistics on crime.

**Action 4: Allan Brimicombe and Fiona Glen agreed to take forward work on mapping child abuse data and would bring the issue back to the next meeting.**

## **7. National Crime Registrar's Report - NSCSAC(15)5**

7.1. Steve Bond introduced the National Crime Registrar's Report. The Committee noted the contents of the report.

7.2. There was a question about whether or not the College of Policing was planning to undertake an evaluation of the Force Crime Registrar training.

**Action 5: Jeff Farrar to discuss with College of Policing their plans for evaluation**

**and to report back to the committee.**

7.3. The Chair reported that Pat Mayhew had agreed to represent NSCSAC at the forthcoming FCR conference on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

## **8. Any other business**

8.1. Glyn Jones informed the committee that the Welsh Government were developing a set of national indicators on domestic violence to monitor progress and invited interested members to input their views as soon as possible.

8.2. Chris Lewis asked a question about vacancies on the committee and how these were to be filled. The Chair sought views on the past recruitment practice and said that he would be considering options before the next meeting.

**NSCSAC Secretariat  
2 October 2015**



**ACTION TABLE FROM MEETING OF 24 SEPTEMBER 2015**

	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>ACTIONEE</b>	<b>PRIORITY/COMPLETION DATE</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>
1	Update from the Crime Index TFG to be added to the agenda for future meetings.	Secretariat	High – December 2015	This item has been added to the agenda for the 14 <sup>th</sup> December meeting
2.	Draft terms of reference to be amended and circulated with the minutes for comment.	Secretariat	High – October 2015	The draft terms of reference were amended and circulated to committee members on the 13 <sup>th</sup> November
3	Issues log to established and updated for each committee meeting.	Secretariat	High – December 2015	An NSCSAC Issues log has been established and will be updated prior to each committee meeting and circulated with the papers.
4	Map child abuse data and bring the issue back to the next meeting.	Allan Brimicombe and Fiona Glen	Medium – February 2016 meeting	A separate Task and Finish Group, chaired by Allan Brimicombe, has now been established to take this work forward. An oral update will be provided to the committee at the 14 <sup>th</sup> December meeting.
5	To discuss with College of Policing their plans for evaluation of FCR training and to report back to the committee.	Jeff Farrar	Medium – December 2015	Jeff Farrar emailed the Chief Executive of the College on 17 <sup>th</sup> November and is awaiting a response. He will provide an oral update at the 14 <sup>th</sup> December meeting.

## National Statistician's Crime Statistics Advisory Committee (NS CSAC)

### *Terms of Reference*

#### **Introduction**

1. The Committee advises the National Statistician on how best to ensure that official statistics on crime for England and Wales are accurate, clearly presented, comprehensive, transparent and trustworthy taking account of the needs of users and providers.
2. NS CSAC functions as a strategic, high level advisory body accountable to the National Statistician. In turn, the National Statistician will provide direct advice to the Home Secretary and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), as appropriate, on matters related to the measurement of crime and the collection and presentation of crime data for England and Wales.
3. In carrying out its functions, the Committee can call for papers on relevant issues or topics and can consider matters referred to it by the National Statistician. The Committee may also be briefed from time to time by the Director General for Regulation on relevant aspects of the regulatory work performance. The Committee does not have any advisory role on regulatory issues but it may help inform the advice to the National Statistician if the Committee is aware of current regulatory issues. Committee members may also raise issues for consideration, through the Committee's secretariat. Secretariat is provided by the ONS business area responsible for crime statistics.
4. In carrying out its functions the Committee has due regard to the needs of users and providers; the Code of Practice for Official Statistics; the legal framework in which it operates; the wider affordability of proposals for change; burden or bureaucracy in respect of Police Recorded Crime and on the public who provide survey data; and international developments and obligations.

#### **Roles and Responsibilities**

5. The role of the Committee is to:
  - i. Advise on changes in the coverage, definitions, classifications or methodologies underpinning official statistics on crime for England and Wales including the Crime Survey for England and Wales, the Commercial Victimization Survey, the police recorded crime series and other administrative sources.
  - ii. Advise on the statistical implications of any significant changes to such sources, including changes to methodology, coverage or quality assurance. This will include additions or deletions to the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) and the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS).

- iii. Review and advise on the quality assurance of police crime recording and data integrity.
  - iv. Advise on the handling and presentation of changes in published series, paying due regard to the need for transparent analysis of the impact of any change on trends.
  - v. Consider and advise on other proposals for improvements to the coverage and/or methodology of crime statistics.
  - vi. Consider how crime statistics can be made comprehensible to all and provide advice on how understanding and confidence in crime statistics can be enhanced.
  - vii. Annually self-review terms of reference and committee effectiveness.
6. The National Crime Registrar (NCR), has the delegated authority to determine whether proposed changes to the HOOCR or NCRS require referral to the Committee for consideration prior to implementation. This decision is agreed with the Chair. The NCR provides the Committee at each meeting with a report setting out any changes not referred to it for discussion.

### **Meetings**

7. The Committee will usually meet three times a year, one meeting of which will focus on agreeing an annual work programme. The Chair may convene sub-groups of the Committee to expedite business. Some issues will need urgent consideration and, with the agreement of the Chair, maybe dealt with by correspondence.

### **Reporting**

8. The minutes of all meetings will reflect broad arguments and conclusions reached including dissenting views. The minutes will be agreed after the meeting via correspondence and be published along with the meeting agenda and papers on the Committee's web pages. Additional Committee correspondence will also be made publicly available unless a specific case is made to the Chair not to do so.
9. The Committee will provide a report on its work to the National Statistician for each financial year and publish the report on the Committee's web pages.

### **Membership**

10. Membership is at senior level. Members are subject to a Code of Practice. Substitutes may attend with the express permission of the Chair. The Chair may invite others to meetings to provide advice on specific topics.
11. Membership comprises of executive representatives of organisations, and non-executive members acting in an individual capacity (see Annex A).
12. Non-executive members sit on the Committee for a fixed period of 2 or 3 years on a rotational basis with the option for renewal.
13. Meeting quorum consists of the Chair (or his nominated deputy) and at least four other non-executive members.
14. Membership of the Committee is not remunerated (although travelling expenses are paid for those attending from outside Government).

## **Annex A – NS-CSAC membership**

### Executive members:

- Chief Statistician – Ministry of Justice (Mr Stephen Ellard-Elliott)
- Chief Statistician – Home Office (Mr David Blunt)
- Chief Statistician – Welsh Government (Mr Glyn Jones)
- Deputy Director Public Policy Division – Office for National Statistics (Mrs Roma Chappell)
- Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary - (Sir Tom Winsor)
- National Policing lead for crime statistics (Chief Constable Jeff Farrar)
- Director of Crime – Home Office (Ms Diana Luchford)
- National Crime Registrar – Home Office (Mr Steve Bond)

### Non-executive members:

- Professor Sir Adrian Smith (Chair), Vice-Chancellor of the University of London and Deputy Chair of the UK Statistics Authority
- Professor Allan Brimicombe - Professor and Head, Centre for Geo-Information Studies, University of East London, Chair of Crime and Justice Statistics Network
- Mr Junaid Gharda – Office of Police and Crime Commissioner Staffordshire
- Dr Fiona Glen – Independent expert
- Professor Michael Levi – Professor of Criminology, Cardiff University
- Professor Chris Lewis - Visiting Professor, Institute of Criminal Justice Studies, University of Portsmouth
- Ms Patricia Mayhew - Independent criminological consultant
- Professor Stephen Shute - Head of the School of Law, Politics and Sociology and Professor of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice, University of Sussex
- Two vacancies currently exist for members providing a victims' perspective.

### Secretariat:

- Mr John Flatley, Office for National Statistics [csac@statistics.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:csac@statistics.gsi.gov.uk)

## **Annex B - National Statistician's Crime Statistics Advisory Committee Code of Practice**

### **Introduction**

1. This document sets out the Code of Practice for the independent National Statistician's Crime Statistics Advisory Committee (NS-CSAC) and any associated working groups or sub-groups. It is a working document, subject to periodic review by the Committee subsequent to:-
  - feedback from members
  - feedback from stakeholders
  - new or updated guidance from Government.
2. Both NS-CSAC members and individuals who may be appointed, or co-opted, to working groups or sub-groups for short periods of time, are expected to comply at all times with this Code of Practice.

### **Role and Remit**

3. NS-CSAC is a non-statutory body established by the National Statistician. The Committee was established following a recommendation from the National Statistician's Review of Crime Statistics: England and Wales (published 6 June 2011) to establish an independent advisory committee on crime statistics.

### **Code of Conduct**

4. Members of the Committee are responsible for ensuring that it fulfils its role as set out in the Committee's Terms of Reference.
5. To ensure its accountability in carrying out its duties, the Committee will seek to work as openly as possible.
6. Members are required to observe the Seven Principles of Public Life endorsed by the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life and to comply with this Code of Practice. See Annex (i).
7. Each member must at all times act in good faith and observe the highest standards of impartiality, integrity and objectivity in relation to the conduct of the Committee's business. In particular, members should:
  - familiarise themselves with the Terms of Reference of the Committee;
  - undergo any required induction training;
  - declare any personal or business interest which may, or may be perceived (by a reasonable member of the public), to influence their judgement. This should include, as a minimum, personal direct and indirect pecuniary interests, and should normally also include such interests of close family members and of people living in the same household;
  - not participate in the discussion or determination of matters in which they have a

personal or business interest, and should normally withdraw from the meeting (even if held in public) if their interest is direct and pecuniary;

- make a declaration of interest at any Committee meeting if it relates specifically to a particular issue under consideration, for recording in the minutes (whether or not a Committee member withdraws from the meeting);
  - not misuse information gained in the course of their public service for personal gain or for political purpose, nor seek to use the opportunity of public service to promote their private interests or those of connected persons, firms, businesses or other organisations;
  - not hold any paid, or high profile unpaid, posts in a political party, and not engage in specific party political activities on matters directly affecting the work of the Committee. When engaging in other political activities, members should be conscious of their public role and exercise proper discretion.
8. Committee members may be personally liable if, in the performance of their Committee duties, they make a fraudulent or negligent statement which results in a loss to a third party.
9. In accepting this Code of Practice members accept that they will not disclose any information or documents if they are marked "Official Sensitive" and not disclose any subsequent comments about material which has been marked "Official Sensitive". Members also undertake not to make copies of any such documents, and to follow the advice provided by the Chair and Secretariat about the handling of such documents.

### **Responsibility and Role of the Chair**

10. The Chair of CSAC is appointed as an individual to fulfil the role of the Committee, not as a representative of their particular profession, employer or interest group, and has a duty to act in the public interest. The Chair is appointed on a personal basis, even if they are a member of one or more stakeholder groups. If a Chair declares an organisation's views rather than a personal view, he/she should make it clear at the time of declaring that view.
11. The Chair is expected to attend all NS-CSAC meetings.
12. The Chair has responsibility for providing effective leadership and :
- ensuring that every member of NS-CSAC has the opportunity to be heard and that no view is overlooked or ignored;
  - setting the strategic direction for NS-CSAC;
  - ensuring that NS-CSAC meets at the appropriate intervals;

- ensuring that any significant diversity of opinion among NS-CSAC members is fully explored and discussed;
- representing NS-CSAC to the public or the media as arranged. The Chair will be responsible for speaking on behalf of NS-CSAC to the press or to be interviewed by journalists and broadcast media;
- ensuring that NS-CSAC acts in accordance with this Code of Practice.

## **Role of Members**

13. Non-executive, non-permanent members of NS-CSAC are appointed as individuals to fulfil the role of the Committee, not as representatives of their particular profession, employer or interest group, and have a duty to act in the public interest. Non-executive members are appointed on a personal basis, even if they are members of one or more stakeholder groups. If a non-executive member declares an organisation's views rather than a personal view, he/she should make it clear at the time of declaring that view.
14. Executive, permanent members of NS-CSAC are appointed to represent the views of their employer organisation and will sit on the Committee for the duration of their holding of that post designated as a seat on the Committee.
15. A member's role on the Committee is not circumscribed by the expertise or perspective he or she was asked to bring to NS-CSAC. Any report or advice belongs to the Committee as a whole. Members should regard themselves as free to question and comment on the information provided or the views expressed by any of the other members, notwithstanding that the views or information may not relate to their own area of expertise.
16. Members are expected to make every endeavour to attend all meetings. Executive members can delegate attendance in exceptional circumstances to persons with the appropriate authority to represent them; this should first be discussed with the Secretariat. Meetings will be held providing a quorum can be achieved at the discretion of the Chair.
17. Members should satisfy themselves that NS-CSAC's advice is comprehensible from the point of view of a lay person and that the implications of any uncertainties concerning the basis of NS-CSAC's advice are fully explained.
18. All members have the responsibility for:
  - acting in the public interest;
  - contributing at NS-CSAC meetings;
  - examining and challenging, if necessary, the assumptions on which advice is formulated;
  - ensuring that NS-CSAC has the opportunity to consider contrary views and where appropriate the concerns and values of stakeholders before a decision is

taken;

- sharing in the general responsibility to consider the wider context in which their expertise is employed;
- acting with a presumption of openness and ensuring that they act in accordance with this Code of Practice.

### **Communications with the Media**

19. The Chair of NS-CSAC will be the spokesperson for any contacts with the media unless other specific arrangements have been made by the Chair and Secretariat.
20. If a member receives an approach for an interview on behalf of NS-CSAC the request must be referred to the Secretariat for advice.
21. If a member is speaking or writing in a personal or professional capacity to the media (which they are entitled to do) and they are identified as a member of NS-CSAC, it should be made clear that the individual's view is not necessarily that of NS-CSAC.
22. All media inquiries to members should, when relevant to NS-CSAC business, be routed through the Secretariat who will liaise with the National Statistician's Media Relations Team and the Chair.
23. Any media appearances that members have been asked to undertake on behalf of NS-CSAC, or which specifically cover the work of NS-CSAC, should be reported beforehand to the Secretariat, who will liaise with the National Statistician's Media Relations Team and the Chair.
24. Any requests for articles, letters or other comments relating to the work of NS-CSAC that are intended for publication should be referred to the Secretariat and a copy of the text made available to the Secretariat as early as possible prior to its publication.



## **Annex (i) - The Seven Principles of Public Life**

The 'Seven Principles of Public Life' are expected to apply to all in the public service. These are:

### **Selflessness**

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.

### **Integrity**

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

### **Objectivity**

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

### **Accountability**

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

### **Openness**

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

### **Honesty**

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

### **Leadership**

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

**UK Statistics Authority's *Better Statistics, Better Decisions* event on crime statistics****Purpose/Issue**

1. This paper reports on the UK Statistics Authority's *Better Statistics, Better Decisions* themed event on crime statistics.

**Action**

2. The Committee is invited to reflect on the key themes that came out of the event and agree which should be priorities for advice by the committee going forward.

**Background**

3. On 9th June, the UK Statistics Authority hosted a crime statistics event in London as part of the *Better Statistics Better Decisions* stakeholder and event strategy. This event focused on 'what improvements can be made within the existing crime statistics framework, and how we might begin to capture crimes that currently fall outside the scope of this framework'.
4. The event attracted over a hundred policy-makers and opinion formers from across the public and private sectors, as well as media commentators, researchers, academics and analysts with an interest in crime statistics.
5. The event was opened by Sir Andrew Dilnot. Speakers and panellists included Mark Easton (BBC), Sir Tom Winsor (HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary), Chief Constable Sara Thornton (National Police Chiefs' Council), Lisa Harker (NSPCC), Tim Newburn (LSE), Nick Ross (journalist and broadcaster), Ed Humpherson (Director General for Regulation, UK Statistics Authority), Sir Adrian Smith (Deputy Chair, UK Statistics Authority), Professor Sylvia Walby (University of Lancaster), Mandy Haeburn-Little (Director of Scottish Business Resilience Centre) and Adrian Leppard (Commissioner, City of London Police). The event was concluded with reflections from Baroness O'Neill of Bengarve.
6. John Pullinger, the National Statistician, set the scene and objectives for the day and placed the event in the context of the Authority's *Better Statistics, Better Decisions* strategy. John Pullinger noted that there has been a lot of discussion about the quality of crime recording by the police and concerns that, while our crime statistics may be quite good at measuring traditional forms of crime, they need to respond better to the challenges of new or changing types of criminality which of high public concern; such as cyber-crime; child sexual exploitation and modern slavery.

7. John Pullinger welcomed the work that ONS is currently taking forward to incorporate measures of cyber-crime into the Crime Survey for England and Wales and was interested to hear suggestions for other ideas to improve our understanding of modern crime. Finally, John Pullinger acknowledged the tight financial context and urged delegates to focus improvements on those that will give the most 'value for money' and that could realistically be delivered.
8. The event covered a wide range of themes with the first panel session focusing on the question of "why crime statistics are needed?" and the second on "how can crime statistics be improved?" Between the two sessions, Ed Humpherson (Director General Regulation UK Statistics Authority) spoke about the Authority's long standing interest and role in improving crime statistics.
9. Ed Humpherson described how National Statistics status is an indicator of trustworthiness, quality and value and how the focus of the various past reviews of crime statistics had been characterised by a shifting focus through these attributes. Ed Humpherson argued that while there remains plenty to do on quality and trust, issues of value were likely to be a new focus and he listed some of the questions that we should ask of crime statistics:
  - Who are crime statistics for?
  - What judgements do they inform?
  - Do they cover the right types of crime?
  - Do they capture experiences of all victims?
  - Is enough done to link them to other types of criminal justice data, and to other non justice data sets, including commercial datasets?
  - What sort of accountability do they support?

### **Key themes**

10. The discussion at the event was wide ranging and the key themes are highlighted in the table (at Annex A), together with a proposed way forward that has been agreed with the National Statistician and Director General Regulation.
11. The Committee is invited to reflect on the key themes and agree priorities for their forward work programme.

Ed Humpherson, Director General Regulation, UK Statistics Authority  
John Flatley, Secretariat

17 September 2015

Issue	Summary of views	How to take forward
Need for accurate police recorded crime data	<p>Lack of consensus with some arguing accurate data critical in enabling police efficiency and effectiveness; ensuring victims received the service they require; and democratic accountability.</p> <p>Others argued it to be an inherently flawed measure of crime and should be relegated in importance compared with victim surveys.</p>	NS-CSAC terms of reference give it a clear role to advise on uses of PRC data in the broader scope of crime statistics.
Need for move away from measuring police performance on the basis of recorded crime	<p>Observations that once a measure becomes a performance target it ceases to become a useful measure.</p> <p>Others argued that official statistics need to reflect the broader demand on the police than just crime.</p>	<p>UKSA has commented on use of performance targets and this issue falls within their remit to maintain a watching brief.</p> <p>NS-CSAC has expressed an interest in extending the official statistics and work is being taken forward by the HO National Crime Recording Strategic Steering Group and may refer back to the NS-CSAC for advice in due course.</p>
Cyber-crime	<p>There were comments that the main measures of crime in E&amp;W have failed to keep up to date with changing nature of crime and not up to the job of informing society's response to it.</p> <p>The planned extension of the CSEW to cover fraud and cyber-crime was welcomed but it was noted that a household victimisation survey will not provide the whole picture as crimes against businesses and commercial bodies will not be captured.</p>	CSAC have previously advised on improvements to the measurement of fraud and cyber-crime and this topic will continue to feature on its forward work programme.
Extending the official statistics on police recorded crime to cover more detail of the nature/circumstances of the offences	Frustration was expressed that the existing official statistics do not provide valuable breakdowns such as age/sex of victim and victim/offender relationship. This was highlighted as weaknesses in relation to both domestic violence and child abuse.	<p>The HO Data Hub, which will hold record level data, has the potential to greatly enrich the official statistics.</p> <p>ONS and HO to discuss proposals to bring to NS-CSAC during 2016/17.</p>

Victim surveys	<p>Statisticians should be unapologetic about their reliance on victim surveys to measure the extent and damage of crime.</p> <p>There was a call for a specific victim survey on child abuse to become part of the suite of official statistics on crime.</p>	NS-CSAC to advise the National Statistician on improving the measurement of child abuse to include consideration of a specific survey or use of other sources.
Joining up crime and criminal justice statistics	<p>More should be done to join up official statistics on crime and criminal justice to help show and explain attrition of cases from victimisation though to conviction.</p> <p>There was also criticism that a lack of a common definitional framework across the crime and the criminal justice system makes it difficult for users.</p>	<p>The National Statistician has referred this action to the Government Statistical Services's Crime and Justice Theme Group which includes representatives from ONS, HO, MoJ, WG and the devolved administrations.</p> <p>The UKSA will maintain a watching brief on progress.</p>
Measure of repeat victimisation	There was criticism of the current approach on the CSEW to dealing with repeat victimisation which, it was argued, has the effect of masking the high level of repeat victimisation experienced by some victims and risked giving a misleading view of the differential between the volume of crime experienced by male and female victims.	ONS is currently reviewing the methodology used to deal with high frequency repeat victimisation and will bring proposals back to NS-CSAC in early 2016.
Utilizing new sources of data (e.g. from other crime agencies, private sector & Big Data)	<p>Comments were made that crimes dealt with by agencies other than the territorial police forces (e.g. National Crime Agency and the UK Border Force) are not currently part of the administrative statistics on crime.</p> <p>Comments were made that the private sector could provide much more data on crime (e.g. private security firms may help with cyber-crime).</p> <p>Big Data may have the potential to improve the measurement of crime statistics.</p>	This is a new area for consideration by NS-CSAC and members are invited to consider what priority to give to it in its future work programme, e.g. through establishment of specific task and finish groups.

**Crime Statistics Advisory Committee work programme****Purpose/Issue**

1. This paper sets out the existing work programme that the re-constituted NSCSAC has inherited from its predecessor committee.

**Action**

2. The Committee is invited to review and refresh its work programme.

**Background**

3. The reconstitution of the committee is an appropriate time to reflect on future priorities and agree a forward work programme. The predecessor committee did not have a formal work programme. The terms of reference meant a significant amount of its efforts was inevitably reactive. For example, it had to consider and advise on proposed changes to the collection and presentation of the official statistics brought to it by the Home Office and ONS. In addition, the committee has spent much time considering issues around improving the quality of recorded crime following the PASC inquiry and decision by UK Statistics Authority to remove National Statistics designation.
4. CSAC's annual reports set out a forward look and away-days were used to identify topics for future consideration. Below is a list of topics that have been generated from these sources which remain current or have not previously been considered in detail:
  - advantages and disadvantages of reducing the Notifiable Offence List for police recorded crime to focus on victim-based crimes with other sources used to cover other "crimes against the state";
  - to extension of the CSEW to cover fraud and cybercrime (including the presentation of the resulting statistics and impact on time series);
  - improving data on domestic abuse and repeat victimisation;
  - consider and advise on the feasibility and utility of a Crime Index;
  - harmonisation of ethnicity classifications across crime and CJS statistics;
  - local level data consistency across areas;
  - use of non-crime police incident data.
5. The reconstituted committee is invited to review this list and agree priorities for taking forward alongside issues raised in the NSCSAC(15)3 paper on the agenda.

John Flatley, Secretariat  
16 September 2015

## CRIME STATISTICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Report of National Crime Registrar

NSCSAC(15)5

#### Purpose/Issue

1. This paper is the regular report to the Committee from the National Crime Registrar. These reports are intended to either outline any proposed changes to the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) in detail where the committee's advice is sought or to inform the committee of non-significant changes for information. These reports have also been used to inform members of other developments that may impact on the quality of crime recording.

#### Action

2. No significant changes are proposed to the HOCR at this time. The Committee is invited to note the contents of this paper.

#### Background

3. In establishing the Crime Statistics Advisory Committee to give independent advice on proposed changes to the Home Office Counting Rules for police recorded crime it was agreed that the National Crime Registrar (NCR) had delegated authority to determine, in agreement with the Chair, whether changes proposed to the HOCR were significant enough that they required referral to it for consideration prior to implementation. It was agreed that minor changes would be reported to the committee for information only.

#### Crime Recording Strategic Steering Group

4. The National Crime Recording Strategic Steering group (NCRSSG) has met once since the last meeting of the committee, in June 2015. The SSG continues to focus on their oversight of Home Office actions in relation to the ONS re-designation project some of which may continue after re-assessment. The SSG is waiting to understand HMIC's plans for future inspection.
5. At their last meeting the SSG considered the future uses for and presentation of incident data, a matter that the committee also discussed at the last meeting. The SSG agreed that the current position is less than helpful but that merely making small revisions to the existing arrangements was not the way forward. The SSG felt that the time was right for a more fundamental change to bring about greater consistency between forces. Understanding the totality of demand made on the police was crucial and using the recorded crime figures in isolation gives a partial view.
6. The SSG heard a report following an internal review the National Police Chiefs' Council had concluded that whilst overall recorded violent crime showed increases of around 20% nationally the overall numbers of calls for service (reports mainly via 999 or 101) was only up by less than 1% (comparing 13/14 with 14/15). This was presented as supporting the argument that much of the

recent rise in recorded violent crime was a result of improved recording practice following the HMIC reports.

### **Training for Force Crime Registrars**

7. The committee has previously expressed a close interest in the plans for formal training and accreditation for registrars. Whilst the establishment of the training had taken a little longer than expected, the College of Policing has now run the first course which saw seven delegates successfully achieving the accreditation as being operationally competent (100% pass rate). The same seven were also then trained and accredited to be assessors for the main courses now being scheduled with one course planned each month from September. I attended that first course and can report that it was very well received and deemed highly relevant and effective.

### **Conference for Force Crime Registrars**

8. The Home Office will again be running a two day conference for crime registrars at Ryton on October 15/16. This follows a similar format to last year's event which was welcomed by the registrar community. The Chair has been invited to arrange for a member of the committee to attend and speak.

Steve Bond  
National Crime Registrar  
7 September 2015