CHANGES TO STATS 19

Grampian Police currently hold the ACPOS Performance Monitoring portfolio and report on these matters to both the Scottish Road Policing Officers' Committee (SRPOC) and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS).

As members will be aware, Police Forces across Great Britain routinely collect data from road traffic collisions in respect of the attendant circumstances by means of a format known as STATS 19.

This data helps inform research, developments and improvements in road safety in relation to roads, road users, vehicles and vehicle movement. It also forms the basis of the annual statistics on road collisions and casualties published by the Department for Transport and the Scottish Government.

As such, it is imperative that the information recorded on STATS 19 is accurate.

STATS 19 is reviewed every five years. The results of the most recent review were published by the Department for Transport on 5 August 2010 and made a number of changes to STATS 19.

The review stated that ‘all changes should be in place for reporting from 1 January 2013 at the latest’.

Many Forces in England and Wales are in the process of migrating to an electronic system for collision reporting known as Collision Recording and Sharing (CRASH). This provides for secure collection, validation, transmission and storage of data via mobile devices, direct from the scene of the actual collision.

There are currently no plans to implement CRASH reporting of road traffic collisions in Scotland.

The Scottish Forces currently use five separate software systems to record the statistical information for STATS 19.

Steria provide the software used by Grampian Police, Central Scotland Police and Fife
Constabulary, whilst UNIFI provide the software for Lothian and Borders Police and Tayside Police.

Strathclyde Police, Northern Constabulary and Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary each use different software systems, each of which is capable of recording all the data fields required for STATS 19.

The assistance of the Scottish Police Services Authority (SPSA) was sought to ensure the necessary upgrades were carried out to the respective software systems. In order to highlight the work a National Service Request (Change Report No. SR24784) was submitted on 8 October 2010 by Alan Murphy, Partnership Manager, Lothian and Borders Police on behalf of the Liaison Group on Road Accident Statistics.

It re-affirmed the requirement for the changes to be implemented by all Forces by 1 January 2013, and requested the necessary work was carried out in advance to ‘scope and implement modifications to the various Force systems that are used to generate STATS 19 statistical data for the Scottish Government.’

In error, SPSA closed off this request on the assumption that the 'Common Performance Management Platform' project would be able to supply the data to Government in the new format. The initial request has since been re-opened and it has been exempted from the current moratorium on new ICT developments imposed by Police Reform.

The Scottish Government have confirmed that they seek all Forces to adopt the new format simultaneously.

In terms of the existing systems operating in Grampian, Central Scotland and Fife, a meeting is to be scheduled in the very near future between STERIA and representatives from these Forces to progress the changes.

SPSA staff based within Lothian and Borders Police are currently finalising the specifications for the system operated by them and Tayside Police.

Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary operate their own system called IMAGE and liaison has already been carried out with the SPSA to have the necessary amendments made.

Northern Constabulary have established a Working Group comprising of the Information Management Unit, SPSA IT Services and Road Policing to scope the various implications of the changes required.

In conclusion, the overall changes required nationally are minimal and should not require an overhaul of the various software operating systems.

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