

RESULTS FROM OPINION WAVE 5

The Authority maintains a representative panel of 4,000 individuals for the whole of Lancashire. Panel members are consulted 3 times a year on various policing issues. The report below details the results from the consultation that took place in February and March 2004.

Topics we Consulted on:

- Confidence in the police
- Community safety looking at the panel members
- Experience of crime
- Perceptions of safety
- Neighbourhood safety
- Transport safety
- Safety in the home

Confidence in Lancashire Constabulary:

- Confidence in Lancashire Constabulary is tracked over time to see if it increases or decreases. Confidence in the Constabulary for this wave was higher than we have seen in any previous survey - 84% of respondents are very/fairly confident in Lancashire Constabulary and 14% are not very/not at all confident
- The main factor that had influenced respondents confidence for this last wave was the good level of service received from the Police
- However, one of the main explanations for respondents decreases in confidence this wave was receiving a slow or poor response from the Police

Action/outcome:

Information regarding levels of confidence in the Lancashire Constabulary is monitored by senior managers in regular strategic management meetings, with particular emphasis being placed on the reasons for increases or decreases in confidence.

Community Safety – Crime & Disorder Audit:

These questions were based on finding out not only the panel members experiences of crime, but also looking at questions that focused on community safety issues in their neighbourhood.

Experience of crime:

- 36% of respondents believe that their quality of life is negatively affected by crime, with the main reason for this being that respondents feel that they have to be less relaxed and more cautious in general
- 11% of respondents have been victims of crime and 8% of respondents have witnessed a crime in the past 12 months
- The crime that respondents have most frequently been a victim of is vehicle crime and the crime respondents had most frequently been witness to was vandalism

- 77% of respondents had reported crimes that they had been a victim of to the Police or Local Authority, however 21% of respondents did not report the crime at all

Perceptions of safety:

As would be expected, everyone feels safer in various situations during the day than they do at night

- Respondents felt safest in their own homes (both during the day and at night) and feel least safe in town centre pubs/clubs (both during the day and at night)
- Those respondents aged 65+ are most likely to fear intimidation or harassment due to their age, with the level of fear increasing as age increases
- As would be expected, females are most likely to fear intimidation or harassment due to their gender

Neighbourhood safety:

- The biggest problem due to the presence of other people is groups of youths hanging around - 28% of respondents claim that groups of youths hanging around is a problem and 35% of respondents state that this has an impact of how safe respondents feel
- The biggest problem which results from other people is vandalised telephone kiosks – 17% of respondents find this is a problem and 20% say that it has an impact on their feelings of safety
- Of the general environmental factors which cause problems dog fouling is the biggest issue, with 39% of respondents claiming it is a problem and 25% claiming that it has an impact on how safe they feel

Transport safety:

- The main vehicle related problem in respondents neighbourhoods is damage to vehicles (18% of respondents claim it is a very/fairly big problem) followed by the reckless driving of stolen cars, which is a very/fairly big problem for 14% of respondents
- Respondents vehicles are considered safest when parked on their own driveway or in their garage and is considered least safe when parked in a public car park
- 54% of respondents feel that aggressive drivers have a big impact on how safe they feel when out driving and 42% feel the same about speeding vehicles
- The main factor in making respondents feel unsafe on public transport is the fear of anti-social behaviour – those aged 18-24 feel more unsafe than any other group due to this issue

Safety in the home:

- 19% of respondents are concerned about the security of their home whilst they are in, but 42% of respondents were worried about security once they had gone out
- The main threats to respondents safety are considered to be- vandalism to property (25%) of respondents claim this has an impact on their feelings of safety) and bogus callers (considered to impact on feelings of safety by 24% of respondents)
- The issue which poses the lowest threat to respondents feelings of safety is deliberate fire setting on respondents property

Action/outcome:

- The Community Safety results will be used by each of the 14 Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership's in Lancashire as part of the consultation element of the 2004 Crime & Disorder Audits. The main purpose of the Audits is to enable CDRP to develop a community safety strategy for their district for the period 2005-08. This information will be used alongside other consultation results and statistical evidence that have been gathered
- These audits once completed will be made available to the public and will also be used for a County-wide Crime & Disorder Audit