

# Perceptions of Policing and Justice: Findings from the 2018/19 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey

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# 1

## Summary Findings

This bulletin presents findings from the 2018/19 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 2018/19 findings show that overall public confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements (based on a seven-strand composite measure) remained unchanged from 2017/18 (both 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 over half (53%) of respondents rated the police in their area as doing **an excellent or good job**, remaining on a par with the 2017/18 figure of 51%. The percentage of respondents rating their local police performance as excellent or good has generally shown an upward trend over the last decade or so with the 2018/19 figure of 53% representing an increase of 12 percentage points on the 2007/08 figure of 41%.
- When asked about **overall confidence in the local police**, almost-two thirds (65%) of respondents stated that, when taking everything into account, they had confidence in the police in their area, showing no statistically significant change from last year (68%, 2017/18).

### Confidence in Engagement

- With regards to **community engagement**, the proportion of respondents agreeing that the police and other agencies 'seek people's views about the anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime issues that matter' showed a statistically significant decrease between 2017/18 and 2018/19, from 38% to 33%. The proportion agreeing the police and other agencies are 'dealing with' such issues also fell, from 43% to 39%, over the same period.

### Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

- NISCS 2018/19 respondents were more likely to think the criminal justice system (CJS) as a whole is fair (60%) than effective (45%). These proportions remain on a par with the 2017/18 figures of 60% and 44% respectively. While confidence in the overall fairness of the CJS has remained relatively stable over the last decade or so, confidence in the effectiveness of the CJS, on the whole, has risen with the figure showing an overall increase from 37% in 2007/08.
- 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 (30%, 2018/19). Other popular responses included: 'tackle ASB and minor crime' (20%); 'bring more offenders to justice' and provide 'a more visible policing presence' (both 16%).

# 2

## Introduction

### 2.1 The focus of this publication

This bulletin draws on findings from the 2018/19 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 3,429 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 2018/19, 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 2018/19 NISCS and those of the 2018/19 [Crime Survey for England and Wales](#) (CSEW; ONS, 2019).

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 2007/08, when most questions covered in this bulletin were introduced. Commentary related to confidence in policing, however, may 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 2018/19 reports on [Experience of Crime](#) (Rice and Campbell, December 2019) and [Perceptions of Crime](#) (Banks and Campbell, February 2020) have been published separately. Further bulletins presenting 2018/19 findings covering, for example, Perceptions of Organised Crime (Rice and Campbell, forthcoming), will also be published.

# 3

## 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 SR 2004 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 2007/08 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.

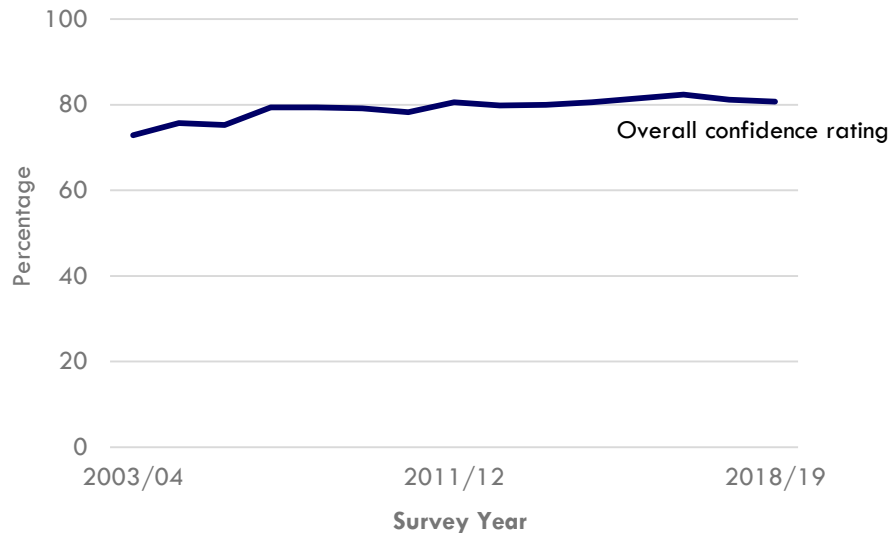
As a note of caution, this seven-strand composite measure should not be misinterpreted purely as personal 'confidence in the police' as its focus is much broader including not only the performance of the police per se but also accountability measures put in place following recommendations set out in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

# 3

## Confidence in Policing

- Latest findings for 2018/19 show overall confidence in policing (the seven-strand composite measure) was unchanged from the previous year (both 81%). The 2018/19 figure of 81%, however, is 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. There have been no significant year-on-year changes in recent years.

**Figure 3.1: Overall Confidence in Policing<sup>1</sup> (%) in Northern Ireland, 2003/04 to 2018/19**



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

1. 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.

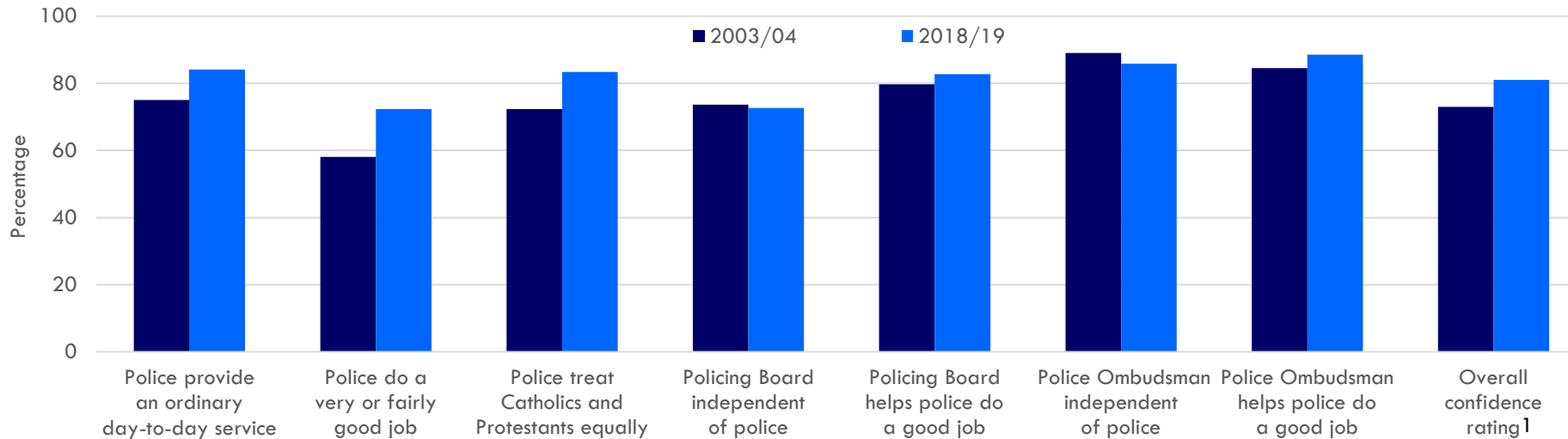
- None of the seven individual strands (a to g) that comprise the composite measure for overall confidence in policing showed a statistically significant change since last year.
- When considering the three indicators relating directly to the police, the apparent decreases in the proportions of respondents who were confident that *'the police provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people of Northern Ireland'* (from 86% to 84%) and who felt *'the police do a very or fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole'* (from 74% to 72%) were not statistically significant. At 83% in both years, the proportions believing the *'police treat Catholics and Protestants equally'* was also unchanged.
- Confidence ratings for all three police indicators have, on the whole, increased over the last fifteen years 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 14 percentage points from 58% in 2003/04 to 72% in 2018/19. While this latest figure of 72% is a decrease on 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 83%) also increased over this period. Again, much of the increase in these confidence levels occurred between 2003/04 and 2007/08, with rates remaining somewhat stable in recent years.

# 3

## Confidence in Policing

- As in most previous sweeps of the survey, 2018/19 respondents tended to be 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 (86%) and helped ensure the police do a good job (89%) were higher than the respective rates for the Policing Board (73% and 83% respectively).
- When comparing 2018/19 findings with those from 2003/04 when the data was first collected, the proportions of respondents believing that the Policing Board and Police Ombudsman help ensure the police do a good job have both shown an overall increase, the Policing Board rate rising slightly from 80% to 83% and that for the Police Ombudsman from 85% to 89%. With regards to independence of the police, the proportion who believe the Police Ombudsman is independent has fallen slightly from 89% to 86% while for the Policing Board there has been no change (74% and 73% 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 (%) in Northern Ireland, 2003/04 and 2018/19**



Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2003/04; Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19

1. 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

## Confidence in Policing

### 3.2 Ratings and perceptions of the local police

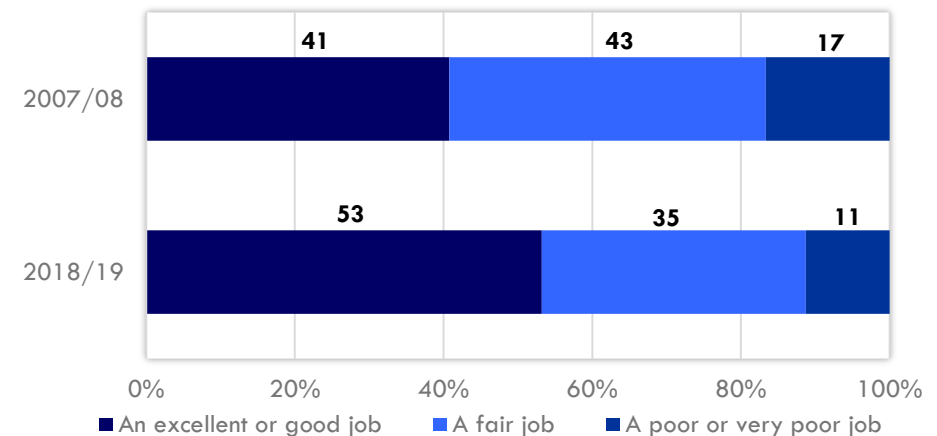
In addition to policing in Northern Ireland as a whole, the survey has measured perceptions of the local police since 2007/08, both in general terms as well as in specific aspects of their work.

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 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 over half (53%) of 2018/19 respondents rated their local police as doing an ‘excellent or good job’, 35% considered their local police to be doing a ‘fair’ job, while 11% rated their performance as ‘poor’ or ‘very poor’.
- While latest findings show there was no statistically significant change in the proportion who rated the police performance as excellent or good since last year, the proportion has generally shown an upward trend and an overall increase when compared with 2007/08, rising from 41% to 53%. Consequently, the proportions who felt the police do a fair or poor/very poor job have both fallen over the same period.

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



Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2007/08; Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19

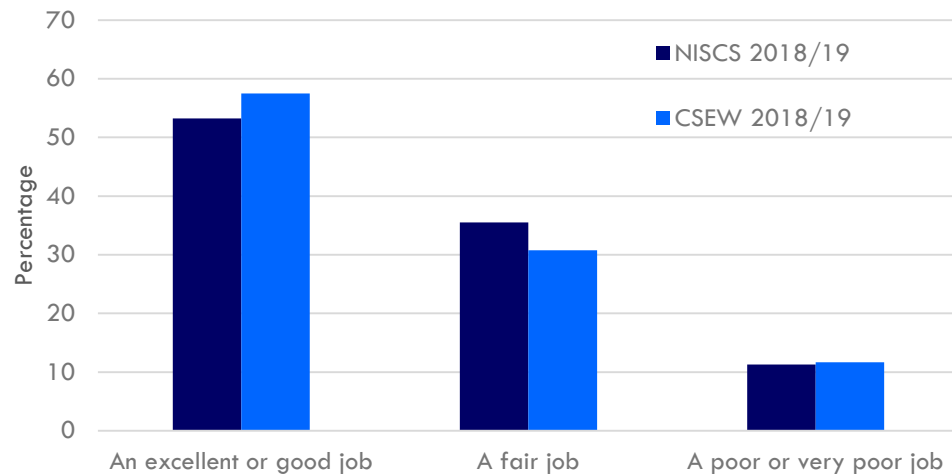


# 3

## Confidence in Policing

- At 58%, 2018/19 respondents in England and Wales were more likely than their Northern Ireland counterparts (53%) to rate their local police as doing an excellent or good job.
- While the proportion of respondents rating local police performance as excellent or good has been higher in England and Wales than in Northern Ireland in previous sweeps of the survey, the gap has narrowed in 2018/19 compared with previous years, for example, 62% and 51% respectively in 2017/18.

**Figure 3.4: Ratings of local police performance (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales, 2018/19**



Sources: Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19; Crime Survey for England and Wales 2018/19

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.

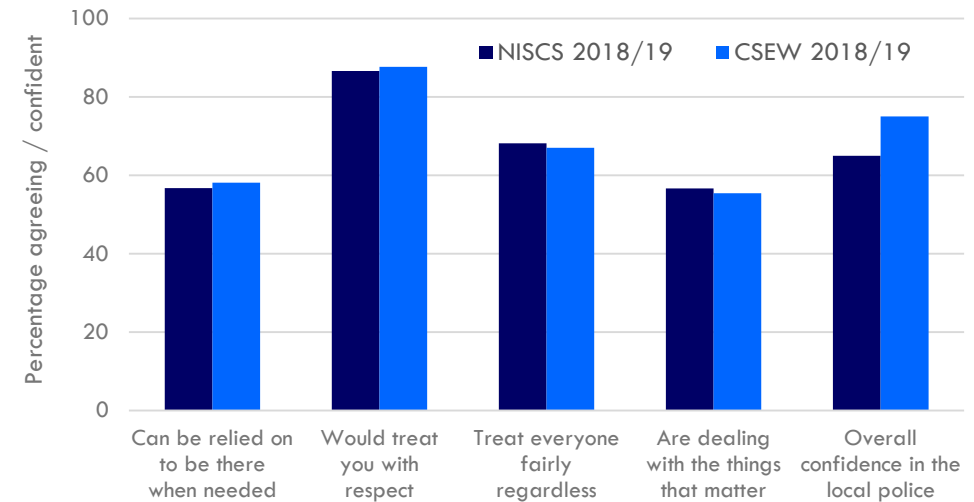
The alternative response options were: ‘neither agree nor disagree’, ‘tend to disagree’ and ‘strongly disagree’. Although this presented a neutral option, the emphasis here on specific aspects of local police activity may have contributed to some confidence ratings being lower than those indicators comprising 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 between the latest findings and previous years will not include these new statements. Comparable CSEW figures are included in the table, where available.

### 3 Confidence in Policing

- Almost two-thirds (65%) of NISCS 2018/19 respondents expressed overall confidence in their local police, showing no statistically significant change from the previous year (68%). The proportion had been generally increasing from 60% in 2007/08 to 71% in 2016/17, mainly due to a combination of non-significant increases in some years. While the latest figure of 65% represents a decrease since 2016/17, it is higher than the 60% observed in 2007/08.
- In terms of the four specific statements for which previous years' data are available, the 2018/19 proportions agreeing 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', 'treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are' and 'are dealing with the things that matter to this community' were unchanged from the previous year.
- On the whole, the proportions agreeing with these statements have shown an improvement over the last decade or so. The largest increases (in percentage point terms), have occurred in the proportions who agreed that the local police 'are dealing with the things that matter to this community' (from 42% in 2007/08 to 57% in 2018/19) and 'can be relied on to be there when you need them' (45% to 57%).
- For the two new statements first collected in 2018/19, two-thirds (67%) of respondents felt the police 'help keep this area safe'. At 28%, respondents were much less likely to agree the local police 'have a visible presence in this area'.
- A larger proportion of CSEW 2018/19 respondents (75%) than NISCS participants (65%) expressed overall confidence in their local police. In terms of the four individual statements, results were more closely aligned. 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' (87% in Northern Ireland and 88% in England and Wales).

**Figure 3.5: Confidence in the local police (%) in Northern Ireland and England and Wales, 2018/19**



Sources: Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19; Crime Survey for England and Wales 2018/19  
 1. Includes statements for which comparable data are available only.

#### Summary: Confidence in Policing

Latest findings suggest that the level of public confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements (seven-strand composite measure) was unchanged from the previous year (both 81%), though it has shown an overall increase from 73% in 2003/04. A similar picture can be seen in terms of the local police. While there have been no changes since last year, confidence in the local police has, on the whole, increased from 2007/08 both in terms of overall confidence as well as in specific aspects of their work.

# 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:

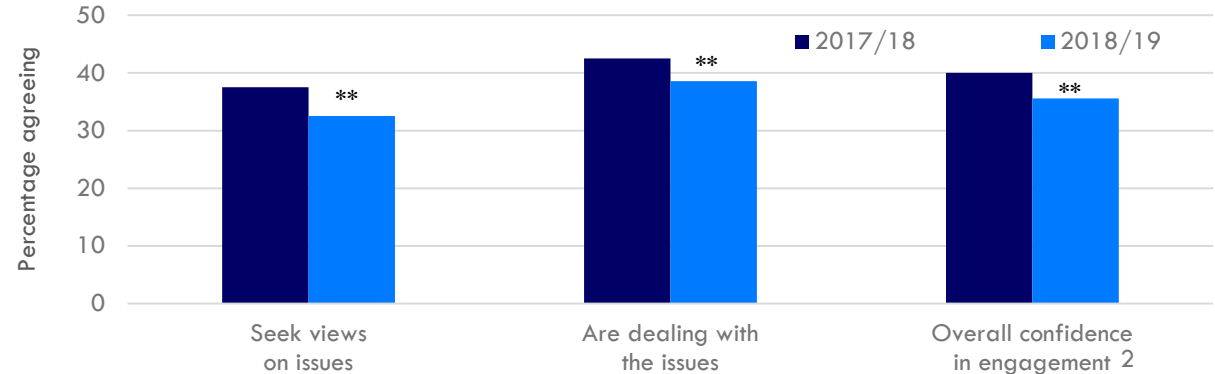
- a. seek people’s views about the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area; and
- b. are dealing with the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area.

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 2018/19 did not include the ‘seeking views’ question; 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.

- Findings from 2018/19 indicate that statistically significant decreases have occurred for both engagement strands when compared with 2017/18. The proportion who believed that the local police and other agencies ‘seek people’s views about the ASB and crime issues that matter’ fell from 38% to 33%, while the proportion agreeing they are ‘dealing with’ such issues decreased from 43% to 39%. Consequently, overall confidence in engagement (based on the composite measure) also fell from 40% to 36% over this period.

**Figure 4.1: Confidence in engagement (%) in Northern Ireland, 2017/18 and 2018/19**



Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2017/18; Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19

1. ‘\*\*’ denotes statistically significant change at the 5% level (p<0.05) between 2017/18 and 2018/19.
2. This measure is the arithmetic mean of the responses to both strands in the table.

- The proportion agreeing that views are sought has shown the most change over the years, reducing by 13 percentage points overall between 2007/08 and 2018/19 (from 46% to 33%). Much of this decrease occurred in the earlier years, falling from 46% in 2007/08 to 38% in 2010/11. The proportion then remained relatively stable in subsequent years until this latest decrease to 33% in 2018/19.
- Results suggest that, at 39%, respondents in Northern Ireland were less likely than those in England and Wales (55%) 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 2018/19 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'. Previous reports included equivalent figures for England and Wales, however, these questions were not included in the 2018/19 Crime Survey for England and Wales.

- Three-fifths (60%) of 2018/19 participants thought the CJS as a whole is fair, unchanged from the previous year (60%). The overall fairness rating in Northern Ireland has remained relatively stable over the last decade or so.
- In terms of the individual statements related to the fairness of the criminal justice system (a to g above), latest findings indicate a statistically significant change has occurred in five of the seven measures since the previous year.

# 5 Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

- Between 2017/18 and 2018/19, statistically significant decreases were observed in the proportions who agreed that the criminal justice system:
  - 'gives witnesses and victims the support they need' (from 39% to 35%);
  - 'treats those accused of crime as innocent until proven guilty' (61% to 53%);
  - 'takes into account the views of witnesses and victims' (59% to 52%); and
  - 'when sentencing takes into account the circumstances surrounding the crime' (53% to 48%).
- In contrast, the proportion agreeing that the criminal justice system 'discriminates against particular groups or individuals' rose from 22% to 26%.

- There have been few changes from year to year and no consistent pattern in the findings for the seven individual effectiveness statements. However, when latest results are compared directly with those from 2007/08, six of the seven have shown a change overall (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'. 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. 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 this latest decrease, from 61% to 53%.

**Confidence in the overall fairness of the Criminal Justice System (%) in Northern Ireland, 2007/08, 2017/18 and 2018/19<sup>1</sup>**

% saying strongly agree / tend to agree that the criminal justice system	07/08	18/19	Change 07/08 to 18/19 <sup>2</sup>	17/18	18/19	Change 17/18 to 18/19 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Overall fairness rating</b>	-	60		60	60	
Gives witnesses and victims the support they need	37	35	↔	39	35	** ↓
Treats those accused of crime as innocent until proven guilty	70	53	** ↓	61	53	** ↓
Takes into account the views of witnesses and victims	55	52	** ↓	59	52	** ↓
When sentencing takes into account the circumstances surrounding the crime	52	48	** ↓	53	48	** ↓
Is too soft on those accused of committing a crime	76	66	** ↓	65	66	
Achieves the correct balance between the rights of offenders and victims	23	26	** ↑	26	26	
Discriminates against particular groups or individuals	22	26	** ↑	22	26	** ↑

Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Surveys 2007/08 and 2017/18; Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19

1. Data for all years since 2007/08 and accompanying footnotes are available in Table 5 in the Tabular Annex (Appendix 1).

2. \*\*\* 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

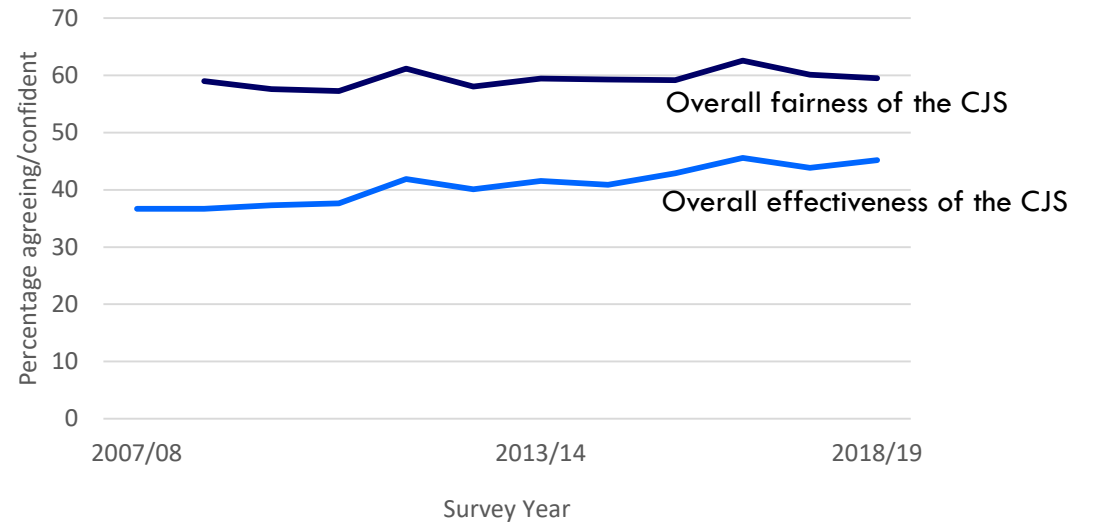
NISCS respondents were also asked for their views on the effectiveness of the organisations that make up the CJS in achieving particular outcomes, as well as how they feel about the overall effectiveness of the CJS as a whole. Respondents were asked the following seven ‘funnel-type’ questions, which 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 were included in previous reports however these questions were not included in the 2018/19 CSEW.

- At 45%, latest findings show the proportion of respondents who were confident that the CJS as a whole is effective remained on a par with the previous year (44%). However, results indicate that, while there have been no significant year-on-year changes in recent years, the latest figure of 45% represents an increase of eight percentage points on the 2007/08 figure of 37%, the first year the questions were asked. As in previous sweeps of the survey, findings show that respondents were again more likely to think the CJS as a whole is fair (60%) than effective (45%), though the effectiveness rating has shown an improvement and the gap between the two has lessened over the last decade.

**Figure 5.1: Confidence in the overall fairness and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System (%) in Northern Ireland, 2007/08 to 2018/19**



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

# 5

## Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

- When considering the seven specific questions relating to the effectiveness of the various CJS organisations, a statistically significant change occurred for one of the statements over the last year. The proportion who agreed ‘prisons are effective at punishing convicted offenders’ rose from 38% to 43% between 2017/18 and 2018/19. As shown in the table below, all but one of seven specific measures have shown an overall improvement in the proportion confident compared with 2007/08, when the questions were first included. The proportion of respondents who were confident that the police are effective at catching criminals saw the largest increase (in percentage point terms) over this period, from 46% to 61%.
- 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 (42% and 32% respectively in 2018/19). Similarly, respondents have tended to consider prisons as being more effective at ‘punishing’ than ‘rehabilitating’ convicted offenders (43% and 30% respectively in 2018/19).

**Confidence in the effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System (%) in Northern Ireland, 2007/08, 2017/18 and 2018/19<sup>1</sup>**

% saying very / fairly confident that	07/08	18/19	Change 07/08 to 18/19 <sup>2</sup>	17/18	18/19	Change 17/18 to 18/19 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Overall effectiveness rating</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>45</b>	** ↑	<b>44</b>	<b>45</b>	↔
The police are effective at catching criminals	46	61	** ↑	63	61	↔
The Public Prosecution Service is effective at prosecuting people accused of crime	50	57	** ↑	58	57	↔
The courts are effective at dealing with cases promptly	39	42	** ↑	43	42	↔
The courts are effective at giving punishments which fit the crime	21	32	** ↑	32	32	↔
The prisons are effective at punishing convicted offenders	36	43	** ↑	38	43	** ↑
The prisons are effective at rehabilitating convicted offenders	30	30	↔	27	30	↔
The probation service is effective at preventing criminals from reoffending	27	31	** ↑	32	31	↔

Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Surveys 2007/08 and 2017/18; Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19

1. Data for all years since 2007/08 and accompanying footnotes are available in Table 6 in the Tabular Annex (Appendix 1).

2. ‘\*\*’ denotes statistically significant change (increase, decrease) or no change (↔) at the 5% level (p<0.05).

# 5

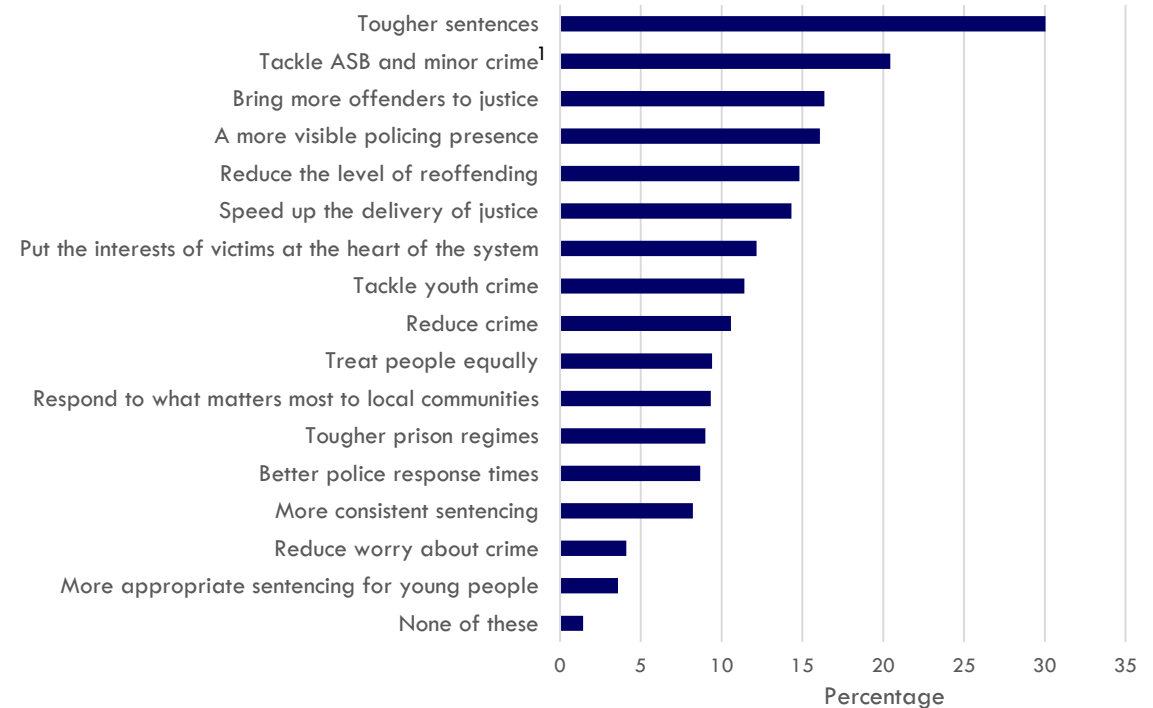
## Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

### 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 2018/19 were most likely to cite ‘tougher sentences’ (30%) 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’ (20%), ‘bring more offenders to justice’ and ‘a more visible policing presence’ (both 16%).
- 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 (%) in Northern Ireland, 2018/19**



Source: Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19

1. ASB: Anti-social behaviour

### Summary: Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

Latest findings show respondents continue to be more likely to say the CJS is fair (60%) than effective (45%). While both measures remained on a par with last year (60% and 44% respectively), the proportion confident that the CJS is effective has increased overall since 2007/08, from 37% to 45%. The proportion agreeing that the CJS as a whole is fair has remained relatively stable over the last decade or so.



## Appendix 1: Tabular Annex

**Table 1: Confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements (%) in Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>**

% saying	NICS / NISCS												Statistically significant change, 2017/18 to 2018/19? <sup>2</sup>
	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	
<b>Overall confidence rating<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>79</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>81</b>	
The police provide an ordinary day-to-day service for all the people of NI	83	82	82	81	85	85	86	85	86	86	86	84	
The police do a very or fairly good job in NI as a whole	66	68	67	68	73	72	74	75	74	77	74	72	
The police treat Catholics and Protestants equally in NI as a whole	82	82	82	80	83	81	78	82	81	83	83	83	
The Policing Board is independent of the police	77	78	76	74	74	73	74	70	73	73	72	73	
The Policing Board helps the police do a good job	82	80	82	81	83	81	79	81	84	85	84	83	
The Police Ombudsman is independent of the police	90	89	88	86	85	85	86	86	86	86	85	86	
The Police Ombudsman helps the police do a good job	87	87	88	87	83	85	85	86	90	89	87	89	
<i>Unweighted base<sup>4</sup></i>	3,903	3,831	4,058	4,047	4,041	4,021	3,575	2,062	1,960	1,860	1,568	3,401	

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 Wales<sup>1</sup>**

% saying the local police are doing	NICS / NISCS												Statistically significant change, 2017/18 to 2018/19? <sup>2</sup>	CSEW 2018/19
	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19		
An excellent or good job	41	42	40	43	47	49	51	51	52	53	51	53		58
A fair job	43	41	42	40	39	38	36	37	36	36	36	35		31
A poor or very poor job	17	17	18	17	14	13	13	12	13	11	13	11		12
<i>Unweighted base</i>	3,833	3,756	3,985	3,952	3,970	3,961	3,513	2,037	1,927	1,828	1,554	3,362		32,154

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 Wales<sup>1</sup>**

% saying strongly agree / tend to agree that the local police	NICS / NISCS												Statistically significant change, 2017/18 to 2018/19? <sup>2</sup>	CSEW 2018/19
	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19		
<b>Overall confidence in the local police<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>65</b>		<b>75</b>
Can be relied on to be there when you need them	45	46	44	46	52	52	54	52	54	57	54	57		58
Would treat you with respect if you had contact with them	81	83	82	82	84	84	84	84	85	86	86	87		88
Treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are	64	66	64	64	67	66	65	67	68	68	66	68		67
Are dealing with the things that matter to this community	42	46	45	47	50	51	52	53	56	55	53	57		55
Help keep this area safe <sup>4,5</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67		-
Have a visible presence in this area <sup>4,5</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28		-
<i>Unweighted base<sup>6</sup></i>	<i>3,885</i>	<i>3,821</i>	<i>4,066</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>33,704</i>

<sup>1</sup> 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 2018/19.

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<sup>1,2</sup>**

% saying strongly agree / tend to agree that the local police and other agencies	NICS / NISCS												Statistically significant change, 2017/18 to 2018/19? <sup>4</sup>	CSEW 2018/19
	07/08 <sup>3</sup>	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19		
Overall confidence in engagement <sup>5</sup>	42	41	40	38	40	40	41	41	40	41	40	36	** ↓	-
Seek people's views about the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area <sup>6,7</sup>	46	44	42	38	38	39	40	39	38	39	38	33	** ↓	-
Are dealing with the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area <sup>6</sup>	39	38	37	38	41	42	42	43	42	43	43	39	** ↓	55
Unweighted base <sup>8</sup>	1,953	3,661	3,903	3,896	3,911	3,916	3,475	2,014	1,911	1,833	1,533	3,267		32,566

<sup>1</sup> 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. Estimates for 2007/08 are based on six months of data, October 2007 to March 2008, as the questions were introduced during the 2007/08 survey year.

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

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

6. The question on 'seeking views' was not included in CSEW 2018/19.

7. ASB: Anti-social behaviour.

8. 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<sup>1</sup>**

% saying strongly agree / tend to agree that the criminal justice system	NICS / NISCS												Statistically significant change, 2017/18 to 2018/19? <sup>3</sup>
	07/08 <sup>2</sup>	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	
<b>Overall fairness rating<sup>4</sup></b>	-	<b>59</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	
Gives witnesses and victims the support they need	37	37	34	35	36	36	38	38	39	42	39	35	** ↓
Treats those accused of crime as innocent until proven guilty	70	73	68	66	68	68	66	65	63	62	61	53	** ↓
Takes into account the views of witnesses and victims	55	56	54	55	56	56	57	57	58	60	59	52	** ↓
When sentencing takes into account the circumstances surrounding the crime	52	54	51	54	54	54	53	52	55	57	53	48	** ↓
Is too soft on those accused of committing a crime <sup>5</sup>	76	77	75	74	73	72	72	71	70	67	65	66	
Achieves the correct balance between the rights of offenders and victims	23	24	25	26	25	25	25	26	27	29	26	26	
Discriminates against particular groups or individuals <sup>5</sup>	22	20	22	21	20	21	23	24	24	22	22	26	** ↑
<i>Unweighted base<sup>6</sup></i>	<i>2,032<sup>7</sup></i>	<i>2,858</i>	<i>3,979</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>	

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. Estimates for 2007/08 are based on six months of data, October 2007 to March 2008, as the questions were introduced during the 2007/08 survey year.

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

4. Based on respondents saying they are very / fairly confident that 'the criminal justice system as a whole is fair' (introduced in July 2008).

5. As these would be perceived as negative outcomes, a high rating would be undesirable.

6. Unweighted base refers to overall fairness rating. Due to Note 4, other NICS 2008/09 bases will be higher.

7. Unweighted 2007/08 base refers to agreement that the CJS is too soft on those accused of committing a crime. Other bases will be similar.

**Table 6: Confidence in the effectiveness of the criminal justice system (%) in Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>**

% saying very / fairly confident	NICS / NISCS												Statistically significant change, 2017/18 to 2018/19 <sup>3</sup>
	07/08 <sup>2</sup>	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	
<b>Overall effectiveness rating<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>45</b>	
The police are effective at catching criminals	46	52	53	56	61	59	62	62	61	65	63	61	
The Public Prosecution Service is effective at prosecuting people accused of crime	50	49	48	49	51	50	53	51	54	56	58	57	
The courts are effective at dealing with cases promptly	39	38	39	37	39	38	40	41	41	42	43	42	
The courts are effective at giving punishments which fit the crime	21	24	23	25	27	27	28	27	29	31	32	32	
The prisons are effective at punishing convicted offenders	36	34	34	35	36	35	36	36	35	40	38	43	** ↑
The prisons are effective at rehabilitating convicted offenders	30	27	26	26	27	26	26	26	27	29	27	30	
The probation service is effective at preventing criminals from reoffending	27	27	26	27	30	28	28	29	31	34	32	31	
<i>Unweighted base<sup>5</sup></i>	<i>2,008</i>	<i>3,751</i>	<i>3,978</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>	

1. Results exclude don't knows and refusals.

2. Estimates for 2007/08 are based on six months of data, October 2007 to March 2008, as the questions were introduced during the 2007/08 survey year.

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

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

5. 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 (%)<sup>1,2,3</sup>**

% saying	NICS / NISCS											
	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
Tougher sentences	36	38	35	34	32	34	35	33	30	32	32	30
Tackle ASB and minor crime <sup>4</sup>	25	27	24	23	23	22	20	19	19	21	18	20
Bring more offenders to justice	27	19	18	16	17	18	16	19	19	15	17	16
A more visible policing presence	16	18	19	18	17	16	15	14	16	18	17	16
Reduce the level of reoffending	11	11	10	11	12	13	14	13	13	14	14	15
Speed up the delivery of justice	9	7	8	11	11	12	11	11	10	12	13	14
Put the interests of victims at the heart of the system	7	10	11	12	11	12	11	13	12	13	11	12
Tackle youth crime	10	13	12	12	11	11	11	11	12	11	12	11
Reduce crime	11	9	11	11	11	10	10	11	12	11	12	11
Treat people equally	4	5	6	6	6	6	8	9	9	9	10	9
Respond to what matters most to local communities	7	7	8	7	8	8	10	9	8	9	9	9
Tougher prison regimes	10	12	11	13	13	12	14	13	13	11	10	9
Better police response times	7	9	10	9	9	8	8	8	9	8	8	9
More consistent sentencing	9	8	8	8	9	8	9	8	9	9	11	8
Reduce worry about crime	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	4
More appropriate sentencing for young people	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	4
None of these	<1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	1
<i>Unweighted base<sup>5</sup></i>	3,887	3,825	3,978	3,981	3,974	3,966	3,559	2,043	1,947	1,852	1,549	3,361

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 CJS could do to improve confidence.

## 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 will lead on Indicator 1 related to reducing crime. Findings contained within this bulletin will be used by the Department to inform the Delivery Plan for this Indicator. Survey findings will also inform the assessment of the impact of the [Community Safety Strategy](#) (DoJ, 2012) and 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 2018/19 were (generally) based on CSEW 2018/19, 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 2018/19 sample consisted of 7,500 addresses, randomly selected from the Land and Property Services domestic property database. Visits to each address by an interviewer from the NISRA Central Survey Unit resulted in an eligible sample of 6,534 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 2018 to 31 March 2019, which involved complete interviews with 3,429 people aged 16 years and over. This represents an eligible response rate of 52%.

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. household income;
9. housing tenure;
10. type of area (urban / rural);
11. policing district;
12. perceived level of anti-social behaviour in area;
13. experience of crime reported to the police; and
14. 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 2018/19 sweep of the NISCS is contained within the NISCS 2018/19 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 2018/19

Group	Sub-Group	Unweighted Number	Unweighted %	Weighted %
Sex	Men	1,576	46	47
	Women	1,853	54	53
Age Group	16-24	222	6	10
	25-34	464	14	13
	35-44	597	17	18
	45-54	540	16	17
	55-64	621	18	18
	65-74	527	15	14
	75+	458	13	10
Religion	Catholic	1,429	42	42
	Protestant	1,575	46	46
Area Type	Rural	1,287	38	40
	Urban	2,142	62	60
Policing District	Antrim and Newtownabbey	220	6	6
	Ards and North Down	270	8	8
	Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	353	10	11
	Belfast	660	19	18
	Causeway Coast and Glens	298	9	9
	Derry and Strabane	272	8	7
	Fermanagh and Omagh	260	8	7
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	262	8	8
	Mid and East Antrim	259	8	8
	Mid Ulster	234	7	8
	Newry, Mourne and Down	341	10	10
Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank <sup>1</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> quintile (most deprived)	651	19	17
	2 <sup>nd</sup> quintile	710	21	20
	3 <sup>rd</sup> quintile	716	21	22
	4 <sup>th</sup> quintile	707	21	22
	5 <sup>th</sup> quintile (least deprived)	645	19	19
Vehicle-owning households		2,788	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 continued designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in July 2020 following a [Compliance Check](#) by the [Office for Statistics Regulation](#). The statistics last underwent a [full assessment](#) against the Code of Practice in 2012/13.

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

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

## Appendix 4: References

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<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/experience-crime-findings-201819-northern-ireland-safe-community-survey>