

Head Office: 35 NORTHAMPTON SQUARE,
LONDON EC1V 0AX
Tel: 071-250 1866 Fax: 071-250 1524



Field and DP Office: 100 KINGS ROAD,
BRENTWOOD, ESSEX CM14 4LX
Tel: 0277 200600 Fax: 0277 214117

**"RISING CRIME: WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?"
SURVEY OF ATTITUDES TOWARDS CRIME PREVENTION**

P1368

April 1994

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**SELF-COMPLETION QUESTIONNAIRE
STAGE 2**

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To weekend participant:

Now that the weekend is almost over, we would like once again to collect your views on crime in Britain, and what we can do to help reduce it.

As before, we would like you to answer each question simply by placing a tick (✓) in one box for each question. The answers you give will be treated as confidential and anonymous.

Please ensure that you complete the questionnaire fully and hand it in when you have finished.

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR YOUR HELP.

Social and Community Planning Research is an independent social research institute registered as a charitable trust. Its projects are funded by government departments, local authorities, universities and foundations to provide information on social issues in Britain.

C.1 Here are some ideas for helping to prevent crime in Britain. Please tick one box for each idea to show how effective you think it is as a way of cutting crime.

| <i>PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE</i> | Very effec- tive | Effec- tive | Neither effective nor ineffective | Not very effec- tive | Not at all effec- tive | (Can't choose) |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Reduce unemployment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Less violence and crime on television | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. People making their property more secure | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Parents spending more time with their children | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. More schemes like Neighbourhood Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Teach children the difference between "right" and "wrong" | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Send more offenders to prison | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Firmer discipline in schools | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Stiffer sentences generally | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. More police on the beat | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

C.2 Please read through the following six items.

Tick one box in the first column to show which you feel would be the most effective way of reducing crime?

Then tick one box in the second column to show which you feel would be the second most effective way of reducing crime.

Then tick one box in the third column to show which you feel would be the third most effective way of reducing crime.

**PLEASE TICK ONE BOX
IN EACH COLUMN**

| | <u>Most</u> effective way | <u>Second</u> most effective way | <u>Third</u> most effective way |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| a. Reducing unemployment and poverty | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| b. Stiffer sentences and more prisons | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| c. Parents spending more time with their children | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| d. Giving police greater powers to catch criminals | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| e. Schools being more responsible for moral guidance | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| f. People taking more responsibility for keeping their property safe | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |

C.3 Some people think the general public should take a more active role in preventing crime, such as by setting up local "street patrols".

Others say we should leave this to the police.

How much are you in favour or against the idea of such street patrols?

(✓)

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---|
| | Strongly in favour | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| | In favour | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| Neither in favour nor against | | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| | Against | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
| | Strongly against | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 |
| | (Can't choose) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 |

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C.4 How much do you agree or disagree that some people's need for illegal drugs is a major cause of crime in Britain?

(✓)

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---|
| | Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| | Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| Neither agree nor disagree | | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| | Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
| | Strongly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 |
| | (Can't choose) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 |

5:

C.5 And how much do you agree or disagree that Britain should legalise certain so-called "soft" drugs like cannabis?

(✓)

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---|
| | Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| | Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| Neither agree nor disagree | | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| | Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
| | Strongly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 |
| | (Can't choose) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 |

5:

- C.6 Here are some ideas for changing the legal system, and sentencing for criminals. Please tick one box for each idea to show how much you agree or disagree with it.

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE

| | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | (Can't choose) |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. Fewer suspects should have the right to a jury trial | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| b. A confession made during police questioning should <u>not on its own</u> be enough to convict someone | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| c. The rules in court should be <u>less</u> on the side of the accused | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| d. The courts should no longer treat suspects as innocent until proved guilty | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |

- C.7 How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE

| | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | (Can't choose) |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. Suspects should have the right to remain silent under police questioning | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| b. If a suspect remains silent under police questioning, this should count against them in court | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| c. On-duty police officers should normally carry guns | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| d. Complaints against the police should be investigated by an independent body, not the police themselves | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| e. The police should sometimes be able to "bend the rules" to get a conviction | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |

C.8 And now, here are some ideas about sending people to prison. How much do you agree or disagree with each one?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE

| | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | (Can't choose) |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. The courts should send <u>fewer</u> people to prison | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| b. Prison life should be made tougher and more unpleasant | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| c. Only hardened criminals, or those who are a danger to society, should be sent to prison | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| d. All murderers should be given a life sentence | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| e. Courts should give tougher sentences to criminals | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| f. Life sentences should <u>mean</u> life | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| g. Prisons should try harder to <u>reform</u> prisoners, rather than just <u>punishing</u> them | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |

C.9 How much do you agree or disagree that for some crimes, the death penalty is the most appropriate sentence?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- (✓)
- Strongly agree 1
- Agree 2
- Neither agree nor disagree 3
- Disagree 4
- Strongly disagree 5
- (Can't choose) 8

C.10 From what you know, or have heard, do you think that
prison life in Britain is ...

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- ... much too tough, 1
- a bit too tough, 2
- about right, 3
- a bit too soft, 4
- or much too soft? 5
- (Can't choose) 6

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C.11 And how much do you agree or disagree that sending people to
prison makes them more, not less, likely to become hardened
criminals?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- Strongly agree 1
- Agree 2
- Neither agree nor disagree 3
- Disagree 4
- Strongly disagree 5
- (Can't choose) 6

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C.14 The government plans to open a number of special tough institutions for children under 16 who keep breaking the law?

How effective or ineffective do you feel this would be in reducing the level of crime committed by young people?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- Very effective 1
- Effective 2
- Neither effective nor ineffective 3
- Not very effective 4
- Not at all effective 5
- (Can't choose) 6

555

C.15 At what age would you say that young offenders should be given the same sentences as adult offenders, by the courts?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

- 10 or under 1
- 11-12 2
- 13-14 3
- 15-16 4
- 17-18 5
- Over 18 6
- (Can't choose) 6

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b. If the government had to choose...

- Definitely 1
- ... it should concentrate on attacking crime at its roots Probably 2
- OR** Doesn't matter either way 3
- Probably 4
- ... it should give more money to the police, prisons and courts Definitely 5

PLEASE
TICK
ONE
BOX
ONLY

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c. If the government had to choose...

1