

# PRESS RELEASE

## Statistics Commission

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### STATISTICS COMMISSION CALLS FOR CHANGES IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR CRIME STATISTICS

The Statistics Commission today publishes its review of crime statistics. This is the third in a series of reviews, each taking a broad look at the statistics in a major policy field.

Introducing the report, chairman David Rhind said: "Crime statistics are the quintessential 'official figures', a measure both of society and of government, telling us something about the social hazards we face and something about our success in containing those hazards".

The report makes a number of recommendations which the Commission will now be pursuing with the Home Office and others as appropriate. The recommendations follow four main themes:

- **structural separation** between Home Office policy functions and the compilation and publication of crime statistics;
- **improved communication** with users through clearer presentation of the statistics at the time of publication;
- **better, more consistent, crime data for small areas**, through more systematic exploitation of existing police data sources;

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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.*

- **further technical research** on options where the existing statistics do not fully meet demand - including the best measure of 'total crime', and ways to improve comparisons of crime statistics between UK administrations.

In January 2006, the then Home Secretary set up a cross-party working group, under the chairmanship of Professor Adrian Smith, to review, and advise Ministers on, how crime statistics should be compiled and published. The Commission has stayed in touch with this group whilst developing its own independent report and will respond to the Smith group's conclusions once they are published.

#### 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](http://www.statscom.org.uk).
2. Contact numbers:
  - a) For further information: Richard Alldritt, chief executive, 020 7273 8008
  - b) Printed copies of the report are available from Emmy Mulla, team secretary, 020 7273 8004.
3. The Commission's Report No.30 *Crime Statistics: User Perspectives* as well as the Interim Report published in December 2005 are both available on the Commission's website. To view a PDF version of the report, please visit [http://www.statscom.org.uk/media\\_pdfs/reports/Crime\\_Statistics\\_Review-final.pdf](http://www.statscom.org.uk/media_pdfs/reports/Crime_Statistics_Review-final.pdf)

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