



Meeting	Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee (Private session)
Date	14 August 2025
Location	Webex
Title of Paper	Police Scotland Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) Crime Audit 2023-24 External Executive Summary
Presented By	Angela Wood, Head of Policy, Audit, Risk and Assurance
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	Yes Appendix A Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) Crime Audit 2023-24 External Executive Summary

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee with an update on the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) Crime Audit 2023-24.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A copy of the External Executive Summary from the report on Police Scotland's Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) Crime Audit 2023/24 is available at Appendix A.
- 1.2 The Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) was introduced in Scotland on 1 April 2004, the aim is "to provide a more victim orientated approach that serves the needs of our communities and ensures uniformity in crime recording practices throughout Scotland".
- 1.3 Conducted by the PS Crime Registrars, this audit marks the first SCRS crime compliance audit to be conducted since the implementation of the National Crime System (UNIFI), which has enabled a more in-depth assessment of information accuracy across Incident, Crime and Case systems. Such detailed insights were previously unattainable due to the constraints of legacy systems, as a result, this audit has established a baseline for future assessments.
- 1.4 This audit demonstrates PS commitment to continuous improvement and operational excellence, providing assurance that recording practices align with national standards, and it identifies areas where targeted improvements are required. It also supports transparency and accountability reinforcing public confidence in how crime is reported and recorded.
- 1.5 A sample of records were audited in each Division, a 95% confidence level was used which is accurate to a confidence interval of $\pm 3\%$, over a specific period. Compliance is achieved with a result of 95% or above and the audit was conducted on incidents and crimes from Quarter 4 (January to March 2023/24).

2 FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT

- 2.1 Refer to Appendix A – Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) Crime Audit 2023-24 External Executive Summary

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications in this report.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no personnel implications in this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications in this report.

6. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no reputational implications in this report.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no social implications in this report.

8. COMMUNITY IMPACT

8.1 There are no community implications in this report.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no equality implications in this report.

10. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no environmental implications in this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the progress detailed within the report.

Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) Crime Audit 2023-24 External Executive Summary

Owning Department: Crime Registrars - Governance, Audit & Assurance

Version Number: 1.0

Date Published: 01/05/2025

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this paper is to provide a synopsis of the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) 2023/24 Audit findings.

Crime recording compliance is a critical component of maintaining the accuracy, integrity, and reliability of our recorded crime data. Accurate data, ensures that victims are properly identified and supported, resources are effectively allocated, and strategic decisions are based on accurate information.

Conducted by the PS Crime Registrars, this audit marks the first SCRS crime compliance audit to be conducted since the implementation of the National Crime System (UNIFI), which has enabled a more in-depth assessment of information accuracy across Incident, Crime and Case systems. Such detailed insights were previously unattainable due to the constraints of legacy systems, as a result, this audit has established a baseline for future assessments.

This audit demonstrates PS commitment to continuous improvement and operational excellence, providing assurance that recording practices align with national standards, it identifies areas where targeted improvements are required. It also supports transparency and accountability reinforcing public confidence in how crime is reported and recorded.

AUDIT METHODOLOGY

The Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) was introduced in Scotland on 1 April 2004, the aim is *"to provide a more victim orientated approach that serves the needs of our communities and ensures uniformity in crime recording practices throughout Scotland"*.

The main purpose of this audit was to assess overall compliance with SCRS:

- Incident to Crime

- Test 1: Crime Related Incidents

- To test that incidents have been recorded correctly on PS Command and Control system.

- Test 2: Associated Recorded Crime

- To test that crimes resulting from incidents have been counted and classified correctly.

- Recorded Crime – Specific Crime Categories

- To test that crimes recorded within specific crime categories have been counted and classified correctly.

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- Crime Reports Reclassified to 'No Crime', 'Raised in Error' or 'Duplicate'

To test that recorded crimes which have been reclassified to a status of No Crime/Raised in Error/Duplicate, have been done so correctly.

A sample of records were audited in each Division, a 95% confidence level was used (the degree of certainty that a sample accurately reflects SCRS compliance) which is accurate to a confidence interval (indicates confidence that the true parameters lie within the interval) of $\pm 3\%$, over a specific period.

Compliance is achieved with a result of **95%** or above and the audit was conducted on incidents and crimes from Quarter 4 (January to March 2023/24). The following grading scale has also been applied:



AUDIT RESULTS

SCRS Audit 2023/24 - Crime Related Incidents and Associated Recorded Crime										
Command	Division	Title	Test 1 - Incidents				Test 2 - Recorded Crime			
			Incidents Audited	No. of errors	SCRS Compliance per Division	SCRS Compliance per Command	Crimes Audited	No. of Recording Errors	SCRS Compliance per Division	SCRS Compliance per Command
North	A	North East	202	15	92.57%	87.96%	105	6	94.29%	90.55%
	D	Tayside	188	31	83.51%		91	14	84.62%	
	N	Highland & Islands	150	19	87.33%		79	6	92.41%	
East	C	Forth Valley	150	33	78.00%	85.14%	88	17	80.68%	84.48%
	E	Edinburgh	213	26	87.79%		135	29	78.52%	
	J	The Lothians & Scottish Borders	160	22	86.25%		98	9	90.82%	
	P	Fife	150	19	87.33%		85	8	90.59%	
West	G	Greater Glasgow	250	7	97.20%	94.48%	194	27	86.08%	90.35%
	K	Renfrew shire &	150	8	94.67%		99	8	91.92%	
	L	Argyll & West Dunbartonshire	150	13	91.33%		98	7	92.86%	
	Q	Lanarkshire	183	4	97.81%		120	10	91.67%	
	U	Ayrshire	150	11	92.67%		76	8	89.47%	
	V	Dumfries & Galloway	150	14	90.67%		107	7	93.46%	
		Scottish Total	2246	222	90.12%	90.12%	1375	156	88.65%	88.65%

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SCRS Audit 2023/24 – Recorded Crime – Specific Crime Categories						
Command	Division	Title	Crimes Audited	No. of Recording Errors	SCRS Compliance per Division	SCRS Compliance per Command
North	A	North East	241	25	89.63%	87.26%
	D	Tayside	215	33	84.65%	
	N	Highland & Islands	164	21	87.20%	
East	C	Forth Valley	176	24	86.36%	86.78%
	E	Edinburgh	201	17	91.54%	
	J	The Lothians & Scottish Borders	183	22	87.98%	
	P	Fife	204	38	81.37%	
West	G	Greater Glasgow	261	22	91.57%	92.22%
	K	Renfrew shire &	172	12	93.02%	
	L	Argyll & West Dunbartonshire	172	19	88.95%	
	Q	Lanarkshire	338	29	91.42%	
	U	Ayrshire	214	8	96.26%	
	V	Dumfries & Galloway	180	14	92.22%	
Scottish Total			2721	284	89.56%	89.56%
SCRS Audit 2023/24 – Crime Reports reclassified to “No Crime”, “Raised in Error” or “Duplicate”						
Command	Division	Title	Number of "No Crimes" Audited	No. of errors	SCRS Compliance per Division	SCRS Compliance per Command
North	A	North East	100	5	95.00%	94.00%
	D	Tayside	75	0	100.00%	
	N	Highland & Islands	75	10	86.67%	
East	C	Forth Valley	50	5	90.00%	94.80%
	E	Edinburgh	75	1	98.67%	
	J	The Lothians & Scottish Borders	75	1	98.67%	
	P	Fife	50	6	88.00%	
West	G	Greater Glasgow	100	2	98.00%	96.94%
	K	Renfrew shire &	50	0	100.00%	
	L	Argyll & West Dunbartonshire	50	4	92.00%	
	Q	Lanarkshire	100	0	100.00%	
	U	Ayrshire	75	3	96.00%	
	V	Dumfries & Galloway	50	4	92.00%	
Scottish Total			925	41	95.57%	95.57%

KEY FINDINGS

Incident Compliance

Overall compliance rating – Adequate - Gaps in Incident management existed across all divisions with overall incident compliance at 90.12%. There was evidence of good practice within West Command which demonstrated higher overall compliance (only 0.52% under the 95% compliance benchmark). All divisions within West Command have incident management processes embedded, resulting in much higher SCRS compliance.

Two divisions in (West Command) exceeded the 95% compliance benchmark, five divisions achieved between 90% and 95% compliance, with the remaining six ranging in compliance between 78% and 87.79%.

Associated Recorded Crime

Overall compliance rating – Improvements Required - SCRS Associated Crime compliance was tracked at 88.65%. Whilst this highlights an area for improvement, it is acknowledged that the system has recently been implemented. Therefore, a lower level of compliance at this stage is not unexpected as divisions continue to adapt to the new system and processes.

Of the 13 divisions, 8 achieved strong compliance levels between 90% and 95% compliance, whilst the remaining 4 showing moderate compliance, ranging from 78.52% and 89.47%.

Recorded Crime – Specific Crime Categories

Overall compliance rating – Improvement Required - Only one division exceeded the 95% compliance benchmark, five divisions achieved between 90% and 95% compliance, with the remaining seven ranging in compliance from 81.37% and 89.63%.

Crime Reports Reclassified to 'No Crime', 'Raised in Error' or 'Duplicate'

Overall compliance rating – Compliant - SCRS Crime Reports Reclassified to 'No Crime' compliance was 95.57% which exceeds the compliance benchmark of 95%

Nine divisions exceeded compliance, two divisions achieved between 90% and 95% compliance, with the remaining two ranging in compliance between 86.67% and 88.00%.

Following a previous recommendation from HMICS a requirement was added to SCRS to ensure that in circumstances where a recorded crime was reclassified to "No Crime" the complainant was updated to this effect. From the sample of crime reports audited there was clear evidence that this requirement was being complied with to a high standard across all Divisions.

Conclusion

Overall, these results reflect steady progress towards the benchmark, with most divisions approaching compliance expectations.

The only notable compliance concerns are related Associated Recorded Crime and Specific Crime Categories. While the recent implementation of the new crime system which is functioned by direct officer input has successfully aligned previously disparate legacy systems and processes, a short-term dip in overall crime compliance was anticipated.

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There remains opportunities for further improvements and the variation in compliance highlights the need for targeted guidance and formal embedding of best practice and lessons learned from high performing divisions.

To support and accelerate this improvement, the crime registrars have developed a range of associated recommendations aimed at reinforcing consistent application across all divisions. These recommendations are already in progress and will be tracked and managed by the crime registrars, oversight will be led by the National Crime Managers Forum and reported to PS Audit & Risk Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS	
Recommendation 1 (Feedback Option)	The National Crime Managers Forum should consider implementing a standardised national process for Crime Management Units, promoting the consistent use of the 'Feedback' facility on UNIFI.
Recommendation 2 (Feedback Option)	The National Crime Managers Forum should explore ways to ensure that feedback responses are both relevant and promptly addressed.
Recommendation 3 (Incident, Crime, Case issues)	Police Scotland should consider implementing a comprehensive end-to-end process spanning from Incident, Crime, through to Case, to address the inconsistencies arising between systems, due to fragmented ICT systems and siloed working.
Recommendation 4 (Group 2 crimes)	Police Scotland should review Specialist Unit incident and crime recording practices, related to sexual offences, to identify areas for improvement and implement solutions to enhance SCRS knowledge and compliance.
Recommendation 5 (Linking Case and Crime)	Police Scotland should identify ways of improving the link between Crime and Case, considering ICT and process solutions, with a view to minimising misalignment issues.
Recommendation 6 (Linked and Related)	Police Scotland should review the challenges related to the linked and related functionality on UNIFI, explore possible technical and process solutions, and work towards improving the speed and ease of creating and reviewing reports.
Recommendation 7 (Theft of fuel)	Police Scotland should review the process in relation to reports of theft of fuel, with an aim to establishing a standardised approach while considering the use of direct measures and addressing the misconception that repayment negates criminality.
Recommendation 8 (Data Quality)	Data Governance should identify ways of resolving data quality issues, while also establishing a communication channel to emphasise the importance of accurate recording and the risks associated with inaccurate recording.
Recommendation 9 (Proportionate Enquiry)	Police Scotland should consider developing national proportionate enquiry guidance to ensure consistent and effective application across the service, incorporating direction on appropriate UNIFI disposal codes.
Recommendation 10 (No Crime etc process)	The National Crime Managers Forum in conjunction with the Crime Registrars should compile guidance on the use of the 'No Crime', 'Raised in Error' and 'Duplicate' disposals on UNIFI and identify common over-recording issues with a view to issuing guidance to reduce unnecessary recording.
Recommendation 11 (Data Quality)	The National Crime Managers Forum should progress the update of the National Standards for Operational Users document, taking into

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	consideration issues identified during this audit along with any other areas which require to be amended and introduce a process for any updates to the document to be issued on an annual basis.
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