

## **Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey: Proposed removal of the module on Perceptions of the Youth Justice Agency**

### **Background**

Since 2009, the Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey (NISCS) has included three questions relating to the Youth Justice Agency (YJA), which aims to make communities safer by helping children to stop offending and works with children aged 10-17 years old who have offended or are at serious risk of offending. The questions aim to measure the level of awareness of the YJA, more specifically whether respondents have heard of the agency and how aware they are of the work it does, along with confidence levels on whether it is effective at reducing re-offending by young people aged 10-17. From 2018/19, an additional question gauging whether respondents had had contact with the YJA was also included.

Having traditionally been conducted face-to-face, the survey was moved to telephone mode from 2020/21 as a result of the pandemic. Telephone interviews have continued since then and the questionnaire has had to be reduced as a whole, with some modules subsequently being either shortened or removed. This primarily affected the perception-based modules, including the questions relating to the Youth Justice Agency, and the module has not been asked since 2019/20. Latest results from the module, covering findings up to 2019/20, are available from the [NISCS - Perceptions of the Youth Justice Agency](#) section on the Department of Justice website. A copy of the latest module is available at Annex A.

### **Proposed removal of the Youth Justice Agency module**

Feedback from the YJA indicated that similar questions were included in surveys undertaken by the Agency which focus on service users and victims and are therefore more applicable in informing policy and service development. Given the limited use of the results by YJA and that

minimal requests for data deriving from this module are received from outside of the Agency, it is being proposed that the module be removed permanently from the survey.

### Next Steps

Following the feedback provided by YJA, the primary stakeholders within DoJ, we are now seeking views from external users who may use the findings from the module. We would welcome any views or comments on the proposed removal of the questions by 28 July 2023 (contact details below), after which a further update will be published.

Should you have any queries regarding the content of this update or the survey in general, please contact:

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## Annex A – Perceptions of the Youth Justice Agency module

I would now like to ask you some questions about youth justice issues.

- **Question 1**

In the past 12 months, have you come into contact with the Youth Justice Agency, in any capacity?

1=Yes

2=No

- **Question 2**

[Ask if respondent has not previously come into contact with the Youth Justice Agency (Question 1 = 2)]

Have you ever heard of the Youth Justice Agency?

1=Yes

2=No

- **Question 3**

[Ask if respondent has heard of the YJA or has come into contact with YJA (Question 1=1 or Question 2=1)]

How aware are you of the work the Youth Justice Agency does?

1=Very aware

2=Fairly aware

3=Not very aware

4=Not at all aware

- **Question 4**

[Ask if respondent has heard of the YJA or has come into contact with YJA (Question 1=1 or Question 2=1)]

How confident are you that the Youth Justice Agency is effective at reducing re-offending by young people aged 10-17?

1=Very confident

2=Fairly confident

3=Not very confident

4=Not at all confident