

Business Crime Scoping Exercise

Methodological work to consider the scope and feasibility of a new survey to measure commercial victimisation

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Two national Surveys of Commercial Victimisation (CVS) have previously been carried out by the Home Office (1994 and 2002). The independent Smith review of crime statistics¹ called for regular surveys of commercial and industrial victimisation to supplement measures of victimisation of households and individuals provided by the British Crime Survey. A scoping exercise for a new survey of business crime was therefore commissioned. There were three main components to this work: a review of previous business crime surveys; a series of consultations with Home Office and external stakeholders to identify key survey requirements; and development of survey design options.

The key findings are as follows:

- Previous CVS surveys conducted by the Home Office and the Scottish Government (previously the Scottish Executive) are among the most rigorous of their kind to date. The existing CVS methodology should be retained to provide good

quality data at a reasonable cost and to enable comparisons with previous rounds of the CVS.

- Key stakeholders require up-to-date information on crime experienced by businesses, costs of crime and perceptions of the police response to crime.
- A telephone survey of business premises of all sizes should be conducted. A supplementary survey of head offices should also be considered. The survey questionnaire should be based largely on that used in the 2002 CVS, with modifications to reflect changes in crime patterns and policy priorities.

A new CVS will fill an important gap in data on the nature and extent of crime against businesses, as well as valuable feedback on how retailers view the service they get from the police. This will inform the formulation of sound policy to reduce these crimes.

¹ Smith, A. (2006) *Crime statistics: An independent review*. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/crime-statistics-independent-review-06.pdf>

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Keywords

Business crime
Commercial Victimisation Survey
Methodology
Sampling

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