Public perceptions – elections, crime and policing

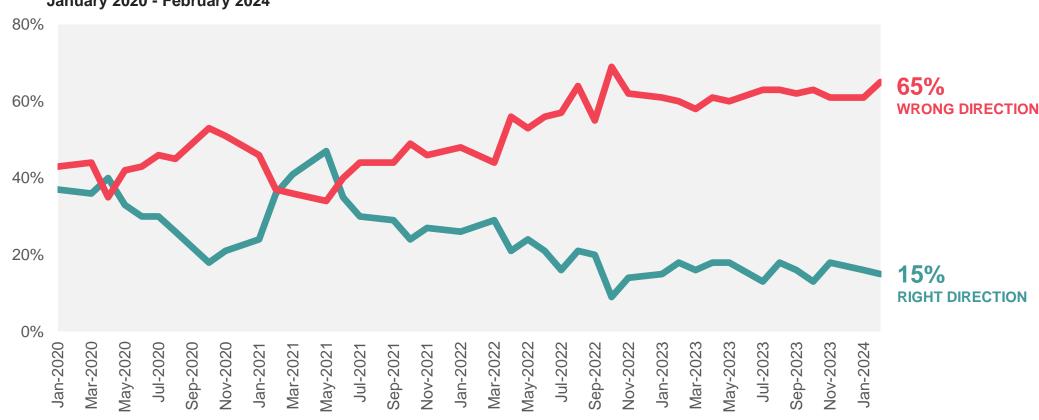
Hannah Shrimpton Head of Crime, Justice and Security, Ipsos VHITEHALL

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Levels of general pessimism are at a four year high...

Generally speaking, do you think things in Great Britain are heading in the right direction or wrong direction?



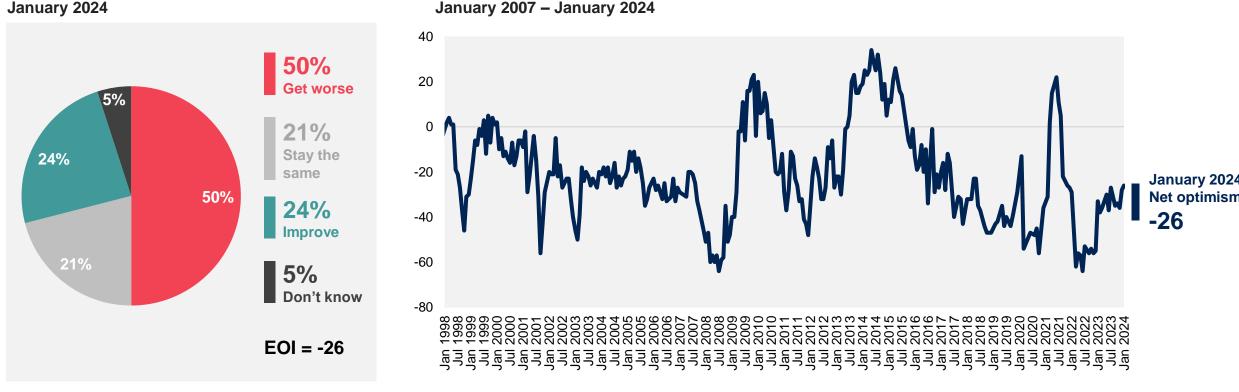
January 2020 - February 2024

Base: 1,105 Online British adults aged 18+, 16-19 February 2024



And economic pessimism is nearly as bad as it was during the financial crisis of 2008

Do you think that the general economic condition of the country will improve, stay the same or get worse over the next 12 months?



Base: 1,003 British adults 18+, 17-23 January 2024

Source: Ipsos Political Monitor



No surprise at the top reported issues people say will influence their voting at the <u>general</u> <u>election</u>

Looking ahead to the next

General Election, which, if any,

issues do you think will be very

important to you in helping you

decide which party to vote for?

Healthcare / NHS / hospitals	30%
Inflation/ rising cost of living	22%
Managing the economy / economic situation	22%
Asylum and immigration	15%
Education/ schools	12%
Public services generally	10%
Foreign policy/ foreign affairs	10%
Protecting the environment/ climate change	9%
Housing	9%
Taxation	9%
Poverty/ inequality	6%
Lack of faith in politicians	6%
Crime and anti-social behaviour/ law and order	5%
Don't know	14%

Base: 1,004 British adults 18+, 21-28 February 2024.. *This chart only shows issues which were mentioned by at least 5%. For the full list of issues, please see the full data tables.



But when asked about their <u>local area</u>, reduction of crime and ASB becomes a priority

The government's plans for reducing regional inequalities (or Levelling Up) includes a number of objectives. Which three or four of the following, if any, do you consider to be the main priorities for improvement in your local area?

	Top mentions
Reducing the level of crime and anti-social behaviour	44%
Improving people's mental health and wellbeing	39%
Increasing wages	39%
Improving job opportunities	37%
Improved public transport	33%
More decision making powers from govt to local areas	30%
More people having access to high-quality skills training	22%
More primary children achieving the expected standards	22%
Increasing people's pride in where they live	21%
Increasing the number of first-time buyers	20%
More investment in research & development to encourage business growth	20%
Improving the quality of private rented accommodation	16%
Increasing people's engagement in local culture and the community	16%
Reducing the gap in life expectancy among different groups of the population	12%
Improved internet coverage	12%



Base: All UK adults 16+ (6189)

Although there are differences between nations.... crime is the biggest issue in England, while jobs and wages are top priorities elsewhere

Base: All UK adults 16+ (6189): England (5177); Scotland (510); Wales (259); Northern Ireland (243) Fieldwork dates: 2-8 February 2023

England



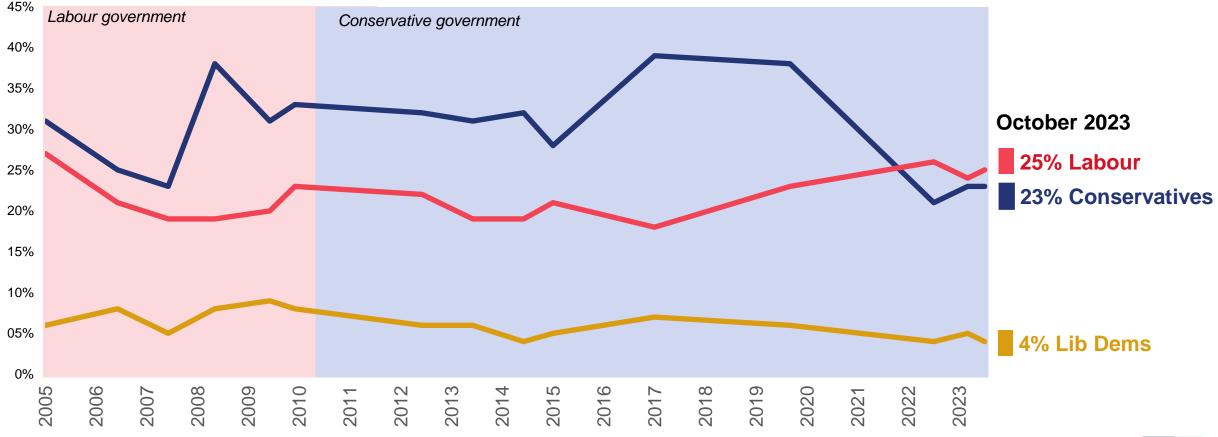


Scotland



This is combined with a fall in confidence in the current government to deal with crime

Which party do you think has the best policies on crime and anti-social behaviour, the Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrats or some other party?



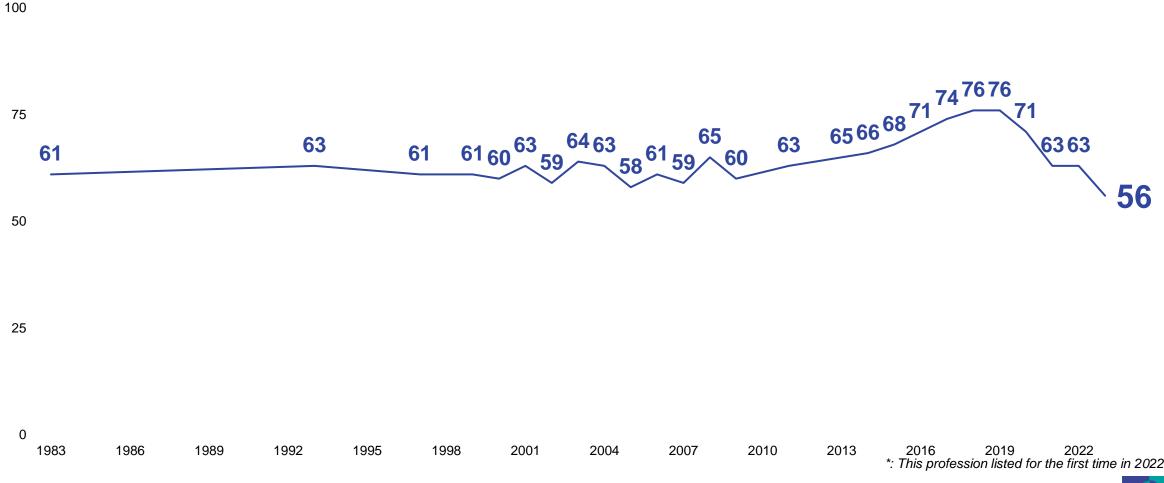
Latest wave base: 1,003 British adults 18+, 11-18 October 2023. c.1000 people asked each wave. Data collected prior to June 2008 was collected via face-to-face methodology; data collected from June 2008 was via telephone

Source: Ipsos Political Monitor



And trust in the police in general taken a hit over the last five years



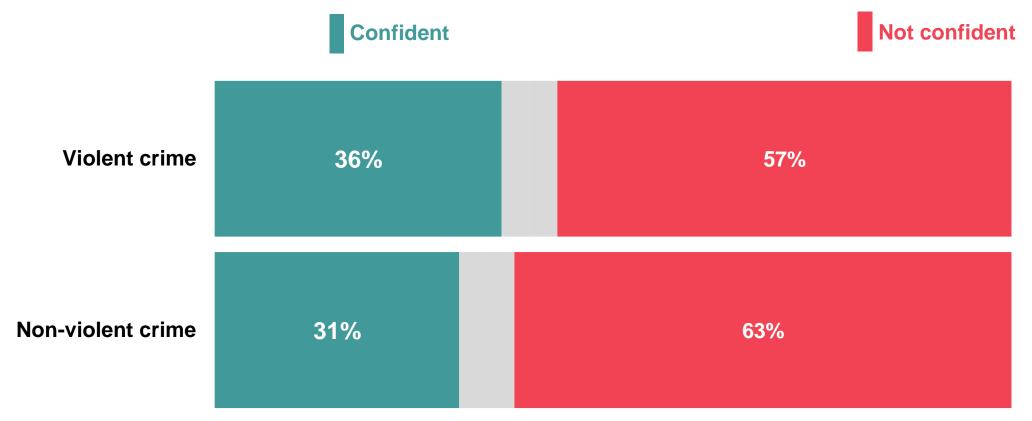


Base: c.1,000 British adults interviewed per year. 2020 – 2023 and 2013 conducted by telephone; all other years face-to-face © Ipsos | Veracity Index 2023 | December 2023 | Version 1 | Public



Confidence in the police / law enforcement to tackle violent and non-violent crime remains low...

How confident are you, if at all, in law enforcement (e.g., the police) to stop the following form happening...





Also applies to how Britons would describe their local police

Here is a list of characteristics that a police officer may have. Thinking about the police in your local area, please indicate whether you think that, on the whole, they are or are not...? Yes, they are No, they are not Don't know % Yes 2022 Trustworthy 48% 22% 31% 56% Honest 46% 19% 34% 52% Competent 45% 24% 31% 52% Fair in how they treat 44% 24% 32% 50% people Sexist 19% 39% 42% 15% 14% Lazy 17% 50% 33% 13% Racist 17% 43% 40%

Source: Ipsos 2023

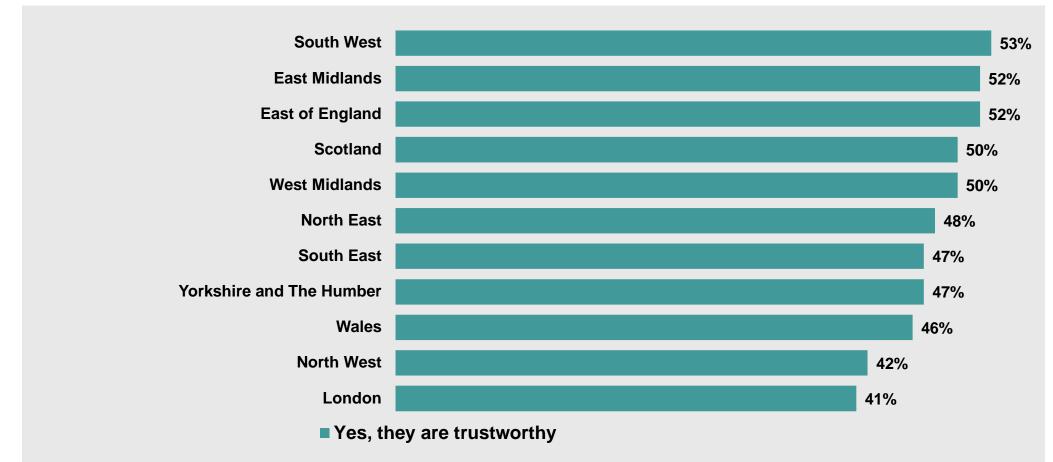
© Ipsos | Public Perception of Police | March 2022

Base: 6.213 Online British adults 18-75, 18-24 May, 2023 *Statistically significant difference vs. 2022



Yet opinions can vary by region...

Thinking now about the police in your local area, which of these phrases best describes the way you would speak about them to other people?



Source: Ipsos 2023

Base 2023: Respondents from Scotland (1132), Wales (531), North East (234), North West (564), Yorkshire and the Humber (454)) East Midlands (425), West Midlands (495), East of England (513), South East (718), South West (493), London (654)



What crimes the public think the police currently prioritise the most...

Q Which, two or three, if any, of the following do you think the police in Britain <u>currently</u> prioritise the most?

	Murder / violent crime	44%
	Terrorism / extremism	35%
	Supply of illegal drugs	27%
	Organised crime	25%
	Sexual crime /rape	20%
	Use of illegal drugs	16%
Drunk	en / yobbish behaviour in public places	12%
	Fraud and economic crime	11%
	Theft / robbery	10%
	Domestic abuse	10%
	Burglary of people's houses	7%
	Vandalism and damage to property	6%
I	Other	3%
	None of these	5%
	Don't know	12%

Base: 2,178 Online all adults aged 16+ in GB, 9th – 12th June 2023



Ppt difference to current priority

Perception gap between what the public think the police DO prioritise and what they think the police SHOULD prioritise

		•
Murder / violent crime	50%	+6
Sexual crime /rape	44% 🔿 20%	+24
ICE Terrorism / extremism	30%	-5
Domestic abuse	20%	+10
Organised crime	20%	-5
Burglary of people's houses	18%	+11
Supply of illegal drugs	18%	-9
Theft / robbery	14%	+4
Drunken / yobbish behaviour in public places	12%	-
Fraud and economic crime	11%	-
Use of illegal drugs	8%	-8
Vandalism and damage to property	6%	-
Other	1%	-2
None of these	2%	
Don't know	9%	
		and the second



QC6. And which two or

following types of crime do

you think the police should

three, if any, of the

prioritise the most?

THANK YOU!



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