

# Your Safety, Your Say

## SURVEY RESULTS

### 2026

**Safe, resilient,  
connected communities**  
where everyone plays their part

**Your voice** in policing



**PCC**  
Office of the Police and  
Crime Commissioner  
Devon and Cornwall

FOIA Open

# About the survey

The 'Your Safety, Your Say' survey was launched in December 2025 on the Commonplace Community Engagement Platform.

The launch was featured on BBC Spotlight, BBC News Online, BBC Local Radio and various other news websites.

The survey has been promoted in multiple posts on social media.

In-person public engagement events promoting the survey have been held at venues across Devon and Cornwall, including at youth groups in Bodmin and Plymouth, in shopping areas in Exeter and East Devon, and at colleges and cultural centres in West Cornwall and North Devon.



# Sample Size

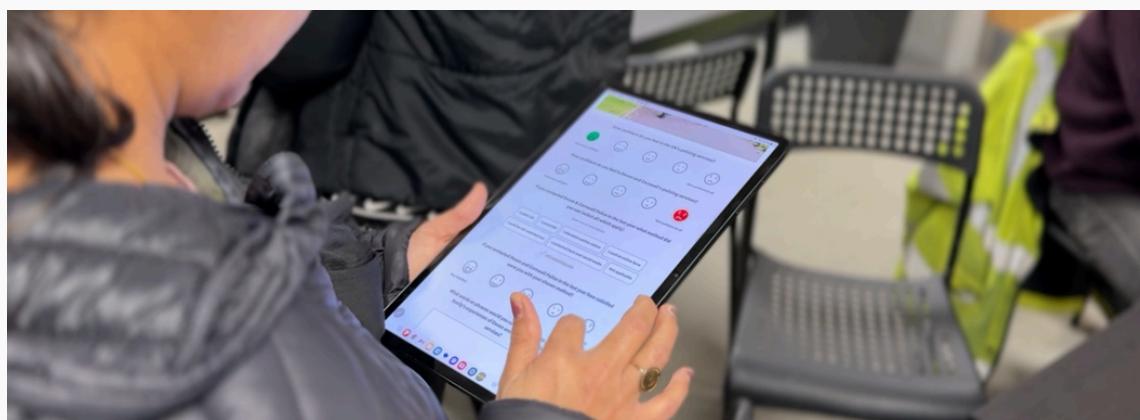
The survey results included in this report cover the period 11 December 2025 to 12 January 2026.

A total of 1,533 people responded to the survey in this period.

This is an 18% increase on the figure of 1,297 responses received in the same period last year.

Based on population figures from the 2021 census a sample size of 385 participants was required to give statistically significant results with a margin of error of +/- 5%.

It is important to note that the people who responded were self-selecting and their views may not always be representative of the general population.

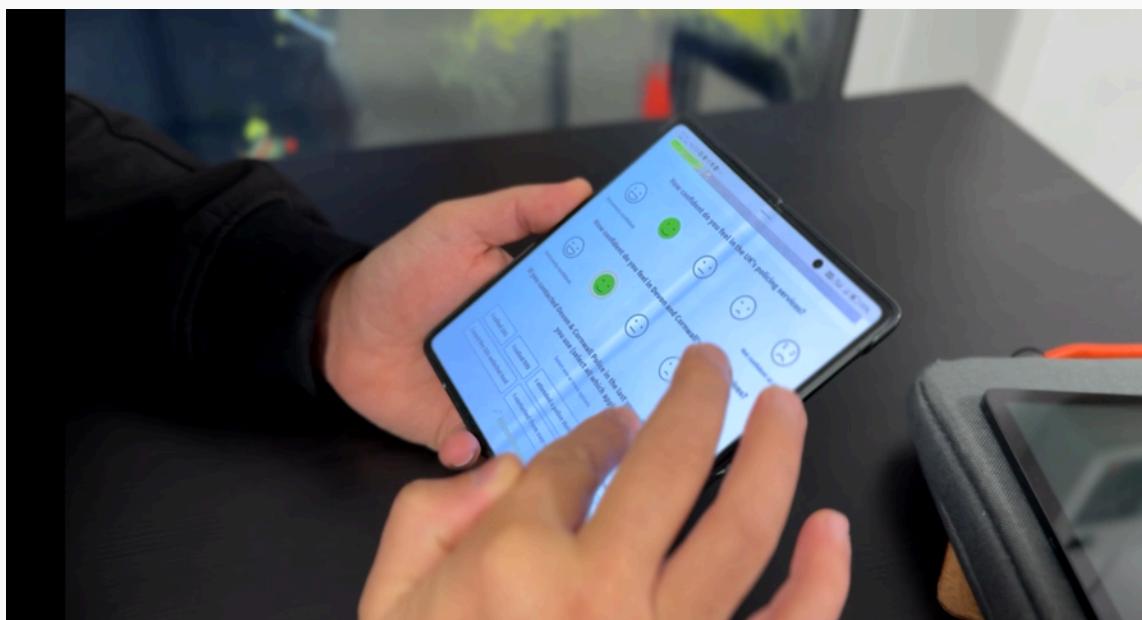


# Questions

As in previous years, the survey asked about confidence in policing and policing priorities.

New for this survey were questions about:

- Investment in tackling violence against women and girls
- Community cohesion
- The replacement of police and crime commissioners and police force mergers



# Confidence in Policing

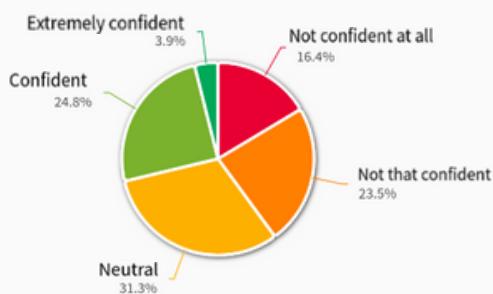
## How confident do you feel in Devon and Cornwall's policing services?



- People continue to feel more confident about Devon and Cornwall Police than they do about police across the whole of the UK
- The proportion of people saying they feel 'confident' or 'extremely confident' in the police has increased by 3 points year-on-year both in Devon and Cornwall Police and in police across the UK
- There has been a slight increase in the proportion of people saying they are 'not confident at all' in Devon and Cornwall Police – up by 2.2 points year-on-year (from 16.4% to 18.6%)

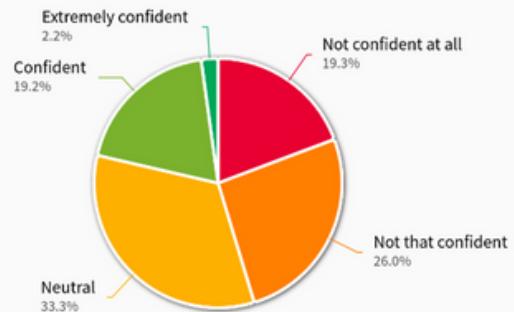
## 2025 Results

### How confident do you feel in Devon and Cornwall's policing services?



All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.

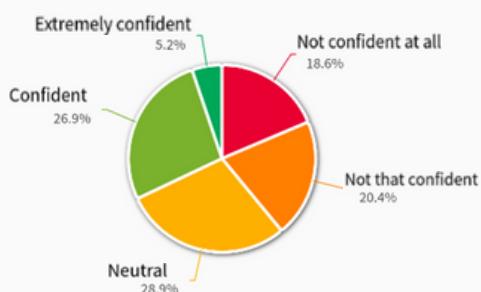
### How confident do you feel in the UK's policing services?



All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.

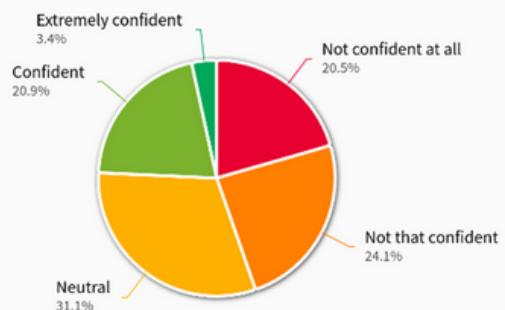
## 2026 Results

### How confident do you feel in Devon and Cornwall's policing services?



All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.

### How confident do you feel in the UK's policing services?



All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.

### People selecting 'confident' or 'extremely confident'

Devon and Cornwall 32% (29% last year)  
UK 24% (21% last year)

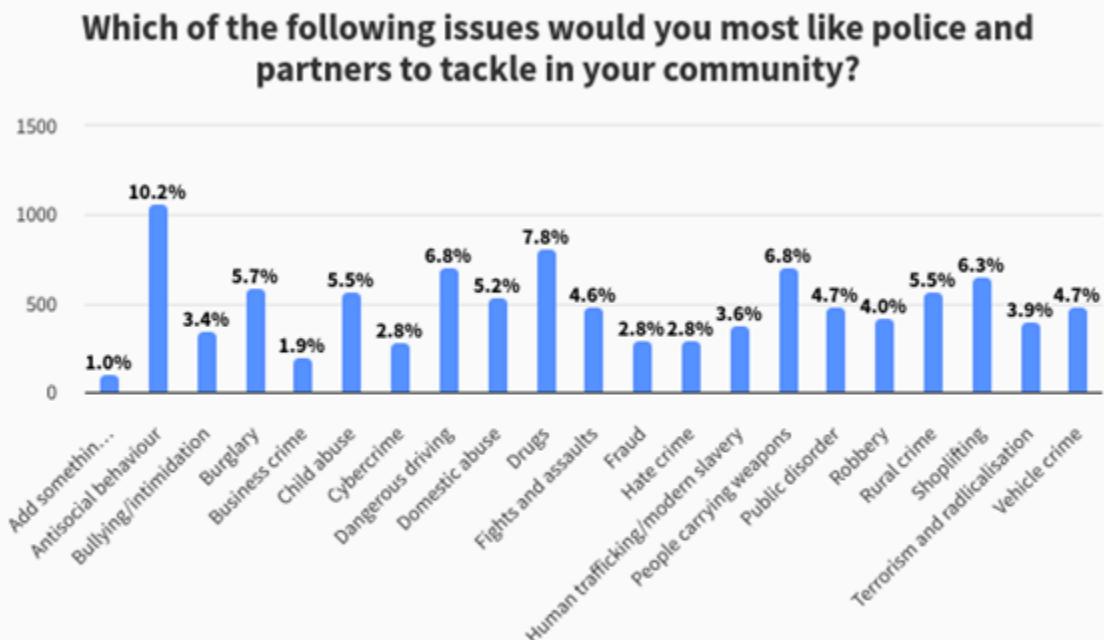
### People selecting 'not that confident' or 'not confident at all'

Devon and Cornwall 39% (40% last year)  
UK 45% (45% last year)

# Policing Priorities

- When people were asked which issue they would most like the police to tackle they selected 'anti-social behaviour' more than any other crime-type
- After antisocial behaviour, the next four most frequently selected issues were 'drugs', 'people carrying weapons', 'dangerous driving' and 'shoplifting'
- The top five most frequently selected concerns were the same this year as last year

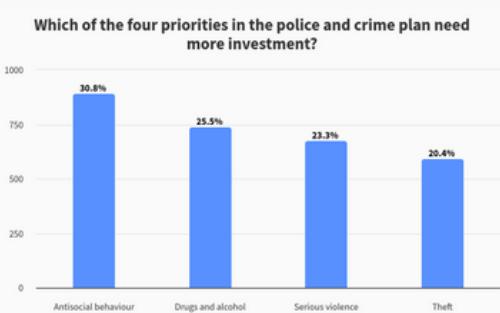
## 2026 Results



All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.

### Top five most frequently selected concerns

- 1: ASB 10.2% (9.6% last year)
- 2: Drugs 7.8% (7.4% last year)
- 3: People Carrying weapons 6.8% (7.0% last year)
- 4: Dangerous driving 6.8% (6.9% last year)
- 5: Shoplifting 6.3% (6.2% last year)



All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.

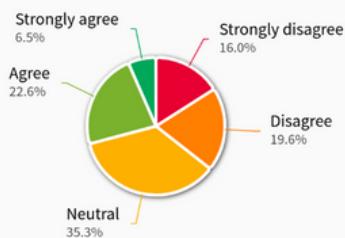
- When people were asked which of the priorities in the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan needed more investment 'anti-social behaviour' was the most frequently selected answer

# Investment in Policing

- The proportion of people who agree they get 'value for money' from the police part of their council tax has stayed the same year-on-year
- 29.1% of people selected 'agree' or 'strongly agree' when asked if the police part of the council tax represented value for money last year, compared with 29.2% this year

## 2025 Results

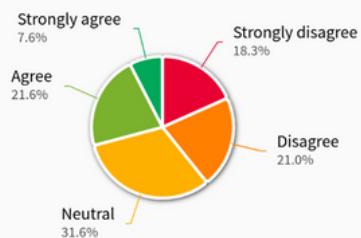
The table below shows the amount paid by Devon and Cornwall households this year, via their council tax bills, for policing (the precept). Do you agree it represents value for money?



All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.

## 2026 Results

The table below shows the amount paid by Devon and Cornwall households this year, via their council tax bills, for policing (the precept). Do you agree it represents value for money?

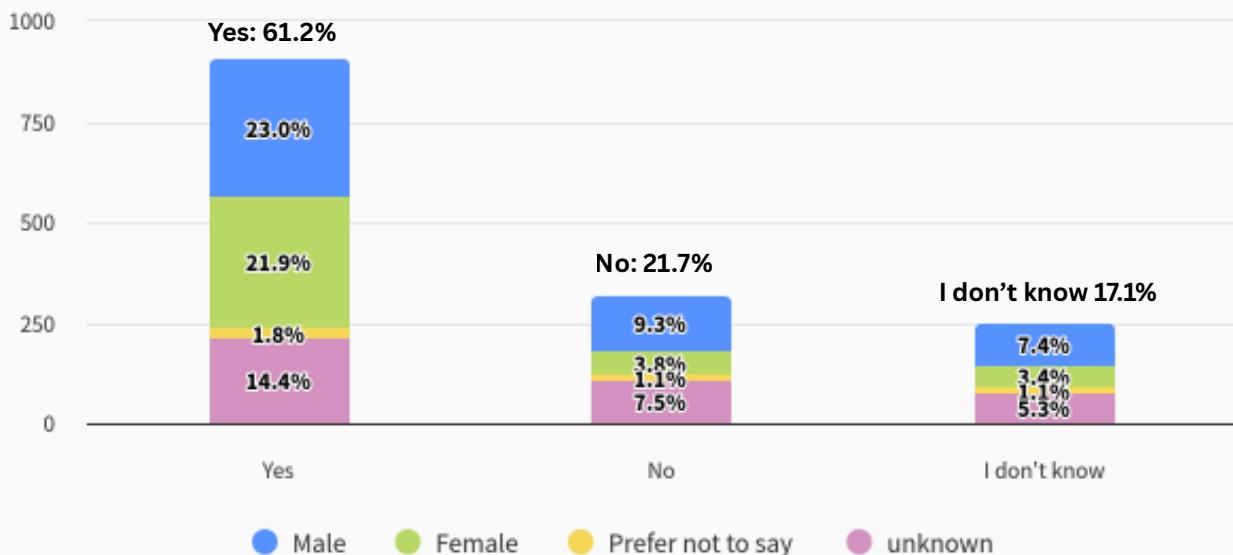


All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.

## Funding to tackle violence against women and girls

- 61% of people said they would like the Commissioner to spend more money on tackling Violence Against Women and Girls
- Most of the people who said 'yes' were male (23%)

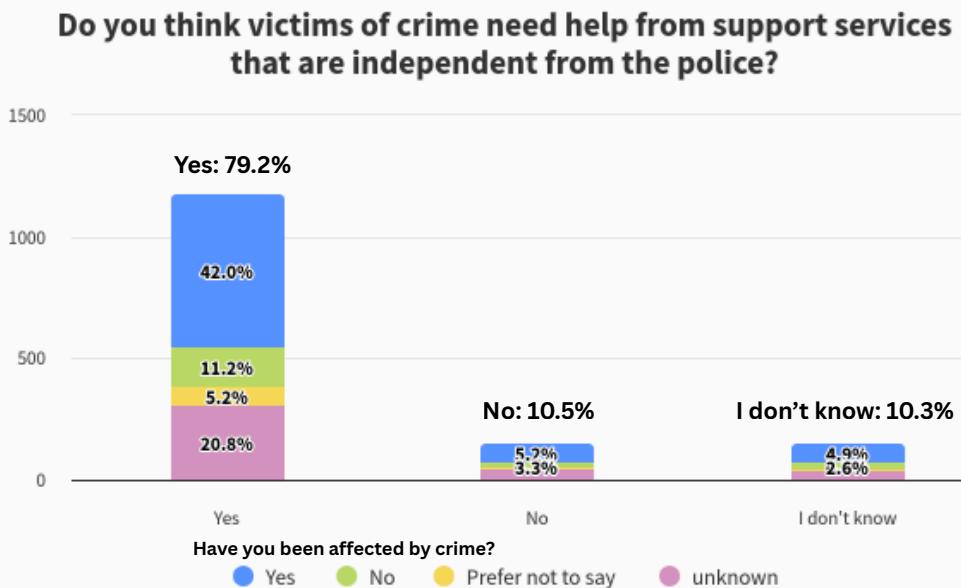
**The Government wants to halve violence against women and girls. Would you like the Commissioner to invest more money to help achieve this?**



All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.

## Funding for victim services

- 79% of people said victims need support from services “that are independent from the police”
- Most of the people who said ‘yes’ had been affected by crime (42%)

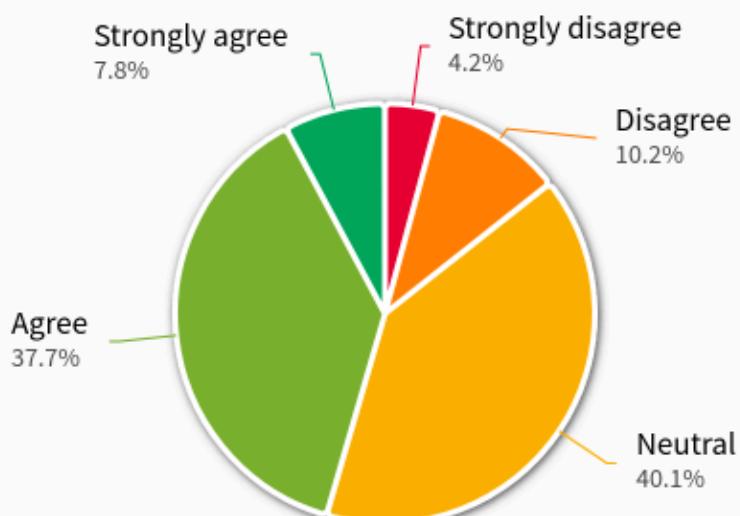


*All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.*

## Community Cohesion

- When asked if their area is a place “where people from different backgrounds get on together” 45.5% of people selected ‘agree’ or ‘strongly agree’

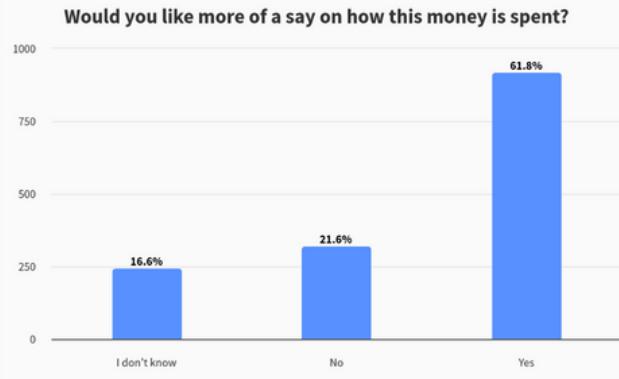
**My local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together.**



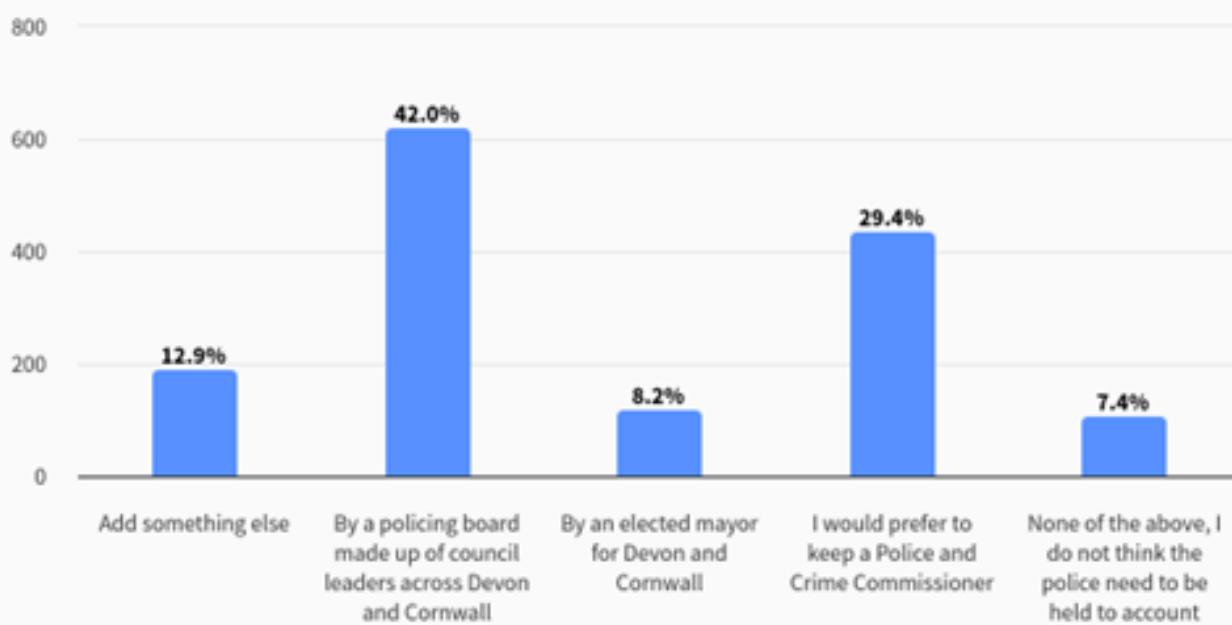
*All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.*

# Police Commissioner Replacement

- 62% of people said they would like “more of a say” on how the police part of the council tax is spent
- Most people said they would like police and crime commissioners to be replaced by a policing board made up of council leaders across Devon and Cornwall (42%)



## How do you think the police should to be held to account in future?



All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.

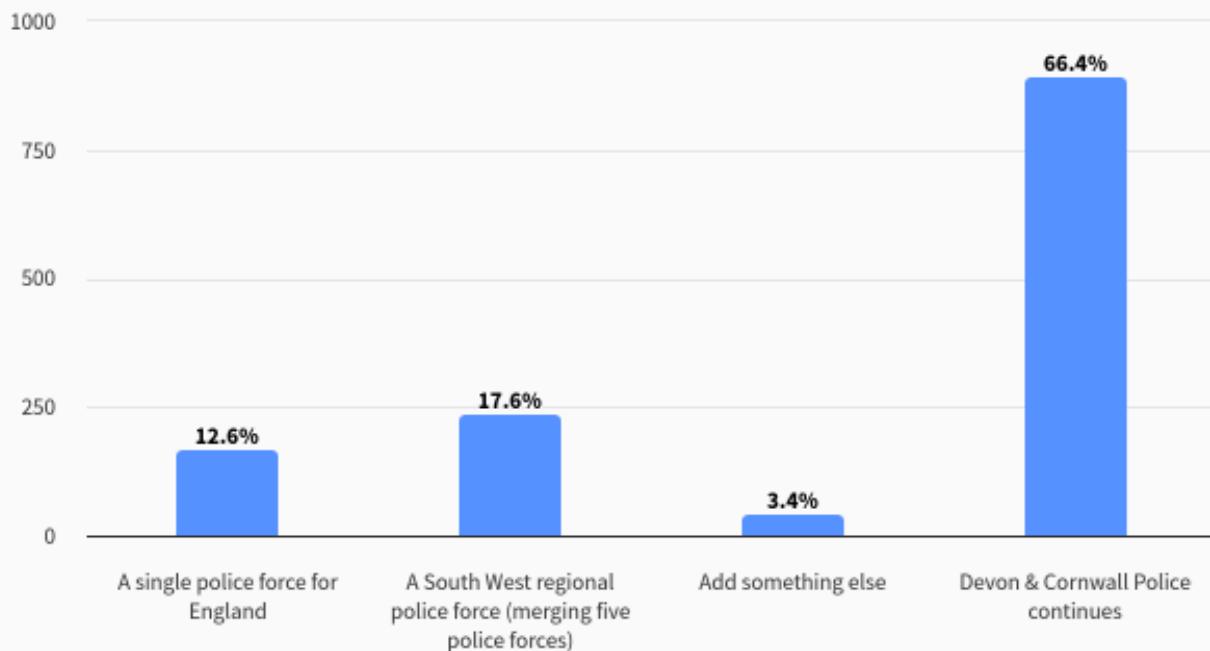
### Summary of comments made by the 12.9% of people who chose to ‘add something else’ in response to this question:

- “Elected mayor for Cornwall”
- “By a policing board made up of lay people”
- “By a board of ex police officers who actually know the job”
- “Independent ombudsman type board”
- “A wide range of responsible people sit on a board”
- “An independent body”
- “Young people have a unanimous consensus”
- “I advocate Fifth Nation Status and devolved powers over police and crime prevention for Kernow. Meur ras hag oll an gwella. [Cornish for “Best wishes to everyone”]”

# Police Force Mergers

- When asked about the possibility of police force mergers, 66% of people said they would like Devon and Cornwall police to continue
- 1.5% of people expressed a preference for a separate police force for Cornwall

## Which of the following would give you most confidence:



*All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.*

## Summary of comments made by the 3.4% of people who chose to 'add something else' in response to this question:

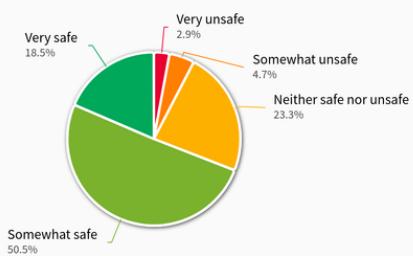
“Cornwall police force answering to Cornwall”  
“Cornwall and Devon should have separate police forces”  
“A separate force for Cornwall, recognising our minority status and unique challenges”  
“Back to Cornwall and Devon separately. Cornwall isn’t England. Never has been never will be”  
“Devon, Cornwall and Somerset”  
“Devon, Cornwall and Dorset”  
“A UK Police Force will be more cost effective, have no border issues, will have better national IT systems and have common agreed standards.”  
“None of the above would help sort out the problems with the police”  
“None of them give me confidence”  
“I think the administrative/organisation structure is immaterial, what matters is the quality of service delivery”

# Young voices

- 173 young people completed our 'Young Voices in Policing' survey between April 2025 and January 2026 (compared with 325 the previous year)
- 60% of young people said they felt safe or very safe in Devon & Cornwall (compared with 67% the previous year)
- 42% said they were either confident or very confident in Devon and Cornwall Police (compared with 54% the previous year)
- Young people said 'threats or intimidation' was the crime they had experienced most, and this was the same last year

## April 2024 - Jan 2025

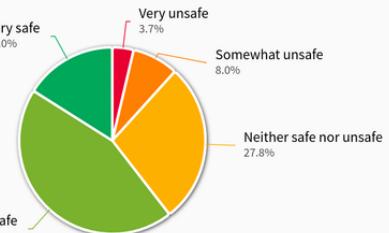
How safe do you feel in Devon and Cornwall?



All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.

## April 2025 - Jan 2026

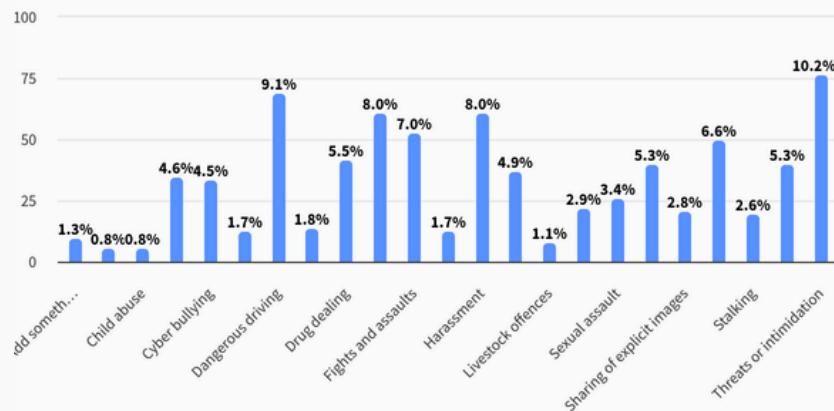
How safe do you feel in Devon and Cornwall?



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## April 2024 - Jan 2025

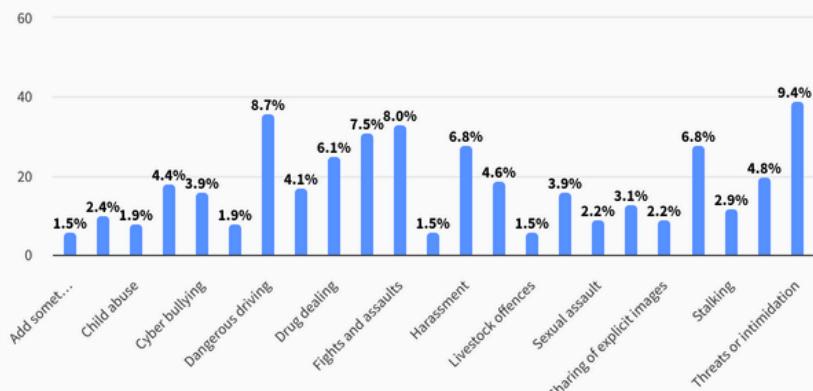
Which of the following crimes have you personally experienced or witnessed in the past 18 months?



All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.

## April 2025 - Jan 2026

Which of the following crimes have you personally experienced or witnessed in the past 18 months?



All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.

# Demographics

## Sex

- 54% of the people who completed our surveys this year said they were male
- 41% said they were female

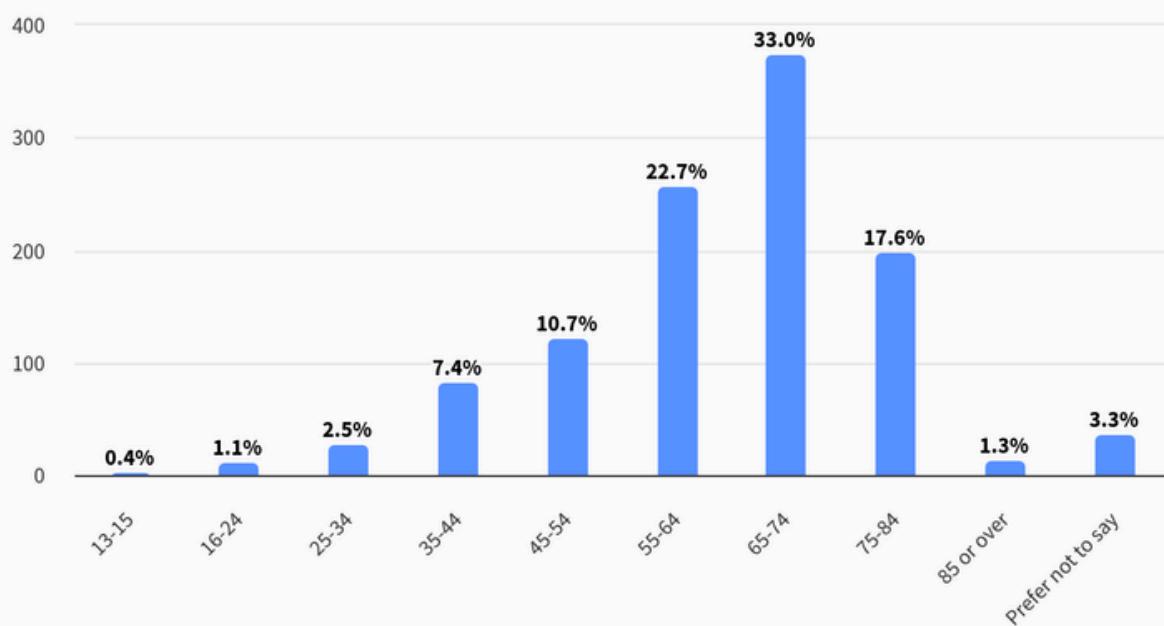
## Ethnicity

- 86% of the people who completed our surveys this year described themselves as 'White English/Welsh/Scottish'
- 5% wrote 'Cornish' when given the option to add an ethnicity not listed

Age

- A third of the people who completed our surveys this year were aged 65-74

### What is your age group?



*All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.*

**If your ethnicity is not in the list, please specify:**

police      north      tawton      irrelevant  
polynesian      nag      jugoslavian      says      plymouth      newton      england  
way      european      human      african      proud      pale      skinned  
it's      d&c      met      românia  
survey      south      abbot      camborne  
saxon      option      british      list      english  
called      devonian      french      europen      male  
offensive      person      havent      welsh      used  
**cornish**  
**white**

*All numbers and percentages are calculated on the total number of answers to the question.*