

A report *Spike in train crimes* (18 April 2010) in The Sunday Telegraph said,

Figures obtained under Freedom of Information laws by the Opposition reveal 4877 crimes were recorded last year (on Sydney trains and railway stations), up from 2892 in 2008.

These figures were provided by NSW Police under FOI. However, before the story was published Police Media advised the Sunday Telegraph journalist that the figures were raw data recorded in the COPs database and did not necessarily reflect an increase in crime on the rail network.

Furthermore the year-on-year change may be a result of the way data is recorded or extracted from the COPs database.

Police Media also confirmed for the journalist that NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) was the most appropriate source of crime statistics.

Data for offence categories over the last two financial years provided by BOCSAR are set out in the table below.

Offence Category	2007/08	2008/09	Trend
Assault	1404	1367	Stable
Robbery	359	358	Stable
Sexual Offences	150	188	Stable
Steal from person	712	758	Stable
Total offences against the person	2625	2671	Stable
Malicious Damage to property	1608	1635	Stable

RailCorp provided this BOCSAR information to The Sunday Telegraph, but it chose instead to publish the raw data obtained from Police, despite being told by Police that this data could not be used to prove a 'spike in train crimes'.