

20th November 2015

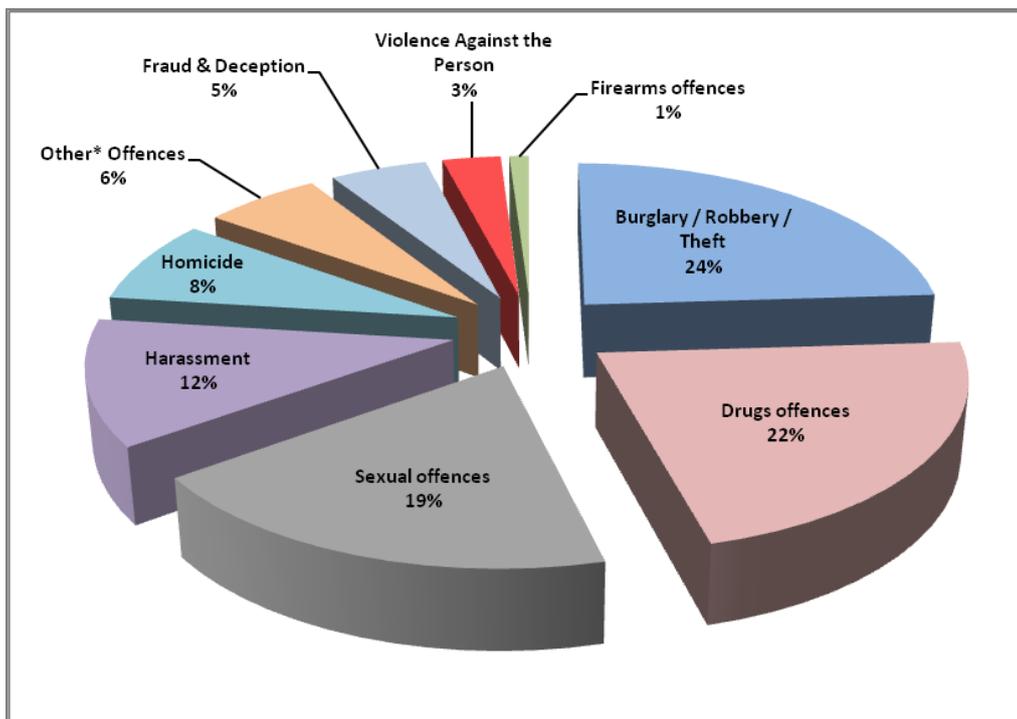
Senior Responsible Officer Circular (4)
Breakdown of communications data applications under s22(2)(b) RIPA by crime type

The revised Code of Practice for the Acquisition and Disclosure of Communications Data ("the Code") which came into force on 25th March 2015 includes a more comprehensive set of statistical requirements¹.

Last week we published guidance to Senior Responsible Officers (SROs) to assist them to prepare the annual statistical return and to provide clarity on the new statistics laid out in paragraphs 6.5 and 6.6 of the Code. All public authorities were required to incorporate the new statistics into their systems from April 1st 2015. The new statistics will help to improve transparency and to inform the public better about the use made of communications data powers.

A full set of the new statistics will be available early next year. In the interim our inspectors have collected, during our inspections of 29 police forces and law enforcement agencies, statistics indicating the **crime types** where communications data has been acquired under **section 22(2)(b) RIPA**, for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime or disorder. The results are shown in Figure 1 and give a broad indication of the national picture.

Figure 1: Breakdown of 100,000 Communications Data Applications submitted under section 22(2)(b) RIPA by Crime Type



* Other offences category (inc. public order, terrorism, traffic (serious & fatal accidents), corruption and cyber crime offences).

NB: Approximately 80% of all communications data applications are submitted under section 22(2)(b), the prevention and detection of crime or disorder. The majority of the remaining applications (20%), not included in Figure 1, are submitted in the interests of national security or to prevent death or injury in an emergency.

¹ See Paragraphs 6.5 and 6.6 of the revised March 2015 Code
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/426248/Acquisition_and_Disclosure_of_Communications_Data_Code_of_Practice_March_2015.pdf