



Public perceptions of the police and local partners – results from the BCS year ending September 2008

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INTRODUCTION

Since its inception the British Crime Survey (BCS) has sought to measure people's perceptions of the police. Questions have included respondents' ratings of their local police in terms of how good a job they do, as well as a wider range of perceptual measures which examine more specific aspects such as contact and behaviour (see Box 1). From October 2007 new questions were included in the BCS relating to perceptions of the police working with local agencies to tackle the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the local area. These were developed to reflect a greater emphasis on partnership working for use in the new 'Making Communities Safer' Public Service Agreement (PSA 23).

Aggregate figures for England and Wales relating to the first year of data collection (October 2007 to September 2008) were published in January 2009¹ and more recently a detailed breakdown at police force area level has been published². The police force level figures for the year to September 2008 form the baseline for new targets set by the Home Secretary for each police force to improve the level of public confidence. The figures published here incorporate preliminary analysis due to its relevance to the greater focus on improving levels of public confidence³. The analysis examines factors strongly associated with confidence in the police and local agencies using multivariate analysis. It also provides additional analysis by various socio-demographic factors. This analysis uses BCS interviews in the year to September 2008 as this is the first full year of data for the new question.

The figures published here also include additional tables showing socio-demographic breakdowns for existing attitudinal questions designed to measure specific aspects of police performance (see Table 1.2). This is based on the 2007/08 financial year dataset and complements the *Crime in England and Wales 2007/08* publication. These figures are not commented upon in the text.

¹ See Home Office Statistical Bulletin 1/09, Crime in England and Wales Quarterly update to September 2008

² See Statistical News Release, Public confidence in the Police and their local partners: results from the British Crime Survey year ending September 2008

³ Future analysis will be based on financial year datasets and made available in the annual crime statistics publication Crime in England and Wales.

Box 1 Confidence in the Police: Questions used in the British Crime Survey

Background

The British Crime Survey has measured respondents' ratings of their local police since its inception in 1982 by asking whether respondents agreed that their local police were doing a fairly or very good job.

Since then a number of additional questions have been devised in the BCS to specifically monitor performance of the police at force level and more recently the police working in partnership with local partners. Until March 2008, these were used as Statutory Performance Indicators or as diagnostic indicators in the Policing Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF). From April 2008 onwards these questions are included as performance indicators in the Assessment of Policing and Community Safety (APACS) framework (known as the Analysis of Policing and Community Safety framework from April 2009). For more information on the use of BCS data in performance monitoring see:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0708.pdf>

In order to improve the quality of the data, in 2003/04 the original question to measure respondents' perceptions of their local police was changed. This became the first BCS question to be used to measure confidence in the local police at a police force area level. This measure calculates the percentage of respondents answering 'good' or 'excellent' when asked 'Taking everything into account, how good a job do you think the police in this area are doing?'

In October 2004 an additional set of seven questions were added. These were designed to measure perceptions of various aspects of local police performance by calculating the percentage of respondents answering 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree' that:

- the police in this area can be relied on to be there when you need them;*
- the police in this area would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason;*
- the police in this area treat everyone fairly, regardless of who they are;*
- the police in this area can be relied on to deal with minor crimes;*
- the police in this area understand the issues that affect this community;*
- the police in this area are dealing with the things that matter to people in this community;*
- taking everything into account I have confidence in the police in this area.*

New questions - confidence in the local police and councils

Since October 2007 the BCS has included two further questions to measure public confidence in the police working with local agencies to understand and tackle the crime and anti-social behaviour issues of importance in their community. This measure is calculated by identifying the number of respondents who 'strongly agree' and 'tend to agree' with the following statements:

- the police and local council seek people's views about the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the area;*
- the police and local council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the area.*

The second of these questions is the basis of the new targets set by the Home Secretary for each police force to improve the level of public confidence and forms part of the measure of Priority Action 3 of PSA 23.

CONFIDENCE IN THE POLICE AND LOCAL COUNCILS

BCS interviews during the 12 months to September 2008 show that 46 per cent of adults agreed that the police and local councils were dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the local area. Forty-two per cent agreed that the police and local councils sought people's views about anti-social behaviour and crime issues (see Table 1).

Table 1 Confidence in the police and local councils

Percentages	Interviews in October 2007 to September 2008			
	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Unweighted base ¹
Police and local council dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the local area	46	29	25	42,772
Police and local council seek people's views about the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the local area	42	24	34	42,946

1. These questions were included in the BCS from October 2007. This is the first full year's worth of data.

2. Respondents can choose from the following responses: 'strongly agree', 'tend to agree', 'neither agree or disagree', 'tend to disagree' or 'strongly disagree'.

Table 1 also shows that respondents can state that they have no opinion as well as being able to disagree with these statements. For instance, whilst 25 per cent of respondents disagreed that the police and local council were dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the local area, a higher proportion had no opinion (29%). It is important to understand that variations in the proportion of respondents who have no opinion can impact on the proportion who agree and therefore the target measured by this question.

Perceptions of the police and local councils in dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime in the local area varied across socio-demographic and socio-economic groups (see Table 1.1). In general, older people, women, people on lower incomes and people who had not been a victim of crime in the last twelve months were more likely to agree that the police and local councils were dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the local area. For example:

- Women were more likely to agree than men (49% and 43% respectively). Both men and women aged 65 or over were more likely to agree than younger age groups. Whilst there is no clear trend for respondents who had no opinion, men of all ages were more likely to disagree with this question than women.
- People from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds were more likely to agree than those from White backgrounds (53% compared with 45%). Respondents who had been a victim of BCS crime in the last 12 months were less likely to agree that the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime in the local area than those who had not been a victim (40% and 48% respectively).
- People in routine and manual occupations (48%) were more likely to agree that the police and local councils were dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime in the local area than people in managerial and professional (43%), and intermediate occupations (44%). In part, this is due to people in managerial and professional (32%) and intermediate occupations (31%) being more likely to have no opinion than people in routine and manual occupations (27%).

- People living in Hard Pressed ACORN areas (48%) were more likely to agree that the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime in the local area than those living in Urban Prosperity (44%), Moderate Means (45%) and Comfortably Off areas (46%). However, people living in Hard Pressed ACORN areas (28%) were also more likely to disagree than those living in Urban Prosperity areas (23%) and Comfortably Off (25%). This is in part because people living in Hard Pressed ACORN areas were less likely to have no opinion than those living in all other ACORN areas.
- Similarly, social renters (49%) were more likely to agree than private renters (47%) and owner occupiers (45%). However, social renters (27%) were also more likely to disagree than private renters and owner occupiers (21% and 25% respectively). In part, this is because private renters and owner occupiers (32% and 30%) were more likely to have no opinion compared to social renters (24%).

A similar pattern with respect to socio-demographic indicators was found for people who agree with the statements that police and local councils seek people's views about anti-social behaviour and crime in the local area (data not shown).

Perceptual measures and confidence in the police and local councils

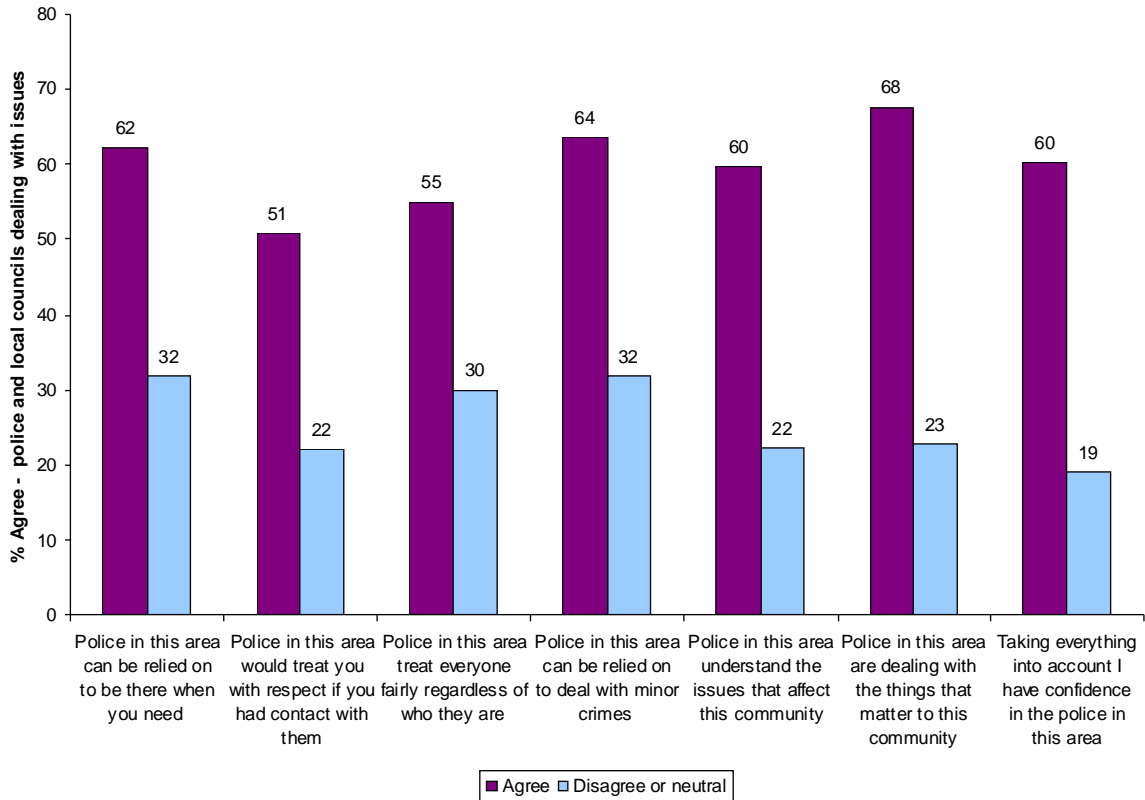
The BCS includes a set of seven attitudinal questions designed to measure specific aspects of police performance (see Box 1). Figure 1 shows that respondents who have positive perceptions of these specific aspects of policing are also more likely to agree that the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime compared to respondents with negative perceptions or no opinion. For instance, of those who agreed with the statement that the police in this area are dealing with things that matter to this community, 68 per cent agreed that the police and the local councils are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area⁴. This compares to 23 per cent of those who did not agree that the police in this area are dealing with things that matter to this community.

A similar relationship is also evident when comparing respondents' perceptions of how good a job their local police do and the proportion of respondents who agree that the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area. Of those who perceive the local police are doing a good or excellent job, 62 per cent agreed that the police and the local councils are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area. This compares to only 29 per cent of those who perceived the police were doing a fair or poor job (data not shown).

⁴ This question is sometimes referred to as the 'police alone' measure in correspondence discussing the new targets set by the Home Secretary for each police force to improve the level of public confidence.

Public perceptions of the police and local partners

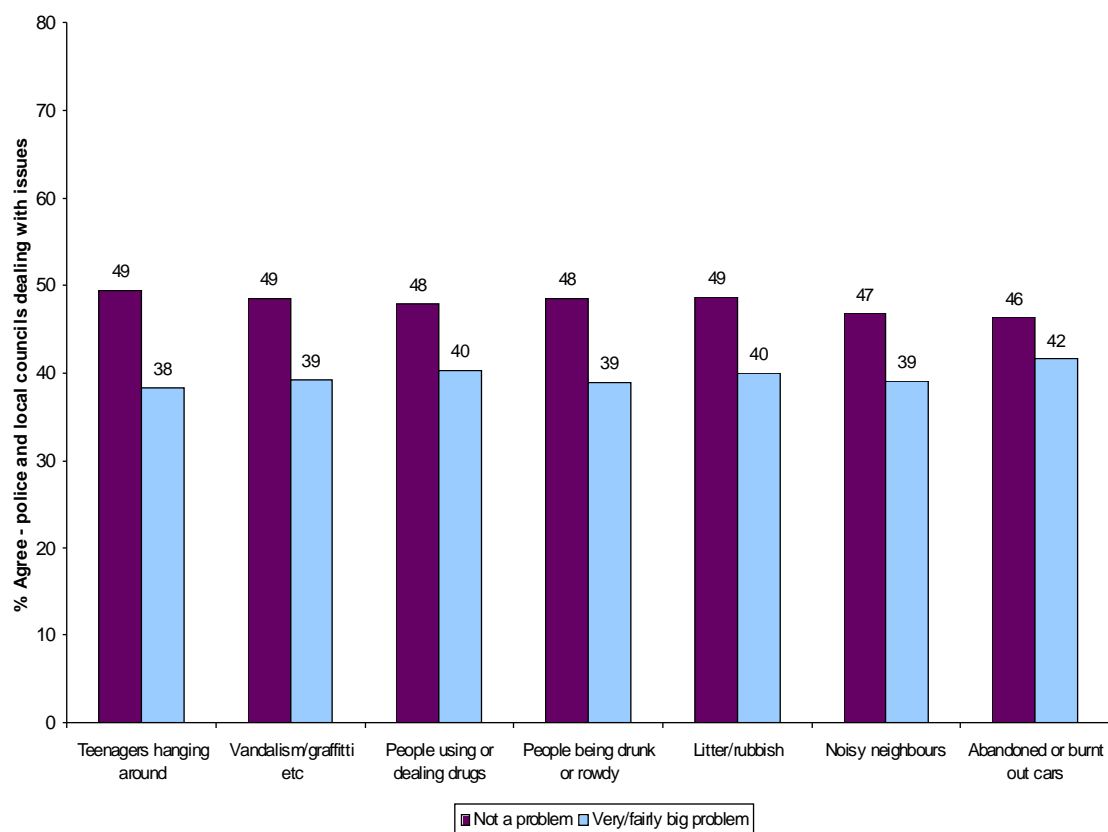
Figure 1 Confidence in police and local councils dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues by perceptions of aspects of policing, BCS interviews in the year to September 2008



However, the association between perceptions of anti-social behaviour and the proportion of respondents who agree that the police and local councils are dealing anti-social behaviour and crime that matter in their area is not as great as the association with the perceptions of aspects of policing measures (see Figure 2). For instance, of those who did not perceive teenagers hanging around to be a problem in their area, 49 per cent agreed that the police and local councils were dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime related issues in their area. This compares to 38 per cent of those who did perceive teenagers to be a problem in their area.

In terms of overall perceptions of anti-social behaviour, of those who did not have a high level of perceived anti-social behaviour, 48 per cent agreed that the police and local councils were dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour issues that matter in the area. This compares to 36 per cent of those who do have a high level of perceived anti-social behaviour (data not shown).

Figure 2 Confidence in police and local councils dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues by perceptions of anti-social behaviour, BCS interviews in the year to September 2008



Factors strongly associated with agreement that the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues in the area

The findings presented above show that a range of demographic and socio-economic characteristics are associated with agreement that the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues in the area such as not being a victim of crime in the last 12 months, being white, female and older. However, it is likely that many of these factors are interrelated, so multivariate analysis was used to identify which demographic and socio-economic characteristics are associated with respondents' agreement that the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the area, after controlling for the effect of other characteristics.

Multivariate analysis (logistic regression) was carried out on BCS data for the year ending September 2008 which included perception and contact with the police measures as well as socio-demographic characteristics as potential explanatory factors. After controlling for all other factors, the analysis found that the following factors are strongly associated with agreement that the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime:

- Perceiving that the local police can be relied on to deal with minor crimes
- Perceiving that the police deal with people fairly and/or with respect

Public perceptions of the police and local partners

These variables account for 17 per cent of the variance in agreement that the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime. A number of other factors were also identified as important and account for a further three per cent of the variance. Some of these factors are:

- Seeing a police officer or PCSO on foot patrol
- Age of respondent (35 and over)
- Not perceiving the crime rate in the local area to have increased a lot
- Not having a high level of perceived anti-social behaviour

Overall, this model accounts for 20 per cent of the variance in agreement that the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime (see Table 1.3 for other significant factors).

The model outlined above identifies respondents' perceptions of whether the police can be relied on to deal with minor crime and whether they would treat the respondent fairly and with respect as the factors most strongly independently associated with agreeing that the police and local councils were dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues in their area. It should be noted that these factors explain only a small proportion of the variance (17%) and that there are likely to be other factors that have a significant impact that are either not included in the analysis because they correlate with factors included in the analysis or have not been investigated in the BCS (e.g. specific local circumstances). For example, responses to questions about whether the police in this area can be relied on to be there when you need them, the police are dealing with things that matter to people in this community and overall confidence in the police in the area were correlated with the measure of whether the police can be relied on to deal with minor crimes which was included in the analysis.

Overall, analysis of BCS interviews in the year ending September 2008 has shown that perceptions of the police in general are consistently a much stronger predictor than other factors such as socio-demographic or area variables. This is also evident in previous analysis of questions focusing on respondents' perceptions of how good a job their local police do (see Myhill and Beak, 2008).

Table 1.1 Public confidence in the police and local councils in dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues in the area by demographic and socio-economic characteristics

Percentages	BCS - year ending September 2008									
	Police and local councils dealing with issues					Police and local councils dealing with issues				
	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Unweighted base	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Unweighted base		
Men	43	29	27	19,360						
16-24	45	29	26	1,664	46	28	25	12,132		
25-34	41	33	27	2,605	46	27	27	8,456		
35-44	39	31	30	3,692	46	31	23	3,693		
45-54	40	31	30	3,252	46	30	24	30,594		
55-64	43	27	30	3,318						
65-74	50	25	25	2,696						
75+	54	27	19	2,133						
Women	49	29	22	23,412						
16-24	46	29	25	1,917	45	30	25	30,089		
25-34	45	32	23	3,298	49	24	27	7,063		
35-44	48	29	23	4,367	47	32	21	5,484		
45-54	47	30	24	3,601						
55-64	48	29	23	3,928	46	29	25	3,974		
65-74	55	26	19	3,158	46	29	25	10,291		
75+	55	31	14	3,143	46	28	26	12,892		
					46	28	26	10,791		
					49	29	23	4,476		
					45	31	24	188		
Ethnic group										
White	45	30	25	39,940						
Non-White	53	28	19	2,820						
Marital status										
Married	46	29	25	20,285	46	33	21	11,928		
Cohabiting	42	32	27	3,642	44	33	23	3,015		
Single	46	29	25	8,574	46	29	25	12,960		
Separated	45	30	25	1,264	45	28	27	6,154		
Divorced	48	28	23	3,804	48	25	28	8,614		
Widowed	55	28	17	4,992						
Respondent's employment status										
In employment	43	31	26	23,846	46	29	25	31,836		
Unemployed	45	26	29	789	47	32	21	10,936		
Economically inactive	51	27	22	18,060						
Student	48	29	22	1,022						
Looking after family/home	51	28	22	2,467	46	24	31	2,162		
Long-term/temporarily sick/ill	43	24	32	1,947	46	30	24	36,396		
Retired	53	27	20	12,118						
Other/inactive	47	31	21	506						
Respondent's occupation										
Managerial and professional occupations	43	32	25	14,119	48	30	22	33,958		
Intermediate occupations	44	31	25	8,652	40	28	33	8,814		
Routine and manual occupations	48	27	25	16,721						
Never worked and long-term unemployed	51	27	22	1,272						
Full-time students	48	29	22	1,656						
Not classified	36	32	32	152	54	25	21	6,548		
Highest qualification										
Degree or diploma	44	32	24	13,228	50	27	24	7,735		
Apprenticeship or A/AS level	44	29	27	7,208	46	28	26	5,619		
O level/GCSE	45	29	26	8,673	42	31	27	4,547		
Other	49	29	22	1,707	45	29	26	3,390		
None	50	27	23	11,881	42	33	25	5,298		
ALL ADULTS	46	29	25	42,772						

1. Based upon the interviewer's assessment of the local area.

2. The question relating to newspaper readership (whether someone had read a newspaper 3 or more times per week) was changed from April 2008. This variable cannot be calculated until year ending March 2009.

Table 1.2 Attitudes to local police by demographic and socio-economic characteristics

Percentages	2007/08 BCS								
	Percentage saying they strongly agree or tend to agree	Police can be relied on when needed	Police would treat you with respect	Police would treat you fairly	Police can be relied on to deal with minor crimes	Police understand local concerns	Police deal with local concerns	Overall confidence in local police	Unweighted base ¹
Men		46	82	65	39	61	49	64	20,862
16-24		54	76	63	50	59	52	63	1,791
25-34		52	80	65	42	60	48	65	2,925
35-44		47	81	65	38	59	45	63	4,028
45-54		43	82	65	34	60	46	61	3,513
55-64		40	84	63	31	60	47	60	3,645
65-74		39	86	68	36	64	52	65	2,778
75+		49	89	73	45	67	59	73	2,182
Women		50	85	62	47	64	53	67	24,852
16-24		57	80	59	52	63	52	63	2,097
25-34		54	81	62	49	63	52	67	3,621
35-44		50	84	62	47	63	53	66	4,721
45-54		46	83	59	42	63	50	63	3,778
55-64		44	85	61	40	63	51	64	4,057
65-74		46	91	67	45	67	57	70	3,363
75+		57	93	72	53	68	63	78	3,215
Ethnic group									
White		47	84	63	42	62	50	65	42,714
Non-White		61	80	66	52	62	57	69	2,992
Marital status									
Married		46	85	65	40	63	51	65	21,813
Cohabiting		48	79	59	42	60	47	62	4,029
Single		52	80	61	47	60	51	64	9,371
Separated		53	84	66	47	66	56	67	1,360
Divorced		45	83	59	41	61	51	63	3,978
Widowed		54	91	70	51	67	61	75	5,148
Respondents' employment status									
In employment		48	82	62	41	61	48	64	25,787
Unemployed		49	73	58	44	58	50	58	772
Economically inactive		49	86	66	46	65	56	68	19,046
Student		58	80	64	56	64	57	69	1,055
Looking after family/home		54	83	64	50	64	55	66	2,710
Long-term/temporarily sick/ill		44	80	59	40	59	48	57	2,079
Retired		47	89	69	44	66	57	70	12,679
Other inactive		48	80	61	46	63	56	62	523
Respondent's occupation									
Managerial and professional occupations		48	84	61	37	63	48	67	15,238
Intermediate occupations		46	84	64	42	62	50	65	9,209
Routine and manual occupations		47	83	66	45	62	53	63	17,965
Never worked and long-term unemployed		58	82	67	50	61	57	67	1,345
Full-time students		59	80	63	56	64	55	68	1,775
Not classified		53	81	49	45	59	52	61	182
Highest qualification									
Degree or diploma		51	85	61	40	63	50	68	13,877
Apprenticeship or A/AS level		47	83	64	41	62	49	64	7,818
O level/GCSE		46	81	63	44	60	50	61	9,128
Other		50	85	68	45	65	54	67	1,954
None		48	84	67	47	63	55	66	12,814
Long-standing illness or disability									
Long-standing illness or disability		44	84	63	41	61	51	63	12,954
Limits activities		44	84	63	41	60	51	63	9,003
Does not limit activities		44	84	64	40	62	50	65	3,946
No long-standing illness or disability		50	83	64	44	63	51	66	32,690
Daily newspaper readership³									
National broadsheets		50	86	62	38	64	50	69	5,714
National tabloids		45	83	65	41	62	51	63	15,561
Other daily newspaper		51	83	66	47	65	54	67	5,304
Read more than one		38	81	56	38	57	43	56	232
Tenure									
Owners		47	84	64	40	63	50	65	32,251
Social rented sector		49	80	62	47	60	52	61	7,585
Private rented sector		56	82	63	50	63	54	68	5,698
Accommodation type									
Houses		47	83	63	42	62	51	65	37,969
Detached		47	86	65	40	65	51	68	11,433
Semi-detached		47	83	63	43	62	51	64	14,421
Terraced		49	82	62	44	61	50	63	12,115
Flats/maisonettes		54	82	64	47	63	54	68	5,063
Other accommodation		50	88	68	51	65	59	72	211
ACORN category									
Wealthy Achievers		48	86	65	41	64	51	68	12,457
Urban Prosperity		56	84	62	44	62	54	71	3,402
Comfortably Off		48	84	64	43	62	51	66	14,398
Moderate Means		48	81	64	43	62	50	61	6,262
Hard Pressed		47	80	62	44	61	50	60	9,095
Area type									
Urban		49	83	63	42	62	51	65	34,053
Rural		47	86	67	45	65	52	67	11,661
Level of physical disorder⁴									
High		45	77	60	42	57	48	56	2,424
Not high		48	84	64	43	63	51	66	40,611
Perceived level of ASB⁵									
High		36	75	56	34	53	40	46	6,569
Not high		51	85	65	45	64	53	69	37,307
ALL ADULTS		48	83	64	43	62	51	65	45,714

1. Unweighted base refers to police deal with local concerns. Other base sizes will be similar.
2. See the Glossary for definitions of household and area characteristics (in HOSB 07/08)
3. Based on respondents who had read a newspaper at least three times per week.
4. This is the overall measure of anti-social behaviour as described in the Glossary (in HOSB 07/08).
5. Based upon the interviewer's perception of the local area (see Glossary for definition of physical disorder in HOSB 07/08).

Table 1.3 Logistic regression model for agreement that the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues in this area

		BCS			
		Interviews in October 2007 to September 2008			
Characteristic		Significance	Odds ratio	Confidence interval	
				Lower	Upper
Police can be relied on to deal with minor crime	Agree	**	2.83	2.71	2.96
	<i>Neutral or disagree</i>		1.00		
Police treat you with fairness and respect	Agree (fairness or respect)	**	1.84	1.70	2.00
	Agree (fairness and respect)	**	3.37	3.13	3.63
	<i>Neither</i>		1.00		
How often seen a police officer or PCSO on foot patrol	More than once a day	**	2.97	2.54	3.48
	Once a week	**	1.82	1.61	2.04
	About once a month	**	1.66	1.46	1.90
	Less than once a month	**	1.32	1.17	1.49
	<i>Never</i>		1.00		
Age group	16-24	ns	1.09	0.99	1.19
	<i>25-34</i>		1.00		
	35-44	**	1.09	1.01	1.17
	45-54	**	1.18	1.09	1.27
	55-64	**	1.33	1.23	1.45
	65-74	**	1.56	1.42	1.72
Perception of crime rate in local area	<i>A lot more</i>		1.00		
	A little more	**	1.24	1.12	1.38
	About the same	**	1.31	1.19	1.44
	A little less	**	2.04	1.80	2.31
	A lot less	**	2.40	1.93	2.99
Level of perceived anti-social behaviour	<i>High</i>		1.00		
	Not high	**	1.37	1.29	1.46
Sex	<i>Male</i>		1.00		
	Female	**	1.19	1.14	1.24
Ethnic group	<i>White</i>		1.00		
	Non-White	**	1.30	1.21	1.41
Government Office Region	North East	**	1.36	1.20	1.55
	North West	**	1.45	1.30	1.62
	Yorkshire and the Humber	**	1.14	1.02	1.27
	East Midlands	**	1.16	1.03	1.30
	West Midlands	**	1.14	1.02	1.28
	East of England	**	1.30	1.16	1.45
	London	**	1.37	1.23	1.54
	South East	**	1.33	1.20	1.47
	South West	**	1.22	1.10	1.37
	Wales		1.00		
Household income	Less than £10,000	**	1.14	1.03	1.26
	£10,000 less than £20,000	ns	1.05	0.97	1.15
	£20,000 less than £30,000	ns	1.06	0.98	1.15
	£30,000 less than £40,000	ns	0.94	0.87	1.02
	£40,000 less than £50,000	ns	1.07	0.98	1.17
	<i>£50,000 or more</i>		1.00		
Experience of crime in last 12 months	<i>Victim</i>		1.00		
	Not a victim	**	1.17	1.11	1.23
Satisfaction with police handling of matter (public initiated)	Satisfied	**	2.07	1.64	2.60
	<i>Dissatisfied</i>		1.00		
ACORN category	Wealthy Achievers	**	1.16	1.06	1.27
	<i>Urban Prosperity</i>		1.00		
	Comfortably off	ns	1.06	0.97	1.15
	Moderate Means	ns	1.03	0.93	1.12
	Hard Pressed	**	1.15	1.05	1.26
Respondent's occupation	<i>Managerial and professional occupations</i>		1.00		
	Intermediate occupations	ns	0.98	0.92	1.04
	Routine and manual occupations	**	1.11	1.05	1.17
	Never worked and long-term unemployed	ns	1.03	0.90	1.17
	Full-time students	ns	1.07	0.96	1.19
Marital status	Married	ns	0.99	0.92	1.07
	<i>Cohabiting</i>		1.00		
	Single	ns	1.06	0.97	1.16
	Separated	**	0.83	0.71	0.98
	Divorced	ns	1.04	0.92	1.17
	Widowed	ns	0.93	0.82	1.05
Tenure	<i>Owner occupiers</i>		1.00		
	Social renters	**	1.08	1.01	1.17
	Private renters	ns	1.07	1.00	1.14
Unweighted base			42,301		
Nagelkerke R square³			0.20		

1. Forward stepwise logistic regression.

2. This model explains around 20% of the variation in agreeing that the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues in the local area based only on the factors included in the table. Additional variables which were included in the analysis but which were not shown in the model to be significantly associated with agreeing that the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues in the local area are: satisfaction with police initiated contact, level of physical disorder, highest qualification, area type, length of time in the area, and pub visits. Variables which were excluded from the analysis as highly correlated ($r > 0.40$) with other variables of interest are: accommodation type, respondent's employment status, long standing illness or disability, witnessed crime or anti-social behaviour, know any police officers/PCSOs, any contact with police or local police in last 12 months, satisfaction with local police, agreement that police deal with/understand issues that affect this community, police can be relied on when needed and overall confidence in local police.

3. Characteristics highlighted in bold are those that are considered strong predictors (contributing at least 1% improvement in the model and accounting for 17% of the variance). Categories in italics are those which were used as reference categories and are generally the group least likely to agree that the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime in the local area.

4. The BCS question relating to newspaper readership (whether someone had read a newspaper 3 or more times per week) was changed from April 2008. This variable cannot be calculated until the year ending March 2009 and therefore has not been included in this model.

5. Variables are listed in this table in the order of the importance of their contribution to the model.

*** Indicates that the difference is statistically significant at the five per cent level. 'ns' indicates that the difference is not statistically significant.

Appendix 1 Bibliography

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