**Home Office Statistical Work Programme 2013/14**

The Home Office Statistics Unit was established in April 2008 and timed to coincide with the creation of the UK Statistics Authority. At this time, a new Chief Statistician post was created by putting all the Home Office statistical teams under the direct management of the Head of Profession for Statistics.

Within the Home Office, the Chief Statistician works directly for the Home Office Chief Scientifics Adviser whilst on professional statistical matters he is accountable to the National Statistician.

The Unit comprises of around 50 staff, of which half are professional statistical grades. We are located on two sites almost equally split across the Home Office Head Quarters in London and in Croydon. Our teams are responsible for statistics on various aspects of crime, policing, immigration, animal scientific procedures, alcohol licensing and terrorism. Roughly one-third of our time is spent on publications and associated work; one third is spent on briefing & advice, Parliamentary Questions and Freedom of Information type requests; and the remaining third is spent on development of new and existing products, stakeholder engagement, and management associated overheads.

Within the department, we are highly regarded for our analytical use of statistics; our briefing advice; our support of the evidence base; and our professional statistical expertise as we contribute to the department’s outputs and policy developments. Additionally, our teams provide statistical advice to colleagues in the departmental Arms Length Bodies, Agencies, and Inspectorates etc.

We work closely with statisticians in other departments, most notably with the ONS on crime statistics and migration statistics and with the Ministry of Justice on crime and criminal justice statistics. Most recently this has involved producing joint publications or making significant contributions to the publications of other departments.

In the first five years of the Unit we have embraced new and more efficient ways of producing our publications, broadened the scope and content of our outputs, introduced new publications and delivered on the transparency agenda. We led the way with independent statistical press conferences in government departments and we are now working closely with the Office for National Statistics and the Ministry of Justice to publish analytical publications across the crime and criminal justice system as part of the Government Statistical Service.

This is the first annual publication of our work programme. It outlines our most significant outputs, highlights some of our recent developments on these outputs and outlines some of our future plans. Of course, in these times reducing resources, we remain mindful of budgetary pressures so we may not be able to deliver on all of our plans as quickly as we hoped. Similarly we have to continually review the scale and scope of our outputs with a possible view to scaling back on frequency, timeliness or scope. For this reason, it is important that we continue to seek user views to prioritise our resources. This work programme invites your comments as our customers.

**David Blunt**

**Chief Statistician**

**Background**

Home Office Statistics provide Parliament, government colleagues, academics and wider users amongst the public with reliable statistical information, analysis and advice. Our aim is to support government policy development through provision of a credible evidence base, support monitoring and operational decision making, to aid the accountability of the Home Office to parliament and contribute to making a wide range of data available for public use. Our statisticians publish data on a wide range of topics;

* international migration
* police numbers
* police powers and procedures
* police crime detections and outcomes
* crime related outputs (business crime, hate crime, racist incidents)
* criminal drug use and drug seizures
* terrorist arrests and outcomes
* alcohol licensing
* scientific procedures on animals

Home Office Statistics staff also provide significant support to our partners in Office for National Statistics (ONS) teams in publishing key outputs, as well as working collaboratively on releases with Ministry of Justice (MoJ) statistical teams. In addition, the Home Office Statistics Head of Profession has a close working relationship with its Arms Length Bodies (e.g. Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and the Independent Police Complaints Commission) and provides professional advice, guidance and support on statistical matters.

Our staff strive to ensure the statistics we produce are relevant, of high quality, are available in open forms that users can readily find, understand and link and that adhere to the UK Statistics Authority professional code and standards.

This programme sets out details of the National and Official Statistics that the Home Office plans to release during 2013/14, recent developments to releases and plans for future improvements. National Statistics are the subset of Official Statistics that have been assessed or deemed to be compliant with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Publication dates for all Home Office Official Statistics are pre-announced in accordance with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html) and available here [UK National Statistics Publication Hub](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar/index.html?newquery=*&newoffset=0&theme=&source-agency=Home+Office&uday=31&umonth=12&uyear=2013&lday=1&lmonth=4&lyear=2013&coverage=&designation=&geographic-breakdown=&title=&pagetype=calendar-entry&sortBy=).

**Migration statistics**

Latest figures are published on those subject to immigration control including data on asylum, removals and voluntary departures, managed migration and detention. In addition, statistics on visas (including detailed information collected in support of visa applications), admissions, extensions, settlement and citizenship are also published on our website.

A summary of the statistics, including the frequency of publication, is as follows:

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| **Title**: Immigration Statistics  **Frequency**: Quarterly  **Designation**: National Statistics  **NS_RGBSummary:** Statistics relating to those coming to the UK; extending their stay (temporarily or permanently); gaining citizenship; applying for asylum; and being detained or removed, as well as immigration for work, study and family reasons. |
| **Title**: Asylum Statistics  **Frequency**: Monthly  **Designation**: Official Statistics  **Summary:** Monthly statistics relating to people who have applied for asylum. These data are based on provisional management information and are subject to change. |
| **Title**: Figures on children entering detention  **Frequency**: Monthly  **Designation**: Official Statistics  **Summary**: Monthly statistics relating to children entering detention and held solely under Immigration Act powers.  These data are based on provisional management information and are subject to change. |

Recent developments

Over the past 12 months presentation of Immigration statistics has moved to new html formats, with clearer and more interpretation and analysis as well as much more extensive and user friendly spreadsheet tables to assist users in understanding the data. We have also thoroughly reviewed data processing systems to streamline production and introduce more revisions analysis and automated checks.

Future planned developments

We expect to further extend the wide range of data published on immigration, building on the inclusion of data in the November 2012 release on certificates of acceptance for study that are key in interpreting migration for study by the education sector, and August 2012 release on industry sector data on certificates of sponsorship for employment. We are also planning to release more ad hoc statistical analysis of migration data from February 2013 onwards in the form of short articles alongside the regular quarterly releases. These will explore more fully aspects of the data not generally covered (such as information on lengths of visa). In addition we plan to work with ONS on a new release on short term migration to appear in May 2013 and also contribute to an ONS release on quarterly trends that is due to appear during 2013.

**Policing Statistics**

**We collect data from police forces in England and Wales covering a number of areas, including police personnel, arrests, stop and searches, breath tests, drug seizures and firearm certificates. We also release statistics on terrorism arrests and outcomes based on information from the Office of the National Coordinator of Terrorist Investigations.**

**A summary of the publications is as follows:**

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| **Title:** Police Powers and Procedures, England and Wales  **Frequency**: Annual  **Designation**: National Statistics  **NS_RGBSummary**: Contains chapters on arrests, stop and search, fixed penalty notices and breath tests. |
| **Title**: Police Service Strength, England and Wales  **Frequency**: Bi-Annual  **Designation**: National Statistics  **NS_RGBSummary**: Statistics on police strength for the 43 police forces of England and Wales and for the British Transport Police. |
| **Title**: Drug seizures in England and Wales  **Frequency**: Annual  **Designation:** National Statistics  **NS_RGBSummary**: Seizures of class A, B and C drugs by the police and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the United Kingdom Border Force. |
| **Title**: Firearm Certificates, England and Wales  **Frequency**: Annual  **Designation**: National Statistics  **NS_RGBSummary**: The number of firearm and shotgun certificates on issue on 31 March, new applications and renewals, numbers of registered firearms dealers, and numbers of permits issued. |
| **Title:** Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation: arrests, outcomes and stops and searches, Great Britain.  **Frequency**: Quarterly  **Designation**: Official Statistics  **Summary**: This report brings together statistical material relating to the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation, including arrests and their outcomes, as well breakdowns of stops and searches made under the powers of the Terrorism Act 2000. |
| **Title**: Racist Incident Statistics  **Frequency**: Annual  **Designation**: Official Statistics  **Summary**: Summary table of racist incidents by police force area. |

Recent developments

We have made continued improvement to the presentation and scope of data in our statistical releases of Police Powers and Procedures and Terrorism bulletins in new html formats, with clearer and more interpretation and analysis as well as much more extensive and user friendly and extensive spreadsheet tables. We have also been working with the UK Border Agency to better align their publication of drug seizures data with our own, ensuring the same counting rules are applied and that publications cross-refer as appropriate to provide a more coherent picture of this topic.

Future developments

Following the National Statistics assessment into Policing Statistics, there will be the developments to statistics releases for Police Powers and Procedures, Police Service Strength, Firearm Certificates and Drug Seizures, from spring 2013 including: inclusion of an analysis of revisions since last year’s release, more examples of how the statistics have been used, an indication of future user engagement, and more on quality and methods and international context wherever possible.

In addition, over the next year Police Service Strength bulletins will publish extra tables on the number of designated officers, traffic wardens and special constables by police force area in the new html format, with increased use of filter tables in arrests and stop and search chapters to enable easier analysis of data. Home Office and Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) will continue to liaise on alignment of data sets used to produce their respective outputs; The Home Office’s Police Service Strength bulletin and HMIC’s Value for Money profiles and will work to co-ordinate release schedules to minimise burdens on the police.

It is anticipated that the 2012/13 release of the Drug Seizures and Firearm Certificates bulletin will also be presented in the new html format.

Policing statistics should also significantly benefit from the development of the data hub outlined below under crime statistics

**Crime Statistics**

Following a recommendation in the crime statistics review undertaken by the National Statistician in 2011, the responsibility for publishing police recorded crime statistics and the Crime Survey for England and Wales moved from the Home Office to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 1 April 2012. However, the Home Office are still responsible for collecting data on crimes recorded by the police and statisticians continue to provide analyses and briefing for a number of the chapters of the detailed “Focus on” publications, as well as playing a key role in providing expert advice to the ONS on data interpretation.

The Home Office has retained responsibility for the publication of crime detection numbers and rates, misuse of drugs, hate crime and business crime, as well as development of new analytical outputs (some jointly with ONS and Ministry of Justice MoJ).

**A summary of the publications is as follows:**

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| **Title:** Crimes detected in England and Wales  **Frequency:** Annual  **Designation:** National Statistics  **NS_RGBSummary:** Presents police recorded crime statistics and the levels and trends in detections and detection rates, focusing on sanction detections where the offender receives some formal sanction such as being charged or summonsed, cautioned, receiving a fixed penalty notice or a cannabis warning. |
| **Title:** Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the Crime Survey  for England and Wales  **Frequency:** Annual  **NS_RGBDesignation:** National Statistics  **Summary:** Drug use statistics for adults and young people from the Crime Survey for England and Wales. |
| **Title:** Hate crimes in England and Wales  **Frequency:** Annual  **Designation:** Official Statistics  **Summary:** Presents hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales by police force area. A ‘Hate crime’ is any criminal offences committed against a person or property that is motivated by hostility towards someone based on their disability, race, religion, gender-identity or sexual orientation, whether perceived to be so by the victim or any other person. |

In addition to the above publications, police recorded crime open data tables are published each quarter giving detailed statistics for individual Community Safety Partnership areas. Annual data on police recording of crimes which are subsequently ‘no crimed’ where it is judged by the police that no crime actually took place are also published by our statisticians.

### Home Office Statisticians also offer support to HMIC policing analyses, provide advice to Police and Crime Commissioners and support colleagues in the Home Office working on iQuanta and police.uk. The statistics team is also responsible for developing and maintaining the National Crime Recording Standards and liaises with force crime registrars frequently to assist in their deliberations of classifications of certain crime types.

Recent developments

The National Statistician’s review of Crime Statistics included the recommendation that the Home Office continue its plans for a telephone survey of businesses in 2011/12. This was successfully introduced and the first release of data from the Commercial Victimisation Survey (CVS) on the number of crimes against business premises in the manufacturing, retail, transport and storage and accommodation and food industry sectors was published in January 2013.The Home Office will publish further findings from the CVS later in the year.

We have worked in partnership with ONS and MoJ to bring together existing sources of data to help improve user understanding about each stage of the Criminal Justice System, for example on sexual offending released in January 2013. We will continue this collaborative working on cross –cutting crime and justice themes and joint working with ONS on their Focus On bulletins.

Further improvements to presentation of releases in html have been implemented.

Future planned developments

We plan to broaden the current ‘sanction detections’ framework to better reflect all of the work that the police do to solve and resolve crime. A consultation was carried out between October and December 2012 and we will work jointly with key parties to develop a new framework of outcome measures for all crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales. This will enable the public to have a more meaningful picture of how crimes are dealt with by the police.

We are continuing to develop the Home Office Data Hub with police forces – this is a large database tool that will allow management information from each police force’s own records system to be directly transferred to the Home Office. This initiative will bring many benefits, the two main ones being a reduction in the burden on police forces (they will no longer need to complete the majority of crime, staffing and admin returns as the data will be transferred directly from their system); and broadening the possible range of analyses that is possible given the greater breadth and flexibility of data recorded. The Data Hub has already been used to provide context to the September 2012 publication of hate crime.

We are considering further occasional (at most quarterly) statistical publications summarising existing crime data and bringing this together with work from research colleagues into short statistical ‘supplementary analysis’ bulletins that will benefit users, policy colleagues and Government alike.

**Other Statistical Publications**

**We collect and publish statistics about scientific research and testing carried out using animals.** The use of animals in scientific procedures is regulated by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 which requires a three-level licensing system - personal licence, project licence and certificate of designation. Our reports cover topics such as licensing and inspection, compliance and infringement, and initiatives. We also now produce statistics on the alcohol licensing powers under the Licensing Act 2003, which in part replaces the previous bulletin published by Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Licensing.

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| **Title: Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain**  **Frequency**: Annual  **Designation**: National Statistics  **NS_RGBSummary**: Annual statistics collected relating to scientific procedures performed on living animals under the provisions of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, from licensees in accordance with section 21(7) of the Act. |
| **Title**: Alcohol and late Night Refreshment Licensing  **Frequency**: Annual  **Designation**: National Statistics  **NS_RGBSummary**: This release draws together statistics on the following licensing authority powers under the Licensing Act 2003**.** |

Recent developments

As well as the annual release of the Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain, we produced the triennial United Kingdom return to the European Union (EU) which will be published by the EU once all 27 member states have submitted their data.

Over the past 12 months, presentation of Alcohol and Late Night Refreshment statistics has moved to new html formats, with a clearer and more accessible commentary, improved user-friendly spreadsheet tables and a new user guide

Future Planned developments

The new European Union Directive on the protection of animals in scientific research will take full effect on the 1 January 2013. To comply with the new directive, the UK data collection instrument will be revised. We will be taking this work forward and plan a consultation on proposed changes to the data collection in early 2013. We are also participating in a European Commission expert working group to agree common standards for data collection, compliant with the directive, across all 27 member states.

Due to the requirement under legislation to lay hard copies of the annual animal science publication in Parliament, this will continue to need to be produced as pdf until revised legislation is introduced.

**Consultation and User engagement**

Our users include Ministers, policy officials, Parliament, academics, the media and the wider public. We listen to all our users informally, via consultations, conferences and the JISCMail forums and recognise the important contribution of our data suppliers to ensuring we are able to produce high quality statistics, and work with other government Departments to co-ordinate our outputs.

We would welcome your views on our publications and you will find a short questionnaire at Annex A. Please return via e-mail to

[crimestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:crimestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

You can also provide feedback on our crime statistics releases during the year via questionnaires found on the bulletin web pages.

Home Office has a commitment to publish data in open formats which can be read in any suitable computer software. We currently use two main formats for data publication: CSV and XLS but will be looking to publish using ‘Open Document Spreadsheet’ (ODS) in the future. ODS retains most of the formatting features of Excel and is classified by Cabinet Office with a higher rating on its openness scale. The use of interactive charts and tables will however be limited in comparison to Excel functionality. We would welcome feedback on use of the ODS format instead of Excel, or any other comments relating to the formats in which we release our data.

In addition, the Home Office website has recently moved over to the new single government website ‘GOV.UK’ as part of the government’s digital by default programme. Please send any feedback you have regarding using the statistics pages on this new website via the e-mail address given above.

**Annex A- Views on Home Office Statistics publications**

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| Publication Title | Which audience group best describes you | Did you find the information you were looking for | Any comments on the gaps in coverage of the publication | Any comments on the presentation, format of outputs | Any other comments |
|  | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |  |  |
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