

Perceptions of Policing and Justice: Findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey

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Summary Findings

This bulletin presents findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey (NISCS) and focuses on respondents' confidence in policing, community engagement and confidence in the criminal justice system.

Confidence in Policing

- NISCS 2019/20 findings show that, at 80%, overall public confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements (based on a seven-strand composite measure) remained unchanged from 2018/19 (81%). The confidence rating, however, has shown an overall increase from 73% in 2003/04 when the measure was introduced.
- In terms of the local police, latest findings indicate 49% of respondents rated the police in their area as doing **an excellent or good job**, a statistically significant decrease from the 2018/19 figure of 53%. The percentage of respondents rating their local police performance as excellent or good had generally been showing an upward trend over the last decade or so; the 2019/20 figure of 49% represents an overall increase on the 2007/08 figure of 41%.
- When asked about **overall confidence in the local police**, 62% of respondents stated that, when taking everything into account, they had confidence in the police in their area, a statistically significant decrease from last year (65%, 2018/19).

Confidence in Engagement

- With regards to **community engagement**, the proportions of respondents agreeing that the police and other agencies 'seek people's views about the anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime issues that matter' (31%) and are 'dealing with' (37%) such issues remained on a par with the previous year showing no statistically significant change between 2018/19 and 2019/20 (33% and 39% respectively).

Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

- NISCS 2019/20 respondents were more likely to think the criminal justice system (CJS) as a whole is fair (57%) than effective (40%). While the proportion agreeing that the CJS as a whole is fair showed no statistically significant change from 2018/19 (60%), the proportion confident that the CJS as a whole is effective showed a statistically significant decrease from 45% over the same period.
- As in previous years, participants cited 'tougher sentences' as one of the most important things the CJS could do to improve its public confidence rating (29%, 2019/20). Other popular responses included: 'tackle ASB and minor crime' (23%); and provide 'a more visible policing presence' (19%).

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Introduction

2.1 The focus of this publication

This bulletin draws on findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey (NISCS). The survey was formerly known as the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) but was renamed following a review in 2017/18. NISCS is a representative, continuous, personal interview survey of the experiences and perceptions of crime of 3,710 adults living in private households throughout Northern Ireland.

Previously conducted on an ad hoc basis in 1994/95, 1998, 2001 and 2003/04, the survey began operating on a continuous basis in January 2005.

The focus of this publication is on key attitudinal modules contained within the NISCS relating to confidence in policing, community engagement and confidence in the criminal justice system. While the bulletin will focus largely on findings from NISCS 2019/20, results for previous sweeps of the survey are also presented and referred to, as appropriate, throughout the text.

Comparisons are made (where appropriate and available) between the results of the 2019/20 NISCS and those of the 2019/20 [Crime Survey for England and Wales](#) (CSEW; ONS, 2020).

Throughout this report key findings are commented on in the text, with numerical details on each section available in the relevant tables comprising the Tabular Annex (Appendix 1). The tables in the Tabular Annex present trend data from 2010/11. Commentary may, however, refer to findings from earlier years, figures for which can be found in the accompanying Microsoft Excel and Open Data Source documents.

Further background information on this bulletin is available in the Technical Annex (Appendix 2). Additional NISCS 2019/20 reports on [Experience of Crime](#) (Campbell, Rice and Ross, February 2021) and [Perceptions of Crime](#) (Ross and Campbell, March 2021) have been published separately.

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Confidence in Policing

This chapter provides an overview of respondents' perceptions of police (both local police and in Northern Ireland as a whole) and police accountability arrangements. Figures are presented in Tables 1 to 3 of Appendix 1.

3.1 Confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements

Since 2003/04, the NISCS has measured the level of public confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland (hereafter referred to collectively as 'policing'). Such an approach was initially designed and carried out as part of the 2004 Spending Review Public Service Agreement (PSA) (French, 2008).

A set of seven questions is asked of respondents which elicit views on the fairness and effectiveness of the police and police accountability arrangements. Figures from 2010/11 are presented for these seven indicators in Table 1. The commentary may refer to findings from earlier years which are available in the accompanying workbooks. The figures presented are based on the proportions of respondents who state that they:

- a. have some, a lot or total confidence in the ability of the police to provide an ordinary day-to-day policing service for all the people of Northern Ireland;
- b. think the police do a very or fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole;
- c. believe the police treat Catholic and Protestant members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole;
- d. think the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) is independent of the police;
- e. think the Policing Board helps ensure that the police do a good job;
- f. think the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (OPONI) is independent of the police; and
- g. think the Police Ombudsman helps ensure that the police do a good job.

This set of seven questions is then used to construct an overall confidence rating (composite measure). In constructing the composite measure, greater weight is given to the three police indicators (a to c, above), so that the arithmetic mean of their individual confidence ratings is worth two-thirds of the overall confidence rating. The respective means of those relating to the Policing Board (d and e), and the Police Ombudsman (f and g), each account for a sixth of the overall composite measure.

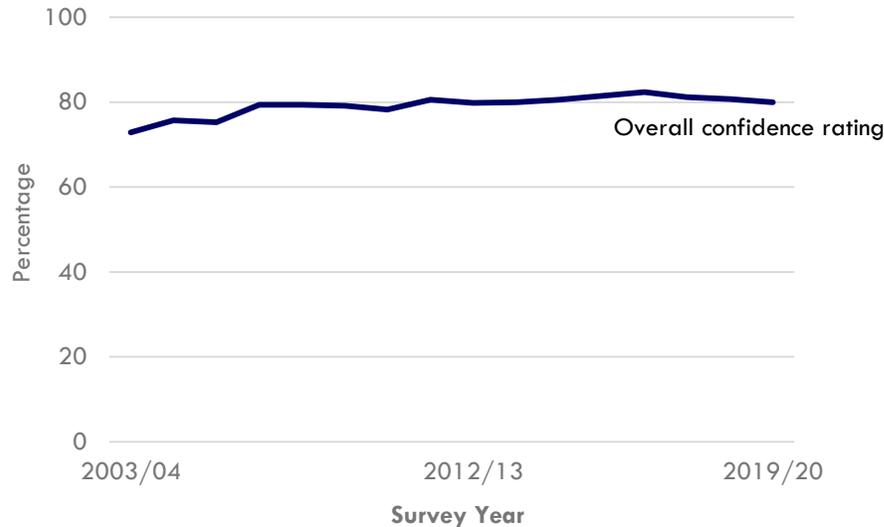
As a note of caution, this seven-strand composite measure should not be misinterpreted purely as personal 'confidence in the police' as its focus is much broader including not only the performance of the police per se but also accountability measures put in place following recommendations set out in the Patten Report to reform policing in Northern Ireland.

3

Confidence in Policing

- Latest findings for 2019/20 show that, at 80%, overall confidence in policing (the seven-strand composite measure) was unchanged from the previous year (81%). The 2019/20 figure of 80%, however, remains higher than the rate from 2003/04 (73%) when the measure was first introduced. Most of this increase occurred in the earlier years with the rate rising from 73% to 79% between 2003/04 and 2007/08. Thereafter the rate has remained relatively stable with no significant year-on-year changes for the last decade.

Figure 3.1: Overall Confidence in Policing^{1,2} (%) in Northern Ireland, 2003/04 to 2019/20



Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Surveys 2003/04-2017/18; Northern Ireland Safe Community Surveys 2018/19-2019/20

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. This measure is the weighted mean of responses to the seven individual confidence strands. Greater weighting is given to the three questions on the police.

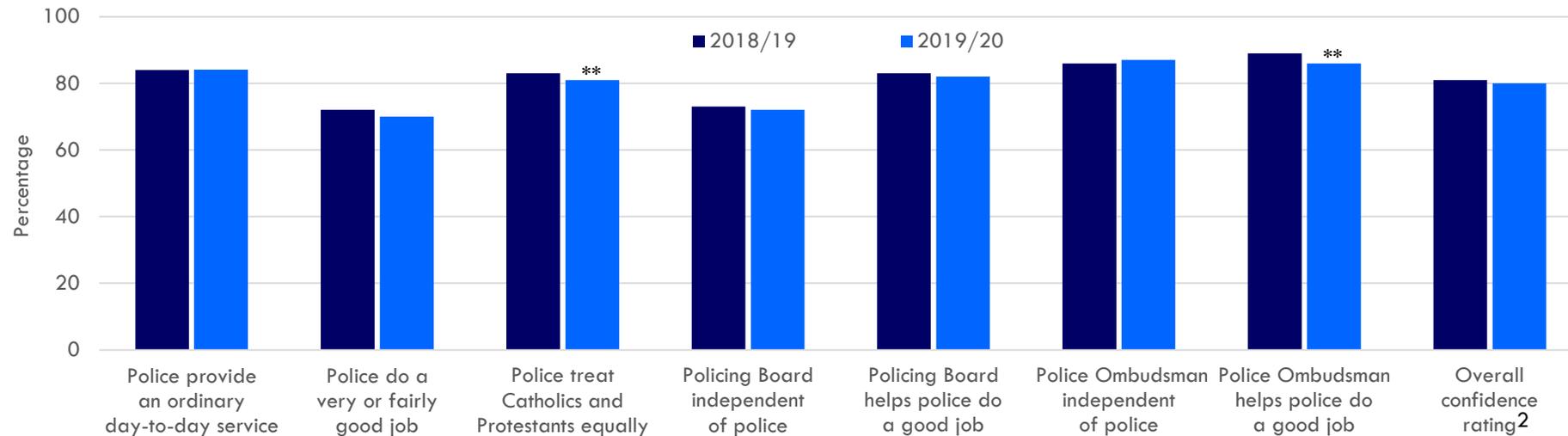
- When considering the three indicators relating directly to the police, one showed a statistically significant change when latest findings are compared with the previous year. The proportion of respondents confident that 'the police treat Catholics and Protestants equally in Northern Ireland as a whole' fell from 83% to 81% between 2018/19 and 2019/20.
- The proportion confident that 'the police provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people of Northern Ireland' was unchanged at 84% in both years. The apparent decrease in the proportion who felt 'the police do a very or fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole' (from 72% to 70%) was not statistically significant.
- Confidence ratings for all three police indicators have however, on the whole increased over the last fifteen years or so since 2003/04. The largest increase, in percentage point terms, was recorded in the proportion who felt the police do a very or fairly good job, rising by 12 percentage points from 58% in 2003/04 to 70% in 2019/20. While this latest figure of 70% is a decrease on the 77% observed in 2016/17, it still represents the biggest percentage point change since 2003/04. The proportions confident that the police provide an ordinary day-to-day service (75% to 84%) and treat Catholics and Protestants equally (72% to 81%) have also shown an overall improvement over this period. Again, much of the increase in these confidence levels occurred between 2003/04 and 2007/08, with rates remaining more stable in recent years.

3

Confidence in Policing

- Findings for 2019/20 show one of the four indicators relating to police accountability arrangements showed a statistically significant change compared with last year, with the proportion who felt the Police Ombudsman helps ensure the police do a good job falling from 89% to 86%. Respondents in 2019/20 remained more positive in their perceptions of the Police Ombudsman than the Policing Board, particularly with regards to being independent of the police. The proportions of respondents who believed the Police Ombudsman was independent of the police (87%) and helped ensure the police do a good job (86%) were higher than the respective rates for the Policing Board (72% and 82% respectively).
- All four indicators may appear to show some year-to-year fluctuation, however few of these apparent changes were statistically significant.

Figure 3.2: Confidence in the Police and Police Accountability Arrangements (%)¹ in Northern Ireland, 2018/19 and 2019/20



Sources: Northern Ireland Safe Community Surveys 2018/19-2019/20

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. This measure is the weighted mean of responses to the seven individual confidence strands. Greater weighting is given to the three questions on the police.

3. *** denotes statistically significant change at the 5% level ($p < 0.05$) between 2018/19 and 2019/20.

3

Confidence in Policing

3.2 Ratings and perceptions of the local police

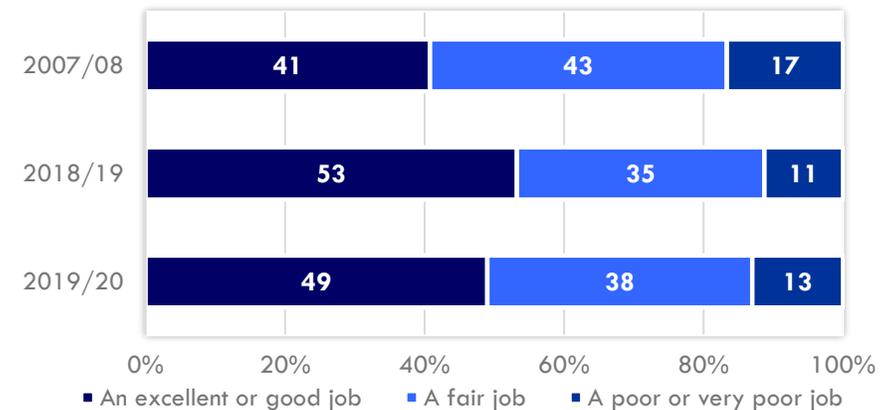
In addition to policing in Northern Ireland as a whole, the survey has measured perceptions of the local police since 2007/08, both in general terms as well as in specific aspects of their work.

Developed specifically to gauge confidence in the unique police and police accountability arrangements across Northern Ireland, results in Sections 3.1 (Table 1) cannot be compared with other jurisdictions. However, Table 2 in Appendix 1 compares perceptions of police performance in the local area in Northern Ireland and England and Wales, based on the question ‘Taking everything into account, how good a job do you think the police in this area are doing?’.

It should be noted that this question and its response options differ from those covered by the similar question in the previous section ‘Do you think the police do a good job or a poor job in Northern Ireland as a whole?’ (Section 3.1; Table 1). The focus in this section is on the local rather than on the regional area. It is also possible that, in terms of the local police question, some respondents may have interpreted the middle option (‘a fair job’) as a positive or satisfactory response, while viewing the ‘neither a good nor a poor job’ middle option within the previous composite measure question as a neutral response. This may partially explain the lower confidence ratings produced by the question on the local police.

- Just under half (49%) of 2019/20 respondents rated their local police as doing an ‘excellent or good job’, a statistically significant decrease from 53% the previous year. In contrast, the proportion rating their performance as ‘poor’ or ‘very poor’ showed a significant increase from 11% to 13% over the same period. The apparent increase in the proportion who believe their local police do ‘a fair job’ (from 35% to 38%) was not statistically significant.
- While latest findings indicate a decrease in the proportion who rated local police performance as excellent or good, the proportion on the whole has shown an upward trend with the 2019/20 figure of 49% representing an overall increase when compared with 2007/08 (41%). Consequently, the proportions who felt the police do a fair or poor/very poor job were lower than those observed over a decade ago.

Figure 3.3: Ratings of local police performance (%)¹ in Northern Ireland, 2007/08, 2018/19 and 2019/20



Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2007/08; Northern Ireland Safe Community Surveys 2018/19-2019/20

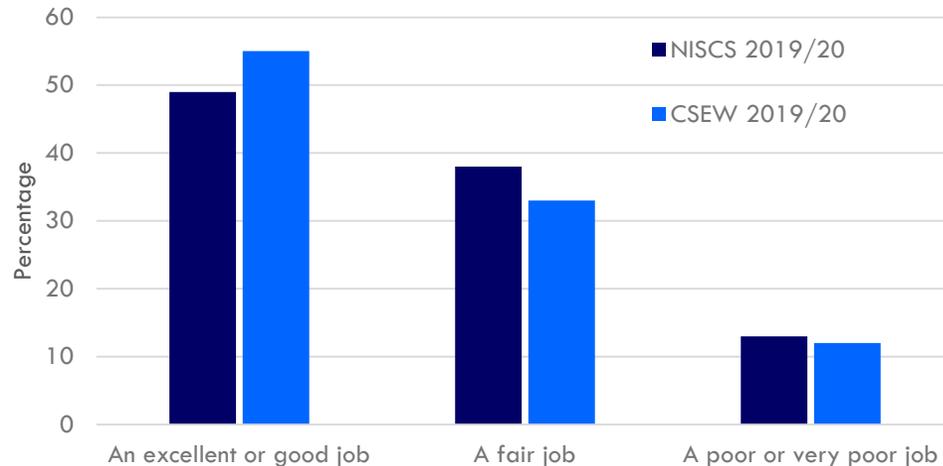
1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

3

Confidence in Policing

- At 55%, 2019/20 respondents in England and Wales were more likely than their Northern Ireland counterparts (49%) to rate their local police as doing an excellent or good job with a lower proportion of CSEW participants rating their performance as fair (33%, CSEW and 38%, NISCS). Similar proportions felt their local police were doing a poor/very poor job (12% and 13% respectively).
- While the proportion of respondents rating local police performance as excellent or good has been higher in England and Wales than in Northern Ireland across previous sweeps of the survey, the gap has narrowed over the last two years with the latest difference of six percentage points comparing with, for example, 2009/10 when the difference in the survey estimates was 16 percentage points (56%, CSEW v 40%, NISCS).

Figure 3.4: Ratings of local police performance (%)¹ in Northern Ireland and England and Wales, 2019/20



Sources: Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2019/20; Crime Survey for England and Wales 2019/20

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

Table 3, Appendix 1 contains the proportions of NISCS respondents who claimed they 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree' with seven statements concerning the local police. The first six of these (a to f, below) are 'funnel-type' questions, designed to help generate a more considered response to the seventh, overall confidence measure. The statements are, the local police:

- a. can be relied on to be there when you need them;
- b. would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason;
- c. treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are;
- d. are dealing with the things that matter to this community;
- e. help keep this area safe;
- f. have a visible presence in this area; and
- g. taking everything into account, I have confidence in the police in this area.

The alternative response options were: 'neither agree nor disagree', 'tend to disagree' and 'strongly disagree'. Although this presented a neutral option, the emphasis here on specific aspects of local police activity may have contributed to some confidence ratings being lower than those indicators comprising the seven-strand composite measure, which concern general police performance and behaviour at the Northern Ireland level.

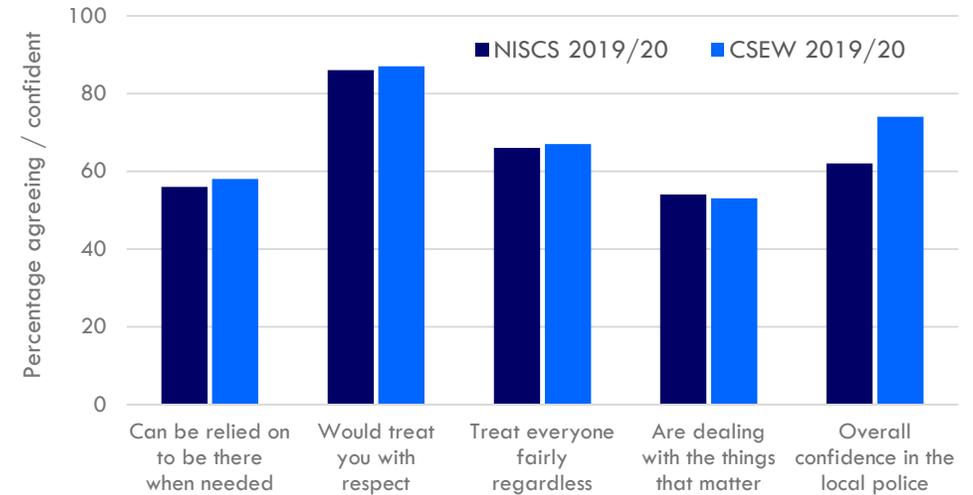
Following the review of the survey in 2017/18, statements e and f above were included for the first time in 2018/19, replacing the two indicators (the local police) 'can be relied on to deal with minor crimes' and 'understand the issues that affect this community'. Therefore any general comparison for these new statements will only be made between the latest findings, 2019/20, and the previous year, 2018/19. Comparable CSEW figures are included in the table, where available.

3

Confidence in Policing

- At 62%, the proportion of 2019/20 respondents who expressed overall confidence in their local police showed a statistically significant decrease from the previous year (65%). The proportion had been on a general upward trend, increasing from 60% in 2007/08 to 71% in 2016/17, mainly due to a combination of non-significant increases in some years, however it has since fallen again to 62% in 2019/20.
- In terms of the six individual statements relating to the local police, results suggest that respondents were again much less likely to agree that the local police *'have a visible presence in this area'* (27%); the proportions agreeing with each of the five remaining statements were at least double this rate.
- One of the six statements showed a statistically significant change when compared with last year. The proportion agreeing that the local police would *'treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are'* fell from 68% to 66% between 2018/19 and 2019/20. The five remaining indicators were on a par with the previous year.
- Three of the four indicators included from 2007/08 have shown an improvement overall. The proportions agreeing that the local police *'can be relied on to be there when you need them'*, *'would treat you with respect if you had contact with them'* and *'are dealing with the things that matter'*, have, on the whole, increased since they were first introduced. The largest increase (in percentage point terms) occurred in the proportion agreeing that the local police are dealing with the things that matter to the community, rising from 42% in 2007/08 to 54% in 2019/20.
- CSEW 2019/20 respondents (74%) were again more likely than NISCS participants (62%) to express overall confidence in their local police; results for the four individual statements were more closely aligned. As in previous sweeps, respondents in both jurisdictions were most likely to agree with the statement (the local police) *'would treat you with respect if you had contact with them'* (86%, NISCS and 87%, CSEW).

Figure 3.5: Confidence in the local police (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales, 2019/20^{1,2}



Sources: Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2019/20; Crime Survey for England and Wales 2019/20

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. Includes statements for which comparable data are available only.

Summary: Confidence in Policing

Unchanged from last year (81%, 2018/19 and 80%, 2019/20), the level of public confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements (seven-strand composite measure) has remained stable for the last decade or so but has shown an overall increase when compared with 2003/04 (73%). At 62%, overall confidence in the local police has, however, shown a statistically significant decrease from last year, down from 65%. Overall confidence in the local police had generally been on an upward trend between 2007/08 and 2016/17, from 60% to 71%, but has since fallen to 62% in 2019/20.

4 | Confidence in Engagement

4.1 Confidence in community engagement by the local police and partnership agencies in Northern Ireland and England and Wales

Since October 2007, the NISCS has measured levels of public confidence in the local police and other agencies working in partnership on anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime issues. Focus is on the proportion of respondents who ‘strongly agree’ or ‘tend to agree’ that the local police and other agencies:

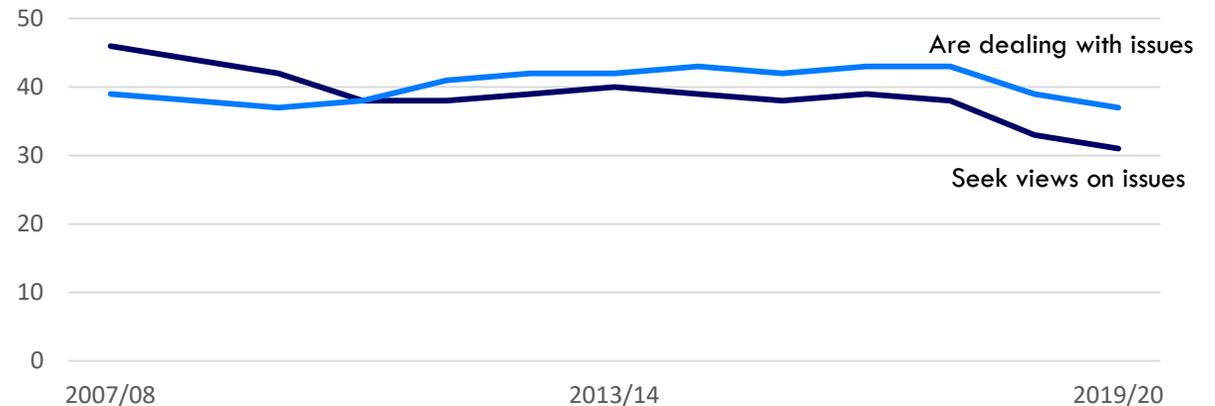
- a. seek people’s views about the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area; and
- b. are dealing with the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area.

The alternative response options for these questions are: ‘neither agree nor disagree’; ‘tend to disagree’; and ‘strongly disagree’. Within Northern Ireland, results of these two questions have been combined to form a single engagement composite measure (‘Overall confidence in engagement’), which are presented in Table 4, Appendix 1.

CSEW has not included the ‘seeking views’ question for a number of years; the equivalent ‘dealing with’ figure is included in the respective table. Reflecting variations in the local government and partnership arrangements in the two jurisdictions, the ‘dealing with’ question differs slightly between the two surveys. The NISCS question refers specifically to ‘the police and other agencies, including PCSPs and district councils’, while the CSEW refers to ‘the police and local councils’, although they are still regarded as comparable.

- Following decreases between 2017/18 and 2018/19, findings from 2019/20 indicate that the proportions of respondents who agreed the local police and other agencies ‘seek people’s views about the ASB and crime issues that matter’ (31%) and are ‘dealing with’ these issues (37%) remained unchanged from the previous year. Consequently, overall confidence in engagement (composite measure) was also unchanged (36% and 34%) over this period.
- The proportion agreeing that views are sought has shown the most change since the questions were introduced, reducing by 15 percentage points overall between 2007/08 and 2019/20. The rate had fallen from 46% in 2007/08 to 38% in 2010/11, remained relatively stable in the subsequent years to 2017/18 (38%) but thereafter fell further to 31% by 2019/20.

Figure 4.1: Confidence in engagement (%)¹ in Northern Ireland, 2007/08 to 2019/20



Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Surveys 2007/08-2017/18; Northern Ireland Safe Community Surveys 2018/19- 2019/20

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

- Results suggest that, at 37%, respondents in Northern Ireland were less likely than those in England and Wales (52%) to agree the police and other agencies are dealing with the ASB and crime issues that matter.

5

Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

Since October 2007, the survey has measured public confidence in both the fairness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system (CJS).

5.1 Confidence in the fairness of the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland

NISCS respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with the following statements concerning the fairness with which the CJS responds to a variety of people in different circumstances:

- a. gives witnesses and victims the support they need;
- b. treats those accused of crime as innocent until proven guilty;
- c. takes into account the views of witnesses and victims;
- d. when sentencing, takes into account the circumstances surrounding the crime;
- e. is too soft on those accused of committing a crime;
- f. achieves the correct balance between the rights of offenders and victims; and
- g. discriminates against particular groups or individuals.

These 'funnel-type' questions are immediately followed by an overall fairness in the CJS question.

Table 5 in Appendix 1 shows the proportions of NISCS 2019/20 respondents who stated that they 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree' with the above statements (a to g). The alternative response options were: 'neither agree nor disagree'; 'tend to disagree'; and 'strongly disagree'. It should be emphasised that two of the above statements (e and g) relate to what would be negative outcomes: 'too soft on those accused of committing a crime'; and 'discriminates against particular groups or individuals'. With regards to England and Wales, the equivalent figure for overall fairness in the CJS is included in Table 5 also. The individual statements, a to g above, were not included in the 2019/20 CSEW.

- Findings suggest that the proportion of 2019/20 respondents who thought the CJS as a whole is fair (57%) was unchanged from the previous year (60%). The apparent decrease in the rate is not statistically significant. The overall fairness rating in Northern Ireland has remained relatively stable over the last decade or so.
- Similarly, latest findings indicate that none of the individual statements relating to the fairness of the CJS showed a significant change from last year.

5

Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

- When considering the longer-term trends, there have been few changes from year to year and no consistent pattern in the findings for the seven individual fairness statements. However, when latest results are compared directly with those from 2007/08, six of the seven have shown a change overall (see table below). The most notable change occurred in the proportion agreeing that the criminal justice system ‘*treats those accused of crime as innocent until proven guilty*’, which has decreased by 17 percentage points. The proportion increased initially from 70% in 2007/08 to 73% in 2008/09, but since then has generally been on a downward trend, falling overall to 53% in 2018/19 with the same proportion observed in 2019/20. This reduction from 73% in 2008/09 was primarily a result of two statistically significant decreases; a fall from 73% to 68% between 2008/09 and 2009/10 and a more recent reduction, from 61% to 53%, between 2017/18 and 2018/19.
- At 60%, a higher proportion of CSEW 2019/20 respondents agreed that the CJS as a whole was fair compared with 57% of NISCS respondents.

Confidence in the overall fairness of the Criminal Justice System (%) in Northern Ireland, 2007/08, 2018/19 and 2019/20^{1,2}

% saying strongly agree / tend to agree that the criminal justice system	07/08	19/20	Change 07/08 to 19/20 ³	18/19	19/20	Change 18/19 to 19/20 ³
Overall fairness rating	-	57		60	57	↔
Gives witnesses and victims the support they need	37	33	**↓	35	33	↔
Treats those accused of crime as innocent until proven guilty	70	53	**↓	53	53	↔
Takes into account the views of witnesses and victims	55	50	**↓	52	50	↔
When sentencing takes into account the circumstances surrounding the crime	52	48	**↓	48	48	↔
Is too soft on those accused of committing a crime	76	66	**↓	66	66	↔
Achieves the correct balance between the rights of offenders and victims	23	25		26	25	↔
Discriminates against particular groups or individuals	22	25	**↑	26	25	↔

Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2007/08; Northern Ireland Safe Community Surveys 2018/19-2019/20

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. Data for 2010/11 onwards are available in Table 5 in the Tabular Annex (Appendix 1); data for all years since 2007/08 are available in Table 5 in the accompanying Excel and ODS workbooks.

3. ‘***’ denotes statistically significant change (increase ↑; decrease ↓) or no change (↔) at the 5% level (p<0.05).

5

Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

5.2 Confidence in the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland

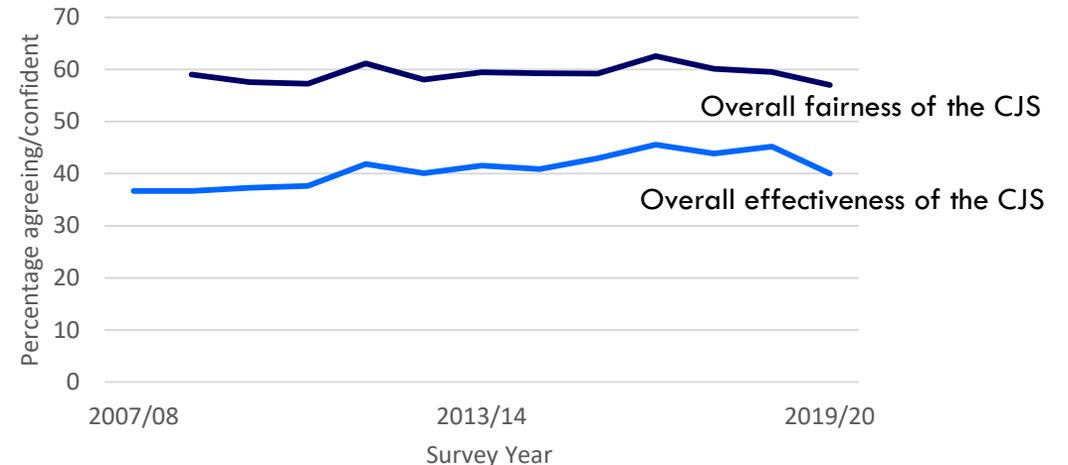
NISCS respondents were also asked for their views on the effectiveness of the organisations that make up the CJS in achieving particular outcomes, as well as how they feel about the overall effectiveness of the CJS as a whole. Respondents were asked the following seven 'funnel-type' questions, which ask how confident they are that the:

- a. police are effective at catching criminals;
- b. Public Prosecution Service (PPS) is effective at prosecuting people accused of crime;
- c. courts are effective at dealing with cases promptly;
- d. courts are effective at giving punishments which fit the crime;
- e. prisons are effective at punishing convicted offenders;
- f. prisons are effective at rehabilitating convicted offenders; and
- g. probation service is effective at preventing criminals from reoffending.

Table 6 in Appendix 1 contains the proportions of respondents who stated that they are 'very' or 'fairly' confident in the effectiveness of the CJS organisations in achieving the seven desired outcomes above as well as in the effectiveness of the CJS as a whole. The alternative response options were 'not very confident' and 'not at all confident'. Equivalent figures for England and Wales are available for the overall confidence in the effectiveness of the CJS as well as statements b to d above.

- Latest findings show two-fifths (40%) of respondents were confident that the CJS as a whole is effective, a statistically significant decrease from 45% in 2018/19. The proportion confident that the CJS is effective had on the whole been on the increase, rising by eight percentage points from 37% in 2007/08, when the question was first introduced, to the 45% observed in 2018/19.
- Continuing the pattern through previous sweeps of the survey, 2019/20 findings show that respondents were again more likely to think the CJS as a whole is fair (57%) than effective (40%). The improvement in the effectiveness rating between 2007/08 and 2018/19 had lessened the gap between the two over the last decade from 22 percentage points in 2008/09 to 14 percentage points in 2018/19. This most recent decrease in the overall effectiveness measure however has resulted in the difference widening again to almost 18 percentage points.

Figure 5.1: Confidence in the overall fairness and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System (%)¹ in Northern Ireland, 2007/08 to 2019/20



Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Surveys 2007/08- 2017/18; Northern Ireland Safe Community Surveys 2018/19-2019/20

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

- Over half (52%) of CSEW 2019/20 respondents expressed confidence in the overall effectiveness of the CJS compared with two-fifths (40%) of NISCS participants.

5 | Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

- When considering the specific questions relating to the effectiveness of the various CJS organisations, a statistically significant decrease occurred in all seven statements over the last year. The proportion confident ‘prisons are effective at punishing convicted offenders’ has shown one of the largest decreases this year, in percentage point terms, falling from 43% in 2018/19 to 37% in 2019/20. This decrease followed a statistically significant increase the previous year from 38% in 2017/18 to the 43% observed in 2018/19.
- Most of the seven indicators had, on the whole, been showing an improvement over the years until these latest decreases occurred. When 2019/20 findings are compared with 2007/08, results suggest that two still showed an overall increase from when the questions were first introduced. The proportions confident that ‘the police are effective at catching criminals’ and ‘the courts are effective at giving punishments which fit the crime’ have risen from 46% to 56% and 21% to 29% respectively.
- In each year from 2007/08 the courts have been perceived as being more effective at dealing with cases promptly than at giving punishments which fit the crime (38% and 29% respectively in 2019/20). Similarly, respondents have tended to consider prisons as being more effective at ‘punishing’ than ‘rehabilitating’ convicted offenders (37% and 25% respectively).

Confidence in the effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System (%) in Northern Ireland, 2007/08, 2018/19 and 2019/20^{1,2}

% saying very / fairly confident that	07/08	19/20	Change 07/08 to 19/20 ³	18/19	19/20	Change 18/19 to 19/20 ³
Overall effectiveness rating	37	40	↔	45	40	**↓
The police are effective at catching criminals	46	56	**↑	61	56	**↓
The Public Prosecution Service is effective at prosecuting people accused of crime	50	52	↔	57	52	**↓
The courts are effective at dealing with cases promptly	39	38	↔	42	38	**↓
The courts are effective at giving punishments which fit the crime	21	29	**↑	32	29	**↓
The prisons are effective at punishing convicted offenders	36	37	↔	43	37	**↓
The prisons are effective at rehabilitating convicted offenders	30	25	**↓	30	25	**↓
The probation service is effective at preventing criminals from reoffending	27	28	↔	31	28	**↓

Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2007/08; Northern Ireland Safe Community Surveys 2018/19-2019/20

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. Data for 2010/11 onwards are available in Table 5 in the Tabular Annex (Appendix 1); data for all years since 2007/08 are available in Table 5 in the accompanying Excel and ODS workbooks.

3. “**” denotes statistically significant change (increase, decrease) or no change (↔) at the 5% level (p<0.05).

5

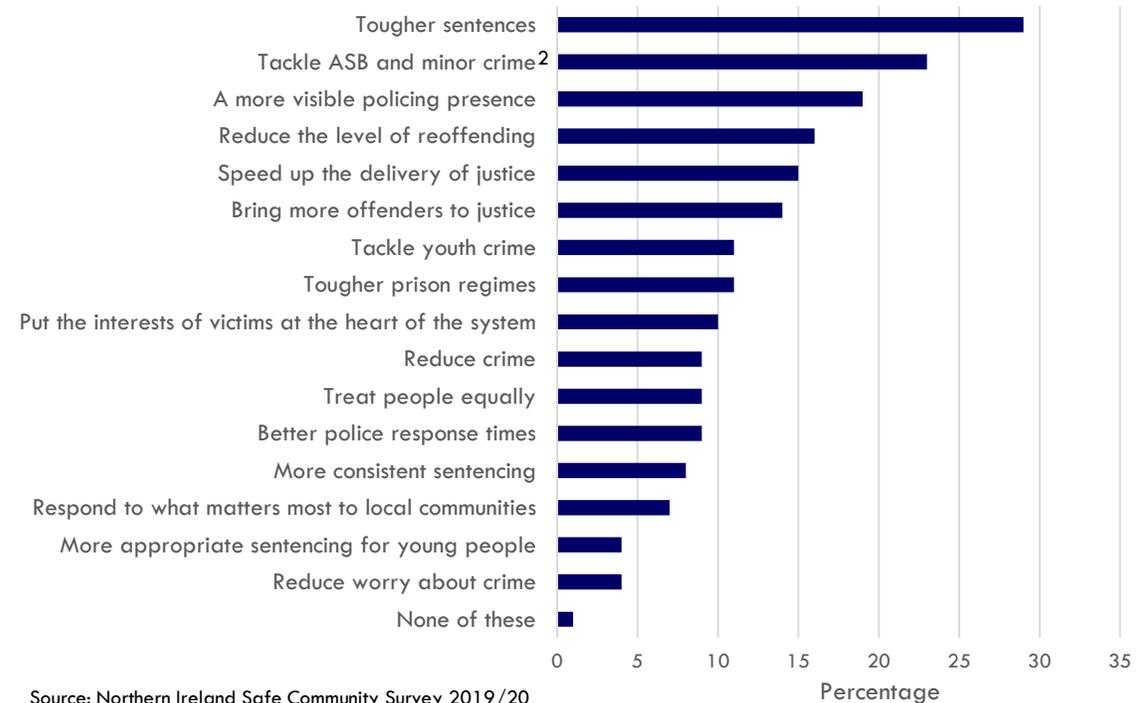
Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

5.3 Increasing confidence in the criminal justice system

The survey asked respondents what, in their opinion, would be the most and second most important things the CJS could do to improve its public confidence rating, figures for which are presented in Table 7, Appendix 1.

- As has been the case in previous sweeps, respondents in 2019/20 were most likely to cite ‘tougher sentences’ (29%) as one of the two most important things the CJS could do to improve its public confidence rating. Other prominent views included ‘tackle ASB and minor crime’ (23%) and (provide) ‘a more visible policing presence’ (19%).
- Respondents were less likely to say that an increase in their level of confidence in the CJS may be brought about if it were to: (introduce) ‘more appropriate sentencing for young people’ or ‘reduce worry about crime’ (both 4%).

Figure 5.2: Perceptions of how the Criminal Justice System could increase its confidence rating (%)¹ in Northern Ireland, 2019/20



Source: Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2019/20

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. ASB: Anti-social behaviour

Summary: Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

Latest findings show respondents continue to be more likely to say the CJS as a whole is fair (57%) than effective (40%). While the proportion confident that the CJS as a whole is fair remained on a par with last year (60%), the proportion confident the CJS is effective showed a statistically significant decrease, falling from 45% to 40%. In terms of the individual questions regarding the effectiveness of the various CJS organisations, all seven showed a statistically significant decrease in their confidence ratings between 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Appendix 1: Tabular Annex

Table 1: Confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements (%) in Northern Ireland¹

% saying	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Statistically significant change, 2018/19 to 2019/20? ²
Overall confidence rating³	78	81	80	80	81	81	82	81	81	80	
The police provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people of NI	81	85	85	86	85	86	86	86	84	84	
The police do a very or fairly good job in NI as a whole	68	73	72	74	75	74	77	74	72	70	
The police treat Catholics and Protestants equally in NI as a whole	80	83	81	78	82	81	83	83	83	81	**↓
The Policing Board is independent of the police	74	74	73	74	70	73	73	72	73	72	
The Policing Board helps the police do a good job	81	83	81	79	81	84	85	84	83	82	
The Police Ombudsman is independent of the police	86	85	85	86	86	86	86	85	86	87	
The Police Ombudsman helps the police do a good job	87	83	85	85	86	90	89	87	89	86	**↓
<i>Unweighted base⁴</i>	<i>4,047</i>	<i>4,041</i>	<i>4,021</i>	<i>3,575</i>	<i>2,062</i>	<i>1,960</i>	<i>1,860</i>	<i>1,568</i>	<i>3,401</i>	<i>3,695</i>	

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two-tailed test) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).

3. This measure is the weighted mean of the responses to the seven individual confidence strands in the table. Greater weighting is given to the three questions on the police.

4. Unweighted base refers to 'police provide an ordinary day-to-day service'. Bases for other police indicators will be similar but will be lower for Policing Board and Police Ombudsman indicators which are based on those who had heard of each organisation.

Table 2: Perceptions of how good a job the local police are doing (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales¹

% saying the local police are doing	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Statistically significant change, 2018/19 to 2019/20?²	CSEW 2019/20
An excellent or good job	43	47	49	51	51	52	53	51	53	49	**↓	55
A fair job	40	39	38	36	37	36	36	36	35	38		33
A poor or very poor job	17	14	13	13	12	13	11	13	11	13	**↑	12
<i>Unweighted base</i>	3,952	3,970	3,961	3,513	2,037	1,927	1,828	1,554	3,362	3,644		31,791

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two-tailed test) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).

Table 3: Confidence in the local police (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales¹

% saying strongly agree / tend to agree that the local police	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Statistically significant change, 2018/19 to 2019/20 ²	CSEW 2019/20
Overall confidence in the local police³	61	65	65	67	68	68	71	68	65	62	**↓	74
Can be relied on to be there when you need them	46	52	52	54	52	54	57	54	57	56		58
Would treat you with respect if you had contact with them	82	84	84	84	84	85	86	86	87	86		87
Treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are	64	67	66	65	67	68	68	66	68	66	**↓	67
Are dealing with the things that matter to this community	47	50	51	52	53	56	55	53	57	54		53
Help keep this area safe ^{4,5}	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	64		-
Have a visible presence in this area ^{4,5}	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	27		-
<i>Unweighted base⁶</i>	<i>4,045</i>	<i>4,024</i>	<i>4,027</i>	<i>3,578</i>	<i>2,061</i>	<i>1,969</i>	<i>1,863</i>	<i>1,576</i>	<i>3,410</i>	<i>3,695</i>		<i>33,363</i>

¹ Denotes variable was not included in survey.

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two-tailed test) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).

3. Based on respondents agreeing with the statement, 'Taking everything into account, I have confidence in the police in this area'.

4. These questions were added to the NISCS in 2018/19 replacing the two statements the local police 'can be relied on to deal with minor crimes' and 'understand the issues that matter to this community'. Figures for these two statements that were previously included in the survey can be found in Table 3 of the '[Perceptions of Policing and Justice: Findings from the 2017/18 Northern Ireland Crime Survey](#)' report.

5. These two statements were not included in CSEW.

6. Unweighted base refers to overall confidence in the local police. Other bases will be similar.

Table 4: Confidence in the local police and other agencies working in partnership on ASB and crime issues (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales^{1,2}

% saying strongly agree / tend to agree that the local police and other agencies	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Statistically significant change, 2018/19 to 2019/20 ³	CSEW 2019/20
Overall confidence in engagement⁴	38	40	40	41	41	40	41	40	36	34		-
Seek people's views about the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area ^{5,6}	38	38	39	40	39	38	39	38	33	31		-
Are dealing with the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area ⁶	38	41	42	42	43	42	43	43	39	37		52
<i>Unweighted base⁷</i>	<i>3,896</i>	<i>3,911</i>	<i>3,916</i>	<i>3,475</i>	<i>2,014</i>	<i>1,911</i>	<i>1,833</i>	<i>1,533</i>	<i>3,267</i>	<i>3,533</i>		<i>32,225</i>

-¹ Denotes data are not available.

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. The NISCS questions specifically refer to 'the police and other agencies, including PCSPs and district councils'. The CSEW question relates to 'the police and local councils', although 'other agencies' are referred to in an introductory paragraph.

3. Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two-tailed test) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).

4. This measure is the arithmetic mean of the responses to both strands in the table.

5. The question on 'seeking views' was not included in CSEW 2019/20.

6. ASB: Anti-social behaviour.

7. Unweighted base refers to 'seeking people's views'. Base for 'dealing with the ASB' will be similar.

Table 5: Confidence in the fairness of the criminal justice system (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales¹

% saying strongly agree / tend to agree that the criminal justice system	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Statistically significant change, 2018/19 to 2019/20 ²	CSEW 2019/20
Overall fairness rating³	57	61	58	59	59	59	63	60	60	57		60
Gives witnesses and victims the support they need	35	36	36	38	38	39	42	39	35	33		-
Treats those accused of crime as innocent until proven guilty	66	68	68	66	65	63	62	61	53	53		-
Takes into account the views of witnesses and victims	55	56	56	57	57	58	60	59	52	50		-
When sentencing takes into account the circumstances surrounding the crime	54	54	54	53	52	55	57	53	48	48		-
Is too soft on those accused of committing a crime ⁴	74	73	72	72	71	70	67	65	66	66		-
Achieves the correct balance between the rights of offenders and victims	26	25	25	25	26	27	29	26	26	25		-
Discriminates against particular groups or individuals ⁴	21	20	21	23	24	24	22	22	26	25		-
<i>Unweighted base⁵</i>	<i>3,967</i>	<i>3,981</i>	<i>3,962</i>	<i>3,525</i>	<i>2,039</i>	<i>1,937</i>	<i>1,842</i>	<i>1,554</i>	<i>3,338</i>	<i>3,633</i>		<i>16,502</i>

- denotes question was not included in the survey

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.
2. Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two-tailed test) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).
3. Based on respondents saying they are very / fairly confident that 'the criminal justice system as a whole is fair' (introduced in July 2008).
4. As these would be perceived as negative outcomes, a high rating would be undesirable.
5. Unweighted base refers to overall fairness rating.

Table 6: Confidence in the effectiveness of the criminal justice system (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales¹

% saying very / fairly confident	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Statistically significant change, 2018/19 to 2019/20 ²	CSEW 2019/20
Overall effectiveness rating³	38	42	40	42	41	43	46	44	45	40	**↓	52
The police are effective at catching criminals	56	61	59	62	62	61	65	63	61	56	**↓	-
The Public Prosecution Service is effective at prosecuting people accused of crime	49	51	50	53	51	54	56	58	57	52	**↓	63
The courts are effective at dealing with cases promptly	37	39	38	40	41	41	42	43	42	38	**↓	51
The courts are effective at giving punishments which fit the crime	25	27	27	28	27	29	31	32	32	29	**↓	40
The prisons are effective at punishing convicted offenders	35	36	35	36	36	35	40	38	43	37	**↓	-
The prisons are effective at rehabilitating convicted offenders	26	27	26	26	26	27	29	27	30	25	**↓	-
The probation service is effective at preventing criminals from reoffending	27	30	28	28	29	31	34	32	31	28	**↓	-
<i>Unweighted base⁴</i>	<i>3,981</i>	<i>3,974</i>	<i>3,966</i>	<i>3,509</i>	<i>2,043</i>	<i>1,947</i>	<i>1,852</i>	<i>1,549</i>	<i>3,340</i>	<i>3,570</i>		<i>16,656</i>

- denotes question was not included in the survey

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two-tailed test) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).

3. Based on respondents saying they are very / fairly confident that 'the criminal justice system as a whole is effective'.

4. Unweighted base refers to overall effectiveness rating. Other bases will be similar.

Table 7: The most important things the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland could do to improve its public confidence rating (%)^{1,2,3}

% saying	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Tougher sentences	34	32	34	35	33	30	32	32	30	29
Tackle ASB and minor crime ⁴	23	23	22	20	19	19	21	18	20	23
A more visible policing presence	18	17	16	15	14	16	18	17	16	19
Reduce the level of reoffending	11	12	13	14	13	13	14	14	15	16
Speed up the delivery of justice	11	11	12	11	11	10	12	13	14	15
Bring more offenders to justice	16	17	18	16	19	19	15	17	16	14
Tackle youth crime	12	11	11	11	11	12	11	12	11	11
Tougher prison regimes	13	13	12	14	13	13	11	10	9	11
Put the interests of victims at the heart of the system	12	11	12	11	13	12	13	11	12	10
Reduce crime	11	11	10	10	11	12	11	12	11	9
Treat people equally	6	6	6	8	9	9	9	10	9	9
Better police response times	9	9	8	8	8	9	8	8	9	9
More consistent sentencing	8	9	8	9	8	9	9	11	8	8
Respond to what matters most to local communities	7	8	8	10	9	8	9	9	9	7
More appropriate sentencing for young people	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	4
Reduce worry about crime	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	4
None of these	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
<i>Unweighted base⁵</i>	4,040	4,023	4,014	3,559	2,063	1,957	1,854	1,557	3,361	3,665

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. Measure combines responses regarding the most and second most important things the criminal justice system could do to improve its public confidence rating.

3. As results relate to two responses, the percentages add to more than 100%.

4. ASB: Anti-social behaviour.

5. Unweighted base refers to the most important thing the criminal justice system could do to improve its public confidence rating.

Appendix 2: Technical Annex

About the NISCS

Closely mirroring the format and core questions of the CSEW, the NISCS is an important source of information about community safety issues such as levels of, and public attitudes to, crime and anti-social behaviour. Its results play an important role in informing and monitoring government policies and targets. Within the [2016-21 Draft Programme for Government \(PfG\)](#) and the [Northern Ireland Civil Service Outcomes Delivery Plan](#), the Department of Justice lead on Indicator 1 related to reducing crime. Survey findings also informed the [Northern Ireland Policing Board's Strategic Outcomes for Policing in Northern Ireland 2016-2020](#) (NIPB, 2016) and [Annual Policing Plan 2019-20](#) (NIPB, 2019).

An alternative, but complementary, measure of crime to offences recorded by the police, the main aims of the NISCS are to:

- measure crime victimisation rates experienced by people living in private households regardless of whether or not these crimes were reported to, or recorded by, the police;
- monitor trends in the level of crime, independent of changes in reporting levels or police recording practices;
- measure people's perceptions of and reactions to crime (for example, the level and causes of crime, the extent to which they are concerned about crime and the effect of crime on their quality of life);
- measure public confidence in policing and the wider criminal justice system; and
- collect sensitive information, using self-completion modules, on people's experiences regarding crime-related issues, such as domestic violence.

Recorded crime figures cannot, by their nature, provide an impression of the extent of concern about crime (often described as 'fear of crime') among different sections of the community. Hence, it is necessary to complement the police figures with information drawn from the NISCS, which, for the crime types it covers, provides a more complete measure of the extent and impact of crime against private households and their adult occupants. Further information on recorded crime statistics can be found in the [Police Service of Northern Ireland \(PSNI\) User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics](#) (PSNI, 2018a).

While some of the core interviewer-administered modules for NISCS 2019/20 were (generally) based on CSEW 2019/20, some modification has been necessary to reflect local issues and the fact that the smaller NISCS sample size would not have generated robust results for follow-up questions asked of small sub-sections of the sample.

Frequency and sample size of the NICS/NISCS

Initially, the then NICS was conducted on an ad hoc basis, before becoming a biennial survey in 2001. At that time, the Community Attitudes Survey (CAS) was also being conducted on a continuous basis, facilitating annual reports on topics linked to crime, policing and the criminal justice system. Increasingly, however, the CSEW was becoming a key vehicle to track progress against Public Service Agreement (PSA) and other targets related to the criminal justice and health sectors in England and Wales. Hence, interest increased among officials and Ministers in what the NICS had to offer in terms of direct comparison, while, in light of the improved security situation, many of the issues originally covered by CAS were becoming less relevant.

Accordingly, it was decided that a more effective use of resources would be to discontinue CAS at the end of 2003 and to move fieldwork for the NICS to a continuous basis with effect from January 2005. This would facilitate the monitoring of annual trends and more regular direct comparison with England and Wales. It was also decided to increase the target achieved sample size for the NICS from 3,000 to 4,000. This would contribute to increased accuracy of headline results and generate more robust analyses for various socio-demographic characteristics. However, unavoidable budgetary pressures resulted in the need to reduce the target achieved sample size; a moderate decrease was first made in-year 2013/14, from 4,000 to 3,500, with a full sample reduction to 2,000 first being implemented in 2014/15. Following a review of the survey during 2017/18 (details of which can be found [in the Safe Community Survey section of the Department of Justice website](#)), the target sample size has been increased with effect from April 2018 onwards. It is anticipated that around 3,500 interviews will now be achieved annually.

Additional information, covering issues such as sampling design and methodology is available within the survey [User Guide](#) (DoJ, 2019a) and associated [Quality Report](#) (DoJ, 2019b).

Sampling and fieldwork

The initial NISCS 2019/20 sample consisted of 7,500 addresses, randomly selected from the NISRA Address Register (NAR). The NAR is developed within NISRA and is primarily based on the Land and Property Services (LPS) POINTER database. Visits to each address by an interviewer from the NISRA Central Survey Unit resulted in an eligible sample of 6,576 occupied addresses, from which attempts were made to interview one randomly selected adult respondent at each address.

Selecting only one person at each address means that individuals living in large households have a lower chance of being included in the sample than those living in small households. Accordingly, the data presented in this publication have been weighted by household size to prevent a bias towards small household sizes.

In January 2005, the then NICS began operating on a continuous basis. This bulletin refers primarily to fieldwork undertaken during the financial year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, which involved complete interviews with 3,710 people aged 16 years and over. This represents an eligible response rate of 56%.

Respondents were assured in advance of the interviews that any information they provided would be treated as entirely confidential and that the level of detail produced in publications or in any subsequent analyses would not allow for identification of individuals. The interviews typically lasted under an hour for non-victims, although those involving respondents who disclosed several crimes could last much longer.

Demographic breakdown

The following socio-demographic (personal, household and area) groups are now presented in the accompanying Microsoft Excel workbook and Open Data Source tables only. Associated confidence intervals are also presented. The first six relate to equality categories specified in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998:

1. religious belief;
2. age;
3. living arrangements;
4. sex (gender);
5. disability (or illness);
6. household type (child dependants);
7. self-perceived nationality;
8. housing tenure;
9. type of area (urban / rural);
10. policing district;
11. perceived level of anti-social behaviour in area;
12. experience of crime reported to the police; and
13. multiple deprivation measure rank (MDM 2017).

Rounding, error and statistical significance

Don't knows, refusals and non-valid responses have been excluded from the analyses. Percentages may not always sum to 100 or numbers may not sum to an overall total due to the effect of rounding to the nearest whole number, or because respondents could give more than one response. Figures presented in the tables and graphs within this bulletin have been rounded. Unrounded figures are available in the accompanying Microsoft Excel and Open Data Source versions of the Tabular Annex.

Due to a combination of both sampling and non-sampling error, any sample is unlikely to reflect precisely the characteristics of the population. Because NISCS estimates are subject to sampling error, differences between estimates from successive years of the survey or between population subgroups (presented in the accompanying Microsoft Excel workbook) may occur by chance.

For the purposes of this bulletin, where differences have emerged as being statistically significant, these have been reported at the 5% ($p < 0.05$) level of probability (two-tailed tests). This means that, for any observed result that is found to be statistically significant, one can be 95% confident that this has not happened by chance.

As a result of the sample reduction in recent years, the respective confidence limits of any percentages from the survey were wider than was the case previously and the margin of difference between findings required to achieve 'statistical significance' was widened accordingly. This means that absolute differences in percentages which would previously have been 'statistically significant' with the larger numbers then sampled (and the much narrower range of error for any findings) may not necessarily be found to be statistically significant with the reduced sample size. This should be borne in mind when considering the long-term trends presented in the tables.

The Department of Justice does not routinely publish NISCS estimates where the unweighted base is less than 100 cases, therefore findings for some socio-demographic sub-groups (included in the accompanying Microsoft Excel and ODS workbooks) may not be published.

Further information on the 2019/20 sweep of the NISCS is contained within the NISCS 2019/20 Technical Report (forthcoming, via the [Safe Community Survey](#) section of the Northern Ireland Department of Justice website).

Points to note about this publication

- Confidence in the local police (Section 3.1) - the two statements (the local police) 'help keep this area safe' and 'have a visible presence in this area' were included for the first time in 2018/19, replacing the two indicators (the local police) 'can be relied on to deal with minor crimes' and 'understand the issues that affect this community'.
- Confidence in Engagement (Section 4.1) – the questions related to confidence in engagement previously referred to 'police and other agencies, including district councils'. From 2018/19, PCSPs are also referred to in the questions. Respondents are now asked how much they agree or disagree that 'the police and other agencies, including PCSPs and district councils,' are seeking people's views about, and are dealing with, the crime issues that matter in their local area.

Sample profile for NISCS 2019/20

Group	Sub-Group	Unweighted Number	Unweighted %	Weighted %
Sex	Men	1,662	45	46
	Women	2,048	55	54
Age Group	16-24	211	6	9
	25-34	491	13	13
	35-44	597	16	16
	45-54	610	16	18
	55-64	681	18	18
	65-74	653	18	16
	75+	467	13	10
Religion	Catholic	1,523	41	42
	Protestant	1,636	44	44
Area Type	Rural	1,382	37	40
	Urban	2,328	63	60
Policing District	Antrim and Newtownabbey	281	8	8
	Ards and North Down	305	8	8
	Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	427	12	12
	Belfast	676	18	17
	Causeway Coast and Glens	296	8	8
	Derry and Strabane	329	9	9
	Fermanagh and Omagh	256	7	7
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	281	8	8
	Mid and East Antrim	261	7	7
	Mid Ulster	255	7	8
	Newry, Mourne and Down	343	9	9
Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank ¹	1 st quintile (most deprived)	727	20	18
	2 nd quintile	747	20	19
	3 rd quintile	751	20	21
	4 th quintile	749	20	21
	5 th quintile (least deprived)	736	20	20
Vehicle-owning households		3,019	81	86

1. Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2017 Multiple Deprivation Measure).

Appendix 3: National Statistics Status



National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

The designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in July 2020 following a [Compliance Check \(opens in a new window\)](#) by the [Office for Statistics Regulation \(opens in a new window\)](#). NISCS statistics last underwent a [full assessment \(opens in a new window\)](#) against the [Code of Practice \(opens in a new window\)](#) in 2012/13.

As part of the recent compliance check, we have made the following improvements:

- published a [Future Programme of Work \(opens in a new window\)](#) that details the list of developments that the department plan to scope in terms of feasibility of implementation.

Appendix 4: References

Campbell, P, Rice A and Ross, K. (2021) Experience of Crime: Findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey. DoJ Research and Statistical Bulletin. Belfast: DoJ
<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/experience-crime-findings-201920-northern-ireland-safe-community-survey> (opens in a new window)

Department of Justice (2019a) Northern Ireland Crime Survey User Guide
<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-crime-survey-user-guide> (opens in a new window)

Department of Justice (2019b) Northern Ireland Crime Survey Quality Report
<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-crime-survey-quality-report> (opens in a new window)

Department of Justice (2012) Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities A Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012-2017
<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doj/cs-strategy-20122017.pdf> (opens in a new window)

Northern Ireland Executive (2016) Programme for Government 2016-21 and Outcomes Delivery Plan
<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/programme-government> (opens in a new window)

Northern Ireland Policing Board (2019) Annual Policing Plan 2019-20
<https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/publication/annual-policing-plan-2019-20> (opens in a new window)

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<https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/sites/nipb/files/media-files/Strategic-outcomes-for-policing-2016-2020.pdf> (opens in a new window)

Office for National Statistics (ONS) (2020) Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2020
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020> (opens in a new window)

Police Service of Northern Ireland (2018a) User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland (Updated January 2018)
<https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/documents/crime-user-guide.pdf> (opens in a new window)

Ross, K. and Campbell, P. (2021) Perceptions of Crime: Findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey. DoJ Research and Statistical Bulletin. Belfast: DoJ
<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/perceptions-crime-findings-201920-northern-ireland-safe-community-survey> (opens in a new window)