



<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Policing Performance Committee</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>16 September 2025</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Video Conference</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>Scottish Crime &amp; Justice Survey</b>
<b>Presented By</b>	<b>Robert Cook, Senior Assistant Statistician, Scottish Government</b>  <b>Mark Bell, Statistician, Scottish Government</b>
<b>Recommendation to Members</b>	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Appendix Attached</b>	<b>No</b>

## PURPOSE

This paper provides the SPA Policing Performance Committee with an update on the latest findings from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, covering the 2023-24 financial year. This update focuses on the latest estimates of crimes experienced in Scotland as well as results from questions relating to confidence in policing and feelings of safety.

## **1 BACKGROUND TO THE SCOTTISH CRIME AND JUSTICE SURVEY**

- 1.1. The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) is a survey of adults aged 16 and above living in private residential households in Scotland, asking about their experiences and perceptions of crime and their views on the justice system.
- 1.2. Between 2008-09 and 2021-22, the headline crime measure of the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) was a product of two distinct groups being combined – property and violent crime. For the first time, headline SCJS crime now also includes fraud and computer misuse.

## **2 OVERVIEW OF VICTIMISATION IN SCOTLAND**

- 2.1. The 2023-24 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey shows around one-in-five adults (19.9%) were a victim of at least one crime covered by the headline survey. This includes property and violent crime, as well as for the first time, crimes of fraud and computer misuse.
- 2.2. When considering the previous headline measure of property and violent crimes combined, while the prevalence and volume of these crimes have increased since 2021-22, they remain at similar levels to the pre-pandemic position in 2019-20 and below that in 2008-09.

## **3 VIOLENT CRIME**

- 3.1. The latest results estimate that 2.9% of adults were victims of a violent crime in 2023-24. This is an increase on the position from the previous survey in 2021-22 (1.7%), but remains at a similar level to the pre-covid position in 2019-20.
- 3.2. Some key findings in relation to the increase in violent incidents include:
  - (1) the proportion of violence taking place in the workplace has increased from less than a quarter in 2008/09 to almost half in 2023-24.
  - (2) the proportion committed by perpetrators under 16 has increased from around one in ten in recent years to almost one in three in 2023-24.
  - (3) the proportion involving alcohol shows a long term decline (from 63% to 35% since 2008-09) while the proportion involving drugs has increased over the same period (from 29% to 45%). There is a large overlap between these – 31% of violent crime involved both alcohol and drugs.

## **4 PROPERTY CRIME AND FRAUD AND COMPUTER MISUSE**

- 4.1. In 2023-24, 10.3% of adults were victims of property crime. This is an increase on the position from the previous survey in 2021-22 (8.7%), but remains at a similar level to the pre-covid position.

- 5** These first figures show that around one-in-ten adults (9.5%) were the victim of a fraud or computer misuse crime, though most people who lost money were ultimately reimbursed.

## **6 PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL POLICING**

- 6.1. Less than half of adults in Scotland (45%) believed the police in their local area were doing an 'excellent' or 'good' job in 2023-24. This is a decrease from 61% in 2012-13 and 49% in 2021-22.
- 6.2. A majority of adults in Scotland were confident in the ability of the police across six of the seven effectiveness measures in 2023-24 (including solving crimes, responding to calls and supporting victims of crime). Fewer than half of adults (42%) were very or fairly confident in the police's ability to prevent crime.
- 6.3. When looking over the longer term, views on confidence in the ability of the police increased between 2008-09 and 2012-13 but have been falling steadily since 2014-15. Two measures (dealing with incidents and solving crimes) have returned to 2008-09 levels.

## **7 PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME AND SAFETY**

- 7.1. A quarter of adults (25%) in 2023-24 said that the crime rate in their local area has increased over the last two years. This has increased since 2021-22 (20%) but is similar to the pre-covid position in 2019-20.
- 7.2. Around half of adults (48%) believed that crime had increased in Scotland overall in the last two years.
- 7.3. The majority of adults in Scotland said they felt very or fairly safe walking alone in their local area after dark (75%) and when in their home alone at night (95%). Both these measures of feelings of safety have increased from their 2008-09 baseline position.
- 7.4. There continues to be variations in feelings of safety between demographic and geographic groups. For example, females and those living in the most deprived areas of Scotland were less likely to feel safe than males and those living in the rest of Scotland, respectively.

## **8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1. There are no financial implications in this report.

## **9 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1. There are no personnel implications in this report.

## **10 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1. There are no legal implications in this report.

## **11 REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1. There are no reputational implications in this report.

## **12 SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

12.1. There are no social implications in this report.

## **13 COMMUNITY IMPACT**

13.1. There are no community implications in this report.

## **14 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

14.1. There are no equality implications in this report.

## **15 ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS**

15.1. There are no environmental implications in this report.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are invited to note and discuss the latest findings.