

Note on crime trends

Crimes of fire raising recorded by the police in Scotland

Increases in recorded crimes of fire raising can be accounted for by improved recording of minor crimes of vandalism in most police force areas. The large increase in these figures in late 2002 can be attributed to a High Court ruling on crimes of fire raising which led to a switch in recording practices. Many cases, which previously would have been recorded as vandalism, are now recorded as fire raising. Various initiatives by several police forces, more pro-active efforts by the police to encourage the reporting of such crimes and the use in some areas of extensive public CCTV system have had a huge impact on the levels of the recording of these crimes, focused particularly in some areas. The increases seen in 2004 can be attributed to the effect of the introduction of the new Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS).

Vandalism, malicious mischief record by the police in Scotland

Increases in recorded crimes of vandalism and malicious mischief can be accounted for by improved recording of minor crimes of vandalism in most police force areas. The increases seen from 2004 can be attributed to the effect of SCRS. Various initiatives by several police forces, more pro-active efforts by the police to encourage the reporting of such crimes and the use in some areas of extensive public CCTV system have had a huge impact on the levels of the recording of these crimes, focused in some areas in particular, so that numbers continued to increase in spite of the recording switch to fire raising.

Breaches of the Peace recorded by the police in Scotland

The increases in breaches of the peace recorded by the police in 2004 can be attributed to the effect of SCRS, though it would appear that many of the crimes initially recorded were subsequently “no crimed” and the levels reverted to those observed before SCRS. Various initiatives by several police forces, more pro-active efforts by the police to encourage the reporting of such crimes and the use in some areas of extensive public CCTV system have had some impact on the levels of the recording of these crimes in some areas.

Offences of Urinating etc recorded by the police in Scotland

It is likely that the widespread use of extensive public CCTV systems have had a huge impact on the levels of the recording of these types of crimes! This will have more impact in some areas than others.