

Meeting	SPA Policing Performance Committee
Date	9 December 2021
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	Scottish Government Consultation – Scottish Crime and Justice Survey
Presented By	Tom McMahon, Director of Strategy and Analysis
Recommendation to Members	For discussion
Appendix Attached	No

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to outline the themes and outputs of the consultation on the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS), and our initial response on behalf of Police Scotland.

Members are invited to discuss the contents of this paper.

1. BACKGROUND

The Scottish Government launched a consultation to inform the review and refresh of the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey prior to the being re-procured in 2023. [This consultation](#) is the first in a two-stage engagement process and the submission date for responses is 9 December 2021. On the basis of the consultation findings the Scottish Government will host a series of user workshops early 2022, which will involve Police Scotland's Strategy and Analysis Directorate. These user workshops will focus on key themes, concerns or issues arising from the consultation to seek further, detailed and specific insight to support the survey re-procurement.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC

- 2.1 The SCJS is currently contracted to Ipsos Mori and ScotCen and this comes to an end in 2023. The re-procurement process involves engagement with end users best placed to provide insight into the strengths and weaknesses of the survey. The re-procurement of the SCJS comes at a significant point in time. The COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health measures have resulted in substantial changes in all aspects of life, no less for the SCJS which is based on face-to-face in-home interviews and as such was suspended from March 2021. The challenges posed by COVID-19 may persist for some time and the re-procurement process will be undertaken with this in mind.
- 2.2 The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) is an annual social survey which asks 5,500 adults (aged 16yrs+) about their experiences and perceptions of crime in Scotland. The survey started in 2008/9 and has asked over ninety thousand people about their views and experiences of crime and justice in Scotland. The survey methodology is household, face to face and reaches people living in private households. During the pandemic the survey methodology changed from face to face to telephone interviews.
- 2.3 Over the years, the SCJS has revealed a 46% fall in crime between 2008/09 and 2019/20 and improvements in people's feelings of safety. It has identified varying levels of crime victimisation and feelings of safety amongst different population groups, as well as areas to consider for policing and the criminal justice system. SCJS is used by the Scottish Government to inform the design and

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effective delivery of policy as well as by academic stakeholders and justice organisations.

- 2.4 Police Scotland uses the SCJS data to benchmark and validate levels of public confidence and perceptions of policing with insights from our own national public surveys – Your Police (local police survey) and User Experience Surveys. While the SCJS provides a national overview, the Police Scotland surveys provide an operational and local policing focus. These data sets are complementary and used to support Strategy development, service design and performance.
- 2.5 Additional questions were included in the 2020/21 survey in consultation with Police Scotland. These included open-ended questions to understand the drivers of public confidence and experience of contacting police i.e. police visibility, ease of contact, community engagement, and demonstrating our values fairness, integrity, respect and human rights.
- 2.6 The key stages of re-procurement include:
1. **Literature review** – review of the criminology literature to locate the SCJS, its key concepts and ideas within the wider discourse on crime and victimisation (August - October 2021).
 2. **Review of International Crime Surveys** - review existing, international crime surveys to identify areas of best practice and lessons to be learned (September – November 2021).
 3. **Formal Consultation & Live Discussion Events** - a formal, written consultation hosted on Citizen Space designed to enable users to provide feedback on the SCJS and how it might be adapted (September-November 2021).
 4. **Further user engagement** - Live workshops to discuss the SCJS with users and gain further, specific feedback on general themes raised during the consultation (January 2022).
 5. **Tender** - approximately 6 weeks and will begin in March 2022.
 6. **Awarding of Contract** - this will likely take place in June 2022.
 7. **New Contractor begins fieldwork** - Having had time to prepare the survey, the contractor will be in the position to begin conducting fieldwork (Spring 2023).
 8. **Survey findings published** – Spring 2024.

2.7 The consultation seeks feedback on the following areas:

- The survey aims
- Function as a crime survey
- Sample and frequency
- New question topics
- Definition of SCJS Crime
- Comparisons with Crime Survey for England and Wales
- Potential for SCJS to facilitate further research

2.8 In preparing Police Scotland's response to the formal consultation phase, the following activities are being undertaken by the Strategy and Analysis directorate:

1. Gap analysis of the existing SCJS question set against Police Scotland performance data.
2. Alignment of the SCJS question themes with Police Scotland's strategic engagement themes, as agreed at SLB, June 2021. These themes are based on our strategic outcomes for policing and include policing in a digital world, supporting our communities, building trust and confidence in policing, and enabling a sustainable service. This exercise will help to identify key areas of focus around the future of policing on which we will continue to engage the public. For example, these might include public attitudes and expectations of Police Scotland in relation to the following:

Strategic outcome one: threats to public safety and wellbeing are resolved by a proactive and responsive police service.

- Reducing victimisation, particularly repeat victimisation in areas such as domestic abuse and gender based violence; and police-led opportunities for prevention and early intervention
- Online police presence and improving detection rates and investigative outcomes, particular with cybercrime or crimes that have a digital footprint
- Sustainability, contribution and system wide benefits of policing approaches to address demand

Strategic outcome two: the needs of local communities are addressed through effective service delivery.

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- Mental health and vulnerability – understanding the holistic public sector wide benefits of a range of partnership approaches
- Public and community needs – visibility of and communication with local policing
- Contribution of policing, safety and security to the wider economy and community wellbeing

Strategic outcome three: the public, communities and partners are engaged, involved and have confidence in policing.

- Understanding the impact of media, including social media on legitimacy and consent
- Perceptions and reassurance in relation to policing visibility in the public, private and virtual space
- Improving and better understanding victim and witness interactions with policing particularly in relation to violent or under reported crime types
- Public views on use of data for the purposes of protection, preventing and deterring crime

Strategic outcome four: Police Scotland is sustainable, adaptable and prepared for future challenges.

- Maximising the role of citizens in policing e.g. volunteering and new approaches
- Consideration and understanding of the role of ethics and explainability as policing in Scotland makes a range of technological advances, including AI
- Exploring the environmental impacts of policing

2.9 On the sample size and composition it is recommended that the SCJS reaches more adults who live in Scotland's most deprived areas covered in the Scottish Multiple Index of Multiple Deprivation. It is also recommended that the sample size is increased to represent local policing areas.

2.10 Police Scotland will contribute to upcoming live user engagement workshops to support the consultation and future development of the SCJS.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no finance implications.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The relevant business areas should be engaged in the next stage of the Scottish Government's consultation to support development of the survey and sample design.
To be completed at the next stage of the user engagement.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications.

6. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no reputational implications.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no social implications.

8. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 8.1 There are no community implications.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no Equalities Implications.

10. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no environmental implications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the content of this report.