



HM Government

# **Review into the criminal justice system response to adult rape and serious sexual offences across England and Wales**

Appendix F: Research Materials



# Contents

<b>Focus Groups</b>	<b>4</b>
HMCTS Witness Champions Focus Groups	4
ISVA Focus Groups	6
RASSO Police Personnel Focus Groups	7
<b>Interviews</b>	<b>10</b>
Defence Interviews	10
Defence and prosecuting barristers interviews	12
Judicial Interviews	13
<b>Surveys</b>	<b>15</b>
CAWS Survey	15
Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Survey	19
DC Survey	28
ISVA Survey	37
Police Leads Survey	47
RASSO Gatekeepers Survey	57

# Focus Groups

## HMCTS Witness Champions Focus Groups

By way of introduction, I'd like to thank you for agreeing to participate today, and stress that there is no right or wrong answer to the questions we're asking. We are interested in your views, based on your experiences. I'd now like to ask you to tell me about your current role and how long you've been doing it.

1. Please describe any regional processes you have that improve how the courts work/deal with RASSO victims?

Prompts:

In your experience:

- To what extent do you engage with the victim?
- Do you adapt your approach to account for ongoing trauma, and if so, how?

2. What are the main changes you have experienced in the past 3-5 years that may be affecting outcomes for rape cases?

Prompts:

In your experience:

- To what extent, if at all, do delays to court dates impact on outcomes of rape cases?
- From your experience, are certain types of rape and sexual assault cases more likely to be dropped pre-trial?
- Have you seen a change in the type of case or possibly the characteristics of the victim over the past 3 years, and if so, what?
- Have you noticed changes in length of case, proportion of effective trials, victim wellbeing etc, and if so, what?
- Have you seen a change in complexity of rape victims' life situation/cases, and if so, what?
- Have you seen any changes in other parts of the criminal justice system which may be affecting rape cases?

3. Thinking about both the effective administration of justice and the victims experience, what are your views on the role of ISVAs and support services?

Prompts:

In your experience:

- How do you see ISVAs and other support services supporting witnesses in the court room?
- Do you have any concerns or comments on the type of support ISVAs and support services are/are not providing?

- Where do you see ISVAs adding value? Is there more they could be doing to support witnesses?
- To what extent do you think the support ISVAs and support services are providing is consistent, or does it vary depending on the ISVA/service?
- To what extent do you think you have a good understanding of the ISVA role? To what extent do you think other CJS agencies have a good understanding of their role?
- To what extent do you think the support from an ISVA earlier in the case has an impact on how prepared the victim is for court and the victim's experience of the court process?

4. Over the last 3-5 years, what has been your experience of the use of special measures (for example, video evidence, screens, etc)?

Prompts:

In your experience:

- How aware do you think victims are of special measures throughout the process, before and when they get to court?
- Broadly speaking, do victims want and use special measures?
- What special measures do you feel are the most beneficial? • What impact do you think special measures have on victims?
- What aspects of the court environment do you think have the biggest impact on victims?
- Are there any logistical or administrative challenges you face with regard to special measures, and if so what?
- How do you think the use of special measures changed over time, if at all?

5. Over the last 3-5 years, what has been your experience of the effect of rape myths and stereotypes within the criminal justice system?

Prompts:

In your experience:

- What do you think are the types of rape myths/stereotypes that tend to be used in court, (particularly around the victim's behaviours)?
- During your involvement in a case, at what point do you commonly encounter myths and stereotypes?
- In your opinion, is enough done/what more should be done to address myths and stereotypes in court/pre-trial/pre-charge? If the answer is no, then a follow up question – what more should be done to address these?
- Do you think age plays a role in the conviction of defendants, and if so, how?
- What guidance is given to juries to minimise bias of rape myths and stereotypes?
- How are different victims (maybe based on age, gender etc) affected by different rape myths and stereotypes, if at all?

6. If you could change three things to improve the criminal justice system response to rape, what would they be and why?

## ISVA Focus Groups

By way of introduction, I'd like to thank you for agreeing to participate today, and stress that there is no right or wrong answer to the questions we're asking. We are interested in your views, based on your experiences. I'd now like to go around the group and ask you to tell me about your current role and how long you've been doing it.

1. What do you think victims understand your role to be?

Prompts:

- If they are referred to you by the police/ other support services, have they usually been made aware of what your role includes?

2. Now considering case management, what is your typical caseload? Has it changed over the last three years?

Prompts:

- What do you think is an appropriate caseload for an ISVA?
- Does appropriate caseload differ substantially depending on the characteristics of the victim or case?
- What other factors may impact on case load
- In your opinion, what type of assistance from an ISVA is most important to support the victim in continuing to engage with the Criminal Justice System?

3. Over the last 3 years in your experience, what factors have influenced whether a victim reports to the police?

Prompts:

- Support from specialist rape and sexual abuse support services
- Support from family and friends
- Victim's perception of the criminal justice system
- Previous experience of the criminal justice system
- Collection of personal and third-party material
- Would type of victim/ suspect or case make a difference? How have they changed?

4. Over the last 3 years in your experience, why do victims withdraw from the criminal justice process after reporting to the police?

Prompts:

- Support services / counselling waiting lists
- Pre-trial therapy
- Length of time it takes for case to progress through the system
- Would type of victim / suspect or case make a difference?
- How has this changed?

5. Over the last 3 years, in your experience, what has been the use of special measures in court (for example, video evidence, screens etc)?

Prompts:

- How aware do you think victims are of special measures?
- Do victims typically want and use special measures?
- Are some more effective than others? Which ones / Why?
- Can special measures ever have a negative impact for the victim?
- What aspects of the court environment have the biggest impact on victims?
- How has this changed?

6. If you could change three things to improve the criminal justice system response to rape, what would they be?

7. Over the last 3 years, in your experience what has been your perception of “rape myths” 1 and stereotypes within the criminal justice system?

Prompts:

- Which stages of the system are they being used?
- Explore balance regarding focus on the victim (including sexual history, other history, behaviour) in the courtroom?
- Is it their perception that young defendants are less likely to be convicted than older defendants? Explore why
- Are different groups of victims affected by different rape myths and stereotypes? How has this changed?

8. Finally, considering the ISVA training that you received. Do you feel that it prepared you well for your role and what was most helpful?

Prompts:

- What were the most useful topics in the training?
- Were there any topics that you felt should form part of the training, but didn't?
- Is there a need for more specialist ISVA training? If yes, what type of training?
- What would be the most important modules to include in a national training curriculum for ISVAs?

## RASSO Police Personnel Focus Groups

I'd like to start by asking you about your role and long you have been doing it.

1. Over the last few years in your experience, what factors have influenced whether a victim reports to the police?

Prompts:

- Support from specialist rape and sexual abuse support services
- Support from family and friends
- Victim's perception of the criminal justice system
- Previous experience of the criminal justice system
- Collection of personal and third-party material
- Would type of victim/ suspect or case make a difference?

2. What do you think victims expect of the police when they report a rape?

Prompts:

- What expectations of the criminal justice system do you think victims have when they first report?
- How do you communicate the process to victims?

3. Over the last few years in your experience, why do victims withdraw from the criminal justice process after reporting to the police?

Prompts:

- Has your force's use of Outcome 16 increased?
- Support service/ counselling waiting lists. What is the process for referring victims to specialist services in your force?
- Pre-trial therapy
- Length of time it takes for case to progress through the system
- Would type of victim/ suspect make a difference?
- What could improve?

4. In most police force areas, the volume of referrals to the CPS for charge have fallen over the last few years, and they have also fallen overall nationally. Why do you think this is?

Prompts:

- Relationship with CPS
- Early Investigative Advice
- What lines of inquiry are you commonly asked by the CPS to pursue?
- Any changes in the investigation of cases?
- Changes to caseload over time?

5. What are the main changes you have experienced in the past few years that may be affecting outcomes for rape cases?

Prompts:

- Have there been changes in the way rapes are investigated?
- Have there been changes in caseload or resourcing?

6. Over the last few years, in your experience what has been your perception of 'rape myths' and stereotypes within the criminal justice system?

Prompts:

- Rape myths are defined as 'descriptive or prescriptive beliefs about rape (i.e. about its causes, context, consequences, perpetrators, victims and their interaction) that serve to deny, downplay or justify sexual violence.'<sup>1</sup>
- At which stages of the system are they being used?
- Are different groups of victims/ suspects affected by different myths and stereotypes? How has this changed?

---

<sup>1</sup> Common rape myths/ stereotypes can include: rape occurs between strangers in dark alleys; women provoke rape by the way they dress or act; if she didn't scream, fight or get injured, it wasn't rape; women cry rape when they regret having sex or want revenge; only gay men get raped/ only gay men rape men; prostitutes cannot be raped.



7. If you could change three things to improve the criminal justice system response to rape, what would they be?

Prompts:

- Are there any changes that could be made which would help you specifically in your role?
- And if you weren't restricted to three things, what else would you change?
- Is there anything else you would like to raise in relation to the changes in rape outcomes over the last few years?

# Interviews

## Defence Interviews

By way of introduction, I'd like to thank you for agreeing to participate today, and stress that there are no right or wrong answers to the questions we're asking. We are interested in your views, based on your experiences in a defence role on Rape and Serious Sexual Offending cases. I'd also like to remind you that you can refuse to answer any of the questions posed to you. As mentioned in the consent form the interview will be recorded for transcription and analysis purposes. Do you have any questions before we start?

I'd now like to ask you to tell me about your current role and how long you've been doing it, and also your experience or background of working in adult rape cases?

1. What are the main changes you have experienced in the past 3-5 years that may be affecting outcomes for rape cases?

### Prompts:

- If you have experience of working in private and public defence practice, what (if any) do you think are the main differences?
- Have you seen any change in the proportion of acquaintance rape cases being dropped pre-trial? If so, why do you think this is?
- Have you seen a change in RASSO case characteristics over the past 3 years?
- Have you observed any changes in relation to charging thresholds?
- Have you seen any change in charge rates or number of prosecutions? If so, why do you think this is?
- In your opinion, what are the most difficult cases to defend? Why? Has this changed in the last 3 – 5 years?

2. In your opinion, in the 3 to 4 years before the Covid-19 pandemic, did you feel that you were experiencing more delays?

### Prompts:

- How do you think delays affect the experiences of defendants? And of complainants? In your experience, to what extent do delays to court dates or the length of time it takes for a case to get to trial impact on outcomes of rape cases?
- In your opinion, what were the main reasons behind these delays before Covid-19? Do you think disclosure was a cause of delays? [If yes] How significant a factor was it?
- Do you find pre-trial and case management hearings are effective?
- Could anything be done to improve these? Are ground rules hearings effectively utilised?

3. Have you experienced an increase in digital evidence in RASSO cases?

Prompts:

- [If yes] What impact does this have on your cases? What impact does this have on your workload?
- (If applicable) do you think current approaches to disclosure in RASSO cases are fair, proportionate and reasonable? Do you have any suggestions for improvements? Do you have any examples of best practice?
- How frequently do you have to challenge/seek further disclosure in these cases?
- What are your views on current information sharing practices with police and CPS, and if necessary, what improvements could be made?

4. Over the last 3-5 years, what has been your experience of the impact of support for rape complainants and defendants at court?

Prompts:

- In your opinion, what impact do special measures have on complainants / defendants / case outcomes? How has the use of special measures changed over time?
- If applicable, what are your views on the role of ISVAs?
- Have you received support to take a trauma informed approach to your work?
- What is your experience of the effects of factors such as the age, language proficiency or any other protected characteristics to fully participate in proceedings?

5. Do you have experience of rape myths being voiced in preparation for trial and/or in court? What do you think the impact of this is?

Prompts:

- (If applicable) What do you think are the types of rape myths/stereotypes that tend to manifest or are observed in court?
- Do you feel that the prevalence of these myths/stereotypes has increased or decreased in the last 3-4 years, and are they more or less likely to be addressed/challenged by judges today?
- How do you think the way in which changes in sexual encounters (e.g. meeting via dating sites, casual sex, sending of sexual messages/images) and use of digital media affects assumptions / preconceptions about rape, if at all?
- Have you experienced varying rape myths and stereotypes depending on complainant and defendant demographics?
- Have you had any guidance or training rape myths and stereotypes? When did you last receive training, and is this part of your ongoing professional development?

6. Thinking about the current criminal justice system response to rape, what do you think works well? and what could be improved?

Prompts:

- If you could propose any legislative reform what would it be or what issue would it address?
- Can you provide details of any best practice which you would like to share with the review team?

## Defence and prosecuting barristers interviews

By way of introduction, I'd like to thank you for agreeing to participate today, and stress that there is no right or wrong answer to the questions we're asking. We are interested in your views, based on your experiences. I'd now like to ask you to tell me about your current role and how long you've been doing it?

1. Have you had experience in acting as both a prosecuting and defence barrister in rape trials? If so, please can you tell me about how your experiences differ? [If answer is no, move to Question 2]

### Prompts:

- How does your experience of acting as prosecuting barrister inform your practice as defence barrister and vice versa?

2. What are the main changes you have experienced in the past 3-5 years that may be affecting outcomes for rape cases?

### Prompts:

#### In your experience:

- To what extent do delays to court dates or the length of time it takes for a case to get to trial impact on outcomes of rape cases?
- Evidence suggests a larger proportion of acquaintance rape cases are being dropped pre-trial – does this reflect your experience? Why do you think this is?
- Have you seen a change in the type of case or possibly the characteristics of the victim over the past 3 years?

3. Over the last 3-5 years, what has been your experience of the impact of support for rape victims at court?

### Prompts:

- Is there information that would be helpful for rape victims/practitioners to receive that they don't currently have access to?
- Are you aware of local support services for victims?
- What are your views on the role of ISVAs?
- What are your views on pre-trial therapy?
- Have you noticed changes in length of case, successful/unsuccessful trial, victim wellbeing etc)?
- Have you seen a change in complexity of rape victims' life situation/cases?
- To what extent do you engage with the victim and do you adapt your approach to account for ongoing trauma? If so, how?

4. Over the last 3-5 years, what has been your experience of the use of special measures (for example, video evidence, screens, etc)?

### Prompts:

#### In your experience:

- How aware do you think victims are of special measures?
- Broadly speaking, do victims want and use special measures?
- What special measures do feel are the most beneficial?
- What impact do special measures have on victims?

- What aspects of the court environment have the biggest impact on victims?
  - Are there any logistical or administrative challenges you face with regard to special measures?
  - How has the use of special measures changed over time?
5. Do you have experience of rape myths being voiced in court? What do you think the impact of this is?

Prompts:

In your experience:

- What do you think are the types of rape myths/stereotypes that tend to manifest or are observed in court?
  - Are there points in the case where you commonly experience myths and stereotypes? In your opinion, is enough done/what more should be done to address myths and stereotypes in court/pre-trial/pre-charge?
  - Do you think there needs to be either further restrictions or measures to facilitate evidence by witnesses or defendants?
  - Why do you think the evidence shows that younger defendants are less likely to be convicted?
  - What guidance is given to juries to minimise bias of rape myths and stereotypes?
  - How are different victims (maybe based on age, gender etc) affected by different rape myths and stereotypes?
6. If you could change three things to improve the criminal justice system response to rape, what would they be and why?

## Judicial Interviews

By way of introduction, I'd like to thank you for agreeing to participate today, and stress that there is no right or wrong answer to the questions we're asking. We are interested in your views, based on your experiences of Rape and Serious Sexual Offending cases. I'd also like to remind you that you can refuse to answer any of the questions posed to you. I'd like to start by asking you to tell me about your current role and how long you've been doing it. The term 'victim' will be used during this interview to refer to those subjected to sexual abuse and/or assault and encompasses 'victim', 'patient', 'complainant', 'client' and 'survivor'.

1. What are the main changes or problems you have observed in the past 3- 5 years that may be affecting rape cases?

Prompts:

- Are there changes or problems which are specific and/or inherent to RASSO cases?
  - Have you observed any changes in relation to charging thresholds?
2. Based upon your experience, what factors do you think keep victims engaged in the court process and reduce cases being dropped pre-trial?

Prompts:

- Do you have any concerns about the pre-trial hearings stage?

- In your own experience, have you noticed any changes in the volumes of rape cases are being dropped pre-trial?
- Again, thinking about your own experience, do you have a view on whether assumptions about the court process affect a complainant's supporting a case through its entirety?

3. In your opinion, do you feel that you are experiencing more delays to hearing dates?

Prompts:

- How do you think delays affect the experience of victims/complainants/defendants?
- What problems do you encounter with listing (e.g. floating trials) and court capacity for rape cases?
- How effective do you think Pre-Trial and Case Management hearings are and what could be done to improve this?

4. In your experience, have you noticed any difference in conviction rates for rape only cases according to the age of the defendant?

5. Based on your experience, what type of support do victims usually receive during the court process?

Prompts:

- What has been your experience of the use of special measures, and are they effective?
- Based on your experience, are court buildings/courtrooms able to accommodate the support required?
- Based on your experience, which special measures are most commonly applied for?

6. How do you think 'rape myths' may affect case outcomes (if at all)?

Prompts:

- How regularly do you use the judicial directions (contained within the Crown Court Compendium) covering the dangers of assumptions in sexual offences cases? At what stage do you issue directions on this?
- Based on your judicial experience, are there any additional assumptions or preconceptions not currently covered by the Crown Court Compendium that you think could be added?
- How do you think the way in which sexual encounters and use of digital media affected assumptions/preconceptions about rape?
- What guidance/training have you been given on challenging assumptions and preconceptions about rape in court? When did you last receive that guidance/training on challenging assumptions and preconceptions about rape in court, and is it part of ongoing training/professional development?

7. Thinking about the current criminal justice system response to rape, what do you think works well and what could be improved?

Prompts:

- What would you change about the court process in particular?

# Surveys

## CAWS Survey

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this survey. The answers you give will help inform analysis being undertaken by the cross-Government review of the criminal justice response to rape and serious sexual offences. The review is tasked with understanding why there has been a recent fall in the number of rape referrals, charges, prosecutions and convictions.

The survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Please answer as honestly and comprehensively as you can. Your answers are anonymous, and will form part of the qualitative analysis of this review. If you are happy to be contacted by the review team, there is an opportunity to provide an email address at the end of the survey. Where this is the case, answers will not be attributed to individuals in any published document.

In this survey, the term 'victim' is used to refer to those subjected to sexual abuse and/or assault and encompasses 'victim', 'patient', 'complainant', 'client' and 'survivor'.

The Government's position on rape and sexual assault is unequivocal. We expect every report of sexual violence and rape to be treated seriously from the point of disclosure, every victim to be treated with dignity, and every investigation and prosecution to be conducted thoroughly and professionally. Please bear this in mind when asked to assess the effectiveness of practice within the criminal justice system.

For a full privacy notice and details of how we will use your information, please [click here](#).

1. In which police force area are you based? (Optional)
2. What is your role?
3. What are the main changes you have experienced in the past 3-5 years that may be affecting outcomes for rape cases?
4. If you could change 3 things to improve the criminal justice system response to rape, what would they be?
5. To what extent do you think victims understand your role, and the role you play in the justice system journey?
6. In your experience, are victims given a specific trial date?

- 7. In your experience, approximately what proportion of cases go ahead at trial as specified?
- 8. In your experience, what are some of the reasons cases may not go ahead as scheduled?
- 9. Of the cases you have worked on, have you witnessed any 'floating cases'? A 'floater' is a trial not allocated to a specific court or judge but which may be taken in any court in the same court centre on a specific day or within a period of time, which should be no longer than a week, unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- 10. In your experience, how often is an ISVA present in support at court?
- 11. In your experience, who first discusses special measures with the victim?
- 12. Please rank these special measures by their frequency of use. (1= Most frequently used, 8= Least used)

Screening witness from the defendant

Evidence by live link

Evidence given in private

Removal of wigs and gowns by judges and barristers

Video-recorded interview as evidence

Pre-trial video-recorded cross-examination or re-examination (Section 28)

Examination of the witness through an intermediary

Aids to communication (e.g. interpreter)


- 13. How often are special measures granted if they are applied for?
  - Always
  - Often
  - Sometimes
  - Never
- 14. In general, when are decisions about special measure applications communicated to victims?
  - In advance of the trial date
  - After the Pre-Trial Preparation Hearing
  - At the trial



15. In your opinion, which special measures most improve the quality of evidence given?  
(Please select up to three.)

- Screening witness from the defendant
- Evidence by live link
- Evidence given in private
- Removal of wigs and gowns by judges and barristers
- Video-recorded interview as evidence
- Pre-trial video-recorded cross-examination or re-examination (Section 28)
- Examination of the witness through an intermediary
- Aids to communication (e.g. interpreter)

16. In your opinion, which special measures most improve the victim experience?  
(Please select up to three.)

- Screening witness from the defendant
- Evidence by live link
- Evidence given in private
- Removal of wigs and gowns by judges and barristers
- Video-recorded interview as evidence
- Pre-trial video-recorded cross-examination or re-examination (Section 28)
- Examination of the witness through an intermediary
- Aids to communication (e.g. interpreter)

17. In your experience, how likely are SMs to make victims carry on through the process?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Very unlikely

18. Please provide further details.

19. Are there any new special measures that you would introduce to improve the quality of evidence given?

Yes

No

20. If yes, please provide details.

21. Are there any new special measures that you would introduce to reduce victim attrition?

Yes

No

22. If yes, please provide details.

23. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you have any other comments that you would like to make, that were not captured in the previous questions, please provide them here.

24. If you are happy to be contacted by the review team to provide further insight around some of the topics raised in the survey, please provide an email address here.

## Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Survey

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this survey. The answers you give will help in form analysis being undertaken by the Cross-Government review of the criminal justice response to adult rape and serious sexual offences. The review is tasked with understanding why there has been a recent fall in the number of rape referrals, charges, prosecutions and convictions.

The survey should take **20** minutes to complete. Please answer as honestly and comprehensively as you can. Your answers are anonymous and will form part of the qualitative analysis of this review, therefore please answer the following questions specifically considering cases involving rape and serious sexual offences.

In this survey, the term 'victim' is used to refer to those subjected to sexual abuse and/or assault and encompasses 'victim', 'patient', 'complainant', 'client' and 'survivor'.

The Government's position on rape and sexual assault is unequivocal. We expect every report of sexual violence and rape to be treated seriously from the point of disclosure, every victim to be treated with dignity, and every investigation and prosecution to be conducted thoroughly and professionally. Please bear this in mind when asked to assess the effectiveness of practice within the criminal justice system.

By clicking next on the survey, you are consenting to participate in the survey. Participants responses will be stored and shared in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as well as maintaining anonymity/confidentiality when reporting findings. Details of which can be found [here](#):

1. Where are you based?

2. What is your role?

3. Have you seen changes within the CPS in the past 3-5 years that you feel may be affecting outcomes for rape cases?

Yes

No

4. Have you seen changes in the wider CJS in the past 3-5 years that you feel may be affecting outcomes for rape cases?

Yes

No



11. Taking into consideration factors such as timeliness and ease of communication, how effective is your working relationship with your local Police Force Area(s) on rape cases?

- Very Good
- Good
- Neither
- Poor
- Very Poor

12. Please explain your answer to question 11.

13. In your opinion, what could be done to improve the relationship between you and your local Police Force Area(s) when working on rape cases?

14. Do you have a protocol for charge cases to be trial ready?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

15. Do you work with a RASSO gatekeeper?

- Yes
- No

16. What impact does a RASSO gatekeeper have on case file quality?

17. What impact does a RASSO gatekeeper have on the number of referrals?

18. Do you work with a police RASSO specialist unit?

Yes

No

19. What impact does a police RASSO specialist unit have?

20. How often do you provide Early Investigative Advice in adult rape and serious sexual offence cases?

Every Case

Most Cases

Some Cases

Few Cases

Never

N/A

21. What is the process for providing Early Investigative Advice?

22. How often are defence statements served in sufficient time to allow the prosecution team to respond?

Always

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Don't know

23. In relation to Q22, what is considered 'sufficient time' in your area?

24. In your experience, are defence statements meaningful? Please explain below:

25. How often do you feel defence statements ask for unnecessary action?

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

26. What would you consider to be 'unnecessary action'?

27. How often are conferences (face to face or video/tel con) being held between the prosecution team (police, CPS, counsel)?

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never
- Don't know

28. In your experience, are there obstacles in the rules of evidence that prevent evidence being adduced in support of the credibility of the victim? Please explain below:

29. Excluding meetings to explain an NFA/discontinuance decision, how often have you had a face-to-face meeting with a victim in the last 12 months?

- On more than 5 occasions
- Between 1 and 5 occasions
- I haven't met a victim

30. Excluding meetings relating to an NFA/discontinuance decision, in what settings have you had a face-to-face meeting with a victim in the last 12 months?

- At a pre-trial witness interview
- At a Special measures meeting
- At trial
- I haven't had a face-to-face meeting

31. At which stage are victims most likely to withdraw from the process?

- Awaiting charging decision
- Post-charge pre-trial
- Don't know

32. Is there a particular point at which victims are mostly likely to withdraw in the post-charge pre-trial period? Please explain below:

33. Based on your experience, what do you think are the 5 most common reasons for victims to withdraw from the process?

- Need to move on
- Disclosure privacy concerns
- Fear of impact on mental health
- Fear of impact on family
- Fear of further violence
- Feeling disbelieved/ judged
- Fear of giving evidence in court
- Reported by third party
- Relationship with subject



- Pressure from perpetrator to withdraw statement
- Fear of impact on education
- Lack of specialist support
- Shame or guilt
- Intensive questioning in interview
- Delays in processing
- Belief that the process will be too distressing
- Negative experience of the criminal justice system
- Other (please specify):

34. How often do you discuss special measures with the victim?

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never
- N/A

35. At what stage do you discuss special measures with victims?

36. Do you encounter any problems when explaining special measures to victims? Do victims understand how the use of a special measure may impact them/their case?

37. Please rank these special measures by their frequency of use: (1=most frequently used, 8=least used)

Screening witness from the defendant

Evidence by live link

Evidence given in private

Removal of wigs and gowns by judges and barristers

Video-recorded interview as evidence

Pre-trial video-recorded cross-examination or re-examination (Section 28)

Examination of the witness through an intermediary

Aids to communication (e.g. interpreter)


38. In general, when are decisions about special measure applications communicated to victims?

- In advance of the trial date
- After the pre-trial preparation hearing
- At the trial
- Don't know

39. Are there any new special measures that you would introduce to improve the quality of evidence given?

- Yes
- No

40. Please provide details of any new special measures that you would introduce:

In this survey, rape myths are defined as 'descriptive or prescriptive beliefs about rape (i.e. about its causes, context, consequences, perpetrators, victims and their interaction) that serve to deny, downplay or justify sexual violence'.

41. In your experience, how frequently do you witness rape myths and stereotypes during the investigation process and referral of cases to the CPS?

- Very Frequently
- Somewhat Frequently
- Not Very Frequently
- Never
- Don't know

42. When making a charging decision, do you consider how rape myths and stereotypes relate to the case and how they may subsequently manifest in the courtroom? Please explain below:

43. From your experience, which (if any) rape myths are commonly used in/affect the criminal justice process (reporting, investigation, charging decisions and court)?

44. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you have any other comments that you would like to make, that were not captured in the previous questions, please provide them here:

45. If you are happy to be contacted by the review team to provide further insight around some of the topics raised in the survey, please provide an email address here:

## DC Survey

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this survey. The answers you give will help inform analysis being undertaken by the cross-Government review of the criminal justice response to rape and serious sexual offences. The review is tasked with understanding why there has been a recent fall in the number of rape referrals, charges, prosecutions and convictions.

The survey should take approximately 35 minutes to complete. Please answer as honestly and comprehensively as you can. Your answers are anonymous and will form part of the qualitative analysis of this review. If you are happy to be contacted by the review team, there is an opportunity to provide an email address at the end of the survey. Where this is the case, answers will not be attributed to individuals in any published document.

In this survey, the term 'victim' is used to refer to those subjected to sexual abuse and/or assault and encompasses 'victim', 'patient', 'complainant', 'client' and 'survivor'.

The Government's position on rape and sexual assault is unequivocal. We expect every report of sexual violence and rape to be treated seriously from the point of disclosure, every victim to be treated with dignity, and every investigation and prosecution to be conducted thoroughly and professionally. Please bear this in mind when asked to assess the effectiveness of practice within the criminal justice system.

For a full privacy notice and details of how we will use your information, please [click here](#).

1. In which police force area are you based? (Optional)
2. What is your role? \*
3. What are the main changes you have experienced in the past 3-5 years that may be affecting outcomes for rape cases?

4. To what extent do you think victims understand your role, and the role you play in the justice system journey?
  - Completely
  - Mostly
  - Somewhat
  - Not particularly
  - Not at all

5. If you could change 3 things to improve the criminal justice system response to rape, what would they be?

1

2

3

6. At what stage are victims most likely to withdraw from the process?

- Investigative stage
- Awaiting charging decision
- Post-charge

7. Based on your experience, what do you think are the 5 most common reasons for victims not supporting a prosecution? (Select up to five.)

- Need to move on
- Disclosure privacy concerns
- Fear of impact on mental health
- Fear of impact on family
- Fear of further violence
- Feeling disbelieved/ judged
- Fear of giving evidence in court
- Reported by third party
- Relationship with subject
- Pressure from perpetrator to withdraw statement
- Fear of impact on education
- Lack of specialist support
- Shame or guilt
- Intensive questioning in interview

- Delays in police processing
- Belief that the process will be too distressing
- Negative experience of the criminal justice system
- Other (please specify):

8. In your view, what would encourage victims who withdraw for these reasons to support a prosecution?

9. In your force area, do you feel the number of rape investigations you are referring to the CPS for a charge decision has increased or decreased over the last 2 years?

- Increased
- Decreased

10. Why do you think this is?

11. How effective is your working relationship with your local CPS prosecutors on rape cases?

- Very good
- Good
- Neither
- Poor
- Very poor

12. In your opinion, what would improve this relationship?

13. How effectively do you feel Early Investigative Advice is used?

- Very well
- Well
- Neither
- Poorly
- Not at all

14. Please explain your answer.

15. How often do you use Early Investigative Advice in adult RASSO cases?

- Every case
- Most cases
- Some cases
- Few cases
- Never

16. Which of these have the most significant impact on the time it takes to reach a charging decision? (Please select up to three.)

- Obtaining access to electronic devices (e.g. mobile, computer)
- Analysis of digital communications (e.g. data on mobile phone, computer, etc)
- Obtaining third party material
- Analysing third party material
- Obtaining further evidence at CPS request
- Insufficient police resource
- Other (please specify):

17. Do pre-charge case management panels take place in RASSO cases in your area?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

18. If yes, are you routinely invited to attend these panel meetings?

Yes

No

19. If you do attend these meetings, do you think they are useful?

Yes

No

20. In your experience, who first discusses special measures with the victim?

21. Please rank these special measures by their frequency of use. (1 = most frequently used, 8 = least used)

Screening witness from the defendant

Evidence by live link

Evidence given in private

Removal of wigs and gowns by judges and barristers

Video-recorded interview as evidence

Pre-trial video-recorded cross-examination or re-examination (Section 28)

Aids to communication (e.g. interpreter)

Examination of the witness through an intermediary


22. How often are special measures granted if they are applied for?

Always

Often

Sometimes

Never



23. In general, when are decisions about special measure applications communicated to victims?

- In advance of the trial date
- After the Pre-Trial Preparation Hearing
- At the trial

24. In your opinion, which special measures most improve the victim experience? (Please select up to three.)

- Screening witness from the defendant
- Evidence by live link
- Evidence given in private
- Removal of wigs and gowns by judges and barristers
- Video-recorded interview as evidence
- Pre-trial video-recorded cross-examination or re-examination (Section 28)
- Aids to communication (e.g. interpreter)
- Examination of the witness through an intermediary

25. In your opinion, which special measures most improve the quality of evidence given? (Please select up to three.)

- Screening witness from the defendant
- Evidence by live link
- Evidence given in private
- Removal of wigs and gowns by judges and barristers
- Video-recorded interview as evidence
- Pre-trial video-recorded cross-examination or re-examination (Section 28)
- Aids to communication (e.g. interpreter)
- Examination of the witness through an intermediary

26. In your experience, how likely are special measures to make victims carry on through the process?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Very unlikely

27. Please provide further details.

28. Are there any new special measures that you would introduce to improve the quality of evidence given?

Yes

No

29. If yes, please provide details.

30. Are there any new special measures that you would introduce to reduce victim attrition?

Yes

No

31. If yes, please provide details.

32. In your experience, how often is an ISVA present in support at court?

Always

Often

Sometimes

Never

In this survey, rape myths are defined as 'descriptive or prescriptive beliefs about rape (i.e. about its causes, context, consequences, perpetrators, victims and their interaction) that serve to deny, downplay or justify sexual violence'.

33. In your experience, how frequently do you witness rape myths and stereotypes during the investigation process?

- Very frequently
- Somewhat frequently
- Not very frequently
- Never

34. In your experience, how frequently do you witness rape myths and stereotypes during the referral of cases to the CPS?

- Very frequently
- Somewhat frequently
- Not very frequently
- Never

35. In your experience, how frequently do you witness rape myths and stereotypes in court?

- Very frequently
- Somewhat frequently
- Not very frequently
- Never

36. In your experience, how often are these rape myths and stereotypes dispelled during the court process?

- Very frequently
- Somewhat frequently
- Not very frequently
- Never

37. In your experience, how often do prosecutors attempt to dispel rape myths and stereotypes in court?

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Never

38. Please outline some of the common rape myths you witness. Please outline where and how they are raised.

39. Have you received training in rape myths and stereotypes?

- Yes
- No

40. If yes, please explain what training you have received.

41. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you have any other comments that you would like to make, that were not captured in the previous questions, please provide them here.

42. If you are happy to be contacted by the review team to provide further insight around some of the topics raised in the survey, please provide an email address here.

## ISVA Survey

### Introduction

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this survey. The answers you give will help inform analysis being undertaken by the cross-Government review of the criminal justice response to rape and serious sexual offences. The review is tasked with understanding why there has been a recent fall in the number of rape referrals, charges, prosecutions and convictions.

The survey should take approximately 35 minutes to complete. Please answer as honestly and comprehensively as you can. Your answers are anonymous, and will form part of the qualitative analysis of this review. If you are happy to be contacted by the review team, there is an opportunity to provide an email address at the end of the survey. Where this is the case, answers will not be attributed to individuals in any published document.

In this survey, the term 'victim' is used to refer to those subjected to sexual abuse and/or assault and encompasses 'victim', 'patient', 'complainant', 'client' and 'survivor'.

The Government's position on rape and sexual assault is unequivocal. We expect every report of sexual violence and rape to be treated seriously from the point of disclosure, every victim to be treated with dignity, and every investigation and prosecution to be conducted thoroughly and professionally. Please bear this in mind when asked to assess the effectiveness of practice within the criminal justice system.

For a full privacy notice and details of how we will use your information, please [click here](#).

1. In which police force area are you based? (Optional)
2. Which local organisation do you work from? (Optional)
3. What is your role? \*
  - ISVA
  - Counsellor
  - SARC manager
  - Specialist rape and sexual abuse support services manager
  - Other (please specify):

4. Please provide a brief description of your role.

5. Which organisation or agency commissions your service?

- Local Rape Support Centre/ charity
- Partnership
- Local Authority
- Police force
- NHS
- The local Office of Police and Crime Commissioner and local Victim Support Hub
- Other (please specify):

6. What are the main changes you have experienced in the past 3-5 years that may be affecting outcomes for rape cases?

7. If you could change 3 things to improve the criminal justice system response to rape, what would they be?

1

2

3

## Your work with victims

8. How many victims do you currently support?

9. What information do you provide? (Please select all that apply.)

- Make the victim aware of their entitlements under the Victims' Code
- Discuss the possibility of accessing pre-trial therapy, in accordance with the pre-trial therapy guidance
- Discuss the process for and implications of making a Victim Personal Statement
- Assist the victim to make a Victim Personal Statement
- Discuss the process for the police accessing the victim's personal information such as their mobile phone, including the victim's rights
- Provide the victim with regular updates on the progress of their case
- Have regular contact with the victim, even if there are no updates to their case
- Discuss what the victim should expect to happen through the court process such as undergoing cross-examination
- Other (please specify):

10. What support or outreach is offered by you to victims? (Please select all that apply.)

- Provide emotional and practical support
- Provide support before or during Criminal and Civil Court Proceedings
- Provide support after Criminal and Civil Court Proceedings
- Act as a Single Point of Contact from other services and agencies, including the Criminal Justice System
- Provide accurate and impartial Information to Victims/Survivors of Sexual Violence and to the families of children and young People
- Outreach including home visits and/or other advocacy support outreach (eg. housing, health)
- Outreach including Court and other Criminal Justice System visits
- Other (please specify):

11. Do you experience any difficulties in referring victims to local specialist sexual violence and abuse services providing counselling and support?

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Never





## Victims' experience of the criminal justice system

18. At what stage are victims most likely to withdraw from the process?

- Investigative stage
- Awaiting charge decision
- Post-charge

19. Based on your experience, what do you think are the 5 most common reasons for victims not supporting a prosecution? (Select up to five.)

- Need to move on
- Disclosure privacy concerns
- Fear of impact on mental health
- Fear of impact on family
- Fear of further violence
- Feeling disbelieved/ judged
- Fear of giving evidence in court
- Reported by third party
- Relationship with subject
- Pressure from perpetrator to withdraw statement
- Fear of impact on education
- Lack of specialist support
- Shame or guilt
- Intensive questioning in interview
- Delays in police processing
- Belief that the process will be too distressing
- Negative experience of criminal justice system
- Other (please specify):

20. In your view, what would encourage victims who withdraw for these reasons to support a prosecution?

21. How is the decision to charge or not to charge typically communicated to the victim?

22. In your opinion, what are the three most common causes of delays for sexual violence cases as they go through the criminal justice system?

1

2

3

23. In your experience, how well are delays at court stage communicated by police or prosecutors with victims?

- Excellent
- Satisfactory
- Poor

24. What level of support are you able to give to victims in the court room?

- Excellent
- Very good
- Good
- Limited
- None

25. Do you think your role is understood by the following staff working within the criminal justice system?

	Fully understood	Somewhat understood	Neither	Poorly understood	Not understood at all
Court clerks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ushers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barristers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Witness service volunteers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prosecutors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

26. Please provide explanation if you answered 'not at all' to any of the options.

**Special measures**

27. In your experience, who first discusses special measures with the victim?

28. Please rank these special measures by their frequency of use. (1= Most frequently used, 8= Least used.)

Screening witness from the defendant	<input type="text"/>
Evidence by live link	<input type="text"/>
Evidence given in private	<input type="text"/>
Removal of wigs and gowns by judges and barristers	<input type="text"/>
Video-recorded interview as evidence	<input type="text"/>
Pre-trial video-recorded cross-examination or re-examination (Section 28)	<input type="text"/>
Examination of the witness through an intermediary	<input type="text"/>
Aids to communication (e.g. interpreter)	<input type="text"/>

29. How often are special measures granted if they are applied for?

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Never

30. In general, when are decisions about special measure applications communicated to victims?

- In advance of the trial date
- After the Pre-Trial Preparation Hearing
- At the trial

31. In your opinion, which special measures most improve the victim experience? (Please select up to three.)

- Screening witness from the defendant
- Evidence by live link
- Evidence given in private
- Removal of wigs and gowns by judges and barristers
- Video-recorded interview as evidence
- Pre-trial video-recorded cross-examination or re-examination (Section 28)
- Examination of the witness through an intermediary
- Aids to communication (e.g. interpreter)

32. In your experience, how likely are SMs to make victims carry on through the process?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Very unlikely

33. Please provide further details.

34. Are there any new special measures that you would introduce to reduce victim attrition?

Yes

No

35. If yes, please provide details.

### Rape myths and stereotypes

In this survey, rape myths are defined as 'descriptive or prescriptive beliefs about rape (i.e. about its causes, context, consequences, perpetrators, victims and their interaction) that serve to deny, downplay or justify sexual violence'.

36. In your experience, how frequently do you witness rape myths and stereotypes during the investigation process?

Very frequently

Somewhat frequently

Not very frequently

Never

37. In your experience, how frequently do you witness rape myths and stereotypes during the referral of cases to the CPS?

Very frequently

Somewhat frequently

Not very frequently

Never

38. In your experience, how frequently do you witness rape myths and stereotypes in court?

Very frequently

Somewhat frequently

Not very frequently

Never

39. In your experience, how often are these rape myths and stereotypes dispelled during the court process?

- Very frequently
- Somewhat frequently
- Not very frequently
- Never

40. In your experience, how often do prosecutors attempt to dispel rape myths and stereotypes in court?

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Never

41. Please outline some of the common rape myths you witness. Please outline where and how they are raised.

42. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you have any other comments that you would like to make, that were not captured in the previous questions, please provide them here.

43. If you are happy to be contacted by the review team to provide further insight around some of the topics raised in the survey, please provide an email address here.

## Police Leads Survey

### Introduction

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this survey. The answers you give will help inform analysis being undertaken by the cross-Government review of the criminal justice response to rape and serious sexual offences. The review is tasked with understanding why there has been a recent fall in the number of rape referrals, charges, prosecutions and convictions.

The survey should take approximately 35 minutes to complete. Please answer as honestly and comprehensively as you can. Your answers are anonymous, and will form part of the qualitative analysis of this review. If you are happy to be contacted by the review team, there is an opportunity to provide an email address at the end of the survey. Where this is the case, answers will not be attributed to individuals in any published document.

In this survey, the term 'victim' is used to refer to those subjected to sexual abuse and/or assault and encompasses 'victim', 'patient', 'complainant', 'client' and 'survivor'.

The Government's position on rape and sexual assault is unequivocal. We expect every report of sexual violence and rape to be treated seriously from the point of disclosure, every victim to be treated with dignity, and every investigation and prosecution to be conducted thoroughly and professionally. Please bear this in mind when asked to assess the effectiveness of practice within the criminal justice system.

For a full privacy notice and details of how we will use your information, please [click here](#).

1. In which police force area are you based? (Optional)

2. What is your role? \*

3. What are the main changes you have experienced in the past 3-5 years that may be affecting outcomes for rape cases?

4. To what extent do you think victims understand your role, and the role you play in the justice system journey?

- Completely
- Mostly
- Somewhat
- Not particularly
- Not at all

5. If you could change 3 things to improve the criminal justice system response to rape, what would they be?

1

2

3

**Structure of your force**

6. Does your force have specialist roles?

Yes

No

**Structure of your force**

7. If yes, which specialist roles do you have in your force? (Select all that apply.)

First Response Officer

Sexual Assault Investigator

Specially Trained Officer

Sexual Offences Investigation Trained Officer

Specialist Sexual Assault Investigator

Other (please specify):



8. Do you have specific training for these roles?

	First Response Officer	Sexual Assault Investigator	Specially Trained Officer	Sexual Offences Investigation Trained Officer	Specialist Sexual Assault Investigator	Other specified in answer to Q7 above
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Structure of your force

9. If yes, who carries out this training?

### Structure of your force

10. Does your force have a dedicated unit for adult RASSO?

- Yes  
 No

11. Approximately what is the average number of RASSO investigations held by an investigator at any one time?

12. Does your force deliver the Specialist Sexual Assault Investigators Development Programme (SSAIDP) course?

- Yes  
 No  
 Don't know

13. How many investigators are PIP2 trained?

## Investigative process

Describe your process for communicating with the victim at the following stages:

14. At first point of disclosure to the police

15. When followed up by the investigative team

16. In communicating progress with the case

17. In referring victims on to specialist services

## Investigative process

18. Who arranges and/or attends Forensic Medical Examination?

19. Is there a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in your force area?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

20. Does your force have access to any other Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

21. Does your force refer victims directly onto any of the following? (Select all that apply)

- ISVA
- Rape support centre
- SARC
- BAME specialist organisations
- Other (please specify):

### Investigative process

22. If no, please explain your referral process.

### Investigative process

23. Does your force refer victims of all sexual offences to support services?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

### Investigative process

24. If no, please explain

## Investigative process

25. In your experience, approximately how many victims take up this support?

ISVA

Rape support centre

SARC

BAME specialist organisations

Other option that you specified earlier (if applicable)


26. Does your force have a RASSO gatekeeper?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

## Victim engagement

27. At what stage are victims most likely to withdraw from the process?

- Investigative stage
- Awaiting charging decision
- Post-charge

28. Based on your experience, what do you think are the 5 most common reasons for victims withdrawing from the process? (Select up to five.)

- Need to move on
- Disclosure privacy concerns
- Fear of impact on mental health
- Fear of impact on family
- Fear of further violence
- Feeling disbelieved/ judged
- Fear of giving evidence in court
- Reported by third party
- Relationship with subject
- Pressure from perpetrator to withdraw statement

- Fear of impact on education
- Lack of specialist support
- Shame or guilt
- Intensive questioning in interview
- Delays in processing
- Belief that the process will be too distressing
- Negative experience of the criminal justice system
- Other (please specify):

29. In your view, what would encourage victims who withdraw for these reasons to support a prosecution (free text)

### Relationship with CPS

30. In your force area, do you feel the number of rape investigations you are referring to the CPS for a charge decision has increased or decreased over the last 2 years?

- Increased
- Decreased

31. Why do you think this is?

32. How effective is the working relationship between your force and your local CPS prosecutors on rape cases?

- Very good
- Good
- Neither
- Poor
- Very poor

33. In your opinion, what would improve this relationship?

34. How effectively do you feel Early Investigative Advice is used?

- Very well
- Well
- Neither
- Poorly
- Not at all

35. Please explain your answer.

36. How often do you use Early Investigative Advice in adult RASSO cases?

- Every case
- Most cases
- Some cases
- Few cases
- Never

### Relationship with CPS

37. Which of these have the most significant impact on the time it takes to reach a charging decision? (Please select up to three.)

- Obtaining access to electronic devices (e.g. mobile, computer)
- Analysis of digital communications (e.g. data on mobile phone, computer, etc)
- Obtaining third party material
- Analysing third party material
- Obtaining further evidence at CPS request
- Insufficient police resource

Other (please specify):

38. Do you have a Scrutiny Panel in place?

Yes

No

### Relationship with CPS

39. If yes, please describe how this works

### Rape myths and stereotypes

In this survey, rape myths are defined as 'descriptive or prescriptive beliefs about rape (i.e. about its causes, context, consequences, perpetrators, victims and their interaction) that serve to deny, downplay or justify sexual violence'

40. In your experience, how frequently do you witness rape myths and stereotypes during the investigation process?

Very frequently

Somewhat frequently

Not very frequently

Never

41. In your experience, how frequently do you witness rape myths and stereotypes during the referral of cases to the CPS?

Very frequently

Somewhat frequently

Not very frequently

Never

42. In your experience, how frequently do you witness rape myths and stereotypes in court?

- Very frequently
- Somewhat frequently
- Not very frequently
- Never

43. In your experience, how often are these rape myths and stereotypes dispelled during the court process?

- Very frequently
- Somewhat frequently
- Not very frequently
- Never

44. In your experience, how often do prosecutors attempt to dispel rape myths and stereotypes in court?

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Never

45. Please outline some of the common rape myths you witness. Please outline where and how they are raised.

46. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you have any other comments that you would like to make, that were not captured in the previous questions, please provide them here.

47. If you are happy to be contacted by the review team to provide further insight around some of the topics raised in the survey, please provide an email address here.



## RASSO Gatekeepers Survey

### Introduction

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this survey. The answers you give will help inform analysis being undertaken by the cross-Government review of the criminal justice response to rape and serious sexual offences. The review is tasked with understanding why there has been a recent fall in the number of rape referrals, charges, prosecutions and convictions.

The survey should take approximately 25 minutes to complete. Please answer as honestly and comprehensively as you can. Your answers are anonymous, and will form part of the qualitative analysis of this review. If you are happy to be contacted by the review team, there is an opportunity to provide an email address at the end of the survey. Where this is the case, answers will not be attributed to individuals in any published document.

In this survey, the term 'victim' is used to refer to those subjected to sexual abuse and/or assault and encompasses 'victim', 'patient', 'complainant', 'client' and 'survivor'.

The Government's position on rape and sexual assault is unequivocal. We expect every report of sexual violence and rape to be treated seriously from the point of disclosure, every victim to be treated with dignity, and every investigation and prosecution to be conducted thoroughly and professionally. Please bear this in mind when asked to assess the effectiveness of practice within the criminal justice system.

For a full privacy notice and details of how we will use your information, please [click here](#).

1. In which police force area are you based? (Optional)
2. Which organisation do you work for? (Optional)
3. What is your role? \*
4. Please provide a brief description of your role

5. What are the main changes you have experienced in the past 3-5 years that may be affecting outcomes for rape cases?

6. If you could change 3 things to improve the criminal justice system response to rape, what would they be?

1

2

3

### Structure of your role

7. On average, how many cases per month do you manage?

8. Which categories of case are referred to you?

9. How is your role funded?

10. To what extent do you think victims understand your role, and the role you play in the justice system journey?

- Completely
- Mostly
- Somewhat
- Not particularly
- Not at all

11. Are you a Police Officer / Retired Officer?

Yes

No

**Structure of your role**

12. Are you a current or retired officer?

Current

Retired

**Structure of your role**

13. What is your rank?

**Structure of your role**

14. Do you feel you receive sufficient specialist RASSO training?

Yes

No

**Structure of your role**

15. If no, what would improve this?

**Relationship with the police and CPS**

16. Are you co-located with the CPS?

Yes

No

17. How effective is your working relationship with your local police force(s) on rape cases?

- Very good
- Good
- Neither
- Poor
- Very poor

18. In your opinion, what would improve this relationship?

19. How effective is your working relationship with your local CPS on rape cases?

- Very good
- Good
- Neither
- Poor
- Very poor

20. In your opinion, what would improve this relationship?

21. How do you offer feedback on cases to police officers?

22. How do you offer feedback to prosecutors?

## RASSO cases

23. How often do you use Early Investigative Advice in adult RASSO cases?

- Every case
- Most cases
- Some cases
- Few cases
- Never

24. How effectively do you feel Early Investigative Advice is used?

- Very well
- Well
- Neither
- Poorly
- Not at all

25. Please explain your answer.

26. Which of these have the most significant impact on the time it takes to reach a charging decision? (Please select up to three.)

- Obtaining access to electronic devices (e.g. mobile, computer)
- Analysis of digital communications (e.g. data on mobile phone, computer, etc)
- Obtaining third party material
- Analysing third party material
- Obtaining further evidence at CPS request
- Insufficient police resource
- Other (please specify):

27. Do pre-charge case management panels take place in RASSO cases in your area?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

28. If yes, are you routinely invited to attend these panel meetings?

- Yes
- No

29. If you do attend these meetings, do you think they are useful?

- Yes
- No

30. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you have any other comments that you would like to make, that were not captured in the previous questions, please provide them here.

31. If you are happy to be contacted by the review team to provide further insight around some of the topics raised in the survey, please provide an email address here.





© Crown copyright 2021

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit [nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3](https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3)

This publication is also available on our website at [www.gov.uk/government/publications](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications)

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at [researchsupport@justice.gov.uk](mailto:researchsupport@justice.gov.uk)