

Terms of reference for the National Statistician's review of crime statistics

Working closely with the Chief Statisticians in the Home Office and Ministry of Justice and in consultation with key users and producers of the statistics (including Ministers, Opposition Parties, ACPO and HMIC) to:

1. review gaps, discrepancies and discontinuities in crime statistics (both the BCS and police recorded crime) and recommend cost-effective ways of addressing them and, in particular to consider
 - whether or not any changes are needed in the distinction between notifiable and non-notifiable crime and disorder to improve public trust and transparency
 - current definitions of crime and anti-social behaviour to provide greater clarity and more alignment with public concerns about criminal activity that causes sustained harms to communities and vulnerable individuals
 - whether or not the categories of notifiable offences for police recorded crime reported in the national statistics can be sensibly rationalised without reducing public trust or damaging transparency
 - how gaps or deficiencies in crime statistics could be addressed, while securing value for money and without adding undue bureaucratic burdens on the police or others
2. consider which body outside the Home Office is best placed to have future formal responsibility for the publication of crime statistics for England and Wales and what should be the appropriate underpinning data collection arrangements. Both publication and collection arrangements should have regard to the impact on public trust, value for money, data quality, meeting users' needs and bureaucratic burdens.

The review should report by the end of April 2011 and proposals subject to a public consultation before any changes are implemented from April 2012.