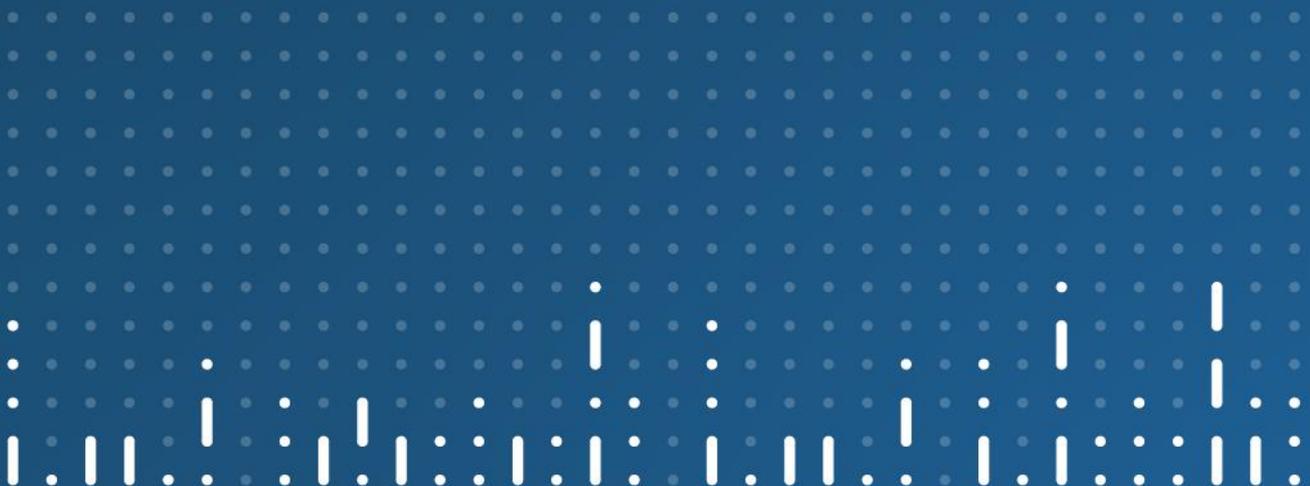


Consultation on the Redesign of the Crime Survey for England and Wales

26 May 2022 to 21 August 2022



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Overview

The ONS is seeking views on the planned redesign of the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). Our aim is to ensure that the CSEW continues to reflect the evolving needs of policy makers, citizens and data users. The CSEW is a vital source of evidence in the crime debate and as such it is critical that the survey continues to provide high quality statistics on crime in a cost-effective way.

The consultation is split into two sections:

Methodological redesign

This section covers proposed methodological changes to the survey, and includes:

- Moving to a new panel design where respondents will be interviewed annually for up to three years
- Moving to a multi-modal survey. Following the initial interview in people's homes, second and subsequent interviews will be carried out over the phone or online
- Sample design considerations
- Proposed changes which may affect the main estimates of crime
- Proposed changes affecting measures of domestic abuse, sexual assault and abuse during childhood
- Changes to the 10 to 15 year old children's survey

Questionnaire content

This allows users to comment on the content of the current survey instrument whilst also providing the opportunity to propose changes to the content. With the introduction of a longitudinal panel design we are looking to seek feedback on potential new avenues for analysis.

Introduction

The consultation will open on the 26 May 2022 and will run for just over 12 weeks. Responses to the consultation will be accepted until midnight on Sunday 21 August 2022.

The redesign of the CSEW

The CSEW has operated as a cross-sectional survey since it began in 1982. In more recent years, the survey has run with an annual sample of 34,000 adults and 3,000 children aged 10 to 15, selected from the private household population. Due to increased user demand for sub-National estimates of crime, there is a requirement to increase the annual sample size for the survey. The key proposal in this consultation is to transition the CSEW to a longitudinal panel design with respondents being re-interviewed annually over a number of 'waves'.

For the proposed panel design, the first interview or 'wave' will continue to be conducted face-to-face in the home of a randomly selected respondent. This will provide consistency with the methodology used in previous sweeps of the survey. Subsequent interviews would take place by telephone. Following further development work, there is the potential to introduce an online survey instrument. The longitudinal panel survey will provide the main estimates of crime at a sub-National level by combining interviews across a number of waves which will increase the achieved sample substantially.

For a further discussion on all the methodological changes to the survey's design please see section 2 in the consultation on the 'Redesign of the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)'. This informs users of the redesign, the associated program of work, and aspects of the new design that may affect comparability over time. It then invites users to comment on these changes.

Content of the Crime Survey for England and Wales

Questionnaire

One of the key strengths of the CSEW is the long-term monitoring of the levels of crime since 1981. The core content of the CSEW questionnaire which produces the annual estimates of crime has remained broadly consistent over time to maintain comparability with previous years. However, the full survey instrument covers a wider range of topics and is reviewed annually. These sections have been changed and adapted to reflect the changing crime landscape and user requirements. For example, self-completion modules on domestic abuse were first introduced in 1996, with estimates of historical child abuse added in 2015. Fraud and computer misuse was also added to the main estimates of crime in 2015 and now account for just over 60% of all CSEW crime.

This part of the consultation exercise is to engage with users to ensure the wider CSEW survey continues to be fit for purpose. We are aware there are a range of data users within government and across academia, the third sector, police bodies and other institutions or interested parties, that need to be consulted on the content of the survey. Different users will of course have different requirements and meeting all users' needs will be challenging given the limitations on the length of the CSEW survey instrument. It is with the intention of getting this difficult balance right that we undertake this consultation and invite users to participate. We will publish a summary of responses to the consultation.

Section 3 of the consultation on the content of the adult questionnaire has been divided into the following topics:

- Module 5 - Perceptions of crime
- Module 7 - Long standing victimisation module
- Module 8 - Victimisation module – Fraud offences
- Module 9 - Performance of the criminal justice system
- Module 10 - Mobile phone crime
- Module 11 - Follow-up module A – Experiences of the police
- Module 12 - Crime prevention and security module B: Household
- Module 13 - Crime prevention and security module C: Vehicle crime
- Module 14 - Crime prevention and security module D: Personal and online
- Module 15 - Anti-social behaviour module
- Module 16 - Demographics module
- Module 17 - Self-completion module: Drug use and drinking
- Module 18 - Self-completion module: Gangs and personal security

Ongoing development work and previous consultations mean that the design of questions relating to domestic abuse, sexual victimisation, stalking and abuse during childhood are considered separately, as are all questions relating to the Children's Survey of 10 to 15 year olds.

Scope

The scope of this consultation includes:

- A change of method to a longitudinal panel design
- An ongoing review of the sample design used for the CSEW
- Changes to screener questions and coding from April 2024, effecting long term comparability
- Future plans for domestic abuse, stalking, sexual victimisation and abuse during childhood
- Future plans for the 10 to 15 year olds children's crime survey
- A full review of the current content of the face-to-face adult victimisation survey

Proposed approach for the crime survey redesign

Since its inception, the CSEW has been a cross sectional victimisation survey providing crucial statistics on crime and people's perceptions of the criminal justice system. We are undergoing a period of transformation where we aim to further meet the needs of policy makers, citizens and data users. This involves trying to improve the accuracy and precision of our estimates in a cost-effective way. Taking consideration from a range of users this redesign aims to:

- Improve the number of interviews of which estimates are based
- Improve precision of sub-national estimates, specifically regional and police force areas
- Allow for new avenues of analysis to be explored by moving to a longitudinal panel design

At this stage we are consulting more widely on the potential changes being made to the long standing CSEW. This focuses on the change in methodology and sample design paired with reviewing the questionnaire content to ensure relevant crimes are being captured by the survey.

The proposed change of the longitudinal panel design is a cost-effective way of increasing the sample by re-interviewing respondents at multiple waves, 12 months apart. After the first year we will be able to combine multiple waves on which we will base our headline crime estimates.

The main benefits of a longitudinal sample design are:

- The precision of estimates of change over time are improved where there is overlap in the sample. Thus, better estimates of changes in the levels of crime can be produced with this wave pattern
- Longitudinal data sets can be produced, which may be used for analysis of gross change (i.e. change in individuals' circumstances and levels of repeat victimisation)

Alongside this redesign we are consulting on the content of the CSEW to ensure we are getting the most from the survey instrument. It is important to understand where questions are used in the wider public space, for example where they feed into policy areas, to ensure their relevance. It is also important for the survey to move and adapt according to social change and to better identify and understand new and emerging crime types.

Future plans

Following the end of the consultation on Sunday 21 August 2022, we will work to provide a consultation response within 12 weeks. We will then build on this consultation response by publishing an update on the redesign project in Spring 2023.

We will continue to engage with users throughout the transformation process ensuring we gather feedback at critical stages throughout the project.

General information

Why we are consulting

We are consulting to give users the opportunity to provide feedback on proposed methodological changes along with future content of the survey.

Consultation details

Issued: 26/05/2022

Respond by: 21/08/2022

Enquiries to:

Crime Statistics Team
Room 2200
Office for National Statistics,
Segensworth Road,
Fareham
PO15 5RR

Email: crimestatistics@ons.gov.uk

Audiences:

We expect there to be 4 broad groups of people interested in this consultation:

1. Policymakers and analysts across government interested in crime and perceptions of the police and the criminal justice system statistics
2. Academics and researchers from non-government departments using CSEW data for research
3. The media and general public using information from the crime survey
4. Police organisations and representative industry bodies of the criminal justice sector
5. Anyone who uses other products/data provided by the CSEW

Territorial extent:

This consultation relates to data for England and Wales.

After the consultation

We will publish a summary of the comments made approximately 12 weeks after the consultation closes.

How to respond

We encourage you to respond online wherever possible when submitting responses as this is our preferred method of receiving responses.

However, responses in writing or via email submitted to the below addresses will also be accepted. Should you wish to submit your main response via the e-Consultation platform and any supporting information via hard copy or email, please be clear that this is part of the same consultation response.

Respond online at:

<https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/external-affairs/crime-consultation>

or

Email to: crimestatistics@ons.gov.uk

or

Write to:

Crime Statistics Team

Room 2200

Office for National Statistics,

Segensworth Road,

Fareham

PO15 5RR

When responding, please state whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. Your response will be most useful if it is framed in direct response to the questions posed, though further comments and evidence are also welcome.

Accessibility

All material relating to this consultation can be provided in braille, large print or audio formats on request. British Sign Language interpreters can also be requested for any supporting events.

Confidentiality and data protection

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) needs your name and email address to receive your response. We may contact you about your response to the consultation.

We aim to be as open as possible in our decision-making process. As part of this, we plan to publish an anonymised summary of the responses we receive. We will not publish the personal name of any respondent. Names of individuals, organisations and groups will not be linked to any comments that you give.

The names of all organisations and groups responding to the consultation will be published in a list of respondents.

Please be aware that, as a public authority, we are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act](#) and can never completely guarantee that names and responses will not be published. We will not publish personal contact details, such as email addresses. To find out more, read our Privacy Policy: [Privacy - Office for National Statistics - Citizen Space \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

Quality assurance

This consultation has been carried out in accordance with the government's consultation principles, available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>.

If you have any complaints about the way this consultation has been conducted, please email: ons.consultations@ons.gov.uk.

Annex 1 – Consultation Questions

This annex contains the questions to which the consultation relates. It does not contain the detail of the proposed changes. Before responding we advise that people read the associated online consultation documents.

Section 1: Your name and email

- What is your name?
- What is your email address?

1.1 About your response

- Are you responding to this survey in a personal or a professional capacity?
 - Personal
 - Professional
- Are you responding to this consultation on behalf of an organisation or a group?
 - No, I am responding as an individual
 - Yes I am responding on behalf of an organisation
 - Yes, I am responding on behalf of an informal group, such as a community or a social media group
- If you selected 'Yes', please provide the name of the organisation or group.
- If you selected 'Yes', please state your title or role within the organisation or group.
- If responding in a professional capacity, what sector do you work in?
 - Not applicable, I am responding in a personal capacity
 - Academia or research
 - Business
 - Government including local government and public bodies
 - Third sector including charities and think tanks
 - Other

3.1 Moving to a longitudinal panel survey design and multi modal data collection

- What are your thoughts on the move to a longitudinal panel design with waves for the CSEW?
- Are you concerned about potential changes in data output resulting from a move to a longitudinal panel design with waves for the CSEW?
- What are your thoughts on the move to a multi-modal CSEW?
- Are you concerned about potential changes in data output resulting from the move to a multi-modal CSEW?
- How would you use the data?

3.3 Screener question and an online survey instrument from April 2024

- Would you prefer screener questions to remain the same to maintain comparability, or would you want to see screener questions improved in the ways outlined in the document?
- What are your thoughts on the proposed move to a multimodal survey instrument?
- Are there any areas of transformation that you are concerned about?
- Are there any actions you would wish ONS to undertake as part of the research programme?

3.4 Coding review April 2024

- Do you have any comments or concerns about the proposed review of the CSEW Offence Classification System?
- Are there any actions you would wish ONS to undertake as part of the coding review?

3.5 Domestic abuse, sexual victimisation, stalking and abuse during childhood

- Do you foresee any problems with removing the questions on non-domestic stalking for the next few years?
- Do you find data and outputs from the questions on non-domestic stalking (i.e., stalking not carried out by a partner, ex-partner or family member) useful?

If you selected 'Yes', please answer the following question to give us additional information about the specific questions or outputs you use and how you use them. Please refer to the **CSEW Adult Questionnaire** within the resources section of the consultation for details of specific questions.

- How do you use the data and outputs from these questions? For example, do you use these data or outputs for decision making or as evidence in any reports.
- Would you like to be involved in future work to redevelop the stalking questions?
- Would you like to be involved in future work to redevelop the sexual victimisation questions?
- Excluding questions regarding the prevalence of abuse, what other data would be useful to collect from adults who have experienced abuse in childhood?
If your response is specific to an experience of a particular type of abuse, please mention this in your answer.

3.6 Children's Crime Survey

- What are your thoughts on the CCSEW potentially moving to a longitudinal panel design in the future?
- What would be the impact to you/your organisation of moving to measuring prevalence and incidence to only measuring the prevalence of crime-related victimisation?
- What, if any, are the limitations of crime measures in their current form and what impact does this have on your work or ability to inform policy?

4.1 Module 5 - Perceptions of crime

- Do you use data or outputs based on questions from the Perceptions of crime module?
- How do you use the data or outputs based on questions from the Perceptions of crime module? For example, do you use these data or outputs for decision making or as evidence in any reports.
- Which specific questions or outputs do you use most?
- Are there any questions or outputs that you never use?

- Are there any changes you would like to see made to the module?
- If you answered 'Yes', please provide additional information on the changes you would like to see made to the module. For example, do you have any suggestions for additional questions in this module.

4.2 Module 7 – Long standing victimisation module

- Do you use data or outputs based on questions from the Victimisation module - Traditional?
- How do you use the data or outputs based on questions from the Victimisation module - Traditional? For example, do you use these data or outputs for decision making or as evidence in any reports.
- Which specific questions or outputs do you use most?
- Are there any questions or outputs that you never use?
- Are there any changes you would like to see made to the module?
- If you answered 'Yes', please provide additional information on the changes you would like to see made to the module. For example, do you have any suggestions for additional questions in this module.

4.3 Module 8 – Victimisation module – Fraud offences

- Do you use data or outputs based on questions from the Victimisation module – Fraud offences?
- How do you use the data or outputs based on questions from the Victimisation module – Fraud offences? For example, do you use these data or outputs for decision making or as evidence in any reports.
- Which specific questions or outputs do you use most?

- Are there any questions or outputs that you never use?
- Are there any changes you would like to see made to the module?
- If you answered 'Yes', please provide additional information on the changes you would like to see made to the module. For example, do you have any suggestions for additional questions in this module.

4.4 Module 9 - Performance of the criminal justice system

- Do you use data or outputs based on questions from the Performance of the criminal justice system module?
- How do you use the data or outputs based on questions from the Performance of the criminal justice system? For example, do you use these data or outputs for decision making or as evidence in any reports.
- Which specific questions or outputs do you use most?
- Are there any questions or outputs that you never use?
- Are there any changes you would like to see made to the module?
- If you answered 'Yes', please provide additional information on the changes you would like to see made to the module. For example, do you have any suggestions for additional questions in this module.

4.5 Module 10 - Mobile phone crime

- Do you use data or outputs based on questions from the Mobile phone crime module?
- How do you use the data or outputs based on questions from the Mobile phone crime module? For example, do you use these data or outputs for decision making or as evidence in any reports.
- Which specific questions or outputs do you use most?
- Are there any questions or outputs that you never use?
- Are there any changes you would like to see made to the module?

- If you answered 'Yes', please provide additional information on the changes you would like to see made to the module. For example, do you have any suggestions for additional questions in this module.

4.6 Module 11 - Follow-up module A – Experiences of the police

- Do you use data or outputs based on questions from the Experiences of the police module?
- How do you use the data or outputs based on questions from the Experiences of the police module? For example, do you use these data or outputs for decision making or as evidence in any reports.
- Which specific questions or outputs do you use most?
- Are there any questions or outputs that you never use?
- Are there any changes you would like to see made to the module?
- If you answered 'Yes', please provide additional information on the changes you would like to see made to the module. For example, do you have any suggestions for additional questions in this module.

4.7 Module 12 - Crime prevention and security module B: Household

- Do you use data or outputs based on questions from the crime prevention and security: household module?
- How do you use the data or outputs based on questions from the crime prevention and security: household module? For example, do you use these data or outputs for decision making or as evidence in any reports?
- Which specific questions or outputs do you use most?
- Are there any questions or outputs that you never use?
- Are there any changes you would like to see made to the module?

- If you answered 'Yes', please provide additional information on the changes you would like to see made to the module. For example, do you have any suggestions for additional questions in this module.

4.8 Module 13 - Crime prevention and security module C: Vehicle crime

- Do you use data or outputs based on questions from the crime prevention and security: vehicle crime module?
- How do you use the data or outputs based on questions from the crime prevention and security: vehicle crime module? For example, do you use these data or outputs for decision making or as evidence in any reports?
- Which specific questions or outputs do you use most?
- Are there any questions or outputs that you never use?
- Are there any changes you would like to see made to the module?
- If you answered 'Yes', please provide additional information on the changes you would like to see made to the module. For example, do you have any suggestions for additional questions in this module.

4.9 Module 14 - Crime prevention and security module D: Personal and online

- Do you use data or outputs based on questions from the crime prevention and security: personal and online module?
- How do you use the data or outputs based on questions from the crime prevention and security: personal and online module? For example, do you use these data or outputs for decision making or as evidence in any reports?
- Which specific questions or outputs do you use most?
- Are there any questions or outputs that you never use?
- Are there any changes you would like to see made to the module?

- If you answered 'Yes', please provide additional information on the changes you would like to see made to the module. For example, do you have any suggestions for additional questions in this module.

4.10 Module 15 - Anti-social behaviour module

- Do you use data or outputs based on questions from the Anti-social behaviour module?
- How do you use the data or outputs based on questions from the Anti-social behaviour module? For example, do you use these data or outputs for decision making or as evidence in any reports.
- Which specific questions or outputs do you use most?
- Are there any questions or outputs that you never use?
- Are there any changes you would like to see made to the module?
- If you answered 'Yes', please provide additional information on the changes you would like to see made to the module. For example, do you have any suggestions for additional questions in this module.

4.11 Module 16 - Demographics module

- Do you use data or outputs based on questions from the Demographics module?
- How do you use the data or outputs based on questions from the Demographics module? For example, do you use these data or outputs for decision making or as evidence in any reports.
- Which specific questions or outputs do you use most?
- Are there any questions or outputs that you never use?
- Are there any changes you would like to see made to the module?
- If you answered 'Yes', please provide additional information on the changes you would like to see made to the module. For example, do you have any suggestions for additional questions in this module.

4.12 Module 17 - Self-completion module: Drug use and drinking

- Do you use data or outputs based on questions from the drug use and drinking self-completion module?
- How do you use the data or outputs based on questions from the drug use and drinking self-completion module? For example, do you use these data or outputs for decision making or as evidence in any reports?
- Which specific questions or outputs do you use most?
- Are there any questions or outputs that you never use?
- Are there any changes you would like to see made to the module?
- If you answered 'Yes', please provide additional information on the changes you would like to see made to the module. For example, do you have any suggestions for additional questions in this module.

4.13 Module 18 – Self-completion module: Gangs and personal security

- Would you find data and outputs from the questions on gangs and personal security useful?
- Would you like to be involved in this work to re-develop the questions on gangs and personal security?
- Which specific questions or outputs do you use most?
- Are there any questions or outputs that you never use?
- Are there any changes you would like to see made to the module?
- If you answered 'Yes', please provide additional information on the changes you would like to see made to the module. For example, do you have any suggestions for additional questions in this module.

4.14 New areas of research

- Are there any new topics of interest that could be collected using the survey instrument? If so, please leave details about the new research area and aims of the questions below.



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