

Meeting	Policing Performance Committee
Date	28 th May 2020
Location	Teleconference
Title of Paper	Public Confidence in Policing and COVID-19 – SPA Survey
Presented By	Martin Smith (SPA Strategy Programme Lead)
Recommendation to Members	For Noting
Appendix Attached – Yes	

PURPOSE

This paper provides an update to the Committee on survey work independently commissioned by the Authority to understand levels of public confidence in policing in Scotland with respect to the current emergency measures regarding the Coronavirus pandemic.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In April the Authority commissioned Mark Diffley Consultancy Ltd to undertake public opinion surveying with respect to policing and the Coronavirus pandemic, with a specific focus on public confidence.
- 1.2 The approach involves three survey 'waves' being completed at fortnightly intervals. The first wave commenced at the end of April, the second in mid-May and the third wave is taking place w/c 25th May. A number of questions regarding public confidence and attitudes towards police powers are being asked through the survey, many of them comparable to questions asked in the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey and in other recent public opinion surveys about policing during the Coronavirus 'lockdown'.
- 1.3 This paper provides the Committee with an update on progress and key findings to date.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC

- 2.1 The Authority has a statutory duty to keep policing in Scotland under review and to hold the Chief Constable to account for the policing of Scotland. The Authority has also committed, in its recently published Corporate Plan 2020-23¹, to a vision of *Policing in the Public Interest* based on delivering a set of strategic outcomes, two of which are directly relevant to this paper:
 - o The public are confident in policing with issues of public interest being addressed transparently, and the voices of communities taken into account in decision-making
 - o Decision making, scrutiny and reporting is based on robust evidence and analysis of current and emerging policing issues
- 2.2 The Authority has thus been keen to understand and monitor the level of public confidence in policing in Scotland during the Coronavirus pandemic, and in April 2020 commissioned Mark Diffley Consultancy Ltd to undertake independent and representative surveys of the Scottish adult population.
- 2.3 The Wave 1 survey asked ten questions, utilising questions in the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey to enable comparison, and questions in a recent survey of Great Britain by YouGov Crest. Wave 2 repeated nine of the initial questions, and added five new questions regarding the public's compliance with lockdown

¹ <http://www.spa.police.uk/assets/126884/441011/601841/614096/item8c>

guidance. These additional questions were developed through engagement with the Independent Advisory Group and will be useful at the end of Wave 3 for cross-tabulating the findings on public confidence in the police.

- 2.4 Survey work commenced at the end of April (Wave 1), continuing at fortnightly intervals for two further waves. The last of the three waves takes place w/c 25th May. Each survey wave consists of a random sample of about 1,500 adult respondents being taken from a much larger population panel, to generate high-quality findings that are representative of the Scottish (adult) population. Survey findings are weighted to ensure full representativeness of the sample and enable findings to be extrapolated to the wider Scottish population with a high level of confidence. In survey methodologies it is conventional for survey responses to be weighted in this fashion.
- 2.5 Findings from each wave of the Survey are being shared with Authority Members and published on the Authority's website, alongside clear public messaging regarding key findings provided by the Authority's Vice Chair. Infographics are also being shared on social media using the Authority's Twitter account. The Survey results are also being discussed in public at meetings of the Authority, alongside other COVID-19 and policing related data and evidence. Survey results are also shared with Police Scotland, Scottish Government and the Independent Advisory Group on the police's use of the new powers, chaired by John Scott QC.

3 NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 The most up-to-date survey findings from waves 1 and 2 are located in the Appendix to this report. The findings from Wave 3 will be shared with the Authority at its meeting of 30th June, alongside findings from across all three survey waves, where disaggregated analysis will explore specific relationships within the data, to include more detailed geographic and socio-demographic analysis.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are **no** financial implications associated with this report.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are **no** personnel implications associated with this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are **no** legal implications in this paper.

7. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are **no** legal implications in this paper.

8. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are **no** social implications associated with this paper.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 There are **no** community implications associated with this paper.

10. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are **no** equality implications associated with this paper.

11. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are **no** environmental implications associated with this paper.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to note this update on progress and the survey findings set out in this paper's supporting Appendix.

Appendix – Survey Findings

Responses

SPA Survey Fieldwork 28 April 2020 – WAVE 1

- 1660 Respondents
- 479 North Scotland, 505 East Scotland, 676 West Scotland
- 797 males, 863 females
- 481 under 35, 249 35-44s, 282 45-54s, 266 55-64s, 382 over 65s

SPA Survey Fieldwork 13 May 2020 – WAVE 2

- 1574 Respondents
- 458 North Scotland, 476 East Scotland, 640 West Scotland
- 754 males, 820 females
- 441 under 35, 250 35-44s, 284 45-54s, 284 55-64s, 315 over 65s

Comparator Surveys

Crest Commissioned Yougov Survey Fieldwork Weekend 3-6 April 2020

- 1646 Respondents
- 198 London, 553 South, 357 Midlands/Wales, 396 North, 142 Scotland
- 800 males, 846 females
- 179 under 24, 686 25-49s, 397 50-64s, 384 over 65s
- Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2017/18
 - 5,475 Respondents
 - 2,518 males, 2,957 females
 - 408 16-24, 1,519 25-44, 1,396 45-59, 2,152 60+

Wave 1 and Wave 2 Results compared

Which of the following statements best describes your *current* personal status regarding the Coronavirus / Covid-19 lockdown?

Statement	Scotland 28 April	Scotland 13 May	West 28 April	West 13 May	East 28 April	East 13 May	North 28 April	North 13 May
I am shielding myself or self-isolating	15%	14%	17%	14%	12%	13%	16%	13%
I spend most of my time at home, and practice social-distancing when I go out into public places	64%	61%	62%	60%	66%	63%	63%	61%
I have to leave the house quite often (for work and/or exercise and/or caring responsibilities) but practice social-distancing whenever possible	20%	24%	20%	24%	21%	23%	21%	25%
None of the above	1%	2%	1%	2%	0%	2%	1%	1%

Range of situations 13 May: 92% 60 years plus for shielding or mostly at home to 70% for under 35s

Taking everything into account how good a job do you think the police in your **local area** are doing?

Statement	Scotland 28 April	Scotland 13 May	West 28 April	West 13 May	East 28 April	East 13 May	North 28 April	North 13 May	SCJS
Excellent	17%	17%	16%	17%	16%	20%	18%	15%	10%
Good	32%	25%	29%	25%	33%	24%	33%	25%	47%
Fair	17%	15%	20%	16%	17%	11%	12%	17%	31%
Poor	6%	6%	7%	6%	6%	4%	5%	9%	7%
Very poor	2%	4%	3%	3%	1%	5%	2%	3%	2%
Don't know	27%	33%	25%	32%	27%	36%	30%	30%	3%
Rather not say	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%

Range of opinion 13 May: "Excellent" 22% in over 65s to 14% in under 35s

Overall do you think that the police presence in your local area is?

Statement	Scotland 28 April	Scotland 13 May	West 28 April	West 13 May	East 28 April	East 13 May	North 28 April	North 13 May	SCJS
Not Enough	38%	36%	40%	35%	37%	39%	36%	35%	50%
About right	44%	41%	42%	40%	44%	42%	47%	42%	44%
Too Much	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	0%
Don't know	16%	21%	17%	23%	17%	18%	14%	20%	6%

Range of opinion 13 May: 4+ people households 41% saying "not enough" to 33% for females

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How confident are you in the ability of police in your **local area** to respond quickly?

Statement	Scotland 28 April	Scotland 13 May	West 28 April	West 13 May	East 28 April	East 13 May	North 28 April	North 13 May	SCJS
Very confident	17%	17%	17%	19%	18%	16%	18%	15%	15%
Fairly confident	50%	42%	48%	39%	50%	42%	54%	45%	48%
Not very confident	15%	14%	18%	15%	13%	15%	13%	13%	23%
Not at all confident	5%	8%	5%	8%	4%	9%	5%	8%	9%
Don't know	12%	18%	12%	19%	14%	17%	11%	19%	5%

Range of opinion 13 May: "Very Confident" 21% in over 65s to 14% in under 35s

How confident are you in the ability of police in your **local area** to deal with incidents as they occur?

Statement	Scotland 28 April	Scotland 13 May	West 28 April	West 13 May	East 28 April	East 13 May	North 28 April	North 13 May	SCJS
Very confident	18%	18%	18%	20%	18%	16%	19%	17%	12%
Fairly confident	52%	43%	49%	43%	54%	43%	54%	42%	53%
Not very confident	14%	15%	17%	14%	13%	15%	11%	17%	23%
Not at all confident	5%	7%	5%	6%	4%	8%	6%	6%	7%
Don't know	11%	16%	11%	16%	11%	16%	10%	17%	5%

Range of opinion 13 May: "Very Confident" 23% in over 65s to 15% in under 35s

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of how the police in Scotland are handling the COVID 19 lockdown?

Statement	Scotland 28 April	Scotland 13 May	West 28 April	West 13 May	East 28 April	East 13 May	North 28 April	North 13 May	GB Average (Yougov)
I fully support the approach taken by the police	46%	42%	42%	40%	47%	43%	49%	43%	42%
I support the approach taken by the police but in some cases they are going too far	17%	10%	17%	11%	19%	9%	14%	11%	32%
The approach taken by the police to enforcing the COVID 19 lockdown is too heavy handed	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%	2%	0%	6%
The police should take tougher action to ensure public compliance	28%	35%	31%	35%	25%	34%	26%	36%	14%
The police have no role in enforcing the COVID 19 lockdown, compliance should be a matter for individuals	2%	4%	2%	3%	2%	4%	3%	4%	2%
None of the above	5%	8%	5%	9%	5%	7%	5%	6%	5%

Range of opinion 13 May: "Fully Support" 48% in 55-64s to 32% in 35-44s

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To what extent are you comfortable or uncomfortable with each of the following police measures in response to COVID-19?

Asking people to provide a valid reason for being out of their home when challenged (stop and account)

Statement	Scotland 28 April	Scotland 13 May	West 28 April	West 13 May	East 28 April	East 13 May	North 28 April	North 13 May	GB Average (Yougov)
Very comfortable	50%	51%	46%	48%	53%	53%	52%	51%	47%
Fairly comfortable	34%	34%	35%	38%	35%	34%	31%	29%	35%
Fairly uncomfortable	9%	7%	11%	6%	6%	6%	8%	11%	9%
Very uncomfortable	6%	5%	6%	7%	5%	5%	8%	4%	5%
Don't know	2%	2%	3%	2%	1%	1%	2%	5%	5%

Range of opinion 13 May: "Very comfortable" 55% in females to 46% in males

To what extent are you comfortable or uncomfortable with each of the following police measures in response to COVID-19?

Arresting people who fail to comply with police instructions to return home

Statement	Scotland 28 April	Scotland 13 May	West 28 April	West 13 May	East 28 April	East 13 May	North 28 April	North 13 May	GB Average (Yougov)
Very comfortable	47%	47%	46%	46%	48%	49%	48%	48%	41%
Fairly comfortable	32%	30%	31%	31%	30%	29%	36%	32%	31%
Fairly uncomfortable	11%	12%	12%	13%	12%	14%	8%	10%	15%
Very uncomfortable	7%	7%	8%	7%	7%	6%	6%	8%	7%
Don't know	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%	2%	3%	6%

Range of opinion 13 May: "Very Comfortable" 53% in 55-64s to 41% in under 35s

To what extent are you comfortable or uncomfortable with each of the following police measures in response to COVID-19?

Issuing people breaching the lockdown with penalty fines

Statement	Scotland 28 April	Scotland 13 May	West 28 April	West 13 May	East 28 April	East 13 May	North 28 April	North 32 May	GB Average (Yougov)
Very comfortable	57%	56%	55%	56%	59%	59%	48%	53%	41%
Fairly comfortable	28%	30%	28%	29%	29%	29%	36%	34%	34%
Fairly uncomfortable	7%	6%	8%	6%	7%	5%	8%	7%	13%
Very uncomfortable	5%	4%	6%	5%	3%	4%	6%	4%	6%
Don't know	3%	3%	3%	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%	6%

Range of opinion 13 May: "Very Comfortable" 59% in females to 54% in 35-44s

Wave 1 Results (Question not repeated in Wave 2)

Which of the following measures would you be **comfortable** with the policing using to maintain compliance with the COVID-19 lockdown?

Statement	Scotland	West	East	North	GB Average (YouGov)
Roadblocks asking motorists to justify their journeys	59%	54%	62%	61%	70%
Asking people to report others who breach the rules (ie by holding or attending gatherings)	48%	47%	50%	49%	51%
Using drone technology / unmanned aircraft to photograph people making unessential journeys	33%	33%	38%	29%	50%
Analysis of social media accounts (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook etc) to identify those breaching the lockdown	32%	32%	31%	32%	43%
Naming and shaming on social media	22%	25%	22%	17%	38%

Range of opinion: "Comfortable" 67% with roadblocks amongst 35-44s to 16% social media shaming in under 35s

Wave 2 Results – Compliance Questions (not asked in Wave 1)

Since the lockdown measures came into effect, how would you **best** describe your own degree of compliance with public health guidance?

Statement	Scotland	West	East	North
I have tried to comply with all of the guidance	80%	79%	83%	78%
I have tried to comply with most of the guidance	18%	19%	15%	20%
I have tried to comply with some of the guidance but not all of it	2%	2%	1%	2%
I have not tried to comply with the guidance	0	0%	1%	1%

Range of opinion 13 May: "ALL" 87% in 55-64s to 70% under 35s

Which of the following most closely describes your **main reason** for deciding on whether to comply with the public health guidance on staying at home and avoiding unnecessary travel?

Statement	Scotland	West	East	North
I want to play my part in protecting the NHS and saving lives	61%	58%	64%	62%
I am worried about catching the Coronavirus	25%	28%	21%	25%
Something else/none of the above	6%	6%	7%	6%
I do not want to get into trouble with the Police for breaking the law	5%	5%	6%	5%
I do not want to attract negative judgement from my friends, family, neighbours and community	3%	4%	3%	2%

Range of opinion 13 May: "NHS" 68% in 35-44s to 55% over 65s

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Thinking about the length of the lockdown, which of the following comes closest to your viewpoint?

Statement	Scotland	West	East	North
The longer the lockdown continues won't affect how likely it is that I'll follow the public health guidance	65%	63%	65%	69%
The longer the lockdown continues, the more difficult I will find it to follow the public health guidance, but I will still try to	29%	31%	30%	26%
The longer the lockdown continues, the less likely it is that I'll follow the public health guidance	6%	6%	5%	6%

Range of opinion 13 May: "WON'T AFFECT" 69% in over 65s to 59% under 35s

If the lockdown continues to apply to **all people equally** in Scotland in the weeks ahead, how likely is it that you will comply with the public health guidance on staying at home and avoiding unnecessary travel?

Statement	Scotland	West	East	North
I would still try to comply with all of the guidance	80%	82%	80%	76%
I would still try to comply with most of the guidance	15%	14%	14%	19%
I would still try to comply with some of the guidance but not all of it	4%	3%	5%	4%
I would not try to comply with the guidance	2%	2%	1%	1%

Range of opinion 13 May: "ALL" 84% in Females to 76% in the North

Supposing the public health guidance is relaxed so that some people have more freedom of movement, for example because of their age or because of where they live, how likely is it that you would continue to comply with the guidance **if it is not relaxed for you?**

Statement	Scotland	West	East	North
I would still try to comply with all of the guidance	69%	70%	68%	68%
I would still try to comply with most of the guidance	23%	25%	22%	23%
I would still try to comply with some of the guidance but not all of it	6%	3%	8%	8%
I would not try to comply with the guidance	2%	2%	2%	1%

Range of opinion 13 May: "ALL" 77% in 55-64s to 63% under 35s