

LANCASHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY
TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS WITH RESIDENTS

DETAILED FINDINGS OF RESULTS

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1.0 Background to the Lancashire Police Authority Research:

Feedback Market Research was commissioned to conduct 1350 questionnaires with residents living in the areas covered by the Cheshire, Lancashire and Greater Manchester Police Authorities. 450 of these interviews were conducted with respondents in the Lancashire Police Authority area. The research was designed to investigate public awareness of police authorities and attitudes towards government proposals to replace elected councillors who are nominated to police authorities with directly elected representatives.

2.0 Topics covered in this questionnaire:

- Interest of respondents in local policing
- Importance to respondents of a 'local body' overseeing Lancashire Police
- Persons respondents would expect to sit on such a local body
- Awareness of Lancashire Police Authority
- Opinions on introducing directly elected representatives to police authorities
- Whether respondents felt direct elections would make police authorities more representative of their local communities
- Whether respondents felt direct elections would be a fairer method of appointing people to police authorities

The questionnaire can be viewed on the Constabulary Intranet or requested from Naomi Walker at Lancashire Police Authority.

3.0 Method:

Telephone questionnaires were conducted with 1350 respondents during November 2008. The sample was split equally by gender and equally between respondents living within the Cheshire, Lancashire and Greater Manchester Police Authority areas.

The telephone interviewers worked from lists of wards within the three police authority areas in order to guarantee that respondents were read the correct information relating to their local police authority and therefore answered the questions in the correct context.

In Lancashire, the sample was analysed by gender, the level of interest in local policing and whether respondents feel that it is important to have a local body overseeing their local police force. Where significant trends have emerged according to these analysis breaks they are highlighted in the relevant charts.

4.0 Headline Findings:

4.1 Interest in Local Policing

- **22%** of female respondents in the Lancashire Police Authority area said they have a great deal of interest in local policing, compared with just **12%** of male respondents.
- Conversely, **35%** of male respondents in Lancashire said they had 'not much' interest in local policing, compared with **25%** of female interviewees.

4.2 Perceived Importance of a 'Local Body' to Oversee Police Forces

- **92%** of respondents who said they had 'not much' interest or no interest at all in local policing respectively think a local supervisory body is important, compared with **95%** within the overall Lancashire sample.

4.3 Persons Respondents Would Expect to Sit on the 'Local Body'

- **87%** of those questioned in the Lancashire Police Authority area would expect members of the public to sit on a local body overseeing the running of the local police force. **68%** of Lancashire respondents expected county councillors and representatives of the local crime and disorder reduction partnership to be present, while **67%** thought parish councillors would be involved.
- Apart from male respondents being **4%** more likely than females to expect parish councillors to sit on such a local body, there was no more than a **2%** difference in opinion between males and females in respect of the four groups of possible candidates listed to sit on the local body.

4.4 Awareness of Lancashire Police Authority

- Those who have a great deal or a fair amount of interest in local policing (**65%**) were **3%** more likely than the average (**62%**) for the whole Lancashire sample to be aware of Lancashire Police Authority. Indeed, **75%** of those questioned who said they had a great deal of interest in local policing said they were aware of Lancashire Police Authority.
- **41%** of respondents in Lancashire who had heard of their local police authority had found out about Lancashire Police Authority in a newspaper, with a further **12%** learning about it through word of mouth, and **8%** on local television or via a family member or friend who works for the police.

4.5 Perceived Need for Directly Elected Representatives to Lancashire Police Authority

- **26%** of female respondents felt that there is a need for a system of direct elections for representatives to Lancashire Police Authority, compared with **20%** of male interviewees and **23%** in the overall Lancashire sample. However, **33%** of those with a great deal of interest in local policing advocated such elections.
- However, **57%** of those interviewed in Lancashire did not think there is a need for a system of direct elections. This percentage was consistent among males, females and those with either a great deal or a fair amount of interest in local policing.
- **20%** of male respondents agreed strongly that introducing elections would result in a police authority more representative of the Lancashire community compared with **15%** of females.

- **24%** of respondents in Lancashire felt that introducing direct elections to the police authority would enable local people to get more of a say in the running of Lancashire Police. However, **19%** said their opinion was based on the fact they felt they didn't understand the issues well enough.

4.6 Perceived Fairness of Direct Elections

- **71%** of female respondents in Lancashire agreed to some extent that direct elections would be a fairer system of appointment to the police authority compared with the current system of council nomination and public application, compared with **60%** of male interviewees.
- **30%** of female respondents felt a system of elections would be a fairer system generally as it would give everyone a chance to have their say. **21%** of males took this view, compared with **25%** overall.

4.7 Types of Person Respondents Would Expect to Stand for Election

- **22%** of the Lancashire interviewees expected councillors to stand for election to the local police authority, with **19%** citing people who both live and work in the local area and members of the public in general respectively.
- **22%** of female respondents compared with **16%** of male interviewees said they would expect people who both live and work in the local area to stand for election to the Lancashire Police Authority.
- However, **13%** of males said they would expect local professionals and business people to stand compared with just **5%** of female respondents.

4.8 Local Council Elections

- **84%** of respondents who feel there is a need to bring in a different form of selection for local police authorities said they voted in local council elections, compared with **90%** who did not see the need for a new selection process.
- Both **77%** of male and female respondents are either very or fairly likely to vote to appoint a directly elected representative on to their local police authority if elections were introduced.
- **46%** of male respondents said they would be very likely to vote in such an election, compared with **41%** of female respondents.

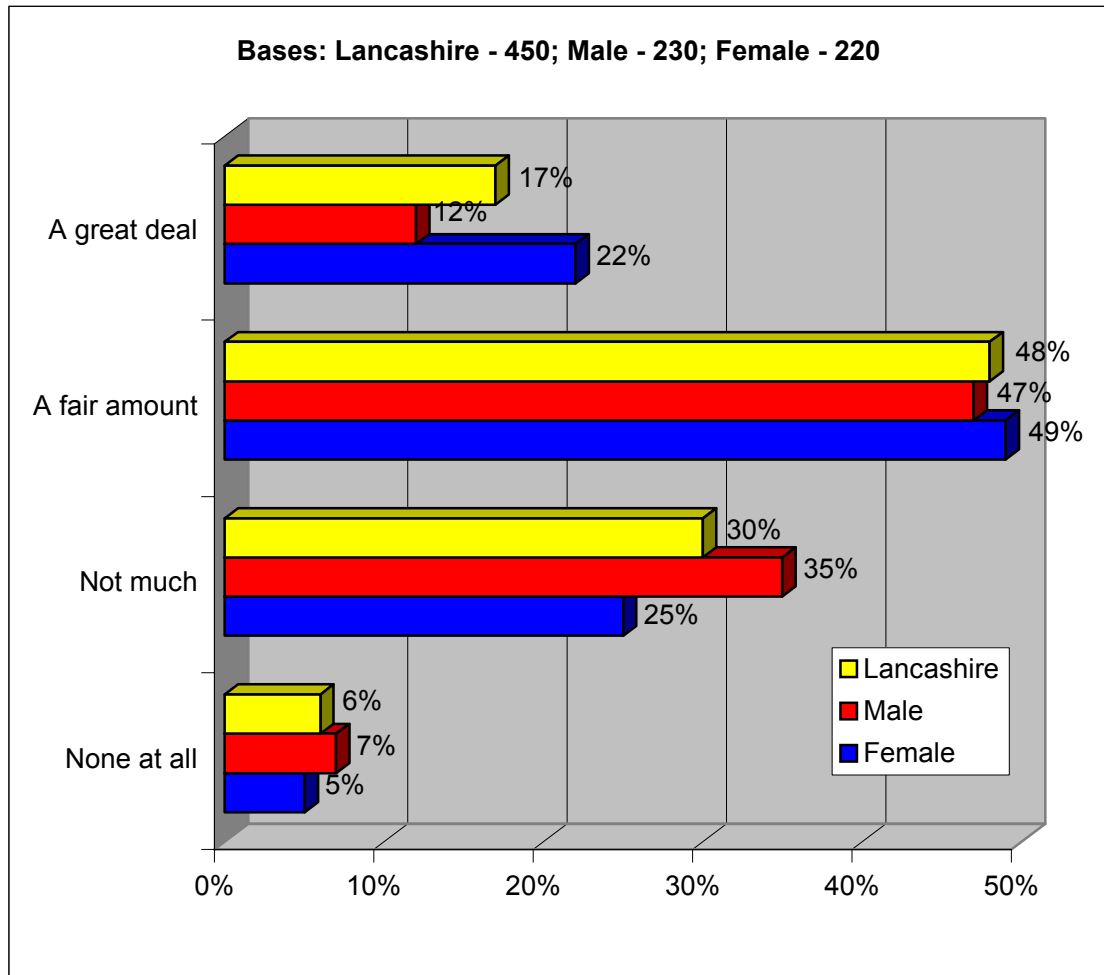
5.0 Profile of respondents in Lancashire sample:

Demographic	% of respondents (number)
Gender:	
Male	51% (230)
Female	49% (220)
Respondents with a great deal or a fair amount of interest in local policing:	
A great deal	17% (75)
A fair amount	48% (214)
Respondents who feel it is important to have a local body overseeing the local police force:	
Yes	95% (426)
No	2% (11)
Don't mind	3% (13)

6.0 Main Findings:

i. Interest in Local Policing:

The respondents were asked to indicate their level of interest in local policing in terms of issues such as how policing is delivered and the targets set for police forces to meet.



The chart shows that female respondents in the Lancashire Police Authority area are **10%** more likely than male respondents to say they have a great deal of interest in local policing.

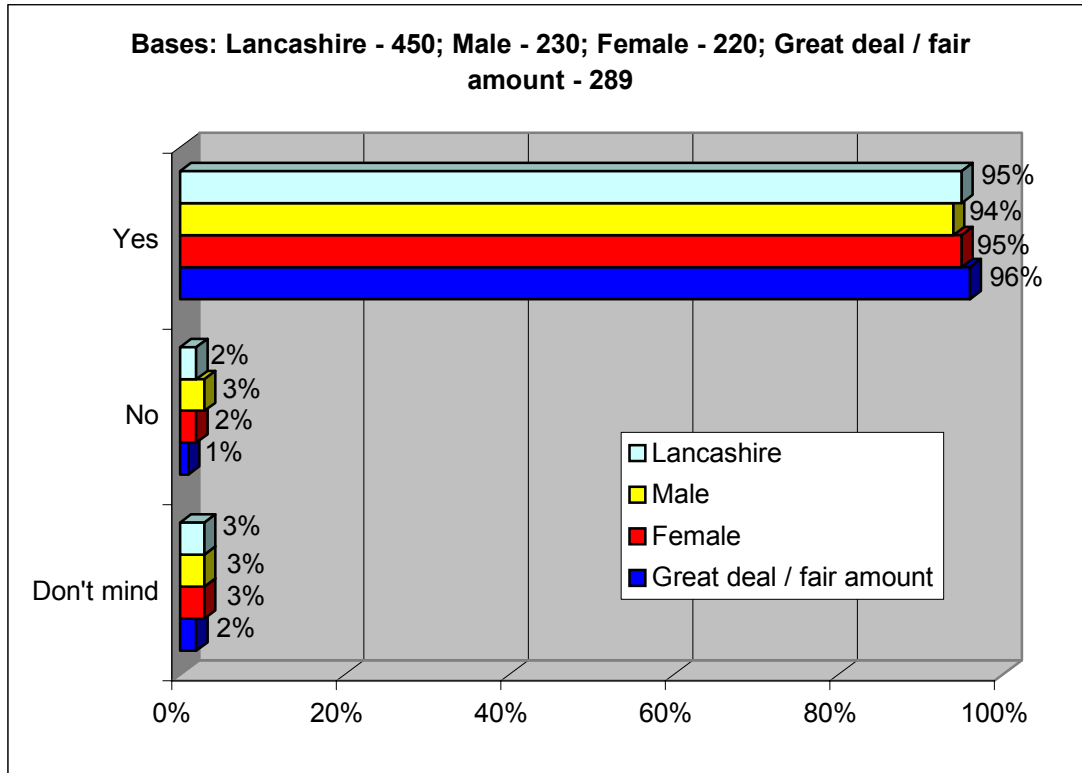
This is reinforced by the fact that **70%** of female respondents state they have either a great deal or a fair amount of interest in local policing, compared with **58%** of males.

Conversely, **35%** of male respondents in Lancashire said they had 'not much' interest in local policing, compared with **25%** of female interviewees.

55% of the 11 respondents who feel that it is not important for a local body to oversee Lancashire Police described themselves as having 'not much' interest in local policing.

ii. **Perceived Importance of a 'Local Body' Overseeing Police Forces:**

The chart below illustrates whether respondents feel it is important that there is a 'local body' overseeing their local police force to ensure that the policing delivered is efficient, effective and responsive. The reference to 'great deal / fair amount' in the following chart is to respondents who expressed a either a great deal or a fair amount of interest in local policing.

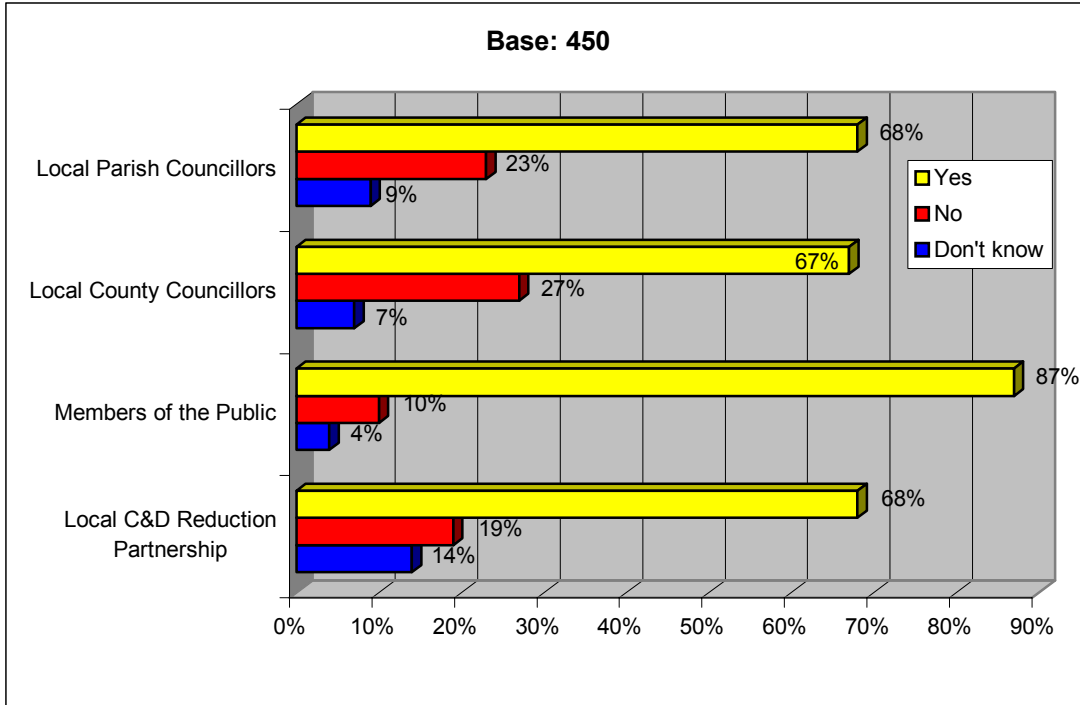


The chart shows that there is very little variation between analysis groups regarding their perception of whether it is important that there is a 'local body' overseeing their local police force.

92% of respondents who said they had 'not much' interest or no interest at all in local policing respectively think a local supervisory body is important.

iii. **Persons Respondents Would Expect to Sit on a 'Local Body':**

The respondents were asked to state which of a series of persons or groups they would expect to sit on such a local supervisory body. The table shows the response given by respondents to each kind of person or group referred to in the question.



There was relatively little variation by gender or among those expressing a great deal or a fair amount of interest in local policing in the types of person or organisation they would expect to sit on a local body overseeing Lancashire Police.

70% of the male respondents in Lancashire expected local parish councillors to sit on a body overseeing Lancashire Police, compared with **66%** of female respondents. Meanwhile, **72%** of those questioned who expressed a great deal or a fair amount of interest in local policing said they would expect parish councillors to sit on such a body.

In respect of local county councillors, **67%** of female respondents compared with **66%** of male respondents would expect county councillors to sit on a police supervisory body. This figure was **68%** among those with a great deal or fair amount of interest in local policing.

With reference to members of the public, **88%** of female respondents compared with **86%** of male respondents would expect members of the public to sit on a police supervisory body. This figure was **87%** among those with a great deal or fair amount of interest in local policing.

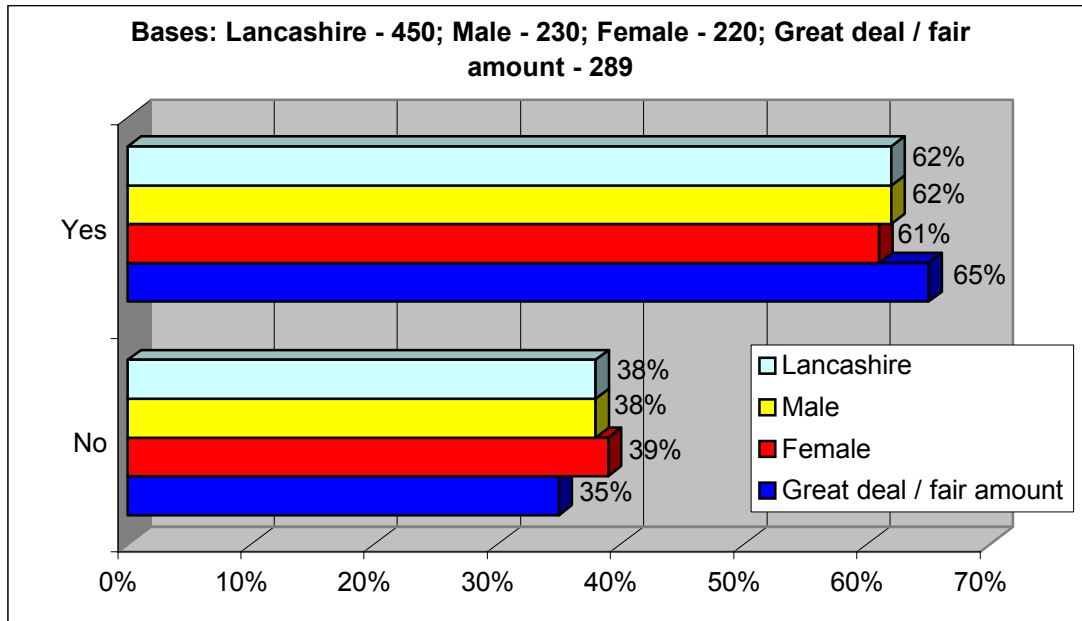
Concerning local crime and disorder reduction partnerships, **69%** of female respondents compared with **67%** of male respondents would expect members of the public to sit on a police supervisory body. This figure was **69%** among those with a great deal or fair amount of interest in local policing, but fell to **45%** among the 11 respondents who said it wasn't important to them to have a local body overseeing Lancashire Police.

22 of the 450 respondents (**5%**) interviewed in Lancashire came up with other suggestions about who they would expect to sit on such a local body. 8 respondents referred to members of the police, while 3 people said local business people.

16 of the 22 respondents with further suggestions expressed either a great deal or a fair amount of interest in local policing.

iv. **Awareness of Lancashire Police Authority:**

The following chart shows the awareness of the Lancashire Police Authority.



The chart shows a minor **1%** difference between male and female respondents in Lancashire who are aware of their local police authority.

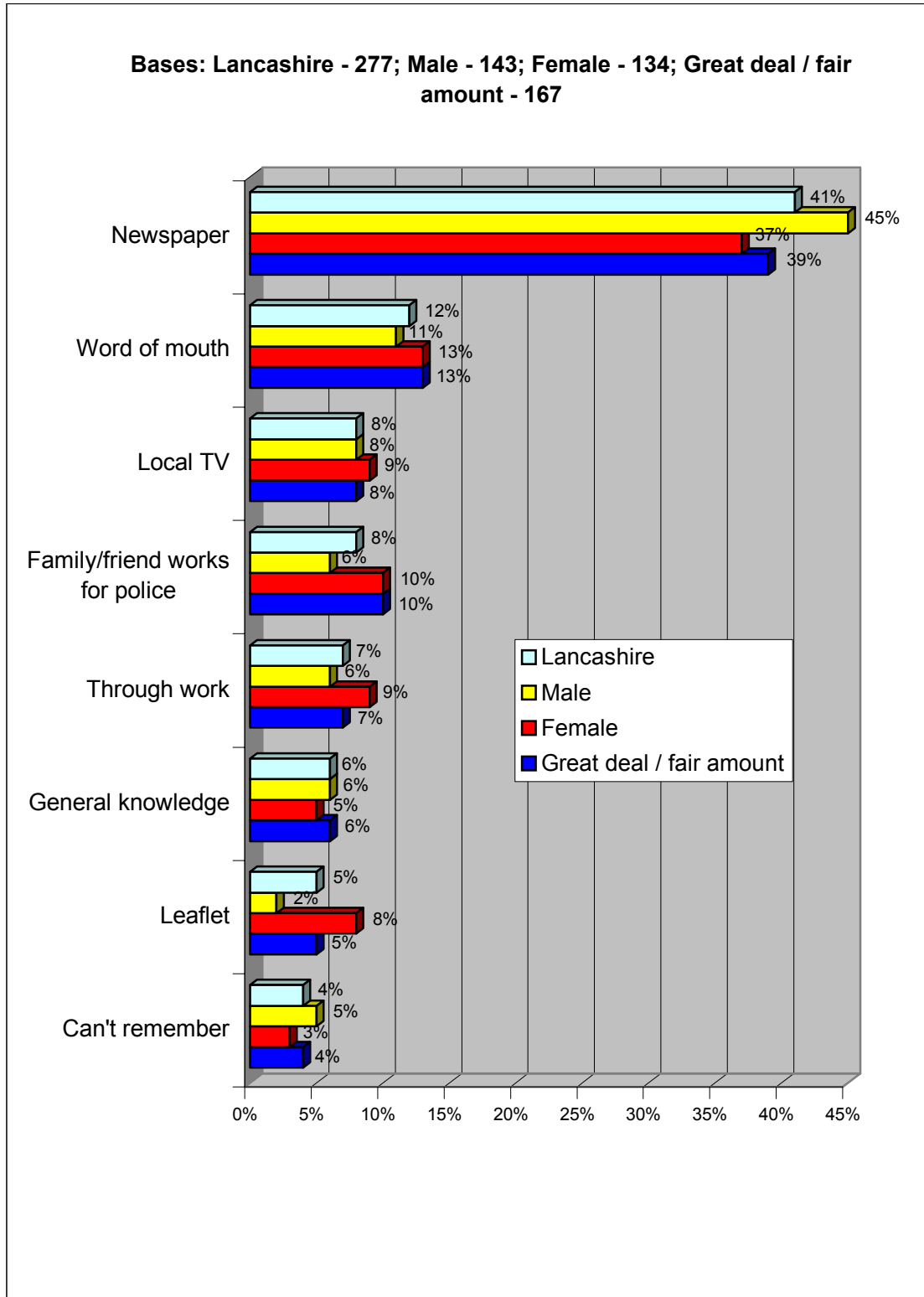
Those who have a great deal or a fair amount of interest in local policing were **3%** more likely than the average for the whole Lancashire sample to be aware of Lancashire Police Authority.

63% of the 11 respondents who said it wasn't important to them to have a local body overseeing Lancashire Police said they were aware of Lancashire Police Authority.

However, **75%** of those questioned who said they had a great deal of interest in local policing said they were aware of Lancashire Police Authority.

Reasons for Awareness of Lancashire Police Authority:

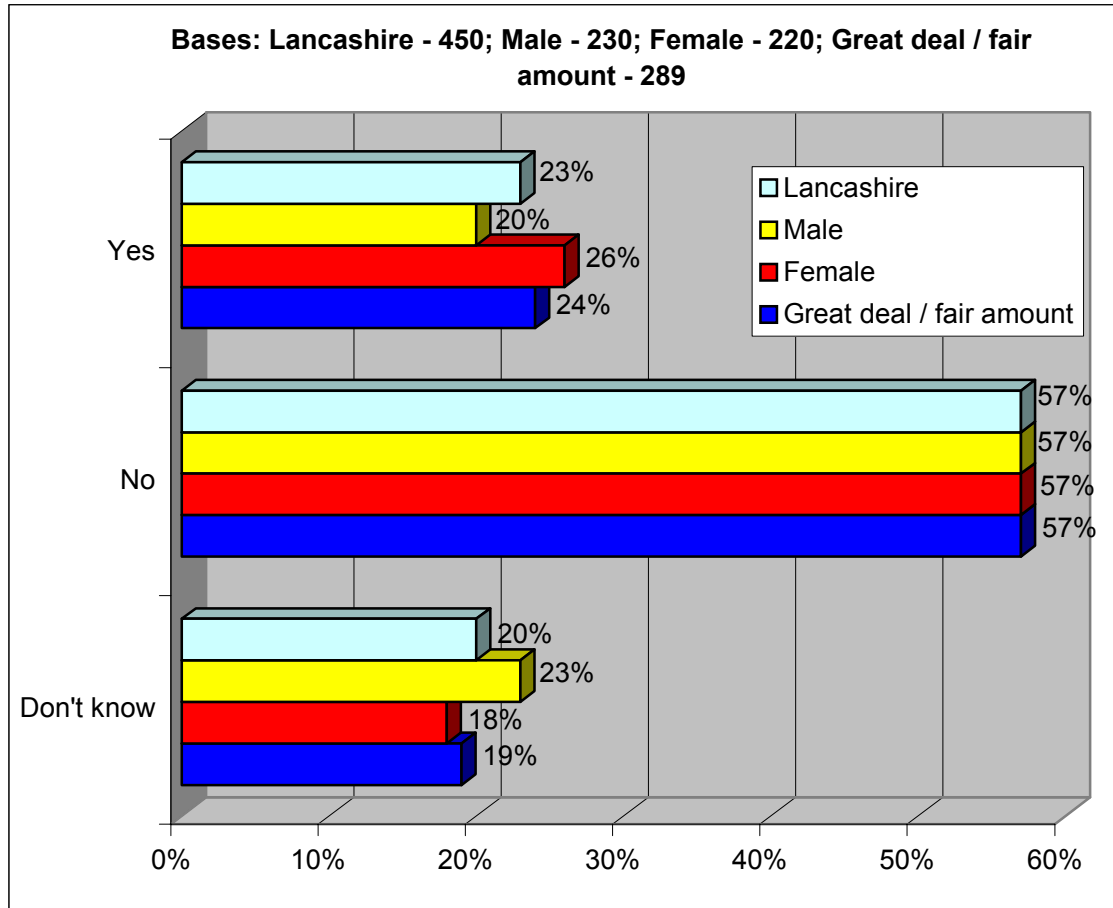
The chart below shows the eight reasons most frequently cited by the overall Lancashire sample for awareness of the Lancashire Police Authority. More than one reason was permitted from each respondent. The chart shows each reason for males, females and those with a great deal or a fair amount of interest in local policing.



Although generally the differences between the ways males and females became aware of Lancashire Police Authority were relatively minor, it is interesting to note that **45%** of males who are aware of Lancashire Police Authority had become aware of them through a newspaper compared with **37%** of females, while **8%** of females who are aware had seen details in a leaflet as opposed to **2%** of males.

v. **Perceived Need For Directly Elected Representatives to Lancashire Police Authority:**

The next chart compares the attitudes of different groups of respondents within Lancashire about whether there is a perceived need for a new system to appoint directly elected representatives to Lancashire Police Authority.



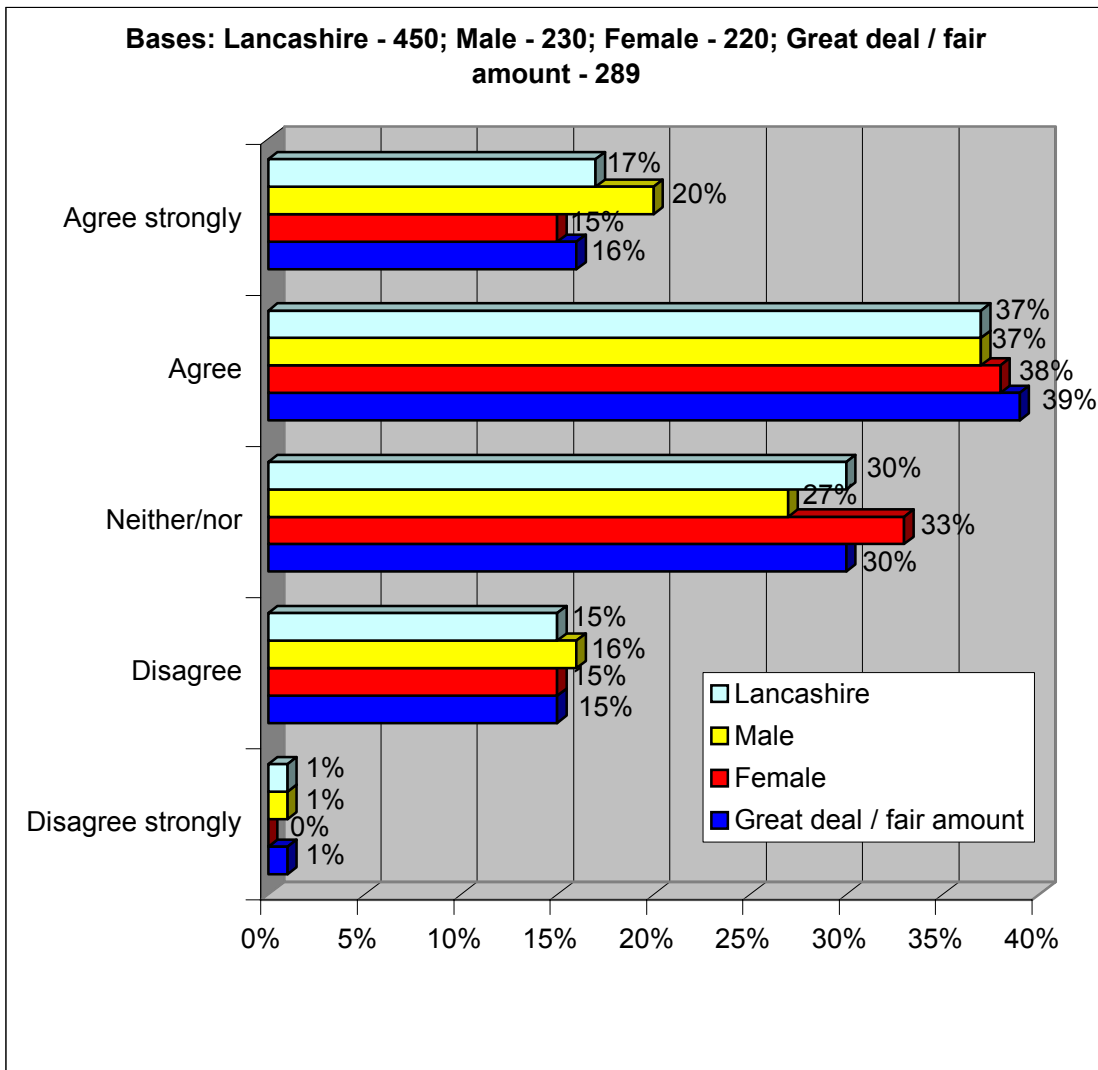
26% of female respondents felt that there is a need for a system of direct elections for representatives to Lancashire Police Authority, compared with **20%** of male interviewees.

Interestingly, of the respondents who had a great deal of interest in local policing, **33%** considered there to be a need for direct elections to the police authority.

57% overall, felt there was not a need for directly elected representatives to the Police Authority.

Consequences of Introducing Elections for Police Authority Appointments:

The respondents were asked to what extent they agreed that introducing elections would result in a police authority more representative of the Lancashire community.



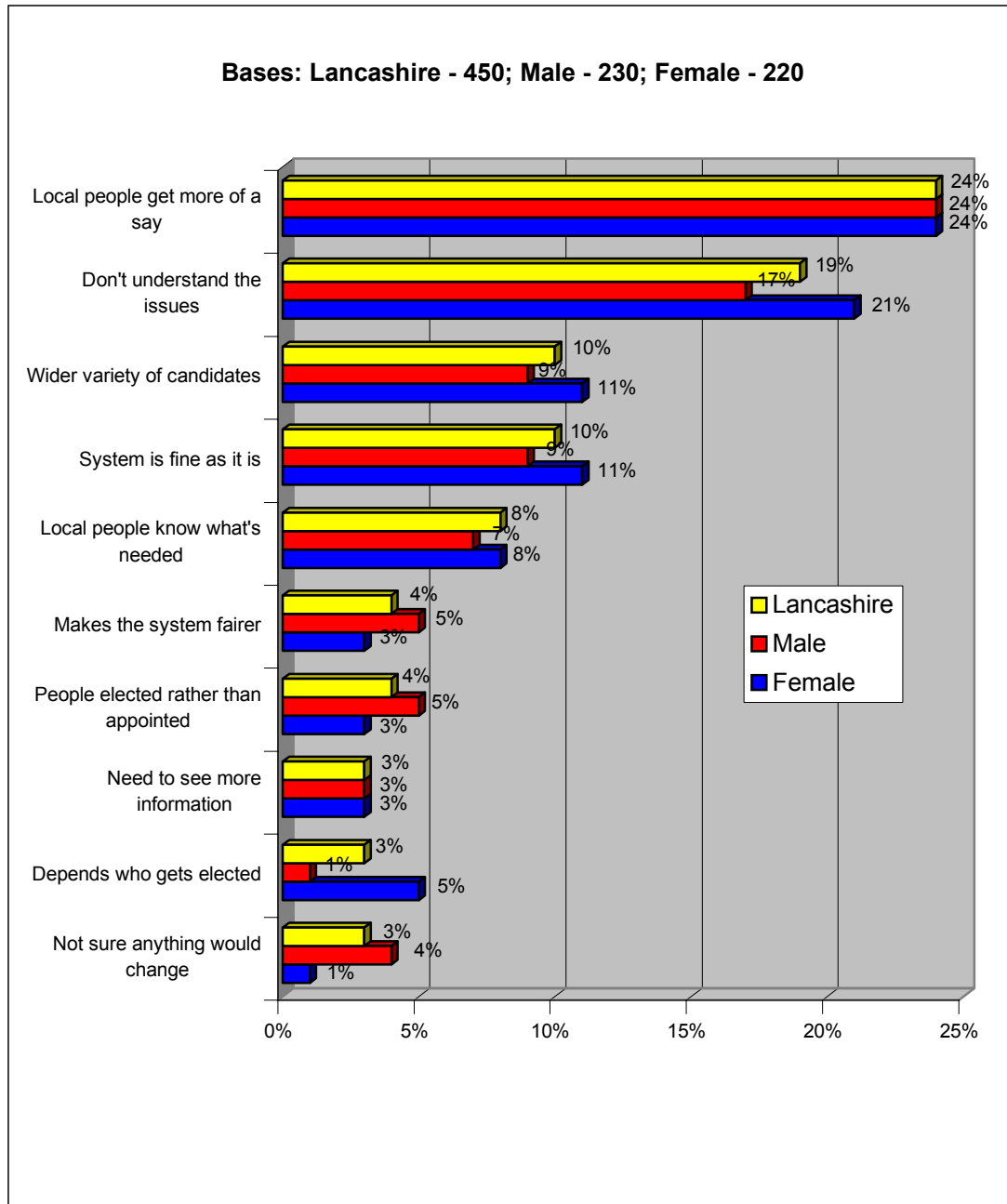
20% of male respondents agreed strongly that introducing elections would result in a police authority more representative of the Lancashire community compared with **15%** of females, while **33%** of females were ambivalent about the statement compared with **27%** of males.

The responses of those with either a great deal or a fair amount of interest in local policing closely followed the opinions of the sample overall.

Interestingly, **85%** of respondents who feel there is a need to bring in a different system to appoint directly elected representatives to Lancashire Police Authority agreed to some extent that introducing elections for police authority appointments would result in an authority more representative of the Lancashire community, compared with just **42%** among those who do not feel that there is a need for a new system of appointment.

Reasons for Opinion on the Proposed Introduction of Elections:

The following chart shows the reasons given by Lancashire respondents for their views on the proposed introduction of direct elections to police authorities. The chart lists reasons given by 3% or more of the Lancashire respondents as a whole and analyses them further by gender.

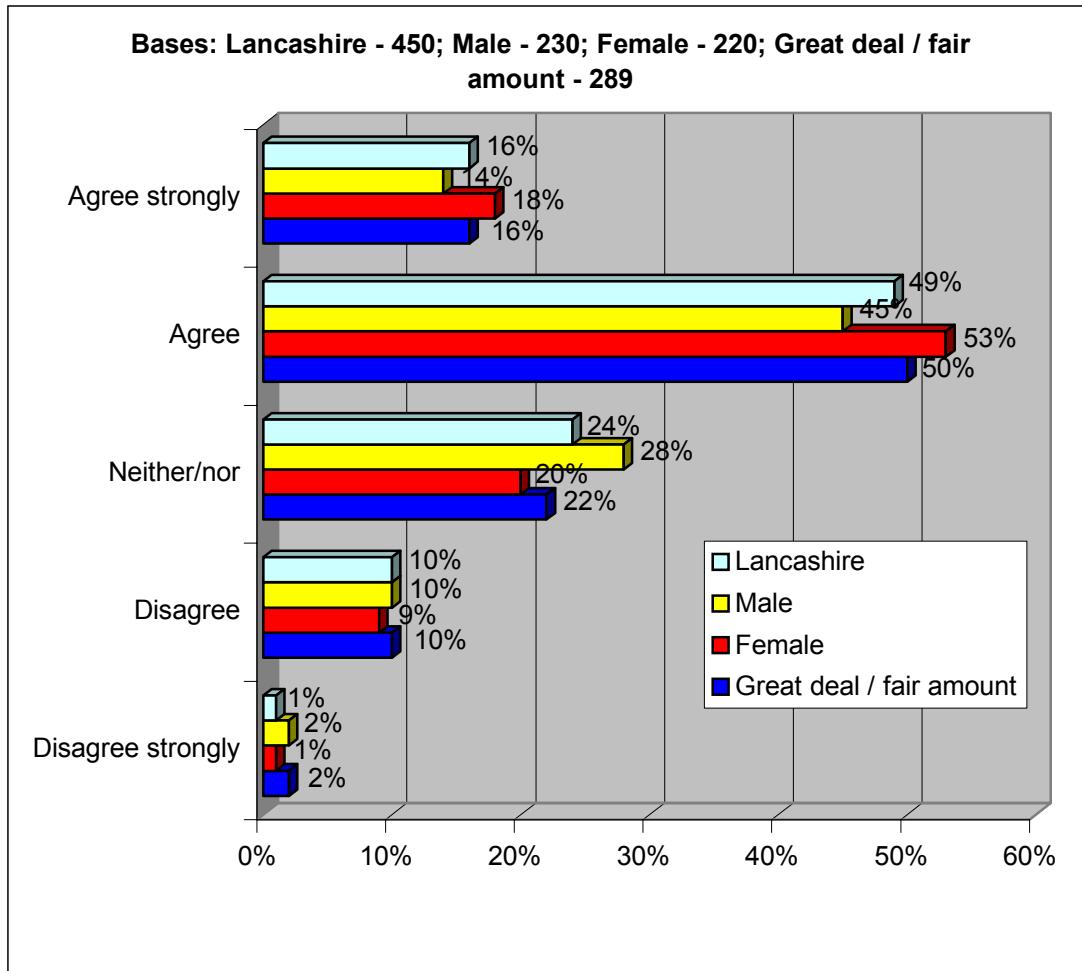


Female respondents were **4%** more likely than male interviewees to say that they don't understand the issues surrounding the proposed introduction of elections to local police authorities, and they were also **4%** more likely to make the point that their opinion of the idea depends on who actually gets elected.

There was very little deviation from the views of the overall sample among those who expressed a great deal or a fair amount of interest in local policing.

vi. **Perceived Fairness of Direct Elections:**

The respondents were asked to what extent they felt direct elections would be a fairer system of appointment to the police authority compared with the current system of council nomination and public application.



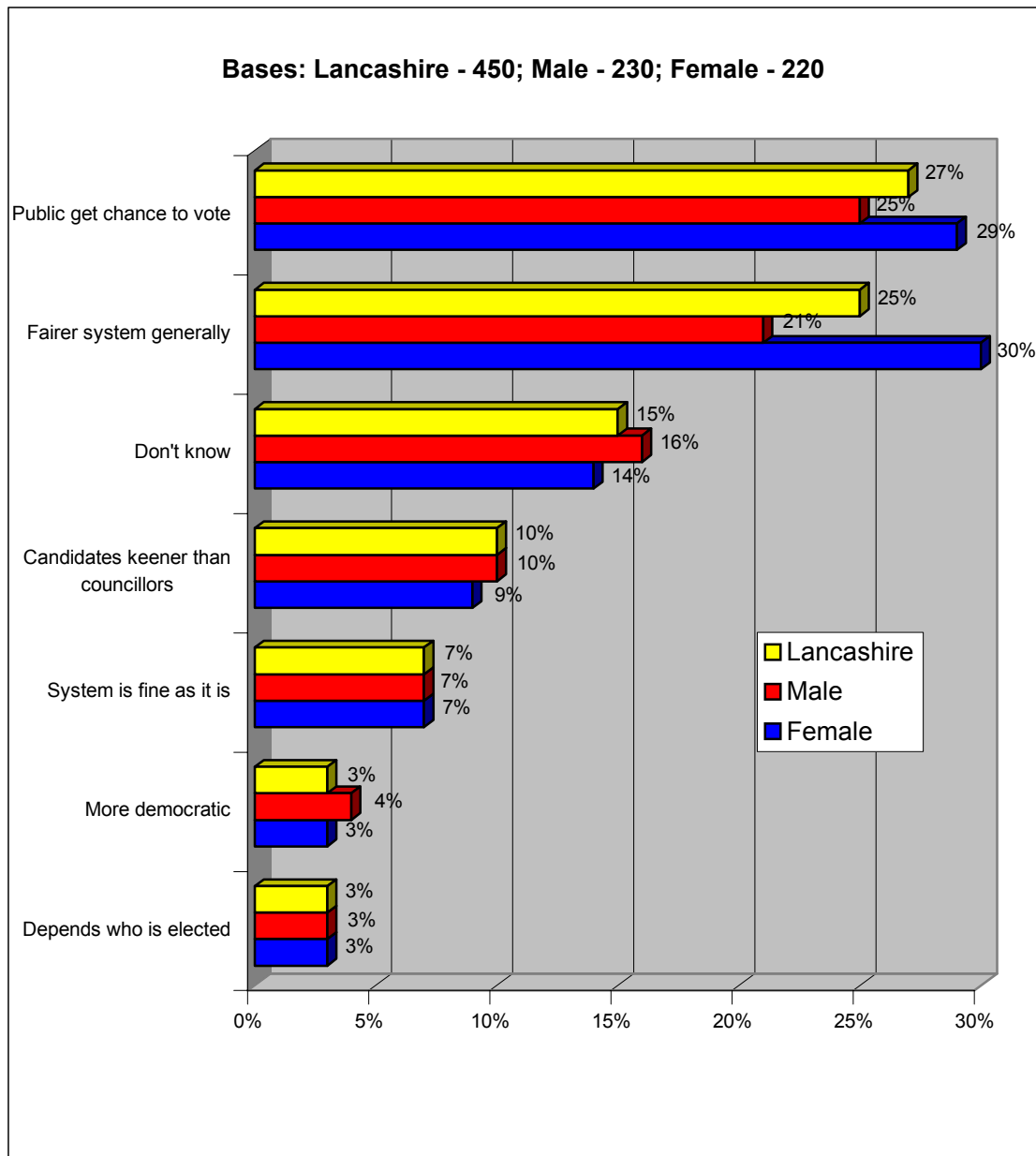
71% of female respondents agreed to some extent that direct elections would be a fairer system of appointment to the police authority compared with the current system of council nomination and public application, compared with **60%** of male interviewees. Male respondents **8%** were more likely than females to be ambivalent on this issue

66% of those with a great deal or a fair amount of interest in local policing agreed with the notion that direct elections would be a fairer method of appointment than the present system, compared with **65%** for the whole sample, although this figure rises to **72%** when you consider the respondents with a great deal of interest in local policing only.

82% of respondents who feel there is a need to bring in a different system to appoint directly elected representatives to Lancashire Police Authority agreed to some extent that introducing elections for police authority appointments would be a fairer system of appointment than the current system, compared with **59%** among those who do not feel that there is a need for a new system of appointment

Reasons for Opinion on Perceived Fairness of Direct Elections:

The chart below shows the reasons given by Lancashire respondents for their perceptions on the fairness of direct elections to police authorities. The chart lists reasons given by 3% or more of the Lancashire respondents and analyses them further by gender.



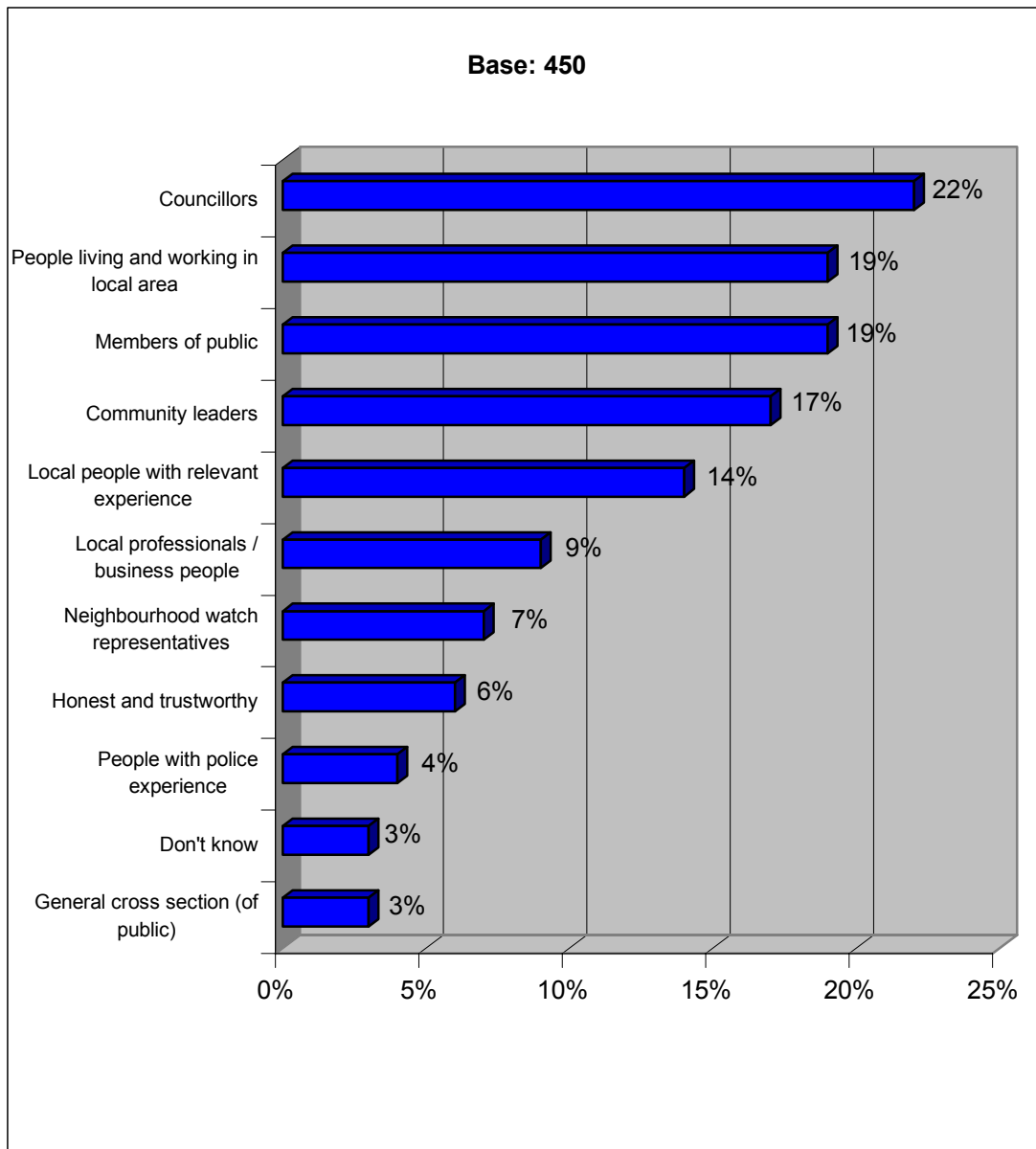
It can be seen that female respondents are more forthright than males in the reasons for their opinions on whether direct elections to police authorities would be a fairer system than the present system of appointments or not.

30% of female respondents felt a system of elections would be a fairer system generally as it would give everyone a chance to have their say. **21%** of males took this view.

31% of those who take a great deal of interest in local policing said that a system of direct elections would give everyone a chance to have their say, and **15%** of this group made the point that the elected candidates would be keener to do the job than appointed councillors.

vii. **Type of Person Respondents Would Expect to Stand in Police Authority Election:**

All responses given by 3% or more of the Lancashire sample are shown in the following table. More than one response was permitted so the table equals more than 100%.



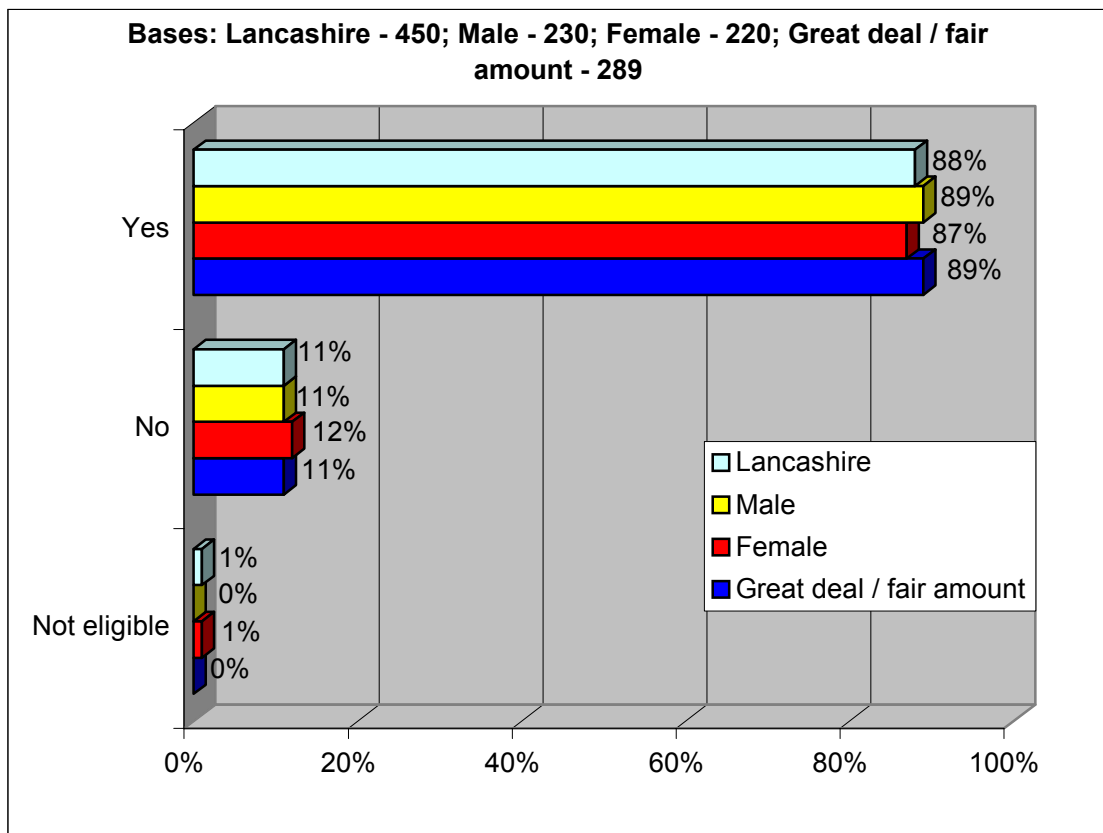
22% of female respondents compared with **16%** of male interviewees said they would expect people who both live and work in the local area to stand for election to the Lancashire Police Authority.

Conversely, **13%** of males said they would expect local professionals and business people to stand compared with just **5%** of female respondents.

27% of respondents with a great deal of interest in local policing said they would expect people who both live and work in the local area to stand for election to the Lancashire Police Authority.

viii. **Local Council Elections:**

The following chart shows the percentage of Lancashire respondents who vote in local council elections.

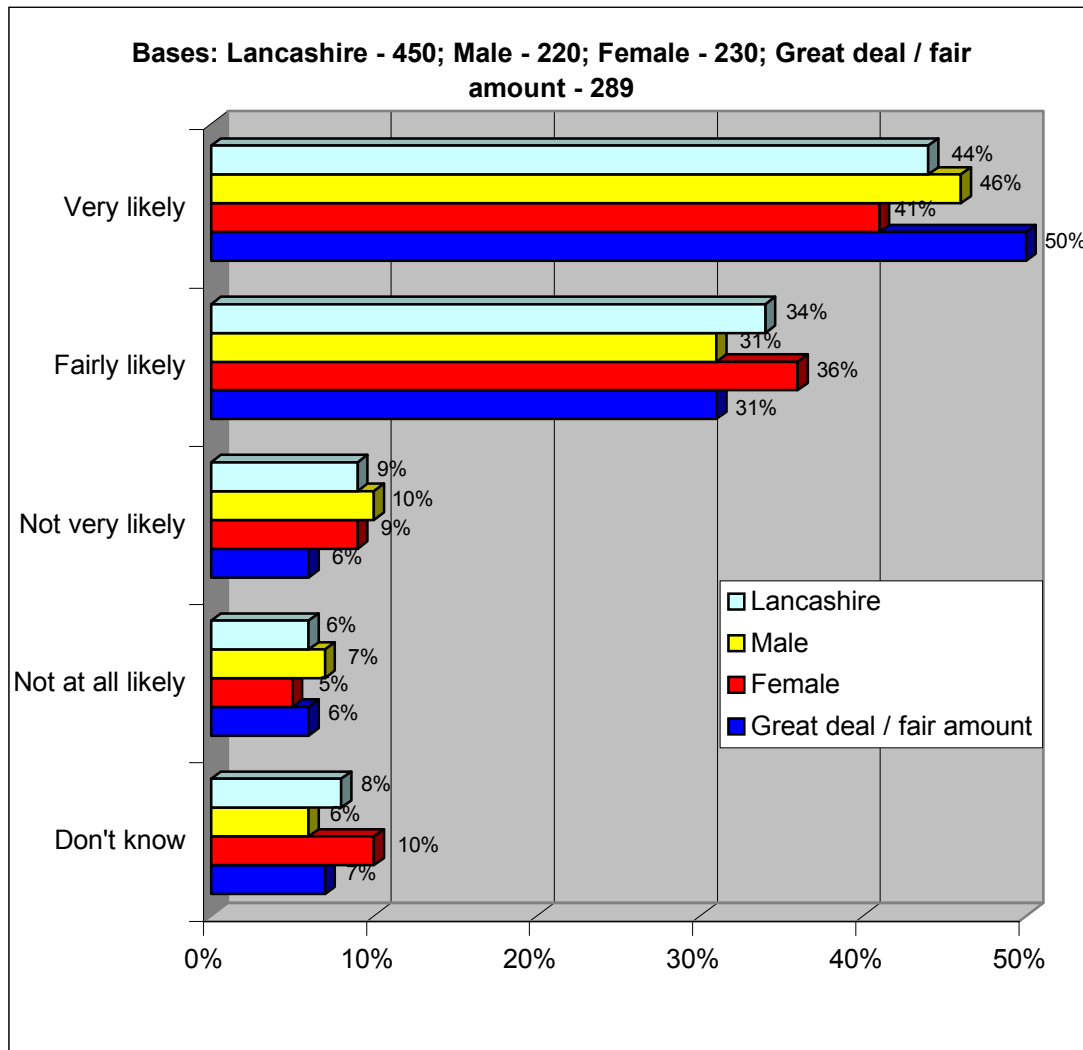


There is a negligible difference between the analysis groups.

However, **84%** of respondents who feel there is a need to bring in a different form of selection for local police authorities said they voted in local council elections, compared with **90%** who did not see the need for a new selection process.

Likelihood of Voting to Appoint Directly Elected Representative on to Police Authority:

The final chart shows how likely Lancashire respondents would be to vote to appoint a directly elected representative on to their local police authority if elections were introduced.



Both **77%** of male and female respondents are either very or fairly likely to vote to appoint a directly elected representative on to their local police authority if elections were introduced, although males are **5%** more likely to state they would be very likely to vote.

It is interesting to note that respondents with a great deal or a fair amount of interest in policing are **6%** more likely than the average for the whole sample to be very likely to vote. This figure rises to **62%**, or **18%** higher than average, among respondents with a great deal of interest in local policing.

88% of respondents who think there is a need for a new form of selection for members of local police authorities said they would either be very or fairly likely to vote in a police authority election, compared with **75%** of those who did not see the need for a new selection system.