

Community Policing Survey Background Quality Report





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Introduction

This report assesses the quality of the Community Policing Survey management statistics for the Northern Ireland Policing Board using the European Statistics System (ESS) Quality Assurance Framework (QAF). This is the method recommended by the Government Statistical Service (GSS) Quality Strategy. Statistics are of good quality when they are fit for their intended use.

The ESS QAF measures the quality of statistical outputs against the dimensions of

- ✓ relevance
- ✓ accuracy and reliability
- ✓ timeliness
- ✓ accessibility and clarity
- ✓ comparability and coherence

The GSS also recommends assessment against 3 other principles in the ESS QAF. These are:

- ✓ trade-offs between output quality components
- ✓ confidentiality and transparency
- ✓ balance between performance, cost and respondent burden

These dimensions and principles cross the three pillars of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics. [Code of Practice for Statistics \(statisticsauthority.gov.uk\)](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk)



Background and Context

The Northern Ireland Policing Board (the Board), set up in 2001, is an independent public body which oversees policing in Northern Ireland. The Policing Board is responsible for the independent oversight of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and has a range of legislative duties to deliver. The main role of the Board is to ensure that the PSNI is effective and efficient. The Board sets targets and monitors how well the PSNI perform against them. The Community Policing Survey is one method the Board uses to monitor progress and performance against its published Outcome 3.

This quality assessment covers the Community Policing Survey statistical report which provides information about the public perception of community policing in Northern Ireland and views on community involvement in reaching mutually satisfactory solutions to local problems.

The first survey of this nature and took place between 3 April 2023 and 30 June 2023. The results of this survey were published in December 2023. This background quality assessment, considers the quality of the data used to produce this publication, and any statistics derived from these data.

Reports can be found on the Northern Ireland Policing Board website

<https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/statistics-research>.



Methodology and Production

The purpose of the survey is to monitor Outcome 3 within the Policing Plan which is about building the relationship between police and the community. The Policing Board undertook this research on the experience of individuals in their community, working with the Police Service of Northern Ireland to assist in informing the Policing Plan, with specific regard to delivery of measure 3.1.3 (assess and evaluate the impact of partnership working with local communities).

The survey also added to the information gathered between January and March 2023 by the Board's Policing Plan Survey: [Policing Plan Survey](#)

The Community Policing Survey itself was short, consisting of 8 questions. The balance between performance and respondent burden was considered and factored into the development of the survey. The 2023 survey was viewed as a pilot survey to provide some timely and relevant information for the Board to consider in assessing police performance against agreed outcomes.

Community involvement in this area is diverse, informal and often unrecorded. However, from the outset, the intention of this survey has been to capture general views of a sample of individuals, neighbourhood groups and other organisations who are involved with PSNI in tackling community policing issues. It is intended to be used as management information for the Board and is not published as official statistics.

The nature of this survey therefore, which does not take views from a representative sample of the population and could therefore have the potential for bias, cannot be used to draw conclusions about the population generally. It is merely, intended to give some indication of general views on community policing and to provide some context for the Board's assessment of Outcome 3 of the [Policing Plan 2020-25 and Performance Plan 2022/23](#).



Survey 2023 Questions

1. Who are you responding on behalf of? (Required) Please select only one item

Myself, Neighbourhood/Community group, School or College, Sports Club, Youth Group, Church Group, Charitable Organisation, Local Business, Other.
(Required)

Provision of text box input for description of other and name of organisation (optional).

2. Please tell us which council area you are working in. This will help us identify issues and solutions on a local level. (Required)

3. What key local issues are you/your organisation involved in or seeking solutions to with police (PSNI)? (select all that apply)

Anti-social behaviour (in streets, bus/train stations, community spaces), Burglary, Domestic abuse, Drugs (including use, addiction and dealing), Fraud/scams, Hate crime, Rowdy or drunken behaviour, Sexual abuse/violence, Theft (vehicle/bicycle/shoplifting), Traffic issues, Vandalism, Violence against women and girls, Other.

4. How involved were you or your organisation in seeking solutions to local issues? *Please select only one item*

Very involved, Involved, Slightly involved, Not involved,

5. From the issues you have listed, could you tell us their status now? Please select only one item

Prevented, Improved, Resolved, Recurring, No better than before, Don't know

6. Thinking about your experience of working with police (PSNI) to resolve these issues, did you arrive at a mutually satisfactory solution? *Please select only one item*

Strongly agree, Slightly agree, Agree, Slightly disagree, Disagree,

7. What areas have worked well and what could be improved?

8. What is the postcode for you/your organisation? (optional)



Relevance

This report is used by the Board as one method to measure the performance of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) against the outcomes set annually in the Policing Plan.

[Policing Plan 2020-2025 and Annual Performance Plan 2023/24 | Northern Ireland Policing Board \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk)

The plan lists three specific areas of performance and the Board measures progress in these areas.

Outcome 1: We have a safe community

This is about tackling crime to make communities safer and ensure people feel safe.

Outcome 2: We have confidence in policing

This is about building community and confidence in the work of the PSNI.

Outcome 3: We have engaged and supportive communities

This is about building the relationship between police and the community.

We welcome feedback and will continue to develop the statistic over time to ensure we continue to meet user needs. [Statistics Publications – Feedback](#)



Quality Assurance

Data for this publication undergoes quality checks. The layout and presentation of the data in the statistical report is read by selected members of the data and performance team to ensure that the data is presented appropriately and to enable the correct interpretation by the user.

Security

NISRA staff and staff within the Board involved in the production of this report have completed the Government wide 'Responsible for Information' training and they understand their responsibilities under GDPR and the Data Protection Act and the Official Statistics Code of Practice.

Data are held on a secure network only accessible to the statisticians who need access. All staff involved are trained on the protocols for protecting and maintaining the confidentiality of the data and adhere to the principles and protocols laid out in the Code of Practice for Statistics.



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