



EDMONTON POLICE SERVICE

REPORT TO THE EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSION

DATE: March 13, 2019

SUBJECT: Edmonton Police Service Street Check Review – 2018 Q3/Q4

RECOMMENDATION:

Find attached for information:

- The 2018 EPS Q3/Q4 Street Check Report Review.
- The EPS Response to City of Edmonton Street Checks Policy and Practice Review Q1 2019 Status Update.

INTRODUCTION:

On February 08, 2019, a bi-annual review of EPS Street Check Reports (SCR) was conducted that encompassed submissions for Q3 and Q4 of 2018 (July 01, 2018 – December 31, 2018).

In March 2019, the Strategy & Performance Branch of the EPS consulted with management staff in work areas with assigned accountability for one or more of the 17 recommendations contained in the City of Edmonton Street Checks Policy and Practice Review (June 2018). The purpose of this consultation was to obtain a current status update on efforts to address the recommendations.

BACKGROUND:

In 2016 the EPS conducted a review of Street Check and SCR practices that resulted in several recommendations to change existing policies and procedures. One recommendation was to conduct biannual reviews of SCR submissions to assess organizational performance and compliance, and where applicable make recommendations for further program adjustment.

The 2018 Q3/Q4 SCR Review consisted of assessing 190 randomly selected SCR submissions against an established criterion. This was the fifth bi-annual review conducted since the 2016 Street Check and SCR Review report was submitted.

Between October 2017 and May 2018 a study was conducted by Curt T. Griffiths, Ltd. to examine the use of street checks by the EPS. In June 2018, the results of this study

and 17 associated recommendations were published in a report prepared for the Edmonton Police Commission.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ATTACHED:

- Attachment 1 – EPS 2018 Q3 and Q4 Street Check Review – March 07, 2019
- Attachment 2 – EPS Response to City of Edmonton Street Checks Policy and Practice Review Q1 2019 Status Update – March 2019

Written by: Inspector Warren Driechel, Criminal Intelligence Branch
Director Lori Solon, Strategy & Performance Branch



Reviewed By: Executive Director Dave Elanik, Intelligence Production Division

Approved by: Deputy Kevin Brezinski, Intelligence and Investigations Bureau
Executive Director Brian Kisilevich on behalf of Acting Deputy Chief Chad Tawfik, Corporate Services Bureau



Chief of Police: _____



Date: March 26/19

Edmonton Police Service

2018 Quarter 3 & 4 Street Check Report Review



Contributing Author:	S/Sgt. Kelly Rosnau Intelligence Operations Section Sgt. Ryan Newell Criminal Intelligence Unit
Date:	March 07, 2019
Title:	EPS Street Check Report Review Quarters 3 and 4, 2018
Version Number:	1.0

Handling Instructions and Document Control

Protected A

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Acknowledgement

The content of this document has been a collaborative effort developed through the contributions of numerous Edmonton Police Service members.

Document Control

Reviewed and approved by:

Name	Title	Signed
Warren Driechel	Inspector Intelligence Production and Operations Branch	 19.03.13
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Introduction

As per the mandate of the Street Check Review Committee, a review of EPROS Street Check Report (SCR) submissions was conducted.

Background

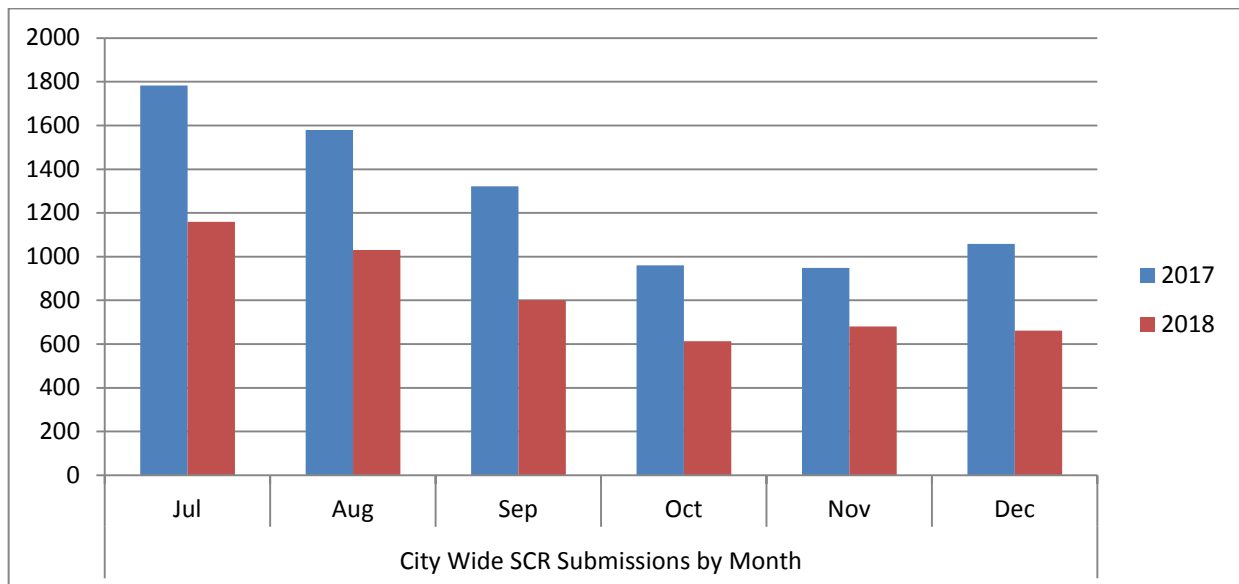
In 2016, a review of Edmonton Police Service Street check practices, procedures, and policies was conducted internally by the EPS. The report dated February 26, 2016, contained 10 recommendations to improve the functional use of the Street Check reporting function as well as the administration and management of data recorded within the submissions.

Scope

The scope of this submission review includes Quarters 3 & 4, 2018 (July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018), and was conducted on February 8, 2019.

SCR Submissions

EPS members submitted 4947 SCR's between July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018, as compared to 7649 SCR documents for the same period in 2017. This represents 2702 (35.3%) less SCR submissions¹.



Year	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
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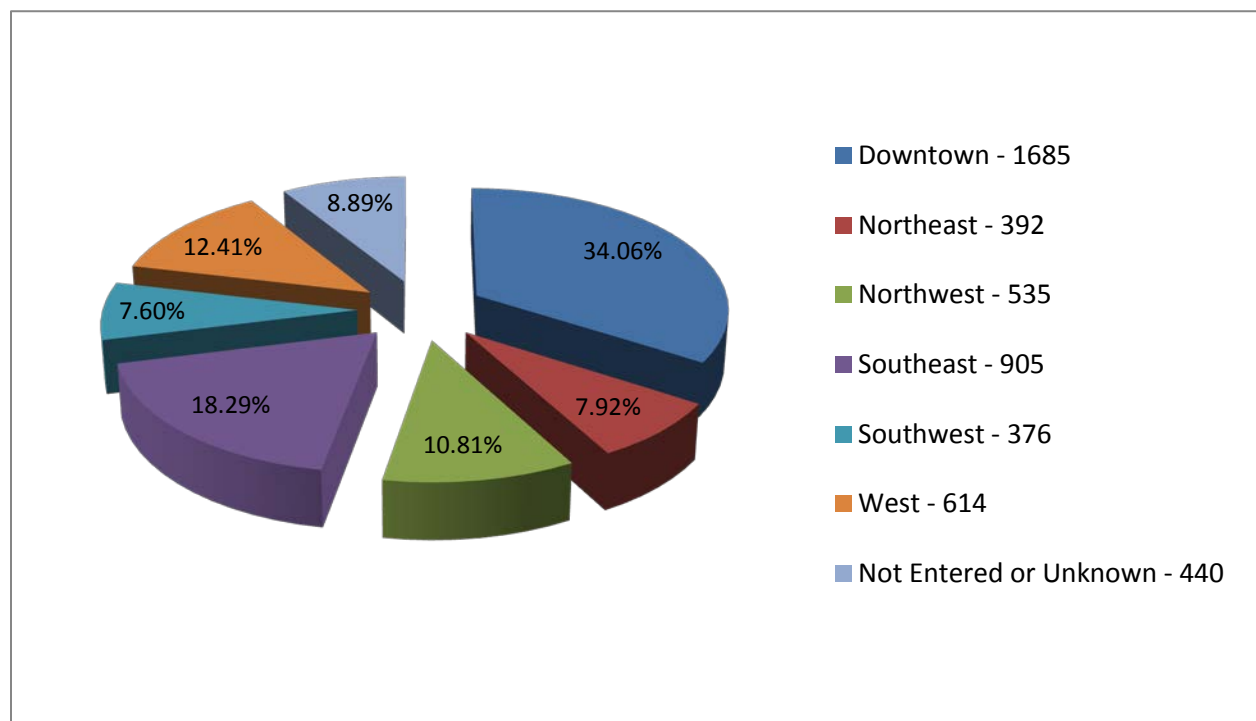
¹ Cognos IMR-04 Report, data as of February 7, 2019, 23:59 hours

2017	1783	1579	1321	960	948	1058	7649
2018	1579	1030	800	614	681	662	4947

There has been a decline in overall SCR submissions from 2016 through to 2018. The main contributing factor is the implementation of the recommended changes resulting from the 2016 Street Check and Street Check Report review, as well as the centralized review and oversight of SCR submissions by the Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU). The oversight and approval guidelines have effectively reduced the number of inappropriate SCR submissions that would have previously been approved by frontline supervisors.

The number of SCR's submitted by the six Community Policing Bureau Divisions for Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 of 2018 varies. Although slightly down as a percentage from previous audit reports, Downtown Division is still responsible for the highest number of SCR submissions; accounting for 34% of the yearly total. This is largely due to a more robust Beat Foot Patrol program which is proactively tasked and therefore conducting more subject stops and Street Checks compared to the other CPB Divisions.

One noted anomaly is the existence of SCR entries which are categorized as "address not entered" or "unknown". This occurs when members do not record a specific 'X/Y' coordinate to their SCR, but rather use a commonplace name or generalized location. This equates to 8.89% of the total number of submissions.



Review Objective

The objective of this review is to provide assurance that all SCR submissions are conducted in accordance with EPS policy and procedure.

Risks

Adequate controls, such as oversight, policies & procedures over Street Checks assist with:

1. Identifying consistent organizational wide trends related to SCR submissions.
2. Identification of specific issues or incidents of concern for individual SCR submissions.
3. Investigative excellence through improved SCR data quality.
4. Reduction of organizational risk (financial, legal, reputational, operational) through adequate oversight of SCR's.
5. Higher trained officers due to enhancement of training or development of new organizational training for identified needs.
6. Alignment of SCR production with other organizational goals.
7. Revising Policy and Procedure as necessary.
8. Improved decision making through the review of quantifiable submission review results.
9. Establishing ongoing communication for frontline members and investigators regarding Street Check process and SCR submissions.

Submission Review Criteria

The criteria for the review were to determine:

- a. SCR Use – The assessed SCR was appropriately submitted and was not used to submit information that should have been reported in an *Occurrence Report, Intelligence Report* or a *Source Report*.
- b. SCR Collection – The reason for conducting the Street Check was articulated and does not contain assumptions or opinions, and contains relevant information.
- c. Bias – The Street Check and SCR was not based on bias, nor contained information prejudicial or inflammatory towards the subject.

Methodology

Facilitation of this review included:

1. Establishing a review team with the required competencies. This team included the following EPS employees:

- a. S/Sgt. Kelly Rosnau – Intelligence Operations Section
 - b. Sgt. Ryan Newell – Criminal Intelligence Unit
 - c. Tasha Jayatunge – Southwest Division Criminal Intelligence Analyst
 - d. Natasha Goudar – Equity Diversity Human Resources
2. Evaluation of the review criteria and the work plan including the *Street Check Report Submission Audit Guide and the Audit Assessment Form*.
 3. Review of EPS policies; specifically Street Checks and Street Check Reporting Procedure OP10-9PR.
 4. Analysis of a data extract of 4947 SCR's.
 5. Evaluation of a select random sample of 186 Street Check Reports. (**4 duplicate SCR's were identified in the sampling**)
 6. Review of the information and/or documentation to support the Street Check Reports to determine if it was in accordance with EPS policy and procedure.
 7. Formulating an overall rating of compliant vs. non-compliant.

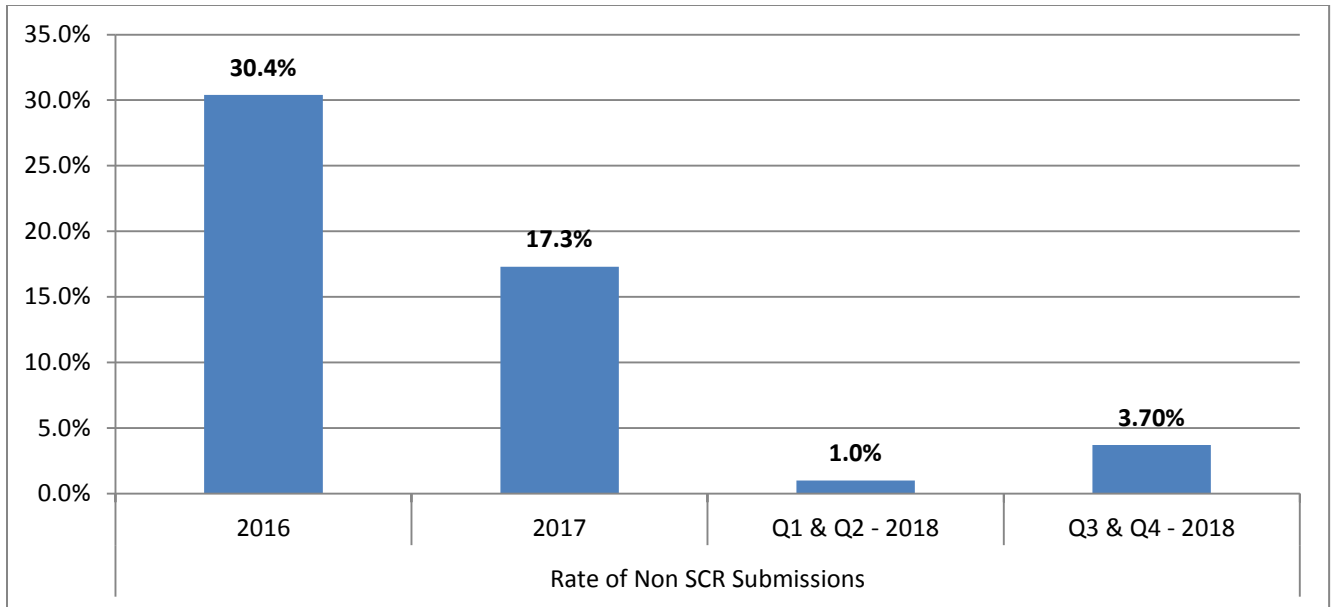
Overall Review Findings

Of the 186 SCR's reviewed, 7 SCR's, or 3.7%, were found to be some other form of report rather than an actual Street Check Report:

- a. 6 should have been reported using an *Occurrence Report*,
- b. 1 should have been reported using an *Intelligence Report*.

This is a nominal increase of 2.7% from the previous SCR review (Q1 / Q2 2018) where 1.0% were found to be used for other purposes. This number is still down significantly from 30.4% in 2016 and 17.3% in 2017 since implementation of the Street Check Review recommendations. The largest overall mitigation factor has been the centralized SCR approval model. This leaves 179 SCR's that were reviewed for content.

Upon review of the sampling it was determined that of the 190 SCR's compiled, there were 4 SCR duplicates. This reduced the number of SCR's reviewed for content from 190 down to 186. The duplicates were identified as a result of the SCR random number generator form.



Of the remaining 182 SCR's, the review team noted the following:

- a. 173/179 SCR's were deemed compliant with approval guidelines.
- b. 5/179 SCR's were found to be cancelled after submission.
- c. Although compliant in nature, 2/179 were identified by the review team as having no value to the information captured.
- d. 6/179 SCR's were deemed non-compliant for the following reasons:
 - i. 3 SCR's used clothing descriptors that were identified by the review panel to be inappropriate ("skimpy clothing" and "gangster clothing")
 - ii. 1 SCR used racially based terminology that was identified by that review panel as inappropriate ("African") versus a physical description.
 - iii. 2 appeared to make assumptions (the SCR contained assumptions or opinion outside of observation or fact)

	2016	2017	Q1 & Q2 2018	Q3 & Q4 2018
Used other purpose	46/151 – 30.4%	66/380 - 17.3%	2/190 – 1%	7/186 - 3.7%
Compliant	95/105 – 90.4%	266/314 - 84.7%	180/188 – 95.7%	173/179 –96.7%
Canceled	2/105 – 1.9%	6/314 - 1.2%	6/188 – 3.2%	5/179 - 2.8%
Articulation	4/105 – 3.8%	22/314 - 7%	0/188 – 0%	0/179 - 0%
Assumptions Made	2/105 – 1.9%	6/314 - 1.2%	7/169 – 3.7%	2/179 - 1.1%
Irrelevant Information	0/105 – 0%	13/314 - 4.1%	1/188 – 0.5%	1/179 - 0.5%
Implied Bias	2/105 – 1.9%	1/314 - 0.1%	0/169 – 0%	4/179 - 2.2%

Upon review of previously identified reasons for non-compliance, the following was noted and highlighted:

- i. All SCR's had the reason for the Street Check properly articulated (the review team could easily determine the reason the member conducted the Street Check or lawful placement of the Police Officer)
- ii. No SCR's were found to contain irrelevant information (irrelevant or unrelated to the reason for the SCR)
- iii. No SCR submissions were deemed to contain bias

One emerging trend noted was the inappropriate or incorrect terminology used during the submission of SCR's. 3 SCR's from the sampling taken used terms such as "skimpy clothing" or "gangster clothing" when providing general descriptions of attire worn by subjects. One SCR provided the description of a subject as "African". Although not determined to be racially motivated, the terminology used was identified as inappropriate as it deviated from simply providing a physical description.

This was the fifth SCR submission review performed. Prior to this review period, the Intelligence Division (ID) assumed centralized approval of all SCR's on August 7, 2017. Within this review period all SCR submissions would have been subjected to consistent centralized review. The consistent and improved variance in numbers can be attributed to employing a standardized critical assessment process that is now accepted across the organization.

Between July 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018, CIU was responsible for the approval of all EPS SCR submissions. The following statistics were reported for this period in comparison with the previous review.

	Q3 & Q4 2017	Q1 & Q2 2018	Q3 & Q4 2018
Approved	7604	5626	4568
Reworked	676 - 8.9%	1609 - 28.6%	1073 - 23.5%
Canceled	14 - 1.8%	55 - 1.0%	24 -0.5%

At the conclusion of the Q1 and Q2 2018 audit, the reworked SCR's had increased by 20% from Q3 and Q4 2017. CIU was directed to identify and relax the application of the criteria during the approval process, while maintaining the integrity of the approval process. From comparisons of the approval process statistics of Q1 and Q2 2018, to Q3 and Q4 2018, a 5% decrease in reworks and a 0.5% decrease in cancelled SCR's was noted. This was done while maintaining a compliance rate of 96.7%. This is attributed to

the centralized approval model where consistency in changes to approval process and implementation of the criteria can be completed.

Recommendations

1. *Continued centralized review and approval of SCR submissions.*

The results of this quarterly review show how change to the implementation of the approval criteria can be done in a significantly short time period while maintaining control over the compliance rates. Without a centralized approval process, the process to implement the change would be significantly slower and labour intensive.

2. *Communicate and educate the general membership on appropriate terminology.*

During the SCR audit, inappropriate or dated terminology was used when describing clothing or providing physical descriptors for subjects. Even amongst the review panel, no set terminology could be agreed upon. This has been identified as a commonality amongst the general membership and has caused some members to stop attempting to provide descriptors for fear of using the wrong terminology.

It is recommended that communication and education be provided to the EPS membership on acceptable terminology that can be used. This communication would need to be readily accessible and updated as required with change in the acceptable terminology. This is being reviewed for implementation by the EPS Equity Diversity and Human Rights advisor.

3. *Develop improved Intelligence Report submission process.*

Members will often use the SCR to record information that should otherwise be documented on an *Intelligence Report*, as it is usually more complex, sensitive in nature, or outlines an investigative process (following up further on some collected intelligence).

This gap has been previously identified in past SCR reviews; however no technical solution has yet been established.

4. *Develop a SCR form report within EPROS to replace the SCR Narratives in free text fields*

This is a pre-existing recommendation being carried forward within this review period. This requires significant technical adjustment to the existing RMS.

Conclusion

The results of this SCR review did not identify any significant instances or concerns related to the perception that members are conducting Street Checks based upon bias. Where an SCR was identified containing an assumption, it was only identified due to incomplete information provided or articulation of the grounds at hand. This is a highly subjective and is indicative of an author and approvers experiences in comparison to those of the members of the review panel. In some cases, the identified assumption may be purely perceived and only a result of the authors writing style.

Continued practices of centralized SCR approval, ongoing Street Check and SCR training, creating an ongoing SCR guidelines communication plan, implementation of associated technical projects will further mitigate and reduce SCR submission errors.

The next SCR review is tentatively scheduled for September 2019.

Q3/Q4 Street Check Report Quality Assurance Review

Insp. Warren Driechel

April 18, 2019

Reason

- A recommendation arising of the 2016 EPS Review of Street Checks and Street Check Reports.
- Initiated Q3/Q4 of 2016.
- A quality review of SCR documents submissions aligned with the EPS review and findings.

Purpose

1. Identifying trends in overall SCR submissions.
2. Identify specific issues with individual SCR submissions.
3. Investigative excellence through improved SCR data quality.
4. Reduction of organizational risk.

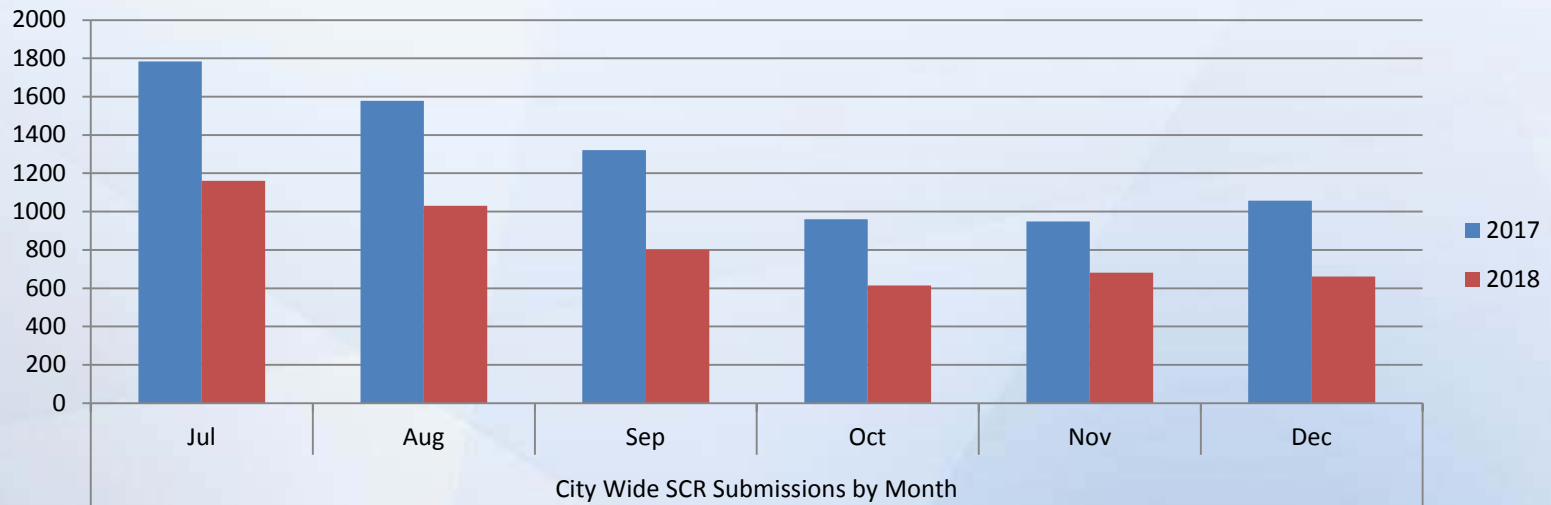
Purpose

5. Improve officer competency through training and practice.
6. Alignment with other organizational goals.
7. Improved decision making through better data.
8. Identifying areas for communication and training for frontline members.

Process

- Conducted by a team of internal stakeholders.
- Consists of a random sample of SCR submissions against the data population.
- 190 documents from 4947 submissions.
- Assessed against a set guideline to be *compliant* or *non-compliant*.
- SCR documents used for other purposes removed from assessment.

SCR Submissions



Year	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
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Findings and Actions

1. Continue centralized approval model.
2. Internal communication.
3. Member engagement.
4. Community engagement.