

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Update on the extent of Pre-release Access to official statistics 2011 to 2012

1. This paper presents an analysis of the extent of Pre-Release Access (PRA) to official statistics across government.

Key findings

2. The key findings are as follows.
 - i. The available data indicate that in 2012, PRA was granted to 1,218 sets of statistics, or 71 per cent of all official statistics (Table 1).
 - ii. Looking at statistics for which we have data for 2011 and 2012, it appears that the number of releases to which PRA is granted has increased by 3 per cent (Table 2).
 - iii. The total number of individual instances of PRA (i.e. one person granted access to one release) also appears to have increased by 3 per cent (Table 3) since 2011.
 - iv. The average length of PRA lists in 2012 (i.e. the mean number of PRA recipients for statistics with at least one PRA recipient) was 18.2 people, an increase of 0.4 people since 2011 (Table 4).

Background notes

3. During 2011, the National Statistician's Office (NSO) collated information on the extent of PRA across government. This was achieved by a manual check of the websites of official statistics producers for their published lists of people granted PRA. During this exercise, the NSO encountered problems with missing information. For 633 sets of statistics, no information was found about the extent of PRA.
4. In 2012 the NSO collected information about PRA by asking departmental statistics Heads of Profession (HoPs) to provide data about PRA directly to the NSO. HoPs were asked to provide details of the number of persons granted PRA for all official and National Statistics published in 2012 by their department and its arm's length bodies. During this exercise, some inconsistencies in the 2011 data were checked and corrected, but the data for 2011 remain incomplete.
5. The Scottish PRA Order does not require lists of PRA recipients to be published, and so the 2011 data set did not contain any information about the Scottish Government. However, for the 2012 exercise, the Scottish Government agreed to provide information on the number of PRA recipients, in order that the Authority could monitor changes in future years.
6. As the records for 2011 are less complete than those for 2012, it has not been possible to make direct comparisons between the two years of data. To provide an indication of change over time, cases with missing data for 2011 were excluded from the analysis in Tables 2 to 4. These tables are based only on statistics where data exist for both years (matched cases = 1,024), and do not include some departments where no data were available for 2011 (i.e. the Scottish Government, National Records Scotland, ISD Scotland and Ofsted).
7. For consistency, the comparative analysis does not include any new sets of statistics (e.g. the Census). The NSO's new method for collecting PRA information should allow for more reliable analysis over time.

Number of releases to which PRA is granted

8. The data set compiled by the NSO contains records for 1,713 sets of statistics. Of these, 943 are National Statistics. Table 1 shows that PRA was granted to 71 per cent of all sets of statistics.

Table 1: Number of statistical releases with PRA, as a proportion of the total number of releases, 2012

Department	Total releases	Releases with PRA	% of releases with PRA
Department for International Development	2	2	100%
Ofsted	13	13	100%
ISD Scotland	62	62	100%
Welsh Government	181	179	99%
Department for Education	47	46	98%
Communities and Local Government	53	51	96%
Department for Work and Pensions	31	29	94%
Health and Social Care Information Centre	82	75	91%
Health and Safety Executive	11	10	91%
Department for Transport	51	45	88%
HM Treasury	7	6	86%
Department of Health	66	55	83%
Northern Ireland departments	246	205	83%
Scottish Government	124	93	75%
Home Office	38	27	71%
Ministry of Justice	36	25	69%
Ministry of Defence	29	20	69%
National Records Scotland	41	28	68%
HM Revenue and Customs	56	34	61%
Business Innovation and Skills	46	24	52%
ONS	202	102	50%
Culture, Media and Sport	49	20	41%
Energy and Climate Change	56	20	36%
Defra	124	38	31%
Forestry Commission	31	9	29%
Crown Prosecution Service	5	0	0%
Cabinet Office	1	0	0%
Financial Services Authority	2	0	0%
Office for Rail Regulation	21	0	0%
Total	1713	1218	71%

9. Looking at the 1,024 sets of statistics for which data exist for both 2011 and 2012, Table 2 shows that the number of releases to which PRA is granted has increased by 3 per cent (not including any new sets of statistics such as the Census).

Table 2: Change in number of releases with PRA, 2011 to 2012

Department	Number of releases with PRA in 2011	Number of releases with PRA in 2012	Change	% Change
Northern Ireland departments	100	103	+3	3%
Health and Social Care Information Centre	46	48	+2	4%
Forestry Commission	2	4	+2	100%
ONS	65	66	+1	2%
Communities and Local Government	46	47	+1	2%
Department for Transport	28	29	+1	4%
Defra	20	21	+1	5%
Energy and Climate Change	16	17	+1	6%
Ministry of Defence	16	17	+1	6%
Business Innovation and Skills	12	13	+1	8%
Culture, Media and Sport	7	8	+1	14%
Welsh Government	103	103	0	0%
Department for Education	38	38	0	0%
HM Revenue and Customs	19	19	0	0%
Department for Work and Pensions	17	17	0	0%
Department of Health	17	17	0	0%
Ministry of Justice	13	13	0	0%
Health and Safety Executive	9	9	0	0%
Home Office	6	6	0	0%
Department for International Development	2	2	0	0%
Attorney General's Office	0	0	0	0%
Cabinet Office	0	0	0	0%
Financial Services Authority	0	0	0	0%
Office for Rail Regulation	0	0	0	0%
Total	582	597	+15	3%

Number of individual instances of PRA

10. Any one set of statistics can have multiple PRA recipients. Some individuals will have access to many sets of statistics (e.g. Ministers will often have access to many departmental statistics). Table 3 shows that the cumulative total of the number of instances of PRA (i.e. one person granted access to one release) has increased by 3 per cent.

Table 3: Change in total number of PRA recipients

Department	Number of individual instances of PRA, 2011	Number of individual instances of PRA, 2012	% change
Forestry Commission	12	31	158%
Department for International Development	22	33	50%
Ministry of Justice	283	410	45%
Department for Transport	353	432	22%
ONS (Excluding crime transfer*)	1320	1579 (1433)	20% (9%)
Northern Ireland departments	1028	1174	14%
Business Innovation and Skills	228	253	11%
Communities and Local Government	366	402	10%
Ministry of Defence	301	319	6%
Department for Education	1115	1166	5%
Energy and Climate Change	169	176	4%
Culture, Media and Sport	103	107	4%
Defra	285	284	0%
Welsh Government	1974	1899	-4%
HM Revenue and Customs	284	269	-5%
Health and Safety Executive	272	242	-11%
Department of Health	242	214	-12%
Health and Social Care Information Centre	1122	947	-16%
Department for Work and Pensions	428	355	-17%
Home Office (Excluding crime transfer*)	442	329 (475)	-26% (7%)
Cabinet Office	0	0	0
Crown Prosecution Service	0	0	0
Financial Services Authority	0	0	0
Office for Rail Regulation	0	0	0
Total	10349	10621	3%

* Responsibility for the compilation and publication of National Statistics on crime for England and Wales transferred from the Home Office to ONS on 1 April 2012. On transfer, it was agreed that ONS would continue with the existing practice for PRA during the transition period.

11. Table 4 shows the mean number of PRA recipients for statistics with at least one PRA recipient. In 2012, the average length of a PRA list was 18.2 people, an increase of 0.4 people since 2011.

Table 4: Mean number of PRA recipients (for statistics with at least one PRA recipient)

Department	Mean PRA recipients, 2011	Mean PRA recipients, 2012	Change
Ministry of Justice	21.8	31.5	+9.8
Home Office	63.1	72.2	+9.0
Forestry Commission	6.0	12.0	+6.0
Department for International Development	11.0	16.5	+5.5
ONS	20.3	23.9	+3.6
Department for Transport	12.6	14.9	+2.3
Department for Education	29.3	30.7	+1.3
Northern Ireland departments	10.3	11.3	+1.0
Business, Innovation and Skills	19.0	20.0	+1.0
Ministry of Defence	18.8	19.4	+0.6
Communities and Local Government	8.1	8.6	+0.6
Energy and Climate Change	10.6	10.5	-0.1
Culture, Media and Sport	14.7	14.4	-0.3
Welsh Government	19.2	18.4	-0.7
HM Revenue and Customs	14.9	14.2	-0.8
Defra	14.3	13.2	-1.1
Department of Health	14.2	12.6	-1.6
Health and Safety Executive	30.2	26.9	-3.3
Health and Social Care Information Centre	24.6	20.5	-4.1
Department for Work and Pensions	25.2	20.9	-4.3
Total	17.8	18.2	+0.4

12. Table 5 overleaf provides a ranking of the 50 statistical releases with the highest number of PRA recipients.

Table 5: 'Top 50' for 2012

2012 rank	2011 rank*	Title	Producer	Recipients in 2012
1	1	Crime Statistics in England and Wales Statistical Bulletin	ONS	146
2		Scottish Household Survey	Scottish Government	124
3		NHS Senior Management Posts - 25% Reduction in Senior Management Posts	Scottish Government	120
4	4	Labour Market Statistics Regional Statistical Bulletin	ONS	111
5		Racist Incidents Data	Home Office	108
6	2 ↓	Firearms Certificates in England and Wales	Home Office	104
7		National Passenger Survey	Department for Transport	102
8		NHS Board Projected Staff	Scottish Government	93
9		Recorded Crime in Scotland	Scottish Government	92
10		Racist incidents recorded by the police	Scottish Government	91
11		Homicide in Scotland	Scottish Government	89
12	167 ↑	Seizures of Drugs in England and Wales	Home Office	87
13		Performance Indicators in Higher Education (first tranche)	Business, Innovation and Skills	87
14		Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education Longitudinal Survey	Business, Innovation and Skills	86
15	101 ↑	Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 (quarterly update)	Home Office	83
16		Scottish Policing Performance Framework: Annual Report	Scottish Government	81
17		Performance Indicators in Higher Education (second tranche)	Business, Innovation and Skills	79
18		Staff in Higher Education Institutions in the UK	Business, Innovation and Skills	78
19		Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000	Home Office	75
20	89 ↑	Police Service Strength England and Wales	Home Office	74
21		Domestic Abuse Recorded by the Police in Scotland	Scottish Government	70
22	24 ↑	Long-Term International Migration	ONS	69
23	48 ↑	Long-term international migration from International Passenger Survey	ONS	69
24	6 ↓	Police Powers and Procedures England and Wales	Home Office	66
25	16 ↓	Households Below Average Income	Department for Work and Pensions	66
26		Estimates of Long-Term International Migration	ONS	66

27	28	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements Annual Report	Ministry of Justice	65
28	9↓	Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England	Health and Social Care Information Centre	62
29		Consumer Price Indices (Statistical Bulletin)	ONS	61
30		Scottish Environment Statistics Online	Scottish Government	60
31	29↓	Producer Prices (First Release)	ONS	57
32	40↑	Balance of Payments (First Release)	ONS	57
33		2011 Census Key Statistics and Quick Statistics for Wards, Output Areas, Civil Parishes, Parliamentary Constituencies in England and Wales	ONS	57
34		Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation	Scottish Government	57
35		Recorded Crimes and Offences Involving Firearms	Scottish Government	57
36		Criminal Proceedings in Scotland	Scottish Government	57
37		Statistics on drug seizures in Scotland	Scottish Government	57
38		Firearm Certificate Statistics	Scottish Government	56
39	3↓	Primary School Performance Tables	Department for Education	55
40	17↓	NEET Statistics - Quarterly Brief	Department for Education	55
41	25↓	GCSE and Equivalent Results in England (Revised)	Department for Education	55
42	55↑	National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England (Revised)	Department for Education	55
43		Secondary School (Key Stage 4) Performance Tables in England	Department for Education	55
44		2011 Census: First Results on Population and Household Estimates for Scotland - Release 1B	National Records Scotland	55
45		Children's social care providers and places	Ofsted	55
46		Children's homes inspection outcomes	Ofsted	55
47		Police officer quarterly strength statistics	Scottish Government	55
48		Second estimate of Gross Domestic Product	ONS	54
49		2011 Census: Key Statistics for local authorities in England and Wales	ONS	54
50		Civil Law Statistics in Scotland	Scottish Government	54

* Blank cells indicate no data available for 2011