

Dear Police & Crime Commissioner,

27 February 2013

I wrote on 8 October 2012 to all Police & Crime Commissioner candidates in my capacity as Chair of the Crime Statistics Advisory Committee on the importance of appropriate use of statistics during the PCC campaign. This was placed on the UK Statistics Authority website and made available on the Home Office PCC candidates' webpage. I would now like to inform you of plans to support you and your teams with guidance on using crime and policing statistics.

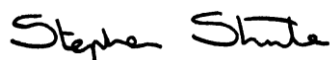
The guidance will be designed to provide an overview of best practice in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority framework of promoting and safeguarding the production and publication of official statistics that serve the public good. Progress is already being made in improving public trust in official statistics as a result of implementing recommendations from the UK Statistics Authority's 2010 report *Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics*. You can play an important role in ensuring that this good work continues.

Statistics on crime and policing are not always straightforward to interpret due to the different sources and outputs available and the differing strengths and limitations associated with them when evaluating or making comparisons. Therefore, the Home Office, actively supported by colleagues across Ministry of Justice, the Office for National Statistics, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the College of Policing are keen to offer assistance in the form of documentation covering the main data sources and how best use can be made of them by you and for the benefit of the public. You and your Chief Executives will be offered some summary guidance and your analysts more detailed guidance. Your communication / media teams will also be offered some guidance on the use of statistics in press notices.

In addition, there are plans to invite analysts within your offices to attend workshops in the autumn giving more in depth guidance on specialist statistical topics.

We would welcome your thoughts on these proposals and if you have any comments please contact myself or the Chief Statistician for the Home Office, David Blunt, via crimestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully,



Professor Stephen Shute
Chair of the Crime Statistics Advisory Committee