

Paper on frequency of publication of road casualty data statistical information



Current Situation

1. At present, Transport Scotland publishes annual road casualty information in “Reported Road Casualties Scotland” in October each year, ten months after the end of the period the data refers to. This publication is preceded in June each year by the publication of provisional road casualty figures in the statistical bulletin “Key Reported Road Casualties Scotland”.
2. These publications are prepared by Transport Scotland’s Analytical Services staff, who receive data on a monthly basis from Police Scotland.
3. Once quality assured by the Analytical Services staff it is sent to the Department for Transport (DfT) for inclusion in their quarterly Statistical Bulletins, providing headline statistics for Great Britain every quarter, in August, November, February, and the “Main Results” in June.
4. Since June 2014 Police Scotland have also published recorded crime management information on a quarterly basis. This information is limited to data on fatal, serious and slight injuries and combined KSIs for all casualties and children. It is published approximately two months after the closure of each quarter of the financial year.
5. The Road Safety Framework underwent a mid-point Review in 2015/16. At the conclusion of the Review the Framework’s Strategic Partnership Board (SPB) agreed to a new governance structure which would see agreed indicators considered by the SPB and Operational Partnership Group (OPG) on a quarterly basis. Some of the key indicators and the Frameworks casualty reduction targets are derived from the same road casualty information.

The issue

6. There is a misalignment with the release of data from Police Scotland and our current publications with the management information being in the public domain well before the publication of official statistics. A timetable of the publications is detailed at Annex A.
7. The process for gathering data from Police Scotland is still based on the usage of the legacy force systems. Once the data is gathered and processed on one system it should be possible to streamline and speed up the process, however the plans for introducing such a system are tied into a wider IT project and completion is not imminent.

Your views

8. We are seeking a view from you as to whether we should consider amendments to our publication schedule which would assist the SPB and the OPG in their work, ensure that key stakeholders work from the same set of official data and be able to respond to enquiries from the media and others with more timely information.

9. There are various questions we would ask you to consider and provide comments on.

- Is there a need for a more regular publication?
- Does the Police Scotland Management Information negate the need for more regular publication?
- If data was published more frequently, how often would that be?
- What key data would be reported on in a more regular publication?

Graham Thomson
Road Safety Policy Team Leader
6 June 2016

Annex A

2016	Current publication timetable
January	
February	DfT Quarterly Statistics (July-Sep 2015)
March	Recorded Crime Management Information (Q3 to 31 Dec 2015)
April	
May	
June	'Key Reported Road Casualties Scotland 2015' Reported Road Casualties GB – Main Results 2015 Recorded Crime Management Information (Q4 to 31 March 2016)
July	
August	DfT Quarterly Statistics (Jan-Mar 2016)
September	Reported Road Casualties GB 2015 Recorded Crime Management Information (Q1 to 30 June 2016)
October	Reported Road Casualties Scotland 2015
November	DfT quarterly statistics (April-June 2016)
December	Recorded Crime Management Information (Q2 to 30 Sep 2016)

Key:

Scottish Government

DfT

Police Scotland