

PRESS RELEASE

Statistics Commission

11-19 Artillery Row
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REVIEW OF CRIME STATISTICS

The Statistics Commission today publishes an interim report on crime statistics, focusing in particular on issues of concern to those, including the general public, who use the figures. This is the third in a series of reviews, each taking a broad look at the statistics in a major policy field.

The Commission has identified five important issues: public trust in crime figures, measurement of the fear of crime, measures of total crime, international comparisons and getting the best from data held by local police forces. Introducing the Commission's report, chairman David Rhind said, "In our report, as well as addressing various technical issues, we suggest that the process of compiling and publishing the statistics should be put at arm's length from the policy functions of government and be seen to be so. We think that the interests of all parties, including those of the government itself, would be served by taking early steps in this direction."

The Commission initiated the review in August 2005 and appointed Matrix Research and Consultancy to lead the research. At this stage in the project, the report sets out the issues rather than offering detailed proposals. We will be seeking to make more specific recommendations in our final report due in June 2006.

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The Statistics Commission is independent both of Ministers and of the producers of National Statistics. It operates openly and transparently, making its correspondence open to public scrutiny.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Statistics Commission was set up in June 2000 to advise on the quality, quality assurance and priority setting for official statistics, and on the procedures designed to deliver statistical integrity, to help ensure official statistics are trustworthy and responsive to public needs. It is independent both of Ministers and of the producers of official statistics. More information about the Commission's role and work is on its website www.statscom.org.uk.
2. The project has been contracted to Matrix Research and Consultancy who began work in September 2005. There are two main stages to the review, the first being a broad and wide evidence gathering stage and the second being a narrow and deep stage where a few issues will be looked at in more depth. We are coming to the end of the first stage; the evidence gathering phase. The second stage will start in January 2006; the report is due in May 2006.
3. The interim report is available on our website at:
http://www.statscom.org.uk/media_pdfs/reports/crime_stats_interim_report.pdf
4. Contact numbers:
 - a. for further information: Richard Alldritt, chief executive, 020 7273 8008
 - b. printed copies of the interim report are available from Emmy Mulla, team secretary, 020 7273 8004.

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